

USM Nursing Program Opens New Simulation Center

PORTLAND – The USM School of Nursing's new Learning Resources and Simulation Center is using computerized, robotic mannequins to help simulate a hospital unit and give students the chance to get as close as possible to the real thing before they begin their clinical placements.



The new Simulation Center has four patient rooms and control centers. One-way glass allows for viewing of the scenarios by students and faculty who now have the capability to record or show live simulations as they occur in a new debriefing room.

Research has shown that nursing students who engage in simulation instruction have greater retention of knowledge and skills and demonstrate more self-confidence.

The Simulation Center was made possible through a federal earmark of \$775,000 secured by Senators Collins and Snowe and Congresswoman Pingree. For more information about the new Learning Resources and Simulation Center, call Janis Childs at 780-4063.

UMPI Students Host 14th Fit and Fun Day

PRESQUE ISLE – Fit and Fun Day returned for its 14th semi-annual event on November 19. Fit and Fun Day is designed to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles for local children. UMPI Physical Education students facilitated the activities and provided instruction throughout the day. The University's Athletic Training staff and students were on site as first aid responders.

Fit and Fun Day was free and open to local children in grades 1 through 5 and educated them about a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. The children worked their minds and bodies in a fun learning environment participating in activities that promoted both individual and team building skills.

4-H Program Inspires Students' Sustainability Projects

ORONO – UMaine's Cooperative Extension has received renewed funding for a 4-H program that has introduced hundreds of middle and high school students to service-learning, sustainability and, ultimately, leadership toward those ends.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture recently allocated \$140,000, the third installment of a five-year, \$660,000 grant-funded 4-H project. The grant focuses on "at risk" youth in schools and school districts with high eligibility rates for the National School Lunch program.

During the typical two- to three-day camp experience, 4-H staff and teachers guide students



though a facilitated process where they're asked how they would make life better in their community. Then they create an action plan.

For more information on the UM Cooperative Extension 4- H Program, visit <http://umaine.edu/4h/>.

UMFK, MSAD 27 Receive \$2.6M For Biomass System

FORT KENT – UMFK and MSAD 27 have received a \$2.6 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to construct a biomass heating system to heat 11 buildings on the UMFK and Fort Kent Community High School campuses.

The project is expected to save the two institutions more than \$4 million in energy costs during the next 10 years. UMFK and MSAD 27 partnered together, in an extension of their joint five-year-old College Community Project, to apply for, and develop, the environmentally-friendly initiative.

The district heating plant will have many positive aspects to it, including lower fuel costs by up to 80%, stabilize fuel prices, stimulate the local economy, enhance environmental sustainability, and is expected to save the campus nearly \$1 million in the next decade.

UMA's "Expanded" Jazz Week

AUGUSTA – This fall's UMA's Jazz Week will take place from November 28 through December 3. All concerts and performances will be held in Jewett Auditorium and are free to the public.



For this upcoming Jazz Week, UMA has expanded its offering beyond Jazz. The Music Program's dynamic expansion into popular music

will be particularly evident in Friday night's show, which features the new indie-rock Contemporary Sounds group, the Progressive Rock group, and the always-powerful jazz/funk/rock Fusion Ensemble.

Other highlights during the week include the irresistible energy of the Latin Jazz Ensemble; new Music Program Coordinator Tim Weir's Large Jazz Ensemble; the En Route Standards Ensemble; and long-time favorites, Jazz on Tour and the Envok Vocal quintet. Additional instrumental and vocal ensembles round out the week.

For more information on UMA's Jazz Week, please call 621-3272.

UMF's Visiting Writers Series Featured NY Times Editor's Choice Award Winning Author Lily King

FARMINGTON – UMF's Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program presented award-winning author Lily King as the most recent writer in its 2011-12 Visiting Writers Series. King read from her work on November 17.

King is the author of three award – winning books, along with several other short works. Her first novel, "The Pleasing Hour," won the Barnes and Noble Award, was a New York Times Notable Book and an alternate for the PEN/Hemingway Award. Her other two books "The English Teacher" and "Father of the Rain" each won several prestigious awards.



In addition, King has received a MacDowell Fellowship and a Whiting Award.

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UMPI & CRTC Sign Criminal Justice Articulation Agreement

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI and the Caribou Regional Technology Center have signed an articulation agreement that will allow Aroostook County students to earn college credit for the high school level criminal justice classes they take at CRTC, and get a head start on a criminal justice degree from the university.

Students who take part in CRTC's criminal justice program and receive at least 85% as a final grade will have three elective criminal justice credits transferred to UMPI to be applied toward their bachelor's or associate's degree in criminal justice.



CRTC & UMPI officials at an event announcing the agreement

The center's criminal justice program was the only one of its kind at the high school level in Aroostook County until this year.

Students from high schools in Caribou, Presque Isle, Limestone, Fort

Fairfield, Easton, Washburn and Ashland are able to take advantage of this CRTC program.

For more information about the articulation agreement and UMPI and CRTC's Criminal Justice offerings, call Reed Nonken at 493-4270.

Trustees Approve New UMA Bachelor of Architecture Program

PORTLAND – At its November 14 meeting, the UMS Board of Trustees approved UMA's proposal to establish a bachelor of architecture program.

UMA currently offers a four-year bachelor of arts in architecture, where graduates interested in becoming architects must then earn a master's degree (none offered in Maine) before going on to a three year architecture apprenticeship and then finally the taking of licensing exams.

The new program is a five year professional degree that allows graduates to go right to the three-year apprenticeship without needing to pursue a master's.

The UMA bachelor of architecture degree would be the first such program offered in Maine and all of northern New England. The closest public institution offering this degree is located in New York City. UMA expects to begin admitting students in the fall of 2013.

UMM Receives Grant to Increase Access to Early College

MACHIAS – UMM received a \$15,000 grant to expand its early college services for area high school students. The Maine Community Foundation and Common Good Ventures awarded the grant as part of the Program for Nonprofit Effectiveness, a partnership currently focused on increasing access to post-secondary education for Mainers.

The program aims to encourage Washington County youth to consider college as an option after high school graduation and to help students get a head start on their college careers.

The Program for Nonprofit Effectiveness provides technical and financial assistance to organizations seeking ways to deliver their programs or services more effectively and to increase their social impact.

UMM joins Franklin County Community College and The Telling Room as new partners in the Program for Nonprofit Effectiveness. Each organization will receive funding from the Maine Community Foundation and dedicated management coaching from Common Good Ventures.

For more information on UMM's Early College Program, visit www.machias.edu/early-college

USM's Third Annual "Civic Matters"

PORTLAND – A showcase of how students apply what they are learning in the classroom to community projects, the third annual USM "Civic Matters," was held November 18 at USM's Portland campus.

The focus of the 2011 "Civic Matters" was how service learning and civic engagement are essential to the transition of a student from the classroom to the real world. Community service learning is a movement across higher education that combines learning with community service work.

2011 "Civic Matters" included 20 poster presentations and 4 oral sessions. Some poster presentations are the direct result of in-class projects, such as one which investigated the presence of indoor air pollution caused by wood burning stoves, the difference between cord wood, wood pellets and Biobricks, and preventive measures families can take to avoid indoor air pollution.

Organizers report that in and out of the classroom, civic engagement reinvigorates the public purpose and civic mission of higher education. "Civic Matters" celebrates community-engaged work across USM that enriches student learning and addresses community-identified needs.

UMaine Computer Engineering Students Tops in International Competition

ORONO – UMaine computing engineering students recently placed first and second in the Northeastern United States in an international programming competition, and in the top 100 of 1,500 teams from around the world.

Three teams from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering participated in the fifth IEEEExtreme International Programming contest in late October. Competition results revealed that two of the



UMaine teams won first and second places in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics

Engineers (IEEE) Region 1, which includes Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York.

The contest had more than 4,000 students from more than 65 countries participating this year. Teams have 24 hours to solve 15 questions dealing with topics like optimization, spatial movement and other computer algorithms. Teams are ranked on the number of questions solved and the time taken to solve them. For more information on the competition, visit <http://engineering.umaine.edu/>.

UMFK Photography Club Exhibition

FORT KENT – An exhibit of photographic works by members of UMFK's Photography club is on display in the Blake Library Gallery through November 28.

The Photography Club is comprised of UMFK students, faculty, alum, as well as community members. The exhibition is an insider's look at each individual's experience as a photographer.

The Photography Club's mission is to spread the enthusiasm of photography by creating a welcoming venue, where community members can assemble to share the passion for photography

For more information on the exhibit, call Sofia Birden at 834-7527.



Photographer Kaitlyn Martin, a 4th grade student at Madawaska Elementary School

Harvest for Hunger Collects 140 Tons of Garden Produce, Surpassing 2011 Goal

ORONO – At this year’s [Harvest for Hunger](#) campaign, volunteer gardeners from around the state donated more than 140 tons of garden produce to charity, which exceeded their goal of 250,000 pounds.

Nearly 500 volunteer gardeners in about a dozen counties this year donated fresh fruits and vegetables to 114 food pantries, shelters or charitable organizations around the state. This year the value of the produce equaled \$473,328. The number of participants more than doubled from 200 in 2010 and the number of organizations benefiting from the gardeners’ generosity more than tripled, from 45 last year.

UMS Trustees Review Enrollments—Community College Transfers Up 5%

PORTLAND – UMS Trustees met in Portland at USM on November 14 and 15.

As part of the meeting, Trustees received a report on fall 2011 student enrollments across the System. A total of 31,108 students are enrolled at Maine’s public universities.

Overall baccalaureate level enrollment at the System is relatively flat in comparison to last year. However, the number of community college students transferring to the System continues to grow. The system saw more than a five percent increase over last year’s transfer numbers.

It was also noted that Maine students make up 88% of the student body.

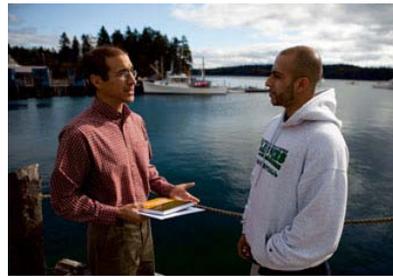
UMF Authorized to Offer Computer-Based Teacher Certification Exams

FARMINGTON – The UMF Testing Services, a facility offering professional and educational certification, placement tests and proctoring services, has recently received approval to administer the computer-based Praxis Series exams. With this endorsement, UMF becomes the only testing facility in western Maine, and one of only four centers in the state, to offer the computer-based Praxis I and Praxis II exams.

These exams are taken by individuals in the teaching profession as part of the licensing and certification process. For more information, call Susan Ronald at 778 - 7666.

UMM Offers New “Green” Degree Options

MACHIAS – To prepare students for careers in the emerging green economy, UMM is offering several new academic programs in environmental stewardship and sustainability.



A certificate in sustainability, a minor in sustainability management, and a concentration in outdoor and environmental education are being

offered for the first time this fall.

These join an already wide scope of environmentally focused curriculum options, such as majors in environmental studies and in environmental recreation & tourism management.

The new programs address a growing demand by employers for graduates with specialized training in sustainability and environmental education. Both of these sustainability programs prepare students for a variety of careers as sustainability managers, sustainability coordinators, corporate sustainability officers, green business consultants, sustainability analysts, and other emerging “green-collar” jobs.

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.

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