



UMF Upward Bound Helps Maine Students Succeed

FARMINGTON – UMF's [Upward Bound Program](#) was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant to enhance its mission to increase the number of low-income, first-generation students who are prepared to enter post-secondary education.

Upward Bound provides support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The grant will provide opportunities for high school students in the program to visit various colleges in New England and attend financial literacy workshops.

In the past 10 years, 87 percent of UMF Upward Bound students have increased their high school grade point average since entering the program. Of the UMF Upward Bound high school seniors during that time, 80 percent have enrolled in college, with 92 percent of those students enrolling in bachelor's degree programs.

UMFK's Center for Rural Sustainable Development Receives Grant for Biomass Study

FORT KENT – UMFK's [Center for Rural Sustainable Development](#) has received a \$45,000 grant to begin a study on the impacts of large-scale biomass energy resource development in the St. John Valley.

The study will be conducted by UMFK faculty and staff with collaborators from the UMaine Cooperative Extension and regional stakeholders beginning this semester.

One of the main goals is to better understand the consequences of large-scale biomass energy resource development and gauge the level of community acceptance of this technology in the St. John Valley.

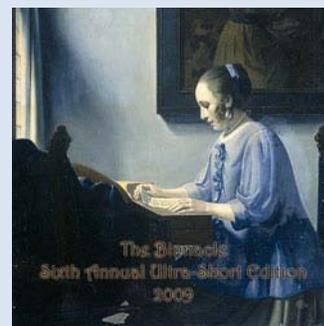
Chancellor Names Four Finalists for UMaine Presidency

BANGOR – UMS Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude announced that a search committee he formed last year has identified four finalists for the presidency of Maine's flagship university in Orono. The person chosen as the 19th president of UMaine will succeed current president Robert Kennedy, who announced his plans to step down in June 2011.

The finalists are: Donald J. Farish, Ph.D., J.D.; Paul W. Ferguson, Ph.D.; Daniel J. Julius, Ed.D.; and James H. Page, Ph.D.

Each of the applicants will meet with members from the university community during separate visits to UMaine, which will occur between January 24 and February 9. In addition, each finalist will meet with Chancellor Pattenaude.

Information about the four candidates, including resumes, photos, and itineraries for campus visits may be found at www.umaine.edu/presidentsearch/finalists/.



UMM Announces Writing Competition

MACHIAS – *The Binnacle*, the literary and arts magazine of UMM, is sponsoring its Eighth Annual Ultra-Short Competition. Interested writers of short narratives in prose or poetry of fewer than 150 words (poetry of sixteen lines or fewer) are welcome to submit their works.

Prizes will be awarded in May for both categories, with the total of prizes amounting to no less than \$300. The top fifty-two entries will be included in the contest print edition. For more information, please visit *The Binnacle* at www.machias.edu/binnacle.

Junior Engineering Program to be held at UMPI

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI will be the site for the After School Junior Engineering Program which includes problem solving, Lego robotics and modular origami.

The program will be held on Mondays from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m., beginning January 24 and ending May 23.

The After School Junior Engineering Program is offered by the Maine Junior Engineering Technological Society.

The goal of the program is to introduce students in grades three through eight to math and science skills as those skills are used in civil engineering, computer engineering, and architecture. The program is aimed at children who have an interest in problem solving, creativity, and reasoning as applied in science and engineering.

The fee for the program is \$225 per student and scholarships are available. For more information contact Eva Szillery at 356-0207 or evaszillery-mmsets@me.acadia.net.



UMA Presents: *Me on Earth*, a Documentary on Diversity

AUGUSTA – On January 29, the UMA campus will premiere [*ME on Earth*](#), a sixty-minute documentary highlighting diversity in Maine.

The event will be held from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. in the Holocaust and Human Rights Center.

Produced by UMA students and staff, *ME on Earth* features six interviews with Mainers who live across the state. Each of the six holds their own unique worldview that showcases the strong diversity of the state.

The film project received \$2,000 in grants from the Americorps Campus Compact and from UMA's Presidential Mini-Grants.

For more information, contact Marybeth Hentrich at 621-3158 or marybeth.hentrich@maine.edu.

UMaine Grad Students Excel in International Business Challenge

ORONO – A group of UMaine Business School graduate students participating in the [2010 Molson International Case Competition](#) in Montreal finished 14th overall in a group of 36 business schools from across the globe invited to participate.



Graduate students from nine countries entered the round-robin competition of business problem-solving where teams analyzed and evaluated unpublished business cases. Teams are judged on creativity, insight, substance, and plausibility of their recommendations.

Team members were Nicole Gogan of Orrington, Joseph Kellner from Hampden, Mass. and Bangor, Victoria Thornton of Lee and Kim Williams of Carrabassett Valley. Frederick Kaiser of Blue Hill was an alternate member of the team.

USM to Offer Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree

PORTLAND – The UMS Board of Trustees has given USM approval to launch a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program. USM is accepting students for the fall 2011 semester.

The USM program will be the only one of its kind in northern New England at a time when the DNP is becoming an increasingly popular and sought after credential.

Industry experts predict that the DNP will be the required credential for all advanced practice nurses by 2015. The DNP is practice-focused, and consequently provides nurses with the advanced leadership and management skills needed as a part of day-to-day operations in healthcare delivery.

For more information, contact the USM School of Nursing at 780-4505 or click on: <http://usm.maine.edu/conhp/nursing/dnp.html>.

UMA Reaches Across the Pacific

AUGUSTA – Two students from the Islands of Micronesia have enrolled in UMA’s [information and library services program](#), an online baccalaureate program which enrolls students from across the country.

Palau Community College only offers an associate’s degree in library science, but through an agreement with UMA, 50-100 additional students from the Pacific islands may enroll and pursue a UMA bachelor’s degree.

Additional pacts involving UMA and other Pacific island colleges are in progress.



UMaine Winter Carnival February 12

ORONO – The UMaine Office of Campus Activities and Student Engagement is planning for [Winter Carnival 2011](#).

Scheduled activities for the Feb. 12 event include an ice-skating rink, a half-pipe and rail jam, snow sculptures, ice carving, live music, and food and beverages on the Mall.

Students also will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most snow men or women built in one hour. All events are free and open to the public. The Division of Student Affairs, which oversees Campus Activities, invites everyone for an exciting day of winter activities. The world record attempt begins at 2:00 p.m. All events precede a fireworks show, beginning at 5:45 p.m. prior to the Black Bears’ evening hockey game.

Contact Justina DeMott at 581-1790 for additional information.



USM Converts Two Central Plants to Natural Gas

PORTLAND – USM central plants in both Gorham and Portland recently converted their central heat plants from oil to natural gas, reducing USM’s carbon output by 1,048 metric tons per year.

USM burned an average of 280,000 gallons of oil per year to heat the Portland campus. At current market prices for oil, this represents an annual cost of about \$610,000. The conversion from oil to natural gas is estimated to save the university approximately \$315,000 next year in utility costs.

The USM facilities department budgeted \$270,000 to retrofit its Portland plant, an investment it is expected to recoup in the very first year.



Boston artist E.S. Finney’s “Vehicle Intended for Fluid Movement”

UMF Art Gallery Features Sculptural Artist

FARMINGTON – The UMF Art Gallery is hosting an exhibit of vast sculptural works by Boston artist E.S. Finney. This free and open-to-the-public exhibition runs through February 20.

Finney constructs exciting sculptural works that are as imposing and mysterious as they are evocative. His work is built of massive wooden beams, motors, mirrors, and found objects of every description. His art explores the qualities of weight and weightlessness, darkness, and light.

The UMF Art Gallery is located at 246 Main Street in Farmington and is open from noon to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, during the UMF academic year and by appointment. For more information, or to make special arrangements, call 778-7002.

UMM Receives National Recognition for Community Engagement

MACHIAS – UMM has been awarded the prestigious 2010 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.



The classification recognizes UMM for its extraordinary service-learning and community service activities. UMM is one of only 115 institutions nationwide to receive the classification this year, and one of only two schools in Maine. Unity College is the other Maine school.

The classification recognizes the many collaborations and partnerships between the local community and UMM, where service learning has long been an important piece of the academic experience.

Experiential Learning at Acadian Archives



UMFK education students at the Acadian Archives

FORT KENT – UMFK education students, in a collaborative effort with the [Acadian Archives/Archives Acadiennes](#), created a 125-page booklet of lesson plans for grades Pre-K to graduation titled “The Maliseet and the Settlement of the Madawaska Territory.”

The book includes general topics on Native peoples and links to websites which may be researched for further information. For further information on the book, contact the Archives at 834-7535.

UMaine Program for Student Mentors

ORONO – The National Mentoring Month of January inspired each of the five Black Bear Mentors Program sites to host a “Meet Your Mentor Dinner.”

The mentoring program enriches the lives of area children by providing a dedicated adult for activities and someone to talk with about their struggles and successes. The event started last year as an effort to build stronger connections between the program and the community.

The mentor program is part of the [Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism](#). For information call 581-1786.

Gearing Up for Spring Training



BANGOR – This issue of *Making a Difference* was researched and edited by Nicole Reiner, of Eliot. Nicole is a UMaine senior majoring in mass communication, with a minor in public relations.

During the Spring 2011 semester, she is a communications intern in the System Office.

USM Partners in MLK Role Models Project

PORTLAND – USM and SMCC, in collaboration with LearningWorks, facilitated a four-day project in the after-school programs at Reiche and East End Community Schools that brought focus to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a role model.

The project included four enrichment activities led by students from USM and SMCC, with help from University of New England and Casco Bay High School students.

Students learned about Dr. King’s life and explored what aspects of his legacy lead us to describe him as a role model. As the week progressed, students identified role models in their immediate community and the characteristics and qualities that they possess that give them the potential to emulate Dr. King.

UMPI, MSSM Sign Professional Development School Agreement

PRESQUE ISLE – Officials with UMPI and The Maine School of Science and Mathematics signed an agreement that will allow UMPI education students to take part in extensive internships at MSSM and provide professional development opportunities for MSSM faculty.

The Professional Development School agreement will be implemented immediately with representatives of both institutions ready to begin planning collaborations.

Under the new partnership, selected students in UMPI’s Education Program will have the opportunity to take part in year-long teaching internships at MSSM.

UMPI student teachers will be exposed to innovative teaching methodology, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math and they will work with academically strong students.