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Jennifer Peters, Linda Godfrey, Harold Clossey, Peter Taylor and Lyman Holmes (left to right) participated in Friday's award presentation at UMM. Godfrey has been the training director of the WCLI program since its inception.

Ruth Leubecker photo

SCEC Saluted for Promoting Leadership

by Ruth Leubecker

Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC), recognized for its remarkable efforts in promoting community leadership, was formally presented with the 2009 Elizabeth B. Noyes Award on Friday.

"You're an exemplary program in Maine," said Peter Taylor, referring to the Washington County Leadership Institute (WCLI). "Since 1990 we're been making Noyce awards. This year the theme is strengthening community by building leadership, which is exactly what you have done so well."

The WCLI, formed in 1997 as a partnership between UMM and SCEC, builds leadership through training sessions running from January through April. The annual regimen, stressing diversity and innovative thinking, over these years has graduated 208 individuals, at a cost of \$575 each. Many attended the Noyce award ceremony.

"It's up to all of us to help lift up the county," said Diane Helder, who described the im-

portance of networking and nurturing potential.

Carlene Holmes humanized her experiences and focused on petroglyphs preservation and her later involvement with Margarett Days.

Rep. Dianne Tilton, who graduated in the first class, described the humble beginnings of the leadership program and the fact she was not wholly convinced of its value at the onset.

Will Tuell, freelance writer and East Machias selectman, said that he learned "a follower can be a leader."

Jennifer Peters said that the Maine Community Foundation had been "a huge supporter from the very beginning."

Harold Clossey, SCEC director and former small business coordinator of the WHCA, said that he learned the connections and associations of being a graduate were invaluable. "You learn to be open to new ideas. Knowledge really is power," he says. "And you learn we don't do anything ... alone."

Lyman Holmes, who chairs

the Washington County Fund of the MCF, accepted the award from Taylor. "I was propelled into the spotlight because of Carlene," he said. "All of a sudden there's parades, horses, fundraising, money, preserving the petroglyphs. It's infectious. It can be a great passion once you find something you love to do."

Amid the roses and the plaque marking the occasion, Clossey thanked the sponsors and UMM, saying "There's a whole lot of thanks to go around."

"Being a leader doesn't necessarily mean you're out front," said Cindy Huggins, UMM president, stressing the WCLI mode of operation for forging partnerships and often working behind the scenes.

The 2009 Elizabeth B. Noyce Award for Nonprofit Excellence was presented to SCEC on January 15, 2010, by the MCF in recognition of its outstanding and innovative work in promoting leadership development and training through the Washington County Leadership Institute. ■

In Silent Witness of Domestic Murder

by Christine Laurel

They stand life-size – wooden silhouettes of women painted red – red for blood shed in crimes of domestic violence. Shielding the heart of each effigy is a shield-shaped plaque on which is written the life story of a woman who was murdered violently by a spouse or domestic partner. These are the Silent Witnesses first created in 1990 by women in Minnesota to honor the lives of their sisters who were beloved members of their community – mothers, daughters, siblings, spouses and friends – people they didn't want to forget who were victims of domestic violence.

Today, 10 years later, the women of Maine are still painting life-size silhouettes of their own beloved sisters, daughters, mothers and friends. There's a silhouette for Katie Cabana, a young woman who was killed by her former domestic partner in Marshfield, and on Saturday, January 23rd, two years from the day this violent crime took place, her Silent Witness will be part of an exhibit and pre-



sentation at the UMM Performing Arts Center beginning at 6 p.m. This exhibit is open to the public, organized by The Next Step, a domestic violence project serving Hancock and Washington County. The Next Step invites everyone to attend this moving homage to the victims of domestic abuse, victims who include infants, children and men as well as almost one-third of all women in the U.S.

A candlelight vigil for Katie will precede the presentation at the UMM Performing Arts Center beginning at 6 p.m. This exhibit is open to the public, organized by The Next Step, a domestic violence project serving Hancock and Washington County. The Next Step invites everyone to attend this moving homage to the victims of domestic abuse, victims who include infants, children and men as well as almost one-third of all women in the U.S.

DECH Changes/Eliminates Positions to Reduce Expenses

Down East Community Hospital, like many other hospitals across the nation, has had to determine how to best respond to the competing needs of today's healthcare delivery system while at the same time it is recovering from its own special challenges. In Maine and elsewhere, the reality of the healthcare environment is one of declining reimbursements and a need to invest in quality improvements and patient safety.

"What's been accomplished

here in the past six months is nothing short of a miracle," says DECH president and CEO Doug Jones. Six months into an emergency receivership with Brewer based Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems (EMHS), an unannounced inspection by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) surveyors found zero deficiencies. Later in December, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rescinded

See DECH, page 26.

Singh Promoted to Admissions Counselor at UMM

The University of Maine at Machias has announced the promotion of P.J. Singh to an admissions counselor. Singh has served as an administrative assistant in the Office of Admissions since 2007.

A native of India, Singh grew up in Accra, Ghana, before attending UMM as an international student. While a student, he was involved in the international club and was a member of the men's soccer team. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from UMM in 2005.

"I had such a great experience being a student at UMM," said Singh. "I am excited about recruiting new students to this campus and working with international students to make the admissions process as smooth as possible for them."

In addition to his duties in the admissions office, Singh serves as the assistant coach of



P.J. Singh

the Clippers men's and women's soccer teams.

Singh lives in Machias with his wife, Beth, who is a fourth-grade teacher and also a 2005 UMM graduate. He began his duties as an admissions counselor on January 1. ■

Sheriff Challenges Peers to Help Haiti

by Ruth Leubecker

Washington County Sheriff Donnie Smith has challenged Maine's other 15 sheriffs to follow his financial example and give personally to help suffering Haitians.

Last week Smith gave \$300 to the worldwide plea for rescue funds for Haiti, devastated by a recent 7.0 earthquake. As the Caribbean country continues to struggle under chaos, fear and hunger are fueling the danger of violence, especially in the capital of Port-au-Prince.

Attempting to mobilize his fellow sheriffs throughout Maine, Smith says, "No one's anti-ed up yet, but I hope they will."

Mary-Ann Beal, executive director of the Maine Sheriffs Association, was contacted at her home in Vassalboro. "No, no others had given as of 4:30 Friday afternoon when I turned off my computer," said Beal on the weekend.

At the least in Haiti, a known 100,000 are dead, with See *Sheriff*, page 5.

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