

Connecting Aspirations to a Plan continued



Headmaster McQuarrie speaking with a student during one of the College Application Days.



than ever attended from Togus VA and the Maine Veterans' Home. The students set up tables, helped the veterans off the bus and van, and served

the meal, following which they had a chance to chat with the veterans. The event was well received by both veterans and students, and the students are now looking into visiting the Togus VA to interview the veterans about their service. The gathered information would

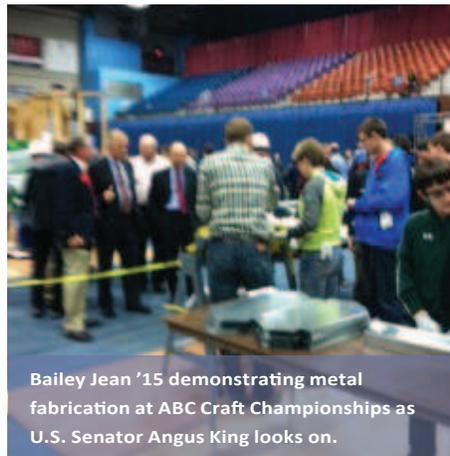
families received help in filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form, a big step in the college application process. Through the MELMAC Grant, the Guidance Office will be scheduling individual FAFSA filing appointments at Erskine with a college financial aid administrator assigned to the school. These sessions are to help those students and their families that might have unusual circumstances or might not know to take advantage of financial aid options. The guidance staff is very excited about these events; paying for college and filling out the FAFSA are major barriers to students attending college.

JMG News

Erskine's resident Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) specialist Hauns Bassett '93 and the JMG students have been busy this fall. In September, sophomores, juniors and seniors went to the Common Ground Fair and interviewed working craftspeople about the paths they took.

In October, the students visited a fast food restaurant in Augusta to meet with the manager, who went over the benefits of working there, shared with the students examples of applications people have turned in, and led an exercise on filling out job applications properly.

In November, JMG students helped at the South China American Legion Post for the annual Veterans "Thank You" meal, to which more veterans



Bailey Jean '15 demonstrating metal fabrication at ABC Craft Championships as U.S. Senator Angus King looks on.

be sent to the Library of Congress for inclusion into the archives.

Also in November, JMG students visited several Maine community colleges, toured the Coutts Electrical Construction and Maintenance Training Facility with alumnus **Brad Stout '99**; visited Specialty Products, Inc. machine shop owned by **Mike '91 and Paula Roddy '92 Cuthbertson**, and attended the Associated Builders and Contractors Craft Championships at the Augusta Civic Center. To watch a video of the event, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eugk5vgxaOM>.

The JMG program's mission is to identify students who face barriers to education and to guide each one on to a successful path toward continued education, a meaningful career, and a productive adulthood. Erskine's JMG students are certainly receiving the tools to fulfill this goal.

Maine Youth in Government

In mid November, faculty advisor Lori Dube congratulated the Erskine students who participated in the weekend long 2013 Maine Youth in Government "Model State" program at the Maine State House. The program is coordinated by the State YMCA. The following students had successful campaigns for leadership positions—Brady Grotton was elected Senate Chair of Natural Resources; Trevor Patterson was elected Secretary of the Senate; Sierra Carey was elected to the Newspaper Staff; and Sarah Lewis and Crystal Blair were elected to be Lobbyists for Justice and Human Services. In addition, Brady was selected as a candidate for Governor for the 2014 Model State session.

Maine Youth in Government is an opportunity for high school students to gain hands on experience in the workings of the Maine legislative process. The program is held in the State House using the actual chambers and committee rooms that the Maine Legislature uses every day. Just as the legislators do who come from all parts of the state, Model State students give their views on the issues they see facing their own area of the state. The program is completely student driven, and participants draft all of the bills discussed during the weekend. Bills may be written by individuals or groups, and sponsors work to guide the bill through the legislative process. Program leadership is elected by peers, trained how to perform their roles, and then run all aspects of the process during the weekend.

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