“The Salt Coast Sages” Poets at UMM
MACHIAS – UMM’s Maine Writers Series hosts The Salt Coast Sages on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the UMM Art Gallery, located in Powers Hall.

The Salt Coast Sages, a group of local poets from Down East Maine, first came together in a poetry class in the Sunrise Senior College, an education program for learners over the age of fifty at UMM. Members of the group include: Sharon Bray, Donald Craine, Gerald George, Philip Rose, and Grace Sheridan. All have published poetry in literary journals and other periodicals, but each has a different writing style and local economic development. The Sages will read from their new book, A Rump-Sprung Chair and One-Eyed Cat: A Collection of Poems by The Salt Coast Sages.

To learn more about The Salt Coast Sages, visit their Website at www.saltcoastpoets.com. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 255-4862.

USM & Women’s Studies Hosts
Inheritance
PORTLAND – USM’s Annual International Women’s History Month Dinner takes place from 5-6:30 p.m. on February 27 in USM’s Abromson Community Education Center.

Following the dinner, there will be a free program and reception co-hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, entitled, “New Mainers: Stories of Survival and Arrival.” This event celebrates the release of the book, “New Mainers: Stories of Survival and Arrival.”

The task force will be chaired by David T. Flanagan of Manchester, the former president/CEO of Central Maine Power Co. Flanagan served on the University of Maine System (UMS) Board of Trustees from 1985-95, including one term as Board chair.

Other members of the task force are: current UMS trustee Nadine Fournier of Wallagrass and Marjorie M. Medd of Norway; Dr. Sandra Featherman of Kennebunkport, the former president of the University of New England, M. Michelle Hood of Bar Harbor, president/CEO of Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems; Dr. Allison Hughes H audible of Readfield, UMS president; Susan A. Gendron of Veazie, both of whom serve as faculty representatives to the UMS Board of Trustees. Dr. Bertram H. Jacobs of Wilton and Dr. Robert W. Rice of Vezzie, both of whom serve as faculty representatives to the UMS Board of Trustees representing UMF and UMaine, respectively.

The annual dinner celebrates USM’s Women and Gender Studies Program. Tickets are $20 for the public and $10 for students, and can be purchased by calling 280-4862.

UMA Offers Screening of Inheritance
AUGUSTA – UMA’s Michael Klauer Center will offer a screening and discussion of the film Inheritance at 6:30 p.m. on February 26. Admission is free.

The film is about the story of Monika Hertwig, whose father was Amon Goeth, the murderous Nazi death-camp commandant depicted in Steven Spielberg’s movie “Schindler’s List.” The documentary follows Hertwig as she struggles to come to terms with her “inheritance” by meeting face-to-face with a survivor of Goeth’s brutality, at the memorial site of Plaszow more than fifty years later. For more information or to RSVP for large groups, call 621-3530 or email infohhrc@maine.edu.

Rockland Center Receives Chamber Award
ROCKLAND – The Camden-Rockport-Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce recently presented their 2008 Education Award to the University of Maine Rockland Center (URock) for its contributions to higher education in Maine’s Midcoast community. Approximately 350 members and guests attended the 68th annual event. Deb Mechan, director of UMaine’s College at Rockland, accepted the award on behalf of URock.

Vicki Doudera, the chamber board member who presented the award, noted an example of community partnership and local economic development, where approximately 80% of the nurses working at Pen Bay Hospital have received their RN designation through this center. Since moving to Rockland, the Center’s enrollment has increased by 20%.

Chancellor Names Task Force
BANGOR – Last month, UMS Chancellor Richard L. Patten announced his appointment of a 12-person task force to review and recommend operational and structural changes to Maine’s 40-year-old, 45,000-student state university system.

The task force will be chaired by Dr. Sandra Featherman of Kenebunkport, the former president of the University of New England, M. Michelle Hood of Bar Harbor, president/CEO of Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems; Dr. Allison Hughes H audible of Readfield, UMS president; Susan A. Gendron of Veazie, both of whom serve as faculty representatives to the UMS Board of Trustees. Dr. Bertram H. Jacobs of Wilton and Dr. Robert W. Rice of Vezzie, both of whom serve as faculty representatives to the UMS Board of Trustees representing UMF and UMaine, respectively.

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UMaine Helps Mainers Save Energy and Stay Warm

ORONO – As the thermometer approached 30 below in many parts of the state, UMaine Cooperative Extension announced publication of “Maine Home Energy,” a series of bulletins designed to help Mainers keep warm, save money, heat safely, and conserve energy. The bulletins can be downloaded at www.extension.umaine.edu (click on “Publications”). Topics currently available in the “Maine Home Energy” series include weather-stripping doors and windows, making inexpensive indoor shutters, creating insulated window coverings, heating one’s home safely, and saving energy in apartments. Information on comparing heating fuels, doing a home energy audit, and taking advantage of passive solar heating techniques will be available shortly.

UMPI Grant Will Help Native American Students

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI was awarded a grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation’s Project Compass, where it will receive up to $750,000 over the next four years to better serve its Native American student population as well as the region’s Native American community. With 65 Native American students, UMPI has the highest percentage of such students of all the University of Maine System campuses.

Project Compass is a multi-year initiative aimed at increasing the number of underrepresented populations graduating with four-year degrees. UMPI will use its grant funding to develop strategies that assist Native American students in transitioning from the native community to the university community.

With the grant, UMPI receives $158,000 this year and can receive three more years of grant funding totaling $750,000. The grants are contingent upon the institutions’ yearly progress on objectives developed during the planning year.

UMPI has been working closely with the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians on this project.

USM’s WMPG Hosts Film Festival

PORTLAND – USM’s community radio station WMPG (90.9 and 104.1 FM) and the USM Portland Events Board present “The WMPG Thursday Night Film Festival” on Thursdays through March 12.

For more information, contact station manager Jim Rand at 780-4424.

UMF Exhibit Offers View of Consumerist Culture

FARMINGTON – UMF’s Art Gallery presents the exhibit “Here to There” through March 8. The exhibit features two displays by Philadelphia artists Dana Hamner and Travis Hamner. Both artists invite the viewer to consider the contradictions underlying contemporary consumerist culture.

Dana Hamner’s “Complex” employs disposable materials in the construction of fairy tale landscapes that transcend the throw-away elements from which they are constructed. Travis Hamner’s sGEAR series is an ongoing multi-media project in which the artist explores the notion of isolation as a social event.

These UMF gallery events are free and open to the public.

Faculty Noon Seminar Series Continues

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI’s Faculty Noon Seminar Series will feature presentations on the carbon economy, online teaching, and teaching methods. Seminars will be held on the last Wednesday of each month. The series kicked off with a presentation on Jan. 28 by President Don Zillman entitled “Beyond the Carbon Economy.”

On Feb. 25, several faculty members will offer a group presentation on “Everything You Wanted to Know about On-Line Teaching but Were Afraid to Ask.” This session will be led by Drs. Mike Amey, Ray Rice, Alice Sheppard, and Jing Qi, and instructor Wendy Ross. On March 25, Dr. Harold Jones will lead a presentation on “Developing a Psychological Basis for Teaching Methods: Dream or Reality?”

The purpose of the Faculty Noon Seminar Series is to foster awareness of research and teaching activities taking place on campus and to provide a forum for dissemination between faculty members. As a campus-wide forum, students, faculty, and administrative staff are invited to present their work during the seminar series. For more information call 768-9749.

UMF’s AEWC Receives Award for Composite Building Material

ORONO – For the second year in a row, the University of Maine’s Advanced Structures & Composites Center has been recognized as an industry leader by the American Composites Manufacturers Association.

This year the Center took home the American Composites Excellence Award for Most Creative Application for its blast resistant building construction material. This is the top composites conference in North America and was attended by about 3,000 industry representatives. The ACE Award is presented for the most creative application of composite materials.

The building panels developed at UMaine are intended for use by the Army for modular building structures that are blast and disaster resistant. The technology involves a coating applied to wood that allows it to absorb five to seven times more energy in a blast or in a hurricane.

County Artist’s Work on Display at UMFK Gallery

FORT KENT – UMFK’s Blake Library gallery is exhibiting a collection of acrylic paintings celebrating the sacred feminine experience entitled “Femme Divine,” by Aroostook County native, Andrea Peterson through February 28.

Much of Peterson’s work comes from the incarnation of the landscape as the Mother Earth’s body.

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UMFK Hosts Firefighting Course

FORT KENT – UMFK is hosting a 32-hour wildland firefighting training course in February. The training course is free and is offered cooperatively between the Maine Forest Service and UMFK.

Upon completion of the course, students receive nationwide federal wildland firefighter credentials. The course is designed to provide students with the core competencies needed to safely and effectively perform the tasks required of a wildland firefighter. The course is taught by rangers with the Maine Forest Service and covers areas including fire behavior, tools and equipment, safety, firefighter preparedness, suppression, securing the line, mapping, hazardous materials, and fire survival. In addition to this course, an outdoor eight-hour exercise consisting of fire exercise, pumps, helicopter safety, hand tools, radios, and hands-on fire shelter is being planned for this spring.

One of the works featured at UMFK’s exhibit is “Her Memory Garden II” by Sissy Bux.

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