

UMPI, MSSM sign groundbreaking agreement

Beginning in the Fall of 2015, students attending the Maine School of Science and Mathematics will be able to take advantage of the most comprehensive early-college pathway in Maine, potentially completing enough college-level coursework to earn an Associate's degree in Liberal Studies from UMPI in addition to a high school diploma. At \$15 per credit hour, the 64-credit Associate's degree could cost students and their families less than \$1,000, a 93% savings over the traditional cost of a similar course load for Maine residents attending UMPI.

President Linda Schott and MSSM Executive Director Luke Shorty held a signing ceremony on Friday, Feb. 27, finalizing an articulation agreement that establishes Maine's fastest and most

affordable path to a college diploma. The dual-degree agreement will provide MSSM students with approximately 50 course equivalencies worth more than 150 college credits, providing some of Maine's most promising students a first-of-its-kind head start at earning an affordable Bachelor's degree.

"For nearly three years, students at MSSM have been able to earn college credit from our University for several of their high school courses because of the qualifications of their faculty and the academic rigor of their classes," President Schott explained. "The dual degree agreement expands upon this



UMPI President Linda Schott and Luke Shorty, Maine School of Science and Mathematics Executive Director, shake hands after signing a groundbreaking learning agreement on Feb. 27 that establishes Maine's fastest and most affordable path to a college degree. Taking part in the signing ceremony are, from left, Ray Rice, UMPI Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Schott; Shorty; and Nancy Richardson, MSSM Academic Dean.

work and provides MSSM students with an unparalleled head start on college, a stronger pathway into a public university system that leads the *continued on page 2*

Endangered Alphabets Project founder to speak

Tim Brookes, the founder of the Endangered Alphabets Project and award-winning author of 14 books, will serve as the next speaker in the University's 2014-2015 Distinguished Lecturer Series. Brookes, who will speak on Thursday, March 19, at 7 P.M., in the Auditorium in Wieden Hall, will discuss how he has incorporated his artistic skills as a writer, painter, and wood carver into "saving" alphabets on the verge of extinction by carving them into wood. Some of Brookes' *Endangered Alphabets* artwork, which has been displayed across the country and around the world, will be on display during

his talk. This event is free and the public is invited to be a part of this special evening.

Born in England, Brookes received his education at Oxford and now lives in Burlington, Vermont. He is the award-winning author of 14 books including *Endangered Alphabets*, and a 20-year commentator for National Public Radio. Brookes is also a humorist, a professional guitarist, and a soccer coach. He draws on this remarkable breadth of reference to be what several college faculty and administrators have described as "the most interesting

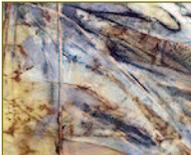
speaker we have ever hosted."

There are fewer than 100 alphabets in the world, and

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Tim Brookes

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UMPI students host 21st Fit and Fun Day

Getting exercise while having fun? That's the goal of the 21st semi-annual Fit and Fun Day, which will be held from 10 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, March 7 in UMPI's Gentile Hall. Student organizers welcome kids ages 5 to 11 to participate in the event, which is designed to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles for local children. Free registration begins at 9 a.m., with games and activities to follow.

"Fit and Fun Day has been a great opportunity for both the community and the Physical Education majors here at UMPI," Sean Harding, one of the student organizers for the event, said. "It gives students the chance to put what they have learned from the classroom and apply it to build experience. We always look forward to working with the kids and seeing everyone active."

Although the majority of the Physical Education majors at UMPI participate in Fit and Fun Day, this year's event is being hosted by a field work class taught by Dr. Christine Standefer, UMPI Professor of Physical Education. Standefer said the event is great for both elementary and college students.



"The children learn 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 is 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."

Team games, tag, parachute fun and cup stacking are just a few of the activities that are on the agenda for the day. As in past years, the pool and rock wall will be open from Noon to 1 p.m. (parental supervision is needed for kids using the pool), so those interested in using the facilities should plan to bring swim attire and a towel. Parents need to sign a release form in order for their children to use the swimming pool and rock wall. Forms will be provided during registration.

Aspiring Athletic Trainers will be on hand for "Boo Boo Patrol" as well as to make sure everyone is both safe and well hydrated throughout the activities.

For more information, call Dr. Standefer at 207-768-9457 or email christine.standefer@umpi.edu. ★

UMPI and MSSM

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nation in commitment to affordability, and an even greater potential to join Maine's workforce as a STEM graduate."

MSSM students will be able to take advantage of the expanded college credit and dual degree opportunities starting in Fall 2015.

"This is the next step in the ever important journey of meeting students where their ability is at and giving them proper credit and recognition for those who are achieving at the collegiate level and I'm excited to be taking this journey with the University of Maine at Presque Isle and the University of Maine System," Luke Shorty, Executive Director of MSSM, said.

While there are many early college credit programs available in Maine, the impact and affordability of this agreement has captured the attention of state education officials.

"With the rising cost of college and the huge student debt burden our young people are facing, it is such great news that more Maine students will now have the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school, not only saving them money but giving them a great advantage over their peers," Tom Desjardin, Acting Commissioner for the Maine Department of Education, said.

"The Dual Degree program between the University of Maine at Presque Isle and the Maine School of Science and Mathematics is an outstanding example of the kind of innovative thinking we must have to increase student opportunity," said University of Maine System Chancellor James Page. "This creative partnership will result in more STEM graduates for the state with less loan indebtedness for some of our most promising students."

This new articulation agreement was

the result of a rigorous review of MSSM's academic portfolio, including faculty qualifications, course syllabi and texts. More than 40 MSSM courses were deemed to be equivalent in content, rigor, and instructional credentials to UMPI courses and faculty qualifications, paving the way for the awarding of college credit. MSSM's students who successfully complete Multivariable Calculus, for example, will receive college credit for its course equivalency at UMPI, Math 231.

"Allowing students to graduate with an AA degree or its equivalent, and over two years' worth of guaranteed, highest quality college coursework, is the most meaningful way to achieve affordable degree completion," Ray Rice, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, said. "This truly is a game changer—for students, their families, and higher education itself." ★

Foster serves as 2015 Maine Policy Scholar

As part of the Maine Community Foundation's Maine Policy Scholars Program, students from campuses throughout the University of Maine System are pursuing a year-long program of applied research in the area of Maine public policy during the 2014-2015 academic year.

At UMPI, Kasandra Foster, a senior Business Administration major with an Accounting minor, is researching the economic struggles of dairy farmers in Maine and what can be done to help them. Foster will be recommending strategies that may help to open up more markets and create a stronger support system for the state's dairy industry.

As part of her research, Foster looked at what resources are available to dairy farmers and where the Legislature has impacted the industry. She also traveled across the state, visiting the biggest dairy farm in Maine as well as many smaller farms to see what is working well and identifying areas

that need improvement.

Foster will produce a final report in the form of a memo to the Governor or appropriate policymaker, which outlines the issue, the data available, and recommended policy solutions. On May 1, she will present the report in the form of a briefing to a panel of policymakers at the Buchanan Alumni House at the University of Maine in Orono.

During the course of the academic year, Maine Policy Scholars work with a faculty advisor, in Foster's case, Dr. Allen Salo, Associate Professor of Psychology. Other 2014-2015 scholars include Kari Beaulieu, University of Southern Maine; Victoria Boone, University of Maine at Machias; Alexandra Courtney, University of Maine; Travis Powers, University of Maine at Fort Kent; Andrew Radford, University of Maine at Augusta; and Charles Young, University of Maine at Farmington.



Photo Courtesy Laura Reed/
Maine Community Foundation

This year's Maine Policy Scholars with Democratic Secretary Gary Myrick during a tour of the U.S. Capitol. Pictured are, from left, back row: Kari Beaulieu, Travis Powers, Andrew Radford, and Charles Young; front row: Alexandra Courtney, Victoria Boone, Gary Myrick, and Kasandra Foster.

This year, the Maine Policy Scholars traveled to Washington, D.C., for an opportunity to tour the nation's landmarks and meet with both Senator King and Senator Collins as well as experts in their areas of research. Foster was able to meet with a lobbyist with more than four decades of service to the Northeast Dairy Council.

The Maine Policy Scholars Program was conceived by the late Peter Cox and funded by many donors as a means of engaging students in the University of Maine System in the public policy process. The program is managed by the Maine Community Foundation with input from an advisory committee. ★



The University of Maine at Presque Isle donated a laptop computer to the Presque Isle Rotary Club during a regular club meeting on Feb. 23 to provide the organization with updated technology for assisting with its Sergeant at Arms activities. The HP Mini laptop will allow the club to enter its meeting attendance and meal receipt data immediately, providing for more efficient record keeping. Here, UMPI President Linda Schott, right, presents the laptop to Rotary Second Vice President Gina Leblanc-Eggert.

UMPI hosts Science Lunchtime Seminar Series

Two academic programs at the University are again joining forces this spring to provide the campus and community with an innovative way to explore the world of science. The Environmental Science and Sustainability and the Biology programs are again presenting a lunchtime seminar series that will provide a forum to present scientific research conducted by UMPI students and fac-

ulty as well as other local and regional scientists. This is the fourth time the two groups have hosted the series.

“There is a lot of research, management and other application of science right in our own backyard,” Dr. Jason Johnston, coordinator of the Science Lunchtime Seminar Series, said. “The purpose of this seminar series is to foster greater communication and collaboration among UMPI

faculty and students, working professionals, and community members who are conducting or interested in hearing about these scientific pursuits.”

Seminars generally will be held Thursdays from 12:15-1:30 P.M. in Folsom 201, UMPI’s GIS Lab, unless otherwise noted. Faculty, students, staff and community members are welcome to attend this free event and are encouraged to bring their lunches and join the discussion.

The series kicked off on Jan. 29, with a presentation by Olaf Jensen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, on *Ocean Fisheries Conservation*.

On Feb. 24, Peter Nelson, Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Maine at Fort Kent,

delivered his talk, *Lichens from Space! Mapping Small and Colorful Vegetation Using Satellite Imagery*.

On March 12, Chunzeng Wang, Ph.D., UMPI Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, will talk about *Understanding Mechanisms of Large, Continental-scale Faulting: New Findings from*

the Norumbega Fault System of Maine.

On March 26, Derek Woods, M.S., Wildlife Biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, will deliver his talk *Conservation of Wood Turtles from Maine to Virginia: A Coordinated Regional Approach*.

On April 9, Roger T. Pelli,

DO, CMIO, Chair of the Department of Medicine at TAMC, will offer his talk, *Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Information Session*.

The spring series ends with a presentation on April 23 titled *Are Feral Cats Really an Issue Nationally and in Maine?* by Allen Salo, Ph.D., UMPI Associate Professor of Psychology.

For more information about the series, contact Dr. Jason Johnston at 768.9652 or jason.johnston@umpi.edu. ★

Endangered Alphabets

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more than a third of them are on the verge of extinction. When these alphabets die, an entire culture loses its ability to read its own history, literature, folklore, and medicine. In an attempt to save these alphabets, Brookes created the Endangered Alphabet Project. Carved into exotic woods, his project raises a countless number of questions about language, progress, globalization, and the importance of indigenous cultures.

Brookes has visited libraries, galleries, and campuses all over Europe and the United States showing and discussing the Alphabet carvings and running as many as five talks and workshops in a day. Faculty members from Yale University invited

Brookes to use his Alphabets in a course on the history of writing entitled, “From Pictograph to Pixel.” Several schools, including Western Wyoming College, have asked Brookes to visit creative writing classes and talk about the Alphabets project and how it has led him to explore new and creative forms of non-fiction writing. During his visit at UMPI, Brookes will offer workshops in two classrooms.

Brookes has received praise for his work and his lectures. Will Shortz, crossword editor for *The New York Times*, said, “Tim Brookes is a personable, engaging, fascinating speaker. He wowed the crowd at the 2012 Wonderful World of Words.”

The University’s Distinguished Lecture Series was established in 1999. Each year, the

UDLS Committee sponsors four 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.

All are invited to attend Brookes’ distinguished lecture. For more information about the event, contact UMPI’s Community and Media Relations Office at 768.9452 or email info@umpi.edu. For more information about Tim Brookes and his Endangered Alphabets Project, visit his website at <http://timbrookesinc.com/endangeredalphabets/>. ★

Turner Library gets UMPI-built snow cave

The Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library has a brand new outdoor reading spot on its grounds thanks to the snow cave-building skills of a UMPI faculty member and several UMPI students.

Library Director Sonja Plummer had the idea earlier this winter to create a fun, snowy space where local kids could snuggle up with a good book, and it quickly “snowballed.” The Presque Isle Public Works Department was quick to oblige in dumping a 10-foot-high pile of snow near the entrance of the local library. And it only took a few messages online for Plummer to find the “architect” for the project—UMPI Assistant Professor of Art Hyrum Benson.

Plummer said the library’s Artist-in-residence, Clifton Boudman, first suggested approaching Benson, since he understood him to have some experi-

ence constructing snow caves or sculptures.

“With Hyrum and his students’ help, we’ve provided a place to play for all children in the community and a way to celebrate one of the great strengths about our village—our snowy culture,” she said.

Benson explained that he usually builds a snow cave every winter in his own backyard. His last snow cave was about 7 feet high inside and could hold about 10 people. On Feb. 9, Benson and three of his Studio 923 UMPI Art Club students—Renee Moore, Jessalyn Levesque, and Sarah Coons—spent the morning outside the public library building the official snow cave.

The new establishment had its first formal use on Feb. 18, during the local

library’s children story time.

“It was a joy to work with University faculty and students in this collaborative and engaging way to create a reading nook that we know so many of our children crawl into and get cozy,” Plummer said. ★



Standing in front of the snow cave for the Turner Memorial library are, from left, UMPI Art Club students Sarah Coons, Renee Moore and Jessalyn Levesque, and UMPI art faculty member Hyrum Benson.

AAI, UMPI and UMFK host Reverse Career Fair

Aroostook Aspiration Initiative, UMPI, and the University of Maine at Fort Kent are collaborating for The County’s first ever “Reverse Career Fair,” scheduled for April 16 from 10 A.M.-2 P.M. at the Community Center in Caribou. Businesses who wish to attend the fair should email Aroostook Aspirations Initiative at info@gauvinfund.org.

While a traditional career fair encourages employers to set up booths and share the needs of their business to students attending the event, the Reverse Career Fair literally reverses these roles, with students taking ownership. College students compete for a spot at the fair, set up a display, and have the opportunity to meet leaders of business in Aroostook County.

Tammy DeLisle, Career Planning and Internship Placement Coordinator at UMFK, discovered the concept while researching ideas for career fairs. “It is a win-win for everyone. Students get to meet and put their resume in the hands of employers, and employers invest only a small segment of time in place of an entire day. Employers should not miss this opportunity to network with our students and discover the professional and leadership skills they can offer.”

April Flagg, executive director of the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative, is excited about the partnership between the universities and AAI. “This concept was a perfect fit for our new internship program. Connecting students with the employers in Aroostook, with the business and civic leaders, is a vital tool as we all work to reverse our outward migration.”

“UMPI has made career preparation opportunities for our students an area of even greater focus, so we are very pleased to be partnering with AAI and UMFK on this innovative event,” UMPI President Linda Schott said. “Our hope is that it will help to expand our students’ understanding of the many great job opportunities available right here in Aroostook County.”

Employer involvement is key to the success of this event. Engaging students in the work available in Aroostook and allowing them to meet the people who make the hires, and who will have future positions available, helps students see Aroostook as a great place to live and raise families.

UMPI students interested in securing a spot for this event should email Nicole Fournier at nicole.l.fournier@umpi.edu. ★

Putnam uncovering climate change clues in Asia

UMPI faculty member David Putnam has traveled the world to investigate climate change, but recently, he and his son have been looking to mountain glaciers and ancient shorelines in Mongolia to better understand how Earth's climate has operated over time.

Putnam and his son, Dr. Aaron Putnam, Assistant Research Professor, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, joined a team of researchers in Mongolia last summer to conduct this work, and already have plans underway to return this summer. The research team is composed of an international group of scientists led by Dr. George Denton of the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute and Dr. Wallace Broecker, of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

The team's work in the summer of 2014 focused on developing high resolution chronologies from mountain glaciers worldwide, using a new method called cosmogenic dating. This involves collecting samples from quartz-bearing boulders that have been deposited onto glacier moraines. Scientists are able to measure the amount of a particular isotope of Beryllium-10 (¹⁰Be), in these samples to find out how long the boulders have been sitting on the moraines, ultimately providing an unprecedented chronological record of atmospheric temperature.

To collect the samples, members of the team explored the Horoo Gol moraines, and the valley of Kurgan and Khoton Lakes, which has two major moraine belts surrounding it.

They also traveled to Khyargas Nuur, a large playa lake, to



Dave Putnam traveled to Mongolia last summer to conduct climate change research. Here, members of the research team sample a boulder on the Khoton Nuur Moraines — Dr. Aaron Putnam is second from the right — as Kazakh herders look on.

collect samples from the series of ancient shorelines reaching up to 140 meters above the modern lake level. These were collected as part of the Putnams' focus on water balance, as glaciers grow and shrink due to a combination of summer temperature and precipitation.

Some of the samples collected during this trip are currently being processed and Putnam hopes to get some preliminary dates back soon.

Putnam said the chronologies from mountain glaciers worldwide he and others have helped to develop affords an "elegant test of the two [competing] theories" that dominate the debate over how the Earth's climate operates.

"As is often the case, our data show a pattern of offset between the north and south, but not a seasonal see-saw," Putnam said. "Also, over the past 150 years, that offset disappeared and both southern and northern glaciers are retreating in synchrony — a pattern never before seen in the past 800,000 years." ★

AARP Smart Driver Course offered for seniors

Local senior citizens will have the opportunity to learn about defensive driving and driving safety strategies during an AARP Smart Driver Course that will be held at the University this spring. This is a community service course offered through UMPI's Conferences and Special Programs Office and sponsored and coordinated by Seniors Achieving Greater Education [SAGE], UMPI's senior college.

The AARP Smart Driver Course will be held on Tuesday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in UMPI's Campus Center, Room 118. The course teaches valuable

defensive driving skills and provides a refresher of the rules of the road. Designed for people 50 years of age and older, the AARP Smart Driver Course has helped more than 14 million seniors learn about how changes in vision, hearing and physical health can affect driving and gain tips that help them adapt to these natural changes that come as they age.

Participants will learn proven safety strategies to help keep them safer while on the road. In addition, those who complete the course may qualify for an automobile insurance discount. Individuals should check with their auto insurance company or agent for details.

Space is limited; the public is encour-

aged to register before March 15 by calling UMPI's Conferences and Special Programs Office at 207 768.9502. Class begins promptly at 10 a.m., so participants are encouraged to arrive about 20 minutes early to get started. Participants can bring their own bagged lunch, snack and drink, or purchase food and beverages in the campus cafeteria or store.

The classroom fee is \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. Checks should be made payable on registration and made out to AARP—Smart Driver.

For more information about this course, please contact Penny Kern at 207 200.6311. ★

Reed Gallery presents *Tea Stains* exhibition

The University's Reed Fine Art Gallery will present *Tea Stains: bind. mark. stitch.* by Orono Artist Susan Smith from March 6 through April 11,



2015. The public is invited to view the exhibition throughout the show's run and attend the Opening Reception on

March 6 from 5-7 P.M., which is being held in conjunction with the First Friday Art Walk. Smith will conduct an Artist Talk during the reception at 5:30 P.M.

Smith has exhibited work in both group and solo exhibitions, and was recently selected to participate in the annual selection of Maine artists at the Harlow Gallery in Hallowell, Maine, as well as curator for group shows around the state. Smith holds a BFA in painting and drawing from the University of Maine and an MFA in

Intermedia. Currently pursuing an Interdisciplinary Ph.D., Smith works as coordinator for Lord Galleries and in the department of New Media at the University of Maine.

The special exhibition Smith is bringing to the Reed Gallery, *Tea Stains: bind. mark. stitch.*, evolved from an interest in collecting materials. Smith commented: "Tea bags, when broken down into their individual parts, consist of leaves and grounds, strings and translucent paper that reveal its history. This accumulation drove my curiosity, and research confronted me with the disparity between how tea is produced and the aura that surrounds it: as a calming cup that nourishes

body and soul, and yet, the oppressive conditions the women responsible for harvesting tea endure."

"Many spend part of their day scavenging for water for their families. The bitter irony of that lack of access to water, while picking tea for the rest of the world to drink, is the basis for this work," she said. "Through the layering of pigment, organic material and the recycled fragments of tea, I am attempting to honor these women by tainting the canvas with the history of use and misuse."

In addition to its Opening Reception on March 6, *Tea Stains: bind. mark. stitch.* will be open for the First Friday Art Walk on April 3 from 5-7 P.M. ★

SAGE kicks off spring 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. on Friday, March 13 in the Campus Center. For 17 years, Seniors Achieving Greater Education [SAGE] has brought 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, and one of two senior colleges north of Bangor.

At the March 13 event, participants will have the opportunity to socialize with SAGE members and learn all about upcoming SAGE classes. Refreshments will be served. Following the Kick-Off, attendees will be entertained by a Live Chess Match staged by Lance Beloungie, 2014 Maine Chess Player of the Year. Volunteers will be asked to represent the living chess pieces.

This spring, SAGE officials are offering 18 exciting courses, learning events and excursions—on topics ranging from astronomy and learning to cook with medicinal herbs to memoir writing and simple plumbing and heating repairs. Learning excursions



include a trip to two maple syrup producers and the chance to visit a deeryard and greenhouse. Classes range in length from one day to six weeks and will be offered between April 2 and May 12.

SAGE has no entrance requirements, grades or tests, and no college background is needed. Another benefit is that course facilitators are local people who have a deep love and knowledge of the subject they are presenting.

The cost that participants pay for the education and interaction they get is minimal. Membership in Seniors Achieving Greater Education is \$17 per semester or \$32 for the year (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31). Courses are free for members; some hands-on courses and field excursions have additional fees and some courses may require the purchase of a book. Full or partial scholarships to take part in the program are available through a simple, friendly, and confidential process.

For more information, to register for a class, or to make a reservation for the March 13 kick-off, contact Nancy Roe at 768.7271. To view fall course offerings, visit www.umpi.edu/sage. ★

Planet Head Day raises science, cancer awareness

UMPI's Northern Maine Museum of Science and C-A-N-C-E-R [Caring Area Neighbors for Cancer Education and Recovery] are pleased to announce that the 9th Annual Planet Head Day, held on Feb. 14 in Wieden Gymnasium, raised more than \$11,000. A record number — well more than 50 — had their heads shaved (others donned bald caps) and painted as planets, moons and comets during this unique fundraiser that brings together space science education and cancer awareness.

Planet Head Day is the major fundraising event for C-A-N-C-E-R, an Aroostook County-based grassroots organization that assists cancer patients and their families.

There was much to do and see at this year's Planet Head Day: displays related to C-A-N-C-E-R's efforts and space education, a children's art area, a table of free hand-knit hats by the Knotty Knitters for those who shaved their heads, and a visit from the County Clownz. In the middle of the room, WAGM's Chief Meteorologist Ted Shapiro returned to emcee this year's event. Just outside the gym, students Renee Browning, Kate Leavitt and Elizabeth Butterfield, with the Presque Isle Regional Career and Technical Center's SkillsUSA organization, took before and after photographs of

each planethead so participants had a keepsake to take home. As it has since the first year of the event, Pizza Hut provided food and drink, and birthday cake for the 85th anniversary of Pluto's discovery was provided by NASA.

There were more than 100 "planetheads" of all ages orbiting around the gym. A crowd gathered around a row of barber chairs to watch the brave get a very close shave from the staff of the Parsons Street Barber Shop and Great Beginnings Hair Boutique. Theatrical "bald" caps offered a less permanent option for participants.

Nearby, volunteer artists and planet head painters were on hand to transform those blank canvases into the celestial body of each person's choosing. Money for the "bald" caps and paints were provided by a NASA grant.

Planet Head Day was established as a NASA-funded celebration of the University's involvement in the New Horizons space mission to Pluto. Significantly, the New Horizons mission arrives at the dwarf planet this year on July 15.

A video of this year's activities, provided by Frank Grant, will be made available on youtube. Donation can still be sent directly to C-A-N-C-E-R, P.O. Box 811, Presque Isle, ME 04769, or call Louise Cardone-Calabrese at 764.0766. ★

Photos courtesy Dave Allen Graphics



Maine School of Science and Mathematics faculty member Larry Berz, fondly known to many as Mr. B, is full of anticipation as MSSM Executive Director Luke Shorty puts the finishing touches on his planethead, which was dubbed planet "Larrywood". The MSSM crew had planned to join this year's Planet Head Day festivities via Skype but were able to attend in person, helping to raise more awareness for space science education and funds for the local cancer organization, C-A-N-C-E-R.



Dusty Graham has been a repeat participant and strong supporter of Planet Head Day. Behind Graham are Jeanie McGowan and Kevin McCartney, who brainstormed the original idea for this unique fundraiser that combines space science education and cancer awareness into a single package.



Kay Judkins, Ethel Kinney and Susie Schloeman were all smiles after participating in Planet Head Day 2015.

Sports! Sports! Sports!

Owls win season finale against Eastern Maine

Facing Eastern Maine for the second time in less than a week, the UMPI Owls came out of the blocks slowly, before going on a 31-14 run late in the first half to pace itself to an 83-68 win Feb. 16 in Presque Isle.

Junior Chase Vicaire was nearly unstoppable in the first frame, bagging the majority of his impressive seven three-point goals in the game. The Owls were also able to take advantage of the interior, when Jeremy Santiago, the Eagles' only legitimate post threat, went to the bench with two fouls midway through the first half.

UMPI looked sharper on both ends of the floor in the second half, building on their 41-32 halftime lead. Sophomore

Nick Lenhard collected six assists on the night, and sophomore Brandon McGill snatched 12 rebounds to secure several defensive possessions.

Freshmen Trevor Lovely and Maurice Harris handled their share of the scoring in the second half, making sure Eastern Maine could never get it reduced to a tight game, despite efforts from Keyshawn Hampton.

The Owls ended their season on a high note: in addition to their season finale win, UMPI is #1 in all of the USCAA in defensive field goal percentage (38%) and won five of its final six games, all against a punishing list of opponents on its schedule. ★

Pratt career-high carries Owls past Machias

Senior co-captain Brigitte Pratt saved her best for the last game she played in an Owl uniform, scoring a career-high 15 points to lead Presque Isle to a 55-34 road victory over the University of Maine at Machias Feb. 12.

The Owls jumped out to a 16-10 lead behind the long-range bombs of Junior Katie Patenaude. Patenaude connected on three consecutive outside shots early, but Machias would battle back hitting four 3-pointers of their own in the first half, including a deep 3-pointer from Alicen Brooks with only seconds left to close the Owl advantage to 31-24 at the half.

The Clippers came out strong in the second half

scoring 5 of the period's first 7 points to cut the Owl lead to 33-29 with 17:14 on the clock. The Owls' second half defense has been outstanding of late, allowing only 11 second half points to Eastern Maine in their last game, and Presque Isle would again use its multiple defensive schemes to throttle the Clippers offensive momentum in the game. The Clippers went scoreless from the 17:14 mark until the 9:25 mark when Sierra Tjelmeland was fouled by senior Krista Coffin. The Owls could only muster 6 points of their own during that span, but held the lead 39-30.

After Meagan Cope banked home a 15-footer for the Clippers at 8:25, the Owl

lead was 39-32, but Pratt would singlehandedly stop any intention the Clippers had of making a comeback. Pratt scored 9 of her game-high 15 points in a 16-0 Owl run in the next 6 minutes of action to give the Owls a solid road win for the second night in a row and allow Presque Isle to close their season on a three-game winning streak.

Darby Toth capped a spectacular season with 12 points, 8 rebounds and added 6 assist to her season total that is leading the USCAA. Patenaude scored a career-high 11 points and Pratt added 6 rebounds.

The victory gave the Owls 10 wins for the year. ★



notes

CJ Club holds spaghetti dinner

UMPI's CJ Club held another successful spaghetti dinner and silent auction with all proceeds going towards their upcoming trip to Dallas, TX. Over 40 people attended the event, with donations at the



CJ Club

door and the silent auction taking in more than \$500.

People were able to bid on various items such as Valentine's gift sets, gift cards, jewelry, and hand-made items. The CJ Club would like to thank everyone for their support and give special thanks to Mark Stamper and Aramark for providing the pasta, rolls, and drinks.

VISTA seeks volunteers

David Gardner with Volunteers In Service To America would like to spread the word to UMPI students about an opportunity to serve as a VISTA volunteer. VISTA, which was originally billed as the domestic Peace Corp, is now celebrating its 50th Anniversary. There will be

many VISTA positions available in the coming years in Presque Isle and Aroostook County. It is a great way to serve the nation and get \$5,750 to pay off student loans, plus a stipend of \$983 a month for living expenses. Participants can choose which type of program they want to work for: homelessness, veter-



an's rights, youth programs, etc. They can also choose which area of the country or which state they would like to work in. Childcare assistance is also available. FMI, go to www.vistacampus.gov or <https://my.americorps.gov>, or contact David Gardner at dgardner@micmac-nsn.gov.

Financial Peer Advisor named

UMPI student Cody Tompkins is the new Financial Peer Advisor, charged with assisting students with financial aid questions, loan/SALT information, and any financial advice needed. His "office area" is located on the first floor of the Center for Innovative Learning (formerly known as the Library). Students do not need to make an appointment; they can drop by for help. For more information, feel free to contact him via email at cody.tompkins@maine.edu. Tompkins' office hours are: Monday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tuesday: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday: Noon – 2 p.m. Thursday: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Friday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

VITA services underway through April 11

UMPI will once again serve as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. VITA offers free tax help to people who cannot afford paid professional assistance. Volunteers, trained in tax law and certified by the IRS help prepare basic tax returns for low-income taxpayers. VITA assistance will be available in CC118 on Saturdays from now through



April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FMI, contact Lowell Glidden at 769.7651 or logme@mfx.net.

Former UMPI RA featured in article

Former UMPI Resident Assistant Rachel McGlinn-Bourgeois was featured in the December issue of *Maine Educator* magazine for her Perspectives piece on "Should Schools Still Teach Cursive?" To read the article, visit <http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/?i=235339&p=10>.



UMPI holding Career Fair

The Northern Maine Counseling Association, a group of high school guidance counselors and admissions representatives from Aroostook County, will be hosting a Career Fair on Wednesday, April 1, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at various locations on campus. Over 650 sophomores from Aroostook County high schools will be attending sessions hosted by local professionals to find out about careers of interest. Professionals from law enforcement officers to bankers to health care professionals will be there. A few UMPI community members will be presenting, including Shirley Rush, Vanessa Patenaude, Bryan Thompson, Mark Kornachuk, and Tom Fuhrmark.

Johnston gives talk

Dr. Jason Johnston, ornithologist and assistant professor of wildlife ecology at UMPI, offered a presentation, "Forest, Food and Phenology: Research on Northern Maine Birds" on Feb. 26. The talk,

sponsored by Aroostook Birders bird watching group, highlighted the diversity of work he and his students have done studying area birds and bird habitats.

Boys and Girls Club of America visiting UMPI

UMPI will welcome the Boys and Girls Club of America Youth Group, Presque Isle Chapter on March 10 as they visit to learn about media with demonstrations

provided by university clubs, the *UTimes* and WUPI Radio.

They will be taking campus tours and enjoying campus dinner service at Kelley Commons.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB of Presque Isle

Employers Wanted

UMPI is looking for employers to participate in their Career, Job and Grad School Fair on Tuesday, April 7, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Campus Center. The Fair provides employers and recruitment officers the opportunity to meet graduating seniors, recent graduates and current students. There is no fee to participate, and a table will be provided for you to promote your products and/or services. Bring product samples, "giveaways" and door prizes to give to students and community members who may attend. Space is limited, so sign up early. Contact Nicole Fournier at nicole.l.fournier@umpi.edu. ★

notes



Outing Club Schedule

March 5-May 10, 2015

Full Moon Snowshoe

Thurs, March 5, 6pm, meet at Gentile Hall; free equipment available

Ski Bum Weekend

Sat & Sun, March 7 & 8 - NORDIC SKIING Saturday afternoon at the Nordic Heritage Center; SLUMBER PARTY at Gentile Hall Saturday night; DOWNHILL SKIING or BOARDING Sunday at Big Rock 9am - 4pm; UMPI Students - \$20, Community Members - \$30
**fee does not include downhill lift ticket and equipment rental*

Yoga

Thurs, March 19, 7pm, Gentile Hall, UMPI Students \$5, Community Members \$10

Association for Experiential Education Conference

Fri - Sun, April 17 - 19; UMPI Students \$75 - fee includes transportation, lodging, food and conference fees

Outdoor Rock Climbing

Sat, May 2 (rain date Sun, May 3) Acadia National Park UMPI Students - \$30, Community Members - \$45

Overnight Camping

Sat & Sun, May 9 & 10; explore Deboullie, the hidden gem of northern Maine; UMPI Students - \$50, Community Members - \$70
fee includes transportation, camping fees, and food

For more information or to sign up for one of our events, please contact our Club Advisor, Amanda Baker:

amanda.g.baker@umpi.edu, 768.9401. The UMPI Outing Club office is located in Gentile Hall.

The UMPI Outing Club is supported by the UMPI Student Senate. A non-profit club, all fees associated with events are strictly used to pay for the direct expenses of the event.

Community members are welcomed and encouraged to sign up for these events! Call for information about non-UMPI student prices. ★

IN MEMORIAM

BETTY PEERS, who worked in the mailroom for 19 years; she passed away on February 9, 2015.

PATTY GALLAGHER, wife of UMPI Professor Emeritus Dr. Guy Gallagher; she passed away on February 25, 2015.

New drop-in hours for science, math, and reading/writing

The Learning Commons is now offering weekly drop-in hours for science, math, and reading/writing assistance!

Students do NOT need to schedule a specific appointment. They can simply walk right into the Learning Commons any day/time it's being offered. Please encourage your students to take advantage of this opportunity. The days and times are as follows:

Science ☺ Mondays, 2-5 p.m.

Math ✓ Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m.

Reading/Writing ☺ Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.

New donation for Relay for Life raffle

UMPI's Relay for Life team is pleased to announce that Waterfront Concerts (Bangor) has donated 2 tickets to ANY concert in the Waterfront Concert Series for 2015 (concert choice is subject to availability) and they will be included along with the other three items already available (quilt, BBQ set, and the picnic basket). The cost is \$1 for one ticket or 7 tickets for \$5, then you chose which item you want your tickets to go towards. Tickets are available in the Student Financial Services Office (Preble Hall, second floor) and will be on sale until the drawing on Friday, May 1. FMI, contact Laurie Boucher, laurie.boucher@umpi.edu or Lisa Leduc, lisa.leduc@umpi.edu.

Here are some of the concert dates and artists (as of press time) - more are being added daily:

Ed Sheeran - Sunday, May 24 • **Train** - Thursday, June 18

Fall Out Boy - Saturday, June 20

Kenny Chesney - Thursday, August 13

Nickelback - Wednesday, August 19



UMPI hosted Titan Challenge

The University hosted the 9th Annual Junior Achievement of Maine Titan Challenge in the Campus Center on Feb. 11. The event brought area high school students to campus to compete against their peers across the state on business finance and market-

ing simulations. All Maine high schools were invited to participate in this day long competition, free of charge. More than 150 teams from Maine high schools were registered. Twenty-seven of these teams competed here at UMPI. Three scholarship



prizes are awarded each year and, this year, Aroostook County teams received all three scholarships. More

than \$5,000 in scholarships were received by the winning teams, one from Van Buren and two teams from Caribou. This event was sponsored on campus by the faculty of the Business Administration program. ★

activities 3.03.2015–3.28.2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
MAR 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MAR 3

SGA 1pm, CC 118
 ■ UMPI 100% 5pm,
 CC 118

MAR 5

SEAM 12:30pm,
 Owl's Nest ■
Games Club 5pm,
 Owl's Nest

MAR 6

Games Club
Warmachine
 6:30pm, CC 118

MAR 8

Bible Study 7:30pm,
 CC 118

MAR 10

SGA 1pm, CC 118
 ■ UMPI 100% 5pm,
 CC 118

MAR 12

SEAM 12:30pm,
 Owl's Nest ■
Games Club 5pm,
 Owl's Nest ■ Mardi
Gras dance 10pm,
 St. John &
 Aroostook Rooms,
 Campus Center

MAR 13

International
Students Club 1pm,
 Alumni Room ■
Games Club
Warmachine
 6:30pm, CC 118

MAR 14

Games Club LARP
 6:30pm, Pull 112 &
 113, F 105

MAR 15

Bible Study 7:30pm,
 CC 118

MAR 17

St. Patrick's Day ■
UMPI 100% 5pm,
 CC 118

MAR 18

Comedian Sammy
Obeid 7pm, Aud in
 Wieden

MAR 19

SEAM 12:30pm,
 Alumni Room ■
Games Club 5pm,
 Owl's Nest ■ DLS
speaker Tim Brookes
 7pm, Aud in Wieden

MAR 20

Games Club
Warmachine
 6:30pm, CC118

MAR 22

Bible Study 7:30pm,
 CC 118

MAR 23

UMPI 100% 5pm,
 Alumni Room

MAR 24

SGA 1pm, CC 118

MAR 26

SEAM 12:30pm,
 Owl's Nest ■
Games Club 5pm,
 Owl's Nest

MAR 27

International
Students Club 1pm,
 Alumni Room ■
Games Club
Warmachine
 6:30pm, CC 118

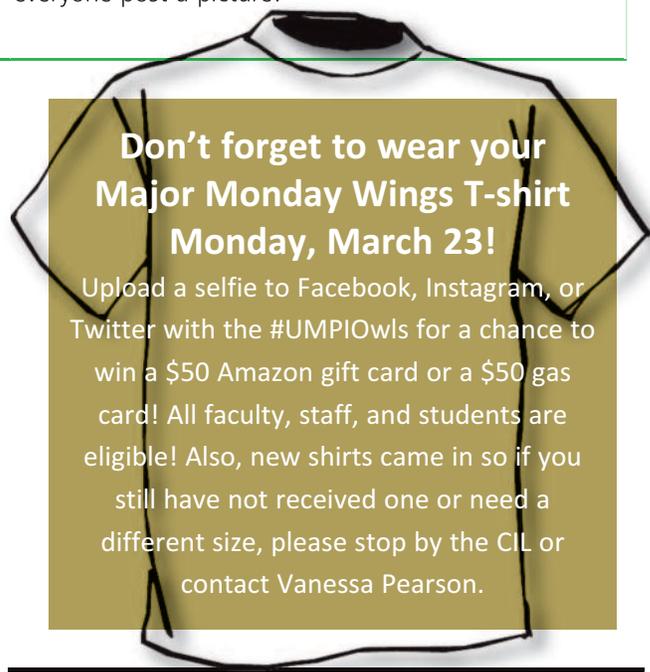
MAR 28

Games Club LARP
 6:30pm, Pull 112 &
 113, F 105



Reminder to UMPI Alums

Don't forget to show your UMPI pride and celebrate your major accomplishments since graduation! Wear your snowy owl lapel pin you received when you graduated and answer the question, "Where have your wings taken you?" To answer that question, take a photo that shows you wearing the pin—either in your professional role or enjoying adventures all around the world—and then post the photo and your story to <http://yourwings.umpi.edu>. We hope to have everyone post a picture!



Don't forget to wear your Major Monday Wings T-shirt Monday, March 23!

Upload a selfie to Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter with the #UMPIOwls for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card or a \$50 gas card! All faculty, staff, and students are eligible! Also, new shirts came in so if you still have not received one or need a different size, please stop by the CIL or contact Vanessa Pearson.

We want to hear about your news & events!
 If you would like to submit an item for the April 2015 issue, the deadline for submissions is Monday, March 16, 4:30 p.m.
Submissions received after that date may not be included.
 Email news or event information to gshaw@umpi.edu ★

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The deadline for material is ten days before the date of publication.
 ★ Rachel Rice, editor • 207.768.9447 • rachel.rice@umpi.edu
 ★ Dick Harrison, design, layout & photography
 ★ Gayla Shaw, administrative assistant

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