

Making a Difference

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

UMF Child Care Center Receives Full Accreditation

FARMINGTON – The Sweatt-Winter Child Care and Early Education Center on the UMF campus was recently notified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children that its early childhood program has been awarded full NAEYC accreditation.

The NAEYC sets and monitors standards for high quality early childhood education programs and accredits

programs that meet those standards. The Sweatt-Winter Center met 100 percent of the criteria in each of 10 program standards.

The Early Education program provides a relaxed atmosphere

with hands-on learning in the areas of creative arts, science and nature, literacy, math, and more. The curriculum is based on the interests of the children, and is carried out through the use of age appropriate activities.

For more information please contact Edna Montague, director of UMF's children's programs, or Julie Farmer, Sweatt-Winter teacher, at 207-778-7480.



UMA Hosts Auditions for All State Jazz Festival

AUGUSTA – UMA recently hosted instrumental and vocal auditions for the Maine All State Jazz Festival. Approximately 50 Maine secondary schools from Kittery to Caribou sent about 300 students to audition. From the auditions, 70 students were selected to participate in big bands, combos of different sizes, and a jazz choir at the annual Maine All State Jazz Festival to be held in January of 2013.

Judges included Maine high school music educators, local music professionals, and members of UMA's music faculty.



UMS Trustees Approve In-State Tuition Freeze for Two More Years

PORTLAND – At a recent meeting at USM, the University Of Maine System Board Of Trustees approved a proposal to continue a freeze on undergraduate, in-state tuition for two upcoming fiscal years.

Earlier this year, Trustees voted to freeze fiscal year (FY) 2012 tuition levels for this current academic year (FY13), as part of a new set of goals and actions to move the University System quickly forward in the areas of program and workforce development, cost control, and student success.

The new biennial request for appropriation continues the tuition freeze for FY14 and FY15, contingent upon the State's ability to maintain its current \$176 million appropriation level for UMS education and general operations.

UMaine Extension Researching Superfruit

ORONO – The small, tart black aronia berry, common in the Midwest and Northeast could become a promising new niche crop for Maine farmers as the result of work by UMaine researchers.

The researchers have been introducing the aronia berry to small farms in New England, including a trial garden at Western Maine Nurseries in Fryeburg as a potential new cash crop.

The *Aronia melanocarpa* has almost four times the capacity to neutralize cell-damaging free radicals as wild

blueberries and almost three times that of the Central and South American acai berry, one of the latest superfruits on the market.

Funding for the research and a public awareness campaign comes from a \$25,000 Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant to UMaine's role in the project.

Researchers are working to establish best planting and management practices, calculating the market potential of an aronia berry crop, and determining ways to process and sell aronia berry products.



UMPI Physical Education Students Work with Local Children



PRESQUE ISLE – Physical Education major students are getting hands-on experience working with local kids on

campus during the Fall 2012 semester.

Under the direction of faculty advisors, students are providing quality physical education lessons twice a week to the children attending the KuriouCity Childcare and Learning Center, located on the university campus.

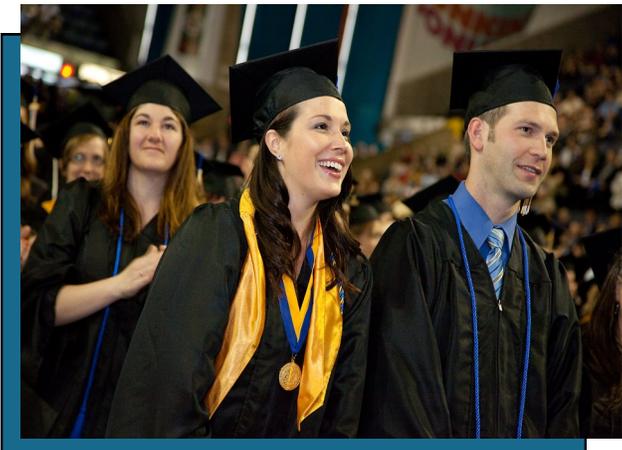
To find out more, call 207-768-9457.

NSF Supports USM Scholarships and Female Professors

PORTLAND – Thanks to nearly \$750,000 in grants from the National Science Foundation, USM is providing scholarships to 41 students in the STEM disciplines, and developing policies to improve recruitment and advancement of female professors in the STEM and social science fields.

The scholarships are made possible with a \$592,000 grant from the NSF STEM Scholarship Program. The students must be Maine residents, meet academic and financial criteria, and plan on pursuing careers in the fields of computer science, engineering, environmental science, and technology management.

In addition, the NSF recently awarded USM a grant worth over \$150,000 to fund the "Southern Maine ADVANCE IT Catalyst" project. This grant funds a study to determine how USM can better recruit, retain and advance female faculty members in the sciences, technology, engineering and math fields, as well as in the social and behavioral sciences.



UMaine Collaboration Aims to Improve Breast Cancer Detection

ORONO – By applying physics to the 3D structure of breast tissue, new research at UMaine is being conducted to advance early cancer detection.

A \$83,000 grant from the Maine Cancer Foundation will be used to help develop a tissue analysis process called 3DMammoComp to improve early detection of breast cancer.

The grant will be used to partner with sophisticated medical laboratories around the country. In particular, researchers hope to access libraries of 3D mammographic images taken through tomosynthesis, a new breast-imaging technique recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Use of 3D imaging through tomosynthesis is a more precise way of presenting images of the breast and reducing the number of false positives that can occur with 2D mammography.



UMFK Degree Aims to Meet Healthcare and Job Needs

FORT KENT – In a move expected to address workforce needs of adult workers and recent high school graduates, as



well as to provide additional career pathways to current nursing students, UMFK will offer an associate of science in allied health beginning in the fall of 2013.

The new degree program will

address workforce needs in Maine's healthcare industry—the state's fastest-growing career field. The program aims to meet the educational needs of the region and to help address the severe shortage of skilled allied health practitioners in Maine. A secondary objective is to raise awareness and interest in the allied health care field.

UMPI Students Host 16th Fit and Fun Day

PRESQUE ISLE – UMPI will host its 16th annual Fit and Fun Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 27. Registration will begin at 9:15 a.m. and admission is free.

Fit and Fun Day is open to local children in grades Kindergarten through 6 and will teach them about a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. Since it is being held in late October, organizers are adding another element of fun by giving participants the option to wear a costume during the event.

Physical Education students will facilitate the activities and provide instruction throughout the day. The University's Athletic Training staff and students will be on site as first aid responders.

For more information, call Dr. Chris Standefer at 207-768-9457.

UMaine Hosts Maine Children's Water Festival

ORONO – Approximately 70 middle-school students from eastern and northern Maine worked with a UMaine engineering professor and two UMaine students during the recent Northern Maine Children's Water Festival.

Students were guided through a program called SimStream, which allowed them to explore the relationships between a stream, its ecosystem and a neighboring city.

The students created a working computer model to analyze how different elements in an environment help or hinder the movement of water. In doing so, students learned about the principles that undergird water movement, and gained hands-on experience with computer-based programming and modeling.



The project is an outreach component of a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award that was received in 2011. The five-year, \$406,551 award helps support research into developing models to understand the impact of climate change on freshwater resources and the role of water allocation in both ensuring reliable water supplies for communities and balancing the health of the ecosystem.

Kuhl Exhibit at UMM Art Galleries

MACHIAS – The Art Galleries at UMM will display the work of Harpswell artists Georgeann and Condon Kuhl through November 30, in an exhibit titled "Tuscany to Pompeii and Beyond."

The show focuses on the Kuhl's travels and experiences in Italy, with Georgeann's views of the Tuscan landscape and Condon's fascination with the beauty, mystery, and tragedy



of Pompeii and the surrounding region serving as inspiration.

The UMM Art Galleries are open weekday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, call Art Gallery Director Bernie Vinzani at 207-255-1279.



USM Receives \$750,000 Grant to Prepare for Changing Climate

PORTLAND – A new National Science Foundation (NSF) grant led by researchers from the USM's Muskie School of Public Service and the University of New Hampshire hopes to jump start our ability to address climate change issues by bridging the knowledge gap between climate scientists, civil engineers, and transportation officials who design today's roads and bridges.

The \$750,000 grant supports creation of the Infrastructure and Climate Network, or ICNet, to accelerate the integration of climate science and engineering research for sustainable transportation infrastructure decisions in the Northeast region.

Researchers will monitor and assess the collaborative process to derive lessons that could be translated to other regions and issues.



UMM, USM Collaborate on Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling

MACHIAS – UMM, in collaboration with USM, is currently enrolling students for its 54-credit graduate degree in rehabilitation counseling. The Machias cohort will begin coursework in summer 2013.

The program allows Washington and Hancock County students to obtain a master's degree in counseling through a combination of distance education technologies and three in-person classes held in Machias. Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive [a master of science in counseling](#) from USM.

Students who complete the program will be eligible for national certification as a rehabilitation counselor. With two additional courses, students will also be eligible for state licensure as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor.

The deadline for applying for admission into next summer's program is November 15.

For more information, contact Charles Bernacchior, at charlieb@usm.maine.edu.

UMA Hosts High School Classical Pianists

The "Concerts at Jewett" Series, sponsored by the UMA College of Arts and Sciences and UMA Senior College, recently featured classical pianists Shu Jing Lian and Christopher Staknys, on October 14.



These talented high school students are two of Maine's finest young artists. Shu Jing Lian was born in Fuzhou, China. She began playing the piano at age 5, and made her debut at the Franco-American Heritage Center, performing in their "Rising Stars" concert.

Christopher Staknys is a composer and aspiring concert artist. He learned to read and compose music almost before he began to read words, and began piano study at age six. His composition, "Congo," was given its premiere by the Portland Symphony.

UMFK Hosts EDUcadia Math Conference



FORT KENT – EDUcadia, a newly-formed educational partnership, that includes UMFK, MSAD #27, MSAD #24, MSAD #33, and the Madawaska School Department, presented a *Common Core Math Conference* on October 12 on the UMFK campus.

The purpose of the EDUcadia partnership is to increase collaboration between educational partners; provide for timely, relevant, and important professional development opportunities for regional educators; and work to provide a seamless and integrated Pre-K to 16 and adult learning educational system in the community.

For further information about the *Common Core Math Conference* or the EDUcadia Partnership, contact Scott Voisine at 207- 834-8644.

UMF Presents Forum on "Helping ALL Students Learn"

FARMINGTON – How do educators help all students learn and be successful in today's increasingly diverse classrooms? That is the focus of the fifth annual Teaching and Working in a Diverse World conference, "Helping ALL Students Learn," presented by UMF. Free and open-to-the-public, the conference takes place from 11:50 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 19.

Lectures, discussions, instructional strategies, storytelling and activities presented by faculty and professionals in the field will follow the keynote.

For more information, visit <http://teachereducation.umf.maine.edu/diversity/diversity-conference/2012-2013-helping-all-students-learn/>

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.

