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Through the Acadia Professorship of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, the hospital and the university will work together to recruit a Ph.D.-trained faculty member who not only will teach student nurses and manage their onsite clinical education, but also will have an extraordinary opportunity to conduct research with Acadia staff on the specific needs of populations served by the private, non-profit psychiatric and chemical dependency treatment provider.

Representatives from the university and the hospital said the collaboration makes sense since both institutions share a common concern for the importance of having expert nursing faculty to prepare nurses with exceptional knowledge and skill and a commitment to lifelong professional development for optimal health outcomes of patients and families.

USM Hall Receives LEED Gold Certification
GORHAM – USM’s new 296-bed, 101,000 square-foot residence hall in Gorham has received LEED Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council for its environmentally responsible design. The $2.1 million project was financed through room fees, not state dollars.

It is the first residence hall in Maine to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification. The certification is based on strict environmental criteria related to site development and the careful use of energy, water, and materials to maximize the building’s potential benefits.

“Green” building features include: energy-efficient plumbing fixtures to conserve water; zero use of CFC-based refrigerants in HVAC systems; energy-efficient electrical metering; ten percent of building materials are of post-recycled content and twenty percent of building materials and products are manufactured locally; a permanent temperature and humidity monitoring system; and other features.

UMS, Financial Sustainability & 2009
BANGOR – Concluding that the University of Maine System’s current model of operations is not financially sustainable, Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude and the presidents of Maine’s seven public universities are pursuing significant, transformational operational changes.

Pattenaude cites three primary reasons behind this effort: dramatic increases in the cost of energy and healthcare insurance; changing demographics, which forecast a drop in the number high school students graduating over the next several years; and the global financial crisis and its affect on Maine’s economy.

UMS has been working for more than two years to reduce costs and sustain academic quality, Pattenaude reports. In May, UMS cut $19.1 million from its budget, eliminating 140 positions, reducing operating budgets, and freezing salaries of 50 senior administrators. However, the global financial crisis has created new problems for UMS’s finances, affecting enrollment and investment income revenue. Most recently, UMS’s State appropriation was cut $8.3 million as part of a larger State budget cut

AUSMA, For more information, contact Jon Henry at 621-3136 or jhenry@maine.edu - NAAACP President Featured at Human Rights Day
PORTLAND – In early December, local branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Amnesty International, and the United Nations Association hosted Human Rights Day and commemorated the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

The event, “The World We Believe In: Hope for Human Rights in a New Era,” was held at USM in Portland.

Keynote speaker was Benjamin Jealous, national president of the NAACP. USM President Selma Botman gave welcoming remarks and Portland Mayor Jill C. Duson presented Jealous a key to the city. Governor John Baldacci also attended.

Summary:

USM Green Building Tours Available
FARMINGTON – USM’s Education Center is now available for free, pre-scheduled tours. Created to house the UMF College of Education, Health and Rehabilitation, the Education Center was one of Maine’s first LEED-registered buildings. The Leadership

UMF junior Stephanie Bessey, of Winthrop, shares some of the exciting possibilities that green building design offers with fifth graders from Farmington’s Cascade Brook School.

in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

Two tour plans and materials developed by UMF faculty and education students to bring the science of green buildings into their classrooms. Tours may be scheduled by visiting the program’s website at: http://umfedctr.wikispaces.com.
UMaine Press Publishes Passamaquoddy Dictionary

ORONO – More than 30 years of hard work and dedication has culminated with the publication of “A Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Dictionary” which contains 18,000 entries on more than 1,000 pages and was a collaborative effort among native speakers, educators, and linguists.

The book, published by the University of Maine Press, is authored by Passamaquoddy tribal elder David A. Francis; Robert M. Leavitt, former director of the Mi’kmaq-Maliseet Institute at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton; and Margaret Apt, community research coordinator and Passamaquoddy language teacher at Eastport’s Head Memorial High School.

The language is spoken in Maine and New Brunswick, Canada but never has been recorded in this form. For generations, American Indian culture and custom has been passed down primarily through oral tradition, but little has been formally documented.

Each dictionary entry includes sample sentences from both traditional and contemporary conversation. It also provides details of Passamaquoddy-Maliseet thought and culture, personal attitudes, humor, and linguistic ingenuity, according to information printed on the book’s jacket.

UMF Students Recognized

FARMINGTON – Eleven UMF students were recently recognized by the Undergraduate Research Council as fall 2008 Michael D. Wilson Research Scholars and Fellows.

Under the Wilson program, each student’s original research project is awarded funding that underwrites expenses and helps encourage and promote continuing academic investigation.

The annual Michael D. Wilson Research Scholar Program has been supporting single-semester research, scholarship, and creative projects at UMF since the fall of 2005.

The program was an effort spearheaded by UMF’s Center for Human Development recently hosted its third annual College-to-Corporate Symposium. This event brought together more than 40 junior and senior business students together with corporate professionals from across the region to discuss the job application process and today’s work environment.

The evening began with a panel discussion including representatives from Ameriprise Financial, Barclayscard, Comfort Inn & Suites, Experience, Franklin Community Health Network, and Verso Paper.

Panel members explained the interviewing and hiring process and provided the audience with an inside look at how the practice compares among businesses. Employer expectations were reviewed regarding dress, decorum, and written presentation of a resume and cover letter. Speakers at the symposium recommended that students research positions of interest and their companies thoroughly to achieve the greatest employment success.

$99,000 Grant Enhances UMFK Nursing Program

FORT KENT – UMFK recently received a $99,000 grant from the Davis Education Foundation of Falmouth, in support of the university’s nursing education program.

The grant will provide significant support for the purchase of a neonatal simulator.

Due to the low birth rate in Aroostook County, UMFK nursing students often graduate with limited obstetrical, or childbirth, experiences. The Enhancing Birthing and Neonatal Education program will address that issue by employing technology to fill the experiential gap. Human patient simulators allow students to learn by true simulation because they participate in real-life patient scenarios with a life-like mannequin that responds to their interventions.

The grant will allow UMFK to purchase the simulation mannequins and the equipment needed to “treat” the new patients. UMFK students lack practical situations where they experience different complications and use the tools and equipment designed for these emergencies.
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MACHIAS – Late this fall, a group of UMM students led a clean-up around the campus and throughout the Machias community, as part of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority. An estimated 10-15 bags of trash were filled within a 1 1/2 mile radius of the campus.

UMF Hosts College-to-Corporate Symposium
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UMM Students Host Disabilities Awareness Event
MACHIAS – Students in UMM’s “Recreation Services for Special Populations” class recently hosted a disabilities awareness night. Participants in this program, titled “Your World, My World, Our Diverse World,” had the opportunity to experience simulated disabilities at 10 different stations, each focused on a specific disability. Stations included hearing impairments, spinal injuries, visual impairments, temporary disabilities, obesity, aging, learning disabilities, autism, mobility and more.

UMPI to Open Testing Center
PRESQUE ISLE – Officials from UMPI and Lumus Construction held a press conference recently to announce the details of their $2 million project to install a 600 kW wind turbine on campus.

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This fall’s research scholars are: Joshua Case, New Vineyard; Ben Engle, Westbrook, Mass.; Isaac Frith, Randolph; Jaime Gagne, Gorham, N.H.; Carolle Gallant, Concord, N.H.; Eric Munson, Belfast; Stephanie Nobrega, Phillipston, Mass.; Victoria Pearson, Skowhegan; William Roy, Turner; and Samuel Valentine, Farmington. The 2008-2009 Michael D. Wilson Research Fellow is Daniel Allen, Gardiner.

UMPI Announces Wind Turbine Project Details
PRESQUE ISLE – Officials from UMPI and Lumus Construction held a press conference recently to announce the details of their $2 million project to install a 600 kW wind turbine on campus.

The turbine will produce about 1 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year and is expected to save the institution more than $100,000 annually in electricity charges. It also reduces the institution’s carbon footprint by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere each year, or the equivalent of removing 123 cars from the road.

Foundation work for the project began in mid-November. The site is located near the athletic fields at the southern end of campus.

The turbine blades that are 47 meters in diameter, as well as a 20-ton nacelle – which houses the turbine’s gearbox and generator – are being assembled in India. The turbine tower being manufactured in the U.S. Officials expect the turbine parts to be delivered to the site by March. For more information visit: www.umpi.edu/wind
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UMS Youth Ensembles Jazz Weekend

GORHAM – This year’s UMS Youth Ensembles Jazz Improv Weekend for high school musicians – January 17 and 18 – features guest artist, jazz drummer Terri Lyne Carrington.

The Sunday concert opens with student combos performing the first half. The second half features Carrington with UMS School of Music jazz faculty.

The New England Conservatory alumna is an educator, performer, and frequent guest artist for UMS School of Music jazz ensembles.

In addition, the Task Force has hosted two information-sessions for military support providers who work with veterans and service members in November and December.

In early December, local branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Amnesty International, and the United Nations Association hosted Human Rights Day and commemorated the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

“Human Rights in a New Era,” was held at USM in Portland.

Benjamin Jealous, NAACP National President

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