The University hosted Andrew Vietze – the writer and Katahdin area park ranger whose latest book explores how a 19th century Aroostook County woodsman “toughened up” future president Theodore Roosevelt – as the next speaker in its 2011-2012 University Distinguished Lecturer Series. Vietze talked about the adventures our 26th President had in the Maine wilderness with his mentor and lifelong friend, Maine guide William Wingate Sewall, when he delivered his talk, William Sewall and Teddy Roosevelt: How a Maine Guide Inspired a Man Who Would Be President on Tuesday, March 6, in the Campus Center. A reception and book-signing event was held in the Alumni Room immediately following his lecture.

Vietze spends six months of each year working in the wilds of the Katahdin region, and the rest of his time penning everything from travel guides to magazine articles to his first novel. The author of five books, Vietze spoke about his latest publication, Becoming Teddy Roosevelt: How a Maine Guide Inspired America’s 26th President, which recently won a silver medal at the Independent Publisher Book Awards in New York and was honored by the Maine State Legislature. The former managing editor of Down East: The Magazine of Maine, Vietze has written for a wide variety of magazines and online publications, including Time Out New York, The New York Times’ LifeWire, Weather.com’s Forecast Earth, Crawdaddy!, AMC Outdoors, Popmatters, Hooked on the Outdoors, Explore, Offshore, Big Sky Journal, MaineBiz, and Maine Times.

Two of his pieces for Down East have won awards for feature writing. continued on page 2

For little Hadley McLean, being surrounded by shaved heads during the sixth annual Planet Head Day at UMPI was a chance to feel like everyone else.

The nine-year-old daughter of Tim and Holly McLean is fighting brain cancer and has lost her hair to chemotherapy treatments. But Hadley was in excellent company on Feb. 18, during Planet Head Day, when she was one of about 100 people who proudly sported bald heads (or donned plastic bald caps to give them that appearance) and had them painted to look like planets as part of a unique cancer fundraiser.

Planet Head Day celebrates space science while serving as a fundraiser for C-A-N-C-E-R [Caring Area Neighbors for Cancer Education and Recovery]. This year the event raised more than $29,000, nearly doubling the amount raised last year.

In fact, Planet Head Day has doubled the amount of money raised every year since its inception in 2007. That was the year Jeanie McGowan, the Coordinator for Educational Outreach with UMPI’s Northern Maine Museum of Science, was recovering from chemotherapy. It was also the year she and museum director Dr. Kevin McCartney were searching for a way to celebrate.

Planet Head Day raises nearly $30,000 for C-A-N-C-E-R
UMPI participates in Everyone Matters Day

The University participated in a global social media campaign focused on anti-bullying and “leaving judgment behind,” which culminated in a day-long schedule of events on Wednesday, Feb. 29.

Everyone Matters is a worldwide campaign headed by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu; its message: “Don’t Judge. Respect Everyone’s Differences.”

“The campaign offers colleges and universities the ability to tailor their individual Everyone Matters events to their own campus culture,” Jannie Durr, Assistant Director of Residence Life, said.

“Here, the project was truly student-driven and the creativity for our tree display, video segments, and the discussion event came from them. As a member of the Diversity Committee, we really embraced this campaign because it sought broad goals for inclusivity without apology across different lines of group membership—whatever their race, socioeconomic status, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability, worldview, age, or ethnicity.”

Several groups on campus worked together to make UMPI’s Everyone Matters event happen, including the Department of Residence Life, Student Activities, the Resident Assistants, Student Organization of Social Workers [SOSW], Gay-Straight Alliance [GSA], and the Diversity Committee.

The effort began with a series of “Everyone Matters” videos created by UMPI Resident Assistants encouraging the UMPI community to leave judgment behind and embrace the idea that everyone matters. To view these impactful videos, visit www.youtube.com/UMPIEveryoneMatters.

As another component of UMPI’s Everyone Matters effort, students had the opportunity to write one or two words on leaf-shaped paper indicating their commitment to “leave judgment behind.”

On Everyone Matters Day at UMPI, those leaves formed a paper tree which was on display all day on the second floor of the Campus Center. There was an information table outside of Kelley Commons sponsored by SOSW and the GSA, where teal ribbons were available for people to wear in support of the day.

A special Everyone Matters panel presentation was held in the afternoon. Speakers included two UMPI representatives – Bonnie DeVaney and Dr. Jacqui Lowman – as well as a speaker from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, Douglas Kimmel, Ph.D., who shared their experiences and offered creative ideas for encouraging a community where everyone matters.

Event organizers are hoping all of these activities will have a lasting impact on the campus and community.

“It’s really important for colleges and universities to groom responsible citizens,” Durr said. “Hopefully people will take a nugget of truth from today and incorporate that into a future intervention.”

Vietze, writing from the International Regional Magazine Association.

Vietze’s other books include Insiders’ Guide to the Maine Coast, Hip Hop History of the World – Part 1: From the Dawn of Civilization through the Renaissance, Where in Maine: 50 Intriguing Places in the Pine Tree State, and Acadia Field Guide. He’s currently hard at work on the first history of the harrowing tale of Boon Island, and is finishing his debut novel, a thriller set in the North Woods of Maine during the lumbering era. Vietze resides in Appleton, Maine, with his wife and two sons. The University’s Distinguished Lecturer Series was established in 1999. Each year, the UDLLS Committee sponsors five to six speakers who come from Maine and beyond, representing a range of disciplines and viewpoints. While the emphasis tends to be on featuring visiting academics, it is not exclusively so. The speakers typically spend two days at the University meeting with classes and presenting a community lecture. For more information about Vietze, visit www.andrewvietze.com.
University officials hosted a website unveiling on Feb. 17 to celebrate more than three years of work to create an interactive and searchable web-based map of the Fairmont Cemetery.

This first-of-its-kind project in Maine was conducted by UMPI’s GIS Laboratory and a team of UMPI researchers working in partnership with the Fairmont Cemetery Association and the Presque Isle Historical Society. The new website serves as an important resource for historians, researchers and those conducting family genealogy, and also preserves this historical data for future generations.

During the event, Dr. Michael Sonntag, UMPI Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, unveiled the new website, which can be found at www.fairmountcemeterypresqueisle.com, and then Dr. Chunzeng Wang, project coordinator and UMPI Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Science, provided a tour of the site and explained how it worked. Visitors to the new website can view the map, zoom in to select individual cemetery plots located on the map or use a drop-down menu to select a plot by name. Clicking on a plot reveals detailed information about each burial place, as well as a photograph of the gravestone.

Work on the project began back in 2008, when Drs. Sonntag, Wang; Lynn Eldershaw, and Kim Sebold garnered an MEIF [Maine Economic Improvement Fund] Small Campus Initiative Fund grant. Ultimately, the group received about $23,000 to complete the project.

During the first year of work, students Megan Pryor, Sherry Cole, Ashlee Pryor, Robert Baldwin and John Donley served as research assistants, helping to map and collect cemetery data, including lot and plot numbers, names, birth and death dates, and grave headstone/marker material for more than 2,200 lots and 10,000 plots.

The second and third years of work on the project involved entering all of the data into a comprehensive and searchable GIS database management system. Under the supervision of Dr. JoAnne Wallingford, then Associate Professor of Management Information Systems, and Dr. Wang, student Brittany Hickey developed an Access database management system for data entry, students Letian Zheng, Nolan Gagnon, and Zicong Zhou entered burial data into the system, and student Lenka Rambouskova designed the website from scratch.

Chinese delegates visit, discuss partnerships

University officials hosted delegates from Siyuan University, located in Xi’an, China, on Feb. 7 and 8 during a visit meant to strengthen connections and explore new partnerships between the two institutions.

Mr. Yanbo Zhou, Chairman of the Siyuan University Board, and Mr. Hualong Tong, Deputy Director of International Cooperation and Exchange at Siyuan University, spent two days at UMPI as part of a larger, 2-week visit to the United States to meet with universities and government officials and develop educational connections.

According to UMPI Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Sonntag, the University’s relationship with Siyuan has been developing over the course of the last two years. Right now, there are about a dozen Chinese students from Siyuan University completing their Bachelor’s degrees at UMPI. The University’s ties with this and other Chinese institutions have also helped to open doors to new learning opportunities for the local public school system: during their visit, Chinese delegates also met with SAD #1 officials to discuss collaborations with Presque Isle High School.

While on campus, officials discussed potential “3+1” or “2+2” degree program articulation agreements. Such programs would be designed collaboratively by faculty from UMPI and Siyuan and would allow Chinese students to complete two or three years of their degree program at Siyuan and the final one or two years at UMPI. In completing the program, students would earn both a Chinese and a U.S. degree.
UMPI students host 15th Fit & Fun Day

Fit and Fun Day returned for its 15th semi-annual event designed to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles for local children. This spring’s Fit and Fun Day was held on March 10 in Gentile Hall. UMPI Physical Education students facilitated the activities and provided instruction throughout the day. The University’s Athletic Training staff and students were on site as first aid responders.

Fit and Fun Day welcomed local children in grades 1 through 5 and taught them about a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. The event gave children the chance to work their minds and bodies in a fun learning environment. Activities included individual and team building activities. The multi-purpose court in Gentile Hall was used for the various activities, such as parachute, soccer, cup stacking, and more.

Dr. Christine Standefer, Professor of Physical Education at the University, said the event was great for both elementary and college students.

“The children learned that physical activity isn’t just about exercise; it can be lots of fun, too,” Standefer said. “It’s about playing and just being a kid. This was also a great opportunity for UMPI students to work with school-age children. The more our students get to work directly with children, the better their teaching skills become.”

There was also Lynwood Winslow and Jessica Blackstone, who photographed each Planet Head and produced take-home certificates. And there were hair removal experts – Patrick Coughlin and Jack Williams of Parsons Street Barber Shop and Donna Raymond and Amanda Durost from Great Beginnings Hair Boutique.

Because of this support, all of the money raised goes to support area community members diagnosed with cancer. The group C-A-N-C-E-R strives to help patients with travel and other treatment-related expenses not covered by insurance or other programs. C-A-N-C-E-R has also helped in special circumstances to bridge gaps in the patient’s financial situation until a more permanent solution can be secured.

Planet Head Day ensures they can keep supporting their neighbors impacted by cancer and leaves just about everyone feeling like they’ve accomplished something special.

Take Wade Bright, for example. When he saw Hadley McLean join in the festivities, he asked her if she would do him the honor of shaving his head. Smiling, her answer was a resounding, “Yes!” Neighbors supporting neighbors in an out-of-this-world kind of way – that’s what Planet Head Day is all about.
UMPI project provides free tools for local towns

The University’s GIS Laboratory has provided 15 central Aroostook County cities and towns with technology advanced tools that are helping them to better manage their land parcels and create efficiencies in their tax assessing, planning and development, and land and forest management efforts.

The GIS Laboratory was able to complete this project at no cost to the municipalities thanks to a $12,000 grant it received from the Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems [MEGIS]. The project, “Central Aroostook Parcel GIS Mapping Project,” was headed by Dr. Chunzeng Wang, UMPI Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Science. It is the area’s first large-scale land parcel GIS mapping project.

According to Dr. Wang, the project focused on using GIS technology to convert each municipality’s paper tax maps into a digital GIS dataset, and then integrating the dataset with the tax assessor’s data in order to create a comprehensive GIS database. The finished GIS database for each municipality includes an accurate digital parcel map for an entire township with detailed data on each parcel, including its geometric shape and location (boundaries), owner information, assessed land values, and tax information.

The 15 cities and towns included in the project were: Presque Isle, Easton, Washburn, Limestone, Westfield, Perham, Wade, New Sweden, Mars Hill, Mapleton, Castle Hill, Chapman, Woodland, Caribou, and Fort Fairfield. A total of 17,033 parcels were digitized and converted to GIS dataset by UMPI’s GIS Laboratory.

The project has provided UMPI students with real-world, hands-on experience. Two students, Thomas Pinette and Zicong Zhou, were hired to work full-time on the project in the Summer of 2011. Two full-time interns, Chelsey Ellis and Gary Parent, also worked on the project because of its connections to UMPI’s EPSCoR program [Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research].

“The GIS parcel project was an invaluable experience for me,” Pinette said. “I was able to get real-world practice with GIS work rather than only have classroom labs to draw my experience from. Not only that, but I have the satisfaction of knowing the project is helping local towns as well.”

Art and science will come together at the University when two professors host a second annual event in honor of internationally celebrated Brain Awareness Week. “North of Ordinary NeuroArt Night” will take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 in the Pullen Hall Art Room.

Biology professor Dr. Rachael Hannah and Art professor Hyrum Benson are teaming up to offer a fun art project that also will teach participants about brain function and neuroscience. Benson will be creating plaster brains that participants will be able to paint under his guidance. Hannah will offer a 15-minute presentation about the human brain, showing how brains are mapped, and then participants will use that information and their imagination to create their brain art.

Brain Awareness Week (BAW) is the global campaign to increase public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research, according to the official BAW website. Founded and coordinated by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and European Dana Alliance for the Brain, BAW’s 17th annual celebration will take place from March 12-18, 2012.

North of Ordinary NeuroArt Night is an official BAW event. Hannah has visited schools in Vermont to talk about brain activity during past BAW celebrations. She said she wanted to do a BAW event in northern Maine, and wanted to have the event include an art project. Hannah approached Benson about making the “brains” for this year’s NeuroArt night, resulting in an excellent science and art collaboration.

North of Ordinary NeuroArt Night is open to campus and community members 16 and older; or younger if supervised by a parent. Pamphlets and other materials that provide fun information and activities about the brain and brain function will be available at the event. For more information, contact Hannah at rachael.hannah@maine.edu.
A UMPI English professor and published poet has had one of her works published in Maine. The Magazine. Dr. Melissa Crowe also recently received the inaugural Betsy Sholl Award for Excellence in Poetry by USM’s Words & Images magazine. The award is named in honor of former Maine Poet Laureate Betsy Sholl. The winning poem, This River, was selected by the poet Adrian Blevins, who teaches at Colby College. Dr. Crowe read her work at the launch of the new issue of the magazine, held in 2011 at USM’s Abromson Center.

“I was thrilled to be given an award in the name of Betsy Sholl, a Maine poet I greatly admire, and that my work was selected by Adrian Blevins, another of my favorites, made it even sweeter,” Crowe said. “It’s always nice to have this kind of encouragement, and the boost put me right back at the writing desk!”

Dr. Crowe’s work has appeared in many magazines and poetry reviews, including the Atlanta Review, the Crab Orchard Review and the Seneca Review. She resides with her husband Mark and their daughter Annabelle in Portland.

Dr. Melissa Crowe

Smith to present Grant Writing workshop

The University will host a workshop entitled Grant Writing Basics, presented by experienced grant writer Kimberly Smith, on Tuesday, March 20, from 9 A.M. to Noon in the Campus Center. This workshop is open to the public.

The presentation will cover many topics within grant writing, including: what the trends are today, how to find the grantors and make sure you’re a good fit for their programs, what should be included in your grant application, and what happens after you get the grant (or don’t.)

Workshop presenter Kimberly Smith holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration from Husson University and a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. She has served as the CEO of three non-profit organizations, which have won national awards under her stewardship, and has served as a consultant for five other non-profits around the country.

Smith has been an integral part of the Presque Isle Historical Society since 2006, instituting numerous historical tours, preparing exhibits, and operating the Vera Estey House Museum, circa 1875. She has been on both sides of the grant process, presiding over the grantmaking of a community foundation in Virginia and later serving as a grant writer for the Aroostook County Action Program and the Presque Isle Historical Society. In addition, she has given grant writing seminars to several audiences.

“In today’s economic environment, non-profits need all of the tools and resources they can find to be more effective,” Smith said. “Trends tell us that 62 percent of grantors have reduced the funding available and that they are operating with fewer assets. In addition, many have narrowed their grant focus. This means that there are more organizations competing for the same dollar. With these circumstances, it is imperative that our grant applications be more competitive. This is an opportunity to learn more about the process and how to be more effective in that process without having to leave The County for a class.”

Cost for this public workshop is $45 for community members, $15 for UMPI students. The registration deadline is Noon on March 16. To register, contact UMPI’s Conferences and Special Programs office at 768.9502 or e-mail marialuisa.udasco@umpi.edu.

Dr. Crowe receives magazine publication, award

Dr. Melissa Crowe

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Dr. Melissa Crowe

Dr. Crowe’s poem Epithalamium with Humming Bird was published in the February 2012 special wedding issue of Maine magazine. Her poem is one of a small number that will be presented in Maine magazine alongside illustrations by students at the Maine College of Art. Crowe’s poem featured a watercolor illustration by MECA student Brittany Lawrence.

“As a poet, you never really dream of your work appearing in a magazine that people can pick up in their grocery aisle—but with this publication, I know that’s exactly what’s happening all over the state, and I think that’s pretty cool,” Crowe said.

Dr. Crowe also was honored recently with the inaugural Betsy Sholl Award for Excellence in Poetry by USM’s Words & Images magazine. The award is named in honor of former Maine Poet Laureate Betsy Sholl. The winning poem, This River, was selected by the poet Adrian Blevins, who teaches at Colby College. Dr. Crowe read her work at the launch of the new issue of the magazine, held in 2011 at USM’s Abromson Center.

“I was thrilled to be given an award in the name of Betsy Sholl, a Maine poet I greatly admire, and that my work was selected by Adrian Blevins, another of my favorites, made it even sweeter,” Crowe said. “It’s always nice to have this kind of encouragement, and the boost put me right back at the writing desk!”

Dr. Crowe’s work has appeared in many magazines and poetry reviews, including the Atlanta Review, the Crab Orchard Review and the Seneca Review. She resides with her husband Mark and their daughter Annabelle in Portland.
The University of Maine at Presque Isle is welcoming new employees and announcing new appointments at the start of the Spring 2012 semester.

Patrick Baker, who has served as the University’s Assistant Athletic Trainer, has been named its Head Athletic Trainer. Prior to his work with UMPI, Baker served as an Athletic Trainer at Colby College. While working toward his Master’s degree in Sport, Recreation and Fitness Management from Montana State University Billings, Baker served as the Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer for the school. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Athletic Training from UMPI in 2008, and his Diploma of Fitness and Health Promotion from Loyalist College in Belleville, Ontario, in 2004. He is a Maine Licensed Athletic Trainer and a member of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association.

Vanessa Patenaude joins the University as Professor and Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education for the developing Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Patenaude earned her Bachelor’s degree in Physical Therapy from the University of New England in 1988 and her Master’s degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Indianapolis in 1991. Most recently, she has worked as a private pediatric physical therapist based in Mapleton. She previously has worked as a staff physical therapist at Cary Medical Center, Calais Regional Hospital, for Physical Medical Associates in Indianapolis, and The Aroostook Medical Center. She also has worked as a traveling physical therapist with Rehab Hospital Services Corporation in Washington, D.C.

Heather Sincavage, who joined the University in the fall of 2011 as an Assistant Professor of Art, takes on the additional role of Director of the Reed Fine Art Gallery and the University’s Art Collection starting this spring. In her new appointment, Sincavage will develop gallery programs, enrich academic programs, and continue to expand the University’s Art Collection. Sincavage has an MFA from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a BFA from Temple University’s Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, Penn. Sincavage has been awarded numerous Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grants; been grant funded to attend the Vermont Studio Center; and, in 2011, was awarded the “Outstanding Contributions to Visual Art” Award by the Allentown Arts Commission, City of Allentown.

Mark Woodman joins the University as a Building and Grounds Maintenance Worker. He comes to the University with custodial and janitorial experience as well as experience with long haul trucking, and operating farm and paving equipment. He is a 1970 graduate of Presque Isle High School. He graduated from Northern Maine Technical College in 1973 with a degree in Auto Body Repair.

SAGE kicks off Spring 2012 class offerings

A University program that serves local residents over 50 and believes in “learning for life” will host its spring kick-off event at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 16 in the Campus Center.

Seniors Achieving Greater Education [SAGE] has worked for more than a decade to bring short courses in arts, sciences, and specialty areas to the region’s senior community. SAGE is one of 17 senior colleges in the Maine Senior College Network.

At the March 16 event, participants will have the opportunity to socialize with SAGE members and learn all about upcoming classes.

This spring, SAGE officials are offering more than a dozen courses and learning excursions – on topics ranging from Genealogy to Zumba. Learning excursions include trips to the Emergency Management Agency operations center in Caribou, LDS Genealogy Library in Caribou, and the Maine Solar System Model. Classes will be offered between March 29 and May 15.

SAGE has no entrance requirements, grades or tests, and no college background is needed.

Membership in Seniors Achieving Greater Education is $15 per semester or $30 annually (Sept. 1-Aug. 31). There are additional fees for field trips and lab courses. Full or partial scholarships to take part in the program are available through a simple, friendly, and confidential process. SAGE members also have free access to most events sponsored by UMPI’s Campus Activities Board, the student-run activity committee, by showing their membership cards.

For more information, to register for a class, or to make a reservation for the March 16 kick-off, contact Mary Lawrence at 768.9502. To view course offerings, visit www.umpi.edu/sage.
The University’s Reed Fine Art Gallery is showcasing the work of UMPI’s two newest Fine Art Faculty members through April 14 with the exhibition H(squared): New Work by Hyrum Benson and Heather Sincavage. 

H(squared) is an exhibition of Benson and Sincavage’s newest work made since both have transplanted to Aroostook County.

Hyrum Benson is a ceramics artist originally from Idaho, who joined the UMPI faculty after teaching at the University of North Texas since 2006. Benson is an accomplished artist with several years of successful exhibits and shows. He has presented exhibitions in galleries from Texas and Georgia to Kansas and Idaho, and has art work in the permanent collection at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Benson said his current ceramic work focuses on the formal elements of design, but that he is also interested in, and with, the industrial.

Heather Sincavage is a mixed media artist who relocated to Maine from Pennsylvania. She has taught the past six years at Lehigh University and 10 years at the Baum School of Art. She has had several commissioned pieces and exhibitions at galleries in Pennsylvania, Texas, and New Jersey, and as far away as Spain. Sincavage has been awarded numerous Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grants; been grant funded to attend the Vermont Studio Center; and was a Spring 2010 Artist in Residence at Lehigh University. In May 2011, she was awarded the “Outstanding Contributions to Visual Art” Award by the Allentown Arts Commission, City of Allentown.

The Reed Fine Art Gallery is open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery is closed Sundays and University holidays. For more information about this event, please contact Sincavage at 768.9442.

UMPI hosts talk by guillocheur artist

The University’s Art Program hosted guest artist Calina Shevlin on Monday, Feb. 27, in the Pullen Art Gallery for a talk on the highly skilled art form she practices in the office as well as the art she pursues when she’s off the clock.

Shevlin currently works for the prestigious watch manufacturer Breguet in Switzerland – where a good watch can go for about $200,000 – as a guillocheur. Guillocheurs are a rare group of artists who practice the art of guillochage, a very skilled type of engraving used especially in the high-end watch industry. To “guilloche” means to decorate the face of an object with patterns of tiny engraved lines – lines smaller than a single strand of hair. These engravings can be made on the watch face, the back of the watch and on its moving parts.

When she’s not creating such intricate patterns for Breguet, Shevlin pursues her own art, which incorporates maps, landscapes and found objects. Her three-dimensional renderings encase some of these elements in small vessels, while layering other pieces on top and in front of the vessels to create her interpretation of a specific place.

Shevlin earned her BFA in Metalsmithing and Jewelry from Arizona State University in 2006. She received her MFA in Metals and Jewelry from the University of North Texas in 2011.

Her visit to the University was coordinated by UMPI Assistant Professor of Art Hyrum Benson, who just happens to have a close connection with the artist. The two attended graduate school and worked together in northern Texas. When Benson found out she was coming to Maine to visit a friend downstate, he invited her to pay a visit to UMPI for a guest talk, and Shevlin graciously accepted.

“This was a great opportunity for our Art students and members of the community to meet an artist working overseas in a highly specialized art form,” Benson said.

For more information about Shevlin’s work, visit www.calliemay.com.
Junior guard Brad Trask (Easton, ME) was named the Association of Division III Independents Men’s Basketball Player of the Week for the week of Feb. 26. Trask averaged 15 points, 2 rebounds, and 2.5 assists per game on the week.

UMPI Men’s Basketball team to host Aroostook County Special Olympics team

The UMPI Men’s Basketball team will host the Aroostook County Special Olympics Basketball team on March 17 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Gentile Hall. The event will consist of teaching stations, scrimmages, and special contests. For more information, contact Jim Casciano at 768.9477.

Overall TEAM SCORES at the conclusion of the EISA CHAMPIONSHIPS/MIDDLEBURY CARNIVAL:

1. University of Vermont ......................... 955.0
2. Dartmouth College .............................. 848.0
3. Middlebury College ............................ 724.5
3. University of New Hampshire ............... 724.5
5. Williams College ................................ 539.5
6. St. Lawrence University ........................ 518.5
7. Bates College .................................... 488.0
9. Harvard University ............................. 313.5
10. St. Michaels College ............................ 295.5
11. Bowdoin College ............................... 183.0
12. University of Maine at Presque Isle .... 131.0
13. Plymouth State University ................. 128.0
14. Boston College .................................. 111.0
15. Colby Sawyer College ......................... 70.0
16. Clarkson University ........................... 19.0

Thanks to everyone who supported the Senior Class at the annual MS. UMPI fundraiser. Over $600 was raised for graduation activities and stoles. Thank you to students, faculty & staff who helped make this event a success.

Congratulations to the winners:

Most Photogenic - Jake Ellis
1st Runner-up - Peter Desmond
MS. UMPI 2012 - Chris Moore
Fall Dean's List released

Three hundred and ten students at UMPI were named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester, according to Dr. Michael Sonntag, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Congratulations to all of the students on this accomplishment. To view the Dean’s List, visit www.umpi.edu/deans-list.

UMPI BioMedical Club explores dentistry

The BioMedical Club at UMPI recently invited the public to join them as they explored the field of dentistry. Two seminars were held that gave the students hands-on activities to participate in as well as information regarding the field. A Dentistry simulation with Dr. David Burtt from the University of New England was held on March 2 and a talk with Judy Feinstein was held on March 9.

Blackstone named MAAF Rising Star

UMPI’s own Jessica Blackstone recently received major recognition from the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs – she was honored with the Rising Star Award during the association’s annual meeting. This is the association’s most prestigious honor. Blackstone was recognized for her work with the Northern Maine Fair Association, specifically the extremely popular ‘Lil’ Farmers at the Fair exhibit, which took months of planning and preparation to put together. There is interest among other Maine fairs in having their own similar exhibits, so Blackstone will be busy sharing her experiences on the project and assisting other fair organizers in expanding on this idea. Congratulations to Jessica on being recognized for her hard work!

Bath Salts presentation held at HHEC

On Feb. 10, students and guests of Dr. Phil Watkin’s class at UMPI’s Houlton Higher Education Center got a special education on the synthetic drug known as bath salts. Special Agent Jonathan L. Richards from the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency attended the class and gave a presentation along with a specimen review.

“UMPI Thinks Pink” a huge success

The UMPI Owl Relay for Life team would like to extend a big thank you to all who attended the games and supported this great cause. UMPI alumna Deb Parks won the 50/50 drawing and donated the money back to the UMPI Owl Relay for Life team, and another spectator also won the Pink Gift Basket and donated it back to the team as well. The team’s fundraising year is off to a great start and all of the support is greatly appreciated. Let’s keep it going!

HHEC art students display their works

Students in the Art 102: 3-D Design course at UMPI’s Houlton Higher Education Center displayed their art work in the lobby at the center on Valentine’s Day. From hearts to horses and other unique structures, the work was proudly displayed for all to view. This foundation-level studio art course encourages students to explore various media and forms of additive sculptural techniques. All of the art pieces on display for Valentine’s Day were built entirely of natural materials ranging from sticks, stones, and bark to hay and puffed rice. This course is being taught by Ann Kittredge.

UMPI hosts Writing conference

The University welcomed about 40 area educators, curriculum coordinators and administrators on March 2 for a free daylong conference on Improving College and Career Readiness in Writing. The event, sponsored by the Central Aroostook Council on Education, explored ways to better prepare youth for the writing required in college and in their future careers. The conference featured more than a dozen presenters, including Patsy Dunton, an official with the Maine Department of Education, the 2012 Maine Teacher of the Year Alana Dunton, an official with the Aroostook Council on Education, and area high school seniors to attend. This event is free and sponsored by the Senior Class and the Career Services Center. For more information, contact Career Services at 768.9750.

UMPI to host Comedian Anton Shuford

The University will welcome Anton Shuford on March 15 at 7 p.m. in Wieden Auditorium. Shuford has performed all over the world including Japan and Korea and also performs at night clubs and colleges across the United States. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 768.9582.

College Goal Sunday a success

One week before the Super Bowl and all the festivities surrounding it, UMPI hosted an annual party of its own for
university of maine at presque isle  north of ordinary

notes

high school and college students – College Goal Sunday, an event sponsored by the Finance Authority of Maine and coordinated by the University’s TRiO College Access Services. Staff members were on hand at two locations, both on the UMPI campus and also at the Houlton Higher Education Center – to assist students in completing and filing their FAFSA [Free Application for Federal Student Aid] forms. This free event was open to the entire community and UMPI was one of 10 sites across Maine to host College Goal Sunday.

VITA Tax Assistance program available at UMPI this spring

Area volunteers with the AARP Tax-Aide Program will be available on Saturdays at UMPI during the next two months to help members of the community prepare their tax returns. This free service will be provided by volunteers every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until April 14 in Room 118 of UMPI’s Campus Center. The work these volunteers are doing is connected to the VITA [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance] and TCE [Tax Counseling for the Elderly] programs. According to Lowell Glidden, district coordinator, these programs allow volunteers to prepare individuals’ income tax returns (both federal and state) and electronically file them at no charge. All volunteers participating in the program have undergone training, passed the qualifying IRS examinations, and are certified tax preparers. For more information about this free service, contact Lowell Glidden at 769.7651.

UMPI’s Creative Spirit Photo Contest

Here is the chance for you to show your creative spirit!

Share a view of UMPI through your eyes.

From today through April 20, take pictures around campus - the students, staff, activities, grounds, snow, buildings, etc. Select your favorite photos and enter!

Criteria

- You must hold a current UMPI student ID
- You must submit your own work
- Photographs must be 4” x 6”, 5” x 7” or 8” x 10”
- The subject must show or be about UMPI

You may enter up to two photos in each of the three categories:

1. Most CREATIVE photo
2. Having FUN at UMPI
3. BEST Photo

Submissions must include this information on the back of the photo: your name, contact number, category, photo title, specific location of photo, names of subjects (if applicable). All photographs will be returned to the student.

Please bring your photos to the Reception Desk in South Hall by Friday, April 20.

Congratulations Cody Humphrey February Student of the Month

Cody is a junior from New Gloucester, Maine and a George Mitchell Scholar majoring in Business Management with minors in MIS and GIS. Cody is an extremely busy and involved student. He is consistently named to the Dean’s List; is on the Golf team; was a member of the Baseball team; is in the Professional Business Leaders (PBL) Club; serves on the Spring Ball Committee; and volunteers at UMPI’s Commencement every year. Even with all of that going on, Cody still finds time to work in the Admissions Office and volunteer in the community by helping out at the Opportunity Training Center in Presque Isle. “Cody is the real deal with the whole package. He is a very committed student, participating in class and really striving to do better than he did the time before. He shows lots of initiative around campus, being involved in boots-on-the-ground type work that demonstrates his commitment to UMPI as an institution he cares about,” Professor Clare Exner said.
We want to hear about your news & events!

If you would like to submit an item for the April image, the deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 19. Submissions received after that date may not be included.

Email news or event information to sara.martin@umpi.edu.

OAPI Spring adventures

The Outdoor Adventure Program International [OAPI] is offering these Spring activities for campus and community members.

- Kayak Roll Clinic: April 20, 2 p.m. in the Gentile Hall pool. Learn or hone kayak rolling skills in preparation for whitewater season. Whitewater guide and UMPI Recreation student Josh Stahl will provide instruction. Fee for UMPI students; $7 for non-students.
- Zip Line Adventure: April 28. See the spectacular Grand Falls Gorge during the spring run-off as you dangle above it on a steel cable! Registration deadline: Wed., April 25 by 4 p.m. UMPI students $20; non-students $35.
- Outdoor Rock Climbing: May 11-12 in Acadia National Park, May 5, with PCIA-certified climbing guide Lenny Cole. Visit one of the most scenic rock climbing areas in the east. Some prior climbing experience indoors or outdoors is recommended. Register by Wed., May 2 at 4 p.m. Rain date is May 6. There will be a mandatory pre-trip meeting for this trip. Cost: $40 for students and $60 for non-students.

OAPI rents gear: snowshoes, skis, tents, sleeping bags, canoes, and kayaks, and more, each for a nominal fee.

To check on availability and reserve gear, contact Gentile Hall, 768.9772. Follow OAPI on Facebook for the latest information; visit OAPI at www.umpi.edu/gentile-hall/oapi to find out about the club.