UMaine Cooperative Extension Launches Energy Web Site

ORONO—UMaine’s Cooperative Extension has established a Web site, www.extension.umaine.edu/energy, to provide research-based information on saving money through energy conservation and alternative energy sources. Visitors will be able to access publications and resources for homeowners, drivers, farmers, and business owners. The site also includes a schedule of programs and workshops.

For the homeowner, the site has heating source comparisons, and sections on how to conserve energy through insulation and appliance use. For the traveler, there is information on efficient vehicles and public transportation, as well as cost calculators for hybrid vehicle options.

The site includes energy-saving tips for small businesses and farms, and current research in Maine on producing energy on the farm with biodiesel. The site also features links to information on tax incentives and energy audits.

UMM Art Exhibit Celebrates Passamaquoddy Petroglyphs

MACHIAS—This summer UMM’s Art Galleries showcased a new exhibition that celebrates the Passamaquoddy petroglyphs of Washington County. The Equinox Petroglyph Project: Interpretations by Women and Children Exhibition, featured works by 22 women artists, native and non-native, and by more than 30 Passamaquoddy children.

The exhibit included paintings, drawings, pritnmaking, beadwork, basketry, handmade drums, photography, wood felting, poetry, essays, short stories, and original musical compositions. The children who contributed art are fifth through eighth graders from the Pleasant Point and Indian Township schools.

The exhibit is currently being shown at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor and will later travel to the Tides Institute in Eastport. To learn more about the project, please visit the exhibition Web site at www.equinoxpetroglyphproject.org.

Renovations Abound at UMM

MACHIAS—UMM’s Torrey Hall and Science Building are undergoing $2.3 million in extensive renovations this summer. Plans call for the buildings to be ready just in time for the return of students in late August.

For the homeowner, the site has heating source comparisons, and sections on how to conserve energy through insulation and appliance use. For the traveler, there is information on efficient vehicles and public transportation, as well as cost calculators for hybrid vehicle options.

The site includes energy-saving tips for small businesses and farms, and current research in Maine on producing energy on the farm with biodiesel. The site also features links to information on tax incentives and energy audits.

Statewide Distance Ed Network Joins UMA

AUGUSTA—The University of Maine System’s University College distance education program now comes under the umbrella of the University of Maine at Augusta.

In the 1990s, UMA pioneered the delivery of distance learning in Maine through the creation of ten regional centers and dozens of remote sites located throughout the state, as well as an interactive television system. Today, nearly one-third of UMA students take courses at one of University College’s ten centers and distance education is a crucial part of a UMA education.

With complementary missions, a shared commitment to serving place bound students, and a collective experience in distance education that can not be rivaled, UMA and University College together as one will better serve the needs of distance ed students across Maine.

For more information about University College visit: www.learn.umaine.edu.
UMF Awarded Grant to Launch Sustainable Building Education Program

PORTLAND – UMF is launching what is believed to be one of the first, 100 percent on-line certificate programs in “Triple Bottom-Line Business,” (3BL) a business model that focuses on a commitment to the concepts of “people, planet, and profit.”

The non-credit program is offered by the UMF School of Business and the UMF Center for Continuing Education, with the sponsorship of Maine Businesses for Social Responsibility.

Beginning this fall, weekly sessions will consist of an on-line lecture, media clips, streaming video, links to Web resources, and an on-line discussion forum. Topics to be covered include different ways to assess the environmental impacts of a business, sustainable business strategies and practices, the “greening” of mainstream consumers, and effective ways to position products and services to appeal to the various segments.

For more information on the program and faculty, visit http://www.ums.maine.edu/ccc/business.htm.

Chancellor Outlines Efforts to Assist Students and Families

BANGOR— Noting the “enormous financial strain” facing most students and their families, Chancellor Richard L. Pattenanaede presented a status report at the July 14 UMS Board of Trustees meeting where he outlined actions being taken to assist students and contain university costs.

The report focuses on four parts:
- operational, financial, and technological changes to support students, including an increase in student financial aid
- actions designed to reduce the university system’s operating costs, which heavily influence annual tuition rates
- actions and practices designed to conserve energy
- long-term strategies to support and enhance the financial stability of Maine’s public universities

Pattenanaede also noted that campuses are taking immediate actions such as providing additional on-line courses and increasing financial aid to students. Other elements of the report include $35 million in budget reductions; the elimination of at least 139 employee positions; and an 11 percent increase in student financial aid.

Further options being explored include providing opportunities for students to complete a baccalaureate degree in three years and expanding the number of course offerings available at the University System’s ten academic outreach centers and via ITV and web-based technologies.
UMF Awarded Grant to Launch Sustainable Building Education Program
FARMINGTON – UMF was recently awarded a $20,000 incentive grant by the U.S. Green Building Council's inaugural Excellence in Green Building Curriculum Recognition Awards and Incentive Grants Program.

The USGBC awards and grants program recognizes pre-K through college-level curricula that promote the principles of environmentally responsible and sustainable building design, construction, and operation, and their impact on individuals and communities.

UMF's grant proposes to use the Education Center and Frances Allen Black Hall, its two recently LEED certified buildings, as teaching tools to educate students, teachers, and community members about the features of green buildings and how they can make a positive difference in our daily lives.

The program’s faculty and students will create pre-K through high school lesson plans and materials for use by UMF students, practicing teachers, and community members. UMF student leaders will conduct tours of the buildings, develop an electronic newsletter and follow-up materials, and work closely with UMF faculty members to train future student leaders to continue accomplishing the program's goals.

National Grant Provides High-tech USM Lab Training for Maine Teachers
PORTLAND – Thirteen Maine teachers spent two weeks of their summer getting their first-hand look into the usually invisible world of microbiology, virology, and immunology with the help of USM faculty and staff, and some highly specialized USM microscopes.

The project introduced K-12 teachers to mechanisms and machines as they each designed and built a Gizmo part that was joined together into one large machine, and created a marketing and media campaign for the tour.

The project goal is to bring more visitors to the area and serve as a boost to the local economy. This project is one of the Greater Limestone Economic Development Committee.

USM Hosts Middle School Engineering Campers
GORHAM – More than 20 middle school students learned about engineering and technology at USM’s School of Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology (ASET) Summer Camp in June.

The camp’s theme this year was “Gizmos,” a theme designed to provide these young students with the hands-on opportunity to explore the fields of science and technology. During the camp, students learned about and interacted with mechanisms and machines as they each designed and built a Gizmo part that was joined together into one large machine as part of a demonstration event for parents and others.

For more information on ASET Camp at USM, contact Bonnie Stearns at 780-5050.

French Immersion Camp for St. John Valley Kids
UMF hosted a week-long French Camp for Kids in late June and early July.

Eighteen children ages five to eight were “immersed” in faraway France to learn and use the French language. The camp included games, crafts, vocabulary, and other fun activities. The annual summer program is sponsored by UMF’s Office of Academic Outreach.

Writers at Work: UMaine’s Summer Camp for Young Authors
ORONO – More than 60 aspiring writers participated in UMaine’s annual Young Authors’ Camp. Students in grades 5-12 were offered at Benton Elementary School, Sebasticook Valley Middle School in Newport, Brunswick High School, The Telling Room in Portland, and the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.

Past participants have gone on to win grants for their work, have their work published in local newspapers and magazines, and receive academic scholarships to UMaine.

Annually on-campus and off-campus, the UMaine’s Young Authors Camps also fulfill part of the requirement for the French Camp for Kids.

Acclaimed Screenwriter Helps Launch UMPI Film Studies Program
PRESQUE ISLE – Award-winning novelist and screenwriter Cathie Pelletier is helping launch UMPI’s new Film Studies program, as part of the English and Art degree programs.

The courses within the Film Studies program were developed by English and Art faculty members to provide students the opportunity to study film as an aesthetic art form as well as its commercial, educational, and political implications.

Pelletier will teach the very first class as part of that new program — a screenwriting class called “Screenwriting: From Concept to Realization,” which will be offered during the Fall 2008 semester. Students will study the basic fundamentals of screenwriting: character and plot development, dialogue, and conflict. Emphasis will be upon learning the three-act structure of screenplays, a commonly adopted structure in the film industry.

St. John Valley Kids Film Camp was held at Benton Elementary School, Sebasticook Valley Middle School in Newport, Brunswick High School, The Telling Room in Portland, and the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.
UMaine Cooperative Extension Launches Energy Web Site
ORONO—UMaine’s Cooperative Extension has established a Web site, www.extension.umaine.edu, to provide research-based information on saving money through energy conservation and alternative energy sources. Visitors will be able to access publications and resources for homeowners, drivers, farmers, and business owners. The site also includes a schedule of programs and workshops.

For the homeowner, the site has heating source comparisons, and sections on how to conserve energy through insulation and appliance use. For the traveler, there is information on efficient vehicle use and public transportation, as well as cost calculators for hybrid vehicle options.

The site includes energy-saving tips for small businesses and farms, and current research in Maine on producing energy on the farm with biodiesel. The site also features links to information on tax incentives and energy audits.

UMM Art Exhibit Celebrates Passamaquoddy Petroglyphs
MACHIAS—This summer UMM’s Art Galleries showcased a new exhibition that celebrates the Passamaquoddy petroglyphs of Washington County. The Equinox Petroglyphs Project: Interpretations by Women and Children Exhibition, featured works by 22 women artists, native and non-native, and by more than 30 Passamaquoddy children.

The exhibit included paintings, drawings, primitmaking, beadwork, basketry, handmade drums, photography, wood felting, poetry, essays, short stories, and original musical compositions. The children who contributed art are fifth through eighth graders from the Pleasant Point and Indian Township schools.

The exhibit is currently being shown at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor and will later travel to the Tides Institute in Eastport. To learn more about the project, please visit the exhibition Web site at www.equinoxpetroglyphproject.org.

Renovations Abound at UMM
MACHIAS—UMM’s Torrey Hall and Science Building are undergoing $2.3 million in extensive renovations this summer. Plans call for the buildings to be ready just in time for the return of students in late August.

Financing for the improvements was generated by the bonds that Maine’s voters approved in last November’s referendum, which sought upgrades to all of Maine’s seven public university campuses. Torrey Hall, which houses the professional programs in science, technology, engineering, and liberal arts programs, is undergoing a complete renovation which will modernize the classrooms to current technology and standards.

The Science Building includes science laboratories and classrooms for the marine biology, biology, and environmental science programs. Renovations will modernize the laboratories.

The new-look buildings will feature “smart classrooms,” where classrooms have an instructor station equipped with computer and audiovisual equipment which allow faculty to teach using a variety of media.

Wishcamper Named UMS Trustees Chair
BANGOR—Lyndel “Joe” Wishcamper of Freeport has been named chair of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, effective July 1, for a one-year appointment. Wishcamper has served as a UMS trustee since 2002. He is manager and president of the Wishcamper Companies and a number of affiliated real estate development and management companies based in Portland.

Wishcamper is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School and also serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees of the Maine Medical Center, Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy (Maine Chapter), and Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

UMFK Nursing Discovery Camp for High School Students
BANGOR—UMFK’s Science and Math teacher, Lyndel “Joe” Wishcamper, center–rear, leads discussion at the July meeting of the UMS Board of Trustees.

Statewide Distance Ed Network Joins UMA
ORONO—The University of Maine System’s University College distance education program now comes under the umbrella of the University of Maine at Augusta.

In the 1990s, UMA pioneered the delivery of distance learning in Maine through the creation of ten regional centers and dozens of remote sites located throughout the state, as well as an interactive television system. Today, nearly one-third of UMA students take courses at one of University College’s ten centers and distance education is a crucial part of a UMA education.

With complementary missions, a shared commitment to serving place bound students, and a collective experience in distance education that can not be rivaled, UMA and University College together as one will better serve the needs of distance ed students across Maine. For more information about University College visit: www.learn.maine.edu.

UMaine Program Helps Teachers Integrate Climate Change into the Curriculum
ORONO—UMaine and the Challenger Learning Center of Bangor have launched a professional development program designed to help middle and high school educators learn how to use climate change as a novel way to teach math, science, geography, and even social studies.

“C’s to Shining C’s: Connecting Climate to Curriculum” is a three-year program aimed chiefly at improving the student achievement levels at schools that are now performing below the federal and state standards for math and science, but also includes high-performing schools whose teachers may want to learn more about climate science from UMaine’s experts in the field.

The $175,000 program, funded by the federal government through the Maine Department of Education, includes monthly workshops including 24 to 30 middle and high school teachers from the Bangor and Hermon school systems, Old Town School District, MSAD 22 (Hampden, Winterport, Newburgh), as well as the United Technologies Center in Bangor.

UMFK Scholarship Established and Building Named in Tribute to Richard Randall
AUGUSTA—UMFK’s Student Technology Center has been renamed the Richard J. Randall Student Technology Center. President Allyson Hughes Handley announced her recommendation to rename the building at UMA’s May commencement. In a stirring tribute to Dick Randall, who was in attendance, President Hughes Handley reflected on Randall’s 35 years of devoted service to UMA and then announced her recommendation to rename the building in his honor. A building dedication ceremony is planned for this fall.

In addition, the Richard J. and Mary Elisabeth Randall Scholarship fund has been established to honor the long and dedicated service of the two faculty members.

UMFK Offers Nursing Camp for High School Students
FORT KENT—Fifteen high school students from Scarborough to Frenchville attended a four-day Nursing Discovery Camp which was held in June on the UMFK campus and at Northern Maine Medical Center.

The unique camp allowed students to explore a career in nursing, to shadow nurses working in the field, and opportunities to learn about the UMFK program from nursing students.

The participants were also involved with lectures and hands-on activities such as learning how to take vital signs and perform basic first aid skills. In addition to being introduced to the overall field of nursing, the students also explored specific nursing fields including medical-surgical, obstetrical, operating room, emergency, intensive care unit, and advanced practice nursing.

The camp is co-sponsored by Northern Maine Medical Center and Acadia Health Education Coalition & Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, along with the UMFK Nursing Program and Academic Outreach Office.