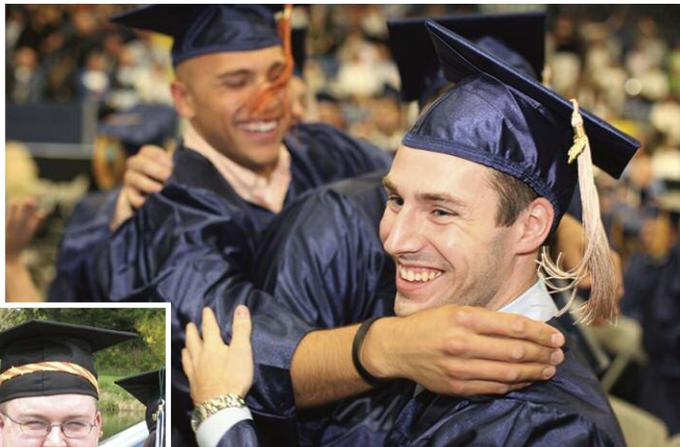


Making a Difference

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

Graduation Highlights

The universities of the University of Maine System awarded more than 4,330 degrees across the state of Maine in May.



University of Maine



University of Maine at Augusta



University of Maine at Machias



University of Southern Maine



UC Ellsworth



University of Maine at Fort Kent



University of Maine at Presque Isle



University of Maine at Farmington

UMaine Hosts High School Wind Blade Challenge

ORONO – High schools and vocational centers across Maine participated on May 14 in the second Maine Wind Blade Challenge hosted by the UMaine AEWCA Advanced Structures & Composites Center in partnership with the Maine Composites Alliance and the Maine Wind Industry Initiative. The top three teams represented the following high schools: Sumner, Mount Desert Island and Forest Hills in Jackman.

The statewide high school competition, first held last year, encourages students and teachers to explore the use and application of composite materials in expanding alternative energy industries.



UMaine's Habib Dagher speaks with student from Mt. Desert Island.

Some 225 high school students from throughout Maine created 45 teams to design and test wind blades for efficiency. Each team worked with a kit of composite resources provided by the leading composite companies in the state. Students had nine weeks to research wind blade design and performance. With help from Maine composite businesses, teams have produced their own wind blades that were tested at the Maine Wind Blade Challenge.

UMFK & UMaine Assess Nursing Graduate Program Needs

FORT KENT – Organizers at UMFK and UMaine held a public information meeting on the UMFK campus, to assess the nursing graduate program needs of area nurses.

The nursing faculties from both campuses joined together, looking to develop a graduate nursing program opportunity for nurses in Aroostook County on the UMFK campus.

Currently, nurses from northern Aroostook County who wish to pursue a master's degree in nursing must travel to Orono, or points further south, in order to do so.

The plan would have baccalaureate-prepared nurses attend classes at UMFK, perform their laboratory experiences at UMFK, and complete their clinical or practicum experiences in Aroostook County.

For further information on the information session, please call the UMFK Division of Nursing at 834-7580.

Maya Angelou Speaks at UMA



AUGUSTA – Last month, Dr. Maya Angelou spoke to an audience of 5,000 at a celebration event sponsored by the UMA Student Government Association.

The event, which was held at the Augusta Civic Center, opened with several UMA students and Rachel Talbot-Ross of the Portland NAACP reading selected writings of Dr. Angelou.

Dr. Angelou spoke for about an hour, captivating the audience with stories about her life and lessons she's learned along the way. She also read some of her poetry.

Hailed as one of the great voices of our times, Dr. Angelou is a poet, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director. Her visit to UMA was her first to Maine in more than 15 years.

MPBN Airs Film on UMPI's Wind Turbine

PRESQUE ISLE – A 30-minute film about UMPI's efforts to install a wind turbine on its campus took center stage on the Maine Public Broadcasting Network earlier this month when the public television station hosted the statewide TV premiere of "Wind 101: The University of Maine at Presque Isle Builds a Wind Turbine."

The film follows the process UMPI leaders took to complete its major renewable energy project – from the very first energy survey to the very last installation detail – and the bumps encountered along the way. This film also shows the work done to turn its project into an educational opportunity for students and the greater community.

For more information about UMPI's wind project, call 768-9452 or visit www.umpi.edu/wind. To view a 30-second trailer of the film, visit umpi.edu/wind/wind-101.

"Learning As a Way of Leading" Lecture at USM

PORTLAND – USM presented a free, public lecture on "Learning As a Way of Leading" by Stephen Brookfield, on May 19. Brookfield, a multiple year recipient of the Cyril O. Houle World Award for Literature in Adult Education is a recent inductee into the international Adult Education Hall of Fame.

The lecture was the third of four of the USM's College of Education and Human Development's 2009-2010 Visiting Libra Scholar series on the "Teaching and Leading in the 21st Century."

USM's College of Education and Human Development also will host visiting scholar Sonia Nieto (June 2-3). Margaret Wheatley and Henry Giroux visited this past fall. The Libra Series was established to attract well-known scholars to Maine's public universities. An endowment created by the late Elizabeth B. Noyce supports the series. For more information, call 780-5373 or click on:

<http://usm.maine.edu/cehd/About-Us/Achievements/Faculty/Stephen-Brookfield.html>



UMF's Michael D. Wilson Symposium

Symposium, a university-wide day of celebration of outstanding student scholarship and creative achievements across academic disciplines.

Students at this year's Symposium presented studies across the curriculum, including timely topics such as: how the Bracero Agreement set the stage for Mexico-U.S. immigration; the New Balance Shoe Co.'s success in the global market; music's effect on consumer behavior; impact of the declining New England dairy industry; and saving the planet one room at a time.

The Michael D. Wilson Symposium is organized by the UMF Culture Committee. Information on this year's may be found at <http://symposium.umf.maine.edu/symposium-2010/>.

UMaine Named a Green College

ORONO – UMaine is one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges according to The Princeton Review. The nationally known education services company selected UMaine for inclusion in a unique resource it has created for college applicants, "The Princeton Review's Guide to 286 Green Colleges."

This is the first, free comprehensive guidebook focused solely on institutions of higher education that have demonstrated an above average commitment to sustainability in terms of campus infrastructure, activities, and initiatives. UMaine's green initiatives include the student-led Green Campus Initiative, the university's unique and award-winning master plan, early adoption of the President's Climate Commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, model approaches to energy procurement, environmentally friendly practices in housing and dining, and success in meeting the Governor's Carbon Challenge.

USM to Host Model United Nations Event

GORHAM – USM's Gorham campus was taken over by high school students from across the northeast, participating in the Maine Model United Nations Conference (MeMUNC). This year's conference hosted 380 high school students from Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York. Student teams represented different countries and spent the three days in meetings and sessions, simulating the United Nations, and preparing for a big event at the end of the conference.

For more information about the conference, see: <http://www.memunc.org/>

Fifth Annual UMF Michael D. Wilson Symposium Spotlights Academic Excellence

FARMINGTON – UMF recently held its fifth annual Michael D. Wilson

UMFK Hosts Business Innovation Workshop

FORT KENT – Last month, UMFK hosted a free Business Innovation Workshop focused on better equipping participants to turn innovation concepts into easy to understand business plans and also providing a better understanding about the resources available to protect those innovations.

The workshop was part of the creative economy efforts that have been going on in the St. John Valley. This kind of education is a component of one of the recommendations the research team made through the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center.

The workshop also drew upon the Innovation Engineering curriculum that was a featured program in the recent University of Maine System's Advancing Maine program. For more information contact Leo Trudel at 834-7567 or leo.trudel@maine.edu.

UMPI Students Raise Awareness

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI social work students created awareness for the people affected by the earthquake in Haiti during their project "A Tribute to Hope" held last month.

Students undertook a campus-wide, non-verbal demonstration for the project, which included a multimedia presentation where students created several table displays and informational booths, providing facts about Haiti's earthquake and a timeline that traced the history of Haiti, its poverty, governmental infrastructure, and natural disasters.

The goals of the project were three-fold: for participants to learn something they didn't know about the history of Haiti, to learn about the ongoing challenges affecting Haitians in the aftermath of the recent earthquake, and to gain a sense of what it is like to be affected by a natural disaster.

UMM Dedicates Sculpture



MACHIAS – "The Islands of Maine," a large-scale granite sculpture from last year's Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium, received a formal dedication on the morning of UMM's commencement on May 15.

Created by John Gogaberishvili, a sculptor from the Republic of Georgia, the

Machias sculpture was part of the 2009 Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium, held on Schoodic Point in Acadia National Park. The sculpture was crafted primarily from nearby Jonesboro granite.



Visitors tour the East Machias' Aquatic Research Center.

UMM Honors High School Writers

MACHIAS – Thirteen writers were honored at the Fifteenth Annual Washington County High School Writer's Symposium at UMM. The event was sponsored by UMM's Dead Poets Society and the

English and Interdisciplinary Fine Arts programs.

The honored writers were: (Washington Academy) Chloe Barnett, Nicole Harmon, Kahli Harvey, Emily Jones, Jae Oh Kim, Allison Talbot, Toby Woods, Anne Zegers; (Narraguagus) Katelyn Hartford, Haley Toppin; (Machias Memorial) Maria NeCastro, Jessie Rottersman; and (Shead) Patricia Johnson.

The Symposium is open to all high school students in Washington County. Submissions for next year's competition will be accepted between January 1 and February 28, 2011. For further information about the Symposium, please contact Gerard NeCastro at 255-1293 or necastro@maine.edu.

UMF Community Spring Concert

FARMINGTON – UMF's Community Orchestra recently presented its spring concert at Nordica Auditorium in Merrill Hall. The ensemble, directed by Trond Saeverud, is a full symphonic orchestra including UMF students, staff, and community members.

The program included "Karelia Suite," by Jean Sibelius; "Symphony No. 1 in C," by George Bizet and "Proclamation" for trumpet and orchestra, by Ernest Bloch, with trumpet soloist Ray Phillips.

UMF Community Orchestra conductor and violinist, Trond Saeverud is currently concertmaster of the Bangor Symphony, first violin in the Nor'easter String Quartet, artistic director of the Harald Saeverud Chamber Music Program and founder and conductor of the new Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra.

UMA Senior Student Art Show

AUGUSTA – "Becoming Undone," the 2010 UMA Senior Thesis Art Exhibition runs through May 28 in the Danforth Gallery on the UMA campus.



Charcoal drawing by UMA student Heidi Puia.

Featuring the work of thirteen graduating seniors from Maine in a variety of media, "Becoming Undone" includes student pieces installed, inked, printed, painted, photographed, and sculptural produced over the course of the spring semester.

For more information on Becoming Undone and the student artists and their work, go to: www.artsuma.com.

UMaine Tent Panel In Development

ORONO – UMaine composites materials technology is now under commercial development through a licensing agreement with a southern Maine manufacturing company.

Modular Ballistic Protection System technology, which was conceptualized, fabricated and tested at UMaine's AEW: Advanced Structures and Composites Center, provide protection for military personnel in combat situations. A series of 4-by-8-foot composite panels, the systems are designed for quick and simple assembly inside tents. Once in place, they provide blast protection for those inside the tents.

Tex Tech Industries will produce the technology for the U.S. Army.

OnlineMaine Coming Soon

BANGOR – Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude recently announced the creation of OnlineMaine, a Web site which will be the primary access point for all UMS online programs and related student support services.

OnlineMaine will be important in developing significant growth in the number of online programs and in providing expanded access to such programs for Maine residents—which are recommendations that stem from the System's "New Challenges, New Directions" initiative.

University College, which oversees many of the System's distance learning activities, will administer OnlineMaine.

June 8 Ballot Issue—Question 2—Impacts UMS

BANGOR – Maine's public universities would be among the beneficiaries of bond proposal on the June 8 ballot.

Question 2, recently approved by both the Governor and State Legislature, proposes a \$26.5 million state investment in energy conservation and generation involving the University System, Maine's community colleges, and Maine Maritime Academy. Along with providing funding for energy efficient measures, Question 2 would invest in further research and development of the University of Maine's offshore wind technology initiative, which has received considerable national attention and praise. Part of the bond would be used to develop an offshore deepwater wind energy demonstration project as a prelude to commercializing the technology as a renewable and alternative source of energy.

Passage of Question 2 would also leverage an additional \$24.5 million in investment by federal and other sources. Passage of Question 2 is expected to have a significant positive economic impact on the state by creating jobs and providing Maine-based energy alternatives.

More information on the bond and related projects at Maine's public universities may be found at www.maine.edu/UMS2010bond.