**PBS Features UMaine Scientists**

ORONO – Two UMaine scientists were featured March 31 in a segment of the nationally broadcast PBS series “NOVA” called “Last Extinction.”

The segment follows prominent scientists as they explore the idea that a comet striking the Earth is to blame for the extinction of giant mammoths and other large animals and the destruction of several hunter-gatherer communities at the end of the Ice Age.

“NOVA” reports on the scientist’s latest round of research on the Greenland ice sheet, carried out by Paul Mayewski, director of UMaine’s Climate Change Institute and by Andrei Kurvatov, an assistant research professor with UMaine’s Climate Change Institute.

The hypothesis that a comet struck Earth is supported by unusual discoveries in a distinctive soil layer known as the “black mat,” found at more than 50 sites across North America.

For more information on the show, visit www.pbs.org/nova/clovis.

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**UCB Celebrates 40th Anniversary**

BANGOR – UMA’s University College of Bangor (UCB) celebrates its 40th anniversary on April 16, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Tracy R. Gran Ballroom, located at 201 Texas Avenue in Bangor.

Since the campus began offering classes in 1968, it has grown from two associate degree programs to more than nine baccalaureate degrees, eight associate degrees, and ten certificates in 2009.

Faculty, staff, students, and alums are invited to join the celebration. A photo history of the UCB and additional information may be found at: www.uma.edu/ucb40/.

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**YERT Road Trip to the UMFK Campus**

FORT KENT – UMFK’s Environmental Studies Department and the Academic Outreach Office presented Mark Dixon, originator and co-founder of YERT (“Your Environmental Road Trip”) on April 7.

The presentation, “America’s Various Approaches to Environmental Sustainability,” was part of the Spring Environmental Studies Speaker Series.

Dixon provided an evening of environmental fun and film as he shared highlights from a year’s journey of weird, wild, and wonderful approaches to sustainability all across America.

YERT is a one-year 50-state video documentary road trip to explore and personalize sustainability across the country. All throughout the journey, Mark Dixon, along with Ben and Julie Evans, released fast-paced videos on-line to share their adventures, including visits to environmentally significant destinations, and interviews with over 800 leaders, businesspeople, researchers, and average citizens from all walks of life. For more information about YERT and to follow them on their road trip visit: www.yert.com.

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**UMF Hosts Panel of Prominent Maine Women**

FARMINGTON – UMF hosted a panel discussion among prominent women leaders in Maine politics as part of a celebration of women’s history month in March. The standing-room-only event featured (left to right) Hannah Pingree, Maine Speaker of the House of Representatives; Libby Mitchell, Maine Senate President; and Julie O’Brien, former executive director of the Maine State Republican Party. The trio spoke about their experiences in politics and public service and how women’s issues have affected their career decisions.

The panel discussion was co-sponsored by the UMF Department of Social Sciences and Business and Women and Gender Studies program and several student organizations, including, the History and Political Science Clubs, UMF College Republicans, and UMF College Democrats.
UMaine Students Participate in Engineering Competitions
ORONO – Teams of UMaine engineering students have recently participated in national and regional engineering competitions:

• UMaine’s Clean Snowmobile Team ranked fifth in the 2009 Society of Automotive Engineers Clean Snowmobile Challenge in Michigan. The event is a collegiate design competition of the Society of Automotive Engineers. The team’s goal was to reduce emissions and noise while maintaining or boosting the snowmobile’s performance. This year, the internal-combustion entries adapted their engines to run on flex-fuel, with varying ratios of ethanol and gasoline.

• In addition, two UMaine ChemE Car Teams took the two highest honors at a recent race sponsored by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers at UMass Amherst. UMaine’s Blue Team finished in first place out of nine teams, stopping less than two inches from the finish line on a course of about 70 ft. Their car will make the trip in the fall to the national competition in Nashville, Tenn. The White Team finished second at a distance of about five feet from the finish line. The White team also won the Safety Award and received second place in the poster competition. The goal is to power a car by chemical means a given distance, and the winner is the car that can stop the closest to the line.

UMPI Students host Native American Appreciation Day
PRESQUE ISLE – Students from UMPI’s Native Voices group will host a day-long event meant to develop strong connections between education and the Native American culture and traditions of the area’s indigenous populations.

The group will host the second annual Native American Appreciation Day on April 17 in the Campus Center. All interested students, faculty, staff, and members of the general public are welcome to attend.

The event will serve as a way for the university and the Native American community to collaborate and will include guest speakers who will discuss higher education and Native American culture, talking circles, Maliseet and Mi’kmaq craftspeople showcasing their work, refreshments, and traditional drumming and dancing. For more information about this event, contact Jason Parlin at 227-8424.

UMF to “Power Down for the Planet”
FARMINGTON – UMF is the first college in Maine, and among the first in the nation, to sign on to participate in “Power Down for the Planet,” a national challenge designed to encourage campus communities to become involved in the fight against climate change by reducing their computer energy consumption.

The contest asks university students, faculty, and staff to commit to greener computer practices by setting computers to sleep mode when not in use. This action can prevent nearly half a ton of CO2 from entering the atmosphere and save more than $60 in annual energy costs per computer.

The contest results will be based on which campus can recruit the highest percentage of their campus members to pledge to use their computer’s power management option and to purchase Energy Star qualified computers when available. The contest website can be found at www.powerdowntotheplanet.org.

USM Offers Pre-Pharmacy Program
PORTLAND – USM is launching a pre-pharmacy program to prepare students to enter Maine’s pharmacy schools and help meet the growing need for qualified pharmacists.

The program opens fall 2009. It relies on existing courses and faculty. Student may take a concentration of courses over two years, including summers.

The course of study is referred to as a 2+4 program where students take two years of concentrated coursework to prepare for admission into a four-year college of pharmacy. USM’s pre-pharmacy program is a non-degree concentration in that it does not lead to a USM degree, but does lead to six years of study resulting in a doctorate in pharmacy.

In addition to courses in math and the sciences, it includes required courses in psychology, public speaking, and liberal arts electives. Students must take a total of 69 credits over two years, including courses in each of the two summers.

Middle School Girls Explore Math, Science Careers at UMaine
ORONO – Last month, nearly 400 girls attended UMaine’s 23rd annual “Expanding Your Horizons” program to get a look at more than a dozen math-science career fields.

With fun, hands-on experiments, students learned about: model bridge-building using popsicle stick trusses; the many surprising uses for fungi; creating a computer-generated aquifer model to see how groundwater can be contaminated; and many other activities.

“Expanding Your Horizons” is coordinated by UMaine’s Women’s Resource Center. It is a one-day event designed to increase the interest of girls in mathematics and science through hands-on experiences in university classrooms and laboratories with positive female role models active in math and science careers.


**USM Concert Showcases Graduate Students**

PORTLAND – USM’s School of Music presents the annual Graduate Student Showcase Recital on April 11, in Corbell Concert Hall, at the USM Gorham campus.

Performances include: Members of the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra, conducted by graduate conducting student Marshunda Smith of Saco, will perform “Divertimento No. 10, K. 247” by Wolfgang A. Mozart; pianist Elizabeth Noonan of Cumberland will follow with a solo performance of “Klavierstuck No. 1 in E-Flat Major, D. 946” by Franz Schubert; tenor John Coons of Corinna accompanied by Kathleen Scott, piano, will take the stage to sing “Here I Stand” and “The Rake’s Progress” by Igor Stravinsky, and “Morgen” and “Zueignung” by Richard Strauss; pianist Shirin Hunold of Gorham performing “Scherzo in B-flat Minor, Op. 31” by Frederic Chopin; three pieces by Maurice Ravel -- “Miroirs,” “La vallee des cloches,” and “Une barque sur l’océan” – will be performed by pianist Claudia Tomsa, a native of Romania and now of Portland; Daniel Cyr, a bass-baritone from Bucksport, accompanied by Kathleen Scott, piano, will perform three songs -- “O! du mein holder Abendstern” and “Tannhauser” by Richard Wagner, and “Non piu andrai” from “Le Nozze di Figaro” by Wolfgang A. Mozart; “Four Songs” by graduate composer Paul Thomas of Buxton will be performed by soprano Stephanie Gilbert, accompanied by Maya Chapman, piano. The four songs are: “Afternoon on a Hill,” “Lie-Awake Song,” “In the Rain,” and “August Moonlight”; pianist Ian Scott of Madison, Wis., will perform “Sonata in F Minor, Op. 57” by Ludwig van Beethoven.

Admission is free. Call 780-5555 for information.

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**One-woman Show at UMFK**

FORT KENT - Dr. Pamela Chabora, former UMFK professor of theater, is returning to the County with her one-woman show, The Belle of Amherst, a portrayal of poet Emily Dickinson. The UMFK performances will take place on April 13-14 in Fox Auditorium.

Chabora will perform an abbreviated version of the performance for high school and college students April 13 and then a full-scale production for the general public in the evening of April 14. Chabora, on sabbatical from her current post in the Theater Department of North Dakota State University, is touring throughout the country. Her “Maine” stops also include Unity College, UMaine, UMPI, and the Caribou Performing Arts Center.

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**UMM to Host Rainbow Ball**

MACHIAS – UMM’s 100% Society announces the 8th Annual “Bad Little Pride Week” from April 7 - 12, 2009, which features the 2nd Annual Rainbow Ball on April 11 at the Pellon Center.

The Rainbow Ball is a prom evening that includes dancing, pictures, food, and friends. The theme of this year’s event is “Life is a Cabaret” and will feature belly dancers, mask decorating, contests, and live music. All associated high school, college, youth groups, and community members are invited to attend.

Tickets for the Rainbow Ball are $15 for one and $20 for two. Admission for high school students, youth groups, and their chaperones is free. Included in the admission charge are room fees, prom tickets, and all meals. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the Bookstore and First Stop on the UMM campus. To RSVP for the Rainbow Ball or for more information, please contact Betty Kelley at bkelley@maine.edu or 255-1211.

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**High School Students to Attend World Language Day at UMPI**

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI will host more than 100 high school students and their teachers for the annual World Language Day on April 16. Students from Ashland, Mars Hill, and Presque Isle will spend the day on campus for classes in language, culture, Spanish dancing, and international games.

Faculty, staff, and students, as well as community members, will present workshops on countries and cultures including Poland, Italy, Russia, China, Niger, Mi’km’aq, Puerto Rico, Bulgaria, France, Portugal, Sweden, and Nepal.

World Language Day will provide area students with an opportunity to learn more about other nations and cultures in a fun and interactive environment. This event is supported by a $500 grant from the Maine Humanities Council.

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**USM Lecture on Genocide and Human Rights**

PORTLAND – This year’s Douglas M. Schair Memorial Lecture on Genocide and Human Rights at USM will feature speaker Ishmael Beah, a former child soldier turned human rights activist.

Beah will speak about his own experience as a child soldier in Sierra Leone and the greater effects of war on children on April 14, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in USM’s Abromson Community Education Center in Portland.

The lecture, part of the evening’s focus on “War and Reconciliation: from Child Soldiers to Community Healers,” is free and open to the public. The program will also be simulcast to the Jewett Auditorium at the University of Maine, Augusta.

For more information, call 780-5331.
UMA Juried Student Art Exhibition Debuts

AUGUSTA – UMA is offering students the opportunity and encouragement to exhibit their work in a professional setting at the Charles Danforth Gallery in Jewett Hall. From April 1-28, the exhibit will highlight UMA’s Art Program to the university, local community, and to students’ family and friends. The gallery is open from Monday through Friday. For more information, call 621-3511.

UMF Debuts Arts Center Plans

FARMINGTON – Officials at UMF recently presented design plans for the new Emery Community Arts Center (ECAC), which breaks ground later this year.

The 14,000-square-foot new facility will greatly enhance UMF’s distinctive integrated arts mission through flexible, multi-purpose spaces for both campus and community arts organizations. ECAC will feature a 100-seat multi-purpose performance space, two smaller, flexible exhibit/performance spaces, and an indoor courtyard. The barn doors in the large performance space can be open for large indoor/outdoor installations or closed for more intimate performances. This flexibility opens up new possibilities for various theatre and music performances that can be staged for outdoor theatre.

The ECAC is made possible through a $5 million-dollar gift by a generous benefactor. Since the economic crisis has substantially lowered construction costs, now is the ideal time to build Emery Community Arts Center. The total will not exceed the $5 million-dollar mark.

UMM’s MESSY Camp

MACHIAS – This summer, UMM is offering the Machias Environmental Summer Session for Youth (MESSY). Focused on environmental stewardship, MESSY is a week-long residential camp for students entering grades 7 through 9.

Campers will spend their afternoons “majoring” in Environmental Stewardship. In the major, they will adopt a local river, lake or bay and will spend the week making a short video documentary about it. They will also collect samples of marine life, make high-tech maps, and much more. During morning sessions, campers will “minor” in either creative writing and papermaking or marine science.

Campers will also have the opportunity to take part in a variety of recreational and sports activities such as hiking, canoeing, swimming, and basketball. To learn more about MESSY call 255-1289 or visit www.umm.maine.edu/messy.

UMaine Offers New MBA Scholarship/Service Plan

ORONO – UMaine’s Business School has announced a pilot scholarship opportunity for students who graduated from UMaine in May 2006 or later and meet admission standards for business graduate education.

Under the plan, those students would receive scholarships amounting to a 25 percent tuition discount in UMaine’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) or Master of Science in Accounting (MSA) programs.

This novel concept is designed to help a limited number of students navigate tough economic times or postpone entry into a tight job market.

To be eligible, MBA/MSA students must enroll full time and commit to 10 hours a week of service to the Maine Business School or in community outreach activities.

For additional details about the Maine Business School, contact the graduate office at 581-1995, or visit http://mbs.maine.edu/~mba_msa/curricula.htm.

UMS Task Force on Track

BANGOR – David T. Flanagan, chair of the 12-member New Challenges, New Directions Task Force, recently told UMS Board of Trustees that the task force “has accomplished a lot since our first meeting in early February. We have held 18 hearings throughout the university system and have received testimony, in person, from 228 individuals. We have sought written input through a special web page dedicated to this charge. We have made 42 data requests of university offices and staff.”

The next step will be to review a series of self-assessments currently being compiled by the universities, the Chancellor’s office, and centralized university services. “In May, the task force will meet with outside experts in higher education organization and governance to evaluate alternative courses of action. We expect to provide [University System Chancellor Richard L. Pattenau] with our recommendations by the beginning of July."

The task force’s role involves review and recommendations pertaining to several aspects of the university system’s operation, including the size and role of the Chancellor’s office; the structure, funding and oversight of common functions serving all universities; and funding levels, missions, and relationships among universities.

To learn more about the New Challenges, New Directions Task Force and initiative or to provide input, visit www.maine.edu/UMSTaskForce.