

MOOSE PRINT

University of Maine at Augusta Newsletter

Fall Issue Vol.1 No. 5

October Events Highlight 2007-2008 Academic Theme of Health and Social Justice



Provost Josh Nadel speaking at last year's Convocation.

October 14th Convocation

Students, faculty, staff and members of the community are all invited to attend UMA's Convocation on Sunday, October 14th. Taking place in Jewett Auditorium, this major campus event begins at 2:00 PM.

With this year's academic theme being Health and Social Justice, Convocation will feature a keynote address by Naomi Schalit, Opinion Page Editor for the Central Maine Newspapers. Schalit's talk is expected to delve into issues she raised in a recent series of editorials titled, "For I was hungry." The series documented the depth and breadth of hunger in Maine.

Also at Convocation, President Randall will honor two community leaders. Don Winslow, a retired Bangor Chief of Police and a former member of UCB's Advisory Board, will receive a Distinguished Community Service Award. Katy Perry, an author and columnist who lives in Hallowell, will receive a Distinguished Achievement Award.

October 19th Symposium on Medical Ethics and the Holocaust

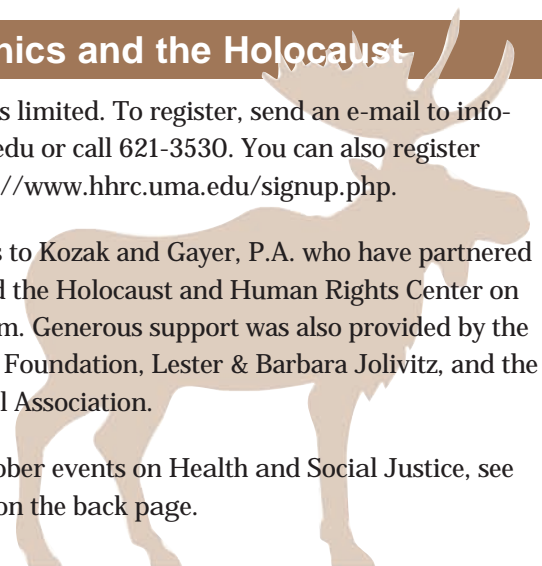
Five days following Convocation a symposium will be held on Medical Ethics and the Holocaust. Co-sponsored by UMA and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, the symposium will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Jewett Auditorium. This special event will be bringing in physicians and scholars, including nationally renowned bioethicist George J. Annas of the Boston University School of Public Health.

The symposium is free and open to the pub-

lic, but space is limited. To register, send an e-mail to info-hhrc@maine.edu or call 621-3530. You can also register online at <http://www.hhrc.uma.edu/signup.php>.

Special thanks to Kozak and Gayer, P.A. who have partnered with UMA and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center on this symposium. Generous support was also provided by the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, Lester & Barbara Jolivitz, and the Maine Medical Association.

For more October events on Health and Social Justice, see the Calendar on the back page.



There Ought to Be A Law.

When Mary Rose Pray enrolled at UMA at the age of 52, about the last thing she thought she'd be doing was working the halls of the State Legislature. But less than two years later, that's exactly what she was doing -- for a bill she initiated.

After completing two years of college back in the 1970s, Mary Rose decided in 2005 it was time to go back to school. Living in Wiscasset, she took advantage of UMA's ITV offerings at Wiscasset High School to enroll last fall in Interventions with Children and Families, taught by Patricia Morris Clark.

One of the requirements of the course was that every student needed to take on an outside project that would have a positive impact on children and families. "It's one of the great things about Pat Clark," says Mary Rose. "She brings real life issues right into the classroom." (See story on Pat Clark in this issue.)

Mary Rose decided to take on an issue that hit close to home – at least one of her children's homes.

"Two of my grandchildren were enrolled with Child Development Services (CDS), a program for preschool children that helps get them ready for school," Mary Rose explains. "These are kids who might be headed to special ed if their problems are not addressed early on. CDS offers speech and occupational therapy and it can really make a difference."

There was a catch, though. Parents with a five-year-old child in CDS did not have an important option open to them that all other Maine parents with a five-year-old have: the option of holding their five-year-old back a year before beginning kindergarten.

"Many parents in Maine avail themselves of this option, especially parents of boys who tend to develop at a different rate than girls," says Mary Rose.

For parents with a child in CDS, however, holding their five-year-old back a year meant losing key CDS services.

"Parents with a five-year-old in CDS needed to make an impossible choice between losing services they knew their child needed or having their child start school when he or she was not ready," says Mary Rose.

So Mary Rose went to work. First she did her homework by consulting with CDS staff in Lincoln County, with the Special Education Director in Wiscasset, and with child development expert Alan Cabo-Lewis at the University of Maine.

Next, she made contact with her legislators and at Mary Rose's bequest her Senator, Dana Dow, introduced LD 317, a bill that would enable parents with a child in CDS to hold their child back a year from starting kindergarten if the child would not be turning five until July 1st or after. Children held back would retain CDS services.

By this time, Mary Rose had already been in touch with every member of the Legislature's Joint Education Committee, which would be considering the bill.

In March of this year there was a public hearing on LD 317, in which Mary Rose testified. The bill was passed unanimously by the Education Committee. After subsequent approval by the Appropriations Committee, the Governor signed the bill into law.

"I felt great when I learned the Governor had signed the bill into law," says Mary Rose. "This bill won't affect hundreds of people, but the families it does affect will be helped enormously."



Mary Rose with two of her grandchildren.

“I learned so much during the process,” Mary Rose added. “I was very intimidated at first, but with the support of Pat Clark, I learned I could do this. I could not thank her enough.”

There are parents of children in CDS who would probably say the same thing about Mary Rose.

And There Ought To Be Another Law.

There's some great news for Maine college students, and it comes in part due to the leadership efforts of UMA student Nicole Brown.

Nicole, a Public Administration Major, is currently Vice President of Opportunity Maine, the organization that spearheaded a successful effort that will soon provide tax credits to graduates from Maine colleges who have student loans. To qualify for the tax break, graduates only need to stay in Maine to work.



Nicole Brown meets with another *lawmaker*, Senator Olympia Snowe

Opportunity Maine initially sought to put the tax credit measure on the ballot as a citizen-initiated referendum. It was at that point that Nicole was approached by UMA graduate Leah Malave to coordinate signature gathering on the University College of Bangor campus.

The 27-year-old Nicole, who lives in Carmel with her six year old son, was eager to help out. “Student debt is a huge problem,”

explains Nicole. “The typical college student like me will graduate with about \$24,000 in loans. Many graduates have loans even larger.”

Nicole ultimately became a lead organizer for Opportunity Maine, and the signature collection was an astounding success. In fact, it was so successful that the Legislature and Governor took the unusual action of passing the measure on their own, rather than sending it on to referendum.

Nicole, herself, has learned a lot from the Opportunity Maine experience, and when she graduates hopes to pursue a career in fundraising and development for non-profits or perhaps political campaigns. In the meantime, though, she is balancing her parenting and education with her work for Opportunity Maine.

“Now our job is to get the word out,” says Nicole, encouraging students to sign up through Opportunity Maine so that the group can help them take advantage of the tax breaks that begin this January.

To find out more, go to www.opportunitymaine.org.

He Made A Few Laws, Too. Former Governor Angus King Speaks at UMA.



On Wednesday, September 19th, Angus King spoke on the Augusta campus on “Leadership Lessons of Little Round Top.” The event was sponsored by the UMA chapter of Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration.

Ms. Clark Goes to Washington.

Faculty Member One of Only Six Nationally to Receive Prestigious Head Start Fellowship.

Patricia Morris Clark, an Instructor in our Mental Health and Human Services Program, has been awarded a Fellowship by the National Head Start Program. Pat, who began the year-long, DC-based Fellowship in mid-September, was one of only six people selected from across the nation.

"I couldn't be more ecstatic," says Pat. "I am hoping I can really play a direct role in making a difference in the lives of children and families all over the United States. I feel like I have been preparing for this all my life."

"The process for receiving a Fellowship was intense and demanding," adds Pat. "The initial application was extensive and required the writing of five different essays and several recommendations."

One of those recommendations came from Susan Emmerling of the Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation. Says



Emmerling, "Our agency currently employs at least twenty staff who graduated from or are attending UMA. Without fail, when these employees speak of their college experience, it includes mention of classes they had with Pat Clark.

Our agency has benefited tremendously by having such an advocate for Head Start so close by."

From the Head Start Fellowship written application process, national screeners picked 14 finalists to come down to Washington for two days of interviews and assignments. From the 14 final candidates, six were awarded Fellowships. One was Pat.

Says Pat, "I suspect I received the Fellowship for a combination of reasons: my experience with local Head Starts, my previous work with young children as a nursery school teacher and as a kindergarten teacher in SAD 75, my university experience, and my first-hand knowledge of the collaborative process and how it works."

During her Fellowship, Clark will be working with the National Director of Head Start on a variety of research and projects. She has relocated to Washington, DC for the year, but is still teaching a UMA course online.

Campus Celebrates Constitution



From September 17th-21st, there were several Constitution Day events held on the Augusta and Bangor campuses. Shown here is Professor Mary Louis Davitt, Legal Technology/Criminal Justice, leading a discussion on "The Shrinking Public Forum." Student Joshua Gaylin is on her left.

A Presidential Search

Richard Randall's term as UMA President concludes at the end of this academic year. A Presidential Search Committee, comprised of representatives of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, the Board of Visitors and alumni, has been working since the summer, and is on track to conduct on-campus interviews in mid-November and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees in January.

In order to keep everyone informed about the search, a website has been established at www.maine.edu/UMAsearch. For individuals wishing to nominate potential candidates, please e-mail our search consultant, former Chancellor Terry MacTaggart at tjm@maine.edu.

UMA's Architecture Program: *The Interest is Building*

With apologies to 20th century architect Mies Van der Rohe who coined the phrase "less is more," UMA's Architectural Program could probably be best defined these days as "more is more."

The Architecture program is hardly UMA's largest program, but it's among our fastest growing. "We've gone from about 35 students a few years ago to well over 100 today," says Rob Sherman, the Program's Coordinator.



The students will graduate with a B.A. degree, but getting through the program is challenging by design. "We're not looking for perfection, but we are looking for excellence," says Architecture Professor Roger Richmond, who helped found the program twenty years ago.

Second-year student Giovanni Morabito agrees that it's a difficult program, but adds that it's all worth it. "There's no better feeling than when you're presenting a project you've developed, and your peers and professors are really experiencing your ideas and design."

The Architecture Program especially prides itself in taking students outside the studio classroom. Students have recently worked on projects for the cities of Biddeford and Old Orchard Beach and this fall, there will be a project with the town of Hallowell. There are field trips, too, including some to Boston and New York City.

The final piece of the program, of course, is the faculty. "A superlative group, dedicated, creative, available and caring deeply about every student," says Dean Peggy Danielson. "Simply amazing and dedicated to helping students grow," echoes second year student Jaclyn Vassallo.

Through in-class study, outside projects, field trips and an outstanding faculty, our graduates are so well-prepared that they consistently gain entry to the Architectural Master's program of their choice. That includes the prestigious Boston Architectural College (BAC) which has developed a unique partnership with UMA's program.

UMA has its first few graduates in the BAC right now and once they graduate they will enter a field that many consider unique. "What makes the study of architecture such a great profession is that it becomes much more than a job; it becomes a lifestyle," says Richmond. "Architecture becomes not what you do, but who you are."

For more information on UMA's Architectural Program, call Rob Sherman, 621-3261.

Professor Tapped as Secretary- General of International Council of Psychologists.

Professor of Psychology Kenneth Elliott has been elected Secretary-General of the International Council of Psychologists (ICP). Ken was chosen by the ICP Board of Directors during the group's 65th Annual Conference held in August in San Diego.



"It is a privilege to be able to help ICP advance its important work around the globe," says Ken. "The Council advocates both locally in many countries as well as at the UN. It advocates for mental health issues affecting the elderly, women, and children."

"I am also hopeful that serving as Secretary-General of ICP will provide for our students new opportunities to collaborate with undergraduate students globally," adds Ken.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 14
2:00 pm, Jewett Auditorium
Convocation
Theme: Health and Social Justice

October 14 - November 18
Danforth Gallery
Reconfigured: A Contemporary Look at
the Figure Exhibit

Friday, October 19
9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Jewett Auditorium
Medical Ethics and the Holocaust - What
Have We Learned?

Sunday, October 21
2:00 pm (Pre-concert talk at 1:00 pm),
Jewett Auditorium
Jordan/Perry Duo (cello/piano)

Thursday, November 8
12:00 pm, Jewett Auditorium
Voices from Darfur (a national speaking
tour concerning the humanitarian crisis)
Free and open to the UMA community

Friday, November 16
7:30 pm, Jewett Auditorium
Marcia Gallagher Quartet (jazz standards
from the 20s to the 60s)

More October Events on Health and Social Justice

Sandwiched between our October 14th Convocation and the October 19th Symposium on Medical Ethics and the Holocaust are two other events revolving around the Health and Social Justice theme.

Tuesday, October 16th
Health and Social Change in Nicaragua
7:00 PM
Student Center Lounge

Dr. Connie Adler, a Maine-based family practitioner, will share her experiences working at a rural health care clinic in Nicaragua. She has been spending a few weeks there every year since 1999.

Thursday, October 18
Providing Health Care in the Dominican Republic
12:30 PM
Student Center Lounge
Join UMA Professors Irene McMahan and Nancy Cooley as they relate their personal experiences in service learning and health care in remote mountain villages of the Dominican Republic.



University of Maine at Augusta
46 University Drive
Augusta, ME 04330-9410

