Officials from around The County, the State of Maine, and New England gathered at the University from Wednesday, Sept. 30 to Friday, Oct. 2 for a three-day meeting centered on the University’s Project Compass grant program and its efforts to develop and improve culturally responsive strategies for its Native American students.

The event featured a keynote address by John Bear Mitchell, the blessing of a new student center designed specifically for Native American students, and a gathering of educators and community leaders who discussed next steps for the grant program.

“This meeting marked an important milestone for the University’s Project Compass efforts and served as a recognition of how hard our community of practice group has worked to bring the program to this point,” Dr. Ray Rice, who is overseeing the grant program at UMPI, said. “We are very much looking forward to how the results of this gathering – and the brainstorming, idea sharing, and long range planning that took place – are going to benefit our Native American student population.”

The University was awarded a major grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation in January to better serve its Native American student population as well as the region’s Native American community. The award made the University eligible to receive up to $750,000 over the next four years to put toward this effort. The University was one of four univer-

Publisher of Pulitzer Prize winning paper speaks

The University hosted its second Distinguished Lecturer of the 2009-2010 academic year in early October, bringing Mike Jacobs, the editor and publisher of the Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper the Grand Forks Herald, to town for a community workshop and a public lecture.

Jacobs offered his free community workshop titled Replacing Place in Modern Communities? on Oct. 6. The next day, he delivered a Distinguished Lecture titled Just How Anxious Are We? A Report from the Field on Media in America.

Jacobs, the editor and publisher of the Grand Forks Herald in North Dakota and the recipient of several top journalism awards, brought to these events more than 40 years of...
Members of the campus and community are working together to create a new garden for the University that is tied to the local region and Native American culture.

Professors Alice Sheppard and Dave Putnam received a 2009 Project Compass Educational Mini-Grant for about $1,000 this summer to work with students and community members on the installation of representative plant specimens at a small plot near the central campus park woods. These plants are used by the region’s Native peoples in many ways, including food, healing, dyes, ceremonies, and artifacts.

Putnam is serving as supervisor of this project and Sheppard, who has been trained as a master gardener, is providing assistance, soil preparation, soil enhancement and obtaining plants. Under the guidance of Maliseet (Wolastuqiyik) elder and medicine man Rocky Bear, of the Tobique First Nation, student Jenn Prokey is studying Native Plants, designing the garden, and developing an informative brochure about it as a senior science project. According to Putnam, traditional knowledge regarding the use of the plants is coupled with a traditional ethos about how and when to gather them. Symbolic offerings of “medicines” illustrate the belief that when one takes, one must give, and when one disturbs a living thing, it must be done in “a good way.”

Dr. Robert Pinette also is supporting the creation of the garden, consulting on the identification and plant habitats. Community partners Jeanie McGowan and MaryAnn McHugh have offered their experience and extra plants from the Nylander Museum in Caribou to the project. Glenda and Gordon Wysote (Mi’kmaq) have contributed their knowledge of medicinal plants in the creation of the garden.

Work on the garden began this summer with the removal of competing vegetation from the plot, soil enrichment with humus and an 8-week solarization process. An order has been placed for additional plants to complete the garden. Plant labels and a sign for the garden will be installed this fall.

Professors anticipate that the garden will be utilized in courses involving anthropology, botany and environmental science.

“IT is interesting to learn that the plants we see in the rest stops, roadsides, and at local parks were used for thousands of years by Native Americans. Jenn’s project helps anyone identify them, while creating a living tribute to Wabanaki peoples,” Sheppard said.

Project Compass

Continued from page 1

Universities in New England chosen to participate in Project Compass, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation’s multi-year initiative aimed at increasing the number of underrepresented populations graduating with four-year degrees. Project Compass is administered by the foundation’s intermediary, the New England Resource Center for Higher Education.

Throughout this process, the University has been working closely with the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

Representatives from these Native American groups – as well as officials including Glenn Gabbard, the Associate Director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education and the Director of Project Compass – joined with community leaders and area educators for a special dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 30, that was held to kick off the three-day event.

The dinner featured a keynote address by John Bear Mitchell, the Associate Director of the Wabanaki Center at the University of Maine in Orono, who talked about the history of the Native American waiver and its purpose.

The next morning, on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 8 a.m., officials hosted a dedication ceremony for the new Native American Educational and Services Center on campus, located in 311 South Hall. This Blessing of the Center was led by John Dennis, the Cultural Director for the Aroostook Band of Micmacs.

The University’s Native American Educational and Services Center was established to create a comfortable atmosphere on campus for Native American students. It serves as a location that provides these students with strong support as they complete their college educations, including everything from tutoring services to assistance in filling out paperwork to establishing positive connections on campus. This center is open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Following the Blessing of the Center, meeting attendees spent the rest of the day Thursday and all day Friday on a major strategic planning effort, the results of which are helping to determine the work that the program will be focusing on in the coming years.
Mitchell Institute Executive Director to speak at Business Breakfast

Dr. Bonnie Wood, a Biology Professor at the University, will take part in a book signing event on Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the UMPI Bookstore to celebrate the publication of her new book Lecture-Free Teaching: A Learning Partnership Between Science Educators and Their Students.

Dr. Wood, a fulltime faculty member since 1989, garnered a contract in 2007 from major science publisher NSTA [National Science Teachers Association] Press to write a book on her innovative lecture-free teaching strategies. The newly published book will be showcased for the first time to the local region during the Oct. 20 book signing.

Lecture-free teaching, a term Wood coined in 2001, describes the methods she designed and uses in all of the science courses she teaches at the University. During class meetings, students participate in activities as members of cooperative learning groups and employ the scientific process to develop hypotheses, and then design and perform course-related experiments.

According to Wood, the book is a practical guide to lecture-free teaching for both experienced science educators – whose goal is to gradually revise their teaching methods – and also for pre-service and new teachers who are just beginning their careers. The book’s 13 chapters, each of which can be used independently, describe how to transform a traditional science lecture class with a separate laboratory into an active learning, inquiry-based format with a constantly evolving, but coherent, curriculum.

Dr. Wood will discuss some of the teaching strategies presented in her book during the book signing event.

Lecture-Free Teaching will be available for purchase at the UMPI Bookstore. Refreshments at the event will be provided courtesy ofARAMARK Food Service. For more information, please contact Greg Doak at the UMPI Bookstore at 768.9571. To learn more about Dr. Wood’s book, visit www.nsta.org/store/product_detail.aspx?id=10.2505/9781933531328.

Ms. Colleen J. Quint, Executive Director of the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute, will speak on The Mitchell Institute and Higher Education in Aroostook County at the University’s next Business Breakfast, to be held at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 30 in the UMPI Campus Center.

The Mitchell Institute is a non-profit organization founded by Senator George Mitchell to provide scholarship assistance to Maine students, and to research means of removing obstacles to higher education. Each year the Mitchell Institute awards a $5,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from every public high school in Maine.

Mitchell Scholars also have access to a variety of support programs, and participate in a longitudinal study that examines their college experiences and the outcomes of their education. Ultimately, the Mitchell Institute hopes to develop national models for effective scholarship programs and for improving access to college.

Prior to her work with the Mitchell Institute, Ms. Quint spent 10 years as an education attorney, working with high schools and colleges across the country on a wide variety of policy issues. She has been a frequent speaker at state, regional and national meetings, and recently concluded a term as President of the National Scholarship Providers Association. Ms. Quint also spent two years in the Maine Attorney General’s office working on consumer protection and antitrust cases. Before going to law school, she served as editor for Western Europe and Great Britain at The Christian Science Monitor.

Ms. Quint grew up in Portland and now lives in Minot. She holds a B.A. from Bates College and a J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.

The cost of the breakfast is $10 per person and the deadline to register is Oct. 26. For more information or to register, call 768.9525.
During his Oct. 7 lecture, he explored the implications of changing demographics, economics and technology on all types of media, focusing on newspapers. The talk included a review of trends in the newspaper industry, including financial implications of demographic and technological changes – all of this from the point of view of a small city newspaper editor with decades of experience in the trenches.

During his workshop on Oct. 6, Jacobs led a facilitated discussion about what is critical to community: shared space, shared tradition, shared interests or ideologies, and shared technology. The workshop identified what communities meeting these definitions need to be vital – to ensure their own survival in a rapidly changing world.

Jacobs grew up on a farm in Mountair County, N.D., and was educated at the University of North Dakota and Seattle University. Before joining the Herald, he worked for newspapers in Fargo and Dickinson, N.D., and St. Louis, Mo., and for the North Dakota Farmers Union. He was named editor of the Herald in 1984 and editor and publisher in 2003.

During his tenure as editor, the Herald won the North Dakota Newspaper Association’s general excellence award 15 times, and was named one of America’s best small daily newspapers by the American Society of Newspaper Editors [ASNE]. In 1998, the Herald won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. That same year, Jacobs was named editor of the year by the National Press Foundation and won ASNE’s distinguished writing award for a series of editorials about flood recovery.

Jacobs is past president of the North Dakota Newspaper Association and a past member of the ASNE board of directors. He is president of the North Valley Arts Council, a member of the Grand Forks Business, Government, Education Alliance, and serves on an international task force studying the future of the Lake Winnipeg watershed. He is a past member of the board of the Chamber of Commerce of Grand Forks, United Way of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Region, the International Peace Garden and the North Dakota Heritage Foundation. He is assistant governor for District 5580 (North Dakota, northern Minnesota, northwestern Wisconsin and northwestern Ontario) for Rotary International. He and his wife Suezette Bieri live on a farmstead northwest of Grand Forks, where they are active birders, gardeners and walkers. They also own a ranch in northwestern North Dakota.
Officials with Project Compass, an effort on the UMPI campus to develop and improve culturally responsive strategies for its Native American students, has announced that it has funded 9 mini-grants to campus faculty and staff totaling nearly $18,000 that will help to support the mission of Project Compass while engaging students and increasing campus awareness of Native cultures.

The University was awarded a major grant from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation in January to better serve its Native American student population as well as the region’s Native American community. The award made the University eligible to receive up to $750,000 over the next four years to put toward this effort.

These mini-grants are one portion of a comprehensive, multi-year plan to improve Native American student retention, academic success and graduation rates at UMPI. The University has engaged with the Aroostook Band of Micmacs and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians on this effort. Mini-grant recipients include: Ms. Renee Felini, Ms. Jean Henderson, Dr. Jason Johnston, Mr. Luke Joseph, Dr. Jacqui Lowman, Mr. David Putnam, Dr. JoAnne Putnam, and Dr. Alice Sheppard.

Ms. Renee Felini received $1,660 to incorporate the creative expression of the Wabanaki people into some of her Art courses, including an introductory Art course that reaches a large number of first year students and a ceramics class, thereby exposing many UMPI students to the history of Native American people in the region and encouraging student research and discourse. Felini will conduct research, gather images, and create course slides for use most immediately in the courses she teaches during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Ms. Jean Henderson received $870 to organize a professional development opportunity for UMPI adjunct faculty at the Houlton Higher Education Center – a viewing of the documentary film Wabanaki: A New Dawn followed by a discussion of the survival of Native American culture in today’s world led by Richard Silliboy, a tribal member with the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and a dialogue of how to incorporate Native American culture across the curriculum. The project includes a follow-up survey after the event regarding relevant curriculum changes.

Dr. Jason Johnston received $1,875 to engage students participating in two UMPI courses in the improvement of trails and educational materials, and the incorporation of Native content into those materials, for the West Campus Woods. The project – which will be done in collaboration with Native community members – includes new and replaced posts and signage, an informative trailhead, new or redesigned educational materials such as brochures and web pages that will add new content focusing on Native American ecological content, and a new trail that leads to black ash, the tree used in Native basket-making.

Mr. Luke Joseph received $1,000 to purchase educational resources and materials for the Native American Educational and Services Center, which was recently established at UMPI to create a comfortable atmosphere on campus for Native American students and provide support with everything from tutoring services to assistance in filing out paperwork to establishing positive connections on campus.

Dr. Jacqui Lowman received $3,000 to develop a multi-pronged approach to helping Native American students and other traditionally marginalized people use communication as a tool for advocacy and dissemination. The effort includes working with Native American students to increase coverage of Native American events and issues on campus and beyond; offering basic writing workshops and strategies for message formulation, framing and dissemination; and working toward the creation of an Advocacy Center or Advocacy Summer Institute.

Mr. David Putnam received $2,340 to engage Native American UMPI students and community members in real-world ancestral sites compliance research to take place in the Restigouche and Northumberland Counties of New Brunswick, Canada. The funding will employ three Native students and community members in assisting Putnam with the fieldwork he has been asked to do by the Pabineau First Nation of New Brunswick. This field work involves locating ancestral Wabanaki archaeological sites in the general area of a proposed wind farm project.

Dr. JoAnne Putnam received $3,000 to organize an in-depth faculty development workshop – featuring three Native American educators with expertise in delivering such programs – that focuses on regional Wabanaki culture, history, educational approaches, and curricular issues, as well as developing best practices for instruction and curriculum for Native American and First Nations students. The group of faculty who participate in the workshop will commit to developing and implementing an...
Students in Renee Felini’s ceramics class headed to the Aroostook River on Sept. 30 for a special class project that helped them to understand more fully the organic nature of the art form they’re learning about.

Felini and her class gathered at the boat landing near the Route 1 Bridge at the north end of Presque Isle to release into the river more than a dozen hollow, clay spheres that they had made in the ceramics studio. These clay spheres, about the size of a cantaloupe, were dried – not fired – and painted with organic oxides. While forming their spheres, each student placed an item inside that represented something from their past to which they wanted to bring closure, or something that would help guide them in the future.

Felini said the project was really about understanding the concepts of clay as a material and the significance of development and change.

“As they float down the river, the clay spheres will slowly break down and return to the Earth, becoming the materials and minerals that they were before they were combined to make clay,” Felini said. “Each sphere will carry the message inside it away, creating a sort of catharsis or, alternatively, sending a message into the future.”

UMPI’s image newsletter is now on a monthly schedule. If you have items to submit, please email them to susan.pinette@umpi.edu or fax to 768.9608. Deadlines for Submissions to the image are:

Monday, Nov. 2 – for the Nov. 16 issue
Monday, Nov. 23 – for the Dec. 9 issue

Congratulations, Stephanie!

Stephanie Pemberton, a history major and Park Hall Resident Assistant, is a well-known student leader at UMPI. Creator of the new “Spirit Squad,” she reaches out to all students and does a tremendous job getting others involved in campus life.

Thanks for your positive attitude!
Jazz Quartet SPOKE to perform

The University presents a night of improvisational jazz by the Brooklyn, New York based quartet SPOKE at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30 in Wieden Auditorium.

SPOKE – featuring Justin Wood (originally from Presque Isle) on saxophone, Andy Hunter on trombone, Danny Fischer on drums, and Dan Loomis on bass — has performed in some of NYC’s top jazz venues such as the Cornelia Street Café and Brooklyn’s Tea Lounge. Individually, SPOKE’s members have performed around the world at clubs, concert halls, and festivals, including Radio City Music Hall, the Jazz Standard, the Montréal Jazz Festival, and the Playboy Jazz Festival.

The members of SPOKE hail from across the globe and united in Brooklyn. Andy Hunter, originally from northern Michigan, won first prize in the 2002 International Jazz Trombone Association Jazz Competition, first prize in the 2005 Antti Rissanen International Jazz Competition in Helsinki Finland and was a popular finalist in the Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition of 2003. He is a prolific composer and versatile soloist who performs regularly with the Charles Mingus Big Band, the Mingus Dynasty, the Dave Binney Big Band, and has appeared on Saturday Night Live.

Australian Danny Fischer left a huge gap in the music scene of his native Melbourne, Australia, when he relocated to New York in 2004. He had worked with a long list of Australian and international musicians including Barney McAll, Gary Bartz, James Williams, Paul Bollenbeck. Since arriving in the US, Fischer has been in demand as a sideman, performing at Radio City Music Hall alongside Patty LaBelle, Chaka Khan, Gladys Knight and Diana Ross, and returning to Australia to tour with Kurt Rosenwinkel and Barney McAll.

Bassist Dan Loomis moved to New York from St. Louis via Eastman School of Music. An exceptionally adaptable bass and cello player, Loomis has already appeared on over 20 recordings ranging from indie-pop to jazz including two CDs under his own name and one from the highly acclaimed collaborative group, The Wee Trio, all featuring original compositions.

Originally hailing from Presque Isle, woodwind player Justin Wood attended Harvard University and then relocated to New York where he has established a presence as a versatile, creative instrumentalist working in styles as diverse as free-improvisation, folkloric Columbian, conduction, and straight-ahead jazz.

SPOKE will perform selections from its debut, self-titled album during its Oct. 30 performance. Concert tickets are $10 for adults, $2 for students, and free to UMPI, NMCC and SAGE students with ID. For more information, call 768.9462.

Classical couple perform piano and violin concert

The University presented two classical musicians for one evening filled with works by Schubert, Brahms and Dvorak when pianist Duncan J. Cumming and his wife violinist Hilary Walther Cumming performed on Oct. 3 in the Campus Center.

Duncan J. Cumming, a native of Presque Isle, is in his fourth year on the faculty of the University at Albany and has performed concertos, recitals, and chamber music concerts in cities across the United States as well as in Europe. He also has appeared in such famous concert halls as The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Merkin Hall and Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City, and the Wallenstein Palace in Prague, Czech Republic.

Hilary Walther Cumming also teaches at the University of Albany and performs as the violinist in the Capital Trio. She has participated in concerts from South America to the former Soviet bloc, and continues to be active in performances across the northeastern United States.

Dr. Cumming graduated Phi Beta Kappa with highest honors from Bates College in 1993, where he studied with Frank Glazer. He studied with Patricia Zander at the New England Conservatory where he received his Master of Music degree in 1996. In May of 2003, he graduated with the Doctor of Music degree from Boston University.

Ms. Cumming graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, where she studied with Gerardo Ribeiro. In 1991, she moved to Bloomington, Indiana, and earned a Master of Violin Performance degree under the tutelage of Franco Gulli, modern violin, and Stanley Ritchie, baroque violin.
In late September, the Phish Retrospective kicked off with a series of activities connected with the American Rock band Phish, which played three concerts in Limestone, Maine, between 1997 and 2003.

Co-organized by Art Professor Anderson Giles, Cultural Affairs Director Carol Ayoob, and Reed Art Gallery Director Sandra Huck, the Phish Retrospective reflected upon the Phish concerts held in northern Maine, the creative energy surrounding them, and their impact on Aroostook County.

1. A Phish Forum on Sept. 30
2. Kevin Shapiro, Andy Giles, Linda + Don Zillman at the opening reception of the Phish Retrospective Exhibition by Professor Giles, in the Reed Art Gallery
3. A keynote lecture by Kevin Shapiro, the band's official archivist
4. A huge crowd viewing the art and artifacts on display at the Phish Retrospective Exhibition
5. A guest lecture by Brian Hamel on The Who, What and Why of Phish coming to Limestone, Maine
6. Carol Ayoob interviewing Kevin Shapiro on WUPI 92.1 FM
**Carrington named NCAA Student-Athlete of the Month**

**Matt Carrington**, a junior center back for the men’s soccer team, has been named the male recipient of the NCAA Association of Division III Independents Student-Athlete of the Month award for September 2009. Carrington, a physical education major from Littleton, UK, had five assists from his center back position and led UMPI to four shutouts in their first seven games. He also recently earned the game-winning goal in an Owl win over the Mariners of Maine Maritime Academy, helping to give UMPI its 7th win of the season. His leadership on and off the field has been a major reason for UMPI’s early season success. “Matt has really stepped up into his own this season, and is playing the best soccer of his three year career here at UMPI,” commented Head Coach Alan Gordon. “His leadership and communication skills have helped us to have a successful season thus far, with high hopes to finish strong as we head toward the Sunrise Conference playoffs.” Carrington was chosen among all competing fall sport student-athletes (including volleyball and cross country running) who were eligible for this award from the Association of Division III Independent institutions. The Association consists of 14 Division III independent institutions from throughout the United States, including UC Santa Cruz, Chapman University, University of Dallas, Menlo College, Lancaster Bible College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and La Sierra University.

**Students named Sunrise Conference Players of the Week**

**WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL**

*Megan Korhonen* (Junior, Setter) – Megan wins the award after leading the Owls to four wins this week. The junior from Littleton collected 72 assists – including 22 in a win over Thomas College – 15 kills, and 30 digs in 13 games. She had a double-double in a 3-0 win over Husson College with 18 assists and 12 digs. She also had two aces in that match.

**WOMEN’S SOCCER** – Defensive Player of the Week *Makayla Gahagan* (Senior, Defense) – Makayla is honored after leading the Owls to a 4-1 win over Vermont Technical College. The senior from Caribou helped limit the Green Knights to just five shots on goal.

**MEN’S SOCCER** – Offensive Player of the Week *Devon Peaslee* (Junior, Forward) – Devon is honored after notching 10 points in two games over the weekend. The junior from Woolwich, Maine had one goal and one assist in a 3-0 win over Vermont Technical College. He followed that with three goals and one assist for seven points in a 6-1 win over the College of St. Joseph.

**Watch the Owls play . . . online!**

The UMPI Athletics Department announces that fans will now able to watch Owls athletic teams play at home by watching some games on the Internet. Check out this link (www.vimeo.com/owls) to see men’s and women’s soccer and Owls volleyball home games. The site can also be accessed through the UMPI Athletics website, under men’s soccer, women’s soccer and women’s volleyball. Just click on the Game Videos link. Please share this with UMPI Alumni, potential students, family, friends, and sports enthusiasts – it’s a great way to stay connected to our athletic teams!

**Men’s soccer defeats Fisher College**

The men’s soccer team shutout Sunrise Conference member Fisher College 3-0 on Oct. 11 at the Presque Isle Middle School field. With the win, the Owls improve to 8-2-1 on the season and 4-2 in conference play. The game remained scoreless throughout the first half of regulation until *Corey Fournier* (Bradley, ME) scored unassisted at the 51:38 to give his team the go ahead game-winning goal. Fournier found the back of the net off of a Fisher goalie deflection to put his team up 1-0. *Devon Peaslee* (Woolwich, ME) earned his ninth goal of the season from a break away on the left side of field; the assist was given to *Craig Maffei* (Readfield, ME) on a beautiful setup to Peaslee, who beat two Fisher defenders placing the ball in the low right corner of the goal. Junior *Chad Parker* (Truro, NS) got into the scoring action in the 67th minute of play with an unassisted goal from within the box; the assurance goal gave the Owls the final 3-0 victory. Owl keeper *Richard Felbaum* (Saco, ME) earned 6 saves on 6 shots, earning the win for his team.

**Owls cross country teams compete in Pop Crowell Invitational**

The UMPI men’s and women’s cross country teams competed in torrential downpour weather conditions on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the annual Gordon College Pop Crowell Invitational meet, held in Wenham, Mass. Despite injury, sickness, and missing runners from their roster, the Owls proved a strong showing on the day with the men finishing 21st of 24 and the women 19th of 27.

On the women’s side, *Shelly Hanson* (Charleston, ME) was the top runner for the Lady Owls, running one second faster than last year in the much tougher conditions and completing the race in 87th with 21:57. *Chandra Wisneski* (Amherst, NH) and *Justine Cyr* (Fort Kent, ME) finished in 23:15 (141st) and 23:13 (140th) respectively, while teammate *Julie Rugg* (South Paris, ME) ran an improved race in 24:38 (183rd) in cold, wet conditions.

*Ally Pizzuti* (Caribou, ME) improved her time from last week in running 27:14 (244th). On the men’s side, the Owls were affected by the absence of two runners in Justin Fereshtehian and Aaron Schmersal, which could have meant finishing at the 16th spot instead of in 21st. But to pick up the slack was freshman *Hugh McLellan* (Maitland, NS), who had a breakout race in 32:12 (118th), leading the Owl pack throughout the race. *Jason Johnson* (Presque Isle, ME) (33:08/134rd) and *Chris Rines* (Caribou, ME) (33:21/139th) ran a strategically slower first three miles, then hammered the last two. This was due to their extensive training through the last three weeks; all to prepare for the upcoming Sunrise Conference meet. *Brian Korhonen* (Littleton, ME) (34:19/159th) went out harder than usual as he needed to push the pace so to gauge his training and current fitness. Finally, teammate *James Cirelli* (Bingham, ME) finished the day at 41:12 (210th) as he continues to improve his times.
Thomas Wire, a 2008 University of Maine at Presque Isle graduate, recently made international headlines for a study he completed this summer which concluded that spending money on family planning, as opposed to more conventional green technologies, would be more cost effective in the global effort to reduce carbon emissions.

Wire completed the study – which was commissioned by the Optimum Population Trust, a UK think tank concerned with the impact of population on the environment – in August 2009 as a postgraduate student at the London School of Economics.

Wire’s study was mentioned in The Lancet, one of the world’s leading medical journals, and the story was then picked up by media outlets such as The Economist, the Los Angeles Times, and The Washington Post.

According to Wire, his study Fewer Emitters, Lower Emissions, Less Cost is essentially a cost-benefit analysis that looks at the potential of reducing future carbon emissions by investing in family planning. Wire took already existing projections of population growth and global carbon emissions between now and 2050, and calculated that spending about $7 on family planning would reduce carbon emissions by 1 metric ton. He calculated that it would take about $32 in spending on green technologies to achieve the same carbon emission reduction.

“The idea being that if access to family planning improves now and continues to improve there will be fewer unwanted births and fewer people would emit fewer metric tons of carbon dioxide,” Wire said.

While Wire is pleased that he was able to complete the study as accurately as possible, he is quick to note that his research is based on projections that look up to 40 years into the future and this study should be looked at as an illustration of possibilities rather than as a guarantee of what’s going to happen in the future.

“I’ve come to realize that this is an important issue that people should be talking about and I think it’s important that different avenues for climate change are explored,” Wire said.

“Hopefully, this study will have an impact on the way people think about family planning and climate change.”

Wire hails from Watford, UK, but came to UMPI in the Fall of 2003 to earn his Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics, with a minor in Business Management. He graduated in 2008 and went on to complete a 12-month Master’s degree program at the London School of Economics. Wire just received his Master’s degree in Operations Research from the institution.

Looking to the near future, Wire will discuss his study on Nov. 19 as a panelist at a practicum in Uganda organized by AfriComNet. The practicum is titled Family Planning Communication and Advocacy Responses in Africa. And Wire’s study may be in the news again in December. It was mentioned recently on the website for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will take place this December in Copenhagen. Wire has been told that the Optimum Population Trust plans to distribute copies of the study to all the delegates at the conference.
of lively discussion. They are: NMCC President Timothy Crowley, UMPI Political Science professor Dr. Bill Davidshofer, Rev. Dr. Robert Grove Markwood of the P.I. Congregational Church, UMPI English Professor Dr. Ray Rice, and UMPI President Don Zillman. All are invited to this free forum. For information: 227.8207.

Gay Awareness/Blue Jeans Day events October 28th
Since 1994, October has been “National Coming Out Month” and in recognition of such UMPI’s Gay-Straight Alliance has planned the first “UMPI Gay Awareness Day,” endorsed by the UMPI Student Senate. Wednesday, Oct. 28 will be “UMPI Gay Blue Jeans Day” when students, faculty and staff are urged to wear blue jeans to demonstrate their support of equality for gay people. At 7:30 p.m. in Wieden Auditorium is a free screening of the award-winning film, “Boys Don’t Cry” (the story of Brandon Teena, a transgendered teen who preferred life in a male identity until it was discovered he was born biologically female) starring Academy-Award winner for Best Actress, Hilary Swank. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 26-28, members of the Gay-Straight Alliance will be in the campus center offering information and answering questions about the “marriage equality” vote (ballot question #1). For more information about these events or about the Gay-Straight Alliance, call 484.8980.

Faculty Noon Seminar features GIS technology
Faculty Noon Seminar continues on Wednesday, Oct. 28, as Assistant Professor of Earth & Environmental Science Dr. Chunzeng Wang presents "Developing a GIS Program for Everybody-Everybody? Yes!" Learn about the GIS (geographic information systems) program at UMPI and in northern Maine. Highlighting projects which he and his students have undertaken, the talk illustrates just how much GIS is involved in the life of everybody – yes, everybody. Bring a lunch and join the discussion from 12 – 1 p.m. in the Normal Hall Faculty Lounge. For information call 768.9749.

University offers Fit & Fun Day for kids
The Physical Education Majors Club at the University of Maine at Presque Isle will host its fall semi-annual Fit and Fun Day for area youth on Saturday, Oct. 31 in Gentile Hall from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The event, geared toward students in grades 1 – 5, teaches young children about health and fitness in a fun environment. The event is free. Participants are asked to bring their own snack, with water provided. For more information, contact Dr. Chris Standefer at 768.9457.

“Adventures in Recreation” continues with 2 talks
Backpacking the Pacific Crest Trail: Mexico to Canada is the topic on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in Normal 104A. Assistant Professor of Physical Education Dr. Todd Russell will discuss the 2,650 mile trek from Mexico to British Columbia which he and his wife, Kaye, took two summers to complete, finally finishing in 2007. Through photos and personal experiences, Russell highlights the “trials and tribulations” of the journey, the varied terrains – from the Mohave desert to the High Sierra Range snow fields, and also the many interesting people encountered along the way. Then on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Campus Center, Clare Exner (and friends) will share the experience of seven days and six nights canoeing and camping the Allagash in a talk titled Paddling the Allagash Wilderness Waterway: A Group Adventure. Faculty and student participants will tell about the history, natural history, navigation, safety and group leadership knowledge and skills developed on the trip. Enjoy videos of canoes tipping in Chase Rapids! The presentation ends with freshly made ployes and maple syrup celebrating the Acadian culture and its ties to the Allagash logging industry. All are invited to these free presentations. FMI call 768.9537.

Book signing features P.I. basketball historian
Jim Carter, author of a new book which provides a detailed account of Presque Isle High School basketball from 1950 to the present, will be on hand in the UMPI Bookstore on Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. for a public book signing event. Carter, who is a well-known retired coach and teacher in Caribou schools, recently completed, Six Decades of Wildcat Basketball-A History of Boys and Girls Basketball at Presque Isle High School 1950-2009. For more information, contact the UMPI Bookstore at 768.9572.

Fall Business Forum
Momentum Aroostook and Northern Maine Development Commission will host a Fall Business Forum at UMPI’s Campus Center on Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 6-8 p.m. The forum will include panels of who choose to live and work in The County sharing their perspectives about challenges and opportunities in northern Maine. All are welcome to attend this free event and join in the conversation. For more information, contact Rachel Rice at 768.9447.

Wait... don’t tell me!
A recent contestant on NPR’s “Wait Wait, Don’t Tell Me,” Kate McCartney got three out of three correct answers on the limerick game, so will have Carl Kasell’s voice on The Old Iron Inn B & B answering machine. Kate said, “It was exciting for me to be on National Public Radio.” The show airs on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. on MPBN. Kate and her husband, UMPI geology professor Dr. Kevin McCartney, are proprietors of the Old Iron Inn in Caribou.
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