

Making a Difference

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

\$1.6 Million Grant to Fund UMaine Climate Change Research Advances

ORONO – The William M. Keck Foundation will provide a \$1.6 million grant to fund continued groundbreaking scientific research in UMaine's Climate Change Institute. The funds will support a project, "Major Advances in the Field of Climate Change Reconstruction Using Ice Cores."

The project will build on UMaine's ongoing research aimed at developing a global array of ice cores for use in studying historical climate change, in better understanding the Earth's environment, and in creating sound hypotheses related to the planet's climate future.

UMaine scientists have been involved in ice core research for decades and have leadership roles in collaborative projects involving researchers from around the U.S. and countries throughout Europe, South America, and Asia. To learn more about this important research being done at UMaine, visit: www.climatechange.umaine.edu.

UMaine & UMM Researchers Selected for Maine Technology Asset Fund Awards

AUGUSTA – State officials recently announced more than \$14 million in funding to support University of Maine System R&D projects in targeted technology areas.

The Maine Technology Institute identified 14 projects that will receive funding from the \$50 million R&D investment Maine voters approved last fall. That bond led to the creation of the Maine Technology Asset Fund and a process through which researchers at institutions statewide may compete for funds. The awards announced August 11 constitute the first round of funding totaling \$29,919,466.

Five of those projects – totaling \$13 million – were submitted by UMaine researchers.

In addition, UMaine will serve as primary R&D collaborators on two of the other successful projects, with funding totaling \$1.1 million and the University of Maine at Machias is a primary collaborator on a project totaling \$1.2 million.

The successful projects focus on the following areas: aquaculture and marine technology; advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture; biotechnology; composite materials technology; environmental technology; and precision manufacturing. To learn more about the individual projects, go to www.mainetechnology.org.

UMA's Mile of Art



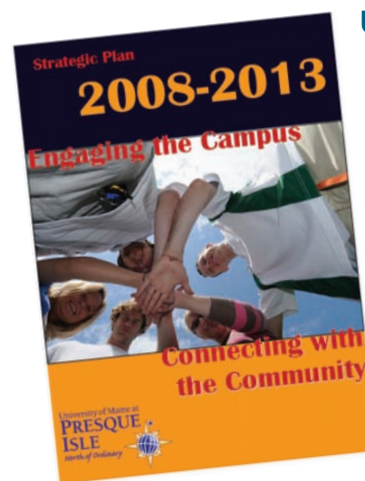
Artist Marion Ouellette displays her art at the Mile of Art.

AUGUSTA – A unique festival in the woods held every year, the Mile of Art, was held in August along UMA's Nature and Fitness path, a one-mile long wooded footpath on the university grounds.

The event honored David Smith, a Readfield metal artist who died last November, and was a longtime participant and former chair of the annual event.

More than 55 artists participated in the event which featured paintings, sculpture, music, pottery, photography, basketry, and other crafts. UMA's Jazz Ensemble and others performed at the event and food was also available.

Hundreds of local residents attended the event, despite the rainy weather.



UMPI Unveils Five-Year Strategic Plan

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI officials recently announced a strategic plan that focuses on streamlining the institution so that students get the most out of their academic experiences, feel more invested in the campus, and develop stronger connections with the community.

The plan, titled "2008-2013: Engaging the Campus, Connecting with the Community," includes the development of new academic programs designed to meet community needs, the alignment of a new academic structure, a move toward more faculty scholarship that impacts the region, and the implementation of a voluntary system of public accountability. It is organized into two major strategic goals: student success and institutional sustainability.

While the plan will be implemented over the next five years, officials will take time every year to assess how well they are meeting their goals. For more information on the plan, visit: www.umpi.maine.edu/strategic-plan.pdf.



UMF, UMaine Students Named George J. Mitchell Peace Scholars

AUGUSTA – Each year the University of Maine System awards the prestigious George J. Mitchell Peace Scholarships, in honor of the former Maine senator’s work in brokering a Northern Ireland peace accord. The full scholarships include a student exchange agreement between Maine and Ireland for one semester.

Recently in Augusta, Chancellor Richard Pattenaude (center) honored UMF student Frederick Liebfried (left) of Anson and UMaine student Devin McNeill (right) of Portland, upon their selection as the 2008-2009 George J. Mitchell Scholars.

UMFK Hosts Summit to Help Community Prepare for Winter Season

FORT KENT – UMFK hosted “Cold Hard Facts of the Coming Winter — A Call for Community Action 2008 Summit” for municipal managers, emergency response and public safety professionals, faith leaders and clergy, medical facility administrators, community leaders, and social services staff.

Organizers hope that by working together and identifying collaborative community actions, they might help vulnerable community members survive this upcoming winter season with historically high heating oil prices.

The program was sponsored by Aroostook Agency on Aging, ACAP, Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency, and United Way of Aroostook.

UMM’s Youth Theatre Institute Presents “Romeo and Juliet”

MACHIAS – UMM’s Maine Youth Summer Theatre Institute (MYSTI) presented Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” at the university’s performing arts center in early August. Now in its fourteenth year, MYSTI brings together young actors from the ages of 12 to 18 for a two-week intensive creative experience. At the conclusion of the institute, students perform a work by Shakespeare.



This year’s production of “Romeo and Juliet” had an emphasis on using the creativity of the group as a whole to help guide the design and style of the production.

USM Implements New General Education Curriculum

PORTLAND – USM recently received a \$354,420 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation to support implementation of their new general education curricula—called USM Core—a series of courses required of all undergraduate students.

The USM Core is a progression of courses that begin in the freshman year with the interdisciplinary Entry Year Experience (EYE), college writing, and quantitative reasoning courses. It concludes with a capstone project related directly to a student’s major.

EYE courses give a range of perspectives on subjects as diverse as shopping, public green space, and natural disasters. They involve rigorous reading and writing assignments, group discussions, and fieldwork.

The USM Core also will feature a “Mid-career Seminar,” giving students a chance to consider ethical issues and reflect critically on their roles in society. Students will also have the option to complete a minor that explores a topic or theme in depth.



UMPI students and professor

UMPI Students Help Preserve Local History

PRESQUE ISLE – Students at UMPI are conducting interviews with local people about the way life used to be in northern Maine so that researchers, historical societies, and Maine people can have access to the information for generations to come.

The students are spending this summer interviewing locals about everything from the extensive winter carnivals that northern Maine towns used to hold to the musical traditions in Aroostook County. Interview transcripts will be created and shared with local historical societies and the Maine Folklife Center in Orono. Copies will also be housed in UMPI’s Special Collections room.

Most immediately, Fort Fairfield residents will use the information in conjunction with their town’s 150th anniversary celebration.



Keeping Maine Lobster Healthy

ORONO – UMaine's Lobster Institute will initiate a project aimed at enhancing lobster health and preserving that commercial fishery, which has an estimated annual national economic impact of \$700 million – \$1.2 billion.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will provide \$178,421 in funding for the Lobster Health Coalition, part of the Lobster Institute's Conservation, Outreach Research, and Education Initiative, which provides strategic framework for the institute's academic and outreach activities.

The Lobster Health Coalition will include scientists and industry representatives from throughout the lobster fishing regions of the Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada. The coalition will work to collect baseline lobster health data, and encourage coordinated research to address lobster health issues. To learn more about the Lobster Health Coalition visit www.lobsterinstitute.org.



UMA dental hygiene student shown working in the school's clinic.

UCB Dental Hygiene Clinic Purchases Digital Equipment with Grant

BANGOR – UMA's University College of Bangor Dental Hygiene Clinic has just purchased new dental radiographic sensors with help from a \$15,500 grant from the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation.

The new radiographic sensors make digital images of teeth, reducing patient exposure to radiation from X-rays. UCB officials note that more than fifty percent of dental offices now use this technology. The new equipment will help ensure that dental hygiene students are properly trained and prepared to care for patients in a modern dental practice.

The UCB clinic offers a variety of dental hygiene services at a very reasonable cost. For more information on UCB's dental hygiene programs and public access to its clinic, go to www.uma.edu/dentalhygiene.

College Offers New Graduate Certificates

LEWISTON – USM's Lewiston Auburn College (USM LAC) now offers a graduate certificate in Leadership Studies. This certificate draws professionals from non-profit, corporate, and civic sectors. It is an especially attractive option for those seeking additional education in leadership skills but who are currently unable to commit to a full degree program.

Similarly, the Creative Leadership & Global Strategy post-baccalaureate certificate draws professionals interested in improving their understanding of the societal, cultural, historical, and philosophical aspects of creative leadership from a global perspective. This certificate program provides an advanced-level grounding in leadership theory, the research and practice of deliberate creativity and innovation, and working effectively in multi-cultural and multi-national environments.

To learn more about these programs, visit: <http://usm.maine.edu/lac/>.

Distance Learning Announces Statewide Health & Social Service Programs

STATEWIDE – Maine's public universities will offer dozens of courses at University College centers and sites during the upcoming fall semester in the areas of health and social services. The courses will be delivered via interactive television and teleconference to locations statewide. Many courses also will be available online.

More than 35 courses will be offered to people seeking credentials or skill development in health care and more than 40 courses will be offered ranging from introductory-level courses in psychology to graduate courses in social work.

For more information, see www.learn.maine.edu.

UMFK/Rockland Center Partner to Offer Criminal Justice Courses

ROCKLAND – This fall, UMFK will offer courses in its criminal justice concentration through University College at Rockland. The distance education program prepares students for a variety of careers in the field of criminal justice and serves as an in-service program for law enforcement officers. Students can earn the concentration entirely through online courses.





UMaine MPA Classes Offered in Augusta

ORONO – UMaine is again offering graduate-level masters in Public Administration courses in Augusta for working professionals and recent college graduates working or interested in working in government or non-profit fields.

The MPA, offered annually in Augusta since 1968, is the only UMaine degree program offered in Augusta. The MPA has a rich history of alumni who have reached the top of their fields as commissioners and policy advisers in state government, hospital executives, nonprofit directors, and city and county managers. An MPA can help move professionals toward new career opportunities, particularly in government, non-profit, municipal, healthcare, or public policy fields.

UMF Hosts Sexual Assault Survivors Art Exhibit

FARMINGTON – This year Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES) in Farmington celebrates its 25th anniversary and as part of the celebration, hosted an art exhibit with pieces created by sexual assault survivors. The exhibit, called “The Art of Survival,” was held July 21 at UMF’s Art Gallery.

The show was noted as a place for survivors and others to display their art, using a variety of media.

USM Wellness Program Gets the Gold

PORTLAND – USM has joined a select group of “America’s Healthiest Companies” after receiving a “Gold Well Workplace” designation from the Wellness Councils of America.

The USM program was cited for its holistic approach that addresses physical as well as mental and behavioral issues.

The USM Wellness Program was established in January of 2002 and incorporates such activities as walking programs, smoking cessation services, fitness evaluations, and a weekly farmer’s market. Each year the USM Wellness Program attracts some 3,000 registrants.

UMFK to Hold Community Fair for Students

FORT KENT – UMFK invites businesses, community, and service organizations from throughout the St. John Valley to participate in the annual “Community Fair” on September 10. Each participant will be provided free booth space and an eight-foot display table.

The fair is designed to introduce university students to the products and services available in the region. It is a good way for the business community and organizations who want to market themselves to the new and returning UMFK students.

The aim is to have as many businesses or organizations as possible participate to give UMFK students an idea of what is available in the surrounding communities.

Businesses interested in participating may contact Lisa Roy at 834-7513.

Watershed Stewards Program



WALDOBORO – UMaine’s Cooperative Extension offers a Watershed Stewards Program where participants learn about how lakes work, what threatens Maine’s lake resources, and how to protect lakes for the long-term. The next weekly training session is being offered in the Waldoboro area in September, in cooperation with several local groups.

The statewide program has 400 people now involved in protecting 30 Maine lakes. Participants learn how to identify and document pollution threats and learn about soil erosion, septic systems, invasive aquatic plants, and other relevant topics. To learn more, visit: www.extension.umaine.edu.



Pattenaude Appoints Wyke to Senior UMS Post

BANGOR – University of Maine System chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude announced that Rebecca Wyke has agreed to join the state university system as its vice chancellor for finance and administration. Wyke will be responsible for finance, treasury, facilities, and technology. She

will oversee all System-level business, operational, and administrative functions of the University of Maine System.

Wyke currently serves as Governor John E. Baldacci’s commissioner of financial and administrative services. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration, both awarded from the University of Maine.