



# News Release

*Contact:*  
**Jason Parent**  
Development and  
College Relations Office  
33 Edgemont Drive  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
Phone: (207) 768-2808  
Fax: (207) 768-2813  
jparent@nmcc.edu

**February 2, 2007**  
NR07010

## **PrISM celebrates 20 years of spiritual service to County college students**

**Aroostook County** - Presque Isle Student Ministries (PrISM), a non-profit organization dedicated to the spiritual well-being of students of all faiths at Northern Maine Community College and the University of Maine at Presque Isle, is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

James Morgan, reverend for the Lutheran churches in New Sweden and Stockholm, carries the duty of campus chaplain for PrISM. In addition, he teaches the World Religions course at NMCC and has also taught classes for UMPI.

“The Reverend Ken Phelps approached the President of UMPI twenty years ago about establishing a chaplaincy for that school and almost immediately a cooperative effort was set up for both colleges,” said Morgan. The chaplain says that PrISM has always intended to be of service to the complete student bodies of both campuses, regardless of religion, and they welcome diversity among students’ religious and cultural backgrounds.

PrISM receives assistance from local churches and individuals, and they have been instrumental in several of the county’s very important achievements—including last year’s Junior National Biathlon Championship in Presque Isle. Many students think of it as an alternative to counseling or speaking with their pastor at home.

While PrISM’s philosophy is a simple one, it has proven itself to be a truly multifaceted organization. Members of PrISM provided voluntary assistance to Campus Crusade for Christ when they went to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. They also provided hospitality to competitors of the biathlon from foreign countries.

“Serving on the PrISM Board has been a privilege for which I am grateful. This campus ministry provides the opportunity for the local campus communities, who are facing concerns in many areas, to connect with an understanding Chaplain who is sensitive to specific and diversified spiritual needs,” said Paula York, an instructor at NMCC and member of the PrISM board of directors.

According to York, benefits of the organization include: opportunities for discussions of religious, ethical, and moral issues in the academic arena; encouragement of campus religious activity; and a common ground for UMPI and NMCC professionals and students to interact and provide service.

PrISM also held roundtable discussions last November to discuss ethical and religious issues. Morgan plans to host another one at UMPI on Tuesday, April 14, at 4:00 p.m. They are looking for topics, so any students with ideas should e-mail Morgan at njmorgan@nmcc.edu.

Morgan said that in the future, PrISM hopes to strengthen the relationship between the Student Nurses Association and local pastors. They also plan to build a stronger connection with students in UMPI's social work program.

Overall, PrISM's mission is to provide "quiet support" to students. "It's not PrISM's goal to make headlines," according to Morgan, but to stay in the background while supporting students and the community.

Additional members of the PrISM board of directors include Mary Lawrence, Richard Duplessis, Dan LaLonde, Claire Davidshofer, Ann Osgood, Tammy Deschesne, William Davidshofer, James Stepp, Dottie Martin and Leah Joy.

#####