

Making a Difference

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

UMaine Wins First Phase of Potential \$93.2 Million for Offshore Wind Program



ORONO – UMaine's [Advanced Structures and Composites Center](#) has been awarded the first phase

of a potential \$93.2 million deepwater offshore wind demonstration project by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The UMaine Composites Center-led team of industry leaders and national laboratories is one of five awardees selected from over 70 competing proposals.

In this initial phase, each project will receive up to \$4 million to complete the engineering, design and permitting phase of this award. In a year, DOE will select up to three of these projects for follow-on phases that focus on siting, construction and installation, and aim to achieve commercial operation by 2017. These projects will receive up to \$47 million each over four years, subject to Congressional appropriations. The UMaine Composites Center's industry partners have pledged the remaining funds.

The project builds on the success of the DeepCwind Consortium Research Program, spearheaded by UMaine Composites Center and its industry partners, and funded by DOE, National Science Foundation-Partnerships for Innovation, and the Maine Technology Institute, among others. A 1:8-scale VolturnUS floating platform will be deployed by UMaine researchers in spring 2013 at the UMaine Deepwater Offshore Wind Test Site near Monhegan Island.

UMA Conducts Pet Food Drive

BANGOR – The "Intro to the College Experience" class at UMA is conducting a Service Learning Project that involves gathering food and supplies for pets of the elderly. All proceeds will go to The Eastern Maine Area Agency on Aging.

The pet food drive will be at UMA Bangor through December 20. There are drop boxes at Bangor's Nottage Library, in the Cornerstone office located at 204, Belfast Hall and also in Lewiston Hall. Acceptable donations include, dog food, cat food, bird food or pet toys. No cash donations accepted.



UMF Creates Program to Help Students Manage Debt

FARMINGTON – While investing in a college education brings a lifetime of benefits, it still presents the possibility of many students having to take out loans, for which many are ill-prepared. That is why UMF has created the Campaign for Financial Literacy to provide students with personalized money management strategies, financial education resources and debt management guidance that they can use as a foundation to make good financial decisions.

The program employs six trained student interns to reach out to students and graduates one-on-one at educational workshops, online and at open-to-the-public sessions. The interns study debt management and default prevention strategies in addition to becoming familiar with various loan programs, lenders and repayment plans available to students.

In addition, training is supported on an ongoing basis by UMF faculty, staff and alumni and collaborative workshops and free financial education resources.

UMF students interested in learning more can sign up for a one-on-one informational meeting, come to an on-campus presentation, or visit finaidumf.wordpress.com.



UMM Receives \$200K Grant to Study Fast-Growth Clams and Health

MACHIAS – UMM has been awarded a \$200,000, two-year grant from the National Institutes for Health (NIH) to study the DNA of fast-growth soft-shell clams and the relevance of fast-growing cells to human health.

Research will focus on a particular strain of clams raised at the nearby Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research (DEI) in Beals that are growing at a rate that is considerably faster than others. By inbreeding the clams, researchers at DEI have selected a pool that is reliably fast growing. DEI is the marine field station for UMM's marine biology program. It will also provide insight into not only growth patterns, but also the susceptibility to tumor formation among mollusks, providing information relevant to evolution and public health.

The grant provides funding for three undergraduate student researchers, high-tech computers for analyzing genetic data, DNA and RNA sequencing, and workshops at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory.

UMaine Honeybee Colony Offers Biological Lessons



ORONO – In September, 20,000 honeybees took up residence at UMaine as part of a live exhibition in the School of Biology and Ecology.

Since the installation of the 2-foot by 5-foot sealed frames that pivot from the wall, the buzz hasn't stopped. The exhibit has

become a popular destination for visiting school groups and UMaine students passing by the exhibit on their way to classes.

There's even a "beecam" installed near an opening in the wall that gives the bees access to the great outdoors. Fans can watch online as the bees move in and out of the hive, even in the winter.

The colony will not be managed for honey production. UMaine entomologists have been conducting honeybee research for nearly two decades, maintaining up to four apiaries with upward of 60 colonies in any given year. Most recently, the research has focused on the effects of commonly used pesticides on honeybees, and the relationship between honeybees and native bees in pollinating Maine's wild blueberry crop. Since 2009, UMaine also has been part of a seven-state study on the causes of colony collapse disorder that has brought a rapid decline of bees worldwide.

UMPI hosts Visual Arts Day

PRESQUE ISLE – More than 60 students from local high schools in the region recently visited UMPI for a day filled with learning about everything from drawing and clay sculpture to photography and sculpture. The event, Visual Arts Day, was organized by UMPI's Art Education program for Aroostook Regional Gifted and Talented [ARGT] and this was the first time the art program was opened to high schoolers.



Students took part in hands-on art workshops, and had the opportunity to further experience the campus environment. The workshops that were offered included illustration and storyboarding, an introduction to using the pottery wheel, and sculpture.

There will be another Visual Arts Day in Spring 2013. For more information, call 207-768-9442 or contact heather.sincavage@umpi.edu

USM Receives Grant to Continue Recycling Efforts

PORTLAND – USM recently received a grant from Keep America Beautiful and the Coca Cola Foundation for foldable wire framed recycling bins for use during special events. In the past staff have had to haul large plastic bins around campus but with the new ClearStream bin the process is easier, quicker, and the bins take up less storage space.



The first deployment of the new system was at the annual Opening Breakfast event for staff and faculty held earlier this semester. Special signs were created with event-specific waste information on them to make sorting easier for attendees.

Over 800 university staff and faculty attended the event and 75% of the waste created was correctly recycled. USM practices single stream recycling so the only waste was food scraps, napkins, and plastic eating utensils. On-campus single stream recycling rate for 2012 is currently around 42%.



UMFK Receives Grant to Study Grass Biomass Feasibility

FORT KENT – The Center for Rural Sustainable Development at UMFK has received a \$62,334 grant to study farmer interest in large-scale grass biomass production, as well as the economic and market feasibility of grass biomass in the St. John Valley.

The study will gauge whether there is stakeholder interest, opportunity and the required physical, human, financial, and technological capital to create and maintain a grass biomass industry in northern Maine, in order to offset the high cost of heating, and to add value to the economy of St. John Valley in a sustainable way.

Research on the project will be conducted by UMFK faculty and student interns, along with collaborators from the UMaine Cooperative Extension, and local stakeholders.

This past spring, UMFK dedicated the first of two biomass (wood-to-energy) heating systems planned for the campus. That system will provide heat for 1.75 acres of floor space and is expected to save the campus nearly \$1 million in the next decade. A second biomass plant is expected to be online in late 2014. That system will power nine buildings on the main campus, as well as building on the adjacent Fort Kent Community High School campus.



UMM To Host First Maine Regional Brain Bee

MACHIAS – High school students from throughout Maine will get a chance to test their knowledge of neuroscience when UMMK hosts the first Maine Regional Brain Bee in February. The winner of the Maine Regional Brain Bee will be eligible to compete in the National Brain Bee, held at the University of Maryland in March.

The Brain Bee is being planned by the Psychology and Community Studies program at UMM with support from faculty at UMPI.

The UMM Admissions Office will provide lunch and a tour of the campus for participants, parents, and chaperones. There will also be neuroscience demonstrations before and after the Brain Bee competition to further promote psychological science to participants and non-participants alike.

A free webinar will be held on Friday, January 18 to allow potential participants, parents, high school advisors, and guidance counselors from across the state to learn more about the event, try their hand at sample questions, and ask any questions they may have about the competition.

To register or for more information, please contact Lois-Ann Kuntz at lkuntz@maine.edu with “Brain Bee” in the subject line or visit www.machias.edu/maine-brain-bee.

UMaine Grows Greens for Campus Dining Halls

ORONO – Snowflakes floated toward the frozen ground while UMaine students snipped salad greens inside a campus greenhouse where the temperature approached a balmy 50 degrees. The greens were a hit with salad bar customers the next day at the Maine Marketplace in Memorial Union.



The Elegance Greens Mix, which includes Pac Choi, red mustard, mizuna and leaf broccoli, was the first harvest of the UMaine Greens Project.

UMaine Greens, headquartered in a greenhouse off Rangeley Road, was funded with \$11,500 from UMaine’s Unified Fee.

The idea of growing and eating healthy, local food is logical and appealing to many in the college community.

It is estimated that about 15% of all food served in UMaine’s campus dining halls is harvested in Maine. In two years, the goal is to increase the proportion of locally grown food served at the university to 25%.

USM Hosts Annual Music Scholarship Gala

PORTLAND – A traditional prelude to the holiday season, the USM School of Music recently held its annual scholarship gala, which raises funds to support music student scholarships. This year marks the 22nd anniversary celebration.

A landmark event, the evening highlighted the impressive talent of USM School of Music students, entertained hundreds of guests, and raises more than \$50,000 for USM music scholarships.



The USM School of Music is a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music, offering the Bachelor of Music degree in performance and music education, and the Bachelor of Arts degree for the study of music in a liberal arts curriculum. It also administers the USM Youth Ensembles, to give talented young musicians through high school the opportunity to become more

knowledgeable about music literature, and to develop their skills through ensemble performance experience. Learn more at usm.maine.edu/music or Facebook, at facebook.com/Music.USM.

UMF Theatre Honored with Major Award

FARMINGTON – UMF is proud to announce that it has recently been awarded a Moss Hart Memorial Award by the New England Theatre Conference—New England’s oldest and largest regional theatre association—for its March 2012 Theatre UMF production of Bruce Graham’s “Coyote on a Fence”.



A compelling drama set in a southern prison, “Coyote on a Fence” explores complex questions about today’s



society and how it measures guilt and innocence.

Annual Moss Hart Memorial Awards are presented at The New England Theatre Conference Annual Convention. Their goal is

to recognize and encourage outstanding theatrical productions throughout New England of playscripts that present affirmative views of human courage and dignity, that have strong literary and artistic merit and which, in their productions, exemplify fresh, imaginative, creative treatment within the intent of the playwright.

UMPI Hosts Ellis Paul Concert

PRESQUE ISLE – A nationally acclaimed singer-songwriter who has spent more than 20 years touring as a musician, and who just happens to call Presque Isle his hometown, will head home for a performance at the beginning of the new year. Ellis Paul will take the stage at UMPI at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013.

This special concert serves as a fundraiser for children's programming at the Wintergreen Arts Center as well as UMPI's efforts to make 149 State Street a Cultural Center with established museum-quality, downtown gallery space on the floor above WGAC.

For more information about the concert, please contact UMPI's Community and Media Relations Office at 768-9452.

USM Collaborates With Local High School to Discuss Gender and Culture

PORTLAND – USM recently partnered with Portland High School and the Portland Mentoring Alliance (PMA) to provide a unique college visit for students in the PMA.

On December 5th, PHS students and PMA participants met with USM students in the Introduction to Women Studies course on the Portland campus. The goal of the visit was to discuss the USM students' work in Women and Gender studies and to discuss the concepts of gender and culture.

Some of the PHS students (who are all female and share the refugee or immigrant experience) shared stories about gender expression in their countries of origin. This opportunity to visit the campus provided the PHS students a unique opportunity to connect with USM students and faculty around issues facing our community.

UMA Welcomes New Exhibit

AUGUSTA – The UMA Danforth Gallery will have a new exhibit entitled *Work Ethic of a Chimney Sweep*, created by University of Cincinnati Art Professor, Ryan Mulligan, on display through January 18.

The exhibit is an aesthetic and cultural study of the Disney film *Mary Poppins* which explores ideas including "Capitalism in the interwar period of London" and "Allegorical study of job placement and re-skilling labor" manifested through generating props, drawings, massive maps, diagrams, picket signs, and copious visual output that will overtake the gallery space.



You can also visit <http://www.autobiomagical.com/> to find out more about the artist.

The Maine Poetry Express Comes to UMFK

FORT KENT – UMFK recently hosted a new initiative entitled "The Maine Poetry Express" on its campus. The primary goal of the initiative is to show that poetry belongs to not only literary specialists, but to everyone.

The event featured presentations by acclaimed writers and professors, who all read two poems that they admire and explained why they chose them.

"The Maine Poetry Express" is sponsored by the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance and the Maine Humanities Council.

For more information on the presentation, contact Dr. Jenny Radsma at 207-834-7586.

UMS Receives \$300,000 Grant for Administrative Review Project

BANGOR – The Davis Educational Foundation recently awarded the University of Maine System with a \$300,000 grant to underwrite expenses associated with the Office of Organizational Effectiveness as it supports the first year of a top to bottom comprehensive administrative review of all functional areas—both at the System Office and at each of the individual campuses.

The UMS Board of Trustees charged System with undertaking the review of administrative functions, as part of a goals & actions directive issued in January 2012. Reviews are currently under way in the areas of human resources, information technology, procurement, and administrative staffing for administrative and academic functions.

The project will help UMS deliver more efficient and cost effective services and reduce expenditures—in order to keep higher education affordable for Maine people.

In the award letter, the Foundation noted, "In making the award, [Davis Education Foundation] Trustees reflected on the converging elements of urgency, leadership, and campus involvement as positive assets toward project success." The Davis Educational Foundation was established by Stanton and Elizabeth Davis after Mr. Davis's retirement of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.

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 an intern at the University of Maine System Office for the fall semester. She graduates in May.

