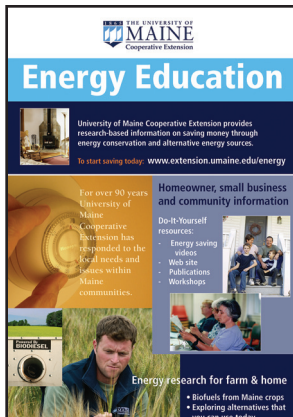


Making a Difference

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



Energy Education

University of Maine Cooperative Extension provides research-based information on saving money through energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

To start saving today: www.extension.umaine.edu/energy

For over 90 years, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has responded to the real needs and desires within Maine communities.

Homeowner, small business and community information

Do-it-Yourself resources:

- Energy saving videos
- Web site
- Publications
- Workshops

Energy research for farm & home

- Biofuels from Maine crops
- Exploring alternatives that you can use today

UMaine Extension Teams Up with State Agencies to Keep ME Warm

ORONO – UMaine Cooperative Extension is doing its best to make sure residents are bundled up for the cold season now upon us through collaboration with the Maine State Housing Authority and the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security.

At the end of last month, 2,000 Keep ME Warm Kits were distributed at all UMaine Extension sites.

A variety of volunteers were on hand to help install the kits, including a group of UMaine students who traveled to Cherryfield to lend a hand in that area.

In addition to the kits, UMaine Extension provides frequently updated research-based information on how to save money through energy conservation and alternative energy sources at its Web site and through literature it helps to produce and distribute to the public. For more information, visit www.extension.umaine.edu/energy.

'Book Arts' Subject of UMM Lecture

MACHIAS – In October, UMM's Libra Distinguished Lecture Series presented the topic of book arts. Steve Miller, Professor of Book Arts at the University of Alabama, was the featured speaker.

Miller teaches letterpress printing, hand papermaking, and coordinates the MFA in the Book Arts Program at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa where his primary focus is in the teaching of traditional bookmaking. Miller is also a co-director of Paper and Book Intensive, a nationally-recognized annual series of summer workshops in the book arts.

UMM's Libra Distinguished Lecture Series was designed to offer a unique opportunity for the community to hear outside experts and engage in structured philosophical discussions. Each lecture is followed by a question-and-answer session that encourages audience participation. The acclaimed series is funded by the Libra Foundation, a Portland-based philanthropic organization.

New York's Chief Judge Lectures at Maine Law

PORTLAND – Judge Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York, presented the University of Maine School of Law's 16th annual Frank M. Coffin Lecture on Law and Public Service on November 6. The lecture, "Reshaping State Courts for the New Century: What Chief Judges Can Do," took place in the Abromson Community Education Center in Portland.



Kaye was appointed New York's Chief Judge in 1993 by Governor Mario M. Cuomo and has served in that position for over 15 years. She was the first woman to serve on the New York Court of Appeals, which she joined as Associate Judge in 1983, and the first woman to occupy the state Judiciary's highest office as Chief Judge.

USM Wishcamper Center Opening Celebrated

PORTLAND – More than 200 guests attended the grand opening of the Wishcamper Center, the new home for the USM Muskie School of Public Service and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in Portland.

The USM Muskie School, named in honor of the late Senator Edmund S. Muskie, is home to 200 graduate students and a faculty and research staff who conduct \$35 million of applied research a year throughout Maine and the nation. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute offers courses to more than 1,000 Greater Portland citizens, ages 50 and older. It also is the national center for a network of more than 120 such institutes, serving some 70,000 people.

The Wishcamper Center, named for business and community leaders Joe and Carol Wishcamper of Freeport, was built to LEED standards and features a nearly carbon-neutral design. The four-story building is a cornerstone of University Commons, a major redevelopment project along Bedford Street in Portland.



USM's new Wishcamper Center



UMaine Lobster Institute, Internet Firm Partner to Help Industry

ORONO – Supply may be up and prices may be down, causing those in the lobster industry some stress, but Lobster

Gram, the largest Internet marketer of live lobster, has teamed up with UMaine’s Lobster Institute, a non-profit lobster research and service organization, to come to the aid of Maine’s lobster industry by offering a blowout sale of live lobsters.

Lobster Gram is currently offering their “Lobster Gram” namesake live lobster package for discounts of up to 50 percent. Additionally, a portion of proceeds from this bailout sale also will help support the sustainability efforts of the Lobster Institute.

Lobster Gram ships its live lobster all over the United States from its warehouse in Biddeford and has its corporate offices in Chicago.

UMA installs Handley as President

AUGUSTA – Allyson Hughes Handley was formally installed as UMA president at the university’s annual Convocation exercises held October 19.

Noted speakers at the event included Chancellor Richard Pattenau, UMS Trustee Wick Johnson, Senate Majority Leader Libby Mitchell, Augusta City Manager Bill Bridgeo, and Peter Thompson, President of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce.



Chancellor Pattenau congratulates President Handley.

Following President Hughes Handley’s installation, Dr. Paul Mayewski, UMaine director of the Climate Change Institute, delivered the keynote address, entitled:

Climate Change in the 21st Century: Realities, Surprises, and Opportunities. The keynote topic coincides with UMA’s academic theme this year of environmental sustainability.

President Handley came to UMA in March 2008 from Kentucky, where she had been serving as senior policy advisor for postsecondary economic development initiatives. Before that, she had served as president of Cogswell College in California and Midway College in Kentucky. She has also worked at National University, The Johns Hopkins University, McGill University, University of San Diego, and Spalding University. She received her B.A. from the University of Western Ontario, and an M.Ed and Ed.D. from The Johns Hopkins University.

UMF Visiting Writer Series Features Elise Juska

FARMINGTON – UMF’s Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program presented Elise Juska as the third reader in its 2008-2009 Visiting Writers Series. The reading was held November 6, at the UMF Olsen Student Center, and was followed by a signing by the author.

Juska has published three novels: “Getting Over Jack Wagner,” named a Critics Choice by People; “The Hazards of Sleeping Alone;” and “One for Sorrow, Two for Joy,” released in June 2007. She is currently working on her next novel, “The Teacher Who Did Nothing.”

Her short fiction and nonfiction stories, as well as her novella, “Perfect Weather for Driving,” have appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies such as Cold Feet, the Harvard Review, Berkeley Fiction Review, PhillyFiction, The Philadelphia Inquirer and the essay anthology: The Subway Chronicles: Scenes from Life in New York.

UMM to Feature “The Nutcracker”

MACHIAS – UMM will bring Tchaikovsky’s beloved holiday classic, *The Nutcracker* to Downeast Maine with a pair of performances on November 22, at UMM’s Performing Arts Center.

The Robinson Ballet Company will present the performance. They have been producing *The Nutcracker* for more than 20 years, with Machias as one of its repeat venues.

The sponsorship of Kelco Industries, through owner Doug Kell Sr., has been significant to the appearances of the Robinson Ballet in Machias.

As in past years, schools and organized youth groups can make reservations for the matinee performance until November 14. After that, the matinee tickets will be available to the general public. Evening performance tickets are currently available by calling (207) 255-1312.

USM Hosts Executive Forum 2008

PORTLAND – “It All Starts With A Big Idea...Transforming The Maine Economy,” was the theme of the 2008 USM School of Business Executive Forum, held October 28 in downtown Portland. Sara Burns, president & CEO of Central Maine Power, former Governor Angus King and Kenneth Ault, MD, director of the Maine Medical Center Research Institute, shared their perspectives on how to think outside the box when it comes to transforming Maine’s economy.

Burns focused her remarks on building an infrastructure to support the distribution of energy, while Ault discussed R&D initiatives to position Maine’s economy for growth. King explored how to move transformative ideas to concrete proposals that will advance economic development.

UMaine Introduces New Center for Undergraduate Research

ORONO – UMaine’s Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) has set out to develop a database of research and creative projects at UMaine that are open to undergraduates, matching faculty and students by projects and interests. The idea is to allow students to hone their ability to communicate and put ideas together, to organize and write, to investigate, and to push themselves to continue to ask questions and seek answers.

UMaine realizes that the opportunity to work on research projects as an undergraduate makes a student stand out to potential employers and institutions.

Advancing undergraduate research with CUGR’s leadership is one of 12 objectives that are part of UMaine’s Strategic Plan.

UMA Sponsors Statewide Family Diversity Panel

AUGUSTA – On October 20, UMA sponsored a panel discussion entitled *Diversity in Contemporary Families: Growing Up a Sexual Minority in Maine*.

The panel discussion featured a gay man, a lesbian, and a transgendered individual, and took place at UMA’s Augusta campus and was simulcast to UMA’s Bangor campus, as well as to 27 University College centers and sites around the state.

Patricia Clark, a UMA instructor of Mental Health and Human Services noted, “This panel discussion is the first of a series of discussions we plan to have over the next several weeks to assist students, teachers, human service providers, social workers, and community members in understanding how to partner and work more effectively with all types of families.”

The panel discussion took place in conjunction with a class taught statewide called Interventions for Families with Children.

UMF Hosts Graduate School Events

FARMINGTON – In October, UMF’s Center for Human Development hosted a series of events to connect the campus and local community with information on graduate school and career opportunities.

The events included a graduate school fair, with representatives from 18 schools and organizations. In addition, a medical careers informational session featured presentations by representatives from Husson University, New York College of Podiatric Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine, and the University of Medicine and Health Sciences.

A representative of the Peace Corps also provided an informational session for those students and community members interested in volunteering overseas.

Franco-American Singer Returns to UMFK

FORT KENT – Popular Acadian singer-songwriter, Josée Vachon, returns to UMFK to perform her traditional and contemporary folk music on November 9 in Fox Auditorium.



Josée Vachon

Call 834-7800 for more information. The event is sponsored by the UMFK Foundation.

UMPI Seeks Community Projects

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI is looking for community projects as part of its engaged learning effort, which matches faculty expertise and the skills students are learning, with the needs of the community.

Engaged learning is a hands-on type of learning that utilizes partnerships with agencies, organizations, and whole communities outside of the classroom to help students apply the material they are learning in the classroom. Two examples of past UMPI engaged learning projects are management information system students who created a new web page for a community organization, and history students who helped a local historian to gather information and publish a book on Presque Isle’s past.

To suggest a community project or partnership, call 768-9428.

USM Receives \$3.1 M National Science Foundation Award

PORTLAND – The National Science Foundation has awarded \$3.1 million to a team based at USM to increase the number and diversity of Maine students receiving degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The five-year grant will fund the development of an alliance which will provide support and training in STEM activities for educators and an estimated 500 students.

Alliance members will develop multi-disciplinary experiences designed to encourage students with disabilities to participate in STEM fields and pursue them as careers. Additionally, they will evaluate institutional resources and structures to research obstacles to, and develop new avenues for, promoting participation by people with disabilities.

In addition to USM, the Eastern Alliance in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, includes Portland High School; Deering High School, in Portland; the Casco Bay High School For Expeditionary Learning, in Portland; Bonny Eagle High School, in Buxton; Southern Maine Community College, and Central Maine Community College. For more information, call 780-5449.

UMaine Researchers Issued Patent for New Retaining Wall Technology



ORONO – UMaine researchers have been awarded a patent on new technology that could change waterfront construction methods for both private individuals and large companies looking to build docks, piers, and port facilities.

Using technology developed at UMaine's Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Center, a team of researchers created extruded composite sheet piling panels to be used as retaining walls on waterfront property.

They are resistant to corrosion even in saltwater and can be made in any color using either new or recycled materials. Each panel is sturdy enough to be driven into the ground, but is light enough to be lifted by one person. The panels easily connect to one another to form a continuous retaining wall or sea wall against almost any landscape.

The sheets are made from wood flour, a very fine sawdust, and plastic resin from either new, recycled, or a combination of materials. The panels have been tested in the lab and now are ready for commercialization.



UMF students Joe Leonard and Sarah O'Blenes are featured in UMF's "Expecting Isabel."

UMF's "Expecting Isabel"

FARMINGTON – Theatre UMF performed Lisa Loomer's award-winning comedy, "Expecting Isabel," as its premier fall 2008 theater production in late October.

With a student-based cast and crew, this University production featured 22

students playing more than 30 roles.

"Expecting Isabel" tells the story of Miranda and Nick, a thirty-something Manhattan couple, who decide it's time to have a child, though Mother Nature has other ideas.

Theatre UMF, the University of Maine at Farmington student theater organization, provides studies and practical application experience in the performance, technical, theory, history, and criticism areas of theater.

UMFK to Host Memoir Writing Workshops

FORT KENT – UMFK will host a memoir writing workshop series entitled "Writing the Textures, Textiles, and Texts of Our Lives Finding and Writing Your Roots," with Maine author Rhea J. Côté Robbins, from November 13-16.

The workshops will focus on how to recover and examine traditional and nontraditional information and

transform it into stories. All sessions offered are appropriate for community members, including school-aged students, teachers, and anyone interested in learning about giving a voice to their personal stories.

Rhea Côté Robbins is a part-time faculty member and founder and executive director of the Franco-American Women's Institute at UMaine.

The events are offered by the UMFK Academic Outreach office, the Acadian Archives/ Archives Acadiennes, and the Education Department. Primary funding is being provided through a Libra Foundation grant. The series is offered at no cost. Call (207) 834-7835 to register.

UMPI Students Help Preserve Presque Isle's History

PRESQUE ISLE – An UMPI history professor and her students are participating in a \$10,000 Maine Historical Society grant project to preserve Presque Isle's history while promoting local partnerships.

Dr. Kim Sebold and her history students will digitize historic materials and place them on the Maine Historical Society's Memory Network, as well as write a town history, create online exhibits about the community's history, and create a website of local history within the Maine Memory Network.

In addition, the UMPI history students are working with students from Presque Isle Middle School's History Club, where they will mentor students on researching family history.

UMS Announces Additional Spending Controls

BANGOR – UMS chancellor Richard Pattenaude has announced he is instituting spending control measures to reduce operating costs at the University System's centralized operations center. The presidents of Maine's seven public universities also will implement similar cost controls at their respective institutions.

Pattenaude said the actions are necessary in light of three primary factors:

- a slight decline in overall student enrollment
- the global financial crisis and its effect on State revenues and the FY10 and FY11 State budgets; and
- the negative impact of the financial crisis on the market value of UMS operating fund investments.

The cost-control measures come a few months after the University System's Board of Trustees approved Pattenaude's plan to adopt \$19.1 million in spending reductions for the current budget year and subsequent years.

The spending controls include restrictions on filling vacancies and replacing departing employees; deferring discretionary salary increases for employees; and minimizing travel, printing, mailing, employee overtime, and purchases.