

Making a Difference

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



UMaine Receives Funding for Beach Monitoring

ORONO—UMaine's Cooperative Extension has received funding from the Maine Department of Environmental

Protection to continue the Maine Healthy Beaches (MHB) Program, an effort to monitor water quality and protect public health on Maine's coastal beaches.

As part of this, Maine receives \$256,000 annually. The Maine DEP manages the program, and Cooperative Extension is granted \$188,912 to coordinate the program. The unique partnership also involves municipalities, state parks, other state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizen volunteers.

The MHB Program has developed field, database, and laboratory protocols to ensure the quality of the data collected. Routine monitoring data is used to notify the public of water quality conditions and to identify potential pollution problems. Sanitary surveys and special studies are implemented in coastal watersheds for beaches with chronic bacteria issues.

UMF Honored for Clean Energy Efforts

FARMINGTON—UMF's Sustainable Campus Coalition (SCC) was recently recognized by Maine Congressman Michael H. Michaud and the U.S. House of Representatives for efforts in making a clean energy campus a reality.

The University's SCC, a group of students, faculty, staff, and community members that promote environmental sustainability on campus and in the area community, was applauded by the legislative record for its collaborative efforts towards a clean energy future.

Also noted were UMF's finalization of an ambitious roadmap to carbon neutrality by 2035 and President Theo Kalikow's leadership in guiding the campus towards energy solutions that reduce greenhouse gases and long-term energy costs.

Developed by the SCC at little to no cost to the university, UMF's Climate Action Plan identifies a number of strategies to reduce carbon emissions, including implementing energy efficient behavior and policies, ensuring future structures conform to LEED standards and investing in the use of renewable energy.

USM Students Join High School Students to Celebrate Black History Month

PORTLAND—In celebration of Black History Month, USM Multicultural Student Affairs and high school students from the award-winning WMPG Blunt Youth Radio Project hosted an evening of readings and performances.

Using Martin Luther King Jr.'s concept of "The Beloved Community," high school students promoted non-violence through spoken word, dance, and musical performances.

As part of the evening, local area high schools, civil rights teams, Maine Interface Youth, and community leaders performed and participated in discussions about Portland's diverse communities. USM's Youth Writing Project shared examples of stories school children wrote in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, and Sudanese students from Casco Bay High School showed a PSA and video documentary they produced.



Seaweed and Ledges
by Sara Faragher

Art Galleries to Exhibit Paintings by Addison Native

MACHIAS—The Art Galleries at the UMM campus will feature the paintings of Addison native Sarah Faragher through March 26, in an exhibit titled, Margins of Safety.

Faragher was born in Bar Harbor, grew up in Addison, and now calls the Midcoast region her home. An accomplished painter, she is also the owner of Sarah's Books, a shop of used and rare books, located in Stockton Springs.

Margins of Safety, explores the edges of long-familiar landscapes. According to Faragher, a margin can be an edge and the area near it; a margin of safety is the amount allowed beyond what is needed, past a break-even point. Many of the paintings in the exhibit depict landscapes in Washington County and areas around the Penobscot Bay.

The UMM Art Galleries are open weekday afternoons from 1 – 5 p.m. or by appointment by calling 255-1279. For more information, visit www.sarahfaragher.com.



Colorful masks on display as part of the Acadian Archives Mardi Gras exhibit.

UMFK Acadian Archives feature exhibit on Mardi Gras

FORT KENT—The story of an extraordinary tradition is dynamically told in a new exhibition entitled “Mardi Gras Remembered” on display now at the UMFK Acadian Archives/Archives Acadiennes. The exhibit runs through the month of April.

A special opening ceremony took place on Sunday, February 14, prior to the start of the annual Fiddlers’ Jamboree.

The exhibit is filled with amazing masks, with the traditional New Orleans Mardi Gras colors: purple, green and gold, colorful costumes, and displays representing Le Carnaval de Québec in Canada; Carnaval de Rio in Rio De Janeiro; Carnaval de Nice, France; Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana; Cajun Mardi Gras; Carnival of Venice, Italy and Mardi Gras in the St. John Valley. Each display traces the ancient origins of Mardi Gras to the present day. Visitors may also view a video filmed during the Carnaval de Québec.

For more information, contact Anne Chamberland at 834-8631 or Lise Pelletier at 834-7536.

UMaine & Waterville Company Partners on New Paper-Making Technology

ORONO—The paper-making industry in Maine and beyond will benefit from a new technology commercialization arrangement between UMaine and Cerealus Holdings LLC of Waterville.

Based on technology covered by five U.S. patents, Ceregel™ is a new retention technology that involves the production and application of “superstarch” molecules. The process makes paper stronger and better able to retain fine particles, allowing for greater efficiencies, lower costs, and reduced raw material losses.

Cerealus Holdings, founded in 2004, is a product development and technology commercialization enterprise. Under a licensing agreement signed Feb. 3, Cerealus will commercialize the technology and UMaine will provide technical assistance.

The Waterville company collaborates with academic and industrial partners to develop a diverse range of biopolymer based sustainable solutions for current and emerging opportunities in a variety of industries.

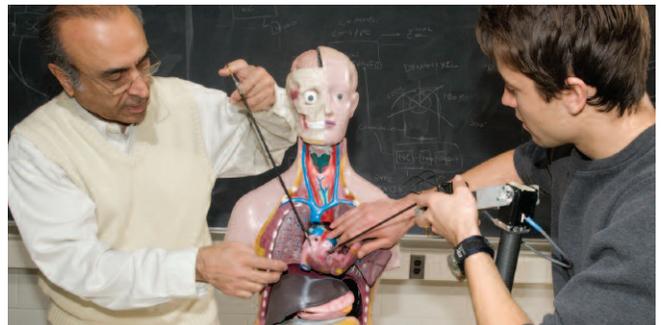
To learn more about Cerealus Holdings or to find further contact information, visit <http://www.cerealus.com>.

UMF Visiting Writers Series Features Award Winning Poet

FARMINGTON—Bringing some of America's most important writers to campus, the UMF Visiting Writers Series kicked-off the spring semester in mid-February with a reading by award-winning poet Chad Davidson.

His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in AGNI, Doubletake, Paris Review, Prairie Schooner, Shenandoah, Virginia Quarterly Review and others. Davidson teaches literature and creative writing at the University of West Georgia near Atlanta.

The UMF program invites students to work with faculty, who are practicing writers, in workshop-style classes to discover and develop their writing strengths in the genres of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Small classes, an emphasis on individual conferencing, and the development of a writing portfolio allow students to see themselves as artists and refine their writing under the guidance of accomplished and published faculty mentors. For more information on the series, contact Jeffrey Thomson, UMF associate professor of creative writing, at jeffrey.thomson@maine.edu.



UMaine Introduces Robotics Engineering Minor

ORONO—UMaine’s College of Engineering has increased its number of courses in robotics engineering to more than a dozen and has created a minor in the field, which will be available to students in the fall of 2010.

The future will increasingly rely on robotics in industries such as manufacturing, healthcare and medicine, aeronautics, and for working in hazardous environments.

The minor is designed to provide a fundamental understanding of robotic operation and preliminary training in design and use of robots.

Students will have access to classes in mobile walking robots, robotic vision, robotic surgery, surgical micro-robotics and robot statics, kinematics, dynamics, and control.

The robotics minor involves mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering fields.



Josiah Washington (aka Saturn) participates in UMPI's Planet Head Day.

UMPI, Local Cancer Group Host Annual Planet Head Day

PRESQUE ISLE—UMPI will be taking a stand against some of the worst things that fate hands out—bitter, cold weather; loss of hair; and cancer—when it hosts the Fourth Annual Planet Head Day on February 27.

Since 2007, Planet Head Day has been held to increase awareness of NASA's mission to Pluto and to serve as a fundraiser for the local organization C.A.N.C.E.R. [Caring Area Neighbors for Cancer Education and Recovery]. Each year, participants from Maine and Canada have donned theatrical bald caps or had their hair shaved off, and then had their heads painted to look like planets, moons, asteroids and comets.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the discovery of Pluto and organizers are celebrating accordingly.

In addition to the traditional "Planet Head" effort, this year, participants will have the opportunity to take part in healthy activities in support of C.A.N.C.E.R.

For more information about this event, contact Kevin McCartney at 768-9482.

UMA Holds Kids Science Program

AUGUSTA—More than 200 pre-school to middle school aged children attended UMA's 15th Annual Science Program for Kids, sponsored by UMA's Biology program.

Activities during this popular school vacation week program include using microscopes to observe living creatures; a sea squirt marine life touch tank, health and nutrition tips; a chemistry "slime-making" class; identifying skeletons; arts, puzzles, and crafts; and a special shark and whales presentation. Also this year, kids built a turbine with the help of UMA architecture students.

The Annual Science Program for Kids is held every year during February School Vacation week. For more information, contact Susan Baker at 621-3285.



Seventh Annual Ultra-Short Writing Competition Announced

MACHIAS—*The Binnacle*, the literary and arts magazine of the UMM, is sponsoring its Seventh Annual Ultra-Short Competition, open to writers in Washington County and around the globe.

Interested writers of short narratives in prose or poetry of fewer than 150 words are welcome to submit their works. Prizes will be awarded in May for both categories.

The top fifty-two entries will be included in the contest edition. Writers should submit their works by e-mail to umbinnacle@maine.edu by March 1.

Writers who cannot e-mail their entries can mail them to *The Binnacle*, 19 Kimball Hall, UMM, 116 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, ME 04654. For more information, visit *The Binnacle* on the Web at www.umm.maine.edu/binnacle or call Gerard NeCastro at 255-1293.

Sea Grant Research Awards Announced

ORONO—Maine Sea Grant has identified recipients of 2010-2012 research funding awards from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Sea Grant Office. Over \$500,000 will support five research projects in areas such as land conservation efforts, lobster assessment methods, sea lamprey, and habitats in Sedgeunkedunk Stream, threats to fishing communities and developing marine reserves and siting wind power facilities.

Maine Sea Grant is a state-federal partnership based at UMaine, sponsored by NOAA and the State of Maine. It is part of a national network supporting marine and coastal research and education.

For more information about the projects involved and other research funded by Maine Sea Grant, and to learn about funding opportunities, visit www.seagrant.umaine.edu/research

UMFK Unveils a "Green" Powell Hall

FORT KENT—UMFK recently completed a \$1.4 million renovation of Powell Hall; a project which incorporates many energy-savings components that are expected to help it achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the 45-year-old former dormitory.

UMFK officials and the project's architects, Port City Architecture of Portland detailed the steps taken, and the checklist followed, throughout the course of the seven-month-long project to improve Powell Hall's energy efficiency and sustainability, leading to LEED certification.

UMFK has submitted an application to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) seeking Gold-level LEED certification. Funds for the Powell Hall renovations came from a voter-approved 2007 statewide bond issue for interior and exterior building renovations, improvements and additions at all public university campuses.

USM Art Galleries Announce Architectural Exhibition



Stupa Model

GORHAM—The artist collective SIMPARCH will construct an architectural exhibition called "Stupa Duplicator" in USM's Art Gallery in Gorham from March 5 through April 4.

Based on the Buddhist stupa, a dome-shaped monument used to house Buddhist relics or to commemorate significant Buddhist teachers, the exhibition will present an alternative interpretation of these structures.

A discussion and reception, part of USM's ArtTalks series will be held from 1-3 p.m., March 5, in Gorham. USM artist-in-residence Steve Badgett, USM gallery curator Carolyn Eyler and Buddhist scholar Dana Sawyer will discuss "How We Awaken Space," from the building of ancient Buddhist stupas to the practice of contemporary art. A reception will follow from 3-5 p.m. in the Art Gallery. All events are free and open to the public.

A related educational activity will be a series of free meditation instruction sessions on several dates in March. Group and class meditation instruction may be requested in advance for other times.

For more information please call, 207-780-5008 or visit www.usm.maine.edu/gallery.

UMA Offering Free Workshops on "Teaching Maya Angelou"

AUGUSTA—In conjunction with Maya Angelou's April 26 UMA speaking engagement, members of UMA's faculty will be offering three community workshops to high school educators and others interested in learning more about teaching the work of Maya Angelou.

During each workshop, there will be three distinct activities offered that can be used in English classes or adapted for other kinds of classes.

Each workshop will conclude with "Maya Angelou: Art, Culture, and Politics." This activity will employ several ways to engage with Angelou's work and will consider Angelou's popular appeal.

A world-renowned poet, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director, Dr. Maya Angelou will be speaking April 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta Civic Center.

For more information on the three educator workshops, contact Sarah Hentges at 621-3309 or sarah.hentges@maine.edu.

OAPI Offers Slate of Spring Events

PRESQUE ISLE—With winter in full gear and warmer weather in the future, UMPI's Outdoor Adventure Program International (OAPI) will be offering a series of spring adventures for campus and community members to enjoy, including a winter mountain climb, cross country and alpine skiing, snowshoeing and rock climbing.

Beginning in February and continuing on select dates through March 17, outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to enjoy such excursions as the trails at the Nordic Heritage Center in Presque Isle during a "Full Moon Snowshoe and Potluck" and the quiet of Aroostook State Park as they explore the woods on cross country skis, as well as OAPI's "Winter Ascent of Mount Katahdin."

Other spring adventures include Mont Sainte-Anne's downhill skiing and snowboarding spring break trip and outdoor rock climbing in Acadia National Park.

For more information about any of these events, contact Amanda Morin at 768-9401.

UMFK President Candidates to Visit Campus Beginning Feb. 22

BANGOR—UMS Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude recently announced the names of three finalists for the presidency of UMFK. The candidates will meet with various members of the campus community beginning in late February.

The finalists are Philip A. Conroy, Jr., the current vice president for enrollment management and marketing at Mount Ida College; Wilson G. Hess, the current president emeritus for the College of the Marshall Islands and John G. Labrie, the senior fellow academic specialist at Northeastern University.

According to UMFK presidential search committee chairman Norman Fournier, the itineraries for each candidate are identical. Each of the applicants will meet with students, faculty, staff, and community members during separate visits to the Fort Kent area.

Following the visits, the search committee will review feedback and present their impressions on each candidate to Chancellor Pattenaude. He, in turn, will recommend one candidate to the UMS Board of Trustees for approval. The new president is expected to start in July 2010.

Information about the search process and a complete schedule of the campus visits may be found at www.maine.edu/UMSUMFKsearch.



Editor in Training

The stories for this issue of Making a Difference were researched by Sydney White, a third-year UMaine student in mass communications and public relations. Sydney is from Lamoine.