UMPI Receives National Climate Leadership Award

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI has received the inaugural 2010 Second Nature Leadership Award for Institutional Excellence in Climate Leadership in the public baccalaureate category. The award was presented at the 4th Annual Climate Leadership Summit of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) held in Denver, Colorado.

In recognizing UMPI, Second Nature highlighted the University’s installation of its mid-size wind turbine on campus, the first university in the state to install one, in 2009. The educational mission of UMPI has also been enhanced as the turbine installation is integrated into curriculum at both the university and local community college, plus it serves as a community resource.

UMFK Blake Library Hosts Exhibit by Local Artist

FORT KENT – In recognition of October as National Down Syndrome Awareness month, the Blake Library Gallery at UMFK will display an exhibit of oil paintings by local Fort Kent artist Erika Thiele through October 29.

Erika Thiele, a 40-year-old artist born with Down syndrome, developed her talent through private lessons with a professional artist, as well as through art classes.

The exhibition features more than 30 oil paintings of beautiful landscapes and flowers that she has been working on over several years.

“Women Count” Conference November 6 at Univ. College of Bangor

BANGOR – This year’s Maine Women’s Studies Consortium Annual Conference will take place on Saturday, November 6, in Eastport Hall on the University College of Bangor campus.

Expected to attract scholars, community members, and students from all over the state, the “Women Count” conference will include a number of breakout sessions throughout the day on topics ranging from women in politics, to feminist pedagogy, quantum feminism, heroines and literary women, health and human services, women and land, women and pop culture, feminist fitness, and more.

Online registration is currently underway at www.uma.edu/wic.

UMaine Receives $3.5M in R&D Awards

ORONO – The Maine Technology Institute selected five UMaine projects to receive a total of $3.5 million from the Maine Technology Asset Fund.

The new UMaine proposals receiving awards are: Biomass Engineered Fuel, $1.65 million; FISHLab: Fisheries Innovation, Sustainability & Health Lab, $600,000; Advanced Biomechanics Laboratory for Injury Reduction and Rehabilitation, $533,300; Commercialization of New Technologies for Animal Disease Surveillance, $497,392; CIDER: Cyberinfrastructure Investment for Development, Economic Growth and Research, $250,000. The full listing of awards is online at www.mainetechnology.org.
UMM Students Coordinate Haunted Forest October 28-29

MACHIAS – UMM students will coordinate the Annual Machias Community Haunted Forest on Thursday, October 28 and Friday, October 29 behind Machias Memorial High School. The Haunted Forest will run from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. each night on the nature trail and admission is $2 per person.

The Haunted Forest is sponsored by the Leisure Activities class housed in UMM’s Environmental Recreation and Tourism Management program. Students in the Education program and others have provided assistance in planning and staffing the event.

Equipment donations and trail help are being provided by local residents and the Machias School Department.

New Study Shows Marine Life affected in Gulf of Maine and Around the Globe

PORTLAND – Virtually all areas of the Gulf of Maine have been affected by humans.

Nearly a decade of research in the Gulf of Maine area was part of the findings of the 10-year international Census of Marine Life recently released in London.

USM faculty have led the Gulf of Maine Area (GoMA) program since 2002. The GoMA program contributed to our understanding of the patterns and role of biodiversity in an area that included the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, the Bay of Fundy, part of the Atlantic continental shelf of Nova Scotia, the deep waters of the neighboring continental slope, and a submerged mountain chain called the New England Seamounts.

For more information, visit www.coml.org.

UMF Students Attend Northeast Undergraduate Research Conference

FARMINGTON – A select group of UMF undergraduates presented the results of their research projects and creative endeavors at the first-ever Northeast Undergraduate Research Conference held at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in early October.

The conference showcases some of the best and brightest students in the region while also providing them with an opportunity to enhance their credentials for job placement and graduate school.

UMaine Receives $1 Million DOE Grant for Tidal Power

ORONO – A group of UMaine researchers has received a $1 million grant from the Department of Energy to continue developing environmental impact protocols at the site of a tidal-power turbine near Eastport and two other sites in Maine.

Researchers are seeking is much energy can be removed from tidal circulation in sites such as Cobscook Bay, and the environmental impacts of the turbines on fish and other sea life.

The grant also provides funds for work on the modeling and testing of the open-source Maine tidal turbine in both the laboratory and the field, funds to begin work-force development for upcoming renewable energy industries. The funds will allow students to continue developing skills in ocean engineering, mechanical engineering, or experiment design and hypothesis testing.
UMPI Hosts Special Olympics Soccer Tournament

PRESQUE ISLE – The annual Special Olympics Soccer Tournament was recently held at UMPI. There were over 50 athletes at the event, which is one of three soccer events held statewide.

The UMPI men’s and women’s soccer teams, as well as the physical education majors, spent the morning volunteering their time with the athletes, teaching them valuable soccer skills, playing various games, and helping to make a positive difference in their lives. The event was a great opportunity for the college student-athletes to get involved with their community and help to share the love of soccer.

UMFK Presents Guitarist and Fiddler

FORT KENT – UMFK will present an afternoon of musical delight with guitarist, fiddler, and vocal entertainer, John Tercyak, on October 24, at 2:00 p.m. in Fox Auditorium.

Tercyak’s repertoire consists of over 700 songs. Folk, country, old-time, jazz, Celtic, bluegrass, classical, and Texas swing, all are a part of his collection. He specializes in taking requests from his audience. Tercyak has been performing for more than 25 years. He began playing the violin at the age of six and guitar at the age of 10. Tickets to Tercyak’s performance are priced at $10 each and are available at the UMFK Development Office, or at the door.

NSF Grant Supports Female STEM Faculty

ORONO – A five-year, $3.3 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant will fund a new UMaine initiative to improve the status of female faculty in the STEM disciplines (sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics) and the social-behavioral sciences.

The grant will establish the Rising Tide Center, which will support the initiative at UMaine and across the University System.

The goal of the center is to increase the number of female faculty members, define the practices that attract and retain female faculty, facilitate promotions, and provide professional satisfaction.

The goal of the NSF’s ADVANCE program is encourage the presentation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers, thereby contributing to the development of a more diverse and sustainable U.S. science and engineering workforce.

UMM Students to Provide Computer Skills Training to Farmers & Fishermen

MACHIAS – As part of a $1.4 million U.S. Department of Commerce grant awarded to Machias-based Axiom Technologies, students at UMM will provide local farmers and fishermen with basic computer skills training to help utilize broadband technology in the field.

The grant is aimed at providing broadband education, training, access, equipment, and support to community-serving institutions and economically vulnerable populations in Washington County.

Part of the project will equip ten local farmers and ten local fishermen with wireless equipment and a rugged laptop as a pilot project to help local industries utilize broadband technology in the field and for small business and economic purposes.

The students will work with Axiom Technologies to assess the participants’ individual needs and provide hands-on basic computer skills training.
UMaine Offers ‘Invention to Venture’
ORONO – A UMaine conference titled “Invention to Venture: Maine 2010” is scheduled November 10 in Orono for business people and prospective entrepreneurs to learn more about innovating and capitalizing on great new ideas.

The conference will feature basic and advanced workshops focused on technology entrepreneurship, invention and innovation, the conference will provide a rare opportunity to bring together experts in innovation and invention with individuals and businesses that can benefit from their expertise.

For more information, visit www.invention2venture.org/maine2010.

UMA’s Convocation: Communication in the 21st Century

AUGUSTA – Recently more than 200 people gathered for UMA’s 2010 Convocation. This year’s Convocation formally launched UMA’s academic theme for the year, titled Communication in the 21st Century. The Convocation keynoter was Naomi Baron, an American University Professor of Linguistics whose book was selected by UMA’s Colloquium Committee as the work to be studied by faculty and students this year in conjunction with the academic theme.

Editor-in-training

BANGOR – This semester, UMaine junior and journalism student Jordan Rowe of Scarborough is an intern with the University of Maine System.

Her responsibilities include researching and editing stories for this publication.

USM Students Demonstrate Effects of Global Warming

PORTLAND – USM digital arts/printmaking and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) II students recently exhibited “inUNDATION,” an installation of art and poetry designed to increase public awareness of one of the most imminent effects of global warming, the rise of sea level.

The inUNDATION project was presented in conjunction with the Zero Station 10/10/10 Global Work Party.

USM students interpreted existing data from the Maine Geological Survey using GIS to place inundation lines where the water’s edges are estimated to be by the end of the 21st century.

Visitors were invited to walk the lines, which were demarcated with flags, chalk and signs containing poetry, slogans and quick response codes for reading via cell phone.

UMF Diversity Conference “The Changing Face of Maine”

FARMINGTON – UMF presents an exploration of diversity in Maine with its third annual “Teaching and Working in a Diverse World Conference” on October 22.

The conversation will begin with a keynote address entitled “The Changing Face of Maine” presented by Reza Jalali, coordinator of multicultural student affairs at USM. This opening session will take a look at the over 50,000 immigrants from more than 100 countries that now call Maine home.

Following Jalali, a series of informational sessions will be presented, faculty members and students that will examine a wide range of topics that impact the changing face of Maine. Talks include: Addressing Anti-Immigrant Bias at Work and in the Community; Latino Youth with Disabilities and Their Families; and “Growing Globally-Minded Learners, A Personal Story.

For more information visit: http://teachereducation.umf.maine.edu/diversity-conference/2010-2011/.