

Making a Difference

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

Chancellor Page Delivers State of the University Address

AUGUSTA – Keeping public education affordable and meeting education and economic development needs and opportunities in the state were the themes in the recent “State of the University” biennial address, delivered by University of Maine System Chancellor James H. Page to a joint session of the Maine State Senate and House of Representatives.

Page said the System froze tuition and mandatory fees for the current academic year, and hopes the Legislature can assist the System in keeping tuition at its current rate for the next two years.

The Chancellor also spoke of the need to engage adult and non-traditional learners who have completed some college, but never finished a degree program and outlined how the System has taken steps to increase access through its centers and distance education sites.

Page noted one of the most important steps the System has taken to ease access to higher education: fixing the credit transfer issue. Achieving this goal, Page stated, is an indication that the UMS is acting as a System as it was intended to be.

Full text of the Chancellor’s speech is available [here](#).

UMaine Hosts 26th “Expanding Your Horizons” Conference

ORONO – Upward of 500 middle-school girls from around the state recently spent the day at UMaine for the 26th Expanding Your Horizons conference, designed to introduce youths to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Cosponsored by the UMaine Women’s Resource Center, Division of Lifelong Learning, UMaine Cooperative Extension and Maine EPSCoR at UMaine, the conference this year included two educational forums for teachers led by the Maine Girls Collaborative

Project, in addition to dozens of hands-on experiences in math- and science-oriented fields for the youths.

The underpinning of the conference is to address a shortage of women in STEM fields. Conference participants will have opportunities to meet and hear stories from successful women working in science and math fields.



UMPI’s Planet Head Day raises more than \$22,000 for C-A-N-C-E-R

PRESQUE ISLE – Officials with UMPI and C-A-N-C-E-R are pleased to announce that the 7th Annual Planet Head Day raised more than \$22,000 for the local cancer organization.

More than 100 community members shaved their heads (or donned bald caps) and had them painted as planets, moons and comets for the region's most unique fundraiser, which brings together space science education and cancer awareness into a single package.



New this year, C-A-N-C-E-R organizers sold paper hearts to be posted on the gym walls with messages to cancer survivors and in memory of loved ones.

Planet Head Day is the major fundraising event for C-A-N-C-E-R [Caring Area Neighbors for Cancer Education and Recovery], an Aroostook County-based organization that assists cancer patients and their families. All monies raised during Planet Head Day will go to support area community cancer patients in treatment.

UMM Gardens Receive Boost from Grant

MACHIAS – The organic gardens at UMM have received a boost from Kitchen Gardeners International's Sow it Forward Food Gardens Grant program to expand production. UMM is one of just 80 projects funded out of nearly 1,000 applications. Grantees received seeds, books, money for gardening equipment, and a subscription to Kitchen Gardeners International's online interactive garden planner.

UMM's gardens are managed by Sustainability Coordinator Chad Everett and students in the organic gardening class. Produce from the gardens is sold throughout the year to the campus community and donated to the Machias Food Pantry.



For more information on the Sow It Forward Food Gardens grant, visit the [Kitchen Gardeners International](#) website.

UMA Collaborates to Host Panel on Hunger Crisis in Maine



AUGUSTA – UMA recently collaborated with the [Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine](#) to host a panel discussion on the ongoing hunger crisis in

Maine. With many Maine families hard hit by the current recession, and with a new report from the US Department of Agriculture estimating that over 200,000 Maine people are now “food insecure,” addressing this issue is more important than ever.

Panelists included Mark Lapping, Distinguished Professor of Public Planning at the Muskie School of Public Service; Dean LaChance, Director of the Bread of Life Ministries; and Legislative Representative and local organic farmer, Craig Hickman. Naomi Schalit, founder of the Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting and frequent contributor to Maine Public Radio served as moderator.

UMF Art Gallery Features Exhibit by Maine Artists

FARMINGTON – Seven dynamic Maine artists explore the mysteries of the human face in the latest [UMF Art Gallery](#) exhibit, “Ghosts.” The exhibit is free and open to the public and runs from March 9-31. An opening reception recently took place on March 14.

Working in different mediums and styles, each artist brings their own individual perspective on the ghostly qualities of the human face—from fantastical portraiture to digital generation of virtual individuals.

The artistic collaborators include: Al Crichton, James Fangbone, Juliet Karelsen, Martha Miller, R. Henry Nigl, Abby Shahn and Barbara Sullivan.

For more information or to make an appointment at the gallery, please contact Sarah Maline at maline@maine.edu



UMFK Hosts Forum on the Environment

FORT KENT – Michelle Hersey, a licensed Maine professional engineer and certified geologist, recently spoke on



Environmental Consulting in Aroostook County as part UMFK's Environmental Speakers Series on March 15.

Hersey's talk centered on tanks, subsurface investigations, environmental site assessments, spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans, geoprobe investigations, environmental sampling, and brownfields, among other topics. A brownfield is a property where the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

USM Presents Juried Student Art Exhibition

PORTLAND – The USM Art Gallery on the Gorham campus presents the annual Juried Student Exhibition. It will run from March 14 through April 3 (the gallery will be closed during spring break—March 25 to March 31).

The opening reception recently took place, along with an awards ceremony. The gallery hours are from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. All events are free and open to the public.

Jurors include Bruce Brown, the gallery owner and curator, Britta Konau, curator and art writer, and artist Andrea Sulzer.

Selected works from the exhibition will travel to the USM AREA Gallery in the Woodbury Campus Center, Portland and will be shown from April 12 to May 1. AREA Gallery hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact Carolyn Eyler at: [USM Art Gallery](#) or call 207-780-5008. Or, visit their Facebook page: [USM Art Gallery](#)



UMaine Hosts Competition Focusing on Cyber Defense

ORONO – Cyber warfare recently came to UMaine as dozens of computer science college students from the Northeast and industry professionals around the country squared off in the 2013 regional Northeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

Computer science teams from 10 institutions, including UMaine, formed teams and attempted to defend against computer hacking tactics devised by cybersecurity



professionals from around the country, some with corporate or military computing backgrounds.

Students compete for prestige and a chance to compete in the [national competition](#) in Texas. Some of the students get job offers from participating computing professionals or vendors attending the competitions.

The annual event is designed to hone the skills of computing students trying to repair compromised computer operating systems, while simultaneously defending against hackers trying to plant malware.



Also during the competition there was a conference on cybersecurity, with presentations from participating teams and vendors, and information about internships or jobs in cybersecurity.

UMM Welcomes Grammy-Nominated Songwriter for Performance

MACHIAS – Grammy-nominated songwriter and composer Gary Lucas recently performed at UMM. Lucas presented his acclaimed original solo guitar accompaniment to the 1920 silent film, “The Golem,” at UMM’s Performing Arts Center.

The legend of the Golem—a man made from clay and brought to life through kabbalistic magic in 16th century Prague to protect the Jewish community from pogroms—is one of the most enduring and resonant stories in all of Jewish mythology.

According to his web site, Lucas’ solo guitar score for “The Golem” is a seamless blend of innovative music and fantastic cinema which has been delighting and thrilling audiences around the world since he debuted his score in 1989.

Lucas tours the world both solo and with several different groups, including his longtime band Gods and Monsters. To date, Lucas has recorded more than 20 albums in various genres and performed in over 40 countries.



Project>Login Receptions Provide Networking Opportunities, Internships

Computer science and computer engineering students at the UMA, UMaine, UMF, and USM campuses recently had the opportunity to network and learn about internships with Maine information technology professionals and business leaders at receptions sponsored by Project>Login, the newest program of Educate Maine.

The networking reception was the first in a statewide series of relationship-building events for aspiring IT professionals and potential Maine employers as part of Project>Login’s goal to double the number of computer and technology degree graduates in Maine in four years and fulfill the need for trained professionals in the field.

Among the businesses attending the UMaine reception to talk to students about the role of IT in their companies, the opportunities for paid internships and co-ops, and the need to hire qualified graduates in these fields: Bangor Savings Bank, Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems, Unum, Tyler Technologies, Cianbro, WEX and Dead River Co.

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



UMaine Program: Paint, Plant, and Polish

ORONO – UMaine’s Paint, Plant and Polish Program, which began last year as a Presidential Initiative, continues to improve the UMaine campus as part of the Blue Sky Plan Pathway 5, chaired by UMaine alumnus John Rohman and co-chaired by Stewart Harvey, executive director of facilities and capital management services.

To improve campus infrastructure and appearance, UMaine President Paul Ferguson initially reallocated approximately \$2.5 million. This funding was derived from energy cost-savings realized through improved utility and fuel contracts, increased campuswide efficiencies, as well as overall cost reductions on a one-time basis. Paint, Plant and Polish now will be sustained annually by approximately \$320,000 from the newly endowed Hosmer Fund in the UMaine Foundation.



Paint, Plant and Polish is a four-pronged approach to infrastructure improvement, focusing on classroom upgrades, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, energy-saving initiatives and painting projects. Many are aimed at addressing deferred maintenance that has resulted from issues.

Learn more about the Blue Sky Plan Pathway 5 at the [Blue Sky Implementation website](#).

UMFK Hosts Annual “Sucrerie”

FORT KENT – UMFK will host its annual “Sucrerie” on March 21.



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. The public is invited to attend the “Sucrerie.”

This year, Roger Lavertu, owner of Lavertu Maple, will be onsite to make the maple taffy and serve it over the snow for community members to enjoy.

For more information, contact the University Relations office at 834-7557 or by e-mail at: umfknews@maine.edu

USM Celebrates International Women's Day with Forum

PORTLAND – On International Women's Day, USM's Women and Gender Studies program hosted a free panel presentation, "Seneca, Selma, Stonewall, Social Change," echoing the alliterative civil rights trio referenced in President Obama's 2013 inaugural speech.

Sarah Lawrence College Historian Priscilla Murolo spoke about the 1848 Seneca Falls women's rights convention. NAACP Portland Branch President Rachel Talbot Ross addressed the events in 1965 in Selma, Alabama when police attacked peaceful, black, civil rights demonstrators. And, transgender activist and author, Kate Bornstein, spoke on the significance of the 1969 Stonewall riots in NYC for LGBT liberation.

Each of the three speakers offered a brief description of their event, its historical significance and discussed the ongoing work to advance women's rights, racial equality and trans/gay liberation.

UMA Hosts Concert of Traditional Irish Music

AUGUSTA – The "[Concerts at Jewett](#)" Series, sponsored by the UMA College of Arts and Sciences and UMA Senior College, recently presented Castlebay: The Shamrock Shore—a Concert of Traditional Irish Music on March 17.

The folk duo Castlebay included not only sprightly dance tunes and haunting ballads, but also the engaging rapport with which the duo has always delighted audiences. The ancient music of Ireland has provided rich inspiration for many musicians, and Fred Gosbee and Julia Lane are no exception. Both have had an avid interest in collecting and performing this music for most of their lives,



especially those songs that came to New England with their own immigrant ancestors. Most recently, the duo has been bringing these songs to light researching collections both in Maine at the Maine Folklife

Center in Orono and at the Library of Congress. In addition to playing traditional music, Gosbee and Lane compose their own musical works, many which have their roots in the Celtic musical legacy.



UMF Features Award-Winning Poet

FARMINGTON – Marianne Boruch, award-winning poet and Professor of Creative Writing at Purdue University, recently presented a lecture and reading from her work, on the UMF campus. A former UMF faculty member, Boruch focused her lecture, in a kind of triptych, on "Songs of Innocence and Experience" a collection of poems by 19th century poet William Blake.



Her evening poetry reading featured recent and selected works.

Boruch is the author of seven volumes of poetry, and her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Hudson Review*, *Paris Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Prairie Schooner*, and many other periodicals.

UMPI Hosts Bone Marrow Drive



PRESQUE ISLE – In order to help inform people about how bone marrow donation works and how it can help give people with blood cancer a chance at a long life, UMPI recently held a bone marrow drive, coordinated by the organization Delete Blood Cancer DKMS.

The organization covered all of the expenses of donating bone marrow that the donor would normally have to cover out of pocket. Delete Blood Cancer DKMS hopes to increase their success rate of registered donors by eliminating the financial burden an individual donor would have to face.

For more information on Delete Blood Cancer DKMS, donating bone marrow, or for details regarding the drive, contact Ashley Gallop at ashley.gallop@gmail.com.

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.

