

## UMS Trustees Appoint Ferguson as Next UMaine President



BANGOR – Earlier this month, the UMS Board of Trustees approved Chancellor Richard Pattenau's recommendation of Dr. Paul Ferguson as the next president of UMaine, the state's flagship and land-grant university in Orono.

Ferguson, age 58, earned a B.A. in Biology at Whittier College and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of

California, Davis. Since 2006 he has worked at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville where he serves as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, as well as a professor of pharmacology and toxicology.

Ferguson will commence work at UMaine on July 1, 2011. A key expectation of the new president will be to increase revenue through enhanced fund raising, increased enrollment, and expanded research funding.

Pattenau noted that experience and skills in these areas were major factors in his choice of Ferguson.

## UMPI Joins Forces to Offer Fourth Young Professionals Institute

PRESQUE ISLE – Momentum Aroostook, MMG Insurance and UMPI are teaming up for the fourth time to provide the area's young professionals with a one-of-a-kind leadership development opportunity.

The three entities will host the Young Professionals Institute, a professional development short course designed specifically for emerging leaders looking to hone their professional skills. The program will be offered at the university during eight afternoon sessions through May.

Momentum Aroostook is a diverse network of friends, business associates, and individuals who are active in the community. Its mission is to provide opportunities for Aroostook County residents through professional and social events to highlight the advantages of working and living in northern Maine. For more information, contact the College of Professional Programs at 768-9740.

## University College of Bangor Name Changed to UMA Bangor

AUGUSTA – UMS Board of Trustees recently voted to change the name of UCB. The new name will be *University of Maine at Augusta—Bangor Campus*, or *UMA Bangor* for short.

Since 1995, UCB has been an integral part of UMA. Approximately 1,000 students, or about 20% of UMA's student body, are enrolled at the Bangor campus.

During the past few years, UMA has invested heavily in the Bangor campus by providing many campus improvements. The *UMA Bangor* name change will be celebrated at the close of summer with a special campus event soon to be announced.

## Using Cell Phones to Improve Health Care in Developing Countries



PORTLAND – USM graduate students are part of an international team developing ways to use cell phones to improve the delivery of

health care to pregnant women and their newborns in Ghana.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded the project, known as the [Mobile Technology for Community Health](#) (MoTeCH).

The goal of the project is to configure basic cell phones, which are widespread in low-income countries, so that they can deliver health care-related messages to pregnant women and encourage them to seek care from nearby facilities.

The system, which is up and running in two impoverished districts of northern Ghana, is delivering tips on preventative care and prenatal care tailored to the individual user.

## UMPI Renovation Project to Include New Solar & Biomass Systems

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI’s Pullen Hall soon will have a much smaller carbon footprint thanks to a \$2.3 million building renovation project



that includes the installation of solar panels on the roof, a biomass boiler system in the basement and many energy efficiencies in between.

Work on this project is expected to begin later this spring. In addition to the two major sustainable energy systems, crews will be installing energy efficient windows, improving ADA accessibility, updating the aging heating and ventilation system, and adding temperature control in Pullen Hall, one of the university's two major classroom buildings. The project is expected to be completed in 90 days.

## Chancellor Tells Legislators Higher Ed is Key to Economic Development in Maine

AUGUSTA—Higher education and economic development were the themes in a March 30 “State of the University” biennial address delivered by UMS Chancellor Richard L. Pattenauade to a joint session of the Maine State Senate and House of Representatives.

Pattenauade noted that historically, higher education has meant personal growth and discovery, creating and preserving knowledge, and helping our students become lifelong learners and better citizens. He added that today, the new ‘normal’ in higher ed is about rebuilding our economy and creating opportunities for our students to live and work in Maine.

Pattenauade stated that the System has worked hard to keep tuition affordable during challenging economic times. This year UMS has the smallest tuition increase in eight years. Affordable tuition is a key to student retention and graduation.

In regard to responding to Maine’s changing education and business needs, Pattenauade outlined plans to help address the state’s need for graduates in information technology and computer science programs by doubling the number of graduates in the next four years and by creating a university-business partnership to be led by Michael Dubyak, head of Portland’s Wright Express Corporation. To view the complete speech, visit: [www.maine.edu/UMSSOTU2011](http://www.maine.edu/UMSSOTU2011).

## UMF Launches Health Info Program

FARMINGTON – UMF recently announced the launch of a new program of study offering a bachelor of arts in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in health information systems beginning fall, 2011.

This program will help prepare students to pursue careers in the rapidly emerging job market in health information technology as the nation transitions from paper to electronic medical records as required by the 2004 creation of the U.S. Office for the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

A first of its kind in Maine, this innovative interdisciplinary program provides both the business and technical skills today’s students need to pursue careers in health information technology, health care management, and health data analysis.



## UMFK Selected to Develop National Genomics Course

FORT KENT – UMFK has been selected as a member of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Science Education Alliance, an honor which will allow UMFK biology faculty to attend National Genomics Research Initiative (NGRI) training sessions this spring and summer, and to adopt a course curriculum for implementation next fall.

First-year UMFK biology students will work on a real scientific research project developed and coordinated by the NGRI. By the end of the course, students will have used modern molecular biology and computer-based DNA analysis methods to study their own unique organism. They will submit their findings to a national database.

## UMPI Students Host 13th Fit and Fun Day

PRESQUE ISLE – Local kids will unknowingly be getting exercise while taking part in fun activities during the 13th semi-annual Fit and Fun Day, to be held at UMPI from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on April 2 in Gentile Hall.

The event is sponsored by UMPI’s Physical Education Majors Club for children in grades 1-5 to teach them about health and fitness in a fun environment.

## UMaine, USM R&D Collaborative Wins \$493,000 Grant

ORONO – UMaine and USM are receiving a \$493,577 grant from the Maine Technology Institute to advance the research, development, and commercialization of



private sector manufacturing projects in need of the universities' technological assistance.

The three-year grant from MTI's Cluster Initiative Program will enable precision manufacturers in Maine to advance, expand and increase hiring as they move forward with new project development. The Cluster Initiative Program awards up to \$500,000 annually to cluster initiatives to support Maine's technology sectors and businesses.

## UMS Offers Assistance to Japanese Students Affected by Natural Disaster

BANGOR – The University of Maine System is organizing an initiative to assist Japanese students affected by the natural disaster in that country. UMS staff will be coordinating with Maine's Congressional delegation and with Maine companies, organizations, and families with ties to Japan, as well as existing university partnerships in Japan, to communicate the initiative. Student support services and a special tuition rate are being offered, which cost less than the usual international/out-of-state rate.

The System is inviting any English-speaking Japanese citizen currently enrolled in a Japanese university which has postponed or terminated classes due to the nation's natural disaster to enroll at a Maine university under a "visiting student" status for up to one year. A discounted tuition rate will be offered, and students will be mentored by

University international programs officers and Japanese citizens in the UMS community.

Students in need of assistance or Maine residents who would like additional information are encouraged to contact USM's Office of International Programs at 780-4959 or [www.usm.maine.edu/international](http://www.usm.maine.edu/international).

## UMaine Researchers Help Auburn Firm with Safety Product

ORONO – UMaine researchers in the College of Engineering's Advanced Manufacturing Center and AEWC Advanced Structures and Composites Center have successfully designed a composite toe-protection insert for Falcon Performance Footwear, an Auburn shoe company.

The new composite component replaces traditional steel toe protection, and is safer and potentially stronger than traditional steel toe caps.

The project, two years in development and funded in part by a Maine Technology Institute seed grant to Falcon, is invaluable to the engineering students' education. In the case of Falcon Performance Footwear, the assistance will allow the company to make an entirely American-made firefighter boot, and expand its product line to sell the toe caps to other companies, including those who would sell boots to the United States military.

## Memoir Writing Workshop at UMFK

FORT KENT – UMFK will host a memoir writing workshop entitled "A Novelist's Guide to Writing Memoir," by Maine Author, Monica Wood, on April 16 in Cyr Hall, room 205.



The workshop is free and will focus on how to recover and examine traditional and nontraditional information and transform it into stories. The session offered is appropriate for community members, including students, teachers, and anyone interested in learning about giving a voice to their personal stories.

Space is limited for the workshop. Interested persons should call Lise Pelletier at 834-7536 to register.

## UMA Annual Bio Lecture Features Dr. Kenneth Lombard

AUGUSTA – On April 7, from 11 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Randall Student Center, Dr. Kenneth Lombard will be speaking on childhood obesity at UMA's Annual Biology Lecture.

The chief medical officer at Maine Medical Partners Pediatric Specialty Care, Dr. Lombard has spoken and written extensively on the issues of pediatric nutrition, as well as served as clinical chair of the Youth Overweight Collaborative and medical director of Nutrition Support Services at Maine Medical Center's Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. The Lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call 621-3285

## Center for Book Arts and USM Presents Traveling Exhibition

PORTLAND — The Kate Cheney Chappell Center for Book



Arts at USM will present a traveling exhibition, "Hand, Voice & Vision: Thirty Years of Artists' Books" from the "Women's Studio Workshop," which features 40 works by some of the most influential contemporary book artists in America, and will be on display

through April 30 at the Glickman Family Library, Portland. This exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information contact Rebecca Goodale at 228-8014

## UMM To Host 4th Annual Rainbow Ball Weekend April 8-10

MACHIAS – UMM will hold its 4th Annual Rainbow Ball Weekend, April 8–10. The weekend of events will include



a drag show competition, pool party, educational workshops, a campus preview, and the ball.

The Rainbow Ball is an open and affirming

chem-free prom evening that includes dancing, pictures, food, and friends. It is offered as an alternative prom for youth who may be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and their allies. All associated high school and college students, youth groups, and community members are invited to attend. For more information, call 255-1244.

## UMF Receives NSF Grant

FARMINGTON – A faculty research group from UMF has recently received a National Science Foundation EPSCoR



Grant of more than \$66,000 to explore the impact of environmental and land use changes on ecosystems and the economy of the Rangeley Lakes region of western Maine.

Working in partnership with the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust, this interdisciplinary team of experts will provide the Rangeley area community with research-based findings to help inform policy and decision making that will protect and sustain the region's resources, economy and quality of life for years to come.

## Meet the Editor



BANGOR – This issue of *Making a Difference* was researched, designed, 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 Student Team Wins GE's U.S. Lean Challenge 2010

GORHAM – A USM team of six industrial technology and mechanical engineering students has been named the winner of GE's nationwide student competition, the "U.S. Lean Challenge 2010."

The challenge partnered student teams across the country with local GE Industrial Solutions' businesses.

The GE businesses provided students with business overviews, GE-developed Lean Manufacturing



training, and on-site Lean coaching. At GE's Auburn plant, the USM team was asked to apply Lean techniques to the manufacturing of an industrial circuit breaker. All teams presented their final project to a panel of GE Industrial Solutions' leaders as they competed for a grand prize of \$500 per student on the winning team.

## UMaine Surveying Students Place Second in National Event

ORONO – UMaine's team of surveying engineering students recently won second place in the National Society of Professional Surveyors' 10th annual student competition in Las Vegas.

As part of the annual competition, held in conjunction with the California Land Surveyors and Nevada Association of Land Surveyors, seven student teams were given four months to develop a project in the field of hydrographic surveying, write a 30-page paper, prepare a wall poster and give a 20-minute presentation.