

# Making a Difference

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

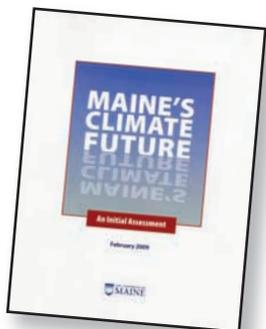
## UMaine Scientists Present Climate Report

AUGUSTA – UMaine faculty members recently presented the report, “Maine’s Climate Future: An Initial Assessment,” to Gov. John Baldacci. The report considers past climate change, recent evidence of accelerated rates of change, and the implications of continued climate change in Maine as a result of greenhouse gas emissions and their associated pollutants.

Several recent assessment efforts have addressed climate change in the Northeast, but the report authors noted that the state’s unique characteristics warranted an assessment specifically focused on Maine.

The study documents an increasing rate of warming in Maine over the last century, as well as increased regional sea surface temperatures, increased precipitation, rising sea levels, and hydrologic changes in snow melt, lake ice-out, and spring runoff.

The report may be found online at: [www.umaine.edu/relations/media/ClimateChange\\_FullReport\\_Web.pdf](http://www.umaine.edu/relations/media/ClimateChange_FullReport_Web.pdf)



## UMA Hosts Deliberative Democracy Forum on Alternative Energy

AUGUSTA – On March 12, UMA will host a unique “deliberative democracy forum” on the issue of alternative energy. This is a process for information gathering and discussion, designed to empower its participants to gain more knowledge about current public affairs issues so that they may become more informed voters and citizens.

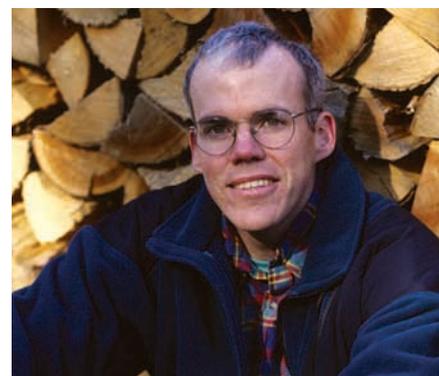
There will be both an experts’ panel and a legislative leaders’ panel providing information and answering audience questions. Panelists will include Soren Hermansen, Director of Samsø Energy Academy (Denmark); Dr. Habib Dagher, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Maine; Greg Shueman, Consultant & Solar Homeowner in Augusta, Maine; Sharon Reishus, Chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission; Elizabeth Mitchell, Senate President; and Steven Rowe, former Speaker of the House and former State Attorney General. For a complete schedule of the day’s events, please see [www.uma.edu/nifschedule.html](http://www.uma.edu/nifschedule.html).

## UMF Features Nationally Known Environmental Activist

FARMINGTON – Nationally known environmentalist, educator, writer, and activist Bill McKibben presents, “The Most Important Number in the World—Building the People Powered Movement to Fight Global Warming,” on Friday, March 13, at UMF.

A bestselling author and scholar in environmental studies, McKibben is a frequent writer on global warming, alternative energy, the importance of local economies, and the risks associated with human genetic engineering. He is actively involved with the fight against climate change and, beginning in the summer of 2006, led the organization of the largest demonstrations against global warming in American history.

He currently is a scholar in residence at Middlebury College and resides in Ripton, Vt. McKibben’s presentation is co-sponsored by the University’s Diversity Committee and Sustainable Campus Coalition.



Bill McKibben

## UMFK Offers Two Summer Camps in Technology and Nursing

FORT KENT – UMFK is offering two camps geared to high school students this summer.

The Technology Camp will run June 29 – July 2. At this camp students will be taught and guided by computer application faculty and information services staff. The camp will focus on hands-on learning activities helping to build skills in several different technology areas including multimedia, web technologies, game programming, and counter hacking.

The Nursing Discovery Camp also runs from June 29 – July 2. The camp is co-sponsored by Northern Maine Medical Center and Acadia Health Education Coalition, a division of Penobscot Community Health Care — Maine Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, along with UMFK’s Nursing Program and Academic Outreach Office.

For additional information on either camp, contact Don Eno at 834-7835 or [deno@maine.edu](mailto:deno@maine.edu).



UMaine's Habib Dagher with a composite bridge arch.

### UMaine Technology Commercialization Announcements

ORONO – Gov. John Baldacci, Sen. Susan Collins and Rep. Michael Michaud recently participated in a UMaine event announcing three interrelated activities related to the commercialization of composite bridges in Maine:

- Dedication of “Bridge in a Backpack.” UMaine and the Department of Transportation recently completed the construction of the Neal Bridge in Pittsfield, a first-of-its-kind structure which utilizes a rigidified inflatable composite arch design.
- A new UMaine spinoff company called Advanced Infrastructure Technologies in Orono. The firm will work with UMaine to begin design and testing of multiple bridge concepts using the composite bridge arch technology platform.
- Twenty new jobs in an existing UMaine spinoff company, Harbor Technologies in Brunswick, that has been working on commercializing composite pilings developed and designed at UMaine.

### UMPI's Frozen Frenzy

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI is hosting Frozen Frenzy II, its second annual winter survival celebration for students, faculty, and staff on March 19.

Activities include winter games, contests, and prizes all meant to celebrate the campus's winter “survivability.” The event is organized by the UMPI Pride Committee, which established this event last year to help fulfill its mission of promoting unity, spirit, visibility, and a positive image of UMPI on campus and throughout the greater community area through community activities and services.

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to take part in the afternoon's activities, which are slated to include an ice chunk heave, a tug-of-war, a winter clothing relay race, and possibly some snowball fighting. Organizers hope to end the day's events with a bonfire. For more information about this event, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 768-9615.

### Co-op Extension Creates New Garden Publication

ORONO – UMaine Cooperative Extension has a new newsletter to equip home gardeners with practical information on successfully growing vegetables,



fruits and herbs, as well as flowers, lawns, shrubs, and trees. The Maine Home Garden newsletter will be published monthly from March through October. Subscriptions for an electronic version are free; subscriptions to the print version cost \$10. Subscribe at [www.extension.umaine.edu/gardennews](http://www.extension.umaine.edu/gardennews) or call 800-287-0274.

### UMF Celebrates Women's History Month with "He and She"

FARMINGTON – UMF's Theater Arts program and Women and Gender Studies program presents Rachel Crothers' play, “He and She,” in celebration of Women's History Month. This turn-of-the-century drama on the plight of the emancipated woman will be performed March 12–15. “He and She” features an all-student cast and crew.



Students Adam Randal, Ryan Patstone, and Rebekah Church in scene from University of Maine at Farmington's production of “He and She.”

Crothers' play explores the question of traditional gender roles in the family and the professional world.

Tickets are available at the time of the performance, and can be reserved by calling the Alumni Theater box office at 207-778-7465.

### UMM Celebrates Birthday March 3rd

MACHIAS – UMM hosted a dessert tea on March 3 to celebrate the founding of the present-day University.

Founded in 1909 as the Washington State Normal School, UMM is celebrating 100 years of education. Through the spring of 2012, the University will be hosting various events as part of its Centennial Celebration. Check [www.umm.maine.edu](http://www.umm.maine.edu) for a complete schedule of events and a brief history of the institution.



## USM Celebrates Darwin with Lecture Series; Teacher Workshops

PORTLAND – USM faculty, working with researchers and K-12 educators, are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s “On the Origin of Species” with “The Evolution Revolution,” a free, public lecture series running from March 5 to April 2.

Topics include: Beginnings: Cosmic Evolution, Matters of Scale, The Emergence of Cells During the Origin of Life, Darwinian Evolution: Levels of Selection, Evo-Devo: How Animal Development Reveals the History of Life on Earth, Microbes and Viruses: Drivers of Evolution, and Evolution of Immunity.

The lectures, which are free and open to the public, will be held at Southworth Planetarium. For information call 780-4377 or e-mail [patricia.fletcher@maine.edu](mailto:patricia.fletcher@maine.edu) or [duboise@usm.maine.edu](mailto:duboise@usm.maine.edu).

There will also be a five-week series of Saturday workshops for Maine teachers in USM labs, beginning March 7. The program is part of a Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) from the National Center for Research Resources and the National Institutes of Health. These awards bring together university faculty, biomedical researchers, educators, and others to create and disseminate programs that give K-12 teachers, students, and the general public a better understanding of the life sciences.

## UMaine Introduces Young Women to Engineering

ORONO – UMaine’s College of Engineering and UMaine Cooperative Extension hosted more than 40 high school



women for a four-day adventure in engineering program during school vacation week.

The students visited UMaine engineering labs, worked with chemical engineering

faculty, researchers, and students as they participated in converting wood stock to fuels and chemicals.

UMaine research shows Maine ranks 49th in the nation for graduating engineers, and the state ranks 38th nationally for the number of females enrolled in engineering programs. The latest UMaine effort to bring more school-aged females into engineering labs early is a strategy supported by research that also shows that early career guidance can significantly help young women with career choices.

## UMM to Host Machias Area Job Fair

MACHIAS – UMM will give job seekers and prospective employers a chance to meet when it hosts the Machias Area Job Fair on Tuesday, March 17.

The Job Fair will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Reynolds Athletic Center on the UMM campus. The event is sponsored by UMM and the Machias Career Center/MDOL, with support from *The Employment Times*.

Many employers are scheduled to attend. In addition, representatives from graduate programs at USM and UMaine will be on hand to discuss graduate school options. The two schools will be hosting a Graduate School Information Session on Monday, March 16, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Murdock Conference Room for all who are interested.

For more information about the Job Fair, contact Brenda Frey, UMM’s Career Development Coordinator, at 255-1439.

## UMF Visiting Writer: Poet Ravi Shankar

FARMINGTON – UMF’s Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program featured award-winning poet Ravi Shankar as a lunchtime reader in its 2008–2009 Visiting Writers Series on March 5.

A poet-in-residence at Central Connecticut State University, Shankar is the founding editor of “Drunken Boat,” an international online journal of the arts. “Instrumentality,” his first book, was published by Word Press in May, 2004, and was a finalist for the 2005 Connecticut Book Awards. He has also collaborated with Reb Livingston on the chapbook “Wanton Textiles” (No Tell Books, 2006), selections of which appeared in *Fringe Magazine* and *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*.

This literary event was offered in conjunction with the UMF Humanities Department, Diversity Committee, and Writers Guild.

## Gershwin with a touch of jazz at USM

GORHAM – “Gershwin for Swingin’” – is the next concert in the USM School of Music’s Spotlight Series. The concert will be held at 8 p.m., April 3, in Corthell Concert Hall on the Gorham campus.

“Gershwin for Swingin’” is a celebration of songs with music and/or lyrics written by George Gershwin (1898-1937) and his brother Ira Gershwin (1896-1983). Performers include Tim O’Dell, alto saxophone; USM director of jazz studies, Chris Oberholtzer, trombone; plus guests Richard Nelson, guitar; Thomas Snow, piano; James Lyden, bass; and Eric Halvorson, drums.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public; \$10 for seniors and USM employees; and \$5 for students. Call the Music Box Office at 780-5555.

## Poetry Festival at UMA April 17–18

AUGUSTA – The Terry Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival will be held on April 17–18 on the UMA campus. The festival will include readers from across Maine, a student poetry contest, a panel discussion on Poetry and Environmental Sustainability, music by our Jazz students and faculty, and performances by ImproVox. This year, the Plunkett Festival's featured poet will be Donald Hall, distinguished writer and recent U.S. Poet Laureate. Stay tuned for program updates. For more information, you may contact Jan Bunford by calling (207) 621-3358.

## Pre-Service Law Enforcement Program at Fort Kent

FORT KENT – UMFk will host a session of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's Law Enforcement Pre-Service Program from May 11–29.

The course is required by the state of Maine as the minimum level of training for any part-time law enforcement officer. Interested participants will be required to pass a reading and writing alert test, as well as a background check prior to attending the program. Sponsorship from a law enforcement agency is needed.

Classes will be lectured-based, as well as hands-on training. The instructors are primarily practicing law enforcement officers and professional in the fields of law and public safety.

The program is being offered as a non-credit program at a cost of \$375, with 3 credits available for college students at an additional cost. Information on the program may be found at: [www.umfk.maine.edu/academics/programs/psa/prog/100hr/signup.cfm](http://www.umfk.maine.edu/academics/programs/psa/prog/100hr/signup.cfm)

To register, contact Don Eno at 834-7835 or toll-free at 1-888-879-8635 or [deno@maine.edu](mailto:deno@maine.edu).

## USM Presents Report on Public Education

PORTLAND – The 12th annual "The Condition of K-12 Public Education in Maine," now is available in print and online at <http://usm.maine.edu/cepare/cme.htm>.

The 78-page report, which is researched and prepared by USM's Center for Education Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation (CEPARE), under the direction of David Silvernail, covers such topics as student demographics, student-teacher ratios, and student performance measures. The report is published by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, a nonpartisan organization funded by the Maine State Legislature, the University of Southern Maine, and the University of Maine.

USM's Center for Education Policy, Applied Research, and Evaluation, in the College of Education and Human Development, provides assistance to school districts, agencies, organizations, and university faculty by conducting research, evaluation, and policy studies. Other recent reports available on its Web site include a review of the proposal for a four-day school week, and a recent overview of Maine's school funding formula.

## UMPI, SAD #1 Sign Agreement

PRESQUE ISLE – Officials at UMPI and Maine School Administrative District #1 have signed an agreement that will allow UMPI education program students to take part in internships at Pine Street Elementary School and Presque Isle High School while providing professional development opportunities for veteran teachers there.

The Professional Development School partnership goals are: to increase PK-12 student achievement, improve teacher preparation, enhance professional development opportunities for UMPI and MSAD #1 faculty and staff, more effectively transition students from grade 12 to college, and enhance advanced placement opportunities for high school students.

## UMS Trustee Nominations Announced

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci recently announced that Eleanor M. Baker and Kevin P. McCarthy are being nominated to the UMS Board of Trustees.

Baker is a principal at Baker Newman Noyes. A Cape Elizabeth resident, she has served on the Maine Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission, USM's Board of Visitors, Maine Law's Board of Visitors, and the UMaine Foundation Board. She earned her undergraduate degree from UMaine, her J.D. from Maine Law, and an LL.M. in taxation from Boston University.

McCarthy, of Falmouth, is the president and CEO of Unum Group. McCarthy has served as a director for the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. He had served as Chair of the Advisory Council for the USM School of Business. McCarthy is a USM graduate.

The nominations must be reviewed by the respective committees of oversight of the above boards and commissions and confirmed by the Senate.

## UMS Task Force Holds Open Forums

BANGOR – The "New Challenges, New Directions" task force assembled by Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude has been holding a series of open forums at university locations across the state. Employees, students, and members of the public participated in the sessions.

Task force chair David Flanagan has attended every session thus far, and the other members of the task force have attended as many sessions as their schedules permit.

The purpose of the forums is for the task force to gather public comment from constituents in each university community. Participants are asked to provide comment on the future structure and function of the System, and on ways to achieve lower costs of operations and financial sustainability.

Additional information about the task force may be found here: [www.maine.edu/UMSTaskForce](http://www.maine.edu/UMSTaskForce). Comments and other input may also be forwarded to the task force by sending an email to [taskforce@maine.edu](mailto:taskforce@maine.edu).