Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

Over 4,000 students were awarded degrees in commencement ceremonies held throughout the state in May.
UMA Celebrates Launch of New B.S. in Aviation

AUGUSTA – UMA and Maine Instrument Flight (MIF) recently hosted an Open Hangar Community Event at the Augusta State Airport.

The event, which was held to celebrate the launch of UMA's new B.S. in Aviation, provided an opportunity for prospective students to meet and talk with UMA admissions representatives and MIF flight instructors about the program.

UMA’s Bachelor of Science in Aviation is Maine's first program where students can simultaneously earn a pilot license and a college degree.

For more information about the B.S. in Aviation visit: http://www.uma.edu/aviation.html

UMF Partnership for Civic Advancement Awarded Regional Grant

FARMINGTON – UMF’s Partnership for Civic Advancement was recently awarded a $5,000 grant from the Franklin County Fund and the Western Mountains Fund of the Maine Community Foundation.

Launched last spring, the Partnership was developed to strengthen and expand university-community relations through the creation of experiential learning opportunities for students that serve regional needs and priorities, improve student learning outcomes, and through the sharing of University resources and expertise advance sustainable development and steward quality of place in rural western Maine.

Planned through an extensive two-year collaborative process with representatives from the regional community and the campus, the Partnership will include the full range of engagement types when fully implemented, including: internships, undergraduate research, service learning, volunteerism and leadership education and training.

USM Hosts Model United Nations Event

PORTLAND – The 15th annual Maine Model United Nations Conference recently took place on the USM campus.

Planned and staffed by USM students, this year’s theme for the Maine Model United Nations Conference was youth empowerment and the rights of women and girls.

During the conference, participating high school delegates debated topics, acting as representatives of countries around the world. The discussions, ranging from human trafficking and arranged marriage to the militarization of the Arctic and natural resource exploitation in Africa, bringing large scale international issues to the students' own backyards.

For more information, go to: Maine Model United Nations Conference.

UMS Trustees Approve Budget and Tuition Freeze at 2012 Levels

BANGOR – The University of Maine System board of trustees recently voted to continue a tuition freeze for in-state, undergraduate students—keeping tuition at 2012 levels for the upcoming fall semester.

The tuition rates are contingent on the State maintaining flat appropriation for the System in fiscal year 2014.

As part of determining tuition rates, trustees reviewed and approved a $522 million operating budget for the statewide System. The University System budget is balanced despite flat State appropriation.

To read more about the UMS Trustees meeting, click here.

UMS Trustees Name New Board Leadership

BANGOR – At a recent meeting, Trustee Samuel W. Collins (left) of Caribou was elected to a one-year term as the new chair of the UMS board of trustees.

Admiral Gregory W. Johnson (right) of Harpswell was named the vice chair of the board.

To read more about the UMS Trustees meeting, click here.
UMFK Hosts Pediatric Health Fair

FORT KENT – The UMFK Student Nurses Organization recently hosted a pediatric health fair at the UMFK Sports Center.

The fair was for kindergarten to eighth grade from Eagle Lake, Frenchville, Fort Kent, St. Francis, and Wallagrass elementary schools. The fair aimed to help children see and understand the importance of health and nutrition in a fun and activity-filled way.

UMFK nursing students were involved in booth setup for topics that included: nutrition, obesity prevention, physical activity, dental health, good hand-washing techniques, fire safety, to name a few.

Representatives from the Fort Kent Fire Department, the Maine Forest Rangers, Smokey the Bear, a local dentist, and many more participated.

UMPI Celebrates Seniors with EXPO

PRESQUE ISLE – The Aroostook Agency on Aging recently presented the Aging Well Living Well EXPO at UMPI. The agency partnered with the United Way of Aroostook, AARP, WAGM-TV, UMPI, and SAGE (Seniors Achieving Greater Education) on the event, which also served as a celebration of SAGE’s 15th anniversary.

The EXPO was especially for people nearing retirement, who are retired, or who want to improve their health and well-being. The EXPO included informative sessions and event exhibitors sharing products and information to help attendees improve their quality of life and maintain their independence.

Workshops offered at the Aging Well Living Well EXPO included sessions on a wide variety of topics, including Social Security and Medicare, Yoga, Brain Fitness, Ductless Heat Pump Technology, Avoiding Fraud and Scams, Outdoor Exploration, Reverse Annuity Mortgages, Leaving your Legacy, Traditional Medicines, Medicare Benefits, Container Gardening, Zumba, and Nutrition.

UMS Wins Excellence in Procurement Award

BANGOR – The National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP) recently presented the UMS with the Award for Excellence in Procurement. The award is given on the basis of a procurement department’s contribution to, and support of, the mission of their institution.

Click here to read more about the Excellence in Procurement Award.

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UMaine Offers Web-Based Speech Therapy Program

ORONO – A new UMaine training program for graduate students in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is expected to reduce the cost of providing speech therapy services, while reaching out to underserved children and adults in rural areas throughout Maine.

The university’s Communication Sciences and Disorders Department has developed a Web-based speech therapy telepractice training program to give graduate students the competencies that are revolutionizing the delivery of health care worldwide.

The program uses a secure, password-protected Web-based platform that allows virtual face-to-face therapy between service providers and clients. Clients can be assisted by designated “e-Helpers”—family, friends or caregivers—according to Walker. All that is needed is a computer with a webcam and broadband Internet access, located in a private setting, such as a home, school, clinic or community center.

For more information, visit the telepractice website.

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UMM Announces Upcoming Summer Camps for Youth

MACHIAS – This summer UMM has a great line up of fun and educational camps for youth in grade school through high school.

Clipper Athletics will offer soccer, volleyball, and basketball camps in a day camp format. Each will focus on the development of fundamental skills while emphasizing team concepts.

UMM’s signature environmental camp, the Maine Environmental Summer Session for Youth (MESSY), will return for its fifth year. MESSY is a camp that promotes awareness, builds knowledge, and stimulates active and creative approaches to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Making its return to the UMM campus will be Maine Academy of Modern Music’s popular Rock Camp. Rock Camp provides young aspiring musicians a place where they can learn about modern music and how to play in and run a real band of their own.

For more information or to register for UMM summer camps, visit www.machias.edu/summer.
UMain Launches Offshore Wind Turbine

ORONO – VolturnUS 1.8, the first grid-connected offshore wind turbine to be deployed off the coast of North America, was recently launched in Brewer by the University of Maine’s Advanced Structures and Composites Center and its partners.

The approximately 65-foot-tall turbine prototype is the first floating turbine of its kind in the world and uses a unique floating hull and tower design. The goal of the program is to reduce the cost of offshore wind to compete with other forms of electricity generation with no subsidies.

The VolturnUS technology is the culmination of more than five years of collaborative research and development by the UMaine-led DeepCWind Consortium.

A news release issued by the Energy Department is online. A news release issued by UMaine’s Advanced Structures and Composites Center also is online.

UMM and UMPI to Become Tobacco-Free Campuses

MACHIAS & PRESQUE ISLE – UMM and UMPI will join a growing list of more than 300 U.S. colleges and universities when they become tobacco-free campuses in June.

UMM’s smoke-free policy will take effect on June 1, and over the next few months, the University will educate the campus community about the policy and work with students and employees who wish to quit their addiction to tobacco products.

UMPI will become a tobacco-free campus on June 3, and will commemorate the occasion by decommissioning the smoking gazebo outside its Campus Center and planting a tree to repurpose the spot for oxygen creation.

UMFK Hosts “Young Artist Exhibition”

FORT KENT – UMFK’s Blake Library Gallery and Therese Provenzano, UMFK Adjunct Visual Art Instructor, recently hosted the fifth annual “Young Artist Exhibition” featuring talented young artists from the St. John Valley public schools.

A closing reception and awards ceremony was held to honor the featured artists.

Schools that participated in this year’s exhibition are Wisdom Middle High School, Madawaska Middle High School, Valley Rivers Middle School, and Community High School of Fort Kent.

Meet the Editor

BANGOR – This issue of Making a Difference was researched, edited, and designed by Jaclyn Stevens of Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Jaclyn recently graduated from the University of Maine with a B.S. in journalism and a concentration in advertising.

Jaclyn is currently employed at the University of Maine System Office as an IT Specialist.