



Making a Difference

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

USM Receives Grant for New Suicide Prevention Program

PORTLAND – Beginning this fall, the USM Health and Counseling Services will be implementing a new suicide prevention program called USM CARES.

USM has been awarded the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Grant for the USM CARES Suicide Prevention Program. USM CARES will provide broad-based suicide prevention initiatives for all students on USM's three campuses, with a special focus on three high-risk target groups; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning students; Veteran students; and Native American students.

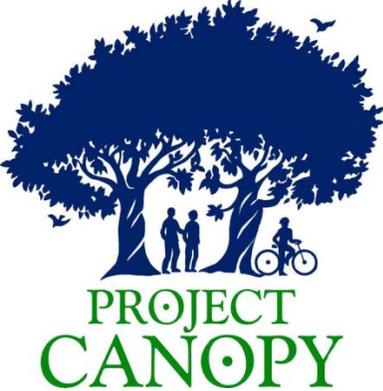
USM CARES is made up of three main initiatives: building a Student Support Network through student training sessions; distress and suicide prevention training for faculty and staff; and development of web-based services in the form of an Interactive Screening Program.

For more information on the USM CARES Suicide Prevention Program, call the Counseling Services at 780-4050.

UMFK & Town of Fort Kent Receive 100 Donated Trees

FORT KENT – The Town of Fort Kent and UMFK will receive nearly 100 trees this month, all free of charge, thanks to Project Canopy, the Maine Forest Service's community tree program, and through the generosity of a Maine greenhouse and nursery.

The town and the university applied for the trees in a joint effort both to obtain the free trees for planting in town and on campus, but also as a training and educational opportunity for UMFK Forestry and Environmental Studies students. The students and the Town of Fort Kent will work together to maintain and monitor the trees' progression.



UMF Gives Back On National Student Day



Sun Journal Photo

FARMINGTON – UMF took part in the annual National Student Day with a Cram-the-Van event on October 6. National Student Day celebrates and promotes social responsibility among students across North America.

The UMF Cram-the-Van event asked students, faculty, staff and members of the local community to bring non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to help fill a van. All items collected that day were donated to local food pantries to help make a difference in the local community and to honor the day's motto of "study-serve-celebrate."

UMaine Receives \$3 Million Grant for Innovation Engineering Project

ORONO – The Blackstone Charitable Foundation has given a \$3 million grant to help start the Blackstone Accelerates Growth program in Maine.

The grant will fund several collaborative efforts, including the expansion of innovation engineering offerings through UMaine's Foster Center for Student Innovation. These opportunities will be available to UMaine students, as well as students at other Maine colleges and universities who are interested in UMaine's Innovation Engineering curriculum. The grant will also help Maine's entrepreneurial community create more innovative companies and jobs.

More than 400 students will receive funding to take the innovation and entrepreneurship courses that will initially be based at the UMaine Foster Center, but will spread to the rest of the UMaine System by next fall.

UM Cooperative Extension's Senior Companion Program Celebrates 30 years

ORONO – The UMaine Cooperative Extension's Senior Companion Program is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

The Senior Companion Program allows homebound elders to stay in their own homes longer thanks to regular visits from Senior Companions, who are dedicated, active individuals age 55 and older. The program currently serves 14 of Maine's 16 counties and has an average of 124 companions who serve 522 clients.

To learn more about the Senior Companion Program, call Ann Swain at 581-3326 or visit <http://umaine.edu/seniorcompanion/>.



Photo: Edwin Remsberg

CNN Hero Wynona Ward Discussed Domestic Violence at UMM

MACHIAS – UMM hosted CNN Hero and domestic violence road warrior Wynona Ward on October 24 for a talk titled, "Beyond Awareness: Community Response to Domestic Violence."

Ward spoke about her experiences growing up with family violence, her decision to attend law school, and why she started Have Justice – Will Travel, Inc., a mobile clinic that provides assistance for victims of domestic violence. She also serves as an inspirational speaker for local and national conferences and events.

In 2010, Ward was recognized as a Hero of the Week by CNN Television for her work to end the generational cycle of abuse in rural families by bridging the legal, cultural, geographical, psychological, and economic gaps that exist for victims of domestic abuse.

Organizers collected donations of pillows, diapers, and hygiene products for the Next Step Domestic Violence Project. For more information about Have Justice – Will Travel, Inc., visit <http://havejusticewilltravel.org/>.



UMF Presents "Teaching and Working in a Diverse World" Conference

FARMINGTON – UMF presented its fourth annual "Teaching and Working in a Diverse World" conference. This conference was held October 21 at selected venues on the UMF campus.



This educational forum began with a keynote address by Stephen Wessler, founder and former executive director of the Center for Preventing Hate. Wessler's talk, "The Power of Words to Hurt and Heal: Creating Safe and Respectable Schools," will address the pervasive use of degrading language in schools, its serious impact and skills for responding to and preventing hate in schools.

Following the keynote address, a series of informational sessions, films and discussions helped educators learn how to promote equality in the learning environment.

For more information on the conference, visit: <http://teachereducation.umf.maine.edu/diversity-conference/2011-2012/>

UMFK Features Collective Unconscious

Fort Kent – UMFK's Blake Library Gallery is currently featuring artwork by student artist Mira Michaud. The exhibition "Collective Unconsciousness" will be on display through October 28.

Michaud has been painting and creating pieces of art since a very young age. She has always painted landscapes and still life paintings in oils, but for the last two years she has become a painter of abstract expressionism.



Michaud's exhibit may be viewed during regular library hours. For more information on the exhibit, call Sofia Birden at 834-7527.

UMPI Hosts Discussion on Maine's Sustainability Solutions Initiative

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI hosted Dr. David Hart, Director of the Senator George J. Mitchell Center and the Research Leader for Maine's Sustainability Solutions Initiative, as part of its 2011-2012 University Distinguished Lecturer Series.

Dr. Hart spoke about Maine's Sustainability Solutions Initiative: Linking Knowledge with Action to Create a Brighter Economic, Social and Environmental Future. He discussed how the Sustainability Solutions Initiative (SSI) is helping Maine's universities and colleges to better develop – in collaboration with Maine communities – real-world solutions for key sustainability issues in the state.

SSI is funded in part by a \$20 million, five-year National Science Foundation EPSCoR grant. SSI is an innovative program in which Maine's universities and colleges are drawing upon the power of partnerships to help create new and better jobs, strengthen communities and protect the environment. For more information about Maine's Sustainability Solutions Initiative, call Dr. Hart at 581-3257.

i'm meSSi!
maine's sustainability solutions initiative

USM Offers Workshops on Receiving Credit for Life Experience

PORTLAND – USM is hosting two workshops to give those interested in pursuing a college degree the opportunity to find out if they can earn college credit for knowledge and skills gained outside the classroom.

Attendees will find out more about earning academic credit for previous work and related experience through the Prior Learning Assessment program. This program offers students many services, such as academic portfolio assessment, standardized tests, language examinations, and military credit evaluation.

The first workshop was held on October 18, but the second workshop will be held on October 24 at USM's Portland campus. The workshops are free and open to the public. To register for this event, call Joyce Lapping at 780-4867.

UMA's Forum on the Future: Health Care in America

AUGUSTA – On November 7, T.R. Reid, author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*, will be speaking on health care in America as part of UMA's year-long Forum On the Future.

Reid has become a nationally renowned reporter through his books and articles, his documentary films, his reporting for the *Washington Post*, and his commentaries on NPR's *Morning Edition*. After writing *Healing in America*, he has become one of the nation's most influential experts on health care reform.

This event will take place in UMA's Jewett Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. All Forum on the Future events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 621-3479.



UMaine Receives Funding for First Generation College Student Support

ORONO – UMaine has been awarded a second year's funding in a five-year grant to assist 400 first-generation, low-income students and students with disabilities to pursue UMaine bachelor's degrees. These students are among the students at highest risk for not completing bachelor's degrees.

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Programs has provided \$561,225 this year to the TRiO Student Support Services Program at UMaine, allowing them to provide a wide array of services that increase retention and graduation rates for targeted students.

Students in the TRiO Program will have access to academic skills-building services, financial aid counseling, financial literacy workshops, financial aid grants, individualized academic and career planning services, peer mentoring, and other services designed to help assure their success at UMaine.

For more information about UMaine's TRiO-SSS program, visit: www.umaine.edu/ss.



Nine Maine State Prison Inmates Receive Degrees from UMA

AUGUSTA – On October 19, a commencement ceremony took place at the Maine State Prison for nine inmates who earned UMA degrees from a Maine State Prison college program. Three of the men received bachelor's degrees and the other six men earned associate's degrees.

Eight out of the nine students graduated with honors, with the average GPA in this group of students



being 3.5. According to Jonathan Henry, UMA's Dean of Enrollment Services, these students showed unwavering dedication to their studies that surpassed that of the average college student. The students are limited to their textbooks and the prison library for learning tools, as they do not have access to the Internet or computers.

The program offers certain inmates UMA classes after they have proved through their behavior and applications that they truly want to work towards a college degree. The program is entirely supported by Doris Buffett's Sunshine Lady Foundation.

Meet the Editor



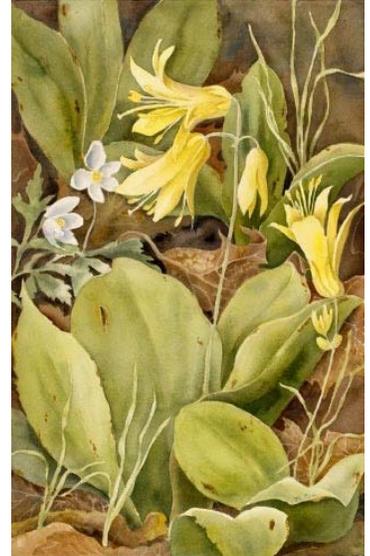
BANGOR – This issue of Making a Difference was researched, designed, and edited by Jessica Eames, of Carrabassett Valley, Maine. Jessica is a UMaine senior majoring in communications.

Jessica is a communications intern in the University of Maine System Office. She graduates in May.

UMM Art Galleries Presents Marilyn Carr

MACHIAS – The Art Galleries at UMM are currently displaying paintings by the late Marilyn Carr, through November 11.

A graduate of UMM, Carr exhibited in numerous galleries both in Maine and on the Caribbean island of Nevis, where she and her husband spent their winters, before her death in 2009. Her work is also part of many private and corporate collections.



The UMM Art Galleries is open weekday afternoons from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

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

UMPI Faculty Noon Seminar Series Returns for Fall 2011

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI's Faculty Noon Seminar Series returns for the Fall 2011 semester with presentations on everything from climate change in Central Asia and the Chinese public education system to research on branchiobdellidans and slave hiring in Antebellum Virginia.

Seminars will be held on the final Thursday of every month from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Normal Hall Faculty Lounge, unless otherwise noted.

The series kicked off on October 28 with a presentation by Professor Huijun Gao titled Synopsis of the Chinese Public Education System. Gao is the Vice Dean in the Department of Public Administration at Communication University of China in Beijing. The next seminar will be held on October 28.

The purpose of the Faculty Noon Seminar Series is to foster awareness of research and teaching activities taking place on campus and to provide a forum for dissemination between faculty members. The series also offers the opportunity to network and encourage transdisciplinary scholarly activity. For more information about the Faculty Noon Seminar Series, call Charles Johnson at 768-9598.