New Internship Program Matches Students with Growing Maine Companies

ORONO – UMaine’s Foster Center for Student Innovation is seeking motivated, innovative Maine college students and Maine companies who want to make a difference for Maine through a new internship program supported by the Blackstone Charitable Foundation.

The program, which is now accepting applications, offers paid, full- or part-time, internship positions that place students with companies to receive training in innovation and entrepreneurship and real-world job experience. Other benefits include potential academic credit and networking opportunities with Maine businesses and other students.

Innovate for Maine is open to students who are matriculated in a degree program attending any college in Maine and students originally from Maine attending college elsewhere. For more information and to download the application form, go to http://foster.target.maine.edu/students/interns.

UMPI Celebrates 11th Annual University Day

PRESQUE ISLE – From bullying and service learning in Tanzania, to ADHD and demystifying sports myths, students at UMPI showcased their academic research, scholarly work, and community service on April 11, during University Day.

University Day is an event that heightens students’ awareness of the work being done by peers in all of the disciplines represented on campus. The annual campus event allows students to better understand how disciplines interrelate and how the academic work they do applies to the local and global community.

To add to the community spirit of the day, the University opened its doors to the public. The University Day committee invited students from local high schools and community members were also welcome to attend all sessions. To learn more about UMPI’s University Day go, visit www.umpi.edu/uday.

Finalists Named for UMF Presidency

FARMINGTON – Three persons have been named as finalists for the presidency at the UMF campus.

One of the finalists will be selected to take the place of current President, Theodora J. Kalikow, the longest serving UMF president since the Farmington school became a four-year college in 1945. Kalikow announced last year that she will retire as president of UMF at the end of June, after 18 years with the institution.

A presidential search committee was formed late last year to begin working on the national search. The committee includes three UMS Board of Trustees, as well as UMF faculty, staff, students, and local community members.

The candidates’ recent campus visits gave members of the UMF community a chance to meet the finalists and provide feedback to the search committee.

Following the visits, the search committee reviewed all feedback and presented impressions on each candidate to the UMS Chancellor. One candidate will be recommended to the full Board of Trustees for approval. The new president is expected to start this summer.

UMA’s Capitalizing on the Creative Economy

AUGUSTA – Former Congressman James Leach, now Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, culminated a full day of events, panel discussions, and demonstrations, with a keynote address at UMA’s recent Capitalizing on the Creative Economy.

Capitalizing on the Creative Economy is part of UMA’s Forum on the Future, a year-long public policy series co-sponsored by UMA’s Senior College and College of Arts and Sciences.
USM’s BFA Students Exhibit Art in Gorham

GORHAM – The USM Art Department Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibit will be open to the public Friday, April 13- Friday, May 4 in the Art Gallery on USM’s Gorham campus.

An opening reception was held on Friday, April 13. This senior thesis exhibit represents the culminating work of 12 BFA candidates with studio concentrations in ceramics, digital art, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, and sculpture.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesdays-Fridays, 1-5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, and by appointment. Admission is free.

For more information, call Carolyn Eyler at 207-780-5008 or visit USM Art Gallery on Facebook.

UMFK Annual Scholars’ Symposium

FORT KENT – To kick-off UMFK’s third annual Scholars’ Symposium, the university welcomes Dr. Dan Ferber, co-author of “Changing Planet, Changing Health.”

Dr. Ferber will speak on Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in Nadeau Hall teleconference room. He will address how the climate crisis threatens our health and what we can do about it. His work on Changing Planet, Changing Health helped him tie such threads together and grasp the fundamental interconnections human health, healthy ecosystems, and a livable climate.

Dr. Ferber is an award-winning writer, specializing in putting a human face on groundbreaking stories on science, technology, health and the environment. He is a contributing correspondent for Science and his stories have appeared in national magazines, such as Reader’s Digest, Popular Science, and Audubon.

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information on the presentation, contact Dr. Soraya Cardenas at 207-834-8635.

Maine Sea Grant Awards Funding for Marine Research

ORONO – The Maine Sea Grant College Program at the UMaine has announced the recipients of the latest two-year research funding awards from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Sea Grant Office. More than $600,000 will support nine research projects in the Northeast.

The funds will support the first comprehensive analysis of the American Lobster Settlement Index database and its power to predict trends in juvenile and adult lobster populations.

A total of $597,356 in NOAA funds will support social science research projects in coastal and marine spatial planning, fisheries management and climate change adaptation.

UMM Receives NEH Grant to Examine Humans and Nature

MACHIAS – UMM has been awarded a $25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Enduring Questions Program to develop a course exploring the relationship between humans and nature.

Part of UMM’s Environmental Liberal Arts (ELA) core curriculum, the course, titled Humans and Nature, will be required of all academic majors and will serve as the capstone for the University’s ELA core seminars.

Students will go on field excursions to Native American petroglyph sites, iconic Maine landscapes, and the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland. The goal is for students to reflect on the sources of contemporary ideas about nature and how they shape environmental attitudes and discourse.

UMM also plans to offer an online version of the course to satisfy the core requirements of students enrolled in one of the University’s online degree programs.
UMFK Presidential Lecture Series Spring Writing Contest Winners Announced

FORT KENT – UMFK’s Presidential Lecture Series committee has awarded three individuals as the winners in the UMFK-sponsored writing contest conducted this past spring.

The purpose of the award is to encourage beginning writers and to acknowledge their contributions to the creativity of the area. The award offers in a small tangible way, an appreciation for the emerging efforts of those who wish to develop their creative writing skills.

The Presidential Lecture Series contest reviewers read 60 entries, the largest number of essays sent in response to any of the bi-annual contests, since it began in 2010. After the contest was announced in early February, an anonymous donor stepped forward to make possible an annual $50 award, named The Ourson Literary Award.

The award will be presented at the UMFK Senior Awards Convocation to be held in May. All six winning entries from the fall and spring writing contests will be published in a chapbook, which will be distributed at the UMFK Scholars Symposium on Friday, April 20.

CUNY Team Gives Research Presentation at UMPI

PRESQUE ISLE – A research team from the City University of New York (CUNY) recently delivered a presentation at UMPI to discuss the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funded research that an UMPI student has been helping them conduct.

The research team's work in Aroostook County involves sophisticated instruments at the National Weather Service Regional Office in Caribou that record detailed information about snow pack.

The project also involves collecting "ground truth" measurements of snow depth, snow stratigraphy, water content, grain size and crystal form from on-the-ground observations. The primary purpose is to develop predictive capability for spring flooding and thus create an emergency management preparedness plan.

UMS Undergraduate Research Day at the State Capitol

AUGUSTA – Last month, at the State Capitol in Augusta, more than thirty undergraduate UMS students from across the state showcased their research projects at the UMS Undergraduate Research Day.

Projects featured a range of research on Maine’s commercial forest and agricultural land, to the development of a leak detection system for NASA’s inflatable lunar habitats, to work examining ways to protect and preserve the state’s aquaculture.

A handout profiling the undergraduate students and their projects on display may be found here. All seven universities were represented.

Maine-Canada Trade Trends Subject of UMaine Conference

ORONO – More than a dozen experts from universities, government, and business from both sides of the U.S.-Canada border will be at UMaine April 23-24 for a conference on increasing the region’s bilateral trade, including an update on an east-west highway proposal in Maine.

The two-day conference, “Cross-Border Economic Integration in the Northeast: Current Status, Future Prospects,” will be held at Wells Conference Center, beginning at noon, Monday, April 23.

Proceedings of the conference will be published as a special issue of Canadian-American Public Policy.

Information about the April 17 registration deadline, cost, schedule, sponsors, and participants are available on a conference website.
USM’s New Bachelor’s Degree in Tourism and Hospitality

GORHAM – UMS Board of Trustees recently approved a new tourism and hospitality program at USM.

The program takes a unique, multi-disciplinary approach to tourism studies, drawing on experts from throughout the university to provide integrated study in such areas as business, planning, recreation, and environment.

The degree program is now accepting applications for fall 2012 and will continue to develop certifications, workshops, and institutes to provide the industry’s workforce with additional opportunities for professional development. For more information, see the Tourism and Hospitality page on USM’s website.

UMF Scholarship Created for Transfer Students

FARMINGTON – UMF has recently announced the creation of a new merit scholarship exclusively for transfer students.

The competitive UMF Transfer Academic Scholarship is slated to be awarded to select individuals who are admitted to UMF as full-time, matriculated transfer students, beginning in fall 2012.

Applicants are expected to achieve a college grade point average of at least 3.50 in all college work before enrollment in a UMF degree program. For more information, visit UMF Admissions online.

Meet the Editor

BANGOR- This issue of Making a Difference was researched, designed, and edited by Whitney Tulloch, of Gorham, Maine. Whitney is a UMaine senior majoring in communication with a double minor in English and public relations.

Whitney is a communications intern in the University of Maine System Office. She graduates in May.

Gardening Expert Roger Doiron to Speak at UMM

MACHIAS – UMM will host guest speaker Roger Doiron, garden writer and founder of Kitchen Gardeners International, for a presentation on Saturday, April 21 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

The talk is part of the Four Seasons of Food and Community lecture and workshop series, designed to raise awareness and increase participation in local food efforts, and is a collaboration with the Washington County Food and Fuel Alliance.

The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Chad Everett at 207-255-1360 or by email at chad.everett@maine.edu.

Holocaust and Human Rights Center Hosts Day of Remembrance Event

AUGUSTA – The Maine Holocaust and Human Rights Center (MHHRC) at UMA will host a special Yom Hashoah event on Sunday, April 22nd beginning at 2 p.m. at the Michael Klahr Center.

The MHHRC event, which is free and open to the public, will include a brief service featuring Cantor Deborah Marlowe of Temple Beth Israel in Waterville, music by the duo Cinder Conk, and refreshments.

By teaching people to think about others by thinking for themselves, the Maine Holocaust and Human Rights Center joins the effort to create an ethically literate future society.

For more information on the Yom Hashoah program or the MHHRC, call 207-621-3530 or visit hhrc.uma.edu.

The event will also include a viewing of an award-winning film, La Rafle.