

Making a Difference

A monthly sampler of educational, cultural, and economic contributions of Maine's public universities

Commencement 2009

Candid moments from commencement ceremonies at the seven campuses of the University of Maine System



UMF



USM



UMFK



UMPI



UMM



UMAINE



UMA

Maine Technology Fund Grants awarded to UMaine and UMPI

AUGUSTA – The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) awarded nearly \$6.8 million in Maine Technology Asset Fund grants to the University of Maine and one \$96,800 grant to UMPI.

The fund was established when the Maine Legislature and voters approved a \$50 million research and development bond in 2007. Research institutions are required to use the money for capital and related expenditures supporting research, development and commercialization projects that will lead to significant economic benefits for Maine.

UMaine's grants include: Innovative Industries Initiative - \$3.69 million; Maine Center for Autonomous Marine Survey (MCAMS), \$1.2 million; Process Development Center, \$1,083,000; Strengthening Biotechnology & Supporting the STEM Education Initiative in Maine, \$883,000. UMaine also is a partner in seven other projects awarded more than \$9 million in MTAF funding.

UMPI received a \$96,800 award titled, Implementing an Advanced Geospatial Information Mapping and Analysis Facility for Economic Development in Northern Maine.

The full list of awards is online at www.mainetechnology.org.

UMF Honors Alumni and Friends

FARMINGTON – UMF recently honored three notable alumni and friends for their significant contributions to UMF and the community. Presentations were made by Theodora J. Kalikow.

Janet Mills, current attorney general of the State of Maine and former Maine legislator for the towns of Farmington and Industry, was presented the 2009 Friend of UMF award. Mills has worked tirelessly with state leaders about issues of importance to UMF. Ryan Low, commissioner of Maine's Department of Administrative and Financial Services and member of the UMF class of 1997, was recognized with this year's UMF Alumni Achievement award. Bradley Reed, alumnus and member of the UMF Class of 1993, was presented with this year's Florence Hewey Archibald Alumni Service Award. Reed has served for a decade as secretary of the UMF Alumni Council.



From left: Bradley Reed, Janet Mills, Theo Kalikow and Ryan Low.

USM Expands Sport Management Program

PORTLAND – Beginning this fall, USM students will be able to major in sport management as part of the bachelor's degree program in business administration.

USM is the first institution in the University of Maine System to offer a sport management major. What began two years ago as a limited academic track has blossomed into a popular program with more than 100 students expected to enroll this fall.

The move to a full major allows USM to add specialized courses in such areas as sports event management, sport sponsorship and athletic administration. Graduates will be prepared for a range of leadership roles in amateur sports organizations, sports marketing fields, and in athletic administration.

The new major will include a 10-week, 400-hour internship experience with local professional sports teams such as the Portland Pirates, Sea Dogs and Maine Red Claws.



UMFK Honors Nursing Grads

FORT KENT – Last month, more than forty UMFK nursing students received their nursing pins, signifying their official entrance

into the profession.

Approximately half of the students were from Aroostook County, and others represented different parts of Maine, the Maritime Provinces and two states. Faculty, staff, and students, along with family members, and friends of the graduates gathered to honor the recipients of the Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

During the ceremony, Emily Cote of Saco was honored with the Student Nurse Citizenship Award. The award honors the diligence, manners, responsibility, conscientiousness, and thoughtful involvement characteristic of an exemplary citizen.

UMaine's CentRO Hosts Tourism Event

HALLOWELL – UMaine's Center for Tourism Research and Outreach (CentRO) hosted the Maine Workforce Development Conference last month. Participants ranged from representatives from the tourism industry to educators, state and municipal policymakers and people working in the business of accommodating vacationers and visitors.

Options for educating and training tomorrow's tourism workforce may be done through community colleges or universities, private contractors or professional development certificate programs. The conference served as a work session to determine how to implement the strategies and ideas that stem from previous assessments and evaluations of current and future needs in the industry.

For additional information on the conference, visit www.umaine.edu/centro.

UMFK "KinderKollege" Kits Distributed to Area Schools

FORT KENT – UMFK recently delivered "KinderKollege" kits to elementary schools in the St. John Valley as part of the university's College Community Project, an educational life span-approach to college readiness.

UMFK elementary education students developed teaching/learning kits for grades Pre-K to 2 which are full of classroom resources and items that children will enjoy. The kit includes college savings planning for parents of children who are just starting school, as well as career and college awareness for the youngsters.

A kit was created for every elementary school in the St. John Valley, from Van Buren to Allagash. The KinderKollege program is funded through a grant from the Davis Family Foundation.

UMaine Hosting a Variety of Summer Camps

ORONO – UMaine is offering a variety of summer day camps, workshops, and special events geared toward engaging Maine's youngsters and introducing them to an exciting environment of creativity, innovation, invention and adventure. Here are three designed to offer young people a simplified introduction to innovation and engineering concepts:

Maine Summer Transportation Institute - introduces students to the jobs and careers available in Maine's transportation industry, and exposes them to UMaine engineering education and university life.

Innovation Adventure Day Camp - is a week of creativity and invention combined with outdoors adventures, including canoeing, a climbing wall and the MaineBound challenge course.

Computer Assisted Design/Adventure Camp - encourages participants to mix their interests in computers and the outdoors with a week of creativity, new friends and adventure.

A more complete list of other summer camps and events at the University of Maine is available at dll.umaine.edu/summer/camps.html



UMPI Commissions Wind Turbine

PRESQUE ISLE – State and local dignitaries joined the UMPI community last month to celebrate the official commissioning of the campus's 600 kW wind turbine.

The University's wind turbine is expected to produce approximately one million kilowatt-hours of electricity per



year and save the institution more than \$100,000 annually in electricity charges. It is expected to save an estimated 572 tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere each year, or the equivalent of removing 123 cars from the road.

To view photos, videos and more details about the university's wind project, visit www.umpi.edu/wind.

As part of UMPI's recent windmill commissioning ceremony, eco-friendly paper balloons were released at the base of the structure.

Photo by Kathy McCarty/Star-Herald

UMM Centennial History Book Unveiled

MACHIAS – A new UMM book was unveiled during UMM's 98th Commencement. *The University of Maine at Machias, 1909–2009: A History* was written by Dr. Randall Kindleberger, associate professor of history, to commemorate the university's Centennial celebration. The book takes a look back at what started with the Washington State Normal School and the 100-year transformation into present-day UMM.

The author noted that she tried to balance the celebratory and the analytical and hopes that the book will appeal to readers interested in higher education and Washington County as well those associated with UMM. There are forty-plus photos in addition to the text.

Copies of the book are available for \$10 at UMM's Murdock Bookstore or by calling (207) 255-1210.

USM Student Wins Artificial Intelligence Competition

PORTLAND – A USM computer science student from Auburn won an artificial intelligence competition at the World Congress on Evolutionary Computation, held last month in Trondheim, Norway.

Ryan Small of Auburn, an undergraduate computer science major, entered a competition to test how well the artificial intelligence program he designed can be harnessed to play an interactive video game. Small introduced a program that plays the first-person shooter game, "Unreal Tournament." Small also delivered a research paper on designing artificial intelligence systems.

Artificial intelligence programs have practical real-world applications, ranging from military applications, to Mars explorers and entertainment. The congress is considered one of the largest such meetings of its kind, attracting hundreds of faculty, industry researchers, and students.

UMA Launches Military Achievement Project

AUGUSTA – UMA recently debuted its Military Achievement Project, a veterans outreach project. The project is funded by a \$100,000 grant awarded earlier this year from the American Council on Education and Wal-Mart Foundation which funds to part time support staff for the program.

More than 200 veterans are currently enrolled at UMA. As part of the festivities, UMA unveiled several services for student veterans including a dedicated student lounge, a student veteran organization, online courses with priority registration for active duty military, and other services. For more information call 621-3157.

UMaine Receives NSF Grant for Ice Core Research

ORONO – UMaine scientists received a \$436,546 grant from the National Science Foundation to extend climate records back to three million years using ice samples from the Allan Hills Blue Ice Area in East Antarctica.

The project aims to reconstruct details of past climate changes and greenhouse gas concentrations for certain time periods by applying emerging methods for absolute and relative dating of air bubbles trapped in the ice. During two field expeditions, researchers will collect ice core samples and conduct surface trenching activities.

Students also will be trained in advanced field, laboratory and numerical modeling methods as part of the project.

UMA Art Students Unveil “Christo-like” Exhibit

AUGUSTA – UMA art students recently unveiled Project Pathology, an inventive “Christo-like” outdoor sculpture exhibit which will be on display in three Maine parks over the course of the summer.

The name Project Pathology is derived from the fact that the sculpture exhibit places 50 large photographic works along an outdoor path. Each framed work features a color photograph and, on the other side the same photograph in black and white.

The project will be on display through July 10 at Augusta’s Pine Tree State Arboretum, then at Moose Point State Park in Searsport from July 11 to August 8, and Lamoine State Park in Ellsworth from August 10 to September 7.

The project is funded by a grant by The Harry Faust Art Fund. For more information, go to www.ProjectPathology.com.

UMPI Young Professionals Institute

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI and Momentum Aroostook recently complete the second Young Professionals Institute (YPI) which provides the area’s young professionals with a one-of-a-kind leadership development opportunity.

During the eight-week program, the group of twelve young professionals learned through role-playing scenarios and hands-on activities how to write eye-catching proposals, deliver successful oral presentations, use best practices in written communication, and get involved in their communities.

Participants represented included MMG Insurance, The Aroostook Medical Center, Loring Job Corps Center, ACE Rent-A-Car, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the County Federal Credit Union, and UMPI.

Plans are underway for a third YPI, set to take place in the spring of 2010.

UMM Receives \$900k Grant for Biomedical Research

MACHIAS – UMM received a grant totaling more than \$900,000 from the National Center for Research Resources, part of the National Institutes of Health.

The award is part of a five-year, \$18.7 million dollar research grant to the Maine IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). INBRE is a collaborative research network of 12 Maine research laboratories, universities, and colleges led by the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Bar Harbor.

The funds awarded to UMM will be used to provide research support, student summer internships, an intensive molecular biology course for students at the MDI Biological Laboratory, student travel to professional meetings to present research, equipment to support UMM faculty and student research, and access to core research facilities.

USM Hosts Symposium on Human Subject Research

PORTLAND – USM’s Office of Research Compliance (ORC) recently sponsored the “Maine IRB (Institutional Review Board) Symposium,” which attracted some 83 participants from five states.

The often-difficult relationship between research review and academic freedom was debated in a panel, which featured William Harrison, director of USM’s ORC, and Dr. Richard Shweder of the University of Chicago and the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. Shweder, considered an internationally recognized figure in cultural psychology and academic freedom.

More information on the symposium, including video of the panel discussion, is available at <http://usm.maine.edu/orc/irb/2009IRBSymposiumHighlights.htm>

UMS Task Force Draft Report Available for Public Comment

BANGOR – In January, Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude announced his appointment of a 12-person task force to examine the structure and governance of Maine’s state university system.

The task force has created one of three reports that will help the System achieve the long-term quality, affordability, and financial sustainability as expressed in the Chancellor’s “New Challenges, New Directions: Achieving Long-Term Financial Sustainability” report.

A draft report created by the task force is available at the following website:

www.maine.edu/UMSTaskForceDraftReport. Following a public comment period it will be revised and submitted to the Chancellor for consideration.