

Making a Difference

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

UMaine Report: Annual Winter Road Clearing Costs in Maine Total \$98M



ORONO – UMaine's Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center published a report showing improvements in managing winter storm transportation issues over the past decade and recommending a series of steps aimed at

reducing costs, limiting the negative environmental impact of chloride-based chemicals and improving public safety.

The report also contains a series of goals that the state and municipalities should address which include maintaining safety while reducing salt and sand use; identifying efficiencies to maximize the budgetary impact of improvements; reducing overall salt use; increasing public awareness of preventative measures; increasing driver safety education; and increasing the public's awareness of winter practices, costs and environmental impact. The report is available at: www.umaine.edu/files/2010/02/Winter-Road-Maint-Final.pdf

UMFK Hosts Annual "Sucrerie"

FORT KENT – UMFK hosted its annual "Sucrerie" in mid-March. The "maple sugar recreation" has drawn more than 300 community members to campus in years past. The event features a traditional maple taffy pull on the snow, an Acadian meal, and live entertainment.

The maple taffy pull and taste testing are free to the public. Local school children also attended the event. A true Acadian meal was served including ployes, or



Maple taffy served on the snow

buckwheat pancakes, which were served by UMFK staff, faculty, and student volunteers dressed in Acadian costumes.

UMM Plans Trip to Russia

MACHIAS – UMM is offering a trip to Russia in the spring of 2011 for both students and community members.

The trip will run May 16 – 26, 2011, and will include tours around the Russian cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, and brief visits to the nearby countries of Estonia and Finland. Many famous landmarks will be visited, including the Kremlin, Red Square, Square of Cathedrals, St. Basil's Cathedral, Ivan's Bell Tower, and Armory Palace Museum, all in Moscow; the St. Petersburg sites of the Peter and Paul Fortress, Winter Palace, Nevsky Prospekt, Alexander Nevsky Monastery, and Tikhvin Cemetery; City Hall, Herman Tower, Old Town, and the Parliament, in Tallinn, Estonia; and several city landmarks, including Temppeliaukio Church, City Museum, and Finland's Parliament House, in Helsinki, Finland.

There will also be opportunities throughout the 2010-2011 academic year to learn more about Russia and prepare for the trip. For information, please contact Meghan Duff at 255-1227 or meghan.duff@maine.edu.



Dr. Maya Angelou

UMA's Dr. Maya Angelou Event in April

AUGUSTA – Hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature, Dr. Maya Angelou, the poet, best-selling author, actress, playwright,

civil-rights activist, producer, and director will be making a rare speaking appearance in Maine.

Dr. Maya Angelou will be speaking at a UMA-sponsored event on Monday, April 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta Civic Center. The event is being spearheaded by UMA's Student Government Association.

Area high schools and colleges can receive a 10% discount on the purchase of ten or more tickets. For more information on the UMA event or to order tickets, call 621-3133. For more information on Maya Angelou, go to <http://mayaangelou.com>.

UMFK Features Community Development Presentation

FORT KENT – UMFK’s Environmental Studies Speaker Series welcomes Dr. John C. Allen, professor and associate dean at Utah State University, on March 19. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Dr. Allen will share his concept of community development, drawing upon an Asset Based Community Development model where local assets are identified and re-organized by local citizens who then carry out local development activities. The model provides a structure to motivate and mobilize local citizens in development activities.

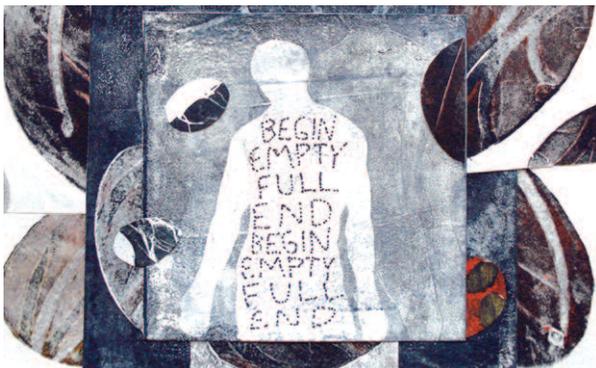
The Environmental Studies Speaker Series at UMFK regularly brings speakers to campus. These presentations are open to the public and cover such topics as water quality, waste management, wind power, endangered species, forestry, and marine science. For more information on the Environmental Studies Speaker Series, contact Steve Selva at 834-7617.

USM Exhibit Features Collaborative Works by Poets and Artists

PORTLAND – The Kate Cheney Chappell ‘83 Center for Book Arts at USM presents its exhibition, “Paper and Poetry: Collaborative Works of Art from Maine Artists and Authors,” which runs through April 30 in the UNUM Great Reading Room of USM’s Glickman Family Library, Portland. This exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours.

The exhibition will feature limited edition books, artists’ books, prints, and broadsides. A highlight of the show will be a lecture and poetry reading by visual artist and printmaker, Susan Webster, and author and poet, Stuart Kestenbaum taking place from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on April 23, at the Glickman Family Library.

In addition, a daylong workshop, “Words and Images: A Dialogue in Poetry and Prints,” will be co-taught by Susan Webster and Stuart Kestenbaum on Saturday, April 24 in USM’s Wishcamper Center, Portland. To register, call 780-5900.



“Begin” detail:
Susan Webster/Stuart Kestenbaum, 2008

Japanese Students Study U.S. Language and Culture at UMaine

ORONO – For the tenth consecutive year, a contingent from Japan’s Hirosaki University recently visited UMaine for an intensive three-week course on English language and U.S. culture.

UMaine’s Intensive English Institute hosted the students and conducted the programming.

Linkages between UMaine and Hirosaki University are strong. After participating in this program in past years, several of the Japanese students have returned to UMaine to enroll in classes. UMaine students have also attended Hirosaki University. The visiting students lived with host families during their three weeks in Maine.

UMF Debuts a Creative Writing Workshop for Young Writers

FARMINGTON – This summer UMF will debut a creative writing workshop for high school juniors and seniors from July 18-24.

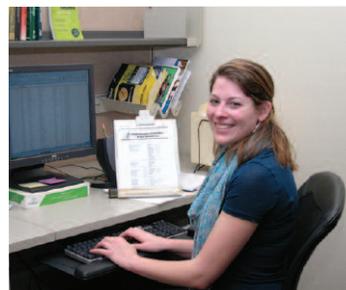
The week-long young writers’ summer workshop—titled “Longfellow Mountains”—will provide talented high school writers with the opportunity to work with expert faculty and published authors as students immerse themselves in the writing world.

The experience will consist of small intensive workshops where students will write poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction in a collegial, supportive environment. Students will hear first-hand from professional authors and poets, see the inside workings of a successful small poetry press, share their work with fellow writers, and have time to experience the best of Maine’s outdoor recreational opportunities. Information may be found at <http://creativewriting.umf.maine.edu/longfellow/>.



Editor in Training

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



UMM Spring Alternative Film Series Announced

MACHIAS – UMM has announced the schedule for its alternative film series for the spring semester. Films are shown at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Upcoming films include:

- *Il Divo* (March 24) Italian, 2009: political thriller following the brutal career of Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.
- *Waltz with Bashir* (April 7) Israeli, 2008: memories of the recent Lebanese war.
- *Moscow, Belgium* (April 14) Belgian, 2008: comedy.
- *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* (April 21) Liberia, 2008: protests of Liberian women that eventually forced Charles Taylor and the rebel factions to negotiate peace.

The series will run through April 21st. For more information, call Robert Froese at 255-1334.

UMPI Partners to Offer Third Young Professionals Institute

PRESQUE ISLE – Momentum Aroostook, MMG Insurance, and UMPI have teamed up for the third year in a row to provide the area's young professionals with a leadership development opportunity.

The three entities hosted the Young Professionals Institute, a professional development short course designed specifically for emerging leaders looking to hone their professional skills. The program was offered at the university during eight afternoon sessions.

Participants in the Young Professionals Institute learned through role-playing scenarios and hands-on activities how to write eye-catching proposals, deliver successful oral presentations, and work effectively with the media. Class activities and assignments were based around the fictitious program Strong Communities, an organized and aggressive effort to inventory the region's resources and leverage them to spur economic, social and cultural development.

For more information call 768-9740 or e-mail linda.mclaughlin1@umpi.edu.



Concerts at Jewett Presents Violinist Kinga Augustyn

AUGUSTA – The "Concerts at Jewett" Series sponsored by UMA's College of Arts and Humanities and Senior College will feature classical violinist, Kinga Augustyn, on March 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Jewett Auditorium. Her performance will feature popular pieces for solo violin including Bach's Partita No. 2 and Paganini's famous Caprices No. 24.

Born in Poland, Kinga Augustyn won international competitions in Germany, Poland, and Austria before receiving a full scholarship to attend Juilliard. She made her New York debut recital at Carnegie Hall.

For more information: www.concertsatjewett.com.



Cooperative Extension Launches "Think Globally, Eat Locally"

ORONO – A new University of Maine Cooperative Extension outreach program—"Think Globally, Eat Locally"—will help Maine residents shape the future by gaining a better understanding of where food comes from; how it is grown; and the nutritional, societal, and environmental issues surrounding the nation's food supply.

Through presentations, video, hands-on training, and discussion, the program will cover the challenges with today's food system and discuss ways to improve it. Topics include: threats to the system: climate change, energy, and water; relics of the green revolution; genetic engineering/genetically modified foods; how food influences health and well-being; new food movements such as Slow Food, farm-to-school, and school gardens; and how to grow good, clean food. For additional information, contact John Jemison at 581-3241 or jemison@maine.edu.

USM Proposes Changes to Enhance Programs, Generate Savings

PORTLAND – USM's decades-old structure would change dramatically if a draft proposal is accepted by USM President Selma Botman and then approved by University of Maine System Trustees.

The draft proposal calls for USM's eight schools and colleges to be remodeled into five colleges. USM's Lewiston-Auburn College and the University of Maine School of Law, an administrative unit of USM, are not affected by this draft proposal. Programs in the remaining six schools and colleges would become part of three colleges to be known as the Muskie College of Public Service, Management & Society; the Communication, Culture & the Arts College; and the Nursing, Health Professions & STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) College.

An eight-member "Design Team" of administrators and faculty drafted the proposal and recently submitted it to the USM community. The draft proposal and timeline are available at <http://usm.maine.edu/pres/reorganization>.

UMaine to Become a Tobacco-Free Campus

ORONO – UMaine will join the growing list of U.S. colleges and universities to adopt a tobacco-free campus policy, effective Jan. 1, 2011.

Over the next ten months, UMaine will implement an information campaign and begin working with students and employees who wish to break their addiction to tobacco products. During 2011, voluntary compliance will be expected with enforcement to begin on Jan. 1, 2012. Smoking has long been prohibited in UMaine's buildings, and the new policy will extend that ban to the campus grounds and university property in other parts of Maine, while also encompassing other tobacco and smoking products.

More information, including background on issues related to tobacco use, links to useful resources and a frequently asked questions section are all available on the Web at <http://www.umaine.edu/tobaccofree>.



A volunteer advisor and students from Casco Bay High School participate in the Titan Challenge.

USM Hosts Titan Challenge

PORTLAND – USM recently hosted Junior Achievement's Fourth Annual Titan Challenge, a competition which puts high school students in the CEO's seat, giving them a feel of what it would be like to run a global business in a competitive, high-tech marketplace.

Eleven area high schools participated in the USM-based events. In the upper field division, the Stags 3 team from Cheverus High School won first and Cheverus' Stags 1 team placed second. In the lower field division Thornton Academy's Golden Trojans 1 team placed second, as did the Portland Bulldogs team.

The home site for this internet-based competition was USM's Abromson Community Education Center. Teams also participated from USM's Lewiston Auburn College, Maine Maritime Academy, and UMaine's Foster Student Innovation Center. For more information on Junior Achievement see <http://maine.ja.org/>.

UMPI, Middle School Students Host Medieval Faire

PRESQUE ISLE – Students from UMPI's medieval history class will host a Medieval Faire along with students from Presque Isle Middle School's History Club and members of the Society for Creative Anachronism.

More than 400 middle school students from across central Aroostook County have been invited to take part in this one-of-a-kind learning opportunity on March 23 at UMPI.

The goal of the faire is to give students a taste of medieval life through a fun and interactive learning experience. Members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a not-for-profit educational organization, will recreate the pastimes and crafts of the period lending an air of authenticity to the faire's proceedings.

UMF Annual Surrealist Salon Continues

FARMINGTON – UMF is currently hosting its second annual Surrealist Salon—a series of interdisciplinary art, music, and literary events—at the UMF Art Gallery. These events are free and open-to-the-public.

Upcoming events include: Tea with Gertrude and Alice (March 23) featuring a celebration of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas; Open House and Café (March 25) offering snacks, music, and surprises; Masquerade and Fools Café (April 1) featuring surrealistic costumes, and far-fetched foolery.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Olbert at 778-7002 or elizabeth.olbert@maine.edu.

Aligning UMS Academic Programs to Meet Future Workforce Needs

BANGOR – The future of Maine's economy depends—in large part—on having college graduates with degrees that are in line with our state's needs.

Chancellor Richard L. Pattenau is convening business, government, and education leaders from across Maine to discuss this topic at "Advancing Maine: Aligning UMS Academic Programs to Meet Future Workforce Needs" a day-long summit on Tuesday, April 6, in Orono.

The event will help UMS assess future workforce needs and assist in guiding Maine's public universities in prioritizing new program development and strengthening current programs.

The featured speakers and hands-on discussion will focus on innovation and aspirations, as well as business sector trends and workforce trends. Complete information is available at: advancing.maine.edu.