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Young Writers to Hone Skills at UMaine Camp

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Selected News Releases

Young Writers to Hone Skills at UMaine Camp

ORONO, Maine -- Some of the state's top writing teachers will lend expertise and encouragement to help students develop composition skills and polish their prose during the first Young Authors' Camp scheduled July 12-16 at the University of Maine. Sessions for third through 12th graders will be led by exemplary teachers who have completed the rigorous requirements of the Maine Writing Project at UMaine, the state's official National Writing Project site.

The program, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon, is designed to get students started writing, keep them interested, and develop and improve skills in a fun and supportive atmosphere, according to Jeff Wilhelm, UMaine associate professor of literacy and founder and director of the Maine Writing Project. In addition to working on skills, participants will explore different genres of writing, compose for creativity and information, experiment with electronic texts, and publish and share their writing.

The camp kicks off with an orientation session on Friday, July 9, where participants will have the opportunity to meet and work with internationally acclaimed writer and master writing instructor Ben Brunwin of England.

Information about the Young Authors' Camp, sponsored by the Maine Writing Project and the UMaine College of Education and Human Development, is available by calling (207) 581-2438.

The Maine Writing Project is one of 158 official National Writing Project sites in 46 states. The NWP is a federally funded professional development program dedicated to the improvement of instruction in the nation's schools, particularly through composition as a powerful way of learning in all curricular areas. The three-year-old Maine program, which recently received an \$18,000 NWP grant, was cited by national reviewers as "impressive" and its plans for coping with the unique circumstances of Maine teachers as "concrete and comprehensive."

Released: June 15, 1999

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