SMCC Student Succeeds at Vassar

**Bobbi-Lynn Fisher** spent six weeks last summer at Vassar—a prestigious liberal arts college an hour or so north of New York City. A 2010 graduate of South Portland High School and a second-year student at Southern Maine Community College, Fisher was one of five Maine community college students accepted to Vassar’s Exploring Transfer program. She’s the second ECforME student to be given this (almost) all-expense-paid opportunity.

Vassar encourages community college students to transfer to a four-year private college and each summer hosts about 30 students from all over the country and many parts of the world—Africa, China, Korea, Los Angeles, Boston, New York City. For Fisher, “That was the best part, meeting so many new people and everyone so diverse.

“The hardest part,” she added, “was the workload. We read 20 books in five weeks and wrote two papers each week.”

Students live in a Vassar dorm, go to class together, study together, and bond. Staying up all night writing those papers, they became family.

Program counselors, who also live in the dorm, help students with academics. Fisher writes better now and reads faster.

At orientation, professors told students they were accepted because they could do the work. Fisher wasn’t so sure.

Courses are co-taught by a Vassar and a community college professor. Fisher’s courses were “Human Rights” and “Intersection of Race and Gender.” A powerful moment happened for her here.

“That class made me more aware of the whole issue around race and gender.” Once, after discussing poetry, students held hands while each told a personal story. “Holding hands made it real for me,” said Fisher. “I could actually feel what they had experienced.”

To her surprise, she did well in both courses. At program-end, she told herself, “Wow! I can actually do this!”

Fisher has changed her SMCC major from medical assisting to liberal studies and now aims for a bachelor’s degree.

Her experience at Vassar taught her many things. Most importantly, “Vassar taught me to seize every opportunity.”

Fisher has two siblings in ECforME: Kimberly, a freshman at SMCC, and Jamie, a senior at South Portland High.

Student at KVCC Earns US Citizenship

**Gabriel Payne** is by birth a Canadian citizen. Here, he has just become a United States citizen.

A 2010 Waterville High School graduate, he is studying computer science at Kennebec Valley Community College, where he serves on the Student Campus Activities Board. With perfect attendance his first college year and a cumulative GPA of 3.7—4.0 last spring—he was tapped for Phi Theta Kappa, the Honor Society for the Two-Year College.

Payne plans to complete his KV degree in May, transfer for a bachelor’s degree, then go for a programming job in England. His dad is English, so he can have a British passport, and because he’s now a US citizen, he can always return here.

“US citizenship is important to me,” said Payne, “I’m now a part of the country I have lived half my life in.”

EMCC Student Loves the Automotive Program

**Julie Cookson** is used to being in the minority. The only female in automotive at United Technology Center in Bangor, she’s currently one of only two women in automotive at Eastern Maine Community College. Cookson graduated from Old Town High School in 2011 and knew in her sophomore year that she wanted a career in this field. “I love automotive, even if it is male-dominated,” she said. “I have always loved to work with my brother and dad.” While still in high school, Cookson earned eight college credits: five through dual enrollment, UTC-EMCC, and three taking a college course through Early College for ME. At EMCC, she’s just one of the guys.

Her automotive instructor, Lowell Gardner, describes her as “a very good student.” Because she also works 12-20 hours each week, she’s a good time-manager, too.
Early College for ME

Maine Community College System
323 State Street
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 767-5210 FAX (207) 767-2542

The Maine Community College System is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call 207.629.4000.

Early College for ME

Central Maine Community College
Auburn

Eastern Maine Community College
Bangor

Kennebec Valley Community College
Fairfield

Northern Maine Community College
Presque Isle

Southern Maine Community College
South Portland

Washington County Community College
Calais

York County Community College
Wells

Spring Semester Honors List

*Honors 2 or More Semesters

PHI THETA KAPPA

*Crystal Belanger (Presque Isle’10) Liberal Studies NM
*Molly Cormier (Hampden Academy’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Samantha Gagne (Messalonskee’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Thaddeus Gorence (Caribou’09) Accounting Info Systems NM’11
*Victoria Haasue (Waterville’10) Liberal Studies KV
*Mary Johnson (Woodland’09) Medical Assistant WC’11
*Jesse King (Presque Isle’09) Computer Electronics NM’11
*Kelley LaFrance (Winslow’10) Liberal Studies KV
*Gabriel Payne (Waterville’10) Computer Science KV
*Ronald St. John (Oxford Hills’09) Mechanical Tech WC’11
*Brianne Smith (CATC/Monmouth Academy’09) Applied Marine Biology-Oceanography SM
*Timothy Voisine (SJVTC/Fort Kent’09) Electrical Construction-Maintenance NM’11

HIGH HONORS

*Zacharias Beagle (LRTC/Lewiston’09) Computer Tech CM
*Samantha Cook (Jay’10) Early Childhood Education CM
*Nicole Dunton (Marshwood’10) Liberal Studies YC
*Vanessa Lougee (Foxcroft Academy’10) Heavy Equipment Operation WC’11

HONORS

*Brian Ackley (Mt. Ararat’09) Fire Science SM’11
*Ali Addan (Portland’09) General Studies SM
*Cody Armstrong (UTC/Hampden Academy’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Joshua Barrows (Houlton’10) Liberal Studies NM
*Cecilia Berryman (Messalonskee’10) Liberal Studies KV
*Nicholas Butler (Hampden Academy’09) Electrical Engineering SM
*Carlie Bolduc (Messalonskee’09) Liberal Studies KV’11
*Erik Cady (Wells’09) Architectural Drafting-Design YC
*Aimee Christie (CATC/Cony’10) Education-Early Childhood Ed KV
*Antonio DeSanctis (Mt. Blue’09) Heating WC’11
*Alec Dodge (Boothbay Region’10) Building Construction Tech CM
*Cody Dupee (Washington Academy’09) Mechanical Tech WC’11
*Chad Evinger (Orono’09) Welding EM’11
*Hallie Goodwine (Brewer’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Blaire Goodrich (Nokomis Regional’10) Diesel, Truck-Heavy Equipment EM
*Cassandra Grant (Oxford Hills’09) Early Childhood Education CM
*Patrick Griffin (Lawrence’09) Plumbing-Heating NM’11
*Cody Hand (Hodgdon’09) Medial Radiography Tech EM
*Seth Hopkins (UTC/Old Town’09) Heating WC’11
*Ali Hoy (UTC/Bangor’09) Culinary Arts, Restaurant-Food Service Mgmt EM’11
*Adam Huston (Caribou’09) Liberal Studies NM’11
*James Irvine (Portland’10) Automotive Tech SM
*Brian Kears (Brewer’09) Automotive Tech CM’11
*Jasmine Knight (Edward Little’09) Culinary Arts SM
*Joseph Lawson (MCST/Camden Hills Regional’10) Automotive Tech EM
*Benjamin Macomber (Foxcroft Academy’10) Plumbing NM’11
*Cassandra Mangano-Correia (Cony’09) Culinary Arts SM
*Kyle McCrossin (Caribou’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Andrew McGillicuddy (Hodgdon’10) Plumbing-Heating NM
*Daniel McGillicuddy (Hodgdon’10) Welding-Metal Fabrication NM
*Colleen Monk (Messalonskee’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Nicole Moore (Wiscasset’10) Massage Therapy KV’11
*Sydney Nichols (Lawrence’09) Education-Early Childhood Ed KV’11
*Josef Niederer (Cony’09) Building Construction EM’11
*Aaron Paradis (SJVTC/Fort Kent’10) Welding EM
*Ashley Robinson (UTC/Hermon’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Jennifer Rolfe (Narraguagus’09) Early Childhood Education EM’11
*Cassandra Rollins (Lawrence’10) Liberal Studies KV
*Jairus Smith (Oxford Hills’10) Computer Tech CM
*Lillian Smith (Bangor’10) Liberal Studies EM
*Dustin Tarbox (Fort Fairfield’10) Welding-Metal Fabrication NM’11
*Mallory Thompson (Caribou’10) Emergency Medical Services NM
*Rachel Tozier (Nokomis Regional’10) Early Childhood Education EM’11
*Caravella Veilleux (Messalonskee’09) Computer Aided Drafting-Design EM’11
*Heather Villacci (Falmouth’10) Liberal Studies SM
*Brianna Wiltz (Nokomis Regional’10) Business Mgmt EM
*Benjamin Ward (South Portland’09) Communications-New Media SM’11
*Jennifer Watt (Presque Isle’09) Liberal Studies EM
*Daniel Weeks (Marshwood’09) Liberal Studies YC
*Justin Williams (Nokomis Regional’09) Business Admin Mgmt CM
*Andrew Wilson (Lawrence’09) Applied Electronics-Computer Tech KV’11
*Nikita Youuss (Lewiston’10) General Studies CM

Archived Honors List

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