

Making a Difference

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



Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center

UMaine Composite Facility Named Champion for Economic Development

ORONO – UMaine's wood composite facility has been hailed a Champion for Economic Development by the Maine Development Foundation.

The Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center was presented the award at MDF's 30th annual meeting at the Augusta Civic Center.

The award exemplifies the AEWC's commitment to research, education, and economic development that focuses on material science and structural application of hybrid composites. One of the center's goals is to actively pursue commercialization, entrepreneurship, and job creation in Maine and beyond.

Over the last seven years, the AEWC has helped more than 80 Maine companies in either their spin-off endeavors from the lab, in helping develop new products, or by improving already existing products.

UMF, USM Chosen to Join National Leadership Coalition

FARMINGTON & PORTLAND – UMF and USM have been chosen to join a select group of 45 universities and colleges to form a national Leadership Coalition to create and sustain transformative campus change and cultures for learning.

Created by the Bringing Theory to Practice Project, an independent undertaking in partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Leadership Coalition will bring together university and college presidents from across the country as they commit their campuses to becoming models for what a liberal arts

education can offer and most effectively deliver. The objective in forming the coalition is to encourage and support those baccalaureate institutions whose campus culture for learning embodies the full dimensions of the intellectual, emotional, and civic flourishing of students.

The coalition member institutions will receive grants to support their work over the next two years as they demonstrate how making a priority of creating and sustaining a campus culture for learning elevates expectations; enhances faculty and student interaction; broadens reward structures; and results in student success.

History Comes Alive at UMFK

FORT KENT - The University of Maine at Fort Kent's Acadian Archives/Archives Acadiennes currently is hosting an exhibit honoring the 130th anniversary of the Madawaska Training School. On display are yearbooks dating from 1930 through 1997, historic photographs, documents, and memorabilia. The exhibit is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through the month of October and will be open on Sunday, October 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, call Lise Pelletier, director at 834-7536.

UMM To Host Maine Author

MACHIAS – UMM's Maine Writers Series hosted Catherine Schmitt on October 9 at the UMM Art Gallery.



Schmitt read from her book, *A Coastal Companion: A year in the Gulf of Maine, from Cape Cod to Canada*. *A Coastal Companion* is a journey through a year in the Gulf of Maine and its watershed. It chronicles changes through the seasons both above and within the sea, following

the arrival and departure of migrating shorebirds in spring and fall, schools of fish as they move in and out of our region, and the natural cycles of our bays, rivers, marshes, and coastal forests. Part field guide, part almanac, the book also highlights writers, artists, and scientists who have chosen the Gulf of Maine as their subject matter.

Schmitt is science writer for the Maine Sea Grant College Program. Her writing on science, nature, and environmental issues appears in regional newspapers and magazines, and is archived at www.catherineschmitt.com.



UMaine Helps Mainers Budget, Connect with Resources

ORONO – In the face of falling temperatures and rising energy prices, a UMaine School of Economics program will help

individuals and businesses make ends meet. The Financial Education Initiative will teach Mainers how to evaluate their finances; create and stick to a budget; and connect with organizations and programs that can provide heating and financial assistance.

UMaine economics professor George Criner, along with master’s students Hugh Stevens and Sharon Hageman, will travel to five regions in eastern and central Maine to provide financial counseling to individuals and groups. Outreach locations include Belfast-Bucksport; Greater Bangor; Millinocket-Houlton; Washington County and Farmington. Over time, they hope to extend their coverage to more towns in Aroostook, Franklin, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington, and Hancock Counties.

Criner, Hageman, and Stevens anticipate that the initiative will continue to grow and change as they gain a better understanding of what their clients need and how they can best serve them. In the future, it is Criner’s hope that graduate and undergraduate students from UM Fort Kent, UM Machias, UM Farmington and UM Presque Isle will join the effort.



UMF Features Award Winning Writer

FARMINGTON – UMF’s Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program presented award-winning nonfiction writer, poet, and essayist Richard Hoffman as the second reader in its 2008-09 Visiting Writers Series on October 9.

Hoffman’s publications include two books of poetry, *Without Paradise* and *Goldstar Road*, as well as a memoir entitled *Half the House*. His other work, both prose and verse, has appeared in *Agni*, *Ascent*, *Harvard Review*, *Hudson Review*, *The Literary Review*, *Poetry*, *Shenandoah*, *Witness* and elsewhere, as well as in a number of anthologies. He has received several fellowships and awards, most recently a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship in fiction and *The Literary Review’s* Charles Angoff Prize. Hoffman is currently the Writer-in-Residence at Emerson College and also teaches in the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.



Rebecca Goodale (left) and Kate Cheney Chappell

USM Launches Center for Book Arts

PORTLAND – USM alumna Kate Cheney Chappell and co-founder of

Tom’s of Maine, studied book arts under well-known Maine book artist and USM faculty member Rebecca Goodale. A professional artist, Chappell’s love of creating handmade books was something she wanted to share with a generous gift that established The Kate Cheney Chappell Center for Book Arts at USM, naming Goodale as program coordinator.

The Center for Book Arts will celebrate the innovative and engaging nature of book arts through lectures and workshops by national and regional book artists, and through exhibits of artists’ books.

An inaugural event for the center took place on October 4, featuring guest speaker and well-known publisher of handmade books Clair Van Vliet whose talk is titled, “Why Make Books by Hand? Fifty Years of Publishing at the Janus Press.”

UMPI Hosts GIS Users Group

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI and Northern Maine Development Commission hosted geographic information specialists from around the state on September 26 for the 2008 Fall Maine Geographic Information Systems Users Group [MEGUG] Conference.

The MEGUG fall conference is held every second year in northern Maine. The focus of this year’s conference was “Energy and Emergency Response.” UMPI President Don Zillman gave the keynote address, “Renewable Energy: The Views from 40,000 feet and 200 feet.”

Other conference topics included: Parcel Mapping and Fatal Flaw Analysis for Potential Wind Sites; Emergency Resource Management Utilizing GIS; Maine Watershed Boundary Dataset; The Precision of Consumer Grade GPS for Mapping Purposes and the Advantages and Pitfalls of Trimble Mapping Grade GPS Units; New E911 Tools for Addressing Officers; Ice Flow and Flood Modeling; Progress Toward an Integrated Land Records Information System; and Building a Community-Oriented GIS Program in Northern Maine.



UMaine Receives \$200,000 Grant for Potato Research

ORONO, Maine – UMaine received a \$200,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant which will be combined with funds already provided by the Maine Potato Board to conduct potato breeding and variety selection work throughout the next year.

The research is primarily carried out by faculty in UMaine's Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences, but also includes researchers in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition as well as the School of Biological Sciences.

Parent potato plants chosen for yield, quality, and disease resistance characteristics are crossed at the greenhouse at Aroostook Research Farm in Presque Isle. The resulting new plants then are screened to identify superior new varieties that will have the best attributes of their parents.

The UMaine program focuses half of its effort on developing new russeted potato varieties for processing and fresh market use in the east, but also looks at improving fresh market, specialty, and chipping varieties of the vegetable.

UMA Expressions

AUGUSTA – UMA's Honor's Society hosted an event entitled "UMA Expressions" at the Richard Randall Student Center from September 30 – October 2. Student, faculty, and alumni presented works of art in photography, digital and video works, as well as more traditional media like drawing, painting, and ceramics. The event included live music and open microphones for all manner of musical genre and public performance.

UMF Testing Center Receives Certification to Administer Professional Licensing Exams

FARMINGTON – UMF's Center for Human Development recently received certification as an ACT Center, a professional licensing test center that provides proctored, professional licensing and certification testing services and workplace skills assessments to members of the public.

Among the new services available at the UMF site will be many professional licensing tests, including those needed by: social workers; surgical assistants; journeyman and master plumbers; health care office administrators; and ophthalmology, dentistry and food and nutrition professionals.

A complete list of tests offered can be found at <http://www.act.org/actcenters/overview/testing.html>.

The only other ACT test center in Maine is located at Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor.



UMPI Holds Tech Fair 2008

PRESQUE ISLE— UMPI's Management Information Systems Program presented its 7th Technology Fair, *Collaboration from Home or Office*, on October 10.

The event covered technology needs and issues for small business owners and managers, information technology professionals, as well as students, educators, and the general public in northern Maine and western New Brunswick.

This year's fair featured two simultaneous tracks, with four presentations geared toward educators interested in new technologies available to them, and four presentations geared toward businesses seeking more on the job efficiency through technology. The fair also will feature a keynote lunch address at noon by Bob Froberg, Director of Business Services for Fairpoint Communications. Froberg will speak on Fairpoint's plans to bring broadband to northern New England during his talk "Creating Partnerships for Economic Development in Northern Maine."

USM Dedicates Computer-aided Design Lab

GORHAM – USM named a new engineering laboratory after local engineering firm Stantec. Stantec donated \$100,000 to USM's School of Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology (ASET) to help develop the lab.

The facility opened in 2004 and is used for computer-aided design, or CAD. Engineers use CAD programs to develop two- and three-dimensional technical drawings of buildings and structures. USM faculty and students use the lab for teaching building and site design, and for prototyping designs with the latest equipment and techniques.

At the ceremony held Monday, September 15, in Gorham, Pappas and John Wright, dean of USM's School of

Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology, unveiled a plaque marking the laboratory's new name: Stantec Computer-Aided Design Laboratory.



Students at the Stantec Computer-Aided Design Lab

Maine Streets Exhibit to Visit UMaine

ORONO – A traveling exhibit, “Maine Streets: Selections from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Company,” will be on display at UMaine’s Fogler Library for the month of October. The exhibit is from the Penobscot Marine Museum’s collection of more than 37,000 historic glass plate negatives.

This exhibition features remarkable scenes of Main Streets in various communities throughout the state of Maine. Taken between 1910 and 1940, by the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company of Belfast, these images reveal fascinating glimpses into the architecture, businesses, people, modes of transportation, and way of life in Maine during the first half of the 20th century.

The photographs provide a unique glimpse of another time. Fogler Library visitors will find framed prints



throughout the building, and a printed guide available at all public service desks. For more information visit: www.glassplateimages.com.

Maine Street, Rockland

‘UMaine Cares 2008’ Events Planned

ORONO – UMaine is holding its Fourth Annual “UMaine Cares” service event in Orono, Old Town, and the greater Bangor area in celebration of National Make a Difference Day.

An estimated 150 students, representing almost 20 student groups, will be volunteering for half and full days with local organizations, with university faculty and staff members serving as team leaders.

On Oct. 24-25, student volunteers will hold a food drive for Crossroads Resource Center food pantry, in addition to taking donations for the Ronald McDonald House in Bangor. Other organizations welcoming student volunteers include: Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, Bangor Humane Society, Hands of Hope, Manna Ministries, the Orono Bog Walk, Salvation Army, Leonard’s Mills Logging Museum in Bradley, United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Maine, and the American Heart Association for its annual Heart Walk.

Classical Pianist Performs at UMA

AUGUSTA – The “Concerts at Jewett” Series sponsored by UMA’s College of Arts and Humanities and Senior College will feature world-class pianist, Chiharu Naruse, on Friday, October 17, at Jewett Hall Auditorium. Her performance will feature Beethoven’s Waldstein Sonata along with works by Chopin, Liszt, and Ravel. Naruse lives in Hallowell where she performs regularly throughout the State, teaches, and studies under Frank Glazer, Bates College.

The next concert is Sunday, November 16 – featuring Gordon Bok with special guest Carol Rohl.

UMFK’S GIS Lab Receives State-of-the-art Upgrade



FORT KENT – UMFK has completed an upgrade to its Geographic Information System (GIS) classroom and laboratory. The upgrades to the laboratory included the installation of 16 Dell Optiplex space-saving computers.

The GIS lab is the center of computing and technology application for forestry, surveying, digital cartography, spatial analysis, and global positioning systems (GPS).

UMFK faculty and students have been involved over the past decade in community-based projects, which include: mapping of the Fort Kent golf course; the Maine Winter Sports facility; the Heritage Trail map; and the Fort Kent Town Garage restoration project, among others.

A significant number of UMFK students have worked on internships to develop parcel databases for six Aroostook County towns, working through the Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC).

Currently, UMFK students are working with UMFK alumnus Steve Young, of Habitat Planning, on a St. John Valley Community Forest Project he is conducting. Another NMDC internship opportunity will begin next month to provide mapping of water and wastewater infrastructure for the town of St. Agatha.

Sloan Grant Supports USM Online Programs

PORTLAND – USM recently received a \$100,000 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant, which will help the university build its capacity to deliver online programs.

The Sloan grant consists of two complementary elements: the conversion of existing undergraduate majors to a combination of online and blended formats; and an outreach effort to the Maine community colleges to explore opportunities to partner on the development of degree-completion programs.

As part of this process, USM will ask for proposals only from university departments (or schools and colleges). Using grant funds and dedicated monies from the Center for Technology-Enhanced Learning, five or six departmental grants averaging \$25,000 to \$30,000 will be awarded. The grants will be used in a variety of ways, from support for faculty engaged in converting programs to computer and software purchases.