

UMaine Nursing Students to Take Part in Belize Public Service Outreach

ORONO – UMaine nursing students are participating in a Spring Break public health, service-learning mission with underprivileged families in and around Belize City in Central America.



After orientation and field training upon arrival in Belize, the UMaine students will set out in teams for towns and villages to conduct community health surveys to assess health services needs among villagers.

Those identified as in need of medical care will be invited to a clinic staffed and supervised by licensed medical professionals. Students will rotate through patient intake, triage, examination, diagnosis, treatment, and pharmacy stations.

Students have set up a web site for blog posts: <http://umainenursinginbelize.blogspot.com/>.

UMPI Announces Development of New Physical Therapist Assistant Program

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI is helping to expand options for residents who want to pursue healthcare careers by developing a Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program. When it is accredited, the program would be one of two PTA programs available in the state of Maine.

At this stage in the process, UMPI's PTA Associate of Science degree program is considered a developing program. UMPI has begun working with area hospitals to develop partnerships and collaborations with the program, and hospital officials say they are excited about seeing this program come to northern Maine.

The university is hopeful that they will receive permission to begin the professional phase of the program by summer 2012, which would allow for UMPI to begin offering courses in Fall 2012. To learn more about the PTA program, please contact Christopher Rolon at 768-9542 or christopher.rolon@umpi.edu.

Finalists Named in Chancellor Search

BANGOR – Three candidates have been selected as finalists for the University of Maine System Chancellor. Earlier this year, current Chancellor Richard Pattenaude announced [his intention to step down](#) by the end of June 2012. Pattenaude has served as Chancellor since 2007.

Eleanor Baker of Cape Elizabeth and Gregory Johnson of Harpswell, co-chairs of the search committee and members of the UMS Board of Trustees, recently made the announcement.

The three candidates, in alphabetical order, are:

Meredith Hay is currently special advisor to the chair of the Arizona Board of Regents for Strategic Initiatives and professor of physiology at the University of Arizona's (UA) College of Medicine, and formerly held vice president level positions at UA, the University of Iowa, and the University of Missouri System.

James Page is currently principal and chief executive officer of the James W. Sewall Company and adjunct associate professor at the UMaine's Department of Philosophy, and formerly, president, and senior vice president and chief operating officer of the Sewall Company.

Rebecca Wyke is currently vice chancellor for finance and administration at the University of Maine System, and formerly commissioner of the State of Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services and chief deputy secretary of state for the State of Maine.

Campus visits by each individual are scheduled to take place between January 17 and 20. Additional information about the candidates and schedules for campus visits may be found at www.maine.edu/UMSchancellorsearch.

UMF Student Scholars Named

FARMINGTON – Eleven UMF students were recently named fall 2011 Michael D. Wilson Research Scholars and Fellows by the UMF Undergraduate Research Council.

The program connects faculty mentors with student scholars to connect the practical



application of what they're learning in the classroom and to open new doors to professional networking, graduate school, and future employment.

This semester's projects support student scholarship from Speck Pond, in Maine, to the University of Stellenbosch, in South Africa, and include topics regarding: pond dynamics and water chemistry, language policy in South Africa, underdevelopment in the Moosehead Lake region, and the role of invasive species in the transmission of infectious diseases.

Awardees include: Sara Adams, Lisbon Falls; Jonathan Boynton, Greenville; Grady Burns, Auburn; Zachary Giroux, Troy, N.H.; Skylar Hopkins, Hudson; Sebastian Jackson, Bingham; Thomas Kilcoyne, Augusta; Jordan LeGrand, Rome; CeCelia Palow, Southwest Harbor; Ryan Verrill, Belgrade and Megan Whitman, South Paris.

UMA Forum on the Future Rescheduled

AUGUSTA – The next UMA Forum on the Future event, featuring Habib Dagher on Energy, Economic Growth and Jobs, has been rescheduled to January 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Dagher is a UMaine professor and founding director of the interdisciplinary Advanced Structures and Composites Center.

This will be the third such forum since the year-long public policy speaker series was launched by UMA earlier this fall.

Co-sponsored by UMA's Senior College and College of Arts and Sciences, Forum on the Future events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.uma.edu/forumonthefuture>.



2nd Annual VEX Robotics Tournament

GORHAM – Thirty middle and high school teams competed to determine who created the best robot at the Second Annual Southern Maine VEX Tournament held December 3 at the USM in Gorham.

With guidance from their teachers and mentors, student teams aim to build the most innovative robots possible to complete a task revealed each year. The task changes, but the goal is the same: get the most points possible. This year, the game consisted of dunking cylinders and balls into various goals.

Each team started with the VEX Robotics Design System, a kit intended to introduce students to the world of robotics. The tournaments then engage students in a competitive learning environment. Through participation, students are given a hands-on learning opportunity in science, technology, engineering and math. But teamwork, problem solving and time management skills are also integral to building a successful robot.

For more information on this competition, call Kathy Barber at 233-3513.

UM Researchers Awarded Grant to Study Red Tide Effects

ORONO – A team of researchers is investigating methods that would provide early warning detection of toxic Alexandrium blooms, also known as red tides, in the Gulf of Maine. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced the anticipated three-year, \$574,028 project.

Some species of this algae produce toxins that can become concentrated in shellfish tissue. Eating shellfish tainted with these toxins can lead to paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), a potentially fatal human illness.

The research will allow scientists to detect and measure levels of toxic Alexandrium cells in water samples, providing Maine officials with an early warning of increased potential of PSP contamination in shellfish.

This project was funded through a national competition of NOAA's Monitoring and Event Response of Harmful Algae Blooms program. Research will be carried out at UM with research partners at the Maine Department of Marine Resources Biotxin Monitoring program. For more information on this project, contact Laurie Connell at laurie.connell@umit.maine.edu.



UMFK Blake Library Gallery Features Work by Art Students

FORT KENT – During the months of December and January, UMFK fall semester art students will have their art work on display at UMFK’s Blake Library Gallery.

In December, the gallery will showcase students’ work from Art 451 Painting. This exhibit, “In the Material,” will display completed works of art in pastels, oils, acrylics, and graphite.



During the fall semester, each student in the painting class was asked to choose one of four mediums: watercolors, pastels, oils, or acrylics. The students were directed to explore the medium of their choice, the color and what the material could do.

January will showcase students’ work from Art 200 Fundamentals of Art. This exhibit will present students’ work, which represents such techniques as linoleum prints, blind gesture drawing, positive/negative space in drawing, grid drawing, and more.

For exhibit hours, call Sofia Birden at 834-7527.

USM Offering \$1 Million in New Scholarships

PORTLAND – In response to increasing college costs, USM will be awarding an additional \$1 million in new scholarships to high school students who demonstrate academic achievement and promise. USM is funding the scholarships through internal reallocation of resources.

The \$1 million in new aid will allow USM to provide scholarships to approximately 83 high school seniors who enroll in the fall of 2012. The additional \$1 million represents a more than 15 percent increase in the \$7 million of university financial aid available for current students.

The undergraduate scholarships, which will be awarded for a total of four years as long as recipients meet academic standards, range anywhere from \$2,000 to \$13,000 per year for Maine students and out-of-state students.

Criteria include class rank, and SAT or ACT scores, and financial need. Two of the awards also are intended for members of a minority or first-generation college students. Approximately 85 percent of USM’s first-time, full-time students receive financial aid, including grants, loans, work-study funds and scholarships.

UMPI offers January Term on trial basis

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI is offering its first ever J-Term – January Term – to see if there is interest from its student population and the greater community in providing a short class term between the fall and spring semesters.

The university has added these non-traditional schedules strategically to encourage more people to pursue their degrees and allow students to stay on track and complete their degrees in a shorter period of time.

Courses to be offered as part of UMPI’s J-Term include the Criminal Justice course Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Delinquency, the History course World Civilization I, the Math course Basic Statistics, the Political Science course American Government, and the Art course Experience of the Arts. All of these courses are online offerings.

The J-Term will take place between Dec. 19 and Jan. 13. Courses will be four weeks in length.

For more information about the J-Term, or to sign-up for classes, contact the Office of Student Records at 768-9607.

UMM Receives Grant to Increase Access to Early College



MACHIAS – UMM has 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.

Since UMM launched its Early College Program in 2004, high school students have taken more than 700 college courses through the campus. 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.

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.

UMaine to Administer Sen. Margaret Chase Smith's Skowhegan Library

SKOWHEGAN – The Margaret Chase Smith Foundation has announced that it has entered into an agreement with UMaine under which, beginning January 1, 2012, UMaine will administer the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan on behalf of the foundation.

Since its opening in 1982, the library has been operated under the auspices of Northwood University of Midland, Michigan. The Margaret Chase Smith Library is recognized as one of the premier Congressional research libraries in the United States. It has a three-fold mission of serving as an archive, museum, and educational and public policy center.

For additional information, visit: www.mcslibrary.org.



Low Named UMS Govt. & External Affairs Liaison

BANGOR – Chancellor Pattenaude recently appointed former Maine state official Ryan Low as

UMS Executive Director of Governmental & External Affairs.

On January 1 Low will step into a role held by John Lisnik, of Presque Isle, who is retiring after 21 years as the UMS government relations liaison. In addition to government relations, Low will also oversee the System's public and media relations efforts.

Low has worked at the University of Maine at Farmington as Vice President of Administration and Chief Financial Officer since July 2010.

Meet the Outgoing Editor

BANGOR – During the fall 2011 semester, *Making a*



Difference was researched, designed, and edited by Jessica Eames, of Carrabassett Valley, Maine.

Jessica is a UMaine senior majoring in communications.

Jessica spent the semester as a communications intern in the University of Maine System Office. She graduates in May.

URock Special Ed Certification Session Planned

ROCKLAND – People interested in becoming certified as special education teachers in Maine are invited to participate in a video conference information session at URock on December 19, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The program will discuss opportunities for special education certification made available by UMM in collaboration with University College and UMA.

As part of the agreement, students will enroll in UMA's Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree program while completing all of the courses (including student teaching) that are required to be fully certified by the Maine Department of Education.

Courses in the program are available online and through a variety of distance learning modalities. For more information contact University College at Rockland at 596-6906 or 800-286-1594 or visit www.learn.maine.edu/rockland.

Cooperative Extension Offers Holiday Tree Cutting, Balsam Tips Care & Advice

ORONO – Many people enjoy the tradition of heading out with the family to cut their own or buy a freshly cut tree. Buying a tree from a local tree farm helps the local economy, and the environmental impact of tree farms is substantial.

While aesthetics are important, safety is more so, if a tree stand dries up the circulatory system for a tree, dries up and seals itself, preventing water



absorption from that point on. Some trees can require as much as two liters of water a day.

Before setting the tree in its stand, use a utility knife to cut a beveled edge around the trunk of the tree exposing cambium layer, then fill the stand with hot water – not quite boiling – for its first watering. This stimulates the capillary action and trees begin drawing water.

A [Cooperative Extension online video](#) has advice for sustainably harvesting balsam fir tips for wreath-making.