

Russian Company Considering UMaine Bridge Technology for 2014 Olympics

ORONO – Representatives from UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center and private company Advanced Infrastructure Technologies LLC (AIT) spoke with visitors from Noviy Proekt, a Russian company, about exporting UMaine developed Bridge-in-a-Backpack™ technology to Russia for use as bridges being built at the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. The company is coordinating a \$1.5 billion construction effort.

Representatives signed a "memorandum of understanding" that could create Maine jobs and gain international attention for the Bridge-in-a-Backpack™, an innovative inflatable composite-concrete arch bridge that can reduce construction time and costs, potentially double the lifespan of bridges, reduce maintenance costs, and reduce the carbon footprint of bridge construction.

For additional information about the project, visit www2.umaine.edu/aewc.

UMF Symposium Helps Students Prepare for the Business World



FARMINGTON – Earlier this month, UMF presented their College to Corporate Symposium; a forum that brings junior and senior business students together with Maine business professionals to learn about current hiring practices, and to create

pre-professional networking opportunities.

The forum featured a panel discussion featuring and an opportunity for students to speak individually with business representatives. The audience was treated to a full range of employers' expectations, including written presentation of both resumes and cover letters, with a unique glimpse into how the process compares among various employers. Business representatives emphasized the importance of researching the company and position individuals are interested in applying for and preparing thoroughly for any interview.

USM Research Team Returns from the Gulf of Mexico



The research ship Odyssey

PORTLAND – After spending months crisscrossing the Gulf of Mexico, faculty and student researchers on the USM and Ocean Alliance expedition now shift their focus to the lab where they will generate preliminary findings to determine the impact of the oil spill on whales and the ecosystem that supports them.

The expedition to the Gulf lasted 115 days and involved 16 USM

students, faculty and staff, plus another six students and staff in USM's Wise Laboratory of Environmental and Genetic Toxicology.

The team found little visible evidence of oil in the Gulf, but believes that the spill's long-term toxic effects could be significant.

UMPI's Wood-to-Energy Project Receives Funding

PRESQUE ISLE – The Maine Department of Conservation recently announced that UMPI will receive \$750,000 toward replacement of two oil-fired boilers with a wood chip boiler. These grants are the second round to be awarded under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

The new boiler will heat two of UMPI's primary teaching facilities, Pullen Hall and Folsom Hall. The project calls for wood chip or pellet boilers to replace or supplement existing heating systems, saving thousands of gallons of oil. In addition, the projects will reduce dependence on nonrenewable energy resources, support sustainable forestry, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is anticipated that the project will begin in May 2011 with completion in August 2011.

UMM Students Team Up for Recycling Awareness

MACHIAS – UMM students and the Bay Area Transfer Station in Machias teamed up for “Maine Recycles

Week,” held in early November.

The week is an effort to raise recycling awareness throughout the state.

Students spent time at the transfer station, educating the community about

recycling. In addition to raising recycling awareness, the group helped spread the word about the facility’s acceptance of #1–7 plastics.

Fort Kent Group to Make Recommendations for Former Armory

FORT KENT – UMM President Wilson Hess recently announced the appointment of a 10-member task force to make recommendations on the use of the former Maine National Guard Armory in Fort Kent.

The Maine State Legislature transferred ownership of the Armory from the Military Bureau to UMM last April.

The task force includes community members, as well as UMM staff, faculty and students. The group is charged with soliciting proposals for use of the armory, reviewing them, and providing recommendations for planning and implementation early in 2011. Preference will be given to proposals that directly support existing university activities, as well as those that have a revenue component associated with them.

For more information contact John Murphy at 834-7516, or by e-mail at jdmurphy@maine.edu.

Quadruple Amputee, Gold Medalist Gives Inspirational Talk at UMA



AUGUSTA – Joshua Kennison, a Maine resident born without arms and legs who won 3 Gold Medals and one Silver Medal in track at the 2010 Endeavor Games, recently spoke on *Overcoming Challenges and Giving Back* at UMA. Kennison also led Cony High School and UMA athletes on a one-mile Fun Run.

Girl Scouts Visit UMaine Engineering

ORONO – More than 90 girl scouts and 38 adult troop leaders visited UMaine in early November, for a day of learning about engineering careers through activities, discussions and experimentation with UMaine students, faculty and staff.

The day, titled “Transforming Leadership: Engineering Their Future,” featured activities such as exploring hands-on exercises in engineering labs, creating slime and learning about gold particles, wireless sensors and LED kits.

This engineering awareness day was designed to educate young women about career possibilities on the field of engineering and increase the number of girls entering the field.

UMPI Upward Bound Celebrates 30 Years

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI’s Upward Bound Alumni and former instructors are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Upward Bound program. The celebration was November 27 at the UMPI Campus Center.



Upward Bound was established on the UMPI campus in 1980. It has served hundreds of students. Since 2007, the UMPI program has collaborated with UMM and UMPI’s Houlton High Education Center in order to better serve students.

Upward Bound is a federally funded program open to high school students who qualify financially, or are the first in their families to attend college.

USM Receives Opportunity Fund Grant

GORHAM – USM’s Maine Education Policy Research Institute, has been selected as a recipient of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation’s Opportunity Fund awards.

The awards recognize the work of organizations and schools across New England that promote student-centered learning and tests or expands model development, policy change, and/or public understanding and demand.

The funds will be combined with additional monies to conduct case studies in a variety of K-12 schools that have been identified as higher performing and efficient.



Cooperative Extension Garden Program Doubles Last Year's Harvest

SOUTH PARIS – This year the UMaine Cooperative Extension's Maine [Harvest for Hunger Program](#) surpassed last year's donation of fresh garden produce by more than 56.3 tons.

Volunteer gardeners in 13 counties donated vegetables and fruit to food pantries, shelters, and charitable organizations around the state.

Nearly 200 Master Gardener volunteers from across the state participated. Donated fruits and vegetables increase in volume each year, as does the number of gardeners participating in the program.

Since 2000, volunteers have donated almost 452 tons of fresh produce to the gardening program.

"UMF Green's List" Created to Cultivate a Sustainable Campus

FARMINGTON – UMF has created a one-of-a-kind program to bring energy conservation and sustainable green living practices to every residence hall room and faculty or staff office on campus.

The "UMF Green's List" program was created to show how increased awareness of the way energy consumed on a daily basis can make a huge difference in reducing waste and promoting the sustainable use of the Earth's resources.



The Green's List provides members of the campus community with the opportunity to gain recognition for showing their concern for the environment.

The program ranks current sustainable lifestyle habits and gives suggestions for ways to become even more energy efficient.

UMM Breaks Ground for Greenhouse Project

MACHIAS – On November 13, UMM began to work on a four-season greenhouse that will enable year-round food production for the campus dining facility and local food pantry.

The ground-breaking event took place immediately following a greenhouse workshop aimed at educating families and schools on how to construct greenhouses at a low cost, using energy-efficient materials. For more information contact Chad Everett, sustainability coordinator, at 255-1360 or chad.everett@maine.edu.

UMFK Community Choral Society holds Annual Concert



FORT KENT – ForestSong Community Choral Society will present "A Thousand Years of Celebration," for its annual winter concert held on Friday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church Congregational located on Pleasant Street in Fort Kent. The concert is free, but donations are welcomed.

ForestSong Community Choral Society was founded in 2004. It supports itself through membership donations and community sponsors, which include UMFK. It is dedicated to creating and presenting choral vocal music to the communities of the St. John Valley, and to extending the appreciation of music to all.

USM Creates Maine's First STEM Honors Program

PORTLAND – USM is establishing the USM Pioneers Program, the state's first honors program for students interested in the sciences, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

The Pioneers Program is made possible through a \$158,000 start-up grant from the University of Maine system Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).

One of the fund's goals is to support new curricular developments that align academic programs with Maine's changing economy. USM is eligible for two additional years of SIF funding to support the development of the program. In addition, USM will seek private sector, foundation, and federal funding to sustain and institutionalize the program. The goal is to recruit six to eight students for the fall of 2011, and then to enroll 10 or more students annually.

Art Show Focuses on Local Hunger Issues

AUGUSTA – This month, UMA’s Charles Dana Danforth Gallery hosted “Art for Hunger,” an exhibition focusing on local hunger issues and raising awareness of hunger needs in Maine’s Kennebec Valley.



UMA students, faculty, staff, and community contributed a wide variety of multimedia artwork that considers hunger and its place in the.

All proceeds were donated to

hunger relief in communities in Kennebec County.

People attending the exhibit were encouraged to give—or take—non-perishable food items as needed. At the end of the exhibit, remaining food items were taken to local food shelters.

More Community College Students Seeking Four-Year Degrees and UMS Online Credit Hours up 27%

FARMINGTON – Members of the UMS Board of Trustees received an update on student enrollment, transfers and online education at their November meeting in Farmington.

The number of Maine Community College System students choosing to pursue a four-year degree continues to grow—with transfers up 12 percent over last year. UMS campuses are working with the MCCS to further simplify the transfer process and provide counsel to prospective students.

The number of first-time, first-year students is up 4.4% across the System to 4,236 students in Fall 2010. Distance education—which includes learning online, onsite at the System’s University College Centers, interactive television, and videoconference—also continues to grow.

The percentage of distance education credit hours grew 8.5% over the previous year, with online credit hours increasing by 27%. For more information on the Trustees meeting, click [here](#).

UMaine Grant to Help Address Shortage of Special Ed Teachers

ORONO – UMaine has received \$1.2 million in grant funding to begin preparing more and better-qualified early intervention special education teachers to serve increasing numbers of children with disabilities in Maine.

The four-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs is enabling the UMaine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCIDS) and the College of Education and Human

Development to collaborate in offering a Master’s in Special Education degree with a specialization in early intervention.

It includes a new fifth-year advanced degree option that

begins with graduate courses in a student’s fourth undergraduate year and includes two summers and a fifth year of graduate study.

Within four years, up to 20 students now in college will enter school systems, childcare centers, Head Start programs and other facilities that work with children from birth to age five.

In addition, 20 specialists or teachers already working in the field will be able to pursue an advanced degree online from anywhere in or out of the state.



Editor-in-training

BANGOR – This semester, UMaine junior and journalism student Jordan Rowe of Scarborough is an intern with the University of Maine System.

Her responsibilities include researching and editing stories for this publication.