

UMF Research Program Celebrates Fifth Year of Awarding Student Scholars



FARMINGTON – The UMF Undergraduate Research Council recently named 17 students as Spring 2011 Michael D. Wilson Research Scholars. Established in 2006, the selective Wilson program directly connects students with faculty experts to promote the highest level of scholarship as students explore dynamic local, national and international research issues.

In the five years since its origin, the program has supported both single-semester scholars and year-long fellows, recognizing 150 student researchers for their academic excellence. Student scholars are supported one-on-one by individual faculty mentors. These faculty sponsors provide student researchers with sponsorship of their application, guidance with proposal development and research methodology, and continuing assistance with pre-professional and post-graduate opportunities.

UMPI Hosts Speaker on Role of Higher Ed in Creating a Sustainable Society

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI hosted the founder of an organization focused on making environmental sustainability a foundation of all learning and practice in high education.

Dr. Anthony D. Cortese, co-founder and President of Second Nature, spoke on April 13. His talk, *The Critical Role of Higher Education in Creating a Healthy, Just and Sustainable Society*, was part of the university's Distinguished Lecturer Series and was held in conjunction with University Day at the campus.

Wind Consortium Member Receives Grant

ORONO – UMaine's AEW Advanced Structures and Composites Center is currently working with WindFloat Maine, which was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Maine Technology Institute. WindFloat Maine, a subsidiary of Seattle-based Principle Power Inc., received the grant to help fund the development of the company's WindFloat, a floating foundation for deepwater off-shore wind turbines. Principle Power is a member of DeepCwind, the UMaine-led consortium of private and nonprofit companies working on deepwater off-shore floating wind technology.



USM Students in Free Enterprise Receive First Place at Regional Competition



PORTLAND – USM Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) won first place at the 2011 regional SIFE competition in New York.

More than 30 teams attended the event in New York on April 4. At the

competition, SIFE members gave a 24-minute presentation that introduced and explained all of the projects they have been developing and working on throughout the year. The competition criteria called for SIFE teams to develop and present projects that empower community members with need.

The next step for SIFE is nationals in May, when they will be traveling to Minneapolis, Minnesota to compete against approximately 175 SIFE teams from across the country.

Students in Free Enterprise is an international, non-profit organization, with student groups in colleges and universities around the world. For more information about SIFE, visit <http://usm.maine.edu/sb/sife.html>.

Student Art Exhibition Opens in Gorham



GORHAM – The USM Art Department BFA Exhibit is open to the public through May 6 in the Art Gallery on USM’s Gorham campus. This senior thesis exhibit represents the culminating work of fifteen bachelor of fine arts candidates with

Meditations by Kate Benton of Buxton

studio concentrations in ceramics, digital art, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, and sculpture. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesdays-Fridays, and 1-5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free.

For more information, call 780-5008.

UMA Senior College Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

AUGUSTA – UMA’s Senior College, which offers courses and other educational and cultural activities to senior citizens in the Kennebec Valley region, will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary on April 22.



Primarily run by senior citizen volunteers, UMA’s Senior College has enjoyed phenomenal success and growth in its first ten years. Today, over 300 local seniors enroll in one or more of about 20 different eight-week courses UMA’s Senior College offers each fall and spring.

The UMA Senior College Celebration is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Beverly Ludden at 621-3479.

Author Tim Caverly to Present at UMM



MACHIAS – UMM graduate and children’s book author Tim Caverly will give an interactive presentation about the Maine outdoors at 3 p.m. on April 26 at UMM.

The presentation, “A Literal Celebration of the Maine Experience,” will take place in the Portside room of

Kimball Hall and is open to the public.

Caverly’s presentation will include music and scenic and historic photos as he takes the audience on an armchair trip down the Allagash River. The author and outdoor enthusiast has written several popular children’s books, including *Allagash Tails* and *An Allagash Haunting*.

UMFK to Partake in Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant

FORT KENT – UMFK will participate as part of a \$250,000 grant from the *Next Generation Learning Challenges*. The grant was received by the American Association and State Colleges (AASCU) as part of its *Red Balloon Project*, which is an effort to re-imagine undergraduate education nationwide.

UMFK is among 20 participating AASCU member institutions nationwide. UMFK will benefit from support of the AASCU/UCF proposal, *Expanding Blended Learning Through Tools and Campus Programs*, an initiative designed to expand adoption of blended learning to the participating institutions, through the development of a “Blended Learning Toolkit.”

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the NGLC seeks to improve college completion by supporting the sustainable adoption-at-scale of successful technology-enabled products, projects or service-based solutions in various challenge areas related to improving student learning, engagement, and success.

For more information, visit

<http://nextgenlearning.org/the-program/partners>

New Website Offers Connection to UMS Online Programs

AUGUSTA – University College, the distance education organization of the University of Maine System, launched a new website designed

to offer people a convenient, one-stop source of information about the online and blended programs of Maine’s public universities.

[Online.maine.edu](http://online.maine.edu) is a collaborative effort of the University of Maine

System. While each university website lists its own online programs, online.maine.edu aggregates online programs from all UMS universities in one convenient location.

More than 45 online programs are listed on the website, including degree programs in Information and Library Services from UMA, Electrical Engineering from UMaine, Criminal Justice from UMM, and Adult and Higher Education from USM.

For more information about online.maine.edu, call 1-800-868-7000 or email ucls@maine.edu.



Online Franco-American Resource Launched

ORONO – Teachers, researchers, historians and genealogists, among others, have a new online bibliographical website to link them to references and resources about everything Franco-American.

Created through and housed at the Franco-American Centre, the new [Franco American Library](#) contains lists and links to journal articles, published papers, dissertation, biographies, fiction and non-fiction, periodicals, artwork and audio and video materials about Franco-American life, culture, and history.

A catalog of resources for Franco-American studies that's linked to URSUS and to the Maine State library, it categorizes a virtual collection of items by genre and theme, assigns each item geographic tags, and indicates in which library or public collection each item might be found.

UMFK Recognizes TRiO Students



FORT KENT – The TRiO Student Support Services Program at UMFK held its third annual recognition banquet to honor students, faculty, and staff involved in the TRiO program.

TRiO programs are designed to help low-income, first-generation, and/or disabled students, enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life.

The Student Support Services Program's focus is to insure that their participants have a realistic chance to persist in school and graduate from UMFK. To accomplish these objectives, they provide services to enhance students' academic success, personal skills, and social skills.

TRiO is a nationwide, federally-funded organization committed to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance.

UMF Celebrates Peace Corps 50th Anniversary

FARMINGTON – In celebration of the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary, the UMF Career Services and Ferro Alumni Center are joining together to sponsor "Serving America and Around the World: A Forum Exploring Opportunities in Service." This event is free and open to the public and will be held from 7-9 p.m., April 27, at the UMF Olsen Student Center.

Created in celebration of public service, this discussion panel will feature representatives from AmeriCorps, City Year, the Peace Corps and Teach for America, including members of the UMF faculty and alumni. The forum is designed to show the life-defining leadership experience that comes with public service and how individuals can use their teaching abilities in the service industry.

UMaine Researchers Use Lobster Shells to Create Biodegradable Golf Ball



ORONO – Golfers on the high seas can breathe a little easier—and so can the marine life around them—thanks to researchers at UMaine. In conjunction with The

Lobster Institute, UMaine's Biological and Chemical Engineering faculty and students have developed a biodegradable golf ball made from lobster shells. The ball is intended for use on cruise ships.

Though biodegradable golf balls already exist, this is the first to be made with crushed lobster shells, along with a biodegradable binder and coating, creating value from waste material.

The balls perform similarly to their traditional, white-dimpled counterparts. And they can be used with both drivers and irons. UMaine has filed a provisional patent for the lobster-shell mixture, which can also be used for such products as plant pots that decompose in the ground, surveying stakes, and other applications.

Students Host Native Appreciation Day

PRESQUE ISLE – Students from UMPI's Native Voices group hosted a day-long event meant to develop strong connections between higher education and the Native American/First Nations indigenous populations by setting aside a day on campus that focused on their culture and traditions. The Fourth Annual Native Appreciation Day took place on April 16, served as a way for the University and the Native communities to meet, mingle, and learn about each other. For more information, contact Myrth Schwartz at 768-9792.

Chancellor Tells Legislators: Higher Ed is Key Economic Development



AUGUSTA – UMS Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude recently delivered the “State of the University” biennial address to a joint session of the Maine State Senate and House of Representatives.

Pattenaude noted that the new ‘normal’ in higher ed focuses on rebuilding our state’s economy and creating opportunities for our students to live and work in Maine.

He outlined three areas for improvement: remediation rates, transfer issues, and the University System’s responsiveness to business needs. UMS will partner with Maine’s community colleges to solve transfer problems between the two institutions, as well as within the universities. Pattenaude also 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 those programs.

A video of his presentation to the Legislature may be viewed at: www.maine.edu/UMSSOTUVIDEO.

UMM Hosts Fair for Elementary Students

MACHIAS – Elementary schools from Hancock and Washington Counties gathered at UMM to learn about careers



they may choose to pursue when they grow up. Representatives from over 30 companies taught the students about their daily job tasks in order to get them to start thinking about their future careers. The students from the fair agreed it was a helpful event and were encouraged to submit an essay describing what they hope to be when they grow up. A local bank will be awarding \$100 scholarships to the winners towards their future college. (Photo from WLBZ2.com)



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.

Nicole is a communications intern in the System Office. She graduates in May.

UMaine Regional Learning Center to Open at Tidewater Farm

FALMOUTH – The UMaine Regional Learning Center grand opening is scheduled for May 14, 11 a.m. at Tidewater Farm in Falmouth.

Through its Cooperative Extension programs, UMaine will offer sustainable living education programs for children, families, and home-based business owners at the new facility. The center represents an innovative public-private partnership among the UMaine, the Cumberland County Extension Association, and the Tidewater Conservation Foundation.

For more information, contact Lois Elwell at the Extension Office in Cumberland County at (800)287-1471.

UMS Commencement Calendar

Click on a university link to view complete commencement information.

May 7:

UMaine: www.umaine.edu/commencement/

UMFK: www.umfk.maine.edu/commencement/default.cf

May 14:

UMPI: www.umpi.edu/university-offices/osr/graduation

UMF:

www.umf.maine.edu/inside/events.php?eventid=42181

UMA: www.uma.edu/commencementinfo.html

USM: usm.maine.edu/commencement/

UMM: machias.edu/commencement