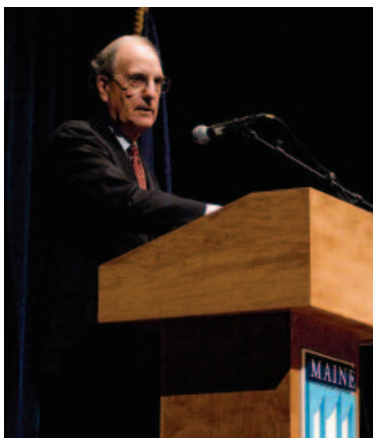


Making a Difference

A monthly sampler of educational, cultural, and economic contributions of Maine's public universities



George J. Mitchell

Former Senator Mitchell, Environmental Scholar Tucker at UMaine

ORONO – George Mitchell, the former U.S. Senate Majority Leader for whom UMaine's Sen. George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research is named, spoke at the second UMaine Sen.

George J. Mitchell Lecture on the Environment. Mary Evelyn Tucker, Ph.D., an expert on the role of religion and religious movements in confronting environmental issues, presented the lecture, "The Environmental Crisis as a Moral and Spiritual Challenge."

UMaine's Mitchell Center is an interdisciplinary unit, focusing on environmental research, graduate education and outreach. It was formed and named for Sen. Mitchell in 2000.

Education Policy Speakers Featured at UMM

MACHIAS – UMM will be hosting several education policy speakers this fall in recognition of the teacher education roots of the institution as it approaches its centennial next year.

The first speaker will be Stephen Bowen, the director of the Center for Education Excellence at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Bowen will speak on school choice and education reform efforts on Thursday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. A public question and answer discussion session will follow his talk.

Bowen taught in middle and high schools for ten years before joining The Maine Heritage Policy Center in 2007. In 2002, he was elected to the first of two terms in the Maine House of Representatives, representing Camden and Rockport. He has a B.A. in Political Science from Drew University and a Masters of Education from George Mason University.

Bowen will be followed by Maine Education Commissioner (and University of Maine System trustee) Susan Gendron on October 29 at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 255-1242.

UMA Presents Nationally Acclaimed Chamber Music/Theater Performance

AUGUSTA – The award-winning The Core Ensemble, along with stage and film actress Georgina Corbo, will be presenting two free performances of their nationally acclaimed *Tres Vidas* at UMA's Augusta and Bangor campuses on September 26 - 27.

A unique production that combines chamber music with theater, *Tres Vidas* celebrates the life, times, and work of three Latin and South American women: painter Frida Kahlo of Mexico, peasant activist Rufina Amaya of El Salvador, and poet Alfonsina Storni of Argentina

Corbo's performance is backed by the cello, piano, and percussion instrumental of the Florida-based The Core Ensemble. The Ensemble was the recipient of the 2000 Eugene McDermott Award for Excellence in the Arts, and has received support from the State of Florida Department of Cultural Affairs, New England Foundation for the Arts, Palm Beach County Cultural Council, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Virgil Thomson Foundation.

For more information visit:
www.uma.edu/tresvidas.html.



Tres Vidas

UMFK Conducts Environmental Speakers Series

FORT KENT – UMFK's Academic Outreach Office and the Environmental Studies program will host four speakers for its Environmental Speakers Series during the fall semester.

The series began in mid-September. Some of the topics include: Achieving Environmental Protection Through Product Stewardship; Theology & Environmentalism; Sustainable Management in the Acadian Forest Region; and Wildland Fire – Ecology & Management.

In addition to the series, on November 11 Ed Pontbriand, a Schoodic district ranger at Acadia National Park, will present a documentary film entitled "Thin Green Line." The documentary takes viewers around the world and illustrates the hard work, dedication, and danger involved in being a park ranger.

For more information call 834-7835 or visit:
<http://www.umfk.maine.edu/academics/outreach>



May 15, 1997: Longtime gay rights activist Dale McCormick celebrates as Gov. Angus King signs "An Act to End Discrimination." The late State Sen. Joel Abromson, the bill's sponsor, is directly behind the governor. This photograph will be included in USM's Sampson Center for Diversity exhibit. Photograph by Annette Dragon, Annette Dragon Papers, LGBT Collection, Sampson Center.

USM Sampson Center Honors Dale McCormick

PORTLAND – USM's Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine will present its second annual Catalyst for Change Award to Dale McCormick of Augusta, founder and first president of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, now Equality Maine. McCormick will receive the award at a reception and program on October 6 in Portland. The event is free and open to the public.

McCormick is being recognized for her efforts to fight for jobs, economic justice and healthcare for all, human rights, and equality for women. She has been the Director of Maine Housing (Maine State Housing Authority) since 2005. Prior to becoming Maine Housing director, she served as the first woman Treasurer of the State of Maine for eight years. She also served as a State Senator in the Maine Legislature and founded an organization called Women Unlimited that trains women on welfare for high-paying jobs in the trades and technical fields.

On this date, the Sampson Center also will open its annual exhibition, "Diversity at the Ballot Box: Electoral Politics and Maine's Minority Communities, Post-WWII to the Present" which is at USM's Glickman Family Library, running through January 23. The exhibit examines how Maine's African American, Jewish, and LGBT minorities have both benefited and been hampered in their efforts to gain civil rights and to ensure their social and economic welfare through the political system.

Gallery talks for groups can be arranged by calling 780-4269.

UMaine Launches New England's First Intermedia MFA Program

ORONO – UMaine is now home to the region's only master of fine arts degree program in Intermedia. The program was approved in September by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

The student-driven program will blend arts courses with research in areas including but not limited to environmental studies, engineering, business, social sciences, and new media. The term Intermedia was originally coined by Fluxus artist Dick Higgins, who believed that the most interesting work of his time was happening across and between the traditional borders of artistic media — where painting and film come together, for example. UMaine's approach to Intermedia takes the concept a step further.

Faculty will soon start to review portfolios for the inaugural class, which began this fall. This initial group of 18 students is almost twice the size initially intended for the class. However, interest has been so strong and the applicants so qualified that the class size was expanded to accommodate them. More information on the program can be found here: www.intermediamfa.org

UMF Launches New Academic Year with Seventh Annual Celebration of Community Service

FARMINGTON – UMF held its seventh annual "Month of Service" celebration of community service. Developed to help campus members get to know each other and the community, this year's program took place at local schools, churches, public service providers, and non-profit agencies.

Building on the success of the University's Day of Service from previous years, this year's event has grown from a single Saturday to three Saturdays in September. More than 150 students take part in the September program, providing more than 450 hours of volunteer service.

Some of this year's projects take place at several of the worksites from last year's program, including local schools, Farmington Baptist Church, Farmington Fairgrounds, Franklin County Animal Shelter, and the Healthy Community Coalition's Hope Community Garden. New volunteer opportunities will include: stocking shelves at both the Wilton and Care and Share food closets; caring for abandoned horses at the Double B Equine Rescue Corporation, in Industry; completing maintenance work at the Farmington Public Library and Recreation Department, SAVES and the Ski Museum of Maine; trail maintenance at Titcomb Mountain and the Clifford Trails, in cooperation with the Farmington Rotary; working with community members at Old South Church, Pierce House and the United Way; and more.



UMaine Student Leaders Volunteer at Community Agencies

ORONO – A group of University of Maine student leaders provided community service at six local agencies. The students, all resident assistants in UMaine residence halls, volunteered at the

following agencies: Bangor Humane Society, Manna Ministries, Crossroads, River Coalition, Hands of Hope, and the Bangor Homeless Shelter. UMaine officials hope this will lead to even stronger relationships and an increase in student volunteerism during the academic year.

The university documents 55,000 student volunteer hours contributed during the 2007-2008 academic year, but the actual number is much higher.

UMA Prepares for Baccalaureate Nursing Program

AUGUSTA – Students and faculty of the University of Maine at Augusta's nursing program are moving to new space at the Augusta Civic Center to consolidate the nursing program.

In January 2009, the nursing program will expand to a bachelor's degree program. Last May, UMA's request to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing was approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

UMA's nursing program enrolls 140 students, and will be the only institution in the central Maine area to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing. Courses not previously offered at UMA will be included in the bachelor's degree program including: nursing research and pharmacology, community health, and nursing leadership and management.



Poet Cate Marvin

UMF Kicks Off Visiting Writers Series with Award-Winning Poet

FARMINGTON – University of Maine at Farmington's Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program presented award-winning poet Cate Marvin as the first reader in its 2007-08 Visiting Writers Series. Marvin read from her work in mid September.

A recent Whiting Award recipient and 2007 New York Foundation for the Arts Gregory Millard Fellow, she teaches poetry writing in Lesley University's Low-Residency M.F.A. Program and is an associate professor in creative writing at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York.

USM Reiki Study Seeking Older Adults

PORTLAND – USM researchers and graduate students conducting a study titled, "Reiki: Energy Medicine for Older Adults," are looking for adults 60 or older who are experiencing depression, anxiety, and/or pain and wish to participate in a complementary and alternative approach to maintaining optimum health.

Reiki, a light touch, hands-on energy healing, is a complementary and alternative approach to healing. Thirty-minute sessions will be held for eight weeks at USM in Portland beginning in early October. The intervention is limited to 20 participants and is free of charge. Ten participants will be randomly assigned to the experimental group and receive the intervention immediately and ten participants will be randomly assigned to the wait-listed control group and will receive the intervention at a later date.

All participants will be screened for eligibility prior to admission into the project. For more information about the intervention and to enroll, phone 780-4646.

Warhol Exhibit Debuts at UMPI

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI is hosting the debut exhibition in Maine of recently gifted Andy Warhol photographs with the exhibition *Andy*, which will be on public display starting in September through October 11.



The Owl, a Polaroid photograph by Andy Warhol. Copyright Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc

Last spring, UMPI received 153 silver gelatin prints and Polaroid photographs - valued at more than \$100,000 - from the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program. The University is one of three institutions in Maine, along with the University of Maine and Colby College, to receive such a gift. UMPI's Reed Fine Art Gallery will be the first in Maine to put these

photographs on display for public viewing.

The exhibit includes 22 framed Warhol photographs, including portraits of Wayne Gretzky, Warhol's treasured assistant Pat Hackett, and Warhol's black and white print "Owl" also will be on display — an owl serves as the University's mascot.

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., has donated more than 28,500 original Warhol photographs — valued in excess of \$28 million — to 183 college and university art museums across the U.S. through its Photographic Legacy Program, in honor of the foundation's 20th anniversary. The Program hopes to provide greater access to Warhol's artwork and process, and to enable a wide range of people from communities across the country to view and study this body of Warhol's work.

UMaine Students Provide Health Education to Aroostook Schoolchildren, Migrant Workers

ORONO – A dozen University of Maine students planning careers in healthcare, dentistry, and optometry spent four days doing volunteer work, providing health education programs to Northern Maine migrant workers and children in rural and underserved communities in Aroostook County.

This is the third year UMaine's Health and Legal Professions Advising Office has sent students north as part of the university's community outreach initiatives and to expose students to rural areas in the state that are underserved by healthcare professionals.

Students typically meet with 200-300 students in Headstart and area elementary and middle schools, and about 150 migrant workers on broccoli farms over the four days. They also visited Northern Maine high school students to encourage them to consider careers in healthcare and medicine.

Students visited schools, community centers and farm worker communities in Caribou, Presque Isle, Ashland, Limestone, Fort Kent, Wallagrass, Wisdom, Eagle Lake, Westfield, and Little Feathers.

UMM to Host Open House



MACHIAS – UMM will host an open house for the public on Friday, September 26, from 3-5 p.m.

The open house kicks off homecoming for UMM and is also a thank you to the voters of Maine who supported last

November's referendum that resulted in UMM receiving bond monies to fund recent renovations. The renovations to 48 year old Torrey Hall and the 33 year old Science Building represented \$2.3 million in construction costs. Work on the buildings was completed by Oak Point Associates of Biddeford and Pizzagalli Construction Company of Portland.

As part of Friday's celebration, there will be a welcome and opening remarks at 3:00 p.m. in Science Room 102, and then ribbon cuttings for both the Science Building and Torrey Hall. Tours, led by UMM's Student Ambassadors, will showcase work that was done over the summer to the Science Building, Torrey Hall, and the Game Room in Kimball Hall. The tours will also include a stop at the Book Arts Studio, located on the ground floor of Dorward Hall.

"Waking Up" the French Language in the Valley

FORT KENT – In mid-September, St. John Valley residents were invited to return to their roots and "wake up" their French, whether they grew up hearing French but never learned to speak it, or if they have lost the ability to speak it.

The week-long French-language revival project was funded through a grant from the Libra Foundation, and was organized by the University's Academic Outreach Office, the Acadian Archives, and the Education and French departments, in partnership with the Penobscot School, a Rockland-based center for language learning and cultural exchange. The project explored collaborative efforts that engaged individuals and agencies with similar goals in order to better understand their French heritage language and how to revitalize its utilization in the community.

Some of the objectives of the Libra Foundation grant are to renew people's self-confidence and pride in their French heritage, provide resources and information on language re-acquisition, and to empower individuals within the community to become facilitators of this effort.

University System Trustees Submit Budget Request to Governor

BANGOR – The University of Maine System Board of Trustees voted on September 15 to approve a two-year university budget request for consideration as part of the State of Maine's fiscal year 2010-11 biennial budget package.

The university's two-year budget plan is structured on a combination of continuing the System's self-imposed \$19.1 million reduction in System-wide operating costs, along with a 4.5 percent annual increase in State appropriation and a tuition increase that university officials hope to keep below six percent.

Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude noted the importance of holding the line on tuition and doing everything possible to keep higher education accessible and affordable for students and their families.

Currently, the State's appropriation for the University System's current operation is \$186.0 million. That amount represents 36 percent of the university system's total unrestricted operation budget, which excludes grants, contracts, and other dedicated funds. In its two-year budget request, the University System seeks an \$8.5 million increase (a 4.5 percent increase) for FY10 and an additional \$8.7 million (4.5 percent increase) in FY11. The Legislature will approve the final State biennial budget in the first half of 2009 and the proposed rate of tuition increase will not be acted on until that time.