UMPI Offers Fall Short Term

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI is offering its first-ever Fall Short Term from October 15 to November 30, providing students and others looking to complete their four-year degrees with a concise, six-week session as an alternative—or an addition—to the regular 15-week semester.

The university hopes to provide students with greater scheduling flexibility, to encourage more people to pursue their degrees, and provide even more support to help them stay on track and complete their degrees in a shorter period of time.

The university piloted its first short term in January when it offered a J-Term to provide degree seekers with a short class between the fall and spring semesters. Based on the success of that term, UMPI is moving forward with its Fall 2012 Short Term and will offer another J-term at the beginning of 2013, as well as two six-week-long short terms in Spring 2013.

For more information about UMPI’s Fall 2012 Short Term, or to sign up for classes, contact the Office of Student Records at 207-768-9540.

UMFK Provides Computer Science Courses to John Bapst High School

FORT KENT – UMFK and John Bapst Memorial High School in Bangor have signed an articulation agreement which allows high school students in attendance at Bapst to earn college credit in the fields of information (cyber) security and computer applications, as part of UMFK’s traditional early college program.

The agreement demonstrates a commitment by both institutions to student success in making the transition from secondary to post-secondary education.

Upon matriculation into the associate of science in information security or bachelor of science in computer applications program at the University, UMFK will award four college credits, equivalent to the course COS 111 – Introduction to Computer Science. The equivalent letter grade earned in the course will be recorded on the student's UMFK transcript, but will not be included in the calculation of their high school grade point average. Earned credits will apply to UMFK’s Information Security or Computer Applications programs.

SMCC and USM Partner to Help Boost Maine’s Tourism Industry

PORTLAND – USM President Theodora Kalikow and SMCC President Ron Cantor recently signed an agreement that aligns tourism and hospitality management programs at the two institutions.

Under the agreement, eligible students who complete the associate’s degree in hospitality management at SMCC will be able to apply credits earned toward a bachelor’s degree in USM’s new tourism and hospitality program, making it possible for students to complete the degree in only two additional years.

The move marks an important cooperative step by Maine’s public education systems in addressing the workforce development needs of Maine’s tourism industry.

UMA Going Tobacco-free on January 1

AUGUSTA – UMA recently announced that it would be going tobacco free. The University of Maine and the University of Maine at Farmington are already tobacco free and USM also plans to transition into a smoke-free environment in the near future.

UMA’s decision to go tobacco-free was made last spring after a series of campus discussions with groups of faculty staff and students.

The campus community, which was notified of the decision last May, will be receiving additional information and notifications throughout the fall.

UMA’s policy can be found at www.uma.edu/tobaccofree.
UMaine Tidal Initiative Unites Researchers, Businesses, and Government Officials

ORONO – Representatives from Federal and State agencies, businesses, local communities, and UMaine have recently gathered for a review meeting of the Maine Tidal Power Initiative.

Attendees received updates on UMaine’s ongoing research in order to gain a basic understanding of the tidal circulation in the Downeast region. They also learned about the influence of power removal; different turbine designs; and how the biological communities might be impacted by tidal power development.

The Maine Tidal Power Initiative is a team of engineers and marine scientists from UMaine and Maine Maritime Academy. The goal is to understand the value of the energy resource related to a tidal project and to determine if a site is commercially viable, locally accepted and environmentally suitable prior to making further investment.

Visit umaine.edu/mtpi/ for more information on the initiative.

UMFK and Local Chamber Celebrate Homecoming & Scarecrow Festival

FORT KENT – UMFK and the Greater Fort Kent Area Chamber of Commerce recently combined forces for their respective Homecoming and Scarecrow Festival celebrations.

The three, fun-filled days featured many events, including a Family Fun Day, soccer and volleyball games, and the popular Homecoming/Scarecrow Festival parade.

Area businesses were challenged to decorate their business with a “Scarecrow Festival” theme.

UMMS Trustees to Meet in Portland

BANGOR – The UMS Board of Trustees will meet at USM on September 24.

Trustees will consider and are scheduled to act on several items, including: creation of a new associate of science degree in allied health at UMFK to help address statewide workforce needs; the biennial State budget request for FY2014-15; and naming facilities at UMA and UMaine.

Trustees will also receive updates on: a credit transfer project aimed at improving credit transfer among the universities, as well as between universities and Maine’s community colleges; reports on managed investments, pensions, and fund raising; and a status update on capital projects currently under way on campuses. Complete agenda is available here.

This will mark the first meeting for two Trustees recently appointed by Governor Paul LePage. James Erwin of Yarmouth is partner and chair of Pierce Atwood’s Employment Group, based in Portland. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Boston University School of Law. Mark Gardner of Kittery is president and CEO of Sappi Fine Paper North America. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine. In addition, Norman Fournier of Wallagrass was reappointed to a second term as Trustee. Fournier, who recently retired from a career in healthcare administration, is a graduate of UMFK and UMaine.

UMM Students Join Hike for Heroes Team

MACHIAS – Student-athletes at UMM joined Kristen Creech and William Mosebach along their 3,000-mile trek from Maine to Florida along the East Coast Greenway. The couple is walking to raise awareness and funds for military families in need.

As the two walkers approached the Machias campus, coaches and members of the UMM Clippers basketball, cross country, and golf teams greeted them with applause and refreshments.

Creech and Mosebach began their trek on September 7 in Calais and plan to end their journey at their hometown of West Palm Beach, Florida in March.
UMA Convocation 2012

AUGUSTA – UMA will hold its annual Convocation celebration on September 21 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. outdoors on the Augusta Campus Green. Convocation marks the formal launch of the 2012/2013 Academic Theme, chosen by UMA’s Colloquium Committee. The theme selected for 2012-2013 is Food. This year’s Keynote Speaker is Denis Thoet, organic farmer and former food columnist.

The project aims to bring greater food options to the UMA Bangor campus, and an undergraduate conference on the theme, among other events, will help amplify the importance of looking critically at food in the academy.

Another highlight to the celebration is recognition of this year’s UMA student Rising Scholars. Rising Scholars are nominated by faculty and staff for demonstrating academic achievement or promise. During Convocation new Rising Scholars will participate in the formal Processional.

To find about more about UMA’s Convocation 2012, visit www.uma.edu/convocation2012.html.

Pioneer in Sound Art Kicks Off UMF Art Gallery Season

FARMINGTON – The work of Liz Phillips—a pioneer in sound art—will kick off the UMF Art Gallery’s fall exhibition season with “Biyuu II: An Interactive Sound and Video Installation.”

In her site-specific installation, “Biyuu II,” sound and video artist Phillips collaborates with Butoh dancer Mariko Endo Reynolds to create an interactive visual soundscape that responds to and transforms the natural actions of wind and water. Sensors trace the air currents outside the gallery and movement inside as people pass through the space, activating sounds and luminous imagery.

For more information, visit artgallery.umf.maine.edu

UMaine Helps Develop a Bridge for Brooklyn

ORONO – Black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) is among the strongest and most rot-resistant wood species in North America, yet it is rarely used in major construction projects because it doesn’t always grow straight and can warp.

A national engineering firm recently hired UMaine’s Advanced Structures and Composites Center to conduct critical testing for strength and stiffness of black locust beams to be used in a project being constructed in the shadow of New York City’s legendary Brooklyn Bridge.

The center tested three types of beams that will be used in a new 400-foot overhead footbridge that will take pedestrians from the new Brooklyn Bridge Park under the Brooklyn Bridge to Squibb Park in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood of the borough.

“Ushapia” Exhibit at USM’s Osher Map Library

PORTLAND – The exhibition, “Iconic America: The U.S. Outline as National Symbol” opened September 11, at the University of Southern Maine Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, Portland. The exhibit is free and open to the public, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Tuesdays through Thursdays, through February 28, 2013.

The exhibition takes a broad look at the symbolic use of the mapped shape of the USA—“Ushapia”—in a variety of forms: political campaigns, patriotic expressions, textiles and clothing, culinary and household goods, book covers, and magazine and newspaper graphics.

For more information on USM’s Osher Map Library, visit usm.maine.edu/maps/, or call 207-780-4850
Belfast Writers to Read at UMM

MACHIAS – The Maine Writers Series at UMM will host Belfast writers Elizabeth Garber and Linda Buckmaster (for a reading at 7:00 p.m. on October 2. The two will read from their poetry, memoir, and fiction. Former Poet Laureate of Belfast, Linda Buckmaster has written three chapbooks of poetry. Elizabeth Garber’s poems are grounded in distinctive Maine moments. Her third collection of poems continues her exploration of a life well-lived in Maine.

For more information, contact Robert Froese at 207-255-1334.

UMF and SMCC Launch Collaborative Effort for Early Childhood Educators

FARMINGTON – UMF has recently begun offering classes in its early childhood education off-campus bachelor’s degree program on the SMCC campus.

The program was created to make it easier for educators to complete a four-year degree in early childhood education while continuing to live and work in southern Maine.

The new UMF offering on the SMCC campus is an outgrowth of similar collaborative efforts with Kennebec Valley Community College. All courses are taught by full-time UMF faculty members and are offered using several delivery methods, including a blend of distance learning and traditional classroom settings.

To find out more about UMF’s off-campus bachelor’s degree program on the SMCC campus, visit www.farmington.edu/cohort/.

UMPI Hosts Annual Community Fair

PRESQUE ISLE – For the past 17 years, UMPI has kicked off the academic year with the Community and Campus Clubs Fair, which allows campus clubs and organizations to promote their groups to the student body and the community.

Area businesses were invited to participate in the event and encouraged to give samples and coupons to students to promote their products and services. The Community Fair provides local businesses with the opportunity to meet UMPI students as prospective part-time employees.

‘More Maine Meat’ Livestock Project

ORONO – The Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society (MESAS), in conjunction UMaine has initiated a new project, “More Maine Meat,” which seeks to improve economic returns for livestock producers in Maine, in addition to growing the meat industry in the state with more forage-based resources. The vision includes Maine farmers satisfying a larger proportion of Maine and New England’s demand for meat.

“More Maine Meat” focuses on red meat production, processing and distribution.

A working group of producers, processors, distributors and commodity group leaders, along with UMaine Cooperative Extension and Maine Department of Agriculture representatives, met recently to outline goals and visions for a prosperous and vibrant livestock industry. Representatives from almost all Maine counties were in attendance, from Aroostook to York.

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.