

January 2010 Edition

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Students gear up for or the 2010 JMG Talent Show!!

American Idol Beware! Lewiston's Got Talent!

This will be the 8th year that the JMG students have sponsored a talent show in Lewiston. In the midst of learning financial literacy, philanthropy and employability skills, the students spend hours upon hours preparing for this big event, often staying after school and volunteering on weekends.

Putting this show together gives students exposure to every aspect of event planning. They work in teams that specialize in advertising, sales, stage sets, presentations, sound, lighting and so much more. For those who have never participated in such an activity, it is an opportunity to discover their strengths and for those who are aware of their strengths, it gives them a chance to enhance them. It is a great project for everyone involved!!

The show will be held at the Lewiston Middle School on April 8, 2010 @ 6:30 pm. Tickets will be \$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 @ the door. We're planning on a great show this year so don't miss out!!!

Half the proceeds will benefit the STEP program!! The STEP program provides a variety of services and support to our homeless youth. Please help us help them!!

LRTC STUDENTS DOWN TO TWELVE CHOICES...

The LRTC JMG classes have been working for several weeks on a philanthropic endeavor presented to them by the Unity Foundation. Bert Clifford, Founder of Unitel Corporation, was instrumental in creating an environment of giving back to his community and his employers. Known as one of the most “unknown” philanthropists the state has ever recognized, Bert worked with local community leaders to create a post office to improve local business when the community of Unity had none. He was also instrumental to the inception of Unity College when he realized an educational need wasn't being met for one of his own children. Bert always found a way to make “life” a little better. From his vision and the monies afforded us from the Unity Foundation, all of JMG's (64) sites around the state have undertaken the task of giving to local non-profits that serve youth in those select communities! The endeavor in its second year and has taken on a life of its own, with students engaged in the study of philanthropic organizations. Students research the different organizations, solicit information, hear guest speakers, and essentially decide what organization is the most deserving in our community. With four Specialists here at LRTC, we have pooled our funds together and will be able to give up to \$4,000 to one organization or split the funds and give \$400 to 10 organizations.

Meet LRTC's Newest Specialists

LRTC has two new JMG Specialists this year. Rob Schmidt, Freshman Specialist, has been the Cooperative Education Coordinator at Maranacook High School for the past eight years. Before starting his teaching career, Mr. Schmidt spent many years in the restaurant industry. He is also the Boys Varsity Basketball coach at Maranacook. He has very much enjoyed his first semester at LRTC!

While attending USM, Lewiston-Auburn College, studying Social and Behavioral Sciences, Kris McClure, Sophomore Specialist, became interested and involved in the changing Lewiston community and found a calling in educating youth. Mr. McClure was born and raised in Lisbon Falls, a graduate of Lisbon High School, and spent over eight years in business and sales prior to USM. Substitute teaching throughout the Lewiston Public Schools (08-09) quickly led to a full-time Educational Technician III position in the ELL department at the Longley School, before being hired by JMG to rejuvenate the ACE Program, serving Lewiston's homeless youth population in the downtown.



Carrabec High School Starts “The Book Club for Men”

In February, Carrabec High School will be host to “The Book Club for Men,” an endeavor to get male students who might not normally pick up a book on their own to get excited about reading.

Chris Poulin, former JMG Specialist at Carrabec High School, who is currently the JMG Plus Manager, says Mike Nelson, Carrabec’s Athletic Director, applied for and received a grant of \$1,000 from the Oak Grove-Coburn Classical Institute to start the book club. “He just thought I could get boys to join, so he asked me to be his assistant and, of course, I jumped at the chance to get kids reading,” says Chris, who is himself an avid reader.

“The project is called ‘The Book Club for Men,’” he continues. “Our idea is to read books that have important ‘men messages.’ Mike has picked the 1st book, *Seasons of Life* by Jeffery Marx. We are looking at books by coaches or famous men that the students will recognize as positive role models. We want the topics to be about how to be a good person, especially a good man.”

Chris says the reading group will consist of 20+ students and will be open to any Carrabec High School male. But, he says, “Mike and I are going to pick the group to get a good mix of all ages and levels. We don’t want this to be a ‘jock book club,’ but we also don’t want to just hit kids that are already readers. A good mix will ripple through the school more effectively.”

The Book Club for Men will meet several times – once while the students are midway through *Seasons of Life* and then again when the group has completed the book for discussion. “We are also planning on having a pizza gathering on the final discussion group after school in the café or library,” Chris says.

“We are hoping that this doesn’t end,” says Chris, “but will continue from now on as part of CHS. The time between books will be determined by the group and the book we are reading. The students will get to keep their books as a trophy of their accomplishment.”

Thank you, Charles Schwab Foundation!

On behalf of JMG and the students we serve, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Charles Schwab Foundation for supporting our Financial Literacy Program for the second year in a row! The Charles Schwab Foundation is committed to empowering youth and adults through financial literacy education. Their financial support and vote of confidence in our organization is sincerely appreciated!

Maine’s Commissioner of Education Receives National Award

Susan Gendron, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education and an ex officio member of the JMG Board of Directors, was recently awarded the National Education Leadership Award by Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG).

JMG nominated Commissioner Gendron in recognition of her work to ensure that all Maine students succeed. In nominating Gendron, JMG wrote, “As an early advocate of providing all students with the skills they need to graduate prepared for continued education, careers, and citizenship, she has been a leader in embracing strategies that support a student-centered culture.”

Commissioner Gendron received the award on November 18 at the annual JAG Leadership Awards in Washington, D.C. Since taking her position as Commissioner in 2003, Gendron has been a strong supporter of JMG. She has incorporated JMG and the JAG model into her efforts to transform public education in Maine and beyond.

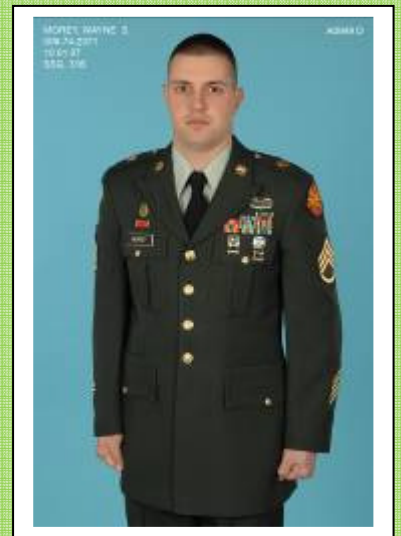
Gendron says, “In Maine, we are redesigning the education system to be centered around high standards for all students. JMG plays a significant role in meeting those standards as JMG students continue to graduate at a high rate, enroll in postsecondary education, and succeed in the workplace.”

As the new President of the Council of Chief State School Officers, Commissioner Gendron is promoting JAG’s work to her peers on a national level. Craig Larrabee, JMG President and CEO, says, “Commissioner Gendron’s support has helped us to grow over the last several years from helping 2,600 students to serving 4,000. She understands the value of a program that reengages students in school, motivates them to work hard for what they want, and prepares them to meet the demands of an ever-changing workforce.”

JMG Success Story



Wayne Morey then (second from right), and now, in uniform in a January 8 photo.



Wayne Morey - 1997 JMG Graduate, Machias Memorial High School

“Just like every other teen, I thought I knew everything,” says Wayne Morey, a 1997 graduate of Machias Memorial High School. That was, of course, until he joined Mr. Chick’s JMG class his sophomore year.

Morey says he “was a shy person” in high school. But then “Mr. Chick made me talk in front of people and made me get out of my comfort zone. That was not a bad thing now that I look back on it,” he says. “It goes back to that old saying ‘what does not kill you only makes you stronger.’”

Morey says that his years in the JMG classroom gave him confidence, enough so that he successfully ran for Vice President of his Career Association his senior year. He enjoyed the JMG activities and events, including Field Day, which was his favorite. Of his JMG Specialist, Jeff Chick, Morey says, “He was a motivator, a psychologist, and a mentor all rolled into one.”

After graduation, Morey joined the Army and became a military police officer. “I do not regret my decision at all,” he says. “I have a great job that I have held for 12 years. The Army has sent me to numerous police-related trainings like K9 handler, Protective Services, and a few evasive driving schools. The Army has also paid for my college, and I am currently three classes away from a bachelor’s degree [in criminal justice]. The only thing that I had to pay for was a few books.”

Morey is currently a Staff Sergeant stationed at Chievres Garrison in Belgium with his wife of nearly 13 years, Chasity. “Here in Belgium,” he says, “I am a desk sergeant, which would be the equivalent of a dispatcher and a patrol supervisor rolled into one. I have been a K9 handler and part of a protective team.”

This is Morey’s second stint at Chievres. He has also been stationed in Giessen, Germany, and Fort Drum, NY. “My family and I just like [Chievres and Ft. Drum] so we keep going back and forth,” he says. “The Army does have a lot of standards, but when it comes to requesting a duty station, they like to work with the soldier and the family.”

“It is a great experience living overseas,” he continues. “This is actually my second tour over here. I have been able to see battlefields like Normandy Beach, Point Du Hoc, and in and around Bastogne. There is a lot of history over here, and my wife, who is a history buff, loves to visit all the places. I have actually been able to sit in the bunkers that Easy Company from the Band of Brothers made in the town of Foy, Belgium.”

Morey said he is thankful for the chance to share his success story with current students. He says he wants to reach out to students “who are sitting in the back row of the class, or those who are debating on taking the class and think that JMG is just a filler class,” because JMG was worthwhile for him and so might be the same for others.

“Looking back at what I have learned about myself and what I am capable of doing now because of JMG,” he says, “I believe in this program and I am sure there is more out there. What I am going to say about JMG and school is: you get out what you put into it.”

Morey put in the effort, and what he got out of JMG was a rewarding career, the opportunity to experience the world, and the chance to succeed in life. He hopes to someday return to Maine, and says he would like to volunteer for JMG. “I loved the years I spent in Mr. Chick’s JMG class,” he says, “and I would like to be part of its continued success.”