

## UMaine Research Seeks to Demystify Chemotherapy "Brain Fog"

ORONO – Research over the last several years has shown that cancer patients can indeed suffer a mild cognitive impairment following chemotherapy. The studies have yet to pinpoint, however, what actually causes the baffling condition, commonly known as chemobrain or chemofog, and why some people suffer from it and others do not.

Studies of the cognitive effects of chemotherapy have typically been complicated by such confounding factors as age, life history, anxiety, depression, and fatigue. Thane Fremouw, an assistant professor of psychology at the



University of Maine, along with Robert Ferguson, a clinical psychologist at Eastern Maine Medical Center, are undertaking research that they hope will help answer those questions. Unlike other researchers

who have studied chemobrain in humans, however, the team will explore the condition in mice instead and use genetic manipulation to identify risk factors.

The mouse model will allow researchers to better and more quickly control for factors such as stress and depression. The team, which includes a UMaine graduate student and three undergraduates, will examine the cognitive consequences caused by different combinations of chemotherapy drugs, or cocktails, commonly prescribed in cancer therapy. The researchers will also treat the mice with various other drug therapies to see if those treatments help counteract the chemobrain condition.

## UMM Unveils New Research Lab

MACHIAS – A \$255,000 grant from the Maine Technology Institute has helped transform a University of Maine at Machias classroom in the Science Building into a dedicated marine teaching and research laboratory.

An open house was held for the local community in mid-April.

Local contractors began the actual renovations last September, and students recently started using the new lab space. There is considerable bench space for both students and faculty working on marine-related research, as well as bench space for dedicated equipment, such as the new DNA sequencer.

A laminar flow hood donated by Machias Home Health is now part of the research lab. That will enable research projects that involve work with cells or bacteria.

## UMF Names Michael D. Wilson Research Scholars

FARMINGTON – University of Maine at Farmington's Undergraduate Research Council recently named 18 students conducting undergraduate research projects as Spring and Summer 2008 Michael D. Wilson Research Scholars. Each student's original research project is awarded funding that underwrites expenses and helps encourage and promote continuing academic investigation. The awards are funded by a generous gift from Michael and Susan Angelides, in honor of their good friend and UMF alumnus, Michael D. Wilson, class of 1976.

The Wilson Research Scholar and Fellow Program has grown since its inaugural year last year, to 31 award recipients, including two students whose projects have received full-year Wilson Research Fellow awards to support more extensive and substantive research projects.



The Spring and Summer 2008 Michael D. Wilson Research Scholars are, first row: Allison Giguere (Swansea, MA), Mary Ellms (Dexter). Second row: Randall Rothert (Farmington), Melissa Lyons (Mexico), Abby Pettitt (Waterville), Vincent Rubino (Vernon, N.J.). Third row: Matthew Humer (Hampton, N.H.), D. Jamez Terry (Chesterville), Janna Gilbert (Jay), Nicole Schoppee (Jonesboro), Christopher Stevens (Bedford, MA). Fourth row: Matthew Lariviere (Lewiston), Trevor Spangle (Lebanon, OR). Fifth row: Matthew Nichols (Portland), Nathaniel Burns (Wayne). Not Pictured: Jessica Dorr (Wilton), Meghan Dzyak (Damariscotta), Jacques Rancourt (South Berwick).

## Upward Bound Presents Computers to Students



PRESQUE ISLE – More than 40 Aroostook County Upward Bound students received refurbished computers during a special presentation at UMPI in late March.

The Upward Bound program provides 120 Aroostook County high school students — many from economically disadvantaged households — with mentoring and tutoring services, and other programs that prepare them for college entrance.

Last fall, the program began offering new online mentoring and tutoring services, but many students couldn't participate because they had no access to computers and Internet connections at home.

Donated computers were upgraded by UMPI's Computer Services Department and MIS students. Now that the computers are in "like new" condition, Upward Bound officials are hoping their students will be able to use them throughout high school and take them to college.

## UMFK Hosts 10th Annual "Sucrerie"

FORT KENT – The University of Maine at Fort Kent hosted its tenth annual "Sucrerie" in late March.

The traditional maple sugar camp drew hundreds of local residents and featured a maple sugar making demonstration, an Acadian buffet, traditional maple taffy pull on the snow, and live entertainment. Staff volunteers from the UMFK campus community served the treats.

Local entertainers performed several French Acadian musical pieces that are favorites of many residents of the St. John Valley.



A local youngster enjoys maple taffy on a popsicle stick at the UMFK Sucrerie.

## USM Creates Insurance Program

PORTLAND – The University of Southern Maine created a new Risk Management and Insurance program in the School of Business that prepares students to work as underwriters, risk analysts, agents, claims adjusters, actuaries and related fields throughout the insurance and financial services industries.

The program's launch is supported entirely by more than \$629,800 in private funds raised from the insurance industry. Risk Management and Insurance courses will be offered in the fall 2008 semester.

USM's School of Business has worked closely with Maine's insurance industry to design the program, which will premier as a three-course insurance concentration. Eventually, it is expected to expand into a full insurance major with five required courses.



Pictured at an event held in March to announce the program launch are: Elizabeth Shorr, '74, president of the USM Foundation; Kenneth Ross, '74, vice president and treasurer of Clark Associates Insurance in Portland, and leader of the fund-raising effort; Eric Gosline of Gardiner, a USM junior business major whose family founded the Gosline Insurance Group in Gardiner; Dana A. Kerr, the program's first professor who will join USM from Ball State University; and James Shaffer, dean of the USM School of Business.

## UMaine Accounting Students Offer Free Help with Tax Returns

ORONO – University of Maine Business School accounting students are offering free income tax assistance to the public.

The long-standing UMaine Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is designed for low- to moderate-income taxpayers, people with disabilities, the elderly or students who need help, but the service will be provided to anyone on campus or in surrounding communities with basic tax assistance needs. It is sponsored by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

All of the student volunteers have taken tax preparation courses and are up to date on the latest tax law changes; a university professor double-checks each return before filing. The program is a benefit for taxpayers in the community and is good training for accounting students.

More than 100 people from the Old Town-Orono communities, including UMaine students, typically receive assistance each tax season.

## UMPI Working on Community GIS Projects

PRESQUE ISLE – Big community projects are in the works as the University of Maine at Presque Isle's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program collaborates with a local city, town, and economic development organization to offer six paid student internships.

- Northern Maine Development Corporation will hire four GIS students to work on the cooperative corridor management and preservation plan/project for Route 1 between Presque Isle and Caribou.
- Presque Isle Public Works department hired two interns to update the geodatabases constructed last summer and to collect new data of city infrastructures, such as storm water drain outlets and major traffic signs.
- Fort Fairfield's Planning Office created internships for GIS students to work on several projects throughout the summer and fall.

## Largest Poetry Festival in the State Takes Place at UMA

AUGUSTA – UMA's sixth annual Terry Plunkett Poetry Festival—the largest poetry festival in the state—takes place on April 11-12 in UMA's Katz Library and Student Center.

Held in memory of Terry Plunkett, a long-time UMA professor, the Festival this year features several Maine poets from across the state, including Henry Braun, Christian Barter, Elizabeth Garber, Barbara Maria, Karin Spitfire, Nancy Henry, David Moreau, Alice Persons, and Betsy Sholl, Maine's Poet Laureate.



The Festival opens with a special commemoration of *The Kennebec*, a portfolio of Maine writing that was widely read by Maine's literary community from the mid 1980s to the mid 1990s. During the commemoration, the digital launching of *The Kennebec* will be announced, and Bill Carpenter, Kathleen Ellis, and Lee Sharkey will all read poems they had published in *The Kennebec*.

Saturday's events include readings by the featured poets, an open mic for any audience member to share poetry, and a special panel discussion on Health, Social Justice and Poetry, the theme of this year's event.

More info on this annual festival may be found at: [www.uma.edu/plunkett/](http://www.uma.edu/plunkett/)



Elizabeth Allan and Mary Madden, professors in UMaine's College of Education and Human Development

## UMaine Researchers Detail College Hazing Study

ORONO – A new study by University of Maine researchers, the National Study on Hazing, is the largest and most comprehensive study of its kind and it received national media attention in recent weeks including *The New York Times* and on MSNBC. More than 11,000 U.S. college students at 53 institutions participated in the online survey.

The study reveals that hazing is commonplace in all kinds of college student organizations, and that most students don't recognize that some forms of dangerous, even illegal, behavior constitute hazing.

More than half the respondents say they have experienced some form of hazing, which is illegal in 44 states. The survey reveals a startling lack of awareness among those students about the serious nature of hazing and of what kinds of behavior fit the definition of hazing. Most respondents perceive the outcomes of these activities as positive and they attribute such behaviors to being part of campus culture.

The researchers say this survey will significantly impact the understanding of hazing and it will lead to new strategies for prevention and management of hazing issues at colleges and universities. Those strategies, they say, will also be transferable to middle schools and secondary schools.

More information is available online at [www.umaine.edu/hazingstudy](http://www.umaine.edu/hazingstudy)

## USM School of Business Students and Alumni Form Investment Club

PORTLAND – While millions of dollars are being pulled out of the stock market, a group of University of Southern Maine students and alumni recently formed an investing club to provide real-life investing, educational, and social opportunities for USM School of Business students and alumni. About a half dozen teams have been formed, which will review and present investment opportunities at club meetings. After presentations, members vote on which securities to invest in. Among the teams up and running are the Green (environmental); Technology; the Financial; Consumer Goods; Bio-technology; and the Federal Reserve Committee.

For more information, see the club's Web site at [www.uinvestclub.com](http://www.uinvestclub.com)

## **UMFK to Offer Forest Management as Part of Business Major**

FORT KENT – The University of Maine at Fort Kent will offer a Forest Management concentration within its Business Management baccalaureate degree program beginning with the fall semester 2008. The Forest Management concentration within the Business Management major will provide several opportunities for UMFK graduates. The baccalaureate degree allows graduates greater advancement opportunities within many forestry companies. The forest industry within Maine is actively seeking new foresters, particularly those with a baccalaureate degree.

Working with local industry officials, UMFK's Forestry and Business faculty have developed such a program. The forestry background gives graduates sound forestry management and field skills; the business training provides a foundation in business, personnel management, and other important business management skills; all critical to forestry today.



## **Students Celebrate UMM at Hall of Flags**

MACHIAS – UMM Day took place at the State House Hall of Flags in March.

Students met with Governor Baldacci and met legislators from their hometowns across Maine, as well as most of the members of the Washington County delegation.

UMM President Cynthia Huggins welcomed legislators and lobbyists to the UMM displays in the Hall of Flags.

## **UMA Hosts Maine History Day**

Maine History Day is a competition open to all middle and high school students as part of National History Day. Some 70 students participated in this year's event, which was held for the first time at the University of Maine at Augusta.

Organizers noted that the academic setting and visiting a college campus was appealing to the students. UMA's Student Technology Center features 'smart' classrooms outfitted with computers and audio/visual equipment that perfectly meet all the students' needs for even the most elaborate presentations. UMA's Jewett Hall Auditorium proved to be a perfect venue for the live performance part of the competition, featuring pieces created by the students.

A total of 44 students claimed prizes during an afternoon awards ceremony, attended by Maine's First Lady Karen Baldacci. Of those, 35 prize winners qualified to participate in the National History Day finals, held annually at the University of Maryland in June. The complete listing of this year's winners is available here: [www.state.me.us/sos/arc/historyday/Winners2008.htm](http://www.state.me.us/sos/arc/historyday/Winners2008.htm)

## **UMF Presented "West African Art in Western Maine" Exhibit**

FARMINGTON – The University of Maine at Farmington presented the exhibit "West African Art in Western Maine" from March 18-28, at the UMF Art Gallery.

The exhibit included paintings, sculptures, photographs, textiles and other artifacts from the rich West African cultures of Senegal, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Burkina Faso. The show offered both an artistic and technical look at the sophisticated art traditions of these West African countries.

As part of UMF's year-long series on Africa and African-Americans in Maine, this exhibition of powerful and stirring images is focused on enhancing the campus and local communities' understanding and appreciation of West Africa, a region of contrasting geography, politics, and culture. The exhibit was sponsored by the UMF Diversity Committee.

## **Muslim/Jewish Relations Experts Speak at USM**

PORTLAND – Professor Judea Pearl, father of slain journalist Daniel Pearl, and Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, authority on Islam, recently spoke about Muslim and Jewish cultural issues at USM in Portland. The lecture, "Beyond the Clash of Civilizations: A Dialogue for Muslim-Jewish Understanding," took place on April 7.

In 2006, both Pearl and Ahmed were awarded The Purpose Prize from Civic Ventures for their combined efforts to address chronic social problems on a national and global scale.

Program moderator was Elisabeth Hoffman, founder and president of Catalyst for Peace, a Portland-based foundation that supports community-based peace building around the world.

A book exhibit relating to Muslim/Jewish relations by Pearl, Ahmed and other authors followed the event.

## **UMaine Debate Team Tops Again in Forensics Competition**

ORONO – The University of Maine Forensics Team has won its second consecutive Northeast Regional Forensics Tournament, besting nine other universities with reputable speech and debate teams.

The tournament was held in March at Suffolk University. The eight active speech and debate team members prepare for competitions by researching various topics that could be used as subject matter for debates and extemporaneous speaking and presentation skills. In the last year the team competed in seven tournaments.

Forensics competition helps students develop public speaking, debate and effective presentation skills.