UMS Trustees Approve Recommendations To Ease Transfer Among System Universities

PRESQUE ISLE – At a recent meeting in Presque Isle, University of Maine System trustees approved the design recommendations of a steering committee tasked with improving transferability among UMS institutions.

Trustees heard a presentation from Wilson Hess, president of UMFK and chair of the steering committee, who said the System should implement credit transfer best practices, which include adding web-based tools to help students investigate transfer options between campuses and also making the required outcomes of lower division courses more equitable among campuses so that they are more seamlessly transferable.

In addition, trustees also voted to create a System-wide steering committee to develop a plan that would make it easier for adult students with some college credit to complete their degree.

This is the fourth major initiative which falls under a set of goals and actions established by System trustees earlier this year.

The next meeting of UMS trustees will be held on January 28, 2013.

UMA Students Participate in Clothesline Project

AUGUSTA – UMA Bangor students recently participated in the national “Clothesline Project,” displaying on the UMA Bangor campus t-shirts painted by survivors of domestic violence, rape, abuse, and other forms of violence.

The Clothesline Project began in 1990 in Hyannis, Massachusetts as part of the annual “Take Back the Night” march, and has since spread to all over the U.S. and the world.

The student-initiated UMA Bangor Clothesline Project was organized in collaboration with UMA’s Women Studies Program, Women in Curriculum, and UMA’s Honors Program.

UMaine Study: Obese Youth Could Cost Maine $1.2 Billion

ORONO – According to a new study by UMaine, The medical costs of obesity for the current cohort of children and adolescents in Maine could reach an estimated $1.2 billion over the next 20 years.

The study suggests that the incidence of obesity is likely to increase from 7.8 percent of Maine’s kids and teens to an estimated 25.7 percent as they grow into adults.

The research team began collecting fitness data on the schoolchildren after training physical education teachers in the use of a standardized periodic fitness test called PACER (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run).

The physical education project is one of the first of its kind in the nation, and could become a national model for quantifying the extent and cost of obesity.

UMS Receives NSF Advance Grant

PORTLAND – The National Science Foundation recently awarded USM a grant worth over $150,000 for the Southern Maine ADVANCE IT Catalyst project.

The grant will fund a study to determine how USM can better recruit, retain and advance female faculty members in the sciences, technology, engineering and math fields, as well as in the social and behavioral sciences. The study will identify best practices at similar institutions, and will fund an analysis of workload trends and the characteristics of a campus culture that tend to retain female faculty in those disciplines. It will allow for the development of policies that will improve recruitment and advancement of female professors in the STEM and social science fields.

The goal is to help build a faculty that can serve as role models to women students, especially women with families and women veterans.
UMPI Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Campus Center

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI recently commemorated the 20th anniversary of a campus building by hosting its Campus Center Celebration.

The Campus Center, which opened its doors in October 1992, was originally conceived as a student center with a variety of spaces to host many different types of activities. Over the years, thousands of others have also utilized the facility; it has become a central location for community events, cultural activities, and state and regional meetings and conferences, and it is home to the Owl's Nest, the Reed Fine Art Gallery, the Student Senate office, a University Credit Union branch, the Campus Communications Center, the UMPI Bookstore, a local day care center, and the campus’ dining facilities.

The open house event included guided building tours and live music provided by local artists.

UMF Adopts Innovative “Upcycling” Program

FARMINGTON – UMF’s Trash Day kicked off its annual event this year with the official launch of the innovative, international TerraCycle program on the UMF campus.

TerraCycle is an upcycling program whose goal is to drastically reduce the waste stream by creating national recycling systems for previously hard-to-recycle waste. TerraCycle then “upcycles” the collected waste into a wide variety of products and materials. In the process, organizations can accumulate a cash value for these recyclable materials which they can then donate to non-profits.

New materials to be “upcycled” will include #6 plastic cups; foil lined energy/granola/cereal bar wrappers; beauty products such as lipstick cases, shampoo bottles, and deodorant; oral care products such as toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes; pouch drinks and more.

For more information, contact Lucas Kellett luke.kellett@maine.edu or TerraCycle coordinator Sarah Martin sarah.martin1@maine.edu.

UMM Honors Passamaquoddy Heritage and History

MACHIAS – The UMM Diversity Committee and Aramark recently hosted a luncheon celebration of Native American heritage and history. Passamaquoddy basketmaker Molly Neptune Parker (shown), the recipient of a 2012 Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts, was recognized during the event.

Parker is known for her fancy baskets that feature intricate weaving techniques, such as her Signature creation, the acorn-shaped basket.

Guests toured the university’s museum room, which includes petroglyph cast and surface prints, stone tools, and pottery fragments, and saw several Native American baskets that were on display.

UMaine Discovery May Counter Muscular Dystrophy Symptoms

ORONO – A research team led by UMaine scientists has concluded that boosting the activity of a vitamin-sensitive cell adhesion pathway has the potential to counteract the muscle degeneration and reduced mobility caused by muscular dystrophies.

The discovery is important for congenital muscular dystrophies, which are progressive, debilitating and often lethal diseases that currently remain without cure. The researchers found that they could improve muscle structure and function in a zebrafish version by supplying a common cellular chemical (or its precursor, vitamin B3) to activate a cell adhesion pathway. Because the same cell adhesion complexes are found in humans, the research team is optimistic that these findings may one day positively impact patients with muscular dystrophies.
UMFK Partnership Receives Grant to Study Economic Development in Rangeley Region

FARMINGTON – A UMF research group has received a 2012-2013 National Science Foundation EPSCoR Grant of more than $89,000 to continue its study of the relationship of the environment to long-term economic sustainability in the Rangeley Lakes Region of western Maine.

A group UMF faculty researchers and student interns is partnering for this part of the project with the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, Rangeley Lakes Region Logging Museum, community advisors, and area educators and high school students, to explore how understanding and protecting the region’s natural resources will help advance economic development.

This grant provides full funding for the fourth year of UMF’s five-year Rangeley Lakes region study. Projects focus on understanding the complex human-environment interaction and using it to develop a knowledge-to-action plan for the Rangeley region.

UMaine-Based Sea Grant to Host Lobster Symposium

ORONO – Coastal communities in Atlantic Canada and Maine are more dependent on the lobster fishery than ever before. Yet, for the first time, southern New England harvesters face the prospect of a moratorium on lobster fishing.


Presenters will examine how the American lobster has been effected by the fundamental changes that have occurred over the past few decades in the local climate and food web.

The event will feature more than 80 scientific talks and posters on four main themes: anthropogenic and environmental stressors; foodweb dynamics; human-natural systems and ecosystem-based management; and population connectivity.

The symposium is open to the public with a $130 registration fee. The fee for students is $80.

For more information about the symposium, including the schedule and registration information, visit seagrant.umaine.edu/lobster-symposium.

UMFK Community Learns About Pesticide Risks

FORT KENT – UMFK’s Environmental Studies Speaker Series recently hosted Dr. Lebelle Hicks, from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, who delivered a presentation on “Pesticide Risks in 2012.”

Dr. Hicks spoke about chemicals, exposure, and toxicity, as well as how pesticides may be used safely.

The Environmental Studies Speaker Series at UMFK regularly brings speakers to campus. These presentations cover such topics as water quality, waste management, wind power, endangered species, forestry and marine science. The program is offered in collaboration with the UMFK Environmental Studies degree program.

For more information on the presentation or the Environmental Studies Speaker Series, call (207) 834-7617.

UMA Celebrates Scholarship for New Program

AUGUSTA – UMA’s Architecture program and the Maine chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) recently held an event to celebrate the formation of the AIA Maine Centenary Scholarship Fund that will support upper-level students enrolled in UMA’s new Bachelor’s of Architecture (B-Arch) program.

UMA’s B-Arch program is now accepting its first students for fall 2013. Replacing UMA’s 4-year pre-professional architecture program, the new 5-year professional program will be the only one in all of northern New England and the only such public program north of New York City.

The Maine chapter of the AIA has begun the new scholarship in conjunction with its 100th anniversary.

To learn more about B-Arch, visit: http://www.uma.edu/bachelor-of-architecture.html
**USM Presents Juvenile Justice Data Book**

PORTLAND – According to a new report from the Maine Statistical Analysis Center USM’s Muskie School of Public Service, the rate of youth arrest in Maine has fallen by 26 percent in the past decade.

This and other key findings from the 2012 Maine Juvenile Justice Data Book were recently presented to Governor Paul LePage and the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. The data book is the first of its kind in Maine, providing justice data trends to present a portrait of youth involvement in Maine’s juvenile justice system.

Key findings include:
- Dramatic decreases in overall youth arrest rate. From 2001 to 2010, the overall arrest rate of youth in Maine decreased by 26 percent, from 67 arrests per 1,000 youth in 2001 to 50 arrests per 1,000 youth in 2010.
- Decrease in youth arrests for violent offenses. From 2001 to 2010, arrests of youth for violent offenses, such as murder, rape, and aggravated assault, decreased by 28 percent.
- Violent offenses only comprised 1.7 percent of all offenses for which youth were arrested in 2010.

The report and online data tables can be found at [2012 Maine Juvenile Justice Data Book](#).

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**UMFK TRiO Program Helps Foster Leadership Development**

FORT KENT – The Student Support Services TRiO program at UMFK works with UMFK students to foster leadership development. Programs offered to students by TRiO include a leadership group, and afterschool mentoring.

The Leadership group uses experimental learning opportunities to facilitate skill development in team building, communication, and leadership skills.

The Afterschool Mentoring program is an activity-based group for elementary school-aged children. It is taught by UMFK students, who help the children learn to develop interpersonal skills and to build and maintain healthy relationships.

For further information about the TRiO program, visit: [http://www.umfk.edu/trio/](http://www.umfk.edu/trio/)

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**UMPI Presents Vitamin D Expert**

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI recently hosted Dr. Michael Holick—one of the world’s leading Vitamin D researchers, the author of *The Vitamin D Solution*, and Professor of Medicine, Physiology and Biophysics at Boston University Medical Center—in its 2012-2013 University Distinguished Lecturer Series.

Dr. Holick delivered his talk *Vitamin D: A D-Lightful Solution for Good Health*, on his Vitamin D research and the evidence that shows how Vitamin D reduces the risk of many chronic illnesses.

The University's Distinguished Lecture Series was established in 1999 and each year it sponsors five to six speakers who come from Maine and beyond, representing a range of disciplines and viewpoints.

For more information about this Distinguished Lecture, contact the University's Community and Media Relations Office at 768-9452.

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**"The Nutcracker" Returns to UMM**

MACHIAS – The Robinson Ballet Company of Bangor recently presented Tchaikovsky’s beloved holiday classic, *The Nutcracker* to Downeast Maine with a pair of performances at UMM.

As in past years, the company has encouraged schools and organized youth groups to take advantage of the unique extracurricular opportunity by allowing them to make reservations for the matinée performance before the general public.

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**Meet the Editor**

BANGOR – This issue of *Making a Difference* was researched, edited, and designed by Jaclyn Stevens of Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Jaclyn is a fifth-year student at UMaine, majoring in journalism with a concentration in advertising.

Jaclyn is an intern at the University of Maine System Office for the fall semester. She graduates in May.