



## **Senior College membership keeps growing**

Even though we are now in our eighth year, Senior College continues to grow as we have added 50 members since a year ago, bringing our total to 364 members. Our members mostly live in the Bangor/Orono area, but we also have members in Hancock, Washington and Piscataquis counties.

170 members are enrolled for spring classes with 21 of them enrolled in two classes. Two-thirds of the members taking classes are from Orono, Bangor, Brewer and Hampden. While seven of our ten courses are being offered at UMaine, half of our students are taking at least one course at the University College of Bangor. The course "Your Courts, Your Law: An Insider's View" is the largest class with 45 participants. As has been true from the beginning, there are many members who are delighted with their classes and the instructors who have volunteered their time to help us learn.

## **Senior College has a strong history. What about the future?**

A project initiated by Bill Soule, and supported by Christina Diebold and Diane Cutler has provided an historical list of classes offered by Senior College from its beginning in the fall of 2002, 14 semesters. We have offered 182 courses with 165 gaining sufficient enrollment to be held as planned. More than 2,650 course registrations have been recorded as 85 instructors have volunteered their time to present subjects intended to keep our minds active.

Planning for the fall 2009 semester will begin soon with ideas needed for about 15 courses to be taught by both new and continuing instructors. Please contact Stan Marshall, Jr., interim executive director, 262-7927, or [seniorcollege@mainecenteronaging.org](mailto:seniorcollege@mainecenteronaging.org), to request a course proposal form for yourself or for someone whom you wish would teach a course in the fall. Senior College would be yet more vital and valuable if we were to offer more courses. You could help make that a reality. By early September you can look for our fall catalog to decide which of our courses you would like to take next.

## **Volunteers are wanted to staff committees**

Volunteers are WANTED and NEEDED to help Senior College reach its full potential. This is a volunteer-driven organization, and the opportunities are many. You could serve on a committee – Curriculum (finding courses and teachers), Marketing (publicity and public relations), One-Day and Special Events (lining up those extra treats). You could help collate the course catalog, which is mailed to hundreds twice a year. You could be a classroom assistant. We want your ideas, energy and enthusiasm. If you'd like to volunteer now, please leave a message on our phone, 262-7927. A sign-up sheet will be passed around in classes soon.

## **Bylaw changes are to be proposed as a result of the strategic planning process**

Several Bylaw changes are being developed by the Finance and Governance subcommittee of the Long-Range Planning Committee for consideration by Senior College directors. In the event the Bylaw changes are adopted, they will be announced to the members at the fall Annual Meeting of Members. Adding a second vice president and two members-at-large to the Executive Committee will be proposed as well as establishing a Finance and Governance committee and recognizing the One-Day and Special Events committee. Also, the role of committees will be defined in the Bylaws for the first time, and committee chairs will have term limits as a means of continually preparing for our longevity.

## **Fall Maine Senior College Network Conference in South Portland November 4 - 6**

The annual conference of all Maine's Senior Colleges will be held in South Portland from Wednesday to Friday, November 4-6, at the Marriot at Sable Oakes. Once program details become available they will be sent to every Senior College member. In the past the conference has included a keynote speaker, presentations by distinguished instructors from throughout Maine, and sessions on senior college management.



Penobscot Valley  
Senior College

April 17, 2009  
University College of  
Bangor  
Campus Center  
10:00 AM – Noon

## **Environmental Risk, Fish Consumption, and the Penobscot Indian Nation**

**Dr. Darren J. Ranco**

**Associate Professor of Anthropology**

**Coordinator of Native American Research**

**University of Maine**

**Adjunct Associate Professor of Environmental Studies**

**Dartmouth College**

### ***Three ideas to ponder as you listen to Professor Ranco***

1. What kinds of health risks are considered in environmental risk assessments?  
How does this matter?
2. How do democratic institutions fail certain groups of people in environmental disputes?  
What can be done to combat this failure?
3. What tools do the Penobscot Indian Nation, and other groups, have to make environmental policy address their concerns?

Dr. Darren J. Ranco recently joined the Anthropology Department of the University of Maine as an associate professor, moving from Dartmouth College, where he was an assistant professor of Native American studies and environmental studies. He began his college career at Dartmouth, earned a Master of Studies in Environmental Law at Vermont Law School and a Ph.D. in social anthropology from Harvard University. The title of his Ph.D. thesis was "Environmental Risk and Politics in Eastern Maine: The Penobscot Indians and the United States Environmental Protection Agency." A member of the Penobscot Indian Nation, he is writing a book to be titled "Tribe at Risk: Environmental Diplomacy on the Penobscot River."

This program is a member benefit for members of Penobscot Valley Senior College **and an opportunity to invite guests to gain an understanding of the College's programs.** *To register, please call the Senior College message phone at 262-7927 and leave your name and phone number.* Registrations will be acknowledged by mail about April 8.