

Making a Difference

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

USM Partners with City of Portland to Offer Free Electronics Recycling

PORTLAND – USM recently partnered with the City of Portland to offer a free community electronic waste collection event. Residents from around the region were invited to bring unwanted electronic items including televisions, computer monitors, computers, fax machines, printers, video game consoles and other electronic devices with a cord to representatives from North Coast Services and Casella Resource, who will ensure that it was properly recycled.



Removing electronic items from our waste stream is an important way to prevent pollution. Many devices contain heavy metals and dangerous chemical compounds that could cause pollution if not handled appropriately. Recycling prevents these toxins from entering the environment and facilitates the recovery of potentially valuable resources that can be re-used in other products.

UMaine Studies Impact of Sea Urchin Declination in Maine Ecosystem

ORONO – An ecological chain reaction triggered by the boom and bust of sea urchin fishing in the Gulf of Maine demonstrates the importance of comprehensive ecosystem-based ocean management.

A team of UMaine researchers pooled 36 years of Gulf of Maine ocean data to examine how a stable ecosystem state composed of green sea urchins and a pavement of crustose coralline algae switched, or “flipped,” to an alternate stable state dominated by erect macroalgae, or kelp and other seaweed.



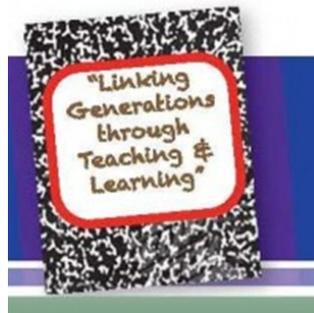
When fishermen began abruptly removing large numbers of sea urchins from the Gulf of Maine in the late 1980s, the seaweed on which they grazed began to flourish. The abundance of seaweed, in turn, created a nursery habitat for Jonah crabs. The crabs, say the researchers, subsequently preyed on the sea urchins that remained.



The entire coastal ecosystem flipped and “locked” into a seaweed-dominated alternate stable state that has persisted for nearly 20 years.

UMPI Celebrates 12th Annual University Day

PRESQUE ISLE – From mass customized learning and zebrafish to storytelling and jogging for justice, students at UMPI recently showcased their academic research, scholarly work and community service during University Day. The theme of this year's event is Linking Generations through Teaching and Learning.



University Day is an event that heightens students' awareness of the work being done by peers in all of the disciplines represented on campus. The annual campus event allows students to better understand how disciplines interrelate and how the academic work they do applies to the local and global community. It is also an opportunity for students to experience a professional conference format. No regular classes are held during University Day, but in their stead, students are encouraged to attend student-led presentations and talks held during six sessions throughout the day.

UMM's Early College Program a Huge Boost for Local Students

MACHIAS – Through its Early College Program for high school juniors and seniors in Washington and Hancock counties, UMM has served more than 600 students through both campus-based or online classes, as well as offering scholarships to cover 50 percent of tuition costs.

The benefits of the program extend to raising college aspirations, helping students prepare for college life and coursework, and providing a significant head start on college work.

For high school students who are academically ready but do not know what to expect in college, the program offers an opportunity to make that transition to college classes in a very supportive environment. Program coordinators check regularly on students' attendance, homework assignments, and test grades. If any problems arise, the program works with the guidance counselor from the student's high school and the student to resolve them.



For more information on UMM's Early College Program, go to www.machias.edu/early-college.

UMF Art Students Top College Experience with Senior Exhibit

FARMINGTON – In culmination of their senior year at UMF, seven talented art students exhibit their senior capstone art projects in this year’s UMF Senior Exhibition, “Amalgamate.” This free and open-to-the-public mixed-media show will be on display through May 18 in the UMF Art Gallery and throughout the Emery Community Arts Center.

Over the past two semesters, the senior art students have engaged, through artistic practice, the complexities of creating work in a contemporary culture. This group uses a variety of mediums to immerse the audience into exploration of subject matters as diverse as rural poverty, nostalgia, cultural memory and crisis, the sacred space, the mundane, internal conflicts, existential angst, cinematography, fiction and fantasy.



UMaine Researches Risks of Early Exposure to Methadone

ORONO – Longitudinal studies of children exposed to methadone in the womb need to accompany methadone maintenance treatment for drug-addicted pregnant mothers, according to a research team led by a UMaine researcher.

It’s well documented that methadone causes neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in some newborns. NAS can result in gastrointestinal symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea, as well as slow feeding and growth and, in more severe cases, seizures.



To better understand long-term implications of prenatal methadone exposure on infant and toddler development, a UMaine research team is conducting a longitudinal study of 200 methadone-exposed and nonexposed demographically matched families.

According to the team’s research, at 9 months of age, 37.5 percent of the methadone-exposed infants demonstrated clinically significant motor delays compared with typical development in the nonexposed group.

The findings were published in the March 2013 issue of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology.

UMA To Hold Information Session on New B.S. in Aviation Program



AUGUSTA – UMA will hold an in-depth information session about its

new Bachelor of Science in Aviation (BSAV) Program for prospective students who are interested in applying for the program. The session will take place on April 25 from 2-4 pm.

Representatives from UMA and Maine Instrument Flight (MIF) will be available to discuss the program, admissions requirements, the application process, and answer additional questions.

For more information about the program visit the Aviation Program web page: <http://www.uma.edu/aviation.html>

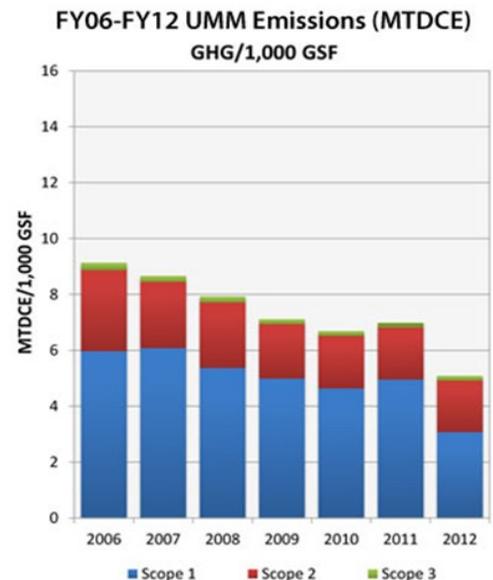
UMM Reduces Carbon Emissions by 44% in Seven Years

MACHIAS – UMM’s commitment to being a more energy efficient campus has had a positive impact on its carbon footprint over the past seven years. A recent report by the University of Maine System shows that UMM reduced its greenhouse gas emissions from heating and electricity by 44% between 2006 and 2012, the largest reduction among the seven UMS campuses over the same period.

The University’s carbon footprint, the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that are released into the atmosphere as a result of energy consumed, has been reduced by UMM’s commitment to energy conservation and efficiency upgrades.

Educating the campus is something the university would like to focus on moving forward. UMM’s sustainability coordinator would like to see a greater emphasis on

sustainability and energy conservation during new student orientation, sharing energy-saving tips with the campus community, and informing the occupants of each building about how they are performing in terms of efficiency and reducing UMM’s greenhouse gas emissions.



UMFK Hosts Weather Spotters Training Session

FORT KENT – UMFK recently hosted a Weather Spotters training session, conducted by personnel from the National Weather Service's office.

The training session was open to anyone with an interest in severe weather and/or public service. The objective of the training is to provide the knowledge to identify and report key severe weather features.

Topics expected to be covered during the training included winter weather, ice jams, severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, and more.



USM Invites Participants in 4th Annual Day of Service to “Be the Change”

PORTLAND – Members of the USM community recently strived to “Be the Change” as part of the University’s 4th Annual Day of Service. The USM Day of Service is a campus-wide initiative that is expected to engage 150-200 students, faculty, staff, and alumni in giving back to our community.

Volunteers were able sign up for one-time projects at locations such as Partners for World Health, Portland Trails, Rippling Waters Organic Farms, and the Maine Veterans’ Home. There will also be projects like cleaning up trash in the Back Bay, and a Peaks Island clean up.

And, for the first time, the Day of Service partnered with the University Neighborhood Organization for a Longfellow Park clean up.

For more information about this event, or to pre-register, visit the [Day of Service](#) website.

UMF Features Reading by Maine Author

FARMINGTON – UMF is proud to present Maine author Monica Wood as the next writer in the celebrated UMF Visiting Writers Series. The UMF Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program recently sponsored Wood’s reading in The Landing in the UMF Olsen Student Center.

Wood’s work includes “Secret Language,” and “My Only Story.” She also writes books to help teachers and writers such as “Short Takes,” and “12 Multicultural Novels: A Reading and Teaching Guide.”

Her most recent book, “When We Were the Kennedys: A Memoir from Mexico, Maine” won the 2012 May Sarton Memoir Award and was runner-up for the 2012 New England Book Festival Award in autobiography. It was on Oprah’s Magazine summer-reading list, the IndieNext pick, Radio Boston summer pick, and New England Booksellers Association bestseller.



UMA Hosts One-Woman Performance

AUGUSTA – UMA’s Cultural Arts Committee and the Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine (HHRC) will host, *Big Mouth Thunder Thighs*, a solo vaudeville by Maine performer, Bess Welden, on May 3, at 7:30 PM at UMA.



Big Mouth Thunder Thighs, a one-woman performance about body and food, intertwines memoir storytelling with a highly-theatrical variety show featuring roller-skating, stand-up comedy, singing, dancing, Shakespeare, poetry, and a series of “Death-Defying Acts.”

Welden, a theater artist based out of Portland, wrote the script and will also be performing the 80-minute show. She has appeared at places such as the Portland Stage, the Opera House at Boothbay, and the Mad Horse Theatre. She is the co-writer and performer of four other one-woman plays.

For more information visit: <http://www.bigmouththunderthighs.com/>.



UMaine Celebrates Annual “Paper Days” by Opening Cellulose Nanofiber Pilot Plant

ORONO – A ribbon cutting to mark the opening of the nation’s first cellulose nanofiber pilot plant and a keynote address by U.S. Sen. Angus King recently highlighted the 63rd annual Paper Days at UMaine.



Innovation, with a focus on biobased nanoparticles and biofuels, was the theme of this year’s Paper Days, coordinated by the UMaine Pulp & Paper Foundation.

The event is designed to facilitate the connection between the university and industry by getting UMaine students and faculty, and industry representatives together to learn about the latest topics in the field and to network.

The pilot plant manufactures cellulose nanofibers, a wood-based reinforcing material that is increasingly of interest to researchers worldwide in the development of high-value materials.

UMPI Presents “12x12” Art Auction



PRESQUE ISLE – Officials with the Wintergreen Arts Center and UMPI are making final preparations for their second annual blank canvas event, the 12x12 Art Auction, which will feature original works by more than

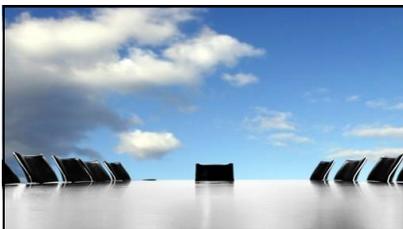
50 artists from throughout Aroostook County, the nation, and Canada. 12x12—a fundraiser that will help officials to establish a Cultural Center in the downtown area—will be held Friday, May 3, from 6-9 p.m. at the Wintergreen Arts Center during the May 2013 First Friday Art Walk.

As with the 10x10 art auction last year, organizers for the expanded 12x12 auction have provided participating artists with blank 12-inch by 12-inch canvases to fill in any way they choose – “Any media goes.”

For more information about the 12x12 Art Auction, contact Gilman-Zubrick at wintergreenarts@gmail.com or 762-3576, or contact Sincavage at heather.sincavage@umpi.edu or 768-9442.

Maine Law School Hosts Governance & Ethics Symposium

PORTLAND – From embezzlement by small town Little League treasurers to fraud and corruption within some of its largest financial institutions, America has witnessed stunning breaches of trust in the past several years.



The fifth annual Governance & Ethics Symposium at the University of Maine School of Law asks a key question: Are we learning yet?

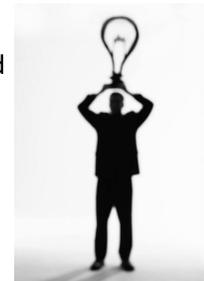
The symposium is scheduled for 3-5 p.m. on April 24, and will feature panelists including the Maine Attorney General and the deputy director of Maine’s Office of Policy Management.

This year’s topic is “Governance, Ethics and Accountability in the Public and Private Sectors: Lessons Learned, Not Learned and Still to be Learned.” Panelists will examine what Maine, as well as the country, has learned or failed to learn from well publicized failures of ethics and accountability.

The Symposium has limited space available. To reserve your seat in the overflow room, please call [207-780-4344](tel:207-780-4344) or email mainelaw@maine.edu.

USM Partners with SMCC to Exhibit Research

PORTLAND – Want to know the best way to collect solar energy? What about significant contributions to photojournalism? Are you interested in protecting gray wolves? This small sample shows the wide variety of topics that USM and SMCC students researched during the past year and will present during USM’s annual “Thinking Matters” conference on April 26. This year, many of the projects focused on ways to improve the lives of Mainers.



Since 2003, “Thinking Matters” has fostered opportunities for students to collaborate with their professors on research projects and allowed students to present their work in an academic conference setting. Now, students and faculty from SMCC have joined the conference.

Visit [Thinking Matters](#) for more information.

UMA Holds Annual Poetry Festival

AUGUSTA – UMA’s recently held its 11th annual Terry Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival, the state’s largest annual poetry event.

This year’s theme, A Tribute to Anthology, features Maine poet, Wes McNair reading from his recently published memoir, *Words I Choose: A Memoir of Family and Poetry*. Other highlights include featured poets Lee Sharkey and David Adams.

Paying homage to UMA’s 2012/2013 academic theme, Food, there will also be a panel discussion on Poetry and Food.

Meet the Editor

BANGOR – This issue of *Making a Difference* was researched, edited, and designed by Jaclyn Stevens of Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Jaclyn is a fifth-year student at UMaine, majoring in journalism with a concentration in advertising.

Jaclyn is a student employee at the University of Maine System Office for the spring semester. She graduates in May.

