Expert Lessons for Future Math/Science Teachers

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ORONO, Maine – Future teachers will have the chance to work with some top educators, as well as hear experiences and advice from novice teachers, during a series of workshops at the University of Maine on Saturday, March 29. The third annual Mathematics and Science Future Teachers Club Spring Conference is designed to attract aspiring teachers, especially in the critical shortage areas of math and science, and provide highly relevant instructional strategies and a realistic view of the classroom.

UMaine and other college students pursuing degrees in education, as well as those majoring in mathematics or science and are interested in teaching, will delve into topics such as Rocketry and the Standards, Exploring Mathematics in a Sunday Stroll, Brain Science and Learning Math, Attributes of an Effective Classroom, and Interacting with Famous Scientists from the Past. They will also hear a keynote address by Joanne Defilipp Alex, educational director and classroom teacher at Stillwater Montessori School in Old Town. Alex was Maine’s 1998 Teacher of the Year and state finalist for a 2002 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching.

The daylong conference is free, and registration is required. The event is sponsored by the Future Teachers Club of the Maine Mathematics Science Teaching Excellence Collaborative. The project’s goal to boost the numbers of grade 7-12 math and science teachers by improving the recruitment, preparation and support of students with strong interests in math, science and technology. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the Collaborative is a joint effort of the University of Maine, the University of Southern Maine, the University of Maine at Farmington and the Maine Math and Science Alliance.

For information or registration, interested students preparing to be math or science teachers may call Amie Gellen, UMaine Mathematics Education lecturer, 581-3905; or e-mail Future Teachers Club President Lindsay Junkins: lindsay.junkins@umit.maine.edu.

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