

Making a Difference

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

UMaine to Award \$2.5M in Additional Scholarships

ORONO – UMaine will award an additional \$2.5 million in student scholarships this fall, bringing the total amount of institutional financial aid for UMaine undergraduates in the coming academic year to more than \$20 million.

This academic year, more than \$17.6 million was awarded in merit scholarships and need-based grants to undergraduates. First-year students received more than \$3.1 million in merit aid. More than half of this year's merit aid—nearly \$1.8 million—went to 638 Maine students.



Merit scholarships are renewable for up to four years.

At UMaine, incoming students—first-time undergraduates and transfer students—are automatically considered for scholarships upon admission. More than

84 percent of UMaine undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid.

USM Students Receive Help Learning Financial Literacy

PORTLAND – How much college debt is too much? What will college loan payments be upon graduation? Will I be able to afford a car or a mortgage and pay my college loans? After graduation, where can USM alumni receive financial advice?

At USM, help can be found through SALT, a program created by the non-profit organization American Student Assistance (ASA). The program went live during USM's spring semester Welcome Week when students were able to register for free accounts with SALT at computer stations on all three of USM's campuses.

Through participation in SALT, students learn how to budget and manage their finances. ASA will have access to each student's loan data, so once registered, students will be able to seek



answers and advice regarding budgeting, taking out new loans, or upon graduation, loan consolidation.

For more information about what SALT has to offer USM students, contact Dan Welter, at dwelter@usm.maine.edu.

UMA Receives Approval to Launch New Bachelor's of Science Degree in Aviation



AUGUSTA – To help meet the increasing demand for commercial airline pilots in Maine, UMA will be launching a new Bachelor's of Science in Aviation program, beginning September 2013.

Developed in partnership with Maine Instrument Flight (MIF), a flight school located in Augusta, UMA's B.S. in Aviation program will equip students with four FAA certifications: private pilot, instrument rating, commercial pilot, and flight instructor.

Because of UMA's low public tuition rates, the new B.S. in Aviation is significantly less expensive than the cost of comparable programs nationally. In addition, financial aid is available, and if the applicant has served in the armed forces, their Military Education Benefits may pay up to 100% of tuition and fees.

UMA's new program still requires the approval of its accrediting agency, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). NEASC will consider the program at its March meeting.

UMPI Receives Diversity Grant for Science Learning

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI is partnering with the Aroostook Band of Micmacs Boys and Girls Club of America and the Francis Malcolm Science Center to provide several science exploration activities this spring specifically designed for local Native American students in elementary, middle school, and high school.



UMPI was awarded a \$565 Diversity Mini-Grant from the University of Maine System's Diversity Committee to coordinate and lead the science related activities.

The grant will support three learning events that will take place in March and April, and involve Micmac students in hands-on activities focusing on science, technology, engineering and math, (also known as the STEM fields). Students will also get an inside look at what it's like to be a college student and present research to campus and community members.

To learn more about the three learning events, view the press release [here](#).

UMaine 4-H Celebrates 100 Years

ORONO – Maine 4-H, which turns 100 years old this year, has a lot to celebrate—deep roots, a large, supportive

family and a lot of successes.

Today, 4-H youth programs enrich children’s lives through technology and hands-on programming.

4-H—which stands

for head, hands, heart and health—is the youth development branch of UMaine Cooperative Extension. Extension leaders and volunteers utilize university resources to develop the life skills and broaden the horizons of 30,000 Maine children each year.

If youth are interested in raising steers, making cheese, shearing goats, learning about tractor safety, sewing, growing vegetables and being a member of a Dairy Quiz Bowl Team, UMaine Extension has opportunities for them.

And if they’re fascinated with rocketry, adventure camps, new media photography, Junior Maine Guiding, public speaking, climate change, website development and LEGO robotics, 4-H has programs for them as well.

While 4-H has grown in size and scope since its inception in Maine in 1913, its core belief is the same—children are the promise for the future.

University Chancellor and USM President to Share Views on Higher Education

PORTLAND – University Chancellor James Page and USM President Theo Kalikow will share their views on the challenges facing higher education here in Maine and elsewhere at the presentation, “The Future of Higher Education: Philosophical Perspectives,” to be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on February 26 at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland.

Chair and Professor of Philosophy Julien Murphy also will speak briefly to the topic, followed by Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Robert Loudon, who will outline the role of philosophers in government and university administration over the years. Associate Professor of Philosophy Jason Read will lead the question-and-answer session, including prepared questions from students and open questions from the floor.

The event, which is sponsored by the USM Department of Philosophy, is free and open to the public. For more information, call 780-4258, or bmcgover@usm.maine.edu.



UMM Awarded \$100,000 Grant for Shellfish Research

MACHIAS – The UMM Marine Ecology department has received a \$100,000 grant from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund Small Campus Initiative to support shellfish research. The project, titled “Shellfish Research in Downeast Maine: Building Innovation Capacity to Diversify Economic Opportunities,” is aimed at improving aquaculture methods for growing mussels and arctic surf clams.

Researchers at UMM’s marine field station at the Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education will partner with Cooke Aquaculture to examine



seeding techniques for the blue mussel, with a goal of ensuring consistent supply of mussel seed to farmers. As part of the grant-funded project, researchers will also study the arctic surf clam and examine how changes in

diet and seawater temperature impact the species’ reproductive output, survival, and growth.

New “Project>Login” to Double the Number of Computer and IT Degree Grads

PORTLAND, ME – United by their challenges in finding trained computer and technology professionals, seven Maine businesses have combined their financial and human resources to work with Educate Maine and in partnership with the University of Maine System to find a solution to this nationwide problem.

The resulting program, Project>Login, is designed to attract more people into computer and technology degree programs and has committed to doubling the number of graduates within those majors in Maine in four years, so there are more educated professionals to fill available positions.

Other stand-out initiatives include paid internship opportunities with Maine businesses, resume posting for students, networking and instructional events, educational resources and a network of support designed to grow the computer and technology workforce.

Visit Project>Login’s website at www.projectlogin.com.



UMaine Hosts Workshop on Food Businesses

ORONO – This spring, University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer its Recipe to Market series for anyone considering starting a food business.



The four-session program, with two optional sessions, is scheduled March 21 through April 25. It is a step-by-step course for converting a personal recipe into a business.

Recipe to Market is an extensive workshop series focusing on such topics as licensing, regulations, food safety, testing and business management skills. The program also delves into regulations on labeling and special considerations for producing acidified canned foods.

In addition, program participants learn about some of the sources available to support them in business development, and how to add value to an existing business.

Additional information is available on the [UMaine Extension website](#).

USM Receives \$100,000 for Stem Initiative

PORTLAND – Sappi Fine Paper North America, a leading global paper company, has pledged \$100,000 over the course of four years to support the USM Pioneers Program, the first college-level STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) program for high-achieving students in



Maine. The Pioneers Program, established at USM in 2011, is a learning community bringing together the best and brightest students in the STEM fields. USM Pioneers receive competitive four-year scholarship packages, premium housing, a laptop computer, undergraduate research opportunities, internships, and faculty mentors.

The USM Pioneers Program not only engages students in advanced curriculum but also offers highly innovative programming designed to prepare them for STEM careers after graduation. Pioneers will leave USM having completed 1,000-plus hours of high-impact, experiential learning opportunities. Students team up with faculty or corporate community partners on projects, work with business incubators and faculty projects, and are placed in internships with Maine businesses.

For more information about the USM Pioneers program, visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/Pioneers>.

UMPI Receives \$92,000 Economic Improvement Grant

PRESQUE ISLE – A team of professors at UMPI has been awarded a \$91,875 Maine Economic Improvement Fund Small Campus Initiative grant from the University of Maine System that will allow them to focus efforts on preparing students for emerging trends and careers in the biomedical research and healthcare industries.

The overarching goal of the project, titled “Developing



Maine's Future Biomedical Work Force,” is to increase job placement for UMPI graduates, develop more experiential learning courses that allow students to develop critical thinking skills, and to boost the number of UMPI students attending graduate school programs in

biotechnology related fields.

UMFK TRiO Program Works in Aroostook County

FORT KENT – For thousands of students from low-income families who strive to be the first in their family to attend and graduate from college, federally-funded programs called TRiO are making a world of difference in Maine.

There are four TRiO programs in Aroostook County, which currently serve more than 1,100 Aroostook County students from grade six through the university level: Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Center.

TRiO services include: assistance in choosing and applying to a college; tutoring; personal and financial counseling; career counseling; workplace and college visits; special instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, and study skills; assistance in applying for financial aid; and academic support in high school or assistance to re-enter high school.

UMF Visiting Writers Series Features Award Winning Author

FARMINGTON – UMF's popular Visiting Writers Series recently hosted Sarah Braunstein, who read from and signed copies of her book, “The Sweet Relief of Missing Children.”

“The Sweet Relief of Missing Children” is a suspenseful novel that explores the power of running and the desire for reinvention. It was the winner of the 2012 Maine Literary Award and finalist for the 2011 Flaherty-Dunn First Nobel Prize from the Center for Fiction.



Braunstein teaches at Harvard University Extension School and Summer School, the Stanford University Online Writer's Studio and in the low-residency MFA program USM. Currently, she is a visiting professor at Colby College.

USM Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Famous Works by Stravinsky

PORTLAND – To celebrate the 100th anniversaries of the premiere of Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring” and the Armory Show, USM will be holding a symposium, “Scandalous Modernism: Stravinsky’s ‘Rite of Spring’ and the Armory Show inContext,” on March 2.

In the spring of 1913, on opposite shores of the Atlantic, two events took place that put the spotlight on a new style in the arts— modernism. In May the Russian composer Igor Stravinsky premiered his ballet “Rite of Spring” in Paris, while three months earlier the “International Exhibition of Modern Art,” known as the Armory Show, opened its doors in New York City. The public in both cities were shocked and scandalized by the experimental, innovative sounds and sights presented at these events. Both prompted passionate reactions from viewers.

For event information, contact Lori Arsenault at larsenault@usm.maine.edu.

UMF to Discuss Climate Change

FARMINGTON – Extreme weather events over the recent past have caused many people to ask if we are seeing the evidence of climate change. UMF is exploring that question, the workings of the complex human-earth system, the political hurdles associated with climate science and future prospects with a University Forum entitled “State of the Planet, Intergenerational Justice and Our Collective Future” to be held starting through March 27.

The goal of this event is to create a forum where the campus and local community can come together to learn about the science across academic disciplines and engage in creative discussion on the best way to move forward. An schedule of events can be viewed at <http://umf.maine.libguides.com/stateofplanet>.

UMA Hosts Cooperative Economy Forum

AUGUSTA – The UMA College of Arts and Sciences and UMA Senior College (UMASC) will present a Cooperative Economy Forum on March 3 at 2:00 p.m.

The speaker, Carla Dickstein, Senior VP of Policy, Research, & Development at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) in Wiscasset will discuss creating economically and environmentally healthy communities in which all people, especially those with low incomes, can reach their full potential.

Following her talk, there will be a panel for discussion moderated by UMA Senior College’s Chuck Acker.

For more information about Forum on the Future, call the UMA Senior College at 207-621-3551.

UMFK Hosts Writing Contest

FORT KENT – Have you been affected by a disaster— natural, self-made, or simply a life circumstance? UMFK’s Presidential Lecture Series committee will host a writing contest entitled, Disasters. The committee is searching for submissions from UMFK students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members.

All submissions will be blind-reviewed by a jury. Three winning entries will be included in the 2012-2013 Presidential Lecture Series Potato Chips ChapBook, which will be released at the UMFK Scholars' Symposium on May 3. In addition, the best entry will be recognized with the Ourson Literary Award, an annual award of \$50. For more information on the contest, please contact Dr. Jenny Radsma at 834-7586 or by e-mail at: radsma@maine.edu

UMM Hosts Forum on Policy Issues Relating to Gun Violence

MACHIAS – Amid national debate over gun control following the deadly Newtown, Conn., school shooting, more than 70 people turned out for a recent discussion at UMM on policy issues relating to gun rights, school security, mental health, and culture.



The February 12th forum featured a panel of local school, health, and law enforcement officials, and served as a starting point for local discussion on the issues. The sometimes heated discussion brought out a variety of opinions and ideas on gun control initiatives, measures to increase school safety, and the need to address mental health care and violence in American culture.

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.

