**Call for Student Abstracts: Thinking Matters 2014**

A Student Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Symposium

**ON APRIL 25, 2014,** the University of Southern Maine and Southern Maine Community College will convene their annual University-wide exhibition of student research, scholarship, and creative achievement, known as *Thinking Matters,* on the USM’s Portland campus.

The goal of the symposium is to encourage and celebrate student scholarship and creativity, and foster intellectual camaraderie and student-faculty collaboration in a public forum.

Students from all academic disciplines and divisions are invited to present papers or posters on any aspect of their classroom work, independent study, internship, student teaching, clinical, or any other scholarly or creative project.

USM, SMCC, and MMCRI faculty and mentors are encouraged to promote student attendance, integrate the event into course schedules, and foster participation within their units.

**Presentation Types**

Students should select the scholarly area and the presentation type that is most appropriate for their project. **Students may select one or both.** The presentation options are listed below:

**Oral Presentation** -- Oral sessions will be organized and grouped into several **75 minute** long disciplinary/interdisciplinary sessions based on the overall distribution of abstracts submitted. Students and mentors are also welcome to form and submit complete panels. Students who require audio visual equipment should indicate this on their submission. While the length of oral presentations may vary, they typically run 12-15 minutes. The Oral Presentations will be held the afternoon of Friday, April 25, 2014.

**Poster Presentation** -- Posters will be attached to bulletin boards that are 3 ft tall and 4 ft wide. Studio art presentations are also welcome. For the latter, the abstract proposal must be accompanied by a description of the size, media, and artist’s statement of intent. One poster per abstract will be printed free of charge if submitted on time (see website for more information). The Posters Presentations will be held the morning of Friday, April 25, 2014 in Sullivan Gym.
Questions about Thinking Matters should be directed to:

**Benjamin Bertram**, Associate Professor of English, bertram@usm.maine.edu

**Terry Theodose**, Associate Professor of Biology, theodose@usm.maine.edu

The University of Southern Maine shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran’s status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University. Participants or attendees with a disability should contact **Lourdes Alvarez, 207-228-8040**, with requests or questions about accommodations.

**Abstract Submission Guidelines**

**DEADLINE: Thursday, March 6, 2014**

1. **Eligible Work**—An eligible presentation will report or represent the outcome of substantial work by a student or group of students. The project may have its origin in an assignment for class, an independent study, an internship, a student teaching experience, a clinical, community service, or other appropriate venue.

2. **Mentors**—Each presentation should be sponsored or co-sponsored by a USM or SMCC mentor(s), and we welcome presentations on student research conducted outside USM. We encourage co-curricular activities for student presentation. The size, scope, and mission of the conference preclude any type of peer review of abstracts. Mentors are encouraged to work closely with their students not only to insure the quality of student work, but also to engage in the learning experience itself.

3. **Abstract Requirements**—Each presentation requires an abstract. An abstract is a summary of the project (including works in progress), and should reflect the professional format normally associated with scholarly work in the discipline if applicable. Students should rely upon their faculty mentors for help in all stages of the project, including preparation of an abstract. The body of the abstract cannot exceed 250 words.

4. Abstract submission is to be done online. The link to the site is available at: https://webapp.usm.maine.edu/ThinkingMatters

5. Thinking Matters will offer workshops on abstract composition and poster creation; visit website www.usm.maine.edu/research/thinkingmatters for dates and times of workshops.
6. The abstracts and final program will be available on-line. PDF can be downloaded from the web site.

7. Projects involving human subject research must be reviewed by USM's Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to presentation. For further questions about this process please contact Ross Hickey, at 207-780-4340; email: rhickey@usm.maine.edu

8. USM will provide one courtesy poster print per presenter if submitted via the web site. Instructions will be provided at a later date. Submission deadline for posters will be Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

Posters and art works will be on display throughout Friday, April 25, 2014. The author(s) is required to be at their poster from 8:30 to 11:30 am for discussion.