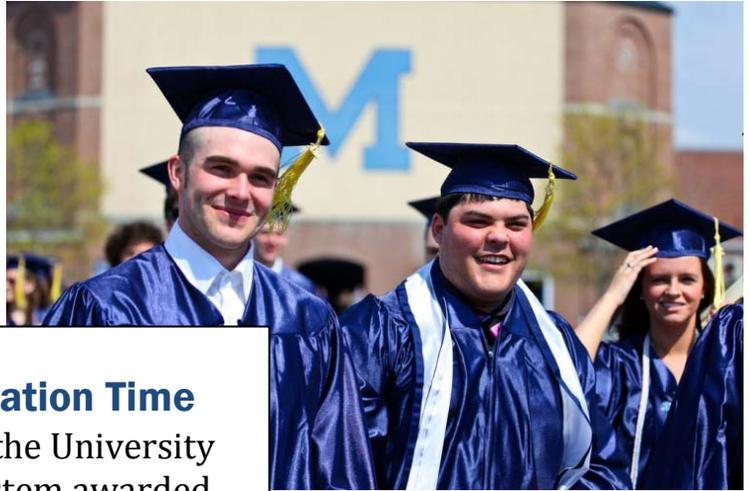


Making a Difference

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



UMA



UMaine

It's Graduation Time
This month the University of Maine System awarded 4,000 undergraduate degrees and 829 graduate, law, or doctoral degrees. Congratulations!



UMPI



UMF (up)



USM(left)



UMM



UMFK

UMaine Announces \$5 Million Gift

ORONO – A \$5 million gift from New Balance will help fund a series of UMaine programs and initiatives. The gift is the largest corporate gift in UMaine history.

The gift includes \$2 million that will be used as a challenge grant to fund renovations to its field house and the remaining \$3 million will support other university priorities including ongoing maintenance and facilities needs at the university's acclaimed Student Recreation and Fitness Center and the renovation of the Memorial Gym.

The University of Maine System Board of Trustees voted to accept the donation at its May meeting. As part of the agreement, the recreation center will be renamed "The New Balance Student Recreation and Fitness Center" and when the field house renovations are completed, that facility will be renamed as the "New Balance Field House." The New Balance name will remain on each of those facilities for 20 years.

UMS Trustees Elect Officers, Approve 2012 Budget & Tuition



Hood



Collins

BANGOR – The UMS Board of Trustees approved the lowest weighted average annual tuition rate increase in ten years—at \$311—for full-time undergraduate Maine students for the

upcoming 2011-12 academic year.

Trustees held their bi-monthly meeting at the System Office headquarters in downtown Bangor on May 22-23.

The 4.3% tuition increase represents the lowest increase since 2002. Average tuition and mandatory fees range from \$7,300 at the University of Maine at Presque Isle to \$10,588 at the UMaine. The state's flagship university in Orono continues to have the lowest in-state tuition and mandatory fees, and the second-lowest out-of-state tuition and fees, of the land grant universities in New England.

UMS officials noted that the budgets are balanced for all seven universities and the System Office, despite no budgeted increase in State appropriation and the loss of \$6.4 million in Federal 'stimulus' funds.

In other news, Trustees elected M. Michelle Hood of Bar Harbor as chair of the board and Samuel W. Collins of Caribou as vice chair. Their leadership terms began at the conclusion of the May board meeting.

"Thinking Matters" at USM



PORTLAND – USM's "Thinking Matters" featured a daylong series of events last month that showcased dozens of USM, SMCC and Maine Medical Center Research Institute student-faculty research collaborations.

Poster presentations include research on such diverse topics as the development of solar panel cookers and cell phone chargers for third-world countries to analysis of the heavy metal content of exhaust generated by the wood and pellet stoves recommended by Maine's Wood-to-Energy Taskforce.

One of the posters explained how parts of sperm whale cells can be used to assess the impacts of the Gulf Oil Spill on these creatures. This research is the result of a USM research sail to the Gulf of Mexico last summer and fall.

UMA Senior Art Exhibit

AUGUSTA – The 2011 senior art exhibition at UMA showcases 19 emerging Maine artists completing their undergraduate studies in the visual arts at UMA this year.

Entitled "[19 tangents](#)," the exhibition features independent work produced during the students' final semester in the university's baccalaureate art degree program.

As the exhibition's title suggests, "19 tangents"



presents 19 distinct perspectives reflecting the students' divergent interests and unique artistic sensibilities. The concepts explored run the gamut from personal experiences to cultural concerns, addressing human emotions, personality and identity development, family life, the passing of time, stereotypes, communication, and the impact of technology.

The exhibition runs through June 14 in UMA's Gannett Gallery.

UMFK Receives \$500K Grant for Biomass Energy Project

FORT KENT – UMFK has been awarded a grant of \$500,000 by the Maine Department of Conservation with federal stimulus funds to convert the Lodge residence hall and the Sports Center athletics complex to a multi-fuel biomass heating system.

The biomass system will provide heat for 1.75 acres of floor space and is expected to save the campus nearly \$1 million in heating costs in the next decade.

The total cost of the project is \$858,000, which includes the \$500,000 grant, university funding of \$318,000 and \$40,000 in in-kind labor contributions.

Following the conversion to the biomass boiler, UMFK expects to burn approximately 270 tons of wood pellets, annually, based on the Btu conversion, and an efficiency improvement factor.

The carbon reduction associated with the anticipated decrease of 37,292 gallons of heating oil would be approximately 378 metric tons per year.

Maine Leaders to Explore Imagination, Creativity and Economic Development

PORTLAND – USM is hosting a community conversation on how to foster the innovation and creativity needed to compete in the 21st-century global marketplace.

The event, “From Imagination to Innovation,” will be held from 7:30-9:30 a.m. on June 2 in the University Events Room of USM’s Glickman Family Library, Forest Avenue, Portland.



The [Maine Center for Creativity](#) and USM are organizing this statewide event to discuss the importance of imagination in Maine’s economic development. Participants will be asked to share their ideas about how Maine can grow.

Speakers and participants will be asked to respond to the following three questions:

- How does imagination function in your field/work/sector?
- How do you cultivate and sustain imagination in your work?
- What will it take for us to foster these practices in Maine?

Participants may register by sending an email to intern@mainecenterforcreativity.org.

UMM Features Maine Artists

MACHIAS – UMM’s Art Galleries will host a pair of Maine artists during the month of June.

Lincolntonville artist Arden Hendrie’s works on paper and panel will be on display June 1 – 30 and Jean Bookman of Lubec will display her three dimensional works June 3 – 30.



A work by Arden Hendrie

An opening reception for Hendrie’s exhibit will be held on Wednesday, June 1, while a reception for Bookman will take place Friday, June 3. Both events are free and open to the public.

The UMM Art Galleries, located on the first floor of Powers Hall, are open weekday afternoons or by appointment.

For more information, call Art Gallery Director Bernie Vinzani at 255-1279.

UMPI Students Organize Domestic Violence Training

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI students in an honors class on domestic violence recently helped to organize a training session for healthcare professionals.

Approximately 35 healthcare attendees from throughout the area participated in the training session, titled “Health Care Response to Intimate Partner Violence: Reach Out, Recognize, Respond, Refer.”

The students’ work was part of a service learning project with the [Hope and Justice Project](#), an organization that works with victims of domestic abuse and violence.

Officials from that organization told the students that they needed assistance in organizing a training session for healthcare response to domestic violence.

The Hope and Justice Project offered the actual training, but UMPI students handled the planning, logistics and registration efforts.

UMS Chancellor to Return to Teaching at the End of his Contract in 2012

BANGOR – After twenty years as a leader in the University of Maine System, Chancellor Richard L. Pattenau recently informed UMS Trustees that he will not seek an extension of his current contract which expires next year at the end of June.

Pattenau, 65, has served as Chancellor since 2007 and, prior to that served as President of the University of Southern Maine for sixteen years.

UMS Board Chair Lyndel J. Wishcamper of Freeport pointed out the many accomplishments made during the time Pattenau has served as Chancellor and said the upcoming year will provide Trustees with the opportunity to conduct a search for Pattenau's successor.

When East Meets West: Understanding the Chinese Student

ORONO – The University of Maine System is actively recruiting students from China.

As part of this, UMS held a day-long workshop on May 16 to educate faculty and staff from all seven universities about the cultural differences and experiences of Chinese students.



Employees represented a wide variety of university departments and services who will work with the incoming students, including: residence life, admissions, dining services, administration, registrar, campus police and many others.

As part of the activities participants also heard from a panel of Chinese students from Orono High School and Lee Academy who provided a perspective on their own American experiences. The workshop helped employees gain insight and will help them prepare to effectively work with the incoming Chinese student population. To learn more about the UMS China initiative, call 973-3230.



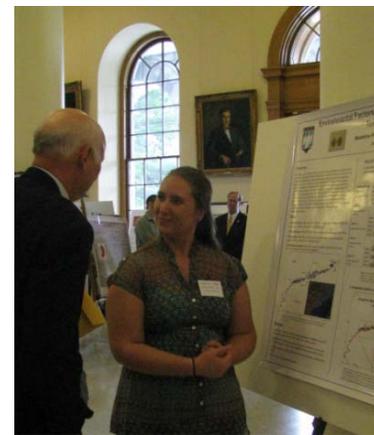
“Making A Difference” Student Editor Graduates

BANGOR – During this semester, Nicole Reiner, of Eliot, assisted in researching and editing our *Making a Difference* newsletter. Nicole was an intern in the UMS communications office in Bangor. She graduated from UMaine in May with a degree in mass communications.

Congratulations to Nicole and all 2011 graduates!

First-ever Undergraduate Research Day Takes Place at the State House

AUGUSTA – For the first time ever, students from across the System, representing all seven of our universities, participated in the State House “Undergraduate Research Day” which highlighted the wide-ranging work conducted by our students. Many legislators stopped by to meet with students from their districts and learn about their research.



Projects ranged from the recently publicized golf balls created from lobster shells, to the effects of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill chemical dispersants on the human body. Other projects focused on areas such as health care and studies on native Maine wildlife and plant species.

Across the System, students are engaged in research to improve Maine's economy and quality of life, and expand scientific knowledge, which leads to new patents, innovations and intellectual property.

UMF Celebrates Student Academic and Creative Achievements



FARMINGTON – UMF celebrated a university-wide day of student academic and creative achievement at the sixth annual Michael D. Wilson Symposium, held in early May.

The Symposium is an opportunity to spotlight the original research and scholarly work of UMF students and share it with the campus and local community. A tradition first started in 1999, UMF's Symposium brings the campus to life with the results of engaged learning, academic rigor, student-faculty collaboration and creative expression.

