UMaine President, Scientist Offer First-ever Course on Climate & Energy
PRESQUE ISLE — UMaine President Don Zillman and Dave Putnam, chair of the School of Science and Mathematics, are co-teaching “Climate, Environment, and Energy,” a 15-week course that tackles the science and history of the earth’s climate system, the human impact upon it, and the economics of the environmental concerns that have followed.

It is the first course offered at UMaine which deals with the science, law, and policy connected with the world’s energy situation.

The course was designed as part of a University of Maine System initiative and based on campus desire to discuss the crucial issues of climate change, energy supply, and environmental protection.

St. John Valley Elementary Students
Flock to UMFK Acadian Archives

FORT KENT — Elementary students from across northern Aroostook County are visiting the UMFK Acadian Archives to tour the Marcella Belanger Violleau exhibit and to participate in learning activities. The exhibit was in place for the month of February.

UMaine Business School Team Named National Competition Semifinalist

ORONO — The UMaine student chapter of the American Marketing Association has been named one of eight semifinalists in the nation’s top business schools analyzing a hypothetical business presentation competition.

Team members are: Morgan Bickford of Lebanon (chair); Bethany Brown of Farmington; Heather Conary of Farmingdale; Emin Okutan of Ankara, Turkey; Julie Perley of Kittery; and Rachel Tabert Fox of Foxcroft School.

Every piece of art submitted for “A Matter of Perception” in 2008 will be shown at least once at one of the 11 displays statewide.

UMaine Business School Team Named National Competition Semifinalist

ORONO — The UMaine student chapter of the American Marketing Association has been named one of eight semifinalists in the nation’s top business schools analyzing a hypothetical business presentation competition.

Team members are: Morgan Bickford of Lebanon (chair); Bethany Brown of Farmington, Heather Conary of Farmingdale; Emin Okutan of Ankara, Turkey; Julie Perley of Kittery; and Rachel Tabert Fox of Foxcroft School.

Every piece of art submitted for “A Matter of Perception” in 2008 will be shown at least once at one of the 11 displays statewide.

UMaine Business School Team Named National Competition Semifinalist

ORONO — The UMaine student chapter of the American Marketing Association has been named one of eight semifinalists in the nation’s top business schools analyzing a hypothetical business presentation competition.

Team members are: Morgan Bickford of Lebanon (chair); Bethany Brown of Farmington, Heather Conary of Farmingdale; Emin Okutan of Ankara, Turkey; Julie Perley of Kittery; and Rachel Tabert Fox of Foxcroft School.

Every piece of art submitted for “A Matter of Perception” in 2008 will be shown at least once at one of the 11 displays statewide.

UMaine Business School Team Named National Competition Semifinalist

ORONO — The UMaine student chapter of the American Marketing Association has been named one of eight semifinalists in the nation’s top business schools analyzing a hypothetical business presentation competition.

Team members are: Morgan Bickford of Lebanon (chair); Bethany Brown of Farmington, Heather Conary of Farmingdale; Emin Okutan of Ankara, Turkey; Julie Perley of Kittery; and Rachel Tabert Fox of Foxcroft School.

Every piece of art submitted for “A Matter of Perception” in 2008 will be shown at least once at one of the 11 displays statewide.
UMA Architecture Students Have Designs on Hallowell Waterfront
AUGUSTA – Seven teams of students from UMA’s architecture program presented a variety of waterfront designs for consideration by Hallowell’s waterfront advisory committee and town residents. The town’s response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

These design projects create a great opportunity for our students to take what they learn in the classroom and create something for the outside world. It provides them with tremendous experience,” explained assistant architecture professor Eric Stark.

Stark and his students were asked by the chair of the waterfront committee to put together proposals which took into consideration the historical context of the site, and incorporate a performance space, a waterfront path, a public restroom facility, parking, and other elements.

UMaine Engineers Unveil Blast-Resistant Wood Building Technology
ORONO – New technology developed at the University of Maine, has led to the construction of a prototype blast-resistant wood building at the university’s Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center which was unveiled at a press conference held at UMaine on February 19.

UMaine engineers, including undergraduate and graduate students, constructed the building inside the AEWC facility AEWC technology, including a design methodology and coating treatments applied to the construction material, gives the building properties that will allow it to withstand blasts and severe weather. This construction has potential applications for military troop deployments, homeland security, and hurricane-resistant construction.

This project follows the AEWC development of ballistic tent panels for the U.S. Army. The prototype version of those panels, which go inside tents and protect soldiers living in combat situations from nearby blasts, was presented to the Army last year. That technology was recognized for the American Composites Manufacturers Association as the “Best of the Best,” signifying its status as the top composites technology innovation in the world in 2007.

Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Senator Susan Collins, and Representative Michael Michaud were on hand for the event.

UMFK Offers Programs for Future French Teachers
FORT KENT – UMFK announced in February that it will offer an integrated French-language education program beginning this fall which will allow students to complete a major in French and a minor in education, each tailored specifically to French teachers.

Students also will complete a semester of student teaching and graduate with a teaching certificate in French. The program is offered, part of UMFK’s response to the critical need for language teachers in both the Unites States and Canada.

The French-language education courses will take students out into the field, allowing them the unique experience of conversing in French in the St. John Valley, as well as in neighboring Canada. For their student teaching experience, students may choose to be in a local or Canadian high school, or in a nearby elementary French immersion program.

UMM’s Winter Carnival – A Downeast Community Gathering
MACHIAS – Students and families across the region participated in UMM’s Winter Carnival held February 2.

UMM recreation management students organized several snow events on the campus mall area including snow kick-ball, ice bowling, an obstacle course, a tug-of-war, snow doughball, and cross country ski team events. Hot chocolate and cookies were served, as well as a festive community meal at Kilburn Commons. The festivities culminated with fireworks in the evening.

Pelleter, UMPI’s Writer-in-Residence, Offers Reading
PRESQUE ISLE – Author Cathie Pelleter performed a reading and signing at UMPI from her recently completed manuscript in mid-February. The event also included a question and answer session and a book signing.

Pelleter, who is UMPI’s Writer-in-Residence, is also an award-winning novelist, screenwriter, and literary agent who was born and raised in Allagash.

As part of the residence program, she is offering two 8-week courses for the campus community. In delivering the courses, Pelleter brings her wide-ranging experiences as a writer. She has written nine novels – two of which have been turned into movies.

UMA Law Enforcement Expert Speaks at International Conference in Asia
AUGUSTA – Assistant professor of criminal justice Richard Mears was one of a number of law enforcement experts from across the globe who spoke at a conference titled, “Law Enforcement, Human Rights and Global Security: Experiences in Uzbekistan and Other Countries” held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Mears also made a presentation at a conference in the Uzbek city of Bukhara. The conferences were sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Institute for New Democracies and the Uzbek Foundation for Regional Policy.

Mears, a national community policing expert, spoke about the successful techniques involved in establishing a community policing program. He also spoke on the topics of crisis prevention and crisis management.

“Cathie Pelleter

In a Portland Press Herald article, Mears noted, “As the world gets smaller, we spend more time interacting with other organizations and other cultures.”

USM and UM Host Junior Achievement—Bank of America Titan™ Challenge
PORTLAND – In late February thirty teams of high school students competed in the Junior Achievement—Bank of America Titan Challenge, which paired teams of three high school students and one volunteer business advisor against each other to see who would run the most profitable company.

Twenty teams from York, Androscoggin, and Cumberland counties competed at USM’s Glickman Family Library on the Portland campus, while 10 teams from Penobscot County competed in the Foster Innovation Center at the University of Maine in Orono.

Portland. USM’s School of Business L.L. Bean Lee Surrace Endowed Chair of Accounting hosted the competition with assistance from USM’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team. In Orono, the Foster Innovation Center was host with SIFE students from Maine Maritime Academy assisting.

UTC, UMaine Students Prepare for Robotics Competition
ORONO — High school students from the United Technologies Center in Bangor and their engineering student mentors from the UMaine Robotics Club are teaming up for a second year to build a robot as part of the 2008 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition to be held in March at Boston University.

Beginning with a common kit of basic parts – but no instructions – the 15-member team has only about six weeks to design, build, program, and test its robot, which will be shipped to Boston after its public unveiling. There, the robot – 30 pounds, 4-feet tall, with an arm that can reach 8-feet high – will race competitors around a track and earn points by manipulating large inflated balls.

This year’s competition will involve more than 37,500 high school students from every U.S. state as well as Brazil, Canada, Chile, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The championship will be held in Atlanta in April.

Binnacle’s Ultra-Short Competition Deadline is March 15
MACHIAS – The University of Maine at Machias is hosting the fifth annual Ultra-Short competition, which has attracted considerable international interest among writers and poets.

The best of the contest entries end up in The Binnacle, UME’s literary and arts magazine. It’s open to writers in Washington County and Maine, as well as from around the globe. Interested writers of short narrative of fewer than 150 words, and poetry of 16 lines or fewer, are welcome to submit their works. Prizes will be awarded in May for both categories.

More than 300 submissions have been received from 18 states, 10 countries, four continents, as well as from students on campus. More information is available at www.umm.maine.edu/binnacle.

Cathie Pelleter

Momentum Aroostook and UMPPI Offer Young Professionals Institute
PRESQUE ISLE – Momentum Aroostook and the University of Maine at Presque Isle are teaming up to provide the area’s young professionals with a one-of-a-kind leadership development opportunity.

The two entities will host the Young Professionals Institute, a professional development short course designed specifically for emerging leaders looking to hone their professional skills. The pilot program will be offered at the University during five afternoon sessions between March and April.

Participants in the Young Professionals Institute will learn through role-playing scenarios and hands-on activities how to write eye-catching proposals, deliver successful oral presentations, use best practices in written communication, and work effectively with the media.

The Institute will be facilitated by President Don Zillman, members of Momentum Aroostook, and several local business and community leaders, who are excited about the course and how it has been tailored for young professionals.

Momentum Aroostook received financial support from UMPI and MMG Insurance. Celebrating the sponsorship are: Jay Trainer, UMPI board member; President Don Zillman; Nathan Berry, UMPI board chairman; Matt McHatten, senior vice president with MMG Insurance; and Sarah Fischer, UMPI board member.

Farmington Features Presentation as part of African-Americans in Maine Lecture Series
FARMINGTON – As a part of its year-long series on Africa and African-Americans in Maine, UMF featured the lecture “Malaga Island — The Destruction of an African-American Community” in mid-February.

The presentation was made by Rachel Talbot Ross, director of the office of Equal Opportunity & Multicultural Affairs for the City of Portland; and Nathan Hamilton,
UMA Architecture Students Have Designs on Hallowell Waterfront

AUGUSTA – Seven teams of students from UMA's architecture program presented a variety of waterfront designs for consideration by Hallowell's waterfront advisory committee and town residents. The town's response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

These new projects provide a great opportunity for our students to take what they learn in the classroom and create something for the outside world. It provides them with tremendous experience," explained assistant architecture professor Eric Stark.

Stark and his students were asked by the chair of the waterfront committee to put together proposals which took into consideration the historical context of the site, and incorporate a performance space, a waterfront path, a public restroom facility, parking, and other elements.

UMaine Engineers Unveil Blast-Resistant Wood Building Technology

ORONO – New technology, developed at the University of Maine, has led to the construction of a prototype blast-resistant wood building at the university's Advanced Engineered Wood Composites (AEWC) Center which was unveiled at a press conference held at UMaine on February 19.

UMaine engineers, including undergraduate and graduate students, constructed the building inside the AEWC facility AEWC technology, including a design methodology and coating treatments applied to the construction material, gives the building properties that will allow it to withstand blasts and severe weather. This construction has potential applications for military troop deployments, homeland security, and hurricane-resistant construction.

This project follows the AEWC development of ballistic tent panels for the U.S. Army. The prototype version of those panels, which go inside tents and protect soldiers living in combat situations from nearby blasts, was presented to the Army last year. That technology was recognized for the American Composites Manufacturing Association as the “Best of the Best,” signifying its status as the top composites technology innovation in the world in 2007.

Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Senator Susan Collins, and Representative Michael Michaud were on hand for the event.

UMFK Offers Programs for Future French Teachers

FORT KENT – UMFK announced in February that it will offer an integrated French-language education program beginning this fall which will allow students to complete a major in French and a minor in education; each tailored specifically to French teachers.

Students also will complete a semester of student teaching and graduate with a teaching certificate in French. The program is offered, part of a growing need for language teachers in both the Unites States and Canada.

The French-language education courses will take students out into the field, allowing them the unique experience of conversing in French in the St. John Valley, as well as in neighboring Canada. For their student teaching experience, students may choose to be in a local or Canadian high school, or in a nearby elementary French immersion program.

UMM’s Winter Carnival – A Downeast Community Gathering

MACHIAS – Students and families across the region participated in UMM’s Winter Carnival held February 2.

UMM recreation management students organized several snow events on the campus mall area including snow kickball, ice bowling, an obstacle course, a tug-of-war, snow gooseball, and cross country ski team events. Hot chocolate and cookies were served, as well as a festive community meal at Kilburn Commons. The festivities culminated with fireworks in the evening.

Pelletier, UMPI's Writer-in-Residence, Performs Reading

PRESQUE ISLE – Author Cathie Pelletier performed a reading at UMPI from her recently completed manuscript in mid-February. The event also included a question and answer session and a book signing.

Pelletier, who is UMPI’s Writer-in-Residence, is also an award-winning novelist, screenwriter, and literary agent who was born and raised in Allagash.

As part of the residence program, she is offering two 8-week courses for the campus and community. In delivering the courses, Pelletier brings her wide-ranging experiences as a writer. She has written nine novels – two of which have been turned into movies.

UMA Law Enforcement Expert Speaks at International Conference in Asia

AUGUSTA – Assistant professor of criminal justice Richard Mears was one of a number of law enforcement experts from across the globe who spoke at a conference titled, “Law Enforcement, Human Rights and Global Security: Experiences in Uzbekistan and Other Countries” held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Mears also made a presentation at a conference in the Uzbek city of Bukhara. The conferences were sponsored by Eastern Kentucky University, along with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Institute for New Democracies and the Uzbek Foundation for Regional Policy.

Mears, a national community policing expert, spoke about the successful techniques involved in establishing a community policing program. He also spoke on the topics of crisis prevention and crisis management.

In a Portland Press Herald article, Mears noted, “As the world gets smaller, we spend more time interacting with other organizations and other cultures.”

USM and UHMS Host Junior Achievement—Bank of America Titan Challenge

PORTLAND – In late February thirty teams of high school students competed in the Junior Achievement—Bank of America Titan Challenge, which paired teams of three high school students and one volunteer business leader against each other to see who would run the most profitable company.

Twenty teams from York, Androscoggin, and Cumberland counties competed at USM’s Glickman Family Library on the Portland campus, while 10 teams from Penobscot County competed in the Foster Innovation Center at the University of Maine in Orono.

In Portland, USM’s School of Business L L Bean LEE Surface Endowed Chair of Accounting hosted the competition with assistance from USM’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team. In Orono, the Foster Innovation Center was hosted with SIFE students from Maine Maritime Academy.

UTC, UMaine Students Prepare for Robotics Competition

ORONO – High school students from the United Technologies Center in Bangor and their engineering student mentors from the UMaine Robotics Club are teaming up for a second year to build a robot as part of the 2008 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition to be held in March at Boston University.

Beginning with a common kit of basic parts – but no instructions – the 15-member team has only about six weeks to design, build, program, and test its robot, which will be shipped to Boston after its public unveiling. There, the robot – 130 pounds, 4-feet tall, with an arm that can reach 8-feet high – will race competitors around a track and earn points by manipulating large inflated balls.

This year’s competition will involve more than 37,500 high school students from every U.S. state as well as Brazil, Canada, Chile, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The championship will be held in Atlanta in April.

Binnacle’s Ultra-Short Competition

Deadline is March 15

MACHIAS – The University of Maine at Machias is hosting the fifth annual Ultra-Short competition, which has attracted considerable international interest among writers and poets.

The best of the contest entries end up in The Binnacle, UMaine at Machias’ annual arts magazine. It’s open to writers in Washington County and Maine, as well as from around the globe. Interested writers of short narrative of fewer than 150 words, and poetry of 16 lines or fewer, are welcome to submit their works.

Prizes will be awarded in May for both categories.

More than 300 submissions have been received from 18 states, 10 countries, four continents, as well as from students on campus. More information is available at www.umm.maine.edu/binnacle.

Momentum Aroostook and UMPI Offer Young Professionals Institute

PRESQUE ISLE – Momentum Aroostook and the University of Maine at Presque Isle are teaming up to provide the area’s young professionals with a one-of-a-kind leadership development opportunity.

The two entities will host the Young Professionals Institute, a professional development short course designed specifically for emerging leaders looking to hone their professional skills. The pilot program will be offered at the University during five afternoon sessions between March and April.

Participants in the Young Professionals Institute will learn through role-playing scenarios and hands-on activities to how write eye-catching proposals, deliver successful oral presentations, use best practices in written communication, and work effectively with the media.

The Institute will be facilitated by President Don Zillman, members of Momentum Aroostook, and several local business and community leaders, who are excited about the course and how it has been tailored for young professionals.

Momentum Aroostook received financial support from UMPI and MMG Insurance. Celebrating the sponsorship are: Jay Trainer, mA board member; President Don Zillman; Nathan Berry, mA board chairman; Matt Michtten, senior vice president with MMG Insurance; and Sarah Fischer, mA board member.

Farmington Features Presentation as part of African-Americans in Maine Lecture Series

FARMINGTON – As a part of its year-long series on African and African-Americans in Maine, UMFM featured the lecture “Malagia Island — The Destruction of an African-American Community” in mid-February.

The presentation was made by Rachel Talbot Ross, director of the office of Equal Opportunity & Multicultural Affairs for the City of Portland; and Nathan Hamilton,
UMaine Business School Team Named National Competition Semifinalist

ORONO – The UMaine student chapter of the American Marketing Association has been named one of eight semifinalist teams in one of the nation’s most prestigious college business presentation competitions.

Team members are: Morgan Bickford of Lebanon (chair); Cathy Haddad of Augusta; Corey McCombs of Skowhegan; and Bethany Brown of Farmington.

The case competition involved students from more than 80 universities. The UMaine team presented their project solution to a panel of judges.

Malagasian Island, located in Casco Bay near Portland, is home to the African-American community on Malaga Island.

Dr. Mohammad Sharrad, professor of history and Middle Eastern studies, will be giving a presentation on the events that led to the American Revolution’s beginning.

Older people who have been living on their own may have a higher risk of becoming frail, according to a study by the University of Kentucky.

Students majoring in everything from science to criminal justice are taking part in the highly interdisciplinary course. The class offers components of geology, earth sciences, chemistry, economics and political science.

UMaine Professor Dr. Carmen Caporiccio, chair of the School of Science and Mathematics, is working with students to promote improved accessibility within Maine’s cultural facilities.

Promoting improved accessibility within Maine’s arts and cultural facilities is the goal of a new program.

The program’s goals are to provide an opportunity for students to exhibit their work, to increase awareness within the general population about the creativity and talent of people with disabilities, and to promote improved accessibility within Maine’s arts and cultural facilities.

Every piece of art submitted for “A Matter of Perception” in 2008 will be shown at least once at one of the 11 displays statewide.

The eight semifinalist teams will receive award plaques and will be invited to present at the upcoming American Marketing Association National Competition.

St. John Valley Elementary Students Flock to UMFK Academic Archives

FORT KENT – Elementary students from across northern Aroostook County are visiting the UMFK Academic Archives to tour the Marcella Belanger Violette exhibit and to participate in learning activities. The exhibit was in place for the month of February.

The students were learning about the importance of being a responsible, involved citizen and were introduced to the idea of being a lifelong learner.

Families of Yesterday and Today: students were asked to talk with an older family member or friend, for example a grandparent, about what it was like when he/she was a child, and what and how things have changed over the years.

Information from the Past: students selected items from the local newspaper and shared why the picture or story chosen was important to them and how it captures history.

The Acadian People: students learned about the French vocabulary words associated with land, farm, family, and life.

Malagasian Island, located in Casco Bay near Portland, is home to the African-American community on Malaga Island.

Dr. Mohammad Sharrad, professor of history and Middle Eastern studies, will be giving a presentation on the events that led to the American Revolution’s beginning.

Older people who have been living on their own may have a higher risk of becoming frail, according to a study by the University of Kentucky.

Students majoring in everything from science to criminal justice are taking part in the highly interdisciplinary course. The class offers components of geology, earth sciences, chemistry, economics and political science.

The course was created as part of a University of Maine System initiative and based on campus desire to discuss the crucial issues of climate change, energy supply, and environmental protection.

UMPI President, Scientist Offer First-ever Course on Climate & Energy

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI President Don Zillman and Dave Putnam, chair of the School of Science and Mathematics, are co-teaching “Climate, Environment, and Energy,” a 15-week course that tackles the science and history of the earth’s climate system, the human impact upon it, and the economics of the environmental concerns that have followed.

It is the first course offered at UMPI which deals with the science, law, and policy connected with the world’s energy situation.

American Indians have made major contributions to cutting-edge science, with Nobel Prize winners from Harvard, MIT, UC Berkeley, and Stanford.

The university is seeking to better serve its Indigenous students, and is working to enhance its research capacity in the areas of Indigenous studies and science.

The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 20 percent since preindustrial times.

The annual mean concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increased by 4.1 parts per million between 2007 and 2008.

The average concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is currently estimated to be 393 parts per million.

In 2007, the atmosphere contained an average of 390 parts per million of carbon dioxide.

The average concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increased by 4.1 parts per million between 2007 and 2008.

Testing beam strength at AEWC

Accord to Goodell, “With the ComPRIS process we can produce very thick composite products without voids and we can do three things at once: laminate materials (such as lumber), as well as some laminate and in addition provide greater long-term durability of the final product in the environment.”

USM Site for “National Entrepreneurship Week” in Maine Events

PORTLAND – USM was the host site for several events that were part of National Entrepreneurship Week in Maine, including a celebration with special guest Thos. Moser on Wednesday, February 27, a “Pitch an Angel” event allowing participants ten minutes to pitch a business idea to possible investors, and the Junior Achievement—Bank of America’s Challenge for high school students.

Moser’s presentation took place at USM’s Abromson Center on the Portland campus, where he and others explained how Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers began as one man’s attempt to restore the lost art of fine woodworking, and how after 35 years has grown to employ nearly 100 cabinetmakers with showrooms in eight cities around the world.

Later in February, entrepreneurs signed up for informal, private sessions with several of the Maine Angel Private Equity Investment Network. Each participant had 10 minutes to pitch his or her idea and get feedback from Maine Angel members who, since 2003, have invested almost $2 million in 16 promising companies.

UMF Buildings Receive U.S. Green Building Council LEED Certification

FARMINGTON – Two newly constructed “green” buildings at University of Maine at Farmington have received official LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council.

The $8.8 million, 44,000 square-foot Education Center received LEED “silver” certification and was designed to serve as an ecological teaching tool for UMF students, K-12 students, practicing teachers and the region.

Green features include a geothermal heating system and the use of construction materials with recycled content, interior materials and furnishings that do not emit indoor pollutants and a sustainable landscape design.

Frances Allen Black Hall, UMF’s new $4.5 million residence hall, was the university’s first green building to receive LEED certification, receiving “LEED Certified” status. The 32,000 square-foot, 102-bed residence hall qualified for this distinction based on a number of green features including developing the building site with the least amount of environmental impact, using over 10 percent recycled construction materials and nearly 35 percent locally available construction materials, and increasing thermal efficiency by approximately 25 percent by using continuous rigid insulation on the building’s exterior.