

# Making a Difference

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

## Classes Start Soon

STATEWIDE – It is a busy time on University of Maine System campuses across the state. Classes for the fall semester begin on the following dates, click on the links for further academic calendar details:

### August 30

[UMaine](#)  
[UMA](#)  
[UMM](#)  
[UMPI](#)  
[USM](#)



### September 1

[UMF](#)  
[UMFK](#)

## UMaine New Media Center to Align State with Digital Industries

ORONO – UMaine's New Media Innovation, Research and Development Center, scheduled to open in 2012, is being designed to help the state tap the multi-billion-dollar digital film, gaming, and animation fields, which will lead to growth opportunities for the state's new media companies and the university. The center's purpose is to develop a new culture of innovation and creativity for Maine by establishing needed technical facilities for continued and new training, research, development and commercialization. The new center also will house state-of-art rapid prototyping facilities to support business start-ups.



The center is made possible largely through a \$3.69 million 2009 award from the Maine Technology Institute to enable the University of Maine Innovative Industries Initiative and the New Media Innovation, Research and Development Center.

## Record Summer Enrollments at UMPI

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI's summer enrollment numbers nearly doubled over last year. Officials are attributing the increase in large part to summer online course offerings and efforts to respond to students' needs.

This year's summer enrollment is at 886 students, compared to 488 students in 2009, an increase of more than 80 percent from last summer. UMPI officials say the significant increase is due to two major factors—a wider variety of online courses being offered at the campus than ever before and a large number of students throughout the state of Maine and beyond who are taking advantage of these courses because they fit conveniently into their busy summer schedules.

UMPI officials have seen major increases in student numbers this summer in education offerings and arts and sciences courses.

## UMS to Receive Federal DOE Funds for Disadvantaged Students

BANGOR – The University of Maine System recently received news that the Department of Education has awarded grant funding to six System universities under the Department's federal TRIO Student Support Services Program (SSS). Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe made the announcement in a joint statement.

The awards are, as follows: \$579,180 to UMaine, \$500,188 to the UMA, \$293,863 to UMF, \$297,400 to UMFK, \$297,400, \$310,996 to UMPI, and \$219,000 to USM.

TRIO programs are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. SSS provides academic and other support services to educational institutions to assist low-income, first-generation, and students with disabilities to increase their retention and graduation rates, and foster a supportive environment for their success and achievement. [Click here for additional information on TRIO.](#)



## USM to Offer Sustainable Tourism Certification

PORTLAND – Beginning this fall, USM will offer a course of study leading to a university consortium certificate in sustainable tourism.

The certification will be available through a collaboration with The International Ecotourism Society, described as the premier professional organization in the field of sustainable tourism.

The certificate program will include nine hours of coursework; one study abroad course; and a 400-hour internship that includes a capstone project. The program, said Jones, will not require additional faculty or development of new courses because it builds on an existing minor in nature tourism, giving students the option of earning a professional certification.

Sustainable, or nature, tourism is defined by the university as tourism focused on conserving the natural environment and promoting the well being of local people. USM officials note that it has the potential to become an increasingly important sector of the tourism industry here in Maine and elsewhere. For more information, call 780-4587.

## Local Artist Exhibits at UMM Art Galleries

MACHIAS – The Art Galleries at UMM will host an exhibit by local artist Margaret La Farge titled “Portraits of a Family,” which will be on display through August 27.

La Farge has created work in a variety of media, both two and three dimensionally. Her recent two-dimensional work includes watercolors and graphite drawings. These images are intimately rendered and share a central focus on personal stories that draw from her spiritual and emotional relationship to family, history, place, and time.

The UMM Art Galleries, located on the first floor of Powers Hall, are open weekday afternoons or by appointment. For more information, please call Art Gallery Director Bernie Vinzani at 255-1279.

To learn more about Margaret La Farge, visit [www.lafargestudio.com](http://www.lafargestudio.com).

## Students Look to Perfect Robotic Surgery Technology

ORONO – UMaine mechanical engineers and their students are taking robotics to a whole new level with several new and ongoing research projects, including robotic surgery.



By designing, configuring and testing smart computerized machinery composed of cables, circuits, electronic motors and servos, they hope to revolutionize some surgical procedures, including ways for doctors to operate on patients thousands of miles away.

Students at both graduate and undergraduate levels are getting hands-on experience in the field of robotics, and Maine schoolchildren are introduced to robotics during visits to UMaine’s Biomedical Engineering and Robotic Surgery laboratories.

## Governor Announces Nominations for UMS Board of Trustees

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci recently nominated two people for appointment to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

Kurt Adams of Yarmouth was nominated for appointment and current trustee Marjorie Murray Medd of Norway was nominated for reappointment. Adams is vice president for First Wind, an independent wind energy company. Before joining First Wind, he was the chairman of the Maine Public Utilities Commission and Governor Baldacci’s Chief Legal Counsel. He received his law degree from the University of Maine School of Law.

In addition to serving as a trustee for five years, Medd served for 10 years on the State Board of Education and has a long career of public service.

A Senate confirmation hearing is scheduled for August 25.

## UMF, Hospital Host Camp for 50 Local High School Students



Students at the UMF Gear Up Scrub Club camp held at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington. (Photo credit: Sun Journal)

FARMINGTON – UMF Gear Up Partnerships for Success, in collaboration with Franklin Memorial Hospital, showcased health careers to students from area school districts at its annual Scrub Club camp.

The week-long camp gave more than 50 high school students the opportunity to experience working in the medical field. Activities covered everything from CPR and first aid, to suturing, medical terminology, radiology, casting, sign language, and experiencing a mock accident scene.

The Gear Up program offers tutoring and mentoring on the UMF campus and after-school and summer programs to help high school students aspire to education beyond a high school diploma.

For more information on the program, visit [gearup.umf.maine.edu/](http://gearup.umf.maine.edu/).

## UMFK to Host Annual "Community Fair"

FORT KENT – UMFK invites the business community and service organizations throughout the St. John Valley to participate in a day-long "Community Fair" on Thursday, September 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Cyr Hall.

Each participant will be provided free booth space and a six-foot display table. Deadline for reserving a space is Friday, September 3.

The fair is designed to introduce university students to the products and services available in the region. It is a good way for the business community and organizations who want to market themselves to the new and returning UMFK students.

Businesses and service organizations interested in participating in the "Community Fair" are encouraged to contact Lisa Roy at 834-7513.

## USM Features Selected Works from "The Ambiguities" Series

PORTLAND – USM's Art Galleries will present an exhibit called, "The Ambiguities: Selected Works," by USM Visiting Artist Thorpe Feidt at its location in the Woodbury Campus Center in Portland.

The exhibit will run from August 20 through October 29. Gallery hours are 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

On exhibit will be the graphite drawings and color saturated paintings from Thorpe Feidt's series of over 400 works inspired by Herman Melville's novel "Pierre: or, the Ambiguities."



Details from "The Philosopher's Garden" by Thorpe Feidt

A special "ArtTalk" by Thorpe Feidt will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 29, Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall, Gorham. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 780-5008 or visit [USM's Art Galleries](http://USM's Art Galleries) online.

## Gubernatorial Forum at UMM This Week

MACHIAS – UMM will host a gubernatorial candidate forum on Thursday, August 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Candidates who will appear on the November ballot and have been invited to attend include: Democrat Elizabeth Mitchell, Republican Paul LePage, and independents Eliot Cutler, Shawn Moody, and Kevin Scott. UMM professors Ron Mosley and Sherrie Sprangers will serve as moderators.

The forum will take place in UMM's Performing Arts Center and is open to the public. For more information, please contact Jon Reisman at 255-1242.



## Patient Safety Expert Speaks at USM

PORTLAND – In early August, Dr. Carol Haraden of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, addressed 150 health care providers from across Maine and New Hampshire at the first annual Patient Safety Academy hosted by the USM Muskie School and sponsored by the Maine Centers for Disease Control Office of Rural Health and Primary Care.

Dr. Haraden spoke about what is needed to make systemic change within the hospital setting and encouraged attendees to work together to start a movement for patient safety in the region. She urged Northern New England's hospitals (many of which have fewer than 75 beds) to push for big improvements and to be at the leading edge in testing new ideas for improving patient safety.

## YoUMA, A Pre-College Summer Program for High Schoolers Receives High Marks

AUGUSTA – YoUMA (Youth Orientation to UMA), a new pre-college program for high school students, was held over two weeks this summer at UMA. Two one-week sessions were offered, the first beginning on July 26th and the second on August 2nd.



Students taking a "Tarpitecture" course at YoUMA

Blending interesting morning courses taught by UMA faculty members with afternoon field trips, sports, and large group discussions, YoUMA was designed for both high school students who know they are college bound, as well as for high school students who want to explore whether college might be for them.

By all accounts, the two-week program was hailed a great success. Several students who had initially enrolled only the first session immediately signed for the second session as well.

## UMaine Economic, Business Development Specialists Available to Entrepreneurs

ORONO – Entrepreneurs and inventors throughout the state are encouraged to contact the director of UMaine's Economic Development Initiatives to learn about the many university resources available to new business development advice and information at no cost.

Director Renee Kelly notes that business people who would like to work with the university can access many resources that are available at the University, including business plan development and product development.

One of the best ways to receive assistance is to contact UMaine's [Target Technology Incubator](#)

at 866-6500. The center works with tech-based companies and investors in need of assistance to take their ideas to market. New business owners can find out about resources available to help with business planning and structure, and also new product development and commercialization.

While most advice and information is free, some costs may be passed along for use of prototyping resources.

Businesses may also contact the UMaine Department of Industrial Cooperation at 581-2201, which helps businesses access resources at the university, or the University of Maine Cooperative Extension at 581-2811 for general business questions.

## UMPI VP to Serve as Acting Director of Maine School of Science & Math

LIMESTONE – Officials of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics recently announced that the school has named Dr. Michael Sonntag, UMPI's vice president for academic affairs, as acting part-time executive director for the 2010-2011 school year, as the school conducts a search for a permanent executive director.

Over the years, the two learning institutions have partnered in many ways – UMPI faculty have taught courses at the Limestone facility; MSSM students have taken courses at UMPI; and the university has provided library, cultural, and recreational facilities for MSSM students.

Under the agreement between the two schools, MSSM will pay UMPI a lump sum to compensate for Sonntag's services.

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