2001, UMaine News Press Releases

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UMaine Hutchinson Center to Show Film on State's African-American History

January 3, 2001
Contact: Carol Toner at 581-3147
Peter Cook at 581-3756

BELFAST -- The Maine Studies program at the University of Maine will sponsor a showing of the film, "Anchor of the Soul," at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 PM.

This film examines the history of the African American community and race relations in Portland, Maine, from the 1820s to the present. After the film, Gerald Talbot, a key figure in Maine's recent African American history, will lead a discussion about the issues raised in the film.

Gerald Talbot was born and raised in Bangor, graduating from Bangor High School in 1952. After a stint in the army, he moved to Portland and served as Vice President of the Portland NAACP in 1957. With the national Civil Rights movement gaining momentum in the 1960s, he helped revitalize Portland's NAACP and became President in 1964. Made up of blacks and whites, the Portland NAACP organized marches and vigils, testified before the state legislature on a fair housing bill, and pressed for establishment of a human rights commission. By 1968 Talbot was serving at the regional level, presiding as Vice President of the New England NAACP.

In 1972 he became the first African American to win a seat in the state legislature, where he served three terms. In an effort to educate the public about African American history in Maine, he established Black Educational and Cultural History Inc. in 1980. Currently, Talbot, together with Harriet Price, is working on two books - one on the history of African Americans in Maine, the other on the Underground Railroad in Maine.

The film and discussion are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Carol Toner in the Maine Studies Office, 581-3147.
UMaine to Host Cohen Tribute in Bangor on Jan. 12

Jan. 5, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- The University of Maine will host Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen at a dinner event scheduled for Norumbega Hall in Bangor on Friday, Jan. 12, 2001.

The event will be one of Cohen's last public appearances before concluding a public career that has spanned more than 30 years. Cohen, a Bangor native who is leaving President Clinton's Cabinet this month, will reflect on his public career and his thoughts on the nation's future and its place in the world.

His address is scheduled for approximately 8:30 p.m.

In 1996, Cohen donated the papers related to his 24 years in Congress to UMaine. At the same time, the University announced the creation of the William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce. The Center, which is part of UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health, works to enhance international business education through new and existing programs, to cultivate in-depth understanding of international business and global markets, to promote cultural understanding and to serve as a national focal point for discussion and policy formulation related to global competitiveness. It has hosted two lectures at UMaine -- one delivered by Cohen in 1998 and one by Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright in 1999. Before his election to Congress in 1972, Cohen taught business law classes at UMaine.

Four hundred invited guests are expected to be in attendance for the Jan. 12 dinner. UMaine President Peter S. Hoff will speak at the event, which will also include a video about Cohen and his career. Bangor attorney Timothy Woodcock, a personal friend and professional confidante of Cohen's, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The event will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m., to be followed by a buffet-style dinner at 7:30. The program is set to start at 8:30.

MEDIA ADVISORY:

News coverage is welcome; an area for television cameras, equipped with an audio mult box, will be available.
Maine State Climate Office Located at UMaine

January 8, 2001
Contact: Gregory Zielinski, Maine State Climate Office, 207-581-3441
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine State Climate Office has been established in the Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies at the University of Maine to provide information to the public about weather and climate in Maine. Gregory Zielinski of Bangor, a researcher in the Institute, has been named the Maine State Climatologist and will serve as the director of the Office.

He will provide weather data and related services to the public, businesses, state agencies and other organizations.

Zielinski will also provide links to weather and climate information for New England and other parts of the country. Maine is the 48th state to establish a state climate office that is affiliated with the National Climate Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina and regional centers throughout the country. The Northeast Regional Climate Center is located at Cornell University.

Zielinski is currently writing a book, New England’s Changeable Weather and Climate, with Barry Keim, New Hampshire state climatologist. Zielinski is also conducting research on snowfall records in Maine and New England and the history of Nor’Easters. The latter effort will include a classification scheme to evaluate the strength of Nor’Easters and their potential impact on the state and the Northeast.

"The Maine State Climate Office is a partnership between the National Weather Service, the National Climate Data Center network and the university," says Zielinski. "Our mission is to collect and provide weather data to the people of Maine, conduct research on Maine’s climate and offer services to the public."

Zielinski has a Ph.D. degree in geology from the University of Massachusetts. He has maintained an active interest in meteorology and specializes in the analysis of volcanic dust in glacial ice cores. Volcanic eruptions affect climate by spewing out gases that convert to acids and can remain in the atmosphere for years.

"New England’s climate has not been studied in detail, although weather records show that the coast and inland areas have gotten slightly warmer over the past one to two decades. One of my jobs will be to take a careful look at the instrument and historical records to understand if and how climate is changing and how global events such as El Nino and large eruptions affect Maine and all of New England," Zielinski says.

Zielinski notes that the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station has published studies of Maine climate, including an analysis of growing season records between 1697 and 1947 and a series of temperature and precipitation records from 1808 to 1978.

The Maine State Climate office maintains a Web site, www.umaine.edu/maineclimate, and offers information and guidance to government agencies, news media, schools, professional organizations and the general public. State climatologists are affiliated with the American Association of State Climatologists.

Zielinski can be contacted at 207-581-3441, gzielinski@maine.edu.
ORONO, Me. -- Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, who is leaving public life later this month, will donate the papers from his four years in President Clinton's cabinet to the University of Maine.

The donation will be formally announced at UMaine's tribute dinner for Cohen, scheduled for Friday, Jan. 12 at Norumbega Hall in Cohen's hometown of Bangor. The papers from Cohen's Pentagon years will be added to those from his 24 years in Congress, which were donated to UMaine when Cohen left the U.S. Senate in 1996 and are housed at the university's Raymond H. Fogler Library, the state's largest library and its designated research library.

"This latest donation by Secretary Cohen underscores his commitment to the university and to the people of Maine," UMaine President Peter S. Hoff says. "The Secretary has had a long relationship with UMaine, one he intends to continue after he concludes his distinguished public career. And by sending his Defense Department papers to this, the state's flagship university, Secretary Cohen is reiterating symbolically his belief that his public papers should remain in the public domain."

An archivist recently completed nearly two years of work cataloging materials and developing a plan for making Cohen's papers available to the public. A search for a new archivist, who will continue the project and will work with the papers from Cohen's years as Secretary of Defense, is about to begin.

"The donation of Secretary Cohen's papers enriches the already impressive collection of Cohen papers and other records maintained at the university," says Elaine Albright, UMaine's dean of cultural affairs and libraries. "Secretary Cohen is ensuring that these important historic documents will be broadly available here in Maine for study and scrutiny by scholars from around the world."

The donation of the new materials adds another layer to Cohen's deep relationship with UMaine, which dates to his days teaching business law until his 1972 election to Congress. Concurrent with the 1996 donation of Cohen's congressional papers, UMaine established the William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce. The center works to develop educational and outreach programming related to international policy and global commerce.

"The Cohen Center is central to the university's efforts to help improve the state's position and success in the global economy," explains Eric Brucker, dean of UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy, and Health, within which the Cohen Center is located. "The Cohen Center will play a major coordinating role in bringing together resources within and outside the university in ways that will benefit trade practices and public policies favorable to Maine citizens, businesses, and industries."

Cohen is expected to deliver a major address at Friday night's event, which was announced by UMaine last week. Approximately 300 guests are expected to attend the tribute dinner, which will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. Cohen's remarks will be delivered at approximately 8:30 p.m.

The event is being coordinated by the University of Maine Foundation.
Concert Features Works for One Piano, Four Hands

January 11, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Faculty Recital by Laura Artesani and Ginger Yang Hwalek, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 3, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO — Pieces written originally for piano four-hand, representing several different countries and musical styles, will be performed by Laura Artesani and Ginger Yang Hwalek in a faculty recital at the University of Maine Saturday, Feb. 3.

The concert by the School of Performing Arts instructors in music will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall.

Artesani and Hwalek chose pieces that showcase the sounds and vast musical variations made possible by doubling the number of fingers on the keyboard. Many of the pieces on this program are classics in four-hand repertoire. Works by Dvorak, Mozart, Casella, Saint-Saens, Debussy, Dello Joio and Brahms will be featured.

Working on such a program has its advantages, say the pianists. "It’s as close to performing a solo recital as you can get without having to memorize. It’s also more fun to play with someone else. You learn to compromise, since many times our hands do land on top of each other. We also made sure we chose pieces that are audience-friendly, including Dvorak’s "Slavonic Dance No. 1" Brahms’s Hungarian Dances."

Tickets for the recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
Pianist Phillip Silver in Concert

January 11, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Faculty Recital by Phillip Silver, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 2 p.m., Jan. 28, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO -- A jazz suite by a Czech composer who died in the Holocaust, and a piano sonata secretly written by a German musician after witnessing a death march of concentration camp prisoners, will be featured in a faculty recital by pianist Phillip Silver on Sunday, Jan. 28 at the University of Maine.

The 2 p.m. concert in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Building, is characterized as a musical journey. It begins with the joie de vivre of an early Beethoven sonata for piano and cello. Joining Silver on stage will be cellist Noreen Silver.

The work "Jazz-Like," which is based on dance movements, was written in 1925 by Erwin Schulhoff. The Czech composer wrote operas, symphonies and chamber music, but his first love was jazz. Schulhoff not only wrote but also performed jazz works as a pianist. He died in Wülzburg Concentration Camp in 1942.

Silver will perform Ravel's "Chansons madecasses" with soprano Nancy Ogle, flutist Elizabeth Downing and cellist Noreen Silver. The song cycle is considered one of Ravel's most crucial and atypical works. Several of the poems used by Ravel were drawn from writings of an 18th-century Creole poet. At the heart of the work is an anti-colonialist statement.

The program will end with a massive piano sonata by German composer Karl Amadeus Hartmann. Living in Germany during the Hitler years, Hartmann opposed the regime by secretly composing anti-fascist works. After World War II, his compositions surfaced, including this sonata subtitled "27 April 1945," written after Hartmann witnessed a death march from Dachau Concentration Camp.

Tickets for the recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755. -30-
UMaine Professor Studies Relationship Between Overcrowded Houses and Crime

January 16, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The study of crime in the past century has focused primarily on trying to explain why individuals commit antisocial acts. A sociology professor at the University of Maine has taken a unique look at the problem of crime in a new study, suggesting that the roots of crime on a local level lie at least partly in the problem of household overcrowding.

In “Household Crowding and Aggregate Crime Rates,” Steven Barkan, professor of sociology, argues that household crowding is an often-overlooked contributor to high crime rates. The paper was published in a recent issue of the “Journal of Crime and Justice.”

“In this paper, all of the reasons why household crowding should raise crime rates are laid out,” says Barkan. “The correlation was fairly strong and in some cases it was the strongest of any other variable I took into account.”

Barkan and other scholars define household crowding as households with more than one person per room. He says although a number of studies have examined the effects of household crowding, most have not because the main focus of most crime study has been on the effects of poverty and race.

“In this study, I controlled for both poverty and population density, and still found that areas with overcrowded households are more likely to have higher crime rates,” he says.

Barkan suggests four reasons for this trend. The first is that members of overcrowded households, especially adolescents, tend to spend more time outside the home with friends and associates. These group settings provide occasions for law-breaking at the places where these groups hang out.

Second, says Barkan, because children in these households tend to stay away from home, they have less parental supervision, which lowers their school achievement. Low school achievement leads to deviant behavior. Another factor is that crowded homes produce higher levels of conflict among family members. This conflict weakens the parent-child bond and increases deviant behavior.

Finally, Barkan says, crowded homes increase what he calls moral cynicism, as household members are much less able to shield discreditable acts and information from one another. This reduces respect for conventional moral standards and, says Barkan, increases the willingness to violate those standards.

The two main categories of crime measured in the report are violent crime and property crime. Barkan used the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports for the figures on crime in the report.

Barkan hopes his research will lead to further work on household crowding and crime. His study used census data on household crowding and he says it would desirable to actually survey households.

“If you did a household study you could get a better sense of why crowding leads to criminal behavior, something you just can't do with census data,” he says. “It might alert us to the need to focus more of our attention on families that live in crowded settings and talk about programs to help them.”

Barkan hopes that research like his will lead urban planners and policymakers to consider solutions to the problem of overcrowding.
“If we could somehow reduce household crowding, we could reduce crime rates,” he says. “The more we know about why crime happens the more we can do about it.”
Cashing In On Value-Added Agriculture in Maine

January 17, 2001
Contact: Donna Lamb, Cooperative Extension, 1-800-287-1491
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Farmers can get a look at the latest marketing techniques for bringing home a bigger share of the consumer's dollar at a conference in Oakland, Maine on March 3. The meeting is titled “Cashing in on Value-Added Agriculture in Maine.” Speakers will look at methods that farmers and other rural entrepreneurs can use to tap into niche markets.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Messalonskee School. Larry Swain, professor and community development specialist, University of Wisconsin–River Falls and UW Cooperative Extension, will provide a keynote address on “Personality Traits for Direct Marketing.” His afternoon speech, “Value-Added Opportunities Are Not a Panacea for All Farm Marketing,” will look at the limits of this type of marketing.

“The program is a great place for participants to learn about some of the many value-added commodity and niche market alternatives available to them,” says Donna Lamb, UMaine Cooperative Extension educator in Piscataquis County. “It can provide producers with valuable information about what it takes to succeed in these types of agricultural endeavors.” Organizers include the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Risk Management Agency, and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Other speakers will include Jim McConnon, UMaine Cooperative Extension business and economics specialist. McConnon will speak on “Evaluating the Feasibility of a Value-Added Enterprise: Developing a Sound Business Plan.” Participants will learn the nuts and bolts of putting together a viable business plan for their value-added venture.

A morning resource panel of agencies and associations that assist entrepreneurs will describe services for farmers who are developing new marketing ideas. Panel members will represent the Rural Development Market Development Center; Heart of Maine RC&D; the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; E-Commerce Forum of Maine; the Maine Gourmet & Specialty Foods Producers; Maine Small Business Development Centers; and the Maine Corps of Retired Executives. These groups will have information booths set up in the trade show area to work with farmers individually.

The afternoon session will include a variety of breakout sessions. Farmers will have opportunities to listen to producers who have been developing and running value-added farm enterprises. Topics will include wool and fiber, processed dairy products, retail meat and meat products, soaps and cosmetics, vegetables marketed through a retail restaurant, organic retailing and agri-tourism.

The registration fee is $20, which covers program materials, refreshments and a hearty Maine lunch. More information on the conference and pre-registration material is available from Gary Anderson, animal and biosciences specialist, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 5735 Hitchner Hall, Room 334, Orono, ME, 04469-5735. He can also be reached at 207-581-3240, toll-free within Maine at 1-800-287-7170, or via email at garya@umext.maine.edu. Information is also available at the Extension livestock Web site, http://www.umaine.edu/livestock/. Space is limited and registration is on a first-come first-served basis.

People with disabilities requiring special accommodations to participate in this program can call Anderson to discuss their needs. Such requests should be made at least fourteen days prior to the event.
Career Fair at UMaine

January 19, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Career Center at the University of Maine will host its fourth annual Career Fair on Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Alfond Arena on the Orono campus.

Representatives from 140 state and national companies, organizations, health care facilities, government agencies and internship programs will attend the fair and answer student questions about career choices and opportunities. Students and faculty from all academic disciplines are encouraged to attend.

This year for the first time, invitations to attend the fair were mailed to more than 6000 members of the Parents Association. The fair provides an opportunity for those parents who are interested and involved in their children's education to experience a career/job fair and learn first hand from experts about today's job market.

"I'm very pleased with the response," says Patty Counihan, director of the Career Center. "We have an excellent representation of organizations and the Fair will be the largest one we've ever had; it is a 56% increase in employer attendees over last year's fair."

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

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

Sponsorship of the 2001 Career Fair is provided by IBM, MBNA New England, Bath Iron Works, Kiewit Construction Company, Envisionet, Irving Woodlands LLC, National Grid U.S.A., MUNIS, Unicel, and Wright Express LLC. In addition to the Fair sponsors, a wide variety of companies and organizations are participating. Examples of attendees include Fairchild Semiconductor, the Bangor Daily News, the New England Environmental Internship Program, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine Medical Center, Jackson Lab, and United Way of Eastern Maine.

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

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

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

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

The Career Fair is free and open to the public. Students at other colleges and universities in Maine are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, call the Career Center at 581-1359.
French Horn Recital to Premiere Wiemann Work

January 22, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

Faculty Recital by Suzanne George, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 2 p.m., Feb. 4, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – The works of two composers in Maine will highlight a faculty recital on Sunday, Feb. 4 by French horn artist Suzanne George.

The recital begins at 2 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall at the University of Maine. Tickets are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Among the works on the program are a Horn Trio, Op. 40 by Brahms, in which George, an instructor in the School of Performing Arts, will be joined by violinist Anatole Wieck and pianist Phillip Silver.

Three French horn artists – Scott Burditt, Wanda Whitner and Robert Fraser – will join George and flutist Liz Downing for a performance of Doppler’s “Bird in the Forest.”

Houlton-based composer Harry Roper’s “Psalm 23” will feature George and soprano Nancy Ogle. In addition, the premiere of “Skin and Bones” by UMaine composer Beth Wiemann will be performed by George and Downing.
Scientists See Early Indications of Lobster Decline

January 22, 2001

Contact: Robert Steneck, School of Marine Sciences, 207-563-3146, ext. 233, steneck@maine.edu
Lew Incze and Richard Wahle, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, 207-633-9600
Carl Wilson, Maine Department of Marine Resources, 207-633-9538
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

Note: Robert Steneck will not be available for interviews after January 23.

ORONO, Maine -- A team of scientists from the University of Maine and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in West Boothbay Harbor, Maine, has found early indications of a decline in the lobster population in the Gulf of Maine.

“The abundance of juvenile lobsters in key lobster producing regions of mid-coast Maine appears to be declining,” say Robert Steneck of UMaine and Lew Incze and Richard Wahle of Bigelow. “We expect landings in those regions and possibly elsewhere to decline sometime during the next two to four years. Given that lobsters are the single most valuable species in Maine's fisheries, we think it is important to alert the lobster industry, state managers, policy makers and the general public to our findings.”

For more than a decade, Steneck, Incze and Wahle have been working to develop a means of predicting lobster abundance and landings. Their approach differs from those traditionally used in Maine and New England by independently monitoring three different lobster life stages: 1) larvae in the water, 2) newly settled individuals on the bottom, and 3) older juvenile lobsters.

Their research has measured linkages between each of these three successive stages. Larval lobsters in coastal zones dive to become the new year-class of lobsters on the bottom, and if these lobsters survive, they become juvenile lobsters and eventually future landings of adult lobsters. “It's similar to counting the number of seeds you sow in your garden and finding that they correspond to some reduced number of seedlings and eventually the plants you harvest,” says Steneck.

“Predicting lobster abundances or landings is no easier than predicting the economy or the weather. While local lobster landings may generally reflect local lobster abundance, measuring abundance is fraught with uncertainty. We can never be sure that we `know' the abundance of any phase in a lobster's life. However, by going to the same locations and using the same methods over many years, we can detect trends.”

Since any single measure of abundance may be flawed, Steneck, Incze and Wahle used a different means of detection to monitor the abundance of each stage. Taking a census of different developmental stages in juvenile lobster populations over time is similar to monitoring the total number of students in elementary schools as an indicator of future high school class sizes. If significant changes occur in the abundance of lobster larvae, those changes should immediately translate to changes in that year-class on the bottom. A couple of years later, changes should be evident in the older juvenile lobsters as well.

Since 1995, the scientists found, newly settled lobsters on the bottom have been declining in the Boothbay monitoring region. Similar trends were detected in larvae in New Hampshire and new settlers in Rhode Island. The larvae and settlement studies suggest widespread declines at least west of Penobscot Bay. No larval monitoring has been done east of there.

Censuses of juvenile lobsters that are two to four years old (two to five years prior to harvest) have been conducted statewide at nearly 40 sites from York to Jonesport. “Most troubling is the consistent decline since 1997 of juvenile lobsters from eastern Muscongus Bay, throughout Penobscot Bay and Hancock County,” says Steneck. “This broad swath includes Maine's most-productive lobster-producing regions. While not all of our...
indicators at all of our study regions are consistent, there is enough consistency for us to announce that signals of a widespread decline in landings are now evident.”

The scientists note that many lobstermen will quickly point out that they have seen more egg-bearing lobsters over the past decade than ever before. The scientists agree with those observations. In fact, in the most recent lobster stock assessment, there is evidence that the reproductive potential of lobster stocks is currently high.

The scientists say, however, that the decrease in larval lobsters and year-classes on the bottom must be the result of other factors, possibly changes in the ocean environment itself which could affect survival or delivery of the larval stages to the ocean bottom.

“Just as we cannot explain the dramatic increase in lobster abundances and landings over the past two decades throughout the Northeast, from Delaware to Newfoundland, Canada, we cannot explain the pending decline,” says Steneck. “Further, larvae and young-of-the-year lobsters in Rhode Island and Maine are showing similar patterns of change despite being located in two oceanographically and reproductively distinct systems separated by Cape Cod. Thus the environmental factors responsible appear to be very wide-spread.”

The scientists suggest that the lobster industry and state agency managers need to develop a response to this trend. “As scientists, we feel it's important to alert the public and stakeholders. No one has prior experience with the type of data we have. So we can't be sure how closely the harvest will follow our findings. However, if the patterns we see turn out to be accurate predictors of declining harvest and are primarily controlled by the environment, then some traditional management actions, such as increasing egg production, may do little or nothing to reverse the situation.”

“Nevertheless, steps should be taken to preserve existing broodstock. Certainly, a decline in lobster stocks, given the large fishing capacity that exists, could threaten the reproductive potential of the stock and reduce chances of recovery,” says Steneck. “If lobster landings are to decline, it might be a good idea to wait before making large new financial commitments. Nature may still have more surprises for us, and this trend could turn around. However, this is an excellent time for industry and managers to discuss the most appropriate actions so that the stocks and the fishermen both survive the fluctuations inherent in nature.”

This is the first scientific prediction ever made for the future population size of the American lobster. The same method has been used successfully to predict the abundances of the western Australia rock lobster, says Steneck, with a 90% success rate over the past 20 years.
UMaine Student Explores New Cider Sterilization Procedures

January 22, 2001
Contact: Nick Houtman at 581-3777

Finding unpasteurized apple cider isn't easy. Outbreaks of illness linked to contamination of unpasteurized cider by e. coli bacteria have occurred in apple growing states from Maine to Washington, and cider producers have been sterilizing their product to protect consumers.

However, heating cider affects the taste, and researchers in the University of Maine Bio-Resource Engineering Program (BRE) are studying the use of ultra-violet light to sterilize cider without noticeably affecting the flavor.

If they are successful, their work could help the cider industry protect public health and win back consumers who might have turned away from the pasteurized product.

Nazife Canitez, a master's student from Cyprus, has been innoculating samples of unpasteurized cider with bacteria and then treating it with varying levels of ultra-violet (UV) light. The project is underway with help from faculty members Darrell Donahue of BRE, Al Bushway of Food Science and Human Nutrition and Amyl Ghanem of Chemical Engineering.

“We are looking for an alternative to pasteurization,” says Canitez. “We bring the cider to our lab, spike it with harmless bacteria and then treat it with UV light. One of the problems with UV is that it doesn't penetrate very far through all the particles that are in cider. Some researchers deal with this by filtering the cider, but then it might as well be apple juice.”

Canitez has also been giving samples of UV treated cider to subjects in the sensory lab in food science. The results indicate that people could not distinguish between treated and untreated cider, she says.

After she graduates, Canitez intends to continue working in the food industry in her country. She comes by her chosen career naturally. She grew up surrounded by delicious smells from her father's chocolate business, Horozoglu Chocolate and Confectionary, Ltd.

Canitez received a bachelor's degree in 1998 in food engineering from Ege University in Izmir, Turkey. She intends to complete her project next summer.
UMaine Astronomy Professor From Bangor Authors New Book

January 23, 2001
Contact: Neil Comins, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, 207-581-1037
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- News about distant solar systems, brightly colored star nurseries and mysterious dark matter has been pouring out of the nation's observatories. Neil F. Comins of Bangor, University of Maine professor of astronomy, provides a behind the scenes look at the latest discoveries in astronomy with a new textbook, *Discovering the Essential Universe*.

The book was released in January by W.H.Freeman and Company of New York. It is a shorter version of Comins' longer book, *Discovering the Universe*, which is among the best selling astronomy texts in the country.

In addition to diagrams showing details of objects from Earth's closest planetary neighbors to black holes, the book contains hundreds of dramatic photographs of comets, star clusters and distant galaxies.

Comins also addresses common misconceptions about astronomy.

Every chapter asks for the reader's understanding of specific subjects such as the existence of water on Mars or the typical amount of space between individual asteroids. Those questions are then answered at the end of the chapter.

Comins teaches beginning and upper level courses in astronomy at the University of Maine. He is conducting research on the physical forces that determine the shapes of galaxies.

UMaine Construction Management Teams Enter Regional Competition

January 23, 2001
Contact: Chuck Gould, School of Engineering Technology, 207-581-2374
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Editors: students and their hometowns are listed as the end of this story.

ORONO, Maine -- Two teams of University of Maine construction management technology students will put their construction planning and estimating skills to the test this spring in the Eastern Regional Construction Management Competition of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC). The annual event requires students to create detailed construction cost estimates and schedules for major building and transportation projects and present their work before a panel of professionals.

“These students will be giving presentations to people representing some of the country's largest construction companies,” says Chuck Gould, professor in the School of Engineering Technology. “They will work under the highest professional standards.”

This year's competition marks the third time that UMaine students have participated. It will be held in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, March 2-4.

Each team will develop cost estimates and schedules for the same building or transportation project. The building project is a new regional high school. The transportation project is renovation of a platform in a heavily used urban railroad station.

The students spent the last week of their winter break preparing for the competition, and they will continue to develop their plans through the spring semester as part of a three-credit independent study course.

The competition involves three tasks, says Gould. Students must prepare a formal bid package consisting of construction plans, a detailed cost estimate, a timetable for each critical task and a staffing plan. One part of the project must receive additional attention through the preparation of detailed step-by-step specifications.

Members of the panel of judges will include architects, engineers and contractors. Students will give a formal talk covering the technical details using computer presentation software. After the presentations, the students will attend a job fair with displays from construction firms nationwide. An awards banquet on Sunday, March 4 concludes the event.

Support for the UMaine teams is being provided by HE Sargent, Inc. of Stillwater; the Associated General Contractors of Maine Education Foundation; the Associated Constructors of Maine; Kiewit Construction, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska; and Bancroft Contracting of South Paris.

The Construction Management Technology Program, part of the School of Engineering Technology, began in 1987 and currently has 60 students enrolled. Graduates enjoy a nearly 100 percent job placement rate with firms in Maine and the other New England states.

Students take a broad range of science and math courses as well as classes in computer applications, construction technology and business practices.

Other ASC schools in the Eastern Region include Drexel, Clarkson, Roger Williams and Temple.

Student participating in the competition include: on team one, Cecil Kershner of Palmyra (captain), Jason St Peter of Caribou, Aimee Castonguay of East Livermore, Joseph Burke of South Paris, Scott Harrington of North Pomfret, Vermont, and Gene Sawyer of Cherryfield; on team two, Aaron Cianchette of Hartland


(captain), James Pelletier of Lewiston, Thomas Coyle of Brewer, Matthew Dale of Dover-Foxcroft, Ryan Lazaro of Stow, Massachusetts, Benjamin Robillard of South Paris and Kellie Bard of Greenbush.
UMaine Lists Speakers and Specialists

Jan. 23, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- Each year the University of Maine compiles a list of its personnel who are specialists in their fields, including many who are available to speak to groups and organizations. The free guide, Speakers Bureau and Specialists List 2001, is available to the public.

The guide lists over 200 speakers covering more than 500 topics in subject areas ranging from agriculture to zoology, as well as over 175 specialists in 412 areas of expertise.

To obtain a copy of Speakers Bureau and Specialists List 2001 or for more information, call (207) 581-3743, or write: Speakers Bureau, Department of Public Affairs, University of Maine, 5761 Public Affairs Building, Orono, Maine 04469-5761.

The Speakers Bureau and Specialists List 2001 can also be viewed at www.umaine.edu/speakersbureau.
Writing Project Offering Summer Institute in Southern Maine

Jan. 23, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Writing Project will hold its summer professional development program in southern Maine to reach and accommodate educators in different areas of the state. This summer’s institute in Cumberland represents the first time the intensive program for exemplary Maine teachers has been conducted away from the University of Maine campus.

“As Maine’s official National Writing Project site, we have a mission to serve the entire state” said Maine Writing Project founder and director Jeffrey Wilhelm, associate professor of literacy at UMaine. “We want to offer programs to as many people as possible.”

Each year, the Maine Writing Project invites outstanding educators to participate in the rigorous summer institute, which will be held June 25-July 20. Nominations of teachers – kindergarten through post-secondary in all curriculum areas – are being accepted for the fifth annual institute. Participants are selected on the basis of their success as teachers and for their promise as instructional leaders. Interested educators may be nominated by a colleague, administrator or through self-nomination.

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

During the institute, participants write extensively, read, research, and work closely with institute colleagues, Maine writers and widely recognized authorities on teaching and writing.

The Maine Writing Project was established in 1997 by the UMaine College of Education and Human Development and was designated the state’s official National Writing Project site the following year. To date, approximately 100 Maine teachers have completed the program.

UMaine hopes to offer the Maine Writing Project at a southern Maine site every other year, said Wilhelm. Cumberland’s Mabel Wilson School will be headquarters for the 2001 institute. The Project also hopes to extend its other programs, such as Young Writers camps for students in grades 3-12 to other areas of the state, according to Wilhelm. Last year, the camps were held in Orono and Benton, and this year, an additional site is being planned in Washington County.

Population is a factor in determining where the Project can afford to sponsor institutes away from its home base on the Orono campus. Last year, the Project planned to hold the summer institute in Aroostook County, but the critical mass just wasn’t there, Wilhelm said, noting that most participants attending the UMaine program come from a 90-mile radius. The Project does offer some assistance in arranging residential accommodations for participants who must travel a long distance to attend the institute.

“We realize that northern, western and eastern Maine might not have enough people for a viable summer institute, but we will work as hard as possible to truly be a statewide network,” Wilhelm said

For more information and to obtain nomination forms, contact: Theresa McManus, (207) 581-2438; e-mail:
UMaine Continuing Education Offers Course on Globalization

January 24, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Continuing Education Division at the University of Maine will once again offer a companion course to the Camden Conference, a three-day program of presentations and discussion about topics in foreign affairs.

The topic of this year's conference is “Globalization: Its Impact on You and Me.” UMaine will offer a three-credit course built around the themes examined in the conference, which takes place in Camden Feb. 9-11.

The course, “Globalization: The Dynamic Effects on Governments, Corporations and Societies,” will focus on the impact of globalization on various aspects of the international environment from the perspectives of governments, corporations, societies and ethical and cultural formulations. This course will examine how these elements interact in the international environment and the foundations that these beliefs are built upon.

Class sections will be a mixture of lecture, discussions as well as a simulation that will be used to illustrate the dynamic effects of integrating the perspectives, interests and behaviors of the various global players.

Teaching the course will be Eric Brucker, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health; Doug Allen, professor and chair of philosophy; Diana Lawson, associate professor of marketing; and Joel Blank, assistant professor of political science and the pre-law advisor.

The class will meet on February 9 from 2-6 p.m. and March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Camden Public Library, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast and April 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Donald P. Corbett Business Building on the UMaine Campus.

Attendance at the Camden Conference is mandatory. Tuition for the course includes the registration fee for the Camden Conference. For more information or to register, call 581-3144.
UMaine Business School Hosts Business Breakfast

January 25, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine Business School starts its monthly “Emerging Business Issues for Maine” breakfast series for the year 2001 with a discussion of the business opportunities provided by the state's elderly population.

“There's Gold in Gray: Elders as Consumers, Employees and Advisors,” is the theme of Lenard Kaye's talk on Tuesday, February 13. Kaye is the visiting Libra Professor for the College of Business, Public Policy and Health at the University of Maine.

Kaye is professor of social work and social research and director of the Ph.D. program at the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research at the Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. A sought-after consultant to nursing home and health care organizations, he teaches in the area of strategic planning and non-profit management.

He is the chair of the National Association of Social Worker's Section on Aging, sits on the editorial boards of the Journal of Gerontological Social Work and Geriatric Care Management Journal and is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America.

The breakfast will be held at the Bangor Motor Inn and Conference Center from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Registration is $10, payable at the door, with buffet breakfast. For more information or to make reservations, call 581-1968.
Controversial Topics Discussed at UMaine Lunch Series

January 26, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

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

Programs will be held in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Because of construction in the Memorial Union, the Bangor Lounge will not be available after spring break. March 28 and April 26 programs will be held in the Bodwell Lounge and April 5, 12 and 19 programs will be held in the Maples.

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

The Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series is sponsored by the Marxist-Socialist Studies Interdisciplinary minor and co-sponsored by the Maine Peace Action Committee, the Memorial Union and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Speakers do not necessarily present socialist or Marxist viewpoints. For additional information contact Allen at 581-3860.

The schedule is as follows:

- **February 1:** “The Militarization of Space: Star Wars and the New Bush Administration” – Plowshares activists from the Jonah House in Maryland, Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert, discuss U.S. plans for the conquest of outer space as part of total domination of the world's resources; systems used in the Gulf War and Yugoslavia; and how the arms race is being unleashed with Bush's Ballistic Missile Defense System, a boondoggle for corporate welfare coffers.

- **February 8:** “The Palestinian Intifadah” – Alex Grab, professor of history

- **February 22:** “Franco American Employees at UMaine: Class and Ethnic Dimensions” – Susan Pinette, Franco-American Studies, Moderator; Suzanne Moulton and Lanette Petrie, classified workers, Franco-American women; Professor Jacques Ferland, history

- **March 1:** “Making Sense in the Balkans: An Oxymoron or Wishful Thinking?” – Filmmaker Sy Rotter will show and discuss two of his recent films made in Macedonia and Croatia. These films, focusing on conflict resolution, explore the work of volunteer peace workers in former Serbian occupied areas of Croatia and young Macedonians, Christian and Muslims, as they contemplate their future after Kosovo. At 7 p.m., Rotter will present the John M. Rezendes Ethics Program on “Stories and Issue of Moral Courage” in 100 Neville.

- **Wednesday, March 28:** “A Conversation with James McBride”- Professors Burt Hatlen and Harvey Kail of the English department, chair a panel of students, who will have a conversation with James McBride, author of “The Color of Water,” the 2000-2001 class book.

- **April 5:** “Politics and Contemporary Poetry” – Professors Ben Friedlander and Steve Evans, English.

- **April 12:** “Peace: The Ultimate Experience of Human Existence” – Professor Naresh Dadhich, political science, University of Rajasthan, India, Director of the Jaipur Peace Foundation and author of “Ghandi and Existentialism.” At 4 p.m., Prof. Dadhich will present a lecture on “Ghandian Nonviolence as a Means for Peace” in the Maples Building.
• April 19: “The School of the Americas and Death Squads of Latin America” – Russ Christensen, former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) judge and longtime Maine political activist.

• April 26: “Leftist Perspectives on the 2000 Presidential Election” – Professor Doug Allen, philosophy.
New Education Data Reports Published

Jan. 26, 2001 Contact: Kay Hyatt
(207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – The Maine Education Policy Research Institute has published the fifth editions of two documents that profile and detail the various school and community indicators essential to examining and measuring the needs and effectiveness of a school system.

The 2001 Legislative Report gives provides a data snapshot of every Maine community and school system. Organized by Senate district, the detailed report includes community financial, demographic and student achievement data, ranging from tax assessment and distribution for education to enrollment patterns, dropout rates, number of students pursuing higher education and teachers with graduate degrees.

The companion document, The Condition of K-12 Public Education in Maine 2000, covers 53 areas of the education system, grouped in three categories of indicators. These indicators, which can influence or measure student learning and educational impact, include: Context – characteristics such as community wealth, poverty level and tax burden; Resource – such as staff, facilities and student services; and Results – tools such as student achievement and graduation rates to assess educational productivity.

According to the 2000 overview of K-12 education, Maine’s 1.2 million population includes approximately 214,985 students enrolled in the state’s 722 public schools across 286 school administrative units, supported by total education expenditures of $1.3 billion.

The Policy Institute was established by the Legislature in partnership with the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine to generate an unbiased source of research and assessment, projections and trends to determine, evaluate and track educational needs, services and impact. Institute co-directors are Walter Harris, director of the Center for Research and Evaluation at UMaine, and David Silvernail, director of the Center for Educational Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation at USM.

The goal of the Maine Educational Policy Research Institute is to provide legislators with a comprehensive foundation of reliable data about schools and communities, Harris pointed out. “As our legislators are faced with many issues related to education, the District Report and K-12 Conditions documents will be valuable informational resources for shaping policy,” he said.

More information about the Legislative Report is available from Harris at UMaine's College of Education and Human Development, (207) 581-2467; e-mail, wharris@maine.edu. Information about the K-12 Conditions document is available from the educational policy center at USM, (207) 780-5044, and is available on the web at www.cepare.usm.maine.edu.
Peace and Justice Film Series

January 29, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

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

The films will be shown on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in room 100 of Neville Hall on the UMaine campus. The Maine Peace Action Committee sponsors the series and the films are free and open to the public. A discussion will be held after each film.

The schedule is as follows:

**February 1: “Hearts and Minds”** – Academy-award winning documentary and best film available on the true nature of the Vietnam war, its background, conduct and lessons for the future. This film is shown every year in the series and always is followed by an emotional and informative discussion.

**February 8: “Global Village or Global Pillage”** – This film shows how the global economy provides big benefits for those with wealth and power. What does it mean for the rest of us? Shows how ordinary people around the world are addressing the impact of globalization. The film provides a good background for the University of Maine Clean Clothes Campaign and the anti-sweatshop concert on Feb. 9 in Wells Commons.

**February 22: “El Norte”** – This widely-acclaimed, full-length feature film portrays the dramatic journey of a Guatemalan brother and sister from their poverty-stricken country to the promised land of Los Angeles. Cosponsored with the International Affairs Film Series

**March 1: “Sy Rotter: Stories and Issue of Moral Courage”** – For the Spring 2001 John M. Rezendes Ethics program, filmmaker Sy Rotter will discuss and show parts of his films of moral courage. The films show courage as evidenced in the experiences of Italian, German and Greek rescuers of Jewish fugitives during the Holocaust and conflict resolution as seen in the recent work of Peace Builders of Croatia and students in Macedonia

**March 29: “Is Feminism Dead?”** – Is feminism irrelevant to young women? Patricia Ireland of NOW, Phyllis Schlafly of the Eagle Forum, Ellen Goodman of “The Boston Globe, Dr. Bell Hooks, African American writer and professor, and Professors Tessie Liu and Martha Warton appraise the women's movement today and discuss its relevance in the current cultural climate. A panel discussion led by UMaine students will follow the film. Cosponsored with the Women's History Celebration.
Peace Studies Program Celebrates Black History Month

January 29, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – In celebration of Black History Month in February, the University of Maine Peace Studies Program and Office of Multicultural Programs are co-sponsoring a series of events to explore and honor the contributions of African-Americans.

On February 5, "American Pictures," a multi-media show by Jacob Holdt, will be shown in 100 Donald P. Corbett at 7 p.m. "American Pictures" chronicles a Danish man's personal journey through the American underclass and portrays in music, words and 3,000 pictures the country that Holdt came to love.

A "Conversation on American Pictures" will be held on February 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts. People who have seen the film are invited to share thoughts, feelings, questions and responses to "American Pictures."

Clarence Glover, the executive director of multicultural education for the Dallas public school system, will deliver a lecture on February 8 at 7 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall.

"Reconciliation of the Human Race: The Journey to Peace and Justice" will focus on multicultural relations and racism. Glover previously worked as the director of intercultural education at Southern Methodist University. A reception will follow Glover's talk.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Peace Studies Program at 581-2609.
Clinics Set for First-Time Horse Owners

January 30, 2001
Contact: Donna Lamb, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 564-3301 or in Maine 1-800-287-1491, Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

DOVER-FOXCFOFT, Maine -- The care and feeding of horses will be the topic of three clinics being held this winter in Portland, Waterville and Bangor by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. People who have recently purchased or are considering buying a horse will learn about horse health, routine daily care, pasture management and state regulations.

Sessions will be held February 24 at Luther Bonney Hall in Portland, March 17 at the Penobscot County Extension Office on Maine Ave in Bangor, and March 24 at the Complete Package Building at Evergreen Stables on Trafton Rd. in Waterville.

The cost is $10 for individuals and $20 for a family if payment is received at least one week before session. Cost at the door will be $15 for individuals and $25 for families. Space is limited and scholarships are available.

Each session starts at 10 a.m. A local veterinarian will discuss general horse health, physical condition and conformation, horse psychology and reasons for purchase. At 11:30 a.m. a local farrier will talk about routine daily care of the hoof, hoof growth, trim schedule, cleanliness and reasons for showing and cost.

Participants are asked to bring a bag lunch, and beverages will be provided. At 1 p.m. Donna Lamb, Extension educator, will discuss feeds and feeding, time commitment, expenses, facilities and safety. At 2 p.m. Trish Westenbroek, Extension integrated farm educator and project coordinator, will talk about pasture management and fencing, manure management, state and local regulations for horse ownership.

The State Extension Equine Committee is planning the events. “The purpose of the committee is to make information and educational resources about horses and their care available to the people of Maine with particular focus on first-time owners,” says Lamb.

More information and pre-registration materials are available from the Piscataquis County Extension Office, 59 East Main St., Dover-Foxcroft, ME, 04426. People can call 564-3301 or 1-800-287-1491 in Maine, send email to or visit the web site at .

People with a disability who need special accommodations to participate in this program can call Lamb at 1-800-287-1491 to discuss their needs. Such requests should be made at least 14 days prior to this event.

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and in pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veterans' status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens, (207) 581-1226.
New Forest Operations Science Program Designed to Meet Industry Needs

January 31, 2001
Contact: Andrew Egan, Dept. of Forest Management, 207-581-4739
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A new forestry degree program at the University of Maine will provide students with a science-based education while meeting the needs of industry for professionals who are knowledgeable about forest operations. The Forest Operations Science Program received a green light from the University of Maine System Board of Trustees on January 22 and will be available in the fall semester, 2001.

The program replaces the forest engineering program which has seen declining enrollments in the last few years, according to Andy Egan, associate professor of forest engineering.

“We surveyed graduates of the forest engineering program to find out what they are doing in their jobs and how well the curriculum prepared them,” says Egan. “It became apparent that they are not designing logging equipment or highly engineered bridges as they might have been doing 30 years ago. Industry needs people who know forest management and harvesting but also understand wood processing and marketing.”

“We want our graduates to be as comfortable working as foresters in the woods as supervising in a mill or doing procurement of new supplies.”

Students in Forest Operations Science will take a full slate of forest biology, management and operations classes, but they will also focus on the mechanics of wood fiber, processing technologies and business. Public policy will be required since society's preferences are likely to have an increasing impact on how forest operations are conducted, Egan adds.

The new program is intended to prepare graduates for careers in industrial and forestry consulting, as well as the administration of wood processing facilities. It will reside in the Department of Forest Management which also offers bachelor's degrees in forestry, parks, recreation and tourism; and wood science and technology. Accreditation by the Society for Wood Science and Technology and the Society of American Foresters will be sought.

Graduates will receive a bachelor's degree in Forest Operations Science.
Walsh Informed of Test Results

January 31, 2001
For Immediate Release
Contact: Keith Bingham

ORONO, MAINE- University of Maine head men's hockey coach Shawn Walsh, in the past two weeks, has had a Computerized Axial Tomography scan (CAT scan), and a Positron Emission Tomography scan (PET scan) to check on his progress since his most recent cancer treatments. After reviewing the results with his physicians, Walsh said, “My doctors and I have received the results from my most recent tests, which checked on the status of the tumors under my breastplate. The results have indicated the continued presence of tumors.”

In response to the recent results, Walsh commented that, “We want to be as aggressive as possible in treating these tumors. We are exploring different treatment options to eliminate these tumors. No definitive path has been set yet. As soon as we have chosen a treatment option, I will make that information public.” Walsh added, “I feel strong, and have been able to maintain my normal work schedule. My doctors and I are optimistic about the treatment options now available.”

Coach Walsh has requested that members of the media refrain from questions regarding his current health. He elaborated, “I would appreciate members of the media refraining from questions regarding my current health status to myself, my family or our players, and would like to keep the focus at this time on our team and our program.”

Walsh had surgery to remove a cancerous left kidney at the Boston Medical Center July 7, and underwent his first of two immunotherapy cycles at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center in August, and his second session of immunotherapy in early October. Between the two treatments, he returned to campus and directed the team's practices and was on the ice with the team for its first practice session of the season.

Walsh returned to his regular coaching duties the week of a two-game series with Ohio State University, and was on the bench for the first time this season that Friday, Oct. 27 at Alfond Arena. The Black Bears played with extra enthusiasm that night, outshooting the Buckeyes 60-24, but fell in overtime 3-2. His team would give him a 2-0 shutout victory the following night, Oct. 28, and he has been behind the Black Bear bench full-time since that time.

Walsh, 45, has coached the UMaine hockey program to national prominence since his arrival in 1984. His squads have won national championships in 1993 and 1999, and have made five additional trips to the Frozen Four, including this past season. He has coached Hobey Baker Award recipients Scott Pellerin, 1992, and Paul Kariya, 1993, and 28 All-Americans while compiling a 389-212-43 record at UMaine. He ranks 11th among active coaches and 24th all-time in the college ranks with 389 coaching victories.
Agent Institute Conference at Augusta Civic Center

February 2, 2001
Contact: Tom Bickford, Agent Institute, 207-581-2012, www.agent.maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The Agent Institute at the University of Maine will hold a conference on agent-based technology and education at the Augusta Civic Center on March 5. A keynote presentation will be given by Les Gasser, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on agents and their applications.

Gasser has written more than 70 articles and book chapters on the subject and serves on the advisory board of the Agent Institute.

Media representatives are welcome to cover the meeting whose purpose is to describe agent technology and its potential applications in education. The Agent Institute is supported by a two-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

“Agents are those things that go out and do things for you,” says Tom Bickford, a 1984 UMaine graduate and executive director of the Institute. “They can be a piece of software or hardware, but they have the intelligence to receive instructions and then go out, do a task and react to new information.”

Other speakers at the meeting will include Thomas Wagner, George Markowsky and Larry Latour of the UMaine Department of Computer Science, Amy Baylor of Florida State University and Ali Jafari, director of CyberLearningLabs and a faculty member at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

The meeting begins at 8 a.m. in the North Wing of the Civic Center and concludes at 5 p.m. There is no cost for registration.
Pianist Baycka Voronietsky in Concert

February 2, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Faculty Recital by Baycka Voronietsky, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO –A piano solo of works by Mendelssohn, Schubert and Chopin, and a Moscheles composition for four hands, will highlight in a faculty recital Saturday, Feb. 10 at the University of Maine.

The recital by Associate Professor of Music Baycka Voronietsky begins at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall.

On the program are Mendelssohn's “Rondo capriccioso” Op.14 and Schubert's “Impromptu” Op. 142. Also featured will be several works of Chopin.

The second half of the program will feature a Moscheles sonata, Op. 47 in E flat major. Performing with Voronietsky will be pianist Phillip Silver, also of the UMaine School of Performing Arts.

Tickets for the recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
UMaine Invites You to Come to the Cabaret

February 2, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

"Cabaret," directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Sandra Hardy, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 23-24 and March 1-3; 2 p.m., Feb. 25 and March 4, Hauck Auditorium, University of Maine. $8. 581-1755.

ORONO –Theatergoers have a special invitation to come to the cabaret opening soon at the University of Maine. There they will enjoy riveting drama, and vintage music and dance numbers, brought to the stage by a diverse group of talented performers.

A cast of 48 directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Sandra Hardy will perform "Cabaret" Feb. 23-25 and March 1-4 in Hauck Auditorium on the UMaine campus. Student performers and an on-stage, 10-piece band will bring the cabaret to life.

The classic musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb is set in Germany in 1929-30, just prior to the rise of the Third Reich, at a time when the swinging Bohemian lifestyle of Berlin was subverted, and the world forever changed.

As Clifford Bradshaw, one of the play’s characters puts it, "I was dancing with Sally Bowles and we were both fast asleep."

"Out of the American canon of musicals, this one has so much meaning for those of us who can remember the crises at that time," says Hardy. "Yet the impact of "Cabaret" isn’t dated. You don’t have to understand World War II or the rise of Nazism to comprehend the kind of escapism that allows a section of the population to lose sight of its responsibilities to all citizens and go with the flow. Cabaret is a metaphor for the kind of escapism that allowed the Holocaust to occur."

The UMaine cast of 48 includes a number of international students. They will be among the first members of the cabaret audience whom a German officer asks to leave. The visual impact will be sobering, says Hardy, who is particularly interested in issues of diversity, including what it means when the underlying goal is to have none.

"We have a real strong cast with a dynamite mixture of strong acting and musical talent, a spirit of ensemble and an understanding of what they’re presenting," Hardy says. "They know that they’re coming to the production with a mission not only to entertain an audience throughout the evening but to share the idea that we have to be careful sometimes because the worst in a population can survive if we don’t allow our consciences to operate. It is terrible to be victimized by the society we live in."

Rabbi Laurence Milder of Beth El Congregation in Bangor met with the cast Jan. 19 on campus to talk about the religious history of the World War II era. Hardy also hopes to have cast members meet and talk with Holocaust survivors. The discussions further the educational experiences of the students and inform their performances.

"My obligation is to educate students," says Hardy. "They are learning about acting, designing and the human condition. The obligation to students and audiences is to present culture in conflict."

Hauck Auditorium will become a cabaret. Theatergoers will enter the cabaret through Hauck Auditorium lobby, where costumed actors will be seated at tables, waiting for the entertainment to begin. When the curtain goes up, the cabaret audience will be composed of patrons and actors, all of whom will soon be under the spell of the Master of Ceremonies.
Members of the cast include Matthew Small, a third-year communication major from Raymond as the Master of Ceremonies; Dominic Varney, a fourth-year communication sciences and disorders major from Winterport as Clifford Bradshaw; Jasmine Ireland, a fourth-year theatre major from Ellsworth as Sally Bowles; Sandra Bisson, a music education graduate student from Vermont as Fraulein Schneider; and UMaine alumnus and Assistant Director of Admissions Danny Williams as Herr Schultz.

Williams also is the vocal director of the production. Associate Professor of Music Anatole Wieck will direct the stage band. They are joined by choreographer Janet Warner-Ashley, accompanist Clayton Smith and costume designer Richard MacPike, a theater alumnus working professionally in New York. This creative team worked with Hardy on such UMaine productions as "Kiss Me, Kate" and "Pump Boys and Dinettes."

The newest member of the team is set designer Chez Cherry who comes to UMaine from Los Angeles, where he designed sets for such clients as the "Tracey Ullman Show."

Showtimes for "Cabaret" are 7:30 p.m., Feb. 23-24 and March 1-3; 2 p.m., Feb. 25 and March 4. Tickets are $8 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
Conservation Lands Have Little Impact on Job or Population Growth in Rural Economies

February 5, 2001
Contact: David Lewis, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3179, david_lewis@umenfa.maine.edu
Andrew Plantinga, Oregon State University Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 541-737-1423, plantinga@orst.edu.
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu
Editors: David Lewis is available for interviews at 207-581-3179. Andrew Plantinga recently transferred to Oregon State University and can be reached at 541-737-1423.

ORONO, Maine -- In counties across the northern U.S., conservation lands have had little effect on growth rates for local population and jobs, according to a new study published this week by the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station at the University of Maine. The findings provide a first look at the impact of conservation lands on rural economies.

David Lewis, a master's student from Yarmouth, Maine in the Department of Resource Economics and Policy wrote the report with Andrew Plantinga, an assistant professor, formerly at UMaine and now at Oregon State University. They focused their study on trends in counties from Maine to Minnesota between 1990 and 1997. Their goal was to determine if the presence of conservation lands helps or hinders local economies.

They found no evidence that conservation lands lead to drastic employment declines or to economic growth. The results suggest that economic development impacts should not be the primary factor in decisions about establishing new conservation areas such as national forests or parks, the authors conclude.

Conservation lands include areas such as national and state forests, wildlife refuges and national and state parks. Among the seven states in the study, Maine has the smallest portion of its area in conservation at 5.4 percent, and Michigan and Minnesota have the largest at 37 percent and 33.3 percent respectively. Altogether, state governments own about six out of every ten of these acres. Federal ownership accounts for the rest.

"This is a good area to look at because the climate, the population and the rural economies are relatively similar across the region," says Lewis, "but the amount of land managed for conservation purposes varies a lot. That allows us to see if conservation land has an effect on migration to a county or the number of jobs."

Some counties in the study area have no conservation land while others include as much as 50 percent of their land under such management.

Lewis and Plantinga used data from U.S. Census reports and created a mathematical model to estimate the relative importance of conservation lands as a factor in population changes and job growth. Their model also considers social and economic factors that could affect rural economic performance. Among them were unemployment, family income, education levels, recreational opportunities and public expenditures on education, police and medical needs.

They found that the presence of conservation lands had a slightly positive impact on net migration into a county but no direct effect on employment growth. However, since employment growth is directly related to migration, conservation lands indirectly increase employment, the said. In both cases, the effect was small.

Their study did not look at the ages or income levels of migrants into counties or at the composition of employment in local economies. However, they extended their analysis to consider the relative impacts of conservation lands managed for preservation and multiple-use purposes.
Policies for preservation exclude timber harvesting and hunting. National parks and some state-owned areas such as Baxter State Park in Maine, fall into that category. As multiple-use areas, national forests tend to allow both in addition to recreational pursuits.

A turning point for national forest management occurred in the late 1980s, the report notes. Prior to that time, national forest lands tended to be managed largely for timber harvesting. During the 1980s, pursuant to federal law, national forest managers rewrote land management plans to put more emphasis on recreational and environmental values. After 1990, the new plans led to a reduction in timber harvests by more than two-thirds and a decline in clearcuts by 80 percent in national forests across the country.

Despite these trends, local employment did not drop. To explain this finding, the authors suggest two possibilities. Either conservation lands have no effect on employment, or losses in the forest products sector were offset by gains in tourism. Their analysis did not study either possibility.

The report is available from Barbara Harrity at the Experiment Station by calling 207-581-3211, or via e-mail, harrity@maine.edu.
Le Stagioni to Perform on Campus

February 5, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

Le Stagioni in Concert, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 16, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – Works of Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn will be featured in a concert by four internationally recognized artists now in residence at the University of Maine as members of Le Stagioni.

Le Stagioni is the UMaine/Bangor Symphony Orchestra Graduate String Quartet, now in its second year. Performing in the Feb. 16 concert are violinists Dmitriy Fish and Alexandra Fish of Russia, violist Jethro Marks of Vancouver, and cellist Inna Nassidze from the former Soviet republic of Georgia. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall at the University of Maine.

Tickets for the recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

On the program are Haydn’s Quartet Op. 74, No. 1; Mendelssohn’s Quartet Op. 44, No. 1; and Beethoven’s "EyeGlass Duet."

Jethro Marks, Dmitriy Fish and Alexandra Fish are the newest members of Le Stagioni. Marks has been praised by critics for his "exceptional musicianship." In 1998, the award-winning artist was the only violist accepted into the Zukerman Program at the Manhattan School of Music. Marks recently won first prize in the MSM Concerto Competition, and will return next year to play the "Walton Concerto" with orchestra.

Dmitriy Fish and his wife, Alexandra Fish, performed extensively in Russia, and for four years were members of the Moscow String Quartet. Dmitriy studied at the Manhattan School of Music and is a founding member of the Mozart String Quartet. Alexandra Fish studied at the Brooklyn Conservatory with such mentors as Itzhak Perlman.

Inna Nassidze, a returning member of Le Stagioni, studied at the Curtis Institute of Music. The winner of many prestigious awards, she has participated in master classes with such artists as Yo-Yo Ma and Isaac Stern. Nassidze performs on an instrument given to her by the late renowned cellist Raya Garbousova.

In Maine, the quartet travels to schools to perform and conduct workshops for students, as well as to perform on artist series throughout the state. The artists also perform with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra.
UMaine Students Attend Theater Festival

February 5, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Theater students from the University of Maine's School of Performing Arts competed in the American College Theater Festival's regional competition held January 24-28 at the University of New Hampshire.

“Our students represented us in an outstanding fashion,” says Marcia Douglas, assistant professor of theatre at UMaine, who presented a workshop on speaking verse at the festival.

Two students were selected to perform in the final round of the Irene Ryan Competition, which awards scholarships to the outstanding student performers in each ACTF regional festival. Regional winners compete in the national festival held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Tim Simons of Readfield and Paul Bishop Brown of Groveton, NH made it to the finals. Irene Dennis and Rick Solomon, both of Orono, also competed in the Ryan competition.

In the final competition, Simons and Brown were assisted by scene partners Amy Hummler of Winthrop and Jeremy Towle of Lincoln.

Melanie McGlinchey of Bath received an Honorable Mention for her make up design presentation for the play “The Marriage of Bette and Boo.”

The American College Theater Festival is a national theater program involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide.
Coalition to Release Report on Aging in Maine

February 7, 2001
Media Advisory
Contact:
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Maine Geriatric/Gerontology Education Center, 283-0170
Eleanor Goldberg, Maine Alzheimer's Association, 772-0115
Kathy Pears, Maine Alzheimer's Association, 985-2423
Don Sharland, Maine State Housing Authority, 626-4675
Peter Cook, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3756

ORONO -- A report that recommends steps to improve services for Maine's growing elderly population will be released on February 12 at a legislative luncheon at the Senators Inn in Augusta by a coalition of public and nonprofit organizations.

"Getting Old in Maine" was based on findings from five focus groups held throughout Maine in November and December last year. It was sponsored by the Coalition for a Maine Aging Initiative, an organization that includes the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy and Cooperative Extension from the University of Maine.

Also included in the coalition are the Maine Alzheimer's Association, the Maine Area Agencies on Aging, the Maine Hospital Association, the Maine Rural Development Council, the Maine State Housing Authority and the University of New England's Maine Geriatric/Gerontology Education Center.

Coalition members contributed to the writing of the report include: Marie Fisher, Eleanor Goldberg and Kathryn Pears of the Maine Alzheimer's Association; Marilyn R. Gugliucci of Maine Geriatric/Gerontology Education Center Don Sharland of the Maine State Housing Authority, and Deb Killam of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

"This report identifies the issues affecting Maine's elders and the areas where policy action is needed," says Robert Ho, rural economic development specialist and executive director for the Maine Rural Development Council.

The CMAI believes that in the absence of a coordinated and systemic approach to aging issues, today's problems will be greatly magnified in the coming years.

The group formed in July 2000 to inform and educate policy and other decision-makers about the short- and long-term policy implications of Maine's shifting demographics as they relate to the state's elderly and aging citizens.

According to the report, Maine's older population will increase by 50 percent over the next twenty-five years. At the same time, the population defined as youth will decline by nearly 20 percent.

To gather information on what it is like to age in Maine, the Coalition hosted five focus groups around the state in November and December 2000. The Coalition hosted groups in Presque Isle, Orono, Farmington, Augusta and Portland.

The following concerns were identified about challenges facing Maine's elderly in both rural and urban areas:

• Consumers are unaware of what programs are available and are ill prepared to navigate a long-term care system
• Program eligibility is restrictive and does not adequately account for the complexity of individual circumstances.
• The Medical Eligibility Assessment process was a consistent source of frustration for participants.
• Transportation remains a major weakness in accessing needed services.
• The cost of prescription drugs is a barrier to medical care.
• Seniors fear financial impoverishment if they access health care and/or medical services.
• Mental health services for seniors are inadequate, especially in rural areas.
• There is an acute shortage of health care workers, both for in-home care and facility-based care.

Working from these areas of concern, the Coalition outlined the elements that need to be taken into consideration by lawmakers when they formulate policy to deal with issues of aging.

-- The state must be ready to respond to the increased pressure on state revenues that will occur because there will be fewer taxpayers contributing to the revenue base. The report says priorities need to be identified systematically in an open, transparent public policy process.

-- Local efforts should be encouraged and strengthened through a system of community-based programming and support. Many participants in the focus groups felt that local resources represent a potential that needs to be more fully tapped and used. Increased collaboration between and among programs can result in benefits to the seniors in the community.

-- Current programs need to be evaluated to determine their efficiency in terms of senior's quality of life, functional ability and other major benchmarks.

-- There must be both innovation and humanity in programming efforts. Many of the program participants felt as though by becoming more efficient, many of the systems for providing benefits have become dehumanizing.

-- Aging issues must be made visible on the highest policy level in the state. The group recommends that a state commission on aging be created with adequate funding to provide public policy education and advocacy throughout the state.

Copies of this report will be available from the Coalition for a Maine Aging Initiative at the Augusta Senator Inn on February 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Hudson Museum to Hold Games Day

February 7, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will host its 11th annual Games Day on Wednesday, February 21, an event that gives area children the opportunity to experience new cultures while having fun.

The Games Day begins at 10 a.m. and goes until noon. Participants will play games of skill and chance from around the world while visiting the galleries of the Hudson Museum.

Game stations will include chocolate and feather races; waltzes, a Northeastern Native American bowl game; and seal races. The day’s activities will conclude with a conga dance through the Hudson Museum. Ann Ross, instructor in the theatre and dance department at UMaine, will lead the dance.

The event is open to scout groups and may be used to fulfill the Heritage belt loop and pin requirements.

Games Day events are open to children ages six and up and there is a $3 per child registration fee. Please call 581-1901 to register or for more information.
Peace Studies Event Rescheduled

February 7, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – "American Pictures," a multi-media presentation originally scheduled for Monday evening, has been rescheduled and will now be shown on Saturday, February 10 at 2 p.m.

The presentation, sponsored by the Peace Studies Program and Multicultural Programs at the University of Maine, will take place in room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett business building. "American Pictures" chronicles a Danish man's personal journey through the American underclass and portrays in music, words and 3,000 pictures the country that he came to love.

For more information, call the Peace Studies Program at 581-2609.
Philosophy Department Plans Colloquium Series

February 7, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The philosophy department at the University of Maine has announced the schedule for the Spring 2001 Philosophy Colloquium Series, a program that encourages thought and discussion on timely issues.

On March 1, filmmaker Sy Rotter will speak on "Making Sense in the Balkans: An Oxymoron or Wishful Thinking?" This program will take place at 12:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union.

Rotter will show and discuss two of his recent films made in Macedonia and Croatia. These films, focusing on conflict resolution, explore the work of volunteer peace workers in former Serbian occupied areas of Croatia and young Macedonians, Christian and Moslem, as they contemplate their future after Kosovo.

That evening, at 7 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall, Rotter will give the John M. Rezendes Ethics Lecture. "Stories and Issues of Moral Courage" is a multimedia presentation, featuring segments of his award-winning educational documentaries.

Rotter's presentation will address the topic of moral courage as evidenced in the experiences of Italian, German and Greek rescuers of Jewish fugitives during the Holocaust, and conflict resolution as seen in the work of the Peace Builders of Croatia and students in Macedonia. This presentation is also part of the Peace and Justice Film Series, and the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund supports both of Rotter's lectures.

In April, the Marshall Dodge Memorial Philosophy Lecturer, Lee Siegel, will visit campus. Siegel is a professor of religion at the University of Hawaii and is the author of several books on Asian religion, love, sexuality, humor and magic, including the novel "Love in a Dead Language: A Romance," which was selected as a New York Times Book Review "Notable Book of the Year."

Siegel's lecture, "Humor, Religion and Philosophy" will be held at 7 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall.

On April 12, Naresh Dadhich, professor of political science at the University of Rajasthan in India, director of the Jaipur Peace Foundation and author of "Gandhi and Existentialism" will give two talks on peace.

The first, "Peace: The Ultimate Experience of Human Existence" will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the Levinson Room of the Maples.

At 4 p.m., Dadhich will speak on "Gandhian Nonviolence as a Means for Peace" in the Levinson Room of the Maples. Both talks are supported by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee.

Dennis Patterson, the philosophy visiting scholar, will visit UMaine April 25-26. Patterson, from Rutgers University Law School, is the author of Law and Truth. The title, time and location of his talk are to be announced.

All of these programs are free and open to the public. Call the philosophy department at 581-3861 for more information.
UMaine to Provide Tax Assistance

February 8, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – A group of University of Maine students will volunteer their time to give tax help to those in need.

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

Students in VITA will be available in 117 D.P. Corbett Business Building from 2 to 5 p.m. on Mondays, except during spring break, March 12 and 19. Taxpayers should bring W-2s, documenting their earnings, and 1099s for interest and dividends.

For more information on VITA, call Steve Colburn, associate professor of accounting at 581-1982.
School Vacation Programs at the Jordan Planetarium

February 9, 2001
Contact: Alan Davenport, Jordan Planetarium, 581-1341
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- When hundreds of families head to the Bangor area for the basketball tournaments February 18-23, they will be able to take in a spacey show at the Jordan Planetarium in the same trip.

Families and individual visitors are already reserving space in the programs that will be offered at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday that week. The stunning reproduction of the night sky indoors makes this a unique experience and a chance to see what constellations and “highlights” are viewable this season.

The vacation playbill has something for everyone:

• Follow the Drinking Gourd, ages 7 and up, 10:00 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Friday.

• Destination Mars, ages 9 and up, 2:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

• Worlds of Wonder, ages 9 and up, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday

• Moon Shadows, ages 9 and up, 2:00 p.m. Wednesday

• Our Sky Family, ages 5 to 8, 2:00 p.m. Monday and Friday

• Don't Duck, Look Up! ages 4 to 7, 10:00 a.m. Monday and Friday, 2:00 p.m. Sunday

Throughout the school year, Jordan Planetarium offers family showings every weekend with a favorite feature on Friday evenings at 7:00 and a younger children's matinee Sundays at 2:00. The star theater is located in Wingate Hall on the Orono campus convenient to the Steam Plant parking lot on College Avenue. Admission is $4 for adults and $3 for children and senior citizens.

More information and reservations are available from the planetarium office at 207-581-1341 or visit the Jordan Planetarium web site.
Guitarist Keith Crook Gives Faculty Recital

February 12, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Faculty Recital by Keith Crook, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 24, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – Twelfth-century troubadour melodies and 20th-century works by the artist will be featured in a faculty recital by guitarist Keith Crook on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall on campus. Tickets for the recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

The program includes two eclectic works by Crook, "Dyslexic Visigoth" and "Retroactive Felicity." He also will perform a suite by Robert de Visee, a Duke Ellington arrangement, "Mood Indigo," and some reharmonized 12th-century melodies.

Flutist Liz Downing will join Crook for three 19th-century works.
Hudson Museum Plans Arctic Event

February 12, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine invites the public to experience the Arctic at a special family event on March 3.

"Ends of the Earth: The Arctic" is a day of indoor and outdoor Arctic events and activities at the Hudson Museum, located in the Maine Center for the Arts at UMaine. Activities begin at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Ongoing activities include activity stations in the Hudson Museum, where families can try their hand at Inuit games; look at Arctic artifacts; build an Inukshuk; learn Inuit carving; play with Shadow puppets; make string figures; visit the book and video corners; learn about Yupik language and dance; and explore Internet Arctic resources.

Outside, members of UMaine's Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity will build an Inuit snow sculpture near the MCA marquee. Visitors will also have a chance to meet and pat Cruiser, a husky owned by Mike and Barbara Hermann.

Scheduled events inside the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts include:

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. – Richard Emerick, director emeritus of the Hudson Museum, will present his 1954 documentary film of Iglulingmuit life.

12:00 – 12:45 p.m. – Richard Jagels, professor of forest biology, will present "Want to See a Redwood Swamp Forest? Book a Trip to the North Pole?"

1:00 – 1:45 p.m. – William and Mary Bergen will show a video production of their time spent in the Alaskan Arctic in the early 1990s.

2:00 – 2:45 p.m. – Paul Mayewski, professor of geological sciences and quaternary studies, will present "Secrets of the Ice."

Scheduled events outside on the knoll across from the Class of 1944 Hall:

10 a.m. – Noon – Dogsled demonstration by Jennifer Buswell, a UMaine student who runs TuffLace Kennel.

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Maine Bound demonstration of a "Quinzee" (snow shelter) and a snow kitchen.

Admission to the event is $1 per person and $5 per family maximum. Free admission for Hudson Museum Friends. For more information, call the Hudson Museum at 581-1901 or visit their web site at www.umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum.
UMaine Professor Studies Earnings Gap

February 12, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The issue of pay equity between men and women in the United States is one that ignites emotions and inspires campaign promises. A University of Maine professor, working with a colleague at Rutgers University, has recently written a paper that examines the debate from a unique perspective.

In “The Tournament Careers of Top-Ranked Men and Women Tennis Professionals: Are the Gentlemen More Committed than the Ladies,” Donijo Robbins, assistant professor of public administration at UMaine and Douglas Coate, professor of economics at Rutgers University, study the careers of tennis players and their comparative earnings over time.

The paper was published in the Winter 2001 issue of the Journal of Labor Research.

“We needed to look at an individual sport, and tennis players are competitive on their own,” says Robbins. “We thought this might give us some idea now of how competitive men are versus women. Are the men more competitive? Since the literature suggests that they are, we wanted to look at a competitive sport and see if that explains the difference in their earnings.”

The careers of tennis players, says Robbins, are easier to track than careers of people in the business world. Information on pay and player rankings is readily available. The fact that tennis players have been used, she says, doesn't mean that the results are less credible.

“Sports and business both relate to human nature. Professor Coate and I are economists, so we tend to explain behavior in those terms,” she says. “You can relate competitiveness in tennis to competitiveness in the business world, because in both, if you're not committed to your job, you're not going to go anywhere and will stay at an entry level position.”

Robbins found no evidence to suggest that female tennis players were less committed to the sport than males.

“Both men and women are on the professional tour for about the same number of years,” she says. “We examined the commitment of top-ranked male and female players as measured by the number of tournaments per year they play and by the number of years they compete.”

Robbins says that if, because of physiological characteristics or other influences, men were more competitive or more committed to the game than women, such differences should show up in a study of the career profiles.

The study did find there was a gap between how much women tennis professionals earned and the earnings of their male counterparts.
“In tennis, there are only one or two tournaments that pay the same amount of money to both men and women,” says Robbins. “We believe this gap is justified because men play more sets than women. Why aren't the women playing as much?”

Robbins says that she doesn't know for sure, but thinks that the five sets men play as compared to women's three is related more to biology than to discrimination.

The fact that female tennis players receive lower pay does not negatively affect their competitiveness.

“Despite substantially lower earnings, the female professionals compete for as many years as do the males and just as intently in terms of annual number of tournaments played,” she says.

In the same way, Robbins says that some of the earnings gap in the business world may be justified at times. Much of the time, the gap is due more to a difference in jobs. For that reason, says Robbins, there will always be an earnings gap.

“You can make the generalization that men are in more physically demanding jobs. If you go to an auto manufacturing plant, most of the workers on the floor are men,” she says. “However, if a woman is doing the exact same job for the same amount of time, there should be no difference in earnings. If there is an earnings gap under those circumstances, there's something wrong.”
UMaine Presents Ethics Lecture

Feb. 15, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The philosophy department at the University of Maine brings filmmaker Sy Rotter to campus for this year's John M. Rezendes Ethics Lecture on March 1.

Rotter is the president and founder of Documentaries International, an international foundation dedicated to highlighting acts of moral courage by individuals or groups.

He began the organization six years ago when he observed that issues of moral courage in relation to the rescue of Jewish fugitives during the Holocaust had not received sufficient attention. The foundation has since completed nine films.

In the afternoon, Rotter will speak at the Socialist and Marxist Luncheon Series. “Making Sense in the Balkans: An Oxymoron or Wishful Thinking?” will be presented at 12:30 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union.

During this talk, Rotter will show and discuss two of his recent films made in Macedonia and Croatia. These films, focusing on conflict resolution, explore the work of volunteer peace workers in former Serbian occupied areas of Croatia and young Macedonians, Christian and Moslem, as they contemplate their future after Kosovo.

At 7 p.m., Rotter will deliver the Rezendes Lecture, “Stories and Issues of Moral Courage” in 100 Neville Hall.

This multimedia presentation will feature segments of his award-winning educational documentaries. The lecture will address the topic of moral courage as evidenced in the experiences of Italian, German and Greek rescuers of Jewish fugitives during the Holocaust, and conflict resolution in the work of the Peace Builders in Croatia and students in Macedonia. This event is also part of the Peace and Justice Film Series.

The visit is sponsored by the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the department of philosophy at 581-3866.
Cooperative Extension Sets Farmland Workshops

Feb. 16, 2001
Contact: Trish Westenbroek at (207) 933-2100
Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

SKOWHEGAN -- The University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host the Maine Farmland Trust for a series of two workshops on farmland conservation easements at the Somerset County Office in Skowhegan. The sessions are scheduled for March 14 and 21, from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each day.

This series will provide a unique opportunity for farmers to familiarize themselves with the various components of what is included in a farmland conservation easement and what it takes to write an easement that is most appropriate for them. The first of the series will highlight the components that can go into an easement and how the easement effects the day-to-day operation of the farm. It will also give producers the chance to meet and talk with Paul Birdsall, a producer from Blue Hill, who has gone through the process.

The second workshop will highlight the costs and funding of an easement, and tax and appraisal issues surrounding the easement. The Maine Farmland Trust's Executive Director, LouAnna Perkins, will lead the workshops. The series is designed for producers to ask as many questions as possible to see if this option is suitable to their operation. There is a fee of $5, which covers both sessions and refreshments.

Participants are asked to pre-register by March 12. For more information, contact Trish Westenbroek, Extension Educator at Highmoor Farm, phone, (207) 933-2100 or email, pwesten@umext.maine.edu.
Fence at UMaine Garden Will Protect Plants, Allow Public Access

February 20, 2001
Contact: Stephen Reiling, Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, 207-581-3228, reiling@maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- A new fence at the Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden at the University of Maine will protect plantings for research and educational purposes while still allowing controlled access to the public. The 14-acre garden has served for almost 40 years as a test area for new varieties of ornamental trees, shrubs and plants.

According to Reeser Manley, director of the Littlefield Garden, deer damage and minor vandalism have been an ongoing problem. Plants have been eaten and trampled and signs have been destroyed and knocked over, he said.

“The garden serves as a resource for research and student teaching,” says Manley, “and it is open to the public. Over the years, we have had damage from deer and inappropriate use by people, especially late at night and on the weekends.”

The possibility of closing the garden on weekends had been considered, he added, but preference has been given to maintaining the tradition of dawn-to-dusk access to the public. A two-way turnstile will be installed when fencing around the garden is completed this spring.

“Fencing the Littlefield Garden is vital to protecting the plant material,” said Stephen Reiling, associate director of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station. “Deer have been destroying some of the plantings for several years. However, we know that the garden is enjoyed by people in the community, and we are committed to keeping it open daily, including evenings and weekends, for the enjoyment of the public.”

The garden is named for UMaine horticulturist Lyle E. Littlefield who established it in the early 1960s.
Hutchinson Center Hosts Maine Studies Film

February 20, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

BELFAST -- The Maine Studies program at the University of Maine will sponsor a showing of the film, "A Midwife's Tale" at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast on Wednesday, March 7th at 6:30 PM.

This portrayal of the Pulitzer Prize winning book, A Midwife's Tale, reveals the work of Maine midwife Martha Ballard and the work of historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. Martha Ballard practiced midwifery in the Hallowell area and kept a diary from 1785 until her death in 1812.

After the film, Carol Wood, a certified nurse midwife for 24 years, will lead a discussion on the film. Wood is an associate professor at the University of Maine and the graduate program coordinator in the School of Nursing. A 1977 graduate of the University of Illinois, Wood began her clinical and academic career as a nurse-midwife at Yale University School of Nursing, where she was an associate professor and director of the Yale Nurse Midwifery Practice until she came to Maine in 1987.

The film and discussion are free and open to the public. For more information contact Carol Toner at the Maine Studies office, 581-3147.
Student Newspaper Now Available on Web

February 20, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook, 581-3756

ORONO – The Maine Campus, the University of Maine's student-run newspaper, is now available on the World Wide Web.

The newspaper, which is published three times a week, can be accessed online at www.mainecampus.com. The web version will contain all of the articles, photographs and editorials of the print edition.

Stanley Dankoski, a senior journalism major and new media minor at UMaine, is the web editor.

“Putting the paper on the web has been a five year effort,” says Dankoski, who presently works with, second-year management information systems major Walter Hilenski. Dankoski is responsible for putting the content on the site, Hilenski handles the technical and administrative issues.

The paper is hosted by College Publisher, a web site dedicated to putting college newspapers online. In addition to the web hosting, the site also puts Maine Campus stories on U-Wire, giving student reporters the chance to have their work read in newspapers throughout the country.

Dankoski says he hopes to use the new service to make breaking news and a greater variety of photo editorials available to UMaine students and the public.

“We're looking at all sorts of ways to use this new software,” says Hilenski.

The web-based Campus will be published on the same days as the print-based version – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
UMaine Celebrates Franco American Week

Feb. 20, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Franco American Studies program and the Franco-American Centre at the University of Maine have planned a series of events to celebrate Franco culture in the state.

“There are lots of Francos in the area, both on and off campus, but very few events publicly celebrate that culture,” says Susan Pinette, director of the Franco-American Studies program at UMaine. “We are hoping that these events will bring Francos together and that they will introduce various aspects of Franco American culture to those who are not familiar with it.”

Pinette organized the events with Lisa Michaud of UMaine's Franco-American Centre and editor of “Le Forum.” The University of Maine Cultural Affairs Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, department of English, Women in the Curriculum/Women's Studies Program and others also helped sponsor the week's activities.

“The events being organized include Franco cuisine, genealogy, poetry, dancing and history,” says Michaud. “I hope those attending the events will have a greater knowledge of the Franco-American cultural identity.”

All events are open to the public. For more information, contact the Franco-American Studies office at 581-4450.

The schedule is as follows:

**Feb. 22** – “Franco Americans at UMaine: Class and Ethnic Dimensions” Part of the Marxist/Socialist Luncheon Series, a panel exploring the role of Franco-Americans at the University of Maine. 12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, UMaine Memorial Union

**Feb. 23** – “Down on the Plains” Rhea Coté Robbins, author of “Wednesday's Child” will read from a work in progress. 12:15 p.m., FFA Room, UMaine Memorial Union

**Feb. 25** – Fiddler's Jamboree. Join us for a trip to the University of Maine at Fort Kent to attend their 9th Annual Fiddler's Jamboree. 8 a.m., vans leave from UMaine Motor Pool. Please RSVP by calling 581-4450 by Feb. 21.

**Feb. 26** – “Nos Histoires de l'Ile” Amy Morin and Harold Lacadie present their oral history project of French Island. 12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, UMaine Memorial Union

**Feb. 27** – Mardi Gras Dinner, 4-7 p.m., York Dining Commons, UMaine. Contact Susan Little, 581-4959. Admission is $8.95 for adults, $5.95 for students, plus tax.

**Feb. 27** - Mardi Gras Soirée – Come kick up your heels with Don Roy, Michael Parent, Lilianne Labbé and Jean-Paul Poulain. 7 p.m., Lengyel Gym, UMaine. Contact Lisa Michaud at 581-3789. Admission is $3 for students, $5 for adults and $10 for families.

**Feb. 28** – “Chez Nous: Home and Franco American Women” Part of the Women in the Curriculum Luncheon series, a panel exploring the role of home in Franco-American culture. 12:30 p.m., Bangor Lounge, UMaine Memorial Union

**Feb. 28** – Franco American Music Workshop with Lil Labbé. Lilianne Labbé will explore Franco American music, demonstrating clogging and spoons. 4 p.m., York Commons, UMaine
March 1 – Franco American Autobiography: Dennis Ledoux will talk about his work with Life Writing. 4 p.m., Bangor Lounge, UMaine Memorial Union

March 2 – Franco American Poetry Reading: Franco Americans read their most recent works. 4 p.m., FFA Room, UMaine Memorial Union

March 5 – Acadian History and Culture: Don Cyr offers a lecture and slide presentation, 4 p.m., FFA Room, UMaine Memorial Union

March 6 – Beausoleil in Concert: Come hear Cajun music as only Beausoleil can play it. 7 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts. Admission fee.
UMaine to Host its First New England Regional American College Dance Festival

February 20, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

New England Regional American College Dance Festival, part of the UMaine School of Performing Arts season, March 8-10, University of Maine, Orono. 581-4704.

ORONO -- More than 300 college dance students and faculty will be at the University of Maine for the New England Regional American College Dance Festival, March 8-10.

This is the first year that the University of Maine has been selected to host the regional festival, featuring dance concerts, master classes and a gala event the final night. Also for the first time, UMaine dance students will perform as part of the festival.

Festival coordinator is UMaine alumna and instructor Ann Ross.

Dance students and faculty representing 22 colleges and universities throughout New England and New York, including Harvard and Columbia, will participate in the festival. People wishing to attend the festival, including the master classes, can register as “observers” by calling the Conference Services Division, 581-4092.

The public is welcome to attend the free dance concerts occurring each day in Hauck Auditorium. Adjudication concerts are scheduled for: Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, March 9, 1:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 10, 10 a.m.

Ten works will be selected by a panel of adjudicators for performance in the Festival Gala Concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 10. Admission is $5.

Other public concerts: the Faculty Concert Friday, March 9, 7:30 p.m., Hauck Auditorium; and the Non-Adjudicated Concert Saturday, March 10, 4 p.m., Minsky Recital Hall. Admission for each is $5. Tickets for performances are available at the door.

A highlight of the festival will be a lecture/demonstration by Troika Ranch, a New York-based dance theater company whose dynamic live performances combine dance, music, theater and interactive digital media. The presentation Friday, March 9 at 9 a.m., Hutchins Concert Hall, Maine Center for the Arts, also is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by UMaine's Academic Computing Advisory Committee (ACAC) as part of the Technology Speakers Series.

In past years, UMaine students have attended but not competed in the regional festival. This year, 13 students with minors in dances will perform. Two students, Jeremy Towle of Lincoln, a senior majoring in theater, and Alanna Hounsell of Readfield, a junior majoring in English, will be soloists performing modern dance works in the adjudicated competition. The UMaine ensemble will perform two works as part of the non-adjudicated concert.

UMaine's dance program enrolls almost 400 students a year. The interest in dance as a minor is tremendous, says Ross, with dance concerts on campus playing to full houses and students on waiting lists for classes.

Last year, UMaine dance students attended the regional competition held at Bates College. American College Dance Festival holds its national competition every other year; the next is in 2002.
Campus Environmental Impacts to be Highlighted

February 21, 2001
Contact: Marquita Hill, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, 207-581-2301, mhill@umche.maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Steps being taken by Maine's colleges and universities to reduce their environmental impacts will be highlighted at a conference in Bar Harbor on April 6. The 21st Century Campus Conference will be held at the Atlantic Oakes By-the-Sea and is open to the public.

The purpose of the meeting is to inspire and promote environmental stewardship among administrators, students, faculty and staff in higher education organizations. It also aims to document the many benefits of a “green” campus and to be the basis for further collaboration among Maine's colleges, universities, government agencies and businesses. The conference will be held concurrently with a meeting of the Maine Council of College Presidents at the Atlantic Oakes.

“As we move into the 21st Century, colleges and universities have an opportunity and, arguably an obligation, to model advanced environmental performance, both for their students and surrounding communities,” says Ted Koffman, a member of the conference planning team from College of the Atlantic and a State Representative. “Campuses can benefit from investments in energy conservation, toxic use reduction, and other environmental improvements.”

Speakers in the morning will provide an overview of campus environmental management issues. George Bandy of Interface Corporation will open the meeting with a keynote address, Sustainable Development: The Next Educational Revolution. Interface, owner of Guilford of Maine and a leading textile manufacturer, is a corporation working toward making its operations sustainable.

Nan Jenks-Jay, director of environmental affairs at Middlebury College, Vermont, will discuss steps taken at her college to save energy, recycle and reuse waste materials and conserve resources.

Other morning speakers represent Bates College, Southern Maine Technical College, the Chewonki Foundation, the University of Southern Maine and the architectural firm of Renner, Van Dam and Renner of Portland. They will describe steps Maine campuses are already taking to reduce environmental impacts.

The afternoon program will focus on methods to achieve reductions in environmental impacts. Sessions include designing for the environment in campus communities, sustainable landscapes, closing the circle in college dining and food service, ecological foot-printing, solid-waste recycling, practical energy measures and a student-led forum on the student's role as an agent of change.

Sponsors include Maine colleges and universities, Maine state agencies, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Conference developers hope that attendees will learn approaches to move their campuses toward environmental excellence and leave inspired to take action. They also see the conference as the first major event of a Maine green-campus consortium. More information and registration materials are available from Marquita Hill at 581-2301 or mhill@umche.maine.edu.
Educational Opportunity Programs Mark National Celebration

Feb. 21, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt, 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – The University of Maine is joining in the celebration of National TRIO Week, Feb. 19-23, recognizing the success of programs such as Upward Bound in helping economically disadvantaged youth prepare for and succeed in post-secondary education.

TRIO is a series of programs established by Congress in 1965 to help encourage and support the higher education aspirations and efforts of individuals from low-income, first-generation college families. At UMaine, the federally funded TRIO program are administered by the College of Education and Human Development.

• Upward Bound offers two programs. Classic Upward serves 100 high school students at participating schools in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties. It provides year-round academic support in the schools and a summer residential program at UMaine, where students take classes, learn about the college selection process and gain work experience through a variety of jobs on campus and in the community.

The Upward Bound Regional Math-Science Center serves 50 students from high schools around New England. Their summer experience includes accelerated classes in math, science and technology, as well as doing extensive research in the sciences with UMaine faculty.

More than 80 percent of students completing Upward Bound are accepted to and enter college.

• The Maine Educational Talent Search program is funded to serve 950 students in grades 6-11 in participating school in Penobscot, Washington, Aroostook, Waldo and Oxford counties. Talent Search also maintains a college enrollment rate in excess of 80 percent.

• The Maine Educational Opportunity Center provides information and services to eligible Maine adults statewide who want to continue their education. The project serves at least 2,500 individuals and distributes educational opportunity information to more than 65,000 residents.

Thirty-five high school students in the UMaine Upward Bound program will mark TRIO Week by attending a two-day celebration in Nashua, N.H., the site of the Region I (New England) observance. Upward Bound students from throughout New England will gather for a rally, to hear speakers, visit colleges and and get to see that they are part of a diverse, nationwide project.

Media Photo and Interview Opportunities:

Upward Bound students will be boarding the bus for Nashua in front of Chadbourne Hall at UMaine at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 for departure at approximately 8 a.m.

TRIO and educational leaders available to discuss the mission, service and success of the federally funded programs in Maine include:

- Linda Ives, director, Upward Bound
- David Megquier, director, Talent Search and Maine Educational Opportunity Center
- Robert Cobb, dean, UMaine College of Education and Human Development

For interviews, call Kay Hyatt, 581-2761.
ORONO, Maine - A new summer offering from the Maine Writing Project at the University of Maine will focus on the teaching of poetry in K-12 classrooms. The advanced institute will be led by Maine’s Poet Laureate, Baron Wormser of Hallowell.

The July 23-27 institute, Teaching the Reading and Writing of Poetry, will cover various poetic forms and is designed to help teachers improve their creative and instructional skills and to more actively engage students in the genre.

Wormser is the author or co-author of five books of poetry, the latest being “Teaching the Art of Poetry” (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., 2000) and “Mulroney & Others” (Sarabande Books, 1999).

The poetry institute will follow the Maine Writing Project’s annual summer professional development program for teachers, which will be held June 25-July 20 in Cumberland. An affiliate of the National Writing Project dedicated to the improvement of student writing and the teaching of writing across the curriculum in all grade levels, the Maine Writing Project is a competitive program for educators who want to be instructional leaders. Teachers completing the program are distinguished as fellows of both the Maine Writing Project and the National Writing Project, qualified to provide professional development workshops in schools in Maine and around the country.

Both programs carry graduate credit. Application deadlines for both the poetry institute and the Maine Writing Project summer program is March 23. For information and applications, contact the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, (207) 581-2438; e-mail: theresa.mcmannus@umit.maine.edu.
UMaine Engineer Receives Prestigious Federal Composites Grant for Research and Education

February 26, 2001

Contact: Roberto-Lopez Anido, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, 207-581-2119
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777,

ORONO, Maine -- A $375,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will enable University of Maine engineers to test the use of sophisticated electronic embedded sensors in bridges and other structures made with advanced composite materials. Roberto Lopez-Anido, a faculty member in the UMaine Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center (AEWC), received a NSF CAREER Award that will provide research funds over the next five years.

Lopez-Anido is the fourth UMaine engineer to receive this prestigious award since 1997 under a NSF program designed to support research and promote improvements in education. He will use the grant to collaborate with high school students and to develop a new advanced graduate course in wood composites.

Lopez-Anido leads a cooperative project involving the AEWC lab and students and teachers at Mt. Blue High School in Farmington. Groups of Mt. Blue students worked alongside university students and faculty last fall during a model bridge building exercise.

“This program will capitalize on the regional industrial thrust in composites while focusing on a framework for using advanced fiber-optic sensors,” says Lopez-Anido. “The Maine boat-building industry and the paper industry use fiber-reinforced polymer composite technologies in corrosive processing environments. This industrial trend makes composite materials one of the key target areas in Maine's Science and Technology Action Plan. The plan's Composite Materials Living Lab will stimulate innovation in construction and structural rehabilitation using composites.”

Lopez-Anido's research objectives include the placement of fiber-optic sensors into composite materials and the application of controlled damage tests to determine how the sensors respond to specific levels of stress.

The results will provide researchers and industry with a reliable method for monitoring the durability of fiber-reinforced polymer composite materials.

Lopez-Anido will expand UMaine's educational offerings by developing an advanced graduate level course in wood composites.
Volunteers Sought for UMaine Cholesterol Study

February 26, 2001
Contact: Kristi Crowe, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-3581,
kristi_crowe@umit.maine.edu.
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Food science researchers at the University of Maine are looking for individuals to participate in a study of the effect of eating raisins on cholesterol levels. Kristi Crowe, a graduate student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is working with Mary Ellen Camire, a professor in the department, on the 18-week study.

They are looking for people who are at least 30 years old, have mildly high cholesterol (200 to 239 mg/dl) and are not taking any cholesterol reducing medications.

All participants will be asked to complete a health history, a three-day food record, an additional questionnaire, have their blood drawn four times and consume raisins and fat-free candy twice a day for six weeks. Weight and body fat will also be measured. All information will remain confidential.

Participants will have health check-ups at the University of Maine Cutler Health Center at the beginning of the study and six, 12 and 18 weeks later.

Subjects will receive $100 for their participation along with free blood analyses, possible reduction in lipid levels. Some subjects may also lose weight.

More information is available from Crowe at 581-3581 or via email at Kristi.Crowe@umit.maine.edu. Please feel free to visit our research web site at http://www.ume.maine.edu/nfa/fsn/NutritionResearch.htm.
UMaine Bureau of Labor Education Releases Development Report

February 27, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – A new briefing paper by the Bureau of Labor Education at the University of Maine examines the state's economic development strategies and makes suggestions on how Maine can make better use of its resources.

“Maine's Development Dilemma” is an updated version of a similar publication released five years ago, says John Hanson, director of the Bureau of Labor Education.

“The country has been in a period of what's been characterized as a sustained economic boom,” says Hanson. “Our office was discovering that not everyone in Maine was sharing in that boom. We have continued to have layoffs, people were working in less than full-time jobs and people were increasingly moving toward jobs in the service sector.”

Hanson says all these things are happening despite the state spending millions of dollars to attract and keep new industry in Maine.

“Our economic development activities in this state consist largely of very expensive programs that give taxpayer dollars to private companies in the form of tax rebates and tax incentives,” says Hanson. “The point of this investment is that the companies will create new jobs. The reality is that many of them have not created those jobs, and some have even decreased the number of employees they have.”

The two programs that come under the most scrutiny by Hanson are the Business Property Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR), which provides property tax abatements, and the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program, which helps companies pay for infrastructure.

Hanson says that he does not question the legitimacy of the programs, but the effectiveness.

“By the end of this fiscal year (June 30), the BETR program will have spent more than $143 million. If you're getting a big bang for these types of programs, maybe you can justify it, but I think we have to question as to whether it's the best use of our money,” he says. “We have to ask whether we're getting long-term results and what are the alternative options we can get if we are not getting those results.”

Compounding the problem, he says, is that many of the companies that benefit from the BETR program are “double-dipping” by also taking part in TIF. According to the publication, the number of TIFs has increased over the past decade, from 37 in 1993 to at least 155 in 2000.
“The TIF program started out as a plan where a company is given incentives to move to a municipality. They are told, in effect, if you move to our town, we'll put up the building for you,” says Hanson. “What's happening now is that instead of going to infrastructure, those TIF funds are going directly to the companies in the form of a check.”

State data indicate that TIF dollars given directly to companies has increased from $1.8 million in 1995 to $18.7 million in 1998 – an increase of 1,039 percent.

In addition to critiquing current programs, the fact sheet offers Maine policymakers some suggestions about how to better spend economic development funds.

Hanson offers three proposals. First, he says, the state should conduct a cost-benefit analysis of all current economic development programs, including their intent, goals, consequences and problems.

“I think this research makes a compelling case for having the state reassess its economic development strategies and determining whether or not our current policies provide the best long-term benefit to the people of Maine,” says Hanson.

Second, the state should develop and implement additional mechanisms to ensure corporate accountability. Hanson says rather than simply hoping state funds will be spent wisely, policymakers should put in place a framework that would require businesses to account for how state resources were used and how many permanent jobs were created. If a company does not follow through on its promises or obligations, Hanson says, they would be required to return any development incentives or tax breaks back to the state coffers.

The final recommendation is an increased state investment in higher education and research and development.

“Maine must focus on opportunity building and training for young people, women, displaced workers and adult workers needing to upgrade their skills,” says Hanson. “Investments in the state's physical infrastructure, such as improved transportation and school facilities, are also crucial for future growth.”

The ultimate goal of any economic development plan, says Hanson, should be the creation of quality, well-paying jobs for people in Maine.

“The ultimate beneficiary of our public investments should be the public,” says Hanson. “Maine families and households, Maine workers and Maine communities.”

For a copy of the report, call Peter Cook at 581-3756.
Historical Maine Census Data Available on Fogler Library Web site

February 28, 2001

Contact: Frank Wihbey, Fogler Library, 207-581-1681, frank_wihbey@umit.maine.edu.
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu.

ORONO, Maine -- Two hundred years of census population totals and selected information about Maine towns and counties are now available to the public through a new Web page at the University of Maine Fogler Library. The Maine Census Data page includes information about Maine's population trends between 1790 and 1990 and can be found at http://www.library.umaine.edu/census/.

The site will be useful for students, teachers, public administrators and others who need information about Maine's population trends. Previously, such information was located in published documents that had to be searched separately. The database does not contain family information that might be useful for genealogy studies.

Users can search for information in the census database in a variety of ways. Searching can be done on a decade-by-decade basis for specific towns or by towns that had increasing or decreasing populations over a range of years. The site also contains historical maps showing county jurisdictional boundaries.

Information in the database can be used to reveal a detailed picture about Maine history. Tables on the “Original Concept” page, for example, show that the number of Maine's civil jurisdictions grew substantially in the years immediately following the Revolutionary War. There were 150 jurisdictions in Maine in 1790 when the state was part of Massachusetts. Ten years later, 239 jurisdictions existed.

The number reached its height in 1920 when there were 727. It has declined steadily since then. In 1990, there are 525, four fewer than in 1980.

Frank Wihbey, head of the government documents section at Fogler, maintains the Maine Census Data page and notes that changing boundaries raise questions about population trends in specific places. “We had to be careful to account for jurisdictions where population numbers from year to year might not always refer to the same land area,” he explains.

For example, in 1891, a portion of Camden split off to form what is present day Rockport. Some areas existed as political units for short periods, such as Ducktrap in Hancock County 1790-1800, and in some rare cases were claimed by more than one jurisdiction, such as Matinicus Island in 1840. The census database includes population numbers for those areas as well as historical notes.
Data from the 2000 Census will be added to the database when it becomes available from the U.S. Census later this year.

The effort to compile historical census information for Maine began with Dawn E. Lacadie, a staff member who worked at the library until 1995. In responding to questions from the public about population trends, Lacadie sought data from many sources. She realized that having the information in one place would improve access for interested citizens.

The spreadsheets that Lacadie developed became the foundation for the Web site. Her information was entered into a computer database file and verified for accuracy. Graphics for the Census page were designed by Gary Guzzo at Atomic Studios in Boothbay Harbor, and programming for the database was done by Curtis Meadow of Trefoil, Inc. in Orono.
Partnership Schools to Share Expertise at Collective In-Service Day

Feb. 28, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

Nearly 700 teachers will participate in a series of workshops taking place from Bangor to Bradley during a collaborative Regional In-service Day on Friday, March 9. The second annual event, pooling the resources and expertise of seven school districts and the University of Maine, is sponsored by the Penobscot River Educational Partnership: A Professional Development Network (PREP: PDN).

Over 100 sessions will be offered during the day, presented by educators and practitioners in a variety of professions, designed to provide new information and hands-on activities to help teachers reach their goals. Topics focusing on instruction, technology, curriculum and assessment range from aligning physical education with the Maine Learning Results to integrating music and social studies. In addition, programs dealing with well-being and safety are offered, such as CPR and crisis intervention.

While most of the presenters work in the area, others are being brought in to share specialized expertise, such as Charles Vonder Embse, professor of Mathematics Education and Mathematics at Central Michigan University. His presentation, aimed at secondary mathematics teachers, will focus on the use of interactive geometry software and graphing calculators to enhance instruction.

In addition, curriculum coordinators from partnership schools will present an update on the PREP-Bank project, funded by a three-year $659,198 U.S. Department of Education Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology grant. The grant is enabling the Network to develop standards-based instructional units, exemplary learning activities and authentic assessments to be shared through a web-based repository and data management system.

“We will try to offer as much value as possible in single-day workshops and experiences that are immediately usable,” says Deborah Belyea, principal at Washington St. School in Brewer and chair of the Network’s Professional Development Task Force. By working as a consortium, the school districts are able to offer teachers many more options and be more cost-effective, she points out.

PREP: PDN partners include school districts in Brewer, Bucksport, Old Town, SAD 22 (Hampden, Newburgh, Winterport), Union 87 (Orono, Veazie) and Union 90 (Alton, Bradley, Greenbush, Milford), the Indian Island School and the University of Maine. Its mission is to increase the capacity of each partner to improve student learning by continually improving teaching and the educational experience. Two years ago, superintendents agreed on a calendar that would allow a common in-service day among schools in the Network.
The professional development event is an opportunity for staff of all the districts and University faculty to work collaboratively on the content areas of the Maine Learning Results, according Marc Curtis, superintendent of Bucksport schools and current president of PREP: PDN. “It presents all stakeholders with an opportunity to both present innovative programs and to learn new information,” he says.

PREP: PDN is a member of the Holmes Partnership, a national network of universities and their partner schools, working in collaboration with key national professional associations to create high-quality professional development and significant school renewal.

*Media Note: For a schedule of the Regional In-service Day workshops, contact: Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761; kay.hyatt@umit.maine.edu.*
University Singers Set New England Tour March 19-25

Feb. 28, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Seventy members of the University Singers will devote a week of their spring break to performances and student recruitment efforts as part of their annual New England tour, March 19-25.

The singers, under the direction of Professor of Music Dennis Cox, will give four high school assemblies and an evening concert in five Maine communities before hitting the road for New Hampshire and Vermont.

This year's tour will culminate in Montreal, where the students will give an informal performance at Notre Dame Cathedral. By the time they perform in one of the largest cathedrals in North America, the singers will have given 15 performances in five days.

“For the students, this is an opportunity to repeat in different contexts the performance of materials they have learned,” Cox says. “Like athlete teams performing in a tournament, the University Singers on tour become an even better professional performing ensemble.”

In addition, University Singers tours have a history of recruiting prospective students to UMaine. The group has been touring regionally for more than 30 years.

On the tour program is the performance of "Holocaust Cantata" by DonaldMcCullough. The cantata is based on the stories and music of the concentration camps. McCullough, music director of the Master Chorale of Washington, spent a year researching the archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The 117 songs written in captivity by Polish composer Jozef Kropinski, and the 35 song texts and 52 poems by another Polish prisoner, Kazimierz Wojtowicz, form the basis of the work, which premiered at the Kennedy Center in 1998.

UMaine's performance of the cantata during evening concerts on the tour will include a narrator and soloists.

Another highlight of the repertoire is "Voyager's Promise," by Judith (Labbee) Pancoast, a Singers alumna who graduated from UMaine in 1983.

University of Maine Singers Tour 2001

March 19

Monday Morning Assembly Searsport High School Searsport, ME
Afternoon Assembly Mt. Ararat High School Topsham, ME
Evening Concert Unitarian/Universalist Church Sanford, ME

March 20

Tuesday Morning Assembly Kennebunk High School Kennebunk, ME
Afternoon Assembly York High School York, ME
Evening Concert Nashua High School Nashua, NH

March 21
Wednesday Choral Workshop Nashua High School Nashua, NH
Afternoon Assembly Hopkinton High School Hopkinton, NH
Evening Concert Hartford High School White River Junction, VT

**March 22**
Thursday Morning Assembly Hartford High School White River Junction, VT
Singers' Retreat Immaculate Heart of Mary Rutland, VT
Evening Concert Immaculate Heart of Mary Rutland, VT

**March 23**
Friday Morning Assembly Rutland High School Rutland, VT
Afternoon Assembly Champlaign Valley Union High Hinesburg, VT
Evening Concert Champlaign Valley Union High Hinesburg, VT

**March 24**
Saturday Short Informal Concert Notre Dame Cathedral Montreal, Quebec

**March 25**
Sunday Lunch and Tourist Stop Old Quebec Quebec City, Quebec

For information about concert times, contact the School of Performing Arts at 207 581-1245.
Women's History Month Events at UMaine

February 28, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program at the University of Maine will celebrate Women's History Month in a series of events March 1 through April 21.

Lectures, movies and comedic performances will cover a variety of topics, including racism, gender equity and mental illness. All events are free, unless otherwise noted, open to the public and accessible.

Judith Sloan, actress, comedienne and adjunct professor of oral history, acting and character development at New York University, will examine the role of women in comedy and provide a lighthearted look at current events.

On March 6, Sloan will present “Women in Comedy” at 12:15 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union. In this talk, Sloan will identify the difference between the comic actress, the comedienne and the comic. She will also discuss the influence of Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker and Lily Tomlin on the current cutting-edge feminist and lesbian comedienes.

On March 7, Sloan takes on sexual identity, health insurance, superstores and the current administration in “Between a Laugh and a Hard Place,” a performance which will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall, located in the 1944 Building at UMaine.

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

For more information, call the Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program at 581-1228.

The full schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 1

Cornelia Dayton, Associate Professor, History, University of Connecticut, 3:15 p.m., 102 Murray Hall
"Eccentric, Scold, or Madwoman? The Gendered Dimensions of Community Debates over Mental Illness in Early New England"
In the period before mental disorders were "medicalized," did colonial settlers perceive the signs of insanity to be different for men and women? Why is it so difficult to study mental illness as it related to African and Indian New Englanders? Dayton, author of Women Before the Bar: Gender, Law, and Society in Connecticut, 1639-1789, will share thoughts on the primary sources and research strategies that begin to answer these questions. Co-sponsored by the History Department

Soup Supper and Community Reading of "Heroines" by Claude Cahun
6:30 p.m., Mahogany Room, Wells Conference Center
Born in 1894, Cahun was an avant-garde French surrealist photographer, writer, and activist. Condemned to death for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets with her partner Marcel Moore, she was liberated by the war's end. Her recently recovered "Heroines" contains 15 monologues written from the point of view of such famous women as Eve, Cinderella, and Helen of Troy. For the kick-off soup supper the center invites the public to read/perform a monologue from favorite heroines or just come and listen. Call 581-1228 for more information.

Monday, March 5
Donna Loring, Penobscot Representative to the Maine State Legislature
"Educational Apartheid in Maine: The Maine Indian Experience"
4:00 p.m., Mahogany Room, Wells Conference Center
Loring, who has recently submitted a bill to require all schools in Maine to teach Maine Indian history, will offer her perspective on how issues facing Indians in Maine affect women and will reflect on what roles women are taking in response.

Tuesday, March 6

Judith Sloan, Actress, Comedienne, and Adjunct Professor of Oral History, Acting, and Character Development at New York University
"Women in Comedy" 12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union
Reflecting on the roles of women in comedy, Sloan will identify the differences between the comic actress, the comedienne, and the comic. She will show archival footage of Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Lily Tomlin, and others as she discusses their influence on the current cutting-edge feminist and lesbian comedriennes.

Wednesday, March 7

"A Midwife's Tale" (video) 6:30 p.m., Hutchinson Center, Belfast
This video is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, A Midwife's Tale. Drawing from the diary of an 18th-century Maine midwife, Martha Ballard, it explores midwifery, family, and the community of Hallowell in the decades after the Revolution. Discussion leader will be Carol Wood, a midwife and associate professor of Nursing. For more information call 338-8002.

Judith Sloan, Actress, Comedienne, and Adjunct Professor of Oral History, Acting, and Character Development at New York University
"Between a Laugh and a Hard Place" 7:30 p.m., Minsky Recital Hall, 1944 Building
For years Sloan's thought-provoking and laughter-evoking pieces have entertained audiences from Japan and Israel to Maine. In her latest piece, Sloan transforms herself into a wide range of characters to take on sexual identity, health insurance, superstores, and survival tips for the “resident” Bush and “vice resident” Cheney years.

Friday, March 23

"Voices of Change" (video) 7:00 p.m.,
Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park Street, Bangor
This wide-ranging examination of individual activism and issues facing women world wide documents the work of five global activists. Included are Barbara Cummings, leader in the Aboriginal Rights Movement in Australia, Sandra Gonzalez, union organizer in Guatemala, and lawyer and human rights activist Asthma Jahangir in Pakistan. Part of the Peace & Justice Center Film Series

MARCH BREAK
Classes Resume March 26

Monday, March 26

"A White Heron" (video),
7 p.m., Bangor Public Library
A beautiful depiction of Sarah Orne Jewett's short story, this film reveals the decision of a young Maine girl to keep her secret about a white heron. Judy Hakola, Instructor in English, will lead the discussion.

Tuesday, March 27
Elizabeth Leonard, associate professor of History and director of Women's Studies, Colby College - "Mary Surratt and the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln," 12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

On July 7, 1865, Mary Surratt was hanged, the first woman executed by the federal government in America. Although she owned the boardinghouse where others plotted the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the evidence connecting her to the plot was hardly airtight. Leonard will discuss the factors that may have led to Surratt's conviction.

Nomy Lamm, Third-Wave Performance Artist, Writer, and Activist
"Gender Apocalypse -- An End of Finalities" 7:30 p.m., 101 Neville Hall

Lamm, whose writing can be found in “Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation,” “Body Outlaws: Young Women Write about Body Image and Identity,” and “Sex and Single Girls”, will give a combination lecture/performance/reading about fat politics, image and identity, activism, and queer and transgender politics/identity/community. In 1997 Ms. magazine named Lamm as one of the seven women of the year for "inspiring a new generation of feminists to fight back against fat oppression." She asks: what's a woman? what's a man? who decides? who gets to make history? is there a future? what is it? am I included?

Wednesday, March 28

Women's History Celebration Open House and Book Fair
11:00 am - 4:00 p.m., 101 Fernald Hall

Each year we display new books and periodicals concerned with Women's Studies, feminism, and all aspects of women's lives, experiences, and accomplishments. This year we will hold the book fair in our own Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program and Women's Resource Center library. There will be a poster display of Jewish women's history provided by WST 201 students. Everyone is invited to attend for refreshments and tours.

"Daughters of the Dust" (video)
5:00 - 8:00 p.m., 105 Donald P. Corbett

This film by renowned director Julie Dash tells the story of a large African-American family as its members prepare to move North at the beginning of the 20th century. It explores the unique culture of the Gullah women, descendants of slaves who lived in relative isolation on the Sea Islands off the Georgia coast. Laura Lindenfeld, instructor in UMaine's Women's Studies Program, of WST 201, Feminism and Cinema, will give an hour lecture before the beginning of the film.

Thursday, March 29

Book Fair (continued)
11:00 am - 4:00 p.m., 101 Fernald Hall

Re-vision: Feminist Research in Art History"
4:00 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union

Three students in Art History will present their original research on women's roles in film, portraiture, and revolutionary art.

The panel will include: Rae Barter, "Fighters and Followers: Representing Soldaderas of the Mexican Revolution"; Melissa Kearns "Gender Portrayals in the Films of Ingmar Bergman"; Heather Parsons, "Portraits of Elizabeth I: A Brief Look at England's Virgin Queen." Commentator: Michael Grillo, UMaine associate professor of art.

MPAC Film Series "Is Feminism Dead?" (video)
7:00 pm, 100 Neville Hall

Patricia Ireland of NOW, Phyllis Schlafly of the Eagle Forum, Ellen Goodman of The Boston Globe, Bell Hooks, professor of Literature at SUNY, and others appraise the women's movement and discuss its relevance in today's cultural climate. The half-hour film will be followed by discussion with a panel of third-wave feminists. Part of the Peace and Justice Film Series
**Saturday, March 31**

**Spruce Run Chocolate Party - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.,**
**University College Center, University College, 201 Texas Ave., Bangor**
This favorite annual event will feature musical entertainment and a delicious chocolate buffet. Proceeds benefit Spruce Run Association, the third oldest domestic violence project in the country. For tickets ($10/person) and information, please call Spruce Run, 945-5102, or Ann Schonberger, 581-1229 (days) or 942-4055 (nights)

**AniDifranco in Concert**
**8:00 p.m., Maine Center for the Arts**
(Admission $15 with student ID, $26 non-student. Tickets 581-1755)

**Wednesday, April 4**

**Elizabeth Allan, UMaine assistant professor, Higher Education Leadership**
"Constructing Women's Status: Policy Discourses of Gender Equity Initiatives in Higher Education"
**12:15 p.m., Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union (Alternate site: Bodwell Lounge, MCA)**
Allan will examine the discourses of University Women's Commission reports and the ways in which equity policy discourses contribute to shaping women's status and sense of self. Analysis of commission reports from four universities over a 25 year time period provides insight into the ways in which women in colleges and universities have positioned themselves discursively and how some equity policy efforts may actually undermine their intended goals.

"The Music and Letters of Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn: Sibling Revelry and Rivalry"
**Laura Artesani, UMaine instructor of music and Women's Studies; Emily Burns, undergraduate student in Music Education;**
**Francis John Vogt, instructor of music**
**7:30 p.m., Minksy Recital Hall**
Drawing from the Mendelssohns' letters and music, the musician/performers will present a dialogue between the brother and sister that develops the family's history and reveals the way society's expectations limited one's musical ambitions while it furthered the other's.

**Saturday, April 21**

**Beautiful Project**
**10:00 am - 6:00 p.m. Donald P. Corbett Business Building**
With workshops, poetry readings, live music, and more, the Beautiful Project celebrates its fifth year. Participants include author Inga Muscio, "the good side of Barbie," and music from New York's Bionic Finger, Pepper McGowan and Kim Miller.
Rural Development Council Releases Report on Entrepreneurs in Maine

March 2, 2001
Media Advisory
Contact: Robert Ho, Maine Rural Development Council, 581-3192
Peter Cook, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3756

ORONO – The Maine Rural Development Council (MRDC) has released a report that says Maine's economic policies should do more to encourage the growth of small businesses in the state.

“Entrepreneurship as a Rural Development Strategy: Defining a Policy Framework for Maine,” is the result of a public and private sector task force convened to study the state's small business sector and make recommendations to the governor on ways to strengthen its productivity.

The Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and the district office of the Small Business Administration led the study, joined by the MRDC, a program of Cooperative Extension at the University of Maine.

Leading the effort for UMaine's part in this study is Robert Ho, executive director of the MRDC and rural economic development specialist.

The consortium, supported by the Kauffman Center for Leadership Development, supported two policy academies in the state, which were attended by representatives from a number of areas, including lenders, policy makers, researchers and service providers.

“Entrepreneurs can play an important role in rural development, a fact often overlooked in the public policy arena,” states the paper. “The challenge facing Maine is the adoption of policies that promote Entrepreneurship and thus foster opportunity and sustainable economic health.”

A number of factors hinder the state's efforts: the state's culture, the scale and isolation, the climate, the limited technical assistance system and the availability of capital. The council says a strategy that takes these challenges into account is more likely to succeed.

The report quotes a National Governors Association study that notes Fortune 500 companies have lost more than 5 million jobs since 1980, while entrepreneurs and small businesses have created 34 million new ones.

In Maine, Governor Angus King has promoted the “OneMaine” project, an approach that targets resources to distressed regions, and the legislature has passed its own plan, that calls for more technical assistance, workforce development and infrastructure to encourage growth and creation of small businesses.

The MRDC report says these efforts are commendable, but do not focus explicitly on promoting a comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship as a strategy for rural development.

The council suggests clear actions and directions for the state's policy makers to consider.

- Support should be given for research and development to learn about the state's many kinds of entrepreneurs and the best methods for working with them on their turf.

- The state's technical assistance infrastructure should be mobilized and strengthened. This would involve steps such as making small business counseling and training more available in rural areas, targeting assistance towards entrepreneurs and educating Maine's entrepreneurs on how to find and use available state resources.

- Recognize entrepreneurship as a rural development tool.
- Create and sustain a pervasive entrepreneurial culture in the state through education and training
- Promote networking
- Promote the availability of high-risk venture capital for rural enterprises.

Copies of the report are available from the Maine Rural Development Council or from this website (in pdf format).
Host Families Sought for Japanese Exchange Students

March 7, 2001
Contact: Harold Brown, Cooperative Extension, 207-942-5916
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Families throughout Maine have an opportunity to host a Japanese youngster this summer through a University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H exchange program. This is the eleventh year for the program that brings students, ages 12-16, to share a month with a Maine family.

“We don't ask families to do anything special,” says Harold H. Brown, program coordinator. “We want them to go through their normal routines. The youngsters have their own spending money and health insurance. We just ask the families to provide lodging and meals.”

Families do not have to be enrolled in a 4-H program to participate in the exchange. The Japanese students are expected to arrive in Maine on July 21. A parent orientation meeting is planned for July 22 on the UMaine campus. This also is the day the host family will pick-up their Japanese child. The children will be returned to the UMaine campus on the afternoon of August 17th.

“Parents have told us in the past that they make new friendships and often correspond with the students' parents in Japan. Some of the Maine kids have even gone to Japan for a month the following summer,” says Brown. “There are hundreds of good reasons to welcome a Japanese student into your family, but the face of a new friend is the one you'll always remember.”

Since it began in 1972, the national 4-H exchange program has brought more than 30,000 Japanese youngsters to the United States, and more than 4,000 American students have made return visits to Japan. More information is available at county offices of UMaine Cooperative Extension.
Hudson Museum Director to Speak on Recent Archaeological Research

March 7, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Last year, three researchers from the University of Maine spent three weeks in Mexico to undertake a preliminary exploration of an area depicted on a 16th century map.

Steve Whittington, Hudson Museum director and one of the researchers, will talk about that experience and the plans for future trips in a talk on April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bodwell Area of the Maine Center for the Arts.

In “Retracing El Mapa de Teozacoalco: Archaeological Research in Oaxaca, Mexico,” Whittington will recap the discoveries of that trip and preview the next planned exploration of a remote region in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

“The primary importance of this proposed project is that it will provide insights into major transitions in the history of the development of civilization,” says Whittington. “Societal transitions which occurred in the Mixteca Alta were related to transitions throughout much of Mesoamerica, one of the world's few cradles of civilization.”

The Mapa de Teozacoalco, now in the Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin, was created in 1580 on handmade paper. The hand-painted map centers on the present-day town of San Pedro Teozacoalco, which was the capital of a Mixtec kingdom before the Spanish conquest.

The Mixtec mapmaker used colored organic and vegetable pigments to show the kingdom's borders, settlements and geographic features and identified them with Mixtec glyphs. The map was drawn to show the king of Spain one small part of his vast holdings in what was then called New Spain.

During the initial trip to Mexico in February of 2000, Whittington, the late David Shoemaker and Nancy Anchors confirmed the identifications of settlements and boundary markers, and surveyed for pre-contact sites. Among the sites recorded for the first time were one with a 42-meter long ball court and stone sculptures on a mountaintop adjacent to Teozacoalco, the palace platform of the ruler of Teozacoalco, an extensive fortified site, gold mines and petroglyphs.

Most significant, says Whittington, from the perspective of associating the map's depiction of places with locations on the landscape, was the discovery of the ruins of two sixteenth century churches located in abandoned settlements.
In October and November, Whittington plans to return to Oaxaca with a team of researchers to do a more detailed study of the area.
New Flower Will be Available to Gardeners This Spring

March 7, 2001
Contact: Donglin Zhang, Landscape Horticulture Program, 207-581-2918
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- This spring, Maine gardeners can brighten their gardens with a new yellow flower that was produced at the University of Maine. The new plant is a cultivar of the common black-eyed Susan, a type of daisy (*Rudbeckia hirta*) that is sometimes seen along roadsides in the late summer.

The new plant has been named the Plainview Farm Daisy. It reaches as tall as three feet and can be propagated by seeds or division. It grows in sites that have full sunlight and well-drained soil. Samples have been planted at the Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden on the UMaine campus for the upcoming growing season.

The typical black-eyed Susan has one row of petals arrayed in a disk around a dark circular eye at the center. The new variety has several layers of petals that give the flower a full, more rounded appearance. According to Donglin Zhang of the UMaine Landscape Horticulture Program, the new flower is a tender perennial that has been produced through eleven years of breeding in a Maine garden, the Trial Garden and the Clapp Greenhouse on the campus.

Several hundred plants will be made available through the Plainview Farm nursery in North Yarmouth. County offices of the UMaine Cooperative Extension will also have a few plants for testing under a variety of growing conditions throughout the state.

Another new plant, named UMaine Daisy (*Rudbeckia hirta* 'UMaine') is in the process of selection and evaluation at the university. The flower head of UMaine Daisy is also derived from black-eyed Susan, but it has an invisible black-center or eye. The flower appears as a pure-yellow mum in gardens.

UMaine's landscape horticulture program is actively developing new cultivars of native plants in cooperation with the Maine Landscape and Nursery Association. More information about the Plainview Farm Daisy and other plants is available from Zhang at 207-581-2918, donglin@maine.edu.
UMaine Students to Participate in Alternative Spring Break

March 7, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Starting next week, 40 students and other members of the University of Maine community will spend half of their spring break working with youths in need or with healthcare agencies in three states and in the nation's capital.

UMaine's fourth annual LET'S Volunteer Alternative Spring Break, March 10-17, involves students and advisors traveling by van or bus to four Break Away sites to work with: Metro TeenAIDS in Washington, D.C.; Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City; Tara Hall Home for Boys in Georgetown, S.C.; and Save Our Sons and Daughters in Detroit, Mich. The latter, a non-profit group dedicated to creating positive alternatives to teen violence, was a UMaine ASB site for the past two years. The other three are new venues for UMaine's corps of volunteers.

This year for the first time, there is a waiting list of UMaine students hoping also to participate this year in LET'S (Learning and Exploration Through Service) Volunteer Alternative Spring Break.

“This program has the potential to change the lives of those who volunteer,” says Erin Vandeveer, a sophomore in sociology and Alternative Spring Break coordinator. “I know of students who, as a result of their experiences, have changed their majors after deciding to pursue more service-oriented careers in the future.”

Last year, Vandeveer was one of the volunteers who went to the Rosemont Center, a youth residential treatment facility in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to helping inner city youths, Vandeveer says “I learned a lot about myself, about society and aspects of life. I learned we are all connected, and this is one way of reaching out.”

To participate in Alternative Spring Break at UMaine, a chapter of the national non-profit organization Break Away, students must invest time and energy throughout the weeks of the academic year leading up to the trips, according to Martha Eastman, coordinator of student community service and volunteer programs at UMaine. They must commit to the principles of the intense program, which is alcohol and drug free, as well as the intensity of hands-on community service in a foreign venue.

What participants learn most, says Eastman, are skills involved in problem solving, flexibility, sharing and openness.

Thirteen of this year's student participants are returning for a second Alternative Spring Break experience. They include four site leaders: Vandeveer, Danielle Mador, Kathleen Sprague and Sara Stetson. Also providing leadership are John Maddaus, associate professor of education; Shontay Delalue, admissions counselor; Andrew Matlins, assistant dining service manager; and graduate student Nathan Larlee. New to ASB this year is co-site leader Courtney Mills.
Middle School Girls Explore Careers in Science and Technology

March 8, 2001
Contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Editors: A schedule with workshop times and locations is available from the Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- More than 450 middle school girls will go to college March 13 to tour a water chemistry laboratory, discuss career opportunities in medicine and learn what it takes to be a Maine game warden. Those are some of the 30 workshops that will be offered at the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference at the University of Maine.

Girls from Houlton to Biddeford have registered for the annual statewide event. They will be mentored by almost 200 teachers from their schools, professional women from UMaine and the community as well as university students.

This is the third year that Expanding Your Horizons has been coordinated by the Women's Resource Center, with support from the Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Anja Whittington, a UMaine science education graduate student, will open the meeting with a keynote presentation at 9:15 a.m. in the Maine Center for the Arts.

Workshop sessions are scheduled to begin 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1 p.m. and 1:50 p.m. in classrooms and laboratories throughout the campus.

Expanding Your Horizons participants will tour research facilities such as the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Laboratory and the Electron Microscopy Laboratory. They will also attend workshops on gender equity.

“Expanding Your Horizons makes a connection between the university and girls and adults from all over the state. We want to give the girls an expanded view of the career opportunities that are open to them,” says Sharon Barker, director of the Women's Resource Center.
Reframe Leadership to Reflect Realities, Culture of Schools, UMaine Professor Suggests in New Book

March 8, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – Practicing the effective leadership necessary for high-performing schools can be an elusive goal for administrators besieged with daily staff demands, increasing public expectations, complex bureaucratic regulations and constant building crises. The successful leader finds equally committed teachers, counselors and principals to share the load and rewards, says the author of a new book that emphasizes how to reframe leadership to fit the realities of schoolhouse life.


In outlining conditions that strengthen or weaken common purpose and action, Donaldson offers practical pointers for principals and teacher leaders for forming more collaborative relationships, focusing on a shared vision and moving forward to improve their work with children and parents.

“Public schools present a very different milieu to lead in than the corporate sector,” says Donaldson, professor of educational leadership in UMaine’s College of Education and Human Development. The school staff is busy with students and can’t be expected to drop teaching or counseling to deal with leadership or organizational issues, he explains. “In short, school leaders simply don’t have ready access to the people they are attempting to lead.”

This reality underscores the need to mobilize, trust and encourage people to build relationships among themselves, rather than depending on one person to bring them all together, says Donaldson, a former public school teacher and principal.

American public schools function more on moral conviction and professional judgment than on tightly prescribed goals and technical rationality, and the citizen can potentially influence policy more than the educator, Donaldson writes. He explains that educators have long approached their work as a calling rooted not just in passing on knowledge but in nurturing the good in children.

The practice of education has a moral purpose – making sure schools are serving the best interest of children in a society of competing ideas and resources. But too many agendas and stakeholders pulling in different directions can easily deflect the loftiest mission, Donaldson cautions.
“If leadership is to mobilize the school for educational reform, it must accommodate this fundamental moral reality and strike a chord with teachers’ deepest sense of calling,” he says.

Teachers’ attentions are riveted within their classroom and their immediate work with children, Donaldson points out. Their willingness to become engaged in leadership’s agendas will hinge on how a long-range issue will affect their success with students today.

The principal’s role, according to Donaldson, is to create an open environment where people can say what they think, then most educators will join in and take the leap toward changing practice together.

Donaldson’s model is premised on leadership as a relationship among people that can mobilize them to accomplish purposes they value. It capitalizes on teachers’ powerful sense of professional community that shapes their practice and relationships to one another. This “professional tribalism” brings teachers together beyond the reach of principals and often of teacher leaders, according to Donaldson.

Presenting theory, practical examples and action steps, Donaldson examines three streams of activity that influence collaborative leadership: a relationship of mutual openness, trust and affirmation; commitment to valued purposes; and a shared belief in action in common. He emphasizes that leadership must be purposive, active and targeted toward results.

“If we do not reframe leadership to reflect the busy landscape of school life realities, we will continue to count an alarming number of communities and faculties who have become critical or cynical about their formal school leaders,” says Donaldson. “Tragically, we will also count a growing number of principals and teacher leaders who give up on leadership and a similar trend among capable teachers to eschew a future in school leadership altogether.”
UMaine Construction Management Team Wins $2,000 Check, First Place at Regional Competition

March 9, 2001

Contact: Chuck Gould, School of Engineering Technology, 207-581-2374
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Note: A photo of the winning team is available from the Department of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A team of UMaine students in the Construction Management Technology Program is headed for national championship competition after winning a regional contest in Pennsylvania on March 4. The students brought home a $2,000 check for their first place finish in the Region One Construction Management Competition of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC).

The students' presence at the national competition in Nashville, Tennessee March 21-24 coincides with the 82nd annual meeting of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America where two Maine construction executives will be installed in top leadership positions with that organization. Bob Desjardins, vice-chairman and executive vice-president of Cianbro Corporation of Pittsfield, will be installed as AGC president, and Jack Kelley, president of Nickerson & O'Day of Brewer, will be vice president.

Both Desjardins and Kelley are members of the advisory board for the UMaine Construction Management Technology Program.

“This is a rare occurrence and a tribute to Maine, to have our construction management students and leaders of the Maine construction industry featured at a national event,” says Chuck Gould, professor in the School of Engineering Technology and the team's advisor.

“The students' performance was fabulous. They were up against very tough competition from
the same team that won this event last year. When I saw that team give their presentation, I thought we were in trouble, but our students pulled it off. They are real professionals.”

Members of the winning team are Aaron Cianchette of Hartland (captain), James Pelletier of Lewiston, Thomas Coyle of Brewer, Matthew Dale of Dover-Foxcroft, Benjamin Robillard of South Paris and Kellie Bard of Greenbush.

Their challenge at the competition was to develop and present detailed construction cost estimates and schedules for re-building the passenger platforms and canopy for the Jamaica Station of the Long Island Railroad without interrupting rail service or interfering with passenger movement. The facility handles about 250,000 passengers per day. In addition, students were required to respond to 25 technical or legal questions related to the proposed contract and specifications.

Other ASC schools that participated in the Eastern Region included Drexel, Clarkson, Roger Williams, Temple, Alfred, Wentworth, Penn State, Old Dominion, Syracuse, Hudson Valley.

At the national ASC competition, Maine will compete against Oklahoma State, Georgia Southern and the University of Cincinnati. The event is sponsored by the AGC which pays all travel, lodging and meal expenses for the competitors and their coach.
Information Technology Grant Aims at Automatic Image Analysis

March 14, 2001
Contact: Peggy Agouris, Spatial Information Science and Engineering, 207-581-2180, peggy@spatial.maine.edu
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu

ORONO, Maine -- Video cameras provide security for banks, government buildings and retail stores. However, it takes a human to monitor the screens and alert safety personnel in the event of a problem. A research team led by the University of Maine Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering (SIE) has received a $500,168 National Science Foundation grant to develop new automated image analysis techniques that get information quickly to those who need it.

Their work may also squeeze more information out of images collected over the years for military and civilian purposes. It could have implications for traffic management, agricultural assessments, land use planning and environmental monitoring.

Peggy Agouris, assistant professor of SIE, leads the project with two other UMaine faculty members, Kate Beard and Anthony Stefanidis. They are collaborating with faculty members at two other universities, University of California at Riverside and Penn State University.

Three UMaine graduate students — Kristin Eickhorst of Kansas City, Missouri, Panayotis Partsinevelos of Greece and Joshua King of Hollis, Maine — are also working on the project.

“The general idea is to come up with a framework and tools that will allow us to manage information contained in time varying geospatial data sets,” says Agouris.

For example, satellite photos of a city taken over a period of years can reveal information about land use patterns, vegetation changes and development. “Things change over time,” Agouris explains, “and this change is inherent in the data set. Our goal is to develop a means to make this change explicit and to communicate it to the people who are interested in this information. This is not just about detecting the change. It is to develop a framework that is independent of peoples' views as to what changes.”

Part of that framework is a type of summary that is known among information management specialists as a “metadata file.” It includes details such as the source of the data, the scale and a statement about how accurate the data are, Agouris says. “We want to go one level higher and create metadata files that will contain information such as shorter versions of the data sets. It might have video files that communicate easily to the user. For example, a user could learn that this data file is very big but that he or she doesn't have to look it over because it doesn't contain things that are of interest.”
The new image analysis tools, Agouris says, will also be developed with the ability to predict trends and events based on the past. “You may know that a flood has occurred in a valley and destroyed things. If we find sequential patterns in our data, we may be able to use that information to make rules for the future. In another location where a situation has not fully developed, we should be able to make a prediction in which we have strong confidence.”

The project developed out of previous research conducted by Agouris and her colleagues at UC-Riverside and Penn State. In this project, they will collaborate with the National Agricultural Statistical Service of the USDA, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency of the Department of Defense and BAE Systems, Inc.

Partners from UC-Riverside specialize in data that varies in time and location. The Penn State scientists focus on information management frameworks.

Researchers will also work with the US Army Topographic Engineering Center, an industrial organization, and the non-profit OpenGIS Consortium which works closely with vendors of geographic information system products.

The project is expected to conclude in 2003.
University of Maine Cooperative Extension Seeks Volunteers to Work With 4-H Youth

March 15, 2001
Contact: Ronald Jones, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3877
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- As part of the National Volunteer Week celebration April 22-28, University of Maine Cooperative Extension is seeking adult volunteers to work with 4-H Program youth, ages 5-19. “We need people who have an interest in spending time with young people and who want to learn alongside them,” says Ronald Jones, 4-H youth development specialist.

4-H is seeking people to help provide guidance in a variety of 4-H activities from general chapter operations to specific projects. People with specific skills and interests are also needed.

Nationally, the average volunteer spends three to four hours per month serving one or more organizations. Last year over 4,000 volunteers provided support to the Maine 4-H Youth Development program.

Currently, over 24,000 Maine youth participate in 4-H Youth Development programs in 16 counties. They are involved in a variety of activities and programs including day camp, overnight camping, after-school programs, school enrichment and other special interest projects/groups.

4-H Youth Development is a learn-by-doing program that is part of UMaine Cooperative Extension, which has faculty and staff on campus and in every county in Maine.

Any adults interested in helping with the 4-H Youth Development program are encouraged to call their county Cooperative Extension office or call the toll-free number, 1-877-444-8623.
Percussion Day at UMaine

March 19, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The School of Performing Arts at the University of Maine hosts the Percussive Arts Society and musicians from throughout the state for a “Maine Day of Percussion” on March 21.

All events will take place in the Class of 1944 Hall on the UMaine campus, located between the Memorial Union and the Maine Center for the Arts.

The day's agenda begins with registration at 8 a.m. in the lobby of the Class of 1944 Hall.

Danny Gottlieb, a drum set clinician, will give the day's first workshop at 9 a.m. Gottlieb is best known as the drummer in the original Pat Metheny Group, and now co-leads the group “Elements.”

At 10:45 a.m., Mike Bennett will give a workshop on African Drumming. Bennett is a graduate of UMaine and studied with Stuart Marrs, professor of music and percussion studies. Bennett spent two winters in Gambia, West Africa, focusing on djembe and balafon.

After lunch, two FUNdamentals sessions will be presented. These will be split into four areas: African drumming with Mike Bennett; timpani with Stuart Marrs; percussion with Chris White, director of sports bands; and snare and accessories with Ted Nokes. Percussion majors from the university will assist in these sessions.

At 2:45 p.m., the UMaine Percussion Ensemble will perform “Encore in Jazz” by Vic Firth. Contact Stuart Marrs at 581-1247 or for more information.
Hutchinson Center Hosts Maine Studies Film

March 20, 2001  
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Studies Program at the University of Maine will sponsor a showing of the film, "Our Lives in Our Hands," at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast on Wednesday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m.

The film examines the traditional Native American craft of split ash basketmaking as a means of economic and cultural survival for the Aroostook Micmac Indians. It focuses on the life of Micmacs, and the role basketmaking plays in preserving their culture.

Following the film, Micmac basketmaker Richard Silliboy will lead a discussion about the film. Silliboy began making baskets in his youth, and he is currently the President of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance. The Alliance was formed to save and promote the art of Indian basketmaking.

Silliboy will bring some baskets to the discussion. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 581-3147.
University of Maine

News

Spotlight on Water Research At Acadia National Park

March 20, 2001

Contact: David Manski, Acadia National Park, 207-288-3338
Steve Kahl, Mitchell Center, University of Maine, 207-581-3286
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, University of Maine, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to attend an illustrated presentation on mercury contamination in Acadia National Park by Terry Haines, zoologist at the University of Maine, at 6:30 p.m. March 27 at the College of the Atlantic.

Haines is also a fisheries research biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. He has been studying mercury in fish populations since 1978 and, during the last six years, has been conducting research on this issue in Acadia.

The presentation will be given in the Gates Auditorium at COA. It follows a daylong conference summarizing the latest research results on the lakes, streams, watersheds and aquatic animals in the park. Federal, state and university scientists will report on the results of their work on the park's water resources. The meeting is the third annual Aquatic Research in Acadia Symposium and is sponsored by the National Park Service, the University of Maine and College of the Atlantic. Attendance at both events is free.

Acadia is home to 23 lakes and ponds as well as two dozen named freshwater streams. Researchers are using the park's watersheds to conduct studies related to mercury in the environment, acid rain, atmospheric pollution and other issues. Speakers in the symposium will focus on mercury in soils and lakes, increases in nutrient levels in estuaries, the ecology of beavers, loons and amphibians and effects of ultra-violet light on ecosystems.

More information is available from David Manski, Acadia National Park chief biologist, 288-5463.

Resources for: Prospective Students, Current Students, Researchers, Visitors & Alumni, Faculty & Staff, Outreach, News & Events, Athletic News

The University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469
207-581-1110
Privacy Policy -- Campus Security
A Member of the University of Maine System
UMaine Peace Studies Events

March 20, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Peace Studies Program at the University of Maine has planned a series of events this spring to inform the campus and wider community and encourage discussion of controversial topics.

On April 11, a panel discussion will be held in room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. In “From Seattle '99 to Quebec City '01,” Ethan Miller, a member of the Maine Global Action Network, Melvin Burke, a professor of economics and others will discuss globalization and the free trade area of the Americas.

The movie “A Long Night's Journey Into Day,” will be shown on April 19 in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union from 3:30 to 5 p.m., followed by a discussion. If the union is closed due to construction, the movie will be shown in 120 Little Hall.

The film tells the story of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Process, and is the winner of the Grand Prize for Best Documentary at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival.

A panel discussion about genetically modified foods will be held on April 25 in room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Panelists include John Jemison, water quality specialist and Mahmoud El-Beargami, a human development specialist.

All events are free, open to the public and accessible. For more information, call 581-2609.
University of Maine News

Lobster Institute Serves Up "Lobster College," A Learning Vacation on the Maine Coast

March 22, 2001
Contact: Cathy Billings, Lobster Institute, 207-581-2751
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The Lobster Institute at the University of Maine is now enrolling participants in its inaugural session of the Lobster College, scheduled for September 13-16, 2001. Students won’t need to take the SATs to get in, and there are no final exams.

Lobster College is a unique learning vacation designed for the person who is interested in enjoying a fun extended weekend on the Maine coast and a chance to learn about Maine’s premier crustacean.

Home base for Lobster College will be the Oceanside Meadows Inn, an historic sea captain’s home at the head of Sand Cove in Prospect Harbor (www.oceaninn.com). Field trips are scheduled throughout the Schoodic Peninsula and Frenchman Bay area as part of the curriculum.

"Folks who join us for Lobster College will experience hands-on and on-site learning about lobsters directly from lobstermen and lobster dealers themselves, as well as from several University of Maine faculty. We’ve based Lobster College in the heart of lobstering country, at one of the most picturesque areas on the coast of Maine," says Robert Bayer, executive director of the Lobster Institute. "We’ll be taking a trip on a real lobster boat and see how traps are hauled, we’ll visit a tidal lobster pound and a seafood processing plant, and we’ll provide lectures on a variety of lobster-related topics."

According to Bayer, those who enroll in Lobster College will learn about lobster folklore, biology and ecology, value-added lobster products, lobster cuisine, stock management and other areas within the lobster industry. "And of course, there will be plenty of lobster to eat," said Bayer. "We’re even planning an old-fashioned lobster bake right on the beach as part of the weekend’s event."

In addition to being an educational program, Lobster College doubles as a fundraiser for the Lobster Institute’s endowment fund. The Lobster Institute is a research and outreach organization with a mission of protecting, conserving and enhancing the vitality of the lobster and lobstering as an industry and as a way of life. It was founded jointly by members of the lobster industry and faculty from the University of Maine. The Institute links industry expertise with academic resources to solve problems and challenges facing the lobster fishery.

Enrollment for Lobster College is limited to the first 24 registrants and the deadline to enroll is June 22. More information about Lobster College, including cost and how to register, and
about other programs and services of the Lobster Institute is available at its Web site, www.lobsterinstitute.org or by calling 207-581-1443 or 2751.
UMaine Class Book Author to Visit Campus

March 22, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756


In "The Color of Water," McBride tells his story of growing up in an African-American neighborhood as the child of an interracial marriage, and of his coming to terms with his confusion over his own identity.

At 12:30 p.m., McBride will be part of a panel in the Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union.

Professor Burt Hatlen of the English department will chair a panel that will include McBride and UMaine students Katherine Griffin, Elizabeth McNeil, Sharon McGraw, and Chance Oreo Nalley.

McBride will give a more formal talk, "A Meditation on Race and Humanity," at 4 p.m. in 102 Little Hall. He will also be signing copies of "The Color of Water" in the UM bookstore from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

After the lecture, a buffet dinner and question and answer session with the author will be held at the University Club in Fogler Library. The evening concludes with a book discussion led by Bob Whalen, associate chair and lecturer in the English department. Contact Ellen Woodhead, Continuing Education at 581-3143 for more information or to register. Seating is limited.

The class book is required reading in many English 101, "College Composition", classes, and is intended to provide a common subject for dialogues across campus. All events are free and open to the public.
Author Richard Gelles to Speak at Child Welfare Conference

March 26, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Substance abuse is a growing problem in the state of Maine, and often the youngest victims are the children and families of those who abuse illegal drugs.

This topic will be explored at the 7th Annual Child Welfare conference sponsored by the University of Maine School of Social Work. "The Impact of Substance Abuse on Children and Families: An Interdisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect" will be held on April 26 at the Ramada Inn in Bangor from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Professor and author Richard J. Gelles is this year's keynote speaker. His talk, "Child Maltreatment and Substance Abuse: Practice and Policy Challenges," is at 9 a.m.


At 1 p.m., Peggy Macchetto will deliver the afternoon plenary speech, "No Safe Haven: Children of Substance Abusing Parents." Macchetto is a senior research associate at the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. She is the co-author of "The Challenge to Family Courts in Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect by Substance-Abusing Parents."

Workshop topics include understanding addiction, the role of kinship and methadone treatment for drug addiction. In addition to the UMaine School of Social Work, the conference is co-sponsored by the Acadia Hospital, Bangor Health and Welfare Public Health Nursing, the Bangor Police Department, the Eastern Maine Medical Center Family Practice Residency Program, the EMMC SCAN program, and the Families United CAPE Program and the State of Maine Department of Human Services.

Conference participants are eligible to receive Continuing Education Credits from the University of Maine.

For more information on the conference, call the UMaine School of Social Work at 581-2398.
University of Maine News

First Round Table on Second Language Learning in Maine Set

March 26, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The results of some of the latest research on second language learning in Maine will be presented at a conference in Portland on Saturday, April 7.

The Round Table on Second Language Learning in Maine, to be held from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., at the University of Maine School of Law, is sponsored by Bates and Bowdoin colleges, the University of Maine, the University of Maine System, University of Southern Maine, and the Foreign Language Association of Maine.

The Round Table will feature three presentations: “Establishing a Baseline of Information about Second Language Teaching in Maine,” by Tina Passman and Raymond Pelletier of the University of Maine, and Donald Reutershan of the Maine Department of Education; “Dealing with the Shortage of Second Language Teachers: A Report on What Other States Are Doing,” by John Turner of Bowdoin College; and “Second Languages and Business in Maine,” by Richard Williamson of Bates College.

Recommendations adopted from the first Round Table will be published and disseminated as an annual report to lawmakers, educators and interested citizens.

The Second Language Learning in Maine research group was established last summer with funding from the University of Maine System and UMaine's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The goal is to bring public attention to the needs of language learners and teachers, and to guide the decisions of educators in schools, colleges and universities across the state.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information or to register, contact Ray Pelletier, chair of the coordinating committee of the Round Table and a member of the Foreign Language Association of Maine, 581-4227 (Raymond.Pelletier@umit.maine.edu).
University of Maine News

Disease Resistance Focus of Zebrafish Study

March 27, 2001
Contact: Nick Houtman at 581-3777

When we get an infection, the body mounts an immune defense with antibodies that recognize and destroy the invaders. The struggle doesn't always go our way. Researchers in the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Molecular Biology will use a $147,000 National Institutes of Health grant to study another form of resistance known as innate immunity. Understanding its biochemistry may contribute to the development of new weapons in the fight against disease.

Carol Kim, assistant professor, will use the zebrafish facility in Hitchner Hall to delve into the biochemical details of what is called the Toll signaling pathway of resistance. “Toll receptors sit on the outside of the cell. When a pathogen binds to the receptor, a cascade of other reactions occurs inside the cell. The result is the production of antimicrobial peptides that are very efficient at killing the pathogen,” says Kim.

French scientists first identified Toll receptors in fruit flies in the late 1980s. Their goal was to understand disease resistance in insects, which lack the ability to generate antibodies and yet are capable of strong resistance to infectious agents. Interest grew among medical researchers when similar receptors were identified in humans, mice and then fish.

“When we see that something like this is so common, we know that it must be an ancient factor that has been conserved throughout evolutionary history,” says Kim. It has also been observed that the Toll pathway plays a role in adaptive immunity, the ability to produce antibodies.

Zebrafish present researchers with important advantages for studying Toll receptors, she adds. The fish reproduce rapidly and thus enable scientists to generate data in weeks that could take months or years with other species. Zebrafish embryos are transparent and thus ideal for observing development. Finally, a tool kit of well-established techniques exists for biochemical research. Reagents for cloning genes are already available, and the full zebrafish genome is scheduled to be sequenced in 2002.

Kim will work with Ph.D. student Con Sullivan and laboratory manager Mark Mellon to produce zebrafish in which genes involved in the Toll receptor pathway are “knocked down.” “This is very different from the process in which genes are `knocked out,’” she explains. “A knockout mouse has had a gene completely removed. The developmental abnormalities that result provide important clues about the function of that gene. When a knockdown animal is produced, the gene is still present, but its function has been blocked. The result is the same as if the gene were not there.”
Kim and her team will produce knock down zebrafish and then expose the fish to infectious agents. It is expected that the fish will have less resistance to infection.

Kim notes that the NIH grant is seed money, enough to demonstrate that the research technique works and may lead to a better understanding of the Toll pathway. She expects that her results will lead to future grants that will enable her research team to tease out the fine details.

“Since the Toll receptor also exists in mice, we are also hoping to collaborate closely with researchers at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor. This is really just the beginning of a very exciting area of research,” she says.
Lewiston Student Brings Polar Bears to UMaine

March 27, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3756

ORONO -- At the University of Maine, Lewiston junior Ryan Labrecque is carrying on a family tradition. He has spent the last two winters playing ice hockey. Outdoors. Just like his dad did on campus a quarter-century ago.

But unlike the decades-old ice rink his father, Paul, skated on as a UMaine student, Labrecque and his classmates built their own.

“I come from a hockey family,” Labrecque says. “My dad (who graduated from UMaine in 1973 with a degree in business administration) was playing hockey outside on a rink by the river. My grandfather and all my uncles played (back home).

“When my dad was growing up, my grandfather built them a rink in the backyard. My dad and uncles always built one for our family. Even though the University isn't my house, I'm guiding construction of a rink here. I'm carrying on a tradition.”

Labrecque enrolled at the University of Maine three years ago to study construction management. He will graduate next year with a degree in engineering technology.

“UMaine has a good engineering program,” Labrecque says. “I didn't consider any other school. I'm paying for (college) and the price is right.”

But since he's been at the University, he's wondered why there's not an outdoor rink.

Before Alfond Sports Arena was constructed, an outdoor skating rink near the Stillwater River was a fixture on campus. Back then, it was the home ice of UMaine's hockey club.

Alfond Arena was built in 1976, and varsity men's ice hockey was established a year later.

In the spring 2000 semester, Labrecque and a handful of his friends started the student organization called the UMaine Polar Bears. The outdoor skating enthusiasts got to work building a rink on the Mall at the center of campus. They were skating by February.

“My parents always wonder how I pull these things together. My mentality is there are no problems, only solutions. I'm also one of those people who can't stay in my residence hall room watching TV,” says Labrecque, who carries a 3.69 grade point average, has a minor in business, is president of UMaine's student chapter of the Associated General Contractors, represents the Naked "M" in the naked five, and is a resident assistant in his residence hall.

This academic year, while the central location and a backdrop of classic University buildings were preferable, the Polar Bears decided to seek a new, more level venue. This year's site near
a major entrance to campus is well lighted and readily accessible to members of the campus and surrounding communities. The rink is located behind Lengyel Gym, which provides the necessary heated storage area for hoses and a snowblower. It is within view of a handful of residence halls.

This season's ice rink was almost a year in the making. Labrecque and the other Polar Bear members not only planned for the new rink but actively undertook fund-raising efforts to purchase maintenance equipment. In December, the students began construction, renting a truck and using eight, 55-gallon drums to haul water from the Stillwater River to the rink site.

The UMaine students hauled more than 10,000 gallons of water over four nights. As the water-soaked snow froze to create a five-inch base under the 80-foot by 115-foot surface, the Polar Bears were then able to maintain the ice using a garden hose.

The rink was ready for skating Jan. 5.

“Maintenance of the ice is more time consuming than people think,” says Labrecque. “Each night, we scrape the ice after a day of skating. If temperatures are up, people work in shifts, waking up every two hours throughout the night to use the hose to flood the ice. Or if it has snowed, the ice has to be cleared. The reward comes minutes after the snow is off and there are already 10 people on the ice.”

The diligence of the 20 Polar Bear members reflects their love of ice skating and, in particular, hockey. For example, Labrecque has skated since age 3. For years he played in Lewiston youth hockey leagues, and was on the 1996-1997 NSCAA Championship hockey team at Central Maine Technical College before coming to UMaine.

Labrecque and the other Polar Bears skate not just for exercise but for the love of the game. There's no weather too cold for hitting the ice. Below zero temps just mean “you wear more clothes and get more frost on your face,” Labrecque says.

“If there is a group of people out on the ice, you show up and you're automatically part of the team. You have fun and go home,” Labrecque says. “At night when there's no one out there but you, it's very refreshing. Skating and hockey have been part of my life since I was born.”

Labrecque also understands the importance of allowing other skaters to take advantage of the outdoor rink. Often in the mornings on weekends, youngsters and their parents are on the ice.

Labrecque's dad was even one of the recreational skaters this season. Paul Labrecque drove to Orono for a UMaine hockey game in Alfond Arena. Following the game, the Polar Bears were flooding the rink.

“It was zero outside,” remembers Labrecque with a smile. “In my dad's mature age, he decided not to help us flood that night, but he skated for four hours beginning at 8 the next morning, just like we used to do at home.”
UMaine Announces New Research Agreements with Four Institutions

March 27, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Separate agreements between the University of Maine and four other Maine-based research institutions form a new education and research partnership which UMaine President Peter S. Hoff says "will provide new opportunities and benefits -- not just for the (participating) institutions, but for the state of Maine and perhaps beyond."

Speaking today at a news conference in Maine Gov. Angus King's office, Hoff described the details of the "Cooperative Graduate Studies Program," a collaboration that includes The Jackson Laboratory of Bar Harbor; Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory of Salisbury Cove; the University of Southern Maine in Portland, Gorham and Lewiston-Auburn; and Maine Medical Center Research Institute in Scarborough.

Under the agreements, UMaine faculty members and graduate students in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, computer science and mathematics will collaborate with researchers at the four institutions on projects related to biology and biomedicine. In return, certain researchers at the four institutions will be granted graduate-level adjunct faculty status and will work in their respective areas of expertise with graduate students and undergraduates at UMaine.

Furthermore, the agreement will make doctoral-level education in the biosciences available to satisfy an increasing demand in Maine. Employees -- and, in USM's case, employees and students -- of the four institutions will be able to earn a Ph.D. from UMaine in fields of study related to the agreement, creating more highly trained scientists to support Maine's growing biomedical and biotechnology industries.

"As we move forward in the broad field of biomedicine, new strategies and technologies will be needed to address the increasingly complex questions faced by scientists," Hoff explained.

"Collaboration will allow us to develop new synergies and strategies to (help find answers to those) questions," he said.

By sharing expertise and resources, the institutions in the program hope increase their ability to compete at the highest level for the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research.

"Under these agreements, collectively we will compete for a larger pool of federal research funds," Hoff said. "By becoming more competitive for those funds, we increase significantly the opportunities for millions of dollars in federal investment to our state -- investment which, at the very least, creates new jobs and new spending in-state which in turn strengthens the
Maine economy; investment which, at the very best, creates entire new industries for Maine and at the same time contributes to medical breakthroughs that benefit humanity."

Based in Orono, UMaine has statewide teaching, research, and public service outreach responsibilities. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classifies UMaine as a "doctoral research extensive" university, the top classification. Only four percent (148) of the nation's 3,800 accredited universities and colleges have received that top classification.

**Descriptions of the Participating Institutions**

**The Jackson Laboratory**: Located in Bar Harbor, The Jackson Laboratory, the world's largest mammalian genetics research institution, is at the forefront of the genetics revolution that is transforming medicine for the benefit of humanity. The private, nonprofit Laboratory has been designated a Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute to perform basic research in cancer genetics, and also serves the global scientific community as the key provider of critical genetic resources and as an international center for training present and future scientists. The Laboratory has doubled in size over the last five years and now has more than 1,000 employees and a total FY2000 revenue of $88.1 million.

**The Maine Medical Center Research Institute** was established in 1991 as the Research and Development Division of Maine Medical Center. In December of this past year the Institute moved in new facilities in Scarborough where it carries out both basic and clinical research. The principal research division to be involved in this initiative is the Center for Molecular Medicine with its focus on cardiovascular disease, emphasizing vessel wall biology and angiogenesis. It has recently been established as a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) in Angiogenesis through an award from the National Institutes of Health.

**The University of Maine** is Maine's land-grant and sea-grant institution and is the flagship university of the seven-member University of Maine System. Founded in 1865 and located in Orono, UMaine has a statewide mission that includes teaching, research and public service outreach responsibilities. It is Maine's designated research university. Of the 3,800 accredited colleges and universities throughout the country, UMaine is one of just 148 schools (4 percent) to be classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a "Doctoral Research Extensive" university, the highest classification available.

**The University of Southern Maine** is a comprehensive university located in Portland, Gorham, and Lewiston-Auburn. It serves the southern region of the state through two-year, four-year, and master's degrees. USM is home to the Muskie School of Public Service, Lewiston-Auburn College, and the University of Maine School of Law. USM's Department of Applied Medical Sciences is a small but actively developing program, offering courses and research opportunities in immunology, molecular biology, and genetics.

**The Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory** was founded in 1898. Originally founded to teach undergraduate marine biology, the Laboratory quickly became a center for marine research, using marine organisms to study renal and osmoregulatory physiology. Today the Laboratory is one of only five environmental toxicology research centers in the country funded by the National Institutes of Health. The center focuses on the toxic effects of heavy metals and other environmental contaminants on membrane transport systems. Until recently, the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory has been primarily a summer research institute. However, it is in the process of establishing a year-round research program and expanding its research interests to include marine genomics and bioinformatics.

Resources for: Prospective Students, Current Students, The University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469
Philosophy Lecturer to Discuss Humor, Religion and Spirituality

March 28, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Philosophy Department at the University of Maine hosts its annual Marshall Dodge Memorial Philosophy Lecture on April 2 and 3.

Lee Siegel, professor of religion at the University of Hawaii, is this year's speaker. Siegel is the author of several books on Asian religion, love, sexuality, humor and magic, including the novel “Love in a Dead Language: A Romance.” He has also written, directed, performed and consulted for television programs dealing with Asian religion, love and sexuality.

On April 2, Siegel will meet with students in the Weiss Room of The Maples at 2 p.m. The next day, April 3, Siegel will hold a meeting about video and filmmaking at 10:30 a.m. in the Levinson Room of The Maples.

At 7 p.m. on April 3, Siegel will give the Marshall Dodge Lecture on “Humor Religion and Philosophy” in 100 Neville Hall.

The Marshall J. Dodge III Philosophy Fund was established at the University of Maine in 1997 with a gift from the Marshall J. Dodge Memorial Fund. The fund is used to bring distinguished scholars to campus who are working in areas relevant to Dodge's interests in moral, environmental and social philosophy. As Dodge was a performing artist and humorist, the department especially welcomes lectures that offer philosophical treatment of comedy and the arts.
UMaine Professor Offers Tips, Information on Tax Filing

March 28, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nichols does have some tips for taxpayers based on his experience working with returns. First, he says, write clearly in the boxes.

“It's important and it will make a big difference in the scanners and with people who transcribe,” says Nichols.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 29, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

“Beth Wiemann, Baycka Voronietsky and Friends,” part of the School of Performing Arts season, 2 p.m., April 8, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – The premiere of “Fables of La Fontaine” for musicians and dancers will highlight a faculty recital by the composer of the work, Beth Wiemann, on Sunday, April 8 at the University of Maine.

The recital, “Beth Wiemann, Baycka Voronietsky and Friends,” begins at 2 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall on campus. Tickets for the event are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

“Fables of La Fontaine” is based on the translations by Marianne Moore. Jean de La Fontaine is a 17th-century poet whose “Fables,” 240 poems published in 12 volumes, rank among the greatest masterpieces of French literature. “Fables of La Fontaine” is Wiemann's reaction to Stravinsky's “Renard,” a work that uses singers and dancers in small scenes of folk tales involving animals.

The composition of the piece was supported by a Summer Research Grant from the University of Maine.

Joining Wiemann, a clarinetist, in the performance of her work will be tenor Francis Vogt, flutist Elizabeth Downing, cellist Diane Roscetti and pianist Phillip Silver. Choreography is by Janet Warner-Ashley. All are faculty in the School of Performing Arts.

Also on the program are classics of clarinet repertoire by Brahms and Spohr, in which Wiemann will be joined by pianist Baycka Voronietsky and soprano Nancy Ogle. In addition, Wiemann will perform a short solo work, “Gra,” written in 1993 by Elliott Carter.
German Master Works, Chamber Music Concerts Coming Up

March 30, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

‘Liederabend,’’ by baritone Ludlow Hallman and pianist Phillip Silver, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., April 10, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

An evening of master works of German song will be performed in a faculty recital by baritone Ludlow Hallman on Tuesday, April 10 at the University of Maine.

The recital, “Lieberabend,” begins at 7:30 p.m., in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall. Tickets for the recital are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Hallman, professor of music, will be joined by pianist Phillip Silver, assistant professor of music, to perform works of Hugo Wolf, Johannes Brahms and Richard Strauss, plus Beethoven, Schubert and Korngold.

Chamber Music Concert, directed by Ginger Yang Hwalek, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., April 17, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

A variety of instrumental groupings and musical styles will highlight this spring's faculty/student chamber music recital on Tuesday, April 17 at the University of Maine.

In addition to two piano/flute/cello trios, there will be a brass quintet, a cello duet, a jazz combo, and an ensemble of two trumpets and organ. Le Stagioni, the University of Maine/Bangor Symphony Orchestra graduate string quartet, also will perform.

Joining the student musicians will be cellist Noreen Silver, trumpeter Josh Whitehouse and organist Kevin Birch, all faculty in the School of Performing Arts.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. chamber music concert in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall, are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.
UMaine Students to Present "A Night of Broadway"

March 30, 2001  
Contact: Joe Carr at 591-3751

"A Night of Broadway," a student-run musical production, 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 6, Minsky Recital Hall, University of Maine. $2.

ORONO –For one night and one night only, Broadway will come to Orono as music from the Broadway stage will be performed at the University of Maine.

A cast of eleven student performers will present "A Night of Broadway" on Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall on the UMaine campus. The cast has collectively produced and directed the event.

The performance will commence when the performers take to the stage for the first act which is an abridged performance of the musical Titanic by Maury Yeston. Those familiar with the story will recall the doomed fate of the massive liner as it set off on its maiden voyage from England, never reaching its destination of New York. The musical elaborates on the lives of the passengers aboard the ill-fated ship and their various backgrounds, hopes and dreams. The music evolves with the story, beginning with uplifting ensemble pieces which convey the passengers' amazement at the sight of the ship. Pieces such as "Lady's Maid" and "Marry Me" expose the audience to the individual thoughts and dreams of the passengers. The pieces toward the end of the story, such as "Still" and "We'll Meet Tomorrow", convey the fear, agony and disappointment of the passengers as they realize their destination will not be reached and their lives may not be spared.

The second act consists of a variety of songs from other Broadway shows including Les Miserables, Once Upon a Mattress, Jekyll and Hyde, Side Show and Kiss of the Spiderwoman. This second half will feature the student performers in solo, duet and quartet settings.

The evening will draw to a close with the cast reuniting on stage for an ensemble piece before the lights go down on this production.

This UMaine cast of eleven is a group of students whose majors vary from business management to education to music performance.

"Musical theater is a favorite genre for many singers and actors," says Emily Burns, a music education major who is one of the eleven performers. "'A Night of Broadway' is the third of three musical theater productions that have taken place this year and the enthusiasm by both audiences and students has been thrilling. We hope that musical theater will continue to be an integral part of the community and culture at the University of Maine."

Tickets are $2 and will be available at the door.
Climate, Public Health Presentations Slated for Maine Water Conference in Augusta

April 3, 2001
Program contact: Betty Lee, Water Research Institute, 207-581-3244
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine – Maine's climate and the relationship between water quality and public health will be among the topics at the 8th annual Maine Water Conference at the Augusta Civic Center May 3. The meeting is organized and sponsored by the Mitchell Center at the University of Maine and is open to the public.

Presentations will cover a variety of issues such as invasive aquatic plants, acid rain, drinking water quality and wetlands.

Phil Boissonneault of the Portland Water District will open the meeting at 8:30 a.m. He will be followed by Richard Jagels of the University of Maine Department of Forest Ecosystem Science who will discuss acid rain and Maine’s forests. Jeffrey Griffiths of the Tufts Medical Center will review the public health implications of water quality problems.

Maine State Climatologist Greg Zielinski of the Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies at UMaine will discuss the state's climate and the services of that office.

The afternoon will offer a slate of concurrent sessions on topics such as atmospheric deposition and water quality, invasive aquatic plants, wetlands and drinking water and health.

John Peckenham of the University of Maine Mitchell Center and Boissonneault are the co-chairs of the meeting. Sponsors include public and private organizations involved in studying and managing Maine's water resources.

Registration is $35 prior to April 13 and $45 at the door. Pre-registration is limited to the first 300 people. More information is available from Betty Lee of the Mitchell Center, 581-3244.

The agenda and registration information are available at http://www.umaine.edu/WaterResearch.
Social Work Offers Weekend Option

April 3, 2001  
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The School of Social Work at the University of Maine is offering Maine residents an opportunity to earn a Master of Social Work degree by taking classes at the UMaine Hutchinson Center in Belfast.

The Weekend Option is designed for students interested in a part-time, convenient format for taking classes. So far, the school has held two information sessions on the option, and is already offering one on-site class in Belfast.

"When we went into this, we didn't know how many people would be interested, but so far we've had a really positive response," says Gail Werrbach, director of the UMaine School of Social Work. Over 100 people attended the offered information sessions.

Werrbach says this is a national trend in social work education, since people who work full-time in social services organizations often have difficulty taking daytime classes.

"Students want more flexibility for taking courses and need a buffet of options," says Werrbach. She says this option serves students who work full time and have family responsibilities and assists the mid-coast region in providing MSW education in a geographically convenient place.

Students who complete classes with this option will receive a MSW from the University of Maine.

For the foundation level courses, students will take two classes per semester on Friday nights and Saturday mornings at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast.

Professors from UMaine's School of Social Work will teach all of the classes, and the Orono office will handle admissions, advising and other student services.

Currently, the School of Social Work offers four educational options: full-time at Orono, part-time at Orono, advanced standing and now the weekend at Belfast.

The School of Social Work has offered undergraduate education in social work since the 1950s. The School of Social Work is one of four professional programs in the College of Business, Public Policy and Health. For more information on the option or on social work education, call 581-2389 or visit the School of Social Work Web page at .
Destination Imagination Championships at UMaine April 7

April 4, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine will host an estimated 1500 participants and spectators from around the state on April 7 for the 2001 Destination Imagination (DI) Maine State Championships.

Maine's first-place winners will later compete against students from all 50 states at the 2001 Global Finals, to be held in June at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Maine DI, formerly known as Odyssey of the Mind, is a school-based program that starts each academic year with local competitions for students in grades 3-12 and concludes in the spring with international competition. Students are given a set of problems to solve that combine critical thinking skills with performance arts and engineering. Judges score each team's performance based on how effectively and creatively problems are addressed.

“Many of Maine's most creative problem solvers are here to share their solutions and truly enjoy all the excitement that our state DI tournament has to offer,” says Don Spencer, state tournament director for Destination Imagination. “This program continues to thrive because of the hundreds of volunteers, several sponsors and many Maine schools and colleges.”

The problems are determined prior to the competition, and each team chooses one problem from a common set. This year's competition includes problems such as creating an original mystery and solving the 'who did it?' to building a structure out of balsa wood.

In addition to the preplanned problem solutions, students must also solve a problem given to them on the day of competition.

Saturday's competition will open at 8 a.m. with ceremonies at the Maine Center for the Arts. DInamaic Improv will take place at Little Hall from 9:35 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Incredible Tech Effect will take place at the MCA from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mystery Loves Company will take place from 8:40 a.m. to 4:25 p.m. Triplicity will take place in Neville Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Anonymously Yours will take place in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is the 8th year that UMaine has hosted and co-sponsored the state DI tournament.
UMaine Students To Form Human Chain to Combat Hunger

April 4, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Two student organizations at the University of Maine, Circle K and Theta Chi, are holding an event this weekend to raise awareness of hunger in Maine and food for local charities.

On April 7 at 1 p.m., the two organizations are encouraging people or other organizations to join them as they form a human chain from the steam plant parking lot on College Avenue to downtown Orono.

The organizations have been holding a food drive, and will be accepting more donations at the event on Saturday. The food will then be passed along the line, to raise awareness of hunger in Maine.

Donations will be given to Crossroads Ministries in Alton and the Manna soup kitchen in Bangor. Event sponsors will be counting the amount of food each organization brings in, and the group that brings in the most will win a prize.

Non-perishable food items are preferred.
Wabanaki Center Helps Strengthen Cultural Ties Through Drama

April 4, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Wabanaki Center at the University of Maine has received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to continue its work on language and culture revitalization in Passamaquoddy communities in the state.

The three-year, $146,000 grant was given as part of the foundation's Partnerships Affirming Community Transformation (PACT) program, which supports projects undertaken by artists and other cultural professionals that contribute to social change.

“This grant builds on a project that was done with the support of a fellowship I had with the Kellogg Foundation,” says Gail Sockabasin, director of the Wabanaki Center. “In the third year of that fellowship, we were given instructions to develop a project in the community.”

As director of the Wabanaki Center, Sockabasin provides support services for Native American students and serves as the liaison between the state's native communities and UMaine.

Sockabasin focused on the revitalization of the Passamaquoddy language and culture, and toward this goal, recruited the help of the Headliners Theater for Living of Vancouver, who introduced her to the concept of the Theater of the Oppressed, based on “The Pedagogy of the Oppressed,” a book by Paulo Freire.

“Freire's message was that we learn through doing, practice and action and that real transformation comes through such action,” she says. “The Theater of the Oppressed was founded on this idea.”

In this form of education, plays are developed that deal with important cultural or social issues in a community.

Working with Sockabasin on this grant project is Vera Francis, a UMaine graduate and Passamaquoddy who was part of the original theater group for the theater presentation funded with the Kellogg grant. Francis is now a community educator and language researcher for the Wabanaki Center.

“Interactive theater implies that there will be a relationship between the audience and the performers,” says Francis. “When the play is presented, there will be moments that the audience will be invited to join the play, engage the performers and offer new perspectives on any portion of the play and perhaps move it toward a different solution.”
Francis says this allows the audience members to be participants in the process of education through the arts, rather than simply observers.

“The audience is as much a part of the process as the people who are giving of their time, energy and creativity to develop these plays,” she says.

Each play runs about 10 minutes and is presented to the audience through a character called the Joker. This character serves as the audiences' link to what is going on in the play, offering observation and commentary. When the play is given the second time, the Joker invites audience members to participate.

“The play becomes a sharing of experiences, which will then hopefully help members of the audience move toward resolving the struggles that are presented through the play,” says Francis.

She says the designing process of the new project is not fully complete, but hopes the finished product allows the community to consider more fully the importance of language to the concept of culture.

“I trust that what we end up creating is something reflective of our collective experience and thus relevant and authentic and authentic for our relatives within the Wabanaki region,” says Francis.

The Kellogg Foundation grant allowed Sockabasin to do a play at Pleasant Point on the topic of culture and language and develop a CD of Passamaquoddy language and songs.

She says the Rockefeller grant will allow her to continue her work of trying to strengthen the connection between young Passamaquoddys and their culture through the arts and a focus on the importance of the language.

“When we did the play, we focused our work on the Passamaquoddy language and experiences within the community,” says Sockabasin. “We focused on the language because we are in the process of losing our language. I believe that the values of how you encounter people and the environment around you has everything to do with the language you speak.”

Sockabasin says most people who are fluent in the Passamaquoddy language and oral tradition are those of an older generation. The younger generation, she says, is much more comfortable with English and the written word.

“The Passamaquoddy language wasn’t written down until about 20 years ago. We have a very strong oral tradition,” says Sockabasin. “One of the central dilemmas of language revival is how do you get English speakers, who are very focused on the written word, to genuinely connect with a generation that is focused on the oral tradition.”

Sockabasin says the answer to this question comes in the use of art.

“The arts don't require the written word, they are an equalizer,” she says. With the new grant, she hopes to bring back the original players and hold a series of workshops to further train them in the concepts put forth by Freire's book.

Francis says she hopes the theater presentations serve to show the importance of community to those who participate.

“I think that having a strong sense of who you are is having a strong connection to your culture and your relationship with that culture,” says Francis. “We, as people, were not brought here to be alone. We are all members of a people, a tribe or a community.”
This grant will cover the costs of performances at the Passamaquoddy communities of Pleasant Point and Indian Township. A performance for other native communities is being considered as well.

“The idea is to build upon the skills of the original group so they can go back to the two Passamaquoddy communities,” she says. “We then want to bring those ideas out and share them with other native communities who might be able to gain something from them.”
Writers, Storytellers to Meet at UMaine

April 4, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Writers, storytellers, publishers, teachers and students from throughout the state will converge on the University of Maine campus April 27-28 to share their work, their thoughts on a variety of subjects, and one another's company as part of a collaborative event, co-hosted by the UMaine English Department, the National Poetry Foundation (NPF) and SpiritWords Poetries Collaborative, a Maine writers' group based in Bucksport.

"The responses to our invitation have been amazingly warm, enthusiastic, and almost grateful in tone," says Jim Bishop, a lecturer in English and special projects coordinator for NPF, who is coordinating this event. "We have actually had some writers who will not be able to attend send small donations to help support the event. It seems we are touching some kind of felt need on the part of writers from around the state, maybe to break through the isolation of a long winter and the far-flung separation of writers and storytellers that we mention in the invitation.

"I sense people are also responding to the specific invitation to be co-creators of the event, to help create a shape for it in what they choose to share – or exchange. We want this event to belong to them, to reflect them, particularly those writers from the state who are committed to their craft but who may not have received the recognition of some of the more anthologized Maine voices."

To date, registrants range in age from an 11-year-old poet to lifelong writers in their 80's from a wide geographic cross-section of the state. "I'm feeling a wonderful energy developing," says Bishop, "and I'm looking forward to what happens when it all converges here later this month."

This year's event will begin on Friday with a special opening ceremony conducted by representatives of the Penobscot Nation. Friday afternoon events will include small-group readings by the participants, workshops on a variety of subjects, and group discussion sessions on topics such as "The Place of Place in Our Telling," "Global & Local: Where is the Imagination's Home?" and "Falling Silent: The Loss of Voice and its Recovery."

A formal banquet will include the honoring of writers from throughout the state whose writing acknowledges its roots in place and community, and will pay special tribute to the recently deceased poet, Leo Connellan, whose poetry is deeply rooted in his birthplace, Rockland. In addition, Bucksport poet and founder of SpiritWords Patricia Ranzoni will present a story quilt chronicling Maine's multicultural community heritage, currently being created especially for the Exchange by a number of quilters and contributors of patches, including, for example, a retired millworker and poet from Rumford, who sent a union insignia patch from his jacket. Music by Maine musicians will follow the program.
Also featured at the gathering will be a poetry wall where participants can post short works as they choose and exhibits of books by Maine writers, for sale and for examination. All Maine publishers are invited to display.

One goal of this gathering is to create a home space at UMaine, where Maine writers can share their work, can interact with one another creatively in an amenable environment, and can explore themes of common interest, particularly centered on the relationship of place and community to their creative expression. In that respect, the hope is that the Exchange will become an annual event, along with a permanent interactive Web site, and perhaps a regular reading series for Maine writers, in parallel with the successful series of readings currently sponsored by NPF and the English Department.

For further information, contact Jim Bishop (phone, 207-581-3618; e-mail Jim_Bishop@umit.maine.edu).
Maine Masque to Perform Alan Ayckbourn's 'Taking Steps'

April 5, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

“Taking Steps,” by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Elaine DiFalco Daugherty, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., April 18-21; 2 p.m., April 21-22, Hauck Auditorium, University of Maine. $8. 581-1755.

ORONO -- Theater audiences will get a close look at the technical innovation of playwright Alan Ayckbourn when University of Maine student artists bring the farcical comedy "Taking Steps" to the Hauck Auditorium stage, April 18-21.

The Maine Masque, all-student production, directed by UMaine graduate student and veteran actor Elaine DiFalco Daugherty, can be seen at 7:30 p.m., April 18-21; 2 p.m., April 21-22. Tickets are $8 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Ayckbourn once described "Taking Steps" as: "An attic, a lounge, a wife in a quandary and a fiancee in a cupboard, a devious builder, a nervous solicitor, a ponderous personnel officer and a drunken bucket manufacturer all embroiled in a tale of love, confusion and freedom." A UMaine cast of six will bring to life the tale of miscommunication and misinterpreted ideas that are a reflection of society today, says Daugherty.

"Each character has ineffectual escapes from the confining lives they have made based on other people who, in reality, are not willing to go on the same journey with them," says Daugherty, a first-year graduate student from Brockton, Mass., who received a bachelor's degree in theater from UMaine in 1997. "This is an entertaining comedy that also is intriguing and intellectually stimulating."

Ayckbourn set "Taking Steps" in present-day England, in a Victorian manor badly in need of renovation. Scenes take place on three floors of the house, with rooms linked by intricately painted "steps" on a one-level stage. On top of Ayckbourn's technical innovation, Daugherty adds her own by seating the audience on either side of the stage to enhance the intimacy and exaggerate the confining aspects of the set – and the lives of the characters.

Members of the cast are: Mary McIntosh of Washburn, a second-year biochemistry major; Amanda Eaton, a second-year theater student from Dexter; Brad Fillion, a third-year theater student from Gorham, N.H.; Andy Hicks of Westford, Mass., a senior in theater; Joe Kilch, a fourth-year mathematics major from Castine; and Trevor Bean of Cumberland, a senior in theater.

Editor's Note: Digital images to accompany this story are available by contacting Joe Carr, 581-3571.
Public Invited to Third Annual Graduate Research Expo

April 5, 2001

Program contact: Andrew Lorrey, Graduate School, 207-581-3217
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to view research projects by more than 80 University of Maine graduate students at the 3rd annual Graduate Research Exposition April 11 and 12 at Wells Commons on the UMaine campus.

The Expo will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on April 11 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 12. The event is closed during the afternoon on April 11 to allow judges to evaluate the students' posters. Awards and a formal presentation by Robert Kennedy, UMaine Provost, will begin at 5 p.m. on the 12th.

“This will be a celebration of what the graduate student community brings to the university,” says Andrew Lorrey, master's student in geological sciences and graduate assistant coordinator for the research exposition. “The public will see the great diversity of research that is conducted here. Graduate students work very hard, and their research often has practical value for Maine and its citizens.”

This year's event will include a gallery of posters as well as presentations, some featuring poetry and music. A team of judges will review the displays and make awards for creativity and technical presentation. Winning students will travel to Augusta later this spring to show their exhibits to legislators.

“This event really speaks to the breadth of scholarly work undertaken by graduate students at the University of Maine,” says Scott Delcourt, director of the Graduate School. “In one room, you will be able to see presentations on subjects ranging from educational leadership to astrophysics.”

To spur participation, Lorrey has been conducting workshops on poster presentations in cooperation with the university's New Media Lab. “Some students are not accustomed to preparing posters or giving presentations. We want to make it clear that this is an event highlighting the scholarship of all graduate students,” he says.

Undergraduate students at UMaine can take advantage of the opportunity to learn from graduate research, Lorrey says.

Financial support for the event is coming from the Graduate School, the Office of the Provost, the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and the Vice-President for Research. Lorrey has had assistance from Theresa Grove and Melissa Kelley, respectively president and vice-president of the Association of Graduate Students.
UMaine Scientists Seek Answer to Ice Sheet Mystery

April 5, 2001

Research contact: Gordon Hamilton, Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies, 207-581-3446
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- In a world that measures everything from hemlines to the speed of light, the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets present a special challenge. They are ancient and complex, the two most massive ice cubes on the planet. Whether they are shrinking or growing has become one of the central questions in the study of global change and a focus of research in the Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies at the University of Maine.

The Institute has a tradition in polar studies and ice sheet behavior stretching back to its founding in 1972. UMaine scientists have worked to understand the physical processes that control ice sheet movement and the steps leading to their collapse after the end of the last Ice Age. The latest research is aimed at understanding how ice sheets respond to factors such as changes in climate.

“We use GPS technology to make measurements of the ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland,” says Gordon Hamilton, a research assistant professor. “We want to understand if the ice sheets are currently changing size and contributing to sea level rise. The current estimate is that of the average two millimeters of global sea level rise that occurs annually, we can explain one millimeter by thermal expansion of the oceans and groundwater pumping. The remaining contribution is unknown, but an assumption is melting of the ice sheets in the polar regions.”

Scientists do not yet know how the ice sheets are likely to respond if average global temperatures rise in the future. If snowfall increases over Antarctica and Greenland, possibly due to a warmer, moister atmosphere, the ice sheets could grow. However, if the sea continues to rise or increased temperatures warm the ice, the ice sheets will flow faster and could shrink.

Hamilton has spent the better part of the last decade perfecting field techniques to collect reliable data. His field experiments entail measuring the vertical velocity of ice and comparing that with snow accumulation rates derived from ice core analyses. If vertical velocity exceeds snow accumulation, the ice sheet is getting thinner, and vice versa. When he began establishing monitoring stations in 1993 he drilled holes with a hand auger and placed empty coffee cans at the bottom to anchor poles deep in the Antarctic ice. To the poles, he attached a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to determine very precisely the elevation of that particular point on the ice sheet. Repeat visits over several years provide velocities.
Today, Hamilton still calls his monitoring stations “coffee can sites,” but he uses other tools such as a heated drill to melt hole into the ice and non-stretching aircraft wire that links a point at the bottom of the hole with the surface. In the last eight years, he has placed more than three dozen sites on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and 12 more in Greenland. To get a picture of whether the ice is growing or shrinking in a region, he looks for areas that are well away from the fast moving ice streams.

So far, the results of work by Hamilton and others suggest that the ice sheets may be thinning at the edges but getting thicker inland. Nevertheless, some stations show little movement while others are rising or falling, and no clear pattern has emerged.

Hamilton and a colleague, Ian Whillans of The Ohio State University, are currently funded by the National Science Foundation to carry out measurements as part of the International Trans-Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE). The purpose of ITASE is to collect data that will help scientists understand the Antarctic environment and serve as a baseline for measurements of future changes.

Last November, Hamilton flew to McMurdo Station in Antarctica with UMaine colleagues Paul Mayewski, Zach Smith and Benjamin Cavallari. Joined by scientists from several other institutions, they crossed 750 miles (1,200 km) of some of the coldest, windiest terrain on Earth to collect ice cores and establish new monitoring stations.

“Ice sheets do not change much on the scale of a few decades,” says Hamilton. “They're so large that it takes a very long time for them to respond to changes in the environment. It's currently thought, for example, that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is still responding to the end of the last Ice Age about ten thousand years ago. The vertical movements of points on the ice sheet are very slow and constant over a 500 to 1000-year time frame. Having said that, we are still unsure how fast future changes might occur if climate enters an unstable phase.”

Hamilton equipped several of the Antarctic stations with continuous data loggers, but such devices are expensive. Most of the stations consist only of the taught wires anchored five to 20 meters deep in the ice. Hamilton will return to Antarctica over the next few years to make new GPS measurements at each station.

Data collected by Hamilton will assume new importance after the December, 2001, launch of ICESat (Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite) by NASA. ICESat will use lasers to measure elevations across the world's ice sheets, and the results of his work will be critical to the process of validating data from the satellite. “We know the elevation of our stations and the rates of ice thickness changes, so we can compare our numbers to those coming from the satellite. If there's a discrepancy, we'll know that the satellite has a problem.”

In advance of ICESat's launch, Hamilton and colleagues have been conducting measurements in Greenland as part of the Program for Arctic Regional Climate Assessment (PARCA). This NASA-funded initiative combines ground-based GPS work with overflights by a research aircraft equipped with a laser similar to that onboard ICESat. PARCA is providing valuable experience that will guide future work interpreting data from the satellite mission.

Hamilton has a PhD from the University of Cambridge and came to UMaine from the Byrd Polar Research Center at The Ohio State University and the Norsk Polarinstitutt in Oslo, Norway. He is a native of Scotland.
UMaine Student Schedules Taste Tests for Crab Pasta

April 5, 2001

Research contact: Barbara Gillman, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-1635
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited to participate in a University of Maine taste test of a new type of gourmet pasta made with crab mince. Barbara Gillman, a master's student from Hiram in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, developed the pasta as part of a project to create new seafood products.

The department is conducting the test on April 19, 12 to 4 p.m. in 208 Holmes Hall on the UMaine campus to determine consumer acceptance of the new pasta. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have no seafood or gluten allergies and eat pasta at least twice a year.

The seafood pasta project is supported by a $10,000 grant from the Maine Technology Institute to the Lobster Institute at UMaine. Additional funding from the Department of Industrial Cooperation at UMaine.

Appointments can be made with Gillman by calling 581-1635 or sending e-mail to barbaragillman@hotmail.com.
Watershed Development Poses Problems for Maine's Urban Streams

April 5, 2001
Research contact: Chandler Morse, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, 207-581-2959
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, , 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- As Earth Day approaches, a University of Maine master's degree student has found that increasing development is taking a toll on the health of small urban streams in Maine.

Over the past three years, Chandler Morse, a master's degree student in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program, has studied 20 streams in the Bangor, Augusta, Portland and Anson areas. He has found that the condition of Maine's streams declines markedly when more than six percent of a watershed is covered by impervious surfaces such as roads, driveways and parking lots. Runoff from these and other surfaces can have a dramatic effect on the insects and other organisms that live in streams, Morse says.

“At six percent impervious coverage, we start to see a transition from a rural area with a few houses here and there to an urban area with sewers, culverts and other facilities that drain water away,” he explains. “Rain storms and snow melt can have a visible effect on streams including carrying of sediment that muddy the waters and destroys habitat, but I was looking for long-term and cumulative effects that most of us normally wouldn't see.”

For his thesis, Morse worked with Alex Huryn and Chris Cronan, faculty members in the Dept. of Biological Sciences. The first step of the project was to identify 20 similar streams with varying levels of urban development within the watersheds. They settled on nine in the Bangor area, four near Portland, three near Augusta and four near Anson.

Morse documented the physical condition of each stream channel and habitat. Waiting at least two days after rainstorms, he collected samples of stream water and aquatic insects. Altogether, he identified almost 90,000 insects in describing the biological condition of the stream ecosystems that he sampled.

The level of urban development was quantified by using Natural Resource Conservation Service aerial photos to calculate the percentage of the watersheds that were covered by impervious surfaces. Morse also used a geographic information system to map the watersheds and determine the proportions of the watersheds that were forested, wetland, and under agricultural land-uses.

The results of this study suggest that where development was below the six percent threshold, the numbers and types of insects and water chemistry were relatively unchanged. However, as the extent of development increased, streams changed in a variety of ways:
Insects shifted to those that are more tolerant of pollution. Riparian zones, areas that are immediately adjacent to streams, shrank and began to lose their ability to filter sediment and nutrients from runoff.

Dissolved oxygen levels, critical for fish and many insects, tended to be lower in more urbanized streams.

Stream banks in more urbanized streams tended to be more badly eroded, possibly the result of higher storm water flows.

Among those that Morse studied, the stream draining the Bangor airport was the most heavily urbanized. It has 31 percent of its watershed occupied by roads, runways and other development. The Penjajawoc stream, the current focus of a land use controversy, was also one of those sampled.

The percentage of a watershed under impervious cover has not been used in Maine as a factor in environmental management, Morse adds. However, by associating stream quality with a measure of development, this project has laid the groundwork for such an approach.

“A rule of thumb around the country is that water quality takes a nose dive when watershed development reaches ten percent,” says Morse. “But we saw this happen at six percent. We don't know why or what it might be about our watersheds that makes them more sensitive. That's for other researchers to work on.”

Morse will receive his degree in May and intends to work in the Washington D.C. area as an environmental consultant. He is the 15th member of his family to attend UMaine.
Percussion Featured at UMaine Hudson Museum Program

April 6, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will hold a special school vacation Just For Kids program on April 19.

"Drum and Song of the African New World with Michael Wingfield" will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Museum, located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the UMaine campus.

In this workshop, Wingfield will introduce attendees to the percussion rhythms of the African New World and let them experiment with the conga drums, bongo drums, agogo bells, claves and shakers.

Wingfield has studied with master percussionists Pablo Landrum and Jerry Gonzales, among others, and has led workshops for the Bennington School, the Maine Healing Arts Festival and the Girl Scouts of America.

The program is for children ages 8 and up, and there is a $3 fee per child, with a limit of 75 children. Groups are welcome. For more information or to register, call 581-1901.
UMaine Concert a Tribute to Poet W.H. Auden

April 6, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

“Auden in Music,” part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., April 27, Minsky Recital Hall Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.

ORONO – Five of the state's leading performing artists and an internationally recognized student writer will celebrate the life of W.H. Auden, one of the greatest English poets of the 20th century, with an evening of music and readings on Friday, April 27 at the University of Maine.

“Auden in Music” will be presented at 7:30 p.m., in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of '44 Hall. Tickets for the event are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

Performing in the tribute to Auden's musical collaboration and recent settings of some of his best-loved poems will be soprano Nancy Ogle, tenor Francis Vogt, pianist Ginger Yang Hwalek, flutist Liz Downing and clarinetist Beth Wiemann, all faculty in the School of Performing Arts. The narrator will be award-winning poet John Burns, a senior from Orono who is majoring in English.

Wystan Hugh Auden published his first book of verse in 1928. Two years later, his collection Poems established him as the leading voice of a new generation. Auden is known for his “unsurpassed technical virtuosity and an ability to write poems in nearly every imaginable verse form; the incorporation in his work of popular culture, current events, and vernacular speech; and the vast range of his intellect, which drew easily from an extraordinary variety of literatures, artforms, social and political theories, and scientific and technical information,” according to the Academy of American Poets. Auden, who was born in England, became an American citizen in 1939. In addition to being a prolific writer, Auden was a playwright, librettist, editor and essayist. He died in 1973.

On the program are works by 14 composers, including Benjamin Britten, Lisa De Spain, and former UMaine trumpeter and composer Don Stratton.
UMaine Greek Organizations Team Up to Raise Funds for Children's Miracle Network

April 6, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity will join forces with eight UMaine sororities for Derby Days, a week-long series of events designed to raise money to support the Children's Miracle Network.

The sororities will compete in a variety of light-hearted competitions, organized by the Sigma Chi brothers. Funds have been raised through donations from area businesses. In return for their contribution, the businesses will receive a display advertisement in a commemorative booklet.

Derby Days have been organized by Sigma Chi chapters around the country since 1933.

"Part of what is fun about being in a fraternity is having the opportunity carry on traditions like this one," says Jeff Charette, a senior chemical engineering major from Lisbon who is organizing the event for Sigma Chi. "Derby Days will be a lot of fun and it's great to be able to help such a worthy organization."

Some of the Derby Days highlights:

**Monday, April 9**

Parade Day: Each of the eight sororities will dress up one vehicle advertising Derby Days. After the vehicles are judged for creativity, originality and presentation, they will parade through campus. Begins at Alfond Arena at noon.

**Tuesday, April 10**

Spirit Day: Sororities will compete to see which can dress a sister in the most articles of clothing. Scheduled for 2-4 p.m. on the second floor of Memorial Union.

**Wednesday, April 11**

Derby Grab: Sigma Chi brothers will wear derby hats, beginning at 8 a.m. Sororities will compete to see which can grab the greatest number of hats off the brothers' heads. Hats will be turned in and counted at Memorial Union from 4-4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 12**

Rock-a-Thon: Sorority members, a maximum of three at a time, rocking in chairs and on a rocking horse for one-hour intervals. Rocking runs from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on the steps outside
Fogler Library.

Saturday, April 14

Derby Games: Sororities will compete in a variety of outdoor games, on the Mall from 1-2 p.m. The sorority that accumulates the most points from the games will win.

Immediately after the games, a check in excess of $1,000 will be presented to a Children's Miracle Network representative and a plaque will be given to the sorority that wins the week-long competition.
University of Maine News

Cadets Deploy to Bog Brook for Spring Field Training Exercise

By Cadet Travis Hawksley and Captain Steve Szewc

BETHEL, MAINE – Fifty-one cadets from The University of Maine's Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) recently participated in a Field Training Exercise (FTX). The cadets deployed to Bog Brook National Guard Training Site nestled in the White Mountains along the Androscoggin River for the two day FTX. This event is the single most important training event of the year, as third year students prepare for the ROTC Advanced Camp held this summer at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Cadets Johnny Morris, Bridget Regner, Virginia Catlain, Gregory Gobel and Mathew Rivera will attend the 31-day camp that incorporates a wide range of subjects designed to develop and evaluate the cadets' leadership ability and potential.

The training began on campus last fall and has progressed sequentially, culminating in this exercise. ROTC starts with individual training and leads to evaluated squad and platoon training. Each cadet has proven his or her leadership ability by excelling at Bog Brook.

Cadets deployed on 6 April to Bog Brook via UH-60 “Blackhawk” helicopters from the Maine Army National Guard. Upon arrival at the training sites cadets got a taste of barracks life and began preparing for the next days mission. With the morning sunshine came the challenge of defeating the opposing forces (OPFOR) provide by the Maine Army National Guard. Cadets operated in 9-11 person elements (squads) conducting various battle drills against the OPFOR to stifle their “insurgency”. These drills are key to success at Advanced camp as it evaluates their ability to think under pressure, to execute a logical decision making process, and use effective time management skills.

In conjunction with the training the Black Bear Battalion also conducted an inter-school competition for four Junior ROTC programs. These high school students traveled from Bangor, Hermon, Boston, and Barre, Vermont. For them it was an opportunity to test their
skills in land navigation, the one-rope bridge and overall physical fitness in preparation for a regional competition held in Massachusetts next month.

Visiting Bog Brook was the State of Maine's Adjutant General, Major General Tinkham and UMaine President Peter S. Hoff. They were treated to a helicopter flight to the training area, and were able to observe and interact with the cadets from the university as well as the college bound JROTC cadets. It was an excellent opportunity for these two key figures to observe the coaching, teaching, and mentoring of these future leaders. Cadets are placed in a variety of leadership positions, designed to develop and evaluate leadership, teamwork, and military skills.

Prior to returning to campus the cadets participated in a squad competition. The competition enhances “esprit de corps” while physically challenging each individual. Cadets competed in three events; a snowshoe relay, tug-o-war, and a one-rope bridge. The competition was intense and a push-up contest was eventually used as a tie breaker event to determine an overall winner.

The cadets returned to their dorms and apartments tired, but with an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. Next in line for these cadets is the “Social Event of the Year”, the 114th Annual Military Ball to be held at the Lucerne Inn. Need a night out? Ask a cadet!

*Travis Hawksley is a fourth year nursing student and two year ROTC scholarship recipient.*

*Captain Szewc is a 1990 ROTC graduate from the University of Idaho.*
California Scholar to Speak at Phi Beta Kappa Induction

April 9, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO – The annual induction of new members of the University of Maine's Phi Beta Kappa chapter, scheduled for 5 p.m., Thursday, April 12, will be followed by an address by Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Giles Gunn of the University of California-Santa Barbara. He will speak on "Globalizing the Curriculum: Can You Major in Global Studies?" The event will be held in Dexter Lounge at UMaine's Alfond Arena.

Gunn is a professor of English and a professor of global and international studies at UC-Santa Barbara. He taught at the University of Chicago, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the University of Florida before going to Santa Barbara in 1985. Gunn is the author of several books, the most recent being "Beyond Solidarity: Pragmatism and Difference in a Globalized World."

UMaine is home to one of only four Phi Beta Kappa chapters in Maine. The others are at Bowdoin, Bates, and Colby. Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest and best known academic honor society in the country.
Native American Research Symposium Set at UMaine

April 9, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Developing stronger research partnerships between the University of Maine and Native American communities in the state is the goal of a two-day symposium, April 12-13, which is bringing to campus some of the nation's leading experts on the relationships between Indian communities and academia.

"Initiating the Dialogue: Research Ethics in Indian Country" will feature a series of presentations providing perspectives on how Native American communities across the country have worked with, and helped shape, academic research. The symposium is sponsored by Native American Studies at the University of Maine.

Among the researchers making presentations are: Donald Fixico, of the Shawnee, Sac and Fox, Creek, Seminole, a professor of history and director of the Indigenous Nations Studies Program at the University of Kansas who has written extensively about American Indian history; Duane Champagne of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band, a sociology professor at the University of California-Los Angeles, whose research focuses on contemporary American Indian society, self-determination and Native American studies; and Kenneth Morrison, a UMaine alumnus who earned a Ph.D. Canadian-American history and who is an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Arizona State University. Morrison wrote the monograph, The Embattled Northeast: The Elusive Ideal of Alliance in Abenaki-Euroamerican Relations. He also has published and presented extensively on Native American religions, Algonkian history in the Northeast, and religious studies.

Presentations begin at 9 a.m. each day in the Soderberg Center, Jenness Hall. They are free and open to the public.

"Non-native people have long been fascinated by American Indian people," says Maureen Smith, director of UMaine's Native American Studies Program and Diversity Across the Curriculum. "Such fascination has produced a wide array of articles, journals and books describing Native people, lives, culture and history.

"While much of the literature produced has been done in a respectful manner, there exists a cultural difference in what is considered appropriate use of knowledge. Such a cultural difference can lead to issues between Native communities and non-native academic scholars. This symposium is intended to begin the dialogue between the groups to ensure scholarship that is both rigorous by academic standards and appropriate by tribal community standards."

Research involving Native American communities by any number of academic disciplines, including history, anthropology, sociology, social work, can raise moral and ethical issues, says Smith. Both researchers and the community have rights with respect to academic
The purpose of this symposium is to describe those rights and the importance of respectful research policies.

For example, the Hopi Tribe has developed a set of Protocols for Research, Publications and Recordings. Closer to home, the Penobscot Nation has established a five-person Heritage Preservation and Protection Committee that is addressing similar issues, Smith says, including "who comes to their reserve and what they take away." The committee, which has created rules, guidelines and a proposal process, will be central in the symposium break-out groups scheduled each day.

The symposium opens April 12 with a keynote address by Donald Fixico, "Ethics and Responsibilities in American Indian Studies." His keynote, which will stress the responsibilities and ethics in writing American Indian history, is based on his forthcoming book, The American Indian and History: Native Reality and Indigenous Ethos.

Other presentations the first day of the symposium include: "Intellectual Ethnocentrism and the Misinterpretation of Algonkian Religious Life" by Ken Morrison; "Community-Based Research: An Outburst of Hope" by Nate St. Pierre of Montana State University; and "Research with Native American Communities" by Marilyn Jones of the Suquamish Museum.

The second day of the symposium will open with a presentation by Duane Champagne, "Native Sovereignty and Research Ethics: Some Considerations." Other presentations that day are "Mohegan Field Research: A Case Study in Applied Archaeology" by Jeff Bendremer, an archaeologist with the Mohegan Tribe; and "Challenge for Survival: A Contemporary Look at Tribal Governments and the Issues Facing Tribal Survival Today by Protecting Yesterday's Dreams" by Kevin Howlett of the Salish-Kootenai Tribal Council.

For more information on the symposium, call 581-4456.
Author Jon Waterman to Visit UMaine

April 10, 2001
Contact: Aaron Libby, Maine Bound, at 581-1794
Media Contact: Peter Cook, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3756

“Arctic Crossing: A Journey Through the Northwest Passage and Inuit Culture” Book signing, May 8 at 3 p.m., University Bookstore. Slide lecture and signing, May 8 at 7 p.m., 101 Neville Hall. Free for UMaine students, $3 for non-students.

ORONO – Author Jon Waterman shares the story of his solo crossing of the Northwest Passage using a kayak, sailboat and skis at the University of Maine on May 8.

Waterman is the author of "Arctic Crossing," which tells the story of his 2,200 mile, 10-month journey from Prudhoe Bay in Alaska to the Gulf of Boothia in Canada, where he accompanied Inuit dogsledgers.

At 3 p.m., Waterman will hold a book signing in the University Bookstore, located in the Memorial Union. At 7 p.m., Waterman will present a slide lecture and an excerpt from his documentary film, "Odyssey Among the Inuit." The bookstore will sell copies of "Arctic Crossing" before and after the slide lecture.

The lecture is sponsored by Maine Bound, the High-Angle Rescue Team, the Comprehensive Fee, the Campus Activities Board and the University Bookstore.

Maine Bound is the University of Maine's outdoor education and leadership program. The program offers a full selection of credit and extra-curricular outdoor opportunities that include backpacking, canoeing, rock climbing, wilderness medicine, kayaking, cross country skiing, winter camping, ice climbing and ropes expeditions, as well as an outdoor leadership training program. Maine Bound is part of the Center for Students and Community Life.
UMaine Students Developing Environment Friendly Snowmobile

April 10, 2001

Research contact: Mick Peterson, Mechanical Engineering, 207-581-2129
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A quieter snowmobile that emits less air pollution is the goal of a team of University of Maine mechanical engineering students who are preparing to compete in the 2002 Clean Snowmobile Competition, a national event sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The student team has been testing the noise level and emissions generated by a 1994 Skidoo snowmobile to provide a baseline for making improvements.

“Commercial snowmobile technology hasn't changed much in the last 30 years,” says Daniel Welch, a senior from Winslow and a member of the team. Team member Jakob Cirell of Solon adds, “There really hasn't been the demand. Our challenge is to modify the engine in a way that makes it better for the environment without sacrificing performance.”

National attention has been focused on the environmental impacts of the machines by a proposal to ban snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park.

In recent tests in the Crosby Laboratory on the UMaine campus, the students found that although noise levels have been reduced considerably since the machines were first developed, emissions are another story. One week of snowmobiling, they have found, generates air pollutants equivalent to one year of driving an average car. In addition, running a snowmobile for 1,500 miles results in emitting of about 30 gallons of unburned fuel.

Students involved in the project include Cirell, Welch, Christopher Rockwell of Auburn and Jamie Hanson of Augusta.

The students received financial support from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering last fall to purchase a dynamometer, a device that determines the power output of an engine under varying operating conditions. In addition, they are using a donated exhaust analyzer to monitor gases such as unburned hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides.

The purpose of the Clean Snowmobile Competition is to engage students in developing new snowmobile technology and find solutions to controversies surrounding the use of the machines in environmentally sensitive areas. The 2001 national competition was held in March in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Students were challenged to reduce emissions of hazardous by-products as well as conventional air pollutants. Another goal was to reduce noise to below 75 decibels from a normal range of 75 to 80 decibels.
Volunteers Sought for Eating Disorder Study

April 10, 2001

Research contact: Leslie Sim, Dept. of Psychology, 207-581-3360
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A University of Maine psychology student is looking for volunteers to participate in a study of adolescent girls who have an eating disorder. Leslie Sim of Bangor, a Ph.D. student in the Developmental/Clinical Psychology Program, needs ten girls, 12 to 18 years old, diagnosed with bulimia nervosa, a condition that is marked by excessive eating followed by vomiting or other behaviors.

Participants in the study will be interviewed and complete some questionnaires. The process will take about an hour and a half. They will receive $15 as compensation.

Sim can be contacted on campus at 581-3360 or via e-mail at leslie_sim@umit.maine.edu.

“This disease tends to be under identified,” says Sim, who recently completed part of her project at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota “People with bulimia can be very secretive about it. If they have average weight, rarely do others recognize the problem. The distinguishing features of bulimia are periods of binge eating accompanied by a feeling of loss of control. People will then feel guilty, like they have violated their diet, and they'll do something to purge the food. This can include fasting for a day, excessively exercising, taking laxatives or intentionally vomiting.”

“These individuals also tend to evaluate themselves entirely on their weight and shape. Given the unrealistic ideals for women's bodies in our society, rarely do these women ever feel that they measure up. As a result, they may feel depressed and abuse food to deal with such feelings.”

Sim is working with Janice Zeman, associate professor of psychology, on the emotional factors related to bulimia nervosa. “Research has tended to focus on body image and dieting, but there hasn't been much work on how people with bulimia regulate their emotions,” says Sim. “I'm looking at how they identify their feelings and the coping skills that they have for addressing those feelings. The more we learn about how these individuals are dealing with their emotions, the more tools we will have to help them get better.”

Sim is a native of Rochester, Minnesota who got her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology at the University of Colorado and Columbia University respectively before coming to UMaine.
Award-Winning Maine Steiners to Headline Benefit Concert

April 11, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The Maine Steiners, an award-winning a cappella singing group of ten University of Maine undergraduate students, will perform in a May 5 show at the Maine Center for the Arts to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. that evening. The concert will feature special guest Renaissance, UMaine's female a cappella ensemble. Former Steiners Matthew Blake Small and Daniel Williams will serve as emcees for the evening.

The Steiners' most recent accomplishments include placing among the top three groups at the regional International A Cappella Competition at Tufts University. Individual members also received accolades. Dave Janes and Keith Luhmann won second place for their arrangement of Eve 6's “Promise” and Benjamin Feeney placed first for his talent in vocal percussion.

The Steiners group has a well-established tradition at UMaine. After years of performing in the barbershop and du-wop styles, the group has emerged as a leader in the vocal band scene. The current style includes vocal bass and percussion with a contemporary pop sound. The group's current repertoire includes songs by Eve 6, Vertical Horizon, Tonic, Chris Gaines, Sting and Seal. The ensemble also features original songs by Janes and Luhmann.

This concert marks the group's debut headline event at the Maine Center for the Arts. Out of a desire to contribute to the community, the members decided to perform as a benefit for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. Founded in 1980, the Make-A-Wish Foundation is the largest such organization in the world, with 81 chapters in the U.S. and 22 more international affiliates on five continents. The Steiners will donate 60 percent of all ticket sales to the charity.

Along with Feeney, Janes and Luhmann, the group includes UMaine students Nate Bates, Thomas Clark, Joshua Koelker, Jacob Pelletier, Adam Scarpone, Jeff Sewell and Dominick Varney. The men perform both public and private concerts throughout the academic year. The group released its most recent album, “Bust It” last year. Tickets are $5 at the door.
Hutchinson Center to Host Maine Studies Film

April 11, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

BELFAST – The Maine Studies Program at the University of Maine will sponsor a showing of the film “Cut and Run” at the UMaine Hutchinson Center in Belfast on May 2 at 6:30 p.m.

The film explores the issues and events surrounding the Maine Woodsmen Association's strike in 1975. At that time, woodworkers went on strike to protest low pay, long hours and a lack of benefits. The film also examines the tension between American and Canadian workers in the borderland woods areas, a subject still relevant today.

Following the film, Mitch Lansky will lead a discussion on the film and also on current labor and conservation issues in the Maine woods. Lansky is a long-term resident of Wytopitlock and the author of “Beyond the Beauty Strip,” a book about Maine's industrial forest. He has written extensively for various regional publications, including the “Northern Forest Forum” and has been an active contributor to the low-impact forestry project. Lansky has participated in numerous committees dealing with Maine forest biodiversity, labor, forest practices and other forestry subjects.

The film and discussion are free and open to the public.
UMaine Scientist on Mt. Everest Expedition

April 11, 2001

Research contact: Shichang Kang, Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies, 207-581-2840
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A University of Maine post-doctoral researcher will climb the shoulder of Mt. Everest in May in a project spurred by Chinese and American collaboration on global climate research. Shichang Kang and other researchers with the Chinese Academy of Science will climb to 21,325 feet (6,500 meters) on the north side of the world's highest peak in May.

Kang will leave for China on April 15 and will be making his fifth high elevation climb in the region since 1992. He began working with Paul Mayewski, co-director of the Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies at UMaine and one of the world's leading ice core researchers, in 1997.

Kang's destination is a relatively level area on the East Rongbuk Glacier. As have many Himalayan glaciers, the lower end of the Far East Rongbuk Glacier has retreated significantly (seven meters per year) over the past decade.

“"The main crest of the Himalayas represents the climatic boundary between a region dominated by the influence of the Indian summer monsoon to the south and the relatively cold and dry continental climate which characterizes the Tibetan plateau to the north. The location of the East Rongbuk Glacier . . . provides a unique opportunity to describe and understand the south Asian monsoon system and its relationship with the global climate system," he has written in a summary of the project.

Kang will take two weeks to travel by truck from the city of Lanzhou in western China to a base camp on the mountain at 16,700 feet. From there, the expedition will travel by yak to a second camp. Much of the trip will follow a river bed that drains melting glaciers on the northern side of Everest.

Working at that altitude presents a physical challenge for scientists. Climbers suffer from frequent headaches, nausea and cracked skin, says Kang, who does not use an oxygen mask to supplement the thin air. The oxygen concentration at the working altitude is one-third of the concentration at sea level.

While at the work site, Kang and his colleagues will use ground-penetrating radar to determine the depth of the glacier to underlying bedrock. The team will also place an automatic solar power weather station on the glacier and take global positioning system measurements at stations established in past years.
Kang plans to return to the site next year to drill a deep ice core. He will return to Orono on June 10.
UMaine Greek Week Blood Drive April 17

April 12, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine will hold the annual Greek Week Blood Drive on April 17. This year, students and community members are also invited to get their blood tested to become part of the National Marrow Donor Registry.

The blood drive, sponsored by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wells Commons on the UMaine campus. E.J. Roach, Greek life coordinator at the Center for Students and Community life, says this year's collection goal is to gather more than 500 pints for the American Red Cross.

He says they also hope to get at least as many people to sign up for the National Marrow Donor Registry. Roach says he expects this year's drive to bring a large group of people from Glenburn, as there is a young boy in that community who needs a bone marrow transplant.

In the screening process for the marrow registry, the Red Cross takes a vial of blood, which is sent to a national laboratory to identify the donor's tissue type. The donor's name and contact information is then placed in the national marrow registry of potential bone marrow donors. There are currently about one million donors in the United States.

For more information on the Greek Week Blood Drive, call E.J. Roach at 581-4162 or American Red Cross Blood Services at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.
UMaine President and His Wife to Teach Course on Literature About University Life

April 12, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- As a literary topic, college life has long captured the fascination of writers, filmmakers, and others. In September the president of the University of Maine and his wife, a faculty member in the university's College of Education and Human Development, will add their unique perspective on the subject as they team-teach an interdisciplinary course based on the academic novel.

University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff and UMaine Prof. Dianne Hoff will collaborate to teach an upper-level English and graduate education course entitled "The University in Literature." The idea behind the course is to use works of fiction to illuminate the culture of academia. Students who take the course can expect to learn more about the craft of fiction and also to gain deeper insights into the nature of colleges and universities. They can enroll in the three-credit course as either Topics in Literature (English 429) or Topics in Education (Education 690). It is scheduled for Mondays from 5-7:30 p.m.

Peter Hoff, who became UMaine's 17th president nearly four years ago, earned a Ph.D. in English and Humanities from Stanford University in 1970 and began his teaching career when he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside later that same year. He has been a professor of English and an administrator in Indiana, Georgia, and California during his 31-years in higher education.

Dianne Hoff is an assistant professor of Educational Leadership in UMaine's College of Education and Human Development. A former English teacher herself, and the principal of a National School of Excellence in Georgia as well as a performing arts school in southern California, she holds a doctorate from the University of Louisville. She has been a full-time member of the UMaine faculty since the fall of 1999.

The course reading list will consist of six novels that deal in one way or another with higher education. They range from the traditional view of academia in "Goodbye Mr. Chips" to the sardonic vision created by Maine author Richard Russo in "Straight Man."
John Glenn to Speak at UMaine May 1

April 13, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO, Me. -- Retired U.S. Sen. John H. Glenn, one of America's great heroes of the 20th Century, will visit the University of Maine on Tuesday, May 1, 2000 for UMaine's third annual William S. Cohen Lecture. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Maine Center for the Arts.

Cohen, the Bangor native who represented Maine in Congress for 24 years and served as Secretary of Defense in the Clinton administration, will also be present at the event and will make introductory remarks before Glenn's lecture.

A retired Marine colonel who flew combat missions in World War II and the Korean War, Glenn was selected as one of the seven original Mercury astronauts in 1959. Three years later, he became the first American to orbit the earth, aboard the Friendship Seven spacecraft. He later turned to politics and was elected to his first of four terms as a U.S. Senator from Ohio in 1974. In 1997, he announced the donation of the papers documenting his career to The Ohio State University. When Glenn left the Senate in 1998, he joined Ohio State in establishing the John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy. Also in 1998, he returned to space as a crew member on a ten-day mission aboard NASA's Discovery space shuttle.

Sen. Glenn holds a degree in Engineering from Muskingum College. He has been married for more than 57 years to the former Anna ("Annie") Castor. They have two children and two grandchildren.

The lecture series is a function of UMaine's William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce, established within UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health in 1997. Cohen, a former faculty member in the College, donated his collection of papers chronicling his 24-year Congressional career to UMaine's Fogler Library at the time the center was established. In January of this year, he gave the papers from his tenure at the Pentagon to UMaine.

The annual Cohen lecture was established to bring to campus a distinguished speaker in international policy and commerce. Cohen delivered the first lecture in the series in March of 1998; Madeleine Albright, who was Secretary of State at the time, gave the second lecture in October of 1999.
Free tickets to the event are available. Those interested in attending should contact the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX. The box office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
UMaine First-Year Enrollment Continues to Rise

April 13, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- New enrollment data show that the number of students choosing to enroll at the University of Maine is continuing to increase. This marks the fourth consecutive year of enrollment increases, which have been accomplished while maintaining the same admission standards.

As of April 6, the number of students who had confirmed their plans to begin taking classes at UMaine in September is four percent higher than last year at this same time. The number is 53 percent ahead of early April 1998, when UMaine began to post enrollment gains after seven years of decline.

The number of confirmed transfer students is up 12 percent over last year at this time.

"The fact that our enrollment numbers are continuing to increase is a very good sign," says John Beacon, UMaine's dean of Enrollment Management. "We have made significant gains since 1998 and we are confident that we can continue to sustain at least modest growth each of the next few years, despite projections of a downturn in the number of Maine high school graduates over the next decade."

Enrollment is up in every category and measures of student quality, such as SAT scores and high school class rank, are also on the rise.

UMaine President Peter Hoff made increasing enrollment a stated priority when he arrived at UMaine in 1997. He established the Enrollment Management operation and hired Beacon that same year.

Hoff has been active in working to spread the word about UMaine to prospective students and others, particularly in Maine. He has visited two-thirds of Maine's 140 high schools and made other public appearances all over the state, urging students to take advantage of higher education opportunities in Maine.

One of the university's successful approaches to recruiting students is being expanded this year. Beacon has developed a group of current UMaine students who place telephone calls to high school students who are considering UMaine. His research shows that students who are called as part of this program choose to enroll in greater numbers than students who are not. The number of prospects who receive calls has been expanded this year from 1,000 to 2,500.

"Students respond well to communication from their peers," Beacon says. "They speak the same language and share the same concerns."
Nearly 1,000 people (391 of whom are prospective students, the rest are family members and friends) will be on campus on Monday, April 16 for UMaine's annual Open House. This group is composed of high school juniors and seniors who are either planning to enroll at UMaine or are considering applying to it. At Monday's event, they will have the opportunity to learn more about UMaine's programs and activities. The day-long Open House is scheduled primarily for the Maine Center for the Arts and runs from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

UMaine has also scheduled "Transfer Day," a new activity this year, for Monday, April 23. This will provide an opportunity for students who have decided to transfer to UMaine to visit the campus, learn their way around and accomplish a variety of tasks that will make their life easier at the beginning of the fall semester in September. Nearly 90 students from other colleges and universities have already registered for this program.

News organizations that wish to illustrate this news release with photos, video or audio could use Open House activities for that purpose. Peter Cook (581-3756) will be available on Monday and will have a schedule of events. Beacon and other UMaine officials will also be available for interviews.
Social Work Professor Receives Grant to Study Issues Related to Aging

April 16, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Sandra Butler, associate professor of social work at the University of Maine, has received a faculty scholar grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation to study aging in rural areas of Maine and New Hampshire.

The two-year, $100,000 award is given to the UMaine School of Social Work, which frees Butler from her teaching responsibilities and allows her to conduct research and work on professional development in the area of gerontology and geriatric social work. She is one of only ten faculty nationwide chosen to receive this grant.

The John A. Hartford Foundation seeks to expand the training of those who work with aging populations, and promote innovations in the integration and delivery of services for older Americans. In the two years of the grant, Butler will have to conduct a major research project and teach classes on aging. The school will use the funds to cover the courses Butler typically teaches.

“It's a great opportunity for me,” says Butler. “I've been interested in older adults and the challenges they face, and this grant will allow me to work more exclusively on issues of gerontology.”

Butler's dissertation was concerned with the experiences of middle-aged, homeless women with the health and social service system. Since she has been in Maine, she's conducted research pertaining to the health and well-being of older rural women and on the impact of welfare policy for low-income families.

The grant specifies that Butler will have two sponsors, a national and an institutional, to assist her with professional development. The national sponsor is Amanda Barusch of the University of Utah. Butler's local sponsor will be Lenard Kaye, visiting Libra professor at UMaine.

“This is a significant award, not only for Professor Butler, but for the University of Maine, the School of Social Work and the state,” says Kaye. “It confirms the national significance of the rural aging phenomenon and the fact that Professor Butler is destined for leadership and will accomplish wonderful things in the field of gerontology.”

As part of this grant, Butler will study Maine's Senior Companion program, which is part of Cooperative Extension at the University of Maine and funded by the federal government. In the program, low-income seniors volunteer to help more frail elders in any number of ways, whether that means picking up groceries or just visiting for a chat.
“I will work with program staff to put together a model evaluation protocol,” says Butler. “I will be doing extensive interviews with both volunteers and the clients they work with throughout the state.”

This study, says Kaye, will allow Senior Companion Programs throughout the United States to benefit from what he calls a best practice model, which will maximize the quality of services these programs already provide.

“Like other human service programs operating throughout the country, I don't think the Senior Companion Program has yet reached a point where they are able to fully differentially assess program experiences from one state to the next,” says Kaye. “Standardized criteria and outcome based tools can help in that effort. The value of maximizing consistency is that you can then more easily compare programs across state borders and learn from each other.”

Butler will begin her research by doing a pilot study with the New Hampshire Senior Companion Program in fall 2001. Then she will take a random sample of Maine volunteers and their clients to collect data about the program's effectiveness.

At the end of the two years, Butler says her hope is to have a final product that she can deliver to the Senior Companion Program both locally and nationally. She says her other goal is to encourage and provide opportunities for social work students to learn about and work with the elderly.

“The whole purpose for this Hartford program is to increase the number of social workers in the area of aging. Generally speaking, social work students and faculty have tended not to focus on gerontology,” says Butler.

Kaye, who has spent his entire career studying and teaching about issues of old age and elder populations, agrees.

“Unfortunately, there's a natural hesitation to choose a career in aging, whether it be because of a bias toward the young, avoidance of the issues or simply not wanting to deal with our own vulnerability or mortality,” says Kaye. “We've got some barriers to break down, but we hope through Sandy's work we can highlight some fascinating issues that confront people as they age and how crucial professionals and elders themselves can be in working with older adults to improve quality of life.”
UMaine Scientist Receives Prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship to Evaluate the Study of Ecology

April 16, 2001

Research contact: Raymond O'Connor, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology, 207-581-2880
Media contact: Peter Cook, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3756

ORONO, Maine -- Raymond O'Connor of Orono, a wildlife ecologist at the University of Maine, has received a prestigious John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship to evaluate research and teaching practices in the ecological sciences. He is one of 183 fellows, and one of only four biologists, who received fellowships out of 2,728 applications.

In recent scientific publications and workshops, O'Connor has called for a more rigorous approach to the study of ecology, one that focuses on the underlying forces that are responsible for the characteristics of wildlife populations.

"The ecological and environmental sciences have lagged behind the surging advances of most of the life sciences," he wrote in the October 16, 2000 edition of The Scientist Magazine. "In no way can one seriously anticipate soon an ecological breakthrough of the magnitude of the human genome project."

"That is why Professor O'Connor's Guggenheim fellowship is so significant," said University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff. "The future of our planet is at stake, and it is important for scholarly awards like the Guggenheim to go in the direction of scholars who can contribute to real progress. We are gratified to see such a respected award go to a UMaine professor. It recognizes the global significance of the work we do. And the benefit also comes back to our students, who gain from his insights."

O'Connor is the second University of Maine recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship. Linne Mooney in the Dept. of English, a specialist in medieval literature, received one in 1999.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation was established in 1925 by United States Senator Simon Guggenheim and his wife as a memorial to a son who died April 26, 1922. Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to accomplished scholars and artists who have demonstrated a high standard of research and creativity.
Jazz Concert to Feature Student's Arrangement

April 19, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

**Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo in Concert, part of the School of Performing Arts season, 7:30 p.m., May 3, Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall, University of Maine. $5. 581-1755.**

ORONO – An arrangement of Duke Ellington’s "I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart" by composer, trombonist and University of Maine wildlife ecology major John Maclaine will be among the many works performed Thursday, May 3 in a performance by the UMaine Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo.

The concert, directed by Associate Professor of Music Karel Lidral, begins at 7:30 p.m., in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of ’44 Hall on campus. Tickets are $5 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

The Ellington arrangement on the program is what first-year student and composer John Maclaine calls "a reflection of a traditional swing chart with my own flair." The Foxborough, Mass., artist has been playing in jazz bands, including professional big bands, for almost seven years. Maclaine was composing small charts and songs for a before turning his attention to Big Band music a couple years ago. The performance of the arrangement will feature Maclaine on trombone.

Other works on the program also feature solo performances by members of the Jazz Ensemble. Among them: "Cat Race" by Toshio Mashima; Andy Classen's original, "Dark Side of the Blues"; "Dearly Beloved" by Johnny Mercer; "Famous Don't Pay the Rent" by John LaBarbera; "Jumpin' At The Westside" by Antonio Garcia; "Jumpin' Jivin' Joey" by Matt Harris; Bob Mintzer's "New Rochelle"; Horace Silver's "Nutville"; Phil Woods' "Randi"; and Bert Williams' "That's A Plenty."

The Jazz Combo's repertory includes four arrangements by Roger Pemberton: Charlie Parker's "Yardbird Suite"; the Thad Jones waltz ballad, "A Child Is Born"; Neal Hefti's "Cute"; and an arrangement of George Gershwin's jazz standard, "Summertime."
'Take Back the Night' Rally and March

April 19, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO – A march and rally to raise awareness about the fight to end sexual assault will be held on April 24 in front of the Fogler Library at the University of Maine.

The “Take Back the Night Rally and March” will begin at 7 p.m. on the steps of the library. From 7 to 7:30, there will be speakers from area rape and sexual assault awareness and support groups. At 7:30 p.m., there will be an “open mike” time for people to share personal experiences or express support. The march begins at 8 p.m.

“This is an opportunity to speak about women's safety issues in a empowering gathering where women can feel safe to walk the streets at night,” says Wren Anderson, a UMaine student majoring in women's studies and social work who helped organize the event. “It is a night of empowerment, speaking out and education.”

After the march, participants are invited to the Wooley Room of the Doris Twitchell Allen Village for refreshments and entertainment. All members of the campus community are invited to participate in this event.
Nursing Students Receive Fire Safety Education Grant

April 23, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – A group of University of Maine nursing students recently received a grant from the Pine Tree Foundation to present a program on fire and fall prevention to elderly populations in the area.

The $100 grant enabled the students to purchase materials for a program entitled “Remembering When,” which is geared toward senior populations. These materials will now be kept by the UMaine School of Nursing and allow future students to present this program.

“Our group did a community assessment and we saw the need for this program,” says Ellen LaCrosse, a senior nursing student from Carmel, who wrote the grant and worked on the project with Barbara Bailey-Bearce of Bangor, Kris Jordan of Orrington and Mary Rojo of Carmel.

The project was part of a leadership course that each senior nursing student must take. This group presented the fire and fall safety program at the Fairground Apartments in Orrington and Maliseet Gardens in Bangor.

The program that was used, “Remembering When,” was developed by the National Fire Prevention Association, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control. It is centered around 16 key safety messages, eight fire prevention and eight fall prevention, developed by experts and practitioners from national and local safety organizations throughout the United States.

“Remembering When” uses a theme of nostalgia and has references to music, events and personalities from the past. This, says LaCrosse, allowed the seniors and the students to instantly relate to one another.

“The groups we talked to were involved and into the program,” says LaCrosse. “We hit it off right from the beginning and had a great time.”

LaCrosse says in all, the group spoke to over twenty seniors.

“We had good participation and the sessions allowed the residents of these facilities to talk about their concerns, and air their anxieties in a non-threatening environment,” says LaCrosse. “I believe it was very successful.”

LaCrosse says she hopes future students will make use of the materials that were purchased with the grant.
“We wanted to set up something that students could use in the future and wanted to make it easier for those students to take this important message to the elderly,” she says.

The Pine Tree Burn Foundation provides Maine citizens with programs about burn awareness, education, prevention and treatment.

Resources for: Prospective Students, Current Students, Researchers, Visitors & Alumni, Faculty & Staff, Outreach, News & Events, Athletic News

The University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469
207-581-1110
A Member of the University of Maine System
SPIFFY Students Finalists in National Competition

April 23, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine Student Portfolio Investment Fund of the University of Maine Foundation (SPIFFY) was one of only 15 student investment groups chosen to compete in the finals of the first annual University of Dayton National Student Investment Strategy Symposium.

Alfred Doyle of Seal Harbor and Peter Swanberg of Lamoine, SPIFFY's student leaders, gave a 20-minute presentation on their experience with the student investment group, and took questions for 10 minutes from a three-judge panel. Approximately 300 participants from 47 universities in 23 states and Canada attended the two-day conference.

The UMaine group was one of five finalists at the event, which was held April 6-8 at the Dayton Convention Center.

“Our guys did phenomenally well,” says Robert Strong, professor of finance in the UMaine Business School. “The two students gave a PowerPoint presentation in which they talked about the SPIFFY portfolio and how they manage money and make investment decisions.”

Doyle says many of the judge's questions focused on the differences between SPIFFY and other student investment groups.

“We do a lot of things with our portfolio that other universities don't have the freedom to do, so they were very interested in how we manage those,” says Doyle.

Strong says the judges were also very interested in the group's use of options to reduce risk and create additional portfolio income. SPIFFY sometimes writes call options against stock the fund owns. By doing this, SPIFFY gives someone else the right to purchase those shares at a set price in exchange for a fee that is credited to the SPIFFY portfolio regardless of what happens in the future.

“Alfred was asked an options question and gave a top-notch answer,” says Strong. “I know that judges were surprised at the completely accurate technical answer he gave.”

In addition to the competition, the students also had a chance to hear talks on a number of topics from speakers such as Robert Froehlich, vice chairman of the Kemper Funds Group and Elizabeth McKay, chief investment strategist and senior managing director at Bear Stearns.

Strong says that despite the market downturn, the SPIFFY portfolio is only down about 0.52 percent of its value since October 2000. At that time, the value of the student-run portfolio was at $898,324. It now stands at $893,668.
This compares favorably with a 12.96 percent loss in value of the S&P 500 and a 36.4 percent loss in the value of the NASDAQ. Strong says that despite the recent stock market woes, student involvement in SPIFFY is growing.

“We've had better attendance this year than we've ever had,” says Strong. “The market conditions have been thought provoking, because most students have only seen a market that's gone up. Now they're seeing that companies everyone thought were great investments are being hammered down. It's educational for students to see that the market can move substantially in both directions.”

Doyle says members of the group have been taking the market's activity in stride.

“The members are holding up quite well. No one is really antsy, and some of us are turning rather bullish on the market,” says Doyle. “If it hasn't reached the bottom yet, it soon will, so we're trying to buy while prices are low.”

Part of SPIFFY's relative success recently has been due to careful investing and fiscal restraint on the part of the students involved.

“The students haven't found stocks they were anxious to buy, so they've kept about 30 percent of the portfolio in cash,” says Strong. “This means they've been partially out of the market at the right time.”

Doyle says the group kept much of its value in cash because there didn't seem to be any real attractions in the market, and there were signs of an approaching slowdown. This, combined with strong investments, has helped them in the current market.

“It really appears that we've been able to pick the winners in many sectors, especially since the recent drastic decline in the market indexes haven't hit us as hard as other portfolios,” he says.

SPIFFY began in the fall of 1993 with an initial investment of $200,000 from the University of Maine Foundation. An additional $150,000 was added two years later. The group is open to all students, regardless of major.
John Glenn Lecture at UMaine "Sold Out"

April 25, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The 1,600 seats available for the May 1 University of Maine lecture by former U.S. Senator and astronaut John H. Glenn have all been spoken for, the University announced today. The tickets were offered at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The talk, scheduled for Hutchins Concert Hall in the Maine Center for the Arts, is the third installment in UMaine's William S. Cohen Lecture series, named for the former U.S. Secretary of Defense. Cohen will make introductory remarks at the May 1 event.

The lecture series is a function of the University's William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce, established within UMaine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health in 1997.
National Youth Sports Camp Plans Ninth Season at UMaine

April 30, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- The National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) will open its ninth season at the University of Maine on June 25, offering six weeks of fun, teamwork and skill development for area boys and girls.

The free day camp features swimming, plus a variety of other skill-building and educational opportunities for children ages 10-16. Canoeing is a new activity on this summer's agenda.

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

In addition to the activities, the program includes a comprehensive sports physical examination, breakfast snack and lunch. Transportation is provided from designated, major pick-up points within an hour's distance of Orono, and the service area might be expanded this year. The camp runs Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

UMaine's nationally acclaimed NYSP program is directed by Stephen Butterfield, professor of education, and a dedicated staff led by award-winning teacher Lynne Haynes, formerly of Lincoln and now living in North Carolina.

“The staff is committed to helping every camper achieve the goals of believing in themselves, getting along with others and experiencing success through individual and team achievement,” Butterfield says.

Conducted in a highly structured, friendly, non-competitive learning environment, the program will also include soccer, tennis, track and field, and hands-on math and science lab activities. As the result of a grant from the State Department of Education, a nutritionist will be available to work with campers on planning and preparing easy, healthy meals.

For registration information, call the UMaine NYSP office, (207) 581-2466 or e-mail: diane.legrande@umit.maine.edu.
UMaine Professor Honored By National Engineering Association

April 30, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) has chosen John McDonough of Orono, associate dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Maine, to be a Fellow Member in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Society.

McDonough has been on the UMaine faculty since 1976 and served as the director of the School of Engineering Technology from 1983 to 2000. He was the recipient of the 51st annual James H. McGraw Award, which is engineering technology's most prestigious award.

The presentation of ASEE's new fellow members for 2001 will occur at the annual awards banquet on June 27 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The banquet is the culmination of the society's annual conference and exposition, which will be held June 24-27.

McDonough was also elected to the Board of Directors of ASEE for a two year term as chair of professional interest council II. He is a registered engineer in Maine and has been the chair of the Engineering Technology Leadership Institute. Prior to joining the University of Maine, McDonough worked as a structural engineer, and taught in universities in Afghanistan and Algeria.
Arsenic Presentation Set for Northport May 20

May 3, 2001
Research contact: Andrew Reeve, Dept. of Geological Sciences, 207-581-2353
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- A University of Maine investigation of high arsenic levels in the groundwater in Northport has led to a new understanding of how the toxic element migrates under some conditions from bedrock into well water. Andrew Reeve, a hydrogeologist, will discuss research findings in a public meeting in the Community Hall in Northport at 1:00 p.m. May 20.

If confirmed in further research, the results suggest that in some locations, high arsenic concentrations in groundwater can be explained by conditions underground rather than by land use activities such as pesticide applications or industry.

In 1998, homeowners in Bayside, a residential community in Northport, discovered that their well water had unusually high levels of arsenic. High arsenic concentrations in well water have also been documented in other clusters around the state. The Maine Department of Human Services is currently testing water for arsenic in about 1,000 wells randomly distributed in Maine.

The element can cause liver and kidney damage as well as cancer. In well water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a maximum limit of 50 parts per billion. The highest level detected at Bayside was about 5,500 parts per billion.

"When people in Bayside discovered this problem, they came to the University for help in finding out where the arsenic was coming from. We collected water samples in 1999 and 2000 and did chemical analyses for metals and other chemical parameters with the intent of finding chemical relationships that indicated a bedrock source," says Reeve.

Rock samples were also collected to determine if arsenic-rich minerals are present in the bedrock.

"Arsenic is often associated with other elements, such as sulfur, in bedrock. We expected to see an association between arsenic and these other elements in Bayside's groundwater. Instead, arsenic there is associated with a different set of naturally occurring elements."

As a result of their work, the geologists now suggest that bedrock may indeed be the source of arsenic in Bayside, but it migrates out of the rock through a two-step chemical process. That process, they have shown, could generate arsenic in groundwater with the same chemical fingerprint found in the Bayside samples. Reeve and his colleagues have submitted a report of their work to the journal Applied Geochemistry.
Reeve is conducting his research with Stephen Norton, Charles Guidotti and Marty Yates in the UMaine Dept. of Geological Sciences and with scientists from the Maine Geological Survey and the U.S. Geological Survey. Two students, Brian Warner from Kittery Point and Michael Horesh of Orono, have also worked on the project as part of their degree programs.

The Northport Village Corporation Board of Overseers is sponsoring Reeve's May 20 presentation.
Car Top Canoe Loaders, Small Scale Steam Engine Models to be Demonstrated at Maine Day

May 3, 2001

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

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine mechanical engineering technology (MET) students will face off in competition with their design and manufacturing skills on Maine Day, May 9. In separate activities, they will show off their custom designed car top canoe loaders as well as miniature steam engines that they built as part of a spring semester course.

The steam engine contest will begin at 8 a.m. in the Machine Tool Lab. Tim Marquis of MET teaches the course in which students build and assemble a working engine that runs on air pressure.

The canoe loader competition will start at 9 a.m. in the Belgrade parking lot near the Maine Center for the Arts. Herbert Crosby of MET challenged students in a capstone engineering course last fall to develop car top canoe loaders that enable a person sitting in a wheelchair to load a canoe onto a vehicle.

“The loaders are designed to pick up a canoe from the ground and secure it to the top of the vehicle. We did a patent search, and there is nothing like this on the market. We can see why. It's a tough job,” says Crosby.

“No two are alike,” he adds. The student designs use mechanical or electrical winches in combination with a variety of springs and levers to accomplish the task.

Bangor area businesses donated equipment to the students. Canoes were made available by the Maine Bound outdoor recreation program at UMaine.

The event begins with installation of the loaders on vehicles followed by a timed activity to show ease of loading and securing a canoe. At 10 a.m. students will road test their vehicles to show how securely the loader and canoe remain attached. Unloading, design evaluation and removal of the loaders will conclude the event by 11:30 a.m.
New UMaine Parallel Computer Aids Marine Science Research

May 3, 2001

Research contact: Fei Chai, School of Marine Sciences, 207-581-4317
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Marine and computer scientists at the University of Maine have built a new parallel computer that will speed marine research and provide new educational opportunities for UMaine students. Fei Chai, assistant professor of oceanography, and Jonathan R. Thomas, UMaine's first Ph.D. student in computer science, developed the unusual high speed computer known as a Beowulf cluster.

The machine is based on a concept from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and later named for the hero of English legend who slew a monster and saved a kingdom. “The idea,” says Thomas, “is that this type of machine, which is very fast and relatively inexpensive, will save us from the high cost of supercomputers.”

The machine is about ten times as fast as the best work stations used in research laboratories. In addition to running scientific models for research, it will be used for teaching UMaine computer science students who currently use a supercomputer at Boston University.

Funds to build and use the computer came from the Maine Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) and UMaine. “In 1997, I went on a trip to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California and saw a series of PCs chained together and lined up on shelves in a hallway,” says Chai. “I use a supercomputer in my work, and when I found out what this machine did, I realized that it would be a great benefit for Maine.”

Like a good pair of eyeglasses, fast computer processing enables scientists to see smaller details in complex simulation models. The Beowulf cluster is being used to run a model developed by UMaine marine scientist Huijie Xue to simulate the water currents in Penobscot Bay.

On a standard work station computer, the model calculates conditions in geographic areas that are, on average, about a tenth of a square mile in size. The new computer will enable scientists to zoom in on areas that are much smaller. As a result, Xue and her colleagues will be able to focus on areas around islands or where streams enter the bay.

“Penobscot Bay is very complicated in topography and geometry, and in order to resolve the realistic flow patterns in the current, you need higher a resolution in the model. That means higher demand for computing powers,” says Chai.
The Penobscot Bay model is part of a cooperative project involving the Island Institute of Rockland, the State of Maine and research organizations that need to understand the forces behind Maine's most productive lobster fishing area.

In order to run the model on the Beowulf Cluster, new computer code for a parallel computer had to be developed, a task that was carried out by Steve Cousins, a graduate of the master's degree program in the UMaine computer science department. Cousins worked with a similar model developed at the Naval Research Laboratory in Mississippi.

Cousins continues to manage the Beowulf cluster. His immediate task is to compare old and new versions of the Penobscot Bay model. Cousins works with Xue and Chai to run both versions and uses other software to highlight the differences in many small areas of the bay.

"Theoretically, the models have the same physics, the same forcings, and they should produce near identical results," says Chai. "Currently, we are experiencing some differences between the serial code, which is reliable and robust, and the parallel code. In a serial system, one processor does the same thing from beginning to end. When you partition into the 16 or 32 different processors in parallel, they need to talk to each other, and sometimes the communications is not as reliable as expected."

The Beowulf cluster will be available to other UMaine researchers in the near future. Comparative specifications can be seen at http://typhon.umcs.maine.edu/beowulf/index.html. Steve Cousins (581-4302, cousins@umit.maine.edu) is the contact for questions.
UMaine Commencement Set for May 19

Wyeth, Grumbach to Receive Honorary Degrees; 10,000 spectators expected

May 3, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Nearly 1,200 people will receive degrees at the University of Maine's 198th Commencement, scheduled for Saturday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m. The event, which is expected to draw more than 10,000 friends and family members of the graduates, is scheduled to be held outdoors at Harold Alfond Sports Stadium.

The Commencement Address will be given by Andrew M. Mead, chief justice of the Maine Superior Court. Mead, a New Jersey native who graduated from UMaine in 1973, was an attorney in private practice until he became a Maine District Court judge in 1990. He moved to the Maine Superior Court as a justice in 1992 and was named chief justice in 1999. Mead was president of his class at UMaine in both 1971 and 1973.

Honorary doctor of humane letters degrees will be awarded to two internationally prominent members of the Maine arts community – writer Doris Grumbach and artist Jamie Wyeth. Grumbach, one of America's most distinguished writers, has produced works in fiction, literary criticism, memoir and essay during her remarkable career. A former faculty member at American University and at the College of St. Rose, Grumbach has lived in Maine for the past ten years. Wyeth, a member of one of the world's most famous and successful families of artists, presented his first one-artist show, at a New York City museum, when he was just 20 years old in 1966. His wide-ranging career has featured works in watercolors and oils, as well as sketches and illustrations for children's books. Wyeth's best-known works include a posthumous portrait of President John F. Kennedy. He is also known for his commitment to causes like the preservation of Maine lighthouses.

UMaine's May commencement ceremony, historically the largest graduation ceremony held in the state, will feature the awarding of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. UMaine holds a similar but smaller commencement ceremony each December, at which 350-500 degrees usually are awarded.

As has been the custom at UMaine for several years, the names of every student participating in commencement ceremonies will be announced as they take the stage to receive their diploma. UMaine President Peter S. Hoff will continue the presidential tradition of shaking the hand of every graduating student receiving a degree. Hoff will preside over the ceremony, which will also feature recognition of the valedictorians and salutatorian from the UMaine Class of 2001. Ryan Anderson, a member of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, will bring greetings from the board; University of Maine Alumni Association Board
of Directors Chair Gregory Jamison will welcome the graduates to the ranks of UMaine alumni.

In the event of inclement weather, two ceremonies will be held inside Alfond Sports Arena. Students from the College of Business, Public Policy and Health; the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and the Division of Lifelong Learning would graduate at 10:30 a.m. A 2:30 p.m. ceremony would be held for graduates from the College of Education and Human Development; the College of Engineering; and the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture.

Resources for: Prospective Students, Current Students, Researchers, Visitors & Alumni, Faculty & Staff, Outreach, News & Events, Athletic News

The University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469
207-581-1110
A Member of the University of Maine System
UMaine Computer Science Student Builds Supercomputer

May 3, 2001

Research contact: Jim Fastook, Dept. of Computer Sciences, 207-581-3927
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine's first Ph.D. recipient in the Department of Computer Science has built one of the state's most powerful computers, a machine that is comparable to supercomputers at the nation's elite laboratories. Using commonly available components, Jonathan R. Thomas, a native of Underhill, Vermont, constructed a parallel computer that is already being used to run complex simulations of Penobscot Bay.

The computer is known as a Beowulf cluster and consists of 18 dual Pentium PC's connected together with high performance networking hardware. The machine is located on the second floor of East Annex.

Demand for technical skills is so strong that before he even receives his diploma, Thomas will begin working for the global services division of IBM in Burlington. “We tried to keep him here, but IBM is paying him a very attractive salary,” says Jim Fastook, Thomas' advisor in the Department of Computer Science whose specialty is working with computer models of ice sheets and glaciers. “He was thrilled to death to be going home to a good job in his hometown. He had several job offers and was able to pick and choose. It's great to see that he'll be working in the Global Services Division that will use his skills.”

Thomas comes from a family with an extensive computer background. His father worked as the director of university computing services at the University of Vermont and now teaches in the networking field for Hill Associates, a technical training firm in Colchester, Vermont. Jon's brother is a computer scientist at IDX Systems Corp. in Burlington. Nevertheless, Jon received his bachelor's from UVM in 1996 in biology.

“I got my bachelor's during a time that was kind of a rebellion for me,” Jon says. “I had always heard good things about the University of Maine. When my wife Kris found a position at Eastern Maine Medical Center as a physician's assistant, I knew the geography and thought the university would be a good opportunity for me.”

In 1998, Thomas received his UMaine master's degree in computer science. For his thesis, he used a supercomputer at Boston University to test components of Fastook's glacier simulation model.

“Jon is a very motivated guy,” says Fastook. “Early in his Ph.D. program, he had the idea to build the Beowulf cluster. My involvement with supercomputers and parallel machines has been with big supercomputers like the one at BU. This idea of a commodity supercomputer, one that uses inexpensive off-the-shelf components, was kind of new. Jon came to me with this topic, and I said, 'yeah, that's great, but we have no money to buy you this hardware.'
That was all right with him because he had already built one at home with old PCs that he had.”

By dividing computing tasks into smaller parts and running them simultaneously, parallel computers can solve large problems more quickly than can a single machine with equivalent processing power. They are fast becoming a computing system of choice for running complex simulation programs in government agencies such as the Department of Defense and corporations such as IBM.

“My education has given me experience with a lot of hard core problem solving. There are good opportunities here for a person with some drive. It's easy to find people who listen and offer support and ideas. In my case, there wasn't just one person who could help me with every part of my project, but I found the resources to get all my project done.”

As advice for students considering computer science as a career, Thomas suggests good knowledge of basic math and strong writing skills. “Writing software is a matter of taking one step at a time and building as you go,” he says. “The math is important but not all that difficult. Students are sometimes surprised that writing skills are so important.”

For more information about Beowulf clusters, Jon suggests the students can look at www.beowulf.org or see useful Web links at his own site, http://www.cs.umaine.edu/~jrthomas/.

Thomas' work was supported by a grant from the Maine Science and Technology Foundation through the UMaine School of Marine Sciences. The UMaine Office of Research provided matching funds.

There are currently two students in the computer science Ph.D. program. They are working with Roy and Elise Turner on artificial intelligence for autonomous underwater vehicles.
Colleges, Division of Lifelong Learning Name Outstanding Graduating Students

May 9, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The five colleges of the University of Maine have named Outstanding Graduating Students. In addition, a graduating senior has been selected for the Division of Lifelong Learning's Outstanding Achievement Award. All six of these students will graduate from UMaine on May 19.

Three of the students cited are this year's valedictorians – Kristi Carver of Beals Island from the College of Natural Resources, Forestry, and Agriculture; Scott Cookson of Glenburn from the College of Engineering; and Gerti Pellumbi of Tirana, Albania from the College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

Named the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is John Burns. Keith Martin is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Education and Human Development. Bernice Cross is the winner of Lifelong Learning's Outstanding Achievement Award.

John Burns grew up in the shadow of the University of Maine and understood the potential of a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum.

Four years ago, the Orono native enrolled at UMaine to double major in Spanish and English, with a concentration in creative writing. The honors student has a minor in medieval and Renaissance studies.

Today, he is an internationally recognized poet.

“I have been extremely lucky,” Burns says. “I've had a focused field of study – poetry – and was able to fan out in interdisciplinary ways.”

Burns says he appreciates the institutional and interdisciplinary support that has allowed him to focus on his many interests. From innovative poetry-music-lecture recitals and poetry-jazz concerts to annual National Poetry Foundation conferences and the New Writing Series bringing poets to campus weekly this academic year, the atmosphere is electric. Readings, publishing opportunities and awards offer recognition and ways to actively participate in the artform.

On campus, Burns has worked with such leading faculty members as Professor of English Burt Hatlen, director of the National Poetry Foundation. Burns was a work merit assistant to Professor of History Alex Grab and a research assistant to Associate Professor of Music Nancy Ogle.
Some of Burns' international notoriety has come from his work with poet and Professor of Spanish Kathleen March.

For the last few years, Burns has been translating the works of Spanish poets. Last May he attended the International Poetry Festival in Vilnius, where his work, “Our Trade,” won best love poem. The poem is being published in Lithuanian. Burns recently translated an anthology of the works of 30 Galician authors in preparation for an international conference in Santiago de Compostela, sponsored by UNESCO for World Wide Poetry Day March 21.

Burns has been writing poetry since age 14. In the past six years, he has given poetry readings in Chile, Slovenia, Croatia, Ireland, Lithuania and Poland, as well as in the United States.

In addition, he recently completed the libretto for The Inspiration, an opera by New York composer Donald Hagar.

Following graduation, Burns will pursue graduate work in Spanish, particularly medieval Castilian literature, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Keith Martin came to UMaine in 1997 as salutatorian of Lawrence High School with 12 Advanced Placement credits, as a Maine Top Scholar and with a highly competitive Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship.

He has kept up that pace for the past four years. Martin had enough credits to graduate in December, but he chose to take another full academic load, including graduate-level courses in special education and literacy.

Martin entered UMaine as a biology major, but after one semester, he knew that his true interest – and his commitment – was to teach young children. He now is following the career paths of his parents.

Martin's mother is a former teacher who now runs a nursery school and daycare in Fairfield, and is a substitute teacher for three school systems. His father, also a former teacher, is principal at the George J. Mitchell Elementary School in Waterville.

The Martins have three other sons: Karl, who graduated from UMaine last year with a degree in business; and Kurt and Kevin, a senior and sophomore, respectively, at Lawrence High School.

While student teaching in grades 3 and 4 last fall at Old Town's Herbert Sargent School, Keith reaffirmed his commitment to being an elementary school teacher. “That's where the excitement, ability, curiosity and learning is so abundant,” he says. “They're so eager to learn about any topic. Being able to actually see their knowledge base increase is incredible.”

Martin also sees a need for male teachers and role models in elementary schools. According to Associate Professor James Rog, who was Martin's student teacher supervisor, Martin consistently demonstrates the capacity to adjust lessons, to extend patience and to provide encouragement.

“The respect he gives to students is returned in their willingness to stay engaged and cooperate,” says Rog. “They will not forget this teacher who helped them push toward excellence.”

Bernice Cross believes in the power of community.

Committed to the idea that, indeed, “it takes a village,” Cross helped raise the money and volunteers needed to establish a library in the elementary school in her community,
Greenbush. She's been a volunteer for the town's summer recreation program and served on the comprehensive planning committee.

Firmly believing that one person can make a difference, through the years Cross has added her voice to state and national policy discussions concerning such issues as low-level nuclear waste dumps, healthcare and campaign finance reform.

Five years ago, when it was time for Cross to pursue her lifelong passion for art, it was a community, this time at the University of Maine, that made the difference in her life.

“I wouldn't have made it to graduation without the sense of community I found in the Onward Program,” says Cross, this year's Division of Lifelong Learning Outstanding Achievement Award recipient. “In the times I felt I couldn't do it, there was always someone from Onward there to encourage me.”

Cross is a single mother who was working as a security guard when she enrolled at UMaine through the Onward Program in 1996. She thought about pursuing her interest in genetics and disease research. But one visit to the UMaine Museum of Art changed that.

“I went to my first faculty art show and there were (UMaine professor) Mike Lewis' paintings. They radiated color and touched my soul. At that moment, I knew why I was going to college; I wanted to learn to touch people's souls with art.”

Cross grew up painting, just as her mother did. Cross took art courses in high school and night classes when she could. But it was UMaine that “opened my ideas about what painting, an artist and art can be,” she says.

“My art is who I am,” says Cross. “In it, all my experiences come through in one way or another. My experiences in the Beautiful Project and with that community of (women's) organizations, and in classes on religion and science. Art is all about change and growth of self – introspection.”

Even her experiences in Italy two years ago are mirrored in her art. The studio art major was one of five students from an honors class, taught by Professor of Entomology Randy Alford, to present a paper at an international biotechnology conference. She was the only non-science student in the group.

Every year she has been on campus, Cross has exhibited at least one piece of her art. Her honors thesis, a series of acrylic paintings on canvas and paper, focuses on color, markmaking and surface interaction. The works are now on exhibit in the Honors Center, Colvin Hall.

Cross has been instrumental in building a strong community of undergraduate art students on campus. A leader in the Student Art League, she has helped maintain the annual Salon de Refusé, a traditional exhibit of student art not selected for the annual juried show.

The culmination of this chapter of her academic life with a bachelor's degree will mean “I had the strength to follow through on something that took five years to do, even when a lot of people didn't think I could do,” she says.

A person who always knew Cross could complete her college education was her mother, Charlene. Charlene was a single mother of five who also worked as a security guard to put food on the table. “Even after all of us were gone, she never did the things she wanted to do, like go to college, yet she encouraged me,” Cross says.
“She was very proud of me when I started school. She died that first year I was in Onward. That's what's driven me to complete what she never got to do.”

Cross has applied to graduate school and plans to teach art at the college level. This summer, she will be leading art workshops in her community.
UMaine Classified Employee Awards Announced

May 9, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Joseph Cannon of Hudson, facilities and fields coordinator at Rogers Farm, and Jane Bartram of Winterport, the secretary in the men's basketball office, have been selected to receive the 2001 Classified Employee Awards at the University of Maine.

The awards, sponsored by the Classified Employees Advisory Council (CEAC), will be presented at the annual Employee Recognition Banquet on May 22.

Cannon first joined the University community in 1978. As farm facilities and fields coordinator, Cannon is responsible for keeping Rogers Farm running. He maintains equipment, manages the fields – from fertilization and planting to harvesting – and interacts with the many members of the University community who work at Rogers Farm – from undergraduates on work study to graduate student and faculty researchers. Cannon also works with master gardeners from Cooperative Extension and students of the Black Bear Food Guild. All know they can rely on Cannon's expertise and assistance.

Safety is a top priority for Cannon. He goes out of his way to effectively train and educate faculty, staff, students and volunteers who come to Rogers Farm. His tractor safety training class is described as second to none, and he is always on the lookout for ways to increase safety at the farm. He truly believes that safety is an integral part of running a busy farm.

Cannon also is known for his “can do” attitude, attention to detail and problem-solving skills. Colleagues describe him as a pleasure to work with. The consideration and concern he shows contributes to high morale and is especially important “when it's 98 degrees, no breeze and we have to pick weeds all day,” noted one of his nominators, who worked for Cannon as a work study student.

Bartram has been an employee in the University of Maine System for 22 years, the last four of which have been as part of the men's basketball program. She has enhanced recruitment efforts through management of the program's databases, mailings, letter writing, record keeping and travel planning. Bartram also serves as a well-respected liaison between student-athletes and members of the coaching staff.

Beyond her in-office responsibilities, Bartram dedicates countless personal hours to volunteer for many men's basketball activities. She has been essential to the success of post-game receptions, the program's annual banquet, and welcome-back picnic and golf tournament. In addition, she twice organized a bus trip to the America East Basketball Tournament for UMaine fans. According to her nomination, Bartram constantly works in the background to ensure such events are organized and effective.
Bartram is known for her work ethic, enthusiasm and positive personal skills, all of which contribute to the men's basketball program and the Athletics Department.

Digital photos are available to accompany this story. Contact Joe Carr (joe_carr@umit.maine.edu or 581-3571) to make arrangements.
UMaine Graduate from Cumberland Excels in Research

May 9, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- After four years at the University of Maine, Kevin Peterson of Cumberland will graduate on May 19 with his undergraduate work and a year's worth of graduate-level research behind him.

Peterson has spent two semesters as an intern at Jackson Laboratory, where he has been involved in research as part of his honors thesis. This fall, he will enter UMaine's graduate program in biological sciences, and expects to have his doctorate in four years.

“I like to succeed. I'm pretty driven,” says Peterson, who learned about dedication from one of his role models, his mom. “I had a successful athletic career in high school, so when I came to college, I switched my focus to academics.”

Peterson played soccer and basketball for Greely High School. In his senior year, Greely went undefeated in basketball and won the state championship.

Peterson decided to come to UMaine because it is in-state and part of his family's tradition. Peterson's older brother, James, graduated from the University in 1995 with a degree in history. His other brother, Michael, is at UMaine studying forestry.

Their father, Tom, received his degree from UMaine and went on to law school and a seat in the Maine legislature.

Peterson enrolled as an undeclared major in liberal arts. In his first year, he took a philosophy class that “had a big influence in making me ask questions and think about bigger issues,” he says.

It was a developmental biology class taught by Professor of Zoology Mary Tyler that got Peterson interested in developmental genetics. He became fascinated in “how life can begin from one cell.”

For Peterson, biology and philosophy intersect. “Both use observation and hypothesis. Science starts as a philosophical pursuit,” he says.

In his internship this academic year, Peterson spent four days a week at Jackson Lab, usually putting in 12-hour days. He got moral support from his two best friends and roommates, who often cooked him dinner when he got home late. He was inspired to be involved in cutting-edge genetics research.

“Jackson Lab is a fast-paced, world-class facility,” says Peterson. “There is so much opportunity in such a highly intellectual setting. You can get totally immersed in the subject
Peterson will continue to work on a research team led by Jackson Lab scientist Tim O'Brien, and which includes UMaine alumnus Ian Welsh, a 1996 co-valedictorian. In a comparison study of human and mouse chromosomes, the researchers are trying to understand what genes are essential for development. Recently sequenced human DNA has given scientists access to all the possible genes. Once all the genes and their locations are known, researchers can then conduct experiments using mice to begin to understand gene function.

After he gets his Ph.D., Peterson plans a career in research. He also hopes to author his first book, which will blend biology and philosophy to address “the big ethical questions” on the horizon for modern society.
UMaine Names Valedictorians and Salutatorian

May 9, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Four valedictorians and a salutatorian will represent the Class of 2001 in the 198th Commencement of the University of Maine.

The valedictorians, three Maine students and one international student, all achieved 4.0 grade point averages during their years at UMaine. The salutatorian has a 3.99 gpa.

This year's valedictorians are Kristi Carver of Beals Island, a landscape horticulture major; engineering physics major Scott Cookson of Glenburn; Jill Fuller of Dixfield, who is majoring in communication sciences and disorders; and Gerti Pellumbi of Tirana, Albania, business administration major. Salutatorian Rebecca Rozario of Bangor is a mathematics major.

Kristi Carver is a co-valedictorian and the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture.

Carver, a landscape horticulture major, was valedictorian of Jonesport-Beals High School. There she played volleyball, basketball, softball and soccer.

Carver knew UMaine through its basketball camps, and through the experiences of her older sister, Sandi. Sandi, salutatorian of her high school class, is a 1998 UMaine graduate and former member of the Women's Basketball team. She is now a nurse in the adolescent unit of Acadia Hospital.

Carver's younger sister, Tricia, also a valedictorian of Jonesport-Beals High School, is in her first year at UMaine majoring in secondary education with a concentration in history.

“I didn't consider any other colleges,” says Carver. “I knew I wanted to go to a land-grant university because it is far more diverse (in its academic offerings) than the other colleges around.”

With an interest in fitness and nutrition, Carver enrolled at UMaine to study food science, but found herself drawn to landscape horticulture. However, she did maintain her interest in athletics as a founding member and co-captain of UMaine's Volleyball Team. She received this year's Dean Smith Award for exemplary academic and athletic achievement.

Most recently, Carver received the Heart and Soul Award from the UMaine Volleyball Program. After this year, the award will be renamed the Kristi Carver Award.

“Landscaping is such a diverse field and can provide a continual education throughout your life,” she says. “I've always been drawn to the earth and to nature. It's where I feel most at
peace with myself.”

During her years at UMaine, Carver gained field experience on and off campus. In the Littlefield Trials Garden, she helped expand and maintain the plant collection. For the past two summers, Carver has worked in the gardens of the Rockefeller estate in Seal Harbor.

When she graduates, Carver will return to Beals Island to start her landscape horticulture business. She already has a number of contracts for residential landscaping design, installation and maintenance. Carver's clients appreciate her signature designs that are in keeping with the natural landscape.

Carver also has a commercial lobster fishing license, and could get as many as 400 traps in the water this year. Carver learned the profession from her father, who has been hauling lobsters since he was 10.

Carver also will follow in her father's footsteps May 27 when she becomes an ordained minister in the Community of Christ Church. Her father served many years as pastor of the island church, where he is now an elder and her uncle the pastor. Carver will begin her duties this summer by expanding her work with the youth of the church.

Scott Cookson is a co-valedictorian and the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Engineering.

Cookson, the salutatorian of John Bapst High School, came to UMaine as an undeclared major. After three semesters, he combined his passion for mathematics and science into a major in engineering physics, with a concentration in electrical engineering and a minor in math.

“I looked at schools in Boston, but this is a nice campus and I received two full-tuition scholarships,” says Cookson, who also was accepted at Tufts and Brandeis. “I had been on campus as a junior in a Pulp and Paper Foundation summer program, and in high school, I did research papers in the library.

“This is a fun place to be, a great environment for learning and living. You can get out and be as active as possible, especially with Acadia to the south and Baxter to the north.”

During his years at UMaine, Cookson had four internships. He was an NSF-REU undergraduate research assistant in the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology for one summer and worked at International Paper in Jay as part of a Pulp and Paper Foundation Scholarship for the next two. Last summer, he accepted an internship at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, where he worked as a research intern in the National Missile Defense group.

Cookson says he learned about the importance of hard work, honesty and modesty from his parents. “I don't work hard to impress people but to prove to myself that I can do it,” he says. “I have a drive to do the best I can at anything I do. That can be both good and bad, but it's gotten me where I am today.”

Cookson's parents, Deborah and Richard Cookson, are UMaine alumni, and a younger brother, Jason, is a junior in electrical engineering. A second younger brother, Christopher, currently attends John Bapst.

This spring, Cookson accepted a job offer at MIT Lincoln Laboratory working in the Ballistic Missile Defense Systems and Analysis group. He plans to pursue graduate school and eventually have a career in the space program. But first, he is headed to Europe to backpack for two and a half months.
Jill Fuller, a communication sciences and disorders major, is a co-valedictorian and a first-generation college student.

Fuller was valedictorian of Dirigo High School and recipient of a Top Scholar Award, which she says helped her make the decision to come to UMaine. She chose audiology as her field of study because of her interest in scientific problem-solving and her desire to work with children. Fuller has a minor in child development.

Since high school, Fuller has held part-time jobs caring for children. She also is an active United Way volunteer and, this semester, returned home on her days off to work as a substitute teacher. Her clinical experience as part of her academic program included two years working at the Warren Center, providing assistance as a speech aide for people of all ages. In addition, she observed newborn audiology screening at Eastern Maine Medical Center.

Fuller plans to specialize in pediatric audiology. She was accepted into graduate programs at the University of Florida and Towson, but she chose the clinical doctoral program in audiology at Central Michigan University.

Soon after graduation, she will travel to Michigan, accompanied by Ed Haynes, who graduated from UMaine in 1999 with a degree in secondary education. Fuller will spend the summer working at a daycamp for children. Last summer, she was a ranger at Mt. Blue State Park.

As part of her preparation to spend the next four years in graduate school, Fuller has lived this semester with her grandparents in Canton, a two-hour commute to campus. Her grandparents are among her mentors.

“My parents have always been there for me. Dad has given me the ability to know when to relax and take it easy, whereas Mom is the one who taught me to be assertive. She is the person you don't want to get a call from if you've done something wrong.”

“My other mentor is Amy Booth. She has such a love of audiology. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and that's how I want to be (as an audiologist). Someday when I have a practice, I want kids to come into my office and find me wearing a clown nose and a shirt with Disney characters for the most fun audiology test they've ever had. I never pictured audiology that way until I met Amy. It's that kind of optimism that makes life worth living.”

Gerti Pellumbi is a co-valedictorian and the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

Pellumbi is a business major with a double concentration in finance and management information systems. He came to Maine six years ago to complete his senior year of high school. He then enrolled at UMaine.

Pellumbi followed his brother, Elvis, who was the college's 1996 Outstanding Graduating Student and is now an investment banker in London.

Pellumbi decided to pursue a career in business because of his brother's positive academic experience at UMaine, as well as the opportunities in the field.

“The business profession allows you to move around the world, and I like to travel,” Pellumbi says. “I really enjoyed my classes in the Business School. Initially, it looks and feels like a big school, but by your senior year, you feel much closer to professors and it takes on more of a small college atmosphere.”
During his years at UMaine, Pellumbi has worked closely with Business School faculty on a number of projects. For three years, he has worked as a research assistant for Associate Dean for External Relations Sheila Pechinski. In that capacity, Pellumbi has been involved in student recruitment and contributing to columns in newsletters and publications.

For the past two years, Pellumbi also has been involved in SPIFFY, the University of Maine Student Portfolio Investment Fund established by the University of Maine Foundation. He also served as a senator in Student Government.

Last semester, Pellumbi accepted a job offer with Circuit City. After graduation, he will work in the company's financial management program in Richmond, Va. He hopes to begin work on an MBA within three years.

Pellumbi notes that he was able to pursue his aspirations in the U.S. with the help of former State Sen. Michael Pearson. “Without his help, I probably would have not been able to go to the University of Maine, or be able to go to college in the United States, for that matter.”

Mathematics major Rebecca Rozario is this year's salutatorian. Rozario, the valedictorian of Bangor Christian School, first took UMaine courses in math as a high school senior. She enrolled at UMaine in 1997.

Rozario's sister, Suzanna, graduated from UMaine in 1999 with a degree in biology.

In addition to her courses in mathematics, Rozario has studied history as a minor, developing a strong interest in Irish history. Her honors thesis focuses on abstract algebra.

Rozario cites her participation in the Honors Program as being a benchmark in her academic career. “You get to explore and discuss issues unlike you do in any other class,” she says. “What is justice? What does it mean to have a soul? I am very interested in philosophy and the big questions in the world. I find myself continuing to explore the questions raised in my honors classes.”

After graduation, Rozario plans to spend the next academic year taking computer science classes. She hopes to pursue a master's degree in computer science.
Woman From Mechanic Falls to Graduate With Her Husband

May 9, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Among the students marching in the University of Maine's Commencement on May 19 are two with special chemistry.

Marsha Kanan of Mechanic Falls and Sofian Kanan of Irbid, Jordan, first met three years ago in the Aubert Hall lab of UMaine Professor Howard Patterson. She was an undergraduate, he was a Ph.D. student, and both were involved in research on the degradation of pesticides in the environment.

Sofian finished his Ph.D. last August, but waited until now to participate in commencement with Marsha, who will receive a bachelor's degree, and is one year away from completing a master's. Next year, the couple plans to move to Jordan.

Marsha came to UMaine in 1997 to study biology, but as a sophomore changed her major to chemistry. Her research has focused on environmental chemistry.

“I've always had an interest in the environment,” she says. “Figuring out a way to help improve it is very meaningful for future generations.”

As valedictorian of Oxford Hills High School, Marsha received a Top Scholar award and, as a result, turned down Cornell to come to UMaine. As a sophomore, she was one of 304 recipients nationwide of the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in recognition of her outstanding academic record and involvement in research. Howard Patterson described Marsha as “one of the best undergraduate students I have had to do research” in his more than 30 years at UMaine.

Since her second semester on campus, Marsha has been doing research with Patterson and Sofian, studying the decomposition of pesticides in the environment. In her research, she found that pesticides decompose faster in the presence of light and a mineral compound known as a zeolite, rather than in light alone. Experiments are under way to determine the speed of different decomposition reactions involving zeolites. Her work could lead to new techniques for cleaning up contaminated water supplies and wastewater treatment systems.

“You don't have to go to an Ivy League School to do research at the cutting edge,” she says of her UMaine experience. “This is a good atmosphere for students to learn in. The curriculum is top notch and faculty keep their syllabi competitive so when students graduate, they can apply to Harvard, Duke or Yale.”

The caliber of UMaine research brought Sofian to the States in 1996. Sofian was a graduate student at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. He was accepted into a Ph.D. program in Germany, but came here to work in environmental chemistry.
“In Jordan, environmental chemistry is important, particularly with the pollution, yet it is a field that is not well known back home,” says Sofian, who hopes to help change that when he returns.

In the chemistry lab, Sofian has been involved in research with pesticides and other pollutants. His work has included soil testing for contaminants from airplane fumes at the former Loring Air Force Base. His dissertation focuses on the photo-assisted degradation of toxic gases like NO, as well as pesticides such as carbaryl, an insecticide often applied to fruits and vegetables, and malathion, used extensively in domestic and commercial agriculture, and even for mosquito control.

Most recently as a post-doctoral research associate, Sofian has been involved in research with Associate Professor of Chemistry Carl Tripp in the Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology (LASST). The surface chemistry work includes determining strategies for the detection of nerve gas agents on sensors. Detection selectively must be developed in sensors so that target molecules of toxic nerve agents can be differentiated in a stream of mixed gases. In addition, studies are aimed at better understanding the interaction of nerve agent materials with sensor surfaces.

With other UMaine scientists, Sofian has published extensively in research related to environmental and surface chemistry science.

Both Sofian and Marsha plan to continue to do university-based research in Jordan.
UMaine Students in Canoe Loading Competition

May 11, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

Editors: Photos of the canoe loading competition can be seen at www.umaine.edu/mainesci/canoeloader.htm

ORONO, Maine -- Students in the Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) program at the University of Maine have designed machines that can lift and secure a canoe to the top of a car with little human intervention. In a competition on campus May 9, a design by four students, Scott Bishop of Newburgh, Steven Byam of Dresden, Jared Davis of Kennebunk and Charles Foster of Ellsworth, took top honors.

Their device uses mechanical winches. It had one of the lowest costs for materials, $311, and could load and secure a canoe in two minutes.

Herbert Crosby of Orono teaches the MET course and challenged students last fall to design machines that would enable a person sitting in a wheelchair to accomplish the task. A team of five faculty judges selected two designs for best overall design.

In addition to determining the winning team for design and performance, judges also chose the team with the best overall design. Two teams tied for that honor, the team above and another team composed of Christopher Bowen of Belfast, Charles Drillen of East Holden, Spencer Garrett of Bangor, Adam MacFawn of Rumford and Brian Purdy of Raymond.

The latter team's design used a very elegant motorized design operated from the driver's seat. It cost $826 in parts, and loading time was four minutes.
UMaine Nursing School Holds Pinning Ceremony

May 15, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The School of Nursing at the University of Maine will hold its annual Pinning Ceremony on May 18.

The ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts with a processional by the 78 students who are candidates for a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

Speakers at the event include Robert Kennedy, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Doug Gelinas, vice provost for undergraduate education, Eric Brucker, dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Health and nursing students Beth Hanish and Suzette Vernon. Therese Shipps, director of the School of Nursing, will award each student with a UMaine nursing pin.

The pinning ceremony signifies for all nursing students the completion of requirements in a rigorous program. In advance of the actual granting of the Bachelor of Science degree in nursing on May 19, the students are presented with a School of Nursing pin. Representatives of an earlier senior class designed this pin exclusively for UMaine's nursing school.

The ceremony itself is planned each year by a committee composed of senior students and representatives of the school. There is significant student involvement in the planning and coordination of all aspects of the event.
UMaine Forestry and Wildlife Alums Honored

May 17, 2001
Media contact: Judy Round, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture, 207-581-3229
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Forestry and Wildlife Alumni Association has honored John W. McNulty of Dover-Foxcroft and Lee Perry of Wayne with distinguished UMaine alumni awards. The association makes the awards annually to alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their fields.

McNulty received his bachelor's degree in forestry from UMaine in 1978 and began his long and distinguished career with Seven Islands Land Company. He has used his expertise to help lead forest practices in Maine and has been active in providing leadership to the Society of American Foresters, both at the national and local levels.

Perry is the commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. He received his bachelor's degree in wildlife management in 1967. After serving several years as assistant director in the Arizona Game and Fish Department, he returned to Maine in 1997 to take the commissioner post.
UMaine Students Head for Tour De Sol on May 18

May 17, 2001
Department of Public Affairs contacts:
Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777
Joe Carr, 207-581-3571

ORONO, Maine -- Six University of Maine students will leave Orono on May 18 for the annual Tour de Sol, a week-long demonstration of cars and trucks operated by solar power and electricity. Since January, the UMaine team has been working to overhaul its two vehicles, the Solar Black Bear pick-up truck and the Phantom Sol, a sleek electric powered car.


“The students have put in long hours on weekends and at night,” says Paul Van Steenberghe of Old Town, an instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and an advisor to the students. The group succeeded in raising more than $20,000 in equipment and money from area businesses, the UMaine College of Engineering and the Maine Department of Transportation.

The Solar Black Bear has been overhauled with new electronics and a larger solar panel that can be folded away for storage. When the array is fully open, it covers 164 square feet. “The solar panel is as large as what you would need to power your house,” says Richard Burt of Gorham, one of the students. In addition, the students removed the box from the truck in order to reduce the vehicle's weight.

Another team working on the Phantom Sol has added a sophisticated breaking system that recovers energy normally lost during deceleration. Much like the system used on the new Honda Insight hybrid electric and gasoline powered car, the breaks allow the Phantom Sol to travel further on a single charge of its batteries. The car also has a sleek new light-weight body made of Styrofoam covered by a fiberglass skin.

The event will include entries from car manufacturers including Toyota, Honda, Ford and Chrysler as well as experimental vehicles from businesses and universities. In addition to solar power and electricity, sources of power include biodiesel fuel, liquified natural gas and ethanol.

The six UMaine students who will participate in the event are Christopher Michaud of Lincoln, Telicia Gammon of Limington, Joshua Schoolcraft of Dixfield, Richard Burt of
Gorham, Jacob Pelletier of North Berwick and Mark Stanley of Searsport. Van Steenberghe will also take part.

Other students who have worked on the project during the spring semester are Reginald and Rockford Herrick of Mechanic Falls, Peter Gilbert of Dixfield, Bobbi Meserve of Old Town, Paul Melrose of Vassalboro, Sara Wright of Pittsfield, Craig LaPlant of East Dixfield, Tom M. Beaulieu of Gibsonville, North Carolina, Frank Mottram and Richard Marvel.

"Arctic Impact" Robotics Competition Comes to UMaine

May 18, 2001
Contact: Roberta Martin, University of Maine Agent Institute, 207-581-2023

ORONO, Maine – Student teams can register now and use the summer to prepare for a robotics competition that will be held at the University of Maine in December. UMaine and the Agent Institute will host the 2nd FIRST LEGO League's “Arctic Impact” competition that is open to teams of elementary and middle school children, ages 9 to 14.

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) was started by the FIRST Foundation, an educational group based in New Hampshire, utilizing the LEGO MINDSTORMS Robotics Invention System. Teams are responsible for planning, building, programming, and testing their robots to complete a challenge course.

Each year, courses have a different theme - this year the course has been titled “Arctic Impact.” Teams have from May to September to register. At the end of September, the 2001 challenge will be announced, giving teams until December to perfect their robots.

In 2000, the FLL hosted over 15,000 children in 13 different states. This program fosters interest and excitement in the computer, science, and engineering fields while also giving a forum for learning about the scientific process.

Registration for the event is done on-line through the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Web site at . Schools, teachers, parents, or children who are interested should work to start a team and register as soon as possible. Spots are limited, so all teams are encouraged to register early.

The cost for a new team to participate is approximately $595. The cost includes a $150 registration fee to FLL, all of the parts necessary, and the software. Costs for a veteran team are approximately $357. Registered teams are encouraged to look for funding from the schools, local businesses, fundraising, parents, or whatever. Teams are also encouraged to call their local Chamber of Commerce or the Agent Institute for funding assistance.
UMaine Hutchinson Center Hosts Maine Studies Film

May 18, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

BELFAST -- The Maine Studies program at the University of Maine will sponsor a showing of the film, "A White Heron," at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast on Wednesday, June 6, 2001 at 6:30 PM.

Based on the short story by Maine author, Sarah Orne Jewett, this film explores a young girl's connection to the Maine landscape and her special regard for the white heron. Her loyalties are tested when a dashing ornithologist asks for her help in locating the heron's nest.

After the film Judy Hakola of the University of Maine English department, will lead a discussion. Hakola teaches courses in writing and literature, including writers of Maine.

The film will begin at 6:30. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call 581-3147.
UMaine Planning Outdoor Commencement

May 18, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Based on current forecasts of Saturday morning's weather, the University of Maine is moving forward with plans to hold its 198th Commencement outdoors at Harold Alfond Stadium. UMaine returned last year to that traditional commencement venue, which allows the entire class to graduate at one ceremony.

UMaine facilities crews will begin the set-up process later this morning.

More than 1,300 people are expected to receive UMaine degrees at the 10:30 a.m. event. Three hundred thirty-six of those will be graduate degrees, with 21 at the doctoral level.

A recorded message any available updated information regarding the ceremony will be available at 581-SNOW (1-800-581-SNOW outside the Orono/Bangor area) by 8 a.m. Saturday.
President Hoff, Provost Kennedy, Trustees, distinguished faculty and staff of the University of Maine, honored guests, parents, partners, friends and graduating students, the Class of 2001. Greetings! And hearty congratulations to the graduating students. You have accomplished something wonderful, and I thank you for the opportunity to share this most happy moment with you.

These are days of celebration and goodbyes, packing and moving on, and deciding what to take with you and what to leave behind.

Rest assured that you will take this extraordinary institution with you in your heart. It will continue to be a source of inspiration and happy memories for all your days.

As I was organizing my thoughts for this address here today, my wife and two teenage children were quite... shall we say... “helpful”... in sharing their suggestions and critiquing my early drafts. As a result, several drafts were abandoned completely at the persistent urging of my helpful family members.

My daughter found my early drafts way too stuffy and preachy.

My immediate response was, “Hey, I'm 50 years old. I'm a judge. People expect me to be stuffy and preachy!” - despite the fact that I really am not stuffy or preachy - at least not in my own humble opinion. But the draft went in the dustbin anyway.

My son suggested using a musical backdrop - kind of a rap groove going - with me doing a voice-over. Sort a of judicial hip-hop number. But I'm pretty sure the world is not yet ready for that.

My wife looked at the list of topics which I wanted to address and pointed out that I couldn't really work these subjects into a single, cohesive theme. As usual, she was right.

So - - what I'm going to do here is to mention some of these subjects which I apparently can't work into my address. And then I'll move on to the grand finale, the hallmark of any commencement speech -- a few words of free advice to the new graduates.

I had wanted to talk to you about law and justice.
I wanted to explain my sincere belief that justice is a process, not a result. We occasionally hear of results of disputes in courts and other tribunals and disagree with the result. We are quick to say, “This is not justice!” But reasonable people can - and usually do - disagree on what the proper result for any given dispute might be. They both can't be right. So what is justice?

Justice occurs when parties to a dispute are able to fully present their positions to impartial people who follow laws which apply equally to all. If these conditions are present, justice is done.

If they are not, justice is not served.

So when we are attempting to measure justice, don't tell me about the result. Tell me about the process - how they got to the result - and then we can tell whether justice was served.

That's what I would have said about justice - if I could have worked it into my theme.

I had wanted to talk to you about the advent of DNA evidence in the courtroom, and how it has revolutionized certain criminal proceedings - not only from the point of proving guilt, but for exonerating innocent people. This is very exciting stuff for me, but perhaps too narrow for this broadly diverse group.

I had wanted to tell you about ten wonderful years I spent as the Chief Judge of the Penobscot Tribal Court and how I was welcomed into that extraordinary group of people that is the Penobscot Indian Nation. I was treated with kindness and hospitality and respect, and shown a way of life which forever changed my perception of the world.

But maybe that's really just between the Penobschts and me.

I had wanted to talk to you about “life paths” and career choices. I could talk to you about my life path - an occupation in law and how stimulating and fulfilling it has been. But that's kind of egotistical and, frankly, I'm not really that all that interesting.

Your life paths are much more interesting. In your occupations, always protect your integrity - it is that by which you will be known and remembered.

For those of you who have or are considering starting families, understand the profound responsibility of parenting a child. You can teach a child to love anything; you can teach a child to hate anything. Teach your children respect and responsibility. Teach by your example.

I could go on about these things, but you know them already.

I had wanted to talk about some colorful characters I’ve come to know in my court room experiences.

There was Bradley, a skinny little guy who was an accomplished escape artist. He escaped - mysteriously - from dozens of jail cells and baffled the authorities... until they discovered that he was so thin that he could slip between the bars at will. As I entered the courtroom, he was shackled - each arm, each leg, and waist - to the Defendant's chair. From the front of the court room, he called back to me with a broad smile, “I feel like a criminal down here !”

And then there was Martin who paid his fines - fines for convictions for passing bad checks - with (you guessed it) a bad check.

And then there was a creditor trying to collect from a debtor they couldn't locate to serve with a summons. Apparently they had been doing business with a company named Fly by Night
Enterprises. You think they would have known...

True stories indeed, but way too trivial to include in this address.

I had wanted to tell you about some cases I handled as a lawyer.

Like my first case. The charge was Illegal Possession of Moose meat. We won. My client offered to pay me... in deer meat. I declined.

Or I could tell you about the first murder case I defended, and how I looked into the accused's eyes to see if there was any humanity there - and found none.

But these are my stories, and today is about you.

I'd love to talk to you about the law - now there's something that affects you directly.

And we have lots of laws. Sometimes it seems that the law makers must be paid by the pound. Do we really need them all these laws? Or do we simply have too darn many?

You be the lawmaker. Ask yourself: what minimum basic rules are necessary for a good life in an orderly society?

You know the answer to this question - you learned these rules in kindergarten. And they boil down to two simple concepts: respect and responsibility - two simple concepts.

All of the well intentioned laws written since time immemorial have been attempts to codify these two simple notions. If all of us lived our lives guided by the standards of respect and responsibility, what a wonderful world it would be.

As you move forward today, take a moment to reflect on what you are taking with you. I ask you to embrace these notions of respect and responsibility. Take them with you and let them steer your life's course.

Most of the societal challenges which I identified in my 1973 address are still with us, in some form or another. You will take your place in a society which is often unhelpful to its weak, unforgiving of its troubled, and uncaring toward its needy. Our advancements in humanity have not kept pace with our advancements in technology. As you go forward, guided by the twin beacons of respect and responsibility, you will do your part to meet these ever-changing challenges.

Now, I promised you a few brief words of advice. After considerable thought, I will wind down here with my two suggestions to make a good life better. This is all you need:

First, Learn to recognize a constellation in the winter sky, and

Secondly, Learn to identify a particular type of tree in the forest.

Long after your cell phone is obsolete and your VCR is in the landfill, you will still own your constellation and your tree. Well, you won't actually own them... you'll share them with the ages. But they will be with you for all your days.

I will end with a line from singer/songwriter Dave Matthews:

"Celebrate... we will... for life is short... but sweet for certain."
Celebrate you will - celebrate with prudence; celebrate with joy; celebrate with the knowledge that you have accomplished something great... and the best is yet to come.

Good luck, graduates.

Photos of the 198th University of Maine Commencement
University of Maine 198th Commencement

May 19, 2001  
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

Text of Andrew M. Mead's Commencement Address.

Photos from University of Maine Commencement

ORONO, Me. – Before an audience of 7,500 family members and friends, members of the University of Maine Class of 2001 graduated during today's commencement ceremony on Morse Field at Harold Alfond Stadium.

More than 1,300 degrees were conferred at the ceremony. Three hundred thirty-six of those are graduate degrees, with 21 at the doctoral level. UMaine also awarded nearly 500 degrees at a commencement ceremony in December.

Because of a persistent morning rainstorm, the start of the ceremony was delayed by three hours. It began at 1:30 p.m., rather than the scheduled 10:30 a.m.

Andrew M. Mead, chief justice of the Maine Superior Court, was the commencement speaker. As the president of UMaine's Class of 1973, the New Jersey native spoke at his own graduation, held in the same place, 28 years ago.

Mead spoke of the law and justice, noting that the “minimum basic rules (that) are necessary for a good life in an orderly society” are embodied in the concepts of respect and responsibility.

“If all of us lived our lives guided by the standards of respect and responsibility, what a wonderful world it would be,” he said. “As you move forward today, take a moment to reflect on what you are taking with you. I ask you to embrace these notions of respect and responsibility. Take them with you and let them steer your life's course.”

Mead, who practiced law in Bangor for 14 years before his appointment to the bench in 1990, offered two suggestions “to make a good life better.”

“First, learn to recognize a constellation in the winter sky and, secondly, learn to identify a particular type of tree in the forest,” he said. “Long after your cell phone is obsolete and your VCR is in the landfill, you will still own your constellation and your tree. Well, you won't actually own them...you will share them with the ages. But they will be with you for all your days.”

Honorary doctor of humane letters degrees were awarded to two internationally prominent members of the Maine arts community – writer Doris Grumbach and artist Jamie Wyeth. Grumbach, one of America's most distinguished writers, has produced works in fiction,
literary criticism, memoir and essay during her career. Grumbach has lived in Maine for the past ten years. Wyeth is a member of one of the world's most famous and successful families of artists. His wide-ranging career has featured works in watercolors and oils, as well as sketches and illustrations for children's books. Wyeth's best-known works include a posthumous portrait of President John F. Kennedy. He is also recognized for his commitment to causes like the preservation of Maine lighthouses.

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff presided over the ceremony, at which the name of each graduate was announced as he or she crossed the stage. Keith Hutchison of the UMaine biochemistry faculty, honored in April with the 2001 Distinguished Maine Professor Award, delivered the Celebration of Academia. Ryan Anderson, a member of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, brought greetings from the board. University of Maine Alumni Association Board of Directors Chair Gregory Jamison welcomed the graduates to the ranks of the 87,000 UMaine alumni.

Four graduates share the honor of being valedictorian of the UMaine Class of 2001. They are Kristi Carver of Beals Island, a landscape horticulture major; engineering physics major Scott Cookson of Glenburn; Jill Fuller of Dixfield, who majored in communication sciences and disorders; and Gerti Pellumbi of Tirana, Albania, a business administration major. Rebecca Rozario, a mathematics major from Bangor, is the class salutatorian.
Three UMaine Food Science Students Win Scholarships

May 21, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Three undergraduate students in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition have been awarded $1,000 scholarships by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), a non-profit research organization based in Chicago, Ill.

The recipients are Mark Corey of Weare, New Hampshire; Kelly Guthrie of Hermon; and Maureen Pease of Old Town.

“It's unusual for IFT to award three scholarships to students at the same university,” says Rod Bushway, department chair. “This is very exciting for the department and the students.”

Corey graduated from Nashua High School and says he was attracted to food science by the practical application of chemistry, biology and math. “I plan on going to graduate school and into food science as a career,” he says.

Guthrie worked in Bushway's lab as a first year student last summer. “I use equipment that most undergraduates never have a chance to see,” she says. “This summer, I am hoping to do a lot more work on method development because I find it challenging and interesting.”

Pease is graduating from Old Town High School this spring and looks forward to studying a field with such diversity. “I really feel like I can make an impact on what people eat. The possibilities for improving food seem endless,” she adds. “It doesn't hurt that you can usually eat the results!”

IFT was established in 1939 and currently has 28,000 members in food science organizations and related industries around the world.
UMaine Staff Awarded by French Ministry of Education

May 22, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Yvon Labbe, director of the Franco-American Centre at the University of Maine, and Gilbert Albert of Project Mainstay, received the rank of Knight in the French order of the Palmes Académiques at an award ceremony in Augusta.

The award, given by the French Ministry of Education, traditionally recognizes active promoters of French language and culture who work in the United States. M. Stéphane Chmelewsky, consul general of France in Boston, presented Labbe and Albert with the award.

“What is most important to me is that I accepted the award in the name of the hundreds of Franco-American students and community volunteers who, over the years, expressed their Franco identity in our publications and in other initiatives of the Franco-American Centre,” says Labbe. “The Franco-American community and the university owe them a full measure of gratitude.”

Labbe is the founder and director of the Franco-American Centre, which has been at UMaine for nearly 30 years. In that position, Labbe has worked to bring together the Franco-American community in the area, and educate the campus and state about issues important to Franco-Americans.

Most recently, Labbe has helped develop FrancoMaine.org, a web site that brings together historical, geographic and linguistic information on Franco-Americans in Maine.

Albert is a bilingual education outreach coordinator with Project Mainestay at UMaine, and is also a professor of bilingual education at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.
Educators Strategize, Democratize Reading Instruction in New Book

May 25, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – What is learned must be taught, and the need for active, sustained instruction in reading doesn't end when students grasp the basics in elementary school. That's the bottom line of a new book that illustrates how to do more than simply throw required reading books at adolescents in the nation's middle and high schools.

Reading instruction falls by the wayside when students need it most, according to the authors of Strategic Reading: Guiding Students to Lifelong Literacy 6-12 (Heinemann 2001). The result of collaboration between a University of Maine faculty member and two Maine public school educators, the book examines major theoretical implications and issues surrounding teaching and learning. It also presents a model for teaching reading through high school and dozens of instructional strategies to help students comprehend what they are reading, understand how they are learning and appreciate why it is important.

Strategic Reading is about the democratic process of sharing expert knowledge and working collaboratively to give students the power of language – by developing skills to build on what they already know and can do to make sense out of unfamiliar concepts and tackle challenging, new text. The teacher's role, say the authors, is not to teach the book, but to teach the processes students need to understand different textual conventions, genres and themes in ways that are socially significant to them, their current concerns and interests.

Students' reading skills don't automatically grow to meet the demand of more difficult reading matter as they work their way through middle and high school, notes lead author Jeffrey Wilhelm, associate professor of literacy at UMaine.

“Text is conventional,” he says. “We all keep bumping up against new and increasingly complex text. That's why we need to learn the skills to read throughout a lifetime.”

Co-authors are Tanya Baker, an English teacher at Brewer High School, and Julie Dube, principal at Medway Middle School and a former English teacher and dean of students at Old Town High School. Both are currently working on doctorate degrees at UMaine, Baker in literacy and Dube in educational leadership.

The book grew from collaboration and shared teaching among the authors. Brewer and Old Town are members of the Penobscot River Educational Partnership: A Professional Development Network. The network is comprised of six area school districts UMaine through the College of Education and Human Development. It works collaboratively to develop and share ideas and resources to promote the professional development of future and practicing teachers in areas such as technology, curriculum development, assessment practices and
research. Baker and Dube are also fellows of the Maine Writing Project, an affiliate of the National Writing Project. Wilhelm founded the state writing project in 1997 and serves as its director.

The authors write with an authoritative voice and experience because they tried all the strategies in their classrooms, individually and team teaching together.

“Collaboration in educational endeavors is important,” says Wilhelm. “People working together can know more, achieve more and become more than they could be if they worked alone. This is one of the points of our book and one we embody in our own work together.”

Students aren't interested in being readers simply for reading's sake, according to Baker. They want to read, she says, because they are making connections to what they consider important and how they react to the world.

“We shouldn't take reading for granted just because a student has reached middle school or high school,” says Dube. “We need to actively assist them to continue building skills, not just give them harder books.”

The most typical instruction for older students is listening to what a teacher tells them, repeating it on tests and being evaluated. It is expecting accountability without the requisite teaching, without providing students with the knowledge and skills to succeed with more complex tasks, according to the authors.

The authors outline a system that requires explicit modeling and teaching of a reading strategy, collaborative learning, and active and sustained support that enables students to independently apply and use a strategy when and how it is needed.

They call for classrooms where students are not just taught strategies necessary to comprehending and conversing with new kinds of tasks and texts. Students, the authors say, should also be encouraged to discuss the politics presented in a text, express different viewpoints, consider the implications of prejudice and influence in a democracy, and relate these factors to a variety of circumstances.

Politicized teaching is more respectful of students, the authors claim, because it recognizes that they are important and have the ability to understand, negotiate, embrace and resist. And, the educators emphasize, such interactive instruction grants students responsibility as it lends them expertise.

“We want our goals to be clear to our students and open to discussion,” say the authors. “We want to let students know where we are going and why, and we want them to build and apply their own politics and critical standards to everything we do.”
UMaine Takes Another Tour de Sol First

May 29, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Solar Black Bear pickup truck took first in the solar commuter class at the annual Tour de Sol competition that ended May 26 in Boston. A second UMaine entry, the Phantom Sol electric car, completed the race after the crew replaced a faulty commutator in the motor.


The event marks the third year in a row in which the UMaine students have won their class. The team raised about $20,000 from businesses, the Maine Department of Transportation and university offices.

The six UMaine students who will participate in the event were Christopher Michaud of Saco, Telicia Gammon of Limington, Joshua Schoolcraft of Dixfield, Richard Burt of Gorham, Jacob Pelletier of North Berwick and Mark Stanley of Searsport. Paul Van Steenberghe of the math department and Ben Dresser of Bio-Resource Engineering were the team's advisors.

Van Steenberghe and Dresser also received the George Bradford Teacher Award from NSEA for their work on the Tour de Sol.
Young Authors Camps Set at UMaine, Benton and Wilton

May 29, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- Some of the state's top writing teachers will lend expertise and encouragement to help students develop composition skills and polish their prose during the annual Young Authors' Camp scheduled July 16-20 at three different locations around the state.

In addition to the day camp at the University of Maine, the program runs for a second season at Benton Elementary School and expands this summer to include a site at the Cushing School in Wilton.

All three camps are led by exemplary teachers who have completed the rigorous requirements of the Maine Writing Project at UMaine, the state's official National Writing Project site. The UMaine camp offers strands for students entering grades 3-12. The Benton program is for students entering grades 1-8, and the Wilton camp is for grades 4-6.

Daily sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to noon at all sites.

In addition to working on skills in a fun and supportive atmosphere, participants will explore different genres of writing, compose for creativity and to inform, experiment with electronic texts, and publish and share their writing.

Information about the Young Authors' Camp programs, sponsored by the Maine Writing Project and the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, is available by calling the various site contacts: UMaine, Theresa McMannus, (207) 581-2438; Benton, Darlene Armstrong, (207) 453-4240; and Wilton, Brenda LaVerdiere, (207) 645-5330.

The National Writing Project is a federally funded professional development program dedicated to the improvement of instruction in the nation's schools, particularly through composition as a powerful way of learning in all curricular areas. ſŷ
UMaine Names Interim Dean for College of Business, Public Policy and Health

May 30, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO – Diana Lawson, associate dean of the University of Maine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health, has been named interim dean of that college. Lawson will replace Eric Brucker, who is leaving on June 30 to become dean of the School of Business Administration at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania.

“Dr. Lawson is a very natural choice to assume the deanship," says UMaine Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robert Kennedy. “As the associate dean for the past two years, she has been working closely with Dean Brucker and understands the college's mission, objectives and direction. She will provide a strong sense of continuity as we undertake the search for a permanent successor.”

UMaine's college of Business, Public Policy and Health consists of four nationally recognized areas: the Maine Business School; the School of Nursing; the School of Social Work; and the Department of Public Administration. The College offers both bachelor's and master's degrees in all four academic areas.

During the recently completed academic year, 13 percent of UMaine's 10,288 students were enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs offered by the College.

Lawson has taught at UMaine since 1990, and is a graduate of the State University of New York at Cortland with a degree in physical education and exercise physiology, and an MA in exercise physiology and an MBA from Kent State University. She received her doctorate in marketing with a minor in international business from Kent State University in 1993.

At the UMaine Business School, Lawson has taught courses in marketing and international business. Through a U.S. Department of Education Grant Lawson received, an international business concentration has been developed. Also as part of the grant funding, a post-graduate certificate in international business program was developed, and will be offered in Portland beginning in the fall.

In addition to teaching at UMaine, Lawson has been a visiting professor at the University of Angers in France, the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Institute in Turkey and Harvard University in Massachusetts.

Lawson will assume her new responsibilities on July 1. A national search for a permanent dean will be undertaken.
Volunteers Needed to Taste New Seafood Ravioli

May 31, 2001

Research contact: Michael G. Murphy, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 581-1625
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Taste testers are needed to try a new type of ravioli developed at the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and the Lobster Institute. Researchers will be conducting sensory evaluation of a prototype seafood ravioli on June 6th from 11:00 am to 4:00pm in the consumer testing lab in Holmes Hall.

Participants will be asked to taste and evaluate fresh ravioli containing minced crab meat as an ingredient in the stuffing. Incentives will be given to people participating in the evaluation. Those interested in participating in this study should contact Mike Murphy at 581-1625 or at Michael.G.Murphy@umit.maine.edu.
Student Dads Have a Lot on Their Minds
School Stress Squeezes Mental Space for Kids

June 1, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – While workplace hassles often spill over into the home and deter dad's interaction with the children, academic stress on student fathers might be more a matter of having too much on their minds. The stress of exams, grades and term papers doesn't appear to affect fathers' overall participation or responsibility in meeting their children's physical, emotional and social needs, according to a study by a University of Maine graduate student. However, school-related stress can cloud dads' mental focus on their children during the day.

This psychological presence of children – characterized by thinking about the child or talking about the child to others – stood out among the variables measured in his study says Brian P. Masciadrelli. He conducted the research during the spring 2001 semester at UMaine and reported the results in a thesis for his master's degree in human development.

“As academic stress increases, psychological presence decreases,” says the former social worker, “Stress puts other things on people's minds and crowds out the psychological presence of child to father.”

Masciadrelli also found that fathers who are more involved in daily routines with their children tend to have a higher father-child psychological presence. However, having multiple children in a family lessened a father's potential for keeping a single child present in his thoughts.

The study included 38 fathers, ranging in age from 20 to 49. The majority were undergraduates (66 percent), studying full time (81 percent), married (89 percent) and holding a job (65 percent). In responding to the questionnaire, fathers of multiple children were instructed to limit reference to one child under age 12.

With siblings competing for full potential psychological presence, fathers of multiple children scored lower than fathers of a single child when stress was factored in. Even when fathers tried to limit their responses to one child, their capacity for psychological presence seemed to be distributed across all their children.

The survey looked at three key dimensions of fathering: the frequency of direct interaction (caregiving, playing); accessibility of the father (attending children's events and programs, leading activities such as scouting troops); and responsibility taken for the child (arranging health care appointments, buying food and clothing, seeing that homework is done).

In summing up his review of national research, Masciadrelli points out that existing studies, particularly those looking at emotional spillover, tend to indicate a negative relationship.
between stress and fathers' involvement with their children. Fathers – more often than mothers – tend to withdraw from interaction with their children when confronted with overly demanding workloads and pressures.

But Masciadrelli found no significant correlation in gauging the relationship between academic stress and fathers' interaction with their children. Academic pressure had no effect on fathers' involvement in daily caregiving activities. The nature of routine caregiving, such as planning and preparing meals and bathing children, is relatively involuntary, he explains. “These are activities required for daily living regardless of the stress being experienced, and the tasks are almost automatically accomplished.”

Student fathers occupy multiple roles much of the time and school-related pressure might only be a minor factor on top of other types of stress, Masciadrelli notes. While the study was small and relied on fathers self-reporting their perceived behavior, he believes the findings invite further investigation, particularly in the relationship between stress and fathers' real or potential mental involvement with their children.

Stress is a difficult thing to watch for, often building up to a high level before fathers – or anyone – are readily aware of its presence, according to Masciadrelli. “It's important to pay attention to how we are feeling, especially when with our children,” he says. “When stress takes over, it's often easy to forget that our kids don't always understand what is distracting dad's attention.”

Be aware of stress, Masciadrelli advises, and when it becomes consuming, take a break. For fathers, one of the best respites from stress is a “play break” with his child. “Even a 10-minute play break can give father and child a chance to relax, connect and benefit,” he says. “The child gets positive attention, and dad gets to unwind.”

A native of Westfield, Mass., Masciadrelli earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Westfield State College and a master's in social work from Simmons College. This fall, he enters the doctorate program in human development at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Two Weeks After Stem-Cell Transplant, Walsh Progressing Well

June 1, 2001  
Contact: Keith Bingham at 581-3646

ORONO, MAINE- Two weeks after undergoing a stem-cell transplant at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md., University of Maine head men's hockey coach Shawn Walsh is “feeling stronger every day” and continuing to make progress in his outpatient treatment.

His most recent round of treatments involved a week of chemotherapy which began May 10, to suppress his immune system in preparation for the transplant, and the actual stem-cell transplant, May 17. Walsh was formally released from NIH this past Sunday, May 27, and underwent his first outpatient testing Tuesday, May 29. He will continue to undergo blood tests at NIH every Tuesday and Friday for several more weeks to monitor how his body is accepting the stem cells.

“One of the biggest things to me has been that this process usually involves 21 days in the hospital, but by day five (May 22) I was able to come home (his brother Kevin's home in nearby Annandale, Va.) each afternoon and not return until the following morning,” said Walsh. “I've been able to keep up with the Stanley Cup, see my wife Lynne and enjoy some home cooking. It sure beats hospital living.”

Walsh compared his current treatment to the immunotherapy he underwent at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center nine months ago, “It is not as intense, but is more of an endurance test. Fatigue is clearly the biggest by-product of all the chemotherapy they've given me, but each day I'm feeling better. My weight got down to 159 pounds during the first few days of chemotherapy, but have gained 12 pounds back already. I was able to walk a mile and a half this morning, and I hit some golf balls at the range two nights ago, so things are coming around.”

Coach Walsh was more interested in talking about hockey than his current medical treatments. “I've been able to keep in contact with my office via the fax and phone. It has been different for me, experiencing life at a slower pace” said Walsh. “It has given me a lot of time to think about and plan for next season. It's been hard for me to contain my excitement for this coming season. I need to stay in the area for a while, but I am hoping to get back to home for our hockey alumni weekend in early July, and be back in Maine for good by August 1.”

This Tuesday provided even more excitement for Walsh, as former Black Bear standout Bob Corkum scored the pivotal game-tying goal in the New Jersey Devils 2-1 Stanley Cup game two defeat of the Colorado Avalanche. Following the first period, in a live interview with ESPN, Corkum said, “Coach Walsh, I hope you're watching. That one was for you.”
“It’s been fun to talk to Bobby throughout the playoffs,” said Walsh. “I actually talked to him that afternoon. I told him to quit playing safe, and see if he can give them a lift. And, what a lift he gave them! It certainly energized me when Bobby said what he did on national television.”

Dr. Richard Childs of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and Dr. David Schrump, Head of the Thoracic Oncology Section of the Surgery Branch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), are overseeing Walsh’s treatment while at NIH. Childs is the primary investigator of the stem-cell study, which is a collaboration of the NHLBI and NCI.

Walsh successfully underwent surgery March 29 at NIH in preparation for the stem-cell procedure. The initial surgery, known as debulking, included a left pneumonectomy (removal of his left lung), and removal of cancerous tumors located under his breastplate. The debulking surgery Walsh underwent was essential in preparation for the stem-cell transplant because the number of cancer cells present at the time of the transplant is directly related to the success rate of the procedure. Walsh, originally diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma in early July of last year, underwent these procedures to eradicate cancer cells that have spread to his left lung and his sternum.

Stem cells are immature cells that develop into blood cells. If the transplant is successful, new cells will grow, multiply and attack the cancer cells. The procedure involves transplanting stem cells from someone who is cancer-free and a very close genetic match into the cancer patient. Walsh’s brother Kevin was the stem-cell donor for the procedure.

Prior to Walsh’s arrival at NIH for the stem-cell procedure, he remarked about his brother’s contribution, “The average person has 50-70 stem cells per measure of blood. Kevin has 290, which is by far the highest count my doctors have ever seen. My doctors were jumping with joy when they saw the count. What this means, is that I will have the advantage of more cells to fight my cancer,” said an excited Walsh. “I’m ready and excited to get this process started.”

Expressing his excitement at being selected to be part of this treatment program, he cited the stem-cell transplant procedure as “the one treatment out there that has a better than 50 percent success rate.” Walsh also expressed his optimism in his doctors, and noting that with the research being in its second phase, a lot of the problems encountered with the first group of patients has led to improvements that will further increase his chance of success.

Walsh had surgery to remove a cancerous left kidney at the Boston Medical Center July 7, and underwent immunotherapy cycles at UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center in August and October. Between the two treatments, he returned to campus and directed the team’s practices and was on the ice with the team for its first practice session of the season.

Walsh returned to his regular coaching duties the week of a two-game series with Ohio State University, and was on the bench for the first time this season on Friday, Oct. 27 at Alfond Arena. The Black Bears played with extra enthusiasm that night, outshooting the Buckeyes 60-24, but fell in overtime 3-2. His team would give him a 2-0 shutout victory the following night, Oct. 28, and he has been behind the Black Bear bench full-time since then.

Walsh, 45, has coached the UMaine hockey program to national prominence since his arrival in 1984. His squads have won national championships in 1993 and 1999, and have made five additional trips to the Frozen Four, including the 1999–2000 season. Walsh earned his 20th NCAA Tournament victory Friday (3/23), when UMaine defeated Minnesota 5-4 in overtime at the Centrum Center in Worcester, Mass. in his 11th tournament appearance in 17 years of coaching at UMaine. He has coached Hobey Baker Award recipients Scott Pellerin (1992) and Paul Kariya (1993) and 26 other All-Americans while compiling a
399-214-44 record at UMaine. He ranks 11th among active coaches and 19th all-time in the college ranks with 399 coaching victories.
University of Maine News

UMaine Folklife Center Opens New Archive

June 1, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine will celebrate the official opening of its new climate controlled archives facility this Saturday, June 2. The facility, located in South Stevens Hall, houses the center's Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History.

The archive contains more than 5,000 audio recordings of interviews and 8,000 photographs, along with transcripts and other material about the folklore, folklife and oral history of Maine and the Atlantic provinces of Canada. The archive will provide constant temperature and humidity that are essential for the preservation of audio tapes.

Present at the gathering, which begins at 11 a.m., will be Sandy Ives, director emeritus of the Maine Folklife Center, who will throw the switch on the new climate control equipment. Also present will be board members Gordon Bok, folk singer; Tim Sample, Maine humorist; Karan Sheldon of Northeast Historic Film; Julia Hunter of the Maine State Museum; Richard Judd, UMaine professor of history; John Pickering, UMaine undergraduate student advisor; Richard Lunt, retired professor of anthropology at SUNY Potsdam and Jeff Tilton, professor of ethnomusicology at Brown University.

The climate control equipment was purchased and installed with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a UMaine's Faculty Research and Equipment grant from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.
The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will feature two new summer exhibits, “Echoes Across the Himalayas” and “Other Faces: The Mask Collection of Marti Stevens” from June 19 to September 1.

“Echoes Across the Himalayas” explores the lives of Tibetans in exile in Mussoorie, India at the Tibetan Homes School for refugee children. Founded by the Dalai Lama in 1962 to provide a safe residential environment for children escaping Chinese oppression in Tibet, the school allows the students to retain Tibetan cultural values and beliefs.

The exhibit consists of photographs taken by Barbara Goodbody, a photographer who lives in Maine, and Donna DeCesare, an award-winning photojournalist. Their images are interspersed with Tibetan student artwork and poetry. The exhibit focuses on eighteen children who were new to the school in 1999. Goodbody and DeCesare were invited to visit the school by Barbara Hurd, a professor of creative writing from Maryland who was teaching poetry at the Tibetan Homes School.

Hurd used poetry as a vehicle to allow the children to express feelings about the dislocation that had occurred in their lives. Goodbody combined the photographic images, artwork and poetry to introduce this special population of Tibetan people in exile to the viewing public.

In conjunction with this exhibit, the museum will hold a documentary photography workshop for children on August 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Using her exhibit as an example, Goodbody will teach children about documentary photography techniques and allow them to experiment with digital cameras, taking images on the UMaine campus. In the afternoon, she will review their work and assist them in improving their techniques. Selected images from the day's workshop will be exhibited in the Hudson Museum.

This workshop is for ages 12 and up, and registration is limited to 20. There is a $20 fee for the workshop. For registration information, call 581-1901.

“Other Faces: The Mask Collection of Marti Stevens,” showcases 36 masks from Africa, Asia, Indonesia, the United States, Canada and Central America, which were donated to the Hudson Museum in 1993 and 1994. “Other Faces” will explore the origins of mask making, the role of masks in allowing individuals to transform from one form to another, the cultural function of masks and how they are used in ceremonies, theater and dance and celebrations.

Stevens, a Maine resident, was a prolific collector of art, objects and artifacts, filling her home with her collections. She traveled extensively, scouring antique shops, galleries and museum stores in which to purchase her objects. She was involved in the visual and
performing arts through the Skowhegan School of Art and the Cornville Players. It was her intention that her collection be displayed for the public at the Hudson Museum.

The exhibit will begin with a brief overview of Marti Stevens and her collecting interests, followed by an anthropological introduction to masks. The remainder of the exhibit will focus on the specific geographic and cultural areas from which the masks came.

The Hudson Museum is located in the Maine Center for the Arts on the University of Maine campus. “Other Faces” will be located in the museum's temporary exhibit area on the first floor. “Echoes Across the Himalayas” will be located on the ramp panels leading to the third floor of the museum. For more information on these exhibits, call the Hudson Museum at 581-1901.
UMaine Museum of Art Presents Exhibit of Portraits from the University's Permanent Collection

June 5, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

“The Potential Self . . . portrait as signifier,” a University of Maine Museum of Art exhibit, June 8-Oct. 20, Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Carnegie Hall, University of Maine. 581-3255.

ORONO – Portraiture is the inspiration behind 115 works selected from the University of Maine permanent collection for the exhibit “The Potential Self . . . portrait as signifier.”

The show in the University of Maine Museum of Art will be on display June 8-Oct. 21. The museum, located in Carnegie Hall, is open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The exhibit represents works by 93 artists, including Berenice Abbott, Max Beckmann, Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Mary Cassatt, Francesco Clemente, Jim Dine, Roy De Forest, Red Grooms, William Gropper, Richard Hamilton, David Hockney and Evelyn Hofer.

For more information, contact the museum at 581-3255 or visit online at www.umaine.edu/artmuseum.

Editors Note: Images from this exhibit are available on request.

Museum Information: The Museum of Art, located in Carnegie Hall at the University of Maine, is easily reached from Kelley Road. Exit 50, I-95 North or South. Turn right onto Kelley Road from I-95 North, or left from I-95 South; follow it until the end. At the flashing light, turn left on Rt. 2. Follow Rt. 2 through Downtown Orono, across the bridge and turn left onto College Avenue at the first light after the bridge. Follow College Avenue for .5 mile and turn right at the University of Maine sign. Take third left at Museum of Art sign. Guest parking permits available at the Museum office. Museum hours are Monday–Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Museum is closed on Sundays and national holidays. Admission is free and open to the public. For individuals needing special accommodations, contact the Museum. Gallery talks and tours are available when scheduled in advance. Visit our Web site (www.umaine.edu/artmuseum) for further information, including previews of upcoming exhibitions.
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS INSTITUTE OPENS JULY 31 AT UMAINE

June 6, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – Major issues and needs in sports leadership will be addressed at the fourth annual Athletic Directors' Institute, July 31-August 2 at the University of Maine. Workshops on timely topics ranging from dealing with parental expectations in sports to maintaining athletic fields will be featured, along with intensive training in effective use of technology.

The institute is sponsored by Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association and the Maine Center for Coaching Education at UMaine, in cooperation with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association.

The institute is designed around needs and interests identified by athletic directors, according to Keith Lancaster, director of the Maine Center for Coaching Education. In addition to addressing specific professional development areas, the institute provides a forum for identifying common problems and brainstorming solutions in the high-visibility, high-impact AD position.

As in past years, a highlight of the program will be the availability of NIAAA leadership training courses, required in preparation for the national Certified Athletic Administrator examination. The NIAAA leadership training will be provided by Certified Athletic Administrators Martin Ryan of Wells High School and Gerald Durgin of Gorham High School.

For registration information, contact the MCCE at (207) 581-2443; e-mail: keith.lancaster@umit.maine.edu.
Nominations Sought for Maryann Hartman Awards

June 6, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies Program at the University of Maine is looking for nominations for its annual Maryann Hartman Award for Maine women of achievement.

This year, in addition to recognizing women who have contributed to Maine in a variety of ways, the program is inaugurating the Maryann Hartman Young Women's Social Justice Award.

“We would like to recognize a young woman between the ages of 12 and 18 who has distinguished herself through her dedication and contributions to social justice and change,” says Bonnie Whitener, a UMaine graduate student and one of the creators of the new award.

The award is designed to honor young women regardless of family background, race, culture, financial status or physical ability. The recipient of the award will not necessarily be chosen on the basis of high grades, appointment to leadership posts or excellence in athletics or the arts. Instead, the program is looking for young women who have been involved with organizations or programs that promote equality, have worked to improve their communities, shown concern for diversity of gender and culture or who have excelled in traditionally male-dominated activities or subjects.

For more information or to obtain nomination forms for either the Maryann Hartman Award or the Young Women's Social Justice Award, call Chris Halstead or Bonnie Whitener at 581-1228 or stop by the Women in the Curriculum office at 101 Fernald Hall at the University of Maine in Orono. To request a nomination form by email, write to .

The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 29, 2001.
University of Maine

News

Engineering Students Develop Low-Cost Aid for Blind People

June 7, 2001

Research contacts:
Rick Eason, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 207-581-2242
Rachel Morehouse, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 207-942-3364
Eric Soucie, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 207-945-6772

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

ORONO, Maine -- Two University of Maine engineering students have turned a bright idea into a low-cost prototype device to assist people who are blind. Rachel Morehouse of Bangor and Eric Soucie of Glenburn designed and built a machine that senses how close it is to objects and vibrates with different intensity depending on the distance.

“The idea came from Brian Higgins of Brewer who suggested it to our professor, Rick Eason,” said Morehouse. “We took the idea and used it to complete our capstone engineering project.”

All engineering students complete a final capstone project that requires them to apply what they learned during their degree programs. Morehouse and Soucie both received their bachelor's degrees in electrical and computer engineering on May 19.

In a manner similar to sonar, the device sends out an ultra-sound signal and receives the reflected signal back from an object. “Since we know the speed of sound in air,” says Soucie, “we can calculate the distance the signal has to travel starting from when it is sent to when it is received.”

The device vibrates more strongly as its gets closer to an object and then stops vibrating altogether when it comes within six inches of it.

To make it practical, the students kept the cost low. Altogether, the electronic parts and the plastic casing amount to about $20. The device measures about six inches long and two inches on a side and runs on three AA batteries.

“Our intent was to make a device for blind people that wouldn't cost a fortune,” says Morehouse. Other commercial devices accomplish the same purpose but tend to be more expensive.

Higgins is president of the National Blind Veterans of America and says he plans to pursue development of the device. “It can serve two purposes for blind people,” he says. “It can employ people in manufacturing, and it will be a useful thing for them to carry.”
“This device could be made a lot smaller and then mounted near the bottom of a cane,” adds Soucie. “That way it could warn people of how close they are to curbs and other potential obstacles.”

The invention has already passed one test. Morehouse and Soucie won the “Most Marketable” award in a regional student design competition at the Rochester Institute of Technology on May 12.
UMaine Employee Honored by New England Association for College Admission Counseling

June 11, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Kim Johnston, associate director of admissions at the University of Maine, has been named Counselor of the Year for the state of Maine by the New England Association for College Admission Counseling.

The award was presented last week at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts during the NEACAC's annual conference. Each year, the award recognizes one college admissions counselor and one high school guidance counselor from each of the six New England states.

Johnston has worked at the university since July of 1987. She has a BA from the University of Dallas and an MA from UMaine.

The high school winner in Maine was Eugene Bradbury, director of guidance at Washburn High School.

“What's wonderful about this award is that it does acknowledge the many ways that admission counselors contribute to both their profession and their communities,” says Jonathan Henry, director of admissions at UMaine. “In Kim's case, she is quite involved in community efforts as well as her own profession. She is well recognized in New England admission circles for her involvement and commitment to the profession.”

The New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) was founded in 1966 as a chartered affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). Its purpose is to establish and maintain high professional standards in admission, financial aid counseling, and guidance at secondary schools, colleges and universities.
Maine Chapter of ASPA Holds Annual Meeting

June 12, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- University of Maine System Chancellor Terrence MacTaggart is the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Maine Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.

The conference will be held on June 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Belfast Boathouse in Belfast.

The meeting will begin with the announcement of election results for new officers and board members. MacTaggart will then speak on the university's role in economic development. At the end of the meeting, the winners of the Public Administrator and Public Servant of the year awards will be announced.

The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) exists to advance the science, processes, and art of public administration. It was established in 1939 in response to major changes in the developing field of public administration and has over 10,000 members nationwide. For more information on the meeting, call Kenneth Nichols, UMaine assistant professor of public administration, at 581-1875.
Adult Educators to Convene at UMaine

June 13, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

Media Advisory

ORONO, Maine – More than 250 teachers and staff of the Maine Adult Education System will gather at the University of Maine June 18-22 for the 2001 Maine Adult Education Summer Institute. The professional development program will offer updates and workshops on the latest research and strategies in adult teaching and learning and family literacy.

A highlight of this year's institute will be the keynote address by retired U.S. Congressman William F. Goodling, R-Pa., long-time advocate of adult and family literacy programs and policy. His address, "A Literate America - a Must!," is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 20 in 100 Donald P. Corbett Business Administration Building. The public is welcome to attend.

First elected to Congress in 1974, Goodling served 13 terms before retiring last year. As a 26-year member and former chair of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Goodling has played a leading role in shaping policy in these crucial national arenas. A champion of local control and fiscally responsible government, he sees a literate, well-trained and skilled workforce as the key to keeping both his home state and the nation competitive worldwide.

The summer institute is conducted by the Center for Adult Learning and Literacy (CALL). Located within UMaine's College of Education and Human Development, CALL is entering its 22nd year of contracted services with the Department of Education as the resource center and professional development service provider for the Maine Adult Education System. CALL works with 130 adult and community education programs, located in more than 200 communities.

Maine's Adult Education System serves thousands of residents each year though adult high school diploma or equivalency programs, basic literacy classes, job related skills development programs and a variety of adult education courses. It is also conducting several multi-million federal grants, such as the Equipped for the Future initiative to develop standards, curriculum, instruction and performance measures for what adults need to know and be able to do to be successful as workers, citizens and parents in the new century.
Evidence of Ancient El Ninos and Cultural Development

June 14, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- In the July issue of the journal Geology, a team of researchers has suggested that the climate phenomenon known as El Nino has been a contributing factor in the rise and fall of ancient civilizations in Peru. Using archeological evidence from sites along the Peruvian coast, scientists from the University of Maine, Yale University, University of Pittsburgh and University of Miami suggest that the fate of organized Peruvian societies may be related to environmental changes caused by flood cycles starting about 5,000 years ago.

Daniel Sandweiss of the UMaine Department of Anthropology and Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies (IQCS), is lead author of the article which describes changes in mollusk assemblages in midden heaps. Co-authors are Kirk Maasch of the UMaine Dept. of Geological Sciences and IQCS, Richard L. Burger of Yale University, James B. Richardson III and Harold B. Rollins of the University of Pittsburgh and Amy Clement of the University of Miami.

"We found that there was a change in the frequency of El Nino events about 3,000 years ago and that this correlates in time with cultural change," says Sandweiss.

Other researchers have reported similar evidence from Central and North America, Greenland and the Middle East that suggests a relationship between climate and culture. "We don't argue that climate is the driving force behind cultural development, but the evidence points to a strong contributory role," says Sandweiss.

Mollusks are good environmental indicators, Sandweiss adds, because they are sensitive to rising temperatures. Since 1982, one species, Mesodesma donacium, has been driven further south, likely as a result of El Nino events. Researchers have shown that another species that lives further south along the Chilean coast, Choromytilus chorus, dies at an increasing rate when faced with water temperatures similar to those brought on by El Nino.

In ancient Peruvian sites, these two species were common in middens between 9 and 7 degrees south latitude but had disappeared by about 2,800 years ago. "The rapid disappearance of these species from northern Peruvian archaeological sites probably reflects an increase in the frequency of strong El Nino events to within the modern range of variability," the Geology paper states.

Early cultural development in coastal Peru has been dated to just after the apparent onset of El Nino about 5,800 years ago. It is marked by large temple complexes and elaborate public art. These systems had collapsed by the period between 2,900 and 2,800 years ago. The longest lasting of the temple complexes is also the only one in which evidence of flood mitigation has been found.
“By doing something proactive about El Niño, the leaders of this site (Manchay Bajo) appear to have been making an appropriate response to changes in their environment. Whether or not it really worked for the most serious effects of El Niño we can't say, but if it did, that could have given them more long-lasting control,” Sandweiss suggests.

“The close temporal correlation between these changes in El Nino frequency and the construction and abandonment of monumental temples in this region suggests that climate and culture are here linked in a complex causal network,” the authors wrote.
UMaine Center for Math and Science Education Receives $1.2 Million Federal Grant

June 14, 2001

Research contact: Susan McKay, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, 207-581-1015
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine's new interdisciplinary Center for Science and Mathematics Education Research has received a $1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop a model program to enhance mathematics and science education. UMaine faculty, students and public school teachers affiliated with the center will investigate the teaching and learning of science and mathematics and develop new courses for teacher training.

The grant will enable the center to have a direct impact on teaching in the public schools by spurring adoption of the latest research results on educational strategies.

“One of the greatest challenges we face as a nation is to interrupt the downward spiral in math and science literacy in our students,” says Rebecca Eilers, dean of the UMaine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “To break the cycle, we must equip future science and math teachers with new tools to inspire, stimulate and excite children's natural tendencies to want to understand the natural world. How to do this is an empirical question, one subject to behavioral research methodology, and that is in large part what this Center is for.”

The center was approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees last fall and includes faculty from a variety of academic disciplines. It will draw from ongoing research in the UMaine Physics Education Research Laboratory as well as projects in the departments of chemistry and computer science.

Participants will include faculty in those departments, the College of Education and Human Development and the departments of mathematics and statistics, geological sciences and biological sciences.

“Establishing this center will mean that students and faculty in our science departments will get more involved with teacher training and the public schools,” says Susan McKay of East Holden, professor and chair of the UMaine Department of Physics and Astronomy and director of the center. “We will bring visiting scientists who are experts in science and math education research to lead workshops and work with our faculty to develop new courses and improve existing ones for training teachers in our disciplines.”

Research on how students learn science and math is at the core of the center's activities. Studies will focus on the development of teaching techniques. In addition to its research role, the center will help to incorporate new techniques into teacher training at the university and
will make information available to public schools through workshops, classroom activities and new research-based curricula.

“The center will provide an umbrella under which many different disciplines can exchange ideas and data about effective teaching and research strategies in science and math,” says Mitchell Bruce of the Department of Chemistry. “Although these disciplines have different content, there are an amazing number of overlapping curricula issues. The center will be a model for how innovation can be sustained and extended well beyond the University.”

A new science and mathematics education graduate program, a Master's in Science Teaching (MST), will also be developed. It will combine instruction and practice in exemplary teaching methods, content and research findings in its courses, including effective use of technology. The new degree program will be aimed at practicing teachers as well as recent graduates, scientists, engineers, and mathematicians who want to pursue a teaching career.

An emphasis will be put on active learning, inquiry-based methods of instruction, says McKay. Steve Kaback, a lecturer from Old Town in physics education who will be the assistant director of the center, says that students who learn science in that manner have a “more authentic experience doing science.”

Students bring a variety of skills and knowledge to classrooms, says Kaback, and the center will focus on new techniques for evaluating how well students are learning. Classroom lessons can then be adjusted to target difficulties that arise, he points out.

Michael Wittmann, a UMaine assistant professor specializing in physics education research and the director of the Physics Education Research Laboratory, will also be affiliated with the center. Wittmann received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1998 and is currently testing a new university curriculum that he developed to teach quantum mechanics to scientists and engineers. He is also involved in incorporating research-based teaching strategies into the Department of Physics and Astronomy's introductory courses.

The federal funds provide support for an interdisciplinary effort to expand these individual and departmental efforts and start new initiatives. Begun in 1995, the Physics Education Research Laboratory has a track record of attracting and retaining students in physics and engineering physics, says McKay.

“The number of student enrolled in physics nationally is down, but that has not been true here. We have had an increase, and we think our physics education research program has attracted students who might not have enrolled in physics otherwise,” she says.

The new center is expected to begin developing courses and curricula during the summer and fall. Courses and workshops will be launched in the summer and fall of 2002.
UMaine Professor Named Music Educator of the Year

June 14, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – Curvin Farnham, associate professor of music and director of bands at the University of Maine, has been named the Music Educator of the Year by the Maine Music Educators Association.

Farnham, who has taught in UMaine's School of Performing Arts since 1985, received the award at the MMEA's annual banquet and awards ceremony on May 19.

The award is given to one or more MMEA members to recognize exceptional support and outstanding accomplishment in the advancement of music education in the schools of Maine.

“It's a little unusual for this organization, which is made up mostly of public school music educators, to honor a college teacher in this manner,” says Farnham. “I said to people at the banquet that it seems as though when you give someone an honor, it should be given to someone who struggled, who's given of themselves to the point that they've gone without, but I can't say that, because I feel as though I've always done what I wanted to do.”

Farnham received his B.M. in music education from the Northern Conservatory of Music and did graduate work at the Vandercook College of Music in Chicago. He has studied conducting with Richard Castiglione, formerly of the Boston Conservatory, and Anthony Maiello, director of instrumental studies at George Mason University.

Farnham taught in the public school system for 22 years before being hired by the University of Maine in 1985 to teach future teachers.

“Teaching college students is a reward, but also a very big responsibility. You cannot talk about teaching, and then teach a different way than you've been talking about. I'm convinced that we teach by example, not words,” he says “You can't talk about being a responsible teacher, and then show up 15 minutes late each day. We can't say that we want to nurture kids, and then turn around and try to teach through fear. It's a weighty responsibility, but one of the best I've ever felt I've had.”

He is past president of the Maine Music Educators Association, and has been elected to the American School Band Directors Association and Pi Kappa Lambda. Farnham also holds membership in the Music Educators National Conference, the College Band Directors National Association, the New England College Band Directors Association, the National Band Association and the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensembles.

Shianne Wheeler, director of bands at Leonard Middle School in Old Town and a UMaine alumnus, nominated Farnham for the award.
“In college, I was in all of Professor Farnham's music education methods classes and I played in the University Symphonic Band under his direction,” says Wheeler. “Chip has a genuine love for music education and instills this passion in his students.”

Farnham says that the most rewarding part of teaching music has been the ability to make a difference in the lives of his students, and credits his high school band teacher for his present career.

“I was brought up in a very small town and was probably destined to be a fourth or fifth generation lobsterman, but something she said sparked in me the desire to go on and do something different with my life,” says Farnham. “Teachers, by the fact of their jobs, have a tremendous amount of power, because we can say something at any given moment that can change a child's life.”

Teaching, says Farnham, gives people an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, a trait he says all people share.

“I think we all want others to find that things are a little bit better with us here than without us,” says Farnham. “Teaching gives us that chance, and for me, it's been a pleasure and an honor.”

Resources for: Prospective Students, Current Students, Researchers, Visitors & Alumni, Faculty& Staff, Outreach, News & Events, Athletic News

The University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469
207-581-1110
A Member of the University of Maine System
New $1.5 Million R&D Center Under Construction

June 18, 2001
Research contact: James “Jake” Ward, Department of Industrial Cooperation, 207-581-2200
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Construction of a $1.5 million research and development center in the Maine Technology Park in Orono will open a new chapter in the state's economic textbook by bringing high tech businesses together with University of Maine researchers under one roof. The facility, known as the Target Technology Center, is being built by the Sheridan Corporation of Fairfield for the Bangor Target Development Corporation in a partnership with the Town of Orono, UMaine and the State of Maine.

“Our commitment to this project demonstrates the role that universities can play in creating jobs and stimulating economic growth,” says UMaine President Peter H. Hoff. “Taking ideas from the lab to the marketplace is critical if Maine is to diversify its economy and keep our graduates from leaving the state for good jobs.”

Bangor Target is a non-profit organization that fosters economic development in the Bangor region. According to Ed Clift, CEO of Merrill Bank and president of Bangor Target, the Orono facility is “the culmination of two years of hard work from the time this was first considered by our board. It would not have gone forward without the partnerships that have come together.”

In 1999, the State Legislature approved $750,000 for the facility to stimulate information technology as part of an advanced technology development center program. It is one of seven similar facilities that focus on forestry, biotechnology and other topics. Bangor Target paid the closing and commission costs on land donated by the Town in the park, and UMaine will lease the bulk of the 20,000 square-foot facility through its Department of Industrial Cooperation (DIC).

According to Jake Ward, director of DIC, the purpose of the facility is to foster interactions among UMaine graduate students, scientists and businesses leading to economic growth. “We're working with a handful of start-up companies in software and technology development. We are evaluating these opportunities to see if they're mature enough to move toward commercialization,” says Ward.

Among the projects already scheduled to occupy the building is a powerful supercomputer system being financed by the Department of Defense. Engineers and computer scientists will work with Applied Thermal Sciences (ATS) of Sanford to conduct research on missile guidance systems with support from a $1.5 million U.S. Army contract. The facility includes security measures to conduct classified research.
“We conduct simulations of missiles in flight,” says Jack Smith, vice-president of ATS, “and that requires very sophisticated computer code. The army now evaluates missiles by building and flying them. That is enormously expensive. Using computer models, we can conduct a simulation, modify some aspects of the design and see how they change the performance. The computer becomes a design tool, and the result is that we can reduce the cost to the Army of building and testing missiles.”

The supercomputer will also be used for basic technology research. Scientists in the Department of Computer Science will evaluate the performance of the software while computer engineers will investigate how fast and efficiently the machine runs. They will focus on networking and the speed of information transfer.

Scientists from UMaine's National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis will use office space in the Target Technology Center to conduct research through two new federal grants. Other portions of the building will be leased to new and existing companies that need proximity to research facilities.

An advisory committee of business and economic development specialists will be established to decide which new companies are brought into the facility.

Researchers and companies will share some areas and office equipment such as a video conferencing room that could be used for workshops and academic courses. New companies will be coached in applying for state and federal grants as well as opportunities through the Maine Technology Institute (MTI).

“MTI provides a valuable resource for new companies. If we didn't have them, we wouldn't be going into the incubator program. It's tough enough to start a company. You need an initial pot of money to go through those seed activities,” says Ward.

“Here, we have a chance to link all these activities together. We have a synergy among the companies and the researchers and the ability to leverage resources for multiple purposes. Some of the companies moving in want to help sponsor graduate students and have them working on projects together,” he adds.

“We couldn't do what we do without access to the resources at the university,” says Smith of ATS. “We couldn't afford to hire the computer scientists and engineers for just one project. The synergy that we have with the university also allows the professors and the students to get involved in the latest technology.”

The ultimate goal is the creation of successful companies that can locate elsewhere in Maine. Bangor Target Development will help small companies in that transition. The resulting vacancies in the new incubator building will create opportunities for other businesses, Ward notes. The facility could also provide space for new UMaine research projects.

The facility is expected to be ready for occupancy in the fall, 2001.
U.S. Small Business Administration Honors UMaine Professor

June 18, 2001

Media contact: James McConnon, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3165
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has honored James C. McConnon of Orono as the Home-Based Business Advocate of 2001 for Maine and New England. Since 1989, McConnon has been a business and economics specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

McConnon is also affiliated with the Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy at UMaine. He regularly conducts applied research and presents information about business trends and opportunities to area communities. He has worked closely with the owners of home-based businesses such as graphic artists, bed and breakfasts and small-scale food processors.

“This award recognizes what our team of small and home-based business specialists in Extension has been doing for many years now,” he says. “Our purpose is to help these businesses succeed, and a lot of people are working to make that happen every day throughout the state.”

The award is the first given by the SBA in Maine in recognition of services to home-based business. “I am particularly pleased that these businesses have been validated as a legitimate part of our business community,” he says.

McConnon estimates that about 50,000 households in Maine have at least one member who is self-employed and earns a significant portion of that household's income. “Especially in rural areas where job opportunities are declining, these businesses enable people to live and raise their families in their communities. They are vital to the quality of life of Maine people.”

McConnon was nominated for the award by John Massaua, statewide director of the Maine Small Business Development Centers. In his nomination, Massaua noted that McConnon's workshops and educational programs have reached more than 5,000 individuals across Maine.

The nomination also recognizes McConnon's work with federal and state agencies. He is a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Home-Based and Micro Business Design Team, comprised of 16 business and economic development specialists around the country. He works with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development's Working Group on Entrepreneurship and has given valuable input into state policy to assist small and home-based businesses in Maine.
According to Lavon Bartel, director of Cooperative Extension, “Jim has developed a strong statewide team that benefits individual business owners and the communities where they reside. That means a great deal to Maine's economic base and to all of us in Extension. It's been a great pleasure to see Jim's work recognized for its value to Maine.”

“The most rewarding thing for me is being part of an effective team and seeing the new skills that people learn and use to improve their businesses,” says McConnon. “I've seen people reach their own goals and objectives by using research-based information to make better decisions. Many owners of home-based child care businesses, for example, have found that quality child care and good financial management go hand in hand.”

McConnon credits his success to being part of an effective team of Extension educators as well as Extension's strong collaboration with other organizations. They include the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Maine Small Business Development Centers, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, the Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community, the Maine Child Resource Development Centers, the Maine Department of Agriculture, the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and many other local, state and federal partners.

In addition to his educational activities, McConnon conducts research on retail trade patterns, micro-enterprise development and economic impacts. He shares his knowledge and experience with Maine business owners and citizens annually through workshops and conferences throughout the state, such as the Mid-Coast Home-Based Business Conference in Belfast and the Blaine House Conference on Small Business.

McConnon operates his own business in Orono, Wildwood Farm, which has been designated as an American Tree Farm.

He came to Maine in 1989 after receiving a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Iowa State University.
Upward Bound Begins 36th Year at UMaine

Media: Registration schedule is noted at the end of this release

June 21, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine –Upward Bound is ready for the arrival of 150 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors served by the federally funded college preparation program at the University of Maine. The students converge on campus Saturday, June 23 to begin a six-week academic and career exploration experience.

Boomerangs will be in vogue on T-shirts and as a recurring symbol of this year's theme, “Be the Difference,” reminding students that what they throw out into the world returns to them, says Linda Ives, UMaine Upward Bound director. The theme comes from Ghandi's teaching, “Be the difference you want to see in the world.”

On Sunday, the students and staff head for Adventure Bound in Caratunk for three days of orientation and team building activities.

The majority of the students (100) are in the Classic Upward Bound general academic support and enrichment program, which is in its 36th year at UMaine. They attend schools served throughout the academic year by UMaine Upward Bound counselors in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties. The approximately 50 students in UMaine's Regional Math-Science Center, in its 10th year, are highly motivated math, science and technology students from targeted high schools around New England.

During the UMaine summer program, the students take classes in math, science, English, foreign language, career exploration, SAT preparation and a variety of electives. In addition, students have a research agenda, working on projects with UMaine faculty, as well as community job and service obligations.

Upward Bound is an educational opportunity program for high school students from low-income, first-generation college families. Its goal is to help the students overcome economic, social, academic and class barriers to higher education and break cycles of generational poverty.

Media Note: A large tent will be set up outside York Hall to serve as Upward Bound headquarters during registration from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday. Media contacts at registration are: Linda Ives, director; Becky Colannino, assistant director; and William Ellis, Math/Science program coordinator. One of the first theme-related campus events is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, when Steven Wessler, director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Hate Violence, located at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, addresses the students. Wessler's talk on building respect and understanding in communities begins at 7 p.m. in Room 100, D.P. Corbett Business Administration Building.
UMaine Bus Program Deemed a Success; Will Continue

June 25, 2001

Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

University of Maine students, faculty and staff members took advantage of the opportunity to take rides on The Bus, without paying a cash fare, almost 25,000 times during the 2000-2001 academic year.

The fare-free rides were made available because of a unique pilot program developed last summer. The City of Bangor, which operates The Bus public transportation system, along with Orono, Old Town, Veazie, UMaine and the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS) joined forces to develop and implement the program.

In exchange for a $10,000 payment from UMaine, students, faculty and staff members are allowed to ride on the Orono-Old Town-Veazie route by displaying their university identification card.

"Ridership exceeded our expectations," says Joseph McNeil, who manages The Bus. "We saw steady use through the entire academic year, with a noticeable increase, as we had anticipated, in the spring semester."

A December survey of people using the service showed that 64 percent of the UMaine riders were students, with the rest being faculty or staff members. About 10,000 users reported that they did not use The Bus before the new system was put into place. "We had an 11.34 percent ridership increase on the Orono-Old Town-Veazie route, as compared to the previous year," McNeil says.

The busiest day for the service was Wednesday, March 7, when people took 223 rides. That week was the busiest week of the year, as 902 rides were taken. April was the peak month with 3,308 rides.

The city calculates that UMaine's payment made up for the fares that were not paid by riders. University and city officials have recently agreed to extend the program for another year.

"We are pleased that so many from our community have taken advantage of this opportunity, and we expect use to continue to grow over time," says Richard Chapman, UMaine's vice president for student affairs. "This initiative fits well with our goals, as it benefits the environment, reduces the pressure on our campus parking system and provides a useful service to our students, faculty and staff.

“It is especially gratifying to see such positive results from this collaboration among UMaine, Bangor and the other communities involved. The success of this project is to our mutual benefit,” Chapman says.
When the program was announced last year, Donald Cooper, a senior transit/transportation planner with BACTS, noted that the communities of Orono, Old Town and Veazie stood to benefit in a variety of ways.

"Reductions in things like pollution, congestion and accidents are among the desired outcomes when one begins a project of this nature," he says. "It is gratifying to see this initiative continue, because the longer it goes on, the better we will be able to identify and measure the benefits to our communities."
Literacy Outside School More Real for Boys

June 26, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

The problem with boys as portrayed by the popular media presents only part of a complex picture of the social, school and literate lives of adolescent males, according to a collaborative study from the University of Maine and Rutgers University.

Far from being socially alienated, unemotional and disinterested in school, boys in the study had close groups of friends with whom they readily shared interests and concerns, and they recognized the necessity – if not the relevance – of schooling for success, say Jeffrey Wilhelm of UMaine and Michael Smith of Rutgers. And rather than being turned off by reading as a feminine activity as often reported in the on-going debate, the boys valued and employed literacy in a variety of meaningful ways.

Most of the research establishing literacy as the widest current gender gap and the public attention it generates ignores the fact that some boys who reject or dislike school-based literacy lessons use reading and writing in varied and productive ways in other areas of their lives, say Wilhelm and Smith. Both have written extensively about the teaching and learning of literacy.

The consistent conversation and reports generalizing boys' personal, social and academic shortcomings inspired the researchers to take a closer look at the controversy, not to determine more quantitative averages, but to consider individual differences. By following a diverse group of adolescent boys and examining their favorite activities, as well as their attitudes toward reading, Smith and Wilhelm connected what boys like to do and how their literate behavior plays into those interests.

The yearlong study involved 49 sixth-12th grade boys, who ran the gamut of ethnicity, social class, geography and school success at four diverse sites: an urban high school comprised almost entirely of African American and Puerto Rican students; a comprehensive suburban high school; a rural school with a large Native American population; and a private all-boys school.

While schools do tend to work against the literacy development of boys in subtle and complex ways, the researchers concluded, boys in the study relied on and engaged in a broad array of literate activity that had an important function in their lives and accomplishments outside of the classroom.

Smith and Wilhelm are detailing and their findings and recommendations for schools in a book tentatively titled “Reading Don't Fix No Chevies:” The Place of Literacy in the Lives of Young Men, forthcoming from Heinemann.
Most of the boys felt bored and disenfranchised by school. Knowing how to read was important; reading itself was not. Almost universally, the boys indicated that school curriculum did not work for them and did not address their interests or goals. However, they generally believed in the necessity of school as a credentialing agency to get to the real life stuff they desired – freedom, possibilities and success.

The boys expressed a huge contrast between school reading and life reading. School reading was assigned; life reading was freely chosen. School reading was unconnected to their interests; life reading built on their developed interests. School reading was usually too long and too hard; life reading usually consisted of short passages and was sometimes challenging, but the boys felt competent to read what they chose. School reading was not used; life reading was readily applied to their lives. School reading involved mostly books and textbooks; life reading involved media, video, TV, music lyrics, Internet sites and a variety of popular culture texts, magazines and newspapers.

Although only seven of the boys turned to books outside of school, which is the conventional description of being a reader, all of the boys were engaged in literate activity in important ways.

Among highlights of the study:

• Being part of a small close-knit group of male friends was absolutely central to boys' lives and often influenced their literate activities. For example, one boy regularly checks the Internet or newspapers to keep up with hockey scores because his friends expect him to know this information. Another, who admits to hating school and homework, is a professional wrestling aficionado and keeps a notebook detailing more than 600 wrestling moves. This passion for the sport is a quality that defines him to his friends.

• The desire for visible and immediate signs of accomplishment was important to all the boys. Being good at something motivates their activity in that field, and they quickly give up on something if they don't see progress. Only one boy reported feeling this sense of accomplishment in his reading.

• They want to be challenged, but in contexts in which they feel confident of success or at least improvement. One of the primary attractions of video games is that the level of difficulty increases with the player's expertise. Many of the boys recalled reading “Goosebumps” books, which they liked but are now too easy. However, some currently feel overmatched by school reading assignments, which defeats the challenge.

• Readings the boys enjoy have a purpose: getting information, figuring out what happens, making things, keeping track of things, helping others. A high school student who was a talented mechanic but couldn't read exemplified their appreciation of literacy in doing important work. He depended on magazine illustrations to guide him, and if he needed more details, he would ask someone to read the accompanying text.

• The desire for choice and freedom in classroom texts, assignments and projects was pervasive. When literacy touches their passions and interests, the boys embrace it as a way to feed those interests. They almost uniformly enjoy the novelty brought by textual ruptures like satire and irony that allows them to see in a new way. Only one boy in the study did not like watching the TV show, “The Simpsons.”

• The boys viewed school, and English class in particular, as immutable. Though they had many critiques of how school failed to address their needs for relevance, interest, choice, competence and learning, they did not see how it could be changed to work better for them.
• The importance of a positive teacher-student relationship to learning or not learning and the boys' perspective of an inherent social contract to be appropriately educated was evident across the board. As the highly reluctant student so well versed in the language and maneuvers of wrestling said of his English teacher: “If she even knew that I was interested in wrestling, I would read her books.”

Teachers, the researchers say, must embrace a wider perspective of literacy and blend a variety of sources and strategies to connect with and motivate students and effectively prepare both boys and girls for a multi-media communications future.

While emphasizing their own belief in the importance of the traditional role of literacy and literature in the classroom, Smith and Wilhelm suggest that schools:

- expand their view of what counts as worthwhile reading
- connect literacy instruction to the interests that boys value
- offer a choice and some control over what students read
- create lessons that are active, social and visual (such as the use of drama)
- teach before students read the text rather than after to give them a sense of competence going into the reading

Wilhelm and Smith are associate professors of literacy education and directors of the National Writing Project at their respective institutions.

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Wilhelm is on sabbatical, doing research in Australia, but can be reached via e-mail.
UMaine to Participate in 2002 Clean Snowmobile Challenge

June 27, 2001

Media contact: Nick Houtman, UMaine Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Mark Burd, SAE Public Relations Manager, 724-772-4052

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine will join 16 other engineering schools at the third annual Clean Snowmobile Challenge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in March, 2002. The event is sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE International).

Schools accepted into the competition had to demonstrate that they have the skill and interest to develop a snowmobile design that produces less air pollution and increases fuel efficiency. Last spring, a team of four UMaine mechanical engineering students tested a snowmobile for emissions, power output and noise levels to establish a baseline for further research. They worked with Mick Peterson, assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

UMaine students participating in the competition will enroll in a fall engineering design course.

The SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge is part of the society's Collegiate Design Series which engages teams of student engineers to find solutions to real world challenges by designing, building, and operating a vehicle within a strict set of contest rules. This competition focuses on producing snowmobiles that are cleaner, quieter, and more environmentally friendly, without significantly impacting the performance of the machine.

"Snowmobiles are more than just a mode of transportation," stated Neil Schilke, 2001 SAE President. "These machines are a means to enjoy the natural beauty of the winter season. The recreational use of sleds is part of our personal freedom. Yet, as stewards of our environment, we must enjoy this freedom responsibly."

Dr. Lori Fussell, event co-founder adds, "Engaging students to utilize innovation and technology in making sleds that are more environmentally friendly is what this competition is all about. The success of this event is growing each year as the number of participating teams and the public interest in the technology increases."

Scheduled participants for 2002 include: Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, Michigan Technological University, University of Waterloo (Ont.), Minnesota State University at Mankato, University at Buffalo (SUNY), University of Idaho, University of Alberta, Clarkson University, Kettering University, University of Wyoming, University of Alaska, Idaho State University, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Montana State University, University of Maine, and University of Wisconsin at Platteville.

More information on CSC2002 and other collegiate programs sponsored by SAE is available at www.sae.org, or from Lori Pail at (724)772-8534, lorile@sae.org.
Visitors to Add Reality to Institute Tolerance Theme

July 12, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

Media Advisory

Media are invited to all sessions of the Middle Level Education Institute and are welcome to interview consultants and participants.

ORONO, Maine -- African-American and Hispanic high school students from New York City will add their perspectives to the theme of creating respect and tolerance in schools during the final day of the University of Maine's Middle Level Education Institute on Friday, July 13. The eight students from Walton High School in the Bronx will participate on a panel with a group of Orono High School students who visited Walton last spring as part of a service learning and public service program. The panel will also include students from Auburn Middle School.

Friday's event begins at 8 a.m. with a general session featuring Steve Wessler, director of the Center for the Prevention of Hate/Violence at the University of Southern Maine, and the student panel. The opening session runs until 9:30 a.m. in 100 D.P. Corbett Business Administration Building.

Follow-up workshops on related issues will be held from 9:45 a.m.-noon in various rooms at the Doris Twitchell Allen Village housing complex on the Rangeley Road. They include: Empowering Middle Schools Students through Service Learning (teachers and students from Auburn Middle School); Creating a Safe School and Approaching the “Undiscussables” (Sue Thompson, University of Missouri at Kansas City); Creating Cross-Cultural Ties (Orono and Walton High teachers and students); Civil Rights Teams: A Look at the First Year (Teachers and students from SeDoMoCha Middle School in Dover-Foxcroft); Reaching Real Peace: Student to Student (Auburn Middle School students and their dean of students).

The Walton High Students will be accompanied at the Institute by their music teacher Camie Carter, a former Orono resident. During their weekend in Maine, the students will tour the UMaine campus, take in area sights such as Mount Desert Island, have a lobster dinner, attend church services and take in other activities with host families before heading back to the Bronx via bus Sunday afternoon.

About 160 educators from across Maine, as well as from Louisiana, Arkansas, Colorado and Florida, are attending the annual Middle Level Education Institute, founded and directed by UMaine Professor Ed Brazee.
UMaine Hosts Sixth Annual Math 4 ME! Program

July 13, 2001
Media Contact: Jennifer Leonard, Women's Resource Center, 581-1508
Peter Cook, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3756

ORONO – The Women's Resource Center at the University of Maine will hold its sixth annual math summer camp, Math 4 ME!, July 15 through July 21. This program emphasizes the connection between gender equity and girls' interest and success in math, and helps build self-esteem and math skills for high school girls.

This year's camp includes challenging math workshops ranging from graph theory and number theory to geographic information systems and StarLogo as well as a wide range of esteem building workshops like personal safety techniques, career options in math and the sciences and outdoor leadership.

Event highlights include the Shakespeare Festival, hiking on the university's trails, individual theater and music opportunities and one on one interaction in their morning and afternoon workshops.

Math 4 ME! is a local effort reflective of the national effort to help change the common experience for girls in math. Traditionally in school, girls' aspirations, self-esteem and academic achievements are underestimated and devalued and their exposure to educational opportunities in math, computer and science are limited compared with the experiences of boys.

The goal of the camp is to provide challenging mathematics delivered in a collaborative, innovative setting by instructors who serve as role models, and to support girls as they enter traditionally male-dominated fields.

For more information, call the Women's Resource Center at 581-1508, or email Jen Leonard.
Kennedy Named UMaine Executive Vice President

July 16, 2001
Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO -- Robert A. Kennedy, UMaine's provost and vice president for academic affairs since July 2000, has been named executive vice president at the university, a change that reflects increased responsibilities in UMaine's day-to-day operation.

The change, which UMaine President Peter S. Hoff initiated, was approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees on July 9.

"Vice President Kennedy has done an outstanding job over the past year and I am pleased that he has agreed to assume this expanded role," Hoff explains. "He has been a valuable leader in advancing UMaine's statewide teaching, research, and public engagement responsibilities."

"As executive vice president, Kennedy will increase his involvement in the overall direction of university operations, especially in the implementation and integration of the university's strategic plan," Hoff adds. "He has proven he has the talent, experience, and community respect to achieve outstanding results."

Within the UMaine administrative structure, the executive vice president is second to the president in authority and responsibility. There are three other vice presidents, who continue to report to President Hoff, whose efforts are co-ordinated by the executive vice president.

Kennedy is a plant scientist who came to UMaine from Texas A&M University, where he had served as vice president for research and associate provost for graduate studies since 1992. He has a distinguished record of teaching and research, a record which includes 42 research grants and 57 scholarly publications. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley in 1974.

He and his family live in Veazie.
Maine Teens Participate in 4-H Trip to Washington, D.C.

July 19, 2001
Media contact: Joe Alex, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-3877,

Note to editors: Photos of the students meeting with congressional representatives and engaged in other activities are available from Joe Alex at the above phone number.

ORONO, Maine -- Nineteen Maine 4-H teens spent the week of July 9th in Washington D.C. learning about how our national government works in a leadership program called Citizen Washington Focus (CWF). It is held at the National 4-H Center just outside Washington D.C. in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Maine 4-H members were joined that week by over 350 other 4-H youth from throughout the nation.

During the week, the participants did mock legislation, writing, presenting and debating bills; visited their representatives and senators; toured memorials, the National Zoo and Smithsonian museums; and attended a dinner theater.

The Maine delegation had the opportunity to ask questions and share concerns with Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins and Representatives Tom Allen and John Baldacci. They also saw President Bush leave Capitol Hill and met Miss Universe.

Participants from Maine were: Amanda Stinson, Bowdoin; Natalie Keene, Auburn; Barbara Wadsworth, Hiram; Janice Sawyer, Windham; Lynn Gallagher, Gray; Sarah Furey and Casey Marstaller, North Yarmouth; Ella Coffren, Jay; Emily Jordan and Lindsey Hardison, Ellsworth; Bobbi Jean Moody and Chris Gagne, Sidney; Brittany Payson, Hope; Jenny Sayer, Canton; Holly Abrams and Justus Riddell, Sebago; Robin Treworgy, Levant; Matt Malek, Norridgewock and Addie Qualey, Limington. The chaperones were Karen Hatch-Gagne, Kennebec County Extension educator and Joe Alex, 4-H state youth development professional.

“These young people saw first hand through all the workshops, tours and activities how our government works,” explains Alex. “These 4-H members now have ideas on how to be better citizens and leaders and they had a lot of fun in the process. It was a very memorable trip.”

More information about educational opportunities available through 4-H programs is available from local Extension 4-H Educators in each county.
New Engineering Advanced Research Degree Program to Start this Fall

July 19, 2001
Media contact: Donald Grant, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, 207-581-2120
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Engineering students at the University of Maine will no longer have to leave the state to pursue an advanced research degree in the mechanical properties of structures and new materials. As a result of recent action by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, the Department of Mechanical Engineering will offer a Ph.D. degree program with the start of the fall semester.

Students will be able to take advantage of a strong research program in composite materials and other fields. “In the last fiscal year, faculty in the department brought in $2.8 million in grants and contracts,” says Donald Grant, department chair.

Among those grant projects are research on the design and manufacture of a composite strut for an electric motor for the next generation U.S. Navy destroyer and a study of the biomechanics of whale movement. Other ongoing research focuses on the properties of tires, composite ship hulls and carbon fiber bicycle frames. Grant expects four students to enroll in the program this fall.

Students are also involved in a project to develop a cleaner, more environmentally friendly snowmobile. They will travel to Jackson Hole, Wyoming next March to compete against teams from 16 other U.S. and Canadian universities in a program sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers.

More information is available from Grant, 207-581-2120 or Michael (“Mick”) Peterson, graduate student coordinator, 207-581-2129.
New Composites Technology Being Developed to Protect Wood Piers from Shipworm Damage

July 23, 2001
Research contact: Roberto Lopez-Anido, Advanced Engineered Wood Composite Center, 207-581-2119. Email after July 23
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine engineers are at work on a new composites technology that may protect piers in coastal waters from shipworm attack. Although in its early stages, the research has attracted a $110,577 two-year grant from the Maine Sea Grant Program and participation from a Maine composites manufacturing company, the Kenway Corporation of Augusta.

“Our experimental approach is to create a shield that is reinforced with fiberglass fabric in a polymer that is durable in the marine environment,” says Roberto Lopez-Anido, assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and a member of the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center (AEWC).

In laboratory tests at AEWC, Lopez-Anido and his colleagues have exposed the material to sea water, weather extremes and mechanical stresses. “We're going to call the material a FRP Shield. It will provide strength to the wood pile and protection from marine borers such as shipworms.” FRP stands for fiber-reinforced polymer.

Also working on the project are Tom Sandford of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Barry Goodell of the Department of Forest Management; Habib Dagher of the AEWC; Tony Michael, a civil engineering graduate student from Cyprus; and Todd Wilson, an undergraduate in mechanical engineering technology from Orono.

Some of the materials being tested at the Center have been provided by the Kenway Corporation. Kenway is a manufacturer of corrosion resistant fiber reinforced polymer pipes, flanges and other custom molded products. “This is a technology that can be readily moved to industry,” says Lopez-Anido, “and we want to compare how a business uses it with what we do in the lab.”

Kenway and Lopez-Anido are also cooperating in development of a new composite bridge between the towns of Union and Washington in Knox County. That bridge is scheduled to be installed this fall.

Lopez-Anido specializes in the application of FRP composites to highway bridges. The new pier shield is unique, he says, in the manner in which it is fabricated and applied to a piling. The shield is designed to be placed around a piling from the mud to the high tide line.
“We don't apply the shield above the high tide line because of problems with fungi that attack wood pilings in that area. We need to let the piling breathe, and the shield above the high tide line could make the fungi problem even worse,” says Lopez-Anido.

Other researchers have developed and tested plastic pilings in Maine coastal waters, but those materials have proven to be too brittle. Concrete piling can also be used, but wood remains the material of choice. None of the new FRP Shields have yet been installed on a piling to test performance under actual operating conditions.

FRP materials are used in existing commercial piling products that consist of FRP surrounding a concrete core, says Lopez-Anido.

Shipworms have been a scourge of wooden ships and piers for centuries, but until recently, they were unknown in Maine's cold coastal waters. Last year, shipworms caused millions of dollars in damages to harbor and aquaculture facilities in Maine.
UMaine Bureau of Labor Education Releases Briefing Paper on Labor Demographics

July 23, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – A new briefing paper from the University of Maine's Bureau of Labor Education shows that although union membership has declined in recent years, organized labor can still have a positive effect on the American workplace.

“Labor's Demographics Report for 2001” explores the state of unions and outlines the challenges facing the labor movement in responding to the rapidly changing workplace.

“Unions have fallen from a high of around 35 percent of the workforce in the mid-1950s to nearly 14 percent now,” says John Hanson, director of the Bureau of Labor Education. “There are many reasons for that, but the biggest is that those industries that were historically unionized are where the economy is losing jobs.”

The number of union members has dropped by 219,000 members from the previous year. Unionized workers made up 13.9 percent of the workforce in 1999 and 13.5 in 2000.

Hanson says that organized labor is not likely to get those members back, because many of the jobs they held are going to offshore workers, and other jobs are simply being made obsolete by the growing technology of the workplace.

Another reason union strength has declined, according to Hanson, is because some unions have been slow in adapting to the changing nature of not only the workplace, but also to the attitudes of the new workforce.

“The workforce is much more transient than it has been in the past. We lived in a time not too far back when people would stay in their jobs far longer, and they had a stake in what kind of environment the workplace provided,” says Hanson. “That's no longer true and you rarely hear about anyone working for a company and staying there for their entire career.”

Hanson has interviewed young workers and says that most of them have no intention of staying with the company that hired them for their entry-level position.

“They don't have as much commitment to the workplace, and there is a sense of them just passing through,” says Hanson. “This makes them less likely to think about the structures in place that have to do with labor-management relations.”

One of the main reasons for this, says Hanson, is that these workers have come to expect that major employers will let people go at the slightest change in the market. Because of this, he
says, most workers sense whatever loyalty they might have had toward the employer has not been reciprocated or appreciated.

“Given that reality of the new economy, it is no wonder that workers seek out the same immediate rewards rather than putting in their time, expecting to move up through the ranks,” says Hanson.

These workers, says Hanson, have different needs than unions did in the past, and lists single-parent families as an example.

“The rapidly growing number of single-parent families are rethinking what they want and expect out of a job, and one of the growing expectations is on-site daycare,” says Hanson. “Are unions going into collective bargaining agreements demanding that one of the benefits of employment be on-site daycare?”

This argument is especially strong, says Hanson, because the companies that have such programs show lower rates of absenteeism and higher productivity.

“People tend to work more effectively when they know their child is being well cared and provided for,” says Hanson.

By changing focus and adapting to the needs of new workers, Hanson says unions can put themselves on the forefront of issues related to those workers, making them more attractive.

“It's a whole different dynamic now and the only way unions are going to attract new members is if they are responsive to the needs of these workers,” says Hanson.

Another issue that unions will face in the future and should be pushing for is flexible working hours, says Hanson.

“There is nothing magical about having to work between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. A lot of people would feel better about their workplace if they could work with their employer to determine a schedule that works for them,” says Hanson. “For a lot of people, especially those with family obligations, this would be a tremendous benefit.”

In Maine, unionized workers make up 14 percent of the workforce, a drop of around one percent from last year, which means the state is near the national average. Alaska has the highest percentage of union members with 21 percent and Virginia has the lowest with 5.6.

Hanson says the actual percentages of union members don't tell the whole story.

“The real figure is not union membership, but who is represented by unions. Who works in these places where the employer-management relationship is governed by a bilateral collectively bargained contract,” says Hanson.

In many states, even though workers may not be union members, they are still represented by a union and receive the benefits of the collective bargaining process through higher wages and better benefit packages. In 2000, 1.7 million wage earners were not actual members of unions, but received the benefits that unions provided.

In 2000, the median weekly earnings for unionized wage and salary workers was $696. For employees not represented by a union, the earnings were $542, a difference of 28.4 percent. It is for benefits like this that Hanson says the labor movement and the public policy debate related to unions is such an important area of study.
“I think that if you want to have the quality of life in the state of Maine that we all expect and want, then you have to make sure people are adequately taken care of and make sure our public policy efforts are geared toward improving the overall quality of life in the state,” says Hanson. “Do we want the kind of economy where working men and women share in the fruits of their labor and get a larger share of the wealth they produce? I think the answer needs to be most definitely yes.”
Volunteers Sought for SAD Studies

July 23, 2001
Research contact: Sandra Sigmon, Dept. of Psychology, 207-581-2038; Nina Boulard, Dept. of Psychology, 207-581-2031
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Researchers at the University of Maine are seeking volunteers for two studies of seasonal affective disorder, also known as SAD. The disorder predominantly affects women and is marked by winter time feelings of depression, lethargy, craving for carbohydrates, weight gain and increased need for sleep.

The research could lead to new treatments for people suffering from SAD. Two Ph.D. students, Nina Boulard of New York City and Stacy Whitcomb of Newburgh, are conducting the research in collaboration with Sandra Sigmon, associate professor in the UMaine Dept. of Psychology and a licensed psychologist.

Boulard is focusing on the relationship between SAD and activity levels. “I'm looking at how much people move during the course of a day and how much enjoyment they get out of that activity,” says Boulard.

In contrast, Whitcomb's study will concentrate on the cognitive aspects of the disorder. She will ask participants in her study to keep a weekly diary of feelings and thoughts. “It will take people about five to ten minutes per week to write in their diaries,” she says.

In addition to volunteers who have SAD, one study will involve participants who suffer from non-seasonal depression, and the other study will involve participants who only suffer from the physiological symptoms of SAD (e.g., feeling tired, eating more, sleeping more). Both studies will involve people who do not suffer from any form of depression.

Volunteers will be paid for their participation. They will go through an initial phone interview and then a one to two hour interview in person to determine if they are good candidates for one or both studies.

Participants in the activity study will be asked to wear an actigraph, an activity monitor about the size of a wrist watch, for three days. They will also fill out an activity diary and complete a daily mood questionnaire. The activity monitoring would be conducted once in the summer and once in winter.

The cognitive study will be carried out over a longer period of time and completed by the end of winter. Participants will be asked to return their dairy entries to the researcher on a weekly basis.

In both studies, all information collected will be strictly confidential.
Volunteers must be over 18 years old and can call 581-2031 to participate. E-mail can also be sent to Boulard at nina_boulard@umit.maine.edu Whitcomb at stacy_whitcomb@umit.maine.edu.
Overfishing Sets the Stage for Other Problems in Marine Ecosystems

EMBARGOED TO 2 p.m. EST, July 26, 2001

Research contacts: Robert Steneck, University of Maine Darling Marine Center, 207-549-3062
Bruce J. Bourque, Bates College and Maine State Museum, 207-287-6604

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

Note: Robert Steneck, who contributed to the report, will be conducting a research cruise in the Gulf of Maine and is available by cell phone, 207-557-4505.

ORONO, Maine -- Overfishing of key marine animals such as cod, oysters, sea turtles and other species is the primary cause leading to a variety of problems that have appeared recently in coastal waters around the world, according to an article published this week in the journal Science. In locations ranging from the Chesapeake Bay to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, increases in disease, invasions of non-native species and declining water quality can be traced back to a loss of species that exert a controlling influence over marine ecosystems, the authors conclude after a review of historical data that stretches back thousands of years.

In the Gulf of Maine, evidence for the loss of large predatory fish is clear, says co-author Robert Steneck of the University of Maine Darling Marine Center in Walpole. While a cause and effect relationship between the loss of those species and disease, water quality problems or the spread of non-native species has not been demonstrated for the Gulf, it can't be ruled out. “Taking a longer look at ecosystems gives us perspective on how much things have changed,” says Steneck.

“The big news here is that we haven't considered that fishing impacts may have begun thousands of years ago and that some of the ecosystem level changes may be indirect,” he adds.

The article, “Historical Overfishing and the Recent Collapse of Coastal Ecosystems,” is co-authored by scientists from 14 universities and scientific organizations around the world, including Steneck and Bruce J. Bourque, a lecturer in anthropology at Bates College in Lewiston. Bourque is also chief archaeologist and curator of ethnology at the Maine State Museum in Augusta. Jeremy B. C. Jackson of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, is the primary author. Science is published weekly by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

“In Maine, we have evidence from Indian middens dating back 5,000 years that our coastal zone was dominated by large predatory fish such as cod and swordfish. The average size of cod for thousands of years was about a meter long which is impressive considering the fishers
used crude hooks made of deer bone. Coastal food webs were probably dominated by large predators and many of the invertebrates such as lobsters and sea urchins may have been much less abundant than they are today,” says Steneck.

“By any measure the rate of change in the world's coastal oceans is accelerating. Whereas cod were harvested by humans as a primary food for over 5,000 years and early Europeans saw cod as an inexhaustable resource, it wasn't until the last half century that cod became rare in coastal zones. Since then, increased lobster and sea urchin abundances may be the result of those former prey species living in a new predator-free world,” he adds.

The article notes that a lack of historical perspective has led to erroneous conclusions about the causes of problems in marine waters. Such problems often have “deep historical roots,” the article says. For example, land use activities around Chesapeake Bay have been considered the primary cause of water quality problems there. However, the loss of massive oyster beds had severe consequences for water quality because oysters kept the growth of water clouding algae in check. It was the loss of oysters that made the ecosystem vulnerable, the article states.

In other examples, the article cites the elimination of predators such as sea otters on the West Coast and of predatory fish from the Gulf of Maine as the primary factor in the loss of kelp beds. Otters and predatory fish kept sea urchins, which eat kelp, in check. Kelp “forests” are important habitats that support diverse marine communities. In recent years, urchin harvesting by humans has allowed kelp to expand in some areas of the Gulf of Maine, Steneck points out.

In addition to overharvesting, disturbance of underwater habitats is cited as a primary cause leading to the collapse of fish populations around coral reefs in the tropics, the article states.

The paper is based on four types of records:

- modern ecological records,
- historical information about fishing activities starting from the 15th century,
- archeological records from human coastal settlements occupied as far back as 10,000 years ago, and
- paleoecological data going back as far as 125,000 years ago.

In many cases, evidence for large populations of marine creatures in the past stands in stark contrast to relatively small numbers of such animals today, the authors note. Examples of overfishing are cited in aboriginal, colonial and modern cultures, but modern technology has allowed harvesters to eliminate what had been considered an inexhaustible marine resource, say the authors.

The historical perspective can be used to develop modern management strategies that could help fish populations recover, the authors also note. With some exceptions, most populations exist at levels that can be restored through the use of “bold experiments to test the success of integrated management for multiple goals on the scale of entire ecosystems.”

“It is heartening, finally, to see ecologists beginning to understand the value of the archaeological record to their research,” says Bourque.

“Food webs are ghosts of what they once were,” adds Steneck. “When food webs are altered, the ecosystem changes. In Maine we have a very unstable coastal ecosystem today with changes occurring at the scale of years to decades, not centuries to millennia as was formerly the case.
“We don't understand all of the changes, but today there are areas carpeted with blue mussels where they used to be rare. Rock crabs have exploded to extraordinary density in some areas. Last year we relocated tens of thousands of sea urchins to bring them back to an area where harvesting has eliminated them, but they were all eaten by crabs. Change is common in all ecosystems, but the rate and magnitude of change we are currently seeing is unprecedented.”

In addition to UMaine and Bates, scientists contributing to the report are affiliated with the University of California, the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Florida, the University of Chicago, the Australian National University, James Cook University and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in California.
Small Farm Field Day in Unity August 12

July 27, 2001

Contact: Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 800-287-1426 (within Maine)

ORONO, Maine -- University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) will sponsor this year's Small Farm Field Day on Sunday, August 12th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the MOFGA fairgrounds in Unity.

Small Farm Field Day is designed to provide a place for hands-on learning. Producers large and small are welcome to come and learn practical skills on a host of topics and to ask questions from various experts from around the state.

The day is filled with 23 workshops that will be conducted hourly. Topics include draft horse use and reconditioning a horse drawn mower, drip irrigation systems, raising poultry including a show by the Central Maine Bird Fanciers and how to build a “chicken tractor.” Dairy goats, backyard pigs, sweet corn trials, cover crops and demonstrations by members of Maine's Antique Tractor Club will also be highlighted during the day. Horse drawn trolley rides will be available for an additional cost.

Small Farm Field Day workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. at the MOFGA fairgrounds in Unity just off Route 139/220 between Unity and Thorndike. Admission is $2 per person with children under 12 free. Lunch will be available during the field day.

Participants will receive three pesticide recertification credits for attending some specific sessions pending Board of Pesticides approval.

More information is available from Rick Kersbergen at UM Cooperative Extension office in Waldo County at 1-800-287-1426 or email ceswal@umext.maine.edu. or from MOFGA at 568-4142, email or visit the website at .
Gov. King to Host State Government Interns

July 31, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Gov. Angus King will host a barbecue at the Blaine House on Wednesday, Aug. 15 for college students and the state government commissioners who participated in the 2001 State Government Summer Intern Program.

The program, created by the Maine Legislature in 1967 to provide opportunities for college students from Maine and for out-of-state students attending college in Maine, is administered by the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at UMaine. Of this year's 76 interns, 15 are UMaine students. Twenty-two are from other universities in the University of Maine System, one is from a technical college, 20 are from private colleges in Maine and 18 are Maine residents who attend colleges and universities in other states.

The barbecue is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m.
UMaine Vice President Accepts Job in Montana

July 31, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Robert A. Duringer, the University of Maine's Vice President for Finance and Administration, has announced he will be leaving UMaine in September to accept a similar position at the University of Montana.

Duringer leaves after more than three years at UMaine, to which he came in 1998 following five years as Director of Business Affairs at Oregon State University. The Duringers have sons in the Pacific Northwest, which prompted their decision to pursue a position closer to that region.

"Bob's departure is a major loss for the university community," says UMaine President Peter S. Hoff. "Bob's expertise in financial management and administration brought fresh ideas, innovation and improved services to our campus. He has helped us manage through difficult financial times and has helped improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the university's operation.

"We hate to lose Bob, but fully understand and respect his and Mary's desire to be in closer proximity to their family," adds Hoff.

Along with his service at UMaine and OSU, Duringer taught for five years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He also taught at John Jay College of the City University of New York (CUNY), Central Texas College, Austin Peay State University, and the University of Maryland.

Duringer also had a full career as an Army officer, retiring as a colonel. During his military career he held various leadership and administrative positions in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Hoff says he intends to appoint an interim vice president within a few weeks, and that plans will be announced concerning the process of identifying a permanent replacement for Duringer.
Wood Composites Lab Will Break Prototype Wood-Concrete Deck on Friday

MEDIA ADVISORY

August 1, 2001
Research contact: Melanie Bragdon, AEWC, 207-581-2105
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- With the snapping of wood planks and cracking of concrete, engineers at the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center at the University of Maine will bend an experimental bridge deck until it breaks on Friday. Media representatives are welcome to cover the test designed to demonstrate the strength of innovative deck panels that could provide a low-cost alternative for bridges and piers.

The test will begin at 1:30 p.m. and run for about an hour. The 20-foot long deck consists of 2x6 laminated planks of Maine-grown spruce, pine and fir topped by a concrete pad. Engineers have reinforced the structure with a sheet of fiber-reinforced polymer and steel pins joining the concrete and wood.

Signs of breaking wood fibers become apparent mid-way through the test. Designed to support 20,000 pounds of force, prototypes have withstood 60,000 pounds before the wood shatters, the concrete is crushed and the polymer sheet separates from the planks, says Melanie Bragdon of Bangor, a graduate student at the AEWC.

Mike Novotney, an undergraduate from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, is running the test as part of a summer research project. Novotney is working with Bragdon and Habib Dagher, AEWC director, with funding from the National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The deck takes advantage of the stiffness of concrete and the ability of fiber-reinforced wood to support loads in tension. Previous tests have showed that even after failure, the structure continued supporting nearly 17,000 pounds of force.

The decks could be used as temporary structures for traffic detours during construction projects or as permanent facilities such as piers along rivers and coastal waters.

The panels were fabricated during last year's summer research for undergraduates program by Andrea Agudelo of the University of Puerto Rico.
Sen. Collins to Speak at UMaine Business School Luncheon

August 2, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

PORTLAND - Senator Susan Collins will host a luncheon on August 9 in Portland to introduce a new program in international business offered by the University of Maine William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce and the Maine International Trade Center.

The new International Business Seminar Series Certificate Program will be offered in Portland beginning this October. The non-credit series is designed to meet the needs of business professionals interested in expanding or beginning activities in the international business arena.

“The courses in the series will provide businesses with the strategic framework and foundation needed for successful decision making in the international arena,” says Diana Lawson, interim dean of the University of Maine's College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

The informational luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eastland Park Hotel in Portland. Collins will offer her views on the world economy and why it is important for Maine businesses to compete internationally.

Prior to being elected to the Senate, Collins served as the New England administrator of the Small Business Administration and executive director of the Center for Family Business at Husson College in Bangor.

The certificate program is three semesters in length and course modules will cover international finance, marketing, strategic planning, management, and logistics. Participation in the program requires an undergraduate degree and students should have a strong foundation in the principles of business.
Sanders Named UMaine Associate Dean

Aug. 3, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Calli T. Sanders, who worked most recently as senior associate director of athletics at Montana State University, has been named associate dean of students and community life at the University of Maine.

At UMaine, Sanders will provide leadership to several student service areas, including the Counseling Center, Student Employment and Volunteer Programs, and the Health Professions Advising Office. She will also be involved in the management of the university's Sexual Assault Awareness Committee and will serve as the administration's liaison to GLBTAC (Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Allies Council).

"Calli brings a wealth of experience in several important areas," says Dwight Rideout, UMaine's assistant vice president and dean of students and community life. "She has been an effective manager and supervisor who has been an advocate for students and has dealt extensively and capably with student concerns."

Sanders, a doctoral candidate at Montana State, earned a master's degree in education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She graduated from the University of Montana with a bachelor's degree in communication, with minors in sociology and political science, in 1986.

She worked as associate director of athletics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham from 1990-97 and was senior woman administrator/associate sports information director at UAB from 1988-90.

At both Montana State and UAB, Sanders served as the primary liaison between the department of athletics and the division of student affairs.

Sanders has been a member of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee, of which UMaine Athletic Director Suzanne Tyler is also a member, since 1999. She currently serves as chair of the Site Selection Subcommittee.

She will begin work at UMaine on Aug. 15.
UMaine Conference Centers on Literary Instruction, Nonfiction

Aug. 3, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

MEDIA ADV ISORY

ORONO, Maine – More than 450 educators will gather at the University of Maine August 8-9 to examine the latest teaching techniques and share information about how best to get youngsters off to a strong start in reading and writing. The 2001 Seamless Transitions K-5 Literacy Conference brings together all the educators involved in a child's early and primary learning experiences - Reading Recovery, special education and classroom teachers - to emphasize the importance of providing consistency and a team approach in expectations and instruction.

Sponsored by the Center for Early Literacy at the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, the conference will feature state and national literacy experts presenting topics ranging from strategy and standards to assessment and the latest research on phonics and whole language.

The theme of this year's conference is “Making Facts Come Alive,” focusing on nonfiction. That's also the title of the keynote address to be given by UMaine Literacy Professors and authors Rosemary Bamford and Jan Kristo.

Nonfiction books have moved into the primary grades curriculum limelight during the past decade through reform movements, assessments that inform instruction and state standards for learning, according to the professors. With thematic planning, inquiry studies and the world of facts becoming commonplace in classrooms across grade levels, nonfiction is a major resource and learning tool for both students and teachers, say Bamford and Kristo.

Last year, Bamford and Kristo were co-recipients of UMaine's Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award for their work in nonfiction literature.

The opening session of the conference is set for 9 a.m. Wednesday in Hutchins Concert Hall, Maine Center for the Arts. Other keynote speakers looking at various aspects of nonfiction during conference include Myra Zarnowski, author and children's literature professor at Queens College, City University of New York; and Jerry Stanley, author and retired professor of history at California State University, Bakerfield.

Workshop sessions during the conference, presented by national and Maine experts, will cover issues and topics in literacy from Phonemic Awareness and Reading Comprehension to Interactive Writing and Using a Qualitative Inventory to Understand Student Spelling.
Media are invited to all conference sessions. A schedule is enclosed. (Note that room numbers for the various sessions are included on the separate master schedule.)
Library Expansion Set For Darling Marine Center

August 6, 2001
Media Contact: Linda Healy, Darling Marine Center, 207-563-3126, ext. 200
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Darling Marine Center in Walpole has received its 8th facility award from the National Science Foundation in 10 years, this time providing $200,000 to renovate and expand the center’s library.

The project will include an addition to the first floor and expansion into the second floor of the building to more than double the space available in the facility.

"The center's Library is arguably its most important asset and the planned improvements will immediately benefit students, faculty, and visitors by providing more study space and access to modern technology to support their research and course work," says Kevin Eckelbarger, Darling Center director.

The library has become so over crowded that 30% of its serial holdings are being stored in other buildings. The project will include:

- a 1,500 sq. ft. addition to the main floor to consolidate all journal/book holdings under one roof and renovation of existing space. Addition of a bathroom and handicapped-accessible entrance.
- creation of a student Computer Center and ITV-equipped conference room.
- creation of a Special Collections Room to house rare holdings and a large reprint collection covering ecology/taxonomy of organisms from the Gulf of Maine.
- purchase of student computers, slide/document scanners, color printers, data/video projector, carousels with data ports.

The center is home to ten UMaine marine science faculty who teach graduate and undergraduate courses as well as the popular Semester by the Sea program. In addition, the center hosts visiting scientists and workshops throughout the summer.
The project is expected to begin in the summer of 2002. Previous awards from the National Science Foundation have funded a new dormitory and dining hall, research vessels and instrumentation, a dive and field staging building, two research buildings, two classrooms, and a vessel operations building.
Tales from the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camden Hills and Camp Tanglewood

August 6, 2001
Media contact: Ric Mallamo, Camp Tanglewood, 789-5807
Ellen Dyer, Camden Public Library, 236-3440
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The public is invited on August 22 to explore the history of one of the most significant Depression-era developments on the Maine coast. The Camden Public Library and the Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center, a part of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will host a day of displays and presentations about the construction of Camden Hills State Park and Tanglewood by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid-1930s.

Participants are encouraged to meet at the library before 11 a.m. when bus transportation will be provided to Tanglewood. At Tanglewood, there will be an exhibit of historic photos, documents and other artifacts as well as several guest speakers, including local historians and possibly at least one of the surviving workers.

Jon A. Schlenker, a historian at the University of Maine at Augusta, has been invited to speak. With Norman Wetherington and Austin Wilkins, he is co-author of a book, In the Public Interest: The Civilian Conservation Corps In Maine.

Guided tours of the camp and its historic buildings will be offered before attendees are transported back to Camden by 1:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available, and participants are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

Created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as part of his New Deal, the CCC put 500,000 unemployed youths to work in forests, parks and range lands across the country. To qualify, the boys had to be unemployed, between the ages of 18 and 25, unmarried and from a family on relief.

The 1130th Company, Civilian Conservation Corps, was opened in Camden on June 4, 1935, with 23 men under the command of Captain H. C. Pendergast. Their main project was the construction of a large and beautiful park along the shore of Penobscot Bay and on Mt. Megunticook, now Camden Hills State Park. They created beautiful buildings, stone walls, picnic areas and hiking trails-and the facility that is now Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center. Some of the men even contributed their spare time to work on the Camden Outing Club buildings on Hosmer Pond, now the Camden Snow Bowl.

Participants should register with Ellen Dyer at the Camden Public Library, 236-3440. More information is available from Dyer and Ric Mallamo, Camp Tanglewood, 789-5807, e-mail:
mallamo@umext.maine.edu. The event is supported by a grant from the New Century Community Program and the Maine Humanities Council.
Golf Courses Generate About $205 Million for the Maine Economy

August 9, 2001
Research contact: Todd Gabe, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3307
Tom Allen, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3164
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Maine's 138 golf courses are hitting well for the state's economy, according to a report published by the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station at the University of Maine. They contribute about $205 million in revenues and additional spending throughout the economy.

The sport has grown steadily throughout the past century, and 22 new courses have opened since 1990 with five more under construction as of last March.

Tom Allen and Todd Gabe of the UMaine Department of Resource Economics and Policy base their report on the results of a survey of golf course owners and managers as well as studies of tourism and spending by golfers. They used figures for 1999, the last year for which complete statistics were available at the time of the study.

“The industry is clearly a significant part of the economy. It's difficult to say how it might compare to other types of recreation since separate studies look at each industry in a different manner. Golf is a factor in every county of the state, even though it is concentrated in the southern and coastal counties,” says Gabe.

Green fees and memberships are the primary sources of income for golf courses. Together they account for two-thirds of revenues received with the remainder coming from sales of food and merchandise as well as golf cart rentals. Total direct revenues amount to $126.4 million, and indirect revenues amount to $79 million. The industry supports a total of 4,753 full time, part time seasonal workers.

On average, a golf course generated about $50 in revenues for an 18-hole round of golf in 1999. That number is similar to estimates in other states. Out of the total 1.7 million rounds of golf played that year, about 516,000 were played by non-residents of Maine. Tourist spending by golfers was included in the total estimated revenues.

Support for the study came from Experiment Station. The Maine State Golf Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association both provided assistance.
Congressman Baldacci Keynote Speaker at Summit on Aging and Public Policy

August 10, 2001
Media Contact: Robert Ho, Maine Rural Development Council, 581-3192
Peter Cook, Dept. of Public Affairs, 581-3756

ORONO -- Congressman John Baldacci will be the keynote speaker at a statewide policy summit focused on issues surrounding Maine's aging population. Sponsored by the Coalition for a Maine Aging Initiative, the event will be held August 21, 2001 at the Donald P. Corbett Business Building at the University of Maine from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entitled, "Building Healthy Communities for Elders and Caregivers: The Intersection of Policy, Research and Practice," the day-long event will focus on exploring the implications of Maine's growing retirement aged population, the demands this segment of the population places on state and local services, and strategies for meeting the growing needs of this demographic group in future years.

According to Kathryn Pears, director of public policy for the Maine Alzheimer's Association, Maine's 65 year-old-and-above population will increase dramatically during the next two decades as baby boomers reach the age of retirement. At the same time, the proportion of younger Maine residents will decline, affecting the size of the workforce, which provides professional caregivers, and potentially placing a greater burden on taxpayers for meeting an increasing demand for state and local services for the elderly.

"The Coalition's premise is that we need to begin to plan for this eventuality now," says Pears. "All of us, state government, physicians, private industry, private citizens, municipalities, need to begin to work together to look at our aging population, its needs, and then to develop innovative strategies for accommodating and appreciating our senior community members."

The Coalition for a Maine Aging Initiative is comprised on a variety of groups and organizations with a focus on senior issues. Its members include the Maine Alzheimer's Association, Maine Hospital Association, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the University of New England Geriatric/Gerontology Education Center, the University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy, the Maine State Housing Authority, Maine Rural Development Council, and the University of Maine Center on Aging.

The day-long summit will feature a series of work sessions dealing with the elderly and implications for affordable housing, transportation, and long-term care facilities; community based programs; program coordination; and the imperative of prevention education and wellness promotion.

Persons desiring to register for the conference or to obtain further information may contact: Marilyn R. Gugliucci, Ph. D., at the Maine Geriatric/Gerontology Education Center,
University of New England, Biddeford, ME 04005; via telephone at (207) 283-0170, extension 2543; or via e-mail at: mgugliucci@mailbox.une.edu.

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The University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469
207-581-1110
A Member of the University of Maine System
Forestry Camp Teaches Stewardship

August 10, 2001
Contact: Leslie C. Hyde, Cooperative Extension Educator, (207) 789-5868

ORONO, Maine -- The 2001 Yankee Woodlot Forestry Camp will be held October 1-5, at the Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Lincolnville, Maine. This is the nineteenth year for the annual program which is sponsored by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Maine Forest Service, and the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM).

This program is designed to teach landowners, loggers, educators and land managers about forest ecology and the techniques of managing woodlands for the multiple benefits of improved wildlife habitat, recreation, forest products, biodiversity, aesthetics and long-term sustainability. Participants are given a mock deed to a 17-acre parcel of the Tanglewood forest and challenged to make a management plan that takes into account their needs and desires and the ecological conditions of the forest. In order to create the plan participants must gather information about forest cover, soils, water, wildlife, and the volume and value of the trees growing on their plot.

The days are filled with an exciting blend of presentations, discussion and fieldwork. A few of the things that participants will learn are how to make a compass map, read aerial photographs, identify trees and shrubs and conduct a timber inventory. Evenings include special guests and plenty of time for discussions, viewing videotapes or just relaxing. Faculty and staff are available for personal consultation throughout the week.

The Forestry Camp was created as a follow-up to the ten-part Yankee Woodlot television series, produced by Maine Public Broadcasting Network and Cooperative Extension. The television series has helped to make people aware of the many values we receive from the forest and Yankee Woodlot videotapes will be available for viewing at camp.

More than 300 graduates have completed the annual course. They include about an equal mix of men and women ranging in age from 17 to 87.

Participants are housed in separate wood-heated cabins. Showers and wash facilities are located a short walk from the cabins. Delicious, well-balanced meals are served family style in the main dining hall. The registration fee is $300 for Maine residents, $350 for non-residents, and includes all meals, lodging and educational materials.

Registration materials are available from the Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center, RR 4 Box 670, Lincolnville, ME 04849, (877)944-2267 (toll free in Maine) or (207)789-5868. The University of Maine offers equal opportunities in programming and employment.
University of Maine News

Seminars on Viking Voyages, Adventure-Based Science Offered at the Humboldt Institute in Steuben

August 10, 2001
Contact: Joerg Henner-Lotze, Humboldt Institute, 207-546-2821

ORONO, Maine -- Two upcoming weekend seminars at the Humboldt Institute in Steuben will focus on evidence for Viking voyages to North America and Alexander von Humboldt's efforts to blend science and adventure.

The Viking Age Across the North Atlantic will be taught Sept. 14-16 by Thomas McGovern of Hunter College, New York, and Harold Borns of the University of Maine. Although the Viking settlement at Vinland lasted only a few years, more successful settlements were developed in Greenland and Iceland. Participants will discuss the record of Norse expansion into the North Atlantic.

Science and Adventure will be offered Sept. 21-23 by Ottmar Ette, chair of romance literature at the University of Potsdam in Berlin-Potsdam, Germany. The focus will be on the spirit of scientific expeditions carried out by von Humboldt and his contemporaries. The depiction of dramatic travel episodes to places in Europe and the American West provide insights into von Humboldt's understanding of knowledge and scholarship as well as a narrative journey and a personal adventure.

The cost for each seminar is $350, including accommodations and meals, or $250 without accommodations. Information about registration and accommodations is available from the Institute, 207-546-2821, humboldt@nemaine.com.
University of Maine Announces Parking Changes

August 10, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- The University of Maine Office of Parking Services will implement a series of changes to the university's parking policies starting Sept. 1. Among the changes are more convenient access to both free permits and metered parking for campus visitors, a new fee structure for students and employees, reduced-fee parking areas on the perimeter of campus, and a four-month extension of the validation of current employee parking permits.

The changes are a result of suggestions by students, employees and visitors to the campus and part of an ongoing effort to improve parking availability and efficiency, according to Paul Paradis, director of the parking services office.

UMaine continues to have some of the lowest parking fees among land-grant universities in New England, according to Paradis. “Fee comparisons need to account for different levels of service,” says Paradis, “but we charge less than most other colleges and universities.” For example, at the University of New Hampshire, fees range from $32 to $150 and at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, $40 to $590.

Changes in UMaine policies are as follows:

- Regular permit fees will increase from $25 to $35. At the same time, several parking lots will be designated “Perimeter Lots” that will be available to employees and commuter students for a yearly parking permit fee of $20. Perimeter parking will provide a lower cost alternative and will allow drivers to contribute to a better campus environment by parking on the perimeter and walking to their destination.
- UMaine will continue to honor the provisions that apply to parking fees in existing collective bargaining agreements.
- Current faculty/staff and retiree permits will be extended until Dec. 31, 2001. The new permit cycle for these groups will run Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 of each year, reducing the pressures of the former renewal process which had all vehicle owners registering at the same time in September. Employees and retirees will be issued only one permit, a “hangtag” style of permit. This will allow permits to be moved among vehicles, making it generally unnecessary to purchase multiple permits.
- Students will be able to pre-register for their permit by logging on to the Web site www.umaine.edu/parking. The form can be printed, filled out and mailed to the Parking Services Office with payment. Alternatively, the form can be filed over the Web and the permit paid for and picked up when the student arrives on campus. Permits may also be mailed to students living on campus. These changes are intended to help students avoid standing in long lines upon arrival on campus in September.
- Parking in the Resident Student parking lots is by permit only and will be available to those permit holders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
All students, faculty and staff members who drive to campus are required to purchase a parking permit and register with UMaine's Parking Service Office. Failure to do so will result in a $50 fine.

Visitors may obtain a free one-day visitor permit at the Office of Parking Services in the Memorial Union, Bear Necessities, a souvenir and merchandise shop located in the Alfond Arena, or from the Public Safety Dispatch Center at the new Public Safety Building on Rangeley Road.

A change will also be made to the fine schedule. The fine for parking on the grass will be reduced from $100 to $50.

In several campus locations, new signs and parking space markings will appear over the next several weeks to help members of the UMaine community and visitors to campus find appropriate parking.

In the last 12 months, UMaine has added 670 new parking spaces and redesignated lots to accommodate students, staff and visitors to campus. The total number of parking spaces on campus is 7,439, according to Paradis.
Hudson Museum Hosts Lecture by Buddhist Monk

August 13, 2001
Media Contact: Peter Cook at 581-3756

ORONO – The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will host Chief Lama Karma of Maritika, a monk engaged in Buddhist practice, for a lecture on August 30.

The lecture will be held at 7 p.m. in the Bodwell Area on the second floor of the Maine Center for the Arts and is being offered in conjunction with a special Hudson Museum exhibit, “Echoes Across the Himalayas: Tibetan Children in Exile.”

Lama Karma was born in Solu Kumbu in 1969, and from childhood was a monk. He entered Kulung Monastery in 1975 at the age of 6. He has also studied at the following monasteries: Chimey Takten Choling Monastery, Shechen Monastery and the University of Karma SH Nalanda Rumtuk in Sikkim. He was named Lopon Karma Wangchhu Sherpa by the 16th Karmapa. He became Chief Lama at Maratika about 9 years ago, assuming full responsibility for the Choling Monastery.

He is foremost a monk; in that tradition he spends his time in Buddhist religious practice, and tending to his responsibilities as Chief Lama at his monastery. He has taught extensively in Taiwan and Singapore.

For more information call the Hudson Museum at 581-1901. The lecture is free and open to the public.
UMaine Wood Composites Center to Host Conference at Sunday River

August 13, 2001

Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Doreen Parent, Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, 207-581-3123

ORONO, Maine -- More than 130 representatives of wood products manufacturers, transportation agencies and university and government research laboratories will meet at the Summit Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River near Bethel August 14-16 for the second international conference on wood composite technologies.

Hosted by the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center at the University of Maine, the conference will focus on the latest research on wood and polymer materials as well as practical applications for wood composites in building and roadway construction. Speakers will discuss topics such as the characteristics of wood fibers at microscopic scales and the use of wood combined with fiber-reinforced polymers in bridges.

The AEWC held the first international conference on engineered wood composites in 1999 in Bar Harbor.

The meeting will get underway at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, August 14 and conclude at 5 p.m. on Thursday. Attendees have also been invited to tour the AEWC on the UMaine campus on Monday and Friday.
Aspirations Research Leaps from Classroom to Sports Arena

Aug. 14, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine -- A new initiative from the National Center for Student Aspirations (NCSA) at the University of Maine is expanding its work in the classroom to the playing field and tackling the hotly debated issue of what’s appropriate and in the best interest of young athletes.

The controversial world of sports is becoming more contentious as the intense competitive nature of college and professional athletics reach the nation’s middle and high schools and put unrealistic expectations on students and coaches, according to Russ Quaglia, director of the NCSA and associate professor at UMaine. In addition, Maine, like other states is experiencing a severe shortage of qualified coaches. Since schools are hard-pressed to find coaches with training or professional experience with students and their personal, social and academic needs, more and more coaches are coming from outside the educational system.

The combination of inexperienced coaches, over-zealous parents and kids under pressure are excluding and discouraging too many youngsters from participating in sports by emphasizing winning over fun, skills development, teamwork and sportsmanship, says Quaglia. Healthy, ambitious competition and team pride are part of a positive sports experience, he points out. But headstrong competition and antagonistic attitudes too easily get out of control and result in intractable, damaging words and actions.

“Coaches, parents and student athletes are all part of the same team and should share the same goals. However, the goals of athletes, coaches and parents are far from being aligned,” he says. “Qualities such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility and respect will be valued long after the final score is forgotten.”

Armed with new research to address the thorny problem, Quaglia has come up with a comprehensive program called Teaching Heroes. Its basic message is: “Give sports back to kids and get the role of adults in perspective.”

The text- and music-based videos and instructional guide for follow-up with each group was co-authored by Quaglia and NCSA senior associate Andrea Cole. Produced with support from the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), Teaching Heroes provides reflective questions and a strategy for pulling coaches, athletes and parents into a team bent on teaching, learning and modeling the many benefits and important life lessons that positive sports experiences can provide.

All of the NCSA's work centers on research about students' perspectives on their needs, lives and education. Teaching Heroes stems from early data collected this year through the NCSA’s new Athlete Speak Survey, initially piloted among 1,890 Maine high school varsity athletes.
The survey results offer some good news, as well as some troubling dilemmas. For example:

- 90 percent of the student athletes see their coach as a positive role model.
- 86 percent say they have a strong and caring relationship with their coach.
- 97 percent think playing sports makes them a better person.

On the flip side:
- 57 percent believe their coach cares about their success in school.
- 55 percent claim practicing good sportsmanship is important.
- 83 percent believe it is more important to win than to have fun.
- 94 percent want their parents to attend their games.
- 23 percent claim their parents embarrass them when they come to their games.

This new aspirations data – particularly when combined with earlier surveys of more than 100,000 students nationwide showing that parents are strong, influential role models – sends a very powerful message. Coaches, parents and student athletes are heroes whether or not they realize it or want to be someone’s champion, says Quaglia.

They are all heroes, according to Quaglia: the parents who support their student athletes in so many ways; coaches who are much more than a trainer in a kid’s life; and the young athletes who are looked up to by other students.

Recognizing the tremendous educational and motivational contributions that positively focused athletic programs can make to a school, community and individuals, the NCSA and FAME teamed up to produce Teaching Heroes. The survey is used as a diagnostic tool to reflect what is on the minds of the athlete, and the video kit reflects that data in its strategies. Intended for use in middle schools and high schools, the program uses common language to describe and link the shared roles and goals of coaches, parents and student athletes.

“The things that really make a difference don’t cost anything,” says Quaglia. “A positive attitude, commitment and involvement can change the total environment of a sports program or an entire school.”

For instance, the video for coaches, with the theme of making a different, presents messages and raises questions such as:

Be a responsible role model. You are a hero to your players.
Establish a sense of belonging. It will strengthen your team.
When your athletes think of honesty, loyalty and compassion…
would they think of you?
The parents’ video follows the related theme of inspiring from the sideline, with points such as:
When you are at an athletic event be proud, be supportive and clap loudly.
Never lose sight of the fact it is only a game.
The parents around you think their kids are the best, too.
99% of parents are great fans. Make sure you are in that group.
Cheer for the superstars and the players on the bench.

And student athletes are reminded that they are making a commitment to citizenship, because:
You represent your school, your community, and your family.
Do it with pride!
Trash talk, taunting, show boating and bragging have NO place in sports.
Win with grace. Lose with dignity. Play with sportsmanship.
You are a role model on and off the field. Choose to be a good one. Excel in both athletics and academics. It’s a winning combination.

As part of its outreach mission, FAME will provide a complimentary copy of the Teaching Heroes kit to every school district in Maine to use in educational and reflective sessions with coaches, parents and athletes. All profits from sales of Teaching Heroes go back into aspirations research and programming.

(Media note: Teaching Heroes authors Russ Quaglia and/or Andrea Cole are available for interviews about the new aspirations initiative.)
UMaine Scientists Surveying Blueberry Plants for Fungus Diseases

August 14, 2001
Research contact: Seanni Annis, Dept. of Biological Sciences, 207-581-2621
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Blueberry plants and the fungi that infect them are the target of a University of Maine research project whose ultimate goal is to help growers protect their crops. University of Maine biologists Seanna Annis of Bangor and Connie Stubbs of Winterport are coordinating a multi-year effort to identify the different types of fungi that are present in blueberry plants, to understand which types cause problems and to develop protective steps that growers can take.

Their efforts are supported by funds from the UMaine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station and the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission.

Now in the third year of the project, Annis, Stubbs and their colleagues have found fungal diseases on 4 to 18 percent of the stems that they collected from fields in coastal and Downeast growing areas. “We need to identify which ones are the primary cause of damage and which ones are secondary, that have infected the plant after damage caused by another species,” says Annis.

Several years ago, growers requested the study to find out if they could reduce losses from fungal diseases. Mummyberry, caused by the fungus Monilinia vaccini-corymbosi, is the most prevalent disease, says Annis, and growers now take steps to control it. However, changing crop production practices such as the increasing use of irrigation and mowing could contribute to other diseases as well.

David Bell, director of the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission, calls the research critical for the future of the industry. “This has been a real priority. For a long time, growers have recognized that there are other fungal diseases in the fields. This research will help them understand if and how much they affect yield and how their cropping practices might encourage or minimize them. It's an important long-term investment,” he says.

One hurdle that researchers face is the large number of different types of fungi found on blueberry stems. The team has found 122 different genera or groups of fungal species on blueberry plants. A single infected plant tends to have many types of fungi living within its tissues, says Annis.

Fungi can cause lesions to occur on the surface of the stem. Those fungi that remain close to the surface do not cause as much damage as those that drive further into stems where they can disturb the flow of water and nutrients between the roots and the leaves, flowers and growing fruit, Annis adds. A serious infection can cause a stem to wither and die.
Working with them are post-doctoral researchers and undergraduate students from UMaine and other colleges. The team collected stems from 31 fields in 1999, 20 fields in 2000 and 12 fields this year.

“I'm convinced that we'll find species of fungi that have not been described in the scientific literature before,” says Annis. Making a positive identification involves hours of laboratory work, she says, with no assurance that a single fungal culture will give researchers the right clues for an identification.

Individual stems are taken from plants in fields that are producing fruit as well as from fields that are not. Blueberry plants have a two-year cycle, says Annis, and it appears that plants in a berry producing year have about twice the rate of infection as plants that are not producing fruit. The number of flowers and berries on each plant are counted so that researchers can make a connection between plant productivity and the presence or absence of fungal disease.

After stems are brought back to the lab, researchers disinfect the outside of each stem before putting them into a plastic dish that has ideal conditions for growth. Fungi that live inside the tissues grow in the dish and produce features that can be used to identify them with a specific type. Usually, researchers depend on the reproductive structures to make a positive identification.

In addition to the plant analyses, Annis and Stubbs and their team are surveying growers for information about crop management practices. Eventually, the researchers hope to link fungal damage to specific practices and thus pave the way for steps that growers can use to reduce diseases.

It appears likely, says Annis, that stress related to weather conditions and insect damage can make plants more vulnerable to fungal diseases. “We found less disease in 2000, when the plants had plenty of water, than we did in 1999,” she says.

Other participants in the project have been Jon Connelly, a post-doctoral scientist; Young-mee Ahn of Old Town, research faculty in the Dept. of Biological Sciences; and a team of undergraduate students, Kathryn Adler of Bangor, Brie Drummond of Winterport, Kathryn Lucas of Kennebunk, Lindsay Colley of Hudson and Barbara Fifield of Orono. Roxanne Miller, a recent graduate, participated in the project in 2000.
Folklife Center Receives New Century Grant

August 15, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 581-3756

ORONO – The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine has received a $1,000 grant from the Maine Humanities Council.

The New Century Community Grant will support the center’s Museum Without Walls project, a traveling exhibit that will go to a number of fairs and cultural events in the state and region.

"We’ve had a nice exhibit at the Common Ground Fair and other festivals, but what we wanted was something that was a little bit easier to set up and take down," says Pauleena MacDougall, associate director of the Maine Folklife Center. "We also wanted something that was more versatile, so that we could take a smaller portion of the exhibit to places such as libraries."

The current theme of the traveling exhibit is "Creating Community," and will focus on the traditions of men working in lumber camps and in Civilian Conservation Corps camps. It will also highlight organizers of the Maine Organic Gardeners and Farmers Association and women folklore collectors in New England.

"We define communities in the broadest sense, as small towns and large cities, as well as in the sense of ethnic or occupational populations," says MacDougall. "While traditions are continually eroded or extinguished by mass communications, cultural hegemony and global market forces, people continue to celebrate the traditions of family, ethnicity or occupation both as a resistance to those forces and to create ballast for navigating the uncertainties of modern life."

The exhibit will be set up under a tent and will be made up of kiosks with photographs, text and artifacts. There will also be tape-playing units so visitors can listen to excerpts from oral histories, songs and stories gathered by the Maine Folklife Center. Also included in the exhibit will be bean hole bean making demonstrations, performance of lumber camp songs, step dancing demonstrations, wood carving demonstrations and oral history demonstrations.
Youth Conference to Kick Off New State-University Collaborative

Aug. 17, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Transitioning from high school to college, employment and living is a challenge for most young adults. Youth with special health care needs and their families have significant additional challenges negotiating the myriad of supports and fragmented service delivery systems. Moving from the pediatric to adult health care system, accessing insurance with pre-existing conditions, securing accommodations in the workplace and at college and waiting lists for services are just a few of the issues facing this group of young people, according to Toni Wall, project director and director of the Maine Department of Human Services’ Children with Special Health Care Needs Program.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, 2001 Matthew Green, 19, from central Florida, author of a chapter in the text “Young People and Chronic Illness: True Stories, Help and Hope” and webmaster of the "Teens With Crohn's Disease" web site, will be a keynote speaker at the second annual "Youth Talking To Youth" conference at The University of Maine, co-sponsored by the DHS and the Center for Community Inclusion (CCI) at UMaine.

At the conference, Maine teenagers who have special health needs or disability will have an opportunity to gather and share their life experiences and how they are learning to live with their challenges.

A number of Maine youth have been working for months to design the conference which, in addition to featuring Green, will feature presentations by Jesse Bell, 20, Edmunds; Maria Noyes, 16, Levant; Brian Harnish, 19, Hampden; and Mallory Cyr, 16, Sabattus.

The conference, to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building at UMaine, will provide ample time for young people living with a special health care need or disability to share their experiences and learn of strategies that other youth have used successfully to transition to meaningful and valued lives.

“I try to keep in mind the advice I like to give others: Don’t spend too much time feeling sorry for yourself. You can spend your life sitting at home complaining, or you can try to make a positive difference in the world. It’s pretty cool knowing you’re doing something that helps people,” Green says.

The Center for Community Inclusion and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program have also announced the receipt of the Maine Works for Youth! award from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
Maine Works for Youth! is a four year, $300,000/year state infrastructure initiative designed to assure that youth with special health care needs and disabilities transition successfully to adult health care providers, employment, post-secondary education and life in the community as adults.

Twenty states across the country competed for the five awards. In addition to Maine, Arizona, Iowa, Mississippi and Wisconsin were awarded the projects, according to Debbie Gilmer, acting director of the Center for Community Inclusion and project co-director with Wall.

Maine’s efforts build on the successful and nationally recognized five-year MCHB-funded Maine Adolescent Transition Partnership project, also a collaborative effort of the DHS and the CCI.

For further information please call Janet May or Bonnie Robinson and to register, please contact Pam Guerrette. All can be reached at 1-800-203-6957 (voice/TTY) or e-mail: matpmail@umit.maine.edu. There is no cost to participate.

Debbie Gilmer can be reached at 581-1263 or debbie.gilmer@umit.maine.edu.
Anderson Appointed Interim Chief Financial Officer at UMaine

Aug. 20, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff has announced the appointment of Mark Anderson, an economist who is currently coordinator of UMaine's Ecology and Environmental Science Program, to the post of Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Anderson will take over on Sept. 1 for Robert Duringer, who is leaving UMaine for a similar job at the University of Montana.

A Caribou native who grew up in Brewer and earned a master's degree from UMaine in 1980, Anderson has worked at the university, in a variety of capacities, for the past 21 years. He has filled key roles on President Hoff's administrative team twice before, serving as Interim Chief Financial Officer from Sept. 1997-June 1998 and as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs from June 1998-June 1999.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Mark's capability and experience to step into this key position," Hoff says. "He knows the role of the CFO and has an excellent record of getting great performances from those who work with him."

Anderson, who is an instructor in Resource Economics and Policy, will teach one course during the fall semester.

"Having served in this capacity once before, I am familiar with the process and with the people with whom I will be working," Anderson says. "I have great respect for the staff and look forward to working directly with those people again."

A national search for a permanent successor to Duringer is expected to begin later this year.
Cooperative Extension Sponsors Women's Leadership Series

August 21, 2001
Contact: Rhonda Frey at 581-3195

ORONO – The Strengthening Women’s Leadership Capacity Project at the University of Maine is now accepting registrations for the coming year.

The nine-month educational series, sponsored by UMaine’s Cooperative Extension program, is a place for women to build confidence and practice effective leadership skills.

In the series, participants will learn about the concept of personal power and how to use that power to bring about social change. They will also learn how sexism and oppression can limit their leadership capabilities and how to deal with both in the workplace. The series also provides women the opportunity to network with others.

The series begins in October and meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. An information meeting will be held on September 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 27 Exchange St, on the corner of Exchange and State Street.

For a brochure and registration form, contact Louise Franck Cyr at 1-800-287-0274 or Deb Burwell at 338-3162.
Folklife Center Makes Donation to Maine’s Libraries

August 21, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at 207-581-3571

ORONO--The Folklife Center at the University of Maine recently made some of its books more widely available, both at Maine’s public libraries and on the World Wide Web.

The center donated seven books, including "Anna May," "I’m a Man that Works," "Dell Turner" and "Wilbur Day" to all of the state’s public libraries. According to Pauleena MacDougall, associate director of the Folklife Center, the idea to make the books available at libraries was that of director emeritus Sandy Ives.

"We have a fairly large backlist of books and while they sell on a regular basis, Sandy thought it seemed kind of silly to keep them in the basement when people could be reading them," says MacDougall. "We thought this would be a nice opportunity to get these books out to the public."

In addition, she says, this allows smaller libraries to own many of the books they have not previously been able to afford.

Also, this summer, the center has made a previously out-of-print book available to the public on its website. "Maliseet and Passamaquoddy Tales," first published in 1964, can be viewed at http://www.umaine.edu/folklife.

"We’ve had some call for it, and because the cost of reprinting is so high we asked why not put it on the web and see if that’s a way people can enjoy it," says MacDougall, who may also use the book for one of her classes next semester.
UMaine Lobster Institute to Host Reception for Australian Group

Aug. 21, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – The University of Maine Lobster Institute will host a reception for a touring continent from the Geraldton Fishermen’s Co-operative in Australia on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. in Lincolnville. Those involved in the Maine lobster industry are invited to the reception, sponsored by MBNA New England and to be held at MBNA's Top of the Mountain facility on Route 1.

The Australian group, eleven people who work in that country’s fishing industry and their spouses, are on a tour that includes stops in Hawaii, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, New York, Havana and Nassau. “We’re very pleased they’ve included Maine in their itinerary,” says Lobster Institute Executive Director Robert Bayer, who has also arranged for the group to tour a working lobster wharf and processing plant in Portland, as well as a lobster wharf in Stonington.

The Australian contingent is led by the chair of the board of the co-operative, John Fitzhardinge, a marine architect who designs commercial vessels, including lobster boats and police patrol craft. John Newby, the board’s vice chair, will also be making the trip. In addition to his duties with the co-operative, Newby also serves as vice chair of the Western Australian Fishing Council and chair of the Western Australian Fisheries Research and Development Advisory Board.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our local lobstermen and others involved with the industry to compare and contrast the Australian lobster fishery with our own here in Maine,” Bayer says.

There is no charge for the reception, but since seating is limited those planning to attend are asked to call the Lobster Institute at 581-2751 or 581-1443 by Sept. 7.
New UMaine Students Set to Arrive on Friday

August 28, 2001

Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Fall Welcome Weekend for new University of Maine first-year students will begin with "Maine Hello" activities on Friday, Aug. 31.

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff, along with faculty and staff members, will be at UMaine residence halls from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, ready to lend a hand as students move their belongings into their new rooms. The greatest amount of activity usually occurs between 10:30 a.m. and noon.

The new students and their families will also participate in a variety of activities and informational sessions intended to help with the transition to college life. Those activities continue through Monday, with classes set to begin on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

This year’s Fall Welcome Weekend theme is "Get the Black Bear Experience."
Stephen King to Speak at UMaine on Sunday

August 28, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Best-selling author and University of Maine graduate Stephen King will be the featured speaker on Sunday, Sept. 2 at UMaine’s Fall Convocation for new first-year students.

The ceremony, at which UMaine will formally welcome its new students, is scheduled for 4 p.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts. King is the third prominent UMaine graduate to speak at Fall Convocation, following sportscaster Gary Thorne, who spoke at the first convocation two years ago, and last year’s speaker, EnvisioNet founder Heather Blease.

An audio mult box will be available for reporters who wish to record the event and there will be space for television cameras at the back of the lower level of Hutchins Concert Hall. Reporters who plan to cover the ceremony are asked to call 581-3571 before Sunday, so that the appropriate space can be reserved.
Renovated Memorial Union Open for Business; Available Services to Increase Over Coming Weeks

August 30, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Students returning to the University of Maine over the next few days will find services and activities available to them in a variety of new spaces in UMaine's renovated and expanded Memorial Union.

The University of Maine Bookstore, the centerpiece of the lower level of the two-story addition to the original building, opened for business on Monday, Aug. 27. Food service has been available in Union Central, on the second floor, since late last week. Union Central, located in the former Damn Yankee space, offers food and drinks, including Starbucks Coffee. Additionally, staff has moved into the new third-floor space that houses the UMaine Career Center and the center's staff will offer its services to students from that location when classes begin next week. The MaineCard office (which issues student and employee identification cards), the Computer Connection retail outlet, the post office, a photocopying center and an e-mail lounge are all either open now or will be within a few days.

"Students and other members of the University community have been pleased and excited by what they have seen so far in the new-look Union," says Robert Dana, UMaine's senior associate dean of Students and Community Life. "The new spaces are exceptionally attractive and very functional. This building represents a significant step forward for campus life at UMaine."

Construction crews are continuing work to finish the $12.5 million project, on which construction began in the spring of 2000. "Planning for this renovation and new building actually started nine years ago," Dana says. "To see the work so close to completion is extremely gratifying."

Over the next few months, work will conclude on the unfinished elements of the project, with completion expected around the end of December. One of the primary elements of the addition, the second-floor dining area known as the Maine Marketplace, is approaching completion and should be in use in a few weeks. The Maine Marketplace, which will dramatically increase the dining options on campus, will feature eight different restaurants in a market-style setting, with a nearby dining room that offers several commanding campus views.

A third-floor addition that will house the UMaine Center for Students and Community Life should be done by the end of December. Renovation of the former bookstore space into office space for student organizations is expected to be completed by the end of December, as well, with those organizations using their new space at the beginning of the spring semester. In the meantime, each of those organizations has been provided with space elsewhere on campus.
The staff of The Maine Campus, the UMaine student newspaper, has moved into renovated offices and will use its new location when it begins publication in September.
UMaine Professor to Present Lobster Lecture

August 30, 2001

**Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571**

ORONO – The Lobster Institute at the University of Maine, as part of its Lobster College program, and the Oceanside Meadows Institute for the Arts and Sciences, will jointly present a Saturday, Sept. 15 lecture by UMaine Prof. James Acheson. The talk, titled "The Great Lobster Bust of the 1920s and 1930s: Separating Fact from Fiction," is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Oceanside Meadows Inn on Corea Road in Prospect Harbor.

Acheson, a member of the anthropology and marine sciences faculty at UMaine, will explore theories about what caused the biggest disaster ever to befall the lobster industry. "Older lobster fishermen and lobster biologists are aware that lobster catches were disastrously low between World War I and World War II, " he says. "The ideas of fishermen about the causes of the ‘bust’ are different from those of biologists. Some of these ideas are supported by data; most are not. We’ll talk about what is fact and what is fiction.

Through the course of his career, Acheson has worked a great deal with Maine fishing communities, where he has focused on the social organization and management of the lobster industry. He has published close to 70 articles and books, including the book Lobster Gangs of Maine (1988). He has also worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service in the Fisheries Management Division and is on the Board of Advisors of the Lobster Institute.

Admission is free, with donations accepted to support the work of the Lobster Institute. Seat reservations are required and can be made by calling the Lobster Institute at 581-1443 or 581-2751.
Annual UMaine News Conference Tuesday, Sept. 4

August 31, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – University of Maine President Peter S. Hoff will preview the 2001-2002 academic year and discuss the characteristics of UMaine’s incoming class of first-year students at a news conference at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

The news conference will be held in Heritage House, the former Sigma Chi fraternity building, across from Chadbourne Hall on College Ave.

Tuesday is the first day of classes for the fall semester at UMaine.
DuPont Donates New Papermaking Patent Rights to The University of Maine

Technology May Reduce Operating Costs, Improve Environmental Performance for Paper Mills

August 31, 2001

Media contacts: UMaine: Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777, houtman@maine.edu
DuPont: Sylvia Banks, 302-773-2731, Sylvia.S.Banks-1@usa.dupont.com
Sappi: Stephanie Hall, 617-368-6318, Stephanie.Hall@na.sappi.com

Note: Media representatives are welcome to attend an event announcing the gift at 9:00 a.m. on September 5 at the Pulp and Paper Process Development Center in Jenness Hall on the UMaine campus.

ORONO, Maine – DuPont has agreed to donate patent rights for a new papermaking technology to the University of Maine where chemical engineers will work with Sappi Fine Paper North America to explore ways to refine it and make it commercially viable. Laboratory studies indicate that the technology may increase the efficiency and environmental performance of paper mills.

DuPont selected UMaine from a number of other universities to receive the donation, based on the school’s ability to elaborate the technology, scientific reputation and capability for adding value and eventually commercializing the technology, among other criteria.

Sappi, the leading manufacturer of coated wood-free paper in North America, owns paper mills in Somerset and Westbrook. The company has an established reputation for innovative, high quality products.

UMaine will maintain the patents and conduct research to implement the technology at an industrial scale. In the early stages of papermaking, chemicals and water are added to raw pulp. Water that drains away at a later stage can take short fibers and chemicals out of the paper. The new technology developed by DuPont allows the paper to retain more of the fibers and chemicals and thus produces a savings in both paper production and wastewater treatment.

"We are extremely pleased that DuPont has selected the University of Maine from among a number of other high-quality institutions to carry forward the retention additive technology," said Daniel Dwyer, vice president for research at UMaine. "We are grateful for the opportunity for our faculty and students to participate directly in the development of prototype manufacturing processes."

"This is one of the most significant gifts ever received by the university. It represents a new stage, a new level of commitment in bringing the benefits of research to the state," says
UMaine President Peter S. Hoff. "Over time, it is likely to make an enormous difference in our resource base and our capacity to serve the citizens of Maine."

Under the terms of the donation, the university will receive the intellectual property and assistance from DuPont employees to support continuing studies of the process that has been developed by DuPont. That research will be done by scientists and engineers in the UMaine Pulp and Paper Process Development Center.

"We are delighted to make this donation to the University of Maine and are confident that we have selected the best possible recipient to further elaborate and develop this technology," said Jeffrey A. Coe, vice president and general manager, DuPont Chemical Solutions Enterprise.

The center maintains a pilot scale papermaking machine located in Jenness Hall on the Orono campus. Established in 1956, the plant was modernized in 1986 to allow researchers to test new pulp mixtures and adjust steps in the paper making process under realistic operating conditions.

"We’re excited to be a part of this process, continuing our long-standing relationship with the esteemed faculty and talented students at the University of Maine," said Dan Coughlin, technical specialist at Sappi’s Somerset mill. "We have a long history in this state and are thrilled to partner again with a local university.

We hope our combined expertise will make this process a success, helping paper manufacturers improve efficiencies and reduce operating costs."

Throughout its history, Sappi has been committed to intensive research and development, resulting in many industry "firsts." Sappi’s desire to assist the University of Maine in commercializing this patented technology is further evidence of its on-going dedication to innovation, the forestry industry and the Maine community.

Potential revenues stemming from use of the technology will depend on research results and market conditions. "This donation presents the University of Maine with an opportunity to serve the state. We can take advantage of one of the best pulp and paper research facilities in the nation to develop this technology further," says Dwyer.

DuPont is a science company, delivering science-based solutions that make a difference in people’s lives in food and nutrition; healthcare; apparel; home and construction; electronics and transportation. Founded in 1802, the company operates in 70 countries and has 93,000 employees.
Thomas Pickering to Speak at UMaine

Aug. 31, 2001

**Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571**

ORONO -- Thomas R. Pickering, under secretary of state for political affairs in the Clinton administration and a former U.S. Ambassador to the Russian Federation, will be at the University of Maine to deliver a lecture on Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. in Minsky Recital Hall.

Pickering, who earned a bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College in 1953, will talk about the current relationship between the United States and Russia. His UMaine visit is sponsored by the William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce in the UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health and the World Affairs Council of Maine.

The lecture is open to the public and there is no admission charge.

Pickering held the title of Career Ambassador, the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service. In his distinguished career, Pickering has also served as ambassador to India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and has held a variety of other top diplomatic posts.
UMaine to Launch New Magazine, Revise Information Services

August 31, 2001  
**Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571**

ORONO -- A monthly magazine is the centerpiece of a new University of Maine plan for communicating with key interest groups, both on campus and off. The changes are part of the university's new strategic plan, adopted last spring.

Scheduled for publication in late September is UMaine Today magazine, a full-color, 24-page publication "showcasing creativity and achievement at the University of Maine." The magazine's broad objective, according to John Diamond, UMaine's senior director of Public Affairs, is to demonstrate the University's value and contributions to the state and to advance institutional goals.

The magazine's contents will be available on the Web, with the printed version distributed to target external constituencies of the university, namely those in positions to influence student recruitment, public and private support and funding, and UMaine's reputation in Maine and nationally.

A second publication, Inside UMaine, a monthly newsletter for UMaine faculty and staff, begins the first week of September and is designed to keep all employees informed of administrative announcements, progress on university initiatives, employee-oriented programs and services, professional development and advancement opportunities, and other items of value and possible interest. Inside UMaine will be jointly produced by the UMaine departments of Human Resources, Public Affairs and Marketing and will be distributed through Campus Mail Services at the beginning of each month.

Another new information service is UMaine Today Online, a Web-based daily news service. Updated each morning by 10:30 a.m., UMaine Today Online features a summary of university-related news stories, including news releases, stories appearing in the news media and campus announcements. UMaine Today Online will also feature direct links to the University's master calendar of events, campus employment opportunities, faculty publications and presentations, and other information of interest both to members of the campus community and interested readers off campus.

UMaine Today magazine and UMaine Today Online can be accessed by clicking the icon on the University's home page, www.umaine.edu or by linking directly to it at www.umaine.edu/umainetoday.
UMaine Today magazine, Inside UMaine and UMaine Today Online are intended to replace Maine Perspective, a semi-weekly UMaine publication.

"Together the new entities will provide those interested in UMaine with greater information in a more timely and less costly manner," Diamond says.

The University of Maine Foundation will underwrite the cost of UMaine Today magazine's production and distribution. The Department of Public Affairs will publish the magazine, with financial and creative support provided by the Department of Marketing and the Office of the Vice President for Research. Margaret Nagle of Public Affairs is the magazine's executive editor.

Comments and suggestions on these new information services should be directed to Diamond at 581-3743 or at john.diamond@umaine.edu.
UMaine's Student Population Largest in Seven Years

Sept. 4, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO-- With an anticipated total student population of 10,500, the University of Maine opened for the fall semester today with its largest number of students since 1994. This marks the fifth consecutive year of increases in the number of students at the state's flagship university.

"The University of Maine continues to experience growth in student numbers while maintaining quality," said UMaine President Peter S. Hoff at a news conference on campus this morning. "We are benefiting from greater public recognition and appreciation of what we have to offer."

With more than 7,500 full-time students, UMaine has the highest number of full-time students of any higher education institution in Maine. UMaine offers more courses and credit hours, and produces more graduates each year, than any other college or university in Maine.

Twenty percent of UMaine students -- 2,085 -- are enrolled as graduate students; 3,500 UMaine students live on campus.

"Most of our students are looking for a complete college experience -- living and studying on campus, taking part in organizations and activities, socializing at the student union, and having a strong sense of being an active member of an academic community," Hoff explained.

All 19 residence halls are full, including historic Oak Hall, a 82-student residence hall that was refurbished and reopened for the start of the new academic year after being used for storage for a decade.

UMaine also has 47 new professors on its 660-member faculty as the new semester begins.

On Friday UMaine welcomed 1,645 new first-year students as members of the Class of 2005. New students participated in a variety of weekend orientation activities and programs aimed at helping ease the transition to college life.

The members of the class bring impressive qualifications and backgrounds. The average Scholastic Aptitude Test score of 1,086 is consistent with the UMaine averages from recent years and exceeds the national average by 66 points. That score is 80 points above the state SAT average.

Twenty-one percent of the members of the new class finished in the top ten percent of their high school class; 42 percent were in the top 20 percent of their high school graduating class. Seventy-four of UMaine's new first-year students are recipients of the prestigious Top
Scholar Award, a full-tuition scholarship offered each year to the valedictorian and salutatorian of each Maine high school class.

Fifty award recipients of the 2001 Mitchell Scholarships -- almost one-third of the total awardees-- are enrolled in UMaine this year. The Mitchell Scholarships, awarded by a foundation created by former Maine Senator George J. Mitchell, are granted each year to one graduate from every high school in Maine. In addition, 41 MBNA Scholars have chosen to enroll at UMaine and will receive four-year awards from the MBNA Foundation. A total of 419 new UMaine students have received merit-based scholarships, worth a total of $879,000, from the University. In fact, three of every four UMaine students receive financial aid of some kind.

Nearly three-quarters of UMaine's first-year students say that UMaine was their first choice of a school; that number is consistent between students from Maine and students from other states. More than half say they plan to eventually pursue a graduate degree.

UMaine students this year come from Maine and from 46 other states and from 52 other countries.
Participants Sought for UMaine Black Bear Men’s Chorus

September 5, 2001

Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO-- A singing tradition that began at the University of Maine sometime around 1905 is being revived this year. Danny Williams, assistant to the Dean of Enrollment Management and former member of the Maine Steiners singing group, is looking for men who are interested in joining the Black Bear Men’s Chorus.

Williams is calling an organizational meeting for 7 p.m., Sept. 13 in room 102 of the Class of ’44 Hall, home of the UMaine School for Performing Arts.

“Since this is a new group, our performance schedule is tentative, but I hope that we’ll be giving concerts in the area and participating in community activities such as singing the national anthem for sporting events,” says Williams. “The University Glee Club, as it was called back then, was active in the early 1900s, and after it waned, the Maine Steiners was organized.”

Ten undergraduate students comprise the Steiners which is still performing. The main differences between the two group will be their respective sizes and performance repertoire.

Williams hopes the Black Bear Chorus will have between 25 and 40 members and will perform more traditional music selected from the diverse repertoire for male choruses. The Steiners' repertoire has a strong contemporary emphasis.

Williams says that previous singing experience is helpful but not necessary. The chorus is open to the public as well as UMaine faculty, staff and students.

More information is available from Williams at 207-581-1559.
Transcript of DuPont and Sappi Fine Paper Press Conference

September 6, 2001

**Media Contact:** Joe Carr at 207-581-3571

ORONO--Representatives of DuPont and Sappi Fine Paper North America visited the University of Maine on Wednesday, Sept. 5 to formally announce the donation of the patent rights to a papermaking technology to UMaine. The following is a transcript of that announcement. For the press release, please click [here](https://web.archive.org/web/20040707072215/http://www.umaine.edu:80/news/Arch).

**Remarks of Stephen Craft:**

Thank you, President Hoff. I certainly want to extend my thanks to all of you here this morning.

It is with great pleasure that I stand here before you today. I have been the manager of our technology licensing and sales group for one of our large strategic business units within corporation for about two years now. I can honestly say that this has been one of the more pleasurable experiences I've had in that role.

Giving away technology sometimes brings about a lot of questions. Certainly some wonder why DuPont is giving away technology-- especially in today's economic world, which hopefully will turn around soon. Well, as a corporation-- as with the University--you change directions at times and when you change directions your resources and everything else become affected. And sometimes some really neat discoveries and developments that come along are not going to be able to be taken advantage of.

Often with large corporations those technologies end up buried someplace in a file or on a shelf or in someone's mind, never to be heard of again. Hence we've had the opportunity to explore other avenues to take these technologies down from the shelf, such as with the technology transfer that's brought us here today.

I've had the pleasure of being able to work with some of the finest universities around the country and certainly I'll put The University of Maine right up there near the top. From the word go, exploring this particular transfer with The University of Maine, I have kind of known in my heart, so to speak, that we had an excellent fit here. Absolutely no doubt. I did put the process in place and it's a very rigorous process to make a determination as to who's going to receive the technology. There were many high ranking universities around the country that were competing, but again I'll say that from the word go, I think I knew The University of Maine was "it."

We were able to process everything through and make that happen. And here we are today. There is no doubt in my mind that the University will take this technology and work with SAPPI and perhaps others to be able to bring this to fruition, which is really what we want. A technology that might have sat on the shelf to go nowhere -- to be of no benefit to mankind,
so to speak -- now has an excellent opportunity to get out there and be used. And that's what this program is all about. To take technologies that might not otherwise be used anywhere in the world and see them come to fruition.

So again I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to be here to speak with you, and I certainly wish The University of Maine, SAPPI, and the whole team, the best of success in this matter. Again I am absolutely convinced that it's going to happen. No question of it whatsoever. Thank you very much.

Remarks of Douglas Daniels:

Good morning, I'm Doug Daniels from SAPPI Corporation, SAPPI Fine Paper North America. What a fantastic team to pull together to commercialize this particular patent or group of patents. Over the course of the last few years, Joe Genco and the folks here at The University of Maine have been instrumental in putting together for us at SAPPI a true breakthrough that's helped us increase our pulping capabilities by over 50,000 tons. And that's A LOT of money. Particularity important if you go back to the open house that we had here two years ago, in which an individual from the Foundation reminded us that the pulp and paper industry has recovered its costs and capital four times in the last twenty years.

It's kind of a sick business for most of us. You look throughout the state and there are a couple of mills operating under Chapter Eleven. Why in the world would we take three of the four largest lightweight-coated wood-free paper machines in the world, in particular here in North America, and devote them to this process? It's really simple. We are not altruistic. In fact I'm very selfish. I want to be the best in the business. We are the leader for coated fine paper in the world. And we'll take one machine at a time and convert to this technology because it's smart business; it's the right thing to do. It's a bet.

We are delighted to be the commercial partner in this relationship, and I particularly want to acknowledge the fact that Joe Genco is the reason I'm willing to do that; he's just done fantastic work for us the last three or four years and I'm truly proud of the fact that at least in the state of Maine and throughout the United States we continue to be at Somerset a very viable operation.

We are going to be working with DuPont; they happen to be one of our preferred suppliers already. There are some other suppliers out there who will be disappointed. Disappointed because this particular technology may well replace some of what we are already doing. We wouldn't do it except for the fact that it's the right thing to do. And we are sure glad to be here. Thank you.
University of Washington American Indian Studies Professors to Teach Internet Courses at UMaine

September 6, 2001
Media Contact: Joe Carr at 207-581-3571

ORONO--G. Thomas Colonnese (Santee Sioux) and Marvin Oliver (Quinalt/Isleta-Pueblo), professors at the University of Washington's American Indian Studies Program, one of the premier programs of its kind in the country, will teach courses at The University of Maine during the 2001-2002 academic year through a unique arrangement involving two-way video technology.

Colonnese and Oliver have been named Visiting Diversity Libra Professors in UMaine's Division of Lifelong Learning. Colonnese will teach a course, The American Indian Novel, beginning October 1. The course will be offered by UMaine's Native American Studies Program and its English Department through UMaine's Continuing Education Division. Oliver's course, Two-Dimensional Art of the Northwest Coast Indian, begins in Winter Session and continues into the spring semester, offered by UMaine's Native American Studies Program and its Art Department.

In each case, the professor will present the course to an on-site class at the University of Washington, with that class linked to a UMaine classroom through compressed video technology delivered via the Internet. Students in Orono and Seattle will be able to interact with each other in real time.

"This partnership enables UMaine to enrich its curriculum while addressing aspects of its diversity initiatives," says Robert White, dean of UMaine's Division of Lifelong Learning. "This is an exciting first step which could lead to any number of similar ventures using distance learning technologies."

While visiting UMaine, Colonnese and Oliver will each present a public lecture, be involved in outreach and planning activities, will interact with UMaine students, faculty members, people in Maine's Native American community, and will beam the course back to their Seattle classroom, teaching live in Orono.

"Both have expressed enthusiasm about having the opportunity to expand their own knowledge, and to learn more about Native Americans in the northeast," White says.

Maureen Smith, director of UMaine's Native American Studies Program, says the connection between the programs at UMaine and the University of Washington makes sense, because of the effect of the coastal environment on the culture and history of Native people in the northeast and northwest.
"Since the Wabanaki tribes and the northwest tribes have been so influenced by similar environments, we have a built-in focus and basis for comparison," she says. "Through this connection, we can examine the environment and compare and contrast the ways in which people formed their lives and cultures around it."

Libra Professorships were established in the University of Maine System through a gift from Elizabeth B. Noyce. Each year, two of the professorships at UMaine are designed to increase diversity in University programs.

The fall semester course, The American Indian Novel, will be offered Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30-6:20 p.m., from October 1 to December 12. The spring semester course is expected to have a similar schedule. For registration information, call 581-3144.
Volunteers Sought for Taste Tests at UMaine

Sept. 7, 2001
Research contact: Kathleen Buzzard, 207-581-1635.
Media contact: Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777.

ORONO--Food science researchers at the University of Maine are looking for volunteers to participate in taste tests of ground turkey patties made with wild blueberry puree. Five separate times over a six-month period, participants will be asked to taste turkey patties that have been cooked and then frozen, says Kathleen Buzzard, a master’s student who is conducting the tests.

“We want to see what affect the wild blueberry puree has on the flavor of the turkey patties after they’ve been frozen,” says Buzzard. She is working with Alfred Bushway, professor in the Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

A brief screening meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Sept. 17 in room 335 Merrill Hall to make sure that participants understand the testing procedures and meet criteria for the study. A one-hour training session will be held at a future date.

Volunteers can contact Buzzard at 581-1635 or via e-mail at kathleen_buzzard@umit.maine.edu. They must be non-smokers over 18 years old. Compensation will be provided.
Fact Sheets Available on Maine Invasive Plants

Sept. 12, 2001

Contact: Lois Stack, Cooperative Extension, 207-581-2949.

ORONO--A series of fact sheets about invasive plant species in Maine is available from University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Originally produced by the Maine Natural Areas Program, the sheets describe seven plant species that are not native to the state but can crowd out native vegetation under some conditions.

The species covered include multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, buckthorn, Japanese bamboo, shrub honeysuckle, purple loosestrife and Oriental bittersweet.

"Invasive plants can out-compete native plants in wetlands, lakes, woods, fields and along roadsides," says Lois Stack, horticulture specialist with Cooperative Extension. "Over time, that can simplify our plant communities. As a result, wildlife would have fewer food options, and their behavior can change. Invasive plants can even dominate natural communities and drive some plants and animals to extinction."

Copies are available from county offices of Cooperative Extension. Contact information for each county office is available at 1-800-287-0274.
Patent for New Wood Composites Technology Assigned to UMaine

Sept. 12, 2001
Research contact: Habib Dagher, Director, Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, 207-581-2138.
Media contacts: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777; Roberta Laverty, AEWC, 207-581-2110.

ORONO--The University of Maine has received a patent for a new wood composites technology developed at the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center (AEWC) that promises to reduce the cost and increase the strength of building materials made with fiber-reinforced polymers (FRP). The U.S. Patent Office assigned the patent to UMaine on August 28.

The technology was developed by Habib Dagher and Steve Shaler, director and associate director, respectively, at AEWC, and by Beckry Abdel-Magid, AEWC engineer and a professor at Winona State University in Minnesota. Their invention allows common adhesives to be used to bond layers of wood with a FRP panel.

The technology is known as RESPI™, which stands for resin-starved pultruded-impregnated. RESPI™ technology provides a simple, inexpensive, commercially viable method for reinforcing structural wood products such as beams, I-joists or flat panels (plywood).

The inventors have performed pilot studies of RESPI™ over the past five years and have found that a panel reinforcement of 2% of a laminated beam by volume can increase the bending strength of the beam by over fifty percent.

"The Center has been responsible for innovative bridge and pier construction using composite wood materials all over the state in over a dozen demonstration projects" says Dagher. "Two projects, a pier in Bar Harbor and a bridge in Medway, both utilize RESPI™ panels. We are very excited that this cost-efficient, effective technology developed in University of Maine laboratories has already benefited Maine’s communities."

In addition to increasing the strength, stiffness and ductility of wood composites, RESPI™ reinforced beams allow for longer spans, lower depths and lighter structures.

The AEWC was established by UMaine to develop the underlying science and engineering principles needed to produce low-cost, high-performance materials made of wood and non-wood components. These materials promise to be less expensive and more effective than concrete and steel, and they serve the state’s economy by adding value to low grade wood and wood by-products which have heretofore been underutilized, if not totally discarded.
Hay and Forage Supplies will be Tight this Winter; Cooperative Extension Continues Online Hay Directory

September 14, 2001
Contact: Rick Kersbergen, Cooperative Extension Educator, 1-800-287-1426 (within Maine), 1-207-342-5971 (outside of Maine)

ORONO--Mother nature threw two punches at livestock producers this growing season, says Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension educator. To help producers get through the winter, Extension continues to offer a directory of sellers and buyers of hay.

With many portions of the state looking at record low rainfall this summer, hay and silage growers saw yield drop drastically after the first cutting of forage in May and June, adds Kersbergen. Some fields that often receive three cuttings of hay only had yield enough for one.

The once-in-a-lifetime army worm invasions also contributed to the loss of forage production. Almost all areas of the state were severely affected. Just as producers were about to begin second cutting harvest, the army worms inflicted their damage with incredible appetites, feeding on forage grasses, small grains and corn silage crops.

To help livestock producers locate forage supplies, Extension has been updating the Hay Directory. This directory was created during a similar forage shortage three years ago and lists forage available for sale throughout Maine and Eastern Canada.

Listings of the hay that is for sale can be seen at a web site, or the directory can be requested by calling 1-800-287-1426.

Producers with hay for sale can contact Michelle Kreamer at the Waldo County Extension office at 1-800-287-1426 to get listings posted to the Web site. Hay from fields that have not received any chemical fertilizer or chemical pesticides in the last three years is potentially a source of feed for the organic market as well.

For more information, please call Kersbergen at 1-800-287-1426.
Controversial Topics Discussed at UMaine Lunch Series

Sept. 18, 2001  
**Media contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571**

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

Programs will be held in the Coe Lounge of the Memorial Union on Thursdays from 12:30-1:45 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

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

The Socialist and Marxist Controversy Series is sponsored by the Marxist-Socialist Studies Interdisciplinary minor and co-sponsored by the Maine Peace Action Committee, the Memorial Union and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Speakers do not necessarily present socialist or Marxist viewpoints. For additional information contact Allen at 581-3860.

The schedule is as follows:

- **Oct. 3 "Radicalism at the University of Maine"** (313 Shibles) – Larry Moskowitz, a 1970 graduate of UMaine, was the leader of the Students for a Democratic Society. A radical, who has remained active over the years, he is the Labor Coordinator of the Working Families Party of New York.

- **Oct. 11 "Reclaiming Democracy, Creating Alternatives: Toward a Strategy for the Anti-Corporate Globalization Movement in Maine"** (206 Rogers) – Matt Selbohm and Ethan Miller are independent writers and activists who organize with the Maine Global Action Network and the Maine Youth Campfire Collective. They are creating the Maine Center for Justice, Ecology and Democracy.

- **Oct. 18 "Marx After Marxism: the Humanistic Marx"** – Kevin Brien, professor of Philosophy and Religion at Washington College in Maryland is the author of "Marx, Reason and the Art of Freedom." He will give a presentation on "Logos and Mythos: Marx and Buddhism" at 4 p.m. in the Maples Building.

- **Oct. 25 "How are Peace and Justice Related?"** – Charlotte Herbold, editor of "News and Views" (Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine monthly publication); April Thibodeau, student activist, Maine Peace Action Committee; Phyllis Brazee and Barbara Blazej from the UMaine Peace Studies Program; and UMaine Douglas Allen, Maine Peace Action Committee and Education Coordinator of the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine.
• Nov. 1 "An Environmentally Sustainable Campus: What Would It Take?" Marquita Hill of the UMaine chemical engineering faculty; UMaine student Matt Yount; Reeser Manley of the UMaine landscape horticulture faculty; UMaine Sustainability Officer Scott Wilkerson; Paul Van Steenberghe of the UMaine mathematics faculty and Emily Markides.

• Nov. 8 "Reports from Bosnia and Croatia: The Years After the Breakup of Yugoslavia" – Shannon Martin of the UMaine Communication and Journalism faculty and Michael Howard of the UMaine philosophy faculty.

• Nov. 15 "The Complex Politics of Sustainable Development and the Penjajawoc Marsh" – Valerie Carter of the UMaine Bureau of Labor Education staff; Lucy Quimby, a Bangor resident; Richard Andren, retired professor of biological sciences at Montgomery Community College in Pennsylvania and a resident of Dixmont; and Gwethalyn Phillips, a small business owner and Bangor resident.

• Nov. 29 "The Legacy of the Vietnam War" (100 Neville) – Burton Hatlen of the UMaine English faculty (moderator); Ngo Vinh Long of the UMaine history faculty; Robert Whelan of the UMaine English faculty and Douglas Allen of the UMaine philosophy faculty.
Maine Heritage Video Series Scheduled

Sept. 18, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The Special Collections Department of the University of Maine’s Fogler Library will show a series of videos relating to the history and cultures of Maine on Tuesday evenings this fall, at 6:30 p.m. each week. The series, which begins today, will feature historical films centered around the following themes:

- The logging and the pulpwood industries (Sept. 18, Sept. 25, Oct. 2)
- The fishing industry (Oct. 16, Oct. 30, Nov. 6)
- Railroads (Nov. 13)
- Native Americans (Nov. 27, Dec. 4)
- Franco-Americans (Dec. 11)

The videos will be shown in the Special Collections reading room on the third floor of Fogler Library. To receive full schedule for the video series, please contact the department at 581-1686 (phone) or spc@umit.maine.edu (email).
UMaine Professor Examines Mystical Heart of Christianity in New Book

Sept. 18, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – In his new book sociology professor Kyriacos C. Markides from the University of Maine investigates the mystical heart of Christianity. "The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality," published today by Doubleday, takes readers to a monastery in the Troodos mountains of Cyprus and to the faraway Greek peninsula of Mt. Athos, a haven for monks and hermits since the ninth century.

"A friend invited me several years ago to join him on a journey to meet what he claimed were living saints radiating the love of Christ. Mt. Athos was an extraordinary revelation for me," Markides says. "I realized that within Christianity there was preserved a living mystical spiritual tradition that I assumed existed only in oriental religions."

That initial visit produced an interest that led to a series of books on the nature and origins of mystical Christianity. Other books he has written include "Riding with the Lion: In Search of Mystical Christianity," published in 1995 and "Fire in the Heart: Healers, Sages and Mystics," published in 1990.

Markides says his latest book took him four years to research and write. He spent much of a 1997 sabbatical living among the monks of the Panagia monastery in Cyprus and talking with Father Maximos, a monk who had come from Mt. Athos and was considered an elder of Christian spirituality.

"During my stay, I acted as Father Maximos’ driver, which allowed me to have consistent access to him for casual conversations," says Markides. "Further visits to the island and to Mt. Athos during the following summers and semester breaks offered me additional opportunities for a deeper understanding of the culture of Athonite spirituality."

In the book, Markides includes an historical explanation of the way Christianity developed and uses dialogues with monks and hermits to communicate the mystical wisdom that he says is found in some ancient monastic communities. He claims that the Western Christian approach toward God has been primarily philosophical and intellectual, whereas in Eastern Christianity it has been more experiential and mystical.

"In the West we have cut ourselves off from a vast source of knowledge and wisdom because it does not spring from laboratory research," he says. "It seems to me that there are other dimensions of reality that can only be investigated experientially by spiritual adepts and teachers. We have called these people saints. They are the experts of inner reality."

Monasteries, he says, may be the universities for this knowledge of inner life and have been largely ignored in the West. "We have perhaps paid a very high price for closing down the
monasteries," he says. "We have deprived ourselves of those traditional institutions that specialized in the cultivation of the experiential knowledge of God."

Markides says he asked Christian hermits, considered to be holy elders, how to know God, and was told that such knowledge is not something that can be obtained from books. Markides says monasteries in all religions have historically played the role of fostering ways and means of acquiring Divine experience and wisdom. "The holy elders of Mt. Athos teach that you cannot prove God’s existence through philosophical or mathematical formulas or intellectual arguments. You have to be willing to undergo a rigorous, disciplined process of spiritual training that produces a catharsis, a cleansing of one’s self from egotistical desires and passions," he says. "You will then find out for yourself whether there is a God or not, for God cannot be revealed to the human heart until that heart is purified of egotism.

"This book should be of interest to anybody wishing to explore spirituality, history or religion," he says. "It will offer insights into the way that the Christian religion has developed within the context of the modern world. I am trying to present, in a phenomenological way, a different culture and a different view of reality that may be helpful for people. It is my hope that any reader, no matter what their background, will become personally engaged with the value and significance of the ideas presented in this book."
Women in the Curriculum Sets Fall Lunch Series Programs

Sept. 18, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- The Women in the Curriculum and Women’s Studies Program at the University of Maine continue their brown-bag lunch series with a schedule full of timely and provocative topics during the fall semester at UMaine.

The series will be held from 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. in Room 237 of North Stevens Hall unless otherwise noted.

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

For more information call 581-1228.

The schedule is as follows:

• Tuesday, Sept. 25 "Bugs in the System: Edith Marion Patch and the Women of Entomology" – Mary Bird of the UMaine education faculty and Cassie Gibbs, UMaine professor emerita of entomology.

• Tuesday, Oct. 2 "Industrious Lives: Acadian Women and Household Manufacture in the 18th and 19th Centuries" – Judith Rygiel, Ph.D. candidate in history, Carleton University.

• Wednesday, Oct. 10 "Women at Risk: Protecting Yourself from the Contamination of Maine’s Waterways" – Emily Fisher, intern at the Natural Resources Council of Maine and Amanda Sears, outreach coordinator at the National Resources Council of Maine. Part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month programming at UMaine.

• Wednesday, Oct. 17 "Alma Rosé: Music, Survival and Heroism at Auschwitz" -- Phillip Silver of the UMaine music faculty.

• Wednesday, Oct. 24 "Views from Another Side: Women’s Studies Students Go Abroad" – with Satyam Barakoti, Sally Curran and Sarah Lund.
• Tuesday, Oct. 30 "University Administration Working for Women: the Success of the Strategic Study Group on the Status of Women at Penn State" – Michael Johnson, associate professor of sociology, women’s studies and African and African American Studies at Pennsylvania State University.

• Tuesday, Nov. 6 "Grasroots Goes to the Polls: The Impact of Citizens’ Initiatives on Maine’s Lesbian and Gay Rights Movement" – Kim Simmons, adjunct professor of sociology at the University of Southern Maine and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota.

• Tuesday, Nov. 13 "Bridging Genres, Bridging Cultures: A Poet’s Entanglement with Women of the Former Soviet Union," Lee Sharkey, director of Women’s Studies at the University of Maine at Farmington.

• Tuesday, Nov. 27 "Teen Pregnancy and Birth Rates in Maine: the Public Challenge" – Leslie King, Stephen Marks and Adina Nack of the UMaine sociology faculty.

• Wednesday, Dec. 5 "'Chinese Brushstrokes’ and ‘Red Rain’: Writings on China Spring" – a reading of poetry, fiction and essays by Sandra Hutchinson, an independent scholar.

• Wednesday, Dec. 12 "An Update on the UMaine System Diversity Effort" – Sally Dobres, human resources associate and equal opportunity coordinator, University of Maine System; Sue Huseman, professor of French and UMaine System special assistant for diversity; and Charles Slavin, director of the UMaine Honors Program and chair of the 1998 UMaine Diversity Task Force.
EAP Announces Lunch and Learn Series Schedule

Sept. 19, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has announced the schedule for its Lunch and Learn Series.

The seminars are scheduled for Oct. 5, Oct. 18, and Nov. 14 and will be conducted from noon-1 p.m. in the Boudwell Lounge at the Maine Center for the Arts.

The topic of the Oct. 5 session is "Blended Families" and will be conducted by Richard Noonan, a Bangor-based psychotherapist who specializes in short term counseling and family therapy. Noonan holds a master’s degree in social work and has over 25 years of experience in Maine and New York.

Noonan will address issues such as maintaining healthy boundaries and acknowledging new boundaries within a blended family, helping children deal with family break-up and integration, managing the expansion of the blended family, and managing visitations.

The topic of the Oct. 18 session is "Conflict Resolution Within the Family" and will be conducted by Joan Marks. Marks holds a master’s degree in social work and has over 30 years of experience as a psychotherapist and consultant in Maine and Texas.

Marks’ seminar will examine the origins of family tensions and demonstrate how to apply the principles of conflict resolution to problems within the family.

The topic of the Nov. 14 session is "The Importance of Children’s Friendship Experiences" and will be conducted by University of Maine psychology professor Cynthia Erdley. Erdley has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology and has recently edited a book entitled "The Role of Friendship in Psychological Adjustment." She has been researching children’s peer relationships for 15 years.

Erdley’s seminar will highlight recent research, which has demonstrated that children involved in high quality friendships are less lonely, less depressed, perform better in school and are better adjusted as adults. It will also explore topics such as helping children develop and maintain friendships, defining the elements of a quality friendship, the changing role of parents in a child’s social life as the child ages, and what to do if parents do not approve of their children’s friends.
Family and Friends Weekend Set at UMaine

Sept. 19, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Over 10,000 visitors are expected to flock to the University of Maine campus and surrounding areas Sept. 28-30 for the 31st Annual Family and Friends Weekend. Visitors will have the opportunity to avail themselves of the university’s many cultural resources, get a taste of student life at the Student Organizations Fair, and cheer on the Black Bears at football and volleyball games.

The weekend features a full schedule of special events as well as the opportunity to tour the university’s museums and research facilities. Participants may register for the weekend at the Heritage House at 105 College Ave. from 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28 and from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 29.

Friday’s highlights include a pulp and paper making demonstration by Calder Professor of Pulp and Paper Technology Joseph Genco at 3 p.m. in Jenness Hall. Participants may also visit the university’s miniature paper machine and see firsthand the trees transformed into paper. The volleyball team will take on the University of Vermont at 7 p.m. in Memorial Gym.

Saturday, the Student Organizations Fair will be open on the mall from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Over 100 organizations will contribute exhibits, food, displays, booths, demonstrations and music. The rain location is Lengyl Gym. At noon the American Society of Mechanical Engineering Students will sponsor a cardboard canoe race down the Stillwater River. Spectators may view this event from the Steam Plant parking lot. The football team will play James Madison University at 7 p.m. at Alfond Stadium.

Also on Saturday, the Maine Center for the Arts will feature performances of the highly acclaimed Tap Dogs at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. The international award-winning show is a blend of theatre, dance, rock concert and construction site. The performers, dressed in work boots and jeans, engage in an athletic dance based on the choreographer’s experiences as an industrial mechanic in Australia. Call the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office at (207) 581-1755 or 800-622-8499 for ticket information and advance reservations.

For more information visit www.umaine.edu/familyandfriends or contact Joseph Mollo, director for Campus Activities and Events at 207-581-1793.
Loeb to Speak on Teaching for Social Involvement

Sept. 19, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO --Paul Rogat Loeb, a nationally recognized expert in social engagement and service learning, will conduct a workshop entitled "Teaching for Social Involvement" on Monday, Oct. 22, from 3-5 p.m. at the Main Dining Room, Wells Conference Center, the University of Maine. Loeb will also present a keynote address on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts.

The seminar is sponsored by the Peace Studies program and the Center for Teaching Excellence. Loeb will outline basic theories on teaching social involvement and lead a 60-90 minute discussion on how those theories may be applied in the classroom.

The workshop is free and open to all Maine faculty, instructors and teaching assistants. A complimentary copy of Loeb’s book "Soul of a Citizen" will be presented to the first 25 who register.

Loeb, an associated scholar at the Center for Ethical Leadership in Seattle, is the author of "Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time," "Generation at the Crossroads: Apathy and Action on the American Campus," "Nuclear Culture," and "Hope in Hard Times." He has been researching and writing about citizen responsibility and empowerment for nearly 30 years and his work has been featured in The New York Times, Washington Post, New York Review of Books, Newsweek, Chronicle of Higher Education, Los Angeles Times, Utne Reader, Toronto Globe and Mail, Contemporary Sociology,

Psychology Today, Redbook, Parents Magazine, Christian Science Monitor, National Catholic Reporter, and the International Herald Tribune. He has conducted over 800 television and radio interviews and lectured at over 200 colleges and universities.

For more information, contact the Peace Studies office at 581-2609. Participants must register with the Center for Teaching Excellence, 212 Crossland Alumni Center, by Oct. 10.
Poetry Readings Scheduled at UMaine

Sept. 19, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO -- When the University of Maine English Department and National Poetry Foundation launched the New Writing Series three years ago, it aimed to attract the nation’s most highly acclaimed poets, stimulate debate, and introduce the genre to a new generation of students. The program has succeeded on all accounts, welcoming bards such as Robert Creeley and serving thousands of students around the state.

This year’s ten-week program gets underway Thursday Sept. 20, with Julie Patton scheduled for a reading. Readings will be held Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. until Dec. 6 at the Soderberg Center, Jenness Hall, at UMaine. There will not be readings Nov. 22 and 29. All readings are free and open to the public.

Steven Evans, an assistant professor of Contemporary Poetry and one of the founders of the New Writing Series, said the program has built upon UMaine’s tradition of commitment to poetry.

UMaine has been home to the internationally known National Poetry Foundation since 1971. The National Poetry Foundation publishes two journals and numerous books and hosts regular international conferences on modern poetry.

"This is a very interesting, buoyant time for poetry itself," said Evans. "And Maine has so many generations of commitment to poetry, there’s a deep sustaining structure for poetry here."

According to Evans, the series was started in an effort to take the department’s already impressive commitment to poetry "to an another level." The launch of the series coincided with the hiring of Evans and Benjamin Friedlander as assistant professors. Adjunct Professor Jennifer Moxley and Assistant Professor Carla Billitteri also have been heavily involved with the series.

The series has grown in each of its first two years, and Evans anticipates that it will reach even greater numbers this year. He estimated that about 1,000 people attended the readings last year, with an average attendance of 60 at each event. Nationally-known poets like Creeley drew audiences of 200-300.

The visiting poets also lectured in classes and at area high schools, exposing nearly another 1,000 people to their work.

But it hasn’t just been the lure of the big names that makes the program attractive. The series also includes members of the faculty and local poets like Pat Ranzoni and Gary Lawless.
Evans said the poets are selected according to their ability to contribute to the on-going debate to define American poetry.

Evans added that the poets are excited to participate in a series that has a firm purpose and focus. "It’s not just another gig. This makes another space on the American poetry map," he said.

Evans said the series also seeks to showcase the diversity of American poetry by featuring established poets, young poets, and a variety of styles.

"None of us know what American poetry is. It’s too big and it changes too much. The idea is not to get caught up in stale ideas of what poetry is," he said.

The series is part of a wider effort to promote the teaching of poetry in the department curriculum. The poets visit individual classes, where they may interact with the students. Evans is even teaching a course for first-year students, "The Vital Word," in which the students attend the readings and participate in seminars with the poets. Fourteen students are enrolled this semester.

"I’ve never seen anything that puts first-year students in contact [with poets] like that," Evans said.

And now that the series has become more established, Evans said he is focusing on reaching out to area high schools. He hopes he can increase the number of visits by the poets to the schools. Past visits have included Orono High School and John Bapst of Bangor.

Evans added that due to the travel difficulties posed in the aftermath of the World Trade Center and Pentagon bombings, it is possible that Patton, who is flying to Maine from Ohio, may have her plans disrupted. Even if Patton is unable to come, the reading will still take place. In that event, he said people planning to attend should bring a poem of their own that they could share.

The full schedule of readings is: Julie Patton (Sept. 20), Robert Creeley (Sept. 27), Pat Ranzoni and Gary Lawless (Oct. 4), Bill Berkson (Oct. 11), Benjamin Friedlander and Alan Gilbert (Oct. 18), Rachel Blau DuPlessis (Oct. 25), Alice Notley (Nov. 1), Jeff Clark and Damon Krukowski (Nov. 8), Ken Norris, rob mclennan and Gil McElroy (Nov. 15), and Laura Moriarty and Steve Benson (Dec. 6).

For more information contact Steven Evans at 207-581-3809.
Schonberger Lecture to Focus on Domestic Violence

Sept. 19, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine’s Howard Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture will be presented by a man whose research has contributed to the on-going debate about domestic violence. The lecture also will highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Women in the Curriculum and Women’s Studies Program’s new research collaborative on violence against women.

"Gender and the Importance of Distinguishing among Types of Partner Violence" is the subject of the talk, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at 100 Donald P. Corbett Business Building. It will be presented by Michael P. Johnson, associate head of the department of sociology and associate professor of sociology, women’s studies and African and African-American studies at Pennsylvania State University.

Johnson’s most recent work, "Conflict and Control: Images of Symmetry and Asymmetry in Domestic Violence," is featured in Alan Booth and Ann C. Crouter’s book, "Couples in Conflict." He also has published cross-cultural work on violence against women in the family in the United States and Vietnam. His teaching interests include relationship development, the social psychology of close relationships, feminist family sociology, teaching sociology, women and the family, social psychological theory, the sociology of gender, and racism and sexism. He is a past winner of the Penn State College of the Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher Award and has served on the editorial boards of Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Marriage and the Family, Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, Personal Relationships, and Social Psychology Quarterly.

The research collaborative was established as a network of people doing research on violence against women. Members discuss their work and collaborate on proposals, including one to the federal government. It includes faculty from the Women in the Curriculum and Women’s Studies Program, the Department of Sociology, the School of Nursing, the School of Social Work, the College of Education and Human Development and the Department of Public Affairs as well as representatives from the community.

The Howard Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture was established by the family and friends of the UMaine history professor after his untimely death in 1991. The series is intended to honor Schonberger’s commitment to both scholarship and social justice.
UMaine Assessing Theatre Program

Sept. 20, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine has begun a formal process to assess the nature and quality of its dramatic arts programming, according to UMaine's senior academic officer.

Robert A. Kennedy, executive vice president and provost, says he has initiated the first step of a process that will determine whether UMaine will suspend its bachelor's and master's degree programs in Theatre. A suspension would allow the university to determine whether the programmatic and organizational components of the Theatre program warrant continued operation in their current form. Options would be to resume the program as it currently exists; revise or reorganize the program and associated elements; or eliminate it entirely. The process itself is prescribed by University of Maine System policy.

Maine Masque, a co-curricular theatre program affiliated with the Theatre Department, will not be considered as part of the review process. Those theatre productions will continue unabated, according to Kennedy.

Kennedy emphasizes that suspension or eventual elimination of the program would not affect the ability of any current Theatre majors or graduate students to complete their programs of study. Those students would be offered the classes necessary to earn a Theatre degree. However, no new students could enroll as Theatre majors once a suspension went into place.

"It's important to understand that at this time we are only initiating a process that in time could lead to the suspension of the program," Kennedy explained. "Right now no decision has been made to suspend the program, and no decision will be made until the process of reviewing options has been followed."

Kennedy says that he and others decided to take action in light of an external evaluation of the Theatre department's programs and administration. That evaluation, conducted by respected theatre professionals from outside the university, recommended that the university consider changes in the way it provides dramatic arts education.

"The review was thorough and raised a number of important questions about the adequacy of the way the Theatre program was being operated," Kennedy explains. "We simply must follow up on those questions and explore in detail the concerns that were raised.

"The process we are following will involve consultation with those interested in, and affected by, the possible suspension," Kennedy continued. "Regardless of what conclusions we reach, President (Peter) Hoff and I are in full agreement that UMaine will indeed continue to encourage and support the dramatic arts. Their form and content will depend on the result of a thorough and proscribed review process."
The Theatre department is one of three academic units housed and operated as part of UMaine's School of Performing Arts. The School offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music and Theatre/Dance.
Cohen Archivist Joins Fogler Library Staff

Sept. 21, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine’s Fogler Library has announced the appointment of Paige Lilly, an archivist with 17 years of experience in the library field in Maine, to the position of archivist for the William S. Cohen Papers.

The Cohen Papers, donated to the university upon Cohen’s retirement from the Senate in 1997, are held in the Special Collections department of the library. From 1998 to 2000, archivist Fran O’Donnell, who served a two-year appointment as Cohen Archivist, began organizing the collection and created a Website at www.library.umaine.edu/cohen.

Lilly, a Woolwich native whose first job in high school was at the Patten Free Library in Bath, earned a bachelor’s degree from Colby College and a master’s degree from the University of Southern Maine. Her previous posts include archivist/librarian at The Shaker Library in Sabbathday Lake, and head of the research library at the Penobscot Marine Museum in Searsport. She serves on the Maine Historical Records Advisory Board, a governor-appointed board that reviews grant proposals for archival projects funded by the National Historical Records and Publications Commission.

"We anticipate that Paige will bring this major collection of congressional and senatorial papers into the public eye," says Richard Hollinger, head of Special Collections at UMaine. "In addition to completing the organization of the collection, she will be actively promoting the public access to and use of the collection."

Lilly also joins the advisory board of the William S. Cohen Center for International Policy and Commerce, a component of the UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health.

"This is a job with lots of potential for researchers and for me as an archivist," says Lilly. "I’m looking forward to making this material, a collection of national significance, widely accessible." Confidential portions of the collection will remain restricted for several years, while some materials, including Department of Defense files added this year, will be available as soon as processing is completed.
UMaine Schedules "Stephen King Day" Events for Oct. 3

Sept. 21, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine will celebrate its most famous graduate, best-selling author Stephen King, with a series of events on Stephen King Day, Wednesday Oct. 3.

King himself will participate in most of the events. He will take part in a panel discussion of 1960s-era campus activism during the afternoon, and in the evening he will read a section of his book, "Hearts in Atlantis," about life on the UMaine campus during the 1960s, and he will offer his reflections on the significance of that decade.

"For many people around the U.S. and around the world, Stephen King represents the University of Maine," says Burton Hatlen of the UMaine English Department faculty, who taught King and King's wife, Tabitha, when they were UMaine students in the late 1960s and 1970. "This day will represent an opportunity for us to recognize his enormous contributions to literature and film, and for members of our community to learn more about Steve and the influences that made him what he is today."

"Hearts in Atlantis," which King published in 1999, is this year's UMaine Class Book. Selected each year by the university's faculty senate, the class book is required reading in many classes throughout the school and serves as the centerpiece for a variety of co-curricular programs on campus.

The Oct. 3 events will include a series of events focusing in large part on King's years as a UMaine student.

From 12:30 to 1:45, in Room 313 Shibles Hall, a well-known campus activist from the 1960s, Larry Moskowitz, will speak on "1960s Radicalism at the University of Maine." The talk by Moskowitz, who is labor coordinator of the Working Families Party of New York, is sponsored by the Marxist/Socialist Luncheon Series at UMaine.

At 3:10 p.m. in UMaine's Hauck Auditorium, King and six of his contemporaries will participate in a panel discussion "Thirty Years Later: Reflections on Campus Activism by Those Who Led It." The participants -- all UMaine student leaders and activists from the nation's Vietnam War era -- will reunite to discuss the highly charged political and social climate that existed during their years on campus, and to examine the influence student activism of that period has had on American society, government and culture.

Joining King will be other UMaine alumni of the period, including Michael Carpenter, a former Maine Attorney General; Richard Davies, a former state legislator and current public policy consultant; Christine Hastedt, co-founder of the Maine Equal Justice Project and the Maine Equal Justice Partners; Moskowitz; Trish Riley, executive director of the National...
Academy for State Health Policy and current chair of UMaine's Board of Visitors; and Clifford Rosen, a medical doctor and national expert on osteoporosis.

Moderating the discussion will be National Public Radio's Brian Naylor, a 1979 UMaine graduate. Naylor is a well-known reporter who covered the Clinton presidency and has been playing a major role in NPR's coverage of the Sept. 11 terror attacks and related investigations.

The second public event, "An Evening with Stephen King," will be held at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 3 at the university's Maine Center for the Arts. King will read passages from "Hearts in Atlantis" and will offer observations on his experiences at UMaine in the 1960s, and on the ways the political ferment of the period has affected his life and his writing. Like the afternoon panel discussion, the evening event is open to the public and free of charge. Seating for the event is on a first come, first served basis.

The day's events are sponsored by the UMaine Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. For more information call (207) 581-3744.
Looking for a Chemical Fingerprint in Human Breath

Sept. 26, 2001

Research contact: Touradj Solouki, Dept. of Chemistry, 207-581-1172
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Chemists at the University of Maine are developing new technology that will bring us closer to the day when a standard medical check-up includes a breath scan. Levels of two naturally occurring compounds, nitric oxide and acetone, are already known to be potential health indicators, but accurate and affordable monitoring devices have not been available.

Touradj Solouki of the Department of Chemistry coordinates a team of students and other scientists in Chemistry and the UMaine Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology (LASST). Their goal is a reliable method for collecting breath samples and analyzing them for accurate identification of the hundreds of compounds already known to be present in breath.

"We’re trying to get at all of the components that are in the human breath," says Solouki. "First, we want to get a chemical fingerprint of breath in a healthy person. That means we have to understand the variation between smokers and non-smokers, females and males, young and old. Once we have that, we would like to get markers that will tell us something about the health of a person. We can use a marker to develop new medical sensors to determine if a person is healthy."

Initial funding for the research came from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to LASST and Sensor Research and Development (SRD) in Orono in 1998. The focus of that study was the development of an electronic sensor that could indicate a soldier’s exposure to pathogens or toxins. Researchers began looking closely at nitric oxide (NO) because levels of NO were thought to be an indicator of infection related stress.

While LASST researchers have overcome technical hurdles to NO detection, SRD is concerned with engineering a practical sensor device that can meet the needs of the military.

Through the course of the research, it became apparent that other compounds in breath may also have important medical uses. For example, excess levels of acetone, says Solouki, have been associated with cancer.

"The significance of a lot of the compounds in breath are not known," says Solouki, "not by us or anyone else." Nevertheless, attempts to analyze the chemistry of breath go back about two hundred years. In fact, says Solouki, scientists used guinea pigs in early breath analysis experiments and coined the term "guinea pig" as a research subject.

The method being developed by the team involves steps to concentrate a breath sample and divide it into major and minor components. The breath is passed through a tube, Solouki explains, that holds onto some components and not others.
"It’s like walking through a hall and shaking people’s hands," Solouki says. "Some of the compounds like to shake hands for a long time, and others go through very fast and don’t shake anyone’s hands. As they go through the column, some are able to zip through. They don’t have to shake very many hands. Some may have to shake lots of hands, say good-by and so on. And that’s how they get separated."

The separation step is important, he says, because most of our breath is composed of carbon-dioxide, water and a few other chemicals. Scientists are most interested in chemicals that are present in minute amounts.

Once the breath sample is divided, the components are sent through a machine that identifies each molecule by how fast it moves in a magnetic field. The machine is so sensitive that it can distinguish between two nearly identical molecules that may appear as a single molecule in other instruments.

Other members of the team include Jan Szulejko, a post-doctoral scientist; David Labreque, a research associate; Darren Heald, a graduate student in the Dept. of Chemical Engineering; and Robert Lad of LASST.
Photo Exhibit Opening Event Scheduled for Thursday

Sept. 26, 2001
Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571
Connie Baxter Marlow at (970) 948-2438

ORONO -- A gathering, "Peace from the Heart of the Earth," which will open a photo exhibit in the University of Maine's Fogler Library, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27 on the library steps.

Author and photographer Connie Baxter Marlow, whose photos make up the exhibit, "Greatest Mountain: Exploring the Mystical Nature of Katahdin," will be joined by Peonbscot elder Arnie Neptune, Wabanaki singers Kelly Demmons and Darlene Jerome to share thoughts, songs and drumming. Author and artist Michael Green will speak on "Envisioning a North American AfterCulture."

The exhibit will continue in the library's Reserve Reading Room until Jan. 6, 2002.

"The intent of the evening," Marlow says, "is to share the possibilities of peace through the native perspective of a loving, conscious universe, a concept which lies at the foundation of all indigenous thought."

Neptune, a descendent of the first Indian to climb Katahdin, will speak of the Native perspective. "It is the way of the Native people to greet each new day in gratitude for the love that is all around us - the warmth from the sun, oxygen and shade from the trees - and the beauty found in the human heart," he says. The songs that will be shared by the two Wabanaki singers will reflect this reverence and gratitude of the Native way.

Marlow has spent the last ten years in close association with many visionary elders of the Native peoples of the United States and Mexico. She has brought two photography exhibits to UMaine in an effort to share the indigenous worldview as a foundation for a new perspective for humanity. "The Rhythms of Creation: A Family's Impressions of Indigenous Peoples of the World: An Exhibit of Images and Ideas" will be on display at the Hudson Museum until Jan. 6, 2002, as will the library exhibit.

"My intent with having two exhibits practically side-by-side was to provide a broad body of thought that might be enough to shift some thinking," Marlow says. "Now more than ever the hearts and minds of the world are open to seeking alternatives to our accepted thinking and behavior."
UMaine Senior Attends International Symposium on Conflict Resolution

Sept. 26, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – University of Maine senior Corinne Whitling has dedicated much of the last eight years of her life to conflict resolution and community service. This summer the Portland native took that commitment to another level when she attended a four-week symposium (July 21-Aug. 18) sponsored by the International Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution (IIMCR) at The Hague, Netherlands.

Whitling, a sociology major with a concentration in Peace Studies, has returned to UMaine, where she is a student coordinator for Campus Mediation and works for the Bangor-based Penquis Community Action Program. She said the lessons she learned in the Hague will stay with her as she seeks to make a difference on the UMaine campus and in the wider world.

"I realized there are people all around the world that want to make a difference. … No matter how hard an individual works to try to change the world, you cannot change the world solely by yourself," Whitling said.

Whitling became interested in conflict resolution as a 15-year-old student at Deering High School in Portland. Deering was initiating a new program in which students would be trained as peer mediators.

Whitling became a peer mediator and also worked as a family mediator at Youth Alternative, a Portland-based community action program.

The IIMCR is based in Washington D.C. and focuses on training young people in conflict resolution skills through its symposium and by making itself available as a resource for universities that wish to set up courses in conflict resolution. It also has developed an interdisciplinary course curriculum.

The IIMCR symposium, held in conjunction with the Faculty of Social Sciences of Erasmus University Rotterdam, consists of lectures, training exercises and simulations. The faculty includes negotiation and mediation experts, current and former diplomats and conflict resolution experts. Past faculty have been drawn from the Carter Center, the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, the Netherlands Institute of International Relations and the United Nations.

Training sessions focused on basic mediation at the community level, international negotiation, boundary disputes between nations and states, negotiations over global issues, the Kyoto negotiations, women’s roles in international negotiations, the environment and the
Participants also visited the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Peace Palace.

Whitling was one of 91 participants in the program, in which about 30 countries were represented. There were over 500 applicants for the symposium.

The entire program cost about $5,000, and Whitling received some funding from the UMaine Sociology Department, Peace Studies and Campus Mediation. Whitling and her parents made up the other costs.

Sociology Professor Steven Barkan said he was impressed by Whitling’s commitment. "She’s very mature and committed to what her interests are. … She spent a fair amount of money on her own and that underscores her dedication to this type of activity," he said.

Whitling said the experience confirmed her conviction that conflict resolution skills are necessary for 21st century living, both at the local and global levels.

"It’s pretty obvious it’s of great need these days. It’s an excellent way to promote non-violent peace-making through dialogue," she said. She added that it was helpful to interact with students from non-Western nations. She said that understanding the non-Western viewpoint is vital for world peace. "The western world can’t affect the entire global nation, and we have to respect that. … Western idealism – that’s not always the way that things are going to be," she said.

Whitling recognized that more Americans may come to understand that in the aftermath of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. She said she hoped there would be a non-violent response, but knows that may not be feasible. But even in the event of violence, she said it is important for dialogue to continue. "The more you talk about things, the better things will become," she said.

For her part, Whitling’s main interest is mediation at the community level rather than conflict resolution in international politics. When she graduates in May she hopes to work for a community-based organization, possibly in the Washington, D.C., area.

She said she made some Washington D.C.-based contacts at the IIMCR symposium and that she will visit there in January to scout out job opportunities. At the moment she is busy helping to plan a Peace Panel for UMaine’s Peace Week, scheduled for Oct. 22-26.

But no matter what her future holds, Whitling said that her experience at the symposium has permanently changed her perspective.

"It’s easy to shut yourself off [from world events]. … There are so many issues in the world we need to stay on top of," she said.
Maine Folklife Center Exhibits Set for Common Ground Fair

Sept. 21, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine’s Maine Folklife Center has developed a new and improved set exhibits for the 25th annual Common Ground Fair, scheduled for Sept. 21-23 in Unity.

The Maine Folklife Center’s contributions are organized under the theme "Making Community" and include exhibits on folksong collecting, Civilian Conservation Corps camps, lumber camps and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA). The Center also will coordinate on-site, tape-recorded interviews with organic farmers as part of the MOFGA Oral History Project.

The Maine Folklife Center is home to one of the nation’s leading collections of folklore, oral history, traditional music and photographs of Maine and Eastern Canada. It was founded in 1957 by Dr. Edward Ives as the Northeast Archives. Today the archives include over 8,000 photographs and 2,500 tape-recorded interviews.

The MOFGA sponsors the Common Ground Fair, which attracts 50,000-60,000 visitors every year. The event seeks to educate fair-goers about a healthy lifestyle and to celebrate rural living. Visitors may view farmers and their livestock, eat organically grown foods, learn basic gardening skills and see exhibits of Maine-made crafts, folk arts, foods, plants, agricultural tools and environmentally-friendly living items.

The fair also boasts an impressive line-up of entertainment, including jazz, folk, bluegrass, swing, blues, rock ‘n’ roll, traditional dancing and African drumming acts.

The MOFGA Oral History Project, funded by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council, is in its second year at the fair. Interviews will be conducted each day of the fair at the Maine Folklife Center tent in the Folk Arts area. The interviewees will be men and women who have been organic farmers in Maine over the past few decades and will focus on why they began organic farming, the challenges of organic farming in Maine, how they built community, their vision of the future of organic farming, and their advice to the next generation of organic farmers. Fair-goers may participate in the interviews by listening and asking their own questions.

Other events associated with the Maine Folklife Center include: Bean-hole beans, baked Friday and served Saturday and Sunday; the Shape-Note Singers of Belfast, a traditional New England a cappella sacred singing group Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.; International Folk Dancing with Jon Archer and Friends Saturday at 2 p.m.; Deborah Flanders of Vermont performing traditional Vermont songs collected by her great-aunt Saturday at 3
p.m.; Dannsa of Bangor’s Irish Dancing Sunday at 11 a.m.; Woodsong performing songs by Fanny Hardy Eckstorm Sunday at 2 p.m.; and Family Contradance by John McIntire and Friends Sunday at 3 p.m.

The fair is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Evening entertainment begins at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The fairgrounds are located on the Crosby Brook Road off Route 220 in Unity. Events will go on rain or shine.
Technical Writing Assistance Available to Farmers for Research Grant Proposals

September 28, 2001

Media contact: Rick Kersbergen, UMaine Cooperative Extension, 800-287-1426 (in Maine)
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Maine farmers who are interested in doing research on their farm can receive grant writing assistance through the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and a federal program known as SARE, or Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.

SARE has offered grants to farmers for several years, says Richard Kersbergen, an educator at the Waldo County Cooperative Extension office in Belfast. This new initiative is intended to increase the number and competitiveness of grant proposals from Maine. The maximum grant is $10,000.

"Farmers often have ideas and concepts that they would like to try on the farm but lack sufficient resources to study the ‘what if’ questions. The SARE Farmer/Grower grants offer that help," says Kersbergen.

The Farmer/Grower grant program supports farmers who want to try something new on their farm such as a technique for adding value, a new crop or a method of direct sales. The goal of the program is to help farmers explore sustainable and innovative production and marketing practices that are profitable, environmentally sound and beneficial to the community.

Successful proposals must define a problem and offer innovative solutions. Proposals can address a broad range of agricultural or forestry-related farm production or marketing issues. For examples of past Farmer/Grower grants, farmers can go to SARE searchable database at www.sare.org, where many recent Northeast Farmer/Grower project reports are posted.

This fall, Cooperative Extension and the Sustainable Agriculture Program at the University of Maine are offering the services of several sustainable agriculture students who will help farmers with the grant writing process. Undergraduate and graduate students are available to come to farms and help develop ideas, setup a research trail, develop budgets and help write the formal grant proposals.

More information is available from Kersbergen at 1-800-287-1426. Applications are also available through the Internet at www.uvm.edu/~nesare/. "Now is a great time to try and write a grant to help the Maine farming community become more profitable and sustainable," says Kersbergen.

Grant applications must be submitted to the Northeast SARE office in Vermont by December 3, 2001.
Hudson Museum Announces Fall Exhibits

Oct. 1, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The Hudson Museum at the University of Maine has announced three exhibits for its fall season. The museum has also scheduled special events to run in conjunction with the exhibits.

The exhibits will continue through Jan. 6. The museum is located in the Maine Center for the Arts and is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It is closed Mondays and holidays.

The exhibit "Cosmos in Clay: Ancient Ceramics and Gold from Panama," showcases artifacts excavated from the present-day country of Panama. The University of North Carolina-Greensboro’s Mary Helms is the curator of this exhibit, which includes 40 Coclé ceramics and nine gold objects from UMaine’s William P. Palmer III collection. The people of this region produced artwork with sophisticated designs depicting the indigenous flora and fauna of the tropical rainforest and supernatural beings. The exhibit is divided into sections according to design motifs: The Boa and the Iguana, Abstract Designs, Birds and Bats, Water-related Creatures and Contact with the Supernatural. The artifacts date from 500-1520 A.D.

The museum also will host a Just for Kids program in which children may examine the pre-Columbian designs and create their own "cosmos in clay". The event is set for Oct. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon.

The photographs of three generations of the Baxter family of Maine are featured in "Rhythms of Creation: A Family’s Impressions of Indigenous Peoples of the World." Jack Baxter, his daughter Connie Baxter Marlow, her husband David O. Marlow and their daughter Ali Baxter Marlow have recorded the way of life of indigenous people from India, Nepal, northern Thailand, Morocco, Ecuador, China, New Guinea, the United States (the Hopi and Wabanaki nations), Mexico (the Tarahumara, Huichol, Lacandon Maya and Chamulan Maya nations) and Tibet. David O. Marlow’s work also includes images of antique Native American art.

In addition, the Fogler Library at UMaine will host an exhibit, "Greatest Mountain: Exploring the Mystical Nature of Katahdin." It features photographs and text from Connie Baxter Marlow’s book, "Greatest Mountain: Katahdin’s Wilderness" and explores the Wabanaki nation’s mystical relationship with this sacred mountain.

Connie Baxter Marlow will host an open forum on the exhibit on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. This event will feature a panel of international students and is part of UMaine’s International Week.

A Just for Kids program is also scheduled for Nov. 3 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. John Bear Mitchell, a Penobscot storyteller, singer and drummer, will present traditional storytelling of
Native Americans in Maine. The event costs $4 and is limited to children age five and older. Pre-registration is required.

The Maine Center for the Arts’ new, third-floor gallery devoted to the display of artwork will feature "Fragments of the Ordinary: An Image of Romania." This exhibit includes 15 paintings by Brooksville artist Selena Kimball Smith, accompanied by text by cultural anthropologist Alyssa Grossman. The exhibit focuses on everyday artifacts and images of Romania and explores how they are perceived in a variety of cultural contexts.

For more information or to register for special events, call the Hudson Museum at 581-1901.

Digital images to accompany this release may be obtained by contacting Joe Carr at 581-3571.
Hudson Museum Received IMLS Grant

Oct. 1, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has announced that the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine will receive a $60,236 general operating support grant. The Hudson Museum, a museum of anthropology, will use the funds to make its museum registrar position full-time and implement other aspects of its Strategic Plan.

The Hudson Museum is one of 10 museums state-wide that received a total of $535,000 in grants from the IMLS, an independent federal agency.

According to Hudson Museum director Steve Whittington, competition for the grants is stiff. The Hudson Museum has not received an IMLS grant since 1998, when it was awarded $43,995 for conservation project support.

"It’s a real thrill to be at the point nationally where we are successfully competing with museums of similar size and discipline. … [Receiving a grant] is a vote of confidence on the part of the museum community of the United States," he said.

Whittington said that making the registrar’s position full-time will increase the quality of the museum’s operations. Kimberly Sawtelle is the registrar.

The registrar’s duties include overseeing the loans of collections both to and from the museum, completing paperwork, cataloguing collections and ensuring that artifacts and paintings are stored properly.

Whittington said the museum’s staff and advisory board will meet to decide how to use the remainder of the grant money. There are several projects to consider as part of the museum’s Strategic Plan.

The IMLS was created by the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 and services museums and libraries across the country. General operating support grants, like those received by the Hudson Museum, provide almost unrestricted funds for ongoing institutional activities. Other grants are awarded for specific projects.
UMaine's Robert Creeley Wins Lannan Lifetime Achievement Award for Poetry

Oct. 1, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Students in the University of Maine English Department say that it is sometimes easy to forget that when they attend classes with Robert Creeley, they are being taught by one of the world’s most distinguished living poets.

He is humble, they say. Unassuming. He tells stories. He draws them into a conversation and before they realize it, they have learned just exactly what Creeley wanted to teach them.

Those UMaine students, and the wider literary world, received another reminder of Creeley’s stature when he was awarded the Lannan Lifetime Achievement award on Sept. 26. The award, which carries a $200,000 purse, honors writers who have made significant contributions to English-language literature.

English major Ben Priest of Hampden said he is grateful for the opportunity he has had to be taught by Creeley.

"It’s real unique. He’s kind of a living history. You can’t list a list of names of 20th century poets without Robert Creeley. It’s really amazing to have that, but you forget after awhile and he becomes a teacher," Priest said.

Creeley is a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Poetry and Poetics at UMaine. He is in the second year of a three-year commitment to that post. He is also the Samuel P. Capen Professor of Poetry and Letters at the State University of New York-Buffalo.

The Lannan Literary Awards were established in 1989 to recognize both established and emerging writers. Candidates for the awards are recommended to the foundation by writers, literary scholars, publishers and editors. The foundation’s literary committee makes the final selections for the awards. The Lannan Foundation has awarded 105 writers more than $5.7 million over the last 12 years.


Creeley said the award is particularly important to him because he respects the work of the past winners and appreciates the prestige of the Lannan Foundation.
"It’s very moving for me to be in that company," Creeley said. "...And with [the Lannan award], I felt I was being honored by very particular people."

The Lannan Foundation was founded in 1960 by J. Patrick Lannan, an entrepreneur and financier. Lannan assembled an impressive collection of contemporary American and European art. His son, J. Patrick Lannan Jr., has continued the work of his late father, helping the foundation expand its collection and instituting national programs for grant making in the visual and literary arts. Among other activities, the foundation has established a museum acquisition and gift program to disperse its collections to museums throughout the country. Creeley said he met Lannan Sr. "years ago."

"He told me to clean up my act and stop looking like a middle-aged hippie," Creeley said.

Creeley added that he considers the award not just a recognition of his own achievements, but a recognition of the achievements of a generation of American poets.

"This award honors not only me but the character and company of poets I belong to," Creeley said.

The 75-year-old Creeley has produced over 75 volumes of poetry and has engaged in numerous visual and audio collaborations with other artists. His most recent stand-alone volume, "Life and Death," was published in 1998. His most recent volume of collected poems, "Just in Time: Poems 1984-1994," was published this year. Last spring he released a CD, "Robert Creeley," in which he reads a selection of uncollected poems at his home in Waldoboro.

Creeley has held a chancellorship of the Academy of American Poets and is a past winner of the prestigious Bollingen Prize.

Creeley entered Harvard in 1943 but left after a year to drive an ambulance in India and Burma during World War II. After his return to Massachusetts he dropped out of Harvard and moved with his first wife to New Hampshire, France and then Mallorca, Spain, where they started Divers Press and printed books by Creeley, Charles Olson, Robert Duncan and others.

During the 1950’s Creeley joined Olson at the Black Mountain College in North Carolina, teaching and editing its literary journal, the Black Mountain Review. There Creeley contributed to the development of the Black Mountain School of poetry, a type of poetry designed to transmit meaning through natural speech rhythms and lines determined by pauses for breathing. He has since taught at the University of New Mexico, the University of British Columbia, SUNY-Buffalo and UMaine. UMaine English Department Chair Tony Brinkley said Creeley’s presence on campus reflects the department’s commitment to modern American poetry. UMaine is home to the internationally known National Poetry Foundation (NPF), an organization that publishes two journals and numerous books and hosts regular international conferences on modern poetry. The department and the NPF also stage the New Writing Series, a ten-week fall program that sponsors poetry readings by local and internationally recognized poets. Over 200 students and faculty attended Creeley’s New Writing Series reading on Sept. 27.

Brinkley said Creeley was a visiting writer at UMaine two years ago when he approached him about becoming a visiting professor. Creeley accepted.

"Bob is a wonderful person to have participating. He honors us with his presence… he has come here particularly because the University of Maine is a distinguished place in contemporary poetry and poetics and has a long-standing relationship with him and other American poets," Brinkley said.
Last spring Creeley and Assistant Professor Steve Evans co-taught a course on Black Mountain College. This fall Creeley is teaching on Charles Olson and is co-teaching a graduate class called Studies in Literature with Assistant Professor Carla Billitteri.

Creeley’s mother’s family is from Maine and many of Creeley’s relatives live in Brewer, Bucksport, Winterport, Hampden, Belfast, Stockton Springs and Waldoboro. Creeley said he and his wife Penelope try to spend as much time in Maine as they can.

Evans, who coordinates the New Writing Series, said Creeley’s experience at UMaine has been enriching for Creeley and for students alike.

"He identifies with the students. It’s electrifying for them. The students hear the familiarity in his voice. They say he sounds like their father or their grandfather," Evans said.

Matt Rich, a senior from Bangor, said Creeley naturally builds relationships, sometimes joining his students at the pub.

"He’s not only willing but happy to be joining us. He makes you feel that much more comfortable," Rich said.
Governor Proclaims Wednesday Stephen King Day

Oct. 2, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Gov. Angus S. King has proclaims Wednesday, Oct. 3 Stephen King Day in Maine. The honor coincides with a series of events at the University of Maine, King’s alma mater, intended to honor the author’s contributions to literature and film and to examine the 1960s campus political activism in which King played a significant role.

The gubernatorial proclamation that goes with the declaration of the state honor notes that King and his wife, fellow UMaine graduate Tabitha King, are “state leaders in the promotion of education and their alma mater.” The proclamation also praises King’s “sincere interest in promoting his community, his home state and his state university.”

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff will present the proclamation to King on Wednesday night at the Maine Center for the Arts during “An Evening With Stephen King,” one of two public events planned as part of UMaine’s Stephen King Day program. The event begins at 7:30 and will feature a reading by King from his book “Hearts in Atlantis,” along with observations on his experiences at UMaine in the 1960s, and on the ways the political ferment of the period has affected his life and his writing.

At 3:10 p.m. on Wednesday in UMaine's Hauck Auditorium, King and five of his contemporaries will participate in a panel discussion "Thirty Years Later: Reflections on Campus Activism by Those Who Led It." The participants -- all UMaine student leaders and activists from the nation's Vietnam War era -- will reunite to discuss the highly charged political and social climate that existed during their years on campus, and to examine the influence student activism of that period has had on American society, government and culture. National Public Radio’s Brian Naylor, a 1979 UMaine graduate, will moderate the discussion.

The UMaine Faculty Senate has selected “Hearts in Atlantis” as this year’s Class Book. As such, the book serves as the focal point for a series of activities and educational opportunities for members of UMaine’s first-year students.

Both Wednesday events are free and open to the public. Seating for each is first come, first served.
Multi-State Ag Study Could Benefit Smaller Farms

October 2, 2001
Research contact: Stewart Smith, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3174
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- American farms have grown larger and more industrial as they have specialized in one type of livestock or certain crops. However, new agricultural technologies combined with integrated cropping and livestock systems could provide a boost to smaller, family run farms, according to Stewart Smith, University of Maine professor of sustainable agriculture.

Smith is administering a $2 million competitive research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study this issue with colleagues in Maine, Michigan and Iowa.

"This project is based on the notion that integrated livestock and cropping systems are viable strategies for smaller farms," says Smith. "Some might view it as a return to the way that farms were run in the past, but that is not correct. New technologies based on science have given farmers new tools. With what we know today, integrated farms can be as efficient as their industrial counterparts."

Collaborating with Smith are three other UMaine faculty members, Richard Kersbergen of UMaine Cooperative Extension and Timothy Dalton and Gregory White of the Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy. Participating scientists at other universities include J. Roy Black and Sieglinde S. Snapp of Michigan State University, Cornelia B. Flora of the North Central Region Center for Rural Development and Matthew Liebman of Iowa State University, a former UMaine faculty member.

Smith says that larger industrial farms that specialize in one crop or one type of livestock take advantage of economies of scale. "What this project proposes is taking advantage of economies of scope. By that I mean that farmers can reduce the cost of production by using animal and cropping systems that are complementary. The result is that they don’t have to buy as much fertilizer or apply as much pesticide because they get these services from the systems they use on the farm."

The research project will study aspects of integrated farms such as dairy and potato operations in Maine and Michigan and hog and feed grain farms in Iowa. Working groups of farmers will be organized in each state to help evaluate the performance of such production systems. Scientists will look at factors such as profitability, marketing and impacts on rural communities and ecosystems. They will also consider what motivates farmers to adopt or shy away from integrated farming strategies.
"We want to know what triggers farmers to adopt the approaches that they use, whether it’s financial, the complexity of farming systems or willingness to take risks," says Smith.

To understand environmental impacts, the researchers will analyze farm performance at several levels. In Maine, soil and water will be studied at the individual farm level, and in Iowa, researchers will look at the impacts on entire watersheds. Scientists in Michigan will focus on changes field by field.

As the project proceeds, participants will also share results with the agricultural community through an information transfer program. They will utilize demonstration farms, publications and a Web site.

At UMaine, graduate and undergraduate students will be involved in components of the project. Students doing research on modified potato crop rotations, for example, will contribute data to the new effort.

Researchers will work with farmers to understand the flow of critical nutrients through animal feeds and wastes, crops, soils and farm products. Nutrients must be purchased if they are not available on the farm, says Smith, and thus add to the cost of production. Researchers will also identify marketing opportunities for new products, develop networks among farmers who may use complementary farming practices and conduct field experiments to study ecological consequences of integrated farming.

Next winter, farmers will be sought to participate in one of the working groups. The project is scheduled to conclude in 2004.
Trees as Senior Citizens

October 2, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- As they get to be senior citizens, spruce and fir trees change in predictable ways. Their growth slows or even stops. Their needles get thicker, and new branches develop a shortened, gnarled appearance. Scientists have yet to get to the root of why such changes occur in these and other species, but researchers at the University of Maine and Oregon State University will try to do so with support from a new three-year $180,000 National Science Foundation grant.

The results, says Michael Greenwood, Ruth Hutchins professor of tree physiology at UMaine, could lead to improvements in predicting forest growth and help scientists to understand the role of forests in global environmental cycles. Slower growth means that trees absorb less carbon, a factor that is important in the current debate over global climate change.

"We don’t really understand what causes trees to go through developmental stages," says Greenwood. "There are a couple of theories, and there is undoubtedly a genetic component, but we don’t know what triggers the process."

In tree years, old age varies considerably by species, Greenwood adds. Balsam fir rarely approach 100 years old, but spruce can live as long as 150 to 200 years. The oldest Eastern white pine, located in New York State, is 450 years old, but such long lived examples are extremely rare. On the other hand, the oldest recorded living trees, bristlecone pines in the West, are more than 3,500 years old.

Greenwood and Michael Day, assistant scientist in the Department of Forest Ecosystem Science, will collaborate with Barbara Bond of Oregon State. They are seeking interested and qualified graduate students to work on studies that will test two theories of tree development. One theory suggests that the changes in old growth are due to environmental or physiological factors, such as a lack of nutrients in the soil or the increasing resistance to the flow of sap between the roots and the leaves. The other theory suggests that developmental changes are genetically programmed and may be irreversible.

The truth may in fact include parts of both theories, says Greenwood. To find out, researchers will graft branches of both old and young red spruce and Douglas fir trees onto trees of different ages. They will monitor growth, sap flow, photosynthesis rates and other factors over the next few years. The goal is to understand how the grafted branches are affected by the age of the host trees.
The Maine portion of the study will be done in two locations: the Penobscot Experimental Forest in Bradley and on the UMaine campus in Orono.

Researchers have repeatedly shown that the rate of photosynthesis declines and that other factors change as trees reach maturity. Previous research by Day and Greenwood suggest that the growing tips, or meristems, of old red spruce retain some sort of memory after they have been separated from the large trees from which they grew. In an article due to be published in the journal Tree Physiology, they describe evidence from a small sample showing that meristems from old trees maintain their old growth characteristics even after being grafted onto young trees.

"These results imply that gene expression in meristems changes as trees age or grow larger beyond reproductive maturity or mid-age," they write. Whether or not gene expression is related to an internal timing mechanism or signals related to the size of a tree is unclear.

The collaboration between UMaine and Oregon State researchers grew out of a workshop on tree physiology that Bond organized in Utah in 2000. Greenwood and Day were invited to attend that meeting to present the results of their own research.

"The results will certainly have practical applications," says Greenwood. "For example, we know that you can get vigorous growth from the branches of old fruit trees that have been grafted to young rootstock. You can’t do that with conifers. If you have an older tree with exceptional qualities that you want to reproduce and you graft a branch to new rootstock, the branch won’t have the same vigor as a young tree. If we understand what triggers development though, we may be able to get the branch to grow like a young tree again."

Already, Day and Greenwood have grafted growing tips from older red spruce onto juvenile trees that are growing in shelters behind Nutting Hall on the UMaine campus. As of yet, the scientists had not taken branches from young trees and grafted them to the tips of old growth. "We will have to use a lift to reach the tops of those trees," says Greenwood. "That will be a little trickier than doing a graft on the ground."
Homework Research Reflects Benefits, Shortfalls

Oct. 3, 2001

Media contact: Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761

ORONO--Nothing brings the beliefs and practices of a school directly into family life or influences the household like homework. A recent report from the University of Maine helps educators, parents and students take a step back from the emotional debate and a look at some objective research on the issue.

The Center for Research and Evaluation at UMaine’s College of Education and Human Development has compiled a summary of some of the national research examining the pros and cons of homework over the past two decades.

The sample literature review offers the opportunity to reflect on what society really knows about the value of homework, according to Walter Harris, director of the research center.

“Issues related to homework surface repeatedly as significant concerns,” says Harris. “A summary of the research is useful for schools and individuals in reviewing their homework policies and practices.”

The most persuasive argument for assigning homework is the assumption that it increases learning and raises students’ academic achievement. Some studies suggest that homework leads to better schools, other say there is no correlation.

According to the studies reviewed in the UMaine report, evidence supports a strong grade-level effect from homework on student achievement. High school students experience the greatest advantage from completing homework. The positive effect is only half as high for middle school students, and homework appears to have no effect on academic achievement for elementary school students. Supervised, in-class study proved more effective than homework for elementary students.

General themes in the sampling of published research indicate that homework needs to be assigned with a specific goal in mind, not as busy work, and it should be an extension of classroom experiences, rather than repetition of information already presented.

Another recurring theme is that homework should consider individual differences, not only in academic abilities, but also in home life situations. Homework can tilt the playing ground in favor of children who have well-educated parents able to help them, as well as books, computers and an overall home environment conducive to academic success. Completing homework assignment may increase academic understanding for some children and be detrimental to others, various studies suggest.

Among other conclusions gleaned from the research:
Homework can increase immediate achievement and learning, encourage nonacademic self-discipline and inquisitiveness and facilitate greater parental appreciation of and involvement in schooling.

Homework can be misused as a teaching and learning strategy. For example, assigning too much, assigning busy work, putting too much pressure on students or not allowing for individual differences.

Junior high students perform better in school when their parents help them with their homework, but the effects of parental involvement on student achievement vary from child to child and on which parent provides the support.

Unrealistic homework expectations can cause students to miss out on valuable family, leisure and community activities. Homework overload can result in cheating and increased differences between low and high achievers.

Enhancing students’ organizational skills and reinforcing personal responsibility for academic performance can result in a positive change in attitude and a noticeable increase in use of school time to complete homework assignments.

Copies of the report, “Homework: A Literature Review,” are available at no cost from the UMaine College of Education and Human Development by phone (207) 581-2761; or e-mail Kay Hyatt.
Public Invited to Presentations on Hunting, Native Peoples

Oct. 4, 2001
Media contact: Cheryl Daigle, Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program, 581-2981; Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- Naturalist, hunter and author Richard Nelson will discuss hunting, wildlife conservation and the relationship of people to the natural world during a series of public events at the University of Maine October 12-16.

Nelson’s most recent book is Heart and Blood: Living with Deer in America (Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), in which he explores the complex and increasingly contentious relationships between people and deer with particular attention to hunting.

His schedule includes:

- 7 p.m., Oct. 12, a presentation at the Hudson Museum in the Maine Center for the Arts, "The Black Bear Knows Way More Than You Do: Koyukon Indians and the Natural World"
- 7 p.m. Oct. 13, a meeting sponsored by the Orono Land Trust in the Page Farm and Home Museum on the UMaine campus

Nelson is scheduled to meet with students in seminars and classes on Oct. 14 and 15.

Nelson’s book The Island Within, a personal journey into the natural world surrounding his home, received the John Burroughs Award for nature writing. He was also granted a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and was a recipient of the 1995 Lannan Literary Award for creative nonfiction writing.

Nelson is native of Madison, Wisconsin and received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He currently lives in southeast Alaska.

His visit to UMaine is sponsored by the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program in the Department of Biological Sciences with support from the Maine Humanities Council, the Orono Land Trust, other UMaine departments, the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture and the UMaine Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series.
UMaine School of Performing Arts Sets Performances

Oct. 4, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine School of Performing Arts 2001-2002 season features faculty and student musicians, singers, actors and dancers bringing classical and contemporary works to the stage.

The public events this fall take place in Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Hall, Hutchins Concert Hall in the Maine Center for the Arts, Cyrus Pavilion Theatre and Hauck Auditorium.

Tickets for musical performances are $5; $8 for theater and dance events, and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office, 581-1755.

The exception is a concert by the Oratorio Society to benefit the Maine Discovery Museum. The Dec. 12 event in Hutchins Concert Hall features a performance of J.S. Bach’s "Mass in B Minor," with guest conductor Jan Dobrzelewski of Switzerland and visiting Swiss soloists. Tickets are $10-$25, and available through the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office.

Other highlights of the fall performance season include:

- 4th Annual Women Composers Recital, performed by faculty and the Athena Consort, featuring works by Clara Schumann, Katherine Hoover, Helene Liebmann and Beth Wiemann, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 17, Minsky Recital Hall.
- Society of Composers Region I Conference Concerts, featuring performances of contemporary classical music by 15 visiting and UMaine ensembles, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 26-27; 2 p.m., Oct. 28, Minsky Recital Hall.
- Recital by the UMaine/Bangor Symphony Orchestra Graduate String Quartet, with violinists Yosuke Kawasaki and Georgy Valtchev, violist Jethro Marks and cellist Inna Nassidze, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 30, Minsky Recital Hall. This recital will be recorded live for National Public Radio.
- Yuletide Concert, featuring 300 voices from UMaine choirs, including the Oratorio Society, University Singers, Athena Consort, Collegiate Chorale and the Black Bear Men’s Chorus, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5, Hutchins Concert Hall.
- "Noises Off," a play by Michael Frayn, directed by Sandra Hardy, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7-8 and Dec. 14-15; 2 p.m., Dec. 9, Hauck Auditorium.
Austin, Fortman and King to Receive Hartman Awards

Oct. 5, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The Women in the Curriculum and Women’s Studies Program will sponsor a ceremony to honor the recipients of the 16th annual Maryann Hartman Awards, Tuesday, Oct. 23, 5-7 p.m., at the Wells Conference Center. The awards will be presented to three outstanding women in Maine – Phyllis Austin of Brunswick, an environmental reporter for the Maine Times; Laura Fortman of Nobleboro, an activist for the Maine Women’s Lobby; and Tabitha King of Bangor, author, photographer, philanthropist and civic leader. The ceremony will also honor the recipient of the first Young Women’s Social Justice Award, Lindsay Richardson of Edward Little High School of Auburn.

The awards, named for the late Maryann Hartman of the University of Maine Department of Speech Communication, recognize achieving and inspiring Maine women in the arts, politics, business, education and community service. The Young Women’s Social Justice Award was created to acknowledge a young woman who is beginning her work of service for women.

Austin’s career in journalism spans 36 years, 35 of which have been spent in Maine. She has been a senior writer for the Maine Times since 1994 and a staff reporter since 1974, specializing in environmental and investigative reporting. Her work has exposed abusive land sales and land use recreational practices and influenced the passage of environmental laws and regulations. It has also provided long-term coverage of issues of public interest such as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and Baxter State Park. Austin worked for the Associated Press in Maine and South Carolina from 1966-1973, and in 1972 was named the AP’s first environmental writer for New England. She has received the John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship for a year-long residency at Stanford University and the Alicia Patterson Journalism Fellowship to study Maine’s paper industry. She has also received awards from the Maine Legislature, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Maine Press Association for Investigative Reporting, the Maine Sierra Club Award for Environmental Reporting and the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Southern Maine.

For the past five years Fortman has been the executive director for the Maine Women’s Lobby, the only organization in Maine that lobbies exclusively for issues important to women and girls. She is also the executive director for the non-profit organization the Women’s Development Institute. Her efforts have translated into considerable gains for women in areas such as reproductive choice, right to privacy, access to health services, protection from violence, economic security, prevention of violence, civil rights and the elimination of discrimination. She has coordinated the Take Our Daughters to Work Day in the State of Maine project and the Women’s Economic Security Project. She has been the Executive Director of the Augusta Area Rape Crisis Center, chair of the Maine Coalition Against Rape, treasurer of the Coalition for Economic Justice, chair of the Women’s Legislative Agenda.
Coalition and a member of the Maine Children’s Alliance, Consumers for Affordable Health Care and the Choice Coalition.

King is well-known for her work as a writer, having published eight novels, several non-fiction works and anthology articles. Her photography has also been published. She has served her community by working as a board member of the Shaw House in Bangor, leading a capital campaign to purchase the agency’s new home on Union Street. She was co-chair of the capital campaign for the Bangor Public Library. King has worked as a trustee and board member for Maine Public Broadcasting, the Bangor Public Library, the University of Maine Press and the Maine Humanities Council. She has promoted women’s sports by supporting the Women’s Sports Foundation, serving on the UMaine Athletic Advisory Board and writing a book about Cindy Blodgett’s high school basketball career. A member of the UMaine Class of 1971, she and her husband, novelist Stephen King, have supported UMaine undergraduate scholarships. She has also contributed to the UMaine faculty in the Liberal Arts and Sciences, women’s basketball, swimming and softball, the Maine Press Association and the National Poetry Foundation.

Richardson, a senior at Edward Little High School, has been active promoting equal rights and reproductive rights in her school and her community. She has been involved with groups such as Encouraging Diversity and Gender Equity, Loud Intelligent Political People, the Muse Project, Students of the Left and Lewiston-Auburn’s Excels Community Youth Council. She hopes for a career as a lobbyist for a feminist political action committee.
Education Partnership Names Director

Oct. 5, 2001

Media contact: Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761

ORONO, Maine – A regional partnership forged three years ago to improve K-12 teaching and learning has built a strong foundation and recently named a director to provide leadership for its ambitious agenda.

Nancy Yoder of Hampden, associate professor of educational leadership at the University of Maine, will devote half her workload to facilitating and coordinating activities of the Penobscot River Educational Partnership: A Professional Development Network.

PREP: PDN is comprised of seven school districts and The University of Maine, spearheaded by the College of Education and Human Development. Participating schools include Brewer, Bucksport, Old Town, Indian Island, SAD 22 (Hampden, Newburgh and Winterport), School Union 87 (Orono and Veazie), and School Union 90 (Alton, Bradley, Greenbush and Milford). The Partnership combines expertise and resources to link and strengthen all areas of teacher preparation and professional development, school-based research, technology, implementation of state academic standards and assessments, grant writing and other reform initiatives.

Yoder, whose experience and research includes the working of school/university partnerships and connections at the state and national levels, will lead PREP: PDN in developing long-range planning and a strategic plan, in addition to advancing its communications, collaborations and continuing progress.

"We are fortunate to someone with Yoder’s background in the director’s position," says PREP: PDN Chair Thomas Perry, superintendent of School Union 87. "We have done some very good work over the past three years. The key to moving to a higher level is having someone who can provide the necessary support and coordination for continued growth."

The experiences of the past three years has proved that the partnership has great potential, according to Robert Cobb, dean of the UMaine College of Education and Human Development. It also became clear that the full-time responsibilities of members didn't allow for the concentrated maintenance and leadership the active partnership needs on a daily basis. Yoder, with her thorough understanding of what partnerships need to function well and thrive, can provide that essential oversight, Cobb says. The College and PREP: PDN are sharing the cost of Yoder’s half-time appointment as executive director.

Yoder is pleased to work with a group that has made such a strong start. "PREP: PDN has a sound organizational structure and talented, dedicated members," she says. "I'm delighted to be working with them to strengthen the partnership."
Yoder earned her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies: Anthropology, Philosophy and Education from Emory University. She joined the UMaine Educational Leadership faculty last year, coming from the Institute for Educational Renewal at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio), where she worked on planning, implementing and assessing collaborative school-university partnership activities, professional development and inquiry projects. Her major research interests are school-university partnerships and the connections between schooling and culture.
Mental Illness Awareness Week Set for Oct. 10-12 at UMaine

Oct. 5, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – A number of events, including workshops, a depression screening and a panel discussion focusing on how to cope with trauma, have been scheduled for Mental Illness Awareness Week, Oct. 10-12, at the University of Maine. All events are free and open to students and members of the community.

Wednesday, Oct. 10, there will be a viewing of the film "As Good as it Gets" at 7 p.m. in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building, Room 100. Staff from the UMaine Counseling Center will lead a discussion following the film.

Thursday, Oct. 11, staff of the UMaine Counseling Center will offer a depression screening from 12-3 p.m. in Coe Lounge. Karen Hartenagle of Community Health and Counseling Services will present a workshop, "To Build Resiliency in Children Using School Based Creative Arts," from 3:45-5 p.m. in Shibles Hall, Room 202. A panel discussion, "Talking it Through: Suggestions for Helping Children and Adults After Trauma Strikes," is set for 7-8:30 p.m. in Minsky Hall. The panel will be moderated by Jay Peters, a lecturer in the School of Social Work, and include local psychologists, social workers and guidance counselors.

Friday, Oct. 12, Elizabeth Adams will lead a workshop, "Trauma, Mental Illness and EMDR: A Hopeful Intervention for Trying Times," from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Wells Private Dining Room.

These activities are sponsored by the School of Social Work, the Center for Students and Community Life, Campus Activities and Events, the Office of Equal Opportunity, Women in the Curriculum, the Women’s Studies Department, Fogler Library, the Division of Lifelong Learning, the School of Nursing, the Psychology Department, the Margaret Chase Smith Center, the Sociology Department, the College of Business, Public Policy and Health, the Employee Assistance Program, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Community Health and Counseling Services, Inc., the UMaine Counseling Center and the UMaine Bookstore.

For more information contact the UMaine Counseling Center at 581-1392.
UMaine to Host Tuesday Business Breakfast

Oct. 5, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Charles E. (Chuck) Hewett, chair and CEO of Atlantic Energy Partners, will discuss The Neptune Project, an initiative that will connect energy markets in Atlantic Canada, Maine, Boston, New York City, Connecticut, Long Island and New Jersey through a sub-sea transmission grid at a Tuesday, Oct. 9 business breakfast.

The event is sponsored and organized by the University of Maine Business School and is scheduled for 7:30-9 a.m. at the Bangor Motor Inn and Conference Center.

Registration is $10, payable at the door. Those wishing to attend are asked to call 581-1968 on Monday.

The UMaine Business School will host a similar meeting, at which an emerging Maine business issue will be discussed, on the second Tuesday of each month.
New Hancock County Aquaculture Research Facility Designed to Boost Business Collaboration

October 9, 2001

Media contacts: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777
Jake Ward, Dept. of Industrial Cooperation, 207-581-2200

ORONO-- Research leading to the development of a land-based commercial aquaculture industry for alternative marine fish species got a shot in the arm in September when the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced a $1.2 million grant to the University of Maine. The money will be used to plan and construct a new 25,000 square-foot facility at the Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin, Maine.

The building will include areas for experimenting and demonstrating techniques for growing alternative species such as halibut, cod and haddock for market. In addition the expansion will include business incubation space and will be part of three-site, state funded Aquaculture Advanced Technology Development Center. The others sites are at the UMaine Darling Marine Center in Walpole and at the Washington County Technical College in Eastport. The Franklin project will also be supported by $250,000 from the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, and $550,000 in University of Maine research and development funds appropriated annually by the Maine State Legislature.

The Eastern Maine Development Corporation in Bangor assisted UMaine in applying for the grant. "The Franklin center was a priority in our 2001 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy because of its high potential to link aquaculture research with business development and job creation," said David Cole, president of EMDC. "This certainly builds on previous EDA investments with the UMaine Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center and the recent expansion of The Jackson Laboratory."

In recent years, UMaine researchers have achieved gains in raising cod larvae to the juvenile stage and established an Atlantic halibut broodstock population at the Franklin facility. Other research is proceeding on fish diseases, nutrition and feeds, genetics and conditions for optimal growth. Much of the future work will be done in partnership with companies that are interested in alternative species or other aquaculture ideas. The business incubator will allow companies with new ideas to try them without huge investments in infrastructure.

Workers at the facility will initially focus on cost effective methods for growing fish from the larval to the juvenile stage, says Jake Ward, director of the UMaine Department of Industrial Cooperation. As large stocks of juvenile fish become available, he says, they will be made available to aquaculture businesses for commercial development.

"The Franklin center is a land-based recirculating water system. This offers the ability to exercise control over growing conditions," says Ward. "By controlling variables such as temperature, salinity, lighting and water quality, we may be able to optimize the growth rate..."
of different species. Because we can do large scale demonstration projects we can consider all the costs and determine economies of scale."

The Franklin facility is managed by Nick Brown, Ph.D., a scientist with experience in running large aquaculture facilities. Construction of the new research building is expected to start later this fall.
Indigenous Women's Voices Performance Set at UMaine

Oct. 10, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Krista Thompson left last year’s Indigenous Women’s Voices gathering feeling exhilarated, empowered and inspired. So when the University of Maine senior social work student heard that no one had the time or money to organize a gathering for this year, she took the project upon herself.

Beginning in May, Thompson set about writing grant applications, organizing fund raisers and publicizing the event – all while she was pregnant with a daughter, who was born June 28.

Thompson’s hard work will culminate in a public performance by women from the gathering on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. in the Hauck Auditorium at UMaine. The event, featuring traditional drumming and song, is free and open to men and women, native and non-native alike.

The gathering is set for Oct. 12-14 in China Lake, and women from the Maliseet, Mic Mac, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot nations will participate. The women will devote about 75% of their time at the gathering to singing and practicing for the performance. Other activities will include basketmaking, bead work, a sweat lodge and talks by native women on topics such as women’s leadership, traditional stories and the history of oppression and relationship.

Thompson said it was important to hold the gathering again this year so that other women would have the chance to gain from it.

"It’s hard to describe the feeling we got last year – such unity and empowerment," she says.

The 28-year-old Thompson grew up in Portland. Her heritage is Mic Mac from Nova Scotia and northern Maine. But she says that the event has in impact even on non-native viewers.

"When [non-native] women were leaving you could hear them say they were in awe from the experience, they said the energy was so positive. They said it was amazing to be a part of," Thompson says.

The first Voices gathering was held last year, and Thompson also had a hand in organizing that. She was then a student at the University of Southern Maine with a work-study job with the Department of Multi-Cultural Affairs, and she assisted Rebecca Sockbeson, the director of USM’s Multi-Cultural Affairs and Native American Program.

In the fall of 2000 Thompson transferred to UMaine. She is organizing the gathering as part of an independent study for the social work department.
Thompson has coordinated the efforts of a number of native women eager to make the second gathering possible. Fund-raising activities included selling raffle tickets for blankets and baskets. They also sold CDs from last year’s performance and Indian tacos at an Indian Day cultural celebration on Indian Island. The women who will speak at the gathering have volunteered their services. The project has also received financial support from individuals and the American Friend Service Committee (AFSC), a Wabanaki program based in Perry. The Penobscot Nation Department of Human Services (DHS) has provided support services.

Even so, Thompson said there still isn’t enough money to completely finance the gathering. The gathering is currently being considered for additional grants. But in the meantime, Thompson and the other volunteers are continuing their fundraising and accepting more individual donations.

Last year Thompson had an internship with the Penobscot Nation DHS. She has continued to be involved this year, often working and traveling with the Penobscot Nation’s girls’ drum group, Sukulis. Esther Attean, the assistant director of children’s services at the Penobscot Nation DHS, coordinates the group, which consists of seven girls ages 13-17 from Indian Island. They will perform at the gathering.

Thompson said her only regret is that the gathering cannot accommodate more women. About 75 women will attend this year.

"We’ve had to turn away women because we’re so full," she says.

But that has only inspired Thompson to commit herself to making next year’s gathering bigger and better. She said she will apply for additional grants, and hopes that she can expand the gathering to as many as 300 women.

"It’s a lot of work, but totally worth it. …When everybody leaves, they’re just so inspired and alive," she says.

For more information about the gathering or to contribute to the project, contact The Indigenous Women’s Voices Gathering, c/o Penobscot Nation Department of Human Services, 6 River Road, Indian Island, ME 04468.
Philosophy Colloquium Series Scheduled

Oct. 10, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Three speakers have been scheduled for the Fall 2001 Philosophy Colloquium Series. The series aims to provoke thought and stimulate discussion on timely issues in philosophy. All presentations are free and open to the public.

Kevin Brien, professor of philosophy and religion at Washington College in Maryland, will speak on "Logos and Mythos: Marx and Buddhism," Thursday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m. in the Levinson Room, the Maples. He will also speak on "Marx after Marxism: the Humanistic Marx," Thursday, Oct. 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Coe Lounge, Memorial Union.

Edwin Martin will blend his knowledge of philosophy and his experience as a professional photographer in his lecture, "The Mechanisms of Pictorial Representation: Conventional or Natural?", Thursday, Nov. 1 at 4 p.m. in the Levinson Room, the Maples. Martin is a former chair of the Department of Philosophy at Indiana University and professor of philosophy and religion at North Carolina State.

Margaret Urban Walker, a professor of philosophy at Fordham University, will present the Fall 2001 John M. Rezendes Ethics Lecture, "What is Moral Repair?", Thursday, Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall. Walker is the author of "Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study of Ethics."

The colloquium series is supported by the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund and by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee, administrators of the Arthur R. Lord Trust and Class of 1935 Fund.

For more information contact Professor Doug Allen, colloquium coordinator, at 581-3860.
Student Leadership Conference Set at UMaine

Oct. 10, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – University of Maine students will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills at the 14th annual Black Bear Student Leadership Conference, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building.

The conference is free and open to all UMaine students and advisors. Past conferences have been attended by hall governing board leaders, resident advisors, athletes, Greek members, student club officers and student senators.

Sheri Cousins, the director for Student Organization and Leader Development, says attendees have found past conferences beneficial.

"Students love it. They gain a lot, are exposed to new information, and they say it really makes a difference in their job. They also enjoy connecting with people doing the same work," she says.

The conference will offer seminars on topics including time management, financial planning and budgeting, leadership styles, recruitment and retention, group dynamics, event planning, motivation and women and minorities in leadership. Seminar leaders include UMaine professors, professional staff, graduate students and several undergraduate students. Cousins said this is the first time the conference has been scheduled during the fall semester. This will give students who gained leadership positions last spring the chance to learn new skills before they become too deeply involved with their leadership duties.

The conference is sponsored by the office for Student Organization and Leader Development, Greek Life, Residents on Campus and Residence Life and Programs.

For more information or to register for the conference, contact the office of Student Organization and Leader Development at 581-4183.
UMaine Peace Week Offers Alternative Point of View

Oct. 10, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The President of the United States has declared a war on terrorism. But as the nation engages in military action in Afghanistan, University of Maine Peace Studies director Barbara Blazej believes there is a point of view that is not being heard.

UMaine’s seventh annual Peace Week, scheduled for Oct. 22-26, will utilize an extensive program of events and activities to articulate that alternative point of view. Events will focus on non-violent approaches to resolving conflicts at both the international and personal levels.

This year’s theme is “2001 – A Peace Odyssey.” Past themes have included Truth and Reconciliation, Confronting Intolerance and the Pursuit of Economic Justice.

Blazej said this year’s event is especially important given the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

“At a time when we’re entrenched in a difficult conflict, it’s important to make sure that a voice for peace and non-violence is a part of the national conversation. That’s what Peace Week does – it brings up different perspectives. [Discussion of] a non-violent resolution to this conflict has barely been heard during these past few weeks,” she said.

Paul Rogat Loeb, an associated scholar at the Center for Ethical Leadership in Seattle, will participate in a “mini-residency” for part of the week. He will present a keynote address, conduct several workshops and speak to classes at UMaine and Orono High School.

Loeb is a nationally-recognized expert in social engagement and service learning and the author of “Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in a Cynical Time.” His keynote presentation, set for Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Maine Center for the Arts, will focus on what gets people – especially students – involved in communities, what stops people from becoming involved, how people can avoid burning out and stay committed, and how community involvement can provide people with a sense of connection and purpose.

In conjunction with Loeb’s talk, there will be a Citizen Action Fair featuring social action organizations from central Maine and UMaine in the Maine Center for the Arts lobby from 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Loeb has most recently authored an article, “Breaking the Cycles of Violence,” for a book dealing with the attacks entitled “America’s Tragedy: A Spiritual Response.” It will be published by Rodale Press in October, with proceeds to benefit a yet unnamed relief fund.

Blazej said she expects Loeb to tailor his remarks to include a discussion of the attacks. In “Breaking the Cycles of Violence,” Loeb argues that American citizens must strive to
understand the reasons why the terrorists attacked. He also claims that individuals, not just the government, should assume responsibility for preventing future attacks.

“The ordinary Americans whose deaths rend our hearts may have reaped the poison fruits of our own government’s actions,” he writes, citing the terrorists’ frustrations with U.S. policies in Israel, Palestine and Saudi Arabia, the conduct of the Gulf War and the bombing of Sudan’s only pharmaceutical factory.

He also urges citizens to “take public action – including reaching out to those who disagree with us on how to respond to this brutal cataclysm. … If we really raise the hard questions, we’ll probably take some heat and be called some names.”

Loeb is also the author of “Generation at the Crossroads: Apathy and Action on the American Campus,” “Nuclear Culture,” and “Hope in Hard Times.” He has been researching and writing about citizen responsibility and involvement for nearly 30 years and his work has been featured in The New York Times, Washington Post, New York Review of Books, Newsweek, Chronicle of Higher Education, Los Angeles Times, Utne Reader, Toronto Globe and Mail, Contemporary Sociology, Psychology Today, Redbook, Parents Magazine, Christian Science Monitor, National Catholic Reporter, and the International Herald Tribune. He has conducted over 800 television and radio interviews and lectured at over 200 colleges and universities.

Loeb’s other activities will include a workshop for UMaine faculty, “Teaching for Social Involvement”; a workshop for student organizations and leaders, “Active Citizenship: Leadership for the Future”; and a breakfast with staff of the Division of Lifelong Learning. He will meet with two Introduction to Peace Studies classes and will speak at Orono High School.

Other Peace Week events include: a Student Peacemaker Panel featuring UMaine students who have participated in local and global peacemaking projects, Oct. 24, 2:30-4 p.m., 202 Shibles; a Socialist and Marxist Studies lunch talk, “How are Peace and Justice Related?”, Oct. 25, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Coe Lounge; and a Peace and Justice book sale, Oct. 22-24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Memorial Union lobby. All events are free and open to the public.

Blazej said she hopes both students and members of the local community will take advantage of the opportunities offered by Peace Week, particularly since the terrorist attacks have created such a sense of urgency in the country. She elaborated on some aspects of peacemaking that relate to our current situation.

“It’s critical that we try to get a deep understanding of what our “enemies” believe and feel and think. I’ve heard the word “forgiveness” mentioned, at least twice, by people in the peace community. … We need to think about what that really means, without excusing, condoning or justifying what happened. Rather, forgiveness is about healing, about trying to gain a good sense of where others are coming from, and agreeing not to seek revenge,” she said.

Blazej described the “peace community” as a loose network of academics, activists, journalists and educators who strive to promote peace and justice world-wide.

UMaine’s Peace Studies curriculum includes many core Peace Studies courses as well as over 60 electives from 19 different departments, four colleges and one program. Students can earn a minor in Peace Studies by completing 12 credit hours of Peace Studies courses and six credit hours of electives. The program also engages in public service by offering a resource lending library on conflict resolution and diversity, collaborating with other organizations for youth violence prevention services in Maine, developing conflict resolution training in Maine schools for grades K-12 and coordinating UMaine’s Campus Mediation program.
For more information about Peace Week or the Peace Studies Program, contact 581-2609.
UMaine to Honor Walsh at Wednesday Service

Oct. 10, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at 581-3571

ORONO -- Alfond Arena, the site of some of the most memorable moments of Shawn Walsh's coaching career, will be the venue for a celebration of his life on Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m.

Fans are invited to join UMaine President Peter Hoff, Athletic Director Suzanne Tyler and others to share in memories of the Black Bear hockey coach, who died at the age of 46 on Sept. 24.

The program will feature several speakers, a chorus, the UMaine Pep Band that Walsh considered to be an integral part of the Alfond Arena game atmosphere, a video and several other presentations.

WZON radio's Dan Hannigan, the radio voice of the Black Bear hockey team, will serve as master of ceremonies.
Exhibit of Kunie Sugiura Photograms Coming to UMaine Museum of Art

October 11, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571


Thirty works produced in the past decade by Japanese artist Kunie Sugiura will be featured in a new University of Maine Museum of Art exhibit, "Dark Matters/Light Affairs," Nov. 2– Dec. 15 in Carnegie Hall.

The opening reception for the exhibit is 5– 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 2. Sugiura, who is based in New York, will present a gallery talk at 6 p.m.

Sugiura’s chosen medium is the photogram, a cameraless photograph made by placing objects on photographic paper and exposing them to light. Sugiura has spent 20 years exploring the photogram as an expressive medium.

Her works balance the temporality of nature and the permanence of art. Over the surface of photographic paper, she often places natural objects such as flowers, frogs, eels or fish in repetitive lines and forms. These are then "painted" with light, transforming them into shadow images. The results are delicate, glowing silhouettes with atmospheric background, which are at once both highly abstract, mysterious and figuratively poetic.
Native American Tales Highlight Folklife Center's First Online Publication

Oct. 11, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The Maine Folklife Center is using modern methods to make ancient tales available.

Now, with just a few clicks of a mouse, Internet users can access the Folklife Center’s first online publication, "Northeast Folklore VI: Malecite and Passamaquoddy Tales."

This long out-of-print volume was first published in 1965 by the Northeast Folklore Society under the auspices of the University of Maine’s Department of English. That volume sold out and has been in high demand ever since.

The book was posted in August at the Maine Folklife Center’s website.

Maine Folklife Center Associate Director Pauleena MacDougall says the popularity of this book contributed to the decision to make it the center’s first online publication.

"There’s been a lot of demand for this book in particular. There isn’t a lot of material on Maine’s Native Americans that’s in print," she says.

MacDougall says the advantages of online publication include easy access for Internet users and eliminating the cost of reprinting. She says the Folklife Center hopes to make other volumes available online. But when and how many of those books will be posted depends on the feedback the Folklife Center receives about the use of this present volume.

The book was edited by Edward Ives, the founder and former director of the Maine Folklife Center. It is a compilation of tales related by Viola Solomon of the Malecite reservation in Tobique, New Brunswick, and stories collected by Ohio native Edwin Tappan Adney.

Solomon’s stories were recorded by three students who took Ives’ Saturday extension course in American Folklore in 1962 at Presque Isle. Solomon lived on the reservation all her life. Ives accessed Adney’s manuscripts through the Peabody Museum in Salem, Mass. Adney became interested in Native American culture when he met a Malecite man while on vacation in Woodstock, New Brunswick.

The Malecite and the Passamaquoddy nations are of the eastern or Wabanaki group of the Algonkian stock. Malecite territory once stretched from the St. John River Valley toward Fredericton, New Brunswick, and into Aroostook County. Passamaquoddy territory may have once encompassed all of present-day Washington and Hancock counties as well as Charlotte and southern York and Sunbury counties in New Brunswick.
Many of the tales focus on the heroic deeds of Kluskap, a superhuman character. Kluskap was neither god nor judge nor creator, but a transformer of the world in which the Malecite and Passamaquoddy lived.
Researchers Focus on Small and Independent Grocery Stores

October 11, 2001

Research contact: Greg White, Dept. of Resource Economics and Policy, 207-581-3159
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Strategies to help small, rural grocery stores survive in an age of increasingly larger supermarkets will be the focus of a University of Maine research project. With a $530,873 competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Fund for Rural America, Gregory White of the UMaine Department of Resource Economics and Policy (REP) will lead an effort to gather information about consumer preferences and develop new networks that could benefit small and independent stores.

“Nationally, grocery store sales are up about 30 percent over the last decade, but the number of independent and small stores decreased by 17 percent and 35 percent respectively over the same period,” says White. “Small and independent grocery stores are struggling, and in this study, we’ll be looking at factors that could help them develop a niche.”

White will work with Stewart Smith and James McConnon of REP. McConnon is also a specialist in small business with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Other participants will include representatives of the Maine Associated Grocers, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Maine Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and the Maine Departments of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and Economic Development, as well as local retailers, farmers, and specialty food producers. In addition to studying the services that consumers want, they will work with the Maine SBDC to provide training to store owners and develop the basis for new networks between local food producers and small and independent retail businesses.

Small and independent stores are often located in downtowns or very rural areas, adds White, and when those stores go out of business, local residents must often drive farther to buy their groceries. That can create hardships for low-income people and rural residents who do not have cars. In addition, business traffic declines for other local retailers as well, with the result that the economic vitality of small towns and rural areas diminishes.

The project will address the problem on several levels over a four-year period. Consumer surveys will be done in seven to ten communities to understand the importance of some elements of larger grocery stores and why consumers shop where they do. “For example, how important is it to have an ATM in the store, or check-out scanners?” asks White. “We want to know if consumers really value those services.”

Retailers will also have the chance to get training in the latest business and marketing skills. A counseling and mentoring program will be set up in three to four communities through the
FastTrac training program at the University of Southern Maine. Researchers will review the results of the training efforts to determine how the costs compare to the benefits.

Finally, researchers will address the possibility that local food producers may be willing to make arrangements with small and independent stores to provide new products. Retailers may be able to develop a niche with locally grown, organic or natural foods, says White. Large grocery chains often reduce their own costs by buying directly from major food producers rather than wholesalers, he adds, whereas small and independent stores don’t have the volume to exercise that kind of buying power.

While the project will be conducted in Maine, the researchers expect to apply the results throughout the country. More information about the project will be posted regularly to a Web site, www.umaine.edu/fra.
UMaine Biologist Honored as Fellow in Major U.S. Scientific Organization

October 12, 2001
Research contact: Irv Kornfield, 207-581-2548
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has elected Irv Kornfield of Bangor, professor of zoology in the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences and Department of Biological Sciences, to the rank of AAAS Fellow. The honor is bestowed on scientists who have made fundamental contributions to their field of study.

Kornfield specializes in evolutionary biology. He uses DNA based methods to describe relationships among a diversity of animal populations and species. His research has contributed to the management of recreational and commercial fisheries including Atlantic salmon, haddock and lobster. In 1998, Kornfield established the Molecular Forensics Laboratory to assist the Maine Warden Service.

The work being recognized by the AAAS focuses on cichlid fishes, a freshwater family from Africa and the American tropics. Because many populations of cichlids have developed unique adaptations in a relatively short time, they are considered a paradigm for rapid evolution. The subject has permitted numerous UMaine graduate and undergraduate students to participate in basic field and laboratory research.

Kornfield is the only scientist from Maine elected as an AAAS Fellow this year among the 288 scientists from throughout the country. He is the sixth UMaine scientist to receive the honor.

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.
UMaine Dean to be Honored as Athlete, Scholar and Leader

Oct. 12, 2001
Media contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO– Springfield College will honor a former All-American football player for his prowess on the playing field and for his contributions as a Maine educational leader for the past two decades. Robert Cobb, dean of the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine, will be inducted into Springfield’s Athletic Hall of Fame during homecoming festivities on Oct. 20.

Cobb, who graduated Summa Cum Laude in the Class of 1964, majored in health and physical education at the Massachusetts college, renown for its philosophy and practice of humanics – the education of the whole person for leadership in service to humanity. Its accomplished alumni can be found in the forefront of their professions, including business, education, health and human services, and sports.

A three-year letter winner as linebacker and team captain, Cobb was named the team’s most valuable player in 1962 and 1963. A sensational senior season yielded him numerous honors including All-American, All-Eastern College Athletic Conference, UPI All-New England and All-Western Massachusetts titles. A Dean’s List student, Cobb was also chosen as the top scholar-athlete by the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Football Hall of Fame. The Winthrop, Maine native headed to Springfield College after graduating from Winthrop High School in 1960, where he was also an outstanding scholar/athlete.

Cobb pursued graduate work at Springfield from 1965-69, where he also worked as an assistant professor of physical education and as assistant varsity football coach under coaching legend Ted Dunn. In Cobb’s first coaching season, Springfield finished the year 9-0, the only football team in the college’s history to finish a season undefeated and untied. That record year still holds today.

Cobb earned both master’s and doctorate degrees from Springfield, the latter requiring graduate study at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the University of Connecticut and the University of Hartford. He returned to his home state in 1969 to join the UMaine faculty and became dean of the College of Education and Human Development in 1977.

Dean Cobb was an excellent candidate in the competitive Sports Hall of Fame selection process, according to the Springfield College Alumni Relations Office. Individuals are selected for their outstanding achievement as an athlete, for continuing contribution to sports and for innovation, service, dedication and leadership in their professional fields. Dean Cobb’s extraordinary ability as a player and coach at Springfield, his wide recognition as an outstanding educational leader and strong endorsements stood out among the many nominations, said Springfield Alumni Director Tamie Kidess-Lucey.
Cobb has taken the lessons learned from his days in sports and combined them with his expertise as an educator to benefit secondary and university students in Maine and around the country, according to Gary Thorne, ESPN and NBC sportscaster and newspaper columnist, and one of the supporters of Cobb’s nomination.

"His desire to ensure a moral fiber in sports and to train those who coach in those principles resounds in the programs he has started in Maine and that are the foundation for such programs around the country," Thorne said. "I can think of no higher use of one's athletic background than to help the coaches of today provide the highest quality examples to those they lead in sports. Bob has created programs that achieve that end using his own background, leadership and teaching abilities."

Cobb provides leadership to meet UMaine’s statewide responsibility for the preparation and professional development of teachers and administrators and for research and strategies to address the changing needs of schools, educators and learners of all ages. His commitment to developing working partnerships between the public schools and the University has been instrumental in the establishment of successful collaborative networks and initiatives at the state, regional and national levels. A former chair of the Maine Leadership Consortium and a continuing Executive Committee member, he helps guide the organization’s support and implementation of controversial policy-shaping school reform initiatives. He founded the Maine Center for Coaching Education, which provides statewide training for coaches and promotes a positive sports experience, and chairs its advisory council. An early leader and constant advocate of research and initiatives to better understand and enhance the aspirations of Maine students, Cobb successfully spearheaded the establishment of the National Center for Student Aspirations at UMaine in 1995 and has supported its continued growth.

Among other state and regional leadership positions he represents the University of Maine System on the Legislative Commission on the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers, serves on the state Commissioner of Education’s Professional Development Policy Advisory Committee, the State Board of Education’s Administrator Certification Task Force, the Advisory Board of the Maine Science and Math Alliance, and the New England Land-Grant Universities Education Deans’ Council.
Folk Festival to Celebrate French, Irish Traditions

Oct. 15, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The French and Irish heritage of Quebec and Maine will be celebrated in traditional song, dance and storytelling at the fourth annual Folk Traditions Festival at the University of Maine, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 2-3.

The program provides participants with the opportunity to sample traditional foods, get their feet moving on the dance floor and enjoy the music of instruments such as the fiddle, button accordion, guitar and harmonica.

The Maine Folklife Center, the Franco American Studies Program and the Franco American Centre at UMaine are collaborating to produce the event. It is funded in part by UMaine’s Cultural Affairs Committee and the state Office of Tourism.

Pauleena MacDougall, the associate director of the Maine Folklife Center, says the festival will explore the cultural ties between the people of Quebec and Maine.

"It’s a way to educate people about our strong cultural ties to Atlantic Canada. Many of us have family or friends in Atlantic Canada. This highlights the special ethnicity that we share," she says.

About 35% of the population of Maine is of French, Canadian or Acadian descent.

Past Folk Traditions Festivals have focused on the Scottish tradition in Nova Scotia, the British and French heritage of Prince Edward Island and the Anglo influence in Maine.

MacDougall says prior festivals have attracted about 200 participants from the UMaine student body and staff, as well as members of the community.

Folklorist Lisa Ornstein, who will be performing at the festival, says French and Irish traditional music share some similarities. But the distinctive forms of the two musical traditions intermingled to produce a unique sound when the French and the Irish settled in Quebec. The festival provides a forum for the two traditions to be compared, and for their similarities and differences to be appreciated.

"The French and the Irish share numerous musical and dance traditions. Although rooted in similar tradition, each has grown and developed in separate ways. Quebecois music, once relying more heavily on the fiddle, has more recently adopted the accordion. Of course, each generation makes its mark on the music as it brings individual creativity to bear, reworking the tunes to its own liking," she says.

MacDougall says the festival also provides a rare opportunity to hear traditional music.
"We don’t have much traditional music or storytelling at the university or in this area. You find that more in Portland, or on the coast. Although we do have great jazz and classical music here, I thought this piece was missing," she says.

Festival events include:

- Friday, Nov. 2, Pierre Chartrand of Montreal, Quebec, a dancer and ethnographer of traditional French dance, will present a lecture and demonstration of the traditional dances of France at 12 p.m. in the Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union. This event is free and open to the public.
- Saturday, Nov. 3, musicians and dancers will conduct workshops in French and Irish dance music from 3-5 p.m. in the Class of 1944 Hall. There will be a soiree or ceilidh (party) with a meal of traditional foods at 6 p.m. in Wells Conference Center. Several performances will follow the meal.

The first performer will be Michel Faubert, a French storyteller and singer. Next the program will feature Irish song and musical traditions by button accordion player Keith Corrigan of Valcartier, Quebec, fiddler and singer Jimmy Kelly of Sainte Foy, Quebec, fiddler Blair Kack of Shannon, Quebec, and pianist Nick Hawes of Fort Kent. Traditional French dance music and songs will be presented by "LeBruit Court Dans la Ville," a group consisting of Andre Michaud (guitar, vocals, feet), Lisa Ornstein (fiddle) and Nomand Miron (accordion, voice, harmonica). Chartrand will demonstrate French traditional dances and direct festival participants in community set dancing.

For tickets for Saturday’s events, contact Beverly Haverlock at 581-1891. Dance workshops cost $5, the dinner is $11 and the concert is $15. Tickets for students and children under 12 are half-price. For more information, contact Pauleena MacDougall at 581-1848.
Society of Composers Concerts Attract Leading Composers to UMaine

Oct. 15, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Fifteen of the nation’s leading composers will gather at the University of Maine for a series of three concerts sponsored by the Society of Composers Region I Conference, Friday, Oct. 26-Sunday, Oct. 28.

The concerts will feature a full program of contemporary styles, ranging from conservative, tonal works to pieces that use electronic enhancement. The works will be performed by the UMaine Percussion Ensemble, Flute Choir, faculty and guest performers from around the country. All three concerts will be held at the Minsky Recital Hall and are free and open to the public. The Friday and Saturday performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday performance for 2 p.m.

Beth Wiemann, an assistant professor of music at UMaine, is a Region I representative and the host of the event. She says the concerts offer a unique opportunity for UMaine students and members of the community to be exposed to the best contemporary classical music.

"Since we are relatively far from a big urban environment…there aren’t always a lot of opportunities for contemporary music. This allows students and faculty the opportunity to see how many composers are really active," she says.

This is the first time UMaine has hosted the event. It was hosted by Bowdoin College in Brunswick in 1998 and Bates College in Lewiston in 1992.

The Society of Composers, based in Glendale, N.Y., is a professional society that seeks to promote the composition, performance, understanding and dissemination of new and contemporary classical music. Its membership includes composers and performers from both in and outside of academia.

The society sponsors several regional concerts each year, as well as a national student concert and a national concert. There are eight regions, and Region I includes the New England states and Maritime provinces.

The society also publishes a newsletter, produces at least one CD each year and publishes new musical scores in an annual journal.

Wiemann says that her duties as a regional representative, a post she has held for three years, include hosting at least one concert. The process of organizing the concert began last spring, when she inquired of other UMaine faculty regarding their willingness to play in the concerts.
After compiling a list of willing musicians and their instruments, she put out a nation-wide request for composers.

Over 30 composers responded, matching their works with the musicians and instruments that would be available to perform. It was from this pool that the 15 composers were selected.

The program for each concert is as follows:

**Friday, Oct. 26:**

Tuatha De Danann by John D. White. White is chair of the philosophy department at Talladega College in Alabama and has been composing seriously since 1968.

Triton by Julie Rohwein. Rohwein holds a B.S. in physics, a M.S. in science and technology studies, a M.M. in composition and is currently a PhD candidate in music at Harvard. Triton incorporates clarinet music and computer-generated sounds.

Concert Piece by Allen Briggs. Briggs is a professor of music at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College of the City University of New York and a co-director of the Weston Music Center and School of the Performing Arts in Weston, Conn. Briggs, who is also a pianist, has performed extensively nationally and abroad.

Mass Age by Christie Rinck. Rinck is a student of music composition at the University of Miami. According to Rinck, Mass Age uses text "to determine the rhythm…of an oral ‘sound’ society being transformed and losing one’s sense of individuality by the propagation of written media."

Lies for trumpet and tuba by Scott Vaillancourt. Vaillancourt teaches low brass at UMaine, Bowdoin, the University of New England, the University of Southern Maine and the Portland Conservatory. This performance is the world premiere of Lies.

Dissolve by Daniel Adams. Adams is an associate professor of music at Texas Southern University in Houston. He has published extensively and received numerous grants and awards.

**Saturday, Oct. 27:**

Some Epigrams by Paul Siskind. Siskind is on the faculty of the Crane School of Music, State University of New York-Potsdam. He has published extensively and recorded on the Innova and New Arial labels. Some Epigrams is drawn from a collection of short, epigrammatic poetry by poets such as Carl Sandburg, Alexander Pope, John Dryden and Emily Dickinson.

Resistance by Garth Baxter. Baxter is on the music faculty of Western Maryland College. Baxter’s style combines the traditions of form and clear melodic writing with contemporary approaches to harmonies.

The poems O To Be a Dragon, Night Thought and Seamstress set to music by Beth Wiemann. Wiemann, a professor at UMaine, has won numerous awards for composition and has premiered many clarinet works.

Improvisation No. 6 by Douglas Ovens. Ovens is chair of the music department at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Penn. Improvisation No. 6 includes tape recordings of Ovens’ work for soprano and orchestra and live music played on a MalletKat Pro.

**Sunday, Oct. 28:**
Halo by Elliott Schwartz. Schwartz is the Robert K. Beckwith Professor of Music at Bowdoin, where he has taught since 1964. He has appeared as a visiting composer in New York City, Los Angeles, Cambridge, Strasbourg, London, Kyoto and Tokyo. Halo was composed in 1995 for Michael Richards, who premiered the work at Merkin Hall, New York, at a concert celebrating Schwartz’s 60th birthday.

Four poems set to music by William B. Goldberg. Goldberg studied at the Julliard School of Music and the New York College of Music. He initiated Cormorant Press, a press devoted to new music. He has been active in Maine music for over ten years.

Bind by Frank Stemper. Stemper is a professor of music composition at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he coordinates computer music in the Center of Experimental Jazz. His music has been performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Japan.

WATT by Ken Ueno. Ueno currently performs with his new ensemble, the Cambridge Underground Music Manifesto, in Boston subway stations. He has composed for traditional ensembles as well as for amplified Big Bird toys, amplified Mbira, electric guitar, amplified bucket with water spray and typewriter. WATT is scored for baritone saxophone and non-pitched percussion.

Rivulets by Mark Zanter. Zanter currently teaches at Marshall University. His interests include chamber, jazz, popular music and music of non-western cultures. His works have been performed nationally and internationally.

Solstice by Scott Brickman. Brickman is an assistant professor of music at the University of Maine-Fort Kent. His work has been performed throughout the United States, Brazil, Canada and Portugal. Brickman is active in the Fort Kent community as a church and folk musician, and also works composing songs for and with children in Fort Kent’s kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs. He wrote Solstice for his UMFK JazzCombo, which will be performing the piece at the concert.
UMaine Student Wins U.S. EPA Fellowship for Research on Northern Maine Forest

Oct. 15, 2001

Research contact: Shawn Fraver, Dept. of Forest Ecosystems Science, 207-581-2784
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Shawn Fraver of Old Town, a Ph.D. student in the University of Maine Department of Forest Ecosystem Science (FES), a two-year $22,000 annual fellowship in the agency’s premier environmental research program for higher education. Fraver is studying causes of forest disturbance with an eye toward management that mimics natural cycles.

Only about 100 Science to Achieve Results (STAR) fellowships are awarded each year. They cover tuition and project expenses as well as a stipend. Student research topics range from child health and mercury to dioxin and urban sprawl. Fraver, a native of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, will use the fellowship to continue a study at the Big Reed Forest Reserve in northern Piscataquis County which is owned by The Nature Conservancy and constitutes one of the largest tracts of old growth forest in New England.

Since the 5,000-acre reserve has never been logged, it offers scientists a unique look at the history of natural disturbance. "Forests regenerate after a disturbance, whether it’s a single tree falling over or a catastrophic event like a fire, a hurricane or tornado," Fraver says. "The objective of our work is to determine the type, frequency and size of disturbances that affected the pre-colonial settlement forests of northern Maine. To do that, we need trees that are very old. [Big Reed] contains a record of events that took place in the absence of human intervention."

Fraver is working with Alan White, associate professor in FES, who coordinates the research project at Big Reed. The results will yield benefits to forest managers who increasingly look for guidance in natural patterns of forest growth, Fraver explains. Understanding the scale and frequency of natural disturbances will also contribute to future decisions about forest reserves, he adds.

Fraver has found that most of the older trees at Big Reed are around 200 years old, although he has also found quite a few that exceed 300 years. "It seems apparent that there was a catastrophic disturbance, perhaps a hurricane, that wiped out many of trees in the late 1700s and allowed a large new group of trees to become established," he says.

Several years ago, a former UMaine graduate student, Unna Chokkalingham, found the oldest tree yet identified at Big Reed, a 436-year-old hemlock. Analysis of its annual growth rings, Fraver adds, shows that it is still growing rapidly.
"I am extremely privileged to receive this fellowship. The Department of Forest Ecosystem Science at the University of Maine is rated as one of the top in the nation, and the fellowship confirms that our research program is of national significance," Fraver says.

Fraver grew up on a dairy farm and spent time hiking, skiing and doing other outdoor activities during his youth. After high school, he followed in his father’s steps as a cabinetmaker before attending Penn State University in State College. "I went to college, more out of curiosity, and found that I really liked science," he says. "That opened doors to a major in biology and later a master’s degree in forestry" from North Carolina State.

Before coming to Maine in 1999, Fraver worked for the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, an environmental research organization in Manomet, Massachusetts. He specialized in natural disturbance regimes in tropical forests in Panama and Puerto Rico. He also spent more than two years in the Peace Corps in the southern Chile city of Valdivia. He used his Spanish language skills to teach statistics at the University of Southern Chile and continued studying forest disturbances in the Chilean Andes.

At Big Reed, Fraver has extracted small wooden cores about the diameter of a straw from hundreds of trees. He took the cores back to Orono where he dried them, secured them in a wooden block and sanded them to a fine gloss. The smooth finish allows the smallest details to stand out.

The key to his work lies in making precise measurements of the annual growth rings. The work is tedious. Using a microscope, he measures from the point at which growth begins in the spring to when it stops in the fall for every year on every core.

Wide rings represent years of rapid growth, and narrow rings indicate years when stress reduced growth. Disturbances related to the spruce budworm, beech bark disease and drought can cause rings to shrink. The effects of insects and disease usually last for longer periods of time than do droughts. Fraver uses mathematical techniques to distinguish among disturbances that are displayed in each core.

Fraver plans to complete his study in 2003 and hopes to continue to do research for the U.S. Forest Service.
UMaine Students Gain New Opportunities with Spanish and German Clubs

Oct. 15, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Mastering a foreign language requires dedication, and that doesn’t just mean spending hours hunched over a textbook. It also means making the time to have conversations, to practice all those new words and to bend your tongue around unfamiliar sentence structures. And now, University of Maine students have two new opportunities to do just that with the Spanish Language Club and the German Club.

Last year the Spanish Language Club was launched and the German Club was restarted. The German Club, which had been inactive for several years, will celebrate its 100th anniversary as an organization on campus in 2002. This year, both clubs are planning plenty of activities and discussion times to help students improve their skills.

It was the initiative of students like Laurie St. Clair and Ben Morris that contributed to the formation of the Spanish Language Club. St.Clair, the club president, and Morris, the vice president, have guided the club through a process that included taking their case before the Student Senate. St. Clair said she expects the final approval for official club status from the senate this month.

St. Clair, a senior Elementary Education major from Auburn, said the students were motivated by the desire to practice speaking the language. It was particularly important for her, she said, because she is not currently taking any Spanish courses but she wants to maintain and improve her speaking skills.

"My Spanish has really improved. …And otherwise I wouldn’t be speaking Spanish at all," she said.

The club meets once a week for discussion purposes or for special events. Past events have included evenings of Spanish dancing and cooking, games of Scrabble and Monopoly in Spanish and guest lectures.

Morris, a senior International Affairs major from Peterborough, N.H., said the club is growing and more native Spanish speakers are joining its ranks. That not only helps the non-native speakers, but it also gives the students the chance to learn more about the others’ cultures.

Spanish Lecturer Sue Griffin is the club’s advisor. She said anywhere from four to 15 students of all speaking ability levels attend the meetings. Although the Modern Languages Department hosts a Spanish Language Table discussion once each week at lunch time, she said the club is important because it provides the extra time for practice.
Morris added that the club has raised awareness of the Spanish speaking community on campus.

"It lets it be known that there’s a Spanish-speaking community here. That’s something that’s not always very prevalent in [the state of] Maine," he said.

It was the initiative of Mary McLeod, a student of German, that sparked the German Club’s reorganization last year. McLeod is currently studying in Salzburg, Austria, as part of UMaine’s Salzburg Program.

German instructor Anette Ruppel Rodrigues served as the club’s interim faculty advisor last year. She says that McLeod displayed "great enthusiasm" getting the club started.

The club organized many events both on and off campus. Rodrigues said the club’s Nikolaus Celebration at Borders Bookstore in Bangor was one of the highlights of its off-campus activities. The students distributed traditional holiday foods and some wore traditional holiday costumes.

Other events have included participation in UMaine’s International Day, potluck suppers and picnics, German film evenings and Karneval/Fasching/Fastnacht/Mardi Gras celebrations. Most, but not all, German Club meetings are conducted in German.

Professor Gisela Hoecherl-Alden, a new addition to the German faculty, is the club’s advisor this year. She says that the German Club may also help students to plan their futures.

"Another important function of the German clubs that the other institutions I taught at had was that students who had the study of German in common could get together to discuss not only their classes…but also their plans for the future. I have encouraged them to invite business women and men and/or graduates from area companies to come speak to the club members about job and internship opportunities. Here at UMaine my colleagues and I would help them identify such guests and help approach them," Hoecherl-Alden says.
UMaine Students, Faculty Set Off for Third in Series of Annual Antarctic Expeditions

October 15, 2001
Research contact: Paul Mayewski, 207-581-3019
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- A group of students and faculty in the University of Maine Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies can’t wait for winter to get out on the snow and ice. They will leave Orono at the end of October for the third in a series of annual expeditions to Antarctica, one of the world’s foremost locations for global climate research.

Known as the International Trans-Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE), the program involves scientists from 15 countries who will drill ice cores, collect snow samples and establish ice elevation monitoring stations along specified routes across the continent. They will be on the ice from November to January. Their goal is to establish the basis for the most comprehensive environmental data collection effort ever mounted on the southern continent.

UMaine is the lead institution for the U.S. portion of the project which focuses on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS). Because of its geographic position and unique environment, Antarctica holds important keys to questions about global climate. In addition, the research will provide clues to the fate of the WAIS which is thought to be vulnerable to changes in climate and sea levels.

Paul Mayewski of Castine, professor of geological sciences and co-director of the Institute for Quaternary and Climate Studies, is the founder of ITASE which traces its beginnings to a multi-national meeting of ice core researchers in Grenoble, France in 1990. Today, ITASE has financial support from the National Science Foundation and is part of the international agendas of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

In addition to Mayewski, UMaine participants in this year’s expedition include Vandy "Blue" Spikes, a Ph.D. student from Garden City, Kansas; Gordon Hamilton, research assistant professor from Orono; Daniel Dixon, master’s student from London, England; and Susan Kasperi, master’s student from Lakewood, Colorado.

In addition to the scientists, an elementary school science teacher will accompany the team for the first half of the season. Jan French from the Cincinnati Country Day School will be posting a journal on the Internet at http://tea.rice.edu/tea_frenchfrontpage.html.

In early November, the group will fly from Christchurch, New Zealand to McMurdo, the largest of three U.S. Antarctic stations, and then fly to a trailhead deep in the continent. Once on its route, the team will travel on a sled train pulled by two Caterpillar Challenger 55 tractors that move on tracks similar to those on bulldozers. Some members will stay
occasionally in tents, but most will reside in a mobile structure nick-named the "blue room." At each site, they will dig ten to 12-foot deep pits in the snow, collect snow samples and drill three-inch wide cores that penetrate more than 200 feet into the ice.

More information about ITASE is available on the Internet at www.secretsoftheice.org which is maintained by the Boston Museum of Science. Researchers will post updates to the site every day and answer questions sent via e-mail. Questions and answers from previous years are posted on the Web site as well.
UMaine to Produce Comedian Steve Martin's "Picasso"

Oct. 15, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- When theatre students suggested the UMaine School of Performing Arts present
comedian Steve Martin's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," Assistant Professor of Theatre Marcia
Joy Douglas readily agreed to helm the project. The result will run Oct. 19-28 at the
University's Cyrus Pavilion Theatre.

Not only was Martin's Outer Critics Award-winning play a student request, but "Picasso" also
enticed Douglas because of the number of opportunities for students to perform and to work
on technical aspects of the production.

"Picasso" takes place at the turn of the last century in a Parisian cafe, the Lapin Agile, loosely
translated as the "nimble rabbit." Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein, two revolutionary
thinkers, and a surprise character gather (fictionally, of course) in 1904, and discuss their
latest brainstorm. Einstein is one year away from publishing his theory of relativity and
Picasso is three years from painting his first substantially cubist piece, "Les Demoiselles
D'Avignon." The cast features theatre majors Nathan Dore as Picasso and Paul Bishop Brown
as Einstein.

"One of the things I like so much about this play is imagining these great people right before
they make their marks," says Douglas, the show's director. "We're seeing these two young
men as they follow their bliss. Whether in art or science, that fire toward creation is the
same."

Faculty and staff joining Douglas for the "Picasso" project are Costume Designer Jane Snider,
associate professor of theatre, and Scenic Designer David Adkins, the school's production
manager. The student creative team includes Lighting Designer Daniel Krohne, Properties
Master Leanne Calendar and Sound Designer Peter Miller.

Showtimes for "Picasso," Martin's first play, are 7:30 p.m., Oct. 19-20 and Oct. 25-27; 2 p.m.,
Oct. 21-28. Tickets are $8 and available by calling the Maine Center for the Arts Box Office,
581-1755.
Candle Vigil Highlights Safe Campus Project's Domestic Violence Awareness Activities

Oct. 16, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine’s Safe Campus Project has scheduled a number of activities to highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Events include an informal speak-out and candle vigil on the Stillwater River on Tuesday, Oct. 30, as well as a series of films, discussions, lectures and workshops. All events are free and open to the public.

The Safe Campus Project is a collaborative effort of UMaine Rape and Response Services, the Spruce Run Association, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, the Penquis Law Project, the Bangor, Old Town and Orono Police Departments, the Penobscot Sheriff’s Office and the District Attorney’s Office. It is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Violence Against Women Office. Its aims include establishing a campus-based advocacy program for victims, strengthening offender accountability policies and procedures, engaging men in active violence prevention programs and coordinating awareness events.

Activities for October include:

- **Purple ribbon campaign**: Purple ribbons to demonstrate support for domestic violence awareness are available all month through the Safe Campus Project offices at 201 East Annex and 118B Merrill Hall.
- **Movie series**: The following films will be shown at 7 p.m. in Room 100 of the Donald P. Corbett Business Building. A discussion will follow each film.
  - **Tuesday, Oct. 23 – ”Tough Guise.”** In this documentary, Jackson Katz examines the relationship between images of popular culture and the social construction of masculine identities, arguing that the widespread violence in American society must be understood as a crisis in masculinity. Examples from popular culture include Howard Stern, Stone Cold Steve Austin, Good Will Hunting, Boyz N the Hood, Garth Brooks and hip-hop styles. This film is co-sponsored by the Peace Studies Department as part of Peace Week (80 min.).
  - **Tuesday, Nov. 6 – ”Violence Against Women: A Violation of Human Rights.”** This video was inspired by the testimonies of abused women from Asia, Africa, Europe and North and South America at the Church Center of the United Nations. It includes a companion guide with international statistics, contact information for organizations and resource materials (25 min., 1995).
- **Information tables**: Tables will be located on the second floor of the Memorial Union, Oct. 17-19 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. They will offer resource information, purple ribbons and the opportunity to take a pledge against dating violence.
- **Clothesline project**: Members of the campus community will have the opportunity to make their own t-shirt and display it on the clothesline, located on the mall, Thursday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Materials will be provided at an information table. In the
event of rain, an alternative location will be advertised at the information tables. The clothesline project is in collaboration with Spruce Run.

- **Healthy relationships workshop:** A presentation and discussion will be conducted at UMaine’s Counseling Center, Thursday, Oct. 25 from 12-1:30 p.m.

- **Howard B. Schonberger Peace and Social Justice Memorial Lecture:** Michael P. Johnson, associate head of the department of sociology at Pennsylvania State University, will present "Gender and the Importance of Distinguishing Among Types of Partner Violence," Monday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at 100 Donald P. Corbett Business Building. The Schonberger Lecture was established by family and friends of the UMaine history professor after his untimely death in 1991. The annual lecture is intended to honor Schonberger's commitment to both scholarship and social justice.

- **Candle vigil and informal speak-out:** Participants will light candles and place them in the Stillwater River Tuesday, Oct. 30, beginning at 7 p.m. The speak-out will take place at the Steam Plant Parking Lot on College Avenue. Speakers will include representatives from community resource organizations.

For more information contact Lisa Black at 581-3127.
New Anthropology Professors to Continue Research in Australia

Oct. 17, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – In January, Rebecca and Doug Bird of the University of Maine Anthropology Department will return to Australia and continue their research among the Mardu Aboriginal people of the Western Desert. For the Birds, who just joined the faculty in September, UMaine provides a home where they can develop their interest in cultural ecology to the fullest. For UMaine, the Birds’ research is providing valuable information and experience that is already translating into the classroom and may eventually involve research experience for undergraduate students.

Rebecca Bird is an assistant professor and teaches courses on cultural ecology and theory in anthropology. Doug Bird is an assistant research professor. When the Birds began their research, they were working at the University of Utah.

Doug Bird says that UMaine’s Anthropology Department is one of only a handful nation-wide that makes research in cultural ecology a top priority.

"This department has a long and rich tradition in studies of cultural ecology….It has produced some of the best cultural ecology studies in the world," he says.

Cultural ecology is a specialized sub-discipline within anthropology. It focuses on the interactions between humans and their environment, emphasizing the influence of social and geographical factors.

Anthropology chair Henry Munson says most professors in the department conduct research in this area.

"It happened as time went by, it became clear that this was one of our strengths. There are also considerable funding opportunities available in this area," he says.

The Birds are receiving funding for their project from the National Science Foundation and the LSB Leakey Foundation. Doug Bird says he expects the project to continue through 2003. Along the way the Birds will produce a series of journal articles, the first of which is currently in the works. It will detail men’s and women’s foraging strategies and will be published in "Australian Aboriginal Studies," a journal produced by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres-Strait Islander Studies.

Munson says the Birds’ previous research in Australia’s Torres Strait Islands has helped to establish their reputations within the discipline.
"They are both very productive, and have published in very prestigious journals. …They have very impressive National Science Foundation grants, which we’re delighted by. They’re doing some outstanding research, and they’ve gotten a lot of attention," he says.

Rebecca Bird was invited to give a series of lectures about the project by the highly-regarded Leakey Foundation. Although it is unclear if she will be able to present the lectures since she will be in Australia conducting research, Munson says the invitation is a testimony to the respect her work has gained.

"It’s not every day that an assistant professor is invited to give lectures at the Leakey Foundation. The fact that they made that invitation shows that she’s already achieved national and international recognition that most assistant professors can only dream of," he says.

The San Francisco-based Leakey Foundation awards more than $600,000 in field grants annually and is the only funding organization in the United States entirely committed to human origins research. It was founded in 1968 by a group of friends who wished to support the fieldwork and scientific priorities of Dr. Louis Leakey. The foundation sponsors lectures, workshops and symposia as well as publishing a newsletter. The Birds’ work fits with the foundation’s commitment to human origins research because it is believed that the study of surviving hunter-gatherer groups can shed light on how our hominid ancestors organized their lives.

The Birds have already spent about five months among the Mardu, including two months in the summer of 2000 and three months this summer. Their methodology is participant observation, which means that they live in the community with the Mardu and participate in their daily lives. Although they do not speak the Mardu language, Doug Bird says they are learning and can now communicate effectively.

Rebecca Bird says they are submitting an application for a Research Experience for Undergraduates Grant from the National Science Foundation’s cultural anthropology division. That would allow one or two qualified UMaine students to spend one or two months conducting research in Australia as early as the summer of 2002. The Birds will be notified in April if their grant application is successful.

But for now, Rebecca Bird is bringing Australia to her students in the classroom.

"I can incorporate this research in the classroom all the time. The students comment that ‘all we hear about is Australia.’ Fieldwork is invaluable for giving you examples to demonstrate almost any concept you’re teaching about," she says.

The Mardu were one of the last groups of aborigines to come out of the western Australian desert, many having had no regular contact with European settlers until the early 1960s. They now number between 500-800 people and still live primarily in the desert, although they have access to motor vehicles and can purchase food and other goods at outpost stations on the fringe of the desert. Their territory is about the size of the state of Utah.

The focus of the Birds’ research is how gender relates to hunting and foraging strategies. For instance, the Mardu women primarily hunt smaller animals that are relatively easy to catch, such as goanna lizards. The men, on the other hand, hunt larger animals, such as bush turkeys and kangaroo, that may require days of tracking before they are killed.

The women’s hunting proves to be much more economical, with three days of hunting normally producing 45-65 pounds of goanna meat. The men’s hunting, however, may only produce one 13-pound turkey after a three-day chase.
Rebecca Bird says that anecdotal evidence indicates that this was not always the case, but that women and men once engaged in more similar hunting activities. She hypothesizes that with the advent of the ability of the Mardu to purchase food at the outpost stations, it became less necessary for every Mardu hunt to maximize food intake. Thus, the men gradually began to adopt hunting practices that had more social than immediate economic significance.

She says that men may gain status in the community because tracking the larger game gives them a way to demonstrate their generosity (the larger game is shared communally, whereas individual families keep the smaller game they catch) and their skills.

"The men have cars and guns now but there is still skill involved in tracking. …For days on end, they can follow the animal and figure out what it did every single moment. It’s the demonstration of that tracking ability," she says.

Doug Bird says that while this research focuses on a small group of people, it is significant in that it ties in with a larger body of anthropological research concerned with the differences in the work that men and women do in all cultures.

"We’re looking at basic clues about factors that influence something as important as gender – the factors that make up what it means to be human. …We’re finding that even in materially simple circumstances, it’s not just about the food. It’s often as much about complex social arrangements and complex social interactions," he says.

Their research will also explore what happens to people when their culture undergoes rapid changes. The Mardu are a prime example, given that until the 1960s, few had even seen Europeans. Their interaction with invading colonialism was especially traumatic because many Mardu were often beaten or exploited for their labor. Furthermore, the work will incorporate an analysis of how hunting strategies change due to the seasons. For instance, when the Birds have conducted their fieldwork it has been during the Australian winter, and the women hunt goanna by burning the long grass to expose the burrows where the goanna nest. Then the women dig them out of the burrows. In the Australian summer, however, the goanna leave their burrows and the women hunt them by chasing them.

Doug Bird adds that the research will also incorporate the significance of the Mardu religion to all their cultural and economic activities.

"You can’t disentangle their daily lives from a complex set of ideological, mythical and religious beliefs about the landscape. …Spots of ritual importance are linked by the paths of their dreamtime ancestors, and are associated with ritual ceremony. …Going out and burning a patch of grass to catch goanna lizards has religious symbolism tied with their relationship to their ancestors and the beings that created their world. Maintaining the religion has tremendous significance tied up with men’s and women’s initiation," he says.
New Apple Varieties

October 17, 2001

Research contact: Renae Moran, Highmoor Farm, 933-2100
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Field trials and taste tests for new apple varieties are expanding opportunities for Maine’s apple industry. The Maine Agricultural Center at the University of Maine is sponsoring research on the hardiness, disease resistance and other growing characteristics of six varieties that may offer new choices to orchards and consumers.

The varieties are arlet, cameo, fortune, honeycrisp, gingergold, golden delicious and yataka.

According to Renae Moran, tree fruit specialist at the UMaine Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, some orchards already offer honeycrisp for sale to the public. Samples from the trees at Highmoor may also be offered to the public at the Great Maine Apple Day event in Unity on November 10.

Taste tests are scheduled for October 24 in the Consumer Testing Center at the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition on the Orono campus. Contact Moran at 933-2100.
NSF Funds First Sociolinguistic Study of Franco-American French

October 17, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr, 581-3571

ORONO -- When North American French scholar Jane Smith joined the University of Maine faculty in 1994, she was surprised to find that Maine’s Franco-Americans had no corpus of their language – no body of recordings preserving the spoken word – other than a few taped interviews in the Maine Folklife Center archives.

That will change this fall when the first sociolinguistic study of Franco-American French begins in the state, led by Smith, a UMaine assistant professor of French, and Cynthia Fox, associate professor of French Studies at the University at Albany. The three-year collaborative study is funded by a $301,130 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Franco-Americans in New England and New York state represent the second largest concentration of French speakers in the United States, Smith and Fox noted in their grant proposal. Yet they remain the only significant group of North American French speakers whose language has not been the subject of systematic, representative sampling and research.

In the sociolinguistic study, the researchers will be looking at "who uses the language – and how." In particular, they will investigate its linguistic structure and "the human dynamics behind the language" in an effort to understand what social or economic factors influence language maintenance or shift.

Their research, based on interviews with Franco-Americans, will explore such areas as family background, linguistic history, ties with French-speaking Canada and France, and participation in ethnic activities. They also will study dialect variations between Quebec and Acadian French in Franco-American French, as well as the influence of English on the language.

Smith and Fox will assess the vitality of French existing in eight communities in the Northeast – Van Buren, Waterville and Biddeford, Maine; Gardner and Southbridge, Mass.; Berlin, N.H.; Bristol, Conn.; and Woonsocket, R.I. Large numbers of Québécois settled in these cities and towns, some of which also drew Acadians from the Maritimes or northern Maine’s St. John Valley. However, Van Buren was originally settled by Acadians, and many immigrants who arrived later found a French-speaking community.

The communities were selected based on a number of criteria, including a minimum of 20 percent of the population with French Canadian ancestry, and the percentage of the population that claimed in the 1990 census to use French at home.
In each city, 30 tape-recorded interviews will be conducted in French with Franco-Americans in three age groups – 5-30, 31-59, and 60 and older. The degree of differences between the ages will be a function of the community, says Smith. For instance, in Van Buren, 81 percent of all residents still speak French in the home, compared to 7 percent of the population of Bristol, Conn.

Other members of each community will be invited to assist in the interviews, thereby contributing to the preservation of their linguistic heritage.

In addition to providing baseline data on the sociolinguistics of language choice and change in eight Franco-American communities, the project will provide a permanent linguistic record of the largely undocumented variety of North American French. Data have been gathered by linguists for Quebec, Acadian and Cajun French. "Now it’s up to us to do the same for Franco-American French," says Smith.

At a time when the number of fluent speakers is decreasing and the language is increasingly "giving way to English," it is hoped that the involvement of community members in this project will encourage people in their language maintenance efforts, Smith says.
UMaine Implementing Whistle Alert Program

Oct. 18, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine Department of Public Safety and the Campus Walking Companions have begun distributing whistles free of charge to female members of the campus community. A woman may use the whistle to draw attention to herself if she feels threatened, becomes incapacitated by illness or injury or is physically attacked.

The Whistle Alert Program is sponsored by the Safe Campus Project and will provide 2,500 whistles. Another 2,500 whistles will be available for distribution at the beginning of next year.

Deborah Mitchell, a crime prevention specialist at UMaine, says the whistles will play an important role in making the campus a safer place.

"Some women may not feel comfortable doing a self-defense course, but they may feel comfortable carrying a whistle. It just gives people another option," she says.

People who hear a whistle are urged to call Public Safety immediately. If people carrying whistles see an emergency, they may use the whistles to draw attention to the situation.

Mitchell says she will be distributing whistles at her Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) courses and during her personal safety programs in the residence halls. Students who work as escorts in UMaine’s Campus Walking Companions program also will distribute whistles or women may obtain one at the Public Safety Building.

Mitchell’s next RAD course begins Thursday, Nov. 8 and will continue for five consecutive Thursdays from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Doris Twinchett Allen Village Conference Center. The course is free of charge to female members of the UMaine community. Mitchell schedules a personal safety program for each residence hall at the beginning of the fall semester.

Mitchell and the Campus Walking Companions began to develop the Whistle Alert Program in June. They researched similar programs at other universities, implementing the best aspects of each program to devise a blueprint for a program at UMaine. Mitchell says they consulted extensively with Bates College in Lewiston.

The Campus Walking Companions are a walking escort service that may be accessed by all UMaine community members and visitors from 6 p.m.-12 a.m. each day by calling 581-WALK. Walking teams consist of both male and female students.

Mitchell says that responsible use of the whistles is necessary to insure the success of the program. If students abuse the whistles, they may be charged with violating UMaine’s Student Conduct Code.
"People need to recognize what it is if they hear it. We need to convey that they are only to be used for emergency situations," she says.

Mitchell adds that the whistles have not usually been abused at other universities with similar programs. Rather, the programs have served their intended purpose.

"The other universities love the program. It’s very effective," she says.

The Safe Campus Project funded the program at a cost of $5,000. The Safe Campus Project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Violence Against Women Office and is a collaborative effort of UMaine Rape and Response Services, the Spruce Run Association, the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, the Penquis Law Project, the Bangor, Old Town and Orono Police Departments, the Penobscot Sheriff’s Office and the District Attorney’s Office.

Mitchell says the program would not have been possible without the support of the Safe Campus Project. "We wouldn’t have had the money to do it without them," she says.

Mitchell encourages women to obtain a whistle or to register for her course by contacting her at the Public Safety Building at 581-4036.
Winter Parking Rules in Effect at UMaine

Oct. 18, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The University of Maine's winter overnight parking ban will be in effect from Nov. 1, 2001 through May 1, 2002, according to the UMaine Parking Services Office.

Faculty, staff and commuter parking areas are closed to overnight parking during this period every year. No vehicles may be parked in these lots between midnight and 6 a.m.

The Hilltop Lot is available for faculty, staff and commuter students who have a short-term need to park their vehicles overnight. To use that lot, vehicle owners are required obtain an overnight permit from the Parking Services office.

Those with questions should either consult a parking map or call the Parking Services Office at 581-4047.

Vehicle owners may consult the Parking Services's web site for updates related to parking, snow removal and lot closings.

Vehicles parked in violation of the ban will be towed at the owner's expense.
Graduate String Quartet Concert to be Recorded for NPR

October 19, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr, (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Works of Beethoven, Shostakovich and Brahms will be performed by the
UMaine/Bangor Symphony Orchestra Graduate String Quartet in an Oct. 30 concert that will
be recorded for National Public Radio.

The recital begins at 7:30 p.m., in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 Hall at the University
of Maine. Tickets are $5 and available by calling 581-1755.

Members of the quartet are Yosuke Kawasaki, first violin; Jethro Marks, viola; Georgy
Valtchev, second violin; and Inna Nassidze, cello.

They will perform Beethoven’s Quartet Opus 18 No. 3 in D major, the Quartet Opus 108 No.
7 in F# minor by Shostakovich and Bach’s Quartet Opus 51 No. 1 in C minor.

Annually, four students are selected from a nationwide search to enter the UMaine/BSO
Graduate String Quartet and perform with the Bangor Symphony. In addition, the quartet
travels to schools throughout the state to perform and conduct workshops for students.

School of Performing Arts Director Diane Roscetti is in charge of the program, arranging all
performances and outreach, and serving as faculty coach and mentor.

All four of the quartet members are award-winning artists in the international spotlight.
Yosuke Kawasaki and Georgy Valtchev are in their first season with the quartet. Kawasaki, a
Japanese-American artist from New York City, is a member of the Mito Chamber and the
Saito Kinen Orchestras, under the direction of Seiji Ozawa. Kawasaki is a graduate of the
Juilliard School, and most recently was concertmaster of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

Georgy Valtchev was born in Bulgaria and is also a Juilliard graduate. He served as the
concertmaster of the Lyric Orchestra and on the faculty at Concordia College, and has won
several international competitions.

Jethro Marks, a Vancouver native, is in his second season with the quartet. In 1998, he was
the only violist accepted into the Zukerman Program at the Manhattan School of Music. Last
year he won first prize in the Concerto Competition there.

Inna Nassidze, a native of the former Soviet republic of Georgia, has been with the quartet
since its inception. She is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and has
performed with such masters as Yo-Yo Ma and the late Isaac Stern. Last fall, she performed
the Brahms “Double Concerto” with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, joined by a violinist
from the New York Philharmonic.
UMaine to Host High School Bands

Oct. 19, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The high school bands from Skowhegan Area High School and Shead High School of Eastport will join the University of Maine marching band on the field at halftime of the Black Bears football game against the University of Massachusetts on Saturday, Nov. 10.

The halftime performance will highlight a full day of activities for the 80 high school students, which includes a pre-game rehearsal and a cookout.

Christopher White, the director of Sports Bands, says the event gives the high school students a chance to observe the non-academic side of student life at UMaine.

"It’s a great way to introduce students to our campus. …It exposes students to the UMaine band program and to campus life," he says.

The high school bands will arrive for an 8:30 a.m. pre-game rehearsal, and then have the chance to socialize with the UMaine band members at a pre-game cookout. Kick-off is at noon. At half-time, there will be a joint performance of the UMaine band and the high school bands, as well as a solo performance by the UMaine band. The UMaine band will also conduct a post-game show.

White says it is important high school students understand the many opportunities UMaine students have to be involved in the band program.

"We can show the high school students the full range of what our bands do. …Some of these students don’t have football at their high school and have never seen a football game or a marching band before. High school students can gain an appreciation of what we do up here and see how much fun our students have doing what we do," he says.

There are bands for every ability and interest level at UMaine. The Pride of Maine Marching Band, the Screamin’ Black Bear Pep Band and the Concert Band are open to all students and have no auditions. The symphonic band, directed by Curvin Farnham, and the jazz ensemble, directed by Karel Lidral, are auditioned bands.

White says UMaine hosted high school bands for similar activities in 1994 and 1995. The event was re-instituted this year at the suggestion of the provost and admissions office. White says it is an event he would like to continue.

"It’s structured the way a larger event would be. …We are going to explore the possibility of doing it every year, though it depends on the football schedule. I’d like it to continue and build bigger each year," he says.
New Equipment, Cable Channel Highlight UMaine's Broadcast Journalism Program

Oct. 22, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – This fall, the University of Maine Department of Communication and Journalism received its fourth digital video editing workstation. According to department chair John Sherblom, this piece of equipment has similar capabilities to the equipment used at professional television stations.

But as valuable and exciting as it may be for students to learn their trade on the workstation, this latest piece of equipment represents just a small part of the transformation the department has engaged in for its Broadcast Journalism sequence in 1998.

Back then, the college radio station was struggling and a campus television station was just a distant dream. Now, UMaine students are piloting a radio station with a new tower and transmitter and planning to start running transmission tests for a student-run and staffed, closed-circuit educational cable channel by the end of the fall semester. The proposed campus channel, which will be tentatively called the Maine Channel, is a joint project of the Department of Communication and Journalism and the Department of Information Technologies.

Lyombe Eko, assistant professor in the department, has overseen the long-term development of the television channel. He said he hopes for a permanent launch of the station (channel 42) in 2002.

Eko said the channel will provide a valuable service to both the campus and the wider community.

"First of all, we hope to make it a campus channel, with student and faculty productions, from the School of the Performing Arts to class lectures and sports. … We also hope to eventually participate in public access educational broadcasting, to send a package of regular programming to the regional cable system," he said.

The station will build on the department’s tradition of public service. Eko said the department has worked in collaboration with local community organizations to produce documentaries that are of interest to the community. He hopes the station will expose those documentaries to a wider audience.

Past documentaries have focused on historic houses of Bangor, the Peace and Justice Center discussions, a local violin maker, an author and organizations on the UMaine campus such as the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, the School of Performing Arts, the Franco-American Centre and the Wabanaki Center.
In 1997 the department hired Eko and Michael McCauley as assistant professors. Eko has focused on developing the television channel, while McCauley has worked on improvements to the radio station along with Kim Mitchell from UMaine’s Marketing Department.

And after a few short years, the student response has been overwhelming. Eko said there are currently about 30 Broadcast Journalism students in the department. Mass Communications majors have also been able to utilize the new equipment. The department has had to limit class sizes to manage the influx of students.

Eko is able to accommodate 20 students per semester in his Digital Video class. Teaching in the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters, that means a total of 60 students are able to use the equipment each year. He estimates that about another 20 students use the equipment to do work for classes from advertising to broadcast writing classes.

"It’s definitely an attraction to the college. We used to lose students because we didn’t have any broadcast journalism," Eko said.

The developments are making UMaine competitive with the nation’s other public universities.

"Most land-grant universities in the United States have their own TV stations. … [we’ll be] just like any other college our size," Eko said. That will mean amassing the necessary equipment, piece by piece.

Eko said the newest digital workstation cost about $10,000. But equipment prices, he added thankfully, are going down each year. He said the department needs about $15,000 per year for new equipment.

Right now the department’s equipment arsenal includes four digital workstations, a video animation work station (for producing animated programs like the Simpsons or South Park), a teleprompter, a video mixer, cameras, lighting equipment, software, an audio mixer and other news production equipment.

Digital video equipment purchases have been funded in part by the College of Liberal Arts, UMaine’s Bird and Bird Grant, The Center for Teaching Excellence, the Department of Communications and Journalism, the Associate Vice President for Research and the Academic Computing Advisory Committee.

But, Eko added, as the department acquires each new piece, it becomes harder to find a place to put it. "The main concern is space. We’re outgrowing our facilities," he said.

Eko said he hopes to move the equipment for the television station to another site on campus, perhaps to the large, empty studio in Alumni Hall that was once part of Maine Public Television. That space would likely be shared with the Department of Information Technologies.

Students and staff from the Department of Information Technologies would provide the technical support for the television station, performing tasks such as studio lighting, facilities and equipment networking, fiber optic and satellite connections.

Like the television station project, the radio station (WMEB) project is also limited by resources and space. McCauley said the radio station learned, soon after his arrival on campus, that it would need to find a transmitter site and build a new tower.

"Now we have a first-rate college radio station. But WMEB has really been strapped, budget-wise, in terms of paying off the new tower. We will move the studios into the new Union very
soon, and hope we can get some new equipment in the process. Once that’s done, the station will be a showpiece,” McCauley said.

Students in his radio news and audio documentary classes use the WMEB studios for audio editing and actual broadcasting.

Eko and McCauley agreed that the investment is worth the effort. Eko said that students gain from the "real-world" experience they acquire working on state-of-the-art equipment and learning how to run their own stations. McCauley added that many of the department’s Broadcast Journalism students have landed jobs in the media.

Both added that Rebecca Eilers, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has provided encouragement and support for the endeavor. Eko said that underscores how important it is to the university.

"The support we’ve received shows there’s a lot of interest," he said.
14th Annual Maine Beef Conference set for December 1 in Bangor

October 23, 2001

Media contact: Dee Potter, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Fort Kent, 207-834-3905 or, within Maine, at 1-800-287-1421
Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- The 14th annual Maine Beef Conference, “Turning Information into Profit,” will be held on December 1 at the Ramada Inn in Bangor. The conference will focus on improvements in production and profitability.

“Beef producers throughout the country and in Maine have been working hard to make ends meet,” says Dee Potter, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Educator and conference organizer. “Even with the improved demand driving markets up we have not seen the improvement in price expected, especially in New England.”

Harlan Hughes, Ph.D., livestock economist from North Dakota State University, will give two presentations at the meeting, “The Value of Information” and “What a Decade of SPA (Standardized Performance Analysis) is Telling Us.” Hughes has worked with cow/calf operations of all sizes.

Other speakers will provide information on marketing, national trends and record keeping. The program starts with registration at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at 4 p.m.

Attendees are asked to pre-register by November 29 with the Aroostook County Extension Office in Fort Kent. Registration information is available from Potter at 207-834-3905 or, within Maine, at 1-800-287-1421 or from Ken Andries, Extension livestock specialist at UMaine, at 207-581-2789, or in-state 1-800-287-7170.
Activities Set for UMaine's International Week

Oct. 23, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine’s International Week, set for Saturday, Oct. 27-Saturday, Nov. 3, will feature a number of activities celebrating the cultures and histories of nations including Kenya, France, Japan, Russia, Germany, Canada, Iran, Spain, Mexico and Ireland. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about studying and working abroad. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of events is as follows:

On-going through Jan. 6:

"Rhythms of Creation: A Family’s Impressions of Indigenous Peoples of the World," a photographic exhibit at the Hudson Museum. The exhibit features photographs of Jack Baxter, Connie Baxter Marlow, David O. Marlow and Ali Baxter Marlow of indigenous people from India, Nepal, northern Thailand, Morocco, Ecuador, China, New Guinea, the United States (the Hopi and Wabanaki), Mexico (the Tarahumara) and Tibet. The museum is located in the Maine Center for the Arts and is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday, Oct. 27:

The Kenyan band Jabali Afrika, winners of Nairobi’s national "Star Search," will perform at 9 p.m. in the Hauck Auditorium. The performance features dance and a variety of instruments. Admission is $3 for non-students.

Monday, Oct. 29:

A French Language Table will be held from 12-1 p.m. in Little Hall 207. Speakers of all ability levels are welcome.

Tuesday, Oct. 30:

There will be a Japanese Tea Ceremony from 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building Atrium.

A study abroad fair will be held from 12-4 p.m. in the Donald P. Corbett Business Building Atrium.

There will be a Russian Language Table from 12-1 p.m. in Little Hall 207. Speakers of all ability levels are welcome.
Wednesday, Oct. 31:

The Office of International Programs will hold an open house from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in Winslow Hall 100. Students are welcome to meet the staff and to learn about the office. International refreshments will also be served.

A German Language Table for speakers of all ability levels will be held from 12-1 p.m. in Little Hall 207.

The Alice R. Stewart Canadian Studies Lecture Series will feature three speakers from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts. George Visscher will speak on "Eocene Swamp Forests of Axel Heiberg Island," Julia Daly will discuss "Sea Level Change in Newfoundland," and Chris Hoving’s talk will feature "Canada Lynx Habitat Relationships in the Northeast." A brown bag lunch will be provided.

An international careers panel will provide information about international careers, short-term work abroad and the Peace Corps from 2:15-3 p.m. in the Coe Room of the Memorial Union.

The film "Gabbeh" by the Iranian director Moshen Makhmalbaf will be viewed and discussed from 6-9 p.m. in the Donald P. Corbett Building 105. The film features the story of a young girl.

Thursday, Nov. 1:

A felting workshop, "Fabric Artists: Threads Across the Border," will be held from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Page Farm and Home Museum. Advance registration is required. Call 581-4100 to register or for more details.

A Spanish Language Table for speakers of all ability levels will be held from 12-1 p.m. in Little Hall 207.

Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, a Mexican celebration commemorating life, will be observed at 12:30 p.m. at the Hudson Museum. It will feature a lecture, poetry reading and refreshments.

The Maritime and Maine Fiber Artists Luncheon will be held at 12 p.m. in the Page Farm and Home Museum. The cost is $10 and participants may RSVP by calling 581-4100.

Vita Plume of the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design in Fredericton and Susan Merrill of Brooksville will present "Exploring Identity: Weaving between the Lines" from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Page Farm and Home Museum.

Beth Smyth-Handley will present "Canada in the Classroom: K-12 After-School Workshop," from 3-5:30 p.m. in the Dexter Lounge of the Alfond Arena. This session will detail how to use individual student research to teach the entire class about Canada. There will be handouts and refreshments.

The Ballet Gran Folklorico de Mexico will perform at the Maine Center for the Arts from 7-11 p.m. For tickets call 581-1755.

Friday, Nov. 2:
An Irish Language Table will be held from 12-1 p.m. in Little Hall 207. Anyone seeking to learn more about Ireland is welcome.

Montreal dancer and ethnographer Pierre Chartrand will present a lecture and demonstration of traditional French dance from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Soderberg Lecture Hall.

Connie Baxter Marlow will moderate an open forum, "Pan-indigenousness and its Relevance for the Future: Envisioning a New World," from 7-8 p.m. in the Bodwell Lounge of the Maine Center for the Arts. The forum will explore the incorporation of indigenous people into modern life as a new means of living on earth.

Saturday, Nov. 3:

Culturefest 2001, featuring food, cultural exhibits and a talent and style show will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Memorial Gym Field House.

Workshops featuring the French and Irish dance traditions of Quebec will be held from 3-5 p.m. in the Class of 1944 Building. The cost is $5. For more information, contact Pauleena MacDougall at 581-1848.

The Folk Traditions Festival Gala or "Soirée/Ceilidh" will be held from 6-11 p.m. in the Wells Conference Center. The evening will feature French and Irish storytelling, song, food, dance and music from Maine and Quebec. The dinner portion of the evening costs $11 and the concert is $15. Tickets for students and children under 12 are half-price. For more information contact Pauleena MacDougall at 581-1848.

International Week events are sponsored by the Office of International Programs, the Canadian American Center, the Franco American Centre, the Maine Folklife Center, the Hudson Museum, the International Affairs Association, the Maine Center for the Arts, the Modern Languages and Classics Department, the Center for Students and Community Life and the American Association of University Women.
John Bear Mitchell to Present Native American Stories at Hudson Museum

Oct. 23, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – John Bear Mitchell believes that children learn through stories. The Penobscot storyteller will be passing on some of the knowledge of Maine's Native Americans in an integrated storytelling, drumming and singing program on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine.

"Before we had schools or education systems our native children learned through the storyteller. …Stories in many cultures are a way in which children learned their history. …All of us, not just children, still learn through stories," he says.

The program is limited to children age five and older and costs $4. Pre-registration is required. It is offered in conjunction with the Hudson Museum’s exhibit, "Rhythms of Creation: A Family’s Impressions of Indigenous Peoples of the World." The exhibit consists of photographs by Jack Baxter, Connie Baxter Marlow, David O. Marlow and Ali Baxter Marlow of indigenous people from India, Nepal, northern Thailand, Morocco, Ecuador, China, New Guinea, the United States, Mexico and Tibet.

Mitchell tells a variety of stories, ranging from how land forms came to be to stories about animals. He uses humor and interacts frequently with children in the audience. The stories teach moral lessons and Mitchell encourages the children to ask questions so they can better understand what the stories mean.

The 33-year-old Mitchell lives on Indian Island and teaches native studies at the Indian Island School. He began telling stories in 1992 and has since performed in over 12 states, including all of the New England states, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. He has also presented on six radio shows and on local cable television channels throughout the country.

Mitchell says that it was a lack of storytellers among the Penobscot Nation that inspired him to take up the craft.

"There was actually a demand from the schools [for storytellers]. When I started I went out reading stories, and I went from there to performing them," he says.

For more information or to register for the event, call the Hudson Museum at 581-1901.
UMaine College of Engineering Honors Two Portland Engineers

October 23, 2001

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

ORONO-- The University of Maine College of Engineering has awarded Albert R. Curran of Gorham and Franklin E. Woodard of Falmouth the Edward T. Bryand Distinguished Engineer Award for 2001. The two UMaine engineering graduates are the founders of Woodard & Curran Engineering, Inc. of Portland, ranked by Engineering News Record among the top 100 engineering firms in the United States.

In a ceremony at the Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono on October 19, the College also recognized faculty and students for exceptional contributions to teaching and research.

The Bryand award recognizes individuals outside the university who have made significant contributions to the engineering profession. Edward T. Bryand graduated from UMaine in 1952 and invented a process used in the pulp and paper industry to rapidly dry paper during production.

Woodard & Curran was established in 1979. The firm specializes in waste management, air pollution and water supply and employs more than 400 engineers, accountants, planners and other professional and support staff. Offices are located in New England, Florida and Illinois.

Prior to founding the company, Frank Woodard taught environmental engineering at the University of Maine for ten years. The Maine Wastewater Control Association honored him with its first "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 1999. He received bachelor’s degree in 1961 and his master’s degree at UMaine in 1963 and went on to Purdue University for his Ph.D.

Albert Curran received his UMaine bachelor’s degree in 1971 and went to Purdue for his master’s. Both Woodard and Curran have received civil engineering alumni achievement awards from Purdue University.

The Ashley S. Campbell Award was made to John Field of Orono, professor in the UMaine Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The award recognizes faculty members who have brought distinction to engineering and technology education through their teaching and research.

In other awards made at the engineering banquet, Charles Maguire of Orono, assistant professor in the School of Engineering Technology, received the Early Career Teaching Award, and Michael Peterson, assistant professor in Mechanical Engineering, received the Early Career Research Award. Sheryl Brockett of Veazie received the Leila C. Lowell Award,
and Brian Ninness of Carnegie, Pennsylvania received the Graduate Assistant Research Award. Lester French of Brewer received the Graduate Assistant Teaching Award.
Late Lewiston Gardener Provided Memories at UMaine

Oct. 24, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The greatest of the great pumpkins arrived at the University of Maine just in time for Halloween and the Harvest Feast in November.

The pumpkin is the last of its kind.

Augustine Dufresne of Lewiston, who grew this and three other golden giants for UMaine students to enjoy as fall decorations in one of the campus dining commons, died Oct. 6 at the age of 86.

This year’s pumpkin, which weighs 110 pounds, was one of the largest the lifelong gardener had ever grown.

“One of his joys was to develop and grow a pumpkin as big as he could each year for the University students,” says Claire Lint, Defresne’s niece, a long-time dining services assistant manager at UMaine. “It was just something he wanted to do. He would often call my mother and ask if she’d heard any stories about the students and the pumpkins.”

In past years, students dubbed one of the pumpkins Penelope. Other years, students competed to see who could guess the weight of the pumpkins, which usually tipped the scales at around 100 pounds.

There were a couple years when Dufresne, better know as Gus, didn’t send pumpkins to UMaine from the garden near his home at 11 Foster St., because he said they weren’t big enough.

By mid-October, students started asking Lint when another great pumpkin would make a campus appearance. While Dufresne did not live to see the harvest of this year’s big pumpkin, he did know that the fruit of his labor was going to be shared with UMaine students. As it was in years past, it was a source of pride for him.

“This year the great pumpkin has a great deal of meaning for me,” says Lint. “It will be hard for me to have it in the dining room, reminding me he’s gone.

“I’m going to save the seeds and see if I can learn to grow them like he did.”
Database Protection Laws Could Threaten Economic Development and Scientific Research

October 25, 2001

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

ORONO-- A European Community (EC) policy that allows government agencies and private companies to charge fees for factual data not protected by copyright could threaten economic development and hamper scientific research, according to an article in this week’s issue of the journal Science. Harlan J. Onsrud, professor in the University of Maine Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, is a co-author of the article with Stephen M. Maurer and P. Brent Hugenholtz, attorneys in Berkeley, California and Amsterdam, The Netherlands, respectively.

The article appears in the Policy Forum section of Science, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. “Europe's Database Experiment” focuses on a 1996 EC decision to extend protection to ordinary facts such as telephone numbers, web addresses and weather data.

European leaders have threatened to restrict the flow of information from Europe unless similar measures are passed in the U.S. Last March, U.S. congressional leaders pledged to pass a database protection bill in 2001.

“An environment in the scientific community of open access and free exploration is critical for advancing knowledge,” says Onsrud, who chairs the U.S. national committee of CODATA, a group interested in the sharing of scientific and technical information worldwide among scientists. “We openly publish our research results. We seek peer review, invite others to critique our work, extract data from our work, retest hypotheses and challenge each other so that knowledge progresses. If you now need permission to take data from an electronic journal article before you can use it in a critique or extend from it, that has substantial potential for impeding the advancement of science.”

Information that amounts to ordinary facts cannot be copyrighted in the U.S., although creative selection and arrangement of such facts can be protected. This means typically that wholesale copying of databases without permission breaches U.S. law. If the U.S. were to follow the EC’s lead, however, businesses and researchers would need to negotiate payments or permissions for copying facts from databases, including facts in databases collected with public funds but practically accessible only through private companies.
“Information innovations have been able to thrive in this country,” Onsrud adds. “One of the reasons for this is the level of access we provide through our laws not only to government works, which is very substantial, but also to private works. We have much greater leeway in the United States to build upon the works of others than is seen in other nations.”

“This is a likely reason why the information industry has thrived in the U.S., because businesses have to continually look over their shoulders. The next guy is building on your work and catching up. As a result, we have a very fast moving and vital economy. The current balance in the law keeps us all moving forward. The legal pendulum in the U.S. is swung more toward protecting new innovations as opposed to protecting old investments in innovations. The pendulum in Europe now is far more in the other direction.”

“A major concern for us is that the effects of the database legislation in Europe may ultimately harm trade with the U.S. and the world economy may suffer if more countries enact the European approach to database protection,” says Onsrud. Countries outside the EC are looking to the U.S. to provide an alternative to the broad-based EC information protection approach.

The core message of the Science article is that the U.S. Congress should look very closely at the ramifications of the EC database directive on the economy and on science in Europe before it considers passing similar legislation in the U.S. The authors point to initial evidence that does not look good.

They indicate that repeal of the EC policy is unlikely. They offer recommendations to modify it by exempting some uses, such as scientific and educational activities, limiting protection to information databases that might not exist without it, and limiting protection by using “unfair competition law” as an alternative approach.
Orrington Girl Raised Money to Buy Bulletproof Vest for Washington County Police Dog

October 26, 2001

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

ORONO-- Anna Scharcz, 12-year-old daughter of Mary Ann and Arthur Schwarcz of Orrington, will present a special gift to the Washington County Sheriff’s Department in Machias at 1 p.m. on October 29. With help from her parents, a friend and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H program, Schwarz raised $700 to buy a bulletproof vest for Caine, a sheriff’s department police dog.

Maine Public Broadcasting is planning to record the event in preparation for a special local television project for Zoom, a children’s program that airs on the statewide public television network at 5 p.m. on weekdays. Schwarz’s presentation will be on the program in January as part of a feature called “Zoom into Action,” a series of locally based highlights that will focus on kids who volunteer in community service projects in Maine.

Schwarz, who had previously raised money for two police dog vests for the Bangor Police Department, made pet items such as dog biscuits and flowers for collars. Her mom helped her to make the items, she says, and her dad helped her to make signs on her computer. She sold most of her creations at the Blue Hill Fair.

“I did this project because I love animals, especially dogs. I would have another dog if I could,” says Schwarz who has a golden retriever, Duncan, at home. She participates in the 4-H program as an independent member with Terry Swazey, her 4-H advisor. Jennifer Lobley, 4-H coordinator for Hancock and Washington counties, was aware of the sheriff’s department need for a vest and suggested the project to Schwarz.

Lobley says that Washington County Deputy Kathryn “Kate” Fleury handles Caine and will accept the donation from Schwarz. “We’re proud of Anna. She is an energetic 4-H member who has contributed to her community in important ways,” says Lobley.
UMaine's Cooperative Extension Staff Receive National Awards

October 26, 2001

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

ORONO-- Four University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff members received national recognition for program excellence at a meeting of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences held in Portland, Oregon, Sept. 30 to Oct. 4. They are Kathleen A. Savoie in Cumberland County, Jane Conroy and Susan Henner in Piscataquis County and Shirley Hagar in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties.

With her program, *Folic Acid Now!*, Savoie, an Extension educator, received the national award for program excellence through research. She determined the dietary intake of folic acid, an important nutrient for pregnant women, among Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) clients in Portland, Maine. Her results indicate that socio-economically disadvantaged women are at higher risk for consuming diets with inadequate levels of folic acid. A lack of folic acid can lead to neurological birth defects such as spina bifida.

Savoie developed educational lessons for EFNEP participants to help them improve their consumption of foods high in folic acid. The lessons included skill-building activities such as label reading and hands-on cooking lessons. Follow-up surveys indicated that participants were successful in improving their consumption of folic acid rich foods and multivitamins.

Susan Henner, Extension nutrition aide in Piscataquis County, received the national Para-Professional Award in recognition of seven years of outstanding work. Henner is an aide with EFNEP and integrates child development and nutrition into her educational programming. She has a creative approach to teaching by making learning fun for both parent and child. Her artistic skills and personal rapport enable her to address the needs of families in a fun, friendly and professional way.

Henner recently expanded her programming efforts to include diabetes education for seniors and the learn-by-mail nutrition series. Henner’s highlights on a typical day include conducting home visits, facilitating playgroups and carrying out cooking activities with Head Start.

Two Extension educators received a second place regional award in communication for the development of two fact sheets on grocery shopping and meal times. Shirley Hagar, Extension educator in the Androscoggin/Sagadahoc office, and Jane Conroy, Extension educator in Piscataquis County, created *Winning Ways to Grocery Shop with Young Children* and *Making the Most of Family Mealtimes*. The fact sheets are used primarily with Extension’s limited income nutrition education programs that focus on activities such as grocery shopping and meal preparation. The goal is to increase participation and sharing in these important family activities.
Steiners to Introduce New Members, New Music

Oct. 29, 2001

**Media contact:** Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – Amid recording sessions and competition preparations, The Maine Steiners will present an evening of the group’s fresh a cappella sound on Thurs., Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in UMaine’s Hauck Auditorium.

The Steiners, UMaine’s award-winning male vocal band, traditionally headlines and produces its own concert each semester. Thursday, the group will introduce three new singers – Dennis "DB" Boyd, Nick Caler and Ryan Gould – along with “Breakdown,” a new tune written by musical director Dave Janes. Former member Matthew Blake Small will host the show.

The 12 undergraduate men of the band perform regularly for both students and the community. In May, the group raised $1,500 at its Maine-A-Wish Foundation benefit concert in the Maine Center for the Arts. The Maine Steiners opened the UMaine men’s hockey season last month with Steiners alumnus Nick Charron’s arrangement of the National Anthem.

The Maine Steiners hit the studio this month to lay tracks for a yet-untitled album due in February 2002. The latest project is the band’s fourth recording in the past decade. The 2000 album, “Bust It,” followed the releases of “Gart” and “Woodshoppin’.”

Also in February, the men will again compete in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. At last year’s regional level, the Steiners placed third overall. Individually, Ben Feeney won best vocal percussion and Janes received an award for musical arrangement.

The group’s contemporary a cappella music involves amplified sounds produced strictly by the human voice, including vocal percussion and vocal bass. The group covers songs by Nine Days, Eve 6, Vertical Horizon, Billy Joel, Dave Matthews Band and The House Jacks, a Boston-based vocal band, among others.

Eight members of the University Singers rejuvenated the Maine Steiners in 1988 after a long hiatus. The sound has changed over the past few years, along with the group’s membership. Today’s group also includes Nate Bates, Thomas Clark, Joshua Koelker, Jacob Pelletier, Adam Scarpone, Jeff Sewell and Dominick Varney.

Tickets available at the door for The Maine Steiners concert are $2 with MaineCard and $4 general admission.
Researchers Study Effect of Alcohol on Brain Chemistry

October 30, 2001
Research contact: Alan Rosenwasser, Dept. of Psychology, 207-581-2035; Kristy Townsend, Dept. of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Microbiology
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

RESEARCHERS STUDY EFFECT OF ALCOHOL ON BRAIN CHEMISTRY

ORONO, Maine -- Drinking wine, beer and other alcoholic beverages has well-known effects on moods and behavior, and scientists have long suspected that changes may occur in more fundamental brain functions as well. For her senior honors thesis, Kristy Townsend of Orono, an undergraduate in the University of Maine Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Molecular Biology (BMMB), will work with a team of UMaine scientists to determine if alcohol also affects circadian rhythms, the body’s regular day-to-day pattern of activity.

Townsend will focus on serotonin, a chemical messenger and an essential mood-regulating neurochemical. She will use two types of antibodies to monitor serotonin levels in specific regions of the brains of rats fed diets with varying amounts of alcohol. One of the antibodies acts as kind of a molecular beacon because it glows when it binds to a target molecule.

This fall, Townsend is feeding ten rats over a period of several weeks.

Her project is an extension of ongoing behavioral neuroscience research in a Little Hall lab directed by Alan Rosenwasser, professor of psychology. It highlights an area in which she would like to see UMaine become more active in the future.

Townsend graduated from Orono High School in 1998 and first became interested in neuroscience in middle school. “I’m attracted to neuroscience because there are so many different interesting areas,” she says. “In the future, I’d like to study neurotoxicology, how environmental pollutants affect the brain, and possibly Alzheimer’s Disease.”

She is the daughter of David and Roberta Townsend of Orono.

As a biopsychologist, Rosenwasser studies the relationship between the nervous system, mood and behavior. He and other scientists have documented, for example, that a relationship exists between depression and circadian rhythms. “Serotonin could provide a link between these two phenomena. To this point however, researchers have not determined whether depression causes a disruption in circadian rhythms or the other way around. It’s my belief that we may be looking at a third factor, altered serotonin levels, for example, that may be expressed both as depression and as a disruption in circadian rhythms,” he explains.

Townsend will work with a team that includes Rosenwasser, Carol Kim in BMMB and Mike Opitz and Dawna Beane in Cooperative Extension. Her project will provide an important
opportunity for psychologists and biochemists at UMaine to collaborate on neuroscience research.

“Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary field involving psychologists, neurologists, biochemists and other scientists. The Society of Neuroscience holds one of the largest annual scientific meetings in the country,” says Rosenwasser. Research on circadian rhythms has practical benefits such as better understanding of problems associated with late night shift work, work place accidents and long distance travel across time zones.

In her laboratory work, Townsend will look for serotonin in a pinhead-sized region of the brain known as the SCN or suprachiasmatic nucleus. The SCN is part of the hypothalamus, a brain region that controls basic activities such as sleep, eating and sex drive. In evolutionary terms, it is ancient. Strong experimental evidence points to the SCN as the body’s biological clock.

Townsend will expose the SCN from the brains of the rats to two antibodies, one that binds directly to serotonin and another that binds to the first antibody. The process produces a fluorescent signal that Townsend will be able to detect under a microscope.

“The basic question is whether or not the chronic treatment of rats with alcohol changes the chemistry of the SCN,” Rosenwasser says. “And at the same time, I will be working with other undergraduate students in my laboratory to explore the effects of alcohol treatment on rats’ circadian behavior.”

In addition to her course work, Townsend brings experience from a summer internship at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory. She worked with David Towle on a hormone thought to control the ability of shore crabs (Carcinus Maenas) to adapt to changes in salinity, a process that is called osmoregulation. Next winter, she will give a poster presentation on the results of that research at the conference of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology in Anaheim, California.
UMaine English Professor to be Visiting Professor at University of York, England

Oct. 30, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – University of Maine English Professor Linne Mooney’s reputation as a leading international scholar of medieval English manuscript studies has been affirmed by her selection by the Leverhulme Trust as a visiting professor at the University of York, England. Mooney was notified of the success of York’s application to the Trust in September and will begin a year-long position at the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York at the start of the spring semester.

The London-based Leverhulme Trust offers a limited number of visiting professorships each year to allow distinguished academics from overseas universities to take up posts in the United Kingdom. The criteria for selection are the academic standing and achievements of the visitors in research and/or teaching; their potential for making a significant contribution to the skills in the host university; and the specific and systematic nature of their proposed programs while in the UK.

UMaine English Department Chair Tony Brinkley says Mooney’s selection confirms her achievements.

“The position recognizes the significance of the way Professor Mooney’s scholarship is helping to shape our understanding of medieval texts. …It’s one more indication that the people of Maine have an English Department at their land-grant institution of international distinction,” he says.

Mooney is a specialist in late-medieval English palaeography (the study of handwriting) and codicology (the study of books). Her skills will be a welcome addition to York’s interdisciplinary Centre for Medieval Studies. The centre unites faculty from disciplines such as English, History, Art, Archeology and Art History. It serves 40 masters students in Medieval Studies, Medieval History and Medieval English Literature and 25 doctoral students researching medieval topics.

Mooney says she is looking forward to the appointment as a chance to contribute to the research at York, to further her own research, to teach doctoral students and to develop new materials for undergraduate courses at UMaine.

“I always submit my students to my enthusiasm for medieval manuscripts. Now I’ll be able to do that a lot more,” Mooney says.
Mooney’s duties at York will include formalized advice and collaboration, presenting lectures and teaching seminars. Mooney’s ability to identify the handwriting of medieval scribes and her data on early ownership of over 1,000 manuscripts will contribute to the development of York’s data-base of privately owned English urban manuscripts. She will also deliver three Leverhulme Lectures on aspects of late-medieval scribal activity and manuscript culture in association with York’s Centre for Medieval Studies and the Department of English and Related Literature. She will give a fourth Leverhulme Lecture at the English department’s national medieval post-graduate conference in June 2002. Her fifth Leverhulme Lecture will open the Ninth International York Manuscripts Conference on Urban Manuscripts in July 2002.

Mooney will continue her research for a book she is writing on professional scribes in medieval England. In 1999 she received a year-long fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to begin research on this work. She is also collaborating with Christopher Howe of Cambridge, Peter Robinson of De Montfort and Adrian Barbrook of Cambridge on the Leverhulme Trust-funded Studies on Textual Evolution of Manuscripts by Mathematical Analysis (STEMMA) project.

In addition, Mooney is developing a Website that will feature digital images of medieval manuscripts. She undertook this project last spring with a scholarly materials grant from UMaine. It is her hope that she can compile a few pages of writing from each of 150 known scribes and post them on the Website. She envisions the Website as a tool that could be used world-wide to identify the individuals who wrote the manuscripts.

“People sitting in a library could get on-line and compare the materials with what they might be looking at in the library at that very moment,” she says.

But since each digital image of a manuscript has up to a $200 price tag, plus permission fees, it is a costly endeavor. Mooney will use her time at York to develop a prototype of the website to show to funding agencies and potential corporate sponsors and to write grant applications.

Mooney’s teaching responsibilities will include four advanced seminars on codicology, palaeography and textual criticism for students in the masters programs of Medieval English Literatures and Late Medieval Studies. She will present two seminars on information technologies (including databases) and research methods for all masters and doctoral students.

Mooney will also prepare materials for an undergraduate honors course that she hopes to teach after she returns to UMaine. The course will examine the processes involved in the transition from manuscript-writing to print and draw parallels between that era and the current transition from print to electronic media.

“They faced some of the same issues of copyright, author control, distribution and larger readership that we are facing today. The more I learn about the transition to print, the better prepared I’ll be to teach such a course,” Mooney says.

"Barn Raising" at UMaine Rec Facility on Friday

Oct. 31, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Demonstrations and displays will be part of a Friday, Nov. 2 event celebrating and previewing a University of Maine construction project that will expand recreational opportunities on campus.

Outdoor work will begin shortly on renovations to the barn located next to the Maine Center for the Arts at UMaine. When construction is complete, approximately five or six months from now, the building will be home to a two-story climbing tower and a bouldering (climbing) wall.

"The climbing facility will be state-of-the-art and will really add to the recreation opportunities for UMaine students and others in the UMaine and surrounding communities," says Jeff Hunt, co-coordinator of UMaine’s Maine Bound outdoor education program, which will also be housed in the renovated building.

The event will begin at 9:30 a.m.
Visiting Libra Professor Lloyd Rogler to Present Week-long Program on Cultural Diversity

Oct. 31, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Lloyd Rogler, the Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York, has a full schedule of activities planned for his week-long visiting Libra Professorship for Diversity at the University of Maine, Nov. 5-9.

A public lecture, “The Dictatorship of the Questionnaire: Cultural Explorations in Mental Health Research,” highlights Rogler’s program. It is set for Monday, Nov. 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the University Club at Fogler Library.

The goals of the Libra Professorship include increasing the diversity of students and faculty and preparing graduates to understand and appreciate differences in a global society. It also seeks to provide students with outstanding faculty models for teaching, research and public service.

Rogler’s talk will describe how the research methodologies of American social scientists do not work effectively when they are applied without cultural modification. It will draw on Rogler’s research in Puerto Rico.

“Tope-flight American social scientists came to the island to do research, and they were so concerned with methodologies that they didn’t take Puerto Rican culture into account. Knowing methods is not a substitute for not knowing cultures,” Rogler says.

Rogler’s other activities will emphasize the importance of cultural factors in health and illness, culture and health care delivery and culture and the social services in general.

He will lecture in eight sociology, psychology, social work and human development classes. He will conduct a workshop and luncheon, “Getting Money for Research: What I learned from Developing the Hispanic Research Center at Fordham University,” on Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the Mahogany Room at the Wells Conference Center; and a colloquium and reception, “Methodological Sources of Cultural Insensitivity in Mental Health Research,” Friday, Nov. 9 from 2:30-4 p.m. in 204 Fernald Hall.

Rogler, a native of Puerto Rico, says the growth of different cultures in the United States and increased international interaction make it important to understand a variety of cultures.

“The issue of cultural sensitivity in research is very important, both domestically and internationally,” he says.
Rogler has enjoyed a distinguished 40-year career in sociology and interdisciplinary studies in anthropology, psychology, psychiatry and history.

Before his 1974 appointment at Fordham, he held posts at the University of Puerto Rico, Yale and Case Western Reserve. He founded the Hispanic Research Center at Fordham in 1977 and has taught or lectured at Columbia University, the New York University/Bellevue Center and the Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Cornell University, Harvard University and the University of Michigan.

Even before accepting the Libra Professorship, Maine had long been a part of Rogler’s life. He first visited the state in 1961 and has maintained a cottage in Baileyville, on the St. Croix River and the Canadian border, for over 20 years. He uses it as a retreat – for writing and for fishing – during the summer months.

“I do all my writing up here. God only knows this is a good place to write. It’s quiet,” Rogler says.

Rogler developed academic relationships with colleagues in UMaine’s sociology department, and it was due to those contacts that his appointment as a Libra Professor occurred. He says he is looking forward to contributing to academic life in Maine.

“I consider it part of my identity to be a Mainer. And it’s not just because I wear Dexter shoes,” he says.

Rogler’s published works include: “Hispanics and Mental Health: A Framework for Research,” with L.H. Malgady and O. Rodriguez (1989); “Puerto Rican Families in New York City: Intergenerational Processes,” with Rosemary Santana Cooney, a study of how intergenerational processes affect the migration experience (1985); “Migrant in the City: the Life of a Puerto Rican Action Group,” a study of how minority groups develop organizations to represent their interests (1972); and “Trapped: Families and Schizophrenia,” with August B. Hollingshead, a study of how families living in the slums of San Juan coped with mental illness (1965). From 1993 to 1997 his publications were cited more than once a week, on the average, in professional journals in the United States, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia.

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Book Celebrates Contributions of the Class of 1944 in World War II

Nov. 1, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – A comprehensive survey of the activities of members of the University of Maine Class of 1944 during World War II, including personal testimonies of members of the class, has been published as "The Class of 1944 in World War II: A First-hand Account of one Group Serving its Country in a Devastating War." The book, written by the late Stephen L. Jacobs, includes the stories of Maine men and women enduring the rigors of training, taking part in raids and battles, becoming prisoners of war, plotting escapes and working as civilians to support the troops overseas.

The book was published by the Class of 1944 in June and is being distributed by the UMaine Alumni Association.

Albert Ehrenfried of Acton, Mass., president of the class, says the launch of the book raises important issues in the contemporary social and political context.

"When Steve started the book he had no idea there would be a revival of World War II memorabilia and nostalgia. …And now here we are embarking on another war [against terrorism] that has been likened to World War II. It is timely that we look into the kind of service that went into World War II. Some of those accounts are heart-rending and inspiring," he says.

The book includes background narratives, summaries of service, personal testimonies, tributes to the 19 members of the class who died in the war and excerpts from issues of the Maine Alumnus from 1942-1945. The background information describes life on the UMaine campus for the class during their freshman and sophomore years, before the onset of war. There are also 52 individual summaries of service and 41 summaries of service of the class members who belonged to the Advanced Infantry ROTC. The activities of the Advanced Infantry ROTC were explored in more detail by Jacobs in a 1994 work, "The Class of 1944 Advanced Infantry ROTC." The personal testimonies are based on letters and materials sent to Jacobs and include the stories of 35 members of the class.

Jacobs, a native of Hingham, Mass., died Feb. 26, 2001. He devoted the last decade of his life to gathering material for the book. He presented the manuscript of his work to Jim Frick, executive editor of the UMaine Alumni Association, in late summer 2000 and asked for help in getting it ready for publication.

Frick prepared the book for production – editing, reformatting, and incorporating graphics. He says his task took on a renewed sense of purpose after Jacobs’ death.
"I felt it was the Alumni Association’s responsibility to get Steve’s book done. He put so much into it, I wanted to be sure the job got completed. I tried to remain true to Steve’s idea to honor his class and to present a historical document of what that class, and the university, did for the war effort," Frick says.

Jacobs served from 1943-1946 and was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and various theater ribbons. He graduated from UMaine in 1947 and worked five years in forestry before taking teaching posts at Gould Academy in Bethel and Dexter Regional High School. He also earned a M.S. degree in education from UMaine in 1963. He was married for 55 years to Dexter native Isabel Ansell, UMaine class of 1945.

Ehrenfried praised Jacobs for his tireless work, much of which was accomplished after his second bypass surgery in 1997. He says Jacobs’ example has motivated him to alert his classmates and the wider public to the stories contained in the book.

"I knew of Steve’s desire to see this get wide circulation. He didn’t want to see it hidden under a bushel basket. …I want to see his arduous labor get the circulation it deserves," he says.

Ehrenfried added that the stories of heroism can inspire Americans to take heart during the present conflict.

"I think this is a time when heroism is being acknowledged, and there was an awful lot of heroism in World War II. These were simple kids coming off the farms in Maine and Iowa and turning into very tough warriors. This book is a story about what those kids did when called upon, and many gave their lives," he says.

Ehrenfried also says the support of the UMaine Alumni Association has enabled the production and distribution of the book. Although the Class of 1944 financed the printing costs, the Alumni Association donated the time and resources for editing, production work and proofreading. Now the Alumni Association is fulfilling orders for the book.

The book may be purchased by contacting the UMaine Alumni Association, P.O. Box 550, Orono, Maine 04473; 1-800-934-2586.
Psychologists Study Treatment Alternatives for Winter Blues

November 1, 2001

Research contact: Sandra Sigmon, Dept. of Psychology, 207-581-2038;
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Winter brings smiles to the faces of skiers, snowmobilers and ice fishers, but it can be a season of dread for people who get the blues as the days get shorter. They suffer from a type of depression known as Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD. Although exposure to specially designed lights has been shown to help, University of Maine psychologist Sandra Sigmon and her students are working on new treatments to bring relief.

Previous studies have shown that up to 30 percent of the population may experience symptoms of SAD, but only 10 percent feels symptoms so strongly that they need help. Women are four times more likely to suffer from SAD than men, notes Sigmon.

The symptoms include lack of energy, mood changes, sleep disruption, craving for foods rich in carbohydrates, weight gain and difficulty in making decisions. What distinguishes SAD from other types of depression, she adds, is the seasonal timing, the switch that flips as the leaves change color and clocks are turned back in the fall.

Lights are the first and only recognized line of defense against SAD, but they are effective for only about half to three-quarters of those who experience symptoms, says Sigmon. With non-seasonal forms of depression, psychologists have other techniques to use. They work with their clients to change behaviors involving, for example, exercise and social interaction. They try to modify thinking patterns that are related to moods, such as a common tendency to dwell on negative thoughts. There are also medications. For treatment of people with SAD, however, guidelines in current clinical practice do not recognize cognitive and behavioral treatments.

“There are very successful cognitive and behavioral treatments for non-seasonal depression. If SAD and non-seasonal types of depression are similar in the expression of symptoms, maybe we can extend those treatments to SAD,” says Sigmon.

In order to find out, Sigmon began conducting studies in 1995 with small groups of volunteers in the Bangor area. She divided people into four groups on the basis of whether or not they had experienced depression and, if so, what type and how severe it was. One group had no depression, and the other three groups had minor SAD symptoms, major SAD symptoms or non-seasonal types of depression.

Sigmon found that people with both seasonal and non-seasonal depression benefited from keeping diaries that focused on negative thinking. The groups with minor SAD symptoms benefited less but fell in between the two depressed groups and the group without depression.
These results led Sigmon to apply cognitive and behavioral treatments that had been used for people with non-seasonal depression to individuals that had SAD.

Although she cautions that the studies need to be repeated with larger groups of subjects, she says that the results show that cognitive and behavioral treatments do work for people with SAD. Volunteers with minor and major SAD symptoms showed improvements after receiving both the cognitive and behavioral treatments. The extent of the improvements, she adds, was similar to the benefits of conventional light therapy.

In addition, there may be an added benefit in combining these treatments with light therapy. Kelly Rohan, a former student of Sigmon’s who is now on the faculty at the Uniform Services University in Maryland, continues to do SAD research. She has found that individuals who received both forms of treatment had a slight advantage over those who received only one type of treatment.

Two of Sigmon’s current graduate students, Nina Boulard of New York City and Stacy Whitcomb of Newburgh, Maine, are now doing SAD studies as part of their UMaine Ph.D. degree programs. Boulard is focusing on the relationship between SAD and activity levels. Whitcomb is looking at cognitive aspects of SAD. Volunteers in both projects are recording activities and thoughts in a diary at home and providing that information to the researchers. Boulard and Whitcomb hope to complete their studies in 2002.

In addition to the benefits for treatment, UMaine SAD studies are contributing evidence for a broader understanding of depression. The results suggest that SAD may be a disorder that lies between good mental health on one end and other forms of clinical depression on the other, Sigmon suggests. “A lot of individuals experience changes with the seasons, some people very little and some people a little more. There is a seasonal component to all of these groups,” she says,

Sigmon says that the results with SAD sufferers will have to be confirmed in larger studies before psychologists will begin to adopt alternative treatments.

Researchers in the Department of Psychology are working on a wide variety of mental health issues ranging from how the brain works to the effects of aging on cognitive function.
UMaine Business School Presentation to Focus on Crisis Prevention and Management

Nov. 6, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

UMAINE BUSINESS SCHOOL PRESENTATION TO FOCUS ON CRISIS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

ORONO –Christine Therrien, a visiting assistant professor of management at the University of Maine Business School, will conduct a presentation, "Is Your Organization Crisis-Prone?" on Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m. at the Bangor Motor Inn and Conference Center.

Therrien’s presentation is part of the "Emerging Business Issues for Maine," breakfast series sponsored by the UMaine Business School. A presentation is held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Therrien’s talk will focus on crisis management and prevention for businesses and organizations. The presentation will help participants reflect on their own organizations, identify factors that lead to major crises and identify factors that help prevent crises.

Therrien will also discuss the impact of large national crises, such as September 11 or the Challenger disaster, on businesses.

"I’ll explain how businesses can be effected by a crisis such as September 11. ...For instance, Maine is a big producer of lobster and it lost a lot of lobster shipping as a result of September 11," Therrien says.

Therrien is an assistant professor at the National Public Administration School in Quebec and her research interests include crisis management, danger sciences and organizational learning and networks. She holds a doctorate in engineering and management from the cole des Mines in Paris, France. Therrien has also worked for the Canadian Red Cross, the Montreal Urban Community and the Science International Corporation. In 1998, Canada’s Special Commission requested Therrien’s help in managing the effects of the ice storm in Quebec.

For more information or reservations, call 581-1968. Registration, which includes a buffet breakfast, is $10 and is payable at the door.
Angel Gabriel Shipwreck is Subject of New Book by UMaine Maritime Historian

November 7, 2001
Research contact: Warren Riess, 207-563-3146 ext.244
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- In 1635, an English merchant ship sank in a hurricane in John’s Bay off Pemaquid Point. Though almost everyone aboard made it safely ashore before the hurricane hit, the ship had not been unloaded. It was lost with a hold full of trade goods and family heirlooms.

The wreck of the Angel Gabriel and the fate of some of the families who made it to shore are the subject of a new book, *Angel Gabriel: The Elusive English Galleon*, written by Warren Riess, a maritime historian and archaeologist at the University of Maine.

Riess has searched in vain for the shipwreck for nearly 20 years. If found, these treasures would shed light on 17th-century trade goods and the belongings early settlers brought with them to America, he says.

Over the years, Riess enlisted the help of many individuals, divers, graduate students, friends and volunteers. Using University of Maine research vessels and a host of electronic equipment including side scan sonar, magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler and hand-held metal detectors, he scoured every easily accessible inch of John's bay to no avail.

Riess’s research has focused on the maritime history and archaeology of early America. He has participated in many of the dry and underwater maritime archaeology investigations along the Northeast coast, including investigations of the Ronson ship, Angel Gabriel, Nottingham Galley, and Penobscot Expedition.

The book is published by 1797 HOUSE of Bristol, Maine, 1797hous@tidewater.net or 207-677-2668.
Hazing Expert to Make Nov. 15 UMaine Presentation

Nov. 7, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Hank Nuwer, an adjunct professor at Indiana University School of Journalism, Indianapolis campus, and the author of three books on hazing, will discuss "Seeing Through the Haze: The Prevalence and Dangers of Hazing in High School and College," in a Thursday, Nov. 15 public presentation at the University of Maine.

The talk, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in 101 Neville Hall.

Even though it is against the law in many states and is prohibited at most high schools and colleges, hazing is prevalent. In his talk, Nuwer will examine the nature and extent of hazing and will discuss ways it can be prevented.

Elizabeth Allan of the UMaine educational leadership faculty, who has developed and maintains the Web site stophazing.org, has worked with Nuwer in the past and will join him in presenting programs to campus groups while he is at UMaine.


His visit to UMaine is sponsored by the UMaine Interfraternity Council, Student Athletes’ Advisory Board, Panhellenic Council, Greek Life Office, Department of Athletics and the Comprehensive Fee Program Fund Committee.
UMaine Professor Ken Norris to Read from New Book of Collected Poetry

Nov. 7, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – For the past quarter-century, Ken Norris has been producing the kind of poetry that has established him as one of the most important Canadian poets of his generation. A University of Maine English professor since 1985, his achievements were recognized last month when Talonbooks published a volume of his selected poems, "Hotel Montreal: New and Selected Poems."

Norris will read from his own work Thursday, Nov. 15, at 4:30 p.m. at the Soderberg Center, Jenness Hall, at UMaine. He will be joined by fellow Canadian rob mclennan. Norris and mclennan recently completed a book tour throughout Canada to promote their latest works.

Norris is the author of over two dozen books and chapbooks (short, specialized volumes) of poetry and the editor of eight anthologies of poetry and poetics. Another volume of selected poems, "Full Sun," was published in 1993. His work has been anthologized in the English-speaking world, as well as in translation in France, Belgium and Israel.

mclennan’s latest book is "harvest: a book of signifiers." In 1999 he was awarded the Canadian Authors Association/Air Canada Award for the most promising writer under age 30.

Norris says the publication of a book of selected poems is satisfying.

"It mostly makes you feel like you’ve had a career. …I told my students that a book of selected poems is like a greatest hits volume for a rock band," he says.

Norris’ work has covered a wide-range of subjects, including travels to the South Seas, contentious social and political issues and love. UMaine English Department chair Tony Brinkley says Norris’ ability to engage a variety of subjects in his poetry has been significant for the development of Norris’ distinctive voice and for Canadian literature as a whole.

"Ken Norris is a major poet whose writing has had a shaping influence on Canadian poetry, and on the interplay between modernism and post-modernism in Canadian writing. Of particular importance has been his meditation on the course of recent history and the way in the last half of the twentieth century North American writing has connected with the cultures of the south Pacific, Asia and other parts of the world," Brinkley says.

Norris was born in New York City in 1951 and emigrated to Canada in the early 1970s. While living in Montreal in the 1970s, he became well-known as one of the city’s Vehicule Poets. The Vehicule Poets were a group of seven writers (Endre Farkas, Artie Gold, Tom Konyves, Claudia Lapp, John McAuley, Stephen Morrissey and Norris) who worked together and...
whose poetry tended toward the experimental. They were influenced by the American beat poets, the New York School, avant-garde movements like Dada and Surrealism and the countercultural poetry of Canada in the 1960s.

Norris teaches Canadian Literature and Creative Writing at UMaine. Brinkley says Norris’ contributions at UMaine extend to the classroom and beyond.

"He’s the person in the department who teaches courses that help students understand Canadian literature and engage with the reality of a close neighbor. And he also brings the department the gifts only a talented poet and writer can bring," Brinkley says.
ORONO, Maine -- The well understood peculiarities of water make life possible, but this most common fluid continues to surprise scientists. In an article published in the November 8 issue of the journal Nature, two University of Maine chemists and a scientist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) offer a new view of how water behaves at the scale of individual molecules, especially in tight spaces.

The authors are Gerhard Hummer of the NIH and Jayendran C. Rasaiah and Jerzy P. Noworyta of the UMaine Department of Chemistry. Their results have implications for medical research and may contribute to an understanding of how water behaves in the pores of cell membranes. The work at Maine was supported by a grant to Rasaiah from the National Science Foundation.

Using computer simulations, the research team found that water acts in unexpected ways. The causes, they suggest, are fluctuations in density and a kind of naturally occurring molecular dance that happens between the hydrogen bonded water molecules in bulk water and in pores.

The scientists began by generating on a computer a tiny tube of carbon atoms that they then placed into a virtual pool of water. Previous research led them to expect that water would not enter such tubes, known as carbon nanotubes. However, the scientists found that chains of hydrogen bonded water molecules that are only a single molecule wide move through the tube in short bursts. Small changes in the interaction between the carbon and water molecule that mimicked chemical modification of the nanotube can cause it to empty or fill up.

"Our work is important for understanding how water is conducted in biological channels known as aquaporins," says Rasaiah. Heart function, for example, depends on concentrations of calcium in water both inside and outside of cells, and water movement through cell membranes may play an important role in balancing calcium. These simulations provide dynamic information that goes beyond static pictures of conventional structural biology, Rasaiah notes.

The conditions leading to this behavior, the authors suggest, might also be significant for the development of some types of sensors.

Rasaiah worked at NIH during the summer of 2001 as a visiting scientist, and Noworyta is a post-doctoral researcher at UMaine. Hummer conducts research in the Laboratory of Chemical Physics in the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at NIH.
Maine Center for the Arts Renovation Rescheduled

Nov. 8, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- The planned 15-month $9 million renovation project at the Maine Center for the Arts (MCA) at the University of Maine has been postponed and is now expected to commence in the spring of 2003, one year later than had been planned. Preparations are underway for the MCA’s 16th year of performing arts programming, which will begin with a Sept. 28, 2002 gala. Activities and exhibits will also continue at the Hudson Museum through the spring of 2003.

"Fund-raising is off to a very good start, but delaying the project will give us the opportunity to secure all of the funding before we start the work," says John Patches, director of the MCA. "We want to make sure the project is done in a first-class manner, befitting the facility that we envision bringing on-line three years from now."

There is enthusiasm in the community for the renovation, Patches says. "I sense optimism and excitement about the direction in which we are heading," he says.

Hudson Museum staff members have taken steps to protect the museum's artifacts from potential harm from carpet beetles, which have been found in the building. Some items have been placed in storage, while others are in sealed cases or are being closely monitored. Stephen Whittington, the museum's director, says there will be long-term benefits to rescheduling the construction work.

"This change will create an opportunity to not only protect artifacts but to work toward getting the museum up to the highest professional standards," he says, adding that greater improvements are likely in the areas of environment, security and presentation related to artifacts.

"We look forward to a building that is environmentally stable and to having entirely new exhibits when we re-open," Whittington says.

Both the MCA and the Hudson Museum plan to offer programming to the community, by taking performances and exhibits on the road, when the facility is closed for construction.
Information About Anthrax

Introduction

Everyday we are confronted with hazards in the home, in the community and in the areas in which we work. Dealing with those everyday hazards is easily managed. The reason it is easy to manage these hazards is because we know about them and we have clear steps to follow to protect others and ourselves from these everyday concerns.

The terrorists’ intentional release of anthrax into the mail system was a heinous act and to date has caused the death of 4 people, infected many others, and forced us to reconsider how we manage the routine task of handling mail.

The approach to handling mail, suspicious packages or envelopes, and just conducting your daily routine is about developing a new set of daily habits. Admittedly, most of us like to get mail and packages. It has never been thought of as a source for contracting a serious illness. Today, however, the simple pleasure of checking our mail has adopted a sinister character and we need a plan to manage the potential exposure to infectious disease that might be transmitted in our mail.

It is not necessary to have encyclopedic knowledge about anthrax or any other infectious disease that may be potentially spread through the mail. The strategies for managing exposure to infectious agents are the same whether a virus or bacteria causes the disease.

The Basics of Anthrax

Anthrax is an infectious disease, which means that if exposed to enough of the anthrax spores it is possible for people to develop an anthrax infection.

Anthrax is not a contagious disease, which means that it is not spread person-to-person.

The sites of infection are the lungs, the skin, and the intestinal tract.

Any one of these forms of anthrax infection may lead to complications such as the bacteria traveling through the blood (septicemia). Anthrax infections of the lung and intestinal tract are particularly likely to cause death.

Anthrax is slow-growing and the time from exposure to actual disease may be a few days to a few weeks.

It is not only the bacteria themselves but the toxins released by the anthrax bacteria that are harmful.
Left untreated, anthrax may cause death.

After exposure to the anthrax spores a person may develop immunity to the bacteria. The immunity to anthrax will provide protection from future anthrax infections.

The vaccine to anthrax exposes a person's immune system to the parts of the anthrax cellular structure that will allow the person's immune system to identify the bacteria and kill it before it can cause disease.

The use of anthrax vaccine has been restricted to military personnel and other people at high risk for exposure to the bacteria.

Anthrax disease is effectively treated with currently available antibiotics (ciprofloxin and doxycycline). Early treatment is the key to eliminating or reducing the course of the illness and preventing deaths from infection with anthrax.

Treating anthrax with antibiotics does not produce immunity to the bacteria. However, because one has been exposed to the bacteria, the immune response will occur and a person will naturally develop immunity to the anthrax bacteria after surviving an illness caused by the bacteria.

**Universal Precautions to Prevent Exposure**

Taking steps to reduce possible exposure to anthrax spores

When working with large volumes of mail (as in sorting mail in the mailroom) use gloves. After completing the work, remove the gloves and wash your hands with soap and warm water.

The appropriate use of masks is encouraged when automated mail-sorting systems are in use or the process used to sort mail may cause particles of dust to rise into the air.

When removing gloves you should not snap them.

Remove gloves by starting at the wrist and slowly but steadily pull the glove down toward the fingers.

When removed the glove should be inside out.

The gloves should be dropped into any proper waste container.

After handling any personal mail, wash your hands and any exposed area such the wrists and forearms with soap and warm water.

Handle all mail as little as possible.

Routinely clean surfaces with which mail may have come in contact with an approved disinfectant.

A simple, effective disinfectant against anthrax and other biohazards is a diluted bleach solution (1 part household bleach to 10 parts water).

Any approved sporicidal (kills anthrax spores) not just germicidal cleanser will work.
Be aware that any of these solutions or chemicals may be corrosive to some environmental surfaces.

To cleanse surfaces of a mail sorting area, first wear gloves, then evenly spray the affected surface with the disinfectant. Allow the disinfectant to remain in contact with the surface for several minutes. Wipe the area clean using disposable paper towels. Immediately put the towels in the appropriate waste container. Remove gloves. Wash hands with warm soap and water.

Avoid causing dust clouds.

The following actions might create an aerosol and perhaps cause one to inhale anthrax spores if they are present in or on the envelope.

Do not blow into an envelope to get at the contents.

Do not flip the ends of envelopes that are in stacks.

Do not tap envelopes against surfaces.

Raising one's suspicion that an exposure to anthrax might have occurred

**Identifying Suspicious Packages or Envelopes**

These characteristics should suggest the letter or package is suspicious

- Excessive postage, no postage, or non-canceled postage
- No return address or fictitious return address
- Improper spelling of addressee names, titles, or locations
- Unexpected envelopes from foreign countries
- Suspicious or threatening messages written on packages
- Postmark showing different location than return address
- Distorted handwriting or cut and paste lettering
- Unprofessionally wrapped packages or excessive use of tape, strings, etc.
- Rigid, uneven, irregular, or lopsided packages
- Packages that are discolored, oily, or have an unusual odor or ticking sound
- Packages with soft spots, bulges, or excessive weight
- Protruding wires or aluminum foil

If a suspicious envelope or package is found:

Do not investigate the package or envelope.

Do not sniff, touch, taste, or look closely at the package or envelope.

Do not shake or empty the contents of a suspicious package or envelope.

Do investigate contents of a suspicious package or envelop that may have spilled out onto the surrounding area.

Do not carry the package or envelope from the area.

Do not show it to others

Do not allow others to examine it.
Leave the package or envelope where it is.

Shut off any fans that may be operating in the area.

Close any windows that may be open.

Alert others in the area about the suspicious package or envelope.

It is best to avoid actions that stir up the air, creating circulation of air that could spread the bacteria.

Do not panic

Walk slowly and leave the area quietly

When possible, gently close, do not slam, any doors that would help to isolate the area

Take actions to prevent others from entering the area.

If at work, notify your supervisor.

If at home, contact the local law enforcement agency.

Whenever possible, immediately create a list of persons who may have been exposed.

- People in the room or area when this suspicious letter or package was recognized
- People who may have handled the suspicious package or letter

Provide the list to UM Public Safety Officials and Environmental Safety staff.

As soon as possible remove heavily contaminated clothing and place in a plastic bag that can be sealed. Give the bag to public safety officials if requested.

Shower and wash with soap and water as soon as possible. Do not use bleach or disinfectant on your skin.

It is unlikely that anyone of us will receive a suspicious letter. In fact, in some of the recent cases of anthrax no suspicious letter was identified at the work site. This suggests that exposure to anthrax spores remains possible because routine mail may have become contaminated.

Contamination of normal letters and packages may occur as a result of:

- direct contact with a letter or package containing anthrax spores,
- sorting by equipment contaminated with anthrax spores, and
- sorting in an area contaminated with anthrax spores.

Check here for more information about What To Do If You Receive Suspicious Mail or Discover An Incident

Recognizing signs of illness
It is important to seek prompt medical assessment should any of these signs or symptoms occur.

**Skin Lesions**

Cutaneous anthrax occurs when the spores get beneath the skin and germinate.

Cutaneous anthrax usually occurs on exposed areas of the body (arms, hands, face and neck), although scratching may cause infection on any area of the skin.

At first, the affected area of the skin looks like an insect bite or pimple.

**By day 3 to 4 the affected area will turn into a blister and it quickly ruptures (Photo - day 4)**

**By day 6 the edges turn dark red and the center begins to turn black (Photo - day 6)**

**By day 10 there is a thick black scab and area around the scab is swollen. (Photo - day 10)**

Treatment with antibiotics cures the infection. Left untreated 5 to 20% of the people infected will die from complications of the infection.

**Respiratory Infection (Inhalation Anthrax)**

This is a result of breathing in the spores, which may be inadvertently put into the air by the just opening mail or actually blowing into the envelope.

In the initial stages of the disease respiratory illness caused by anthrax is difficult to sort out from respiratory illness caused by other bacteria or viruses.

One should have increased suspicion of anthrax caused respiratory illness if:

- There has been recent travel to an area known to be contaminated with anthrax;
- There are reports of a confirmed anthrax case in your area; or,
- There has been a suspicious packaged received in your work or home.

These circumstances are some of the most important factors in determining the need for immediate antibiotic therapy.

During the coming cold and flu season it is important to not panic when feeling the typical aches, pains, and symptoms of the common respiratory diseases. However, if for any reason the illness seems more severe than usual, please seek assessment by your physician or primary care provider.

Initial symptoms of respiratory anthrax include:

- Low grade fever
- Malaise
- Fatigue
- Muscle aches
- Non productive cough
- Sense of tightness in the chest

After 2 to 3 days of illness a person becomes critically ill.
• Shortness of breath
• Blue color to lips or finger tips (cyanosis)
• Profuse sweating
• Sense of impending doom

A high index of suspicion is essential for prompt diagnosis and effective treatment. Early treatment is the key to successful management of respiratory anthrax. Left untreated, respiratory anthrax is universally fatal.
What To Do About Suspicious Mail

Click here for Medical Information About Anthrax

Suspicious Mail/Powder Incident Guidelines

If you receive a suspicious package or discover an incident

- Do not handle the package or disturb the material;
- Exit the immediate area and ask others to do the same;
- Avoid tracking any spilled materials;
- Secure the area by closing and locking the door, or using other means to keep people away;
- Wash your hands and other areas of exposed skin vigorously with soap and water (If possible, have someone else call 911 while you are washing);
- DO NOT PULL THE FIRE ALARM
- Call 911

It is important that you do not pull the fire alarm because a general evacuation could cause a spread of the contamination.

Public Safety officers will respond to assess the situation and determine what further action is required.

Ask people who may have been exposed to remain nearby until Public Safety Arrives. It is important to record who was present during the incident, where they were located in the building, and how they can be reached.

If you have become contaminated, i.e. powder or other substance gets on your clothes

- If contaminated, keep movements within the building to a minimum. This will keep contamination of the building to a minimum. Gently remove heavily contaminated clothing as soon as possible.
- Gently place contaminated clothing into a plastic bag or other container that can be sealed. Inform the responders of the location of this container.
- If shower facilities are available, remove clothing in shower under water stream. Place clothing into a plastic bag or other container that can be sealed. This bag should be given to responders for proper handling.
If you should become ill, immediately seek medical help and inform medical personnel of your possible exposure

In general, the only people the Bureau of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta are recommending for nasal swab testing and/or treatment for anthrax are those individuals who may have been exposed to a substance that has tested positive for anthrax.

Other sources of information

Maine Emergency Management Agency: http://www.state.me.us/mema
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): http://www.osha.gov
Maine Folklife Center Collecting Veterans' Oral Histories

Nov. 9, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The accounts of wars recorded in history books tend to focus on the names and dates of battles, the decisions of political leaders and the heroics of charismatic military commanders. Those facts are important, of course, but they only tell part of the story.

The Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine, in collaboration with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, is doing its part to make sure the rest of the story is recorded. The Maine Folklife Center has begun to organize an extensive oral history project that will preserve the war stories of veterans from World War I, World War II and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars.

Pauleena MacDougall, associate director of the Maine Folklife Center, says oral history is an important means by which future generations may learn about the reality of war.

“No one knows the war better than the veterans who fought it,” she says.

The U.S. Congress authorized legislation for the Veterans History Project and it was signed into law by former president Bill Clinton in 2000. The legislation calls on the American Folklife Center to collect and preserve audio- and video-taped oral histories, as well as documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs and home movies of America’s war veterans and the civilians who served in support of them.

The Maine Folklife Center is one of 100 local folklife centers in 38 states participating in the project. MacDougall received a letter from the American Folklife Center several months ago requesting the assistance of the Maine Folklife Center.

The Maine Folklife Center’s most urgent task is locating veterans who are willing to contribute to the project. MacDougall says veterans will be welcome to serve on planning committees for the project and to participate in interviews.

“It’s important to reach people who would like to tell their stories, especially from World War II. I urge them to contact me,” she says.
MacDougall didn’t have to look any farther than the UMaine English faculty to find one veteran who is eager to serve on the planning committee. Bob Whelan, a Vietnam veteran who retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel after 20 years in the Army, is an enthusiastic supporter of the endeavor. He has been active since the mid-1980s in Chapter 185 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, which serves the greater Bangor area.

“Oral histories give the citizenry a better idea about what is really involved in a war. …I’m going to work as hard as I can to get veterans in the community, especially World War II veterans, hooked up with the folklife group. These guys are older…and we want to get their words down while we still can,” Whelan says.

Whelan is currently teaching an English course, the Nature of Story, where he introduces students to the art of storytelling and emphasizes the truths and lessons that can be conveyed through the storytelling genre. He says he often relates his Vietnam stories to his students.

MacDougall and Whelan add that the events of September 11 make the project even more important.

“People are beginning to realize since September 11 the tremendous price we have to pay for our freedom. In the past we may have taken that for granted,” MacDougall says. “Our understanding of how other wars were fought, preserved in oral histories, will help us as we go forward now.”

Whelan hopes the oral histories will help citizens consider the reasons for going to war.

“I’m not a pacifist, but I don’t believe in going to war for reasons that are not sufficient,” he says, noting that he thinks the U.S. policy in Vietnam was misguided.

MacDougall hopes that the project will help the local community understand and appreciate the contributions of veterans. To that end, the Maine Folklife Center will have a Veterans tent at the National Folk Festival in Bangor, August 23-25. The center also will consider sponsoring an exhibit on veterans’ contributions.

The Maine Folklife Center has already secured some material for its veterans archive. From 1998-2000 the center helped to facilitate the collection of stories of Vietnam veterans in conjunction with Bates College and the University of Maine at Farmington. When those oral histories are transcribed, they will be stored at the center. Whelan helped organize that project and also related a number of his Vietnam stories.

In addition, the Women and War Class and Oral History Project, conducted by UMaine’s Mazie Hough, associate director of the Women in the Curriculum and Women’s Studies Program and Carol Toner, director of Maine Studies, has also gathered a number of oral
histories which will be stored at the center. Students in the class must interview at least one Maine woman who is a veteran. This is the second year the course has been taught.

MacDougall says that the partnership with the American Folklife Center provides the Maine Folklife Center with an unprecedented opportunity to collect the stories of Veterans. She also hopes the Maine Folklife Center will be able to gain additional funding for the project.

“The partnership allows us to expand our project more. …It will allow us to honor veterans in a public way,” she says.

Those willing to contribute to the project should contact MacDougall at 581-1848.
Annual Book Drive Under Way

Nov. 12, 2001

Media contact: Kay Hyatt: (207) 581-2761

ORONO– Children's books for needy area youngsters from toddlers to teens are again being collected by the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Maine. The public is invited to join in this annual tradition by donating new books or used books in very good condition.

The books will be distributed by the Orono-Old Town Kiwanis Club at the service organization's annual holiday party for area children, scheduled for Dec. 8.

Books, gift wrapped if possible, and marked for a particular age level may be brought to the office of College Dean Robert A. Cobb, 151 Shibles Hall, through Friday noon, Dec. 7.

The College's annual book collection, in cooperation with the Kiwanis Club, has made thousands of books available to deserving area children for more than 20 years.
High School Students to Attend GIS Day at UMaine

Nov. 12, 2001

Program contact: Kate Beard, Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering, 207-581-2147.

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

ORONO-- About 200 high school students from 12 different Maine high schools will spend November 14 at the University of Maine learning about high-tech mapping, remote sensing technology and land surveying. Media representatives are welcome to cover the event, known as Geographic Information Systems or GIS Day.

Among the planned activities are demonstrations of virtual reality and image analysis technologies. Students will take a three-dimensional tour of Mt. Katahdin and see how images taken from satellites and airplanes are used for making maps.

The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a welcome and a short presentation on “What is Spatial Information Engineering, and What Can You Do With It?” in the Minsky recital hall. From there the students will be split into groups to go to separate activities, including a surveying demonstration, a GIS activity, a hands-on digital image processing activity, and demonstrations of a variety of student projects.

GIS Day is part of Geography Awareness Week and is sponsored nationally by the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers and ESRI, Inc.
Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance Holiday Sale Set at Hudson Museum

Nov. 13, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (MIBA) annual holiday sale at the University of Maine’s Hudson Museum was launched seven years ago to promote an awareness and appreciation of Maine Indian culture and traditions.

The event provides visitors an opportunity to purchase the unique brown ash splint and sweetgrass baskets, carvings, jewelry and birchbark work of the Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddie and Penobscot artists, as well as taking in traditional singing, drumming, storytelling and sampling native foods.

This year’s event is set for Saturday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Early bird shopping will be held from 9-10 a.m. for a $10 admission fee.

Theresa Hoffman, the executive director of the Old Town-based MIBA, says the event is unparalleled in that it helps to both unite and preserve the traditions of the Wabanaki nations.

“I don’t know where else you would go to see a celebration of the culture this large of all four tribes of the Wabanaki … [The Hudson] museum has moved beyond just an interest in the past to a celebration of current culture with an event like this. Without events like this it wouldn’t be long before these art forms disappeared,” she says.

The MIBA was formed in 1993 after the death of renowned Penobscot basketmaker Madeline Shay, with whom Hoffman was an apprentice for five years. At that time less than 15 basketmakers were under the age of 50. Now the MIBA has about 70 members and they gather to sell baskets three times each year: the holiday sale at the Hudson Museum, the Native American Festival at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor in July and the Common Ground Fair in Unity in September. Members of the MIBA also offer basketmaking classes for tribal members. Since 1990 the Maine Arts Commission has awarded 85 Maine Indian basketry apprenticeships to support the perpetuation of Maine’s oldest artform.
Gretchen Faulkner, the Hudson Museum’s program coordinator, says there will be between 30 and 40 vendors. Hoffman says the prices of the baskets, ranging from $30 to $800, are significantly lower than what the baskets sell for on the market.

“You would have to pay double, triple or quadruple if you had to pick up these baskets at a gallery or a gift shop,” she says.

Hoffman adds that some collectors of Native American baskets travel to Orono from as far as Chicago, New York and Connecticut for the opportunity to purchase authentic baskets and to meet the craftsmen and women who produced them.

But, as Faulkner points out, “it’s not just the shopping” that lures the visitors. Other events scheduled for the day include a brown ash pounding and work basket demonstration, a sweetgrass candy basket workshop and a sweetgrass angel workshop for children, storytelling, drumming, singing, the sale of traditional foods and a non-perishable food drive to benefit the Fiddlehead Food Pantry. The sales of the traditional foods benefit the Penobscot Nation Boys and Girls Club. The Fiddlehead Food Pantry provides food for First Nation People in the Wabanaki Regions.

And while Hoffman admits that the chief purpose of the event originally was to give basketmakers a new market for their work, it has become an important opportunity for young Native Americans to learn the traditions of their elders.

“[Young Native Americans] ordinarily wouldn’t go knock on the door of an elder basketmaker and say, ‘can I see your baskets?’, but they will come to this event. …Even kids now have tables and help to cook the food. …They come dressed to dance in traditional costumes. …It gives them a sense of belonging, and an event to take pride in,” she says.

Hoffman says that these events also give non-natives the chance to explore Native American culture.

“It’s one of the few opportunities for the public to come and hear people singing in the native languages of Maine, with traditional drumming and dancing,” she says.

Hoffman adds that unlike some comparable events, all vendors, artists and performers are required to be members of tribes of one of Maine’s four federally-recognized tribes. This ensures that the cultural activities and the products purchased are authentic.

The following is the program of the day’s events:

- **Early Bird Shopping:** 9-10 a.m., $10. Tickets available from the Hudson Museum Shop (207-581-1903).
• **Welcome:** 10 a.m., by the host tribe the Penobscot Nation and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance.

• **Brown ash pounding and work basket demonstration:** 10:30-11:00 a.m., by Eldon and Frank Hanning, Micmacs.

• **Children’s activities:** 11 a.m.-12 p.m., brown ash and sweetgrass candy basket workshop and sweetgrass angel workshop. $10 per child for one activity, group size limited to 15, ages 8 and older, pre-registration required (207-581-1901).

• **Traditional food sale:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Bodwell Area. Hull corn soup, fry bread and blueberry desserts will be served. Sales will benefit the Penobscot Nation Boys and Girls Club.

• **Traditional Penobscot tales:** 12-1 p.m., performed by John Bear Mitchell, Penobscot storyteller, singer and drummer, in the Bodwell Area.

• **Traditional drumming, singing and dancing:** 1:30-2:30 p.m. by the Burnurwurbskek Singers and Mike Sockalexis, dancer.

• **Food drive:** Non-perishable foods may be donated to the Fiddlehead Food Pantry, which provides food for First Nation People in the Wabanaki Regions.

For more information, contact Gretchen Faulkner at the Hudson Museum (207-581-1904) or Theresa Hoffman at the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (207-827-0391).
Sunlight Studies Underscore Importance of Vitamin D and Calcium in Diet

November 13, 2001

Research contact: Susan Sullivan, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-3130
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Exposure to the sun isn’t all bad. In fact, a little sunlight every day is good for your bones. As part of an osteoporosis research project, scientists in the University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition are looking at how much vitamin D, a critical factor in bone health, is generated by the skin in response to sunlight.

Their results emphasize the importance of getting adequate amounts of vitamin D and calcium in the diet, especially during the winter months.

Susan Sullivan, assistant professor, and Jennifer Cobb, a master’s student from Kingfield, Maine, are focusing their efforts on adolescent girls. Previous research has shown that the foundation for healthy bones is created in adolescence. Inadequate bone mass in these early years can contribute to osteoporosis later in life.

Although vitamin D, which is necessary for calcium absorption, is produced by the reaction of sunlight on the skin during the summer months, the light is not strong enough to do the job during the fall and winter. Even on a summer day, she says, clouds can reduce the production of vitamin D by half.

Sullivan and Cobb began their project in 2000 and are working with scientists in Bangor, Boston and Australia. Their goal is to understand how sun exposure, exercise and diet contribute to strong bones by providing adequate levels of bone-building vitamin D and calcium.

In preliminary study last year, a group of 35 Bangor area girls agreed to fill out questionnaires about their outdoor activities and wear badges that are sensitive to the ultraviolet (UV) portion of sunlight. The badges were provided by the Center for Astronomy and Atmospheric Research at the University of Southern Queensland in Australia.

Cobb wanted to find out how closely the reports of outdoor activity matched sunlight exposure that was recorded by the badges. "Theoretically, girls who spend more time outside in the summer should have more vitamin D in their blood," says Sullivan. "We were very pleased with the results. All of the girls spent enough time outside to get good vitamin D production during the summer," she adds.

Sullivan and Cobb also wanted to know how vitamin D production in the skin varied between winter and summer. To find out, they placed trays of small vials in a parking lot beside Merrill
Hall on the UMaine campus on three separate occasions. Inside the vials was a clear liquid containing chemicals that are changed by sunlight into vitamin D. After they were exposed to the sun, the vials were sent to the Boston University Medical Center for analysis.

The results indicate that in February, no vitamin D would have been produced in skin. At this latitude, the sun is not strong enough until mid-March, Sullivan says, to kick off the process. Even on a sunny day in August, the sun isn’t strong enough to start vitamin D production until about 9 a.m.

Sullivan continues to work with other UMaine graduate students, including Alison Camesano of Old Town, Laura Agard of Milton, Wisconsin, and Kate Logan of Bangor, and Dr. Clifford Rosen of the Maine Center for Osteoporosis Research and Education in Bangor. They are conducting a three-year study of 23 Bangor area girls who are keeping close track of their diets and having bone density measured and blood drawn in addition to monitoring time spent outside.

The study is less than half over, and early results have not been compiled, says Sullivan. Still, she expects vitamin D levels to drop between September and March because of the lack of adequate sun. "We want to see how their dietary intake changes between September and March. And we’re going to look at vitamin D content in milk," she says. In 1992, a Boston area researcher found wide variations in vitamin D concentrations in milk taken from grocery store shelves. However, Sullivan says that in a tour of a Maine dairy plant, she found that it maintains good control over vitamin D addition to milk.

"Anybody in Maine who runs low vitamin D levels in their blood would be at risk for weaker bones at any point in their life," she says. "In the winter, people in Maine need an alternate source of vitamin D because the sun is not going to provide it. If they get a lot of sun in the summer, their level might be high in September, and it drops throughout the winter to its lowest point in March. The best way to get enough vitamin D in the winter is to drink milk, or, if people are lactose intolerant, to take a multi-vitamin supplement."

Sullivan’s research has received support from the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, the Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council and the UMaine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture.
UMaine Conductors to Debut this Weekend

Nov. 13, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO— Two University of Maine conductors will debut Saturday, as part of a weekend of choral performances at Minsky Recital Hall in the Class of 1944 Hall. On Sunday, University Singers’ veteran conductor and Professor of Music Dennis K. Cox will take the podium for a concert of inspired works.

Athena Consort, the women’s choir, conducted by Instructor of Music Kevin Birch, and Collegiate Chorale, under the baton of Graduate Assistant Heidi Corliss, will share a concert on Sat., Nov 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Birch assumed the reins for Athena Consort when the choir’s founding director, Francis John Vogt, recently left the university to pursue doctoral work at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Birch has been teaching at the university for several years and directs the music program at St. John’s Catholic Church in Bangor.

Corliss, most recently the choral director at Hampden Academy, works with Collegiate Chorale while she pursues the M.M. in choral conducting.

"Having new conductors gives fresh perspective for the singers in their respective choirs. The artistic dimensions will be somewhat different each time someone begins," said Cox, director of choral activities.

Also this weekend, the University Singers will perform Sun., Nov 18 at 2 p.m. Cox remains at the helm since assuming his position over 20 years ago. UMaine’s only touring, auditioned choir will present timely music for the state of our nation.

"I chose the Singers program in July, but in the wake of Sept. 11, the music is so appropriate," said Cox.

The Singers concert will include Gabriel Faure’s stirring "Requiem," "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from the Broadway musical "Les Miserables" and Peter J. Wilhousky’s "Battle Hymn of the Republic." A choir performed the same Wilhousky arrangement during the recent memorial at National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., following the Sept. tragedy.

Instructor of Music and Music Division Coordinator Laura Artesani will perform piano accompaniment at both choral events. She has been on the music faculty since 1997.

Tickets for the Collegiate Chorale-Athena Consort and University Singers concerts are available for $5 each by calling 581-1755.
UMaine's New Center on Aging Aims to Serve State's Growing Elderly Population

Nov. 14, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Lenard Kaye hadn’t even planned to be living in Maine this fall – let alone serving as the director of the University of Maine’s new Maine Center on Aging. Kaye, a nationally-known specialist in the field of social gerontology, had held down a post at Pennsylvania’s Bryn Mawr College since 1986 and had planned to return to his duties there. But when he came to UMaine last year as a visiting Libra Professor of Social Work, interesting things started to happen.

Kaye was going about his business, fulfilling all the requirements of a visiting professor: presenting lectures, conducting workshops, teaching courses. But he was growing increasingly concerned by some staggering statistics released by the Maine State Planning Office. For instance, over the past decade, there has been a ten percent increase in the number of retirees living in Maine, and Maine is one of the 25 states most likely to become a final residence for people 50 years and older. Currently 14.5 percent of the population is over 65 years old; by 2020 that figure is expected to exceed 20 percent. And unlike many institutions of higher learning, Kaye says, UMaine had no center on aging to cater to the needs of this growing segment of the population.

He began discussing his concern with colleagues in the School of Social Work. Interest spread to other departments across campus. Kaye discovered that a number of professors shared his enthusiasm for developing a center on aging including social work colleagues Gail Werrbach and Sandy Butler. Specialists in the delivery of older adult services throughout the state were excited as well. A proposal for a center on aging was crafted for the Board of Trustees and Kaye and his colleagues began to develop practical, educational programs that could be implemented through the center. They were encouraged by the support they received from Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robert Kennedy and College of Business, Public Policy and Health Interim Dean Diana Lawson. In the process, Kaye and his family fell in love with the project and with Maine.

"Half-way through my visiting professorship last year my family informed me that we weren’t going back [to Pennsylvania]." Kaye laughs. "This is a wonderful place to live, even if you have real, live winters here. …Everyone has embraced us and we have a stronger support network of colleagues and friends than we’ve ever had anywhere else that we’ve lived."

The Board of Trustees officially approved the UMaine Center on Aging on Nov. 5. It will be housed in the UMaine College of Business, Public Policy and Health. Faculty and researchers from throughout the University of Maine System as well as community elders and members of the professional service community will contribute to its programs.
Kaye is delighted to have the chance to be a part of the endeavor.

"When a faculty appointment for a full professorship at UMaine became available, it was too good to pass up. …You don’t have the opportunity that often to deal with issues you love dearly and to have a major role in determining the direction of policies and programs related to those issues," Kaye says.

The Center is already prepared to begin implementing a number of programs, including a community service demonstration project for family caregivers of the elderly, a series of lectures for health care professionals, an aging festival and a senior college. Kaye is convinced that the Center’s interdisciplinary approach and commitment to building partnerships will make it an invaluable and unifying resource for the campus, the community and the entire state.

"We want to build strong relationships with organizations in the local community and throughout the state of Maine. That’s the best way to serve citizens," Kaye says.

The Center’s first program, the Maine Primary Partners in Caregiving (MPPC) project, will be implemented in concert with the Eastern Agency on Aging in Bangor. Other community-based partners include the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, Bucksport Regional Health Center, Horizons Health Services, Indian Township Tribal Health Center, Norumbega Medical, Rosscare (a division of Eastern Maine Healthcare) and Senior Spectrum. The project, which will begin providing service by January, is funded by a three-year, $600,000 grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging’s National Family Caregiver Support Program.

MPPC aims to provide information, training and support services for caregivers of older relatives in Penobscot, Hancock, Washington, Waldo and Aroostook counties. It will focus on preventing the stress and burnout that often occurs when relatives care for an elderly family member in their home by providing them with a variety of education and support services. The caregivers will be identified by completing a screening questionnaire when they have check-ups with their personal physicians.

The Maine Center on Aging’s role is to evaluate the project and develop educational and training resources for families and health care professionals. Kaye says the project has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life for both family caregivers and elderly relatives.

"We want to reach people early on in their caregiving experiences, when they are ‘upstream’ – before they reach the dangerous waters down below, so to speak, and are overwhelmed by the personal crises and inordinate stress and strain," he says.

The Center will also coordinate a Professional Excellence in Geriatrics Series (PEGS), a set of eight, two-hour continuing education sessions at locations in Belfast, Orono and Bangor in March and April. This continuing education is designed for professional service providers and sessions will be presented by recognized leaders in geriatric medicine, psychiatry, nursing, social work, law, psychology, the therapies and related health and human service professions.

In addition, Kaye says an aging festival is in the planning stages. He hopes that event will occur in May in Bangor and will feature several days of lectures, music, information sessions and intergenerational programs. The festival will be produced in collaboration with the Eastern Agency on Aging and several other groups.

"The idea is to highlight the contributions that older people bring to the community…their wisdom, experience and history, and their knowledge of the region’s culture and its evolution.
We really want to honor older adults and share with the community all that they have to offer," he says.

The Center will also begin to develop a senior college in which older adults would have the opportunity both to attend and teach classes. The participants in the college would head its planning committee and determine its priorities and course offerings. This project is not likely to get underway until next year, but Kaye believes it will be a much-needed resource in the region. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine will be available to provide technical assistance and start-up support as the senior college program develops.

"The development of a senior college would really empower older adults. … In this area especially there are a number of active, well-educated elders. They have energy to spare and early discussions with older residents in the community confirm a high degree of interest," he says.

Kaye admits that the Center is taking on an ambitious program, and that he and his colleagues have even more ideas that they hope to put into action. He is invigorated by the possibilities the challenge presents.

"It’s certainly been exciting. The faculty here in Social Work and Nursing and elsewhere on campus have expressed a real commitment to developing an active program in aging. …We want to serve the community locally and then take our programming on the road serving communities throughout the entire state and beyond," he says.

Previously, Kaye was a Professor of Social Work and Social Research and Director of the Ph.D. Program at the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research at Bryn Mawr College and Associate Director of the Brookdale Institute on Aging and Adult Human Development at Columbia University. Kaye sits on the editorial boards of several specialized journals in aging, is a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and is an advisor to various local and national health and human services organizations. He has published over 100 journal articles and book chapters and ten books on topics including older men, home health care, family caregiving, controversial issues in aging, support groups for older women and congregate housing. He is currently working on several books including a text on human services planning and administration and two edited volumes on productive aging and social work practice with rural elders (with UMaine associate professor of social work Sandy Butler).
New Graduate Certificate in Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Offered at UMaine

November 15, 2001

Program contacts: Douglas Gardner, AEWC, 207-581-2846; Roberto Lopez-Anido, AEWC, 207-581-2119; Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Students interested in a career in the rapidly growing wood composites industry can now earn a graduate certificate in advanced engineered wood composites at the University of Maine. The University of Maine Graduate Board recently approved the certificate program which is unique in the United States.

Douglas Gardner of the Department of Forest Management and Roberto Lopez-Anido in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering are the coordinators. Both are affiliated with the Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center at UMaine.

The program focuses on the principles and properties of wood-polymer composites for use in consumer, industrial and construction materials. In addition to completing 16 credits in courses in wood science, materials engineering, structural engineering and adhesives technology, students will work on research projects in the recently constructed AEWC Center.

The AEWC Center specializes in hybrid composites technologies and has attracted more than $18 million in research and development funding from government agencies and businesses. The 33,000 square-foot laboratory employs 21 faculty researchers, technicians and staff members. Research by AEWC scientists has led to two patents approved in 2001, and four more patent applications are pending.

More information about the graduate certificate is available from Gardner, 207-581-2846, or Lopez-Anido, 207-581-2119. More information about the AEWC Center is available from Habib Dagher, director, (207) 581-2138, or by visiting the Center's Web site.
UMaine Mitchell Center Works with Water Suppliers

November 15, 2001

Research contact: John Peckenham, UMaine Mitchell Center, 207-581-3244;
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- We expect the water coming out of our faucets to be clean and healthful. To help Maine water suppliers keep it that way, the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research at the University of Maine is working to address new federal regulations that could be a burden, especially for small, rural water systems.

Spearheading the work are Catherine Schmitt, a master’s degree student in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program, and John Peckenham, interim director at the Mitchell Center. Nine Maine water utilities, the Maine Water Utilities Association and the Maine Drinking Water Program are also participating in the project that focuses on protecting ponds, streams and other surface water sources.

Consulting on environmental matters in nothing new for Schmitt, a native of Glen Rock, New Jersey. Before coming to UMaine last August, she worked in Massachusetts on development around wetlands. She is the first in her family to go into science. In her academic program, she will do research on the use of chlorine to disinfect drinking water.

The goal of the surface water protection project is to help all of the state’s water suppliers to respond to a federally mandated assessment of the watersheds of each drinking water source. Pollution can result when streams and ponds receive runoff from surrounding roads, fields and other areas, says Schmitt. About half of Maine’s population that is served by public water systems receives drinking water from surface water sources.

Water utilities that depend on groundwater are being assessed separately and receive assistance through a wellhead protection program.

In response to federal law, the Maine Drinking Water Program in Augusta is preparing reports that include maps and other information for water suppliers. "We’re meeting with nine utilities to see what their problems are. When they get these reports from the State, we intend for them to move to a watershed protection program," says Schmitt.

Participating water suppliers include Winthrop, Fort Fairfield, Newport, Augusta, Bath, Berwick, St. Francis, Presque Isle and Ellsworth. The project is supported by a $78,900 grant from the Drinking Water Program.

Andy Tolman, source protection coordinator with the Drinking Water Program, points out that water utilities have an opportunity to educate the public about protecting one of a community’s most valuable assets. "While the assessment process is underway, this project, funded under the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, is building the capacity of small systems to implement recommendations for watershed protection. We’ve been working
to get to a point where we can anticipate and prevent water supply quality problems, rather than reacting to them once they occur," he says.

Most water suppliers that serve small towns are at a disadvantage in meeting new regulations. They lack a staff large enough to spend time scouting watersheds for sources of pollution, says Schmitt. Moreover, land use responsibilities fall to municipal governments, not to water suppliers. An important part of developing a watershed protection program, she adds, will involve identifying individuals and organizations, such as volunteer lake associations, that share similar interests.

In her academic work, Schmitt will study an issue that is, ironically, a consequence of efforts to keep water supplies clean. Chlorine has been used to disinfect water for more than a century. When first begun, it nearly eliminated outbreaks of waterborne disease. However, in combination with naturally occurring dissolved organic materials, chlorine can form compounds that are harmful to health, Schmitt says.

Federal and state law already limit the amount of such compounds in drinking water. New regulations call for tougher limits in future years. Schmitt’s research will address the possibility that in some circumstances, drought conditions may increase levels of dissolved organic materials in surface water and thus lead to an increase in the harmful compounds generated by disinfection.

As a result, suppliers may have to make investments in new technology to comply with the regulations.

Schmitt’s master’s thesis will focus on the likelihood that future changes in climate could increase the frequency of droughts and thus impose new costs on Maine’s public water suppliers.

Schmitt and Peckenham plan to produce a report on watershed protection for water suppliers in 2002.
Arctic Impact Robot Competition

November 16, 2001

Contact: Tom Bickford, Agent Institute, 207-581-2012; Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- More than 250 elementary and middle school students from Maine and other New England states will bring their LEGO® robots to the University of Maine on December 9 to compete in the Arctic Impact competition at the Field House. The Agent Institute at UMaine and the FIRST™ LEGO® League, a non-profit organization from Manchester, New Hampshire, are sponsoring the event.

Media representatives are welcome to cover the activities that will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. an opening ceremony at 9:00 a.m. The competition will get underway at 9:30 a.m. The tournament is expected to conclude by 3:30 p.m.

A total of 31 teams have registered for the event. Those from Maine are coming from Acton, Auburn, Damariscotta, Hampden, Kingfield, Lewiston, New Sharon, Leeds, Olamon, Philips, Rockland, Owls Head, Surry, Temple, Warren, Veazie and York. Three teams from Massachusetts and nine from New Hampshire will also compete in Orono.

This year’s challenge is for students to program their robots to respond to an impending Arctic storm at a remote outpost. As the snow starts to fall and the wind picks up, the teams must rescue scientists, set out field instruments and prepare for the storm. Awards are given to teams in areas including understanding the science of this year’s challenge, programming, engineering, team spirit, creativity and leadership.

Each robot consists entirely of LEGO® pieces and contains the MindStorm’s RCX microcomputer that can be programmed using a Mac or PC computer. The RCX serves as the brain of the robotic creation. It uses light, touch, rotation, temperature and visual sensors to take input from its environment, process data, and signal output motors to turn on and off.

Kids begin by building their robot using over 700 LEGO® pieces and create a program using the Robotic Inventions System, a simple, but powerful programming language. Next, they download their program to the RCX using a special infrared transmitter. Their creation can interact with its environment without wires or remote control devices.

More information about the competition is available by clicking here.
Nutrition Study Focuses on Blood Vessels

November 19, 2001
Research contact: Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition, 207-581-3124;
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- An apple a day may be a simple recommendation for healthy eating, but when it comes to trace elements in the diet, the guidelines get a little more complicated. So it is with manganese, an element that is critical, as a team of University of Maine researchers is finding, for cardiovascular health.

The federal government has not developed daily recommended intake levels for manganese as it has for other nutrients such as vitamin C and calcium. However, the importance of manganese in the diet is becoming clearer. In 1998, a research team led by Dorothy Klimis-Zacas of The University of Maine Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition reported evidence that the trace element may be important to biochemical processes in artery walls. Now, she and her students have turned to mechanical tests of arteries to determine if indeed a lack of manganese paves the way for heart disease.

"Manganese is critical for synthesis of GAGs, the cement of the artery, that make the arterial walls strong," says Klimis-Zacas. "We know that manganese deficiency leads to lower production of GAGs in arteries. Now we want to see if it also leads to a functional changes in how well the arteries work."

Members of the research team include Anastasia Kalea, a Ph.D. student from Greece; Cindy Norton, a master’s student from Whiting, Maine; and Matt L’Italien, an undergraduate from Jay, Maine who is working towards a bachelor’s degree in biology and a second degree in nutrition. Their work is supported by a $70,206 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The project got underway in June, 2001 when the team began feeding 60 laboratory rats with diets that had three different levels of manganese but were otherwise identical.

In another aspect of the study, blueberries are being studied to see if they have any effect on the mechanical properties of arteries. Since blueberries are high in antioxidants and manganese, the research team wants to see if adding the fruit would confer protection to the arteries from damages related to the low manganese diet.

After 15 weeks, the researchers sacrificed the rats and surgically removed the thread-like arteries. Using a unique and sensitive system, they fastened one end of the arteries to a device that records maximal force developed by the artery and stores the data in a computer. The rest of the artery is suspended in a solution. The researchers then tested the ability of each artery to contract and relax when exposed to two stimulants, epinephrine and acetylcholine.
The results, which will be reported in the spring, 2002, at the Annual Meeting of Experimental Biology in New Orleans, could underscore the importance of dietary manganese in maintaining the health of artery walls. The American Heart Association estimates that more than 60 million Americans have one or more forms of cardiovascular disease including high blood pressure and coronary heart disease.

"For cardiovascular disease, manganese deficiency could be just the beginning. It appears to prepare the artery for another insult. That could be caused by oxidized low density cholesterol or tobacco smoke," says Klimis-Zacas.

Rezendes Lecturer to Address the Limits of Responses to Wrongdoing

Nov. 21, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Margaret Urban Walker, a professor of philosophy at Fordham University, will present the Fall 2001 John M. Rezendes Ethics Lecture, "What is Moral Repair? The Moral Meanings and Limits of Responses to Wrongdoing," Thursday, Nov. 29 at 4 p.m. in 110 Little Hall at the University of Maine.

The lecture will introduce the concept of moral repair, which incorporates emotional, practical and political responses to wrongdoing. It will feature a case study of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa.

She will also give a lecture, "Truth and Voice in Women’s Rights," Friday, Nov. 30 at 12:30 p.m. in 330 Merrill Hall. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

Walker says the events of Sept. 11 and the war in Afghanistan have pushed issues such as moral repair and women’s rights to the forefront of popular debate.

"The lectures weren’t written with those events in view, but if people [attending the lectures] have questions relating to those events, I will address them," she says.

In the Rezendes Lecture, Walker will outline a theory of moral repair, which she says requires moving beyond punishment and retribution as the only means to address wrongdoing. For instance, moral repair must also include "truth telling," which addresses people’s need to have their hurts acknowledged; symbolic or material compensation for wrongdoing; apology and the reaffirmation of human dignity.

"Even where necessary, punishment or retribution is often not enough to heal wounds or overcome the negative effects of wrongdoing," she says.

Walker says the lecture dealing with women’s rights will highlight the special reasons why it is important that women are encouraged to "speak in their own voices."

"It’s fundamental to people’s moral dignity to be able to express the reality of their experiences in their own voices. We are now aware of how extremely women in Afghanistan were literally silenced – kept from education, from leaving their houses, from even showing their faces. It’s a very relevant issue," she says.

Walker’s research specialties include Anglo-American ethical theory, feminist critical theory, Wittgenstein and Foucault. She is the author of the book "Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics," and of articles on moral agency, judgment, responsibility, the feminist
critique of ethics and the role of the ethics consultant. She recently edited "Mother Time: Women, Aging and Ethics," a collection of 15 essays dealing with the assumptions, experiences, practices and public policies that affect women in later life.

The John M. Rezendes Lectures were established three years ago with assistance from the Rezendes Fund. Past lecture topics have included health care, cloning, affirmative action and the holocaust. UMaine graduate Dennis Rezendes of Boulder, Colorado, started the fund in memory of his late father. The Rezendes Fund also sponsors an undergraduate essay competition.

Additional support for the Rezendes Lecture and the Philosophy Colloquium Series is provided by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee, administers of the Arthur R. Lord Trust and Class of 1935 Fund.

For more information contact Professor Doug Allen, colloquium coordinator, at 581-3860.
UMaine Youth Program Earns Another National Award

Nov. 21, 2001
Media contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO-- The National Youth Sports Program at the University of Maine has been named one of the best in the country for the fourth time in its nine-year history. In announcing the 2001 Meritorious Program award winners, National Youth Sports Corporation President Edward Thiebe recognized the UMaine program for outstanding leadership and performance, service to children and community involvement.

The UMaine NYSP, one of 192 sites in the country, received a first-year commendation award in 1993 and earned meritorious program awards in 1994 and 1999. Thiebe’s announcement particularly acknowledges the consistent leadership of UMaine Education Professor Stephen Butterfield as project administrator, and former Lincoln teacher Lynn Haynes as activity director. Tim McCluskey, a teacher at Old Town High School, filled the important role of community liaison.

NYSP is a partnership between the U.S. Government and participating universities and communities, with oversight by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, to provide a free summer program of skills development and educational activities to children ages 10-16. Ninety percent of the participants must come from families who meet federal low-income guidelines. In addition to daily swimming instruction, campers develop skills in a variety of other sports and participate in hands-on educational experiences in math, science and nutrition.

This past summer, a daily average of 230 youngsters attended the UMaine program, coming from approximately 45 communities in a geographical area spanning from Millinocket to Unity and from Dover-Foxcroft to Ellsworth. Bus transportation to and from the day camp is provided.

While the bulk of the funding comes from a federal grant, in-kind contributions from UMaine and donations of goods and services are crucial to the exceptional success of the program. Overall, the free program represents a $1,000 value per child.

Butterfield credits the program’s award-winning performance in rigorous national evaluations to a superb staff and community involvement. "We have been blessed with good staff and caring communities who philosophically buy in to what the program is all about – helping kids," he says.
Grand Opening for Target Development Center in Orono

Nov. 26, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- A grand opening for the $1.75 million Target Research and Development Center in Orono has been set for 9 a.m. Nov. 28. The new facility is located at 20 Godfrey Drive in the Maine Technology Park.

Representatives of the Bangor Target Development Corporation, a non-profit organization that fosters economic development in the Bangor region, the University of Maine and the State of Maine will participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony. Public tours of the building will be conducted after the ribbon cutting.

A major portion of the 20,000 square foot facility has been leased by UMaine for a research and business incubation center focusing on computer science and information technologies (IT). The business incubator will provide fledgling IT firms with access to the resources they need to grow and attain long term success within an environment that fosters information technology development, commercialization and successful business management practices.

Plans also include installation of a supercomputer that will be used for investigating software and hardware networking technologies. Members of the UMaine National Center for Geographic Information Analysis will also occupy the building.

The remainder of the building is available for lease to existing commercial companies that desire a close relationship with research and development at UMaine. Applied Thermal Sciences of Sanford has located an office in the Target Center and will use the supercomputer for work on a $1.5 million U.S. Army contract.

The State Legislature provided support through a $750,000 research and development grant, part of a fund to support seven targeted industrial sectors for future economic growth. The Sheridan Corporation of Fairfield built the facility.
UMaine Football Rally Thursday

Nov. 26, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

A University of Maine rally in support of the Black Bear football team, as it prepares to play McNeese State in the first round of the NCAA playoffs, is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 29 at 12:30 p.m. in the Maine Marketplace, located in the Memorial Union addition.

The Black Bear band and cheerleaders will be part of the event, which will feature speakers including President Peter Hoff, Athletics Director Suzanne Tyler, Coach Jack Cosgrove and members of the team.

The team finished its season with an 8-2 record, earning a share of the Atlantic 10 Conference championship and a spot in the 16-team playoff. This will be the third national playoff appearance in UMaine history, the first since 1989. The McNeese State game will be played in Lake Charles, La. at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Thursday’s rally is open to the public.
Children to Add Gifts to Book Drive on Dec. 4

Nov. 27, 2001
Media contact: Kay Hyatt at (207) 581-2761

ORONO– Youngsters from the University of Maine Children's Center will make their annual trip to the College of Education and Human Development on Tuesday, Dec. 4 to add their gifts to the College's annual book drive. About 20 three-to-five year olds are scheduled to arrive at Shibles Hall between 1 and 1:15 p.m. and place their gifts under the Christmas tree in the lobby where books for needy area children are being collected.

In addition to bringing gifts, the children sing some of their favorite songs and make decorations for the tree. The children will be at Shibles hall until approximately 2:15 p.m.

This is the 23nd year the College of Education and Human Development has sponsored the community book drive. The books are distributed by the Orono-Old Town Kiwanis Club at the service organization's annual holiday party for area children. The service organization's party is scheduled for Dec. 8, and the College will accept books – new or in very good condition – until noon, Dec. 7. Books, gift wrapped if possible, and marked for a particular age level may be brought to the office of Dean Robert A. Cobb, 151 Shibles Hall.
Opera Workshop to Present Works in Progress

Nov. 28, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- University of Maine Opera Workshop students will present scenes in progress from three operas this Saturday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, located in the Class of 1944 Hall.

Directed by Prof. of Music Ludlow Hallman, the vocal students will perform excerpts in English from W. A. Mozart’s "The Marriage of Figaro," Henry Purcell’s "Dido and Aeneas" and Gian-Carlo Menotti’s "The Consul."

Mozart’s "Figaro," which premiered in Vienna in 1786, is a staple in opera repertoire. Hallman has been involved with two full-scale productions of "Figaro" at UMaine since joining the faculty in 1970. Two scenes from the Mozart opera will appear in Saturday’s program.

"One of the really great wonders of classical music is the ‘Figaro' second act finale, because it integrates music and theatre so beautifully. Something about this piece stays so fresh – certainly Mozart’s music," says Hallman.

"The Consul," by contemporary composer Menotti, is a dark opera examining the bureaucracy of an eastern bloc country during the Cold War in the middle of the last century. The story follows the struggle of a man’s attempts to obtain a visa to enter the U.S.

"While the time is now different, the questions of repression and human rights raised then remain important today," says Hallman of Menotti’s work, which UMaine staged in the 1970s.

Hallman chose "The Consul" scene to honor Menotti in his 90th birthday year. The composer also wrote the holiday favorite "Amahl and the Night Visitors." His desire to write operas intended for the Broadway stage has helped Menotti influence American musical theatre during his lifetime.

Assoc. Prof. of Music Nancy Ellen Ogle will assist Hallman with her direction of a scene from "Dido and Aeneas." Pianist and Assoc. Prof. of Music Baycka Voronietsky will accompany the performance.

Tickets for the Opera Workshop performance are $5, available at the door or by calling 581-1755.
UMaine Irving Chair Sets Sights on Future Acadian Forest

November 29, 2001

Research contact: Jeremy Wilson, Dept. of Forest Mgt., 207-581-9213
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Jeremy Wilson, a forest ecologist who specializes in applying computer technology to sort out complex problems in forest management, is the new Irving Chair of Forest Ecosystem Management at the University of Maine. He brings a combination of practical field research and expertise with the computerized Landscape Management System (LMS) to students in the classroom as well as the region’s forest industry.

After graduating magna cum laude from Bowdoin College in 1987 with a bachelor’s in economics, Wilson worked for Abt Associates, Inc., a Cambridge, Massachusetts consulting firm doing contract work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He attended Yale, where he received a master of forestry degree, and then traveled across the country to the University of Washington where he earned a Ph.D. in silviculture in 1998.

While on the West Coast, he studied forest growth patterns and helped to develop the LMS, a desktop software package that integrates forest growth models, inventory and spatial information, as well as visualization tools. The software can be used to evaluate the consequences of forest management alternatives at scales from individual stands of trees to large landscapes. It allows planners to analyze and compare the implications of management issues from wildlife habitat and economic returns to risk of disturbances.

"The Landscape Management Project came out of forest crises such as spotted owl controversy," Wilson explains. "Traditionally, much of forestry dealt with individual forest stands as discrete units. It is difficult to address the complex goals associated with watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics using this approach. These newer demands can’t be satisfied at a stand-by-stand scale. What you do in a particular stand has implications for what you’re going to do in other stands around it. So the Landscape Management Project set out to think about techniques and tools for managing at larger scales, ecosystems and landscapes."

The innovative LMS software is a useful planning tool that enables foresters to analyze, forecast and compare the impact of forest management on the many diverse values that forests represent such as watercourse health, wildlife habitat, economic benefit and recreational use.

Wilson brings important skills to both the university and the forest industry, according to David Field, chair of the Dept. of Forest Management, and Bruce Wiersma, dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture. "I’m very optimistic about Dr. Wilson’s modeling and computer skills and his ability to work with people," says Wiersma.
"He has had excellent training, and his experience with landscape forestry fits the intentions of the Chair. He will work well with people on both sides of the U.S. — Canadian border."

Wilson’s Ph.D. dissertation focuses on a topic of concern to the long-term consequences of forest management policies: the impact of management on forest stability in the face of strong winds, a problem known as "windthrow." It is particularly relevant to the forest landscapes of the coastal Pacific Northwest where a transition has been underway since the 1970s from dominance by naturally regenerated second-growth stands to Douglas fir plantations.

Wilson is also an assistant professor in the Department of Forest Management at UMaine. He moved to New Hampshire in 1999 and continued work as a researcher with the U.S. Forest Service. Since 2000 he has been working with a University of Washington program known as the Rural Technology Initiative. The goal, he says, is to increase access in rural areas to new forest management technology.

Today’s forestry educational programs, he says, need to incorporate computer software and other means of recognizing the multiple purposes that forestlands are expected to serve. "Technology is the only way forest managers can effectively address the ever increasing number of goals being placed on forestland," he says.

"I intend to set up a thriving research area that is tuned in to the needs of the state and the region. There will always be challenges, but in the future, it would be nice if we were a little better about predicting and proactively addressing emerging problems," he says.

The Irving Chair is supported by a $1 million endowment from J. D. Irving, Limited, which is held and managed by the University of Maine Foundation. "We are committed to using the best available science in responsibly managing our woodlands in Maine," explained Jim Irving. "This investment in independent scientific research will help us to better understand and protect forest ecosystems and wildlife habitat in Maine. Like independent third party certification, this Chair will ensure we are applying the most current scientific expertise to our forestry practices in the state."
UCLA Professor to Lecture on Indigenous Identity

Nov. 30, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Duane Champagne, a professor of sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles, will present a lecture, "Indigenous Identity: Politics, Community or Culture?" on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Bodwell Area of the Hudson Museum.

Champagne, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Band, has conducted extensive research on contemporary Native/non-Native relations. His lecture will examine community empowerment and revitalization movements and explore contemporary challenges for and commonalties among indigenous people worldwide.

Champagne has published widely on a number of topics, including American Indian society, self-determination and Native American Studies. His works include "American Indian Societies: Strategies and Conditions of Political and Cultural Survival" and "Social Order and Political Change: Constitutional Governments Among the Cherokee, the Choctaw, the Chickasaw and the Creek." He also served as editor of "The Native North American Almanac" and "Chronology of Native North American History." He has been the publications director of the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA since 1986.
UMaine's Hardy to Revive "Noises Off"

Nov. 30, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – She may not be British, but she sure knows how to get a laugh. Assoc. Prof. of Theatre Sandra Hardy will showcase her comedic prowess when she revives "Noises Off" in the University of Maine’s Hauck Auditorium for six performances, beginning Dec. 7.

Hardy’s production of "Cabaret" played to record-breaking audiences at UMaine last spring.

Over a decade ago, Hardy first staged the British comedy "Noises Off" on the Hauck stage. Riding the wave of this year’s successful Broadway revival, starring Patti LuPone and Peter Gallagher, Hardy eagerly chose to once again direct the Michael Frayn satire of the theatre world.

"It’s a wonderful vehicle for teaching comedy – particularly comic farce," says Hardy. "We may not have Patti Lupone, but I can’t tell you how pleased I am with this cast. They are so focused."

"Noises Off" follows the production process of a mediocre British touring play. Throughout the three acts, the characters exhibit life at rehearsal, backstage and finally onstage after touring for some time.

While Hardy enjoys working with seasoned theatre students, she also prides herself in debuting new talent in her productions. For "Noises Off," Hardy cast students from communication, English, business, engineering and others from across academic lines.

"At UMaine, I've been able to sing every year, but this is the first time I've worked with the theatre program," says Brianne Beck, a senior business major who plays the actress portraying Dotty the maid. "I've learned so much about comedic acting while working with Sandra and the rest of the cast."

Along with Beck, other students will make their mainstage debuts with "Noises Off." Hardy enjoys the challenge of acclimating new actors to the theatre.

"It's wonderful to have people from various majors because theatre is a place of commonality for all of us," Hardy says. "I love to give students the opportunity to explore different avenues of their education."

Since Hardy began performing professionally at age six, she has never left the entertainment business. While in college pursuing English, psychology and American Studies, she continued work as an entertainer.

"When I could get to class, that was good," she jokes.
From cabarets to taverns to television and radio, Hardy performed in variety acts across the country. While continuing to entertain professionally, she discovered a passion for teaching during her first education job in rural Connecticut at age 21.

"I was thrilled because every kid in the high school joined the choir when they found out I was doing rock ‘n roll," Hardy recalls. "There’s talent everywhere you go."

Hardy earned a Ph. D. in Theatre from New York University at age 42, specializing in education. In an act of defiance to a professor who once told her that Scandinavians had no sense of humor, Hardy wrote her thesis on the humor of master Norwegian playwright Henry Ibsen.

Though of Norwegian ancestry herself, Hardy is as much at home with the physical comedy of Frayn’s "Noises Off" as she is with Ibsen. Humor has always been a part of her life.

"I was the class clown, when I wasn’t in the principal’s office or locked in the teacher’s closet," Hardy admits. "For some of us, comedy is our defense. The superb comics of our time are people who have deep and abiding sensitivities, because great comedy comes from a well-spring of pain that requires protection."

No Hardy production is without a dash of her own spice. For "Noises Off," Hardy will change the role of the director to make the character a failed video director who attempts to make a living in the theatre. And she’s even added new characters to the mix, one of her signatures with UMaine productions. Senior Jeremy Towle will perform those additional roles as the costume designer, house manager and tour bus driver.

Hardy’s design team includes costume designer Jane Snider, lighting designer Dan Daugherty and scenic designer David Adkins, whose set will actually revolve between acts to present a new angle into the lives of these has-been actors.

The Warren Center of Bangor will sponsor two American Sign Language interpreters for the performance of Dec. 9. Hardy hopes to reach out to those deaf people throughout Maine who otherwise have little opportunity to enjoy live theatre.

"Noises Off" runs Dec 7-8, 14-15 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec 9, 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets, available at the door or by calling 581-1755, are $8.

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-- written by Matthew Small
Yuletide Concert Set at Maine Center for the Arts

Nov. 30, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Over 300 University of Maine students will combine their voices in a celebratory Yuletide Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hutchins Concert Hall at the Maine Center for the Arts.

The program will feature all the UMaine choirs, including the Oratorio Society, the University Singers, Athena Consort, Collegiate Chorale and the new Black Bear Men’s Chorus. Each choir will perform a short segment of their own repertoire, then join together to perform well-known Christmas carols.

The program will conclude with a candlelit rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah.

Dennis Cox, a professor of music and the director of the choral music program, has directed the Yuletide Concert since 1978. The concert traditionally marks the end of the fall performance season.

Tickets are $10 and may be purchased from the Maine Center for the Arts at 581-1755 or 1-800-MCA-TIXX.
Nolde Lecturer Duff Helps Make History Come to Life for UMaine Students

Dec. 5, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Betty Duff isn’t your typical graduate student. And the American History course she is teaching at the University of Maine isn’t your typical undergraduate course.

Duff is a genuine coal-miner’s daughter from Harlan County, Kentucky. She’s worked as a professional jazz singer in Philadelphia. And she’s 62 years old and didn’t start college until she was 49 and had sent all four of her own children to college.

Duff is currently completing her Ph.D. in history at UMaine and serving as the department’s John J. Nolde lecturer. The Nolde Lectureship is awarded annually to a graduate student and the recipient teaches a course under the loose supervision of a member of the History Department faculty.

Duff says the lectureship has given her the chance to “teach in my own way.”

“I believe a teacher helps students to learn rather than teaches them. So I use an interactive approach, rather than lecturing. … I want to make it exciting, and living,” she says.

To that end, Duff devotes only about 15 minutes of each class period to lecturing. Then she facilitates a class discussion or allows her students to form discussion groups. She also has assigned a project in which students must use both primary and secondary sources to research a topic in American history ranging from pre-colonial times until 1877. She has especially encouraged her students to pursue topics in Maine history.

The students who have chosen topics in Maine history, Duff says, have undertaken projects in which they have researched the history of their hometowns, the timber industry, Native Americans or landmarks such as the Portland Head Light. Some students have discovered that they may be writing a first-ever history of their hometown. And they are developing a newfound pride in the places from which they came.
Other projects with a Maine focus include histories of Caribou, Dexter, Fairfield, Fort Kent, Houlton, Old Town, Waterville, the Moosehead region and the battle of Hampden.

The students will present the results of their research in class Thursday, Dec. 13. Duff also hopes to collect their written work for a booklet that could be housed in the special collections section at Fogler Library.

Duff says her own childhood in Appalachia allows her to identify with her students from rural Maine. She believes the research projects have helped her students to appreciate their roots.

“Growing up in Appalachia at the time when I did, girls didn’t go to college. … When I graduated high school I had no choice but to go to the city, Indianapolis, to work. It was a trauma. People made fun of my accent.

“I have a lot of students from northern Maine and at the beginning of the year they would say in a kind of disparaging tone, ‘I’m from Houlton, or I’m from Fort Kent.’ Now I see a lot of pride in those students. …The first thing they gain is respect for their ancestors who settled in such remote areas. They realize they come from strong, sturdy stock and have nothing to be ashamed of,” she says.

There are 25 students from a variety of majors taking Duff’s course, “History of the United States to 1877.” Duff says the mix of students from different academic disciplines enriches the discussion. The non-history majors say it has made them enjoy the subject.

Krista Plourde of Caribou certainly thinks so. She made a startling discovery when she began researching her hometown: she is an ancestor of the town founders, the Cochrane family that immigrated from Ireland.

“That made it a lot more interesting!” Plourde says.

Plourde, a junior Public Administration major, says she has taken courses before that required primary source research. But she says it was particularly interesting to search the Caribou library for census documents, journal entries and old books about the place where she grew up. Plourde also researched the impact of the railroad and farming in the community.

Caribou was not incorporated as a city until 1869. Before that, it was a series of small settlements with names like Linden, Forestville and Letter H.

“I’d be reading … and the text would name a spot and I’d think, ‘I know where that is.’ At one point I thought, ‘Oh, that’s my house,’” she says.

Plourde only wishes that she had been able to invest more of her research time in Caribou.
“I wish I could have spent more time up there. There’s a lot of information in the town library. … Sometimes [writing] a research paper can be dry but this was interesting and enjoyable,” Plourde says.

Katie Malcolm of Cumberland, a sophomore who plans to major in journalism with a concentration in advertising, says her research on the history of the Portland Head Light has taught her that studying history can be fun.

“This is my first history course in college. I always thought history was boring – something that was read out of a book,” Malcolm says.

Malcolm’s research has led her to visit the museum at the Portland Head Light, where she received a tour of the lighthouse and took a number of photographs, which she will incorporate in a power point demonstration when she presents her research to the class. She has also read biographies and other primary source documents about Joseph Greenleaf and the Strout family, who were among the first to work as the lighthouse’s keepers.

She says that Duff’s assignment gave her the extra motivation she needed to investigate the lighthouse, a landmark she associates with her childhood.

“Portland Head Light always fascinated me. My aunt came form North Carolina every year to visit, and her biggest pleasure was to go to Portland Head Light and get lobster. To her it was the epitome of Maine. … When Betty let us choose to research what interested us, I jumped at the opportunity,” she says.

It is also the first college history course for Joe Poulin of Oakland, a senior Mechanical Engineering Technology major. Poulin has taken on the responsibility of coordinating the schedule of power point presentations for the day the students present their research. His project explores the equipment and tools used in the Maine timber industry from 1820-1877.

Poulin’s work has included reading primary source documents such as business ledgers in the special collections section at Fogler Library and photographing tools in the Page Museum. He says it is the first research project he has done using primary source materials.

“Research-wise, I’ve never done a project like that before. … It’s given me a new perspective. … It’s been most interesting looking through collections in the library, trying to decipher the old handwriting,” he says.

Research topics that do not focus on Maine include women’s roles in the abolition movement, medicine and surgery, Samuel Colt, media coverage in the colonies and England of the Boston Massacre, the Lewis and Clark expedition, life on the Oregon Trail, slavery, Remington rifles, the battles of Lexington and Concord, the origins of the Klu Klux Klan and Asian immigration.
Duff began her college career with a psychology course at Delaware County Community College in Media, Penn. A professor there encouraged her to pursue an undergraduate degree, which she earned from Widener University in Chester, Penn., in 1992. She entered the masters program in English at UMaine in 1993 and moved from there to the doctoral in history. She has completed all of her coursework and is now finishing her dissertation, which compares women’s roles in the paper mill towns of Millinocket and East Millinocket and the coal mining towns of Benham and Lynch, Ken.

She says her husband is from Massachusetts, and that contributed to their decision to move to Maine. “He likes to be close to the ocean. … We came to Maine and just fell in love. This is where I want to be,” Duff says.

Duff says she enjoys teaching and would like to pursue a career as a professor when she earns her doctorate. “I want to write and teach – that’s my dream. … For a girl from Appalachia just to have a college degree, that’s a big accomplishment. My mother is in her 90s and she’s extremely proud of me,” she says.
UMaine's Fogler Library Supporting the Maine Historical Society's Online Memory Network

Dec. 5, 2001

Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO –When the Maine Historical Society’s Maine Memory Network website was launched Tuesday, Dec. 4, it opened up virtual museum of Maine history to a world-wide audience. Some of Maine’s rare and often inaccessible historical documents became available at the click of a mouse.

That’s good news for Maine history enthusiasts, including staff at the University of Maine’s Fogler Library, who have supported the Maine Historical Society’s initiative. Gretchen Gfeller, Web and public relations specialist at Fogler Library, commends the Maine Historical Society for its oversight of the project.

“The Maine Historical Society deserves the spotlight for the work it has done. The rest of us around the state have supported the project,” she says.

The network is advised by a consortium including the Maine Historical Society, Fogler Library, Northeast Historic Film in Bucksport, the Maine Humanities Council and Maine State Archives, the Maine State Library, the Maine State Museum and the University of Southern Maine’s Osher Map Library. It was funded by a $375,000 federal grant.

The site will allow visitors to search the database by keyword, advanced search on a clickable map or by lists of themes, people, events or collections. Visitors may access documentaries, save documents to return to later, tell a story of their own with the slideshow function, purchase a high resolution file, print images or send online postcards. The site also offers ideas for how teachers may integrate it in the classroom.

Organizations around the state put their documents into the database directly, through their own web browsers. That way, every time visitors access a document in the system, they will receive contact information for the contributing organization.

The network is encouraging historical societies around the state to make their resources available to the site. Network staff will train members of the local historical societies to
download and catalog information.

Gfeller says the library will continue to offer its support. “We see the huge potential this project has for all of us as we move forward with it. As the website expands, Fogler Library looks forward to working with project staff to identify which collections and documents, or how many, it will contribute to the site,” she says.

The Fogler Library website is directly accessible through the Maine Memory Network Web site. The Maine Historical Society is headquartered in Portland and consists of the Research Library, Center for Maine History Museum and the historic Wadsworth-Longfellow House.

For more information about the Maine Memory Network, visit the Web site at www.mainememory.org. Project director Dan Kaplan may be reached here.
Dance Showcase Set for Dec. 13

Dec. 7, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Dancers in the University of Maine’s School of Performing Arts have been hard at work this fall, investing time, talent and creative energy to produce original dance numbers. Their efforts will culminate in a Dance Showcase, set for Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Minsky Recital Hall.

The recital will feature ten numbers, including performances of ballet, modern dance, hip-hop and jazz ballet. About 30 students will take part.

Ann Ross, artistic director of the School of Performing Arts and the director of the Dance Showcase, says the event is a unique opportunity for students to perform in an informal setting and to enter into dialogue with others about their work.

“For the Dance Showcase, we try to create an atmosphere that is open and informal. We encourage dialogue and feedback from the audience,” Ross says.

Ross says many of the students’ performances have been generated from classroom projects. She will be dancing along with students from her intermediate dance class in a piece that features music by a live band.

This is the fourth year for the Dance Showcase. Ross says it also serves as a warm-up for some of the students who will be participating in the School of Performing Arts’ Spring Dance Concert.

“This is really a showcase for works-in-progress,” Ross says. “We will have a lot of really nice dancers and performing styles. It’s going to be fun.”

Ross is currently a Touring Artist with the Maine Arts Commission and has helped to develop a curriculum for integrating dance in K-12 education and certification requirements for teaching dance in public schools. She has also taught at the Foothills Camp in Farmington; choreographed and danced in Possessed, a musical held at the Chocolate Church in Bath; and taught an Arts Institute at UMaine.
March Selected to Head UMaine Public Safety

Dec. 7, 2001
Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO -- Noel C. March, director of the Maine Community Policing Institute at the University of Maine at Augusta, has been selected, following a national search, to become the director of the University of Maine's Department of Public Safety.

"Noel's vast experience in law enforcement administration, along with his professional expertise in community policing, make him ideally suited for this position," says Richard Chapman, UMaine's vice president for student affairs. "It is particularly fortunate that we were able to find such an excellent candidate so close to home. Noel's knowledge of Maine and the University of Maine will serve him well."

March replaces Alan Reynolds, who retired in December 2000 after 33 years with UMaine. Charles Chandler, the department's associate director for administrative services, has served as interim director since Reynolds' retirement.

March started his law enforcement career in 1980 when he joined the police department in Meriden, Conn. In Maine, he has worked in the Thomaston Police Department, has served as chief deputy sheriff in both Knox County and Cumberland County and was special agent supervisor for the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. March also worked for MBNA New England, as assistant vice president, from 1993-1998.

"I'm very excited to be joining the management team at UMaine. One of Maine's greatest assets is our system of higher education. The people who live, work and learn here at UMaine are a tremendous resource worthy of the safest environment possible. I certainly look forward to this opportunity to work with the students, faculty, employees and the great Public Safety staff," March says.

The Maine Community Policing Institute, of which March has served as director since May 1998, is the first of its kind in the country, funded by a surcharge on fines levied in state courts. Its mission is to provide community policing education, training and technical assistance to the people of Maine and its police departments.
March is a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va. He has also earned an undergraduate degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of New England and is presently pursuing a master's degree from the Graduate School at UMaine. He is a highly-regarded presenter on the topics of strategic planning, customer service and crime prevention. March has served as a guest trainer for the U.S. Department of Justice and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The department March will head is a full-service public safety agency. It consists of 21 sworn, state-certified police officers, a security staff that patrols the campus at night and provides response to maintenance issues, and a dispatch center with enhanced 911 capability.
UMaine Commencement Set for Saturday, Dec. 15

Dec, 7, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – The University of Maine’s 199th Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10:30 a.m. in Alfond Arena. Some 442 degrees, 134 of them graduate degrees, will be awarded at the ceremony.

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff will preside over the ceremony, which will feature a commencement address by Owen W. Wells, president of the Libra Foundation and a 1965 UMaine graduate.

The Portland-based Libra Foundation, established by Elizabeth B. Noyce in 1989, makes grants and contributions to charitable organizations for purposes or activities that take place in Maine.

The Dec. 15 event will mark the end of the UMaine tradition of annual commencement ceremonies in December and May. Beginning in 2002, a single commencement will be held each May.
Franco American Studies Class to Hold Open House

Dec. 11, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – Students in Susan Pinette’s “Introduction to Franco American Studies” class have devoted a semester of work to discovering the Franco American community in Maine and on the University of Maine campus. Now, those students are giving others the chance to see, hear and taste what that community has to offer.

The class will hold an open house Thursday, Dec. 13, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Soderberg Center, Jenness Hall. The open house will showcase the students’ research projects, which will include photographs, demonstrations, and students playing folk music and cooking Franco American foods.

Pinette, the director of Franco American Studies and an assistant professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at UMaine, says she hopes the open house serves as an opportunity to celebrate the vitality of the Franco American community and culture.

“I want students to be engaged with the Franco American community that exists on and off campus,” she says. “We are studying a living community; I don’t want students to lose sight of that. I want them to see that they are in dialogue with members of the community.”

To that end, students are preparing their exhibitions, as well as writing a paper detailing their research. Earlier in the semester, they completed an oral history project in which they were required to interview a Franco American. The interviews were designed to understand the different ways Franco Americans interpret and perform their ethnic identity, to draw out significant themes and touchstones of Franco American culture and to understand what being Franco American means to Franco Americans today.

Pinette says her students, not all of whom are of Franco American descent, have been enthusiastic about their research.

“Most of the students are surprised there is so much to learn in Franco American studies. Those from Franco American families are shocked at how much history there is in their own
families; those who are not Franco are intrigued by the Franco community surrounding them,” she says.

Students’ research topics include the Catholic Church in Old Town, the mill in Millinocket, the mill in Jay, Franco foods and folk traditions, Acadian foods, the assimilation of immigrants, the mills in Biddeford, the Franco American presence in the Civil War, Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral in Lewiston, the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival in Morgan City, Louisiana, and Cajun foods.

Courtnee Crystal, a first-year International Affairs and French major from Sanford, says her research on the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival and her oral history project have helped her to appreciate her Franco American roots. Some members of her family live in Morgan City, and she interviewed her grandmother and great-grandmother, both of whom live in Maine, for her oral history project.

“My grandmother and great-grandmother are French Canadian, and some members of my family are Acadian from Louisiana. It was neat to work with them. … For me this class has helped me to figure out who I am as a Franco American,” Crystal says.

Crystal researched the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival by contacting Morgan City officials and by emailing and interviewing her family members on the telephone. She says she is surprised by how much she has learned, especially through the oral history project.

“When I started doing the interviews I really didn’t think I would learn all that much, but I learned a lot. I never would have done the interviews if not for this class. And my mother pointed out that my great-grandmother is 86, and she won’t be around forever. So her stories wouldn’t have been recorded otherwise,” Crystal says.

Rachel Gulezian, a first-year student from Cumberland, researched the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Lewiston. Gulezian is of mixed Armenian and Dutch descent, but she says she decided to take a Franco American Studies class after studying French in Belgium for six months last year.

Gulezian toured the cathedral and Lewiston’s French Quarter. She also gathered information in the Lewiston Public Library. She says she was impressed by the resilience of Lewiston’s Franco American community.

“The cathedral is like something you would see in Europe…but it was built during the depression, and they raised money with bake sales and baseball games. These people built it to guard their culture and their religion,” she says.

For her oral history project, Gulzian interviewed Tracy Guerrette of St. Agatha, who is also taking the class. Gulezian says she was excited to learn about people from a part of the state
she has never visited.

“She talked very enthusiastically about her relatives from the Valley. That was interesting because I’ve never been farther north than Orono!” Gulezian says.

Kerri Wyman, a junior Biology major from Old Town, researched the history of the Catholic Church in Old Town. Although she does not consider herself a Franco American, she is distantly related to some members of Old Town’s Franco American community. She also attends the Catholic Church in Old Town.

She says she was amazed to learn that in the early days of the church, all masses were said in French and the priests would often fill out birth certificates in French.

Wyman says the class has made her appreciate the presence of the Franco American community around her.

“A lot of people in the younger generation don’t realize how much Franco culture is around them, especially young people in Maine. I’ve learned how pervasive that culture is, and how interesting it is to learn about the people around me,” she says.

Lindsay Fields, a senior Communication Sciences and Disorders major from Jay, researched the mills in Jay and the efforts of Franco Americans in Jay to preserve their culture. In her oral history project, Fields interviewed three women who worked at the mill. She discovered that although all three strove to maintain their heritage, they were forced to at least partially assimilate to the culture around them.

Even so, Fields says she was impressed by the support within Jay’s Franco American community.

“The bond that Francos have with one another, and their strong ties to the Catholic religion, really surprised me. … The project was really fun because I got to learn about different people and cultures and what’s important to them,” she says.

Nathan Cota, a junior electrical engineering major from Burnham, says that he also has welcomed the chance to learn about Franco American culture.

“I realized that I’ve lived in the state of Maine my whole life, and I had no idea that so many Franco Americans lived in Maine. This class has opened my eyes,” he says.

Cota’s research focused on the Franco presence in the Civil War. He says it was intriguing to discover the reasons why Franco men – including French Canadians – fought in the war. He says that for the Francos living in the United States, they may have fought to “prove they could be good Americans.” Others fought for principles, or for money.
His demonstration at the open house will highlight the war-time achievements of Remi Tremblay, who fought for the Union Army.

There are 16 students enrolled in the course, which is part of the Franco American Studies’ core curriculum. Franco American Studies is an interdisciplinary program that explores the French cultures of the United States and Canada, focusing on the people of Franco American heritage in Maine and the Northeast. Its curriculum is designed to teach the Franco American past and present, including topics such as problems of identity, the politics of language, literature, historical struggles, women’s issues and experiences, economic structures and the role of family.

Students at UMaine may earn a minor in Franco American Studies by completing 18 credit hours in courses ranging from the four Franco American core courses to courses in anthropology, French and history.

The Franco American Studies program is affiliated with UMaine’s Franco American Centre, which has been an activist in the Franco American community for over 25 years. Pinette says Franco American Studies are an important part of the curriculum at UMaine.

“Francos make up approximately 30 percent of the population of Maine. As a land grant institution, UMaine should be responsible to this population. Given its location so close to Canada, UMaine is also uniquely situated to study this population. Franco American Studies is an emerging field and UMaine has a chance to be a leader in it,” she says.

Pinette says it is exciting to introduce students to this developing field of study.

“Franco American Studies has a lot to offer both Francophone Studies [French speaking cultures outside France] and Critical Race Studies. Franco Americans have a large body of literature that has not been studied in the Francophone framework and Franco Americans as a group have not been considered in light of the recent work on white ethnicity,” she says.

Pinette, who was born in Presque Isle, is of Franco American descent. Her father was from Fort Kent and her mother was from Winterville, but she was raised in southern Maine. She attended UMaine as an undergraduate and completed her graduate studies in French at the University of California at Irvine.

Pinette has held her current position at UMaine since 1999. She teaches “Introduction to Franco American Studies” every fall.

For more information about the open house or Franco American Studies, contact Pinette at 581-4450.
Maine Tree Club Established

December 11, 2001

Contact: Richard J. Brzozowski, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 780-4205 or 1-800-287-1471 (in Maine); Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO, Maine -- They attract tourists by the thousands, provide the foundation for the state’s economy and stir poets to eloquence. Trees are at the root of Maine's identity. Now, Maine citizens and visitors have a chance to learn more about the habits and special needs of trees. They can join the Maine Tree Club, an educational project of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Maine Forest Service and the Pine Tree Arboretum.

Participants will be equipped with practical knowledge and the skills to recognize 50 different types of trees over the next two years. Every month, participants will receive mailings that highlight two species of Maine trees. At least three outings are scheduled around the state in 2002 to get people into the woods for practical hands-on learning and enjoyment. These outings, guided by experts, are planned for coastal Maine, the western mountains and the inland region.

“As a kid, I learned a bit about trees, but there is so much more to know,” says Extension Educator Richard Brzozowski of Cumberland County. “Trees are a magnificent part of nature! We have initiated the Maine Tree Club so that anyone, from kids to grandparents, can learn how to identify trees and understand their importance.”

In addition to the twenty-four monthly mailings and the outings, participants will receive a hand lens for a close-up look at tree parts and pieces, an attractive notebook, a weatherproof pocket guide to Maine trees and several practical guides related to tree growth and care. Much of what people will learn as members of the Maine Tree Club will be easily applied in their own yard and community. The annual registration fee for involvement in the Maine Tree Club is $15 per person, $25 per couple or $30 per family. Maine Tree Club scholarships are available for those in need.

A free informational brochure can be requested by calling the University of Maine Cooperative Extension at 1-800-287-1471, or visiting the Maine Tree Club Web site.
UMaine Celebration to Honor Popular Athletic Trainer

Dec. 11, 2001
Media contact: Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761

ORONO– University of Maine legendary athletic trainer Wes Jordan will be the guest of honor Friday, Dec. 14 at a celebration launching a fund-raising campaign to establish a state-of-the-art training facility in his honor.

The kick-off of the $1.25 million project for the Wes Jordan Athletic Training Education Complex will be held from 2-4 p.m. at UMaine’s Lengyel Gym, where the training room and lab will be built in existing space.

ESPN and NBC broadcaster Gary Thorne will be master of ceremonies during the program, which will also include remarks by fellow UMaine alumnus Mark Letendre, Major League Baseball director of Umpire Medical Services, and Robert Cobb, dean of the UMaine College of Education and Human Development.

Former UMaine athletes and many other friends and fans are expected to turn out for the event and express their appreciation to Jordan for his 32 years of service to UMaine athletics and students and for his commitment to the sports and coaching community statewide.

Jordan, who retired in 1997, now lives in Florida.

The goal of the campaign is to raise $750,000 to fund the renovations for the new training complex and provide scholarships, in tribute to Jordan, for aspiring athletic training students. The remaining $500,000, at Jordan’s request, is targeted to help support the Maine Center for Coaching Education at UMaine, which is the primary provider of nationally certified courses to Maine athletic directors and coaches.

Jordan, a former Black Bear football letterman, graduated from UMaine in 1962 and spent a distinguished career as head athletic trainer at his alma mater. His outstanding reputation and work in the profession brought honors such as serving as athletic trainer for the 1980 Winter Olympics, the Pan Am games and USA baseball. In 1994, he was elected to the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Hall of Fame. Jordan was also known and respected for his years of service as athletic trainer for the Maine Principals’ Association Eastern Maine Basketball Tournament.

The Wes Jordan Athletic Training Education Complex will include two modern classrooms equipped for multimedia presentations, and three well-equipped laboratories – a taping and evaluation lab, a rehabilitation lab and a wet lab. A Student Study Center is proposed to allow students convenient access to computers and audio-visual equipment, as well as library and study space.

UMaine’s athletic training education option is offered through the Kinesiology and Physical Education program within the College of Education and Human Development.
“We are delighted that Wes and his family can be on hand for this kick-off celebration,” says Dean Cobb. “As head trainer and inspiring teacher, Wes gave the best start possible to students who went on to become athletic trainers at all levels of the profession. He was totally devoted to Maine athletes of all ages, coaches and fans. An athletic training/education complex that will benefit generations of students is a most fitting tribute.”

More information about the Dec. 14 celebration and funding opportunities for the training complex is available from the University of Maine Foundation.
Leadership Network Continues Expansion

Dec. 12, 2001
Media contact: Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761

ORONO—The Maine School Leadership Network is recruiting teachers and school-level administrators throughout the state for the third cycle of its school-based leadership development program, which begins in May. Based on the successful Maine Academy of School Leaders model of the early 1990s, the two-year program is helping develop strong educational leadership at the administrative and classroom levels to move schools toward successful implementation of the Maine Learning Results.

The program begins with a week-long summer institute, after which participants meet monthly in regional cohort groups for further skill building, instruction and dialogue augmented with reading and writing assignments.

Currently, 50 educators, in either the first or second year of the leadership program, are applying the highly individualized model of knowledge and skill development to current challenges and improvement initiatives in their schools. They participate in one of three regional cohorts – Eastern Maine, Southern/Central Maine and Mid-Coast. At the end of the two years, participating educators will have earned 15 graduate credits toward a master’s degree or Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership.

Experienced educational leaders deliver network programming and one-on-one coaching. University of Maine Educational Leadership Professor Gordon Donaldson chairs the Network faculty, which includes University faculty and practicing K-12 administrators.

Beginning with the third cycle in May, the Network will be administered by the Maine Leadership Consortium and the University of Maine. The Leadership Consortium, a collaboration of state educational leadership level associations, agencies and institutions, replaces the Maine Development Foundation as project administrator. The Network is supported financially by participating school districts, program students, local and statewide businesses and the College of Education and Human Development at UMaine.

Additional information about the Maine School Leadership Network is available on the Web or from faculty members: Gordon Donaldson, 581-2450 or George Marnik, 581-2738.
Alcohol Abuse Prevention Training Session Set at UMaine

Dec. 13, 2001
Media contact: Gladys Ganiel at (207) 581-3756

ORONO – The University of Maine will host over 50 local law enforcement officers, campus security officers and university staff members when they gather for a training session, “Preventing Alcohol Problems and Changing the Environment: Liquor Laws and Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Issues on Maine’s College Campuses,” on Tuesday, Dec. 18, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Bodwell Lounge in the Maine Center for the Arts.

Frank Lyons of the state’s Bureau of Liquor Enforcement will be the featured speaker. The training session is sponsored by the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement and the Office of Substance Abuse.

Representatives from UMaine, Central Maine Technical College, Southern Maine Technical College, Maine Maritime Academy, Unity College, Eastern Maine Technical College, the University of Maine at Machias, the University of Maine at Presque Isle, the University of Southern Maine, Colby College, Thomas College and St. Joseph’s College will attend the session.

Each institution will send a team consisting of at least three people, including: a representative from campus safety/security or campus police; a representative from the local police department or sheriff’s office; and a non-law enforcement campus employee who deals frequently with alcohol-related problems.

Kathryn McGloin, the coordinator of UMaine’s Substance Abuse Prevention Services, says the session is an opportunity for representatives from Maine’s universities and local enforcement agencies to work together to increase effective enforcement commitment and involvement.

“We need to learn to manage the environment better, so that the campus and the community give students the same message: high risk drinking is not okay,” McGloin says.

According to state officials, recent research has highlighted the potential effectiveness of environmental prevention strategies. Such strategies aim to change community norms, increase enforcement and reduce underage access to alcohol rather than attempting to impact individual decisions solely through education and intervention.

McGloin adds that students are often bombarded by conflicting messages, which may include advertisements offering tips for responsible drinking alongside advertisements for happy hours.

The session is offered as part of the Office of Substance Abuse’s two-year Higher Education Alcohol Prevention Project. The funding for this project became available in October, when
the United States Department of Justice awarded a $400,000 grant to the Maine Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services. The funding is administered through the Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The grant is awarded to only ten or fewer states on a competitive basis each year. It is the second year in a row Maine has received the grant.

The Higher Education Alcohol Prevention Project has extended two-year sub-grants to UMaine, Central Maine Technical College, Eastern Maine Technical College, Maine Maritime Academy and Unity College.

UMaine’s Substance Abuse Prevention Services program has received a $40,000 sub-grant; as well as a $15,500 grant from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. The program is currently working to establish a Student Advisory Board and a Campus/Community Coalition.

McGloin will work closely with the six-member Student Advisory Board, which recently held its first meeting. The students are currently developing a mission statement, which will include the goals, objectives and strategies of the group. McGloin expects the group to review UMaine’s substance abuse policies and to be a key part of the Campus/Community Coalition.

The coalition is still in the planning stages, but McGloin hopes members of the community, including landlords and the owners of businesses that sell alcohol, will become enthusiastic partners. The coalition will seek to include citizens and decision-makers from diverse political, social and economic backgrounds. Its work will include developing strategies and programs that address the problems of high risk drinking both on and off campus.

McGloin says this kind of all-encompassing strategy is vital for the prevention of high risk drinking.

“Those of us on campus or in the community are all stakeholders. We can’t change the environment if we only work with students; and we can’t change the environment if we only work with townspeople. … The biggest change will come when we all listen to one another,” she says.

For more information, or to join the Campus-Community Coalition, contact McGloin at 581-4171.
Maine Poultry Growers Form New Statewide Association

Dec. 13, 2001

Contacts: Cooperative Extension — Michael Opitz, 800-287-7170 (Maine only) or 207-581-2771; Richard Brzozowski, 800-287-1471 (Maine) or 207-780-4205; Public Affairs — Nick Houtman, 207-581-3777.

ORONO, Maine -- Owners of small poultry flocks from all over the state have formed the Maine Alternative Poultry Association (MAPA), a new alliance to promote the growth of this fledgling industry.

Under the guidance of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension (UMCE), MAPA evolved from a series of educational meetings sponsored by UMCE and held around the state within the last two years. It became clear during those meetings, according to Michael Opitz, Extension veterinarian who is spearheading the effort, that there was a growing interest in raising poultry on a small scale to fill a niche market and a need for guiding that growth.

“There is a lot of interest in becoming more efficient and more profitable in the practice of raising a wholesome poultry product for a growing market,” Opitz said. “Offering such assistance was a natural for the Cooperative Extension.”

He cited two recent developments in the poultry industry that illustrate how this new organization can assist its membership: a recent ban by major airlines on the air shipment of baby chicks from hatcheries to growers, and a statewide crackdown by federal agencies on local slaughter houses, making it difficult for small growers to process their flocks. MAPA, Opitz said, can be another voice for Maine growers in those debates.

Recently adopted by-laws define the mission of the organization as primarily to strengthen sustainable poultry production through education, legislation and marketing. They also steer MAPA in the clear direction of encouraging Maine's young people to become involved in poultry production as a potential commercial venture.

The group will hold its first organizational meeting on January 9, 2002, during the annual Maine Agricultural Trade Show at the Augusta Civic Center. MAPA will also sponsor a panel discussion on custom slaughtering and processing for small growers during the show.

Opitz said MAPA will launch an official membership drive prior to its January meeting. Membership is limited to growers of fewer than 3,000 laying hens and 100,000 meat birds of any variety. Annual dues are set at $25 for active members and $10 for youth members.

Anyone interested in joining MAPA or in more information on the organization may contact Opitz or his assistant, Susan MacDonald, UMCE in Orono (581-2771), or Richard Brzozowski at UMCE in Portland (780-4205).
UMaine Scientists Will Use New Probe to Reveal Geological Secrets

Dec. 13, 2001
Research contact: Marty Yates, Dept. of Geological Sciences, 207-581-2154
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of Maine a $475,000 grant to purchase a scientific instrument that could help unearth clues to geological mysteries. Known as an electron microprobe, the device uses a focused electron beam and x-rays to gather information from spots as small as a millionth of a square meter in solid materials such as mineral grains.

The new instrument will be used in teaching and research. It enables scientists to obtain high magnification images of mineral grains and measure their chemical composition for a variety of purposes. For example, the device will help shed light on arsenic bearing compounds that contaminate groundwater. It will also help to determine the age of volcanic ash layers in ice cores from Antarctica, Greenland, and central Asia by analyzing the chemistry of tiny glass particles blown in from distant volcanic eruptions.

The NSF grant was matched by $210,000 from the Maine Economic Development Improvement Fund of the Maine State Legislature through the UMaine Office of the Vice-President for Research. The instrument will be housed in the Department of Geological Sciences in the Bryand Global Sciences Building.

Once the machine is up and running next spring, it will be available for use by geologists, chemical engineers, wood scientists and others throughout UMaine and at other universities in the state. Newly developed remote control features allow the system to be operated from outside the microprobe laboratory, such as in a lecture hall with students.

“The University of Maine joins a select group of universities that have an electron microprobe system as advanced and sophisticated as the Cameca instrument on order. This acquisition is a tribute to the quality of current and planned geological research,” says Martin Yates, laboratory manager and associate scientist in geology.

“Mineral chemistry records the age, temperature, depth and chemical environment of the rocks in which minerals form. Student, post-graduate and faculty researchers will be able to use the microprobe to decipher geological history of rocks from Maine, Mexico, Antarctica or wherever their field research takes them,” adds Yates.

The machine is expected to arrive on campus in May, 2002.
UMaine Holds December Commencement

Dec. 15, 2001

Media contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571

ORONO – The University of Maine conducted is 199th Commencement Ceremony this morning at Alfond Arena.

Four hundred sixty-two degrees, 146 of them graduate degrees, were awarded at the ceremony, which was attended by an audience of approximately 3,000 family and friends.

Owen W. Wells, president of the Portland-based Libra Foundation and a 1965 UMaine graduate, delivered the commencement address, urging the new graduates to find and follow the path that suits them best.

“Perhaps in your life you won’t grace the cover of ‘Time Magazine’ or the pages of history textbooks with your accomplishments, but often times even the greatest accomplishments are carried out unnoticed by anyone. You have been given an opportunity to achieve greatness,” he said.

Wells, who was honored today with UMaine’s 2001 Outstanding Alumnus Award, encouraged the graduates to lead a balanced life and to apply the principles they have learned in school.

“Goal setting is vitally important,” he said. “Goals create paths to follow and things to work for, and along the way inner truth is uncovered. Although the future might seem daunting now, approach it with an open mind and determination.”

UMaine President Peter S. Hoff presided over the ceremony, which also included a “Celebration of Academia” faculty address by Constance Perry, a UMaine education professor who was the 2001 Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award recipient.

At the beginning of today’s ceremony, Hoff asked those in attendance to observe a moment of silence in recognition of the completion of a difficult semester at UMaine. The term began shortly before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and saw the passing of retired professor Richard Emerick, hockey coach Shawn Walsh and student Kelly MacKenzie.

James D. Mullen, chair of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, brought greetings from the board; Gregory D. Jamison, chair of the Board of Directors of the University of Maine Alumni Association, welcomed the graduates to the ranks of the more than 89,000 University of Maine Alumni.
University of Maine
News

Funding Available for UMaine Early Intervention Graduate Courses

Dec. 19, 2001
Contact: Kay Hyatt, (207) 51-2761

ORONO □ Full tuition is available for four graduate-level, special education courses to be offered by the University during the spring 2002 semester. Funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant, the early intervention courses are funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant and will be taught at sites around the state.

The courses are provided collaboratively by UMaine's College of Education and Human Development and Center for Community Inclusion. Students may pursue either a master's degree with a specialization in early intervention or the state endorsement (certification) option required for a Maine Teacher of Young Children with Disabilities □ Birth to School Age Five. The courses are available to individuals who have a bachelor's degree and to undergraduates with senior-level status and advisor permission.

Among early intervention and early childhood personnel who might find the courses helpful are developmental therapists, service coordinators, teachers, administrators, speech pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, nurses, counselors and psychologists.

Tuition will be fully paid for full-or part-time students accepted under the Training Options for Early Intervention Personnel (TOP) grant, funded by the DOE's Office of Special Education Programs. Interested individuals who do not apply for tuition support through the TOP grant also may enroll in individual early intervention courses.

Times and locations for the courses are:

- Typical and Atypical Development in Infancy and Early Childhood □ Mondays, 6:45-9:45 p.m. Sites in Orono, Searsport, and Augusta or Waterville.

- Foundations of Early Intervention (two sections) □ Five Saturdays: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 2/2, 2/16, 3/2, 4/6, 4/20. Sites in Orono, Rumford, and Augusta or Waterville, Portland or Gorham; Thursdays, beginning Jan. 24, 6:45-9:45 p.m. Sites in Orono, Searsport, and Augusta or Waterville.

- Fostering Partnerships in Early Intervention (two sections) □ Five Saturdays: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/30, 4/13. Sites in Orono, Rumford, and Augusta or Waterville, Portland or Gorham; Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 12, 4-7 p.m. Sites in Orono, and Portland or Gorham, and possibly Ellsworth.
• Serving Infants and Toddlers in Natural Environments on Wednesdays, 7-10 p.m. Sites in Orono, Caribou, and Augusta or Waterville

For more information about the classes and the grant: visit the TOP Web site; contact Sandra Doctoroff, (207) 581-1437, or Sharon Gilbert, (207) 581-1219. The Voice/TTY phone number is 1/800-203-6957.
New UMaine Information Systems Programs Meet Growing Demand for Specialists

Dec. 19, 2001
Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Managing information has long been key to success in business, health care, telecommunications and other fields, but the expansion of computer technologies has created a need for specialists who have the skills to design and implement the latest information systems. The University of Maine now offers students and working professionals the opportunity to pursue graduate programs in this growing field.

The full Master of Science in Information Systems program is available to students who are able to take some or all of their graduate courses on campus while the Graduate Certificate in Information Systems may be taken completely by distance education methods. The distance education program uses the latest in webcast technologies so that students may view “live” or “archived” class lectures on their desktops at home or at work.

Information is the lifeblood of modern enterprises, and information systems, by example, are allowing us to improve emergency response, diagnose and treat diseases, transact stock transfers and sell goods via the Internet. The ability to create and share information has been one of the keys to U.S. economic growth over the last decade, says Scott Delcourt, coordinator of the new graduate programs and director of the UMaine Graduate School.

The master’s degree program requires completion of six core courses in business administration, computer science and spatial information science and engineering plus four additional elective courses meeting the specific needs of the student. The graduate certificate program requires completion of only the six core courses. The core courses are offered by the Department of Computer Science, the Maine Business School and the Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering. Students entering the program must satisfy prerequisites in computer science, calculus and statistics.

In order for students to take advantage of webcast lectures and other course materials, they need to have access to a fast Internet connection, such as is available in Maine at local universities or offered by private cable services such as Adelphia or Roadrunner Pro.

Students who complete the new degree program will be proficient in organizing information for use by specific users. They will be able to evaluate information needs, design new systems to deliver accurate information in a timely way and understand relevant issues in law, economics, management and ethics.
More information about the program is available from the Graduate School at the University of Maine, 207-581-3217.
UMaine Civil Engineer to Receive National Research Award

December 19, 2001

Research contact: Per Garder, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, 207-581-2177; Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777.

ORONO-- University of Maine civil engineer Per Garder of Bangor will receive a national award for his research on traffic safety at the 81st meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in Washington D.C. on January 16. Garder specializes in the design and monitoring of roundabouts, traffic circles that have been made safer by reducing vehicle speed and controlling access.

Garder will join Dominique Lord and Bhagwant N. Persaud of the Ryerson Polytechnic University in Canada and Richard Retting of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in receiving the D. Grant Mickle Award for the best research paper presented in the area of operation, safety, and maintenance.

The title of the paper is “Observational Before-After Study of the Safety Effect of U.S. Roundabout Conversions Using the Empirical Bayes Methods.” It analyzes and describes the safety effects of replacing signalized and stop-controlled intersections with roundabouts. The paper was presented in 2001 at the 80th Annual Meeting of the TRB, an arm of the National Research Council, and at that time received the Best Paper Award for the area of highway geometric design and operational effects issues.
Electronics Research by UMaine Engineer Leads to Patents

Dec. 22, 2001

Research contact: David Kotecki, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, 207-581-2248; Media contact: Nick Houtman, Dept. of Public Affairs, 207-581-3777

ORONO-- Research by a University of Maine electrical engineer has led to four patents approved last summer by the U.S. Patent Office. The patents are based on work by David Kotecki of the UMaine Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and colleagues at the IBM Microelectronics Division in Hopewell Junction, New York. The patents are held by IBM.

Kotecki worked at the IBM facility prior to coming to UMaine in 1999. He is a specialist in the design of microelectronics systems such as computer chips and manages the ECE department's microelectronics design, simulation and test laboratories.

The technology that Kotecki and his colleagues developed could lead to increased memory storage in computers. "A couple of the patents deal with new ways of making silicon components and smaller structures that have better insulators," he says. "They would allow capacitors to pack more electrons, and thus more memory, into a smaller space."

In the past ten years, Kotecki's research has resulted in more than 50 U.S. patents for innovations in electronic components on chips. In addition to working with silicon, the standard raw material for computer chips, Kotecki has also worked with platinum, barium strontium titanate and other novel electronic materials to try and overcome limitations in microelectronic devices.

Kotecki is using a $200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to renovate the UMaine microelectronics test lab. That facility provides up-to-date equipment for student projects and collaboration with Maine's microelectronics industry. Kotecki collaborates on a regular basis with engineers at electronics manufacturing companies in Maine, including National Semiconductor, Fairchild Semiconductor and Tundra Semiconductor in South Portland.