



# News Release

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## **Public invited to mark St. Patrick's Day at NMCC with genealogy workshop, traditional meal, call from Ireland and pig kissing**

*Aroostook County* - It won't be the Blarney Stone, but a live pig that will be kissed as part of a series of events planned on the Northern Maine Community College campus to mark the St. Patrick's Day Holiday on Tuesday, March 17.

The pig kissing contest, a fundraiser coordinated by the Student Nurses Association at NMCC over the past month, will come to an end as well as wrap up the St. Patty's Day activity in the main lobby of the College in the Christie building at 1:00 p.m. Two members of the 19 NMCC faculty and staff that were asked by the student nurses to take part in the contest will kiss a live pig. The "lucky" winners will have had the most money dropped in jars featuring their picture on display in the College bookstore over the past few weeks.

The pig kissing will follow a full slate of events that begin at 10:00 a.m. in the E. Perrin Edmunds Library at NMCC with a free public workshop that will cover the basic genealogy research topics. Coordinated by Gail Roy, NMCC assistant dean of learning resources, the workshop, presented by Ann Cushman from the Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library, will also highlight information for those with Irish roots in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

"We encourage the public as well as members of the NMCC campus community to join in the workshop to learn how to search your family genealogy. The session will provide an excellent opportunity to learn how to search your Irish roots and your family tree," said Roy.

The public is also invited to join in a St. Patrick's Day buffet that will be held in the Reed Dining Commons at NMCC between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The meal will feature a number of traditional Irish dishes including leek and potato soup, Irish stew, corned beef and cabbage, roast beef, shepherds pie, and boiled potatoes. Dessert will include festive foods in the Irish colors and feature orange and green Jello cubes and a Irish Flag frosted sheet cake. The meal, prepared by NMCC's Sodexo campus dining services, is available to community members at a cost of \$6.50.

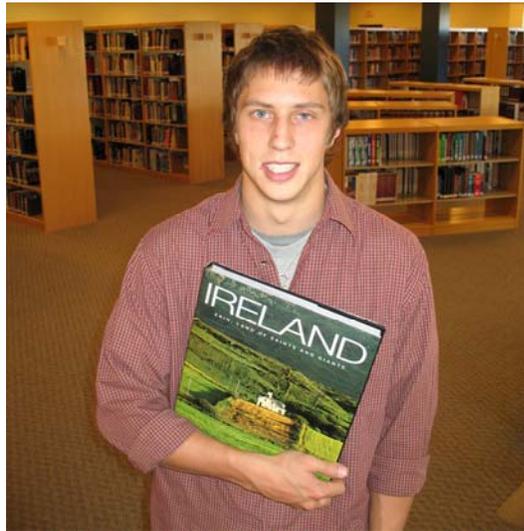
Lunch will be followed by, and the pig kissing contest end preceded by, a live internet phone conversation with NMCC student Lucas Ireland, who is studying abroad this semester in Ireland. Members of the NMCC campus community will gather in the Christie lobby at 12:45 to hear from Lucas about his St. Patrick's Day experience in Ireland as well as how his semester of study is unfolding.

Ireland, of Mapleton, is in County Cork, Ireland attending the *Cork Institute of Technology* for the current semester. The 19-year-old, who recently completed his first three semesters in NMCC's residential construction program, is one of two Maine Community College students selected as a recipient of this year's George Mitchell Peace Scholarship.

The scholarship fund was created in 1998 to honor former U.S. Senator and Maine native George Mitchell for his work and dedication in helping to establish peace between Northern and Southern Ireland. The selection process is very competitive and many students from community colleges in Maine applied, but only two were selected for the scholarship.

For more information on NMCC's St. Patrick's Day events, contact the college relations office at 768-2809.

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*Northern Maine Community College student Lucas Ireland is currently studying in Ireland as a Mitchell Scholar. He will participate in NMCC's Irish Celebration on St. Patrick's Day via telephone and provide an update on his experience, as well as how he is celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Ireland.*