"Tales from Ancient India" exhibit at UMFK Gallery
FORT KENT – UMFK is offering an exhibition entitled “Tales of Ancient India” through the month of July at the Blake Library Gallery. The exhibition is filled with stories rich with exotic flavor and steeped in religion. These are tales filled with love, war, betrayal, and courage. The exhibit can be viewed during regular library hours. For more information on the exhibit, contact Sofia Birden, gallery curator, at 834-7527.

USM-Ocean Alliance Research Impact of Gulf Oil Spill
PORTLAND – A USM-Ocean Alliance research expedition to the Gulf of Mexico is under way. This joint effort by the international research and conservation organization and USM researchers and students will evaluate the impact of the environmental disaster on whales, the marine life on which they feed and the ecosystem that supports them.

Research will be conducted through the summer and into the fall months aboard the Ocean Alliance’s RV Odyssey, the only sailboat in the world equipped with a state-of-art cell culture laboratory. Further analysis will be conducted in USM’s Wise Laboratory of Environmental and Genetic Toxicology.

Third Annual “Music in the Park” Series
PRESQUE ISLE – Riverside Park in Presque Isle will once again be filled with music on Sundays this summer as the City of Presque Isle, the Downtown Revitalization Committee and the University of Maine at Presque Isle host the Third Annual "Music in the Park" Series.

The free concert series held on Sundays in July and early August will include four shows ranging from Acadian music to African drumming. Each Sunday afternoon from 1:00-4:00 p.m., performances will feature an opening act and a main act.

Trustees Receive Update on Strategic Investment Fund Awards
BANGOR – At their July meeting held in Bangor, University of Maine System board of trustees received an update on the System’s strategic investment fund which was established to provide targeted funds to support new university initiatives, as well as existing programs.

A total of $2.3 million was awarded in two strategic categories: enrollment management activities with awards totaling $892,000; and academic programs responsive to state needs with $1 million—with a focus on allied health, alternative energy education, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) disciplines.

The strategic investment funds are awarded on a competitive basis. Out of 39 project proposals submitted for fiscal year 2011, a total of 14 received final approval and an additional ten are in preliminary stages of approval. Projects range in scope from a UMaine program to incorporate innovation engineering across the university system, to a UMFK program in excellence in teaching and technology, to an engineering and science pioneers program at USM. A list of the 24 awards may be found at www.maine.edu/UMSSIF.

UMFK: “A Midsummer Night's Dream”
FORT KENT – UMFK’s presents William Shakespeare's “A Midsummer Night's Dream” from July 29 through August 1.

Tickets ($7) may be purchased at the door or contact Aaron Bernstein at 834-7893 for advance reservations. Tickets are free for UMFK students with valid ID.
“Bottom Up” Assessment of Ocean Fisheries
ORONO – A team of UMaine researchers is studying the relationship among competition, regulation and conservation in the fishing industry, specifically lobster, sea urchins, and groundfish.

The purpose is to develop a rigorous bottom-up, rather than the usual top-down, understanding of the conservation problem. The project is funded by an approximately $1 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

Researchers are looking at the way competition and cooperation among fishermen lead to private incentives and informal social arrangements that are—or aren’t—consistent with conservation of the resource. These informal arrangements and incentives are important because they help explain how private interests reinforce or impair ongoing resource management and, consequently, the sustainability of coupled human and natural systems.

UMF Offers “Mainely Outdoors” Program
FARMINGTON – The UMF Fitness and Recreation Center announced the launching of “Mainely Outdoors,” a new outdoor recreation program. The program will offer members of the campus and local community year-round opportunities for participation in a wide array of activities to promote a fit and active lifestyle and enjoy the region’s natural resources.

This summer’s schedule includes whitewater kayaking clinics, flat-water kayaking excursions, biking and hiking trips, whitewater rafting, and a fly-fishing clinic for women.

Law School Conference Focuses on Data Security
PORTLAND – The Center for Law and Innovation at the University of Maine School of Law is hosting a daylong conference, “Data Security and Management in Global Commerce,” on August 5.

The conference will take place from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in USM’s Wishcamper Center in Portland.

Keynote speaker is U.S. District Magistrate Judge John Facciola from Washington D.C., a frequent lecturer and speaker on the topic of electronic discovery.

Breakout session topics will address issues of data privacy in global commerce; the risks and opportunities of businesses using social media and cloud computing; and managing against security risks while embracing the marketing opportunities of new technologies.

Registration is $95 per person and can be done online at www.lawandinnovation.org, or by calling 228-8430.

UMA Offers Summer Camp with College Credit
AUGUSTA – UMA is launching YOUMA, a youth-oriented interdisciplinary immersion program for high school students.

The program will be held the last week in July (26–30) and the first week in August (2-6) on the Augusta campus. There are one- and two-week options.

Cost for the program is $250 per week or $400 for both weeks, lunch included. The YoUMA program will issue college credit to participants, upon completion of the program.

To learn more, contact Kathleen King Kathleen.d.king@maine.edu or call 621-3299.
Popular Course Explores Forensics

ORONO – UMaine’s Introduction to Forensics course has opened students’ eyes to the world of forensics and, ultimately, made them better-informed citizens.

With the campus-based fall course continuously at full enrollment, UMaine is offering the class online for those who are interested in the topic, but unable to enroll during the regularly scheduled time.

Instead of mock crime-scenes with fake blood, the web-based course uses virtual crime scenes, presenting students with a novel approach to applying their knowledge.

The introductory forensics class is based on ongoing forensic work in UMaine’s Molecular Forensics Laboratory. The lab not only provides hands-on experience for students, but also processes about 20 cases annually for the Maine Warden Service.

USM Awarded $175K Grant to Develop Applied Energy Curriculum

PORTLAND – USM’s Department of Environmental Science has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant to support the development of an applied energy curriculum, which will allow USM to offer energy-related courses and a certificate.

The $175,000, three-year grant, will help develop and implement a renewable energy curriculum that will prepare students for all aspects of work in Maine’s fast-growing energy sector. They will gain hands-on experience in measuring and testing energy efficiency, mapping wind and solar resources in southern Maine, and in the production and testing of more sustainable biofuels. The grant will also help expand USM’s energy research and testing capabilities.

UMM Launches Online Psychology Degree

MACHIAS – UMM has announced that it will begin offering an online degree program in psychology and community studies in the fall.

Aimed at providing working individuals in rural areas of Maine with access to a four-year psychology degree, the program is an online version of UMM’s traditional on-campus program. The online version has been reviewed and accepted for accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The psychology and community studies program at UMM is an interdisciplinary major through which students learn how to study humans and their communities and how to facilitate individual and group change and exchange within them. The program integrates social and behavioral sciences with perspectives from the humanities.

NMCC, UMPI Form Partnership in Early Childhood Education

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI and Northern Maine Community College presidents (shown) recently announced a partnership between the two institutions that will benefit NMCC students preparing for jobs as head start teachers and early childhood educators and help them to meet new state requirements for teaching in their field.

The partnership creates a pathway for NMCC early childhood education program students so that, upon graduation, they can transition seamlessly into UMPI’s elementary education bachelor’s degree program. Officials expect it will take NMCC transfer students about two years to complete the university course work.

UMA Presents the Mile of Art

AUGUSTA – The annual UMA Mile of Art takes place on August 7 (rain date is August 8) along the university’s nature and fitness paths in Augusta. Last year, more than 80 artists set up shop and hundreds of participants attended the celebration which includes art, music, and food. This year’s theme is “Through the Looking Glass; A Wonderland of Art.” Donations are $1 per visitor and children 12 & under are free.

To learn more, visit: www.uma.edu/mileoart.html.
UMaine Presidential Search Team Named
BANGOR – Last month, the University of Maine System announced the members of a search committee tasked with making recommendations for the next leader for UMaine. Earlier this year, UMaine President Robert Kennedy announced his intention to step down from the position in June of 2011.

The search committee will be chaired by Eleanor “Ellie” Baker of Cape Elizabeth, who also serves on the UMS Board of Trustees. Other search committee members are UMS trustees Michelle Hood of Bar Harbor and William Johnson of Saco; UMaine faculty members Harlan Onsrud, Robert Rice, and Stephanie Welcomer; UMaine staff Joseph Szelest, Ranee Dow, and Jeffrey Hecker; UMaine students James Beaupre, Nathaniel Wildes, and Katie Foster (alternate); James Goff of the UMaine board of visitors; and John Rohman, a local community member.

The committee will provide recommendations to Chancellor Richard Pattenaude. A new leader is expected to be named before Kennedy leaves the position next year.

UMM Hosts International Conference: Paper and Book Intensive
MACHIAS – The 24th annual Paper and Book Intensive, an international conference for paper and bookmaking enthusiasts, takes place on the UMM campus in July. More than seventy people from around the world took part in the 12-day event.

PBI featured high-end classes in bookbinding, letterpress, papermaking, and related book art. Daily class sessions were combined with lectures and discussions to promote unusual levels of exchange and inspiration among the artists. Book and papermaking experts from all over led the workshops, covering a wide-range of topics from paper sculpture to techniques in letterpress printing. This year’s event was the first time the intensive has come to Maine.

UMF Celebrates 20-Year Collaboration with Chinese University
FARMINGTON – The 20-year anniversary of the UMF-Beijing University of Technology Exchange Program was recently celebrated on the UMF campus.

At the celebration Hou Yibin, from Beijing University of Technology, received a plaque from UMF President Theodora J. Kalikow (shown).

Begun in 1989, the program originated to provide regular, inexpensive Chinese language instruction. As its partnership with BJUT evolves in significance and scope, UMF continues to be the only university in the UMS that offers Mandarin for academic credit.

The exchange program continues to offer faculty and students from both the Maine and Beijing campuses opportunities to learn critical world language skills and have enriching cultural experiences that help foster collaborative relationships with our global partners.

UMaine and Waterville Company Gain Patent Approval
ORONO – UMaine and Cerealus Holdings, LLC, a Waterville-based product development and technology commercialization company, have received a patent for an innovation that can provide a sustainable alternative to traditional food packaging materials.

Known as Holdout™, the product is a water-based formulation containing zein that is used to impart oil and grease resistance to paper and paperboard.

Designed to serves as an alternative to fluorocarbon compounds that are commonly used to package foods, it provides the oil and grease resistance required in that industry.