2020

2020, UMaine News Press Releases

Division of Marketing and Communications

UMaine News Press Releases from Word Press XML export 2020

Ellsworth American interviews Moran about Maine apple crop

17 Sep 2020

Renae Moran, a professor of pomology at the University of Maine, spoke with the Ellsworth American about the apple crop in Maine amid ongoing drought conditions. Moran says farm stands and pick-your-own orchards have been busier than usual. “They are complaining about the drought, but we expect harvest to go on as normal,” she said. The professor also said she has witnessed above average “pre-harvest fruit drop” in the orchards at Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, the University of Maine’s apple, small fruit and vegetable research facility.

UMaine Extension offers produce safety course for fruit, vegetable growers

25 Sep 2020

For Maine farmers who must comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act, or who want to hone their skills regarding food safety, University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering two sessions of the Produce Safety Alliance grower training from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Nov. 5–Nov. 6 or Dec. 11 and Dec. 18. Training topics include foundational farm food safety best practices and coordinated management information based on FSMA requirements. Participants who complete the course are eligible for the FSMA certificate that may be required for their farm compliance. Three pesticide credits are also available. The $20 fee includes the training manual and certificate. Registration deadline for the Nov. 5–6 class is Oct. 25; register for the December class by Nov. 29. Register and find more information on the training webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Tilton, 207.942.7396; theresa.tilton@maine.edu.

President Ferrini-Mundy to discuss Harold Alfond Foundation gift on Maine Calling

06 Nov 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy will participate in a Maine Calling discussion about the Harold Alfond Foundation’s historic $500 million investment in Maine and its people at 11 a.m. today. The overall allocation includes a $240 million commitment to the University of Maine System over the next 12 years, the largest ever gift to a public institution of higher education in New England and the 8th largest gift ever made to a U.S. institution of public higher education. The commitment will help finance enhancements to UMaine’s athletic facilities and a multi-university Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science to be cooperatively led by UMaine. Other panelists for the Maine Calling program, a Maine Public production, include Greg Powell, chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation board, Joseph Aoun, president of Northeastern University, Kim Hamilton, president of FocusMaine, Davide Greene, president of Colby College, Dr. Jens Rueter, medical director of The Jackson Laboratory, and James Herbert, president of the University of New England.

UMaine News Press Releases from Word Press XML export 2020

Cooperative Extension to provide produce safety course

02 Jan 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training to Maine residents from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 16, at the Maine Agricultural Trades Show at the Augusta Civic Center. The course provides a foundation for produce safety, best practices, co-management of natural resources and food safety, Food Safety Modernization Act requirements and developing a farm food safety plan. There will be time for questions and discussion. Workshop partners include the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and AgMatters LLC. The $30 fee includes a training manual, breakfast and lunch. Register online by Jan. 10. Three pesticide credits are available upon completion. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Tilton, 207.942.7396, theresa.tilton@maine.edu. More information also is on the program website.

Emera Astronomy Center in Forecaster piece about state park stargazing program

02 Jan 2020

The Forecaster noted the University of Maine Emera Astronomy Center is partnering with Cornerstones of Science, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands to introduce telescopes to 12 state parks in Maine. In addition to an Orion 4.5-inch StarBlast telescope, each park will receive special star kits, two iPads loaded with star apps and a variety of astronomy books to share with the stargazing public, according to the article.

Bangor Daily News talks with Bouchard about aquaculture

02 Jan 2020

Deborah Bouchard, director of the University of Maine Aquaculture Research Institute told the Bangor Daily News that there's a huge seafood deficit in the United States and that land-based aquaculture facilities will decrease that deficit, and increase food security. The article also cited a 2017 University of Maine Aquaculture Research Institute economic impact report that indicated in Maine, the economic impact of the aquaculture industry nearly tripled between 2007 and 2017, from $50 million to $137 million.

Mainebiz lists two UMaine feats as most unusual of 2019

02 Jan 2020

Two of Mainebiz's most unusual stories of 2019 came from the University of Maine: green crab dog biscuits and the unveiling of the world's largest 3D printer. Angela Myracle, an assistant professor of human nutrition in the School of Food and Agriculture, and Anna Smestad, a human nutrition and pre-med major, devised a process to make the dog biscuits with the voracious invasive species. In October, the Advanced Structures and Composites Center unveiled a 25-foot patrol boat, which is the largest 3D-printed object in the world. It was printed in three days in September by UMaine's new 3D printer, also the largest in the world.

Maine Public's biggest story of year: record-setting 3D printer, boat

02 Jan 2020

A University of Maine time lapse video of a 25-foot, 5,000-pound boat being printed by a 3D printer at the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center was Maine Public's biggest story of 2019 based on traffic volume. The Composites Center earned three Guinness World Records — for the largest printer, the largest solid 3D-printed object and the largest 3D-printed boat.

Curry featured in New York Times video series 'Equal Play'

02 Jan 2020

University of Maine assistant men's basketball coach Edniesha Curry is featured in The New York Times opinion video series "Equal Play" that showcases "insurgent athletes dragging women's sports into the 21st century." Curry is the lone woman coaching Division I men's basketball in the country. The video accompanies Lindsay Crouse's article titled "Where Are All the Women Coaches?" that includes the statistic that women currently coach about 40% of women's college teams and 3% of men's teams. Crouse concludes the piece: "Today we raise our little girls to follow their dreams and to excel. That is, until they become women and expect to be paid for it." In the video, Curry says, "To all the people that think women can't coach as well as men, try me. What we're doing here at the University of Maine which is really, really special, is empowering these young men to have the confidence to work with strong, alpha women. When they go into the workforce, they're going to work with women."

SFGate cites Kirby about centipedes

03 Jan 2020

SFGate, a site affiliated with the San Francisco Chronicle, cited Clay Kirby in an article about centipedes being an all-natural form of pest control as they eat termites, bedbugs and cockroaches. Kirby, an entomologist and insect diagnostician with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, said instances of people being bitten by house centipedes are rare and seldom serious.

Pen Bay Pilot lists Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory as partner in moose survival study

03 Jan 2020

The University of Maine Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (formerly the Animal Health Lab) was mentioned in a Penobscot Bay Pilot story about the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife plan to collar 130 moose this month for its moose survival study. IF&W, in cooperation and collaboration with the University of Maine Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Fish and Game, and Vermont Fish and Game, conduct the study that monitors calf and adult survival rates and examines causes of death. Portland Press Herald also mentioned the UMaine lab in reports on the study.

Bangor Daily News interviews Coffin about chickens

03 Jan 2020

Donna Coffin was a source for the Bangor Daily News for its story discouraging people from keeping chickens as house pets because they harbor bacteria harmful to humans, including salmonella and Campylobacter which can be fatal in extreme cases. At the very least, both can cause a great deal of digestive and intestinal discomfort, including diarrhea, stomach cramps and vomiting, according to the article. If it's necessary to bring a chicken indoors to recover from an injury or illness, there are some things to keep in mind to protect humans and fowl. "The risk to the chickens is small if they are brought indoors," said Coffin, an educator with University of Maine Cooperative Extension. "But once they are acclimated to warmer indoor temperatures, they will need to be kept warm all winter." That means even bringing a chicken into a warm area like a shop or garage to recover from an injury or illness means that bird must be housed at that same indoor temperature for the rest of the winter after it has recovered. Keep the birds away from spaces frequented by the human household members, and never allow the birds near areas where food is prepared and eaten.

Atlas Obscura mentions 2006 UMaine tree study

03 Jan 2020

Atlas Obscura mentioned a 2006 University of Maine study in its story, "The Canadian Arctic Once Probably Looked a Lot Like Present-Day Florida." Ellesmere Island, just north of Greenland, has musk oxen, hares, brown grasses and shrubs. But about 56 million to 34 million years ago, the landscape was totally different, according to the article. There was no persistent ice to speak of, and annual average temperatures were in the 50s F. There may have been rare dustings of snow or intermittent frost, but for the most part, it was warm, humid, and swampy. And, it was covered with trees, according to the article. The University of Maine study placed the modern relatives of some of these ancient trees in constant light, and found the dawn redwood kept photosynthesizing despite the stress of having no break from brightness. Whatever grew on Ellesmere could handle that stress, "and that makes the Arctic of the distant past an interesting case study for understanding how plants might respond to an uncertain future," according to the article.

Dill talks with Press Herald about increase in tick-borne illnesses

03 Jan 2020

Griffin Dill talked with the Portland Press Herald about the increase of tick-borne illnesses in Maine last year. Anaplasmosis diagnoses reached a record high in 2019, with at least 685 confirmed cases of the tick-borne illness, while the number of Lyme disease cases also were up. "Ticks were abundant and highly active in 2019," said Dill, an integrated pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Lyme and anaplasmosis are both transmitted by the deer tick and exhibit the same symptoms — fever, joint pain, swelling, fatigue, headaches and neurological problems. Anaplasmosis, though, is typically more severe. About 25% of anaplasmosis patients are hospitalized, compared to about 5% of Lyme patients. In 2019, there were 1,461 cases of Lyme disease, according to preliminary data from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which is a 7% increase over the 1,370 cases in 2018. Anaplasmosis rose 44% from the 476 cases in 2018. The CDC also reported 138 cases in 2019 of babesiosis, another tick-borne illness. Dill said there are unknowns about why anaplasmosis cases surged. Of the ticks submitted in 2019 to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab, 8% tested positive for anaplasmosis and 38% tested positive for Lyme, Dill said. "It might be that there's hot spots in certain geographical areas for ticks infected with anaplasmosis, and that those ticks may be more likely to be in areas with more human activity." Doctors also may be more likely to order tests for anaplasmosis now compared to five years ago, said Dill, so cases not diagnosed years ago are more likely to be reported now.

Speaking in Maine airs Mayewski's 'Arctic Climate Change and Maine' talk

03 Jan 2020

Maine Public's Speaking in Maine is sharing Paul Mayewski's address titled "Arctic Climate Change and Maine" in December to the Mid-Coast Forum on Foreign Relations in in Camden. Mayewski, director of the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, recently led National Geographic and Rolex's Perpetual Planet Extreme Expedition to Mount Everest. The world-renowned climate scientist and explorer has authored two books and has appeared on "60 Minutes," in NOVA films, NPR pieces and the Emmy Award-winning "Years of Living Dangerously."

Maine magazine highlights Composites Center's innovation

03 Jan 2020

Maine magazine detailed how a research and development team at the University of Maine printed the largest 3D object in the world. "It started as a glob of bioplastic. At the end of 72 hours, it was a 25-foot-long patrol boat weighing 5,000 pounds," began the feature about how the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center made national headlines last fall when it unveiled the vessel — the largest 3D printed object in the world, printed by the largest 3D printer. The center has received inquiries from around the world about using the printer to make other objects, from buildings to train cars, said Habib Dagher, executive director of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center. "It's going to open up and allow entrepreneurs in Maine and beyond Maine to realize things they've never realized before."

McWilliams named executive assistant to President Ferrini-Mundy

06 Jan 2020

Josette McWilliams has been named executive assistant to University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, effective Jan. 6. McWilliams, a UMaine alumna who was a first-generation college student, comes to the university from Colby College, where she served as executive assistant to the dean of the college for two years. “I’m pleased and humbled to return to UMaine, and hope to contribute to the mission and goals of the university that provided me with such opportunity and growth,” says McWilliams. “I’m honored to be joining this team of brilliant minds committed to fostering academic success for students, while also advancing the interests and engagement of the community.” McWilliams majored in creative writing and graduated from UMaine in 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in English. She is an artist, author and instructor.

New farmers invited to find business success at agricultural show

06 Jan 2020

The Beginning Farmer Resource Network (BFRN), a coalition of agricultural agencies in Maine, will host free workshops and offer consultation services to Maine’s newest farmers Jan. 14–16 during the Maine Agricultural Trades Show at the Augusta Civic Center. Two Jan. 15 workshops will focus on multiple aspects of farm labor. Four Jan. 16 workshops will examine cybersecurity of electronic sales, farming in a changing climate, working with municipalities on local farm policy, and collaborating with national partners. All workshops feature current farmers and service providers. “Beginning farmers know better than anyone that there is no instruction manual for the first decade in agriculture,” says Tori Lee Jackson, University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor of agriculture and natural resources, and BFRN member. “As a coalition, the Beginning Farmer Resource Network works to help aspiring and beginning farmers find their ‘farm business success’ in an easy and practical manner.” A beginning farmer is someone who has operated a farm for 10 years or fewer, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The most recent USDA Agricultural Census indicates nearly one-third of farmers in Maine reported 10 years’ or fewer of experience on their present farm. Registration is not necessary. For more information, visit the UMaine Extension BFRN website, or contact Tori Jackson, 207.353.5500, tori.jackson@maine.edu.

Lincoln County News reports on Semester by the Sea presentations

06 Jan 2020

The Lincoln County News reported on end-of-semester presentations by students in the University of Maine’s Semester by the Sea program at the Darling Marine Center in Walpole. Five groups of undergraduate students in an estuarine oceanography course explored why the Damariscotta River is known for the quality, size and quantity of its oysters. Each group studied a particular characteristic of both the Damariscotta and Kennebec rivers to determine which is better suited for shellfish cultivation, the article states. Based on the students’ research, Damian Brady, an assistant research professor at the DMC and instructor for the course, said that all conditions appear to be more conducive to shellfish aquaculture in the Damariscotta River, except for a portion of the lower Kennebec that showed higher concentration of saltwater.

BDN cites Bouchard, economic impact report in 2019 aquaculture news recap

06 Jan 2020

The Bangor Daily News cited the 2017 Maine Aquaculture Economic Impact Report from the University of Maine Aquaculture Research Institute in the article “For the Maine coast, 2019 was the year of the fish.” According to the report, aquaculture is now among the fastest-growing food production sector in the world, and the economic impact of the industry in Maine nearly tripled between 2007 and 2017. The article also quoted Deborah Bouchard, director of the Aquaculture Research Institute. “We have a huge seafood deficit in the United States. Having these land-based facilities not only will decrease our deficit, but it will increase our food security,” said Bouchard of aquaculture businesses in the state.

Washington Post interviews McDonough MacKenzie in article about her research on bird arrivals

06 Jan 2020

The Washington Post interviewed Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie, a postdoctoral research fellow with the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, for an article about her research on bird arrivals in Maine. The arrival dates of migratory birds in Maine may not be shifting fast enough to keep up with earlier leaf-out and flowering induced by a warming climate, according to a new paper by McDonough MacKenzie. She compared information from mid-1900s nature-based journal notes by L.S. Quackenbush with temperature data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, according to the article. The average date of leaf-out advanced 2.3 days for each degree Celsius increase in April temperature, McDonough MacKenzie found. She was first introduced to Quackenbush’s notes as a Ph.D. candidate at Boston University. “I started looking through it, and it was just amazing. A treasure trove,” she said. She also compared that data to 20 years of recent observations by birder Bill Sheehan. “We can see very clearly that leaf-out and flowering are correlated to April temperatures, but migratory bird arrivals are not,” McDonough MacKenzie said. “That’s where we have this potential mismatch. Adding in more data today will help us figure out if this is an ongoing trend.” SFGate and Southwest Times Record published the Washington Post article.

New genetic study identifies pathways of disease spillover among domestic and wild sheep and goats in the western United States

06 Jan 2020

A new large-scale genetic study has determined that domestic sheep and goats are the source of bronchopneumonia in bighorn sheep and mountain goats in the western United States, according to a research team led by Pauline Kamath, University of Maine assistant professor of animal health. Using nearly 600 isolates collected over a 33-year period, the five-member team studied the genetic structure of the bacterium *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, the primary causative agent of bronchopneumonia, in the domestic and wild sheep and goats to better understand transmission and spillover dynamics of the pathogen. Spillover diseases have significant consequences for human and animal health, including wildlife conservation efforts, according to the researchers, writing in Scientific Reports, a Nature Research journal. In particular, bronchopneumonia has contributed to historical declines of bighorn sheep across western North America. The disease is believed to have originated following exposure to domestic sheep introduced by European settlers and continues to impede conservation efforts to reestablish bighorn sheep across the species’ range. The genetic data in the new study identify domestic sheep as the primary infection reservoir, and source of *M. ovipneumoniae* spillover to bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Domestic goat strains were genetically distinct, but were also found

to spill over into bighorn sheep. Following spillover events, the pathogen may persist in wildlife populations for extended periods. The researchers found a high number of bacterial strains in domestic sheep flocks, the majority of which (77%) harbored unique strains. In domestic goats, there also was a large proportion of herds with unique strains (46%). In contrast, 9% of bighorn sheep herds were infected with unique strains of *M. ovipneumoniae*. One of the strains detected in bighorn sheep was shared with domestic sheep; another with domestic goats. The data suggest that the ability to predict *M. ovipneumoniae* spillover into wildlife populations may remain a challenge given the high strain diversity in domestic hosts and need for more comprehensive pathogen surveillance, the researchers write. Knowledge of pathogen movement, invasion frequency and sources is key to helping predict the ability of spillover host species to persist and recover from pathogen infections. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745, nagle@maine.edu

Tickets on sale for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration Jan. 20

06 Jan 2020

The 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration will be held on Monday, Jan. 20 in Wells Conference Center. Doors open at 8 a.m.; breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are $20 per person and can be purchased online. Purchasing tickets in advance is highly recommended as seating is limited. A limited number of tickets will be available on site on the morning of the event. Departments also may purchase a table for $200. For additional information, contact Student Life, 207.581.1406.

President Ferrini-Mundy to speak on 'Maine Calling' on Jan. 7

07 Jan 2020

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias, will speak on the Maine Public radio show "Maine Calling" on Jan. 7. The show, airing at 1 p.m., will focus on the recently released 10-year Strategic Economic Development Plan for the state of Maine. Discussion will cover the plan's major initiatives and the economic outlook for Maine in 2020 and beyond.

Republican Journal advances project management program at UMaine Hutchinson Center

07 Jan 2020

The Republican Journal reported the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast will offer a three-day certificate program in project management. Participants from a variety of organizations involved in project management will benefit from the training, including nonprofit businesses, construction utilities, insurance and banking organizations, the article states. Program sessions will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 24 and 31, and Feb. 7. Cost for the program is $495 per person, including continental breakfast and catered lunch, with need-based scholarships available. For more information, to register, or to request an accommodation or scholarship application, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002; michelle.patten@maine.edu.

CentralMaine.com reports Fernandez to speak at celebration of conservation milestone Jan. 15

07 Jan 2020

CentralMaine.com reported Ivan Fernandez, Distinguished Maine Professor in the Climate Change Institute and School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine, will speak during a celebration of a conservation milestone at the Maine Agricultural Trades Show in Augusta on Jan. 15. Maine Woodland Owners announced that it has permanently conserved more than 10,000 acres of working forestland throughout the state of Maine, and will celebrate this milestone at their Annual Meeting and Forestry Forum during the trades show. Fernandez will provide information about the impacts of climate change on Maine's woodlands, according to the article.

Boothbay Register publishes DMC release on Damariscotta River shellfish study

07 Jan 2020

The Boothbay Register published a University of Maine Darling Marine Center release about a new study of shellfish in the Damariscotta River. The study was led by Kara Pellowe and supported by a grant from the Broad Reach Fund. Researchers counted soft-shell clams, quahogs, razor clams, mussels and oysters living in the intertidal flats managed by Damariscotta and Newcastle in areas identified as important for the fishery, the release states. Shellfish abundances varied among locations and soft-shell clams were more abundant in high intertidal areas than lower on the shore, according to the release. The researchers found very few clams of commercial size, but also set out recruitment boxes to capture young clams and protect them from predation throughout the growing season. "The protection definitely made a difference," said Heather Leslie, DMC director and Pellowe's adviser. "When we sampled the mud next to the boxes, we found very few young clams."

BDN speaks with Forstadt for article about stress, farming

07 Jan 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Leslie Forstadt, a human development specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the article "What are the causes of stress among farmers?" which was the first in a two-part series. People in many occupations can experience family stress, but farming careers are especially interwoven with family life. And planning succession and inheritance of farmland can strain family relationships, the article states. "Certainly in New England, we're looking at trying to transition a large number of farms to successors," said Forstadt. "Whether those successors are family members or not that can cause internal stress within a family." The culture around farming also contributes to a lack of communication about stress, according to the article. "Traditionally, farmers are known as stoic and able to solve their own problems," Forstadt said. "The agrarian imperative is [the] notion that folks that are super capable and adept at solving problems on the farm feel pressure that they should be able to solve their own problems when it comes to mental health or inter-family conflict." This theory does not separate individual responsibility from systemic forces, however. "There really are systemic forces against succeeding in farming," Forstadt said. "As good as you are at what you do, if the system is not supporting you to live, that's not your fault. And yet … the message is, you should be able to do this if you just work hard enough." The BDN also spoke with Forstadt for the second article in the series.

Growing food businesses in Maine topic of Kennebec County Extension Association annual meeting

08 Jan 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor and food science specialist Beth Calder will be the featured speaker at the Kennebec County Extension Association annual meeting Jan. 15, from 4:30–6 p.m., in the Washington/York Room at the Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive. "Growing Food Businesses in Maine — How UMaine Extension Can Help" includes information on food testing services and Extension workshops appropriate for food entrepreneurs, UMaine's Highland pilot plant and commercial kitchen, and industry-related research. A brief business meeting will follow the presentation. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, to RSVP or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Caragh Fitzgerald, 207.622.7546; cfitzgerald@maine.edu.

Press Herald publishes op-ed by master of social work student

08 Jan 2020

Hilary Thibodeau, a master of social work student at the University of Maine, wrote an opinion piece for the Portland Press Herald titled "Adding barriers to employment would hurt asylum seekers, Maine communities."

President Ferrini-Mundy a guest on 'Maine Calling'

08 Jan 2020

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias, was a recent guest on Maine Public's "Maine Calling" radio show. The topic of the show was the recently released 10-year Strategic Economic Development Plan for the state of Maine.

Morning Ag Clips announces Master Gardener Volunteer training applications open

08 Jan 2020

Morning Ag Clips announced University of Maine Cooperative Extension is accepting applications for the 2020 Master Gardener Volunteer training in Penobscot, Somerset and Aroostook counties. Classes will meet weekly Feb. 25 through May 21 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the UMaine Extension office in Bangor, and will resume for four weeks in September. Live video conference sites also will be available in East Millinocket, Skowhegan and Aroostook County, with some travel required to the Orono area, the article states. The program fee is $220; limited financial assistance is available. Apply online by Jan. 31. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.942.7396 or email katherine.garland@maine.edu.

Phys.org publishes UMaine release on study of disease spillover among sheep, goats

08 Jan 2020

Phys.org published a University of Maine news release about a new large-scale genetic study that found domestic sheep and goats are the source of bronchopneumonia in bighorn sheep and mountain goats in the western United States. Pauline Kamath, assistant professor of animal health, led the research. Spillover diseases have significant consequences for human and animal health, including wildlife conservation efforts, according to the researchers.

Pellowe, Leslie: Fishermen adapt to environmental change in varied ways

08 Jan 2020

Regulations and financial resources that influence how people fish have as great an effect on how they deal with change as where and how they fish, found University of Maine Darling Marine Center researchers Kara Pellowe and Heather Leslie. The ecologists examined how fishermen adapt to environmental and economic change in Baja California Sur, Mexico. "Alternatives matter," says Pellowe. "Having different ways to respond to environmental and economic change is vital for individuals and communities to be able to thrive in changing conditions." The story is on the Darling Marine Center website. Contact: Heather Leslie, heather.leslie@maine.edu, 207.350.2713

A year in review: Top photos of 2019

10 Jan 2020

2019 was a year to remember at the University of Maine. Here's a look back at a year of adventure and achievements in research, athletics, the arts and more. [ngg src="galleries" ids="2" display="basic_thumbnail" thumbnail_crop="0" images_per_page="25" show_slideshow_link="0"]

Two UMaine Extension maple syrup seminars on tap

09 Jan 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Southern Maine Maple Sugarmakers Association will offer two half-day workshops Saturday, Jan. 18 at the UMaine Extension York County office, 15 Oak St., Springvale. "Intro to Backyard Sugaring: Maple Syrup 101," 9–11:30 a.m., will feature demonstrations and discussion with experienced sugarmakers about all aspects of making maple syrup. "Scaling Up Your Maple Operations: Sap Collection 201," 12:30–3 p.m., will examine sap collection tubing systems for producers with small- to medium-sized operations. The fee is $10 per person for one workshop and $15 per person for both workshops. Registration is online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.781.6099 or email rebecca.gray@maine.edu. More information also is on the event website.

Morning Ag Clips reports deadline extended for York County Master Gardener Volunteer training

09 Jan 2020

Morning Ag Clips reported the application deadline for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteer training in York County has been extended to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 24. The training, held in Springvale, begins Jan. 29 and will run through mid-June, according to the article. Applications are available online or by calling UMaine Extension in York County at 800.287.1535 or 207.324.2814.

Press Herald speaks with Smith about Westbrook ice disk

09 Jan 2020

The Portland Press Herald spoke with Sean Smith, an associate professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine, for the article "City circles back on famous ice disk." Westbrook made global headlines a year ago when a large, rotating ice disk appeared on the Presumpscot River. Now people are wondering if it will ever return, according to the article. "They are rare. I remember it was a new phenomenon for me," said Smith. "I hadn't looked into it before that event last year. There is actually a lot that factors into it." According to Smith, it's difficult to speculate without active data on the temperature of that portion of the river — a gradient in temperatures from the surface to the bottom of the river causes a vortex effect leading to ice forming at the surface in a spinning disk. "Areas with river bends can get current flows that can be a driver for disks as well," said Smith. "Vortices of downward motion from top to bottom create the disk (the cold water sinking), and the bend in the river may help the water keep spinning the disk."

Mortelliti's small mammal research featured in Anthropocene Magazine

09 Jan 2020

Anthropocene Magazine featured research on small mammals by Alessio Mortelliti, an assistant professor of wildlife habitat ecology at the University of Maine, in an article about helping forests adapt to climate change. "We cannot take for granted that animals will disperse any random seeds," that they find at the edge of an expanding range, said Mortelliti. "The way in which this interaction subsequently unfolds could have dramatic consequences, and may play a major role in determining which species will successfully expand." Mortelliti and colleagues conducted a study of 18 plant species expected to migrate further north in the near future, placing seeds of those plants beside those of familiar local species in 131 locations throughout Acadia National Park. Local small mammals found the novel seeds appetizing and sometimes even preferred them, according to the article. And some of the seeds were dropped or buried and forgotten, with one-third ending up in places that would facilitate germination and growth. Small mammals and other seed dispersers should be included in models designed to predict plant migrations because of their crucial role in the process, according to Mortelliti. "People hoping to nourish future forests might regard these creatures as partners in conservation," the article states.

Boothbay Register, Wiscasset Newspaper publish DMC release on new study of how fishermen adapt to environmental change

09 Jan 2020

Boothbay Register and Wiscasset Newspaper published a University of Maine Darling Marine Center news release on a new study of how fishermen adapt to environmental change, led by UMaine researchers Kara Pellowe and Heather Leslie. The study found that regulations and financial resources that influence how people fish have as great an effect on how they deal with change as where and how they fish, the release states. Pellowe interviewed 35 chocolate clam fishers in the Loreto area of Baja California Sur, Mexico, and all of them reported using multiple strategies to adapt to changing environmental and economic conditions, according to the release. "Maintaining a diverse suite of adaptive strategies is essential for individuals to cope in the face of future disturbance and change," the researchers write. Saving Seafood carried the Boothbay Register article.

Exhibit highlights threatened shell middens containing Wabanaki, environmental history

09 Jan 2020

For generations, indigenous Wabanaki people hunted, caught fish, and harvested clams and oysters along the coast of what's now called Maine. And they left behind middens — heaps of shells — that sometimes contain tools, ceramic shards and bones of animals. Alice Kelley and Bonnie Newsom are in a race against time and tides to document the cultural and paleoenvironmental information contained in the shell heaps before they're swept out to sea. While some people once considered the middens to be trash heaps, Kelley says they're important keys to the past. And some middens, she thinks, may represent intentional building of highly visible landmarks. Kelley, an associate research professor with the University of Maine Climate Change Institute and School of Earth and Climate Sciences, says the 2,000 or so middens on the Maine coast range in age from about 4,000 years old up to the time of European settlement. The materials in the middens provide opportunities to learn about the lifeways of the indigenous people who created them, including what they ate and how they interacted with the environment and with each other. Kelley and Newsom, an assistant professor in the UMaine Department of Anthropology, are among those who want to seize those opportunities to learn. But as the rate of sea level rise increases and storms increase in intensity, waves as well as looters have taken, and are taking, a toll on these cultural archives. Coastal erosion associated with sea level rise has destroyed all but a few sites older than 4,000 years old, says Kelley. To help spread the word about the critical situation, Kelley and colleagues have created a museum exhibit. "Maine's Threatened Shell Middens: Losing a Link to Understanding our Past" is on display until spring in the Minsky Culture Lab in the Hudson Museum at the Collins Center for the Arts. The exhibit combines photographs and historic postcards with descriptive text, and a VEMI Lab re-creation of a canoe trip 1,500 years ago up the Damariscotta River between the famous Whaleback and Glidden middens. Today, only a portion of the Glidden Midden, the largest on the East Coast north of Georgia, survives. Comprised mostly of oyster shells, it was about 150 meters (492 feet) long by 70 meters (230 feet) wide by about 9 meters (26 feet) deep. But it has experienced significant erosion. [caption id="attachment_74894" align="alignright" width="550"]


Even the iconic Glidden Midden, located on a relatively protected river bank, is experiencing erosion from tidal currents, ice, flooding and boat wakes.[/caption] People can visit the remnants of the Whaleback Midden at the Whaleback State Historic Site in Damariscotta. Before the midden was nearly destroyed by mining to make chicken feed and lime (to build Fort William Henry in Bristol) in the 1880s, it was about 104 meters (341 feet) long and 37 meters (121 feet) wide and 5 meters (16 feet) deep. Large middens were once common, but Kelley says they've either disappeared beneath major coastal cities, including New York City and Baltimore, or they've eroded or been mined. Exposed shells on middens' eroded faces give them their whitish color. The layers of whole, single and broken shells are mixed with soil, organic matter and archaeological material. Middens are important to archaeologists because the weathering of shells buffers Maine's typically acidic soils. This preserves the organic materials — including bones and seeds — that disappear in archaeological sites in other areas of the state. This preservation allows investigators to reconstruct people's diets and tool technology, as well as past environmental conditions. Some exhibit photos show the step-by-step process of archeological excavation, including midden layers and recovered artifacts. Others show looted and collapsing sites. Looting, or collecting, destroys middens by making them more susceptible to erosion, and removing material that can provide important information. The exhibit also is an invitation, a plea really, for people to join the volunteer Maine Midden Minders, says Kelley. This citizen science effort was established with funding from the University of Maine Maine Sea Grant and the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, with support from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The more people working to salvage the valuable history contained in the middens, the better. "The rate of erosion and scale of what is being lost is unbelievable," Kelley says. Kelley, colleagues and current volunteers are swiftly documenting as much information as possible contained in the remaining middens. Midden minders photograph sites with their smartphones, measure erosion with simple tools, document any exposed archaeological materials and add their findings to a ready-made database that's valuable for researchers and cultural resource managers. Some midden minders visit sites after each storm to assess and document damage. Kelley and Newsom welcome additional archaeology, history and environmental buffs to join the effort. "Cultural heritage is being lost to the sea, "says Kelley. "We need to get the word out." The exhibit is free and open to the public. Hudson Museum hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. To learn more about shell middens and Kelley's research, read the UMaine Today magazine story "Lost to the Sea" and visit the Maine Midden Minders website. Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

Learn about growing microgreens Jan. 18 in Falmouth

10 Jan 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a workshop on growing microgreens 10–11:30 a.m. Jan. 18 at the UMaine Regional Learning Center, 75 Clearwater Drive, Falmouth. Snow date is Feb. 1. Topics in this hands-on workshop will include optimal growing conditions indoors, and the variety of seeds available and their flavor profiles. UMaine Extension horticulture professional Pamela Hargest will lead the workshop. The $10 per person fee includes a tray sown with microgreens to take home. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.781.6099 or email rebecca.gray@maine.edu. More information also is available on the program website.

Seacoast Online reports student to intern in DC

10 Jan 2020

Seacoast Online reported Lila Harakles, a sophomore University of Maine political science and philosophy student, has been awarded a spring internship in the Washington, D.C. office of Sen. Susan Collins. After graduation, the Kennebunk native plans to attend law school before pursuing a career in public service, the article states.

Riordan recent guest on 'Maine Calling'

10 Jan 2020

Liam Riordan, a professor of history at the University of Maine, was a recent guest on Maine Public's "Maine Calling" radio show. The topic of the show was the story of Maine's path to statehood, and is part of the show's yearlong series related to Maine's bicentennial.

UMMA included in BDN roundup of weekend events

10 Jan 2020

In a roundup of weekend events, the Bangor Daily News included the University of Maine Museum of Art, which opens its winter/spring exhibitions on Jan. 10. The exhibits include large, colorful paintings by Teresa Dunn, a mixed media installation from husband and wife artists Deirdre Murphy and Scott White, and photographs by Michael Philip Manheim. Admission to the museum is free, the article states.

Comins discusses discovery of habitable planet on 'Nighttime Live with Bob Harris'

10 Jan 2020

Neil Comins, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Maine, was a recent guest on "Nighttime Live with Bob Harris," a podcast on KFGO radio in North Dakota. The episode focused on NASA's discovery of a potentially habitable planet called TOI 700d, which is 100 light years away from Earth.

Revisit 2019 faculty, student discoveries

10 Jan 2020

University of Maine faculty members and students conducted fascinating and impactful research important to Maine and the world in 2019. This roundup of stories from July to December covers 3D printing, eDNA, obesity, lobster resilience, and sustainable aquaculture. And here's a link to research and news highlights from January to June. All UMaine news stories are online. **July** UMaine tapped as one of three nationwide to participate in BadgedToHire A badge demonstrates that an employment candidate clearly has those skills. Bilingual signage — English and Penobscot — now at UMaine Signs for Memorial Gym and New Balance Student Recreation Center note the names in Penobscot — *attali-milahyawltimk* — translates as "place where you play a variety of games." At Fogler Library, *awihkhikaní-wikwam* means "book house"; at Wells Conference Center, *mawikamik* translates as "community meeting house"; and at Cutler Health Center, *saklamálswakan mawte* translates as "get your health together." UMaine School of Nursing part of reestablished residency program to improve rural health care in Maine The residency program will improve the first-year experience for new nurse practitioner providers to reduce burnout and turnover, and ensure patients in the region continue to receive the highest-quality health care. **August** UMaine partners with EDC, Mount Washington Observatory and others on NSF-funded project to promote data science education Students will learn how to analyze and develop scientific prediction models using meteorological data of an extreme weather event on the summit of Mt. Washington. They'll also study and model an extreme weather event in their rural vicinity. NSF grant awarded to develop framework to harness forest ecosystem integrity, resilience data The region's forests are dynamic and diverse due to changing environmental conditions, varying management objectives related to mixed land ownership, and natural disturbances, including a pending spruce budworm outbreak. Researchers to reconstruct Holocene climate change in Southern Hemisphere To better understand industrial-age glacier recession and climate warming in New Zealand, Aaron Putnam's team will document the past 10,000 years of natural variations by analyzing the moraines of retreating glaciers and rings of temperature-sensitive trees in the Southern Hemisphere. $20M grant awarded for Maine Environmental DNA initiative to support coastal ecosystems eDNA is like a genetic fingerprint of a marine ecosystem. Organisms leave traces of DNA, the universal code for life, wherever they go — in the water, air or soil. Data can show where, when and how species and groups of organisms have interacted with each other and their coastal habitats and answer ever-evolving questions about how coastal systems work — and what makes them resilient or susceptible to change. NASA grant funds UMaine remote sensing research for large-scale forest health assessment Researchers will develop comprehensive models with detailed, accurate, higher resolution and near-real-time data on forest tree species identification, and forest tree decline detection and damage assessment. **September** Isenhour part of multidisciplinary $1.3M NSF project to address waste through circular economy The team will seek to change the global consumption model of "take, make, waste." UMaine awarded $3M to train grad students to develop innovative solutions to serious health challenges Globally and locally, environmental changes, an aging human population, and the increasing prevalence of infectious diseases of animals, plants and people highlight the need for training professionals in an interdisciplinary approach. UMaine awarded nearly $1.4M for transformational floating offshore wind energy technology Habib Dagher says funds will help further stabilize floating wind turbine hull technology in extreme storms as well as lighten the hull and decrease the already low electricity costs. NOAA Sea Grant National Aquaculture Initiative awards $1.6M to advance sustainable aquaculture in Maine The U.S. imports 85% of its seafood, resulting in a $14 billion trade deficit. And as seafood consumption continues to rise, and wild-caught fisheries will not meet demands, new opportunities are opening in aquaculture. Donors celebrating 55th UMaine Class Reunion to name engineering building The E. James and Eileen P. Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center will house the Biomedical Engineering Program and Department of Mechanical Engineering, as well as teaching laboratories for mechanical engineering technology, and provide space for engineering majors to complete their senior capstone projects. Maine Sea Grant, UMaine advance $2M initiative aimed at increasing resilience in the lobster fishery The initiative could clarify the American lobster's link to the ocean food web. Today's estimated landed value of the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) fishery is more than $666 million. Study discovers loss of innervation in fat related to obesity, diabetes, aging Obesity is one of the most difficult diseases to treat because there are many counter-regulatory things in people's physiology that prevent them from losing weight. "The key for us isn't weight loss, but healthy metabolism no matter what your body weight is," says Kristy Townsend. **October** UMaine receives $1M pledge from Pratt & Whitney for engineering center Groundbreaking for the center — which is expected to cost $75 million to $77 million, is planned for spring 2020. The Machine Tool Suite will feature open workspace, computer-controlled milling machines and lathes, tool crib, an applied research lab, and a computer-aided drafting/computer-aided manufacturing classroom. AMC awarded $2.5M to upgrade equipment, accelerate additive metal manufacturing Learning on the latest technology is important for students and industry workforce development. Helping companies adopt the latest technology without risk will be a win for the state. UMaine Composites Center receives three Guinness World Records related to largest 3D printer The world records are for the world's largest prototype polymer 3D printer, largest solid 3D-printed object, and largest 3D-printed boat. The 3D printer is designed to print objects as long as 100 feet by 22 feet wide by 10 feet high, and can print at 500 pounds per hour. NOAA awards $1.6M to study the life histories of highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico Research will fill information gaps in to reduce uncertainty in stock assessment models and population status, and inform appropriate quotas to promote sustainability. $350K NSF grant to UMaine to support statewide research, outreach with new high-performance computational instrument The instrument will speed up computing processes and enable new projects that require a level of computing power that previously would have been unachievable in a reasonable amount of time with existing resources. This new computing capacity will facilitate research statewide. UMaine receives new DOE funding to advance VolturnUS floating offshore platform The goal is ongoing floating hull research and development that utilizes the most advanced electric power generating turbines, that will continue to increase efficiency and electricity output while reducing footprint and overall electricity cost. UMaine to offer MBA discount for Maine employers The University of Maine Graduate School of Business will offer 12% tuition discounts toward the MaineMBA beginning January 2020. The Workforce Partners Program, which is

available to active members of any Maine chamber of commerce, improves access and affordability toward completion of the MaineMBA. **November** Nayak part of international team investigating health benefits of processed seaweed Scientists want to develop and optimize seaweed processing and preservation techniques to retain bioactive compounds and improve their absorption and use in the human body. **December** James W. Sewall Co. donates approximately 1M aerial images to Raymond H. Fogler Library History professor Anne Knowles says the images provide data about the growth and decline of the pulp and paper industry, urban development, transportation, forestry practices, tourism, the impact of the ash borer and other environmental issues and that the historical and visual record will support interdisciplinary research for decades. McGill named one of the most cited researchers in the world Since 2003, Brian McGill had 106 publications cited 7,991 times. He studies biodiversity at large scales — areas of space, periods of time and across species — that are critical to address conservation and management questions. Maine Harvest for Hunger reaches 3M pounds of produce donated for those in need In 2019, the program donated more than 193,000 pounds of fresh produce — worth more than $327,000 — from more than 120 farms to 207 distribution sites. Eight corporate partners and 365 volunteers logged more than 6,000 hours. Scientists rank world's most important, most threatened mountain water towers Paul Mayewski helped rank 78 mountain glacier-based water systems in importance to adjacent communities and vulnerability to environmental and socioeconomic changes. They supply water resources to 1.9 billion people — about one-quarter of the planet's population. Contact: Beth Staples, 207,581.3777; beth.staples@maine.edu

For older adults, music training boosts cognitive function, well-being

10 Jan 2020

Group music training can enhance cognitive function and personal well-being in older adults, according to a new University of Maine study led by Rebecca MacAulay, an assistant professor of psychology, and Philip Edelman, an assistant professor of music education. Music is associated with reduced stress and improved quality of life and mood, and music training requires coordination of sensory and motor sequences and the use of higher cognitive resources. But age-related differences in learning, vision and brain plasticity could limit the effectiveness of traditional teaching methods for older adult learners. The study asked whether it was feasible to teach older adults without prior music training how to read music and play the recorder using traditional teaching methods, and aimed to improve understanding of the relationship of music to cognitive functioning and psychological well-being. Angelica Boeve and Amy Halpin, doctoral students in clinical psychology, and Nathan Sprangers, an undergraduate student in music education, also collaborated on this study, "Psychomusicology: Music, Mind, and Brain: Group Music Training as a Multimodal Cognitive Intervention for Older Adults," published in the journal of the American Psychological Association. The team developed the Maine Understanding Sensory Integration and Cognition (MUSIC) project, an interdisciplinary intervention in which trained music instructors led one-hour lessons for 12 weeks. The MUSIC project involved a community-based participatory research approach, partnering with the UMaine Center on Aging, Eastern Area of Living Agency, Bangor YMCA, and low-income independent living community housing residence coordinators in New England to recruit a diverse group of participants. The researchers found that it is more effective to adapt the teaching and learning strategies to align with the needs of an older population, and that participation in the program was associated with improvements in overall cognitive function and measures associated with frontal lobe function. Participants reported improvements in cognition, motor function, self-esteem, stress and emotional well-being, as well as "increased socialization" and "a supportive learning environment and a strong sense of accomplishment." While most cognitive aging studies focus on college-educated, higher socioeconomic status populations, the participants in this study had a range of socioeconomic statuses, education levels, and medical or mental health conditions, making the results more generally applicable to populations at greater risk of cognitive decline. "Results indicated the MUSIC group training provided an intrinsically reinforcing activity that associated with enhanced cognitive function and relevant measures of personal well-being," the researchers write. "Our findings and others support the importance of providing activities that promote socialization and learning for cognitive health." Contact: Cleo Barker, 207.581.3729, cleo.barker@maine.edu

DMC shellfish study highlights changes in Damariscotta River

10 Jan 2020

Darling Marine Center researcher Kara Pellowe and colleagues found very few clams of commercial size (2 inches or larger) last summer in any of the intertidal flats managed by the towns of Damariscotta and Newcastle. Their discovery came during a collaborative project in which they counted shellfish (soft-shell clams, quahogs, razor clams, mussels and oysters) in five sites in Damariscotta River's upper estuary. But when the team set out recruitment boxes, designed to capture young clams and protect them from predation during the growing season, the protection made a difference. The team also interviewed shellfish harvesters to hear their observations about how the Damariscotta River estuary has changed, particularly over the last 20 years. The complete story is on the Darling Marine Center website and the team's final report can be read here. Contact: Matthew Norwood, matthew.norwood@maine.edu, 207.581.5220

Blue mussels' ability to buffer climate-induced stress could benefit aquaculture

10 Jan 2020

Blue mussels can change patterns of gene expression to make more proteins that help with heat stress and facilitate energy production. This ability makes wild blue mussels (genus *Mytilus)* somewhat resilient to higher ocean temperature, acidification and less food, says Sarah Kingston, a visiting professor in the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine. That's important as changes in the Gulf of Maine — rising temperatures, acidification and less food — are projected to worsen in the next century, says Kingston, who made the discoveries during a collaborative study with Dave Carlon and Pieter Martino when she was a visiting professor at Bowdoin College. The Gulf is a logical natural laboratory in which to test questions about evolution and adaptation, says Kingston, a molecular ecologist who is teaching a core Semester by the Sea course about invertebrates at the Darling Marine Center. "The Gulf of Maine is changing rapidly, and we want to know how those changes may impact marine creatures that are important to us (as a food source and a key member of ecosystems) like blue mussels," she says. The results have important implications for aquaculture. Future studies will illuminate the set of genes underlying variance in calcification rate (for shells). The hardier genetic variants could be used for selective breeding, says Kingston. Learn more by reading the team's findings in the December edition of Journal of Shellfish Research and Rebecca Goldfine's article on the Bowdoin College website. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu, 207.581.3777

UMaine Athletics raffles trip for two to Paris

13 Jan 2020

University of Maine Athletics is raffling a five-day trip for two to Paris that includes airfare, accommodations and selected activities. Travel dates are

flexible. Each entry costs $50 and may be purchased online. The winner will be drawn Feb. 14 at the men's ice hockey game with the University of Connecticut. Proceeds will benefit the Alfond Fund, which is the fundraising program that helps scholar-athletes who compete in Maine's only NCAA Division I programs.

Pen Bay Pilot, Turner Publishing advance Boots-2-Bushels training

13 Jan 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot and Turner Publishing ran a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release advancing the free 30-week training program for military veterans and family members interested in small-scale farming for market sales. The first session of Boots-2-Bushels begins Jan. 13 at Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta.

Seacoastonline previews maple syrup workshops

13 Jan 2020

Seacoastonline advanced the Jan. 18 maple syrup workshops being offered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Southern Maine Maple Sugarmakers Association at the UMaine Extension York County office in Springvale. "Intro to Backyard Sugaring: Maple Syrup 101," will be held 9–11:30 a.m. and "Scaling Up Your Maple Operations: Sap Collection 201," will be held 12:30–3 p.m. For more information, contact 207.781.6099, rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

KJ, Sentinel preview Calder's 'Growing Food Businesses in Maine' talk

13 Jan 2020

The Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal ran a media release announcing that University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor and food science specialist Beth Calder will talk about "Growing Food Businesses in Maine — How UMaine Extension Can Help" at the Kennebec County Extension Association annual meeting 4:30–6 p.m. Jan. 15, at the Augusta Civic Center. For more information, contact Caragh Fitzgerald, 207.622.7546, cfitzgerald@maine.edu.

Seymour speaks with Chronicle Herald about Nova Scotia forestry industry

13 Jan 2020

Robert Seymour, the Curtis Hutchins Emeritus Professor in the School of Forest Resources, talked with The Chronicle Herald about the future of Nova Scotia's forest industry. He suggested converting public facilities to run on wood pellets or a similar product. Pellets can be made from hardwood or softwood, are dried, and burn at around 80% efficiency. "They've become a very common thing here in the United States – there's hundreds of them in Vermont alone," he said in the article.

Media share Cucuzza's research on climate change, coastal communities

13 Jan 2020

The Boothbay Register and Penobscot Bay Pilot ran a University of Maine Darling Marine Center media release about climate change and the state's coastal communities. Marina Cucuzza, a graduate student pursuing a dual degree in marine biology and marine policy, explores the role that municipal comprehensive plans have in preparing communities for environmental change. "Planning for change is critical to ensuring resilient coastal communities, now and in the future," said Cucuzza. Her paper in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management stated, "Climate change is, and will continue to, impact every aspect of municipalities including infrastructure, but also public health, housing and biodiversity. Building resilience requires significant structural shifts to address the root causes of challenges in the community, as well as a paradigm shift in planning to move towards a more proactive approach and a holistic consideration of resilience."

John Stass to visit Department of Art as Sculptor in Residence

14 Jan 2020

Maine sculptor John Stass will be the University of Maine Department of Art guest as a Sculptor in Residence on Jan. 29 and 30. Stass will give a sculpture demonstration on creating mid-century minimalist works in wood, and a lecture about minimalism in the arts titled "Minimalism…Enough is Enough." He will attempt to link the core tenets of minimalism to its effects on contemporary life by exploring its roots through painting, sculpture, photography and more. People are invited to the demonstration from noon to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29 in the Sculpture Studio on Flagstaff Road, and to the lecture from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 in Room 200 of Lord Hall. Both are free and open to the public. More information about Stass is on his website, johnstass.com. His visit is part of the Littlefield Gallery Visiting Artist Series, an ongoing Department of Art initiative, and is made possible through the generous support of the Littlefield Gallery in Winter Harbor and the University of Maine Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series.

TRJ advances SAT prep course at Hutchinson Center

14 Jan 2020

The Republican Journal advanced the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) preparatory classes for high school sophomores and juniors at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. Mary Smyth will teach the classes 1–3 p.m on six Sundays beginning March 1. Cost is $350 per student; a limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, or to request a scholarship application or a reasonable accommodation, contact Allison Small, 207.338.8004, allison.small@maine.edu.

Nayak shares goals of seaweed research with WABI

14 Jan 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Balunkeswar Nayak about his efforts to retain seaweed's health benefits during processing and preservation. "Our lab is helping...find out... the best processing techniques that can really save this product for off-season use and also different types of value additions," says the University of Maine associate professor of food processing.

WABI talks with Godfried about U.S.-Iran situation

14 Jan 2020

Nathan Godfried told WABI (Channel 5) that the United States airstrike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, commander of Iran's Quds Force, could impact Mainers. "Trump has ordered more troops into the Middle East. And the way that the current military structure exists, that's going to mean National Guard units are going to be rotated into the mix, as well as regular Army troops. It means that Mainers serving in the military, either through the National Guard or through the regular Armed Forces, are going to be in harm's way," said the Adelaide & Alan Bird Professor of History at the University of Maine.

UMaine online MBA and graduate education programs ranked among best in the nation

14 Jan 2020

Two University of Maine online graduate programs have been ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. The MaineMBA ranked No. 47 in online master of business administration programs and the online graduate program in education tied for No. 60. The MaineMBA ranking is up from No. 90 in 2019 and represents the third consecutive year of rankings improvement for the business graduate program. UMaine's online graduate program in education also is higher in the annual rankings, up from No. 115 last year. U.S. News & World Report rankings are based on five categories, including engagement, student excellence, expert opinion, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology. The UMaine College of Education and Human Development offers several online degree programs, including graduate certificates and master's degrees in the areas of curriculum, assessment and instruction; instructional technology; and special education. More information on College of Education and Human Development graduate programs is online. The UMaine Graduate School of Business offers several concentrations as part of the online MaineMBA, including accounting, business analytics and finance. For more information on the MaineMBA, visit umaine.edu/mba.

Media preview Maine Garden Day

15 Jan 2020

Morning Ag Clips, The Franklin Journal and Advertiser Democrat posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release about its Maine Garden Day on March 14 at Lewiston High School. There will be 30 hands-on, informational workshops on grafting fruit trees, growing hemp in the garden, rewilding the landscape, hunger in the community, growing a gardening business, raising mushrooms and more. Dan Jaffe, author and horticulturist, will be the keynote speaker. Registration is online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099, pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Penobscot Times, Machias Valley News Observer publicize shell midden exhibit

15 Jan 2020

The Penobscot Times shared the University of Maine media release about the free, public exhibit "Maine's Threatened Shell Middens: Losing a Link to Understanding our Past" in Hudson Museum's Minsky Culture Lab. For generations, indigenous Wabanki people left heaps of harvested clams and oysters shells along the coast. Materials in the piles provide opportunities to learn about the lifeways of the indigenous people who created them, including what they ate and how they interacted with the environment and with each other. But sea level rise, storm intensity, waves and looters are taking a toll on these cultural archives. The exhibit combines photographs and historic postcards with descriptive text, and a VEMI Lab re-creation of a canoe trip 1,500 years ago up the Damariscotta River between the Whaleback and Glidden middens. Hudson Museum hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Machias Valley News Observer also posted the media release.

Skonberg to educate media about foods of the future

15 Jan 2020

Denise Skonberg will participate in a media briefing about emerging research driving the development of consumable algae, insects and cultured meat — and how factors such as taste, nutrition, public perception, and environmental impact may influence their acceptance as foods. The American Association for the Advancement of Science briefing, titled "Fit to Eat? Algae, Insects, and Cultured Meat," will be held Thursday, Jan. 16. Skonberg, an associate professor of food science at the University of Maine, is one of three panelists who will discuss what foods will be on our dinner plates in the future. Restaurants and grocery stores already stock plant-based "meat" products, and advances in cellular agriculture promise to further enhance the quality of actual, lab-grown meat. Scientists also are studying ways to better tap Earth's abundant resources of protein-rich insects and conjuring new approaches to sustainably farm nutritious seaweed.

Maine State Archives Bicentennial Moments highlights UMaine

16 Jan 2020

The Maine State Archives Bicentennial Moments project posted a 30-second video about the origins of Maine's land grant university. The video includes historical and current photographs and the following script: "The United States Land Grant College Act of 1862 resulted in Maine having 210,00 acres to sell and to use the money to finance the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, today's University of Maine. Gov. Samuel Cony signed the

enabling legislation in February 1865." The PSAs, released seasonally, are posted on the Maine State Archives and Maine Bicentennial Commission websites.

Dumas featured in KJ, Morning Sentinel article about Maine Agricultural Trades Show

16 Jan 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel highlighted chef Rob Dumas in an article about the Maine Agricultural Trades Show. Dumas, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension food science innovation coordinator, prepared fajitas with grass-fed flank steak during a demonstration of how to cook local beef. Buying local gives consumers better supply chain confidence, Dumas said. "When you're buying Maine beef, you know it's being raised on a small family farm. You know those animals are being treated with respect, you know they're being taken to a local processor and they're being processed in a way that's utilizing the whole animals."

Learn about fermentation, fish, climate change at Maine Science Festival Pop-Ups

17 Jan 2020

Three Maine Science Festival Pop-Up Events are planned for January, ahead of the full festival March 18–22. Science on Tap Hits the Road: Fermentation Edition, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, Orchard Girls Cidery, 375 Main St., Kingfield. Jennifer Perry, University of Maine assistant professor of food microbiology, will give an overview of fermentation, and Orchard Girls Cidery will cover cider-specific topics. In partnership with WiSTEMM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) and Orchard Girls Cidery. Fish Explorations!, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, Maine Discovery Museum, 74 Main St., Bangor. The Maine Science Festival, Maine Discovery Museum and students in the UMaine American Fisheries Society Student Subunit will lead activities and a fish exploration event for kids of all ages. Ecological Responses to Climate Change: Lessons from the Past, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, Barrel Room, Sea Dog Brewing Co., 26 Front St., Bangor. The Maine Science Festival and UMaine paleoecologist Jacquelyn Gill will offer a talk by University of Wisconsin professor Jack Williams. He explores vegetation change and its drivers, with an emphasis on environmental changes of the last 20,000 years. Hear how knowledge of the past can help model the future.

Maine Autism Institute offers PEERS Friendship Boot Camps

17 Jan 2020

The Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research will host a pair of two-day workshops in March and April for families, service providers and individuals with autism. The public is invited to the PEERS Friendship Boot Camps, led by Sarah Howorth and Deborah Rooks-Ellis, special education faculty members with the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development. Rooks-Ellis also directs the Maine Autism Institute and Howorth is a board-certified behavior analyst. Elizabeth Laugeson, a licensed clinical psychologist and associate clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, developed PEERS (Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relationship Skills). PEERS is a research-based social skills training intervention for teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorders. It also is appropriate for individuals with ADHD, anxiety, depression and other socioemotional problems. The two-day boot camps include instruction, role-playing demonstrations, and time to practice newly learned skills in a small-group setting with coaching from the team. Rooks-Ellis and Howorth are certified by the Semel Institute to deliver this intervention and train others to deliver it in Maine. The PEERS Friendship Boot Camps will be offered March 14–15 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer and April 4–5 at Thomas College in Waterville. Cost is $150 per person. More information is available on the Maine Autism Institute website.

BDN notes NT Live's 'Present Laughter' in weekend arts preview

17 Jan 2020

The Bangor Daily News included National Theatre Live's production of Noël Coward's provocative comedy "Present Laughter" in its roundup of weekend events. In the three-hour "Present Laughter" which will be broadcast at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 to the Collins Center for the Arts, star actor Garry Essendine prepares for an overseas tour, his colorful life in danger of spiraling out of control.

Sandwich Enterprise interviews Clifford about Everest experience

17 Jan 2020

The Sandwich Enterprise talked with University of Maine doctoral student Heather Clifford about her experience on the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition. "The expedition overall was quite an incredible experience; having little travel experience I had quite a few firsts," said the 2011 graduate of Sandwich High School. "First time being in Asia, riding in a helicopter, trekking for 11 days straight, spending a month at 17,500 feet, living in a tent for a month, [and] seeing an avalanche." Cape Cod Times also spoke with Clifford about the expedition.

WABI, WVII cover event honoring victims of Ukrainian jet crash

17 Jan 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) covered an event organized by the University of Maine Iranian Graduate Students Association to remember and honor the 176 people who died when the Ukraine international jet they were on crashed after it was hit by Iranian missiles. "This is the loss of 176 people. This is not just a number," said graduate student Jalal Tavana. "They were all different souls. We should be aware and raise awareness that this shouldn't happen." Vice President of Student Life Robert Dana said, "You've got to always make room for grief. It makes us whole, it makes the experience whole. It makes us better as people."

Puhlman to discuss co-parenting Jan. 17 on 'Maine Calling'

17 Jan 2020

Daniel Puhlman, University of Maine assistant professor of family studies who heads the Parenting Relationships Research Lab, will be a guest on the Maine Public show "Maine Calling" 1–2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17. The topic is co-parenting, which can include divorced couples sharing parenting duties, grandparents raising their grandchildren, and other blended family situations. Puhlman and other guests will discuss what makes these parenting relationships work or not, and the effects on children.

Media report Kingfish Zeeland taps CCAR to build yellowtail broodstock

17 Jan 2020

Mainebiz, Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, The Ellsworth American, Undercurrent News, IntraFish, SeafoodSource, Fish Focus and The Fish Site reported the University of Maine Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR) in Franklin will provide incubation services to Kingfish Zeeland, which is looking to develop a $110 million land-based aquaculture facility in Jonesport. "We see building an early and strong relationship with the University of Maine and the Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research as an asset to Kingfish Zeeland as we scale in the U.S.," said CEO Ohad Maiman in a media release. "With this contract, UMaine will serve as an important strategic partner for our team here in Maine." The partnership will allow Kingfish Zeeland to expand its broodstock of yellowtail kingfish and build up a hatchery, according to the Mainebiz article. Maine Public carried the BDN article, Centralmaine.com carried the Press Herald article, and Mount Desert Islander carried the Ellsworth American story.

'2020 Visions: The Humanities at UMaine' will be held Jan. 31

17 Jan 2020

A showcase of current research and creative projects in the humanities, "2020 Visions: The Humanities at UMaine," will be held on Jan. 31 from 2–5 p.m. at the Buchanan Alumni House. The event, sponsored by the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center, is free and open to the public. "We want to make sure that the innovative, groundbreaking work being done in the humanities on campus is foregrounded," says humanities specialist Karen Sieber from the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. "The humanities are an evolving, creative, forward-thinking group of disciplines that train people to better understand the world and each other, in a way that is foundational to science and technology. We are planning an event that celebrates the great work being done in history, literature, philosophy, modern languages, the digital humanities and other fields." The afternoon begins with a poster session, digital project display and networking reception. Students and faculty from diverse humanities fields will be on hand to talk about their research. Among the presenters will be McGillicuddy Humanities Center undergraduate fellow Matthew Ryckman discussing his research related to book history during the transatlantic 18th-century world, using a 1732 edition of "Euclid's Elements" by Isaac Barrow. UMaine student Nolan Altvater will be presenting on a collaboration with tribal members to examine how Western science is being applied to promote the sustainability of natural resources and Wabanaki sovereignty. Professor Anne Knowles and students from the History Department will be presenting their digital humanities project "Holocaust Ghettos," a study of the spatial and temporal patterns of ghettoization in relation to individuals' experiences. Professors Susan Pinette and Jacob Albert of the Franco American Studies Program will discuss The Franco American Portal Project and the importance of such tools in research. Students from the School of Performing Arts Opera Workshop will perform at 3 p.m., followed by brief remarks by Emily Haddad, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and professor Margo Lukens, director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. From 3:30–5 p.m., a fast-paced slideshow will highlight faculty research in the humanities. Among the presenters: Liam Riordan, history, "Maine Statehood and Bicentennial Commemoration"; Zachary Ludington, modern languages and classics, "On and Off the Clock: How Avant-Garde Poetry Can Teach Us What It Means to be Modern"; and Carlos Villacorta-Gonzales, modern languages and classics, "Cuentos de ida y vuelta: 17 narradores peruanos en Estados Unidos," his recently published anthology of Peruvian writers living in the United States. The day's events aim to highlight the diverse interdisciplinary expertise and interests of UMaine faculty and staff involved in research and teaching on campus, and outward-facing humanities work. The afternoon also will familiarize the public with the many roles of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center — from student fellowships and faculty grants to campus lectures, performances and community outreach. "It's my hope that UMaine faculty can continue to engage in broadly interdisciplinary work, especially as we pivot toward our thematic symposium on "The Story of Climate Change" for academic year 2020–2021," Lukens says. Feb. 1, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center is organizing the 8th Annual Bangor Humanities Day, a citywide celebration of off-campus humanities initiatives in the area. A news release about Bangor Humanities Day is online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.1848. Contact: Karen Sieber, 207.581.1848

8th Annual Bangor Humanities Day is Feb. 1

17 Jan 2020

The 8th Annual Bangor Humanities Day on Feb. 1 will celebrate music, art, history, literature and other humanities disciplines at venues throughout downtown Bangor. The free public event is sponsored by the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center at the University of Maine. The day kicks off at Bangor Public Library at 10 a.m. with live music in the atrium. From 10:30 a.m.–noon, students from Bangor area high schools will share posters on their humanities-based research in the library's Crofutt Room. At the Maine Discovery Museum at 10:30 a.m., Penobscot Tribal member Ann Pollard-Ranco will be leading a demonstration on traditional corn husk doll making. Participants will make corn husk dolls that they can take home. Also in Bangor Public Library's Crofutt Room, UMaine professor of philosophy Doug Allen will present a keynote lecture, "The Decline and Potential for the Renewal of the Humanities: Scientific Reductionism and Gandhi-informed Humanities Research." Allen's talk from 1–2 p.m. will address the current state of the humanities and how knowledge produced in these fields helps make better sense of the human experience in a changing world. Stan Wells, a former director with Los Angeles theatre troupe The Groundlings, will lead a two-hour theater improv workshop for ages 12 and older from 2–4 p.m. in the Crofutt Room. From 4:30–6:30 p.m. at the University of Maine Museum of Art, there will be a reception and gallery tour, led by museum director and curator George Kinghorn. Norumbega Collective 2.0 will host a poetry reading by local writers from 6:30–7:30 p.m., followed by a performance by the local improv group "Unredacted," led by Stan Wells. For mature audiences. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. for the 9 p.m. show. Additional activities, including a hands-on Bangor Historical Society event led by curator Matt Bishop, will be available. A full listing of Bangor Humanities Day events will be posted on the McGillicuddy Humanities Center website. Bangor Humanities Day follows "2020 Visions: The Humanities at UMaine," a showcase of current research and creative projects in the humanities, Jan. 31. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.1848. Contact: Karen Sieber, 207.581.1848

Powell named 2020 Distinguished Maine Professor

21 Jan 2020

Richard Powell, a member of the University of Maine Political Science Department for nearly two decades, has been named the 2020 Distinguished Maine Professor, the university's most prestigious faculty award. The annual Distinguished Maine Professor Award, administered by the University of Maine Alumni Association, honors a UMaine professor who exemplifies the highest qualities of teaching, research and public service. The UMaine classes of 1942 and 2002 sponsor the award, that includes a $4,200 prize. Powell will be honored at the annual Alumni Achievement Awards and Recognition Ceremony April 24 at Wells Conference Center. Powell is a professor of political science and the founding director of UMaine's William S. Cohen Institute for Leadership and Public Service. He also directs the Peter Madigan '81 Congressional Internship and the Kenneth Palmer State Legislative Internship programs, and the interdisciplinary minor in leadership studies. His research focuses on the U.S. presidency, Congress, American political thought and elections, including term limits and gerrymandering. Powell is the co-author of four books, most recently "The 2016 Presidential Election: The Causes and Consequences of a Political Earthquake." In 2010, he was a Fulbright lecturer at Zhejiang University in China. Powell, who earned master's and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University, joined the UMaine faculty in 2001. In their nomination letters, colleagues and former students describe Powell as an innovative, gifted and empowering teacher who maximizes students' success and celebrates learning; a prolific researcher regularly tapped for his expertise by local and national media; and an engaged community member committed to public service. Alumnus Peter Madigan, a former participant in the Congressional internship program that now bears his name, said that Powell has been an exceptional steward. Madigan, a longtime political and policy adviser in Washington, chairs the Cohen Institute board of advisors. He says Powell has modernized and enhanced the program — the nation's first Congressional internship program. "Frankly," Madigan wrote in his nomination letter, "(the program) equals anything I have seen from the top 10 nationally ranked schools. Many of our students are hired on Capitol Hill as a result." Under Powell's direction, similar growth has occurred in the leadership studies minor that launched in fall 2014. Enrollment has grown from 17 students to more than 400 taking leadership studies courses each year, with 63 students with declared minors in September 2019. Current and former students know Powell as an enthusiastic teacher and mentor with a passion for his subject matter and a natural ability to connect with students — wherever they are in their learning journey. Powell "exemplifies the highest qualities of teaching, research and public service, and represents the best of what a student could hope for in a professor," said alumna Jessica James in her nomination letter. "His guidance, enthusiasm and support are fundamentally tied to my success, both at the university and in my career." Alumnus James O'Connor, now a graduate student in political theory and methods at the University of Texas, wrote in his nomination letter that Powell "gave me guidance, took an interest in my independent work, taught me what it means to be a scholar and gave me the hope I needed to keep moving. I am where I belong because Dr. Powell taught me to be." Alumnus Jesse Clark echoes the reflections. "One of the most admirable qualities of Professor Powell is his teaching is not confined within the walls of a classroom," wrote Clark, who graduated in 2016 and went into a Ph.D. program in American politics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "He recognizes talent and potential in his students, and pushes them to succeed in their areas of passion. "I can unequivocally say that I would not be in the position I am today without his guidance and the research that we have done together," said Clark. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMM website updated

21 Jan 2020

An updated website has been launched for the University of Maine's regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias (UMM). With this update, UMM has adopted the features available on the UMaine website. New features include a searchable A–Z directory, a combined campus calendar, and new program-specific sites for UMM's academic areas. Behind the scenes, this update allows both campus websites to adopt new features simultaneously as they are developed by the Digital Communications team in the University of Maine's Division of Marketing and Communications.

Ellie Drago-Severson offers four educational leadership institutes

21 Jan 2020

Editor's note: The events for April 3 and 8 have been canceled. Ellie Drago-Severson, College of Education and Human Development Shibles Distinguished Visiting Professor, will offer four institute-style workshops during the spring semester. Drago-Severson is a professor of educational leadership and adult education and learning at Teachers College, Columbia University. A developmental psychologist, she teaches, conducts research and consults for school and district leaders, teacher leaders, and other organizations on professional and personal growth and learning. Her work focuses on supporting leadership development for principals, teachers and schools, as well as coaching and mentoring in PreK–12 schools, university settings and other adult education contexts. She is inspired by the idea that schools should be places where adults and children can grow, and she is dedicated to creating conditions to achieve this and to help leaders and educators of all kinds do the same on behalf of supporting adults and youth. Drago-Severson has written several books, including "Helping Teachers Learn: Principal Leadership for Adult Growth and Development"; "Leading Adult Learning: Supporting Adult Development in Our Schools"; "Becoming Adult Learners: Principles and Practices for Effective Development"; and "Helping Educators Grow: Practices and Strategies for Supporting Leadership Development." She also has co-authored "Learning for Leadership; Learning Designs"; "Tell Me So I Can Hear You"; and "Leading Change Together." All four free, public institutes will be in the McIntire Room at Buchanan Alumni House. Seating is limited to 100 participants.

- Thursday, Feb. 27, 4–8 p.m. "Engaging in Immunity to Change Exercise: A Tool for Professional and Personal Growth"
- Friday, April 3, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. "Tell Me So I Can Hear You: A Developmental Approach to Feedback"
- Wednesday, April 8, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. "Leading Adult Learning: The Promise of a Developmental Approach to Teaming and Engaging in Difficult Conversations"
- Wednesday, April 22, 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. "Leading Change Together: Building Capacity in Schools and Systems"

For registration information, contact Richard Ackerman, professor of educational leadership, richard.ackerman@maine.edu. The Shibles Distinguished Visiting Professorship is named for Mark R. Shibles, who served as dean of the University of Maine College of Education from 1947–71. Recipients are recognized experts in various fields of education and serve as consultants to the college in its statewide work to provide professional teaching and leadership training, applicable research and direct services to Maine schools and communities. Shibles professors bring intellectual and professional stimulation to students and faculty, and provide a national perspective and expertise pertinent to improvement of the college's professional programs, as well as to its response to state educational issues and needs.

UMaine centers, programs to participate March 28 in Maine State Science Fair on campus

21 Jan 2020

The University of Maine will host the 74th Maine State Science Fair (MSSF) on Saturday, March 28 at the Alfond Arena. UMaine is a leading supporter of

the Maine State Science Fair and is proud to host the 2020 event. Three hundred Maine high school students from more than 40 schools will present their original research and engineering projects at the fair. Over 100 STEM professionals, including UMaine faculty and staff, will select the most innovative and impactful projects across all STEM disciplines (biomedicine, computer science, energy, mechanics, mathematics, ecology and others). Top students will be awarded prizes, including significant UMaine scholarships and opportunities to join undergraduate Honors programs to facilitate future research. MSSF is a chance to highlight the research strengths of UMaine and attract talented STEM students. This year, students will have the opportunity to sign up for a tour of one campus research center or program. Select research centers and programs will open their doors for short visits or brief hands-on experiences 1–2:30 p.m. March 28.

Camire quoted in WABI report on new online food technology program

21 Jan 2020

WABI (Channel 5) quoted Mary Ellen Camire, a professor of food science and human nutrition at the University of Maine, in a report on a new online program in food technology. UMaine is now offering a 12-credit online graduate program for food and brewing industry professionals through the School of Food and Agriculture. “People always have to eat and today we are seeing, with a global food system, that there are more outbreaks of food-borne illness, people wanting new foods, wanting to have plant-based food, wanting to have local food,” said Camire. “But, there’s not enough people trained in food science and technology to address those concerns and meet the need in food companies. We have a variety of courses that are going to be available so people can take what they feel they need to really get ahead in the job market.”

Puhlman recent guest on ‘Maine Calling’

21 Jan 2020

Daniel Puhlman, assistant professor of family studies and head of the Parenting Relationships Research Lab at the University of Maine, was a recent guest on Maine Public’s “Maine Calling” radio show. The topic of the show was co-parenting, which can include divorced couples sharing parenting duties, grandparents raising their grandchildren, and other blended family situations.

WABI, WVII report on Rapid Research Week at VEMI Lab

21 Jan 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) reported on the fifth annual Rapid Research Week at the University of Maine’s Virtual Environment and Multimodal Interaction Laboratory (VEMI Lab). Students and faculty collaborate on research, from idea conception to final presentation, the report states. Each group conducted an experiment based on their research question, and presented their findings on Friday. “Just about everybody here is involved in research in some way, whether it’s designing an experiment, or developing, or just brainstorming with somebody else,” said Theo Erikson, an undergraduate developer at the VEMI Lab. “This puts every single person in the lab through the whole process.” “The research team does a good job of breaking it all up to try and make it even so that whatever our weaknesses are, whatever my weakness is, that will be carried by someone else in the group,” said Emily Blackwood, graduate student and senior logistics coordinator at VEMI. “As a faculty member this is also a great benefit for me because I get to learn how to communicate better with the students,” said Caitlin Howell, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering. “I get to work with the one-on-one in small teams on a daily basis and really learn how they’re thinking through these problems. That helps me be a better teacher.”

Media cover annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration

21 Jan 2020

News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5), WVII and Bangor Daily News covered the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast Celebration in the Wells Conference Center at the University of Maine. Hundreds of members of the public attended, and speakers at the event discussed the need to fight injustice every day, not just on one holiday out of the year, according to WABI. Joyce Gibson, a professor from the University of Southern Maine, gave the keynote speech on continuing Dr. King’s message. “It's important that we remember who he is and what he stood for," said Gibson. “People have to keep fighting.” “We’re a national community,” said Sen Angus King. “We need to be talking about unity, not division.” Gov. Janet Mills, U.S. Rep. Jared Golden, Secretary of State Matt Dunlap and some Bangor city officials also attended the event, which was co-sponsored by the Greater Bangor Area Branch NAACP and the UMaine Division of Student Life. WGME (Channel 8) included the UMaine event in a roundup of events for Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Maine.

Witter Center’s dairy herd ranked third in nation

22 Jan 2020

The J.F. Witter Teaching and Research Center’s herd of Holsteins tied for third place for the Holstein Association’s 2019 Top Breed Age Average for Colleges and Universities in the U.S. Breed Age Average provides a means to compare a given animal’s or herd’s characteristics to the breed’s average for an animal with a similar age and stage of lactation. The center’s herd ranked sixth in 2018. The improvement is a product of careful stewardship of the herd’s breeding program, which has led to new additions that increase the center’s score as they mature into milking age.

Six UMaine student companies featured in ‘Greenlight Maine’ Collegiate Challenge

22 Jan 2020

Six student-run companies from the University of Maine are featured on the current season of the “Greenlight Maine” Collegiate Challenge, a televised, multi-round pitch competition in which students from schools across the state square off against one another for the chance to win a $25,000 grand prize to help grow their business. The first episode of the Collegiate Challenge aired Jan. 19 and featured UMaine students Steven Doman and John Peters pitching their company TrustedRentr, a web platform that simplifies the rental application process for both tenants and landlords, against a team from Bates College pitching Nook Storage, a peer-to-peer storage solution. UMaine student companies also will be represented in episodes airing Feb. 2 (Sam Dorval and Max Burtis of Ferda Farms LLC); Feb. 23 (Alexander Karris of Family Time Memory Software); March 1 (Evan Horenstein of Find my college roommate); and

March 8, which pits two teams from UMaine against one another as Suzie Milkowich, Lori Sitzabee, and Kelsey Allen of LetsGoBagz pitch against Steven Ferrarese of Easy Unlocker. There will be eight "Greenlight Maine" Collegiate Challenge shows this season. From the original field of 16 contestants, eight will go on to be semi-finalists and will compete in a non-televised pitch-off. Three finalists will be chosen from that round to compete for the $25,000 grand prize in the "Greenlight Maine" Collegiate Finale, which will air this spring. The "Greenlight Maine" Collegiate Challenge is a spin-off segment from "Greenlight Maine," which applies the same format to Maine-based non-student startups, with finalists competing for a $100,000 prize. "Greenlight Maine" airs on News Center Maine (WCSH 6 in Portland and WLBZ 2 in Bangor) on Sundays at 10 a.m. This is the show's fifth season overall, and the second season of the Collegiate Challenge. Last year, all three Collegiate Challenge finalists were UMaine student companies, with KinoTek going on to win the $25,000 grand prize. TrustedRentr and Ferda Farms (an oyster farm on the New Meadows River in Brunswick, Maine) both reached the final round in the first season of the Collegiate Challenge and are competing again this season. Visit the "Greenlight Maine" Collegiate Challenge website to view the full schedule and watch past episodes.

Gill's 'Warm Regards' nominated for iHeartRadio's 'Best Green Podcast'

22 Jan 2020

Jacquelyn Gill's "Warm Regards" was one of five nominees for "Best Green Podcast" at the iHeartRadio Podcast Awards 2020 on Friday, Jan. 17 in Los Angeles. And the University of Maine paleoecologist expects this coming season's podcast will be even better. When the podcast began in 2016, it was the only one about climate change. But now, Gill says multiple others — including Best Green Podcast winner "Drilled" — also focus on the pressing issue. So Gill and co-host Ramesh Laungani, a biologist at Doane University, have made some changes to the format to better serve listeners. Gill and Laungani will continue to have empathetic conversations, put a human face on climate change and the people doing the science, and lift the voices of those most affected by climate change. And going forward, each season will now have a theme. Data is the theme for 2020. "It's way cooler than it sounds," Gill joked last month when they announced the changes. The format will allow for more flexibility and targeted deep dives into various topics, she says. The first episode of 2020, which will be in February, will cover "how did we get here and how do we know what we know" about climate change. Other topics this season are slated to include misinformation and abuses of data; data as art (which will include an interview with UMaine graduate and artist Jill Pelto; and an episode about indigenous knowledge. "We'll keep the conversation going. Hearing voices on a podcast has a magic to it," says Gill, who considers the podcast an extension of her teaching. "It allows for more of a personal connection." On Twitter, 84,400 followers also stay connected with Gill (@JacquelynGill), including Greta Thunberg, Sarah Parcak, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Margaret Atwood, Ava DuVernay, Bill McKibben, Martina Navratilova, Popular Science and Sally Kohn.

UMaine Hutchinson Center hosts aquaculture summit, media report

22 Jan 2020

Republican Journal and Fishermen's Voice reported the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast hosted the Maine Aquaculture Research, Development and Education Summit on Jan. 17. International and local guests and speakers came to discuss the industry in Maine at informational seminars on topics related to aquaculture for industry professionals and others who might be interested, the article states.

VillageSoup previews Feb. 4 talk by Greenlaw on Native American access to traditional plants

22 Jan 2020

VillageSoup reported Suzanne Greenlaw, a doctoral student at the University of Maine School of Forest Resources, will lead a presentation on Native American access to traditional plants at noon on Feb. 4 at the Merryspring Nature Center in Camden. In 2016, the National Park Service Code of Federal Regulations was changed to allow opportunities for Native Americans to gather traditional plants within parklands, the article states. Greenlaw, a citizen of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, will discuss her participatory research approach to facilitate sweetgrass and other plant harvesting, incorporating both scientific and traditional Wabanaki knowledge. The lecture is part of the Winter Talk series at Merryspring; admission is $5 or free for Merryspring members.

Student speaks at Martin Luther King Jr. march in Belfast, Repubican Journal reports

22 Jan 2020

Republican Journal reported Desiree Vargas, a University of Maine anthropology student, spoke at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. march in Belfast. Vargas, a self-describe indigenous person of color, spoke about social activism, violent racism she and her family experienced when she was a child in northern Maine, and what peace looks like — to her, and to others. People of color are criticized no matter how they protest inequality, she said, and she encouraged individuals who face adversity to push back against criticism, according to the report. "Be confident in your way of resistance, as it is all valid and rooted in love," Vargas said. "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man who spoke his truth in response to the environment he was in at his time."

News Center Maine speaks with Riordan, Freeman about Maine's bicentennial

22 Jan 2020

News Center Maine spoke with Liam Riordan, a professor of history at the University of Maine, and Mary Freeman, an assistant professor of history at UMaine, about Maine's bicentennial. In January 1820, Maine's petition to become a state was in Congress at the same time the House and Senate battled over allowing Missouri to join the union as a slave state, according to the report. "Even though they were not going to be pro-abolition or pro-emancipation at this point in 1819–1820, they resented having Maine be tied to the expansion of slavery," said Freeman. The Missouri Compromise resolved the dispute, admitting Maine as a free state and Missouri as a slave state and creating the "30/60 line" to allow the expansion of slavery only to the south. Northern state representatives, including some from Maine, still objected to this solution, and the vote was very close, according to Riordan. "There are seven congressmen from the district of Maine at this point. Five are opposed to statehood via this route, and only two are in favor. So if those two had voted differently would have led to a different outcome for slavery in Missouri," he said.

Call for proposals to support UMaine events

22 Jan 2020

The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee is accepting grant applications from the University of Maine community. Grants support up to 50% of expenses associated with cultural events that enhance the artistic, cultural and intellectual life of UMaine. CA/DLS committee accepts applications four times a year. The next application deadline is Jan. 27, 2020. Grant applications submitted by the above deadline are for projects starting on or after Feb. 24, 2020.

UMaine Medicine hosts seminar series

22 Jan 2020

Health-related topics in biomedical science and biomedical engineering, social sciences and community health will be the focus of the spring 2020 University of Maine Medicine Seminar Series. The series provides insights into current medical research and opportunities for collaborative research projects. Speakers include experts from the University of Maine and other universities, as well as medical centers and nonprofit health care organizations. All seminars are on Fridays from 3–5 p.m. in 57 Stodder Hall. Each 3 p.m. presentation will be followed by a networking reception from 4–5 p.m. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be provided. The series includes: Jan. 24: "The Opportunistic Fungal Infections: Danger in Vibrant Color" by Robert Wheeler, UMaine associate professor of microbiology Jan. 31: "Overview of the Field of Interventional Neurology" by Miguel Litao, neurointerventional and vascular neurologist at Eastern Maine Medical Center Feb. 21: "Addiction is a Treatable Chronic Disease" by Noah Nesin, vice president of medical affairs and a family practitioner at Penobscot Community Health Care May 1: "A Novel Role for BAT to Regulate Cardiac Function" by Kristin Stanford, associate professor of physiology and cell biology, Ohio State University College of Medicine

UMaine Extension support for expectant families and those with newborns in Waldo County

23 Jan 2020

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Maine Families program in Waldo County was awarded $152,978 from Maine Children's Trust for a six-month contract in support of expectant families and families of newborns as part of Maine Families statewide. The program is at no cost to recipients and focuses on family strengths. The Maine Families program in Waldo County is an evidence-based home visiting model that uses current research and practical knowledge of human development and public health in child development, health, safety and nutrition. The program aligns with state objectives to improve the health and well-being of families with the federal statutory requirements for Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting. Provisions of high-quality, evidence-based services using Parents as Teachers and Touchpoints is only one facet of Maine Families. Maine's home visiting programs emphasize improved collaboration among other home- and community-based early childhood services systems such as Public Health Nursing. For more information, contact Melanie Bryan, Parent Education Program manager, 207.342.5971; melanie.l.bryan@maine.edu.

Annual UMaine Career Fair to be held Feb. 5

23 Jan 2020

The University of Maine Career Center will host the annual UMaine Career Fair 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Feb. 5 at the New Balance Student Recreation Center on campus. The fair will host 170 employers from Maine and around the country with job and internship opportunities. Several graduate and professional schools, as well as branches of the military, also will be represented. Students are advised to dress professionally, bring resumes, prepare a 30-second introductory pitch, and research the organizations and companies they plan to speak with before attending. Students are encouraged to download the "Jobs and Careers by Symplicity" app available on Apple's App Store and Google Play. The app allows students to filter participating employers by available positions and preferred majors. Students also should bring their MaineCard to sign in at the fair; a manual sign-in system will be available for nonstudents. The UMaine Career Fair is the largest career fair in the state. The event is held each year for UMaine and University of Maine at Machias students and alumni of all majors. It is open to the public, and students from colleges and universities around the state are welcome to attend. About 1,000 students are expected at this year's event. The 2020 fair is underwritten by Camden National Bank, Colby Co. Engineering, Northeast Paving, STMicroelectronics and W.B. Mason Company, Inc., with additional support from several area sponsors. More information, including a list of participating employers and Career Fair tips, is available online or by contacting Crisanne Blackie at cblackie@maine.edu or 581.1355. The snow date for the event is Feb. 12.

Jan. 29 Maine Climate Council meeting will be live streamed

23 Jan 2020

The second meeting of the Maine Climate Council on Jan. 29 in Augusta will focus on a report from the Science and Technical Subcommittee about the effects of climate change in the state. The subcommittee's work in the past four months provides the initial scientific basis for the ongoing deliberations of the various working groups, according to University of Maine professor Ivan Fernandez, who serves on the Maine Climate Council and co-chairs the Science and Technical Subcommittee. The subcommittee will continue its work in 2020 in support of the development of working group recommendations due later this year. The Maine Climate Council meeting will be live streamed. In September it was announced that numerous experts from UMaine and University of Maine at Machias had been tapped to serve on the Science and Technical Subcommittee, as well as working groups. Nearly half of the 28-member Science and Technical Subcommittee members are from UMaine and UMM.

Advertiser Democrat announces beginner beekeeping classes starting Feb. 29

23 Jan 2020

Advertiser Democrat announced the Oxford Hills Honey Bee Club and University of Maine Cooperative Extension Oxford County will host a beginner beekeeping school starting Saturday, Feb. 29. Classes will be held weekly on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon through April 25 at the Oxford County Cooperative Extension office in South Paris. The cost is $50 per person, or $70 for a couple sharing a book, and includes classes, handouts and a one-year membership in the Oxford Hills Honey Bee Club. To reserve a spot in the class, contact Carol Cottrill, 207.693.9226; cottrill136@roadrunner.com.

The Maine Edge publishes UMaine release on MaineMBA being named U.S. News & World Report Top 50 program

23 Jan 2020

The Maine Edge published a University of Maine news release announcing the MaineMBA program was named No. 47 in online master of business administration programs by U.S. News & World Report. “We are excited that our online MBA has broken into the top 50 best programs, as this is an incredible affirmation of the high-quality MBA that we deliver,” said J. Michael Weber, dean of the University of Maine Graduate School of Business. The MaineMBA’s ranking is up from No. 131 in 2018 and No. 90 in 2019. “We attribute this significant increase in our ranking to the efforts of our faculty. They excel at delivering industry-relevant content and providing experiential learning opportunities for our students,” said Weber. The program offers concentrations in business analytics, finance and accounting, according to the release. And the program has campuses in Orono and Portland, in addition to being offered 100% online. Mainebiz also reported on the ranking.

Republican Journal reports UMaine offering professional development courses

23 Jan 2020

Republican Journal reported the University of Maine still has spots available in two professional development courses: a new aquaculture systems workshop at the Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research in Franklin, and a three-day certificate program in project management at the UMaine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The aquaculture workshop runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays from Jan. 25 through April 25; cost is $750. For more information, contact Scarlett Tudor, 207.581.4397; mary.tudor@maine.edu. The project management course will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on three consecutive Fridays, Jan. 24 and 31 and Feb. 7. The cost is $495, with need-based scholarships available. For more information, to register, or to request an accommodation or scholarship application, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002; michelle.patten@maine.edu.

Penobscot Bay Pilot reports Waldo County Extension program receives grant to support expectant families, families with newborns

24 Jan 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot reported the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Maine Families program in Waldo County has been awarded $152,978 from Maine Children’s Trust for a six-month contract in support of expectant families and families of newborns as part of Maine Families statewide. The program is at no cost to recipients and is an evidence-based home visiting model that aligns with state objectives and federal requirements, using current research and practical knowledge of human development and public health in child development, health, safety and nutrition, according to the article. For more information, contact Melanie Bryan at 207.342.5971; melanie.l.bryan@maine.edu.

Media cite Sorg in stories about drug overdose deaths

24 Jan 2020

The Associated Press and WVII (Channel 7) quoted Marcella Sorg, a research professor at the University of Maine’s Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, in reports on a slight increase in Maine drug overdose deaths for the first three quarters of 2019. Sorg has compiled the state’s drug death data for the Maine Attorney General’s office since 2000. According to her latest report, there were 277 drug overdose deaths in Maine between January and September. More than 80% of the overdoses were the result of at least one opioid, and non-pharmaceutical fentanyl deaths constituted four-fifths of all opioid deaths in 2019, the report said. “The real elephant in the room is still the non-pharmaceutical fentanyl and analogs of fentanyl, sometimes in combination with heroin,” said Sorg. U.S. News & World Report, WHDH (Channel 7 in Boston) and WGAN carried the Associated Press story. WGME included Sorg’s statistics in its story about three-time “Jeopardy” champion Dennis Coffey of Maine talking about the state’s opioid epidemic on the show. The Biddeford-Saco-OOB Courier cited Sorg's report in the article "York County Jail inmates may be offered naloxone upon release."

Wound-healing treatment using wild blueberries receives MTI grant

24 Jan 2020

University of Maine professor of clinical nutrition Dorothy Klimis-Zacas has been awarded a $25,000 grant from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) to support research into the wound-healing properties of bioactive compounds found in Maine wild blueberries. Klimis-Zacas has been researching the favorable effects of wild blueberries on human health for more than 20 years. Her recent work focuses on two classes of compounds extracted from wild blueberries — anthocyanins and phenolic acids — that have documented benefits in the treatment of chronic diseases. Specifically, Klimis-Zacas has found that phenolic acids extracted from wild blueberries significantly promote cell migration and the speed of wound closure. Research on this topic was published last year in the Journal of Cellular Biochemistry and the journal Nutrients, with a third manuscript under review for publication. All three papers are co-authored by former Ph.D. student Panagiotis Tsakiroglou as part of his doctoral research. A patent for the extracts and methods used in this research is pending. Klimis-Zacas’ research has potential to contribute to the field of wound healing and skin regeneration, including the treatment of burns and chronic diabetic wounds. Diabetic patients are prone to reduced blood flow to their extremities, which often results in impaired wound healing, infirmity, increased health care costs and lower quality of life. The MTI grant will support Klimis-Zacas’ efforts to develop a biomedical product prototype with embedded bioactive compounds for the commercial marketplace. These funds serve as a partial match to a $40,000 UMaine Medicine Seed Grant she received, which is dedicated to funding preclinical studies into this technology. The Wild Blueberry Association of North America and the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture also have supported the research. Klimis-Zacas has partnered with Dr. James Weber, UMaine associate professor of animal and veterinary sciences, and doctoral student Natalie VandenAkker, to develop a path to commercialization. The team participated in UMaine’s I-Corps program in spring 2019, a six-week workshop funded by the National Science Foundation that focuses on identifying market opportunities for STEM-based research. The team also was recently accepted into the spring cohort of the Maine Innovation, Research and Technology Accelerator (MIRTA), the university’s commercialization accelerator. MIRTA is an intensive program that guides participants through market and intellectual property analysis to develop a business model and, ultimately, a commercialization plan with a strategy for bringing the research to market. This could include starting a company, licensing to an existing company, or forming an extended research collaboration with an industry partner. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3845

UMaine receives patent for technology to aid in early detection of breast cancer

27 Jan 2020

The University of Maine has been issued a patent for a computational approach that has the potential to assist in the early detection of breast cancer. With further validation, the recently patented technology could help identify dormant potentially cancerous tissue before it progresses to an aggressive metastatic cancer, allowing clinicians to take a proactive treatment approach. The invention is a method that analyzes the characteristics of different regions of breast tissue on a mammography image. By analyzing the whole breast image, the computational technique evaluates the overall environment in each tissue region by characterizing the "roughness," which is a measure of spatial density fluctuations. Cancer-associated mammogram regions have a peculiar roughness signature that is different from the regions of healthy, dense and fatty tissue that make up the breast. Current computer-aided detection/diagnostic (CAD) methods can identify the presence of cancer, but are of limited predictive value. Based on mammograms and known outcomes from patients, other researchers have trained computers to detect patterns in breast tissue that are precursors to malignant tumors. UMaine's technology, by contrast, is an algorithm based on an underlying biophysical hypothesis. Rather than teaching a computer to analyze mammograms based on knowledge of other mammograms, this technology can identify the physical markers believed to be linked to malignant tumor onset and growth. The UMaine inventors are Andre Khalil, associate professor of chemical and biomedical engineering and founding director of the Computational Modeling, Analysis of Images, and Numerical Experiments Lab (CompuMAINE), and Kendra Ann Batchelder, a former graduate student. Funding that has led to this invention in large part came from the Maine Cancer Foundation. "Subregions of a mammogram that display certain 'roughness' characteristics are found statistically significantly more often in cancerous mammograms vs. non-cancerous mammograms," says Khalil. "Our lab coined the term 'disrupted tissue' to refer to these regions that show a loss of mammographic tissue equilibrium. "The computational technique we have developed provides a clearer picture of the breast tumor microenvironment, which we believe is key to better understanding the way breast cancer develops and progresses," Khalil says. Mammography remains the primary method of breast cancer screening employed in the United States. According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 65.3% of women aged 40 and older had a mammogram within the last two years. CDC data show that 17.3 million mammograms were ordered or provided during physician office visits in 2016. The long-term goal for this technology is to allow providers to extract more valuable diagnostic information from a test that is already performed regularly. "Breast cancer is the second most-common cancer among American women and this technology has the potential to revolutionize the screening and treatment process," says Jake Ward, UMaine vice president for innovation and economic development. "It is emblematic of the work UMaine researchers are carrying out across disciplines that can advance understanding and solve real-world problems." Khalil's ongoing work on this topic seeks to answer whether tumors cause these disrupted tissue regions or the disrupted regions create the right environments for tumors to grow. He recently presented on this question at the 2019 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, a five-day conference dedicated to state-of-the-art information on breast cancer research that is attended by an international audience of academic and private researchers and physicians from more than 90 countries. "We're developing a predictive algorithm that is sensitive to currently undetectable alterations of the microenvironment that precede the development of tumors," says Khalil. "If successful, we could move away from the current reactive treatment status quo and toward a clinical strategy based on predictive medicine that empowers both patients and clinicians." The University of Maine is actively seeking a development partner for the technology. The patent number is U.S. 10,467,755 B2. Contact: Renee Kelly, rwkelly@maine.edu, 207.581.1401

Feb. 6 is annual University of Maine Day in the Hall of Flags

27 Jan 2020

Editor's note: Due to inclement weather, this event has been canceled for Feb. 6. University of Maine faculty, staff and students will be in the Hall of Flags in the State House 8–11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 to showcase how Maine's flagship university makes a difference in all 16 counties. University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff will be available to discuss how their work statewide impacts Maine communities — in homes and businesses, and on farms. Students, faculty and staff from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture's health and natural science programs will be there to discuss how research and development creates an ideal environment for developing the skills needed to meet Maine's workforce demands. Maine youth who participate in UMaine Extension 4-H will serve as legislative pages that day.

Fiddlehead Focus advances healthy soil workshop

27 Jan 2020

Fiddlehead Focus posted information about a Feb. 19 healthy soil workshop for farmers coordinated by Maine Farmland Trust, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Southern Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District, Central Aroostook Soil and Water Conservation District and farmers at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. A number of UMaine-affiliated experts will take part. For more information, or to register, call Maine Farmland Trust, 207.338.6575.

Turner Publishing previews Extension blueberry conference

27 Jan 2020

Turner Publishing advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's wild blueberry conference Feb. 22 at Hollywood Casino in Bangor. For more information, contact Mary Michaud, 207.581.3175; mary.j.michaud@maine.edu, visit the conference website or contact UMaine Extension blueberry specialist Lily Calderwood, 207.581.3193; lily.calderwood@maine.edu.

Bowdoin Orient quotes Wolff in 'Rufus Porter's Curious World' review

27 Jan 2020

University of Maine professor of art history Justin Wolff talked with The Bowdoin Orient about the "Rufus Porter's Curious World: Art and Invention in America, 1815-1860" exhibit at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. "Rather than focusing exclusively on the work of Rufus Porter, [the goal of the exhibit] is to give everyone a bit more contact with the scene and how it operated at that historical moment," said Wolff, a curator of the exhibit that also includes a chair, prints of 19th-century newspapers, a rifle, clock and drum.

Golet confirms swordfish in waters off Scotland's Angus coast

27 Jan 2020

The Courier in Dundee, Scotland interviewed Walter Golet, a research assistant professor in the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences, about a swordfish recently spotted in Scottish waters by members of an aerial surveying crew. It's reportedly only the second time a swordfish has been confirmed in the area. "Swordfish have a huge latitudinal range and by the picture it appears to have a flat bill, and marlins (the only other confusion species) are all round," said Golet. Renews.biz and Energy Voice also reported on the swordfish and the BBC indicated that swordfish normally are in the warmer waters of the Caribbean or Mediterranean.

Seafood Source notes UMaine, CCAR in economic development story

27 Jan 2020

The University of Maine was included in a SeafoodSource story about Gov. Janet Mills' 10-year strategic economic development plan to grow the state's economy. Kingfish Zeeland, which is seeking to build a recirculating aquaculture system facility in Jonesport, Maine, recently announced a partnership with the state's flagship University of Maine campus, according to the story. Kingfish Zeeland is utilizing the university's Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR) in Franklin, Maine to build its yellowtail broodstock and scale for production at the planned farm in Jonesport.

Maine's Public Universities welcome Roux Institute at Northeastern University to Maine

27 Jan 2020

Editor's note: A video of the Roux Institute announcement is online. Maine native and entrepreneur David Roux joined Northeastern University President Joseph Aoun today to announce the formation of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University in Portland. University of Maine System Trustee Gregory Johnson and University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy attended the announcement event of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University in Portland. Academic leaders at the University of Maine have already begun collaboration discussions with colleagues at Northeastern University. University leaders offered the following statements welcoming the Roux Institute to Maine. **University of Maine System Board Chair James Erwin:** "David Roux's vision and investment brings the promise of an entirely new and transformative economic sector for Maine. The concept for the Roux Institute at Northeastern University brilliantly anticipates the future confluence of digital science and healthcare, seeks to catalyze the research and commercialization necessary for Maine to participate in the digital economy, and supports the preparation of the workforce that will support it. "The Institute has the potential to make the Portland region a major player for decades to come in global health and other emerging applications of artificial intelligence solutions aimed at solving our biggest challenges. "For more than 150 years Maine's public universities have supported Maine's traditional and emerging industries through scholarship and discovery. Led by Maine's public research university, the University of Maine, we are already engaged with Northeastern University in the work of building academic and research partnerships to support the Roux Institute at Northeastern University. "On behalf of our faculty, our staff and the many students who we hope will find opportunity in David's vision, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees welcomes Northeastern University and its Roux Institute to Maine. The Board is committed to contributing the talent, resources, and reach of our public university system to support this exciting venture, helping to improve Maine's workforce, economic opportunity and quality of life for future generations." **University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy:** "We are in a global competition to attract research dollars to Maine. Our public universities are bringing new focus to this work under the leadership of University of Maine President Joan Ferrni-Mundy. As a System, we are committed to providing the collaboration and support needed to make investments and discovery-focused innovations in our state a success. "The Roux Institute at Northeastern University brings a new vision, critical investment and proven research capacity to the Portland region. It can be a game-changer for Maine's participation in the innovation economy and create new opportunities for Maine's students and entrepreneurs." **University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy:** "The University of Maine welcomes the Roux Institute at Northeastern University and looks forward to developing strong and productive collaborations to benefit the people and economy of Maine. We appreciate the investment that David and Barbara Roux are making to attract Northeastern University and its partners to Maine. In particular, the focus on artificial intelligence will position Portland and the state to engage globally in exciting applications at the cutting edge. "The University of Maine is looking forward to the opportunities that the Roux Institute at Northeastern University will provide for our students to pursue advanced degrees in fields that are growing and changing rapidly through AI, and for our faculty to collaborate in research and education. Pathways programs for UMaine students and faculty fellowships for UMaine and Northeastern faculty are being considered as the first steps in partnering. "There will be opportunities for doctoral students to be involved in advancing our understanding of topics ranging from opioid and acetylcholine sensing technologies to photon modeling. The presence of the Roux Institute at Northeastern University will inspire and enable all of our institutions to continue in shaping the future." Contact: Dan Demeritt, 207.441.6962

LaRocque elected to UPCEA board of directors

28 Jan 2020

Monique LaRocque, associate provost of the Division of Lifelong Learning at the University of Maine, has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors for the University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA). LaRocque will be installed March 20 at the Annual Conference in Boston. LaRocque has served as associate provost of UMaine's Division of Lifelong Learning since 2014. In partnership with the Graduate School, she's leading the UMaineGOLD initiative, an innovative approach to developing and offering new graduate professional degree programs online. UPCEA, established in 1915, is a nonprofit association for professional, continuing, and online higher education. It has more than 400 member institutions. Based in Washington, D.C., UPCEA builds greater awareness of the link between contemporary learners and public policy issues.

Tickets on sale Jan. 31 for Martina McBride's March concert

28 Jan 2020

Country superstar Martina McBride will perform at 7 p.m. March 14 at the Collins Center for the Arts. The CCA is partnering with Waterfront Concerts to bring the multiple-time Grammy-nominated music icon to Orono; tickets will be on sale on the CCA website at 10 a.m. Jan. 31. McBride has had six No. 1 hits, 20 top-10 singles, and has sold more than 18 million albums. She's been honored with more than 15 major music awards, including four from the Country Music Association and three Academy of Country Music Awards for Female Vocalist of the Year. McBride has branched out into writing and television. In October 2018, the Nashville resident released her second cookbook, "Martina's Kitchen Mix: My Recipe Playlist for Real Life." And last year, "Martina's Table" debuted on the Food Network. For more information about McBride, visit her website.

Spire invites submissions for cover art contest

28 Jan 2020

“Spire: The Maine Journal of Conservation and Sustainability” announces its cover art contest for the spring 2020 issue. The winning artist is asked to highlight how their work relates to Spire's mission to unite communities across the state to galvanize action for conservation and sustainability. Entries should be submitted by March 1. The winner, who will receive $100, will be announced March 4. All submissions will be considered for publication. Contributions of environmental writing also will be accepted until March 1. For more information and to see last year’s cover — Rachel Church’s cyanotype impression of the Atlantic Ocean in Maine — visit Spire's website. Entries may be submitted to spire@maine.edu.

Wolff to discuss ‘Rufus Porter's Curious World’ on Maine Calling

28 Jan 2020

Justin Wolff will be among the guests to talk about the exhibit "Rufus Porter's Curious World: Art and Invention in America, 1815–1860" at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art at 1 p.m. Jan. 29 on Maine Public’s Maine Calling. The University of Maine professor of art history co-curated the exhibition and co-edited and contributed to the accompanying book. The show will be live streamed during Maine Public's broadcast coverage of the impeachment hearings.

Pen Bay Pilot previews winter potluck

28 Jan 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced the Waldo County Extension Association’s free fourth annual Waldo County farmer and food producer winter potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, at the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association exhibition hall in Unity. A dinner theater featuring local farmers in skits focused on farm health and safety begins at 6 p.m. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Rick Kersbergen, 207.342.5971; richard.kersbergen@maine.edu.

Klimis-Zacas shares wild blueberry wound-healing properties with WABI, WMTW

28 Jan 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WMTW (Channel 8) reported on Dorothy Klimis-Zacas’ discovery that wild blueberries have properties that significantly promote cell migration and speed of wound closure. The University of Maine professor of clinical nutrition will work to develop a topical cream with embedded bioactive compounds for the commercial marketplace. The CBS affiliate in Denver shared information from WABI’s story, and WHOM (94.9) shard information from WMTW's story. Mainebiz also reported that Maine’s wild blueberries may have a new commercial potential — for use in a biomedical product that would treat wounds.

Portland Press highlights Norton’s sound installation of extinct species

28 Jan 2020

The Portland Press Herald featured Steve Norton, whose sound installation at Fields Pond Audubon Center in Holden features recorded sounds of 12 recently extinct birds and amphibians. The jazz musician created “Requiem” in 2018 as he pursued a Masters of Fine Arts degree at the University of Maine. All 12 species went extinct in the last 60 years, and in each case humans were to blame, according to the article. In most cases, the extinctions are blamed on habitat loss, introduced disease and introduced predators. The installation is available until Feb. 13. Since “Requiem” was first presented two years ago at UMaine, it has traveled to six other venues.

Media share Khalil’s invention to improve breast cancer detection

28 Jan 2020

WABI (Channel 5), WMTW in Portland and WVII (Channel 7) reported the University of Maine has been issued a patent for technology that could aid in the early detection of breast cancer by identifying dormant, potentially cancerous tissue before it progresses to an aggressive metastatic cancer. "Right now, radiology is based on reactive medicine. Meaning, let's a screen, let's wait for something to pop up and then once we see a tumor, calcification clusters or masses, then we react to it,” said Andre Khalil, assistant professor of chemical and biomedical engineering. “I envision in the next few years where we are going to move from reactive medicine to predictive medicine.”

BDN quotes Barkan in editorial about gun research

28 Jan 2020

University of Maine sociology professor Steven Barkan was quoted in a recent Bangor Daily News editorial titled “With funding for gun research, safety measures should be a priority for study.” As part of a $1.4 trillion spending plan approved in December, Congress — for the first time in 20 years — approved federal funding for gun research. “Research can now begin to answer why gun violence is so prevalent in America, and more importantly, what works to reverse these deadly trends,” wrote the BDN. “Do waiting periods for gun purchases reduce suicides or homicides? What about age restrictions? Can smart gun technology, which has existed for years but been stalled, reduce accidental shootings?” Barkan, who has done extensive research on firearms and public health, told the BDN, “Given the paucity of funding for gun research and thus the lack of knowledge in this area, almost anything related to guns and the use of guns would be worthwhile to study.”

McConnon quoted in PPH piece about growth of specialty food, beverage businesses

28 Jan 2020

James C. McConnon Jr. talked with the Portland Press Herald for its story about the rising number of specialty food and beverage businesses in the state. McConnon, a Cooperative Extension business and economics specialist and economics professor at the University of Maine, said according to federal census data, the number of food and beverage manufacturing companies in Maine grew 35% from 2007 to 2017. Over that same 10-year period, the number of all Maine businesses, of all kinds, dropped 2%. The average annual growth of the food and beverage business sector — which includes startups, value-added products from farms, and craft breweries, wineries and distilleries — has been 3.5% per year, McConnon said. In the past 15 years, McConnon, UMaine Cooperative Extension food science specialist Beth Calder and colleagues have developed a Recipe to Market workshop to help budding food entrepreneurs get started. The most popular recent business ideas have been fermented foods, hot sauces and dressings. "We're starting to see plant-based foods," McConnon added. "Nationally, there's been a consumer-driven trend looking at plant-based products … We've seen a little of that, but I expect we'll see a lot more of it."

BDN interviews Thaler about wind power possibilities in Maine

28 Jan 2020

Jeff Thaler, associate university counsel for environmental, energy, and sustainability projects for the University of Maine System and a member of the University of Maine team that has developed cutting edge offshore wind power technology, told the Bangor Daily News that as the state and university continue to test and refine offshore wind technology, there's no reason to believe it can't power all of Maine's energy needs with enough left over to share with other states while meeting and exceeding the mandated legislative goals. Thaler has been a key player at the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, which in 2013 unveiled and successfully tested its first offshore floating wind-energy producing turbine. The turbines, Thaler told the BDN, have an incredible potential to harvest offshore winds not just in Maine, but around the world. Because they don't need to be anchored directly to the seafloor they can be placed in deep water areas far enough offshore to not impact scenic views.

President Ferrini-Mundy talks with PPH about Roux Institute

28 Jan 2020

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias, was quoted in a Portland Press Herald story about Northeastern University's plan to create a graduate school and research center in Portland that offers certificate programs, master's degrees and doctorates in machine learning and artificial intelligence, with an emphasis on life sciences such as biology and genetics. "One thing that we think is really interesting is that business partners will get to shape the design of what students will learn," she said. In that sense, said Ferrini-Mundy, the institute will target the needs of the workforce, providing another reason for them to stay in Maine. The New York Times, The Boston Globe and Maine Public also reported on what will be called the Roux Institute. David Roux, who grew up in Lewiston and graduated from Harvard University before becoming a Silicon Valley investor, is giving $100 million to NU to establish the graduate school and research center. In the New York Times, he described the project as "an opportunity machine disguised as an educational institution and research center." It will have succeeded, Roux said, if it makes existing local companies better, attracts companies from elsewhere and provides the seed corn for dynamic new businesses. The Sun Journal carried the Portland Press Herald story. Inside Higher Ed's story included statements from Ferrini-Mundy and University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy. "Pathways programs for UMaine students and faculty fellowships for UMaine and Northeastern faculty are being considered as the first steps in partnering," said Ferrini-Mundy. Malloy said the Roux Institute brings a new vision, critical investment and proven research capacity to the Portland region. "It can be a game-changer for Maine's participation in the innovation economy and create new opportunities for Maine's students and entrepreneurs," he said. Connect Boston also reported Northeastern University and technology entrepreneur Roux will launch a graduate education and research campus in the spring.

'The Color Purple,' Irish Rovers among February CCA performances

29 Jan 2020

February events at the Collins Center for the Arts will include a Tony Award-winning musical, a company of dancer-illusionists, an Irish musical group and more. "The Color Purple," which won the 2016 Tony Award for Best Musical Revival, will start at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3. This joyous American classic about a young woman's journey to love and triumph in the American South has conquered Broadway in an all-new production. Viva MOMIX combines illusion, beauty, magic, fun and inventiveness. The company of dancer-illusionists will perform at the CCA at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5. Recognized internationally for presenting work of exceptional innovation and physical artistry, MOMIX is directed by Moses Pendleton, one of America's most innovative and widely performed choreographers and directors. This show is a collection of the most iconic pieces from the company's illustrious repertoire and includes several fantastic new works. Surreal, wondrous and massively creative, there's nothing like the MOMIX performance experience. Brass septet Septura will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16 in Minsky Recital Hall. Septura brings together London's leading players to redefine brass chamber music through the uniquely expressive sound of the brass septet. By creating a canon of transcriptions, arrangements and new commissions for this brand new classical configuration, Septura aims to recast the brass ensemble as a serious artistic medium. The concert is a selection in the John I. and Elizabeth E. Patches Chamber Music Series. A reception for patrons and artists will follow. Drum TAO 2020, coming to the CCA at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, is the latest production from internationally acclaimed percussion group TAO. Their modern, high-energy performances showcasing the ancient art of Japanese drumming have transfixed audiences worldwide. Combining highly physical, large-scale drumming with contemporary costumes, precise choreography and innovative visuals, the performers create an energetic and unforgettable production. The Irish Rovers will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25 at the CCA. These legendary kings of Celtic have been honored this year as one of Ireland's greatest exports by EPIC, the emigration museum in Dublin, as well as back in their hometown of Ballymena. Fans should fasten their seat belts for a rollicking night of hits, latest releases and hilarious stories from their years on the road. The days of long tours are finally coming to an end for these Irish lads as they complete one last world tour. **Broadcast Series** "All My Sons" will be shown at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 as part of the National Theatre (NT Live) series, which includes plays that are filmed in front of a live audience, transmitted via satellite to the CCA, then projected onto a high-definition screen — one of the largest in the state. When filmed, cameras are positioned throughout the theatre to ensure cinema audiences get the best-seat-in-the-house view. And, as part of the Metropolitan Opera's The Met: Live in HD series, "Porgy and Bess" will be shown at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 and "Agrippina" will be shown at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29. For more information, to view the full season schedule or to purchase tickets, visit the CCA website.

Register for Lobster Institute's 'Red Claws and Roses Soiree' by Feb. 7

29 Jan 2020

The Lobster Institute's "Red Claws and Roses Soiree" lobster and wine feast a la Francaise will be held Thursday, Feb. 13 at Buchanan Alumni House. A seafood and champagne reception begins at 6 p.m. Dinner featuring Lobster a L'Armoricaine by French chef Marie-Christine Crabos and introducing the new Big Claw Sparkling Pinot Grigio is at 7 p.m. The Penobscot Jazz Collaborative will provide entertainment and a silent auction also will be held. Cost is $75 per person/$500 for a table of eight. RSVP online or by calling 207.581.2751 by Feb. 7. Advance registration is required.

Howorth, Rooks-Ellis attend Council for Exceptional Children conference

29 Jan 2020

Sarah Howorth and Deborah Rooks-Ellis, assistant professors of special education, attended the Council for Exceptional Children — Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities conference in January in Sarasota, Florida. Howorth took part in a pre-conference training institute, "Using Current and Emerging Technologies to Enhance Outcomes for Students with ASD and/or Intellectual Disability." Howorth and Rooks-Ellis also displayed their research at the conference poster sessions. Topics included: Technology Tools to Support Behavior Analysts and Teachers; Use of an Augmented Reality Application to Support Reading Skills of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder; A Meta-analysis of Reading Interventions for Students with Severe Disabilities; Sexuality and Autism; Telehealth Parent Training Using the Early Start Denver Model; and Breaking Down Classroom Barriers for Students with Autism in College.

Allan, graduate students present at NASPA Strategies Conference

29 Jan 2020

Professor of higher education Elizabeth Allan and several higher education graduate students helped lead a full-day pre-conference institute at the NASPA Strategies Conference in January in New Orleans. The institute was titled "Building Capacity and Engagement for Evidence-based Hazing Prevention," and featured contributions from student affairs professionals at Cornell University, Princeton University and the University of Texas. About 20 representatives from institutions throughout the U.S. participated in the event, which provided an overview of the hazing prevention framework that Allan and colleagues have developed, as well as research supporting it and promising strategies for preventing hazing on college campuses. The group also explored how hazing intersects with other campus safety concerns. Master's candidates Alexandra Attanasio, Kayla Goodwin and Meredith Stewart, as well as doctoral candidate David Kerschner attended the conference. NASPA (NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) is a national membership organization for student affairs professionals and administrators in higher education.

Pen Bay Pilot posts release inviting scholarship applications

29 Jan 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot posted a University of Maine release announcing that the Waldo County Extension Association, in cooperation with the Maine 4-H Foundation, is accepting applications for a $1,500 scholarship for graduating Waldo County high school seniors. Click here for a link to the application. For more information or to request a paper application, contact Viña Lindley, vina.lindley@maine.edu, 207.342.5971, 800.287.1426 (in Maine).

UMaine mentioned in New York Times opinion piece

29 Jan 2020

An opinion piece in The New York Times about campuses that have stopped investing in fossil fuel included the University of Maine. "After pressure from student groups, Stanford announced in 2014 that it would not make direct investments in publicly traded companies whose principal business is coal mining. The University of Maine followed suit in 2015, divesting all direct holdings from coal companies. In 2017, Columbia University announced divestment from producers of coal burned to generate electricity," wrote Devi Lockwood, a member of the Harvard University class of 2014.

WABI reports volunteers build, donate insulating window inserts

29 Jan 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported that AmeriCorps members from the University of Maine hosted WindowDressers to build low-cost insulating window inserts to help people save fuel and stay warm. This week, volunteers will build 225 inserts and give more than half to local families. "It's really great because it helps save them a lot of money on their energy bills every year," said Erin Ferrell, AmeriCorps energy efficiency coordinator based in the UMaine Office of Sustainability. "I mean, we've talked to a lot of people that got them before, actually a few people in here today had them before, and came back to volunteer because they are just so efficient, and they've helped them so much that they want to help get them for other people." Those interested in volunteering and/or getting inserts are invited to visit windowdressers.org.

Foster's Daily Democrat covers Beal's clam, green crab presentation

29 Jan 2020

Foster's Daily Democrat covered a recent talk in Wells by Brian Beal, professor of marine ecology at the University of Maine at Machias. Beal shared information about an upcoming project in which wooden recruitment boxes will be used to protect young soft-shell clams on coastal flats from invasive European green crabs. Soft-shell clam landings across Maine have declined by 45% since 2001.

Yahoo! Entertainment talks with Skonberg about seaweed as food source

29 Jan 2020

Denise Skonberg, University of Maine associate professor of food science, was an expert source for Yahoo! Entertainment about alternative protein sources to feed the estimated 10 billion people who will populate the planet by 2050. "Seaweeds don't require fertilizers, don't require feed, they don't require fresh water and they don't require land. So those are a lot of benefits there," she said. Seaweeds also are good at sequestering carbon and nitrogen, can be grown and harvested in two to three months, and "are extremely nutrient-dense." More research is needed, though, including to address safety and regulation concerns. "Research is underway looking at how well different types of species can concentrate heavy metals in their tissue," she said. "Some that are of interest include arsenic. Research has shown that some of the brown macroalgae tend to concentrate it at a much higher rate than the green or the red macroalgae. ... Where it's harvested plays a huge, huge role."

Registration open for 'Growing Hemp in Maine' conference

30 Jan 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a conference about hemp production from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Friday, March 6, at Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Drive, Brewer. Satellite sites will be the UMaine Extension Aroostook County office, 57 Houlton Road, Presque Isle; and the UMaine Extension Somerset County office, 7 County Drive, Skowhegan. "Growing Hemp in Maine" topics will include regulations and licensing requirements; production, harvesting and drying; pest and disease management; recent research trials; and economics of the crop. Presenters include John Jemison, UMaine Extension professor and soil and water quality specialist; Alicyn Smart, Extension assistant professor and plant pathologist; Matt Wallhead, Extension ornamental horticulture specialist and UMaine assistant professor; Jonathan Malacarne, UMaine assistant professor of agricultural economics; Gary Fish, Maine state horticulturist; Heather Darby, University of Vermont Extension agronomy specialist; and Scot Waring, director of eLucidation, LLC, in Essex Junction, Vermont. Fee for attendees at the Brewer site is $50 per person until Feb. 7 and $75 thereafter. Refreshments and lunch are included. Satellite locations are $50 per person; food is not included. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Eldridge, 207.581.3878, 800.287.0279 (in Maine), theresa.eldridge@maine.edu. More information also is available on the conference website.

President Ferrini-Mundy to deliver State of the University address Feb. 4

30 Jan 2020

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy will give a State of the University address for the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 in Hauck Auditorium. The address will be followed by a question-and-answer session, and a reception in the Hauck Auditorium lobby. The event is free and open to the public, and will be live streamed. To request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.1512.

Black History Month to include lunch and learns, open mic, more

30 Jan 2020

The University of Maine will observe Black History Month with a series of on-campus events throughout February. The activities will kick off at noon Jan. 31 with a flag raising on the Mall, followed by a reception with light refreshments in the Multicultural Student Center (room 312) in the Memorial Union. Throughout February, the Multicultural Student Center (MSC), along with many students, will host a variety of events including lunch and learn presentations, Multicultural Mondays, social events and more. Some events will be co-hosted by Campus Activities Board (CAB). All events are free and open to the public. Scheduled activities include:

- Multicultural Monday with Sean O'Mara, noon Feb. 3 in MSC lounge
- Lunch and Learn with Tania Rousseau Jean-Jacques, noon Feb. 5 in MSC lounge
- BSU meeting, 4 p.m. Feb. 7 in MSC lounge
- Open Mic Night, 9 p.m. Feb. 8 in North Pod (with CAB)
- Multicultural Monday: Exploring Black Poets, Music and the Arts, noon, Feb. 10 in MSC lounge
- BSU Block Party, 4 p.m. Feb. 14 in MSC lounge
- Improv Insanity, 9 p.m. Feb. 15 in North Pod (with CAB)
- Lunch and Learn with Kimberly Whitehead (chief of staff to President Joan Ferrini-Mundy), noon Feb. 19 in MSC lounge
- LGBTea Party, 4 p.m. Feb. 20 in Rainbow Resource Center lounge
- Hair Care Fair, 10 a.m. Feb. 23 in Doris Twitchell Allen Village (DTAV) Community Center
- Multicultural Monday with Coach Curry, noon Feb. 24 in Alfond Arena lounge (with UMaine Athletics)
- Black History Month Trivia, 8 p.m. Feb. 27 in Bear's Den (with CAB)

For more information, contact Anila Karunakar at anila.karunakar@maine.edu.

Advertiser Democrat shares 'Pork 101' release

30 Jan 2020

The Advertiser Democrat posted a media release about a University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Oxford County workshop about raising swine on Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the UMaine Extension office, 9 Olson Road, South Paris. Topics include breed selection, nutrition, housing, health care and more. Extension livestock specialist Colt Knight will lead the workshop. Registration is online.

UMaine listed in BDN story about affordable area art offerings

30 Jan 2020

A number of University of Maine groups and venues are mentioned in a Bangor Daily News story about affordable art, music and theater offerings in the area. They included the Collins Center for the Arts, Minsky Recital Hall, the UMaine School of Performing Arts, the University of Maine Museum of Art, Hudson Museum, Page Farm & Home Museum, Lord Hall, and the Emera Astronomy Center.

Hartford Courant cites UMaine as collaborator in bee study

30 Jan 2020

The University of Maine was listed as a collaborator in a Hartford Courant article about a Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station study that revealed bees collect pollen more often from weeds than they do from decorative flowers and plants. “Perhaps the lesson to be learned is that honeybees have a much wider range of flowers they enjoy than we humans do,” said Kimberly Stoner, senior author of the study. Connecticut, like much of the rest of North America, suffers large-scale die-offs of honeybees. Bees play a critical role in pollinating all kinds of crops and plants, according to the article.

Media report Vachon, Bedard to be inducted in Maine Basketball Hall of Fame

30 Jan 2020

A number of media outlets reported that University of Maine basketball standouts Amy Vachon ’00 and Andy Bedard ’00 will be inducted in the Maine Basketball Hall of Fame with the Class of 2020. This is the first year they were eligible for consideration. Vachon and Bedard starred on the court for the Black Bears; Vachon now coaches the two-time defending America East champion women’s squad. Learn more from WABI (Channel 5), the Bangor Daily News, News Center Maine, the Sun Journal, The Portland Press Herald and WVII (Channel 7).

Wolff discusses Rufus Porter, exhibit on Maine Calling

30 Jan 2020

Justin Wolff, professor of art history at the University of Maine, appeared on Maine Calling to talk about Rufus Porter and the Porter exhibit he co-curated at Bowdoin College. Porter (1792–1884), was an artist, inventor, polymath, musician and founder of “Scientific American” magazine. He gained fame as a mural painter; his art often featured scenes of Maine, where he grew up and studied. He later patented inventions, including a revolving rifle cylinder and airships. He founded ‘Scientific American” in 1845 to encourage American innovation. Wolff and other featured guests discussed his life and the breadth of work. The show was part of Maine Calling’s ongoing coverage of topics relating to Maine’s Bicentennial.

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition information sessions begin Jan. 31

30 Jan 2020

The Graduate School and Foster Center for Student Innovation are co-sponsoring the UMaine Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition. All finalists will be invited to give their presentations at the University of Maine Student Symposium on April 17. First prize is $500, second prize is $300 and third prize is $200. The first-prize winner also will be UMaine’s nominee to participate in the Northeast Regional 3MT competition in Quebec City, Canada. Not sure if you have the skills to compete? 3MT presentation coaching will be offered. Information sessions will take place in 48 Stodder Hall at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 31, 10 a.m. Feb. 4 and noon Feb. 6. Contact Katie Rossignol, kathryn.rossignol@maine.edu, by Feb. 10, if you are interested in participating.

AACSB extends Maine Business School accreditation

30 Jan 2020

AACSB International has extended accreditation for the Maine Business School at the University of Maine through the 2023–24 academic year. The Maine Business School has been accredited by AACSB since 1974. “It is exciting to see this extension of the gold standard of business education accreditation,” says Faye Gilbert, dean of the Undergraduate School of Business and interim provost at UMaine. AACSB Business Accreditation signals to the world that an institution has met the most rigorous standards of excellence in business education. Institutions that bear the AACSB-accredited mark demonstrate they are committed to upholding — and advancing — the quality of their programs, at the undergraduate and graduate levels. “The accreditation process does, in fact, ensure quality,” says J. Michael Weber, dean of the Graduate School of Business. “It’s a metric that communicates our standing as one of the top business programs across the globe.” To extend accreditation, the Maine Business School underwent a continuous improvement review (CIR) consisting of a written report detailing initiatives and successes, and an on-campus visit by a peer review team of deans from three institutions. In November 2019, the AACSB CIR team met with students, faculty, staff and Maine Business School advisory board members in Orono. AACSB International voted Jan. 28 to extend the accreditation. “AACSB accreditation is a team sport,” says Gilbert. “Faculty, staff, alumni, advisory board members and students continue to work to ensure that the business programs at the University of Maine are among the finest in the world.” Contact: Nicholas Fraunfelter, 207.581.1963

New potato varieties have lower levels of probable carcinogen

30 Jan 2020

Mary Ellen Camire has some good news about french fries. Fries made with the new potato varieties AF4296-3 and Easton have much lower levels of a probable carcinogen than those made with the popular Russet Burbank variety, says the University of Maine professor of food science and human nutrition. Acrylamide is a probable carcinogen in fried potatoes; during the frying process the chemical forms from sugars and an amino acid that are naturally in potatoes. But for those envisioning the safer-to-eat, golden brown, crispy-on-the-outside, soft-on-the-inside fries with a sprinkle of sea salt and a splash of vinegar, hold that thought. The new spud varieties don’t turn golden brown when they’re fried. They turn whitish. Camire says they still have the crispy texture, familiar flavor and smell of freshly cooked french fries. Forty-seven tater taste-testers testified to that — rating the aroma, taste and texture of fries made with AF4296-3 and Easton potato varieties similar to Russet Burbank. But they rated the whitish color of the new varieties significantly lower. Camire says an education or promotion campaign is likely needed to let the public know about the merits of the less-than-golden fry. “Acrylamide is found in many foods that are baked, roasted or fried, but since frying is the most popular method for cooking potatoes, we wanted consumers to have a safer alternative developed by traditional breeding practices,” she says. “It took years to convince consumers to switch from whole milk to low-fat or skim milk; hopefully changing consumer acceptance of these fries will not take as long.” Camire conducted the pilot study with colleagues Aaron Johnson, a former UMaine graduate student and now a senior sensory scientist at ConAgra Brands, and Gregory Porter, who heads the UMaine potato breeding and variety development program. Their goal was to reduce the potential development of acrylamide in fried potatoes. During the study, the scientists also learned that the amount of fertilizer applied to the potatoes had little effect on people’s fondness for the fries. The Journal of Food Science published the team’s findings, “Low-

Acrylamide French Fry Acceptance: A Pilot Study," in December 2019. The journal is published by the Institute of Food Technologists; Camire served as the institute's 75th president in 2014–15. The study was conducted as part of a U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture award of $7.8 million to a consortium that included the University of Wisconsin, UMaine, and other universities, federal laboratories and potato processors. Camire says the team now wants to examine how a national sample of consumers accept these new potato varieties. "French fries, like any fried food, should be consumed in moderation," she says. "Our goal is to supply consumers with a satisfying fry that is lower in acrylamide." Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

Sporer finds ISIL supporters promote justifications of terrorist group's violence on Twitter

30 Jan 2020

Sympathizers of the Islamic State and the Levant (ISIL) use Twitter to promote justifications of mass casualty violence perpetrated against civilians by the terrorist group, according to a new study led by Karyn Sporer, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Maine. University of Nebraska at Omaha researchers Michael Logan, Gina Ligon and Doug Derrick also collaborated on the study, titled "#JeSuisParis?: An appeal to hypocrisy and justifications for mass casualty violence," and published in the Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology (pp. 57–81). The researchers utilized Gresham Sykes and David Matza's "techniques of neutralization" theory to interpret how English-speaking soft-sympathizers of ISIL justify violence perpetrated by the terrorist group. "Unlike foreign fighters who travel to Iraq and Syria and individuals who radicalize at home and engage in lone actor attacks, soft-sympathizers spread ISIL's message by leveraging social media," the researchers write. "Soft-sympathizers take advantage of social media platforms to propagate ISIL's message on a global scale so that ISIL's ideology and tactics can be recognized, normalized, and accepted by the masses." These neutralization techniques can include denial of responsibility, denial of injury, denial of victims, appeal to higher loyalties, and condemnation of condemners. According to the theory, criminal offenders and juvenile delinquents use these justifications to neutralize in advance any potential guilt related to their deviant behavior and evade moral constraints that usually would prevent people from engaging in such behavior. The team collected tweets associated with ISIL-affiliated accounts that were posted within 24 hours of three high-profile ISIL-attributed terrorist attacks: the Nov. 13, 2015 Paris coordinated attack; the June 6, 2016 Orlando Pulse nightclub attack; and the July 14, 2016 cargo truck ramming in Nice. The researchers analyzed the tweets with a word-by-word and line-by-line coding approach to highlight complex and meaningful terminology, then used the data to compare and contrast emerging themes. Much of the content they found focused on justifications for terrorism and mass casualty violence, including celebrating the events and giving reasons for why or how such violence was justified in the eyes of sympathizers. "Condemnation of the condemners" was a common neutralization technique used by soft-sympathizers to portray violence by Western armed forces as equal to or worse than violence by the Islamic State, according to the researchers. This took the form of claims of comparable violence, selective silence and differential humanity. Comparable violence refers to sympathizers comparing violence committed by ISIL with violence committed by other armed forces. Selective silence involves sympathizers highlighting general silence and lack of attention to victims after attacks in predominantly Muslim countries and equating it to a lack of empathy with non-Western countries and Muslim victims. The idea of differential humanity refers to sympathizers' perceptions that attention and empathy are directly tied to victims' perceived humanity and that condemners of the Islamic State do not apply the same concept of humanity to Muslim victims as to non-Muslim victims. "An important component of this condemnation is the idea that Western armed forces had long been killing innocent civilians (i.e., since the war in the Middle East) and that, as a result, the Americans and the French were responsible for more civilian casualties than ISIL," according to the team. And while soft-sympathizers made a point to "discredit ISIL's condemners," at the same time they seemed to "accept the immorality of ISIL's own tactics," the study found. "Together, these claims intended to display the perceived hypocrisy of ISIL condemners, to undermine the moral credibility of the West, and to serve as the foundation for justifying ISIL-attributed violence." These findings have possible implications for counter-terrorism strategic communications — the researchers note that the "tacit acceptance" of atrocities by soft-sympathizers could be amplified to lead to disagreement among their followers. Messaging campaign strategies that depend on identity-based appeals rather than rational appeals could be particularly effective, according to the study. "In order to effectively counteract the mechanisms discovered, thoughtful, consistent, factual, influential and voluminous messaging is required," the researchers say. "Beyond this, the deliverer of these messages is crucial and must have credibility in the community." Future research could continue to unpack how neutralization techniques manifest around terror attacks, and explore the extent to which other techniques are utilized. Contact: Cleo Barker, 207.581.3729, cleo.barker@maine.edu

'Check-in' on student mental health, wellness to be held Feb. 10

31 Jan 2020

The University of Maine will host Fresh Check Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 10 in the Atrium outside of the Bookstore in the Memorial Union. The Jordan Porco Foundation created Fresh Check Day to bring the whole campus community together to "check in" on the mental health and wellness of college students. The Atrium will be transformed into an expo-like atmosphere with interactive exhibits, food, prizes and giveaways. The booths will feature peer-to-peer messaging in a positive, community-focused setting. There also will be an inflatable ball pit and scarf-making, among many other hands-on experiences. Fresh Check Day aims to create an approachable and hopeful atmosphere where students are encouraged to engage in dialogue about mental health. It helps build a bridge between students and mental health resources available on campus, in the community and nationally. The Counseling Center's Outreach Office (the Mind Spa) and the Center for Student Involvement, in collaboration with UMaine campus departments, student volunteers, and Jordan Porco Foundation representatives have organized the free event. For more information, visit the event website.

Morning Ag Clips, Turner Publishing report Androscoggin, Sagadahoc county Master Gardener Volunteers program accepting applications

31 Jan 2020

Morning Ag Clips and Turner Publishing reported the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers program in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties is accepting applications. The program meets weekly from 1 to 4:30 p.m. March 30 through June 8, and resumes from late August through October. Classes will be held at Topsham Public Library, according to the release. The $220 per person fee includes all materials; limited financial assistance is available. Apply online by Feb. 15. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Lynne Holland, 207.581.8204, 800.287.1458 (in Maine), lynne.holland@maine.edu.

Mainebiz reports on startups selected for 2020 Top Gun program

31 Jan 2020

Mainebiz reported the Maine Center for Entrepreneurs announced 44 businesses have been selected for the Top Gun 2020 Class. The announcement was made along with the center's partners the University of Maine, Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Focus Maine, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, the Harold Alfond Institute for Business Innovation at Thomas College and Maine Center Ventures. Since its beginning in 2009, the Top Gun program has helped more than 240 Maine entrepreneurs launch and grow their companies, the article states. The program consists of structured classroom curriculum and in-depth mentoring, and is followed by six regional business pitch-offs where finalists are selected for the Top Gun Showcase in May, according to the article.

Maine Press Association awards scholarships to four UMaine students

03 Feb 2020

The Maine Press Association is awarding scholarships to four University of Maine students and one University of Southern Maine student. The UMaine students are: Hailey Bryant of Gorham, a senior and part-time employee of the Bangor Daily News; Olivia Shipsey of Bath, a senior and editor-in-chief of the Maine Campus; Leela Stockley of Chester, a junior and news editor of the Maine Campus; and Elizabeth Theriault of Madawaska, a senior and opinion section editor for the Maine Campus. The USM student is Amelia Bodge of Sanford, a junior and a staff writer for The Free Press. Bryant also was a scholarship recipient in 2019. Nina Mahaleris, the other 2019 recipient, now reports for The Penobscot Times, a Maine Press Association member newspaper. "We wish all of the recipients luck as they complete their studies and pursue careers in Maine journalism. It gives us special pride this year to award scholarships to several students who have connections to our member newspapers, as employees, interns, and even a newspaper carrier," says J.W. Oliver, president of the Maine Press Association Board of Directors. "These students will start their careers at a challenging time for the industry, both from an economic standpoint and as newspapers come under attack daily from politicians who would like nothing more than to see us become extinct. We hope these scholarships encourage them as much as their passion for journalism encourages us for the future of our industry." The MPA annually awards at least one scholarship to a junior or senior with financial need who plans to pursue a career in journalism. The scholarships are possible through the generosity of bidders at the annual MPA scholarship auction and donors of the auction items. Established in 1864, the Maine Press Association works to protect the freedom of the press and the public's right to know, and to promote and foster high ethical standards in journalism. To inquire about the 2021 scholarship, contact Sindhu Manjesh at sindhu.manjesh@maine.edu.

Phys.org, USDA share article about lower levels of probable carcinogen in new potatoes

03 Feb 2020

Phys.org published a University of Maine news release about food science and human nutrition professor Mary Ellen Camire's discovery that new potato varieties have much lower levels of a probable carcinogen. When fried, the AF4296-3 and Easton varieties have lower levels of acrylamide than the popular Russet Burbank variety. Acrylamide is a probable carcinogen that forms during the frying process from sugars and an amino acid naturally found in potatoes, according to the release. "Acrylamide is found in many foods that are baked, roasted or fried, but since frying is the most popular method for cooking potatoes, we wanted consumers to have a safer alternative developed by traditional breeding practices," said Camire. Potato Grower magazine published the Phys.org post. The Portland Press Herald also cited Camire's potato research in a roundup of food-related news. The United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture posted the University of Maine article.

Emera Astronomy Center to provide telescope program training, Press Herald reports

03 Feb 2020

Portland Press Herald reported the Emera Astronomy Center at the University of Maine will be a partner in the Maine Library Telescope program. The program, designed to teach library visitors how to use a telescope, has reached 60,000 Mainers since 2012. This summer, 12 state parks will use a $7,300 Outdoor Heritage Fund grant to provide telescopes and star kits for the program, the article states. The Emera Astronomy Center will offer training on how to lead a star-gazing program to rangers, naturalists and astronomers.

Washington Monthly lists UMaine among top institutions supporting student voter engagement

03 Feb 2020

Washington Monthly included the University of Maine in a list of the top 139 colleges and universities doing the most to support student engagement in voting. College students continue to vote in lower numbers than the population as a whole, and institutions are tasked with turning students into citizens, so it is essential that colleges do everything they can to get students to register and cast ballots, the article states. Washington Monthly's "honor roll" of institutions listed those that make efforts to encourage their students to vote and are well prepared for the presidential election.

Division of Marketing and Communications team receives four CASE I awards, two honorable mentions

03 Feb 2020

A video, photographs, magazine web designs and writing by members of the University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications received some of the top annual awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District I, which represents the New England states, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces in Canada. Four of the entries won 2020 CASE District I Excellence Awards and two received honorable mentions in the CASE Platinum Awards. All but one are related to *UMaine Today* magazine, the biannual print and online publication of the Division of Marketing and Communications. Holland Haverkamp's video "Maine's wild blueberries" won gold — the highest honor — in the Excellence Awards video category. Haverkamp is a videographer and photographer in the division. *UMaine Today* online won silver in the web-based magazines category thanks to the talents of digital/print content coordinator Amanda Lozier and digital projects specialist Brandi McCann in the fall/winter 2018 and the spring/summer 2019 issues, respectively. The *UMaine Today* magazine website complements the print edition. The online publication, featuring full-length stories and multimedia storytelling, involves *UMaine Today* magazine writers, editors, designers and photographers/videographers, and is supported by the Marketing and Communications digital communications team. A bronze award went to Elyse Catalina, a former news writer and editor, for excellence in writing for her story "Wallflower or risk taker?" about the research of wildlife habitat ecologist Alessio Mortelliti, who examines how personalities of wild small mammals affect

their responses to a changing environment. A bronze for excellence in storytelling went to McCann, Haverkamp and Margaret Nagle, director of public relations, for the online version of "A wild story" about Maine wild blueberry growers and university experts united in the stewardship of the state's native crop. Photographer and videographer Adam Küykendall and Haverkamp received honorable mentions in the photography category of the CASE Platinum Awards: Küykendall for his series of photos telling the UMaine story, and Haverkamp for his series of blueberry photos. All the 2020 CASE District I Excellence Awards are online. A list of all awards to *UMaine Today* is found on the magazine website.

State of the University address to be live streamed

04 Feb 2020

President Ferrini-Mundy's State of the University address for the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias will be live streamed at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4. The free, public event will be held in Hauck Auditorium.

UMaine Center for Research on Sustainable Forests to lead NSF-funded effort to better measure, monitor and manage U.S. forests

04 Feb 2020

The Center for Advanced Forestry Systems (CAFS) at the University of Maine has received $500,000 from the National Science Foundation to continue its work in addressing the challenges facing the wood products industry, landowners and managers of the nation's managed forestland. Projects will address national and regional technology at multiple spatial and temporal scales — molecular, cellular, individual-tree, stand and ecosystem levels. Aaron Weiskittel, director of UMaine's Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, leads CAFS, a multi-state, multi-institution Industry/University Cooperative Research Center established in 2007. Partner universities are North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, University of Georgia, Purdue University, University of Idaho and University of Washington. The initiative aligns with the University of Maine System R&D Plan. Healthy forests are vital to the world's ecological, social and economic health. Wood is a major economic commodity that serves as the raw material for building and as a feedstock for bioenergy, biofuels and biomaterials. This is particularly relevant to Maine, where forests and their associated industry sequester over 75% of the state's annual fossil fuel emissions, create one in 20 jobs, and have a direct economic impact of $8 billion to $10 billion — one of the highest relative contributions to a state's gross domestic product. CAFS' interdisciplinary research supports the forest industry in sustaining healthy forests with newly developed decision-support tools, remote sensing, and a particular focus on precision forest management. CAFS scientists and industry work closely together with emerging technology, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and light detection and ranging (LiDAR), to better measure, monitor and manage forests, particularly in regard to the variety of issues that forests currently face, such as climate change, wildfires and invasive pests. The goal of this research by CAFS scientists on a wide range of technological capabilities is to sustain healthy forests that will support the US forest industry by solving problems with targeted, applied and collaborative research, says Weiskittel, UMaine professor of forest biometrics and modeling and Irving Chair of Forest Ecosystem Management. He has led CAFS since 2016. More information on the Center for Advanced Forestry Systems is online. Contact: Meg Fergusson, 207.581.3794; crsf@maine.edu

Summer University 2020 registration open as of Feb. 3

04 Feb 2020

Summer University 2020 courses are now available for viewing on MaineStreet. Summer is a great time for students to continue their coursework and make progress toward completing their degree. With flexible summer course schedules and more than 800 course offerings on campus and online, students can fit in the courses they need to meet their educational goals. Summer and winter provide additional opportunities for students to Think 30 credits per year to stay on track to graduate in four years. The 2020 Summer University calendar consists of seven three- and six-week sessions and an eighth session for miscellaneous schedules, starting with May Session. Courses are offered on campus in Orono, at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, and online. In 2019, student credit hours increased by 9.37% and enrollments by 6.23% over summer 2018. Online offerings have grown by 31% over the past four years. This year, nearly 200 courses are offered online. More information, including a course listing and how to register, is online.

NECN reports UMaine researchers studying Everest ice cores

04 Feb 2020

NECN reported researchers at the University of Maine are studying ice cores from the world's tallest mountain as part of National Geographic and Rolex's Perpetual Planet Extreme Expedition to Mount Everest. Each layer of ice shows temperature and precipitation over the years, exposing how the climate was changing. Nearly 1 billion people in the Himalayas depend on snow and ice melt for fresh water, so it is critically important to understand changes, according to the report. The researchers also installed five weather stations on Mount Everest, which provide real-time conditions for scientists and hikers.

Gill to explore why ferns flourished after asteroid strike that doomed dinosaurs

04 Feb 2020

Ferns have staying power. The vascular plants have existed for about 350 million years, even surviving nuclear winterlike conditions — global dimming, cooling and acid rain — 66 million years ago that wiped out dinosaurs and 75% of other animals and plants on Earth. Jacquelyn Gill, a University of Maine paleoecologist, will explore fern resilience with an all-female research team that includes scientists from the University of Florida (lead institution), University of Wyoming, University of California Santa Cruz, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. NASA's Exobiology program is awarding $1,193,212 for the three-year project, of which Gill will receive $343,380. The scientists will conduct interdisciplinary research in the context of NASA's "ongoing exploration of our stellar neighborhood." The team's findings could prove significant on a grand scale. Gill and colleagues may uncover information that will be valuable for living in changing and challenging climate conditions on Earth, as well as for recovering from a mass extinction, and living on planets that are currently uninhabitable. They'll begin by examining how ferns recolonized soon after a large asteroid or comet struck Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula around 66 million years ago. The fossil record contains a visible impact boundary layer, which separates information about what the natural world was like before and after the asteroid/comet strike. The devastation and abrupt climate change after the strike reshuffled the structure of Earth's vegetation for thousands of years. While the strike is associated with dinosaurs going extinct, Gill says its impact on plants — which form the foundation of ecosystems across the planet — also was far-reaching. In fact, for thousands of years after the impact, Gill describes the area as "fern world," as forests were

leveled and most flowering plants were wiped out. Ferns produce male and female sex organs and self-fertilize. And their dust-like spores disperse long distances and can enter the jetstream. Surprisingly, until now, attributes that made ferns so resilient in the harsh post-impact environment haven't been explicitly investigated. "Are they the first to colonize a new landscape, or is there something special about their biology that helps them survive harsh environments?" asks Gill. This summer, the team will go in the field and visit museums. Along with paleontologists at the University of Wyoming and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Gill will analyze ancient spores and leaves, and their chemistry and shapes. Her research will establish the parameters for the growth experiments that the team's fern biologists will conduct. Scientists who specialize in modern flora will grow both ferns and seed plants in chambers that mimic conditions similar to those that existed after the impact — darkness, acid rain, dust, high CO2, and heavy metals in soils. They'll then evaluate the plants' functional traits, including efficiency of carbon and light capture in mature leaves. Emily Sessa, associate professor of biology at the University of Florida, submitted the abstract titled, "Surviving a Mass Extinction: Lessons from the K-Pg Fern Spike" to NASA. Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

UMaine Dining hosts event focusing on local food and sustainability

05 Feb 2020

Locally sourced foods and sustainability will be highlighted in a Bangor Greendrinks event Feb. 11 at the University of Maine. UMaine Dining is hosting the Bangor Greendrinks event from 5–8 p.m. in Wells Conference Center. A suggested donation of $5 per person will benefit the Greendrinks Green Grants program. Bangor Greendrinks events focus on growing sustainable local businesses and provide a great opportunity to network with professionals from throughout the Greater Bangor Region, according to the organization's website. More information about the UMaine event is online. UMaine Dining has planned a menu of locally sourced foods. Orono Brewing Company beer will be available for people age 21 and older, and information tables will have materials about sustainability initiatives at the university. UMaine is committed to purchasing local products and instituting sustainable practices, and hosting Bangor Greendrinks is part of the department's outreach mission, says UMaine Dining director Glenn Taylor. "I am proud to showcase our conference and catering facility along with being able to reach out to community members that may not know who we are and what we do," he says. The department has surpassed its goal of sourcing 20% of its food purchases locally by 2020 with 23% local sourcing in 2019. A new goal has been set to source 25% of food locally by 2025. Learn more about its sustainability practices at umaine.edu/dining/local. "Being a part of UMaine Dining's service mission to source local foods is an incredible and satisfying journey," Taylor says. "To help make a difference in people's lives by purchasing products grown or produced locally is awesome." Partners for the Feb. 11 event include University of Maine Conferences and Institutes, University of Maine Stein Society, Orono Brewing Company, Bangor Greendrinks, Green Campus Initiative, UMaine Sustainability Office and Americorps Maine Partnership for Environmental Stewardship.

UMaine holding Winter Carnival Feb. 10–15

05 Feb 2020

The University of Maine Center for Student Involvement, in partnership with the UMaine campus community, is hosting Winter Carnival Feb. 10–15. This week of free events for students includes a reindeer petting zoo, Winter Olympics, outdoor bonfires, casino night and more. The full list of scheduled activities includes:

- Monday, Feb. 10:
    - Snow Sculpture Contest, 10 a.m.–noon, on the Mall. Gather a group of friends or your student organization and compete for the best snow sculpture.
    - Fresh Check Day, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Memorial Union Atrium. More information is online.
- Tuesday, Feb. 11:
    - Reindeer Petting Zoo, Bonfire and Hot Cocoa Bar, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., on the Mall. Visit real reindeer and enjoy a bonfire and free hot cocoa bar.
    - Blood Drive/Clothing Swap, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Collins Center for the Arts. The Red Cross is in critical need — here's your chance to give back while earning volunteer hours.
    - Trivia, 8 p.m., Bear's Den Pub and Café. Test your trivia knowledge with the Senior Class Council. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.
- Wednesday, Feb. 12:
    - Winter Olympics and Bonfire, 3–5 p.m., on the Mall. Put on your winter hat and mittens and compete in the UMaine Winter Olympics 2020.
    - Blood Drive/Clothing Swap, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Collins Center for the Arts. The Red Cross is in critical need — here's your chance to give back while earning volunteer hours.
- Thursday, Feb. 13:
    - Casino Night, 8–10 p.m., North Pod. A chance to win big and walk away with prizes.
- Friday, Feb. 14:
    - CEAC/PEAC Crockpot Challenge, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Bangor Room. Drop by for free lunch samples and to vote for the best dish.
    - Valentine's Happy Hour, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Bear's Den Pub and Café. Warm up and pick up your student section tickets for the hockey game.
    - Free Money Game Show, 9–11 p.m., North Pod. Show up for a chance to win free money.
- Saturday, Feb. 15:
    - Sledding, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., hill in front of the Beta parking lot. Bring friends and participate in a snow tube race.
    - Project Linus, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Hancock Hall. Make a blanket for a child in need (materials provided).
    - Improv Insanity, 9–11 p.m., North Pod.

Sponsors of Winter Carnival include the Division of Student Life, Panhellenic Council, Interfraternity Council, UMaine Student Government, Senior Class Council, All Maine Women, Campus Activities Board and the Residence Hall Association. For more information, visit the Center for Student Involvement

website or contact Jenny Desmond at jennifer.desmond@maine.edu.

WiSTEMM to recognize Presidential Award winners at Feb. 12 lunch

05 Feb 2020

WiSTEMM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) will host a faculty lunch honoring the 2019 Presidential Award winners Feb. 12 at the University of Maine. Attendees can celebrate and learn from award winners 1–3 p.m. in the Bangor Room of the Memorial Union. Award recipients are:

- Distinguished Maine Professor Award — Sandra Caron, professor of family relations and human sexuality in the College of Education and Human Development;
- Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award — Jasmine Saros, professor of paleolimnology and lake ecology in the School of Biology and Ecology and Climate Change Institute;
- Presidential Public Service Achievement Award — Susan McKay, founding director of the Maine Center for Research in STEM Education (RiSE Center) and professor of physics;
- Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award — Jennifer Tyne, lecturer of mathematics in the School of Mathematics and Statistics.

To RSVP, email wistemm@gmail.com.

Penobscot Bay Pilot previews Hutchinson Center program on intimate partner violence

05 Feb 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced a professional development program about intimate partner violence, to be held 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. March 12 and 13 at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast in partnership with New Hope for Women of Rockland. The program is designed for social workers, substance abuse counselors and other mental health professionals, as well as clergy, police officers and first responders, the article states. The program fee is $150 per person or $60 for UMaine students, with need-based scholarships available, and includes continental breakfast and catered lunch. The program will provide 12 contact hours, and will cover topics including foundations of domestic abuse, addressing the lasting impact of domestic abuse, intervention strategies, and trauma-informed and culturally competent responses. For more information, to register or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8093; michelle.patten@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension cited in Country Living article on starting seeds indoors

05 Feb 2020

Country Living cited the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in an article about how to start seeds indoors. According to UMaine Extension, if you've used a container for planting before it should be cleaned with a solution of one part chlorine bleach to nine parts water to prevent potential disease contamination from previous plantings.

Morning Ag Clips advances UMaine Extension farming course

05 Feb 2020

Morning Ag Clips advanced a five-session course offered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension for aspiring farmers. "So, You Want to Farm in Maine?" will begin March 3 at the UMaine Extension office in Lisbon Falls and will continue from 5:30–8:30 p.m. weekly through March 31. Live streaming of the course also will be available, the article states. Participants will gain the knowledge and skills to start, adapt and maintain a profitable land-based business. Registration is online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Melissa Freeman, 207.353.5550; melissa.freeman@maine.edu.

News Center Maine quotes student in report on volunteers building, donating insulating window inserts

05 Feb 2020

News Center Maine quoted University of Maine student Kiera Luu in a report on AmeriCorps Bangor members hosting WindowDressers to build low-cost insulating window inserts to help people save fuel and stay warm. The inserts can reduce someone's heating bill by as much as a third, the report states. This year in the greater Bangor area, volunteers built 225 window inserts for 25 homes. "You don't have to run your heat as often and they really do work very well," said Luu. Those interested in having inserts installed can call 207.974.3248 or email info@windowdressers.org.

Slate publishes opinion piece by Socolow

05 Feb 2020

Slate published an opinion piece by Michael Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine, titled "Does Football Bear Responsibility for a Chiefs Legend's 1980 Murder-Suicide?"

WABI previews 2020 Career Fair

05 Feb 2020

WABI (Channel 5) previewed the annual Career Fair at the University of Maine. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 5, 170 employers from Maine and around the country will come to the New Balance Student Recreation Center with job and internship opportunities, the report states. The fair is open to the public. A full

list of employers attending is online.

University of Maine announces fall 2019 Dean's List

05 Feb 2020

The University of Maine recognized 2,572 students for achieving Dean's List honors in the fall 2019 semester. Of the students who made the Dean's List, 1,754 are from Maine, 743 are from 30 other states and 75 are from 31 countries other than the U.S. Listed below are students who received Dean's List honors for fall 2019, completing 12 or more credit hours in the semester and earning a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Also available is a breakdown of the Dean's List by Maine counties. *Please note that some students have requested that their information not be released; therefore, their names are not included.*

Last name	First name	City	State	Country
Abbott	Emily	Brookline	MA	
Abbott	Emily	Newport	VT	
Abbott	Marshall	Portland	ME	
Abell	Maddie	Stoneham	MA	
Acharya	Arnav	Biratnagar Bazar		Nepal
Acheson	Julianna	Andover	MA	
Ackroyd	Jacob	Pittsfield	ME	
Acquista	Gehrig	South Boston	MA	
Adam	Danny	Bangor	ME	
Adamo	John	Portland	ME	
Adams	Amatullah	Orono	ME	
Adams	Jack	Westerly	RI	
Adams	Molly	Caribou	ME	
Adams	Tom	Falmouth	ME	
Adaschik	Allie	Salem	NH	
Agneta	Dominic	Windham	ME	
Agneta	Melissa	Windham	ME	
Aiello	Nick	Nashua	NH	
Aiken	Chloe	Westford	MA	
Albanese	Joelle	Erwinna	PA	
Alexander	Jared	Chelsea	ME	
Alexander	Peter	Waldoboro	ME	
Alexander	Tessa	Brunswick	ME	
Allard	Alexis	Levant	ME	

Allen	Beth	Glenburn	ME	
Allen	Jordan	Bangor	ME	
Allen	Mary	Owls Head	ME	
Allie	Carigan	Scarborough	ME	
Alsamsam	Maher	Bangor	ME	
Altvater	Nolan	Milford	ME	
Amato	Anthony	Westford	MA	
Andersen	Patty	Durham	NH	
Anderson	Chris	Lincoln	ME	
Anderson	Gus	Phippsburg	ME	
Anderson	Jessie	Merrimac	MA	
Anderson	Luke	Williamsburg	VA	
Angelo	Edward	Troy	ME	
Angerame	Gianna	Wrentham	MA	
Anson	Morgan	North Vancouver	BC	Canada
Antoms	Miks	Riga		Latvia
Aquino	Juliette	Delanco	NJ	
Aragon Orrego	Maria Fe	Lima		Peru
Arakelian	Sachristy	Old Town	ME	
Arbo	Tyler	Newburgh	ME	
Archambault	Dakota	Concord	NH	
Archambault	Griffin	Wayland	MA	
Arey	Kara	Old Town	ME	
Armitage	Gwenyth	Falmouth	ME	
Armstrong	Francesca	Easton	ME	
Aromando	Logan	Orono	ME	
Arsenault	Andrew	Rumford	ME	
Arsenault	Kenzie	Rumford	ME	
Arsenault	Michaela	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Artkop	Mikayla	Searsmont	ME	

Arya	Nishchay	Bangor	ME	
Asherman	Davis	Eddington	ME	
Ashley	Bethany	Buxton	ME	
Aubut	Katlyn	Pembroke	MA	
Auffant	Jason	Chebeague Island	ME	
Austin	Jared	Brewer	ME	
Austin	Kaleb	Orono	ME	
Austin	Katherine	Sanford	ME	
Austin	Sierra	Norwich	CT	
Avena	Sydney	East Lyme	CT	
Averill	Collin	Brewer	ME	
Avery	Emily	Laconia	NH	
Ayotte	Stephanie	Saco	ME	
Ayub	Danielle	Brewer	ME	
Baartvedt	Mille Sofie	Oslo		Norway
Babbidge	Ellen	Bangor	ME	
Bacon	Paige	Hermon	ME	
Badstubner	Anna	Shrewsbury	MA	
Baez	Alan	Waterville	ME	
Bagley	Cedar	Milford	ME	
Baiguy	Mikayla	Windham	ME	
Bailey	Caleb	Saco	ME	
Bailey	Jacob	Hampden	ME	
Bailey	Jordan	Corinna	ME	
Bailey	Madi	Topsham	ME	
Bailey	Nicole	Nepean	ON	Canada
Bair	Taylor	Cape Neddick	ME	
Baiungo	Anna	Searsmont	ME	
Baker	Abbie	Phippsburg	ME	
Baker	Charles	Brooklyn	NY	

Baldwin	Connor	Hollis Center	ME	
Ballard	Brianna	Old Town	ME	
Ballesteros	Samantha	Brewer	ME	
Balsley	Kayla	Summit	NJ	
Baltazar	Raz	Bath	ME	
Bamford	Hannah	Rochester	NH	
Bamford	Olivia	Old Town	ME	
Bangs	Madi	South Paris	ME	
Banks	Alamea	Redmond	WA	
Banks	Grace	Poland	ME	
Banks	Jalen	West Hartford	CT	
Bao	Lei	Chalan Pago		Guam
Baratta	Sydney	Elbridge	NY	
Barbee Bamford	Shay	Columbia	ME	
Barbour	Julia	Rockland	ME	
Barboza	Liv	Cumberland	RI	
Barker	Ashley	Levant	ME	
Barnett	Alex	Orono	ME	
Barnett	Emily	North Monmouth	ME	
Barry	Kyle	Hampden	ME	
Barry	Trevor	Pepperell	MA	
Barry Grant	Castine	Brewer	ME	
Bart	Phillip	Bar Harbor	ME	
Bartlett	Jonathan	Guilford	CT	
Barto	Benjamin	Avon	CT	
Bass	Gabe	Portsmouth	RI	
Bate	Julia	Hermon	ME	
Batron	Katie	Exeter	ME	
Batron	Rebecca	Exeter	ME	
Batson	Nathanael	Fairfield	ME	

Bauer	Chris	Merrimac	MA	
Bauling	Grace	Dekalb	IL	
Baumann	Jake	Falmouth	ME	
Baur	Alex	Windham	ME	
Bayer	Molly	Tolland	CT	
Beady	Peyton	Weymouth	MA	
Beal	Lili	Cape Neddick	ME	
Beal	Sierra	Tenants Harbor	ME	
Beals	Allie	Chelmsford	MA	
Beaton	Zachary	Hermon	ME	
Beauchesne	Jacob	Dracut	MA	
Beaudoin	Julian	Salem	MA	
Beaulieu	Caitlyn	Gorham	ME	
Beaulieu	Jaida	Washburn	ME	
Beaulieu	Rene	Brewer	ME	
Beauregard	Braden	Plainfield	CT	
Beckshaw	Marie	Haverhill	MA	
Bedsole	Isaiah	Abington	MA	
Belanger	Ciera	Lewiston	ME	
Belaya	Kristina	Merrimac	MA	
Bell	Brad	Clifton	ME	
Bell	Connor	Gorham	ME	
Bell	Katie	Newport	ME	
Bell	Rebecca	Skowhegan	ME	
Bellavance	Kaylee	Bradley	ME	
Bellefleur	Alexis	Auburn	ME	
Bellefontaine	Jackie	Malden	MA	
Beltz	Alexandra	Sleepy Eye	MN	
Belvin	Morgan	Rochelle Park	NJ	
Bender	Ally	Seal Harbor	ME	

Bendo	Klei	Tirana		Albania
Benea	Sam	Lynn	MA	
Benedict	Brianna	Vassalboro	ME	
Beneski	Jessica	Revere	MA	
Benicio	Maitana	Washington	ME	
Bennett	Abigail	Brewer	ME	
Bennett	Drew	Brewer	ME	
Bennett	Kayla	Somers	CT	
Bennett	Madison	Hampden	ME	
Benning	Montana	Waterloo	WI	
Bennoch	Connor	West Bath	ME	
Benoit	Dylan	Southbury	CT	
Benson	Gabby	Chelsea	ME	
Benson	Tamra	Turner	ME	
Benton	Joyce	Waterbury	CT	
Benttinen	Hunter	Pittsfield	ME	
Beressi	Cam	Portland	ME	
Berez	Ellie	Camden	ME	
Berez	Sarah	Camden	ME	
Berger	Elin	Concord	NC	
Bermeo	Grace	Biddeford	ME	
Bernero	Kyle	Upton	MA	
Bernheim	Lilja	South China	ME	
Bernier	Abby	Pittsfield	ME	
Berry	Cal	Scarborough	ME	
Berry	Ryan	Brunswick	ME	
Berube	Peter	Andover	MA	
Bessette	Wendy	Mystic	CT	
Betterley-Dow	Emma	Old Town	ME	
Biagini	Claudia	North Weymouth	MA	

Bickel	Savannah	Manahawkin	NJ	
Bickford	Gabby	Springvale	ME	
Bickford	Will	Belfast	ME	
Biegel	Abby	Gorham	ME	
Biela	Kimberly	Southington	CT	
Bielecki	Jarod	Hermon	ME	
Bierut	Alexa	Plymouth	MA	
Bigelow	Sera	Durham	ME	
Billson	Millie	Northampton		United Kingdom
Birch	Matthew	Whitefield	ME	
Birchler De Allende	Ian	Alexandria	VA	
Birri	Nicole	Shrewsbury	MA	
Bishop	Anna	Plymouth	MA	
Bishop	Jenna	Bangor	ME	
Bishop	Olivia	East Sandwich	MA	
Bista	Bivek	Damak		Nepal
Biswas	Oisin	Brewer	ME	
Black	Lauren	Windham	ME	
Blaine	Steven	York	ME	
Blair	Emma	Brunswick	ME	
Blair	Madeline	Bethlehem	PA	
Blanchard	Dawsin	Gray	ME	
Blanchard	Grace	Orrington	ME	
Blanchette	Jess	Sudbury	MA	
Blanchette	Jonny	New Canada	ME	
Bland	Lindsay	Ellsworth	ME	
Blankenship	Forrest	Brunswick	ME	
Blatt	Tobyn	Brunswick	ME	
Bleakney	Allison	Old Town	ME	
Blodgett	Miranda	Lowell	MA	

Blood	Ben	Orono	ME	
Bloomer	Alex	Bangor	ME	
Bloomer	Tim	Milford	MA	
Bobrova	Victoria	Moscow		Russian Federation
Bock	Chris	Yarmouth	ME	
Bock	Phil	Yarmouth	ME	
Bogner	Molly	Milford	MA	
Bolduc	Andrew	Winslow	ME	
Bolduc	Connor	Lewiston	ME	
Bolduc	Dylan	Portland	ME	
Bolster	Logan	Norridgewock	ME	
Bonner	Matthew	Haverhill	MA	
Bonnevie	Sam	Cumberland Center	ME	
Boone	Christian	Glenburn	ME	
Boone	Lucy	Beaumont	TX	
Boria	Isabelle	Charlton City	MA	
Bosworth	Daria	Naples	ME	
Boucher	Adam	Wellesley Hills	MA	
Boucher	Jenna	Greene	ME	
Boulch	Hadrien	Bangor	ME	
Bourassa	Elise	Westbrook	ME	
Bourett	Claire	Waldoboro	ME	
Bourque	Casey	Gardiner	ME	
Bourque	Summer	Springvale	ME	
Bouton	Anna	Yarmouth	ME	
Bowden	Katrina	Bangor	ME	
Bowen	Cagney	Orono	ME	
Bowen	CJ	Plaistow	NH	
Bower	Nicholas	Orrington	ME	
Bowers	Matt	Melrose	MA	

Bowie	Jordan	Windsor	ME	
Boyer	Colby	Dighton	MA	
Brace	Kayla	Lewis Lake	NS	Canada
Bradbury	Clark	Bridgewater	ME	
Bradbury	Maggie	Nobleboro	ME	
Bradley	Grace	Chester	CT	
Bradshaw	Jacob	Berwick	ME	
Bradstreet	Erin	Brunswick	ME	
Bradstreet	Olivia	Orono	ME	
Bragg	Kate	Winterport	ME	
Bragg	Lily	Jefferson	ME	
Bragg	Maggie	Sumner	ME	
Brann	Kaylee	Benton	ME	
Brannigan	Annie	Chelsea	ME	
Brash	Sarah	Pembroke	MA	
Brasile	Jenna	East Haddam	CT	
Braun	Jeremy	Orono	ME	
Bray	Ryan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Brayson	Katie	Exeter	ME	
Brennan	Peter	Westford	MA	
Bresnahan	Andrea	Maynard	MA	
Bresnahan	Tom	Middleton	MA	
Breton	Seth	Freeport	ME	
Brett	Abigail	Rapid City	SD	
Breunig	Danielle	Westbrook	ME	
Brewer	Kristen	Monticello	ME	
Brewer	Matthew	Corinth	ME	
Brich	Tea	Glenwood	NJ	
Brickman	Lily	Fort Kent	ME	
Briggs	Lauren	Freeport	ME	

Briley	Anna	Cumberland Center	ME	
Brittain	Katie	Wilton	ME	
Brittingham	Bobby	Portland	ME	
Britton	Alex	Falmouth	ME	
Brochu	Camille	Hardwick	VT	
Broderick	Ava	Lincoln	ME	
Broderick	Jacob	Arnold	MD	
Brogna	Ashleigh	Woburn	MA	
Bromley	Alex	Voorhees	NJ	
Brooks	Bennett	Winthrop	ME	
Brown	Ashley	Richmond	ME	
Brown	Caden	Manchester	ME	
Brown	Camryn	Orono	ME	
Brown	Erin	Bangor	ME	
Brown	Justin	Ellsworth	ME	
Brown	Kendall	Allison Park	PA	
Brown	Matt	Clinton	ME	
Brown	Molly	Bar Harbor	ME	
Brown	Nicole	Lamoine	ME	
Brown	Shannon	Medford	MA	
Brown	Zoe	Hermon	ME	
Bruneski	Dawson	New Norway	AB	Canada
Bryant	Cole	Farmingdale	ME	
Bryer	Graham	Boothbay	ME	
Buchanan	Morgan	Orono	ME	
Buckmore	Mikayla	Litchfield	ME	
Budri	Natalia	Portland	ME	
Budway	Emma	Scarborough	ME	
Bui	Morgan	Ottawa	ON	Canada
Bullard	Tim	Wells	ME	

Bunker	Danny	Bucksport	ME	
Burby	Jim	Bangor	ME	
Burby	Noah	Winterport	ME	
Burgess	Jacob	North Berwick	ME	
Burgess	Samuel	Lexington	KY	
Burk	Owen	Denmark	ME	
Burke	Nathaniel	North Chelmsford	MA	
Burke	Tammy	Canaan	ME	
Burnell	Jack	Portland	ME	
Burnham	Jaden	Lisbon	ME	
Burns	Delaney	Gorham	ME	
Burns	Emily	Hermon	ME	
Burns	Hannah	Whitefield	ME	
Burris	Brandon	Orono	ME	
Burtis	Max	Brunswick	ME	
Bush	Caroline	Holden	ME	
Butler	Cole	Orono	ME	
Butler	Kendall	Harwinton	CT	
Butler	Savy	Prospect	VA	
Butler	Yonas	Watertown	MA	
Buzzelli	Angelina	Charleston	ME	
Byrne	Emilia	Kittery	ME	
Cadorette	Cameron	Saco	ME	
Cadran	Emma	New Gloucester	ME	
Cadran	Haley	New Gloucester	ME	
Cahoon	Skye	Wrentham	MA	
Calcagno	Giorgia	Veazie	ME	
Cali	Rick	Bangor	ME	
Callahan	Bridget	Wilbraham	MA	
Callahan	Lani	Waterboro	ME	

Callanan	Courtney	South Berwick	ME	
Camire	Brooke	Acton	ME	
Camire	Summer	Acton	ME	
Campbell	Becca	Sanford	ME	
Campbell	Margaret	San Diego	CA	
Campbell	Spencer	Saco	ME	
Campion	Ryan	Kittery	ME	
Canders	Lily	Brewer	ME	
Canelli	Hailey	Braintree	MA	
Capuzzi	Clare	Morris Plains	NJ	
Car	Noah	Hobe Sound	FL	
Carbone	Emma	Richmond	ME	
Card	Hannah	Woolwich	ME	
Carignan	Abbey	Saco	ME	
Carlson	Aidan	Wiscasset	ME	
Carlson	Nicole	Brewer	ME	
Caron	Lydia	Glenburn	ME	
Caron	Maya	Stratton	ME	
Carotenuto	Amanda	Acton	MA	
Carpenter	Erica	Trumbull	CT	
Carpenter	Jeremie	Milton	MA	
Carpenter	K.P.	Orono	ME	
Carreira	Kat	Eddington	ME	
Carrick	Emily	Natick	MA	
Carrier	Dev	Calais	ME	
Carroll	Nathan	Millville	MA	
Carson	Hunter	Bozrah	CT	
Carter	Amanda	Bucksport	ME	
Carter	Bailey	Fairfield	ME	
Carter	David	Raynham	MA	

Carter	Max	Bangor	ME	
Carter	Will	Attleboro	MA	
Carter-Dawson	Abbie	Tavistock		United Kingdom
Cartonio	Sophia	Westbrook	ME	
Cartwright	Joy	Ellsworth	ME	
Cartwright	Sam	Veazie	ME	
Caruso	Joey	Peru	ME	
Carver	Haley	Sidney	ME	
Carver	Lauren	Emmitsburg	MD	
Casburn	Alex	Orrington	ME	
Casey	Andrea	Tribes Hill	NY	
Casey	Darby	Bellmawr	NJ	
Casey	Julia	Brunswick	ME	
Casey	Liam	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Cashman	Stella	Winterport	ME	
Castillo-Ruano	Kathleen	Chelsea	MA	
Castonguay	Abby	Livermore	ME	
Castro	Dante	New Gloucester	ME	
Cates-Wright	Dakota	Orono	ME	
Cavanaugh	Katie	Calais	ME	
Cavic	Christopher	Berkley	MA	
Cavo	Maura	Springfield	VA	
Cecelya	Jack	Hudson	MA	
Cedor	Hailey	North Kingstown	RI	
Celano	Andres	Brewer	ME	
Cellini	Renee	Whitman	MA	
Cenatiempo	Sophia	Woodbury	CT	
Chaisson	Mackenzie	Passadumkeag	ME	
Chalmers	Brooke	Framingham	MA	
Chamard	Sara	Portland	ME	

Chamberland	Alexandria	Hampden	ME	
Chambers	Caitlin	Topsham	ME	
Champagne	Lizzy	Poland	ME	
Chapin	Emily	Gorham	ME	
Chappelle	Tim	Boothbay Harbor	ME	
Charest	Samantha	Methuen	MA	
Charlebois	Caleigh	Orono	ME	
Charpentier	Lily	Naples	ME	
Charrier	Megan	Sanford	ME	
Chase	Jordan	Topsham	ME	
Chasse	Benjamin	Hampden	ME	
Chasse	Camden	Old Town	ME	
Chasse	Nicole	East Millinocket	ME	
Chau	Nhan	Ho Chi Minh city		Vietnam
Cheadle	Quintin	Olney	MD	
Chen	Jiaying	Jinan		China
Cheng	Peng	Ashland	ME	
Chern	Lara	Bow	NH	
Child	Madison	Marshfield	MA	
Chin	Jade	Madison	CT	
Chouinard	Ben	Windham	ME	
Chozick	Rachel	West Hartford	CT	
Christensen	Sarah	Ashland	MA	
Christian	Logan	Hampden	ME	
Christiansen	Catherine	Naples	ME	
Christiansen	Scott	South China	ME	
Christianson	Devin	Old Town	ME	
Christopher	Marcus	Skowhegan	ME	
Ciaffaglione	Aiden	Southington	CT	
Ciance	Michael	Contoocook	NH	

Cianchette	Erin	Falmouth	ME	
Ciano	Christopher	Castine	ME	
Ciesielski	Kate	Duxbury	MA	
Cilfone	Gabrielle	Torrington	CT	
Clark	Carleigh	South Deerfield	MA	
Clark	Dylan	Bangor	ME	
Clark	Eli	Milford	ME	
Clark	Jacob	Old Town	ME	
Clark	John	Windham	ME	
Clark	Syeira	Lancaster	MA	
Clarke	Emily	Acton	ME	
Claudel	Christina	Orono	ME	
Clavette	Renee	South Berwick	ME	
Clement	Brooke	Raymond	ME	
Clement	Evie	Falmouth	ME	
Clemmer	Cass	Orono	ME	
Clemons	Haley	West Newbury	MA	
Clifford	Emery	Benton	ME	
Clifford	Sam	Walpole	MA	
Cloutier	Amanda	Brunswick	ME	
Cloutier	Samantha	Orono	ME	
Cobb	Katie	Fairfield	ME	
Coco	Aviana	Orono	ME	
Coffin	Jonah	Sudbury	MA	
Cogley	Peter	Roxbury	ME	
Coker	Kassidy	Bakersfield	CA	
Cole	Denise	Taunton	MA	
Cole	Halle	Hermon	ME	
Cole	Kelsey	York	ME	
Collias	Mary	Wilton	CT	

Collier	Caroline	Charlestown	MA	
Collins	Claire	Enfield	CT	
Collins	Olivia	Billerica	MA	
Collins	Quinn	Chester	NJ	
Colter	Emily	Hampden	ME	
Comeau	Alli	Ipswich	MA	
Comeau-Waite	Lily	Leeds	ME	
Comfort	Hannah	Winslow	ME	
Comtois	Abigail	Warwick	RI	
Conant	Brendan	Bridgewater	MA	
Conant	Jenna	Rockland	ME	
Conant	Jill	Canton	ME	
Conant	John	Orono	ME	
Conant	MacKenzie	Billerica	MA	
Conley	James	Standish	ME	
Conner	Sarah	Orono	ME	
Connolly	Caeli	Elizabethtown	PA	
Connolly	Laura	Jamaica Plain	MA	
Conrad	Michael	Kennebunkport	ME	
Cooey	Brian	Blackwood	NJ	
Cook	Brian	Norway	ME	
Coombs	Samantha	Cornville	ME	
Cooper	Ally	Bangor	ME	
Cooper	Karissa	Unionville	CT	
Cooper	Mackenzie	Acton	MA	
Cordes	Jess	Huntington Station	NY	
Corey	Taylor	Plainville	MA	
Corless	Bailey	Wallingford	CT	
Cormier	Drew	East Walpole	MA	
Cortez	Nicole	Enterprise	AL	

Corthell	Delaney	Bow	NH	
Costigan	Eliza	Vassalboro	ME	
Costigan	Julie	Cold Spring	NY	
Cote	Cam	Sanford	ME	
Cote	Jacob	Bangor	ME	
Cote	Sam	Pawtucket	RI	
Cotner	Stella	Saint Paul	MN	
Cotton	Ben	Glenburn	ME	
Cotton	Jared	Framingham	MA	
Courser	Madi	Warner	NH	
Couture	Abby	Berwick	ME	
Couture	Brian	South Berwick	ME	
Couture	Ethan	Dixfield	ME	
Covino	Ariana	Milford	MA	
Cowan	Grace	New Portland	ME	
Cox	Matthew	Bar Harbor	ME	
Cox	Tom	Camden	ME	
Coyle	Cormac	Lebanon	NH	
Craig	Lucas	Ashland	ME	
Cramer	James	Bangor	ME	
Crawford	Loreli	Portsmouth	NH	
Crawford	Mike	Topsham	ME	
Crawford	Vincent	Wells	ME	
Cray	Taylor	Readfield	ME	
Creamer	Mac	Chelsea	ME	
Creamer	Spencer	Cumberland	RI	
Cressey	Anna	Kennebunk	ME	
Crise	Amelia	Lee	ME	
Crockett-Current	Sophia	Old Town	ME	
Crone	Jennifer	Kenduskeag	ME	

Cronin	Hanna	Methuen	MA	
Crooks	Emma	Acton	MA	
Crossman	Fallon	Hampden	ME	
Crowley	Jamie	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Crucianelli	Paula	Westbrook	ME	
Crump	Skye	Orono	ME	
Cui	Qi	Yangquan		China
Cummings	Caid	Brewer	ME	
Cummings	Claudia	Indian Island	ME	
Cummings	Julia	Brewer	ME	
Curioli	Laura	Hampden	ME	
Curioli	Sarah	Hampden	ME	
Curtis	Brooke	Skowhegan	ME	
Curtis	Hunter	Richmond	ME	
Cusack	Amanda	Kittery	ME	
Cushman	Rylee	Hermon	ME	
Cusick	Rebecca	Warwick	RI	
Cusson	Drew	Scarborough	ME	
Cusson	Lauren	Eliot	ME	
Cyr	Ally	Southampton	PA	
Cyr	Jake	East Waterboro	ME	
Cyr	Jameson	Orrs Island	ME	
Cyr	Kallie	Westbrook	ME	
Cyr	Shaylyn	Glenburn	ME	
Czuchra	Nicholas	Searsmont	ME	
Czwakiel	Andrew	Springfield	VT	
D'Amato	Marco	Rockport	ME	
D'Ambrosio	Tyler	Queensbury	NY	
D'Angelo	Dominic	Bradley	ME	
Dacey	Ellie	Hampden	ME	

Dagher	Joseph	Veazie	ME	
Daigle	Andre	Caribou	ME	
Daigle	Courtney	Madawaska	ME	
Daigneault	Daigs	Winslow	ME	
Dailey	Ben	Bangor	ME	
Dalton	Elizabeth	Lamoine	ME	
Daly	Cameron	Brunswick	ME	
Daly	Quin	Marshfield	MA	
Daly Mulligan	Alana	Waterford		Ireland
Damboise	Oliviah	Old Town	ME	
Damon	Bri	Sumner	ME	
Damon	Madison	South Portland	ME	
Damuck	Ellie	Stockton Springs	ME	
Daniels	Liam	Veazie	ME	
Daoud	Sabrina	Rumford	ME	
Dapprich	Susanna	Lawrence Township	NJ	
Darling	Angel	Gorham	ME	
Darwish	Jafar	Orono	ME	
Daub	Elyse	Hampden	ME	
Daub	Emily	Hampden	ME	
Dauphinee	Sam	Bradley	ME	
Davee	Molly	Rockport	ME	
David	Hunter	Bow	NH	
Davies	Kristin	Groveland	MA	
Davis	Chloe	Houlton	ME	
Davis	Daniel	Dedham	ME	
Davis	Krissa	Petersburg	AK	
Davis	Mariah	Lovell	ME	
Davis	Sam	Belfast	ME	
Davison	Emily	North Waterboro	ME	

Davy	Linah	Bingham	ME	
Dawkins	Grant	Katy	TX	
de Vries	Kendall	Marblehead	MA	
Dean	Allie	Brewer	ME	
Dean	Jenny	Madison	ME	
Deans	Zoe	Belmont	ME	
DeBlois	Brandon	Smithfield	RI	
Dee	Elizabeth	Reading	MA	
DeGone	Anthony	Turner	ME	
deHaas	Amy	Bath	ME	
Delaney	Amber	Livermore	ME	
DeLannee	Marius	Orono	ME	
Delano	Sarah	Houlton	ME	
DeLap	Daniel	Dekalb	IL	
Delargy	Ty	Bangor	ME	
Delgado	Hebert	Bangor	ME	
DelMonico	Justin	North Andover	MA	
DelMonico	Matt	North Andover	MA	
Delpino	Daniela	Old Town	ME	
Demanche	Alyssa	Brunswick	ME	
DeMoura	Ethan	Berwick	ME	
Denny	Nick	Rockport	ME	
Densmore	Siobhan	Portland	ME	
Dent	Frances	Waukesha	WI	
DePippo	Dominique	Bath	ME	
DePuy	Brianna	Levant	ME	
DeRogatis	Lauren	Toms River	NJ	
DeRusha	Lindsey	Wrentham	MA	
Deschaine	Stephanie	Old Town	ME	
Deschenes	Jeffrey	Amesbury	MA	

Desjardins	Erica	Bangor	ME	
Desmond	Evan	Stockholm	ME	
Despres	Abigail	Fayette	ME	
Detwiler	Sean	Arrowsic	ME	
Devine	Dan	Brockton	MA	
Devoe	Marcus	Naples	ME	
Dias	Becky	Old Town	ME	
Dickey	A.J.	New Hartford	CT	
Dickson	Beth	Bangor	ME	
DiFederico	Gina	Milford	CT	
Dillingham	Julia	Turner	ME	
Dillon	Seth	Madison	ME	
DiMinno	David	Brewster	NY	
Dimock	Nate	Madison	ME	
Dineen	Reyle	Cranston	RI	
Diodato	William	New York	NY	
DiSpirito	Dominique	Woonsocket	RI	
Dixon	Brandon	Solon	ME	
Dixon	Brent	Lakeville	MA	
Dixon	Elliot	Albion	ME	
Dixon	Kimberly	Bangor	ME	
Dixon	PhilAnn	Wallingford	PA	
Dixson	Sequoia	Locke	NY	
Doak	Kenny	Perkasie	PA	
Docos	Gunnar	Harrison	ME	
Dodge	Lauren	Orono	ME	
Dodge	Lindsey	Orono	ME	
Dodge	Morgan	Lee	ME	
Dodson	Hannah	Frankfort	ME	
Doherty	Anthony	Marshfield	MA	

Doherty	Jessica	Braintree	MA	
Dolan	Kat	Ogunquit	ME	
Domingo	Priscilla	Cornwall	ON	Canada
Dominique	Nick	Orono	ME	
Donadio	Danielle	Narragansett	RI	
Donahue	Connor	Saco	ME	
Donaldson	Allie	Etna	ME	
Donisvitch	Soren	Sidney	ME	
Donnelly	Jon	Brewer	ME	
Dore	Becky	Grantham	NH	
Dorey	Sarah	Dedham	ME	
Dorion	Bennett	Dixfield	ME	
Dorronsoro	Vanessa	Walpole	MA	
Doty	Will	Ellsworth	ME	
Doucette	Olivia	Hampden	ME	
Doughty	Deja	Vinalhaven	ME	
Dow	Delaney	Ellsworth	ME	
Dow	Kylie	Sebec	ME	
Dowd	Shannon	Mendon	MA	
Downey	Declan	Dedham	MA	
Downey	Grace	Cumberland Center	ME	
Downing	Emma	Carrabassett Valley	ME	
Downing	Patrick	Natick	MA	
Doyle	Kellen	Orono	ME	
Doyon	Eedy	Orono	ME	
Drayer	Mallory	Hummelstown	PA	
Drews	Kelby	Milo	ME	
Drinkert	Daisy	Orono	ME	
Driscoll	Megan	Chelmsford	MA	
Driscoll	Paige	South Windsor	CT	

Drislane	Harrison	Lynnfield	MA	
Drobot	AJ	Southampton	PA	
Drown	Susannah	Orono	ME	
Duarte	Stephanie	Brownville	ME	
Dube	Jonathan	Arundel	ME	
Dube	Katie	Arundel	ME	
Dube	Mary	Winterport	ME	
Dubuc	Samuel	Windham	ME	
Duffield	Charlie	Old Town	ME	
Duffy	Hannah	Waterboro	ME	
Dugal	Elena	Orono	ME	
Dullaert	Emma	South Burlington	VT	
Dumas	Adam	Gray	ME	
Dumas	Jazlyn	Lewiston	ME	
Dumond	Nicole	Old Town	ME	
Dumont	Karineh	Williamsburg	VA	
Dunbar	Ashton	Lee	ME	
Dunkle	Wesley	Rockland	ME	
Dunlap	Emily	Old Town	ME	
Dunn	Nigel	Orono	ME	
Dunn	Vanessa	Wiscasset	ME	
Dunning	Jack	Hampden	ME	
Duplissie	Aubrey	Brewer	ME	
Duranko	Jessie	Westport	CT	
Durgin	Lindsey	Hollis Center	ME	
Durkee	Olivia	Oakland	ME	
Durkin	Caileigh	Barrington	RI	
Dustin	Aaron	Bowdoin	ME	
Dustin	Zane	Hebron	ME	
Dwelley	Lynn	Lincoln	ME	

Dye	Jarod	Hallowell	ME	
Dyer	Hannah	Hermon	ME	
Dyer	Jesse	Mount Desert	ME	
Dyer	Rachael	Westbrook	ME	
Early	Logan	East Stroudsburg	PA	
Eason	Alex	Mount Desert	ME	
East	Alec	Jamaica Plain	MA	
Eastham	Lauren	Houlton	ME	
Eastman	Gunnar	Bangor	ME	
Eaton	Ali	Stonington	ME	
Eaton	Madison	Orono	ME	
Eaton	Miles	Kennebunkport	ME	
Ebrahim	Nourhan	Cairo		Egypt
Eckert	Olivia	Canton	CT	
Edgar	William	South Portland	ME	
Eggermann	Sean	North Brunswick	NJ	
Eichorn	Victoria	Hebron	ME	
Elhag	Saleh	Westbrook	ME	
Elliott	Avery	Waterford	ME	
Elliott	Grace	Belgrade	ME	
Ellis	Colby	Kennebunk	ME	
Ellis	Kate	Dixfield	ME	
Elsemore	Brian	South Portland	ME	
Elsemore	Lauren	South Portland	ME	
Emanuel	Will	Falmouth	ME	
Embelton	Cody	Easton	ME	
Emerson	Brandon	Augusta	ME	
Emerson	Emily	Topsham	VT	
Emery	Josh	Newport	ME	
Engholm	Jack	York	ME	

Epstein	Joey	Allenhurst	NJ	
Erikson	Theo	Orono	ME	
Esber	Ethan	Byfield	MA	
Ettinger	Andrew	Hollis Center	ME	
Evangelista	Danika	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Evangelista	Jaclyn	Stoughton	MA	
Evans	Katie	Essex	CT	
Everett	Alexis	Chelsea	ME	
Everett	Emma	Presque Isle	ME	
Fabel	Catherine	Eden Prairie	MN	
Faherty	Kaylee	Scarborough	ME	
Fallon	Caitlyn	Warwick	RI	
Farnese	Bella	Auburndale	MA	
Farnsworth	Jordan	Princeton	MA	
Farrell	Erin	Saco	ME	
Farrell	Kenzie	Framingham	MA	
Farrin	Abigail	Jefferson	ME	
Farrington	Grace	Orono	ME	
Farrington	Keegan	Lincoln	ME	
Farrington	Koby	Lincoln	ME	
Favreau	Gretchen	Falmouth	ME	
Fay	Kyle	Reading	MA	
Fedotov	Natalie	Bayonne	NJ	
Feely	Michael	South Portland	ME	
Feenstra	Rachel	Ellington	CT	
Feero	Keegan	Old Town	ME	
Feero	Nick	Old Town	ME	
Feix	Jon	Bangor	ME	
Ferguson	Connor	Veazie	ME	
Ferguson	Maia	Poland	ME	

Fernald	Ian	Phippsburg	ME	
Fernald	Izzy	West Poland	ME	
Ferrante	Noah	Portland	ME	
Ferrarese	Steven	West Caldwell	NJ	
Ferraro	Jocelyn	Wilmington	MA	
Ferrauolo	Nick	Wallingford	CT	
Ferreira	Will	Cranberry Isles	ME	
Ferrell	Hannah	Bucksport	ME	
Ferri	Cassie	Springfield	MA	
Ferris	Amber	Peru	ME	
Fiandaca	Zoe	Palmyra	ME	
Field	Riley	Sidney	ME	
Filer	Collette	Bangor	ME	
Findlen	Austin	New Sweden	ME	
Finley	Grace	Kittery	ME	
Finnemore	Kate	Caribou	ME	
Fishbein	Matthew	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Fisher	Abigail	Auburn	ME	
Fitch	Anna	Cumberland Center	ME	
Fitts	Dillon	Pittsfield	ME	
Fitts	Madison	Pittsfield	ME	
Fitz	Sophie	Holyoke	MA	
Fitzmaurice	Ryan	Bath	ME	
Fitzpatrick	Conor	Mansfield	MA	
Fitzpatrick	David	Scarborough	ME	
Fitzpatrick	Liv	Buzzards Bay	MA	
Flaherty	Joseph	Attleboro Falls	MA	
Flanagan	Joshua	Brunswick	ME	
Flanders	Ashley	Belfast	ME	
Flannery	Zachary	Hampden	ME	

Flegel	Gabe	Bucksport	ME	
Flessen	Ivy	Oswego	IL	
Fletcher	Madyson	East Falmouth	MA	
Flint	David	Rockport	ME	
Floyd	Amanda	Bangor	ME	
Flubacher	Liam	Winter Harbor	ME	
Flubacher	Tara	Winter Harbor	ME	
Flynn	Bridget	Quincy	MA	
Flynn	Jillian	Caribou	ME	
Flynn	Liam	Raymond	ME	
Fogarty	Kelly	Walpole	MA	
Fogg	John	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Foley	Tara	Pembroke	MA	
Folger	Claudia	South Berwick	ME	
Follansbee	Kate	Scarborough	ME	
Fong	Tristan	Hope	ME	
Fonzi	Nick	Ipswich	MA	
Foran	Molly	Ware	MA	
Ford	Katelyn	Presque Isle	ME	
Ford	Morgan	Appleton	ME	
Foreman	Haley	Portland	ME	
Fortier	Lillie	Oakland	ME	
Fortunato	Sophie	Wethersfield	CT	
Foss	AJ	Solon	ME	
Foss	Jacob	Old Town	ME	
Fossier	Mitchell	Alpharetta	GA	
Fournier	Jordan	Buxton	ME	
Foust	Sarah	Pittston	ME	
Foye	Eliza	Eliot	ME	
Frager	Lillian	Portland	ME	

Frahn	Spencer	Auburn	ME	
Francis	Landyn	Bangor	ME	
Francis-Mezger	Dominic	Searsport	ME	
Fraser	Caiden	West Bath	ME	
Freeman	Emma	Scarborough	ME	
Freeman	Kristen	Old Town	ME	
Fremouw	Kell	Orono	ME	
French	Nathaniel	Stow	MA	
French	Rebecca	Topsham	ME	
Freudenberger	Laura	Palmyra	ME	
Friedman	Hannah	Brewer	ME	
Furlong	Julia	Weymouth	MA	
Furrow	Trudy	Bangor	ME	
Furtado	Michael	Coventry	RI	
Gaboury	Danielle	Cranston	RI	
Gagner	Emily	Hampden	ME	
Gagnon	AJ	Epsom	NH	
Gagnon	Von	Saco	ME	
Gaines	Susannah	Lexington	MA	
Galgano	Sierra	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Gallagher	Colleen	Attleboro	MA	
Gallant	Austin	Gray	ME	
Gallati	Mika	Cumberland Center	ME	
Galli	Michael	South Hamilton	MA	
Gamache	Shelby	Hermon	ME	
Ganzel	Tabetha	Linneus	ME	
Gardner	Andrew	New Sharon	ME	
Garfein	Laura	Walnut Creek	CA	
Garfield	Jeffrey	Lowell	ME	
Gartley	Jared	South China	ME	

Garvey	Eimile	Orono	ME	
Gaston	Imani	Chesapeake	VA	
Gauthier	Nick	Hampden	ME	
Gebhart	Jake	Cranston	RI	
Gecawicz	Mike	Acton	MA	
Geiger	Malik	Norway	ME	
Gellis Morais	Bella	Montevideo		Uruguay
Gendreau	Nate	Gray	ME	
Genenbacher	Lauren	Yorkville	IL	
Genereux	Adam	Sanford	ME	
Genrich	Loren	Hulls Cove	ME	
George	Benaiah	Putnam	CT	
George	Cady	Northlake	TX	
Georgia	Savannah	Brewer	ME	
Germond	Avery	Gorham	ME	
Gernhard	Maddy	Spring	TX	
Gerow	Kennedy	Glenburn	ME	
Gervais	Mikki	Sabattus	ME	
Gessner	Bridget	Huntingdon Valley	PA	
Giannos	Alexandros	Pound Ridge	NY	
Gibbons	Miranda	Mansfield	MA	
Gibbs	Harrison	North Andover	MA	
Gideon	Haley	Lewiston	ME	
Giffault	Paige	Stonington	CT	
Giglio	Mary	Falmouth	ME	
Giguere	Arianna	Westbrook	ME	
Giguere	Jaimie	Scarborough	ME	
Gilbert	Matt	North Waterboro	ME	
Gilboe	Austin	Orono	ME	
Giles	Steven	Bucksport	ME	

Gillen	Lizzy	Blaine	ME	
Gillespie	Kobey	Calais	ME	
Gillespie	Sydney	Rochester	NH	
Gillette	Andrew	Brewer	ME	
Gilman	Jade	Old Town	ME	
Gilmore	Emily	Holden	ME	
Gilson	Hank	Topsham	ME	
Giniger	Adam	Carlisle	MA	
Girardin	Milly	Brunswick	ME	
Girgis	Jacob	Madison	ME	
Giroux	Anna	Westbrook	ME	
Given	Sophie	Waterville	ME	
Glass	Ryan	Topsham	ME	
Glatter	Ella	Orono	ME	
Glatter	Sarah	Houlton	ME	
Glazer	Jordan	Cote St Luc	QC	Canada
Gleason	Devon	Winslow	ME	
Gleason	Kyle	Sidney	ME	
Godbout	Nathan	Hebron	ME	
Godin	Melodie	Wells	ME	
Godin	Michael	Simsbury	CT	
Godino	Caley	Revere	MA	
Goff	Zoe	Rockland	ME	
Gogan	David	Littleton	ME	
Goggin	Darian	Orono	ME	
Goldman	Anya	Minnetonka	MN	
Goldsmith	Matt	Phillipsburg	NJ	
Gomes	Jordan	York	ME	
Gonyar	Ally	Bangor	ME	
Good	Elyse	Walpole	MA	

Goodale	Jesse	Lincolnville	ME	
Goodall	Kelly	Beverly	MA	
Goodenough	Bryant	Eliot	ME	
Goodenough	Turner	Eliot	ME	
Goodman	Connor	Miami Beach	FL	
Gordley-Smith	Lucien	Belfast	ME	
Goss	Jenna	Waterville	ME	
Gosselin	Avery	Burnham	ME	
Gould	Antyna	Washington	ME	
Goulette	Joey	York	ME	
Goulette	Spencer	York	ME	
Gower	Rachel	Winterport	ME	
Graham	Grace	Cary Plantation	ME	
Graham	Jackson	Pembroke	MA	
Graham	Vanessa	Bangor	ME	
Grams	Jennifer	Oberhausen-Rheinhausen		Germany
Gramse	Matthew	Falmouth	ME	
Gramse	Mike	Falmouth	ME	
Granger	Curran	Blue Hill	ME	
Grant	Emalee	Union	ME	
Grant	Katelyn	Orrington	ME	
Grant	Loren	Moscow	ME	
Grass	Kasey	Big Lake Township	ME	
Graves	Brianna	Hermon	ME	
Gray	August	Appleton	ME	
Gray	Jasmine	La Mirada	CA	
Greaves	Fiona	Norfolk	MA	
Greco	Cliff	Greene	ME	
Green	Adam	Bangor	ME	
Green	Adam	Winslow	ME	

Green	Andrew	Newbury		United Kingdom
Green	Kendra	Old Town	ME	
Green	Sheldon	Barkhamsted	CT	
Greendale	Joe	Natick	MA	
Greenlee	Aidan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Greenlee	Liam	Cumberland Center	ME	
Greenwood	James	Lewiston	ME	
Grey	Keegan	Ellsworth	ME	
Griffin	Eric	Springvale	ME	
Griffin	Joe	Middleton	MA	
Griffin	Sara	Parlin	NJ	
Griffith	Matthew	Parkman	ME	
Griffiths	Eva	Portland	ME	
Griffiths	Hunter	South Portland	ME	
Griffiths	Sarah	Newton	NJ	
Grillo	Sarah	South Paris	ME	
Grimwood	Samantha	Greenbush	ME	
Grindle	Kaylee	Bucksport	ME	
Grindle	Riley	Ellsworth	ME	
Grob	Ashley	Westwood	NJ	
Groening	Patrick	Belfast	ME	
Grogan	Leann	New Hartford	CT	
Grondin	Kyaira	Yarmouth	ME	
Grous	Emma	Ashford	CT	
Gu	Yicheng	Changhsu		China
Gudde	Madeline	Caribou	ME	
Guerrette	Nickolas	Caribou	ME	
Guidi	Dan	Bangor	ME	
Guillemette	Mair	Manchester	ME	
Guimond	Andrew	Orono	ME	

Gundermann	Sara	Palmyra	PA	
Gutheinz	Izzy	Camden	ME	
Guy	Brianna	Orono	ME	
Haas	Derek	Old Town	ME	
Hacker	Ben	Beverly	MA	
Haddow	Ian	Orono	ME	
Hadley	Jordan	Madison	ME	
Hagarman	Sydney	Old Town	ME	
Haggerty	Jillian	Houlton	ME	
Hale	Glenice	Bangor	ME	
Haley	Alyson	Hudson	MA	
Haley	Casco	Amherst	ME	
Haley	Emily	Portland	ME	
Hall	Mackenzie	Ashland	ME	
Hall	Robert	Bradford	ME	
Hallett	Dylan	Bangor	ME	
Hallett	Tholia	Falmouth	ME	
Halliday	Casey	North Berwick	ME	
Halliday	Jason	Falmouth	ME	
Halvorsen	Jason	South Portland	ME	
Halvorsen	Johan	Guilford	ME	
Ham	Melissa	Teaticket	MA	
Hamblen	Sammy	Searsport	ME	
Hamel	Torie	Albany Township	ME	
Hamilton	Jared	Ellsworth	ME	
Hamilton	Jess	Worcester	MA	
Hamilton	Josh	Alton	ME	
Hamm	Taylor	Orono	ME	
Hammond	Brooke	Frankfort	ME	
Hammond	Sarah	Auburn	ME	

Hancock	Ryan	Orono	ME	
Hand	Alyssa	Kenduskeag	ME	
Hanks	Lily	Hopkinton	MA	
Hanlon	Madeline	North Smithfield	RI	
Hanscom	Emily	Bethel	ME	
Hansen	Darria	Orono	ME	
Hansen	Jens	Augusta	ME	
Hanson	Myia	Rockport	ME	
Hanson	Tim	Wrentham	MA	
Harakles	Lila	Scarborough	ME	
Hardison	Kaori	Aurora	CO	
Hardy	Amy	Deer Isle	ME	
Hardy	Brielle	Scarborough	ME	
Harling	Mitchell	Durham	NH	
Harlow	Jake	Peabody	MA	
Harmon	Danielle	Lincoln	RI	
Harmon	Natalie	Fayette	ME	
Harmon	Sierra	Winslow	ME	
Harper	Caleb	Madison	ME	
Harper	Josie	Maxfield	ME	
Harriman	Emily	Belfast	ME	
Harriman	Jw	Orrington	ME	
Harriman	Parker	Hampden	ME	
Harrington	Elizabeth	Orono	ME	
Harris	Bryan	Lake Hopatcong	NJ	
Harris	Carli	Shrewsbury	MA	
Harris	Justin	South China	ME	
Harris	Nate	Fanwood	NJ	
Harrison	Leah	Freeport	ME	
Hart	Robert	Brick	NJ	

Hartling	Christian	Burlington	MA	
Hartman	Avis	Princeton	ME	
Hartwell	Abigail	Billerica	MA	
Harvey	Ryan	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Hase	Niklas	Buxton	ME	
Haskell	Ryan	Stockton Springs	ME	
Haskell	Shelby	Hartland	ME	
Haskell	Victoria	Bangor	ME	
Hathaway	Caitlin	Orono	ME	
Hatt	Arianna	Winslow	ME	
Haverty	Erin	Fitchburg	MA	
Haviland	Luck	Norway	ME	
Hawthorne	Liam	South Berwick	ME	
Hayes	Aidan	North Yarmouth	ME	
Haynes	Jarred	Westbrook	ME	
Hayward	Kayla	Old Town	ME	
Hazlewood	Jaclyn	Westbrook	ME	
Healy	Maggie	Portland	ME	
Hebert	Evan	Madawaska	ME	
Heffernan	Courtney	Biddeford	ME	
Hegarty	David	Limington	ME	
Heiser	Emma	Saint James	NY	
Helal	Malak	Orono	ME	
Helinski	Mina	Whitinsville	MA	
Helman	Emma	Wilton	CT	
Hembree	Tamara	Old Town	ME	
Henderson	Ashlie	Bangor	ME	
Henderson	Jessup	Old Town	ME	
Hepler	Ada	Orono	ME	
Hepler	Irja	Orono	ME	

Herboldsheimer	Joe	Portland	ME	
Hersey	Tyler	Brewer	ME	
Hershbine	Nicholas	Exeter	ME	
Hess	Jordan	Orono	ME	
Hetherington	Kieley	Harpswell	ME	
Hichens	Emma	Eliot	ME	
Hickey	Rose	Waldoboro	ME	
Hicks	Dan	Summit	NJ	
Hicks	Mary	Hallowell	ME	
Hicks	Reilley	Sumner	ME	
Higgins	Alex	Skowhegan	ME	
Hill	Alexandria	Millis	MA	
Hill	Cassidy	Searsmont	ME	
Hiller	Sam	Burlington	VT	
Hillery	Caitlin	Glenburn	ME	
Hills	Alison	Orono	ME	
Hilton	Jason	Mercer	ME	
Hinde	Gabi	North Kingstown	RI	
Hines	Kelsey	Eddington	ME	
Hixon	Noah	Westmanland	ME	
Hobbs	Emily	South Portland	ME	
Hobbs	Rachel	Hampden	ME	
Hodgdon	Taylor	Brunswick	ME	
Hodge	Emma	East Hampstead	NH	
Hodge	Nick	Poland	ME	
Hodgkins	Anna	Hallowell	ME	
Hodgkins	Desiree	Westbrook	ME	
Hodous	Dorothy	Round Pond	ME	
Holesinsky	Adrian	Orono	ME	
Hollandsworth	Rachel	Orono	ME	

Hollaway	Drew	Niantic	CT	
Hollstein	JJ	Pembroke	MA	
Holmes	Ashley	Waldoboro	ME	
Holmes	Kailey	Eddington	ME	
Holt	Chase	Ballston Spa	NY	
Holt	Emily	Cape Neddick	ME	
Holz	Jessica	Orono	ME	
Hooper	Ellie	Portland	ME	
Horovitz	Jane	Washington	ME	
Horr	Ellie	Brewer	ME	
Horton	Chris	Bar Harbor	ME	
Horton	Molly	North Yarmouth	ME	
Horvat	George	Saco	ME	
Horvath	Sarah	Danielson	CT	
Horwood	Caroline	East Sandwich	MA	
Hosford	Eliza	Bucksport	ME	
Hoskins	Devin	Topsham	ME	
Hotham	Jimmy	Blaine	ME	
Houghton	Abby	Bangor	ME	
Howard	Grace	Kennebunk	ME	
Howard	Lisa	Nobleboro	ME	
Howe	Abigail	Southwick	MA	
Howe	David	Stow	MA	
Howell	Megan	Mount Desert	ME	
Howell	Sydney	Ludlow	ME	
Howes	Andrew	Bangor	ME	
Hu	Miao	Bucharest		Romania
Hubbard	Arthur	Augusta	ME	
Hubby	Claire	Chanhassen	MN	
Hudock	Alexy	North Berwick	ME	

Hughes	Bronwyn	Portland	ME	
Hughes	Chelsea	Scarborough	ME	
Hughes	Mariah	Dexter	ME	
Hui	Ashley	Orono	ME	
Humphrey	Alex	Bowdoin	ME	
Humphrey	Bethany	Deer Isle	ME	
Hunt	Ella	Gloucester	MA	
Hunt	MacKenzie	Littleton	ME	
Hunt	Sara	Dedham	ME	
Hunter	Autumn	Hampden	ME	
Hunter	Michael	Caribou	ME	
Huntington	Dom	Orono	ME	
Huo	Emily	Biddeford	ME	
Hurlburt	Zachary	Alfred	ME	
Hurley	Pat	Medford	NJ	
Hutchins	Dakota	Fairfield	ME	
Hutchins	Trinity	Fairfield	ME	
Hutchinson	Courtney	Bangor	ME	
Hutchinson	Jessie	Wilton	ME	
Hyde	Courtney	Veazie	ME	
Iasenytska	Iaryna	Kyiv		Ukraine
Igiraneza	Coraly	Portland	ME	
Imperato	Noah	Orono	ME	
Ingalls	Colin	Bowdoin	ME	
Ingalls	Rachel	Hermon	ME	
Ingo	Stephane	Mississauga	ON	Canada
Ingram	Matt	Winthrop	ME	
Ireland	Meghan	Tampa	FL	
Ireland	Morgan	Presque Isle	ME	
Ireland	Rachel	Corinth	ME	

Irujo	Carmen	Newburyport	MA	
Ismail	Lauren	Glenburn	ME	
Ittleson	Claire	West Hartford	CT	
Ivanicka	Dominika	Orono	ME	
Ives	Amanda	Newburyport	MA	
Jack	Simaiya	Taunton	MA	
Jackson	Carly	Amherst	NS	Canada
Jackson	Emily	Casco	ME	
Jackson	Maddy	Old Town	ME	
Jacobs	Ethan	Waldo	ME	
Jacobs	Nicholas	Glenburn	ME	
Jacobson	Alicia	Old Town	ME	
Jacques	Miranda	Manchester	NH	
Jakins	Jordin	Pittsfield	ME	
Jamerson-Martin	Maya	Parsonsfield	ME	
James	Sarah Kate	York	ME	
Jameson	Mitchell	Bangor	ME	
Jamison	Caitlyn	Villas	NJ	
Jammeh	Mandy	Brewer	ME	
Jandreau	Isabelle	Madawaska	ME	
Janes	Ali	Avon	CT	
Jarvis	George	Valley Stream	NY	
Jarvis	James	Kennebunk	ME	
Jasenski	Jessica	Tolland	CT	
Jaszay	Ciarra	Howland	ME	
Jean-Charles	Ori	Monsey	NY	
Jellison	Rowan	Strong	ME	
Jenkins	Jordan	Greenville	RI	
Jensen	Dustin	Leeds	ME	
Jerome	Evangeline	Orono	ME	

Jiang	Guanyu	Orono	ME	
Jiang	Qikai	Shanghai		China
Jimenez	Alicia	Medfield	MA	
Jin	Xiang	Lianyungang		China
Jipson	Kaylee	Auburn	ME	
Jobe	Devon	Frederick	MD	
Jodoin	Kaitlyn	Gorham	ME	
Johanson	Chris	Mariaville	ME	
Johansson	Elin	Landskrona		Sweden
Johnson	Alexis	Lebanon	CT	
Johnson	Anna	Springvale	ME	
Johnson	Dean	Springvale	ME	
Johnson	Ella	Exeter	NH	
Johnson	Ethan	Gray	ME	
Johnson	Grace	Bedford	NH	
Johnson	Haloye	Kennebunk	ME	
Johnson	Lia	Orrington	ME	
Johnson	Morgan	Bowdoinham	ME	
Johnson	Olivia	Levant	ME	
Johnson	Ryan	Pawcatuck	CT	
Johnson	Samantha	Conway	NH	
Johnston	Amber	Tenants Harbor	ME	
Johnstone	Brandon	North Waterboro	ME	
Jolliffe	Emily	Searsmont	ME	
Jones	Jamie	Bangor	ME	
Jones	MK	Falmouth	MA	
Jones	Rachel	Kittery	ME	
Jones	Todd	Orono	ME	
Jones	Trevor	Terryville	CT	
Jones	Zach	Glenburn	ME	

Jordan	Abe	Scarborough	ME	
Jordan	Hope	Walpole	MA	
Jordan	Jacob	Ellsworth	ME	
Jordan	Nate	Scarborough	ME	
Joslin	Amanda	Simsbury	CT	
Josselyn	Courtney	Mechanicsburg	PA	
Jourdain	Emma	Becket	MA	
Judkins	Jordyn	Deer Isle	ME	
Juster	Sarah	East Blue Hill	ME	
Kahelin	Anna	Helsinki		Finland
Kaiser	Alexandra	Cinnaminson	NJ	
Kalisz	John	Laconia	NH	
Kane	Devon	Winterport	ME	
Kane	Kat	Falmouth	ME	
Kane	Kevin	Falmouth	ME	
Kaplan	Julia	Hull	MA	
Kaplan	Julie	South Glastonbury	CT	
Kaplan	Stephen	South Berwick	ME	
Karam	Abram	Bangor	ME	
Karam	Gabriel	Bangor	ME	
Karim	Abdul	Saco	ME	
Kariores	Kyle	Gloucester	MA	
Karlins	Alyssa	South Windsor	CT	
Karunasiri	Chathu	Caribou	ME	
Kasai	Yukino	Old Town	ME	
Kauppila	Wesley	Newburgh	ME	
Kaurin	Aleksandar	South Portland	ME	
Kavanah	Camille	Readfield	ME	
Kayser	Ashley	Kennebunk	ME	
Kearns	Gavin	Hampden	ME	

Keaton	Joanna	North Reading	MA	
Keegan	Colleen	Kennebunk	ME	
Keezer	Kyle	Winthrop	ME	
Keisman	Lauren	South Paris	ME	
Kelley	Adam	Windham	ME	
Kelley	Ana	Northport	ME	
Kelley	Grace	Winfield	IL	
Kelley	Jordan	Old Town	ME	
Kelley	Meaghan	Old Town	ME	
Kelley	Mitchell	Falmouth	ME	
Kelly	Ryan	Bar Harbor	ME	
Kelly	Ryan	Hancock	ME	
Kempf	Joy	Ellsworth	ME	
Kenison	Matt	Topsham	ME	
Kennedy	Eilish	Cahir		Ireland
Kennedy	Evan	Morrill	ME	
Kershner	Noah	Newport	ME	
Ketch	Emily	Bradley	ME	
Ketch	Jacob	Bradley	ME	
Keydel	Oscar	South Burlington	VT	
Khalaf	Khulod	Old Town	ME	
Khan	Omar	Brewer	ME	
Khiyara	Ines	Crisnee		Belgium
Kiely	Danielle	Averill Park	NY	
Kiernan	Jenny	Arlington	VT	
Kihn	Naomi	Warren	ME	
Kiley	Andrew	Holden	ME	
Kilgour	Alyssa	Hampden	ME	
Kimball	Jada	Woodville	ME	
Kincaid	Jonathan	Orrington	ME	

King	Andrew	South Hadley	MA	
King	Courtney	Augusta	ME	
King	Dylan	Uxbridge	MA	
King	Jess	Orono	ME	
King	Joshua	Augusta	ME	
Kingman	Bailey	Wilmington	MA	
Kinney	Ryan	Bangor	ME	
Kirby	Adam	North Reading	MA	
Kirk	Katherine	Scarborough	ME	
Kirklian	Grace	Camden	ME	
Klatt	Ricky	Durham	ME	
Klebon	Kat	Old Town	ME	
Klimecka	Natalie	Frydlant nad Ostravici		Czech Republic
Knapp	Andrea	Sullivan	ME	
Kneissler	Casey	Fryeburg	ME	
Knight	Dustin	Berwick	ME	
Knight	Rachel	Dixfield	ME	
Knowles	Joseph	Topsham	ME	
Knowlton	Natalie	Deer Isle	ME	
Kohler	Katie	York	ME	
Kohn	Colby	Orono	ME	
Kolenovic	Deanna	Montclair	NJ	
Kolesnikova	Elena	Old Town	ME	
Kolota	Anna	Jefferson	ME	
Konitzer	Bridget	Ipswich	MA	
Kornsey	Danny	Waterville	ME	
Kosmin	Stephanie	North Chelmsford	MA	
Kotliarov	Antonia	Arlington	VA	
Kowal	Samual	Harmony	ME	
Kowash	Michael	Saco	ME	

Krause	Thomas	Fort Fairfield	ME	
Kreher	Alexander	Reading	MA	
Kriebisch	Annalena	Hennef		Germany
Krout	Eli	Fayette	ME	
Krull	Alexis	Bucksport	ME	
Kucia	Jackie	Rehoboth	MA	
Kuhlka	Birgit	Northfield	MA	
Kukk	Kora	Brookfield	CT	
Kulinski	Anna	Monmouth	ME	
Kuoppala	Ida	Pietarsaari		Finland
Kutzinski	Kira	Buende		Germany
Kuusela	Branden	Gorham	ME	
Kwiatkowsky	Zane	Bath	ME	
Kyle	Kaley	Charlestown	MA	
L'Heureux	Allison	Springvale	ME	
Labbe	Kyle	Brunswick	ME	
Labbe	William	Brunswick	ME	
Labelle	Makayla	Corinth	ME	
Labun	Mike	Hampden	ME	
Lachapelle	Kiel	Norridgewock	ME	
LaCombe	Zach	Winslow	ME	
Lacorazza	Auden	Norwell	MA	
Ladstatter	Kate	Saunderstown	RI	
LaFlamme	Joey	Granby	CT	
Lafleur	Nicholas	Stonington	CT	
LaFrance	Garrett	Alfred	ME	
LaFrance	Joanna	Alfred	ME	
LaFrance	Sophia	Alfred	ME	
Lagerstrom	Emily	Presque Isle	ME	
LaGross	Ryan	Palmyra	ME	

Lamb	Jada	Poland	ME	
Lamb	Jasmine	Poland	ME	
Lambert	Noah	Gorham	ME	
Lambert	Parker	Orono	ME	
Lambrecht	Isaac	Winslow	ME	
Lamkin	Chaz	Standish	ME	
Lamkins	Jordan	Southington	CT	
Lammers Lisnet	Natalie	Bangor	ME	
Lammert	Devon	Rockport	ME	
Lamonica	Bria	Blackwood	NJ	
LaMontagne	Jacob	Berwick	ME	
Lamontagne	Nolan	Scarborough	ME	
Lamoureux	Briana	Kittery	ME	
Lamphear	Wes	Inlet	NY	
Lander	Meg	Orrington	ME	
Lander	Sam	Orrington	ME	
Landon	Nate	Bangor	ME	
Landry	Haley	Windham	ME	
Landry	Kayla	South Berwick	ME	
Landry	Laura	Hampden	ME	
Lane	Anna	York	ME	
Lane	Chantel	Orono	ME	
Lang	Noah	Lincolnville	ME	
Langley	Alexys	Freeport	ME	
Langlois	Connor	Scarborough	ME	
LaPlant	Nicole	Canton	CT	
LaPointe	Jillian	Stow	MA	
Larence	Ciara	Northbridge	MA	
LaRochelle	Haley	Brooks	ME	
Laskey	Eamon	Eddington	ME	

Laszlo	Cheyenne	Woodland	ME	
Latendresse	Colette	Winslow	ME	
Laubscher	Alec	Simsbury	CT	
Laurita	Henry	Hope	ME	
LaValley	Elizabeth	Greenfield	MA	
Laverriere	Michael	Arundel	ME	
Lavoie	Lydia	Winthrop	ME	
Lavoie	Lyndsey	Van Buren	ME	
Lavorati	Alex	Otisfield	ME	
Lawlor	Adan	Waterville	ME	
Lawrence	Matt	Topsham	ME	
Lawrence	Tom	Freeport	ME	
Le	Hoang	Dong Da		Vietnam
Le	Jasmin	Lisbon	ME	
Leary	McKayla	South Berwick	ME	
LeBlanc	Kennedi	Sidney	ME	
Lecrone	Ty	Waterville	ME	
Lee	Gabriella	Bangor	ME	
Lee	Olivia	Lewiston	ME	
Lees	Charles	Saco	ME	
Lefebvre	Ed	Freeport	ME	
Legassey	Madison	Portland	ME	
Leifholt	Emily	Jim Thorpe	PA	
Leland	Zoe	Portland	ME	
Leonard	Ethan	Mount Desert	ME	
Leonard	Evan	Portland	ME	
Leonard	Sydney	Madison	WI	
LePage	Zach	Morrisonville	NY	
Lessard	Alexandra	Jackman	ME	
Lester	Tim	Cumberland Center	ME	

Leung	Annapurna	Braintree	MA	
Leung	Holly	Brooklyn	NY	
Lever	Brooke	Auburn	ME	
Levesque	Andrew	Augusta	ME	
Levinson	Adam	Yarmouth	ME	
Levy	Ethan	Saco	ME	
Lewandowski	Ruth	Portland	ME	
Lewis	Bailey	Skowhegan	ME	
Lewis	Katherine	Windham	ME	
Lewis	MacKenzie	Augusta	ME	
Leydon	Connor	Kingston	MA	
Li	Jiaying	Chengguan Town		China
Libby	Hayden	Topsham	ME	
Libby	Tom	Camden	ME	
Libby	Zac	Milford	ME	
Liberty	Trey	Fairfield	ME	
Libuda	Casey	Gilford	NH	
Liebler-Bendix	Ailin	Jamesville	NY	
Liem	Kendrick	Palo Alto	CA	
Lifland	Bre	Limington	ME	
Light	Thomas	Gorham	ME	
Lin	Enoch	Zhangzhou		China
Lin	Hua	Portland	ME	
Lindbom	Eric	Orono	ME	
Lindyberg	Jack	Raleigh	NC	
Linkel	Reilly	Hancock	ME	
Litif	Jenna	Standish	ME	
Liu	Kaitlin	Orono	ME	
Livingston	Kayla	Billerica	MA	
Llerena	Julianne	Hampden	ME	

Lobdell	Brady	Hampden	ME	
Loberti	Andrew	Bellingham	MA	
Logan	Abby	Buxton	ME	
Logan	Aidan	Leominster	MA	
Logue	Natalie	Clovis	NM	
Long	Jordyn	Limington	ME	
Longe	Chrystal	Walpole	NH	
Looney	Aurore	Old Town	ME	
Loper	Kelton	Norway	ME	
LoPiccolo	Ryan	South Hackensack	NJ	
Loranger	Jake	Portland	ME	
Loranger	Matthew	Norton	MA	
Lord	Griffin	Gorham	ME	
Loring	Sarah	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Love	Delaney	Orono	ME	
Love	Johnny	Reading	MA	
Lovejoy	Olivia	Northport	ME	
Loveless	Noah	Cumberland Center	ME	
Lovering	Alyssa	North Yarmouth	ME	
Lovering	Gabe	Auburn	ME	
Low	Sarah	Orland	ME	
Lowell	Ethan	Scarborough	ME	
Luce	Matt	Brewer	ME	
Luchon	Adam	Willington	CT	
Lueders	Emma	Canton	ME	
Lufkin	Blake	Bangor	ME	
Lund	Emily	Cherry Hill	NJ	
Luong	Joseph	Scarborough	ME	
Lust	Thomas	New Providence	NJ	
Lynch	Danielle	Burlington	MA	

Lynch-Greenberg	Kevin	Marblehead	MA	
Lynes	Brady	Westbrook	ME	
Lynn	Josh	Wilbraham	MA	
Lyons	Felicia	New Gloucester	ME	
MacAdam	Noah	Orono	ME	
MacAskill	Erin	New Fairfield	CT	
Macauley	Madeleine	Mount Desert	ME	
MacBurnie	Amanda	Stillwater	ME	
Macek	Aaron	Wade	ME	
MacGrath	Grace	Charlton	MA	
Mackay	Finn	Carrabassett Valley	ME	
MacKay	Megan	Dracut	MA	
MacMullen	Samiera	Brunswick	ME	
MacNeil	Morgan	Bridgton	ME	
Macolini	Kate	Wells	ME	
Madden	Bryant	Woodstock	GA	
Madden	Dylan	Greenbush	ME	
Madden	Patrick	Washington	ME	
Madeiras	Brooke	Braintree	MA	
Madore	Paige	Bridgewater	MA	
Magnan	Maria	Enosburg Falls	VT	
Magnani	Ralph	Southwest Harbor	ME	
Magnano	Sal	Southington	CT	
Magno	Cillo	Portland	ME	
Mahan	Madison	Portland	ME	
Mahar	Alexander	Rockland	ME	
Maher	Lauren	North Weymouth	MA	
Main	Max	West Hartford	CT	
Main	Megan	Moosup	CT	
Mallett	Samuel	Lee	ME	

Malone	Meghan	Stoneham	MA	
Maloney	Grace	Portland	ME	
Malpica	Henry	North Haledon	NJ	
Maltby	Megan	Chatham	NJ	
Malvin	Jenna	Blue Hill	ME	
Manahan	Aidan	Newcastle	ME	
Mann	Rick	Bowdoinham	ME	
Mao	Shuhan	Voluntari		Romania
Marchand	Rebecca	Methuen	MA	
Marchio	Jacob	Opelika	AL	
Marcotte	Sarah	Bangor	ME	
Marcoux	Leah	Bangor	ME	
Marinaccio	Tyler	Plainview	NY	
Markie	Grady	Bangor	ME	
Marley	D'anna	Woonsocket	RI	
Marshall	Ennis	Little Deer Isle	ME	
Marshall	Kai	Natick	MA	
Marston	Caleb	South Portland	ME	
Martel	Marissa	Portland	ME	
Martell	Trevor	Belfast	ME	
Martin	Brea	Winslow	ME	
Martin	Josh	Farmington	CT	
Martin	Lauren	Bradley	ME	
Martin	Peter	Scarborough	ME	
Martin	Seth	Windham	ME	
Martin	Tenny	Bangor	ME	
Martinez	Ashley	Paterson	NJ	
Marty	Hannah	Harwich	MA	
Mascarenhas	Cassandra	Mississauga	ON	Canada
Mason	Ashley	New Harbor	ME	

Mason	Clayton	Rutland	MA	
Mason	George	Old Town	ME	
Mathers	Kassidy	Island Falls	ME	
Mathews	Mae	Old Town	ME	
Mathieu	Alissa	Orono	ME	
Mathieu	Ashley	Greene	ME	
Mathieu	Emilee	Sanford	ME	
Mathieu	Ethan	Sanford	ME	
Mathieu	Hannah	Sidney	ME	
Mathisen	Sam	Elmore	VT	
Matson	Kate	Englewood	CO	
Matula	Kensi	Albion	ME	
Maurais	Hannah	Jay	ME	
Maurer	Jon	Old Town	ME	
Max	Theresa	Ottsville	PA	
Maxsimic	Katie	Kingfield	ME	
Maxsimic	Maria	Holden	ME	
May	Miriam	Dennis	MA	
Mayo	Douglas	Bridgton	ME	
Mayo	Matthew	Bridgton	ME	
Mazurek	Alexis	Rockland	ME	
McA'Nulty	Sean	Milton	MA	
McAlary	Hannah	Saco	ME	
McCallister	Sarah	Stratham	NH	
McCann	Jack	Rehoboth	MA	
McCannell	Audrey	Pittsfield	ME	
McCarthy	Ben	Saco	ME	
McCarthy	Natalie	Lincoln	ME	
McCaslin	Hunter	Winslow	ME	
McCleary	Regan	Buxton	ME	

McClendon	David	Watertown	CT	
McClung	Olivia	Prince Frederick	MD	
McCluskey	Connor	Orono	ME	
McCluskey	Leah	Seymour	CT	
McCullough	Kaitlin	Ellsworth	ME	
McCurdy	Anna	Lawrence	KS	
McCusker	Cassidy	Windham	ME	
McDaid	Connor	Melrose	MA	
McDermott	Wyatt	Wells	VT	
McDevitt	Thomas	Nahant	MA	
McDonald	Meghan	Beverly	MA	
McDonald	Sydney	Madison	ME	
McDonough	Bryson	Bangor	ME	
McDonough	Katie	Groveland	MA	
McFadden	Katelynn	Bensalem	PA	
McFaden	Delaney	Stafford	VA	
McGarry	Morgan	Scarborough	ME	
McGeoghegan	Chris	Litchfield	ME	
McGill	Eli	Windham	ME	
McGilvery	Reilly	North Berwick	ME	
McGlone	Aidan	Limington	ME	
McGlynn	Alyssa	Westwood	NJ	
McGowan	Natasha	Gray	ME	
McGraw	Ryan	Hampden	ME	
McGuire	Caitlin	Shelton	CT	
McInnis	Tim	Portland	ME	
McIntosh	Micah	New Providence		Bahamas
Mcintyre	Duncan	Lincoln	ME	
McKelvy	David	Scarborough	ME	
McKendry	Elise	Long Pond Township	ME	

McKenna	Brynn	Bristol	RI	
McKenney	Caitlin	Harmony	ME	
McKenney	Jacob	South Berwick	ME	
McKenney	Sydnie	Hampden	ME	
McKeon	Daniel	Searsport	ME	
McKeon	Meagan	Searsport	ME	
McKim	Miranda	Trenton	ME	
McKinney	Tracey	Belfast	ME	
McLaughlin	Kalee	Old Town	ME	
McLaughlin	Lily	Bangor	ME	
McLaughlin	Mark	Hampden	ME	
McLaughlin	Mark	Manchester	ME	
McLellan	Sierra	Augusta	ME	
McLeod	Kasey	Swanville	ME	
McLeod	Ryann	Rutland	VT	
McMillan	Kassidy	Kenduskeag	ME	
McNally	Mike	Moscow	ME	
McNally	Zoe	Bowdoin	ME	
McNamara	Charlie	Marshfield	MA	
McNamara	Tess	Eliot	ME	
McNaughton	Sammy	Bangor	ME	
McNicholl	Gemma	Downingtown	PA	
McNutt	Nate	Norway	ME	
McWhorter	Audrey	Tipp City	OH	
Meade	Julia	Skowhegan	ME	
Meader	Sydney	Boothbay Harbor	ME	
Meas	Felix	Springvale	ME	
Medenica	Marija	Phippsburg	ME	
Meeker	Victoria	East Haven	CT	
Meidahl	Hannah	Clinton	ME	

Meirelles-Cochran	Antonio	Hyannis	MA	
Melbourne	Will	Fairfield	CT	
Mendoza	Marissa	Old Town	ME	
Meneley	Sarah	Tolono	IL	
Menter	Maggie	Lebanon	ME	
Mercado	Isabella	Brimfield	MA	
Merchant	Erin	Windham	ME	
Merchant	Hunter	Northport	ME	
Merchant	Keith	Lynnfield	MA	
Merchant	Shelby	Dixmont	ME	
Merchant	Taylor	Franklin	ME	
Mercier	Katie	Sidney	ME	
Meredith-Pickett	Sydney	Orono	ME	
Merlino	Andy	Barrington	RI	
Merriam	Nick	Brooks	ME	
Merrifield	Hilary	Rockport	ME	
Messier	April	North Haven	ME	
Meuse	Zach	Atkinson	NH	
Meyer-Waldo	Sarah	West Bath	ME	
Michaud	Aidan	North Yarmouth	ME	
Michaud	Reba	Carmel	ME	
Michaud	Sahvannah	Hermon	ME	
Michaud	Sawyer	Belgrade	ME	
Mild	Owen	Bernard	ME	
Mildrum	Kali	Falmouth	ME	
Miles	Bethany	Old Town	ME	
Miller	Abbe	Bar Harbor	ME	
Miller	Alicen	Bangor	ME	
Miller	Caleb	Bowdoinham	ME	
Miller	Dominic	Houlton	ME	

Miller	Dylan	Auburn	ME	
Miller-Finch	Margaret	Bangor	ME	
Milligan	Mary	Winthrop	ME	
Milliken	Brenna	Gray	ME	
Mills	Mallory	Holden	ME	
Mills	Nic	Chelsea	ME	
Mills	Ray	Bryant Pond	ME	
Milton	Kara	Pembroke	MA	
Miner	Jordan	East Baldwin	ME	
Mitchell	Sarah	Camden	ME	
Mittleider	Brendan	Falmouth	ME	
Mohamud	Mohamed	Lewiston	ME	
Mohr	Jacob	Plantsville	CT	
Moline	Brendan	Lincolnville	ME	
Monto	Noah	Sanford	ME	
Montuori	Isabella	Northborough	MA	
Moody	Elizabeth	Chelmsford	MA	
Moody	Miles	Westbrook	ME	
Mooney	Emily	Portland	ME	
Moore	Cole	Cumberland Center	ME	
Moore	Hadley	Old Town	ME	
Morales	Brittany	Levant	ME	
Morel	Jordyn	Fall River	MA	
Morgus	Matthew	Lancaster	NY	
Morin	Andrea	Ipswich	MA	
Morin	Chad	Turner	ME	
Morin	Donna	Saint David	ME	
Moring	Noah	Sabattus	ME	
Morneault	Garrett	Mapleton	ME	
Morneault	Hollie	Madawaska	ME	

Morneault	Maddy	Winslow	ME	
Morneault	Sarah	Mapleton	ME	
Morrill	Hailey	Gorham	ME	
Morrill	Haley	Rangeley	ME	
Morrill	Jason	Saco	ME	
Morrison	Alex	Baileyville	ME	
Morrison	Ally	Barnet	VT	
Morrison	Blake	Ebeemee Township	ME	
Morrison	Emily	Wells	ME	
Morrison-Ouellette	Abigail	Scarborough	ME	
Morrissey	Liam	New Boston	NH	
Morrissey	Lilly	Woodbridge	CT	
Morse	Sam	Bangor	ME	
Morse	Zechariah	Presque Isle	ME	
Morton	Madison	Detroit	ME	
Moseley	Kody	North Berwick	ME	
Mosqueda	Peter	Reading	MA	
Moss	Elwin	Waterville	ME	
Mosson	Abigail	Hiram	ME	
Motmans	Nicholas	Cheshire	CT	
Moulton	Emma	Ipswich	MA	
Mount	Trevor	Long Valley	NJ	
Moynihan	Naomi	Bangor	ME	
Muchemore-Allen	Steele	West Newfield	ME	
Muir	Mark	Hudson	ME	
Mullen	Austin	Scarborough	ME	
Mullin	Natalie	Cumberland Center	ME	
Mulvey	Chris	Wappingers Falls	NY	
Mundinger	Stephen	Smithtown	NY	
Munro-Ludders	Eli	Bath	ME	

Munroe	Heather	Penobscot	ME	
Murdaugh	Kayla	Old Town	ME	
Murdaugh	Shaina	East Machias	ME	
Murphy	Cassidy	Willow Grove	PA	
Murphy	Lauren	Lubec	ME	
Murphy	Lauren	Scarborough	ME	
Murphy	Michael	West Baldwin	ME	
Murphy	Olivia	Hudson	NH	
Murphy	Rachael	Old Town	ME	
Murphy	Sean	Wallingford	CT	
Murray	Emily	Scarborough	ME	
Murray	Mackenzie	Thomaston	ME	
Muscat	Abigail	Bass Harbor	ME	
Musor	Jon	Bangor	ME	
Myers	Kyle	Brighton	MI	
Nadeau	Hannah	Litchfield	ME	
Nadeau	Kaitlyn	Caribou	ME	
Nadeau	Kassie	Vassalboro	ME	
Naglestad	Beate	Son		Norway
Nagy	Jason	Old Town	ME	
Nahabedian	Natalie	Southborough	MA	
Naisbitt	Maya	Blue Hill	ME	
Nally	Colin	Endicott	NY	
Nason	Maraia	Sebago	ME	
Nduaguibe	Alex	South Berwick	ME	
Neel	Patty	Bangor	ME	
Neil	Sam	Mattawamkeag	ME	
Nelson	Cooper	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Nelson	Haley	Scarborough	ME	
Neptune	Leigh	Bangor	ME	

Neptune	Sage	Indian Island	ME	
Neumann	Carson	Biddeford	ME	
Newbold	Ollie	Trumbull	CT	
Newcomb	Emma	Chelmsford	MA	
Newkirk	James	Bryant Pond	ME	
Newton	Kiana	Littleton	NH	
Nguyen	Tommy	Portland	ME	
Nicholas	Audrey	Princeton	ME	
Nichols	Sarah	Brentwood	NH	
Nichols	Stephanie	Windham	ME	
Niehoff	Erin	Blue Hill	ME	
Nielsen	Jason	Windham	ME	
Niles	Hannah	Saco	ME	
Nisbet	Leanne	Swampscott	MA	
Nitchman	Bryce	Scarborough	ME	
Nixon	MacKenzie	Holden	ME	
Nkulikiyinka	Theophile	Kigali		Rwanda
Noddin	Connor	Bangor	ME	
Nordstrom	Zachary	Harwinton	CT	
Novak	Abby	Hampden	ME	
Novicki	Allie	Minot	ME	
Nowak	Claire	Geneva	IL	
Noyes	Frank	Holden	ME	
Noyes	Kody	Topsham	ME	
Nugent	Hannah	Sloatsburg	NY	
Nugent	John	Rockport	ME	
Nuttall	Sabrina	Old Town	ME	
Nutting	J.T.	Fairfield	ME	
Nwakogo	Grace	Austell	GA	
Nye	Parker	Burlington	CT	

Nygaard	Aubree	Old Town	ME	
O'Brien	Liam	Oxford	CT	
O'Brien	Peter	Eliot	ME	
O'Brien	Terence	Eliot	ME	
O'Brien	Thomas	Millis	MA	
O'Connell	Danielle	York	ME	
O'Connell	Megan	Sanford	ME	
O'Donnell	Laura	Tewksbury	MA	
O'Donnell	Mackenzie	Portland	ME	
O'Dowd	Kelly	Millis	MA	
O'Flaherty	Mary	Lowell	MA	
O'Grady	Shannon	Hopewell	NJ	
O'Keefe	Armand	South Orange	NJ	
O'Neil	Will	Orono	ME	
O'Neill	Dan	Bangor	ME	
Oakes	Breanne	Hermon	ME	
Oakley	Corrina	Stillwater	ME	
Obaidan	Ali	Orono	ME	
Oberly	Brody	Stewartsville	NJ	
Ocana	Ellie	Lincoln	ME	
Ochoa	Israel	Clermont	FL	
Odrzywolski	Lukas	Gray	ME	
Oehler	Morgan	Elkridge	MD	
Ogle	Allison	Oxford	CT	
Olivares	Jasmine	San Antonio	TX	
Oliver	Noah	Westbrook	ME	
Olmstead	Emma	Veazie	ME	
Olmsted	Billy	Warren	ME	
Olsen	Amanda	Columbus	OH	
Olsen	Braden	Boothbay	ME	

Olsen	Tucker	Hartford	ME	
Olshin	Jasmine	Scarborough	ME	
Olzinski	Molly	Johnson City	NY	
Orach	Ethan	Gorham	ME	
Orchanian	Jonathan	Burlington	MA	
Ordazzo	Caroline	South Weymouth	MA	
Ordway	Seth	New Gloucester	ME	
Orethun	Darien	Lancaster	WI	
Orlov	Alex	Wayland	MA	
Orth	Kirk	Glenolden	PA	
Osterhout	Sydney	Bath	ME	
Ouellette	Ashley	Bangor	ME	
Ouellette	Chantal	Ellsworth	ME	
Ouellette	Emma	Simsbury	CT	
Ouellette	Rachel	Woolwich	ME	
Overturf	Maija	Corinth	ME	
Overturf	Tuuli	Corinth	ME	
Owen	Sydney	Buxton	ME	
Paetow	Sabrina	Topsham	ME	
Pagano	Rocco	West Deptford	NJ	
Page	Ashley	Manchester	PA	
Page	Baxter	Newtown	CT	
Page	Lauren	Scarborough	ME	
Palangas	Sophia	Weare	NH	
Palazzo	Hana	Poughkeepsie	NY	
Palmer	Mikayla	West Gardiner	ME	
Palmeter	Josh	Orono	ME	
Palow	Eliza	Windham	ME	
Panagakos	Gaby	Scarborough	ME	
Panetta	Brina	Saugus	MA	

Panyi	Zoltan	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Paradie	Emma	Auburn	ME	
Paradis	Alex	Glenburn	ME	
Parent	Jacob	Brunswick	ME	
Park	Jinyoung	Old Town	ME	
Park	Soojin	Old Town	ME	
Parker	Lacey	Norton	MA	
Parks	Ben	Fairfield	ME	
Parks	Jordan	Orono	ME	
Parsons	Alia	Orrington	ME	
Parsons	Kayla	Old Town	ME	
Parsons	Stephanie	Bishop's Stortford		United Kingdom
Parsons	Taylor	Glastonbury	CT	
Passarelli	Josh	Scarborough	ME	
Pate	Maura	Milbridge	ME	
Patel	Niraj	Sanford	ME	
Patten	Connor	Hermon	ME	
Patterson	Matt	Winslow	ME	
Patton	Joseph	Topsham	ME	
Patton	Taylor	North Haven	CT	
Paul	Ashley	Saco	ME	
Paul	Sam	Biddeford	ME	
Pazdziorko	Andrew	Winthrop	ME	
Peabody	Ethan	York	ME	
Pearson	Courtney	Holden	ME	
Pearson	Mariah	Mooresville	NC	
Pearson	Seth	Holden	ME	
Peary	Alexandra	Cumberland Center	ME	
Pease	Isabel	York	ME	
Pedersen	Ryan	Whitefield	ME	

Peirce	Cammie	Hermon	ME	
Peirce	Neill	Sewickley	PA	
Pelletier	Chelsea	Madawaska	ME	
Pelletier	Ellie	Industry	ME	
Pelletier	Gabe	Unionville	CT	
Pelletier	Hanna	Salem	CT	
Pelletier	Miles	Industry	ME	
Peluso	Gabriella	Dumont	NJ	
Pender	Troy	Amesbury	MA	
Pendleton	Alisha	Lincolnville	ME	
Pendleton	Frances	Rockport	ME	
Penley	Hunter	Saco	ME	
Penney	Sarah	South Thomaston	ME	
Peoples	Kyle	Gorham	ME	
Perez	Mary	Laguna Niguel	CA	
Perkins	Chandler	Exeter	ME	
Perkins	Chris	Wiscasset	ME	
Perkins	Daniel	Bangor	ME	
Perrino	Francis	Norwich	CT	
Perron	Grace	Bangor	ME	
Perrotta	Margaret	Freeport	ME	
Perry	Alex	Bangor	ME	
Perry	Ember	Orrington	ME	
Perry	Hailey	Hermon	ME	
Perry	Ryan	Scarborough	ME	
Peterson	Anna	Chelsea	ME	
Peterson	Josh	Levant	ME	
Petherick	Andrew	Groton	CT	
Petrovich	Matthew	Bridgeport	CT	
Petty	Jadon	Windham	ME	

Philippone	Maura	Camillus	NY	
Phipps	Owen	Newburyport	MA	
Piccininni	Stephanie	Colonia	NJ	
Pickard	Renee	Sabattus	ME	
Picone	Jojo	Bangor	ME	
Pierce	Emily	Barre	VT	
Piersa	Adam	Stamford	CT	
Pietri	Brooke	Orono	ME	
Pike	Aiden	Belfast	ME	
Pike	Samantha	Falmouth	ME	
Pini	Michela	Framingham	MA	
Pinkham	Jon	Damariscotta	ME	
Pinnette	Anthony	Waterville	ME	
Pirruccello-McClellan	Aidan	Foster	RI	
Pisone	Chase	Laurel	MD	
Pitcairn	Joshua	Lincolnville	ME	
Pitman	Julia	Beverly	MA	
Pitts	Delaney	Shapleigh	ME	
Plese	Andrew	Richardson	TX	
Poirier	Abbey	Doylestown	PA	
Poirier	Brianna	Winchester	NH	
Poisson	Ben	Vancouver	BC	Canada
Poisson	Owen	Brunswick	ME	
Poisson	Rachel	Bangor	ME	
Poitras	Brennan	Caribou	ME	
Polchies	Megan	Gorham	ME	
Poliquin	Jamie	Lewiston	ME	
Pollard	Jeffrey	Raymond	ME	
Pomeroy	Allison	Old Town	ME	
Pontius	Kate	Portland	ME	

Poole	Nate	South Berwick	ME	
Pooler	Emma	Fort Kent	ME	
Porter	Cody	Hermon	ME	
Porter	Kaylee	Palermo	ME	
Porter	Tate	Cumberland Center	ME	
Porter	Tyson	Sherman	ME	
Potter	Abby	Ipswich	MA	
Potter	Lauren	Glenburn	ME	
Potts	Christian	Freeport	ME	
Poulin	Nick	Augusta	ME	
Prats	Zoe	York	PA	
Pratt	Banalata	Bangor	ME	
Pratt-Holt	Nate	Farmington	ME	
Prescott	William	Orrington	ME	
Preston	Reese	Windham	ME	
Prevost	Nola	Brewer	ME	
Price	Matt	Sebago	ME	
Prodehl	Jena	Arnold	MD	
Profenno	Lucas	Portland	ME	
Proulx	Jared	Longmeadow	MA	
Pullen	Ryan	Oakland	ME	
Punch	Tyler	Hebron	ME	
Purple	Spencer	Westford	MA	
Qualey	Sara	Norridgewock	ME	
Quimby	Ben	Old Town	ME	
Quinn	Liam	Scituate	MA	
Quirion	Briana	Waterville	ME	
Radziucz	Aaron	South Portland	ME	
Rae	Polly	Buxton	ME	
Rafferty	Neil	Mason	NH	

Rafford	Trevor	North Yarmouth	ME	
Raimondi	Abby	Groveland	MA	
Ramsay	William	South Berwick	ME	
Rand	Colby	Orrington	ME	
Randall	Jordan	Pownal	ME	
Ransom	Gabriel	Windham	ME	
Raplee	Brooke	Manorville	NY	
Rappaport	Devon	Kensington	MD	
Rasco	Zale	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Ratz	Marcus	Limerick	ME	
Raven	Kristen	Thorndike	ME	
Rawat	Pooja	Hebron	ME	
Raymond	Kayla	Standish	ME	
Raymond	Kaylyn	Hermon	ME	
Raymond	Rebecca	Auburn	ME	
Reed	Eva	Augusta	ME	
Reed	Joey	Topsham	ME	
Reese	Connor	Veazie	ME	
Reese	Nate	Veazie	ME	
Reeves	Mindy	Old Town	ME	
Regan	Adam	Old Town	ME	
Regan	Aidan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Reichel	Melissa	Hampden	ME	
Reid	Emily	Dighton	MA	
Reilly	Ally	Merrick	NY	
Reimer	Sam	McAllen	TX	
Rengifo	Valentina	Rochester	MI	
Requena	Alexandra	Gray	ME	
Reynolds	Ashley	Dexter	ME	
Reynolds	Mikayla	Waterville	ME	

Rezack	Stephen	South Berwick	ME	
Rhoads-Doyle	Collin	Holden	ME	
Rhoads-Doyle	Jamison	Holden	ME	
Rice	Tyson	Stonington	ME	
Rich	Max	Jamaica Plain	MA	
Richard	Joseph	Peabody	MA	
Richard	Sam	Standish	ME	
Richards	Brandon	Bangor	ME	
Richards	Jeremy	Westbrook	ME	
Richards	Jordan	Orono	ME	
Richards	Kailey	Eddington	ME	
Richardson	Emma	Blue Hill	ME	
Richardson	Jeremiah	Rumford	ME	
Richardson	Lauren	Brewer	ME	
Richardson	Rachael	Hillsborough	NJ	
Richardson	Sadie	Milton Township	ME	
Richardson	Taylor	Brewer	ME	
Richmond	Dylan	Mason Township	ME	
Ricker	Ashley	Westbrook	ME	
Ricker	Brianna	Port Moody	BC	Canada
Rideout	Angela	Newburgh	ME	
Ridgell	Colin	Arlington	VA	
Ridley	Kaitlyn	Brunswick	ME	
Ridlon	Lindsey	Monmouth	ME	
Riley	Olivia	Brockton	MA	
Rinne	Claire	Walpole	MA	
Riordan	Declan	Bangor	ME	
Rioux	Brady	Gorham	ME	
Ritchey	Nicole	Coralville	IA	
Rivera	Kevin	Paterson	NJ	

Rivera	Sofia	Oakhurst	NJ	
Rivet	Ben	Groton	MA	
Roberts	Abigail	Damariscotta	ME	
Roberts	Diane	Bangor	ME	
Roberts	Lauren	Corinna	ME	
Roberts	Paige	Colebrook	CT	
Roberts	Sam	North Scituate	RI	
Roberts	Sean	Harpswell	ME	
Robertson	Kaylie	Pembroke	ME	
Robidoux	Tyler	Merrimack	NH	
Robinson	Kaitlyn	Frankfort	ME	
Robinson	Morganne	Palmyra	ME	
Robinson	Natalie	Wells	ME	
Robinson	Zeke	Farmington	ME	
Robson	Ben	Old Town	ME	
Rocks	Morgan	Jonesport	ME	
Rodriguez	Sethany	Veazie	ME	
Roebuck	Lewis	Wakefield	RI	
Rogers	Harley	Milford	ME	
Rogers	Kirstie	Winslow	ME	
Rogers	Maev	Bar Harbor	ME	
Rogers	Mariah	Hermon	ME	
Rogorzenski	Callie	Marstons Mills	MA	
Rolfe	Avery	Windham	ME	
Rollins	Leila	Orono	ME	
Rollins	Logan	Pittsfield	ME	
Roman	Victoria	Alexandria	NH	
Roman	Zander	Belfast	ME	
Rooker	Brady	Rutland	VT	
Rooms	Caitlyn	Woodbridge	VA	

Rooney	Kyle	Amesbury	MA	
Rosander	Chad	Sanford	ME	
Rosenthal-Baxter	Andrew	West Hartford	CT	
Ross	Callie	Walpole	MA	
Ross	JC	Fairhaven	MA	
Ross	Julia	Vancouver	BC	Canada
Ross	Katy	Kennebunk	ME	
Rossi	Marissa	Waltham	MA	
Roth	Emily	Little Egg Harbor Township	NJ	
Roussel	Simon	Gorham	ME	
Rowe	Emma	Bangor	ME	
Roy	David	Fort Kent	ME	
Roy	Nash	Carmel	ME	
Roy	Tanya	Vernon Rockville	CT	
Rubocki	Skylar	Auburn	ME	
Rudis	Jarrod	Berwick	ME	
Ruggiero	Lindsey	Orrington	ME	
Ruksznis	Jackie	South Berwick	ME	
Rukumbuzi	Francois	Old Town	ME	
Ruppert	Clara	Bar Harbor	ME	
Rush	Adam	Hermon	ME	
Russell	Ashley	Readfield	ME	
Russell	Jordan	Houlton	ME	
Russell	Rianna	Windham	ME	
Russell	Sophie	York	ME	
Russo	Vincent	Poland	ME	
Rutherford	Alex	Vancouver	WA	
Ryan	Ally	Leeds	ME	
Ryan	Dillon	Saint Johnsbury	VT	
Ryan	Joshua	Braintree	MA	

Ryan	Lauren	Babylon	NY	
Ryan	Tim	Holliston	MA	
Ryckman	Matt	Orono	ME	
Saar	Dor	Maanit		Israel
Sabatino	Lauren	Scarborough	ME	
Sabourin	Mary	Stow	MA	
Sager	Tarek	Orono	ME	
Sailor	Ethan	Bangor	ME	
Sainsbury	Chelsea	Watertown	CT	
Salafia	Anthony	Orono	ME	
Salisbury	Corey	Orono	ME	
Salley	Alyssa	Bangor	ME	
Saltzman	Lydia	Beverly	MA	
Sample	Riley	Montgomery	TX	
Sandberg	Amanda Linnea	Skurup		Sweden
Sandoval	Andreas	South Portland	ME	
Sands	Gabby	Plymouth	ME	
Sansoucie	Mikaella	South Berwick	ME	
Santerre	Haley	West Gardiner	ME	
Santerre	Steven	Bangor	ME	
Santiago	Steven	Hampden	ME	
Sargent	Jamie	South Portland	ME	
Sargent	Jessica	Brewer	ME	
Saucier	Desiree	Waterboro	ME	
Saulter	Sammi	Waterville	ME	
Savage	Jacob	Union	ME	
Savage	Owen	Holliston	MA	
Savage	Spencer	Caribou	ME	
Sawicki	Mary	Aurora	CO	
Sawtelle	Alainie	Vassalboro	ME	

Sawyer	Bobby	Freeport	ME	
Scanlon	Ian	Topsham	ME	
Schaff	Joshua	Oakland	ME	
Schaffer	Claire	Berlin	MA	
Schatzabel	Brennan	Kennebunk	ME	
Schell	Vinny	Oceanside	NY	
Schena	Chris	Middleton	MA	
Schneider	Lydia	Bowdoinham	ME	
Schnoor	Ceejai	Atlantic Highlands	NJ	
Schor	Kim	Cromwell	CT	
Schumann	Anna	Moers		Germany
Schwab	Orion	Livermore Falls	ME	
Schwehm	Maya	Boothbay	ME	
Scillia	Aaron	Ellsworth	ME	
Scott	Brendan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Scott	Caden	Portland	ME	
Scott	Caroline	York	ME	
Scott	Dakota	Milford	ME	
Scott	Madi	Cumberland Center	ME	
Scott	Rachel	Presque Isle	ME	
Scott-Mitchell	Abby	Naples	ME	
Scrapchansky	Lea	Brunswick	ME	
Scruton	Emily	Framingham	MA	
See	Isabelle	Bangor	ME	
Seekins	Jordan	Bangor	ME	
Seekins	Katie	Oakland	ME	
Seeley	Devyn	Perry	ME	
Segal	Sydney	Windham	ME	
Segovia	Remy	Wiscasset	ME	
Seifeldin	Karim	Exeter	ME	

Seigars	Colt	Edgecomb	ME	
Seile	Nick	Augusta	ME	
Sellinger	Sydney	Baltimore	MD	
Sennett	Max	Bangor	ME	
Sergi	Samuel	Brewer	ME	
Sernyk	Isabella	Windham	ME	
Servetas	Jordan	Bucksport	ME	
Sewall	Erin	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Sewell	Marissa	Eliot	ME	
Sforza	Matt	Hermon	ME	
Shane	Andrea	Vinalhaven	ME	
Shannon	Logan	Orono	ME	
Sharp	Alainna	Glen Gardner	NJ	
Shaw	Alia	Cutler	ME	
Shaw	Chrissy	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Shaw	Kohl	Bernard	ME	
Shaw	Mari	Mapleton	ME	
Shaw	Nathanael	South Paris	ME	
Shaw	Oren	Turner	ME	
Shaw	Owen	Hermon	ME	
Shaw	Parker	Bangor	ME	
Shea	Jaymie	Ipswich	MA	
Shea	Lexington	Montpelier	VT	
Shea	Mady	Rutland	MA	
Shea	Maeve	Brunswick	ME	
Shea	Molly	East Kingston	NH	
Shean	Juliette	Shelburne Falls	MA	
Shepardson	Victoria	South Windsor	CT	
Shepherd	Noah	Fairfield	ME	
Shepley	Chris	Winchester	VA	

Sherman	Nicholas	Hodgdon	ME	
Sherwood	Clement	Brookline	NH	
Shevlin-Fernandes	Jennifer	Falmouth	MA	
Shields	Chloe	Eliot	ME	
Shipsey	Olivia	Old Town	ME	
Shokal	James	Alexandria	NH	
Shooter	Cori	Monroe	ME	
Shorette	Ryan	Milford	ME	
Shunk	Nathan	State College	PA	
Siciliano	Gabbie	Simi Valley	CA	
Siliato	Sophia	Mahopac	NY	
Silva	Camilla	Framingham	MA	
Silva	Michele	Teaneck	NJ	
Silver	Deborah	Old Town	ME	
Silvera	Jasmine	Lowell	MA	
Simbari	Izzy	Falmouth	ME	
Simon	Anne	Sandweiler		Luxembourg
Singer	Violet	Falmouth	ME	
Siracusa	Zack	Trenton	NJ	
Sirota	Jakub	Orono	ME	
Skidgel	Chrissy	Caribou	ME	
Skvorak	Katie	Windham	ME	
Slattery	Bobby	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Slattery	Lucy	Newington	CT	
Slauenwhite	Abigail	Bangor	ME	
Slaven	Jeremy	Westbrook	ME	
Slaven	Michael	Beverly	MA	
Slocum	Bella	Old Town	ME	
Slocum	Caitlin	Austin	TX	
Small	Nicholas	North Yarmouth	ME	

Smart	Bailey	Greene	ME	
Smith	Abby	Orono	ME	
Smith	Audrey	Orono	ME	
Smith	Baylee	Carmel	ME	
Smith	Brett	York	ME	
Smith	Bryce	West Gardiner	ME	
Smith	Chiara	East Montpelier	VT	
Smith	Emma	Old Town	ME	
Smith	Evan	Hollis Center	ME	
Smith	Hope	North Smithfield	RI	
Smith	Hunter	Duxbury	MA	
Smith	Jackson	West Suffield	CT	
Smith	Jared	Holden	ME	
Smith	Jasmine	Old Town	ME	
Smith	Joshua	Bradley	ME	
Smith	Kiera	Orono	ME	
Smith	Mari	Farmingdale	ME	
Smith	Melanie	Cranford	NJ	
Smith	Selah	Orono	ME	
Smith	Shannon	Orono	ME	
Smy	Isabelle	Cumming	GA	
Snow	Jake	Plainfield	CT	
Snow	Sierra	Hermon	ME	
Snow	Trevor	Stetson	ME	
Snyder	Miranda	Brimfield	MA	
Sobiech	Megan	Eagan	MN	
Sobus	Aja	Falmouth	ME	
Sockbeson	Nyle	Orono	ME	
Solans	Paige	Germantown	MD	
Somes	William	Ellsworth	ME	

Sommer	Jasper	Portland	ME	
Sorenson	Erika	Shrewsbury	MA	
Soucy	Collin	Bangor	ME	
Soucy	Emilienne	Old Town	ME	
Soucy	Evangeline	Augusta	ME	
Soucy	Melanie	Old Town	ME	
Soucy	Nick	Harrison	ME	
Soule	Braden	Fairfield	ME	
Sousa	Ross	Somerset	MA	
Southworth	Katie	Hope	ME	
Spagnolo	Katie	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Spaller	Will	Newbury	MA	
Spann	Jennifer	Newburgh	ME	
Sparks-Willey	Isaac	Scarborough	ME	
Spaulding	Anna	Brewer	ME	
Speakman	Brynne	Bethel	ME	
Spear	Betsy	Holden	ME	
Spearin	Belle	Bangor	ME	
Spencer	Caroline	Falmouth	ME	
Spencer	Madison	Hermon	ME	
Sperber	Jacob	Yarmouth	ME	
Spicer	Cam	Erie	CO	
Spidle	Gavin	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Spiller	Elizabeth	Orono	ME	
Spinney	Jack	Newburyport	MA	
Sprecher	Emily	Orono	ME	
Sprecher	Hannah	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Spriggs	Holly	Dover	NH	
Springer	Brooke	Glenburn	ME	
St Jean	Drew	Stillwater	ME	

St John	Amelia	Scarborough	ME	
St John	Samuel	Durham	CT	
St Louis	Natalie	Milford	ME	
St Peter	Melissa	Bucksport	ME	
St Peter	Mitch	Caribou	ME	
St Pierre	Elyse	Winslow	ME	
Stahle	Madison	Wiscasset	ME	
Staines	Liam	Trumbull	CT	
Stamey	Mia	Westbrook	ME	
Stansfield	David	Berwick	ME	
Stanton	Molly	Franklin	MA	
Stapleton	Jack	Lebanon	ME	
Stasinos	Evan	Peabody	MA	
Stavnezer	Ryan	Millinocket	ME	
Stedt	Cortney	Milford	ME	
Steinbrecher	Jared	Bellingham	MA	
Steinhoff	Nathan	Medway	MA	
Stenger	Matthew	Sidney	ME	
Stephanou	Andreas	Nicosia		Cyprus
Stephens	Corey	Bangor	ME	
Stephens	Meredith	Derwood	MD	
Steva	Benjamin	Saco	ME	
Stevens	Annie	Windham	ME	
Stevens	Braedon	Hermon	ME	
Stevens	Conor	Kennebunk	ME	
Stevens	Jane	Upper Tantallon	NS	Canada
Stewart	James	North Berwick	ME	
Stewart	Kaitlin	Louisville	OH	
Stewart	Sarah	Groveland	MA	
Stiffler	Thomas	Dover Foxcroft	ME	

Stillman	Ezra	Saco	ME	
Stimpel	Trey	Old Town	ME	
Stockford	Meri	Bowdoinham	ME	
Stockley	Leela	Orono	ME	
Stoddard	Kimberly	Danforth	ME	
Stoltzfus	Karly	Weyers Cave	VA	
Stone	Samuel	Greenwood	ME	
Stott	Catherine	Oldham		United Kingdom
Stover	Austin	Ellsworth	ME	
Stover	Lindsey	Enfield	CT	
Straight	Michael	Westwood	NJ	
Strandberg	Ebba	Kalmar		Sweden
Stranieri	Danielle	Syosset	NY	
Strauch	Cassandra	Marysville	OH	
Streinz	Caleb	Hersey	ME	
Streletsky	Michelle	Haverhill	MA	
Strickland	Nicole	Owls Head	ME	
Strickler	James	Tewksbury	MA	
Strolic	Caroline	Phoenix	AZ	
Stromvall	Kayla	Winterport	ME	
Struppe	Lasse	Gloucester	MA	
Studholme	Maeve	North Easton	MA	
Stumer	Peter	Orono	ME	
Stupak	Lauren	Oakton	VA	
Sturdevant	Taylor	Eliot	ME	
Sturgess	Lauren	Topsham	ME	
Stutzman	Jake	Harmony	ME	
Suchovic	Jessie	Port Murray	NJ	
Sudol	Sabrina	Ramsey	NJ	
Sudol	Samantha	Ramsey	NJ	

Suleiman	Lia	Gorham	ME	
Sulinski	Brooke	Old Town	ME	
Sullivan	Amelia	Kittery	ME	
Sullivan	Anthony	Sutton	MA	
Sullivan	Cameron	Old Town	ME	
Sullivan	Eric	Augusta	ME	
Sullivan	Natalie	Malden	MA	
Sundstrom	Brian	Walpole	MA	
Sutton	Kaitlyn	North Kingstown	RI	
Svec	Malcolm	Eastbrook	ME	
Swanson	Parker	North Yarmouth	ME	
Swazey	Jessica	Bucksport	ME	
Sweeney	Gillian	Byfield	MA	
Sweeney	Jessie	Bradley	ME	
Sweetser	Brooke	Old Town	ME	
Swett	Sara	Glen Ridge	NJ	
Swift	Logan	Gorham	ME	
Swope	Samuel	Eagle Lake	ME	
Szewczyk	Thomas	Bangor	ME	
Szumilas	Kendall	Bucksport	ME	
Szymanski	Edison	Bristol	CT	
Tabaku	Gevio	Tirana		Albania
Takaoka	Johannes	Machida		Japan
Talcove	Hannah	Old Town	ME	
Tallapureddy	Arihant	Bolton	CT	
Tanner	Desiree	Brunswick	ME	
Tanner	Tiffany	Carmel	ME	
Tanous	Haid	South Paris	ME	
Tanous	Natalie	Bangor	ME	
Tapley	Sierra	Bar Harbor	ME	

Tardiff	Colin	Scarborough	ME	
Tarpey	Ryan	Wakefield	MA	
Tatten	Madison	Northborough	MA	
Tauke	Jake	Old Town	ME	
Taylor	Alec	South Berwick	ME	
Taylor	Avery	Kingfield	ME	
Taylor	Sara	Farmington	ME	
Temple	Kazu	Orono	ME	
Temple	Kylie	Richmond	ME	
Tereshkina	Dasha	Chelyabinsk		Russian Federation
Tero	Ben	Portland	ME	
Terrill	James	Bucksport	ME	
Terry	Grace	Gray	ME	
Tesini	Nicolas	Bolton	MA	
Testa	Madeline	Gray	ME	
Thayer	Amanda	New Gloucester	ME	
Thayer	Rose	Sutton	MA	
Thelander	Tommy	Bristol	ME	
Theriault	Liz	Saint David	ME	
Theriault	Ryan	Auburn	ME	
Thibeau	Austin	Presque Isle	ME	
Thibodeau	Arend	Harmony	ME	
Thibodeau	Gage	Bangor	ME	
Thibodeau	Irene	Stockholm	ME	
Thiboutot	Jeremy	Woolwich	ME	
Thieme	Rachel	Topsham	ME	
Thiessen	Matthew	Altona	MB	Canada
Thistle	Mairead	Madison	WI	
Thoman	Sophia	Manchester	NH	
Thoman-Thurber	Eryk	Foster	RI	

Thomas	Katherine	Garland	ME	
Thomas	Osiris	Kennebunk	ME	
Thomas	Seth	Kingfield	ME	
Thomas	Spencer	Fryeburg	ME	
Thomas	Walker	Sidney	ME	
Thomas	Zach	Kingston	NH	
Thomas	Zoe	Wimberley	TX	
Thompson	Haley	Gorham	ME	
Thompson	Kayla	Harrington	ME	
Thompson	Makao	Industry	ME	
Thompson	Marissa	Bucksport	ME	
Thornton	Kelcey	Readfield	ME	
Throckmorton-Hansford	Willow	Somerville	ME	
Tibbetts	Cassidy	Litchfield	ME	
Tidd	Allisyn	Eddington	ME	
Tijerina	Santiago	Old Town	ME	
Tillotson	Stephanie	Cumberland Foreside	ME	
Tilton-Flood	Lilla	Clinton	ME	
Tims	Katie	Cornish	ME	
Tiner	Nick	Winslow	ME	
Tittle	Morgan	Skowhegan	ME	
Tobey	Ali	Orono	ME	
Todd	Sara	Bar Harbor	ME	
Tomlinson	Laura	Wilbraham	MA	
Toothaker	Mallory	Kingfield	ME	
Topper	Izzy	Hudson Falls	NY	
Torchia	Brittany	Jewett City	CT	
Toussaint	Ral	Madawaska	ME	
Tovey	Travis	Sanford	ME	
Towle	Annemarie	Augusta	ME	

Towle	Josh	Belgrade	ME	
Towne	Julia	Kennebunk	ME	
Tracy	Nate	Skowhegan	ME	
Traphagen	Elizabeth	Franklin	MA	
Trask	Jacob	Winslow	ME	
Trawick	Kylie	Orono	ME	
Treat	Allison	Carmel	ME	
Tremblay	Isaac	Mariaville	ME	
Trevisani	Elizabeth	Wellesley Hills	MA	
Treworgy	Annie	Levant	ME	
Triana	Jen	Prospect	CT	
Troiano	Samantha	Marshfield	MA	
Trott	Ethan	South Berwick	ME	
Troxell	Alec	Portland	ME	
Truong	Khang	Sanford	ME	
Trusty	Yuri	Bangor	ME	
Tschirhart	Julie	North Andover	MA	
Tupper	Kion	Searsport	ME	
Turanski	Alex	Penobscot	ME	
Turcotte Seavey	Lauren	Bangor	ME	
Turgeon	Kasidy	Chelsea	ME	
Turgut	Ata	Ankara		Turkey
Turlla	Vasiliqi	Bangor	ME	
Turner	Ben	Belfast	ME	
Turner	Blake	North Yarmouth	ME	
Turner	Eric	Libertyville	IL	
Turner	Jennifer	Hollis Center	ME	
Turner	Kathrina	Old Town	ME	
Turner	Olivia	West Gardiner	ME	
Tuttle	Souix	Bethel	ME	

Tyler	Caleb	Palermo	ME	
Tymm	Sarah	Watertown	MA	
Urli	Stephen	Massapequa	NY	
Usilton	Haley	Bridgton	ME	
Vaccaro	Sam	Kennebunk	ME	
Vadala	Owen	Rowley	MA	
Vaidya	Nikhil	Orono	ME	
Vainio	Hannah	Monson	ME	
Valcourt	Tony	Fort Kent	ME	
Vallee	Jacob	Auburn	ME	
Van Steenberghe	Julia	Old Town	ME	
Van Tassell	Joel	Lyman	ME	
Vanaria	Tatiana	Lunenburg	MA	
Vanderblue	Greta	Fairfield	CT	
VanDerburgh	Sophie	Portland	ME	
VanGorder	Lauren	Tewksbury	MA	
Vanisova	Tereza	Steken		Czech Republic
VanSteenbergen	Brenna	Southbury	CT	
Varga	Samuel	Orono	ME	
Vargas	Mia	Orono	ME	
Varney	Abigail	Turner	ME	
Varney	Devon	Pittsfield	ME	
Varney	Dylan	Windham	ME	
Varney	Hannah	Turner	ME	
Varney	Olivia	Augusta	ME	
Varnum	Alexa	Dixfield	ME	
Vasquez Bulnes	Andres	Cortes		Honduras
Vedral	John	Buxton	ME	
Veilleux	Cody	Waterville	ME	
Venard	Kevin	Sullivan	ME	

Verrill	Lilas	Peachtree Corners	GA	
Vickers	Mei-Ella	Jamestown	RI	
Vidas	Evan	Orrington	ME	
Villapa	Alyssa Nicole	Melrose	MA	
Villemaire	Amanda	Wells	ME	
Vina Lopez	Maria	Santiago de Compostela		Spain
Viola	Patrick	Portland	ME	
Vose-Gimbel	Jack	South Portland	ME	
Wadling	Fanny	Saltsjo-Boo		Sweden
Wagenknecht	Maria	Ellsworth	ME	
Wagner	Will	Gibsonia	PA	
Waite	Jasmine	Old Town	ME	
Waits	Liam	Augusta	ME	
Wald	Leah	Framingham	MA	
Walker	Danica	Caribou	ME	
Wallace	Libby	Albion	ME	
Walorz	Kaity	Lakeville	MA	
Walsh	Alexandra	Presque Isle	ME	
Walsh	Katelyn	Hermon	ME	
Walsh	Kerrigan	Ashburn	VA	
Walsh	Liz	Benton	ME	
Walton	Sadie	South Easton	MA	
Warburton	Evan	Cape May Court House	NJ	
Ward	Spencer	Orono	ME	
Warren	Emmy	Oakland	ME	
Washburn	Brooklyn	Durham	ME	
Waterman	Sadie	Sabattus	ME	
Watras	Emma	Seal Cove	ME	
Watson	Alex	Brimfield	MA	

Watson	Julie	Mendon	MA	
Watson	Katie	Millinocket	ME	
Watt	Aaron	Hampden	ME	
Weaver	Danielle	Saint George	ME	
Weaver	Jacqui	North Haven	CT	
Webb	Jarod	Old Town	ME	
Webber	Abby	Garland	ME	
Webber	Josh	Springvale	ME	
Webber	Matthew	Springvale	ME	
Webster	Serena	Brewer	ME	
Weeks	Rebecca	Lynnfield	MA	
Weeks	Trevor	Laconia	NH	
Weinstein	Myky	Hartland	ME	
Weir	Kelsey	Copley	OH	
Weiss	Ma'ayan	Mount Kisco	NY	
Weitman	Mo	Hampden	ME	
Welch	Alexis	Boothbay	ME	
Welch	Colin	Saint Cloud	FL	
Welch	Sarah	Pittsfield	ME	
Werner	Ash	South Hamilton	MA	
West	Bailey	Stockton Springs	ME	
West	Ian	Jackman	ME	
West	Julyan	Norway	ME	
West	Michael	Kinnelon	NJ	
West	Sam	Bangor	ME	
Westbrook	Katie	Methuen	MA	
Westhaver	Kate	Nobleboro	ME	
Weyand	Anna	Buxton	ME	
Wheeler	Gideon	Bowdoin	ME	
Wheeler	Mickala	Orono	ME	

White	Emily	Jay	ME	
White	Emma	Wells	ME	
White	Grady	Cumberland Center	ME	
White	John	Swanville	ME	
White	Kaitlyn	Old Town	ME	
White	Maggie	Duxbury	MA	
White	Octavya	Anchorage	AK	
White	Steven	Mount Vernon	ME	
White	Zach	Exeter	ME	
Whitney	Av	Hanover	MA	
Whittemore	Emily	Lewiston	ME	
Wicks	Natalie	Readfield	ME	
Widdecomb	Paige	Cushing	ME	
Wiggins	Justin	Orono	ME	
Wilcox	Adam	Warren	ME	
Wilcox	Leah	Warren	ME	
Wilde	Aaron	Hampden	ME	
Wilkes	Maddie	Durham	ME	
Wilkins	Brad	Old Town	ME	
Willey	Kendrah	Pittsfield	ME	
Williams	Anna	Norwell	MA	
Williams	Ben	Cumberland Center	ME	
Williams	Connor	Orono	ME	
Williams	Emma	Wilton	ME	
Williams	Madeline	Mason Township	ME	
Williams	Nathan	Orrington	ME	
Williams	Taylor	Presque Isle	ME	
Williamson	Dean	Teaneck	NJ	
Wilmot	Erich	East Walpole	MA	
Wilson	Bruce	Orono	ME	

Wilson	Jeremy	Hermon	ME	
Wilson	Kristina	West Paris	ME	
Wilson	Mackenzie	Lasalle	ON	Canada
Wilson	Sam	Fairfield	ME	
Wilson	Sidney	North Monmouth	ME	
Winfree	Perry	Cary	NC	
Wingard	Abby	Orono	ME	
Winn	Cait	Windham	ME	
Winslow	Byron	Veazie	ME	
Winslow	Stephanie	Mapleton	ME	
Winters	Chavaleh Joi	Bangor	ME	
Witham	Rebecca	Hampton	NH	
Withey	Courtney	New Vineyard	ME	
Wivell	Maeve	Kittery	ME	
Wojdakowski	Kelsey	Orono	ME	
Wolfington	Johnny	Milford	ME	
Wollenhaupt	Devin	Norton	MA	
Wood	Kyle	Lincolnville	ME	
Woods	Addie	Hodgdon	ME	
Woods	Brittany	New Sharon	ME	
Woodward	Delaney	Corea	ME	
Woodworth	Fran	Rockport	ME	
Worgull	Jacob	Bangor	ME	
Worgull	Max	Bangor	ME	
Worgull	Tessa	Bangor	ME	
Worster	Jason	Lincoln	ME	
Wright	Haleigh	Ticonderoga	NY	
Wright	Jared	Ellsworth	ME	
Wu	Wenyu	Jiaxing		China
Wyatt	Bruce	Gorham	ME	

Wyman	Alison	Hanover	ME	
Wynott	Christian	Norway	ME	
Xiao	Kelly	Bangor	ME	
Yang	Ely	Winslow	ME	
Yarborough	Andrew	Saco	ME	
Yarbrough	Brynn	Wrentham	MA	
Yelle	Hannah	Carlisle	MA	
Yoder	Tate	Penobscot	ME	
Yoon	Jane	Hwaseong-Si		Korea, Republic of
York	Karrah	Camden	ME	
York	Mitchell	Portland	ME	
Yorkey	Lucas	Poland	ME	
Yost	Matt	Brunswick	ME	
Young	Garrett	Orange	CT	
Young	Kenzie	South Berwick	ME	
Young	Star	Pembroke	MA	
Yu	Mason	Hangzhou		China
Yutuc	Nikki	Saipan		Northern Mariana Islands
Zanin	Matt	Lexington	MA	
Zanoni	Jude	Lubec	ME	
Zenga	Anthony	Easton	PA	
Zhang	Lining	Orono	ME	
Zhang	Yuhan	Yinchuan		China
Ziegra	Carolyn	Orono	ME	
Zippert	Tristan	Hillsborough	CA	
Zmistowski	Anna	Phillips	ME	
Zucca	Kelvy	New Milford	CT	
Zuo	Zoey	Orono	ME	
Zuras	Everett	Presque Isle	ME	

Fall 2019 Dean's List by Maine counties

Androscoggin County

Auburn: Alexis Bellefleur, Abigail Fisher, Spencer Frahn, Sarah Hammond, Kaylee Jipson, Brooke Lever, Gabe Lovering, Dylan Miller, Emma Paradie, Rebecca Raymond, Skylar Rubocki, Ryan Theriault, Jacob Vallee **Durham**: Sera Bigelow, Ricky Klatt, Brooklyn Washburn, Maddie Wilkes **Greene**: Jenna Boucher, Cliff Greco, Ashley Mathieu, Bailey Smart **Leeds**: Lily Comeau-Waite, Dustin Jensen, Ally Ryan **Lewiston**: Ciera Belanger, Connor Bolduc, Jazlyn Dumas, Haley Gideon, James Greenwood, Olivia Lee, Mohamed Mohamud, Jamie Poliquin, Emily Whittemore **Lisbon**: Jaden Burnham, Jasmin Le **Livermore**: Abby Castonguay, Amber Delaney **Livermore Falls**: Orion Schwab **Minot**: Allie Novicki **Poland**: Grace Banks, Lizzy Champagne, Maia Ferguson, Nick Hodge, Jada Lamb, Jasmine Lamb, Vincent Russo, Lucas Yorkey **Sabattus**: Mikki Gervais, Noah Moring, Renee Pickard, Sadie Waterman **Turner**: Tamra Benson, Anthony DeGone, Julia Dillingham, Chad Morin, Oren Shaw, Abigail Varney, Hannah Varney **West Poland**: Izzy Fernald

Aroostook County

Ashland: Peng Cheng, Lucas Craig, Mackenzie Hall **Blaine**: Lizzy Gillen, Jimmy Hotham **Bridgewater**: Clark Bradbury **Caribou**: Molly Adams, Andre Daigle, Kate Finnemore, Jillian Flynn, Madeline Gudde, Nickolas Guerrette, Michael Hunter, Chathu Karunasiri, Kaitlyn Nadeau, Brennan Poitras, Spencer Savage, Chrissy Skidgel, Mitch St Peter, Danica Walker **Cary Plantation**: Grace Graham **Eagle Lake**: Samuel Swope **Easton**: Francesca Armstrong, Cody Embelton **Fort Fairfield**: Thomas Krause **Fort Kent**: Lily Brickman, Emma Pooler, David Roy, Tony Valcourt **Hersey**: Caleb Streinz **Hodgdon**: Nicholas Sherman, Addie Woods **Houlton**: Chloe Davis, Sarah Delano, Lauren Eastham, Sarah Glatter, Jillian Haggerty, Dominic Miller, Jordan Russell **Island Falls**: Kassidy Mathers **Linneus**: Tabetha Ganzel **Littleton**: David Gogan, MacKenzie Hunt **Ludlow**: Sydney Howell **Madawaska**: Courtney Daigle, Evan Hebert, Isabelle Jandreau, Hollie Morneault, Chelsea Pelletier, Ral Toussaint **Mapleton**: Garrett Morneault, Sarah Morneault, Mari Shaw, Stephanie Winslow **Monticello**: Kristen Brewer **New Canada**: Jonny Blanchette **New Sweden**: Austin Findlen **Presque Isle**: Emma Everett, Katelyn Ford, Morgan Ireland, Emily Lagerstrom, Zechariah Morse, Rachel Scott, Austin Thibeau, Alexandra Walsh, Taylor Williams, Everett Zuras **Saint David**: Donna Morin, Liz Theriault **Sherman**: Tyson Porter **Stockholm**: Evan Desmond, Irene Thibodeau **Van Buren**: Lyndsey Lavoie **Wade**: Aaron Macek **Washburn**: Jaida Beaulieu **Westmanland**: Noah Hixon **Woodland**: Cheyenne Laszlo

Cumberland County

Bridgton: Morgan MacNeil, Douglas Mayo, Matthew Mayo, Haley Usilton **Brunswick**: Tessa Alexander, Ryan Berry, Emma Blair, Forrest Blankenship, Tobyn Blatt, Erin Bradstreet, Max Burtis, Julia Casey, Amanda Cloutier, Cameron Daly, Alyssa Demanche, Joshua Flanagan, Milly Girardin, Taylor Hodgdon, Kyle Labbe, William Labbe, Samiera MacMullen, Jacob Parent, Owen Poisson, Kaitlyn Ridley, Lea Scrapchansky, Maeve Shea, Desiree Tanner, Matt Yost **Cape Elizabeth**: Michaela Arsenault, Matthew Fishbein, Sierra Galgano, Ryan Harvey, Sarah Loring, Zale Rasco, Erin Sewall, Gavin Spidle **Casco**: Emily Jackson **Chebeague Island**: Jason Auffant **Cumberland Center**: Sam Bonnevie, Ryan Bray, Anna Briley, Grace Downey, Anna Fitch, Mika Gallati, Aidan Greenlee, Liam Greenlee, Tim Lester, Noah Loveless, Cole Moore, Natalie Mullin, Alexandra Peary, Tate Porter, Aidan Regan, Brendan Scott, Madi Scott, Grady White, Ben Williams **Cumberland Foreside**: Stephanie Tillotson **East Baldwin**: Jordan Miner **Falmouth**: Tom Adams, Gwenyth Armitage, Jake Baumann, Alex Britton, Erin Cianchette, Evie Clement, Will Emanuel, Gretchen Favreau, Mary Giglio, Matthew Gramse, Mike Gramse, Tholia Hallett, Jason Halliday, Kat Kane, Kevin Kane, Mitchell Kelley, Kali Mildrum, Brendan Mittleider, Samantha Pike, Izzy Simbari, Violet Singer, Aja Sobus, Caroline Spencer **Freeport**: Seth Breton, Lauren Briggs, Leah Harrison, Alexys Langley, Tom Lawrence, Ed Lefebvre, Margaret Perrotta, Christian Potts, Bobby Sawyer **Gorham**: Caitlyn Beaulieu, Connor Bell, Abby Biegel, Delaney Burns, Emily Chapin, Angel Darling, Avery Germond, Kaitlyn Jodoin, Branden Kuusela, Noah Lambert, Thomas Light, Griffin Lord, Hailey Morrill, Ethan Orach, Kyle Peoples, Megan Polchies, Brady Rioux, Simon Roussel, Lia Suleiman, Logan Swift, Haley Thompson, Bruce Wyatt **Gray**: Dawsin Blanchard, Adam Dumas, Austin Gallant, Nate Gendreau, Ethan Johnson, Natasha McGowan, Brenna Milliken, Lukas Odrzywolski, Alexandra Requena, Grace Terry, Madeline Test **Harpswell**: Kieley Hetherington, Sean Roberts **Harrison**: Gunnar Docos, Nick Soucy **Naples**: Daria Bosworth, Lily Charpentier, Catherine Christiansen, Marcus Devoe, Abby Scott-Mitchell **New Gloucester**: Emma Cadran, Haley Cadran, Dante Castro, Felicia Lyons, Seth Ordway, Amanda Thayer **North Yarmouth**: Aidan Hayes, Molly Horton, Alyssa Lovering, Aidan Michaud, Trevor Rafford, Nicholas Small, Parker Swanson, Blake Turner **Orrs Island**: Jameson Cy **Portland**: Marshall Abbott, John Adamo, Cam Beressi, Dylan Bolduc, Bobby Brittingham, Natalia Budri, Jack Burnell, Sara Chamard, Siobhan Densmore, Noah Ferrante, Haley Foreman, Lillian Frager, Eva Griffiths, Emily Haley, Maggie Healy, Joe Herboldsheimer, Ellie Hooper, Bronwyn Hughes, Coraly Igiraneza, Madison Legassey, Zoe Leland, Evan Leonard, Ruth Lewandowski, Hua Lin, Jake Loranger, Cillo Magno, Madison Mahan, Grace Maloney, Marissa Martel, Tim McInnis, Emily Mooney, Tommy Nguyen, Mackenzie O'Donnell, Kate Pontius, Lucas Profenno, Caden Scott, Jasper Sommer, Ben Tero, Alec Troxell, Sophie VanDerburgh, Patrick Viola, Mitchell York **Pownal**: Jordan Randall **Raymond**: Brooke Clement, Liam Flynn, Jeffrey Pollard **Scarborough**: Carigan Allie, Cal Berry, Emma Budway, Drew Cusson, Kaylee Faherty, David Fitzpatrick, Kate Follansbee, Emma Freeman, Jaimie Giguere, Lila Harakles, Brielle Hardy, Chelsea Hughes, Abe Jordan, Nate Jordan, Katherine Kirk, Nolan Lamontagne, Connor Langlois, Ethan Lowell, Joseph Luong, Peter Martin, Morgan McGarry, David McKelvy, Abigail Morrison-Ouellette, Austin Mullen, Lauren Murphy, Emily Murray, Haley Nelson, Bryce Nitchman, Jasmine Olshin, Lauren Page, Gaby Panagakos, Josh Passarelli, Ryan Perry, Lauren Sabatino, Isaac Sparks-Willey, Amelia St John, Colin Tardiff **Sebago**: Maraia Nason, Matt Price **South Portland**: Madison Damon, William Edgar, Brian Elsemore, Lauren Elsemore, Michael Feely, Hunter Griffiths, Jason Halvorsen, Emily Hobbs, Aleksandar Kaurin, Caleb Marston, Aaron Radziucz, Andreas Sandoval, Jamie Sargent, Jack Vose-Gimbel **Standish**: James Conley, Chaz Lamkin, Jenna Litif, Kayla Raymond, Sam Richard **West Baldwin**: Michael Murphy **Westbrook**: Elise Bourassa, Danielle Breunig, Sophia Cartonio, Paula Crucianelli, Kallie Cyr, Rachael Dyer, Saleh Elhag, Arianna Giguere, Anna Giroux, Jarred Haynes, Jaclyn Hazlewood, Desiree Hodgkins, Brady Lynes, Miles Moody, Noah Oliver, Jeremy Richards, Ashley Ricker, Jeremy Slaven, Mia Stamey **Windham**: Dominic Agneta, Melissa Agneta, Mikayla Baiguy, Alex Baur, Lauren Black, Ben

Chouinard, John Clark, Samuel Dubuc, Adam Kelley, Haley Landry, Katherine Lewis, Seth Martin, Cassidy McCusker, Eli McGill, Erin Merchant, Stephanie Nichols, Jason Nielsen, Eliza Palow, Jadon Petty, Reese Preston, Gabriel Ransom, Avery Rolfe, Rianna Russell, Sydney Segal, Isabella Sernyk, Katie Skvorak, Annie Stevens, Dylan Varney, Cait Winn **Yarmouth**: Chris Bock, Phil Bock, Anna Bouton, Kyaira Grondin, Adam Levinson, Jacob Sperber

Franklin County

Carrabassett Valley: Emma Downing, Finn Mackay **Farmington**: Nate Pratt-Holt, Zeke Robinson, Sara Taylor **Industry**: Ellie Pelletier, Miles Pelletier, Makao Thompson **Jay**: Hannah Maurais, Emily White **Kingfield**: Katie Maxsimic, Avery Taylor, Seth Thomas, Mallory Toothaker **New Sharon**: Andrew Gardner, Brittany Woods **New Vineyard**: Courtney Withey **Phillips**: Anna Zmistowski **Rangeley**: Haley Morrill **Stratton**: Maya Caron **Strong**: Rowan Jellison **Wilton**: Katie Brittain, Jessie Hutchinson, Emma Williams

Hancock County

Amherst: Casco Haley **Bar Harbor**: Phillip Bart, Molly Brown, Matthew Cox, Chris Horton, Ryan Kelly, Abbe Miller, Maev Rogers, Clara Ruppert, Sierra Tapley, Sara Todd **Bass Harbor**: Abigail Muscat **Bernard**: Owen Mild, Kohl Shaw **Blue Hill**: Curran Granger, Jenna Malvin, Maya Naisbitt, Erin Niehoff, Emma Richardson **Bucksport**: Danny Bunker, Amanda Carter, Hannah Ferrell, Gabe Flegel, Steven Giles, Kaylee Grindle, Eliza Hosford, Alexis Krull, Jordan Servetas, Melissa St Peter, Jessica Swazey, Kendall Szumilas, James Terrill, Marissa Thompson **Castine**: Christopher Ciano **Corea**: Delaney Woodward **Cranberry Isles**: Will Ferreira **Dedham**: Daniel Davis, Sarah Dorey, Sara Hunt **Deer Isle**: Amy Hardy, Bethany Humphrey, Jordyn Judkins, Natalie Knowlton **East Blue Hill**: Sarah Juster **Eastbrook**: Malcolm Svec **Ellsworth**: Lindsay Bland, Justin Brown, Joy Cartwright, Will Doty, Delaney Dow, Keegan Grey, Riley Grindle, Jared Hamilton, Jacob Jordan, Joy Kempf, Kaitlin McCullough, Chantal Ouellette, Aaron Scillia, William Somes, Austin Stover, Maria Wagenknecht, Jared Wright **Franklin**: Taylor Merchant **Hancock**: Ryan Kelly, Reilly Linkel **Hulls Cove**: Loren Genrich **Lamoine**: Nicole Brown, Elizabeth Dalton **Little Deer Isle**: Ennis Marshall **Mariaville**: Chris Johanson, Isaac Tremblay **Mount Desert**: Jesse Dyer, Alex Eason, Megan Howell, Ethan Leonard, Madeleine Macauley **Orland**: Sarah Low **Penobscot**: Heather Munroe, Alex Turanski, Tate Yoder **Seal Cove**: Emma Watras **Seal Harbor**: Ally Bender **Southwest Harbor**: Ralph Magnani **Stonington**: Ali Eaton, Tyson Rice **Sullivan**: Andrea Knapp, Kevin Venard **Trenton**: Miranda McKim **Winter Harbor**: Liam Flubacher, Tara Flubacher

Kennebec County

Albion: Elliot Dixon, Kensi Matula, Libby Wallace **Augusta**: Brandon Emerson, Jens Hansen, Arthur Hubbard, Courtney King, Joshua King, Andrew Levesque, MacKenzie Lewis, Sierra McLellan, Nick Poulin, Eva Reed, Nick Seile, Evangeline Soucy, Eric Sullivan, Annemarie Towle, Olivia Varney, Liam Waits **Belgrade**: Grace Elliott, Sawyer Michaud, Josh Towle **Benton**: Kaylee Brann, Emery Clifford, Liz Walsh **Chelsea**: Jared Alexander, Gabby Benson, Annie Brannigan, Mac Creamer, Alexis Everett, Nic Mills, Anna Peterson, Kasidy Turgeon **Clinton**: Matt Brown, Hannah Meidahl, Lilla Tilton-Flood **Fairfield**: Katie Cobb, J.T. Nutting **Farmingdale**: Cole Bryant, Mari Smith **Fayette**: Abigail Despres, Natalie Harmon, Eli Krout **Gardiner**: Casey Bourque **Hallowell**: Jarod Dye, Mary Hicks, Anna Hodgkins **Litchfield**: Mikayla Buckmore, Chris McGeoghegan, Hannah Nadeau, Cassidy Tibbetts **Manchester**: Caden Brown, Mair Guillemette, Mark McLaughlin **Monmouth**: Anna Kulinski, Lindsey Ridlon **Mount Vernon**: Steven White **North Monmouth**: Emily Barnett, Sidney Wilson **Oakland**: Olivia Durkee, Lillie Fortier, Ryan Pullen, Joshua Schaff, Katie Seekins, Emmy Warren **Pittston**: Sarah Foust **Readfield**: Taylor Cray, Camille Kavanah, Ashley Russell, Kelcey Thornton, Natalie Wicks **Sidney**: Haley Carver, Soren Donisvitch, Riley Field, Kyle Gleason, Kennedi LeBlanc, Hannah Mathieu, Katie Mercier, Matthew Stenger, Walker Thomas **South China**: Lilja Bernheim, Scott Christiansen, Jared Gartley, Justin Harris **Vassalboro**: Brianna Benedict, Eliza Costigan, Kassie Nadeau, Alainie Sawtelle **Waterville**: Alan Baez, Sophie Given, Jenna Goss, Danny Kornsey, Adan Lawlor, Ty Lecrone, Elwin Moss, Anthony Pinnette, Briana Quirion, Mikayla Reynolds, Sammi Saulter, Cody Veilleux **West Gardiner**: Mikayla Palmer, Haley Santerre, Bryce Smith, Olivia Turner **Windsor**: Jordan Bowie **Winslow**: Andrew Bolduc, Hannah Comfort, Daigs Daigneault, Devon Gleason, Adam Green, Sierra Harmon, Arianna Hatt, Zach LaCombe, Isaac Lambrecht, Colette Latendresse, Brea Martin, Hunter McCaslin, Maddy Morneault, Matt Patterson, Kirstie Rogers, Elyse St Pierre, Nick Tiner, Jacob Trask, Ely Yang **Winthrop**: Bennett Brooks, Matt Ingram, Kyle Keezer, Lydia Lavoie, Mary Milligan, Andrew Pazdziorko

Knox County

Appleton: Morgan Ford, August Gray **Camden**: Ellie Berez, Sarah Berez, Tom Cox, Izzy Gutheinz, Grace Kirklian, Tom Libby, Sarah Mitchell, Karrah York **Cushing**: Paige Widdecomb **Hope**: Tristan Fong, Henry Laurita, Katie Southworth **North Haven**: April Messier **Owls Head**: Mary Allen, Nicole Strickland **Rockland**: Julia Barbour, Jenna Conant, Wesley Dunkle, Zoe Goff, Alexander Mahar, Alexis Mazurek **Rockport**: Marco D'Amato, Molly Davee, Nick Denny, David Flint, Myia Hanson, Devon Lammert, Hilary Merrifield, John Nugent, Frances Pendleton, Fran Woodworth **Saint George**: Danielle Weaver **South Thomaston**: Sarah Penney **Tenants Harbor**: Sierra Beal, Amber Johnston **Thomaston**: Mackenzie Murray **Union**: Emalee Grant, Jacob Savage **Vinalhaven**: Deja Doughty, Andrea Shane **Warren**: Naomi Kihn, Billy Olmsted, Adam Wilcox, Leah Wilcox **Washington**: Maitana Benicio, Antyna Gould, Jane Horovitz, Patrick Madden

Lincoln County

Boothbay: Graham Bryer, Braden Olsen, Maya Schwehm, Alexis Welch **Boothbay Harbor**: Tim Chappelle, Sydney Meader **Bristol**: Tommy Thelander **Damariscotta**: Jon Pinkham, Abigail Roberts **Edgecomb**: Colt Seigars **Jefferson**: Lily Bragg, Abigail Farrin, Anna Kolota **New Harbor**: Ashley Mason **Newcastle**: Aidan Manahan **Nobleboro**: Maggie Bradbury, Lisa Howard, Kate Westhaver **Round Pond**: Dorothy Hodous **Somerville**: Willow Throckmorton-Hansford **Waldoboro**: Peter Alexander, Claire Bourett, Rose Hickey, Ashley Holmes **Whitefield**: Matthew Birch, Hannah Burns, Ryan Pedersen **Wiscasset**: Aidan Carlson, Vanessa Dunn, Chris Perkins, Remy Segovia, Madison Stahle

Oxford County

Albany Township: Torie Hamel **Bethel**: Emily Hanscom, Brynne Speakman, Souix Tuttle **Bryant Pond**: Ray Mills, James Newkirk **Canton**: Jill Conant, Emma Lueders **Denmark**: Owen Burk **Dixfield**: Ethan Couture, Bennett Dorion, Kate Ellis, Rachel Knight, Alexa Varnum **Fryeburg**: Casey Kneissler, Spencer Thomas **Greenwood**: Samuel Stone **Hanover**: Alison Wyman **Hartford**: Tucker Olsen **Hebron**: Zane Dustin, Victoria Eichorn, Nathan Godbout, Tyler Punch, Pooja Rawat **Hiram**: Abigail Mosson **Lovell**: Mariah Davis **Mason Township**: Dylan Richmond, Madeline Williams **Milton Township**: Sadie Richardson **Norway**: Brian Cook, Malik Geiger, Luck Haviland, Kelton Loper, Nate McNutt, Julyan West, Christian Wynott **Otisfield**: Alex Lavorati **Peru**: Joey Caruso, Amber Ferris **Roxbury**: Peter Cogley **Rumford**: Andrew Arsenault, Kenzie Arsenault, Sabrina Daoud, Jeremiah Richardson **South Paris**: Madi Bangs, Sarah Grillo, Lauren Keisman, Nathanael Shaw, Haid Tanous **Sumner**: Maggie Bragg, Bri Damon, Reilley Hicks **Waterford**: Avery Elliott **West Paris**: Kristina Wilson

Penobscot County

Alton: Josh Hamilton **Bangor**: Danny Adam, Jordan Allen, Maher Alsamsam, Nishchay Arya, Ellen Babbidge, Jenna Bishop, Alex Bloomer, Hadrien Boulch, Katrina Bowden, Erin Brown, Jim Burby, Rick Cali, Max Carter, Dylan Clark, Ally Cooper, Jacob Cote, James Cramer, Ben Dailey, Ty Delargy, Hebert Delgado, Erica Desjardins, Beth Dickson, Kimberly Dixon, Gunnar Eastman, Jon Feix, Collette Filer, Amanda Floyd, Landyn Francis, Trudy Furrow, Ally Gonyar, Vanessa Graham, Adam Green, Dan Guidi, Glenice Hale, Dylan Hallett, Victoria Haskell, Ashlie Henderson, Abby Houghton, Andrew Howes, Courtney Hutchinson, Mitchell Jameson, Jamie Jones, Abram Karam, Gabriel Karam, Ryan Kinney, Natalie Lammers Lisnet, Nate Landon, Gabriella Lee, Blake Lufkin, Sarah Marcotte, Leah Marcoux, Grady Markie, Tenny Martin, Bryson McDonough, Lily McLaughlin, Sammy McNaughton, Alicen Miller, Margaret Miller-Finch, Sam Morse, Naomi Moynihan, Jon Musor, Patty Neel, Leigh Neptune, Connor Noddin, Dan O'Neill, Ashley Ouellette, Daniel Perkins, Grace Perron, Alex Perry, Jojo Picone, Rachel Poisson, Banalata Pratt, Brandon Richards, Declan Riordan, Diane Roberts, Emma Rowe, Ethan Sailor, Alyssa Salley, Steven Santerre, Isabelle See, Jordan Seekins, Max Sennett, Parker Shaw, Abigail Slauenwhite, Collin Soucy, Belle Spearin, Corey Stephens, Thomas Szewczyk, Natalie Tanous, Gage Thibodeau, Yuri Trusty, Lauren Turcotte Seavey, Vasiliqi Turlla, Sam West, Chavaleh Joi Winters, Jacob Worgull, Max Worgull, Tessa Worgull, Kelly Xiao **Bradford**: Robert Hall **Bradley**: Kaylee Bellavance, Dominic D'Angelo, Sam Dauphinee, Emily Ketch, Jacob Ketch, Lauren Martin, Joshua Smith, Jessie Sweeney **Brewer**: Jared Austin, Collin Averill, Danielle Ayub, Samantha Ballesteros, Castine Barry Grant, Rene Beaulieu, Abigail Bennett, Drew Bennett, Oisin Biswas, Lily Canders, Nicole Carlson, Andres Celano, Caid Cummings, Julia Cummings, Allie Dean, Jon Donnelly, Aubrey Duplissie, Hannah Friedman, Savannah Georgia, Andrew Gillette, Tyler Hersey, Ellie Horr, Mandy Jammeh, Omar Khan, Matt Luce, Nola Prevost, Lauren Richardson, Taylor Richardson, Jessica Sargent, Samuel Sergi, Anna Spaulding, Serena Webster **Carmel**: Reba Michaud, Nash Roy, Baylee Smith, Tiffany Tanner, Allison Treat **Charleston**: Angelina Buzzelli **Clifton**: Brad Bell **Corinna**: Jordan Bailey **Corinth**: Matthew Brewer, Rachel Ireland, Makayla Labelle, Maija Overturf, Tuuli Overturf **Dexter**: Mariah Hughes, Ashley Reynolds **Dixmont**: Shelby Merchant **East Millinocket**: Nicole Chasse **Eddington**: Davis Asherman, Kat Carreira, Kelsey Hines, Kailey Holmes, Eamon Laskey, Kailey Richards, Allisyn Tidd **Etna**: Allie Donaldson **Exeter**: Katie Batron, Rebecca Batron, Katie Brayson, Nicholas Hershbine, Chandler Perkins, Karim Seifeldin, Zach White **Garland**: Katherine Thomas, Abby Webber **Glenburn**: Beth Allen, Christian Boone, Lydia Caron, Ben Cotton, Shaylyn Cyr, Kennedy Gerow, Caitlin Hillery, Lauren Ismail, Nicholas Jacobs, Zach Jones, Alex Paradis, Lauren Potter, Brooke Springer **Greenbush**: Samantha Grimwood, Dylan Madden **Hampden**: Jacob Bailey, Kyle Barry, Madison Bennett, Alexandria Chamberland, Benjamin Chasse, Logan Christian, Emily Colter, Fallon Crossman, Laura Curioli, Sarah Curioli, Ellie Dacey, Elyse Daub, Emily Daub, Olivia Doucette, Jack Dunning, Zachary Flannery, Emily Gagner, Nick Gauthier, Parker Harriman, Rachel Hobbs, Autumn Hunter, Gavin Kearns, Alyssa Kilgour, Mike Labun, Laura Landry, Julianne Llerena, Brady Lobdell, Ryan McGraw, Sydnie McKenney, Mark McLaughlin, Abby Novak, Melissa Reichel, Steven Santiago, Aaron Watt, Mo Weitman, Aaron Wilde **Hermon**: Paige Bacon, Julia Bate, Zachary Beaton, Jarod Bielecki, Zoe Brown, Emily Burns, Halle Cole, Rylee Cushman, Hannah Dyer, Shelby Gamache, Brianna Graves, Rachel Ingalls, Sahvannah Michaud, Breanne Oakes, Connor Patten, Cammie Peirce, Hailey Perry, Cody Porter, Kaylyn Raymond, Mariah Rogers, Adam Rush, Matt Sforza, Owen Shaw, Sierra Snow, Madison Spencer, Braedon Stevens, Katelyn Walsh, Jeremy Wilson **Holden**: Caroline Bush, Emily Gilmore, Andrew Kiley, Maria Maxsimic, Mallory Mills, MacKenzie Nixon, Frank Noyes, Courtney Pearson, Seth Pearson, Collin Rhoads-Doyle, Jamison Rhoads-Doyle, Jared Smith, Betsy Spear **Howland**: Ciarra Jaszay **Hudson**: Mark Muir **Indian Island**: Claudia Cummings, Sage Neptune **Kenduskeag**: Jennifer Crone, Alyssa Hand, Kassidy McMillan **Lee**: Amelia Crise, Morgan Dodge, Ashton Dunbar, Samuel Mallett **Levant**: Alexis Allard, Ashley Barker, Brianna DePuy, Olivia Johnson, Brittany Morales, Josh Peterson, Annie Treworgy **Lincoln**: Chris Anderson, Ava Broderick, Lynn Dwelley, Keegan Farrington, Koby Farrington, Natalie McCarthy, Duncan Mcintyre, Ellie Ocana, Jason Worster **Lowell**: Jeffrey Garfield **Mattawamkeag**: Sam Neil **Maxfield**: Josie Harper **Milford**: Nolan Altvater, Cedar Bagley, Eli Clark, Zac Libby, Harley Rogers, Dakota Scott, Ryan Shorette, Natalie St Louis, Cortney Stedt, Johnny Wolfington **Millinocket**: Ryan Stavnezer, Katie Watson **Newburgh**: Tyler Arbo, Wesley Kauppila, Angela Rideout, Jennifer Spann **Newport**: Katie Bell, Josh Emery, Noah Kershner **Old Town**: Sachristy Arakelian, Kara Arey, Brianna Ballard, Olivia Bamford, Emma Betterley-Dow, Allison Bleakney, Camden Chasse, Devin Christianson, Jacob Clark, Sophia Crockett-Current, Oliviah Damboise, Daniela Delpino, Stephanie Deschaine, Becky Dias, Charlie Duffield, Nicole Dumond, Emily Dunlap, Keegan Feero, Nick Feero, Jacob Foss, Kristen Freeman, Jade Gilman, Kendra Green, Derek Haas, Sydney Hagarman, Kayla Hayward, Tamara Hembree, Jessup Henderson, Maddy Jackson, Alicia Jacobson, Yukino Kasai, Jordan Kelley, Meaghan Kelley, Khulod Khalaf, Kat Klebon, Elena Kolesnikova, Aurore Looney, George Mason, Mae Mathews, Jon Maurer, Kalee McLaughlin, Marissa Mendoza, Bethany Miles, Hadley Moore, Kayla Murdaugh, Rachael Murphy, Jason Nagy, Sabrina Nuttall, Aubree Nygaard, Jinyoung Park, Soojin Park, Kayla Parsons, Allison Pomeroy, Ben Quimby, Mindy Reeves, Adam Regan, Ben Robson, Francois Rukumbuzi, Olivia Shipsey, Deborah Silver, Bella Slocum, Emma Smith, Jasmine Smith, Emilienne Soucy, Melanie Soucy, Trey Stimpel, Brooke Sulinski, Cameron Sullivan, Brooke Sweetser, Hannah Talcove, Jake Tauke, Santiago Tijerina, Kathrina Turner, Julia Van Steenberghe, Jasmine Waite, Jarod Webb, Kaitlyn White, Brad Wilkins **Orono**: Amatullah Adams, Logan Aromando, Kaleb Austin, Alex Barnett, Ben Blood, Cagney Bowen, Olivia Bradstreet, Jeremy Braun, Camryn Brown, Morgan Buchanan, Brandon Burris, Cole Butler, K.P. Carpenter, Dakota Cates-Wright, Caleigh Charlebois, Christina Claudel, Cass Clemmer, Samantha Cloutier, Aviana Coco, John Conant, Sarah Conner, Skye Crump, Jafar Darwish, Marius DeLannee, Lauren Dodge, Lindsey Dodge, Nick Dominique, Kellen Doyle, Eedy Doyon, Daisy Drinkert, Susannah Drown, Elena Dugal, Nigel Dunn, Madison Eaton, Theo Erikson, Grace Farrington, Kell Fremouw, Eimile Garvey, Austin Gilboe, Ella Glatter, Darian Goggin, Andrew Guimond, Brianna Guy, Ian Haddow, Taylor Hamm, Ryan Hancock, Darria Hansen, Elizabeth Harrington, Caitlin Hathaway, Malak Helal, Ada Hepler, Irja Hepler, Jordan Hess, Alison Hills, Adrian Holesinsky, Rachel Hollandsworth, Jessica Holz, Ashley Hui, Dom Huntington, Noah Imperato, Dominika Ivanicka, Evangeline Jerome, Guanyu Jiang, Todd Jones, Jess King, Colby Kohn, Parker Lambert, Chantel Lane, Eric Lindbom, Kaitlin Liu, Delaney Love, Noah MacAdam, Alissa Mathieu, Connor McCluskey, Sydney Meredith-Pickett, Will O'Neil, Ali Obaidan, Josh Palmeter, Jordan Parks, Brooke Pietri, Jordan Richards, Leila Rollins, Matt Ryckman, Tarek Sager, Anthony Salafia, Corey Salisbury, Logan Shannon, Jakub Sirota, Abby Smith, Audrey Smith, Kiera Smith, Selah Smith, Shannon Smith, Nyle Sockbeson, Elizabeth Spiller, Emily Sprecher, Leela Stockley, Peter Stumer, Kazu Temple, Ali Tobey, Kylie Trawick, Nikhil Vaidya, Samuel Varga, Mia Vargas, Spencer Ward, Mickala Wheeler, Justin Wiggins, Connor Williams, Bruce Wilson, Abby Wingard, Kelsey Wojdakowski, Lining Zhang, Carolyn Ziegra, Zoey Zuo **Orrington**: Grace Blanchard, Nicholas Bower, Alex Casburn, Katelyn Grant, Jw Harriman, Lia Johnson, Jonathan Kincaid, Meg Lander, Sam Lander, Alia Parsons, Ember Perry, William Prescott, Colby Rand, Lindsey Ruggiero, Evan Vidas, Nathan Williams **Passadumkeag**: Mackenzie Chaisson **Plymouth**: Gabby Sands **Stetson**: Trevor Snow **Stillwater**: Amanda MacBurnie, Corrina Oakley, Drew St Jean **Veazie**: Giorgia Calcagno, Sam Cartwright, Joseph Dagher, Liam Daniels, Connor Ferguson, Courtney Hyde, Emma Olmstead, Connor Reese, Nate Reese, Sethany

Rodriguez, Byron Winslow **Woodville**: Jada Kimball

Piscataquis County

Brownville: Stephanie Duarte **Dover Foxcroft**: Liam Casey, Cooper Nelson, Chrissy Shaw, Hannah Sprecher, Thomas Stiffle **Ebeemee Township:** Blake Morrison **Guilford**: Johan Halvorsen **Milo**: Kelby Drews **Monson**: Hannah Vainio **Parkman**: Matthew Griffith **Sebec**: Kylie Dow

Sagadahoc County

Arrowsic: Sean Detwiler **Bath**: Raz Baltazar, Amy deHaas, Dominique DePippo, Ryan Fitzmaurice, Zane Kwiatkowsky, Eli Munro-Ludders, Sydney Osterhout **Bowdoin**: Aaron Dustin, Alex Humphrey, Colin Ingalls, Zoe McNally, Gideon Wheeler **Bowdoinham**: Morgan Johnson, Rick Mann, Caleb Miller, Lydia Schneider, Meri Stockford **Phippsburg**: Gus Anderson, Abbie Baker, Ian Fernald, Marija Medenica **Richmond**: Ashley Brown, Emma Carbone, Hunter Curtis, Kylie Temple **Topsham**: Madi Bailey, Caitlin Chambers, Jordan Chase, Mike Crawford, Rebecca French, Hank Gilson, Ryan Glass, Devin Hoskins, Matt Kenison, Joseph Knowles, Matt Lawrence, Hayden Libby, Kody Noyes, Sabrina Paetow, Joseph Patton, Joey Reed, Ian Scanlon, Lauren Sturgess, Rachel Thieme **West Bath**: Connor Bennoch, Caiden Fraser, Sarah Meyer-Waldo **Woolwich**: Hannah Card, Rachel Ouellette, Jeremy Thiboutot

Somerset County

Bingham: Linah Davy **Canaan**: Tammy Burke **Corinna**: Lauren Roberts **Cornville**: Samantha Coombs **Detroit**: Madison Morton **Fairfield**: Nathanael Batson, Bailey Carter, Dakota Hutchins, Trinity Hutchins, Trey Liberty, Ben Parks, Noah Shepherd, Braden Soule, Sam Wilson **Harmony**: Samual Kowal, Caitlin McKenney, Jake Stutzman, Arend Thibodeau **Hartland**: Shelby Haskell, Myky Weinstein **Jackman**: Alexandra Lessard, Ian West **Long Pond Township**: Elise McKendry **Madison**: Jenny Dean, Seth Dillon, Nate Dimock, Jacob Girgis, Jordan Hadley, Caleb Harper, Sydney McDonald **Mercer**: Jason Hilton **Moscow**: Loren Grant, Mike McNally **New Portland**: Grace Cowan **Norridgewock**: Logan Bolster, Kiel Lachapelle, Sara Qualey **Palmyra**: Zoe Fiandaca, Laura Freudenberger, Ryan LaGross, Morganne Robinson **Pittsfield**: Jacob Ackroyd, Hunter Benttinen, Abby Bernier, Dillon Fitts, Madison Fitts, Jordin Jakins, Audrey McCannell, Logan Rollins, Devon Varney, Sarah Welch, Kendrah Willey **Skowhegan**: Rebecca Bell, Marcus Christopher, Brooke Curtis, Alex Higgins, Bailey Lewis, Julia Meade, Morgan Tittle, Nate Tracy **Solon**: Brandon Dixon, A.J. Foss

Waldo County

Belfast: Will Bickford, Sam Davis, Ashley Flanders, Lucien Gordley-Smith, Patrick Groening, Emily Harriman, Trevor Martell, Tracey McKinney, Aiden Pike, Zander Roman, Ben Turner **Belmont**: Zoe Deans **Brooks**: Haley LaRochelle, Nick Merriam **Burnham**: Avery Gosselin **Frankfort**: Hannah Dodson, Brooke Hammond, Kaitlyn Robinson **Lincolnville**: Jesse Goodale, Noah Lang, Brendan Moline, Alisha Pendleton, Joshua Pitcairn, Kyle Wood **Monroe**: Cori Shooter **Morrill**: Evan Kennedy **Northport**: Ana Kelley, Olivia Lovejoy, Hunter Merchant **Palermo**: Kaylee Porter, Caleb Tyler **Searsmont**: Mikayla Artkop, Anna Baiungo, Nicholas Czuchra, Cassidy Hill, Emily Jolliffe **Searsport**: Dominic Francis-Mezger, Sammy Hamblen, Daniel McKeon, Meagan McKeon, Kion Tupper **Stockton Springs**: Ellie Damuck, Ryan Haskell, Bailey West **Swanville**: Kasey McLeod, John White **Thorndike**: Kristen Raven **Troy**: Edward Angelo **Waldo**: Ethan Jacobs **Winterport**: Kate Bragg, Noah Burby, Stella Cashman, Mary Dube, Rachel Gower, Devon Kane, Kayla Stromvall

Washington County

Baileyville: Alex Morrison **Big Lake Township**: Kasey Grass **Calais**: Dev Carrier, Katie Cavanaugh, Kobey Gillespie **Columbia**: Shay Barbee Bamford **Cutler**: Alia Shaw **Danforth**: Kimberly Stoddard **East Machias**: Shaina Murdaugh
Harrington: Kayla Thompson
Jonesport: Morgan Rocks **Lubec**: Lauren Murphy, Jude Zanoni **Milbridge**: Maura Pate **Pembroke**: Kaylie Robertson **Perry**: Devyn Seeley **Princeton**: Avis Hartman, Audrey Nicholas

York County

Acton: Brooke Camire, Summer Camire, Emily Clarke **Alfred**: Zachary Hurlburt, Garrett LaFrance, Joanna LaFrance, Sophia LaFrance **Arundel**: Jonathan Dube, Katie Dube, Michael Laverriere **Berwick**: Jacob Bradshaw, Abby Couture, Ethan DeMoura, Dustin Knight, Jacob LaMontagne, Jarrod Rudis, David Stansfield **Biddeford**: Grace Bermeo, Courtney Heffernan, Emily Huo, Carson Neumann, Sam Paul **Buxton**: Bethany Ashley, Jordan Fournier, Niklas Hase, Abby Logan, Regan McCleary, Sydney Owen, Polly Rae, John Vedral, Anna Weyand **Cape Neddick**: Taylor Bair, Lili Beal, Emily Holt **Cornish**: Katie Tims **East Waterboro**: Jake Cyr **Eliot**: Lauren Cusson, Eliza Foye, Bryant Goodenough, Turner Goodenough, Emma Hichens, Tess McNamara, Peter O'Brien, Terence O'Brien, Marissa Sewell, Chloe Shields, Taylor Sturdevant **Hollis Center**: Connor Baldwin, Lindsey Durgin, Andrew Ettinger, Evan Smith, Jennifer Turner **Kennebunk**: Anna Cressey, Colby Ellis, Grace Howard, James Jarvis, Haloye Johnson, Ashley Kayser, Colleen Keegan, Katy Ross, Brennan Schatzabel, Conor Stevens, Osiris Thomas, Julia Towne, Sam Vaccaro **Kennebunkport**: Michael Conrad, Miles Eaton **Kittery**: Emilia Byrne, Ryan Campion, Amanda Cusack, Grace Finley, Rachel Jones, Briana Lamoureux, Amelia Sullivan, Maeve Wivell **Lebanon**: Maggie Menter, Jack Stapleton **Limerick**: Marcus Ratz **Limington**: David Hegarty, Bre Lifland, Jordyn Long, Aidan McGlone **Lyman**: Joel Van Tassell **North Berwick**: Jacob Burgess, Casey Halliday, Alexy Hudock, Reilly McGilvery, Kody Moseley, James Stewart **North Waterboro**: Emily Davison, Matt Gilbert, Brandon Johnstone **Ogunquit**: Kat Dolan **Old Orchard Beach**: Jamie Crowley, Danika Evangelista, John Fogg, Zoltan Panyi, Bobby Slattery, Katie Spagnolo **Parsonsfield**: Maya Jamerson-Martin **Saco**: Stephanie Ayotte, Caleb Bailey, Cameron Cadorette, Spencer Campbell, Abbey Carignan, Connor Donahue, Erin Farrell, Von Gagnon, George Horvat, Abdul Karim, Michael Kowash, Charles Lees, Ethan Levy, Hannah McAlary, Ben McCarthy, Jason Morrill, Hannah Niles, Ashley Paul, Hunter Penley, Benjamin Steva, Ezra Stillman, Andrew Yarborough **Sanford**: Katherine Austin, Becca Campbell, Megan Charrier, Cam Cote, Adam Genereux, Emilee Mathieu, Ethan Mathieu, Noah Monto, Megan O'Connell, Niraj Patel, Chad Rosander, Travis Tovey, Khang Truong **Shapleigh**: Delaney Pitts **South Berwick**: Courtney Callanan, Renee Clavette, Brian Couture, Claudia Folger, Liam Hawthorne, Stephen Kaplan, Kayla Landry, McKayla Leary, Jacob McKenney, Alex Nduaguibe, Nate Poole, William Ramsay, Stephen Rezack, Jackie Ruksznis, Mikaella Sansoucie, Alec Taylor, Ethan Trott, Kenzie Young **Springvale**: Gabby Bickford, Summer Bourque, Eric Griffin, Anna Johnson, Dean Johnson, Allison L'Heureux, Felix Meas, Josh Webber, Matthew Webber **Waterboro**: Lani Callahan, Hannah Duffy, Desiree Saucier **Wells**: Tim Bullard, Vincent Crawford, Melodie Godin, Kate Macolini, Emily Morrison, Natalie Robinson, Amanda Villemaire, Emma White **West Newfield**: Steele Muchemore-Allen **York**: Steven Blaine, Kelsey Cole, Jack Engholm, Jordan

Gomes, Joey Goulette, Spencer Goulette, Sarah Kate James, Katie Kohler, Anna Lane, Danielle O'Connell, Ethan Peabody, Isabel Pease, Sophie Russell, Caroline Scott, Brett Smith *Back to full list*

Dippre publishes new book

05 Feb 2020

Ryan Dippre, assistant professor in the Department of English, has published a new book, "Talk, Tools, and Texts: A Logic-in-Use for Studying Lifespan Literate Action Development," as part of the Practices and Possibilities Series at the WAC Clearinghouse/University Press of Colorado. Dippre's book traces the literate action of eleven writers from ages twelve to eighty to establish a foundational infrastructure for understanding the ways literate action develops through the lifespan — how writers, in other words, develop from their first purposeful marks on a page to their last.

Bosma earns Psychological Science Research Grant

05 Feb 2020

Colin Bosma has been awarded a $1,000 Psychological Science Research Grant by the Committee of the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS). The doctoral candidate in clinical psychology is eligible to present his research at a poster session in August at the American Psychological Association Convention in Washington, D.C. Bosma's adviser is Emily Haigh, associate professor and director of clinical training in the Department of Psychology.

University of Maine researchers release initial comprehensive assessment of state's carbon budget

06 Feb 2020

Maine's forests and their associated wood products may offset as much as 75% of the state's annual fossil fuel carbon emissions, and the highest carbon stock densities are in wetlands and salt marshes, according to a new University of Maine-led analysis. This initial assessment, "The State of Maine's Carbon Budget," analyzed available information to calculate Maine's carbon budget between 2006–16 by major emissions source and land use. It is one of the first estimates of its kind for the state and helps frame the discussion about Maine's carbon budget, including current efforts being undertaken by the Maine Climate Council, which is seeking to develop a strategy to achieve complete state carbon neutrality by 2045 put in place by Governor Mills in 2019. The analysis was led by researchers at UMaine, Bates College and the Maine Forest Service. The researchers emphasize that uncertainties exist for this type of detailed carbon accounting, particularly when many aspects of the carbon budget are not well monitored in Maine. The framework used was similar to the approach taken by the "State of the Carbon Cycle Report" developed for North America by the United States Global Change Research Program. This analysis required compiling carbon estimates from a variety of state and federal reports and databases. While a comprehensive carbon budget examination has been attempted by few other states, the findings from this assessment suggest that Maine has a large capacity to store carbon from the atmosphere compared to other states due to its low human population and high forest cover. Long-term improvements in the state's carbon budget will require investment in better statewide carbon monitoring systems, according to the researchers. The researchers point out that this work both offers an initial estimate of Maine's carbon budget, and information that can inform those working on this issue about the complexity of quantifying carbon cycling at this scale. A fact sheet and additional data are available on the University of Maine's Forest Climate Change Initative's website. For more information, contact the UMaine Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, crsf@maine.edu; 207.581.3794 Contact: Meg Fergusson, crsf@maine.edu; 207.581.3794.

2020 Maryann Hartman Awards announced

06 Feb 2020

The 2020 Maryann Hartman Awards recognizing the inspirational achievements of Maine women will be presented to retired director of the University of Maine's Women's Resource Center Sharon Barker of Bangor, Penobscot Nation Ambassador Maulian Dana of Old Town and executive director of Maine Hospice Council Kandyce Powell of Wiscasset. The women will be honored in a ceremony at 5:30 p.m., March 25 at Buchanan Alumni House at the University of Maine. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by UMaine's Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, and the Rising Tide Center. Barker, a community organizer and advocate, was named the first director of UMaine's Women's Resource Center in 1991. She worked with faculty and staff, and was a liaison with women's organizations in the community. Barker also mentored countless students, helping them develop their ideas and projects. Her leadership included gender equity workshops for girls, professional development workshops in gender dynamics for teachers, and training for UMaine students as role models and presenters as part of the annual Expanding Your Horizons program for middle school girls. Her focus in the Maine Girls Collaborative Project and other state and national initiatives was on sustainability and understanding and changing the culture, not "fixing" women and girls. Barker co-founded the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center and served as president, and chaired the state's Women's Employment Issues Committee. She retired from UMaine in 2014. Dana was appointed as the Penobscot Nation ambassador by Chief Kirk Francis in September 2017. In that role, she advocates for social justice and equity for Native Americans, including working to eliminate derogatory mascots and school icons across Maine, lobbying for legislation that allows prosecution of non-Native offenders in tribal courts, and enhancing awareness of the murdered and missing indigenous women in Canada and the U.S. She currently serves as a member of the Penobscot Nation Tribal Council, and is working to strengthen programs that preserve and teach the customs and traditions of the Penobscot people. Powell has served as executive director of the Maine Hospice Council and Center for End of Life Care in Augusta since 1992. Her focus on quality end-of-life care, particularly for rural and underserved populations, has motivated her successful lobbying of the state Legislature, where she co-authored Maine's hospice licensure law (LD 1821), and more recently, LD 782, An Act to Improve the Quality of Life for Persons with Serious Illness. She developed a hospice program at the Maine state prison, which she directed from 2000–18. In this role, she secured grant funding to produce a CD featuring the Maine State Prison Hospice Band, "The Sounds of Comfort." Powell co-chairs the Maine Hospice/Veterans Partnership and, in 2018, served as a visiting professor at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland to continue her collaboration focused on humanizing health care. Maryann Hartman Awards recognize Maine women whose achievements in the arts, politics, business, education, health care and community service provide inspiration. The awards honor the legacy of the late UMaine associate professor of speech communication who was a distinguished educator, feminist, scholar and humanitarian. To attend the ceremony, RSVP to 207.581.1228, umaine.wgs@maine.edu or visit the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies website. Contact: Joan Perkins, 207.581.3494; Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Apply now for Master Gardener training in Topsham

06 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties is accepting applications for the Master Gardener Volunteers training program that begins 1–4:30 p.m. March 30 at the Topsham Public Library, 25 Foreside Road. Classes meet weekly through June 8, then resume from late August through October. Participants receive more than 50 hours of in-depth, research-based training from UMaine Extension experts on a variety of gardening and food system topics, including soil science, growing fruits and vegetables, composting, food security and garden pest control. Trained volunteers provide 40 hours of their time, choosing from a variety of community projects, to complete certification. The $220 per-person program fee includes all materials. Limited financial assistance is available. Apply online by Feb. 15. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Lynne Holland, 207.581.8204, 800.287.1458 (in Maine), lynne.holland@maine.edu.

2020 International Dance Festival Feb. 15

06 Feb 2020

The University of Maine will hold the 2020 International Dance Festival on Feb. 15 at the Collins Center for the Arts. Two performances, which are free and open to the public, will take place at 2 and 7 p.m. The 16th annual event will showcase traditional music, dance and clothes from around the world that are representative of the diverse student body at UMaine. The International Dance Festival is a student-led initiative that began in 2005 and is organized by the Office of International Programs and the International Student Association. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 581.2905 or email international@maine.edu. More information also is online.

WDEA reports local students on UMaine Dean's List

06 Feb 2020

WDEA (AM 1370) published the names of students from Hancock and Washington counties who made the University of Maine Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester. A total of 2,572 students made the list, including 1,754 from Maine.

Allan recent guest on Texas Public Radio's 'The Source'

06 Feb 2020

Elizabeth Allan, a professor of higher education at the University of Maine, was a recent guest on Texas Public Radio's "The Source" radio show. The show's topic was why hazing happens at colleges and universities and how it can be prevented.

Bethel Citizen cites Roth's research in birding column

06 Feb 2020

The Bethel Citizen cited research by Amber Roth, an assistant professor of forest wildlife management at the University of Maine, in a birding column. Which birds will be able to adapt to changes in temperature and habitat, and which ones will struggle and need to go elsewhere to survive, is an important question for scientists and birders, the column states. Roth studies Bicknell's thrush and the rusty blackbird, which historically do not have overlapping ranges but now may be using the same spruce-fir stands for breeding. Roth's team is conducting research to confirm this trend and understand if this is a sign of birds adapting, to hopefully guide conservation efforts in the future, according to the column, which cited a UMaine Today story on the research.

Media cover 2020 Career Fair

06 Feb 2020

News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) covered the 2020 Career Fair at the University of Maine on Feb. 5. Around 1,000 students attended to meet with more than 170 employers in a variety of industries. "When our students come to the Career Fair this is like one piece of the puzzle in their job search strategies," said Crisanne Blackie, director of the UMaine Career Center. "So, we want them to come here to make some connections with employers, hopefully, the employers will schedule them for an interview, but it also provides an opportunity for the students to get to know an employer and build a relationship with them. So even if they're a first- or second-year student coming in, it's a great opportunity and they can maybe find an internship and many of those internships will convert into full-time positions."

'The Maine Question' podcast examines news in the 21st century

06 Feb 2020

The latest episode of "The Maine Question" asks, what's the most important transition the media is going through and what does that mean for how people are informed in the 21st century? Fake news, paywalls, Twitterbots, artificial intelligence, Russian trolls, TikTok, and confirmation bias are fundamentally changing the media landscape. It's a far cry from when Walter Cronkite was America's most trusted television newsman and people tuned in nightly to learn about the day's happenings. In the first episode of the second podcast season, Michael Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism at UMaine, talks with host Ron Lisnet about the state of journalism, about how news is delivered and consumed, and what that all means. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added every Thursday this season. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

UMaine selected to participate in Data Literacy Institute to advance student success

10 Feb 2020

The University of Maine is one of 12 public universities nationwide selected to participate in a Data Literacy Institute aimed at increasing the use of data to

boost student success, including the number of graduates. Over the next two years, a UMaine team will participate in the institute that is part of the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU) Powered by Publics initiative and offered in conjunction with the Association for Institutional Research. The Data Literacy Institute will provide data literacy training and will support participants in applying new data literacy skills to a unique student success challenge at their institutions. The work aims to develop a data literacy program model that could be continued at participating institutions, and adopted by other colleges and universities nationwide. In 2018, UMaine became one of 130 public universities and systems nationwide leading Powered by Publics: Scaling Student Success, a new initiative to increase college access; eliminate the achievement gap for low-income, minority and first-generation college students; and award hundreds of thousands more degrees by 2025. "One of the central aims of Powered by Publics is to better leverage data to boost equity and student success," said APLU President Peter McPherson. "Public universities have long recognized the immense value of using data to track and improve student success, especially for students from underserved populations." UMaine is the lead institution for the Northern Cluster of 12 collaborating institutions — one of 16 clusters currently implementing innovative and effective practices to advance student success. The Northern Cluster, led by Jeffrey Hecker, senior advisor to the president, is focusing on addressing affordability and has developed a self-assessment guide for institutions to review their policies and practices as they relate reducing the cost of obtaining a bachelor's degree. The guide will be pilot tested by the Northern Cluster universities over the coming year. "The Powered by Publics initiative aligns beautifully with UMaine's Strategic Vision and Values," said Hecker. "Participating in APLU's national initiative is providing us with access to resources, such as the Data Literacy Institute, and information on best practices, such as the affordability institutional planning guide, that will support our students' success." The 11 other institutions participating in the Northern Cluster are: Bowling Green State University; Central State University; Illinois State University; Kent State University; Miami University; Montclair State University; Oakland University; Towson University; University of Minnesota Duluth; Western Michigan University; and Wright State University. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

U.S. Arctic Research Commission to hold March meeting at UMaine

10 Feb 2020

The U.S. Arctic Research Commission (USARC) will host its 113th public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 24 at Buchanan Alumni House. The USARC meeting, the first ever in the state, will focus on Arctic research conducted by scientists in Maine and the region, and how the federal government can help advance that work in support of national priorities. The meeting will inform the Commission's next report to the White House and Congress, "Report on Goals and Objectives for Arctic Research 2021–2022." In addition, Fran Ulmer, chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, will give a public seminar "Rapid Arctic change: Why does it matter and how can the science community help?" at noon March 23 at Buchanan Alumni House. During her visit, Ulmer also will meet with UMaine faculty and graduate and undergraduate students to discuss their work in Arctic research and sustainability. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jason Charland, director of research development, jason.charland@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension to host wild blueberry conference Feb. 22

10 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is hosting a wild blueberry conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Feb. 22 (snow date Feb. 29) at the Hollywood Casino Hotel in Bangor. The conference includes the latest research on management of diseases and pests, updates from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission, a grower panel discussion, and separate afternoon sessions with a choice between value-added products or crop production focus. The conference fee is by donation and includes lunch; registration is required. Register online by Feb. 16. Pesticide credits will be available. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Mary Michaud, 207.581.3175; mary.j.michaud@maine.edu. More information also is available on the conference website or by contacting UMaine Extension blueberry specialist Lily Calderwood, 207.581.3193; lily.calderwood@maine.edu.

KJ, Morning Sentinel advance wild blueberry conference

10 Feb 2020

CentralMaine.com posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release advancing the wild blueberry conference Feb. 22 at the Hollywood Casino Hotel in Bangor. The conference will include the latest research on management of diseases and pests, updates from the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission, a grower panel discussion, and separate afternoon sessions with a choice between value-added products or crop production focus. The fee is by donation and includes lunch; registration is required by Sunday, Feb. 16 at extension.umaine.edu. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Mary Michaud at 207.581.3175 or mary.j.michaud@maine.edu.

TRJ previews Kirby's insect talk at Belfast Free Library

10 Feb 2020

The Republican Journal previewed Clay Kirby's talk about insect friends and foes in the garden at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Belfast Free Library. Kirby, insect diagnostician and associate scientist at the University of Maine, will discuss tactics to responsibly manage harmful insects. The Belfast Garden Club is hosting the free, public meeting. For more information, visit belfastgardenclub.org.

Times Record quotes Dixon about eco-friendly measures

10 Feb 2020

Daniel Dixon, director of sustainability at the University of Maine, was quoted in a Times Record article about eco-friendly initiatives the City of Bath has undertaken, including a hybrid police car, solar power installations on municipal buildings and electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Dixon said other possible popular initiatives include offering residents incentives to install heat pumps and hybrid hot water heaters. Regardless of a city's eco-friendly changes, "one of the most-important things municipalities should be doing is measuring and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions," he says.

Barkan publishes new edition

10 Feb 2020

Steven Barkan, interim chair, Department of Sociology, "Health, Illness, and Society: An Introduction to Medical Sociology," second edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield (2021).

Graduate School announces 2020–21 Waldron, Hunter, Chase awardees

11 Feb 2020

Ten doctoral candidates will each receive one of three 2020–21 awards: the Janet Waldron Doctoral Research Fellowship, the Susan J. Hunter Teaching Assistantship, and the Chase Distinguished Research Assistantship. These awards will support the students in their research and professional development.
Janet Waldron Doctoral Research Fellowship

- Shelby Helwig, Psychological Sciences
- Frankie St. Amand, Interdisciplinary Studies

Susan J. Hunter Teaching Assistantship

- Cory Johnson, Biomedical Science
- David Smith, Psychological Sciences

Chase Distinguished Research Assistantship

- Sohaib Alahmed, Civil Engineering
- Ming Tso Chien, Literacy Education
- Hannah Mittelstaedt, Ecology and Environmental Sciences
- An Nguyen, History
- Peter Strand, Earth and Climate Sciences
- Natalie VandenAkker, Food and Nutrition Sciences

Writing Series welcomes author Deborah Willis

11 Feb 2020

The 20-year anniversary season of the University of Maine New Writing Series continues with a free, public reading by award-winning Canadian fiction writer Deborah Willis at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in the Allen and Sally Fernald APPE Space (Room 104) in Stewart Commons. Hollie Adams, assistant professor in the Department of English, will introduce and host the Q&A to follow. Deborah Willis's first collection of short fiction, Vanishing and Other Stories, was named one of The Globe and Mail's Best Books of 2009, was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award, and was praised by Nobel-prize winner Alice Munro, who wrote that "The emotional range and depth of these stories, their clarity and deftness, is astonishing." Willis's second collection, The Dark and Other Love Stories, was long-listed for the 2017 Giller Prize, won the Georges Bugnet Award, and was named one of the best books of the year by The Globe and Mail, the CBC, NPR, and Chatelaine Magazine. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The Iowa Review, The Walrus, The Virginia Quarterly, Lucky Peach, and Zoetrope. The University of Maine New Writing Series was founded in 1999 and is sponsored by the UMaine Department of English and the Center for Poetry and Poetics (formerly the National Poetry Foundation), with support from the Eaton Family New Writing Series Fund, the Lloyd H. Elliott Fund, the Milton Ellis Memorial Fund, the Honors College, and the Cultural Affairs/ Distinguished Lecture Series Committee. Grateful acknowledgment is made to the Innovative Media, Research & Commercialization Center (IMRC), and to donors Allen and Sally Fernald, for use of the Fernald APPE space. For more information, contact Steven Evans, 207.581.3822

UMM faculty art show opens Feb. 12

11 Feb 2020

The Art Gallery at the University of Maine at Machias will exhibit the work of three visual arts faculty members from Feb. 12 to April 1. Leslie Bowman, Bernie Vinzani and Audra Christie are featured in the "UMM Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit", showcasing the artists' breadth of expertise in a variety of mediums, including handmade paper and collages, constructions, paintings, digital prints and felted containers. An opening reception will be held 5–7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. The gallery in Powers Hall is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Thursday and noon–5 p.m. Fridays. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.255.1200.

Media report on details contained in Extension's tick report

11 Feb 2020

The Bangor Daily News posted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's 2019 Tick Surveillance Program Annual Report. The report indicates that 2,697 ticks were submitted last year to the lab; samples were submitted from each of the state's 16 counties and from 358 towns. The first sample arrived April 1 and the last Dec. 30. The majority were identified as deer ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*), while American dog ticks (*Dermacentor variabilis*) also made up a significant portion of the submissions. The 16-page report also includes information about tick feeding sites on the human body, activity risk factors, maps of where ticks were submitted from, and pathogen testing results. The Portland Press Herald, News Center Maine and WBZ News Radio included details of the report, WGME and Maine Public posted the Bangor Daily News story, and USA Today published findings from the report in its roundup from the 50 states. WHDH TV 7 News Boston, WABI and Q96.1 posted the Associated Press story.

WABI reports on Fresh Check Day

11 Feb 2020

WABI (Channel 5) covered Fresh Check Day at the University of Maine. At the event, which featured interactive exhibits, food, prizes and giveaways, the campus community "checked in" on the mental health and wellness of college students. "One in 10 college-age students comtemplate suicide," said Kayla Goodwin, a graduate assistant at the UMaine Counseling Center. By connecting with students regularly, she said the center can do more prevention work.

WGME interviews Rubin about effects of road salt on environment

11 Feb 2020

University of Maine economics professor Jonathan Rubin talked with WGME for its story about the impacts that road salt has on the environment and infrastructure. MaineDOT reportedly used an average of 16 tons of salt per lane mile over a four-year period, putting it in the top 10 among state governments."All the salt and and other anti-icing chemicals end up in the water or soil," said Rubin, who leads the the Margaret Smith Chase Policy Center and conducted a study on road salt in 2010. "You can have contamination of wells from the salt when the wells are close to where Maine DOT needs to clear the roads," he said.

Ticks found in all 16 counties of Maine; 39% of tested ticks had Lyme

12 Feb 2020

Thirty-nine percent of deer ticks tested in 2019 by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab were positive for Lyme disease, according to the Tick Surveillance Program Annual Report. A total of 2,697 ticks were submitted last year to the lab; samples came from each of the state's 16 counties and from 358 towns. The first sample arrived April 1 and the last Dec. 30. Of all the submitted ticks, 727 (38.2%) were found on people after they had been gardening or doing yardwork. People in Cumberland County submitted the most ticks (347) for identification and testing (328). Combating tick-associated threats relies on an integrated approach — monitoring tick populations, reducing tick and host habitat, managing ticks and their wildlife hosts, and widespread educational outreach, wrote UMaine Extension authors Griffin Dill and Tom Rounsville, who prepared the 16-page report. The Tick Lab is striving to learn about the geographic spread of ticks and tick-borne disease in the state and to provide information about the risk of encountering ticks. The report also includes information about tick feeding sites on the human body, activity risk factors, and pathogen testing results by county. Questions can be directed to tickID@maine.edu. To learn more about the lab, how to submit a tick, or managing ticks, visit the Cooperative Extension Tick Lab website. Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

UMaine faculty art exhibition opens Feb. 17

12 Feb 2020

The Lord Hall Gallery at the University of Maine will present an exhibition of the rich and varied creative work of eight faculty members who teach in the Department of Art. "Featured Faculty / 2020," which runs from Feb. 17 through March 13, will showcase new work by John Eden, Michael Grillo, Susan Groce, Laurie Hicks, James Linehan, Ed Nadeau, Gregory Ondo and Ellen Roberts. Exhibited art will include photography, sculpture, ceramics, paintings and prints. The exhibition presents an overview of the research and creative accomplishments of studio, art history and art education faculty. An opening reception will be held 5:30–7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Lord Hall Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and is wheelchair accessible.

Maine Public promotes Miró Quartet's concert in Minsky

12 Feb 2020

Maine Public advanced the Miró Quartet performance at 3 p.m. March 29 at Minsky Recital Hall. Formed in 1995, the Miró Quartet took its name and inspiration from Spanish artist Joan Miró. For more information and tickets, the Collins Center for the Arts website.

BDN cites economic study in article about food waste

12 Feb 2020

The Bangor Daily News cited a 2011 University of Maine School of Economics study in an article about reducing food waste at home. The UMaine study found that nearly 28 percent of waste was food waste, according to the article.

Seacoastonline advances Kids Can Grow gardening program

12 Feb 2020

Seacoastonline ran a media release announcing applications are available for University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Kids Can Grow youth gardening program in York County. Children ages 7–12 will be taught how to grow vegetables, flowers and herbs, and build and maintain raised bed gardens at home. Teaching sessions are held monthly Saturdays, April 25 to Oct. 3, in Sanford. For more details, to request an application, or to request a disability accommodation, contact 207.324.2814, 800.287.1535 in Maine; susan.tkacik@maine.edu.

What's love? Depends on whom you ask

12 Feb 2020

As Valentine's Day approached, The Maine Edge asked several people connected with the University of Maine to define love. Those queried included Amy Blackstone, sociology professor; Kat Johnson, senior museum educator & marketing manager at the University of Maine Museum of Art; Karen Pelletreau, adjunct biology faculty; Danny Williams, executive director of the Collins Center for the Arts; Julie Lisnet, adjunct theater professor; and Bruce Pratt, adjunct literature professor. Blackstone offered, "While for most of us it is a private expression, it is also a concept that shapes almost all aspects of our lives, from

who we are allowed to marry to how we form our families to how we spend our money." And Williams said, "I don't just like yellow mustard. I love it."

Maine Edge shares Maryann Hartman Award winners

12 Feb 2020

The Maine Edge ran a University of Maine media release announcing the 2020 Maryann Hartman Award winners: retired director of the University of Maine's Women's Resource Center Sharon Barker of Bangor; Penobscot Nation Ambassador Maulian Dana of Old Town; and executive director of Maine Hospice Council Kandyce Powell of Wiscasset. The winners will be honored at a ceremony at 5:30 p.m. March 25 at Buchanan Alumni House. The UMaine's Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, and the Rising Tide Center are sponsors of the free, public event.

Ming-Tso Chien: Ph.D. student explores international secondary scholars' experiences in Maine

12 Feb 2020

When he came to Maine in 2015, Ming-Tso Chien was a Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant in the University of Maine Department of Modern Languages and Classics, where he taught classes in Mandarin Chinese. Today, as a doctoral student in preK–12 education with a concentration in literacy, Chien was recently awarded a 2020–21 Chase Distinguished Research Assistantship by the UMaine Graduate School. "Actually, the Fulbright program is partly responsible for my current research interest," says Chien, who hails from the city of Taichung in central Taiwan. "The program is not just for us to teach the language and share our culture, it's also for us to learn about American culture," he says. "I was taking a class about the history of immigration in the U.S., and that's when I became interested in the experiences of migrant and immigrant communities in this country." In another class, Chien met Maryia Labree, then a doctoral student in education, who taught a class in literacy and language development. Chien became interested in topics covered in the class, so Labree introduced him to her adviser, associate professor of literacy Susan Bennett-Armistead. After the meeting, Chien decided he wanted to stay in Maine and pursue his Ph.D. with Bennett-Armistead as his adviser. For his dissertation, Chien plans to study a group of Chinese international students in a high school, focusing on their experiences in different communities of practice. A community of practice refers to any social or academic groups to which the students belong. "For example, AP classes, student clubs, athletic teams, international student groups, groups that form in the dorms," Chien says. "I want to explore what their experiences are like in each of these communities, and how those experiences relate to their identity development and language socialization." "Not a lot is known about these students' perspectives," Chien says — a gap in the knowledge base he hopes his dissertation will address. "I'm very thankful for the Chase assistantship, because it will allow me to focus all my time and energy on data collection for my research, and on the analysis and write-up afterward," says Chien, who hopes to complete his dissertation in 2021. In addition to the Chase award, Chien also has received two grants through the College of Education and Human Development's Linda N. Lancaster Professional Development Fund, which was established to support and enhance the research of doctoral students in the college, as well as to expand their professional networks and experiences. In 2017, Chien used a Lancaster grant to travel to the TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) International Convention in Chicago, where he presented a poster on critical literacy. This year, he will use another Lancaster award to attend the American Association for Applied Linguistics conference, where he'll present on "Identity Development and Language Socialization for International Students in Secondary Schools." Throughout his doctoral program, Chien has been involved in a variety of diversity initiatives within the broader UMaine community. For example, he serves on the UMaine Graduate Student Government's Advocacy and Accessibility committee, and a few years ago he was a member of the university's Diversity Leadership Institute cohort. He also worked with UMaine's Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning to establish a community of practice for international teaching assistants (ITAs) such as himself. "Studying here as a student who is part of a racial minority and a linguistic minority, I've become more attentive to the needs of minority students," he says. "In the ITA community of practice, we share resources and personal experiences with the goal of being more effective, equitable and inclusive teachers." Chien credits several UMaine faculty members for helping him along the way. In particular, he says Bennett-Armistead has been a very supportive mentor, along with Timothy Reagan, professor of applied linguistics and foreign language education. In addition, Tammy Mills, Rebecca Buchanan and Leah Hakkola, all assistant professors in the College of Education and Human Development, have provided tremendous support and influenced his thinking and research. He hopes to be a faculty member at a college or university himself one day. However, he says he also can envision himself working for nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations, maybe doing outreach work on literacy with immigrant or migrant children and their families. "I really enjoy all of the connections I have made since coming to UMaine," he says. "Even though I'm far from home, it's such a welcoming and supportive place that will always be special to me." Contact: Casey Kelley, 207.581.3751, casey.kelly@maine.edu

UMPI, Graduate School of Business team to expand opportunities

13 Feb 2020

The University of Maine at Presque Isle has helped develop another opportunity for the business community in northern Maine. Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce members and their employees, as well as members of Momentum Aroostook, will receive a 12% tuition discount on MaineMBA courses at the University of Maine Graduate School of Business. The discount is a defining feature of the Workforce Partners Program, which is available to active members of any Maine chamber of commerce. Participants in the Workforce Partners Program will be able to pay less than $12,000 in tuition to complete the MaineMBA. "We are so pleased to have the University of Maine Graduate School of Business expanding upon the incentives being made available to the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce and Momentum Aroostook and providing graduate-level course offerings to our local business community," said UMPI President Ray Rice. "It's collaborations like this that allow the University of Maine System to best serve the workforce development needs of our region." Officials with the University of Maine Graduate School of Business visited UMPI last fall for a Business Development Lunch and Learn. J. Michael Weber, dean of the University of Maine Graduate School of Business, shared facts and strategies during his talk titled "Strategic Planning and Workforce Development for Businesses in Aroostook County." Topics ranged from career-building for young professionals to leadership succession planning in an aging workforce.

Maine Garden Day returns after five-year hiatus

13 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host Maine Garden Day on March 14, 8:15 a.m.–4 p.m., at Lewiston High School, 156 East Ave., Lewiston. Back after a five-year hiatus, this day-long conference includes 30 hands-on, informational workshops in both half- and quarter-day sessions. Topics include grafting fruit trees, growing hemp in the garden, rewilding the landscape, hunger in the community, growing a gardening business, and raising mushrooms.

Keynote speaker Dan Jaffe, author and horticulturist, will discuss the role of native plants in Maine gardens. The $60 per-person fee ($30 for students) includes lunch; limited financial assistance is available Register online by Feb. 20. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099, pamela.hargest@maine.edu. More information also is on the conference website. Supporting sponsors include Woodin & Company Store Fixtures, Inc. and the Maine Arts Commission.

Olmstead, Down East celebrate Maine's North Country

13 Feb 2020

Down East magazine recently interviewed Kathryn Olmstead for its February 2020 Aroostook Issue. Olmstead served as faculty in the Department of Communication and Journalism for 25 years, six of them as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The article, titled "There's Just Something Here That Gives Us This Sense of Identity," focuses on life and values in Aroostook County. Olmstead—who split her time between Orono and Aroostook while at the University of Maine—says of the County, "I still feel that sense of genuineness, authenticity, lack of pretense. Of pride in a history of hard work and agriculture. Of neighborliness, genuine friendliness." Olmstead also serves on the University of Maine Board of Visitors.

Bethel Citizen previews Fuller's talk about generating income from nontimber forest products

13 Feb 2020

The Bethel Citizen advanced a Western Maine Chapter of Maine Woodland Owners' program led by David Fuller, agriculture and nontimber forest products professional at the University of Maine. The free public program will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 20 at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School in South Paris. Fuller works with farmers and woodlot owners to generate income from nontimber forest products — fiber, foods, herbs, medicinals, walking sticks, resins and seeds. He'll share with attendees what they can make or use from nontimber forest products, including fiddleheads, spruce gum, birch bark, maple sap and balsam fir.

Penobscot Times shares release about Gill's fern research

13 Feb 2020

The Penobscot Times published portions of a University of Maine media release about Jacquelyn Gill's fern research. The University of Maine paleoecologist was awarded $343,380 by NASA's Exobiology program to examine the resilience of ferns, which have existed for about 350 million years, and survived nuclear winter-like conditions 66 million years ago that wiped out dinosaurs and 75% of other animals and plants on Earth. The information she and colleagues uncover could be valuable to understand how to live in changing and challenging climate conditions on Earth, as well as how to recover from a mass extinction, and live on planets that are currently uninhabitable.

'Maine's Climate Future' documents progression of accelerating change and its effects

13 Feb 2020

Nearly every climate-related parameter measured in Maine is accelerating, according to "Maine's Climate Future — 2020 Update," the latest report from the University of Maine. The rate of air and sea warming is increasing. Precipitation is increasing in intensity and volume, and sea level is not only rising, but rising faster than in the previous century. "Maine's Climate Future — 2020 Update" builds on previous reports, "Maine's Climate Future — 2015 Update," "Maine's Climate Future – An Initial Assessment in 2009" and "Coastal Maine Climate Futures." The new report also was supported by Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. "The goal of this work is to build on reporting at the global scale through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and at the national scale through the periodic National Climate Assessments," says Ivan Fernandez, UMaine professor of soil science and forest resources, and the report's lead author. "What is most important for Maine people is information that is local, from our backyard." Key new findings include faster rates of warming along the coast compared to interior and northern Maine, and changes in Maine winters. Average minimum temperatures in Maine are warming 60% faster than average maximums. The growing season is more than two weeks longer with warmer springs and even warmer falls. In contrast, in the Gulf of Maine, it is the summer season that has warmed. And the weather is becoming more and more uncertain. The report briefly discusses possible future conditions in Maine, underscoring that steps taken now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions determine which alternative future pathway Maine experiences. "From the historical record we know that Maine's climate has warmed and become wetter over the past century," says Sean Birkel, Maine state climatologist and UMaine research assistant professor, and co-author of the report. "The factors propelling these changes are estimated by climate models that show that the warming signal from greenhouse gas emissions emerged from the noise of natural variability by at least the 1960s. "Model projections, in addition to historical trends, provide a spread of physically plausible climate outcomes over the next century that can inform both adaptation and mitigation measures," Birkel says. The report points to the growing evidence of impacts of these changes on Maine's farms, fields, forests, marine resources, and aspects of our culture and economy. The report also points to resources and activities that represent opportunities to address the climate challenge, and actions that Mainers are taking to deal with climate-related changes. "Our work at Schoodic Institute focuses on understanding environmental change in Acadia and beyond, as well as helping those charged with managing protected areas to respond and adapt to change. This 2020 update, while alarming, affirms that Maine people have the will and capacity to thrive in uncertain times," says Catherine Schmitt, Schoodic Institute science communication specialist and a co-author of the report. Scientists at the University of Maine in the Climate Change Institute and Maine Sea Grant study the effects of climate change from across the planet to marine fisheries and coastal communities in Maine. In addition, UMaine scientists contribute critical expertise that informs Maine about how to respond to the changing climate. "This report hopes to connect Maine people with the information they need for decision-making," Fernandez says. "We are in awe at the stories from elsewhere about fires in Australia and California, hurricanes in Puerto Rico, melting ice and permafrost in the Arctic, droughts in Africa, and Pacific island nations being lost to rising seas. This can make us less aware of the changes all around us here in Maine. "Science-informed decision-making in the face of climate change about the future we want is always more cost-effective than constantly trying to catch up, or investing in the past," says Fernandez. "As the report states, business as usual is not an option." Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

'The Maine Question' podcast looks at aging trend challenges, opportunities

13 Feb 2020

The latest episode of "The Maine Question" asks, what are the challenges and opportunities that come with being the oldest state in the nation? Every day in the United States, about 10,000 people turn 65. Nowhere is that aging trend more profound than in the state of Maine. But reaching that milestone age is a lot different now than it was for previous generations. Many people 65 and older are active, healthier, continue working, and live longer than ever before. In the second episode of the second season, Len Kaye, director of UMaine's Center on Aging and professor of social work, explores these challenges and opportunities. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added every Thursday this season. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Cooperative Extension awarded $553,486 to develop hardy potato varieties

14 Feb 2020

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Potato Integrated Pest Management program $553,486 to conduct research on potato breeding in Maine. The award will be used to develop new varieties of stress-tolerant, disease- and insect-resistant potatoes that display hardy qualities and are visually aesthetic to enhance marketing opportunities, farm sustainability, and profits for large and small farms. U.S. Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King announced the award in a joint statement Feb. 12.

UMaine Extension offers 'Pork 101' in South Paris

14 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Oxford County will hold a workshop about raising swine from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 21 at the UMaine Extension office, 9 Olson Road, South Paris. "Pork 101" topics include breed selection, nutrition, housing, health care and more. Extension livestock specialist Colt Knight will lead the workshop. The $10 per person fee includes a barbecue rib lunch. Limited financial assistance is available. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Oxford County Extension at 207.743.6329, extension.oxford@maine.edu.

Maine Public to broadcast UMM documentary 'When the Chevy Breaks'

14 Feb 2020

Maine Public Television will broadcast the 2019 University of Maine at Machias student film "When the Chevy Breaks (How Small Towns Fix Big Problems)" at 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 and at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb 22. The film was the third feature-length production to come out of the Downeast Documentary filmmaking course. Alan Kryszak, interdisciplinary fine arts faculty member, directed the film by students Miranda Sutton, Brooke Hachey, Will Rittenhouse, Kayla Cater, Sophie Squire, Eric Darby, Christopher Palmiotto, Trevor Tanski, Jesse Gray, Alex Blackie, Lucas Logan, Abdalla Mostafa, Alexis Morrill and Holly Preston. The documentary was filmed in Washington County and is a collection of stories, ranging from Machias taking on the world's most powerful navy (on a Sunday after church) to an amputee father waiting for his son to return from Afghanistan so they can hike Katahdin. The stories are about overcoming obstacles, big and small. The documentary is part of Maine Public's Bicentennial Community Films Series. The last two films that Kryszak directed also aired on MainePublic/PBS: "Who Made You In America" and "Whatever Works: Exploring Opiate Addiction," which won an excellence award at the 2018 Docs Without Borders Film Festival.

WAGM, Potato News Today report on Extension award to develop hardy spuds

14 Feb 2020

Potato News Today shared WAGM's story that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture has awarded the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Potato Integrated Pest Management program $553,486. The money will be used to develop new varieties of stress-tolerant, disease- and insect-resistant potatoes that display hardy qualities and are visually aesthetic to enhance marketing opportunities, farm sustainability, and profits for large and small farms.

The County posts release about MaineMBA course discount

14 Feb 2020

The County, which includes the Aroostook Republican, the Houlton Pioneer Times, and The Star Herald, posted the University of Maine at Presque Isle media release announcing UMPI has developed another opportunity for the business community in northern Maine. Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce members and their employees, as well as members of Momentum Aroostook, will receive a 12% tuition discount on MaineMBA courses at the University of Maine Graduate School of Business. The discount is a defining feature of the Workforce Partners Program, which is available to active members of any Maine chamber of commerce. Participants in the Workforce Partners Program will be able to pay less than $12,000 in tuition to complete the MaineMBA.

Steneck, Seward sources for Press Herald wildlife love story

14 Feb 2020

University of Maine scientists Bob Steneck and Lindsay Seward dispelled some myths about monogamy in the natural world in the Portland Press Herald's wildlife Valentine's Day story. Steneck, a professor of oceanography, said male lobsters may mate with as many as 10 females in a season. Although up to 90% of the world's nearly 10,000 bird species — including bald eagles, loons and osprey — appear to mate for life, they actually form a "pair bond," to work as a team to raise a family for a period of time. "It's not very romantic. The name of the game is to spread the genes," said Seward, an instructor in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology. "And when you're spreading genes, variety is good. So females do extra-pair coupling. In human terms, that would be called cheating." Then again, in a literal sense, Seward said it could be argued the praying mantis mates for life. "The female attracts the male, and then after they mate, she eats him."

BDN covers climate report findings

14 Feb 2020

The Bangor Daily News shared findings from the 2020 Maine's Climate Future report authored by University of Maine scientists, with support from the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. The state's climate is not only changing due to global temperatures increasing overall, but the rate at which it is changing is speeding up, according to the article. In addition, Maine is getting warmer and wetter, and there is greater variability in the weather, with occasional periods of drought in between intense storms and temperature swings in the winter that can produce single-digit temperatures one day and melting conditions the next. The report can be read here. Maine Public carried the BDN article, and Phys.org and Environmental News Network published the UMaine news release about the report.

New report details economic impact of snowmobiling in Maine

18 Feb 2020

Snowmobiling generated $459 million in direct spending to the Maine economy and supported 2,279 jobs in the state during the 2018–19 season, according to a new study by the University of Maine in collaboration with the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) and the state Snowmobile Program. Accounting for indirect and induced economic activity, the contribution of snowmobiling to Maine's economy was over $606 million, noted the authors of the study, "The Economic Contribution of Snowmobiling in Maine," commissioned by the Snowmobile Program of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. "Having this up-to-date economic impact study is crucial in decision making," says Joe Higgins, supervisor of the Bureau of Parks and Public Lands Off-Road Vehicle Snowmobile Program. "With 95% of the 14,000 miles of snowmobile trails being on private property, it is so important that landowners are recognized and that their property is respected. None of this would be possible without their generosity." The study, available online through UMaine Fogler Library's Digital Commons, was led by Ian Hathaway, a master's student in forest resources and Jessica Leahy, a professor of human dimensions of natural resources, both in the UMaine School of Forest Resources; and Mindy Crandall, now an assistant professor in forest policy at Oregon State University. The last comprehensive evaluation of the economic impact of snowmobiling in Maine was in 1998. The report, "An Economic Evaluation of Snowmobiling in Maine," also was led by UMaine in collaboration with the Maine Snowmobile Association and the state Snowmobile Program. "As Maine snowmobilers' lobbyist group, MSA now has an updated economic impact study as a 'tool' when working legislative issues in Augusta," says Mike Grass Jr., president of the Maine Snowmobile Association Executive Committee. Snowmobiling generates a significant amount of spending during the winter in Maine, especially in the rural areas which benefit from snowmobiling activity, according to the authors. In addition to the snowmobile-related spending that directly supports 2,279 jobs in Maine, the indirect and induced effects of the spending support an additional 1,060 jobs. Trip-related spending accounted for approximately $209.5 million or about 46% of the total direct spending for the 2018–19 season. Trip-related expenditures include gas and oil for a snowmobile and/or a tow vehicle, restaurant purchases, souvenirs, clothing purchased during the trip and overnight accommodations. The greatest amount of direct spending in a single category was snowmobile purchases, which generated approximately $132 million in direct spending. "This will be helpful to both the state of Maine Snowmobile Program and the Maine Snowmobile Association as they prioritize their efforts and initiatives to maintain and enhance snowmobiling opportunities in Maine," says Leahy. "There have been so many changes in snowmobiling since the last study that it was best to do an extensive survey of in-state and out-of-state riders. We have a lot more out-of-state riders than before, and the snowmobiles themselves are much more expensive now. "I wasn't surprised to see that restaurants, hotels and motels, vehicle and parts sales (and repairs), and retail were the top sectors affected by snowmobilers in Maine," Leahy says. "You can see those contributions to Maine's rural economies when you visit prime snowmobile destinations in the winter." During the 2018–19 snowmobiling season, more than 61,600 snowmobiles were registered in Maine by resident snowmobilers, and over 25,500 snowmobiles were registered by nonresidents. Since 1998, overall registrations have increased, and registrations among nonresidents have more than doubled. Economic impact data came from the survey responses of nearly 900 people with snowmobiles registered in Maine. Nearly 47% of the respondents were from Maine; 53% were from 16 other states — Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Texas. In addition, the survey provided sociodemographic information on snowmobilers, as well as their opinions on snowmobiling-related issues and tourism infrastructure. Among the findings from the snowmobilers' responses:

- The average age of resident and nonresident snowmobilers in Maine is 54 and 53, respectively — a shift from the 1998 survey that determined the average ages were 42 and 41 for residents and nonresidents, respectively.
- The median annual income was $80,000–$99,999 for resident snowmobilers; $120,000–$149,000 a year for nonresidents.
- More than 37% of resident and 36% of nonresident snowmobilers own camps or second homes in Maine.
- The majority of resident snowmobilers took their first ride in Maine before 1979; the majority of nonresidents began snowmobiling in the state after 1990. And all say they have snowmobiled in Maine annually or more than half the years since their first snowmobile trip in Maine.

Other data collected in the survey includes respondents' history of club activity and volunteering, total number of days snowmobiling last year and average miles traveled by snowmobile in Maine. The snowmobiling economic impact study is the focus of Hathaway's graduate research. He also is studying the Maine Guide Program and how it relates to leadership theory through Maine Snowmobile Guides. Hathaway, from Harpswell, Maine, received his bachelor's degree in parks, recreation, and tourism from UMaine in 2018, and is a registered Maine Guide. "We were fortunate to recruit Ian Hathaway as our graduate student to carry out this work. As a Maine native, he understood how to carry out this research with snowmobilers," Leahy says. Contact: Jim Britt, 207.287.3156; Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine helps relaunch Northeastern States Research Cooperative to support applied regional forest science

18 Feb 2020

New federal funding for research on the region's forest ecosystem and economy will allow the University of Maine Center for Research on Sustainable Forests (CRSF) to continue co-leadership of the Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) with Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. NSRC, created by Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont in the 1998 Farm Bill and expanded to include Maine in 2006, received $2 million in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill through strong support by Maine's federal representatives. Since its inception, NSRC has supported cross-disciplinary, collaborative research on the northern forest and its 26 million acres of working landscape. That research has been led by the U.S. Forest Service and universities across the four Northern Forest states — Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and New York. Focusing on the ecological, economic and cultural challenges facing the forest, NSRC has awarded more than 300 competitive research grants totaling more than $23 million to over 50 different institutions throughout the region. In Maine, NSRC has supported more than 50 projects with over $4 million in funding. These projects have included improving management of white pine, enhancing forest landowner decision-support tools, and evaluating potential losses due to spruce budworm. The revitalized program, which had not received

federal funding since 2016, will seek input from business, industry, agency and community leaders to define a research agenda that will support and improve the health of the Northern Forest environment and economy. The expectation is that CRSF will work with institutional counterparts to begin the request for proposal process later this year, with new research projects expected to begin by early 2021. Contact: Meg Fergusson, 207.581.3794

Athletics recognizes student-athletes, Dean Smith award recipients

18 Feb 2020

University of Maine Athletics announced that two student-athletes have received the 2020 M Club Dean Smith award: Cassandra Mascarenhas, a junior captain on the field hockey team, and Mitch Fossier, a senior captain on the men's ice hockey team. The M Club Dean Smith award is the most prestigious award presented annually to the top male and female student-athletes at UMaine. To be considered for this award, athletes are nominated by their coaches and must have demonstrated outstanding academic and athletic achievement, be of outstanding character and a contributor and leader within their community. More information on the Dean Smith award recipients is online. On Feb. 10, UMaine Athletics honored 289 student-athletes for their success in the classroom at the 31st annual Scholar-Athlete Recognition Ceremony, held at Wells Conference Center. The honorees represent the highest number of scholar-athlete individual recognitions in the history of the scholar-athlete ceremony. This year, UMaine recognized 205 scholar-athletes, who earned a 3.0 or higher grade point average in the previous spring and fall semesters, and/or have maintained a 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average. And 84 student-athletes were recognized as 2019 Rising Stars for earning a 3.0 or higher grade point average in their first semester. For the 16th consecutive year, the Black Bears honored more than one-half of the student-athletes at UMaine. More information on the ceremony is online.

News Center Maine quotes student in report on Black History Month breakfast

18 Feb 2020

News Center Maine quoted a University of Maine student in a report on the annual Black History Month and Black Lives Matter breakfast, hosted Feb. 15 at Wells Conference Center by the Maine Human Rights Coalition. Discussion at the event included topics such as what to do to improve the treatment of African Americans in the United States, the importance of Black representation, and raising awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement, the report states. "I wanted to be more involved with my community and the nation to see what's happening and what I can do to change it," said UMaine student Curtis Muray. WABI (Channel 5) also reported on the event.

Healthline speaks with Camire about organic produce

18 Feb 2020

Healthline spoke with Mary Ellen Camire, a professor of food science and human nutrition at the University of Maine, for the article "Don't let a fear of pesticides stop you from eating fruits and veggies." Studies show that the amount of pesticides found on conventional produce is very small and lower today than in the past, according to Camire. Consumers should think more about eating the wide variety of fruits and vegetables available to them and less about the low-risk levels of pesticide residue, the article states. "If people are concerned [about pesticides], you can even grow some vegetables at home. It allows you to take more control of your food supply if you have a little space," said Camire.

Media report on study of economic impact of snowmobiling

18 Feb 2020

Bangor Daily News, News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5), WAGM (Channel 8), WGME (Channel 13) and Mainebiz reported on a University of Maine study of the economic impact of snowmobiling in Maine. Snowmobiling contributed $606 million to Maine's economy during the 2018–19 season according to the study, which was the first economic study of the industry in 22 years and was commissioned by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Snowmobiling generated $459 million in direct spending supporting 2,279 jobs, and the remainder came from indirect spending that supported another 1,060 jobs in the state, according to the report by researchers Ian Hathaway, Jessica Leahy and Mindy Crandall. Maine Public shared the BDN article. A column in The Maine Edge also mentioned the snowmobile study.

UMaine chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma to celebrate 107th anniversary of the international honor society

18 Feb 2020

Students in the University of Maine chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma will join the Founders Week celebration of the international business honor society with an information table in the atrium of D. P. Corbett Business Building on Feb. 19. Throughout its 107-year history, Beta Gamma Sigma has established more than 600 collegiate chapters in over 30 countries and 32 alumni chapters globally. UMaine's chapter was established in 1974. The society has inducted more than 875,000 outstanding students who have gone on to serve in corporate, government, nonprofit, educational and other management positions. Members currently reside in all 50 U.S. states and more than 190 countries and territories worldwide. UMaine student members have been involved in several programs and activities, including a Global Leadership Summit. The chapter also has won the Collegiate Chapter Honor Roll — Honors Award for multiple years. Faye Gilbert, dean of the Undergraduate School of Business and interim provost, continuously emphasizes the importance of Beta Gamma Sigma in the local community and at UMaine. "Beta Gamma Sigma celebrates academic excellence, with students in the top percentage of their class invited to join. The Maine Business School is committed to sponsoring their lifetime membership to ensure this honor remains both a point of pride and a benefit long after graduation," Gilbert says. Contact: Nick Fraunfelter, um.mbscomm@maine.edu

MIRTA 3.0 teams complete two-day boot camp

19 Feb 2020

Four faculty-led innovation teams are in the third cohort of the Maine Innovation, Research and Technology Accelerator (MIRTA). The teams recently completed an immersive two-day boot camp designed to introduce them to all aspects of the commercialization process. The teams are:

- Salty Spoon, a smart spoon that can enhance flavor, led by Nimesha Ranasinghe, UMaine assistant professor of spatial informatics, with graduate students Chamath Amarasinghe and Meetha James
- RegenBlu, harnessing the natural bioactive compounds extracted from wild blueberries to promote wound healing and tissue regeneration while decreasing inflammation, led by Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, UMaine professor of clinical nutrition, with graduate student Natalie VandenAkker
- The Coparent Co-op, a mobile app-based intervention program to help parents successfully resolve areas of conflict and build a productive coparental relationship, led by Daniel Puhlman, UMaine assistant professor of family studies, with undergraduate Emma Richardson
- Gorham Lamp, a novel microscope and benchtop light that combines multiple lighting techniques (brightfield, darkfield, transmitted illumination, etc.) in a single cost-saving and space-saving device, led by Joseph Staples, assistant professor of environmental science at the University of Southern Maine, with graduate student Jeremy Zuckero and undergraduate Marcus McCue

This is the third cohort of inventors to be part of MIRTA, which was made possible by the University of Maine System Research Reinvestment Fund. The fund is a pool of competitive internal grants allocated to advance research projects along the path from discovery to becoming commercial products with public benefit. All projects are tied to Maine businesses or industries critical to the future of the state. The teams work 20 hours a week for 16 weeks doing the market research, intellectual property analysis and business model development to bring their invention to market. Guiding them throughout the process are business incubation staff from UMaine's Office of Innovation and Economic Development. In addition, each team has an advisory committee of industry and technology experts who provide feedback and advice. The teams are eligible for up to $25,000 each to help develop commercialization implementation plans. Commercialization plans vary depending on the type of invention a team brings to MIRTA, and the end result could be starting a new company or licensing to an existing one. From the nine teams in the first two MIRTA cohorts, four new startups have been formed and a fifth is in progress. Four projects have expanded industry collaborations. The teams have collectively raised more than $500,000 in external funding to support ongoing commercialization. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Third annual Women of Power Reception held Feb. 13

19 Feb 2020

The Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and its nonpartisan student program Maine NEW (National Education for Women) Leadership hosted the third annual Women of Power Networking Reception on Feb. 13 at the Senator Inn in Augusta. Women of Power celebrates those individuals who serve the state of Maine in Augusta and beyond, and those who will become Maine's future leaders. Maine's women legislators served as the co-hosts for the event and Gov. Janet Mills was the special guest. Each year at Women of Power, Maine NEW Leadership recognizes the recipient of the Minerva Award, which is given to a Maine woman leader who exemplifies the values of the program; leadership for the betterment of Maine; a commitment to civil dialogue; and a passion for civic engagement. University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy presented the 2020 Minerva Award to the Honorable Joyce Maker. A photo gallery from the event is online. The proceeds from the Women of Power Networking Reception fund NEW Leadership's educational program designed to educate and empower young people by giving them the skills necessary to become the next generation of effective civic and political leaders. By participating in Maine NEW Leadership, students gain a greater awareness of their own abilities to lead, their expertise and qualifications to take on a leadership role, as well as the many opportunities for them in civic life and public office. With the skills they learn and the networks they develop, participants are empowered and energized to emerge as leaders. Each year in June, NEW Leadership hosts a six-day residential undergraduate student leadership training program free of charge for participants. The program includes presentations from politically active women throughout Maine, a visit with women legislators and policy advocates at the State House, and workshops for participants to actively develop leadership skills, such as public speaking, advocacy, and networking. Participants also benefit from the experience of faculty-in-residence, a group of women public leaders who serve as mentors for students throughout their stay.

DHHS Commissioner Lambrew to visit campus as Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow

19 Feb 2020

Jeanne Lambrew, commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, will visit campus as a Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow on Feb. 20. Distinguished Maine Policy Fellows are individuals with past or current careers as policymakers in Maine — people of distinguished status and extensive experience. Each fellow comes to campus as the guest of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center for the day. While on campus they teach an undergraduate class, speak with faculty about the intersections of their research and public policy, and meet with UMaine administration and graduate students. While visiting the University of Maine, Lambrew will talk to undergraduate students about health policy in Maine, and discuss topics with faculty, including injury prevention, metabolic disorders and infectious diseases in isolated populations in rural Maine, and the expansion of telehealth training and use to support developmental and emotional needs of children in rural Maine schools. She also will tour the Virtual Environment and Multimodal Interaction Lab (VEMI Lab) in Carnegie Hall. Lambrew's biography is online.

Sun Journal reports second issue of Résonance literary journal published

19 Feb 2020

The Sun Journal reported the second issue of Résonance has been published by Franco-American Programs at the University of Maine. The electronic literary journal seeks to encourage, showcase and disseminate creative works by established and emerging writers, primarily by or about the Franco-American communities of the United States, according to the article. The journal is available online.

BDN interviews Knight about carbon-neutral beef

19 Feb 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Colt Knight, a livestock specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the article, "The debate over how to raise beef without killing the planet." There is a growing movement of "carbon-neutral" or "carbon-negative" beef producers who aim to take advantage of the natural interplay between large grazing animals and their pastures, the article states. "There is not a wealth of knowledge on this topic yet, but it's something being explored," said Knight. "Scientific data on this seems to indicate that we very well might be able to [produce carbon-neutral beef], depending on what type of grass they're grazed on, where they're grazed [and] soil types." But more research will need to be done to avoid haphazard changes that could disrupt the industry, according to Knight. "Some people just think sustainability [means] all-natural or doing things the old way," he said.

“The reason we quit doing things the old way is because we got more efficient. We can definitely make improvements, and we’re doing that, and we have been doing that for the last 100 years.”

E&E News quotes Gill in article on climate-focused science fiction

19 Feb 2020

E&E News quoted Jacquelyn Gill, an associate professor and paleoecologist at the University of Maine, in the article “Meet cli-fi. It’s dark, it’s gloomy — and it might help.” “Cli-fi,” or science fiction focused on potential future effects of climate change, is a genre helping readers come to terms with global warming predictions and even imagine solutions for it, the article states. Gill said fiction has the power to make problems real for people, because narratives add dimensions of reality that data cannot. “That’s something I appreciate as a climate communicator in addition to being a scientist,” she said. “I appreciate the power of narrative and storytelling for shaking people up and making them aware of the climate crisis.”

WVII previews UMaine Extension indoor seed starting workshop

19 Feb 2020

WVII (Channel 7) previewed an indoor seed starting workshop hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Bangor Public Library in the library’s board room from 2–4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. UMaine Extension horticulturist Kate Garland will lead the free hands-on workshop where participants will sow their own seeds to bring home and learn about best practices for starting seedlings indoors. The event is sponsored by the library’s seed swap program, according to the report.

News Center Maine reports on art camp at UMMA

19 Feb 2020

News Center Maine reported on a February break art camp offered by the University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor. The weeklong camp focuses on teaching kids to appreciate and understand art, and create art in response to what they see in museum galleries. The camp “just brings kids into an awareness of what’s going on with contemporary modern art, what we’ve got going on in the exhibitions, and to just tie into the idea behind the making as they make their own art projects,” said Kat Johnson, senior museum educator and marketing manager. “It gives them an outlet to work with their creativity and process.” Campers also have the chance to work on problem solving, literacy and motor skills. “They all have incredible opinions on each piece, and they are really insightful, they always pick up on all the different formal qualities that the artwork is achieving,” said Johnson.

BDN speaks with MacAulay about mindfulness

19 Feb 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Rebecca MacAulay, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Maine, for an article about mindfulness. “Informal mindfulness walking entails noticing what is happening as you move from one place to another,” said MacAulay. “Our brains are constantly categorizing things, mindfulness stops the categorizing and helps us accept the moment for what it is. You’re not trying to change it, and you’re not trying to influence how you feel, you’re simply aware.” Practicing meditation on a regular basis, even briefly, can make people less likely to respond negatively to an unplanned change, the article states. “It’s removing reactivity. In clinical psychology, we work on pressing pause if someone is feeling strong emotions,” said MacAulay. “With mindfulness [practices], they’re all encouraging you to be aware and in the moment.” In the coming year, MacAulay said she and her Ph.D. students will focus their research on making sure marginalized communities in Maine have access to the skills needed to bring about more mindfulness. MacAulay acknowledged that mindfulness does not work for everyone, but encourages people to “just try it … it takes time, and it takes practice, so don’t get discouraged.”

Media report local students on UMaine Dean’s List

19 Feb 2020

Media reported local students made the University of Maine Dean’s List for the fall 2019 semester. A total of 2,572 students made the list, including 1,754 from Maine. Penobscot Bay Pilot published the names of students from Knox and Waldo counties who made the list. Wiscasset Newspaper published the names of students from Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb, Newcastle and Wiscasset receiving the honor. The Falmouth Enterprise published the names of students from Falmouth, East Falmouth and Teaticket who made the list.

UMaine AI: Enhancing human life and societal well-being in Maine and beyond

19 Feb 2020

Artificial intelligence (AI) — the development of computer systems that perform tasks that normally require human intelligence; including visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making and language translation — once was considered to be a concept for science-fiction writing or a vision for the future of computing. The University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Initiative (UMaine AI) is dedicated to the advancement of AI and its applications — from discovery and learning in foundational AI to its high-impact uses and workforce development. Its vision is to make Maine a world-class hub for AI research, education and applications through its mission to develop transformative AI-based solutions that enhance the social and economic well-being of the citizens of Maine and beyond. In support of the workforce needs of the state, UMaine offers a multitude of undergraduate and graduate degree programs, interdisciplinary research collaborations and courses that train students in artificial intelligence and its applications. Opportunities abound for undergraduate and graduate students to engage in interdisciplinary research areas, from machine learning, data science and engineering to health and life sciences, business, and education. The UMaine AI Initiative is a unique, Maine-based venture that brings together university, industry, government and community collaborators from Maine and beyond to advance the field of artificial intelligence. The initiative leverages the university’s strengths to bring a multi-disciplinary approach to solving problems through cutting-edge research. Maine’s land, sea and space grant university addresses grand challenges of global impact and local relevance in AI research projects covering issues from forestry modeling, cancer detection, space travel and autonomous vehicle programs. UMaine AI has

four areas of focus: foundational AI research; application of AI; education and workforce development; and social, ethical, policy and legal considerations. Among UMaine's AI researchers, Roy Turner, associate professor of computer science, leads a project that will result in an instrument capable of high-speed computations that were previously unachievable. This new computing capacity will make UMaine more competitive for national grants, and will facilitate research statewide, according to Turner. And Yifeng Zhu, professor of computer engineering, has developed AI models to detect liver cancers. Zhu also has collaborated with local hospitals to develop smart sensors for gait analysis to prevent and detect falls. As AI improves and expands, the demand for it does, as well. From everyday mobile banking, online shopping, streaming movies and social media networks – AI connects the world with more efficient decision-making and improved customer experiences through advanced and adaptable algorithms. "UMaine AI is dedicated to enhancing human life and societal well-being. It draws top talent and leverages a distinctive set of capabilities from the University of Maine across many disciplines and other collaborating institutions from across Maine and beyond, while it also recruits world-class talent from across the nation and the world," says Kody Varahramyan, UMaine vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School. Contact: Christel Peters, 207.581.3571

Powell, Clark publish in Election Law Journal

19 Feb 2020

Richard Powell, professor in the Department of Political Science, and UMaine Political Science alumnus Jesse Clark have published an article in the Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy. The article, "Partisan Gerrymandering, Clustering, or Both? A New Approach to a Persistent Question," is a collaboration with Matthew Dube at the University of Maine at Augusta that uses simulations based in graph theory to explore whether partisan bias in the U.S. House of Representatives is due to demographic clustering or intentional gerrymandering. The authors found that while there is a significant amount of demographic clustering, redistricting accounts for a much greater portion of the partisan bias in the House.

Adams publishes poem

19 Feb 2020

Hollie Adams, assistant professor of creative writing and Canadian literature in the Department of English, has published a poem, titled "Sich-Zu-Sehr-Amüsieren-Phobia," in the latest issue (volume 42.3) of the literary magazine Room. Room is Canada's oldest feminist literary journal, and has published fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, art, interviews and book reviews for 40 years.

Ludington contributes a chapter

19 Feb 2020

Zachary Rockwell Ludington, assistant professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, contributed a chapter to a book, "Historia de un escenario. 40 años de teatro en español en la Universidad de Virginia," commemorating 40 years of Spanish-language theatre at the University of Virginia, where Ludington completed his Ph.D. Ludington's chapter discusses a production of "Idiotas contemplando la nieve" by playwright Alejandro Ricaño.

Innovate for Maine Fellows opens applications for students, companies

20 Feb 2020

The University of Maine's Foster Center for Student Innovation seeks Maine students and Maine companies to participate in the 2020 Innovate for Maine Fellows internship program. Innovate for Maine Fellows connects the best and brightest Maine college students with the state's most exciting companies as a way to grow and create jobs in Maine through innovation and entrepreneurship. The program is looking for student fellows to join the 2020 cohort and a variety of for-profit companies with innovative products, services or processes to host them. Eligible students include those enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs at any college or university in Maine, as well as Maine residents enrolled in degree programs at colleges or universities outside of the state. Host companies can range in size from small startups to major corporations. Fellows can work full time or part time during the summer, with the possibility of continuing part time during the academic year. Emphasizing innovation and entrepreneurship, the program prepares students to collaborate with companies on innovation projects that accelerate company growth and provide paid, meaningful, hands-on internship experience. Innovation projects can include work on new products or services, process improvements, or efforts to scale company growth. Innovate for Maine Fellows are able to conduct market research, assist with marketing or technical work and run "fail fast, fail cheap" experiments, including prototyping and sales forecasting. "The goal of the Innovate for Maine Fellows program is to expose students to innovation and entrepreneurship while helping companies complete projects that will help them grow," says Renee Kelly, assistant vice president for innovation and economic development. "Many of our students end up working at Maine companies after graduation, or even starting their own companies." Trained innovation experts guide and mentor both the fellow and the company for the duration of the project. The University of Maine can handle all recruiting, screening, matching, hiring and initial innovation and workplace training for companies that need assistance. All fellows participate in a one-week innovation boot camp at the start of the program that allows them to bond with each other, network with business leaders and learn skills they'll need to be successful in their internships. The boot camp brings together students from all majors and backgrounds to form a close-knit cohort that offers a support system for the duration of the program. Since Innovate for Maine Fellows was established in 2012, student participants have gained exposure to innovative Maine companies and built strong networks that help them find opportunities to stay in Maine. A recent survey of Innovate for Maine Fellows alumni revealed that 70% of respondents were living in Maine and another 10% currently live outside of Maine but plan to return as their careers progress. Nearly 20% of program alumni have started their own companies. To apply or to learn more about Innovate for Maine Fellows, visit the program website. The application deadline for both students and companies is March 13.

'The Maine Question' podcast looks at future of Maine forests

20 Feb 2020

The latest episode of "The Maine Question" asks, what does the future hold for Maine's forests? Forests play a central role in defining the state — from its geography to the economy to just about any aspect of Maine's way of life that you can think of. But the way forestry is practiced and the products that come out of the woods have started to change drastically. That trend will ramp up even more in the future. Steve Shaler, director of UMaine's School of Forest

Resources and associate director of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center, talks about these changes and what they mean for the state of Maine in the third episode of the second season. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added every Thursday this season. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Lakes Region Weekly announces Margaret Chase Smith essay contest open

20 Feb 2020

Lakes Region Weekly announced the 24th annual Margaret Chase Smith Library essay contest is open. The contest, hosted by the University of Maine-run Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan, is accepting entries from Maine high school seniors until April 1. This year's topic is how to make the state "the way life should be" for young people so that more of them will choose to live in a place with one of the oldest populations in the nation, the article states. For more information, visit the website or call John Taylor at 207.474.7133.

Ellsworth American previews Hancock County food drive in March

20 Feb 2020

The Ellsworth American previewed the ninth annual Hancock County Food Drive, which kicks off on March 7. The initiative is led by the Hancock County Food Security Network, with support from Healthy Acadia, Maine Community Foundation, United Way of Eastern Maine, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Star 97.7 and Maine Coast Mall.

AP quotes Dill in report on pollinators, pesticides

20 Feb 2020

The Associated Press quoted Jim Dill, pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for a report on pollinators and pesticides. Pollinator populations have sharply declined over the past 30 years due to a variety of reasons, including pesticide and herbicide exposure, the report states. Dill said pesticides are over-applied by many backyard gardeners. "They don't read the labels, or they eyeball the amounts. Sometimes, if maybe an ounce is called for, they'll use two ounces. They often will use a calendar spray schedule or just spray because they had a problem in the past," he said. Well-informed gardeners can help reverse the pollinator declines by reading and following labels, limiting use of chemicals, and keeping bee colonies as far away from commercial agriculture as possible. ABC News, New Haven Register and WPEC (Channel 12 in West Palm Beach, Florida) carried the AP article.

Media highlight open applications for Innovate for Maine Fellows

20 Feb 2020

News Center Maine, Centralmaine.com and the Penobscot Bay Pilot noted that the University of Maine's Foster Center for Innovation is seeking Maine students and Maine companies to participate in the 2021 Innovate for Maine Fellows internship program. The program connects college students with companies in the state to grow and create jobs in Maine through innovation and entrepreneurship, the article states. The application deadline is March 13; more information is online.

Hargest quoted in Press Herald Maine Gardener column on microgreens

20 Feb 2020

Portland Press Herald's Maine Gardener column quoted Pamela Hargest, a horticulture professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, in a piece about how to grow microgreens. Microgreens can be grown indoors in a south-facing window, but usually do better with grow lights. "The greens can get a little spindly trying to reach for the light without them," said Hargest. She suggests starting with at least two 10-by-20-inch plastic trays for a family of four or five, and filling them evenly with potting mixture. Hargest recommends planting the type of seeds you'll like to eat, such as arugula, kale and other brassicas, radishes, lettuces or nasturtiums. Microgreens can be used as a garnish, in a salad, or in soups and other hot dishes, according to the column.

Undark Magazine publishes opinion piece by master's student

20 Feb 2020

Undark Magazine published an opinion essay on wildlife policy and Lyme disease by Elyse DeFranco, an ecology and environmental sciences master's student at the University of Maine. The essay draws on research led by Susan Elias while completing her Ph.D. at UMaine's Climate Change Institute, which found that maintaining deer populations below a certain threshold could control the black-legged tick population and reduce the risk of Lyme disease in Maine. The article also was published on Salon.com and in Canada's National Observer through the Climate Desk Collaboration, which seeks to promote journalism that explores the effects of a changing climate.

BDN interviews Coffin about chicken coop heat lamps

20 Feb 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Donna Coffin, a professor with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the article, "Heat lamps are an unnecessary fire risk in chicken coops." Chickens can knock over the lamps into their bedding, creating a fire risk. And chickens are able to keep themselves warm enough even in Maine winters without heat lamps, according to the article. "Chickens do not need a heat source in the winter," said Coffin. "As long as they are acclimated, in a draft-free shelter and have dry bedding, they will be fine." The only impact of cold weather will be reduced egg production from laying hens, according to Coffin. If someone really wants to give their chickens supplemental heat, she suggests a wall-mounted coop heater specifically designed for safety. WGME (Channel 13) published the BDN article.

Riordan recent guest on Maine Public's 'Maine Calling'

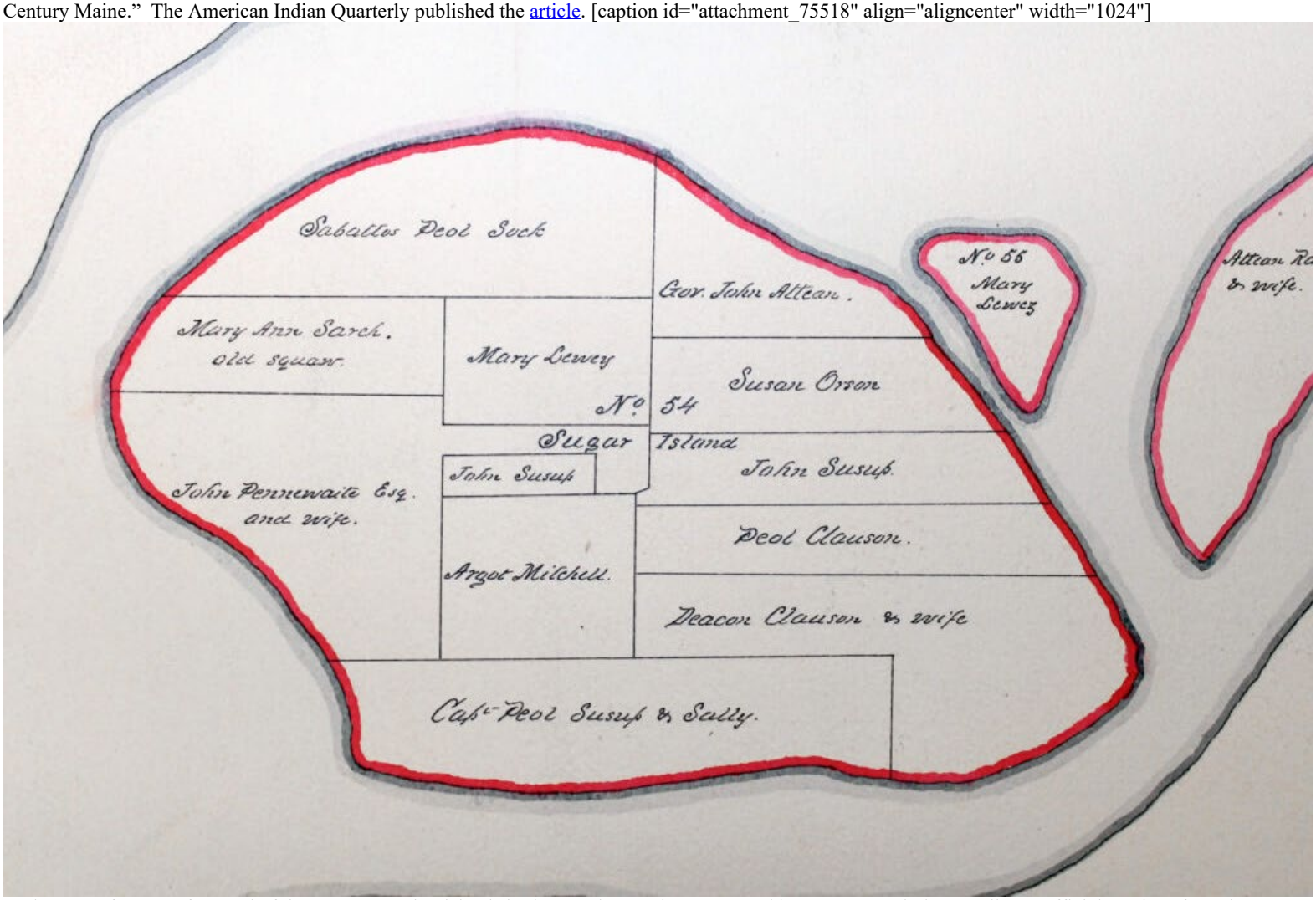
20 Feb 2020

Liam Riordan, a professor of history at the University of Maine, was a recent guest on Maine Public's "Maine Calling" radio show. The show's topic was how Maine evolved in the pivotal years between becoming a state in 1820 and its involvement in the Civil War.

Penobscot women and the tribal land tenure system in 19th-century Maine

21 Feb 2020

In the 19th century, Penobscot grandmothers approved marriages, adjusted family disputes, sanctioned divorces and carried wampum. The tribe's grandmothers' council (*nohkmssizak mawebohwak,* or the modern spelling, *nohkomess potawasin*) could veto a declaration of war by the chief and tribal council. Penobscot women had powerful and wide-ranging roles in their society, and their importance was embedded in the unique land system Maine state officials created in 1835, says Micah Pawling, associate professor of history and Native American Programs at the University of Maine. That year, surveyor Zebulon Bradley assigned lots to tribal members on the 146 reservation islands in the Penobscot River. He did so after Penobscot Joseph Sockabasin — who started farming on reservation land to escape the "abyss of poverty and wretchedness" caused by the encroachment of European Americans — sought a deed from the state permitting him to pass on his farm land to his family. Under this new land tenure system, all Penobscots 21 years and older could apply for a land lot on a reservation island. Women, like men, owned lots as individuals and as spouses. Married Penobscot women owning land on the river islands represented an indigenous value, and preceded by nearly a decade Maine's 1844 Property Law that granted married women the right to own property, says Pawling. This method for Penobscots to possess specific lots, coupled with the recognition of communal reservation islands, powerfully reinforced tribal land ownership and hindered further dispossession, he says. Pawling describes the unique dual land system, including the recognized right of married Penobscot women to own property, in "A 'Labyrinth of Uncertainties'; Penobscot River Islands, Land Assignments, and Indigenous Women Proprietors in Nineteenth-Century Maine." The American Indian Quarterly published the article. [caption id="attachment_75518" align="aligncenter" width="1024"]



A close-up of a map of several of the 146 reservation islands in the Penobscot River, prepared by surveyor Zebulon Bradley. "Official Copies of Land Surveys in the County of Penobscot. Prepared under the direction of the Land Agent of Maine in compliance with Resolves of 1887 and 1889."[/caption] Darren Ranco, UMaine associate professor of anthropology and chair of Native American Programs, says Pawling's research highlights important elements of the roles women have in Penobscot and in other Wabanaki Tribal Nations in Maine and the Maritimes. "The strength of these powerful roles is revealed by the fact that the state of Maine had to recognize Penobscot women (ahead of White women) as landowners during some of the darkest times of our history as Penobscot people in the 19th century," he says. "While these roles may be surprising in the context of American women's rights at the time, matrilineal cultural preferences in Wabanaki societies meant women had far more power than their non-Native counterparts." Sherri Mitchell (Weh'na Ha'mu Kwasset), founding director of the Land Peace Foundation, says Pawling's article "emphasizes a number of critical factors regarding the matrilineal history of Wabanaki Nations and the vital role that women played in maintaining security for the family and community. "It also highlights the conflicts that erupted as a result of

colonization. …The lasting impacts of those conflicts still plague us today," says Mitchell. "Recognizing the disruption of matrilineal traditions and the harmful influence of colonial structures informs us of the importance of moving back into alignment with our traditional ways of being, so that we can heal our families and communities. The women are at the heart of that movement." Pawling says Penobscots' own land tenure system was reminiscent of Penobscot family hunting territories. European Americans, though, colonized Penobscot homeland and violated indigenous values about family hunting territories. Sockabasin conveyed in his petition that "new obstructions are every year erected upon the river and the forest [is] daily wasting away." By the 19th century, European Americans had constructed sawmills, organized log drives, erected boom islands, and built dams to harness water power, which harmed the river's water quality, impeded canoe travel and depleted aquatic life. And in 1833, a fraudulent sale of four upper Indian Townships further reduced the Penobscot land base to the river islands. When the state instituted its land system, some Penobscot women experimented with deeds and asserted their rights to island lots, says Pawling. Other Penobscots, though, continued to maintain their own system. They had "wickhegans" (or *wikhikon/wikhikonol* (plural), meaning any written material that can be read) — including wampum belts, birchbark maps, and in this specific case, old deeds — that already supported their claims to specific lots. The state-assigned parcels, which today are called assignments, were the result of colonialism, says Pawling. To some degree, though, they provided Penobscots access to their ancestral waters that are central to their livelihood and identity on the river. Today, tribal leaders consult with lot owners, who have final say about land decisions. This consultation protects Penobscots from further dispossession, he says. In a tribal publication, a Penobscot citizen wrote that the protected reservation islands "provide a place for the people to return to the earth and enter into the silence of the river. … Preservation of this invaluable asset will perpetuate the natural and cultural qualities of The Penobscot Indian Nation." Pawling learned of the origins of this dual land system from his work with the tribe, Penobscot petitions at the Maine State Archives in Augusta, and Penobscot Indian deeds in the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds. It's gratifying, he says, to share the research findings. "Readers will hopefully appreciate the Penobscots' continued presence in their homeland, along with some of the specific challenges they confronted and their attempts to shape its outcomes." Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

Have plant, insect questions? Attend a Fourth Friday plant clinic

21 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer monthly community plant clinics at several locations in Piscataquis County beginning 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Feb. 28 at the UMaine Extension office, 165 East Main St., Dover-Foxcroft. "Fourth Friday Plant Clinics," scheduled the fourth Friday monthly through 2020, are open to the public for plant and insect identification, questions about disease and pest management, advice on soil health, and other gardening issues. The clinics are free. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.564.3301 or email anette.moulton@maine.edu. The next clinic is March 27 at the Guilford Memorial Library, 4 Library St., Guilford. Additional dates and locations are listed on the county website.

MOFGA site of Waldo County farmer, producer potluck dinner Feb. 29

21 Feb 2020

Waldo County Extension Association is hosting the fourth annual Waldo County farmer and food producer winter potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Feb. 29 at the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association exhibition hall, 294 Crosby Brook Road, Unity. Snow date is March 7. Following the potluck dinner, a dinner theatre featuring local farmers in skits focused on farm health and safety begins at 6 p.m. This event is for farmers and producers of local food products to network, learn together and share a meal. The event is free; attendees are asked to bring a dish to share. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Rick Kersbergen, 207.342.5971; richard.kersbergen@maine.edu. County Extension Association members provide input and support to University of Maine Cooperative Extension programming and activities in their communities.

MD Islander previews UMaine Extension landscaping course in Ellsworth

21 Feb 2020

Mount Desert Islander previewed a University of Maine Cooperative Extension "Introduction to Pruning Landscape Trees, Shrubs and Fruits" course at the UMaine Extension office in Ellsworth. The course consists of two sessions, from 8 a.m. to noon on March 26 and April 9. Snow date is April 16. The course cost is $30; textbook is provided, the article states. Preregistration is online. For more information, call 207.279.1479.

Associated Press quotes professor emeritus Bayer in report on lobster blood's role in medicine

21 Feb 2020

The Associated Press quoted University of Maine professor emeritus of animal and veterinary sciences Robert Bayer in a report about his company, Lobster Unlimited of Orono, which is investigating whether lobster blood can be used as a potential weapon against viruses and cancer. While lobster blood, a byproduct of lobster processing, is a long way from playing a role in new drugs, there's "no question it has antiviral and anticancer properties" based on research, Bayer said. "We can collect millions of pounds of it, which makes it a viable product worth pursuing." The Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, WGME (Channel 13), Valley News in New Hampshire, Eagle Times and CBS Boston published the AP report.

BDN cites McCarty in column on home canning

21 Feb 2020

The Bangor Daily News cited Kate McCarty, a food systems professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, in a Homestead column about home canning. Choosing a trusted source for canning recipes is essential for beginners, according to McCarty. She recommends recipes from university cooperative extensions, Ball or the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The column included more tips from McCarty on the home canning process to ensure a safe and delicious end product.

University of Maine to offer online undergraduate business management degree

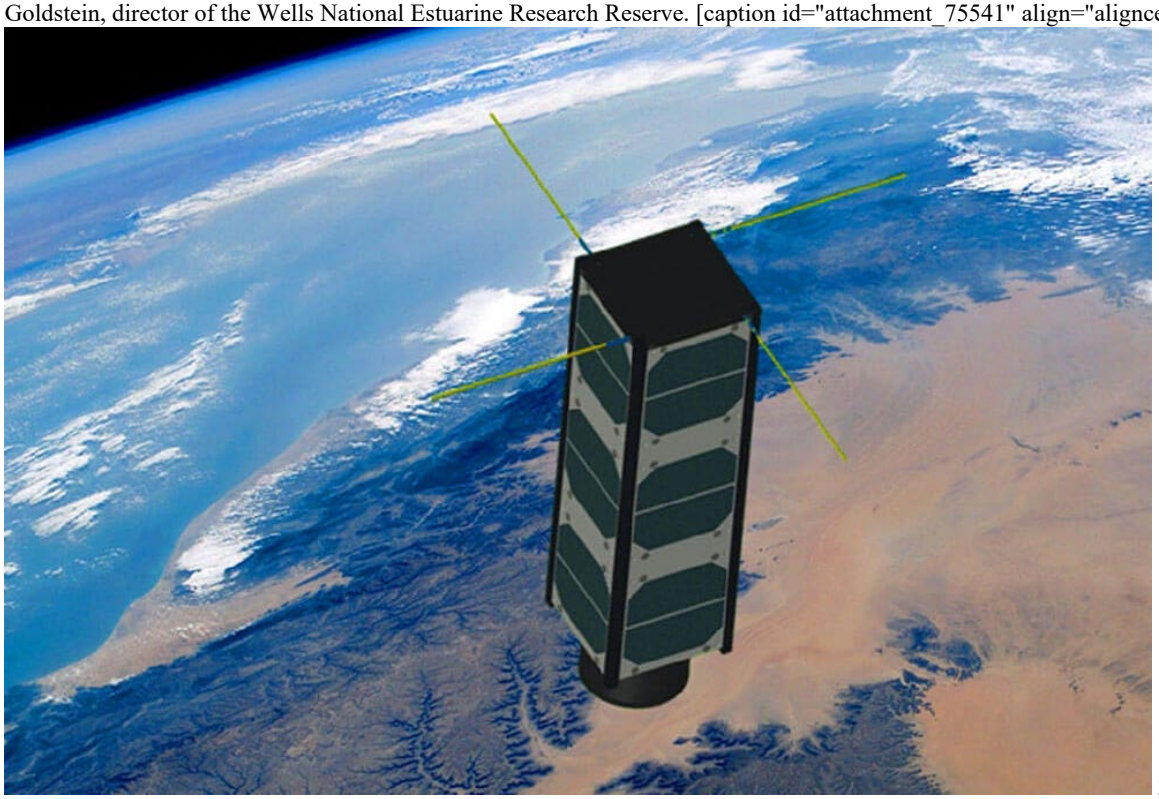
21 Feb 2020

The University of Maine will offer its Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) in Management degree fully online beginning in fall 2020. The program, developed as a collaboration between the Maine Business School and UMaineOnline, is the first online undergraduate business degree from Maine's flagship university. "We are excited to offer our BSBA in Management in an online format," says Faye Gilbert, dean of the Undergraduate School of Business and interim provost. "The Maine Business School prides itself on delivering the highest quality business education. Now that mission can be extended to students however they choose to complete their degree." The Maine Business School (MBS) Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management degree is built on a foundation of diverse business courses in accounting, finance, management and marketing. In their major coursework, management students navigate the complexities of corporate, international and small business management, and hone administrative and organizational skills, such as leadership, organizational change, strategic analysis and human resources. Graduates are equipped for careers in supervisory or administrative positions in business, government and nonprofit organizations. Students in the online BSBA in Management are afforded all the benefits of the Maine Business School, including top-tier faculty instruction, an extensive career development program and a respected curriculum. The Maine Business School is accredited by AACSB International, a mark of quality that distinguishes colleges of business as adhering to the most rigorous standards of academic excellence. Additionally, online students will receive personalized programming and resources designed specifically for online learners. "Online students will enjoy specialized advising from our dedicated UMaineOnline team, who will support and guide through the admission and enrollment process," says Monique LaRocque, associate provost for the Division of Lifelong Learning. "We are pleased to offer the BSBA in Management as an online option as it will now provide access to students throughout Maine and beyond who are not able to attend classes on campus." Applications for fall semester 2020 are available at go.umaine.edu/apply. For those interested in a special summer 2020 start, contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office: umaineadmissions@maine.edu; 207.581.1561. More information on the online BSBA in Management is available online. Contact: Nick Fraunfelter, 207.581.1963

NASA selects Maine's first small research satellite for launch in next three years

24 Feb 2020

Maine's first CubeSat is one of 18 small research satellites selected by NASA to carry auxiliary payloads into space between 2021–23. It is part of NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative that provides opportunities for nanosatellite science and technology payloads built by universities, schools and nonprofit organizations to ride share on space launches. Maine's CubeSat, MESAT1, is being developed in partnership of two of the state's public universities along with a trio of K–12 schools. The University of Maine's graduate students in collaboration with the University of Southern Maine (USM) undergraduate students are providing CubeSat design, development, integration and testing. Payload proposals were led by Saco Middle School, Fryeburg Academy and Falmouth High School. When MESAT1 is launched, Maine middle school and high school students will access satellite data for scientific discovery, says UMaine professor of electrical and computer engineering Ali Abedi, assistant vice president for research and director of the Center for Undergraduate Research, who is leading the project with Jeremy Qualls, USM professor of physics and dean of the College of Science, Technology, and Health; and Jason Goldstein, director of the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. [caption id="attachment_75541" align="aligncenter" width="750"]



3U CubeSat sample.[/caption] MESAT1 was awarded $300,000 from NASA. The project also received $150,000 in NASA Maine Space Grant Consortium funding for graduate student research. Additional funding from UMaine and USM to support undergraduate student research brings the total funding for MESAT1 to $522,000 over three years. NASA's Cubesat Launch Initiative has a goal to have all 50 states participate by developing and launching nanosatellites, says Terry Shehata, director of the Maine Space Grant Consortium. The consortium launched a statewide competition in January 2019 to all Maine school districts for CubeSat project proposals to the NASA CubeSat Launch Initiative. Out of the 11 proposals submitted, the following three payloads were selected:

- The first payload proposed by Saco Middle School, dubbed ALBEDO will investigate the impact of albedo (fraction of solar irradiation reflected back into space) on local temperature. The goal is to compare temperature and albedo across urban and rural areas. The low Earth orbit space test environment offers the ability to collect and analyze vast quantities of relevant data. The purpose of the analysis is to determine whether or not urban heat islands can be mitigated through architectural designs that maximize albedo.
- The second payload proposed by Fryeburg Academy, IMAGER, will be used to study an application of a low-cost remote sensing tool for coastal estuaries as a STEM activity. The goal is to develop a remote sensing tool by modifying a digital camera to image shallow, coastal waters to distinguish

water quality properties such as turbidity and phytoplankton concentration.
- The third payload proposed by Falmouth High School, HAB, will study harmful algal blooms to see if they increase atmospheric temperature and water vapor levels in the atmosphere above them. Developing the capacity to monitor and identify algal blooms from orbit will provide a simple way to track the development, distribution and dispersion of blooms. If a correlation between humidity and the temperature of the atmosphere and the sea surface in the vicinity of HABs is established, it will be easier to detect when an algal bloom is growing.

In addition to UMaine, the other institutions recently awarded CubeSat space missions included Dartmouth, University of California, Berkeley, University of Alabama, University of Minnesota, University of Washington, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Colorado Boulder and Rice University. A NASA release about the announcement is online. University of Maine's research infrastructure developed in the past decade primarily by NASA, Maine Space Grant Consortium and Maine Technology Institute (MTI) funding received a boost through this new award, the announcement of which comes just days before a legislative committee is set to take up a bill to advance the Maine Spaceport Complex initiative, a public-private partnership envisioned by a group of private and public stakeholders organized by the Maine Space Grant Consortium and supported by a MTI-funded market demand study. LD 2092 would establish the Maine Spaceport Complex Leadership Council to develop a strategic and investment plan for the SpacePort Complex. Maine is well-positioned with the new NASA award and the existing aerospace assets at UMaine, Brunswick Landing, Loring Commerce Center, the soon-to-be-developed Statewide CubeSat Launch Program at USM, Maine's growing aerospace supply chain companies, and the presence of startup small-launch vehicle companies in Maine, Shehata says. Passage of the bill will enable Maine to assume a leadership role in the emerging and fast-growing market for nanosatellites that is projected to reach $9.5 billion in 2030, largely due to their use in a broad range of commercial applications in all regions of the world, by launching nanosatellites using small, low-cost launch vehicles. The MTI-funded study demonstrated that the state's latitude/longitude, coastline and very low population density offer the most desirable, direct and near-polar orbit access, in all 50 states, for full Earth coverage as the planet rotates, Shehata says. Such access to the majority of the Earth's continental land masses compared to equatorial launches would open significant opportunities for K–12 education, R&D and commercial development of applications relevant to all industries in Maine. The study also showed that NASA, the U.S. Department of Defense, several small and large aerospace companies and academic institutions in the Northeast region are highly interested in using launch facilities in Maine. This is important because the growth and sustainability of the complex requires it to be at least a national R&D, satellite fabrication and integration, education, data analytics and launch resource for accessing polar orbits, says Shehata. The impact of a SpacePort Complex and a new space economy in Maine aligns with the state's Economic Development Strategy 2020–29 and the University of Maine System R&D Plan. Shehata notes that it would help train and retain Maine's students and immigrants graduating with aerospace-related STEM degrees; attract highly skilled workers and their families from out of state; encourage startups and spur development in all seven technology sectors; develop globally based applications for both commercial and consumer uses; facilitate STEM learning opportunities for Maine high school and higher education students; increase demand for broadband, quality roads and housing; promote economic aspirations for all Mainers; and advance the state to a new competitive level in a fast-growing knowledge economy. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Interested in a Maine Government Summer Internship? Apply now

24 Feb 2020

Students are invited to apply for a Maine Government Summer Internship for summer 2020. Positions are available in town and city governments as well as in state government agencies. Full-time, paid internships run from May 26 through Aug. 14. Internship areas include engineering, social media, conservation, transportation, land use planning, data analysis and education. All majors may apply. To be eligible, students must be completing their second year of college and be either a Maine resident or attending a college or university in Maine. Most interns are placed in the Augusta area. A select number of internships will be available in other locations, which in the past have included Bangor, Bethel, Bowdoinham, Caribou, Gray, Presque Isle, Portland, Saco, Sanford and Union. The program accepts applications from students, as well as applications from supervisors requesting an intern. Find more information, including links to the online applications, on the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center website.

Fogler Library offers free online elections guide

24 Feb 2020

Elections can serve a starting point for people trying to better understand voting in the United States, including the March 3 presidential primary and special state referendum election. Fogler Library at the University of Maine has created a free online guide to local, state and federal elections. Every resource in the guide was handpicked by librarians at Fogler Library. Resources are designed to provide trustworthy, broad and balanced information across a variety of issues. The guide includes links to background research, news articles, government websites, books and more. Many of the guide's resources are freely available to anyone, although certain resources may only be available to UMaine students, faculty and staff. The guide is part of a series of Hot Topics guides published by Fogler Library, designed to provide patrons with a hub of information when trying to better understand complex and timely issues. More information is available by contacting Nancy Lewis, head of reference and information literacy at Fogler Library, lewis@maine.edu.

Turkish TV outlet interviews director of international recruitment

24 Feb 2020

While in Turkey with the Maine International Trade Center, University of Maine director of international recruitment Lucy Sommo talked with Anadolu Ajansi about opportunities for students to study in the United States. Zeynep Türk, representative of the Ministry of Education and Trade of the Main State, stated that Maine is one of the places that Turks prefer most due to living conditions.

News Center cites Tick Lab stats in story about preexposure Lyme shot

24 Feb 2020

NewsCenter Maine mentioned the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab and its 2019 findings in a story about University of Massachusetts Medical School researchers working to develop a Lyme preexposure prophylaxis shot to stop the disease before it starts. The UMaine report noted that nearly 40 percent of ticks submitted last year to the tick lab tested positive for Lyme and that ticks carrying Lyme disease were submitted from all 16 counties.

TV stations report on celebration of girls, women in sports

24 Feb 2020

Women's basketball coach Amy Vachon promoted the University of Maine's National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration on WABI (Channel 5). Festivities included a Youth Sports Fair; talks by leaders, including Black Bear coaches Edniesha Curry and Josette Babineau; and the women's basketball contest with Stony Brook. News Center Maine attended the event and talked with participants. The Black Bears won 64–62 in overtime, snapping the Seawolves' 22-game, and longest in the nation, win streak.

WABI covers Camire's potato research, taste tests

24 Feb 2020

WABI (Channel 5) talked with Mary Ellen Camire, professor of food science and human nutrition, about potato research and taste testing in the Pilot Plant's Sensory Evaluation Center. "Some of the traditional varieties need more pesticides or fertilizer, or are more prone to disease, so these new varieties are more robust and they may taste better," says Camire. "When I was an assistant professor back in the early 90s, Yukon Gold was one of our experimental varieties. Now you can find Yukon Gold everywhere." Potato Grower shared the WABI story

Calderwood talks with media about wild blueberries

24 Feb 2020

Lily Calderwood talked with WABI (Channel 5) and News Center Maine at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Wild Blueberry Conference on Saturday in Bangor. "This is a time for the university to share with growers all the research-based education that we do," said the University of Maine wild blueberry specialist and assistant professor of horticulture. "Growers are coming up with new ideas for value-added products and there are new market initiatives happening, so that's exciting." The Bangor Daily News reported "many conversations centered around how to make wild blueberries stand out, especially compared to their low-bush counterparts, while keeping the crop efficient and competitive in light of the changing climate, pest and disease pressures."

Want to farm in Maine? Here's how

25 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension's five-session course for aspiring farmers starts 5:30–8:30 p.m. March 3, at the UMaine Extension office, 24 Main St., Lisbon Falls. The class meets weekly through March 31. Remote access and participation will be available by live streaming. "So, You Want to Farm in Maine?" is designed for those wanting to start or expand to a profitable farm operation and aims to equip participants with knowledge and skills to start, adapt and maintain a profitable land-based business. Instructors include Extension educators Tori Jackson and Frank Wertheim, Extension professionals Jason Lilley and Rebecca Long, Land for Good Maine field agent Abby Sadauckas, and other guest experts. Successful course completion qualifies participants for USDA Farm Service Agency Borrower Training credit. The $50 per person fee includes the text "Starting and Running Your Own Small Farm Business," by Sarah Beth Aubrey. Two members of the same household may attend for one fee, provided they share course materials. Remote participants must have access to high-speed internet and a web camera. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Melissa Freeman, 207.353.5550, melissa.freeman@maine.edu.

Getting published topic of faculty, graduate student panel

25 Feb 2020

Faculty and graduate students in a variety of disciplines will discuss publishing considerations 4–6 p.m. March 5 in Fogler Library Classroom 1. "Publish or Perish? A Graduate Student's Guide to Publishing" will include what to watch out for, whom to consult, how to respond to reviews, and tips for reaching audiences and gaining visibility for one's work. Panelists are: Brie Berry, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology and environmental policy; Dylan Dryer, associate professor of composition studies; Jacquelyn Gill, associate professor of paleoecology and plant ecology; Leah Hakkola, assistant professor of higher education; Shaleen Jain, professor of civil and environmental engineering; and Elisabeth Kilroy, Ph.D. candidate in biomedical science and engineering. All are welcome and are invited to bring insights and questions. The workshop will be available via Zoom. Fogler Library and the Graduate School are event sponsors.

Media report on research projects aboard NASA spacecraft

25 Feb 2020

WGME reported on Maine's first CubeSat — a small research spacecraft selected by NASA to fly as an auxiliary payload aboard a rocket. The University of Maine and University of Southern Maine are providing CubeSat design, development, integration and testing. And Saco Middle School, Fryeburg Academy and Falmouth High School are developing payloads for experiments. The youth will access satellite data for scientific discoveries about: the impact of fraction of solar irradiation reflected back into space on temperature; a low-cost remote sensing tool for coastal estuaries; and tracking the development, distribution and dispersion of algal blooms. "And the research tells us if we can get kids involved by middle school, get them really excited and doing something meaningful, that they actually care about, then it can change their whole career pathway," said University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. News Center Maine, the Bangor Daily News, Maine Public and The Bridgton News also reported on the story. Ali Abedi, UMaine professor of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Center for Undergraduate Research, told the BDN, "We offered to kind of lead this effort. The University of Maine will build the satellite, will work with NASA to launch it, and we'll provide the data to middle schools and high schools."

RateMyProfessor.com cofounder to give UMaine talk Feb. 27

25 Feb 2020

Co-founder of RateMyProfessor.com and University of Maine alumnus Michael Hussey will give a talk, "From Student to Serial Entrepreneur," Feb. 27 at

UMaine. The free public event is at 4 p.m. at the Foster Center for Student Innovation. In his talk, Hussey will discuss his career and the key to successful startups. Hussey graduated from UMaine in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in financial economics. He co-founded the RateMy Network of sites and RateMyTeachers.com in 2001, and PeekYou in 2006. Today, he is the president of StatSocial.

Martina McBride, 'Finding Neverland' among March CCA performances

25 Feb 2020

March events at the Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine will include country music icon Martina McBride, a musical telling the story behind the classic "Peter Pan," and more. Dance troupe Flexn will bring their show "FLEX AVE" to the CCA at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 1. Following breakthrough performances at New York City's Park Avenue Armory, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Manchester International Festival, and an upcoming residency for the inaugural season of The Shed in New York City, this show is the brand-new creation of Flexn dance pioneer Reggie "Regg Roc" Gray. Characterized by a vocabulary all its own, Flexn developed from various Jamaican street dance styles into a distinct art form that has spread across the globe. "Finding Neverland" comes to the CCA at 7 p.m. Monday, March 2. The musical tells the incredible story behind one of the world's most beloved characters — Peter Pan. Playwright J.M. Barrie struggles to find inspiration until he meets four young boys and their beautiful widowed mother. Spellbound by the boys' enchanting make-believe adventures, he sets out to write a play that will astound London theatergoers. With a little bit of pixie dust and a lot of faith, Barrie takes this monumental leap, leaving his old world behind for Neverland, where nothing is impossible and the wonder of childhood lasts forever. The award-winning television comedy "Mystery Science Theater 3000" will come to the CCA at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 8 in an all-new live show featuring Joel Hodgson. The original host and creative vision behind the series for more than three decades comes to Orono in his final live tour, with the never-before-screened film "No Retreat, No Surrender." In a partnership with Waterfront Concerts, the CCA presents Grammy-nominated country music icon Martina McBride, whose incomparable vocals have kept her at the top of the charts. Selling more than 18 million albums to date, McBride has earned 14 Gold, nine Platinum, three Double Platinum and two Triple Platinum certifications. McBride has been honored with more than 15 major music awards, including four wins from the Country Music Association and three Academy of Country Music Awards for Female Vocalist of the Year. And at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 29, the Miró Quartet will perform in Minsky Recital Hall. The group will play "String Quartet No. 17 in B-flat major, K. 458" (The Hunt) by W.A. Mozart, and "String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, D. 810" (Death and the Maiden) by Franz Schubert, as well as a contemporary piece, "Credo," by Kevin Puts. **Broadcast series** "Fleabag" will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12 as part of the National Theatre (NT Live) series, which includes plays that are filmed in front of a live audience, transmitted via satellite to the CCA, then projected onto a high-definition screen — one of the largest in the state. When filmed, cameras are positioned throughout the theatre to ensure cinema audiences get the best-seat-in-the-house view. As part of the Metropolitan Opera's The Met: Live in HD series, "Der Fliegende Holländer" will be shown at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 15. And a broadcast of "Kinky Boots" will be shown at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 28. For more information, to view the full season schedule or to purchase tickets, visit the CCA website.

Register for Maine Grain Conference by March 6

26 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension's annual Maine Grain Conference is 9 a.m.–3:45 p.m. March 13 at the Black Bear Inn and Conference Center, 4 Godfrey Drive, Orono. Topics include farming grain organically on Prince Edward Island, value-added farm enterprises, malt barley varieties for local brewers, marketing strategies, the role of UMaine's Pilot Plant, and grain project updates. Presenters will be from UMaine, UMaine Extension, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Maine Potato Board, Maine Grain Alliance, farmers, malthouse owners, and brewers. Snacks and lunch are included in $35 per person fee; $45 after March 3. Online registration is required by March 6. Certified crop adviser credits will be offered. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ellen Mallory, 207.581.2942, ellen.mallory@maine.edu. More information also is on the conference website.

Mayewski, Potocki to talk about Everest expedition in Belfast

26 Feb 2020

World-renowned climate scientist and explorer Paul Mayewski and glaciochemist Mariusz Potocki will give a free, public talk titled "The University of Maine's Role in the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Extreme Mt. Everest Expedition," 5:30–6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 in the auditorium at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The goal of the two-month multinational, multidisciplinary National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Extreme Mt. Everest Expedition was to document people's impacts on one of the planet's most severe environments. Mayewski, director of the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, was the expedition leader and lead scientist for the international project that involved 55 science partners, National Geographic staff, journalists, Sherpas and porters. From Base Camp at an altitude of 17,514 feet, he directed the biological, geological, glaciological, meteorological, mapping and multimedia enterprise which took place all over the mountain, both at lower elevations and nearly to the 29,029-foot summit. Potocki, a Ph.D candidate at UMaine, collected the highest ice core on the planet — at 8,020 meters — during the expedition. The "buried weather station" will allow researchers to go back in time — tens, hundreds and perhaps thousands of years to learn about the atmosphere above 8,000 meters, including human-made pollutants, past temperatures, precipitation and snowfall amounts. Researchers also will learn where air masses over and around Everest hail from — which will be key to understanding the region's monsoon cycle. Water flowing from Himalayan glaciers is a resource for energy, food and consumption for about 20% of the world's population. One billion people living in the watershed will be stressed due to the shrinking of the glaciers, Mayewski says. Initially from flooding and landslides, and later due to drought. This marked Mayewski's fourth scientific expedition on Everest, which Tibetans call Chomolungma and Nepalis call Sagarmatha for "mother of the sky." Mayewski has led nearly 60 research expeditions around the globe, many in Antarctica, where he was the first person to explore large tracts of the continent. "Mayewski Peak," a summit in Antarctica's Saint Johns Range, is named in his honor. A video, a summit suit, a drill used to secure the highest ice core in the world, and other items from the expedition will be displayed. For additional information, read the National Geographic and UMaine Today stories.

The Ticket promotes Woodsmen's meet at Witter on Feb. 29

26 Feb 2020

92.9 The Ticket radio station advanced the Woodsmen Team's meet from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29 at Witter Farm. Team president Alexandra Karter invites the public to watch the traditional timber sports — including sawing, chopping, ax-throwing and chainsaw events. Teams from Colby, Unity and Dartmouth colleges and the University of New Hampshire are expected to compete.

GlacierHub highlights Clifford, More's Saharan dust storm findings

26 Feb 2020

GlacierHub detailed Heather Clifford and Alex More's findings that Saharan dust storms are likely to intensify. Clifford is a graduate student with the Climate Change Institute and More is a research professor at the CCI, a researcher at Harvard University, and an associate professor in the School of Health Sciences at Long Island University in New York. Clifford said data from a 72-meter Colle Gnifetti ice core indicates that dust was more likely to be picked up by winds when conditions were dry over the African Sahel, or more arid over the Sahara, or when there was high sea-level pressure over the Mediterranean. Periods of drought are expected to become more severe with climate change, so they predict an intensification of Saharan dust storms. The researchers used a laser to compile this longest and most accurate record of Saharan dust transport (spanning 2,000 years) to the European Alps. "This was the first time that researchers from history, climate science, archaeology, volcanology, public health and multiple other disciplines came together for a project like this: from grant-writing to publication," said More.

Campbell part of PBS NewsHour feature about 'doomsday glacier'

26 Feb 2020

Geophysicist Seth Campbell was featured in the PBS NewsHour story "A risky expedition to study the 'doomsday glacier.'" The assistant professor in the Climate Change Institute and School of Earth and Climate Sciences journeyed with a team to Antarctica's Thwaites Glacier — "the largest, most menacing source of rising sea levels all over the world [which is] melting at an alarming rate" to conduct research. The glacier, which is about the size of Florida, is retreating about a half-mile and thinning annually as much as 15 feet. The team's remotely operated vehicle — Icefin — provided unprecedented images of the ice-covered shore of a glacier. The team also collected sediment cores and dropped in instruments to measure water salinity, temperature and turbulence and learned the ocean under Thwaites is 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above freezing, which is too warm for the ice to remain stable. The show also used his GoPro videos of an ice cave, traveling on the glacier and a crevasse.

Strengthening impacts of Arctic research topic of Feb. 28 workshop

26 Feb 2020

The UMaine Arctic Initiative, in collaboration with the Office of Research Development, will hold a workshop titled "Strengthening the impact of your Arctic research," from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, in the Bangor Room of Memorial Union. Panelists Laura Millay, research and evaluation coordinator at the Maine Center for Research in STEM Education; Linda Silka, senior fellow with the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions; and Greg Kranich, 4-H science youth development professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will discuss existing programs and characteristics of successful research-education-outreach partnerships. Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend with ideas for discussion about what UMaine does, and can do, to foster activity in support of broader research outcomes.

AgingME presents 'End Stage' on March 10

27 Feb 2020

The Palliative Players of Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County will present the improv theater production "End Stage" from 9 a.m. to noon March 10 at Buchanan Alumni House. Through unscripted role-playing, the performers act out possible end-of-life scenarios and conversations in families challenged by serious illness. The performances explore decisions and wishes that arise in a health care crisis, and offer suggestions for more effective conversations about end of life. The free, public event is part of the University of Maine's AgingME (GWEP) Lunch and Learn series. To register or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Leah Maxwell, UMaine School of Social Work, leah.maxwell@maine.edu, 207.943.3742. The Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program or GWEP is sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The five-year initiative seeks to improve health outcomes for older adults. The University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE COM), working in collaboration with the University of Maine and multiple statewide partners, was one of 48 organizations nationally to receive this funding. Maine's GWEP aims to create a more age-friendly health system by better preparing an age-capable workforce, transforming primary care practices and engaging and empowering older adults.

Dill, Garland talk with BDN about ticks, gardening

27 Feb 2020

Griffin Dill and Kate Garland talked with the Bangor Daily News about ticks and gardening. "Gardening-yard work" was the most common activity during which people encountered ticks, according to the 2019 Maine Tick Surveillance Program Annual Report. "I think sometimes that people have misconceptions about where they're most likely to encounter ticks," said Dill, who manages the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab. "In reality, it really is an issue in that home landscape as much as anywhere else." Adult tick season also peaks in the spring and fall, which are popular times to do yard work. "The timing is right, the habitat is right and it really kind of puts people and ticks on this kind of collision course," said Dill, who recommends creating a physical barrier with clothes and a chemical barrier with a repellant. "You can also combine these two types of barriers using something called permethrin [to] treat clothing and gear. It tends to be the most effective repellent against ticks," he says. Garland, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension horticultural specialist, keeps multiple tick removal spoons in easy-access locations — the car glove box, kitchen junk drawer, medicine cabinet and her purse.

Bulletin of Atomic Scientists highlights work of Putnam, Strand, Joyner in Mongolia

27 Feb 2020

Aaron Putnam, Peter Strand and Patricia Joyner are highlighted in a feature titled "How boulders in Mongolian mountains reveal the pace of climate change" in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Putnam is an assistant professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences and Climate Change Institute, Strand is a doctoral candidate and Joyner is an undergraduate. They were in Mongolia for five weeks last summer to uncover clues about the pace of global warming

since the end of the last ice age. "This is a story about teamwork and hardship, and the people who dedicate their lives to traveling around the world in the hope of fitting a small piece into a much larger scientific puzzle. This is a story about what it takes to research climate change," writes Stephanie Fox.

'The Maine Question' talks with Gill about consequences of extinctions

27 Feb 2020

The latest episode of The Maine Question asks whether studying extinct species can prepare us for the future. Jacquelyn Gill, who also studies survivors of the last ice age, thinks so. To travel back in time, this paleoecologist has crawled into a Siberian permafrost caves to examine a 40,000-year-old mummified lion cub. She's also excited for an upcoming NASA project that explores why ferns survived the asteroid strike that killed dinosaurs. Gill hosts a popular podcast — Warm Regards— about the human effects of climate change. Her research and approach resonate with many — @JacquelynGill has nearly 87,000 Twitter followers. This first-generation college student says she's compelled to give back to the community, widen the path for others, and show youth that they can be a scientist, too. Listen to Gill's wide-ranging conversation with Ron Lisnet about "mammothy" elephants, rewilding, science communication and why she uses the lens of the past to understand and prepare for a warmer future. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. For more information or to suggest topics of interest, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Flanagan appointed to Education Professional Standards Board

27 Feb 2020

Sara Flanagan, assistant professor of special education in the College of Education and Human Development, has been named to Maine's Education Professional Standards Board by Gov. Janet Mills. The board advises state officials on professional growth, certification, endorsement, authorization and governance of the education profession in Maine. Flanagan will fill a seat reserved for a faculty member in an approved teacher-preparation program. Members serve for three-year terms.

Experience commonplace, cosmic dimensions of human experience with 'A Wilder Night'

28 Feb 2020

The School of Performing Arts opens its spring theatrical schedule at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 with an evening of one-act plays by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Thornton Wilder (1897–1975) on the main stage in Hauck Auditorium. There will be seven performances of "A Wilder Night," directed by assistant professor of theatre Ljubisa Matic and starring a cast of 17 University of Maine undergraduates. Additional performances are at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29; 2 p.m. March 1; 10 a.m. March 5; 7:30 p.m. March 6–7; and 2 p.m. March 8. The three plays that make up "A Wilder Night" — "The Long Christmas Dinner," "Pullman Car Hiawatha," and "The Happy Journey to Trenton and Camden" — were originally published together in 1931. It is in these mini-masterpieces that audiences first encountered some of Wilder's signature techniques: his use of the stage manager as character, his use of pantomime, minimal scenery and farce, as well as his signature connection between the commonplace and cosmic dimensions of the human experience. Wilder later developed these innovative dramatic techniques in his much-beloved full-length plays "Our Town," "The Matchmaker," and "The Skin of Our Teeth." "One-act plays rarely get accolades or attention, but in the hands of a master such as Wilder, squeezing the universe into 30 minutes can be revolutionary," says Matic, who is directing his first play at UMaine after a career in which he's directed more than two dozen plays, most recently at Stanford University and the University of North Dakota. Tickets are $12 or free with a student MaineCard, and are available online. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Birdie Sawyer at 207.581.2584, fredrick.sawyer@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension free home garden newsletter available

28 Feb 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension publishes a free monthly newsletter for home gardeners — from novice to expert — with practical, research-based information available online for anytime access. The Maine Home Garden News, published from March through October, is archived by year and available for subscription. Each issue includes: a seasonal to-do list; articles on fruits, vegetables, native plants, lawn care, trees and shrubs; and links to videos and other resources. "We enjoy sharing voices from a variety of Extension professionals and Maine gardeners in a fun and informative format," says Kate Garland, UMaine Extension horticulturist and newsletter co-editor. Book reviews, profiles of Maine gardeners and in-depth features on pollinators are scheduled for upcoming issues. For more information, contact Wendy Robertson, 207.942.7396, 800.287.1485 (in Maine), wendy.robertson@maine.edu.

Centralmaine.com announces Maryann Hartman Award recipients

28 Feb 2020

Centralmaine.com posted a University of Maine release that announced recipients of the 2020 Maryann Hartman Award, which recognizes inspirational achievements of Maine women. Recipients are Sharon Barker of Bangor, retired director of the University of Maine Women's Resource Center; Maulian Dana of Old Town, Penobscot Nation Ambassador; and Kandyce Powell, of Wiscasset, executive director of Maine Hospice Council. The women will be honored in a free, public ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 at Buchanan Alumni House at the University of Maine.

Dumas shares expertise on Maine's Bicentennial Food Podcast

28 Feb 2020

Rob Dumas, University of Maine food science innovation coordinator and manager of the Dr. Matthew Highlands Pilot Plant, was a guest on Maine's Bicentennial Food Podcast. Cherie Scott, founder of the culinary blog "Mumbai to Maine," hosts the podcast that dives into the state's food story — past, present and future. It showcases creative and accomplished culinary taste-makers, food innovators and entrepreneurs. The project is a celebration of Maine's 200th birthday. Dumas told Scott that many Maine farmers look to grow foods for flavor and be stewards of land. And tourists come to Maine to learn farmers' stories through the dining experience. Other scheduled guests include Luke Holden, founder of Luke's Lobster; Leigh Kellis, founder of Holy Donut; and Alison Pray and Matt James, co-founders of Standard Baking Co.

WABI reports on tourism, economic development project Undiscovered Maine

28 Feb 2020

WABI (Channel 5) detailed Undiscovered Maine, a University of Maine tourism and economic development research project in which students learn web and social media strategies while offering assistance to small businesses in Aroostook County, the Down East region, and the western lakes and mountains. “It involves a lot of research. It involves marketing. It involves logistics,” said senior Austin Cashman, an economics and management major. The group visited the State House on Thursday to network with lawmakers and share the research.

College of Engineering to celebrate National Engineers Week with public Expo on March 7

02 Mar 2020

The College of Engineering at the University of Maine will recognize National Engineers Week with the annual E-Week Banquet and Engineering Expo, where engineers, educators and students gather for hands-on activities and workshops to learn about engineering and what engineers do. The banquet will be held on Friday, March 6 at Wells Central. The Engineering Expo is free and open to the public and will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7 at the New Balance Field House. National Engineers Week was initiated to publicly promote the work and contributions of our nation’s engineers. During this week, engineering professionals have a unique opportunity to increase public awareness of the positive contributions engineers make to their communities, to this nation and to the world. National Engineers Week, taking place March 2–8 this year, has grown to involve tens of thousands of engineers in a variety of community outreach activities, including technology exhibits and presentations of student scholarships.

Undergraduate Responsible Conduct of Research training

02 Mar 2020

Editor's note: This training has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 2. The Office of Research Compliance will hold a Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training on Monday, March 16 from 5–8:30 p.m. in Hill Auditorium for undergraduate students participating in NSF, NIH and/or USDA-NIFA sponsored research. More information and registration are online.

5 Minute Genius talks: from electric fat to hibernation in tropics

02 Mar 2020

Four people affiliated with the University of Maine are among those delivering 5 Minute Genius presentations 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 20 at the Bangor Arts Exchange, 193 Exchange St. After each five-minute presentation about cutting-edge science at the Maine Science Festival Showcase Event, audience members are invited to ask questions for an additional 5 minutes. Kate Dickerson, founder and director of the MSF, will moderate the free, public event. UMaine-connected presenters and their topics include: **Magda Blaszkiewicz: Electric Fat** During her doctoral dissertation work, Blaszkiewicz and UMaine professor Kristy Townsend learned that adipose tissue undergoes peripheral neuropathy (dying back of the nerves) under certain pathophysiological conditions. Blaszkiewicz co-founded Neuright, Inc. a startup academic spin-off from UMaine focused on creating and commercializing a novel medical device for early, sensitive diagnosis of peripheral neuropathy. **Patrick Breeding: There’s more to lobster than seafood** Breeding, a biotechnology entrepreneur, co-founded Dermarus, a skincare company using proteins found in lobsters as the key ingredient in products for people suffering from eczema. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biomedical engineering at UMaine. **Caitlin Howell: Beyond the printer: using paper technology to solve challenges in access to medical diagnostics** Howell, a professor in bioengineering at UMaine, researches nature-inspired surfaces and interfaces to control of biological systems. Her work can be applied to medicine to reduce clot formation or onset of infection; to industry, to mitigate clogging of pipes; and to the home, to create self-cleaning materials. **Danielle Levesque: What we can learn from hibernation in the tropics?** Levesque, an assistant professor at UMaine, examines the evolutionary and ecological physiology of mammals (and the occasional bird) in relation to climate. She earned her doctorate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa after living in a tent in Madagascar for a few years. Other presenters are listed on the MSF website. A reception will be held after this Maine Technology Institute-sponsored event. To see prior 5 Minute Genius talks, check out the YouTube channel. The Maine Science Festival brings Maine science to the public March 18–22, and celebrates science, engineering, technology and innovation that happens daily in the state.

WABI previews improv production at UMaine focused on end of life

02 Mar 2020

WABI (Channel 5) previewed “End Stage,” an improv theater production by the Palliative Players of Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County, which will be performed from 9 a.m. to noon March 10 at Buchanan Alumni House. The performers will act out possible end-of-life scenarios through unscripted role playing that encourages more effective conversations about end of life. The free, public event is part of the University of Maine’s AgingME (Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program) Lunch and Learn series, WABI reported. To register or request a reasonable accommodation, contact Leah Maxwell, leah.maxwell@maine.edu; 207.943.3742.

BDN includes School of Performing Arts, CCA shows in weekend events roundup

02 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News included shows at the University of Maine in its roundup of local weekend events. The School of Performing Arts production “A Wilder Night: Three One-Act Plays by Thornton Wilder” ran Feb. 28 through March 1 in Hauck Auditorium, with more performances scheduled for March 5–8. Dance show “Flex Ave.” came to the Collins Center for the Arts on March 1, the BDN reported.

Centralmaine.com reports on 4-H public speaking competition

02 Mar 2020

Centralmaine.com reported on a public speaking competition hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H in Lincoln and Knox counties on March 1 at Jefferson Village School. Public speaking is a skill that has been part of the 4-H program for years, according to Cindy Rogers, a 4-H community education assistant with UMaine Extension. “You just need it for everything. Most people who have gone through our program come back and say it was the skill that was most valuable for them,” she said.

MD Islander reports Curran to give talk on nonviolence March 14

02 Mar 2020

Mount Desert Islander advanced a talk by Hugh Curran, a lecturer in the Peace and Reconciliation Studies program at the University of Maine. The talk will be held at 7 p.m. March 13 at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor, and will focus on nonviolence practices from Ireland to India. Snow date is March 14. For more information, call 207.288.4245.

AP previews Maine Grain Conference

02 Mar 2020

The Associated Press previewed the annual Maine Grain Conference scheduled for March 13 at the Black Bear Inn and Conference Center in Orono. Presenters at the event will include the University of Maine, UMaine Cooperative Extension, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Maine Grain Alliance, malt house owners, brewers and others. U.S. News & World Report, Morning Ag Clips, San Luis Obispo Tribune, The Sacramento Bee, Raleigh News & Observer, New Haven Register, Tri-City Herald, Rock Hill Herald and SFGate carried the AP report.

Know what an economist looks like? Find out at Maine Science Festival

03 Mar 2020

Six University of Maine-affiliated faculty and students will take part in the eight-member panel “This is What an Economist Looks Like” 1:30–2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21 in Meeting Room 3 at the Cross Insurance Center, 515 Main St., Bangor. The free, public event is part of the sixth Maine Science Festival being held March 18–22, at sites in Bangor and Orono. Each panelist will present a five-minute, narrative-driven talk about why they became economists and how their research helps real people make tough decisions. The presentations may dispel myths that economists care about money rather than people, and competition rather than collaboration. Scheduled panelists are: Megan Bailey, research associate at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at UMaine, examines the role of social capital in economic development and decision-making in rural areas — particularly local food systems and the influence of information campaigns on attitudes and behavior. Bailey earned her bachelor’s in economics and her master’s in natural resource economics and policy at UMaine. Kathleen P. Bell, a professor in UMaine’s School of Economics, specializes in environmental economics and sustainability science. Bell and her students research individuals, organizations, and markets to improve management of land and water resources, strengthen regional and community economies, and protect public health. She collaborates with biophysical scientists and stakeholder partners. Bell also will moderate the panel. Keith Evans, an assistant professor of marine resource economics in the School of Economics and School of Marine Sciences at UMaine, concentrates on environmental and natural resource economics, including rights-based fisheries management, cooperation in the commons, marine aquaculture, marine policy, and nonmarket valuation methods. He collaborates with coastal and marine resource managers to better align his research with real-world policy questions. Taylor Lange, a Ph.D. candidate in ecology and environmental sciences at UMaine, concentrates on common pool resource management and cooperation science. He’s also completing a master’s degree in resource economics and policy through the School of Economics. Lange explores cooperation among small food-buying clubs in New England and its relationship to club success and failure. Jonathan Malacarne, an assistant professor of agricultural economics in UMaine’s School of Economics, grew up in rural western Pennsylvania, served in the Peace Corps, and conducted extensive fieldwork in eastern Africa. His research is focused on removing barriers to opportunity and increasing resilience for rural communities in Maine. Caroline Noblet, an associate professor of economics at UMaine, researches behavioral and experimental environmental economics with a focus on how people process and utilize information. The Maine native works on projects that examine the role of risk perceptions, choice architecture, valuation of the environment and environmental motivation in natural resource decision-making. Amanda Rector, state economist since 2011, conducts ongoing analysis of economic and demographic conditions to inform policy decisions. Rector is a member of the Maine’s Revenue Forecasting Committee and is Gov. Janet Mills’ liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau. Kanae Tokunaga, an associate research scientist at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, applies various economic research methods to coastal and marine resource management issues. She seeks to understand the efficiency, efficacy and stability of different types of fisheries management institutions, and how they may be impacted by climate change and other environmental changes.

Republican Journal previews teaching strategies workshop at UMaine Hutchinson Center

03 Mar 2020

The Republican Journal previewed the fourth annual S-T-R-E-T-C-H your Teaching Strategies workshop at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast from 9 a.m.–2:30 p.m. March 21. Educators from all parts of Maine are invited to attend the workshop, which will feature teacher and author Tom Wells as keynote speaker, according to the article. The $40 registration fee ($10 for college students) includes snacks, lunch, door prizes and 5.5 contact hours. Register by March 16. For more information, contact Elaine Hendrickson at elaine.hendrickson@gmail.com.

Isenhour recent guest on Maine Public’s ‘Maine Calling’

03 Mar 2020

Cindy Isenhour, an associate professor of anthropology and climate change at the University of Maine, was a recent guest on Maine Public’s “Maine Calling” radio show. The show’s topic was the Zero Waste movement that aims to change the entire system so that no waste goes to landfills.

The American Prospect interviews Glover ahead of Maine presidential primary

03 Mar 2020

The American Prospect spoke with Robert Glover, an associate professor of political science at the University of Maine, ahead of Maine's presidential primary election on March 3. According to Glover, there is a Republican-backed signature-gathering effort to eliminate ranked choice voting by ballot measure. "I would not at all be surprised if they succeed in collecting signatures to get this on the ballot again. But I would not expect the outcome of a statewide referendum to be any different," he said. The primary also will be a test for Elizabeth Warren, who, unlike Bernie Sanders, has not excited rural Democrats and labor voters, Glover said. He also noted that a considerable amount of misinformation has been spread regarding the referendum about vaccine exemptions. "The fact that Maine is voting about this as we stare down a global public health crisis hopefully is not lost on Maine voters," Glover said.

MD Islander speaks with student for report on Women's History Month art exhibit

03 Mar 2020

Mount Desert Islander spoke with Janet Elvidge, an art student at the University of Maine, for a report on a Women's History Month art exhibition at Southwest Harbor Public Library. This year's theme is "Our History is Our Strength," and it also marks the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote. "It's just a great celebration of women," said Elvidge, who submitted artwork for the exhibition. "I know I voted as soon as I could … It's really important to me. I don't take it for granted that everyone can vote."

AP quotes Brewer in report on Maine's return to presidential primary system

03 Mar 2020

The Associated Press quoted Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, in a report on Maine returning to the presidential primary system for Super Tuesday. Maine is returning to the system for the first time in 20 years, having previously switched to the caucus system, AP reported. Brewer said this change means turnout is likely to be much higher than in previous years, but might not necessarily affect the day's outcome. Maine's primary apportions a relatively small number of delegates at 24, but the importance of winning the state can't be overlooked, according to Brewer. "It's a small number of delegates, but it matters. All delegates matter. Especially when you've got a race that is multi-headed. It also matters because you want to be able to say how many states you won on Super Tuesday," he said. Miami Herald, Daily Inter Lake and The Island Packet carried the AP article.

Celebrate Women's History Month with films, awards, lunch and learns

03 Mar 2020

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week. And in 1987, Congress designated March as Women's History Month. This March, the University of Maine celebrates the vital roles of women with a number of events and celebrations. For more information, call 207.581.1437.

- March 4, 11 a.m.: Making Herstory, Multicultural Student Center Lounge, Memorial Union
- March 6, 2 p.m.: Mind Spa Button-Making, Multicultural Student Center Lounge, Memorial Union
- March 6, 9 p.m.: "Frozen 2," North Pod, Memorial Union
- March 7, 1:30 p.m.: Read Aloud, Orono Public Library
- March 8: Celebrate International Women's Day
- March 9, 9 a.m.: "What is Intersectional Feminism?" Campaign, Memorial Union
- March 9, noon: Intersectional Brunch Bunch: International Women's Day Discussion, Intersectional Feminist Resource Center, Memorial Union
- March 11, noon: Athletics Lunch and Learn, Multicultural Student Center Lounge, Memorial Union
- March 11, 6 p.m.: Dinner at The Wilson Center
- March 12, 2 p.m.: LGBTea Party, Rainbow Resource Center, Memorial Union
- March 23, noon: Intersectional Feminist Resource Center Discussion — White Feminism, Memorial Union
- March 24, noon: Rising Tide Center Pop Up Panel, Location TBD
- March 25, noon: Intersectional Feminist Resource Center Lunch and Learn, Multicultural Student Center Lounge, Memorial Union
- March 25, 5 p.m.: Maryann Hartman Awards, Buchanan Alumni House
- March 26, noon: Feminism in the Workplace Panel, Bumps Room, Memorial Union
- March 26, 2 p.m.: LGBTea Party, Rainbow Resource Center, Memorial Union
- March 27, 6 p.m.: No Man's Land Film Festival, Room 100 Donald P. Corbett Business Building
- March 28, 9 a.m.: Women's Climb, Maine Bound Adventure Center
- March 29, 8 a.m.: Women's Only Swim, New Balance Student Recreation Center

SWIFT action positively impacts women in forestry

03 Mar 2020

Just as a healthy forest is a diverse forest, a healthy forestry industry is a diverse forestry industry. Judging by the numbers, the profession could stand some variety. For instance, in Maine, just 8% of licensed foresters (52 of 680) are women. Educational institutions have a role in increasing those numbers. Research has indicated that colleges and universities' success or failure to recruit and retain gender diversity directly influences the diversity of applicants for forestry jobs. In 2016, a group of female University of Maine faculty and students concerned with the low number of women graduating from UMaine with bachelor's degrees in forestry formed SWIFT (Supporting Women in Forestry Today). The goal: To increase and retain the number of women in forestry — from education to employment. That requires plugging "leaks" in the education-to-employment pipeline. Leaks can spring because of an unwelcoming climate, the perception that forestry is a "male" profession, a lack of a sense of belonging, and a perceived dearth of opportunities, says Mindy Crandall, a former UMaine assistant professor of forest landscape management. During Crandall's case study of SWIFT, women surveyed in the UMaine School of Forest Resources listed the top three challenges facing women in forestry as: bias, microaggressions and discrimination; isolation, lack of support and

networking struggles; and unequal pay and inequality (in 2016), and challenges and barriers to addressing discrimination (in 2019). Fixing the leaks is imperative. “Increasing demographic diversity in forestry benefits us all, on an individual and collective level,” writes Crandall, now an assistant professor at Oregon State University. “Forestry needs creativity more than ever as we balance competing objectives and social preferences related to land management.” SWIFT takes an adaptive and evidence-based approach while hosting events each academic year to create an inclusive environment. Educational readings, discussions, panel sessions, social events, and hands-on training showed promise as ways to effectively engage women in the forestry profession and increase the likelihood they will complete the program and join the workforce, says Crandall. Respondents reported feeling more aware, connected, confident, and equipped to recognize and respond to bias and discrimination than before SWIFT. In 2019, a respondent wrote: “In the past, I sometimes wondered if negative experiences I had as a woman in forestry were due to something I was doing wrong. When encountering gender bias, I would feel uncertain and not respond effectively. Those experiences made me feel isolated and alone. Now I am able to recognize those experiences for what they are, and I know that they are happening because I am a woman and not because of something that is my fault.” While enrollment of women has increased since 2009 in the School of Forest Resources, in several years, no (2014) or one (2009, 2016) woman graduated with a bachelor’s degree in forestry. And although women accounted for 43% of graduate students in 2018–19 in the School of Forest Resources, most did not have an undergraduate forestry degree. Crandall says this indicates a potential lack of awareness to enter the profession at an earlier stage. That lack of awareness could stem from few visible role models. UMaine had one tenure-track female faculty member within its Society of American Foresters’ accredited forestry program between 1981 and 2006. And none from 2006 to 2014. Crandall says while it’s too soon to quantitatively assess SWIFT’s impact on female student enrollment and graduation rates, the case study provides evidence that small-scale groups like SWIFT can instigate larger-scale positive changes for women in forestry. A female student survey respondent wrote that an inclusive environment can help women in college avoid “turning away from what they love professionally to do what feels safer and more inclusive.’” Another wrote that SWIFT was “reinforcing an image that we, as a department, are doing more than talking about enacting change. It shows organization, longevity, and a positive trajectory for shattering glass ceilings.” While progress has been made, the survey results are in line with other studies that emphasize both perceived and actual professional and social penalties for women who speak up. And despite the emergence of the #MeToo movement between the two survey periods (2016 and 2019), Crandall says it’s still difficult for women in forestry to interrupt harassment, bias, discrimination, and safety issues. Multiple survey respondents across both survey years cited the need to address: the confidence gap between men and women; safety; the perception of men that women have physical limitations in the field; a lack of diversity and representation in forestry; and “straight up” sexual harassment. Crandall says SWIFT’s organizational framework could be adapted and incorporated in other settings that have a goal of improving experiences and retention of women in forestry. Laura Kenefic, faculty associate in the UMaine School of Forest Resources and a U.S. Forest Service research forester; Jessica Leahy, professor in the UMaine School of Forest Resources; Kara Costanza, U.S. Forest Service plant pathologist; and Jenna Zukswert, a former UMaine employee who’s now a Ph.D. student at the State University of New York, conducted the research with Crandall. The Journal of Forestry published the study, “An Adaptive and Evidence-Based Approach to Building and Retaining Gender Diversity within a University Forestry Education Program: A Case Study of SWIFT,” in February. Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

Mortelliti’s small mammal personality research funded by NSF CAREER Award

03 Mar 2020

Small mammals have different personalities, just like people do — and this can influence their decisions, leading to wide-ranging impacts on the environment. Alessio Mortelliti, University of Maine assistant professor of wildlife habitat conservation, has been awarded an $875,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award to study the ecosystem consequences of small animal personality. According to Mortelliti, most classical ecological models consider all members of a population to be more or less identical. However, each individual is unique and has its own personality, and previous work by Mortelliti and his graduate students has shown, as an example, that each individual can have a differential impact on the ecosystem. He plans to focus instead on the specific traits of individuals rather than using average values for a whole species, and find out how those traits and their expressions influence population trends and ecosystem processes like forest regeneration. Mortelliti will investigate how individual variation in personality of small mammals affects population, community and ecosystem dynamics. This individual variation also could impact the response of populations and communities to land use and climate change. Mortelliti will recruit a team of graduate and undergraduate students, collaborators and citizen scientists. The team will assess how changes in land-use practices affect the distribution of different animal personality types, and assess the capacity of diversity in personalities to influence population dynamics, such as whether a high proportion of bold individuals in the population leads to a different dynamic than a population of mainly shy individuals. The team also will investigate the effects of animal personality on natural storage of seeds within the soil of an ecosystem, which is a major component of forest regeneration. Different personalities will exhibit different types of behavior and decision-making related to seed consumption and dispersal, influencing forest regeneration — and potentially also affecting the range shift of plants due to climate change. Mortelliti plans to investigate how expressions of behavior, determined by genomes and the environment, affect the higher ecological organization levels of populations and ecosystems — such as how the mind of a mouse could affect the tree species composition of a forest. This research will build on a large-scale field experiment of a small mammal species in Maine. The project also will encompass a new teaching model called “personalities studying personalities,” in which Mortelliti will work with undergraduate students to encourage them to analyze their own personality traits and communication methods. Students will participate in workshops to improve communication skills and capitalize on their personality traits, then bring those skills and knowledge to engage high school students in citizen science projects that are part of Mortelliti’s research. The high school students, including those from groups underrepresented in STEM fields (such as Native Americans, women and those from economically disadvantaged communities), will learn about the importance of behavioral diversity for nature conservation and about biological variations in human personality. “The insights and models generated by this project will illuminate the link between individual variation and population, community and ecosystem dynamics,” says Mortelliti. Contact: Cleo Barker, 207.581.3729

Elizabeth Spiller: Education major ready to fill buckets and change lives

03 Mar 2020

Last fall, Elizabeth Spiller was in a first grade classroom at Earl C. McGraw School in Hampden, where she’s a student teacher, when the guidance counselor taught a lesson that struck a chord and reminded her why she decided to pursue a career in education. “Picture a bucket in your mind,” the counselor said. “This is your emotional bucket, and every day your bucket is being filled or emptied.” When someone or something does something that makes you feel good, the counselor explained, they are adding to your bucket. When you have a negative experience with someone or something, your bucket is being drained. Your bucket also has a lid, she said, so you can regulate what goes in and what comes out. Beyond our own buckets, Spiller says the counselor talked about the importance of recognizing that how we treat others can impact their lives. Through our actions, we are either adding to or taking away from each other’s buckets. “It immediately hit something inside me,” says Spiller, a senior from York majoring in elementary education at the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development. “I’ve done a lot of work with kids — as a camp counselor, as a babysitter, and now as a student teacher — and I love the idea that helping them and teaching them is making a difference and filling their buckets,” she says. Spiller was so inspired by the idea that she wrote about it

for The Wilson Center's Dorothy Clarke Wilson Peace Writing Prize. Her essay, "Peace Through Bucket Filling," won the competition, which came with a $500 award. Spiller also got to read it aloud at UMaine's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast in January. The essay recounts the lesson that the guidance counselor taught, as well as a moment that occurred just after. Two students — a girl and a boy in the class — were working on a project, when the girl spilled her pencil cup on the floor. The boy bent down to help her pick up the scattered pencils, and as he was returning them to the cup, the girl said: "Thank you, you just filled my bucket." Spiller related this small act of kindness, and the concept of bucket filling, to Dr. King's teachings, especially the quote "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." As a preservice teacher, Spiller wrote, "I want to show my students the impact that they can have on the world. I aim to teach them to have civility, to be leaders of transformation, and to create positive change that will lead to a more peaceful world." When she finished reading her essay, the crowd at the MLK Breakfast stood and gave Spiller a standing ovation. It was a moment she says she'll never forget. Spiller is set to graduate in May and hopes to find work as an elementary school teacher, perhaps closer to home in southern Maine. Student teaching is one of several experiences during her time at UMaine that she says helped prepare her for her chosen profession. College of Education and Human Development students have opportunities to work in the field with children as early as their first year. "I've been in McGraw elementary for a year now," Spiller says. "It's such a great environment, with amazing values. They have a way of incorporating civility and respect into everything they teach." Other experiences that have helped shape her educational philosophy include working as a camp counselor in Old Town and York. She also says her coursework, both general education and for her major, have opened her eyes to new ways of thinking and understanding the world. "I would say, every single aspect of teaching that I would need to know about, I've had a class for," she says. "We learn how to tailor our teaching to meet every student's needs in different subject areas," Spiller adds. "Now that I'm doing my student teaching, I can see how my classes have helped prepare me to work with diverse kinds of students." She says it all comes back to wanting to make a difference in the lives of young children. "As I said in my essay, as a teacher, my goal is to encourage my students to be giving, to love themselves and others, to find beauty in small acts of kindness, and to fill those buckets with goodness and light," Spiller says. Contact: Casey Kelly, 581.3751, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Villacorta publishes second edition of 'Ciudad satélite'

03 Mar 2020

Associate professor of Spanish Carlos Villacorta has published a second edition of his book of poems, "Ciudad satélite," with the Peruvian publisher Bardoborde Ediciones. This edition includes new full-color photos not in the original collection. Carlos will read from the book at the XII International Poetry Festival: Poesía en abril in Chicago in April.

Barkan publishes new book

03 Mar 2020

Steven Barkan, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, has published a new book, co-written with UMaine alum Michael Rocque (Sociology, Bates College). "Crime Prevention: Programs, Policies, and Practices" (SAGE, 2020) presents current research, perspectives, and examples that capture key crime prevention concepts, including the public health model for crime prevention.

Moxley contributes essay on Robert Kelly

03 Mar 2020

Jennifer Moxley, professor in the Department of English, has contributed an essay on poet Robert Kelly to the volume "A City Full of Voices," edited by Pierre Joris and published this spring by Contra Mundum press. The volume represents "the first substantive multi-voiced gathering of writings about one of the absolutely opulent, lavish, generous and bountiful life-works by one of the great contemporary American poets."

Researchers participate in events in advance of Maine Science Festival

04 Mar 2020

Experts affiliated with the University of Maine will take part in two events leading up to the sixth Maine Science Festival. Ivan Fernandez, Distinguished Maine Professor in the Climate Change Institute and the School of Forest Resources, will participate in a Bangor Land Trust session titled "Bangor Climate Change: Resilience and Hope" from 9 a.m. to noon March 7 in the First National Bank Conference Room on Exchange Street in Bangor. Fernandez will discuss what climate change is and what it's not. Jerry Longcore, former forestry faculty assistant, will describe how climate change impacts wildlife as well as benefits of the Caribou Bog–Penjajawoc wildlife and recreational corridor. There also will be discussion about carbon footprints and how people individually and collectively can make a difference with regard to climate change. Several UMaine-affiliated scientists also will be part of a panel discussion, "Patterns in Nature: Art & Science Perspectives," from 6–8 p.m. March 11 at the University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor. Featured artist Deirdre Murphy will discuss themes in her work that explores the connection between climate change and migratory bird patterns with panelists Amber Roth, assistant professor of forest wildlife management; Erik J. Blomberg, associate professor of wildlife ecology; Adrienne Leppold, who earned her Ph.D. at UMaine and is a state songbird specialist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; and George Jacobson, professor emeritus of biology and ecology. Seating is limited at this free, public talk, so an RSVP is required. Contact Kathryn Jovanelli, 207.581.3370, kathrynj@maine.edu to reserve a seat.

Media announce lottery open for Camp North Woods at Bryant Pond

04 Mar 2020

Republican Journal and Sun Journal announced the lottery is now open for Camp North Woods, an overnight camp for youth ages 9–13 to learn lifelong outdoor skills and the importance of sustaining Maine's natural resources. The camp is hosted by the University of Maine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. April 1; 60 boys and 60 girls will be selected in the chance lottery drawn on April 8. The application is online.

Gill interviewed for Grist article on climate crisis

04 Mar 2020

Jacquelyn Gill, a paleoecologist and associate professor of climate science at the University of Maine, was interviewed for the Grist article, "Climate change is a catastrophe. But is it an 'existential threat'?" Gill said, "I'm seeing more and more of this eco-anxiety immobilizing people to the point of just giving up, or saying there's nothing that we can do." She said activists and members of the public need to stop thinking about climate change as an "on-off switch" of doomed or not doomed, and more like a "dimmer switch." "If we can act now we will prevent more people from dying, we will prevent more species losses," she said. "That to me feels like a good motivation to try to do better."

VillageSoup advances talk on health benefits of wild blueberries March 17

04 Mar 2020

VillageSoup advanced a talk by Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, a professor of clinical nutrition at the University of Maine, about the health benefits of wild blueberries. The talk will be held at noon March 17 at Merryspring Nature Center in Rockport, and is part of the center's Winter Talk series. Admission is $5 or free for Merryspring members. For more information, email info@merryspring.org or call 207.236.2239.

News Center Maine, WVII cover Super Tuesday at UMaine

04 Mar 2020

News Center Maine and WVII (Channel 7) covered Super Tuesday presidential primary activities on campus at the University of Maine. Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at UMaine, thinks more young voters will cast ballots this year than in prior years. "There is a high degree of energy," he said. "Now part of that has to do with thoughts on both sides of the spectrum on the current president, part of that has to do with the very tightly contested Democratic presidential nomination, but I also think there is going to be more energy down-ballot for congressional elections and maybe even some state elections." The youth vote is always the lowest turnout of the population, according to Brewer. "The American system doesn't work unless some critical mass of the citizenry is educated and engaged and I think we try and make that clear to students that … it's an obligation that falls on them," he said. Student Anna Zmistowski, president of UMaine College Republicans, told News Center Maine, "Even if we don't win the ticket in Orono, having kids out there voting is all we really care about … we just want that participation from the conservative voice." WVII reported the UMaine College Democrats, Young Democratic Socialists of America and Young Americans for Liberty held a Super Tuesday watch party in the Memorial Union. Student Kevin Fitzpatrick, president of Young Democratic Socialists of America, believes young voters will have a big role in this year's election. "I think it's easy to get disillusioned after whatever happens in 2016 or the polls starting a new narrative, but it is really to get out to vote and feel as though you can actually make a difference that way," he said.

Visiting professor Ernest Mathijs to discuss representation in film

05 Mar 2020

Editor's note: These events have been canceled for March 9 and 10. Ernest Mathijs, a professor in film and media studies at the University of British Columbia, will take part in the McGillicuddy Humanities Center's exploration of "The Cinema of Colonization and Decolonization." Mathijs will provide a brief introduction for a screening of the 1973 film "Coffy," directed by Jack Hill, at 6 p.m. Monday, March 9, in Hill Auditorium in Barrows Hall. Mathijs also will lead a discussion after the film. At 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, Mathijs will present a talk titled, "Hunter without hunting grounds: The dispossessed wandered in 21st century film," also in Hill Auditorium. Mathijs will trace the representation of "white trash" in film throughout the years and show how understanding of property ownership as an identity-affirming value informs current political discussions. The events are free and open to the public, and are supported by the Rising Tide Center, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, the Department of Communication and Journalism, and the Distinguished Lecture series.

Grundstrom-Whitney to read poetry March 12 at UMM

05 Mar 2020

Poet Jason Grundstrom-Whitney will read from his newly published collection, "Bear, Coyote, Raven," at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 12 at the University of Maine at Machias Merrill Library. Light refreshments will be served at the free, public event. Grundstrom-Whitney, a Bear Clan member of the Passamaquoddy tribe, is a lifelong activist for Native American rights and other causes. His poetry explores the American landscape from the perspective of a "shape-shifting trio" — bear, coyote and raven — and touches on "themes of environmental degradation, violence and technological troubles." Grundstrom-Whitney's work is featured in "3 Nations Anthology: Native, Canadian & New England Writers," published by Down East-based Resolute Bear Press, which received the Maine Literary Award for Anthology in 2018. Valerie Lawson, a 2017 graduate of UMM's Bachelor of College Studies program, founded Resolute Bear Press, which also published "Bear, Coyote, Raven." For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Marianne Thibodeau, 207.255.1254, mthibod@maine.edu.

Penobscot Bay Pilot previews project management program at Hutchinson Center

05 Mar 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot reported the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast will offer a three-day certificate program in project management. Program sessions will be held 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 10, 17 and 24. Cost for the program is $495 per person, including continental breakfast and catered lunch, with need-based scholarships available. For more information, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002, michelle.patten@maine.edu.

BDN interviews Lichtenwalner about chickens, new coronavirus

05 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Anne Lichtenwalner, director of the University of Maine Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and professor of animal and

veterinary science, for an article on what poultry owners need to know about the new coronavirus. While chickens can carry strains of coronavirus, there is no evidence in the U.S. of chickens being infected by the specific strain COVID-19, the article states. “I think it’s pretty important to be quite sure of [information] sources and data during this COVID-19 — or any other — disease outbreak,” said Lichtenwalner. “At the moment the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] is issuing guidance to be careful around pets if you or they seem ill.” There is no indication of any increased risk of catching the virus from your existing flock or any new flock members, the BDN reported. But practicing proper hygiene around chickens is always important because they can carry bacteria like salmonella and campylobacter. “Really good biosecurity, getting chicks from an [National Poultry Improvement Plan] certified hatchery, excellent [flock] management and nutrition are all important to keep your home flock and your home happy and healthy,” Lichtenwalner said. WGME (Channel 13) carried the BDN article. Lichtenwalner also spoke with the BDN for the article “Preparedness is key when planning for animal care as COVID-19 spreads.”

The County reports UMaine Extension offers free gardening newsletter

05 Mar 2020

The County reported University of Maine Cooperative Extension publishes a free monthly online newsletter for home gardeners. “Maine Home Garden News” is published March through October, archived by year and available for subscription, and includes practical, research-based information. “We enjoy sharing voices from a variety of Extension professionals and Maine gardeners in a fun and informative format,” said Kate Garland, UMaine Extension horticulturist and newsletter co-editor. For more information, contact Wendy Robertson, 207.942.7396 or 800.287.1485 (in Maine), wendy.robertson@maine.edu.

Penobscot Bay Pilot advances grant writing certificate program at Hutchinson Center

05 Mar 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced a one-week certificate program in grant writing at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The program will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 18–22. The cost is $750, and need-based scholarships are available. Participants will earn a UMaine certificate in grant writing; 3.0 CEUs/30 contact hours also are available. For more information or to request an accommodation or scholarship application, contact Michelle Patten, michelle.patten@maine.edu, 207.338.8002.

WABI speaks with Agrrawal about how businesses can prepare for new coronavirus

05 Mar 2020

WABI (Channel 5) spoke with Pankaj Agrrawal, a professor of finance at the University of Maine, for the report “Should your business be preparing for the coronavirus?” On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve cut its interest rate by a half percentage point in an effort to slow the stock market slide that has resulted from the spread of the new coronavirus, COVID-19. Experts recommend looking at investments and overall finances, but not making any panicked decisions, the report states. The purpose of lowering rates “is to provide credit to small- and medium-sized businesses at a more affordable rate. So they should take advantage of that, and they can expand their operations,” said Agrrawal. “They say the ability to adapt is the highest form of intelligence.”

BioME invites students to showcase research in Portland

05 Mar 2020

University of Maine students are invited to present their research at the 2020 BioME (Bioscience Association of Maine) Student Showcase 2–5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 15 at Cloudport CoWorking MultiSpace, 61 Federal St., Portland. Those who present their life science-focused research project in a 3-minute pitch are eligible to win either $2,000, $1,000 or $500. Students also will have the opportunity to network with peers, learn about entrepreneurial resources in Maine, and connect with potential employers in all areas of bioscience. The goal is to support innovation and commercialization of student ideas in Maine, and connect students with potential future employers and entrepreneurial resources in the state. The project application deadline is March 27. More information about the event and how to apply is on the BioME website.

‘The Maine Question’ podcast looks at how Maine has changed in its first 200 years

05 Mar 2020

The latest episode of “The Maine Question” asks, how has Maine changed in its first 200 years? Maine marks its 200th birthday March 15, 2020. For the fifth episode of the second season, host Ron Lisnet talks with University of Maine history professor Liam Riordan about some of the key people involved in the drive to statehood, what life was like 200 years ago, and what themes from those early days are still recognizable today. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and “The Maine Question” website. New episodes will be added every Thursday this season. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Penobscot Bay Pilot reports UMaine Hutchinson Center art exhibit opening March 9

06 Mar 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot reported the University of Maine Hutchinson Center ‘s “2020 Best Art Show Ever” exhibit will open Monday, March 9. The exhibit will feature student artwork from three area schools: Kermit Nickerson School, Captain Albert Stevens School and Troy Howard Middle School. The exhibit will be on display in the center’s H. Allen and Sally Fernald Art Gallery through May 29. An opening reception will be held 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 21. Admission to both the reception and exhibit is free and open to the public. More information is available online or by calling Nancy Bergerson at 207.338.8049.

Advertiser Democrat announces UMaine Extension food safety training

06 Mar 2020

Advertiser Democrat previewed a University of Maine Cooperative Extension food safety training for volunteer cooks happening at multiple locations. “Cooking for Crowds” will be offered beginning 1–4 p.m. April 9 at the UMaine Extension office in South Paris. Additional sites are in Lisbon Falls, Falmouth, Springvale and Farmington, with sessions through April 29, the article states. The $15 per person fee includes all materials. The full schedule and registration are online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.781.6099 or 800.287.1471 (in Maine).

Penobscot Bay Pilot previews nonviolent communications workshops at Hutchinson Center

06 Mar 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot previewed a series of workshops on nonviolent communication at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. “Beginning the Journey of Nonviolent Communication and Empathy” will be held on April 3 and 20. “Past Trauma and Current Relationships: Integrating Nonviolent Communication and Interpersonal Neurobiology” will be offered May 5 and 6. Both run from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and include a continental breakfast and catered lunch. Fees range from $150 to $195 per person, with need-based scholarships available, the article states. For more information, to register or request a reasonable accommodation or need-based scholarship application, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002, michelle.patten@maine.edu.

Sun Journal advances Cumberland County 4-H exploration day

06 Mar 2020

Sun Journal advanced a University of Maine Cooperative Extension Cumberland County 4-H exploration day on Saturday, March 21. The Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Association will host the mini-forum, featuring hands-on workshops for youth ages 5 to 18, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at the University of Southern Maine campus in Gorham. Online registration is due March 11. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.781.6099 or email sara.conant@maine.edu.

BDN speaks with Brzozowski, Anderson about how farmers can create an estate plan

06 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff members Richard Brzozowski, project director for Maine AgrAbility, and Gary Anderson, extension animal and bioscience specialist, about estate planning for farmers. “Everybody knows they’re going to die, but it’s not the most fun thing to talk about,” said Brzozowski. “It’s important for these conversations to start.” Anderson recommended writing down a clear set of goals and dreams for transfer of the farm, as well as fears, to make the transition easier. “You’re really looking at business transition,” he said. “It’s similar to retirement decisions that somebody might make for a job but it’s much more complicated because there’s a lot more resources you have to deal with and probably a lot more people.” A basic estate plan can be as simple as a will, a medical directive and a power of attorney, according to Anderson. “You’re going to need to go see your lawyer and put together a team of your lawyer, your accountant, your financial advisor and insurance professional,” he said. “If there’s a lot of discussions, a family counselor for a lot of those family meetings would be super helpful.” He also recommended compiling a list of assets, finding a successor, and reaching out to your local cooperative extension if you need help getting started. Brzozowski recommended reaching out for help with estate planning early and often to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible. “You shouldn’t be ashamed to ask for help,” he said. “It can be complicated.”

Mainebiz reports on Crandall’s study of women in forestry

06 Mar 2020

Mainebiz reported on a study of SWIFT (Supporting Women in Forestry Today) co-authored by Mindy Crandall, a former University of Maine assistant professor of forest landscape management. The study found that just 8% of licensed foresters in Maine, or 52 of 680, are women, despite efforts to increase that ratio. In 2016, a group of female UMaine faculty and students created SWIFT to increase and retain the number of women in forestry, from education to employment. Crandall found that women encountered an unwelcoming climate, the perception that forestry is a “male” profession, a lack of a sense of belonging, and a perceived dearth of opportunities, Mainebiz reported. But respondents in a survey of women in SWIFT reported that the organization helped them feel more aware, connected, confident and equipped to recognize and respond to bias and discrimination. The study provided evidence that small-scale groups like SWIFT can spur positive changes for women in forestry, said Crandall, who is now an assistant professor at Oregon State University.

Media announce annual University of Maine Alumni Association tuition raffle

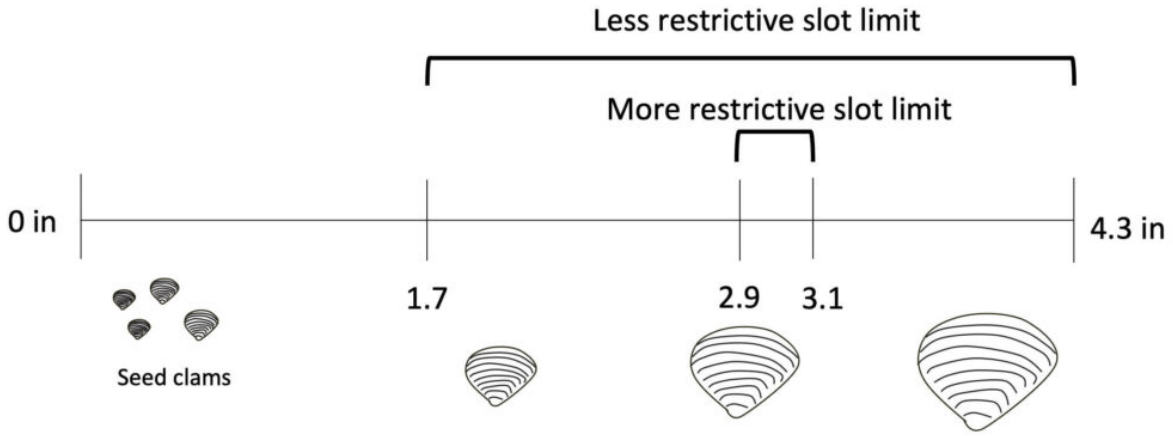
06 Mar 2020

WABI (Channel 5) announced University of Maine Alumni Association has launched its annual tuition raffle, which will pay the equivalent of 30 credit hours at the in-state undergraduate tuition rate to cover the recipient’s tuition at the University of Maine for the 2020–21 academic year. All students planning to attend UMaine next year are eligible, and the winner can pass on the prize to family or friends, WABI reported. The Alumni Association suggests a $5 donation per ticket, and the drawing will take place on May 6. More information is available online or by calling 207.581.1138. Centralmaine.com (Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal) also posted information about the annual tuition raffle.

Size-selective fishing results in trade-offs between fishery yield, reproductive productivity

06 Mar 2020

How people fish matters perhaps as much as the quantity harvested, say University of Maine researchers Kara Pellowe and Heather Leslie. Their study published in Ecosphere details the impacts of size-selective fishing on an economically important species of clam in Baja California Sur, Mexico. The information is critical for fisheries managers to design policies that balance short- and long-term ecological and economic goals, say the scientists based at the Darling Marine Center in Walpole, Maine. The findings highlight that size-selective fishing that aligns with the life history of target populations and stakeholders’ goals is critical to sustaining fisheries and the valuable food and livelihoods they provide. [caption id="attachment_75741" align="aligncenter"



width="800"] With a less-restrictive slot limit, a greater range of sizes can be harvested, and with a more-restrictive slot limit, a smaller range of clam sizes can be harvested. Pellowe and Leslie found that a more-restrictive slot limit results in higher reproductive capacity and long-term fisheries yield.[/caption] Pellowe conducted the research as part of her UMaine Ph.D. dissertation in ecology and environmental science. Over the last six years, she regularly traveled from New England to Baja to work closely with fishermen who harvest chocolate clams (*Megapitaria squalida)* near Loreto Bay National Park, on the gulf coast of the Baja peninsula. "Most fishing, whether in Mexico or Maine, is inherently size-selective," says Pellowe. "Fishermen preferentially target certain sizes of fish, often because of the economic value or cultural preferences associated with different sized seafood products." Like the soft-shell clam in Maine, the Mexican chocolate clam is a culturally and economically important species, providing food and income for many households, particularly at times when other opportunities are scarce. Despite the species' importance, many aspects of the biology of Mexican chocolate clams were unknown before Pellowe began her graduate research. Pellowe and Leslie, director of the Darling Marine Center, used information collected over years of ecological fieldwork to develop a model of how the Mexican chocolate clam population and fishery would be expected to respond to different size-selective fishing scenarios. "Our work revealed that the range of sizes fishermen harvest results in important trade-offs between fisheries yield and reproductive capacity of the clam population," says Leslie. "Over time, a more restrictive slot limit will likely lead to a higher number of young clams, a larger clam population, and the ability to fish more over time, relative to a less restrictive scenario, where clams of a broader range of sizes are harvested." National Science Foundation program director Betsy von Holle said, "This research team applied basic science techniques to aid applied management decisions regarding fisheries production, which could have major implications for fisheries production, as well as the conservation of this species." Leslie and Pellowe continue to conduct research in Mexico with the support of the National Science Foundation. They also recently initiated a project in collaboration with the joint shellfish committee of the towns of Damariscotta and Newcastle, focused on local shellfish populations in midcoast Maine. Contact: Heather Leslie, heather.leslie@maine.edu

School of Performing Arts presents annual Concert for a Cause March 10

09 Mar 2020

The University of Maine School of Performing Arts presents its annual Concert for a Cause at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 at the Collins Center for the Arts. This year, the concert brings together the University of Maine Concert Band, directed by Philip Edelman, with the Leonard Middle School Symphonic Band and the Brewer Community School Concert Band, to raise funds for Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center's Champion the Cure Challenge to support local cancer research and treatment. The Concert for a Cause took initial form three years ago when Edelman decided that the Concert Band was capable and ready to add another performance to their schedule. Working with Team RUSH (Remember - Uplift - Support - Honor) for Champion the Cure, led by Shianne Priest, band director at Leonard Middle School, and Gert Nesin, assistant principal at Leonard Middle School, was a natural fit. "Our students care deeply about the community, and everyone knows someone affected by cancer," says Edelman, who also is an assistant professor of music education in the School of Performing Arts. Each year, Concert for a Cause features the stories of local survivors on stage throughout the concert. The event will also feature raffles. Admission is free, with organizers asking for a suggested donation of $10. Generous support from the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund means that 100% of proceeds go to Champion the Cure. For more information, contact Brian Jansen at 207.581.1955 or brian.jansen@maine.edu.

Preview college life at UMM summer institutes

09 Mar 2020

A University of Maine at Machias pilot program will launch this summer to give high school students an opportunity to preview college life and explore a potential degree pathway with a four-day stay on campus. The Early College Summer Institute, an initiative of UMM's Early College program, will be offered July 8–11. Students can choose from a Graphic Novel Institute, Wildlife Law Institute or Psychology and Community Studies Institute, sponsored by a corresponding UMM degree program. Each institute will accept as many as 20 students, who will participate in outings and workshops, meet with working professionals and partner organizations, tour the campus, and speak with faculty. Students also will have opportunities to participate in group social activities, eat in Kilburn Commons and stay in Sennett Hall. UMM faculty and staff, in collaboration with guest instructors, will lead the programming. New England-based graphic novelists Kori Handwerker and Nick Anderson will share their publishing experiences with students in the Graphic Novel Institute. Regional, state and federal law enforcement agencies will team with the university to provide workshops at the Wildlife Law Institute. "We want students to be able to explore various careers while getting a taste of what it's like to be a college student," says program director Christy Alley. "Our focus will be on learning while having fun." Participants who wish to earn college credits will have the option to enroll in a three-credit online course in their chosen program that begins July 11. Tuition for the four-day institute is $300. The optional online course is an additional $75 for in-state students; $1,500 for out-of-state students, not including textbook costs. Scholarships are available. Registration opens March 15. For more information about the Early College Summer Institute, or to request a reasonable accommodation, visit machias.edu/earlycollege/early-college-summer-institute or contact Christy Alley, 207.255.1268.

Piscataquis Observer posts details about greenhouse workshop

09 Mar 2020

The Piscataquis Observer posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension media release announcing workshops about using small-scale greenhouses to extend the growing season will be held in March. The first, 1 to 3 p.m. March 12, is at the UMaine Extension Piscataquis County office, 165 East Main St. in Dover-Foxcroft. And the second, 10 a.m. to noon March 25, is at the Penobscot County Extension office, 307 Maine Ave. in Bangor. The $10 fee includes materials. Register online. Limited financial assistance is available. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Anette Moulton at 207.564.3301, anette.moulton@maine.edu.

Media share free 'signs of spring' training opportunities

09 Mar 2020

The Sun Journal posted a media release about four free "Signs of the Seasons" training sessions for volunteer citizen scientists offered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Sea Grant. Sessions are: March 16, 4–6:30 p.m., Gilsland Farm Audubon Center, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth; March 23, 4–6:30 p.m., Audubon Fields Pond Station, 216 Fields Pond Road, Holden; April 8, 4–6:30 p.m., SeDoMoCha Middle School, 63 Harrison Ave., Dover-Foxcroft; and April 27, 12:30-3 p.m., Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells. Participants will be trained to observe the signs of spring — budding leaves, blooming flowers, peeping frogs, singing birds — that are indicators of a larger cycle of seasonal changes that affect plants, animals and people of Maine. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Esperanza Stancioff, 207.832.0343, esp@maine.edu. Morning Ag Clips also posted the release.

BDN, WABI cover Growing Hemp conference

09 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News and WABI (Channel 5) covered the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Growing Hemp in Maine Conference. While on sabbatical last year, John Jemison, Extension professor of soil and water quality, observed the growing, harvesting, drying and marketing of hemp in Colorado. He came away with respect for large industrial farms there and the knowledge that if Maine wants to compete in that hemp market, it needs to blaze its own path, according to the story. Jemison advised that if Maine growers want to make inroads on the rapidly saturating CBD market, they have to develop unique characteristics with their hemp through sharing information and trial and error in the fields. Growers have to get creative with their crops. "Think of a novel, value-added product," he said. "Why not a CBD body butter? Just have fun with it."

Phys.org, Boothbay Register post Pellowe, Leslie's fishery findings

09 Mar 2020

Phys.org posted a University of Maine media release about the findings of Kara Pellowe and Heather Leslie. The marine scientists found that how people fish matters perhaps as much as the quantity harvested. Their study published in Ecosphere details the impacts of size-selective fishing on an economically important species of clam in Baja California Sur, Mexico. The information is critical for fisheries managers to design policies that balance short- and long-term ecological and economic goals, say the scientists based at the Darling Marine Center in Walpole, Maine. The Boothbay Register also posted the release.

VillageSoup advances John Bear Mitchell's storytelling at Strand

09 Mar 2020

VillageSoup promoted Penobscot storyteller John Bear Mitchell's appearance at 5 p.m. March 14 at the Strand Theatre in Rockland. Mitchell, a citizen of the Penobscot Nation from Indian Island, will share Wabanaki stories. Mitchell serves as the University of Maine System Office Native American Waiver and Educational Program Coordinator, the University of Maine's Wabanaki Center Outreach and Student Development Coordinator, and is a lecturer of Wabanaki Studies and Multicultural Studies at the University of Maine. For 15 years, Mitchell was a Maine Touring Artist, and visited 150 schools to deliver an Arts in Education program. He also toured with the Native American Storytellers of New England. His singing and storytelling is in many Maine PBS, tribal-sponsored awareness videos, independent films, HBO Lionsgate TV, and documentaries with topics on Maine's Native People. Admission is free. For more information, visit rocklandstrand.com; call 207.594.0070, ext. 3; or email info@rocklandstrand.com.

News Center Maine, WVII showcase Engineering Expo

09 Mar 2020

News Center Maine and WVII (Channel 7) attended the College of Engineering's annual E-Week Engineering Expo on Saturday, March 7 at the New Balance Field House. About 1,000 youth took part in hands-on activities and workshops to learn about engineering and what engineers do. Exhibits and activities included robotics, 3-D printing, slime-making, building boats, welding, woodworking, physics demonstrations, virtual reality, and the world's largest 3D printed boat.The goal is to get kids excited about STEM careers and eventually fill STEM jobs in Maine. Mohamad Musavi, associate dean of engineering, told News Center that UMaine is "working hard to expand the engineering education in the state of Maine, so we can answer the demand [of jobs]."

Hayes, Abedi featured in video about Alzheimer's research collaboration

09 Mar 2020

Northern Light Health produced a video titled "When Memory Fades" about its Alzheimer's Research Program that involves collaboration with the University of Maine and The Jackson Laboratory. "What if disruption of sleep was the earliest sign of neurodegeneration," asks Marie Hayes, UMaine psychology professor and co-founder of Activas Diagnostics with Ali Abedi, professor of electrical and computer engineering. Hayes and Abedi developed a

device that allows researchers to study sleeping patterns on a group of 120 study participants in their homes Abedi says they're happy to collaborate and "get the science and research that has been done at the university into the marketplace." Dr. Clifford Singer, chief of geriatrics and principal investigator for Northern Light's Alzheimer's Disease Research Program at Northern Light Acadia Hospital, says, "We have this wonderful triad of local collaborators trying to slow or prevent Alzheimer's disease. There's really no other program like us north of Boston."

Undergraduate Responsible Conduct of Research training on April 2

09 Mar 2020

The Office of Research Compliance will hold a Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training on Thursday, April 2 from 5–8:30 p.m. in Hill Auditorium for undergraduate students participating in NSF, NIH and/or USDA-NIFA sponsored research. More information and registration are online.

Training offered on 'Signs of the Seasons' in Maine

10 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Sea Grant will offer four free "Signs of the Seasons" training sessions for volunteer citizen scientists around the state.

- March 16, 4–6:30 p.m., Gilsland Farm Audubon Center, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth
- March 24, 4–6:30 p.m., Audubon Fields Pond Station, 216 Fields Pond Road, Holden
- April 8, 4–6:30 p.m., SeDoMoCha Middle School, 63 Harrison Ave., Dover-Foxcroft
- April 27, 12:30–3 p.m., Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, 342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells

Participants will be trained to observe signs of spring — budding leaves, blooming flowers, peeping frogs, singing birds — that are indicators of a larger cycle of seasonal changes that affect plants, animals and people in Maine. The study of these seasonal changes, called phenology, contributes to understanding the local effects of climate change. Data collected by volunteers contribute to an online database hosted by the National Phenology Network. Trainings are free and open to the public; registration is required. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Esperanza Stancioff, 207.832.0343; esp@maine.edu.

Rebecca Traister to talk about women, anger, political change

10 Mar 2020

[caption id="attachment_75774" align="alignright" width="238"] Rebecca Traister[/caption] Women, anger and political change are topics of an April 2 lecture by award-winning journalist Rebecca Traister at the University of Maine. The free, public lecture "Good and Mad: Rebecca Traister on Women, Anger, and Political Change" begins at 4:30 p.m. in Hutchins Concert Hall at the Collins Center for the Arts. Traister is a leading voice on gender, society and politics. She has authored three books, including The New York Times bestsellers "Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger" and "All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation." She is a writer-at-large for New York magazine and The Cut and has been called "the most brilliant voice on feminism in this country" by American novelist and nonfiction writer Anne Lamott. The lecture will be followed by a book-signing in partnership with The Briar Patch, which will be selling books on site. The Stephen E. King Chair lecture series and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies are co-sponsoring this event, with generous support from the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund. More information about the King Chair Lecture Series is online. To request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.1226. Prior to Traister's talk, the UMaine/Orono High School Humanities Collaboration will discuss her book, "Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger" 5–7 p.m. March 24 in Orono High School's English Wing. Faculty, students and members of the community are welcome. Participants will receive a free copy of the book thanks to funding from the McGillicuddy Humanities Center and Orono High School, and refreshments will be served. For more information or to RSVP, contact Kirsten Jacobson at kirsten.jacobson@maine.edu or Jim Bulteel at jbulteel@rsu26.org.

Dagher describes to Down East his favorite Maine place

10 Mar 2020

Habib Dagher talked with Down East Magazine about his favorite place in Maine — UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, which he founded and directs. "It's where I spend most of my time, and I love every minute of it," he says. And why not, last fall there, the world's largest 3D printer crafted the largest object ever printed, a 25-foot-long, 5,000-pound navy patrol boat, made of wood-based plastic. The project earned the center three Guinness World Records. "How big an object can we print? How far can we go? Imagine the day where we have printers on the waterfront that can make 60-

foot vessels in just a week or two," he says.

British Journalism Review quotes Socolow in article on Tik Tok

11 Mar 2020

British Journalism Review quoted Michael Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine, in an article about the popular video-sharing app Tik Tok. According to Socolow, any responsible and ethical journalistic organization needs to be transparent and critical when using any social media platform. "There's nothing wrong with introducing Tik Tok to the American public, as long as the American public know that it's Chinese, and that it has paid a tremendous fine for violating children's privacy," he said. "The single most important thing is that news organizations have to understand what is happening to its content when it distributes on Tik Tok. This level of critical awareness needs to be the norm."

WABI previews Concert for a Cause

11 Mar 2020

WABI (Channel 5) previewed the annual Concert for a Cause at the University of Maine at 7 p.m. March 10. The event is a fundraiser for Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center's Champion the Cure Challenge to support local cancer research. The performance included the University of Maine Concert Band, the Leonard Middle School Symphonic Band and the Brewer Community School Concert Band, as well as stories of local cancer survivors. Suggested donation was $10, WABI reported.

Apply now for Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship

12 Mar 2020

University of Maine students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply for the Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship — a $3,500 academic-year scholarship to support an independent research project focused on a public policy topic. The deadline for applications is noon Friday, April 10. Students must be a Maine resident, be an undergraduate enrolled at the University of Maine for 12 credits or more, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and have completed 40 degree hours prior to the current semester. Previous recipients have come from disciplines including geology, history, political science, computer science, international affairs, education, sociology, psychology, social work, landscape horticulture, civil engineering, nursing, mechanical engineering, natural resources, journalism, mass communication, economics, biochemistry and microbiology. More information, including the application process, is online. In honor of Senator Margaret Chase Smith's many years of service to the citizens of Maine and the nation, this scholarship provides assistance to undergraduates who have demonstrated an active interest in public affairs and who show promise for future leadership in, and contribution to, public affairs. Sen. Smith's abiding belief was that real progress would be attained only through the education of young people.

CEO Magazine names MaineMBA No. 26 in global rankings

12 Mar 2020

CEO Magazine named the University of Maine Graduate School of Business a Tier I program, and its MaineMBA No. 26 in online degrees in its 2020 global rankings released this week. The MaineMBA's 2020 ranking is two places higher than last year. "We are particularly proud of these rankings, comparing us to the best business schools in the world," says J. Michael Weber, dean of the UMaine Graduate School of Business. "This is a wonderful confirmation that we are delivering on our promise to provide Maine-centric and globally relevant academic programs." CEO Magazine, based in the United Kingdom, provides tools, tips and rankings for business-minded readers around the globe. The University of Maine Graduate School of Business offers the MaineMBA and concentrations in accounting, business analytics, and finance. With campuses in Portland, Orono, and 100% online, the Graduate School of Business connects flagship resources to learners wherever they are. More information about the University of Maine Graduate School of Business is online. Or contact at 207.581.1973, mba@maine.edu.

Extension issues recommendations for farmers during COVID-19 outbreak

12 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension has released recommendations for farmers in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Anne Lichtenwalner, UMaine Extension veterinarian, associate professor, and director of the Extension Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, authored the guide. "While there's no evidence that the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19 is affecting livestock, or any species besides humans, it's important to take common sense precautions that help guard against introducing or spreading diseases on the farm," says Lichtenwalner. Practices including good nutrition, proper ventilation and hygiene, and adhering to standard biosecurity guidelines — keeping visitors, wildlife and new livestock out of direct contact with farm animals — are always appropriate. Recommendations are on the Extension Diagnostic and Research Laboratory website. For more information, contact 207.581.3874, extension.diagnosticlab@maine.edu.

Long and Scheele receive two of UMaine's top staff awards

12 Mar 2020

Two of the University of Maine's top employee awards will be presented to Wanda Long, an administrative specialist in the Division of Lifelong Learning, and Kenda Scheele, associate vice president for student life and senior associate dean of students. Long will receive the 2020 Outstanding Classified Employee Award. Scheele will receive the 2020 Outstanding Professional Employee Award. The two awards, sponsored by the Classified Employees Advisory Council (CEAC) and the Professional Employees Advisory Council (PEAC), respectively, will be presented April 10 at the Employee Recognition

and Awards Luncheon. [caption id="attachment_75805" align="alignright" width="223"]  Wanda Long[/caption] Long has been a member of the UMaine community for more than 40 years. She has held multiple positions in the Division of Lifelong Learning, including stenographer, secretary and records technician. Today, as administrative specialist CL2 she is the point of contact in the Division of Lifelong Learning who is renowned for her dedication to customer service and teamwork. Long provides administrative support for Winter Session and Summer University, UMaineOnline, and travel study programming. She is the go-to person for undergraduates taking online courses, including many nontraditional students in the UMaine programs. Long is well known by faculty, students and staff for understanding the needs of students, and making every effort to ensure they have a positive experience in the Division of Lifelong Learning. As one nominator noted, “Wanda handles every day as a new opportunity to help our students and see that they achieve nothing less than success.” [caption id="attachment_75806" align="alignright" width="223"]  Kenda Scheele[/caption] Scheele is described as “an unsung hero who works tirelessly and endlessly for our students, staff, faculty and administration, and for her community.” Scheele joined UMaine in 2001. Her student affairs expertise and law degree make her “a resource of immense depth” for the university and the state, her nominators note. Scheele provides leadership in a number of Division of Student Life areas, including student conduct, Title IX student services and student accessibility support services. She was instrumental in the development of Residence Life’s curriculum-based, learning-outcomes model to enhance student experience, and the launch of the new Center for Student Involvement. Scheele also has administrative responsibility for the New Balance Student Recreation Center, and serves on UMaine’s emergency operations center team. Scheele is dedicated to higher education and the UMaine student experience. She is widely known for her assertive leadership, and “unapologetic” caring and compassion. Scheele’s commitment to ongoing training and education keep UMaine engaged in best practices, and abreast of laws, policies and trends in student life programming. “(Kenda) never stops trying to improve and improve the lives of those around her, whether they work for her or with her, or (whether) she can reach out a hand to make their lives better,” wrote one of her nominators. “She is inspiring.” The annual PEAC award recognizes UMaine professional employees who demonstrate a dedication to serving others, maintain the highest level of professional services and standards in their disciplines or areas of responsibility, help create a better campus environment and demonstrate public service through significant contributions. The annual CEAC award recognizes classified employees’ exceptional service and dedication to UMaine, increasing the campus community’s awareness of the indispensable contributions that represented and nonrepresented classified employees make to the quality, diversity and overall mission of the university.

Flessen, Lamonica, Stockley selected McGillicuddy Humanities Center fellows

12 Mar 2020

University of Maine students Ivy Flessen, Bria Lamonica and Leela Stockley are the spring–fall 2020 Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center undergraduate fellows. Fellows receive $4,000 a semester for two consecutive semesters while they work on their chosen humanities projects and serve as humanities ambassadors to peers, the campus and beyond. Flessen, from Oswego, Illinois, is a third-year political science major, with minors in legal studies, ethics and political philosophy. She is involved in a number of honor societies and student organizations, including the Pre-Law Society, Phi Beta Kappa, and University Singers. Flessen’s project, “The Morality of the Life of the Mind in Plato’s Dialogues,” also is her Honors thesis. She’s examining the perennial tension between self-interest and altruism in Plato’s dialogues. Flessen asks whether Plato regarded a life dedicated to wisdom as the zenith of public service, or a selfish enterprise. She plans to one day work in academia and realizes modern academics still face charges of elitism and irrelevance. Lamonica is a third-year English major with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in psychology. The native of Turnersville, New Jersey is particularly interested in the works of feminist poets, including Gertrude Stein, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Adrienne Rich, as well as more contemporary poets. For her fellowship research, which will inform her capstone and Honors thesis, she’ll create a collection titled, “Out of Darkness: Contemporary Feminist Poetry.” She’ll use poetry to fight oppression and speak up for women who cannot speak for themselves. Lamonica writes for the Maine Campus, is involved with Phi Mu Fraternity, and is a member of Sigma Tau Delta National English Honors Society. Stockley is a third-year journalism and anthropology double major

from Chester, Maine. The news editor at the Maine Campus thinks a lot about journalists' duty to provide unbiased media coverage. Her research, "Ethical Implications of the Protest Paradigm on Marginalized Communities: Examining the portrayal of social justice movements in mass media based on lines of class and race," will explore how language choice in news coverage often conflicts with this ethical duty. When media use language that emphasizes deviant behavior, violence and confrontation, but ignores core tenets and goals of a movement, Stockley believes they blur readers' understanding of the social justice movement and marginalized communities. Three students also are returning for their second semester as McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellows: Noah Loveless, Sarah Penney and Matthew Ryckman. Loveless is researching Walter Benjamin's Arcades Project, Penney is examining Icelandic sagas, and Ryckman is exploring the history of geometry textbooks through the lens of a 1732 edition of Euclid's "Elements." All six of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellows will attend the National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium on April 3–4 at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Student applications for a fall 2020–spring 2021 McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellowship are due by March 27. More information, including application instructions, proposal guidelines, and a rubric, are available at umaine.edu/mhc/grants-scholarships or by emailing mhc@maine.edu. Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' podcast looks at many roles of fat

12 Mar 2020

The latest episode of "The Maine Question" asks, what color is your fat? The word "fat" evokes a certain reaction in our culture. For associate professor of neurobiology Kristy Townsend and her students, it's the subject of research on many levels. Fat communicates with the brain, it battles disease, it plays a role in the aging process. It also comes in a variety of colors with differing functions. In the sixth episode of the second season, host Ron Lisnet talks with Townsend about her work on this connection and how it relates to obesity and diabetes — diseases that are becoming pandemics. She also talks about the role of basic research and the growing biotech industry in Maine. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays this season. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Yellow Robe to receive honorary degree

12 Mar 2020

Playwright William Yellow Robe, a lecturer in English at the University of Maine, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of Montana. A news release is online.

Conversation posts Socolow piece about presidents' live prime-time broadcasts

12 Mar 2020

The Conversation published media historian Michael Socolow's column about U.S. presidents' use of broadcasting to calm the nation in times of duress. The associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism wrote that Franklin D. Roosevelt's first "fireside chat" 87 years ago from the White House reached an estimated 60 million listeners and proved broadcasting's power "as nothing before or since." Roosevelt's address provided "the model future presidents would use to inform the American citizenry, calm national anxieties and establish the crucial importance of a moment in time," wrote Socolow. While today's live, prime-time national addresses from the White House represent a unique opportunity for a president, if they're mishandled or improperly employed, Socolow says they can backfire. President Trump's live TV address about the coronavirus was not successful, wrote Socolow, because it failed to fulfill the most important goals of a prime-time broadcast: to inform the American citizenry, calm national anxieties and establish the crucial importance of a moment in time. For example, when the president's address was over, Socolow wrote that the president's aides needed to quickly clarify what he had said "because it failed to align with the reality of the policies his administration planned to take. And, Socolow wrote, "the following morning, stock trading was halted 38 minutes into the daily session when the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 7%, demonstrating that the financial markets he sought to calm remained troubled by his leadership."

Daigneault to put forests, farms to work reducing greenhouse gases

12 Mar 2020

Adam Daigneault is analyzing how Maine's working forests and farms can also be employed to mitigate greenhouse gases (GHG) that are warming the planet. The University of Maine E.L. Giddings Assistant Professor of Forest, Conservation, and Recreation Policy is identifying cost-effective and impactful practices — think commercial thinning and no-till farming — for a United States Climate Alliance project made possible by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF). Daigneault's findings will support the Maine Climate Council's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% and for the state to become carbon neutral by 2045. The Maine Climate Council is a top initiative of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, which cultivates collaboration to solve the state's important long-term challenges. "A key goal of this project is to look at the economic and physical benefits and costs at multiple scales. Maine's landscape varies from large tracts of forests under the same ownership to small family farms," says Daigneault, who grew up in Maine. "Collectively, everybody can play a part in helping meet the state's climate change goals." Daigneault has considerable expertise in the field. He was the lead land use economist in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Change Division, where he developed and utilized economic models to estimate the cost and benefits of using forest and agricultural practices to help mitigate GHG emissions. And later, in New Zealand, Daigneault led that government's economic analysis to determine the country's GHG emissions targets for the Paris Agreement. For this project, his collaborators include five UMaine colleagues — Ivan Fernandez, professor of soil science; Aaron Weiskittel, professor of forest modeling and director of the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests; Erin Simons-Legaard, assistant research professor in forest landscape modeling; Sonja Birthisel, postdoctoral research associate and lecturer; and Jennifer Carroll, Ph.D. student. Their research comes at a critical time. Maine's Climate Future 2020 Update summarized recent international and national reports that indicate "atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations are increasing because of human actions; they are influencing the climate in unprecedented ways; there is increasing evidence that these changes are accelerating; we have not begun to implement sufficient actions to alter our climate trajectory; and we are heading for a planetary condition no humans have ever experienced." Maine's a natural place to glean added benefits from working forests and farms. Nearly 90% of the state is forested, and is capable of storing a lot of carbon. A recent UMaine analysis estimated that carbon accumulating in Maine's forests currently offsets at least 55% of the state's annual greenhouse gas emissions. Plus, there's a diverse, vibrant agriculture sector. Maine leads the nation in the growth of young and beginning farmers enthusiastic about sustainable practices that contribute to climate solutions. The team will identify strategies for managing farms and forests in the Pine Tree state that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain the highest possible level of

sustainable co-benefits. The project's other goals include higher yields for managed farms and forests, improved water quality and sustained water runoff, and better air quality. Collectively, these can enhance the ecological and human health benefits that Maine's working lands provide. The researchers are evaluating the potential of 16 natural climate solutions (NCS) to decrease greenhouse gases. Several of those solutions: reforestation; promoting regeneration of high-value, fast-growing tree species; commercial thinning; no-till farming; using cover crops; and capturing methane from manure for use as a fuel substitute. "Preliminary analysis indicates that Maine's working lands could play a significant role in helping Maine be carbon neutral by 2045, or even earlier. However, there is not likely to be a single practice or land use that we can rely on to achieve that goal," says Daigneault. "In addition, this project will also help determine what and where certain practices could be implemented efficiently, thereby producing the 'best bang for the buck.'" The team will meet and survey forest owners, large commercial potato and blueberry growers, and operators of small diversified family farms about whether the identified solutions can work in the real world. The research is slated to be completed by spring 2021, when findings, data, and information, including a fact sheet of benefits and costs of the natural climate solutions, will be posted online. Daigneault and his colleagues also have committed to provide interim findings to the Maine Climate Council by June 2020, which will help form the state's Climate Action Plan. They'll share feedback from landowner focus groups and surveys about barriers and incentives for adoption; Maine-specific alternative scenario pathways and policies; analyses of potential impacts; and an outreach plan for the project's partners to engage with policymakers and farmers. Partners in this United States Climate Alliance project are the state of Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future; the U.S. Department of Agriculture Climate Hub; the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science; The Nature Conservancy in Maine; Maine Farmland Trust; Maine Climate Table; American Farmland Trust; and Wolfe's Neck Center of Agriculture & the Environment. In addition to benefiting Maine, the project — "An Integrated Approach to Quantifying the GHG Mitigation Potential of Natural Climate Solutions from Maine's Working Lands" — could speed up implementation of natural climate solutions in other states with similar goals and land management systems. Project funding includes a $132,174 grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) to the United States Climate Alliance; $25,000 from Maine Farmland Trust; and $22,981 from a Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions grant. The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties. Contact: Beth Staples,207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

Hopkins to talk about maple syrup on Maine Calling

13 Mar 2020

Kathryn Hopkins, an educator with University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Somerset County, will be a guest on Maine Calling 1-2 p.m. Friday, March 13 to discuss "How Maine's Maple Syrup Industry Came to Be & What It Means For our Economy." Hopkins is a statewide resource for the Maine maple syrup industry, and is one of the creators of the International Maple Syrup Institute Maple Grading School that's been presented annually since 2004. In advance of Maine Maple Sunday on March 22, Hopkins and other guests will discuss the history and culture of this iconic Maine product, as well as challenges and opportunities for the industry. Native Americans in the Northeast developed the method of collecting sap from maple trees and turning it into a sweetening product. Maine is among the top three maple syrup producers in the nation. Guests also will talk about some purported health benefits of maple syrup, and share recipes.

Riordan talks with WABI about Maine becoming a state

13 Mar 2020

University of Maine historian Liam Riordan told WABI (Channel 5) that Maine's path to statehood was a long struggle that involved bitter disagreements and strong differences in political opinion. "That experience of the War of 1812 really pushed the separation moment forward because it was an example to a lot of people living in the District of Maine that their interests really weren't being recognized by distant state government centered in Boston," Riordan said. People in Maine also started envisioning what life could be like if they were separate from Massachusetts, he said, including whether taxes would be lower and whether representatives would "better understand the circumstances of people living in hardscrabble areas of Maine."

Mette co-authors new book on democratizing education

16 Mar 2020

Ian Mette, associate professor of educational leadership in the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development, has co-authored a new book, "The Essential Renewal of America's Schools: A Leadership Guide for Democratizing Schools from the Inside Out." Co-written with University of Georgia professor emeritus Carl Glickman, the book provides a three-part framework for schools, districts and community leaders focused on creating locally guided initiatives to accomplish local goals. It will be available from Teachers College Press in April. More information is on the College of Education and Human Development website.

Extension provides parents with social distancing resource

16 Mar 2020

Given the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation in Maine, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has canceled indoor events of more than 20 attendees through April 6. One suggestion to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 is social distancing — a public health safety intervention used to lessen the likelihood of transmitting communicable disease. UMaine Extension has a new resource for practicing social distancing, particularly for parents with young children. Social Distancing: What is it? Why do it? And How to Make the Time at Home with Your Kids Fun! includes suggestions for family activities. Bulletin No. 4103 also is available for free download. Additional educational resources are available on the Extension Parenting & Family Caregiving webpage or by contacting 207.581.3188, extension@maine.edu.

Hopkins recent guest on 'Maine Calling'

16 Mar 2020

Kathryn Hopkins, an educator with University of Maine Cooperative Extension and a statewide resource for the Maine maple syrup industry, was a recent

guest on Maine Public's "Maine Calling" radio show. The show's topic was how the Maine maple syrup industry developed and what it means for the state's economy.

Agrrawal speaks with WABI about COVID-19, economics

16 Mar 2020

Pankaj Agrrawal, a professor of finance at the University of Maine, spoke with WABI (Channel 5) about effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on economics. "This COVID-19 literally and figuratively came out of nowhere. And that is the classic scenario that stops a bull market or a market from moving higher," Agrrawal said. "The supply and disruption that the COVID-19 seems to be bringing about is unprecedented in modern economic history."

Media cover 'Corona-mencement' early graduation event

16 Mar 2020

The New York Times, Bangor Daily News, News Center Maine and WABI (Channel 5) covered an unofficial early commencement ceremony at the University of Maine on March 13. Dubbed "Corona-mencement" by student organizers, the event held in the Memorial Union offered a chance to recognize the class of 2020 in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and an uncertain future. "If there's one thing our class is great at, it's making the most of a tough situation," senior student Hailey Bryant wrote for the BDN. "No one knows yet whether our official commencement will be canceled. Ultimately, though, it's not the ceremony that matters. It's about celebrating our accomplishments and the community we've built, and by those standards, our homemade graduation was more than enough." Senior student Sophia Palangas, the primary organizer, told WABI that it started as a Facebook event meant to gather a few friends to say goodbye, and grew from there. "To leave on a positive note when there are so many unknowns just really brings up the mental health, brings a community together," she said. "For us to send you off so suddenly is painful for us. We know it's painful for you," said Robert Dana, vice president for student life and dean of students. He told the New York Times that the university would be "very student-centric in our decision-making" regarding commencement.

College of Education and Human Development ranked among top graduate schools by U.S. News & World Report

17 Mar 2020

U.S. News & World Report has released its 2021 rankings of top graduate schools, and the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development continues to be listed as one of the best in the nation. UMaine was the only institution in the state to make the list of best graduate schools for education, ranking in a tie for No. 133. The rankings are based on a variety of factors, including student selectivity, faculty resources, and assessment scores from other institutions and professionals in the field of education. The College of Education and Human Development's total graduate enrollment increased to more than 560 students, from just over 470 last year. Total funded research in the college increased to $4.4 million, up from a total of $3.8 million in the previous year. "Our mission is to be a leader in research, collaboration and community engagement in Maine and around the country," says Mary H. Gresham, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development. "It's wonderful to see our efforts recognized in these rankings." Earlier this year, U.S. News & World Report recognized the UMaine College of Education and Human Development on the magazine's list of best online graduate programs for education, ranking it tied for No. 60. The college offers more than 20 graduate degree programs, including graduate certificates, master's degrees, education specialist (Ed.S.) and doctoral degrees. Many degree programs can be completed online or through a blend of online and in-person courses. To see a complete list of the rankings of the best graduate schools, visit U.S. News & World Report's website.

La Presse quotes Socolow in article on U.S. politics

17 Mar 2020

La Presse quoted Michael Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine, in the article "Une présidence en question (A presidency in question)."

Ellsworth American interviews nursing student about Bangor-based nonprofit

17 Mar 2020

The Ellsworth American spoke with Lindsay Bland, a nursing student at the University of Maine, about Bridge Academy, a Bangor-based nonprofit that bridges the college gap and helps students find their way to high-paying jobs with little or no debt. The program began a decade ago as a pilot program at Hermon High School with 14 students, and now has 150 students in seven career and technical education schools around the state, according to the article. Students in the program spend their junior and senior years of high school earning up to 30 transferable college credits, usually on their high school campuses and with reduced tuition. "I've never had to take English, math or social studies" in college, said Bland, a Bridge Academy graduate who credits the program for preparing her well for nursing classes at UMaine. "Since I didn't have to take any of those classes, that's money I saved." Bland said she has always wanted to be a nurse, and plans to stay in the state to work after finishing college.

Press Herald speaks with Hopkins for report on Maine Maple Sunday cancellations

17 Mar 2020

Portland Press Herald quoted Kathryn Hopkins, an educator with University of Maine Cooperative Extension and a statewide resource for the Maine maple syrup industry, in a report on Maine Maple Sunday cancellations. The Maine Maple Producers Association is recommending that all events marking the occasion be canceled due to concerns about the novel coronavirus. It's the first cancellation in the event's 37-year history, but organizers hope to reschedule it, the article states. "This is an extremely unusual circumstance," said Hopkins. "Mainers can cope with weather. They can cope with sleet. They can cope with snow. But the virus is different entirely."

Learn to grow hemp in a home garden

18 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a free online workshop about growing hemp in the home garden 6:30–8 p.m. Thursday, April 2. John Jemison, Extension professor of soil and water quality, will discuss best practices for growing hemp, as well as how to harvest, dry, cure, and prepare it for personal use. Participants may have soil test analyses and photos of plants to share for review. Registration is required by March 30. Register online. Participants will receive instructions for joining the Zoom workshop by email. For more information, to register by phone or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.942.7396; 800.287.1485 (in Maine); wendy.robertson@maine.edu.

WVII speaks with Rosenbaum, Rickard about social media

18 Mar 2020

WVII (Channel 7) spoke with University of Maine faculty members Judith Rosenbaum, associate professor of media studies, and Laura Rickard, associate professor of risk communication, about social media in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rosenbaum and Rickard suggest that people skip social media when looking for information about the novel coronavirus, because it is not vetted and may not be 100% correct. “There is a lot of information on social media right now that may not be entirely accurate,” said Rosenbaum. “I know that a lot of people are at home alone, they’re isolated. They look for social contact.” They recommend consulting the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC), the federal CDC, and community leaders. And they suggested that people take care of themselves physically and emotionally, while following recommendations for hand washing and social distancing. “This is a kind of loss and I’m not just talking about, obviously, people who are affected physically and medically, but also just losing things like a graduation or a sports championship,” said Rickard. “We do have a shared humanity in this moment.”

Yahoo Lifestyle cites UMaine Extension in report on long-lasting produce

18 Mar 2020

Yahoo Lifestyle cited University of Maine Cooperative Extension in the article “5 fruits and vegetables that can stay fresh for months.” The article recommended keeping long-lasting fruits and vegetables on hand in addition to frozen food and pantry staples — apples, potatoes, beets, onions and carrots. Apples can keep for up to four months with proper storage, according to an Extension guide on cold storage conditions for tree fruits.

WVII covers online forum with President Ferrini-Mundy

18 Mar 2020

WVII (Channel 7) covered a live online forum on March 17 centered on the University of Maine’s response to the novel coronavirus. The forum was an interactive student-focused discussion with President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy. Officials say they are hopeful this is a step in the right direction as they transition to distance learning due to COVID-19, WVII reported.

Morrison shares resources with educators, students during pandemic

18 Mar 2020

Mia Morrison, lecturer in instructional technology with the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development, co-hosted a chat on Twitter to share resources, ideas, reflections and commentary aimed at supporting teachers and students during school closures due to the coronavirus outbreak. The archived chat was co-hosted by Morrison (@MiaLMorrison) and Kelly Croy (@kellycroy), director of innovation and instruction at Port Clinton City School District in Ohio. Participating educators responded to six questions:

- How are you working to support your learners through remote learning?
- What modifications is your school making to support remote learning?
- What are your top three communication tools for remotely keeping students and parents informed with your plans?
- What are some best practices for remote teaching and learning in case of a school closure?
- What are the biggest challenges you’re facing around school closure?
- How might we maintain a sense of calm and community throughout this period?

Morrison has presented regionally and nationally on the use of educational technology. She was named an Apple Distinguished Educator in 2013, and served on the Apple Distinguished Educator international advisory board to advance the utilization of educational technology around the world. She’s a UMaine-based faculty member in the collaborative instructional technology program, a partnership between the University of Maine, University of Maine at Farmington and University of Southern Maine.

Three children’s books recognized with Correll Book Awards

19 Mar 2020

The 2020 Correll Book Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Informational Text have been announced by the Lifespan Literacy Community, part of the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development. “Bloom Boom,” with words and images by April Pulley Sayre, was selected in the birth to age 3 category, while “Seashells: More Than a Home,” by Melissa Stewart with illustrations by Sarah S. Brannen, was chosen in the ages 4–8 category. In addition, “Paper World: Planet Earth” by Bomboland was awarded honorable mention in the 4–8 category. This is the ninth year for the Correll Book Awards, which honor children’s books published in the previous year that are appropriate to each age group, as well as being engaging and accurate sources of information for young children. UMaine associate professor of literacy Susan Bennett-Armistead chairs the Correll Committee, which selects the winners. For more information, contact Bennett-Armistead at susan.bennett-armistead@maine.edu.

Apply now for grant to support campus cultural events

19 Mar 2020

Have an idea for a campus community cultural experience to supplement an academic program? The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee is accepting grant applications from the University of Maine community until April 6 (extended deadline). Grants support as much as 50% of expenses associated with events that enhance the artistic, cultural and intellectual life at UMaine. The committee accepts applications four times a year. Guidelines and an application are online. Applications submitted by April 6 are for projects on or after April 27.

Seattle Times interviews Bolton about food safety

19 Mar 2020

The Seattle Times interviewed Jason Bolton, University of Maine Cooperative Extension food safety specialist and associate Extension professor, for an article about food safety during the coronavirus pandemic. The article also cited a UMaine study that concluded that distilled water was more effective than three commercial ozone and chlorine washes for cleaning fruits and vegetables. Bolton, who worked on the study, prefers a water rinse for produce over any washes, including homemade "natural" ones made of lemon juice and/or vinegar. But he recommends avoiding a drastic temperature difference between the produce and the water, which could allow the produce to absorb any bacteria on the surface. "If you had contamination on the surface, it could be sucked in," said Bolton. And he noted that rewashing produce labeled "prewashed" usually isn't necessary.

Media publish UMaine Extension release on new COVID-19 resources for farmers

19 Mar 2020

Morning Ag Clips and The County published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release on a new COVID-19 resource for farmers in partnership with the Beginning Farmer Resource Network of Maine. The resource, COVID-19 Information and Support for Maine Farmers, includes a Maine farmer survey and a collection of current federal and state resources. For more information, contact Tori Jackson at 207.581.8201 or tori.jackson@maine.edu.

BDN speaks with Maginnis about how to teach kids about COVID-19

19 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Melissa Maginnis, an assistant professor of microbiology at the University of Maine, about how she's teaching her kids about the novel coronavirus. "We've seen the emergence of several of these viruses in the past couple decades, like SARS and MERS. It was predicted there would be another one that would emerge, and that it would transmit into humans. I wasn't surprised," said Maginnis. "Those other viruses, they were fairly well contained and then they fizzled. But in this case, the transmission rate is pretty high. It's not as high as measles, which is one of the most transmissible viruses we know of. It's not unlike the rate that the flu has, but coronavirus is higher than that, and it's much more deadly than the flu, and it shouldn't be compared to it." Maginnis runs a lab at UMaine to study human JC polyomavirus, which infects the majority of the population and is confined to the kidneys with no symptoms. In immunocompromised people, that virus can cause a rare and fatal brain infection with no known treatment or cure, the BDN reported. She is currently running the research at home, and she and her husband, fellow virologist Aaron Derdowski, also are educating her two children. "We talk about science a lot. My kids set up little labs in the living room. They write hypotheses in their notebooks. I bring home extra supplies from the lab sometimes, and they play science," she said of regular life. But now the pretend labs have turned into real instruction in the wake of school closures. "We just asked [our daughter], 'What do you want to learn about?'" said Maginnis. "And her eyes lit up. Kids are really hungry for knowledge. Especially for something like this, which her friends are talking about at school. She said people at school were saying, 'I don't want to get the coronavirus.' She was already doing her own research." Maginnis told the BDN about methods she uses to teach her children about the respiratory system, viruses, hand washing and more. And she said the way parents behave and communicate is just as important as the content they teach. "I think for a lot of kids, they're going to remember how they felt during this time. The details of what they learned might be a little fuzzy, but the basic concepts, and the emotions they had, will stick," she said. "How we react during this time is really important. We remember the experience of learning as much as we do the specifics."

Twenty-nine faculty members receive tenure and/or promotion

19 Mar 2020

Twenty-eight faculty members from the University of Maine and one from the University of Maine at Machias have received tenure and/or promotion. The faculty members were nominated by President Joan Ferrini-Mundy based on a peer and administrative review of their successful teaching, research and public service, and approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. "These 29 faculty members exemplify the outstanding teaching, research and public engagement that are critical to the missions of UMaine and UMM," Ferrini-Mundy says. "Their leadership and vision contribute to quality university experiences of our students, and advance Maine and their respective fields. We congratulate them on their achievements and applaud the overall extraordinary engagement of all our faculty in putting our students' needs first as they work to complete this semester." **University of Maine at Machias Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure** *Division of Arts and Letters*

- H. Lori Schnieders, Counseling Psychology and Community Studies

University of Maine Promoted to Professor *College of Engineering*

- Andre Khalil, Biomedical Engineering
- Gerard Peter van Walsum, Chemical Engineering

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Susan Pinette, Modern Languages

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

- Clarissa Henry, Biological Sciences
- Lee Karp-Boss, Marine Sciences
- Brian Olsen, Biology and Ecology
- Denise Skonberg, Food Science and Human Nutrition

Maine Business School

- Niclas Erhardt, Human Resources

Promoted to Extension Professor *Cooperative Extension*

- Leslie Forstadt, Cooperative Extension
- Renae Moran, Cooperative Extension and School of Food and Agriculture
- Kathryn Yerxa, Cooperative Extension and School of Food and Agriculture

Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure *College of Education and Human Development*

- Catharine Biddle, Educational Leadership
- Asli Sezen-Barrie, Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction

College of Engineering

- Keith Berube, Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Andrew Goupee, Mechanical Engineering

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Bridie McGreavy, Environmental Communication
- Rebecca Schwartz-Mette, Psychology
- Kristin Vekasi, Political Science and International Affairs

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

- Keith Evans, Marine Resource Economics
- Daniel Hayes, Geospatial Analysis and Remote Sensing
- Melissa Maginnis, Microbiology
- Alessio Mortelliti, Wildlife Habitat Ecology
- Bryan Peterson, Environmental Horticulture
- Jeremy Rich, Marine Microbiology
- Kelley Strout, Nursing

Maine Business School

- Jean Henri Akono Ada, Accounting
- Dmitri Markovitch, Marketing

Granted Tenure at Current Rank of Associate Professor *College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture*

- Rhian Waller, Marine Sciences

Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Black Bears garner top Hockey East awards

19 Mar 2020

University of Maine junior goalie Jeremy Swayman has been named Hockey East Player of the Year and Red Gendron earned the Bob Kullen Award as Bauer Coach of the Year. Swayman led the league in saves (782) and save percentage (.932). He tied for first in shutouts (3) and tied for second in wins (12). His 782 saves in conference action is the 10th-most of any goaltender in league history and the highest single-season total since 2010–11. Overall, Swayman led the NCAA with 1,099 stops. His off-season has been equally impressive. On Tuesday, he was named winner of the Walter Brown Award, presented annually to the best American-born college hockey player in New England. The same day he signed a contract with the Boston Bruins. The junior from Anchorage, Alaska is one of 10 finalists for the Hobey Baker Memorial Award, the top honor in Division I college hockey. Swayman logged 2,060 minutes, recorded 25 games with 30 or more saves, and his 9.39 save percentage is second in the country. Fans can cast their vote daily for Swayman at hobeybaker.com/vote. Gendron guided the Black Bears to their best Hockey East regular-season finish since 2011–12. They were seeded fourth for the Hockey East Tournament, which was canceled due to COVID-19. The Black Bears notched a sparkling 13-1-3 record at Alfond Arena and had the third-stingiest team defense in league play, allowing 2.33 goals per contest.

New online Maine farm products and pick-up directory available

20 Mar 2020

A new online Maine farm product and pick-up directory is now available. The directory provides information on available local farm products and alternative pick-up options developed by farmers statewide to accommodate the recommended social distancing in light of COVID-19.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension worked with Allison Lakin, owner of East Forty Farm and Dairy, and Lakin's Gorges Cheese in Waldoboro, to develop the database of Maine farmers' creative distribution strategies implemented for the public. The farm product and pick-up directory of the participating farms is found online. For more information or to have your farm added to this list, contact Rebecca Gray, rebecca.gray@maine.edu; 207.781.6099.

NSF grant will further development of new molecular tools for understanding calcium release in cells

20 Mar 2020

Development of new molecular tools to advance understanding of calcium release activated calcium (CRAC) channels in the plasma membrane is the focus of a nearly $800,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to a University of Maine-led research team. The molecular tools — novel compounds called light-operated CRAC channel inhibitors (LOCIs) — will allow researchers to control the function of CRAC channels to better understand their role in cell biology. CRAC channels are key proteins that affect calcium entry and signaling in cells. The channels control such cellular activities as cell migration and proliferation, and gene expression. However, little is known about the molecular, biophysical and biochemical mechanisms that regulate the highly selective release of calcium. Calcium is one of the most important signaling molecules in living cells. The grant, funded by the NSF and BSF (U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation) enables an international collaboration between Michael Kienzler, UMaine assistant professor of chemistry, and assistant professor Raz Palty at the Technion in Haifa, Israel. Kienzler's research focuses on the synthesis and evaluation of new light-activated molecules for biological applications. His lab is developing a series of LOCIs photoswitches designed to modulate CRAC channel activity. By incorporating photoswitches into the LOCI compounds, their activity can be turned on and off by shining different colors of light on them, providing a high degree of precision and control in experiments. The UMaine Chemistry Department recently upgraded its facilities with a state-of-the-art, 500 MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, made possible by a more than $535,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Major Research Instrumentation and Chemistry Research Instrumentation programs. This new instrument is an essential tool for characterizing the LOCI compounds. The goal of the research is to determine if LOCIs can be used to control calcium-dependent cellular responses and, ultimately, manipulate such functions as gene expression and cellular migration. The research team's novel opto-genetic and opto-pharmacological approaches could provide rapid and reversible remote control of CRAC channel signals — an important component in a wide range of cellular processes and particularly immune system function. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine Extension creates 4-H online resources for learning at home

20 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H has created a new online educational resource, Learn at Home, for parents, caregivers and students to utilize during the disruption in school schedules. The collection includes activity books, videos, guides and links to additional resources — from science to financial literacy. The goal is to keep students of all ages engaged in learning. Activities to do at home will be featured each Friday with a short video and easy-to-follow instructions. For more information, contact UMaine Extension 4-H, 207.581.3877, extension@maine.edu.

Media advance Extension tractor safety courses

20 Mar 2020

The Republican Journal and Advertiser Democrat advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension tractor safety courses for youth and adults beginning in April. The Republican Journal reported a five-week course will begin April 16 and run through May 14 at Ingraham's Equipment in Knox from 5 to 7 p.m. The course is open to all interested adults and youth, but it is required for 14- and 15-year-olds who plan to operate farm equipment for hire on farms other than their own. Priority will be given to youth ages 14 to 16. A Federal Certificate of Training will be issued at the completion of the course after successful completion of the written test and driving course, the article states. The fee is $20 and includes a manual. Registration is online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sadee Mehuren at 207.342.5971, sadee.mehuren@maine.edu. Advertiser Democrat previewed courses starting April 6 in multiple locations: Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox-Lincoln, Oxford and Waldo counties. Editor's note: the Knox-Lincoln course has been canceled.

Republican Journal reports date change for UMaine Extension cooking class

20 Mar 2020

The Republican Journal reported that the annual Pickles Preserves and Pies Cooking Class run by the Lincolnville Business Group and University of Maine Cooperative Extension has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 12 at the Cellardoor Winery kitchen in Lincolnville. The cost of $25 per person includes supplies, instruction and venue. Remaining proceeds go to the business group's Scholarship Fund for area students, the article states. Register online in advance. For more information, call Jane Liedtke at 207.323.1837.

USA Today quotes Kaye in report on coronavirus pandemic, ICU bed shortage

20 Mar 2020

USA Today quoted Lenard Kaye, a professor of social work and director of the University of Maine Center on Aging, in the article "Amid coronavirus pandemic, millions of older Americans live in counties with no ICU beds." "The implications are tremendous and very troubling. Individuals are going to reach out for help in an emergency, and those beds may well not be available," said Kaye. Health workers might need to resort to "triaging and tough decisions," Kaye said, "on who beds are allocated to."

Media report on Extension's farmer-to-consumer website

20 Mar 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported University of Maine Cooperative Extension has picked up a digital spreadsheet of wholesale farm products available directly to consumers, and has expanded it into a website. The spreadsheet was created by Allison Lakin, owner of Lakin's Gorges Cheese and East Forty Farm in Waldoboro, who worked with UMaine Extension to develop the database. "We took that list on its own and sent it out to the fruit and veg grower

listserv that we have through the extension service," said Jason Lilley, a sustainable agriculture professional. "There are about 250 growers on that, and I think overnight we went from 7 to 45 entries." The farm product and pick-up directory provides information on available local farm products and alternative pick-up options developed by farmers statewide to accommodate the recommended social distancing in light of COVID-19. The Bangor Daily News also noted UMaine Extension's online directory in its story about how the spread of the coronavirus has reshaped the Maine food system. The story also reported that UMaine Extension has partnered with dozens of statewide food organizations — including Cultivating Community and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association — to form the Beginning Farmer Resource Network of Maine that connects aspiring and new farmers to resources for farm business success. Maine Public also wrote about the origins of UMaine Extension's interactive web resource, which includes a clickable map and a database that can be searched for specific products — from sheep cheese to scallops. The Sun Journal posted a list of farms in its readership area that sell food — including meats, eggs, milk, vegetables, fruits, cheese, honey — directly to consumers. The list was from UMaine Extension's online Farm Product and Pick-Up Directory. Down East Magazine's compilation of "How To Support Maine Businesses Right Now" also included the directory. VillageSoup, CentralMaine.com and The County also posted about the directory. And the Bangor Daily News highlighted the directory in its report, "Why buying a share in a local farm's season might be a very good investment this year." New England Cable News (NECN) also posted about the directory. BuzzFeed News also highlighted the website.

University of Maine Museum of Art offering virtual tours of featured exhibitions

20 Mar 2020

The University of Maine Museum of Art (UMMA) is launching "Fabulous Fridays," a new way to enjoy the museum's exhibitions from the comfort of your home. Each Friday, UMMA will post a new virtual tour or an online follow-along-at-home art class led by Kat Johnson, senior museum educator, on their website. The videos also will be available through UMMA's Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channel.

Media promote Extension 4-H 'Learn at Home' resource

23 Mar 2020

The Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal (centralmaine.com) and Z107.3 promoted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's new 4-H online educational resource. Learn at Home, which includes activity books, videos, guides and links to additional resources, is for parents, caregivers and students to utilize during the disruption in school schedules. Activities will be featured Fridays with a short video and easy-to-follow instructions. For more information, call 207.581.3877, or email extension@maine.edu. Morning Ag Clips also shared the UMaine Extension release.

AP advances online hemp workshop

23 Mar 2020

The Washington Times, WABI and WMTW ran the Associated Press story about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's online workshop to teach Maine residents how to grow hemp at home. During the April 2 workshop, Extension professor of soil and water quality John Jemison will talk about best practices for growing hemp as well as how to harvest, dry, cure and prepare it for personal use. Registration is required by March 30. Register online. For more information, to register by phone or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.942.7396; 800.287.1485 (in Maine); wendy.robertson@maine.edu. Q106.5 also posted a portion of the UMaine Extension media release, and CentralMaine.com ran the release.

Rolling Stone mentions UMaine in 'Blow the Man Down' movie review

23 Mar 2020

The University of Maine is included in Rolling Stone's review of the movie "Blow the Man Down." The movie was the Maine International Film Festival's opening night movie last summer at the Waterville Opera House. "Easter Cove is the sort of quaint port town that dots long stretches of the Northeastern seaboard's coast, home to a community of fishermen and widows," starts the review. "It's the sort of small town that can seem cozy or claustrophobic; for Mary Beth Connolly (Homeland's Morgan Saylor), it's definitely the latter. She's hoping to go to 'UMaine' next year for college, something she's already postponed so she and her sister, Priscilla (Sophie Lowe), could take care of their dying ma and tend to the family's corner store."

Teen Vogue interviews seniors about 'Corona-mencement'

23 Mar 2020

Teen Vogue interviewed University of Maine students Rachel Davidson and Gabriela Reyes Jusino for its story about college seniors finding creative ways to celebrate as courses were moved online in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. Davidson and friends had planned to participate in what originally was planned as a small mock graduation ceremony in front of the Fogler Library, according to the article. But as more seniors signed up and organizers recruited faculty to speak, the gathering was dubbed "Corona-mencement." The celebration was held prior to the release of federal guidelines that recommended against gatherings of 50 people. But seniors were advised to maintain safe social distances as they donned borrowed caps and gowns, celebrated and received makeshift diplomas, according to the article. Jusino told Teen Vogue, "It was the first time most of us smiled in a while. Before getting our diploma, we got a high five from our mascot, an elbow bump from our dean of students, and finally, a squirt of hand sanitizer to finish it all off." ABC News mentioned UMaine's "Corona-mencement" in its story about good news happening amid the coronavirus outbreak. "As many universities closed last week due to the coronavirus, many seniors across the country scrambled to make graduation ceremonies happen. From the University of Maine to the University of Michigan, seniors celebrated their accomplishments with an impromptu affair and shared photos of it all on social media with the hashtag 'Coronamencement,'" read a snippet of the article with the subhead "Uplifting moments are coming to light as we prioritize our health and safety." The Week magazine also highlighted the "Corona-mencement."

Los Angeles Times talks with Oppenheim, touts LocalCatch.org

23 Mar 2020

University of Maine alumnus Noah Oppenheim talked with the Los Angeles Times for a story about environmental groups urging Americans to eat more fish during the coronavirus pandemic. Oppenheim, who earned a dual master's degree in marine biology and marine policy and was based at the Darling Marine Center, now is executive director of Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. "We're already feeling market impacts because of the overnight evaporation of the restaurant industry — that and our export market, which is also gone," he said. "Even in times of shelter-in-place and coronapocalypse, we need to remind people that they have a local, sustainable source of protein right in their backyard." LocalCatch.org was one of the listed groups to check out. The 500-plus member community of fishermen, organizers, researchers, and consumers in North America uses local and direct seafood marketing to promote healthy fisheries and people who depend on them. Joshua Stoll, UMaine assistant professor of marine policy, was a founder of Local Catch in 2011. "When you buy an American wild-capture seafood product, you know it was caught in a manner that is protective of habitat and good for the environment and ensures that we'll be able to fish forever," Oppenheim said. WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Stoll about the website.

Check out what's next on 'The Maine Question'

23 Mar 2020

While "The Maine Question" podcast is on a brief spring break, host Ron Lisnet encourages listeners to check the lineup in case they missed any episodes, as well as to share their favorite conversations with friends. Topics of the podcast, now in its second season, have included news in the 21st century; dog biscuits made of green crabs; being child-free by choice; climate change; the reuse economy; the color of fat; the future of Maine's forests; and the state's bicentennial. After the break, Karissa Tilbury will discuss the fascinating field of biomedical engineering and Ali Abedi will talk about the vast opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct research and exciting possibilities with wireless sensors. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and The Maine Question website. Do you have a question for UMaine pioneers or a topic you'd like to see explored? Send it to mainequestion@maine.edu.

McGillicuddy Humanities Center offering 'Humanities from Home'

23 Mar 2020

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center at the University of Maine will offer "Humanities from Home" videos beginning Wednesday, March 25. MHC humanities specialist Karen Sieber will post short videos daily at 2 p.m. to the center's Facebook and Instagram accounts. Using the items around her, from books and records to art and even pantry items, she will showcase how she is finding ways to think about the "Humanities From Home." The MHC encourages people to make their own videos to show how they are integrating the humanities into their daily homebound routines. Email videos to mhc@maine.edu or upload them to social media using the hashtag #humanitiesfromhome.

Local Catch Network yields bounty of fresh seafood options

25 Mar 2020

During the coronavirus pandemic, some people are realizing they don't have a strong relationship with the food system or local food producers. Local Catch can help remedy that, says University of Maine assistant professor of marine policy Joshua Stoll. The Local Catch Network is a community of fishermen, researchers and consumers committed to providing local, healthful, low-impact, and economically sustainable seafood directly from harvesters. The Seafood Finder map allows people to pinpoint where they can buy fresh lobster, scallops, clams, crabs and more from one of 537 sources in North America. From Unalaska, Alaska, to San Diego, California, to Halifax, Nova Scotia to Perry, Maine. From boat to fork. Increasing access to fresh, local seafood was one of the reasons that Stoll founded Local Catch in 2011. Local Catch is hosting a free forum at 1 p.m. EST Tuesday, March 31 for fishermen, community organizers, and other interested parties to share updates, lessons learned, and critical information to help fishermen involved in local and direct seafood marketing connect with consumers during the coronavirus pandemic. The public is generally aware of the local agriculture movement, says Stoll, who notes University of Maine Cooperative Extension's recent partnership with farmers to create an online Maine farm product and pick-up directory. "But people forget fish is food," says Stoll, who wants the public to know seafood is a critical part of the food system and that consumers can find local seafood using the Local Catch online directory that's been around for nearly a decade. In addition to increasing access to fresh, local seafood, Local Catch initiates conversations about conservation, and sustains healthy fisheries and the communities that depend on them. And it provides a resource for fishermen and communities interested in starting direct seafood marketing arrangements. Stoll says Local Catch connections have proven invaluable to his UMaine-affiliated research about seafood systems and dynamics, and provide beneficial learning and research opportunities for university students as well. Contact: Beth Staples, 207.581.3777, beth.staples@maine.edu

Black Bear Exchange offers drive-thru pickup

25 Mar 2020

The Black Bear Exchange, the University of Maine's on-campus food pantry and clothing exchange, is offering drive-thru pickup through its new Black Bears To Go service beginning at noon Wednesday, March 25. The Black Bear Exchange is offering this service to maintain social distancing while still providing needed food to members of the UMaine community. UMaine students, faculty and staff can place to-go orders through an online order form. The BBE is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. More information also is available online or by contacting Lisa Morin at 207.581.4194; lisa.morin@maine.edu.

Willing to help dairy farmers during COVID-19 outbreak? Contact UMaine Extension

25 Mar 2020

Maine dairy farmers in urgent need of help taking care of routine chores are not able to simply stop operations. Dairy cows need to be fed and milked daily, and there are multiple other essential tasks. While many farmers in Maine have additional labor, others rely on themselves or immediate family members to continue to function. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will facilitate getting in touch with potential short-term workers for Maine dairy farms without back-up labor options. The UMaine Extension Waldo County office is compiling a list of available people with some experience on dairy farms, especially milkers. Names and contact information will then

be shared with those dairy farmers requesting assistance. For more information or to participate, call 207.342.5971.

Piscataquis Observer posts update on Fourth Friday Plant Clinics

25 Mar 2020

The Piscataquis Observer shared that Trisha Smith, home horticulture aide with University of Maine Cooperative Extension Piscataquis County, will host a live Zoom conference version of the Fourth Friday Plant Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 27. To access through PC, Mac or smartphone: https://maine.zoom.us/j/146882821. On a telephone, enter Meeting ID: 146 882 821 after connecting to Zoom via 1.646.876.9923, 1.312.626.6799, 1.669.900.6833, 1.253.215.8782, 1.301.715.8592, 1.346.248.7799, or 1.408.638.0968. Fourth Friday Plant Clinics were envisioned as an in-person drop-in program, but during March and April online platforms will be used. Bring questions, comments and gardening stories to share. UMaine Cooperative Extension is committed to making research-based information available. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, UMaine Extension is using alternative methods to do so. Updates can be found on the UMaine website.

Media share Extension's resource site related to coronavirus

25 Mar 2020

Daily Bulldog and The Piscataquis Observer posted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's user-friendly webpage featuring links to recently completed resources related to COVID-19. UMaine Extension: Connecting with Maine Communities During COVID-19 lists diverse resources available to the public, including guidelines for farmers, educational resources for parents and children, and established services that have been made accessible in new ways. For more information, call 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine); or email extension@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension creates video series with easy recipes to make at home

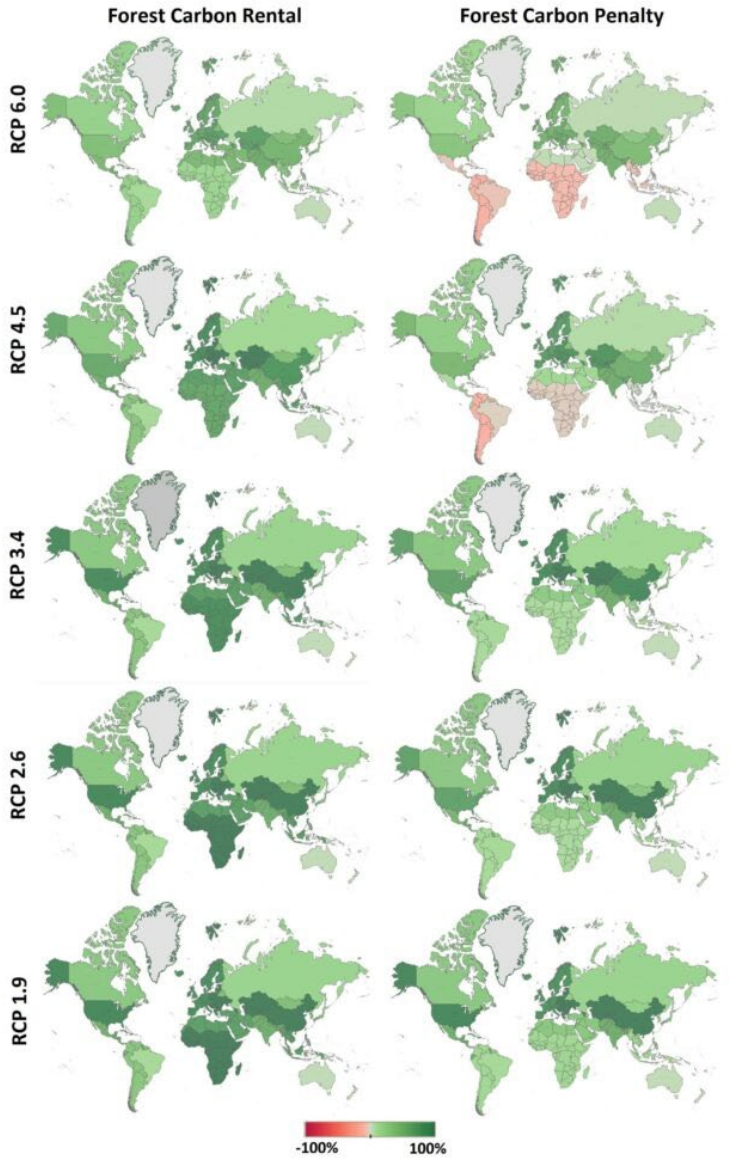
26 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program has created a new video series with recipes that are easy to make at home while keeping nutrition in mind. The "Mainely Dish" series will feature a new recipe each Monday with a brief video and clear instructions. The series begins with oatmeal packets, a make-ahead meal with several variations, including cinnamon-raisin and cocoa. Videos will be archived and available for easy access online. For more information contact Alex Gayton, 207.581.3872; alexandria.gayton@maine.edu.

Researchers model spatial and temporal consequences of increased woody biomass use on the global forest ecosystem

26 Mar 2020

Incentivizing both sequestration and avoidance of emissions— using a carbon rental or carbon tax and subsidy approach — versus only a carbon tax encourages protection of natural forests by valuing the standing stock, according to a new study led by Georgia Institute of Technology. In their study, the research team — Alice Favero, associate director of Graduate Studies at Georgia Institute of Technology's School of Public Policy; Adam Daigneault, University of Maine E.L. Giddings Assistant Professor of Forest, Conservation and Recreation Policy; and Brent Sohngen, professor of environmental economics at Ohio State University — addressed the impacts of woody biomass demand on forest harvests, prices and related timber management issues. Their findings on the consequences of bioenergy policies on forests and carbon emissions are published in the journal "Science Advances." Using the global timber model (GTM) to assess how bioenergy demand affects the forestry sector, forestland and carbon sequestration, the researchers compared timber harvesting and management in more than 200 managed and natural forest ecosystems across 16 world regions under different bioenergy demand scenarios, including a no-bioenergy demand scenario, to isolate the role of management on forest carbon stocks. [caption id="attachment_75960" align="alignright"



Regional change in forest area from 2010 to 2100 by woody biomass policy and demand scenaro

width="500"] Regional changes in forest area relative to 2010 for forest carbon rental and carbon penalty scenarios. RCP 8.5 = very weak climate change policy; RCP 1.9 = very strong climate change policy.[/caption] While policy approaches vary on the regional level, their modeling analysis of the forest carbon rental payment approach indicates that forest area will increase substantially across the globe, with medium price scenarios leading to 500 million to 700 million new hectares of forests. While about 10% of this new forest is intensively managed nonindigenous plantation types, most of the gain in forests occurs in types that are managed less intensively through traditional silvicultural methods. The study also shows that the carbon rental approach safely maintains most natural forests throughout much of the world, and encourages an expansion in natural forests in tropical regions where carbon density is high. "We can have our cake and eat it too," says Daigneault. "Our findings illustrate that a sensible climate policy includes a large biomass program matched with a carbon sequestration program that together promote afforestation, forest management and forest protection." The findings can advance the policy discussion by capturing realistic dynamics of how landowners respond to incentives; namely, that economic incentives from biomass and carbon markets can promote more forest management and afforestation, Daigneault says. "Furthermore, our model accounts for past accumulation of carbon embodied in current forest stocks, which is an important component of the global carbon budget." For Maine and Georgia, two states at the center of forestry in the United States, the model shows that a biomass policy with carbon sequestration incentives would be a great boon to the forestry sector. "There are opportunities in Maine to increase investments in the timber industry if biomass energy markets emerge, and this study indicates how we can do it safely for the environment," says forestry professional Kenny Fergusson of Huber Resources Corp. A concern of many environmental organizations is expansion of biomass energy in the U.S. and globally that would harm ecosystems by encouraging most forests to become industrial timber plantations. This study shows how that can be avoided, according to the researchers. "This study highlights how we need to move beyond the biomass carbon neutrality debate," Favero says. "Policy should not be a focus on either forest carbon or biomass carbon, but rather how to incentivize both. Simply penalizing emissions from bioenergy without an offsetting subsidy for carbon accumulation is an inefficient climate policy because it creates relatively less demand for forest products, depresses timber prices and reduces forest area." By taking into account dynamic market and management responses, the study provides an improved understanding of the benefits and risks of increasing global bioenergy demand on forests and forest carbon mitigation potential under alternative policy scenarios, the researchers write. Contact: Adam Daigneault, adam.daigneault@maine.edu

Colleagues celebrate Hal Borns' legacy of friendship, vision, scientific discovery

26 Mar 2020

Harold “Hal” W. Borns Jr., University of Maine professor emeritus of Earth and Climate Sciences and former director of the Institute for Quaternary Studies (now the Climate Change Institute), died Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Borns was an internationally acclaimed glacial geologist and professor. But he almost became an engineer. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard in World War II, Borns worked as an electronics technician for Bell Telephone. Eventually heeding his father’s advice, he utilized the GI Bill to study electrical engineering at Tufts University. There, an elective course in geology altered Borns’ life and career. He was fascinated by the sequence of rock layers in the Grand Canyon, and by the fact that the layers represented changing environments through time. After earning his bachelor’s degree at Tufts University, Borns earned graduate degrees from Boston University. His post-doctoral education was at Yale University, the University of Bergen in Norway, and the Natural History Museum in London. Borns was among the first to help UMaine become a modern research university. He was proud to have been the first Maine scientist awarded a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (in 1960). Beginning in 1968, Borns helped to develop an appropriate research focus for the recently formed Department of Geology. In 1972, after four years of careful planning and with the strong support of UMaine administration, he became the founding director of the Institute for Quaternary Studies, the nation’s first multidisciplinary research institute created to study Earth’s long-term climate variability. The institute included faculty members from geology, biology, history, anthropology, archaeology, computer science and oceanography — an assemblage that was highly unusual at the time and remains so to this day. His efforts ultimately led to today’s Climate Change Institute (CCI) becoming one of the most accomplished and respected climate research institutes in the world. CCI director Paul Mayewski says Borns displayed intuitive and creative vision when he created the multidisciplinary Institute for Quaternary Studies that has lasted nearly 50 years. “Personally, I was fortunate enough to serve as a field assistant to Dr. Borns many years ago as I was starting my career,” says Mayewski. ”His supportive counsel and friendship provided a role model for many of us.” Steve Norton, professor emeritus in Earth and Climate Sciences, called Borns “the most supportive, thoughtful, and kind person in our program — to the students and faculty.” “He worked tirelessly and selflessly for the betterment of the University of Maine for over 60 years,” says Norton, who joined the Department of Geology in 1968. Borns was an expert in glacial geology, and especially the glacial history of Maine. He established strong connections among UMaine researchers and the Maine Geological Survey. Among his many contributions: the 1985 State Geological Survey map of Maine’s Surficial Geology that synthesized previous work in the state and is still the standard reference. In 2006, Borns and cartographer Michael Hermann produced the award-winning Maine’s Ice Age Trail: Down East, Map and Guide. The colorful and detailed map and subsequent phone app highlight 46 unique glacial landscape features that were revealed between 16,000 and 13,000 years ago as the Laurentide Ice Sheet retreated northward. Borns’ geological fieldwork included sites on all continents except Australia. He had 28 field seasons in Antarctica, where the Borns Glacier was named for him. From 1988 to 1990, Borns served as director of the Polar Glaciology Program for the U.S. National Science Foundation. Borns estimated that he taught and advised about 3,000 students during his career. He did it with wisdom, warmth, wit and a large measure of love for geology and for UMaine. A group of faculty peers called Borns “a true living treasure of the University of Maine.” The Climate Change Institute annually holds the Harold Borns Symposium, which features scientific presentations by present and former graduate students, faculty and staff. The discussions include current research projects from around the world, and from many disciplines. Three months before his death, Borns met with UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy to share insights about the history of research at the university. “Last year, Hal sent me a letter detailing the impact of his first NSF grant on his research, on the university and on Maine,” says Ferrini-Mundy. “When we got together three months ago, he shared how excited he was to be doing data collection with high school students in the Machias area. Hal was the quintessential professor and researcher in the true spirit of a land grant university. “His internationally and nationally recognized research put the University of Maine on the global map, and impacted the state's understanding of its ice age history. He was an educator at heart, widely sharing his expertise for glacial and ice age geology with students of all ages, colleagues and the community. We will miss his passion for learning and science.” Former CCI director George Jacobson notes, “Those of us who had the good fortune to interact with Hal over the years found a friend and mentor who encouraged our interests in research and helped to further our careers. His own great enthusiasm for science continued to the end, and even in the last few months of his life he mentioned plans for next summer’s fieldwork in gravel pits in Downeast Maine.” Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

BioME Student Showcase still on, virtually

26 Mar 2020

University of Maine students are invited to present their research virtually at the 2020 BioME (Bioscience Association of Maine) Student Showcase, which originally was slated to be held at Cloudport CoWorking MultiSpace, 61 Federal St., Portland. Students now are invited to virtually present their life science-focused research projects to judges via Zoom video conference. The application deadline has been extended to April 3. The virtual event will be hosted April 15 and those who present their life science-focused research project are eligible to win either $2,000, $1,000 or $500. The goal is to support innovation and commercialization of student ideas in Maine, and connect students with potential future employers and entrepreneurial resources in the state. For more information about the event and how to apply: biomaine.org/events/student_showcase.

Ellsworth American reports on outreach efforts of Sea Grant, Extension

26 Mar 2020

The Ellsworth American noted efforts of Maine Sea Grant and University of Maine Cooperative Extension in a story about seafood harvesters directly marketing their catch. Maine Sea Grant recently sent a flyer to oyster growers with advice about directly marketing their shellfish online, at farm stands or farmers’ markets, or at their farms. UMaine Extension has a website that includes a comprehensive list of farm products and pick-ups around the state, as well as a link to the Local Catch Network founded by University of Maine assistant professor of marine policy Joshua Stoll. Local Catch includes a Seafood Finder map so people can pinpoint where they can buy fresh lobster, scallops, clams, crabs and more from one of 537 sources in North America.

Press Herald interviews UMaine student about remote learning

26 Mar 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed University of Maine junior Bridget Fehrs for its story about remote learning. Fehrs was slated to visit Ireland with her rugby team over spring break, but the trip was postponed to August. Fehrs said she understands the need to practice social distancing, despite some challenges she believes online classes will provide.

New mobile app is the latest tool to help Mainers fight opioid overdoses

26 Mar 2020

Maine's Office of Behavioral Health, in collaboration with the University of Maine, has released a free mobile app that provides key information to help reduce deaths from opioid overdoses. The app, OD-ME, contains naloxone administration instructions for both intranasal Narcan and intramuscular naloxone, and step-by-step audio and visual guidance on how to perform rescue breathing. The app, available through the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, also allows a user to dial 911 for emergency assistance and 211 for additional resources. The app was developed by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and the Virtual Environment and Multimodal Interaction (VEMI) Laboratory at the University of Maine, and is published by the University of Maine System. The goal of the app is to provide a free and easily accessible emergency response tool primarily aimed at educating active bystanders. Bystanders following instructions on the app could intercede on behalf of a person experiencing an opioid overdose. "The app is not meant to be a stand-in for formal naloxone use training," says Alexander Rezk, a research assistant at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center who was involved in the development. "Rather, it is a low-barrier, easy-to-use emergency response and educational tool for those who want to be prepared." The app complements the state's public outreach campaign, haveitonhand.com, regarding naloxone distribution and usage. Most opioid overdoses are accidental, and a bystander friend or family member could use the mobile application to recognize and confirm the signs of an overdose. If they have naloxone on hand, the app can walk them through the process of administering the life-saving medication. "An important part of the Governor's Executive Order on Opioid Response is providing education and training to friends and family of those who are at risk of overdose," says Marcella Sorg, research professor at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center who led the app development. "This app makes naloxone administration instructions easier to get into the hands of Mainers than ever before." Information about obtaining naloxone is available by calling 211, or submitting a request at maine.gov/dhhs/samhs/forms.shtml. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

BDN, WABI highlight student teachers staying connected with youth

27 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed University of Maine student teachers Kaylee Grindle and Olivia Murphy, both seniors, about employing innovative remote learning techniques to educate and stay virtually connected with youth. Grindle logs onto a Facebook group created for parents of her first-grade students at Dedham School to check in with children and film herself reading aloud. "We've been … encouraging the students to add pictures and videos of them doing the [learning] packets and any other educational things they've been doing at this time," she said. "I start off with a morning message encouraging them and telling them we're here for them." Murphy helped her mentor teacher at Asa Adams Elementary School in Orono set up Google Classroom for their third-grade class. She found a form online with emojis that students can select to let her know how they're feeling. Students use the form to tell her about their pets, what they had for breakfast and activities. Grindle also told WABI (Channel 5) that her main goal "is to help them [students] and be there for them, support them, and do all we can to make this fun and normal as it can be...We miss them so much and we would give anything to be with them."

Maginnis talks with WVII about origins of coronavirus names

27 Mar 2020

Melissa Maginnis, associate professor of microbiology, talked with WVII (Channel 7) about origins of the COVID-19/coronavirus name. The World Health Organization named the disease COVID-19 — CO for corona, VI for virus, D for disease and 19 for 2019, the year it started. Maginnis, a virologist, said COVID-19 refers to the disease caused by the coronavirus, or SARS-CoV-2. And prior to that, she said it was called the 2019 novel coronavirus. It was renamed, she said "because it was so closely related to the SARS coronavirus that was responsible for the SARS outbreak which occurred in 2002–2003."

Media report on mobile app designed to reduce opioid overdoses

27 Mar 2020

The Associated Press, WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland), WABI (Channel 5) and News Center Maine highlighted a mobile app designed to reduce overdose deaths that was developed by Maine's Office of Behavioral Health, in collaboration with the University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and Virtual Environment and Multimodal Interaction Laboratory (VEMI Lab). The app, OD-ME, contains naloxone administration instructions and step-by-step audio and visual guidance on how to perform rescue breathing. Available through the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, the app is a free, easily accessible emergency response tool primarily aimed at educating active bystanders. U.S. News & World Report, Portland Press Herald, WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) and Fox 23 carried the AP article.

Chat online with garden experts beginning March 30

27 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a series of free one-hour online home gardening discussions starting Monday, March 30 at 9 a.m. Additional sessions are scheduled each Monday at 9 a.m., Wednesday at noon and Thursday at 6 p.m. through April 23. "Garden Chats: Growing Resilience from the Ground Up" will be a chance for gardeners and UMaine Extension experts to share and discuss gardening tips, and ask questions. Topics will include pruning, seed starting, soil preparation and garden management. More information, including the schedule of topics and instructions for joining the Zoom sessions, is online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Caragh Fitzgerald, 207.622.7546, cfitzgerald@maine.edu.

Visit the Hudson Museum online

27 Mar 2020

The University of Maine Hudson Museum website features online educational resources. A page of resources for teachers provides information on many websites, books and videos on Wabanaki history and culture. The museum's YouTube channel features 19 videos showcasing Wabanaki artists talking about basketmaking, birchbark and carving traditions, and more. In the publicly accessible database, users can explore the museum's collection from cultures around the world. Currently, 8,600 artifacts are online. In the online exhibits, online visitors can learn about such topics as Maine shell middens, Persian calligraphy and Mayan ceramics. And users can explore the Maine Indian Gallery through a web app. Coming soon are three virtual tours of the Hudson Museum's galleries.

Farmers invited to online meetings to share information during pandemic

27 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering Maine farmers a chance to connect online from 10–11 a.m. weekdays to ask questions, get answers and share information. "Daily Maine Farmer" sessions began March 23 as a way for farmers and farm service providers to share what is happening on their farms and to engage with experts during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to farmers, representatives from the Maine USDA Farm Service Agency and Maine Department of Labor have taken part to discuss programs available for farmers and to answer farmers' questions. So too have staff members from the office of Maine Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, who serves on the House Agriculture Committee. Instructions for joining the sessions, a list of scheduled guests, and notes from previous Zoom sessions are online. For more information and to receive reminders about the program, email Donna Coffin at donna.coffin@maine.edu. Sessions are scheduled until April 6, with further sessions considered.

Medical researchers use Climate Reanalyzer to predict potential spread of COVID-19

27 Mar 2020

Medical researchers have utilized the University of Maine Climate Change Institute's Climate Reanalyzer as they attempt to predict the potential spread of COVID-19. Dr. Mohammad M. Sajadi, an M.D. and associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, led the study titled "Temperature, Humidity and Latitude Analysis to Predict Potential Spread and Seasonality for COVID-19." The study is published on SSRN, a platform for the dissemination of early-stage research. To learn whether SARS-CoV-2 is a seasonal respiratory virus and if its spread can be predicted, researchers examined Climate Reanalyzer temperature maps. They found areas with significant community spread of COVID-19 are located within a narrow latitudinal band of 30–50°N, where the mean winter season temperature and humidity range from 5–11 C (41–51.8 F) and 47–79%, respectively. The authors of the study suggested the restricted latitude, temperature, and humidity bounds of the initial disease spread are consistent with the behavior of a seasonal respiratory virus, and that weather modeling could be useful in predicting community spread of COVID-19 in coming weeks. Since 2012, CCI research assistant professor Sean Birkel has been building the Climate Reanalyzer site that provides access to climate and weather models, as well as historical station data. Birkel also is the Maine State Climatologist. As of 8 a.m. Friday, March 27, the paper had been downloaded 39,024 times and had been viewed 175,293 times. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Glacial termination in South America the focus of UMaine-led NSF study

30 Mar 2020

The history of South America's retreating glaciers at the end of the last ice age will be the focus of a three-year National Science Foundation study led by the University of Maine. Brenda Hall, UMaine professor of glacial geology in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences and the Climate Change Institute, will lead the team of scientists and student researchers. Their work, funded by a more than $510,000 NSF grant, will help clarify the timing of the last ice age termination in the Southern Hemisphere and the forces behind it by studying the glaciers in the Cordillera Darwin. The icefield is located in the southern tip of South America. Delving deeper into the last ice age termination, the largest natural warming event in recent geological history, could provide more context for understanding rising global temperatures today and improve future climate predictions. Research team members include UMaine professor George Denton and assistant professor Aaron Putnam, both with the School of Earth and Climate Sciences and the Climate Change Institute; associate professor Joellen Russell, an Earth-system modeller from the University of Arizona, and professor Patricio Moreno, a paleoecologist from the University of Chile. UMaine students and a student from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University will also join the field team. Little glacial geologic data has been gathered for areas like the Cordillera Darwin in the margin of the Southern Ocean, yet it can prove essential for learning how past ice ages ended, says Hall. "The termination of the last ice age represents the largest warming of the past 100,000 years. Understanding this event has implications for determining the most important factors that control large-scale changes in Earth's climate. Since glaciers respond to summer temperatures, we can use past glacier variations in Cordillera Darwin to track temperature change through the termination," she says. The research team will document the timeframe and magnitude of glacier recession in the Cordillera Darwin icefield during the ice-age termination using radiocarbon and exposure dating of glacial landforms and glaciological modeling. The data will be used to evaluate leading hypotheses for what caused ice age termination in the Southern Hemisphere, which include an ocean bipolar seesaw upwelling warm water, the Southern Hemisphere westerlies shifting, or a release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Researchers will determine how influential the ocean bipolar seesaw, shift of the Southern Hemisphere westerlies and carbon dioxide outgassing were on glacial termination in the region using their glacier record for the Darwin icefield and a general circulation model run by Russell. UMaine researchers speculate that temperatures rose earlier and faster in the Southern Hemisphere during the last ice age termination than previously expected, based on prior studies. If additional research supports this finding, it may require scientists to reexamine their understanding of the event and their hypotheses for what fueled it. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Student teachers innovate to reach young learners at home

24 Mar 2020

Student teachers in the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development are demonstrating resilience and innovation to help youth learn at home during the coronavirus pandemic. Kaylee Grindle, a first-grade student teacher at the Dedham School, teamed with her mentor teacher to compile learning packets and distribute them to families at a drive-thru at the school. Each day, the senior from Bucksport, Maine videotapes herself reading aloud picture and chapter books, and shares them with students via a Facebook group. She chooses picture books with themes of love and kindness "to try to lift up their spirits during this time." Olivia Murphy, a third-grade student teacher at Asa Adams Elementary School in Orono, created a simple form for children to fill out that incorporates social-emotional learning concepts. The senior from Hudson, New Hampshire wanted students to be able to easily share their feelings, respond to prompts and maintain important personal contact with their teachers. Derek Gagne and his mentor teacher at Orono High School set up Google Classroom for the Earth and Physical Science, Honors Earth and Physical Science, and Forensics classes. And they're transitioning to Google Meet for video conferencing with students. Gagne, a senior from Auburn, Maine, draws on his laptop screen so students get visual and verbal instruction and he assigns short reading and video/animations with attached questions. For the final 10–15 minutes of each class, there's a debrief so students can ask clarifying questions and/or discuss content. "As we begin to get more accustomed to this new norm, we are continuing to adapt and change our strategies as needed to meet the needs of class differences and individual needs," Gagne says. UMaine strives to place teacher candidates with qualified mentor teachers at schools in close proximity to the University of Maine for field experience. Teacher candidates already have taken several methods courses prior to their field experience course, for which they teach five days a week.

UMaine Extension 4-H offers virtual science cafe´s

30 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer virtual science cafe´s for teens in grades 7–12 each Tuesday, from 3–3:45 p.m., beginning March 31. Online sessions will include University of Maine scientists discussing their research, how they became involved in their work and what brought them to Maine. Participants will learn about science in action in an informal discussion format. The first session is "Something's Fishy" with Scarlett Tudor, research and outreach coordinator for the UMaine Aquaculture Research Institute. Tudor's research includes species important to aquaculture, including Atlantic salmon. Registration is required for each session; register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jessy Brainerd, 207.581.3877; jessica.brainerd@maine.edu. More information on additional sessions also is available on the UMaine Extension 4-H Learn at Home resource webpage.

Maine Campus continues to publish online

30 Mar 2020

The Maine Campus, the University of Maine's student-run newspaper, will continue to publish articles online throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. While there will no longer be a printed paper, the articles will be available online every Monday. To share story ideas, contact the editor in chief at eic@mainecampus.com, the news editor at news@mainecampus.com, the sports editor at sports@mainecampus.com, or the culture editor at culture@mainecampus.com. The Maine Campus staff also will continue to produce the Maine Campus podcast "Anecdote." Reach out to the editor in chief if you have any questions about how to contribute stories to the podcast.

BDN includes UMMA virtual tour in weekend roundup

30 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News included the University of Maine Museum of Art's new virtual tours in a roundup of online activities to do at home on the weekend. The virtual tours of current exhibits will be offered each Friday, the BDN reported.

Morning Ag Clips, AP highlight Extension's Master Food Preserver Program

30 Mar 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Associated Press reported the University of Maine Cooperative Extension has been accepting applications for its Master Food Preserver Program. Master Food Preservers teach people how to preserve food and share research from UMaine Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Applications for the program, which includes a $250 fee, must be submitted by May 1. The 10-part-program includes classes about canning basics, pickled and fermented foods, preserving jams and jellies, prevention of foodborne illness and more. Classes will be held 5:30–8:30 p.m. every Tuesday from June 16–Sept. 8, except for the week of Aug. 31, when the class will be held Wednesday, Sept. 2; at UMaine Extension Cumberland County, 75 Clearwater Drive, Suite 104, Falmouth, and at Brunswick High School, 116 Maquoit Road, Brunswick. Applications are on the UMaine Extension website. For additional information, contact instructor Kathy Savoie, UMaine Extension educator, at ksavoie@maine.edu. U.S. News & World Report, WGME (Channel 13), Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, The Washington Times, Fosters.com, Times Union and San Antonio Express-News carried the AP article.

Daily Bulldog notes online, teleconference meeting hosted by Extension, other organizations to help farmers

30 Mar 2020

The Daily Bulldog shared an announcement from the Greater Franklin Food Council that it, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Natural Resource Conservation Service will host an online and teleconference meeting to help Franklin County farmers cope with new obstacles presented by the coronavirus pandemic. The conference will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 31. Producers can join the conference through maine.zoom.us/j/348989619 or by calling +1.646.876.9923, +1.312.626.6799, +1.301.715.8592, +1.346.248.7799, +1.408.638.0968, +1.669.900.6833, or +1.253.215.8782. Anyone with technology concerns can contact Erica Emery at erica@rusticrootsfarm.org or 207.205.2627.

Media report on Extension's "Mainely Dish" video series

30 Mar 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, WABI (Channel 5) and the Associated Press highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program's new video series "Mainely Dish." Each video, which UMaine Extension will release each Monday, will feature a new recipe with step-by-step instructions for how to prepare the dish at home. The first video describes how viewers can make oatmeal packets, and can be watched on the UMaine Extension website. U.S. News & World Report, WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) and WHDH (Channel 7 in Boston) carried the AP report. The San Francisco Chronicle and WPFO (Channel 23 in Portland) also shared the AP report.

News Center Maine covers new Black Bears To Go service

30 Mar 2020

News Center Maine reported the Black Bear Exchange, the University of Maine's on-campus food pantry and clothing exchange, is offering drive-thru pickup for online orders of food and personal care items to students, faculty and staff to provide needed items while maintaining social distancing. "Obviously with what's going on right now with our campus being shut down, our dining halls are not functioning the way they will normally be," said Lisa Morin, coordinator of the Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism. "We can prepackage it, nobody has to come in the building, and then they can come down and pick up the items already put together," said Morin. "Right now we think we are serving about 75 students and couples out in the community." Hilltop

Dining is still open to serve the 291 students remaining in residence halls due to extenuating personal circumstances, News Center Maine reported. “We are open seven days a week, brunch and dinner, and we also have coffee service in the lobby,” said Glenn Taylor, director of Dining Services. The Black Bear Exchange partners with the Good Shepherd Food Bank, the report states. There is no income requirement or application process to use the food pantry, which is open to community members with a valid MaineCard.

Media speak with Kersbergen about helping dairy farmers during pandemic

30 Mar 2020

The Morning Sentinel spoke with Richard Kersbergen, extension professor with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about ways to help dairy farmers during the pandemic. UMaine Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association are in search of short-term workers, especially those with milking experience, to help small dairy farmers in the event that farmers running smaller scale operations without backup get sick with COVID-19. “This is for small dairy farmers that are one or two person operations. If those people get sick, someone needs to step in to take over the operations. Dairy farming doesn’t just stop,” said Kersbergen. The UMaine Extension Waldo County Office will collect names and contact information of interested workers and share them with dairy farmers who request assistance, the BDN reported. “Cows need to be milked at least twice a day,” Kersbergen said. “They need to be fed. Things happen on the farm all the time. Dairy is the kind of business that can’t shut down. It’s a 24-hour job.” For information or to participate, call 207.342.5971. News Center Maine also interviewed Kersbergen about helping dairy farmers.

BDN cites Center on Aging in article on new ways for older people to stay in touch

30 Mar 2020

The Bangor Daily News included the University of Maine Center on Aging in the article “Pandemic pushes older Mainers to learn new ways to stay in touch.” Senior program volunteers with the center are trying out new ways to stay connected, according to the BDN. About 14% are still actively volunteering in other ways, said Paula Burnett, coordinator for the center’s retired senior volunteer program. The program, which operates in Piscataquis, Hancock, Washington and Penobscot counties, is focused on people aged 55 and older who want to help other senior citizens, the article states. Volunteers are calling their clients to check in from a distance while they cannot interact in person. “This is all new territory for everybody,” said Donald Lynch, director of the center’s senior companionship program. Burnett encouraged staying active by walking with a neighbor — 6 feet apart, and taking advantage of technology to keep in touch with loved ones.

Kennebec Journal interviews Extension officials about how coronavirus affects farmers

30 Mar 2020

The Kennebec Journal interviewed several officials from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension about how the coronavirus pandemic has affected local farmers, as well as how producers have adapted. Donna Coffin, a UMaine Extension educator, said fears “about the unknown” have hindered farmers’ ability to make business decisions. Some producers have begun selling Community Supported Agriculture shares to generate revenue in preparation for a long outbreak. Caragh Fitzgerald, an associate UMaine Extension professor of agriculture, said a farm owner or worker contracting COVID-19 could derail operations, so Extension has been exploring ways for producers to generate written procedures for relief work, according to the article. In the meantime, Richard Brzozowski, a food system program administrator with UMaine Extension, said farmers must share job opportunities through the state Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The article also highlighted the work of Jason Lilley, a sustainable agriculture professional with UMaine Extension, in helping create an online directory of wholesale farm products available directly to consumers. The directory, which Lilley said has more than 44,000 views since it launched, features a clickable map and a database that can be searched for specific products — from sheep cheese to scallops — among other resources. “These farms are also creating new ways in which customers can pay for and pick-up food, including online orders, curbside pickup, or prepackaged bags of food to minimize time at the stand and handling of food,” Lilley said.

Maine AgrAbility video highlights students’ learning on the farm

31 Mar 2020

Over the past year, Maine AgrAbility and partner Alpha One integrated agriculture into the curriculum of a peer mentoring program at Massabesic High School in York county. The program, funded by the Maine Department of Labor Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and supplemented with hands-on opportunities, culminated with summer work experiences on a local farm. Sally Farrell, owner of Rummler Run farm in Buxton and former University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H professional in York County, agreed to introduce three of the students to daily life on her farm in summer 2019. The stories and experiences of those three students — practicing problem-solving, handling small livestock, helping ensure biosecurity practices — are told in the video "On the Farm." Maine AgrAbility, a collaborative project of UMaine Extension and Alpha One, is dedicated to helping farmers, fishermen and forest workers work safely and more productively. For more information, contact Leilani Carlson at 207.944.1533; leilani.carlson@maine.edu. More information also is available on the UMaine Extension AgrAbility website.

UMaine Extension opens new ask-an-expert agriculture page

31 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension created a new resource for Maine farmers and agricultural producers devoted to frequently asked questions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Questions about COVID-19 and agriculture can be submitted using an online form. UMaine Extension experts will respond and selected questions with their answers will be posted. Questions also can continue to be submitted to local Extension offices by email or phone. For more information about Extension resources for Maine agriculture, call 207.581.3188, email extension@maine.edu, or visit extension.umaine.edu/agriculture.

Media highlight Waldo County Extension helping dairy farmers

31 Mar 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel and the Bangor Daily News highlighted efforts from University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association to connect dairy farmers with potential short-term laborers amid the coronavirus outbreak. UMaine Extension Waldo County, in particular, has been compiling a list of available workers with dairy farming experience. Anyone seeking additional information or willing to participate is encouraged to call UMaine Extension Waldo County at 207.342.5971. WABI (Channel 5) also highlighted the UMaine Extension service. “So we've started a volunteer list of people that potentially have some dairy experience that could step in this situation, especially with a small farm that will require some labor to keep those cows healthy, safe, fed and milked," said Richard Kersbergen, a UMaine Extension professor.

Media promote Extension’s Daily Maine Farmer sessions

31 Mar 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, Turner Publishing Inc., Morning Ag Clips and The Piscataquis Observer shared the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s online Daily Maine Farmer sessions. Each meeting allows farmers to discuss their experiences and ask experts questions amid the coronavirus outbreak. UMaine Extension will host the online sessions from 10 to 11 a.m. on weekdays through April 6, with further sessions considered. Instructions for how to join sessions via Zoom, the guest list for talks and notes from previous meetings can be found on UMaine Extension’s website. Anyone seeking additional information or wishing to set up reminders about the program can contact Donna Coffin, a UMaine Extension educator, at donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Holland talks with Press Herald about gardening activities for children

31 Mar 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Lynne Holland, a community education assistant with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the Maine Gardener column “Mommy, I’m bored! Have you heard that lately?” Holland describes several activities pertaining to gardening that children can do as schools remain closed during the coronavirus pandemic. Children, she said, can prune branches from spring-blooming shrubs to place in vases; build insect hotels, particularly for native bees; and create garden beds with their parents. UMaine Extension 4-H also will prepare an online program of children’s activities, she said.

Pine Tree Watch speaks with Brzozowski, Lilley about relying on local foods during pandemic

31 Mar 2020

Pine Tree Watch spoke with University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff Richard Brzozowski, food system program administrator, and Jason Lilley, sustainable agriculture program professional, for the article “When need meets need: Relying on local foods during the COVID-19 crisis.” Brzozowski said “there are still a lot of unknowns,” but that he’s “so proud of our farmers” for their willingness to be “nimble enough to respond.” He sees the current crisis as “a wake-up call: We need to be ready with more foods grown within the state.” Lilley discussed UMaine Extension’s new online farm product and pick-up directory. “Overnight, it [the spreadsheet] went to 60 entries,” Lilley said, and he realized “there was something behind this.” Penobscot Bay Pilot published the Pine Tree Watch article.

Media promote Extension’s Garden Chats

31 Mar 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel and Advertiser Democrat highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s online gardening discussion series "Garden Chats: Growing Resilience from the Ground Up." The free, one-hour discussions allow gardeners and UMaine Extension experts to share and discuss gardening tips and ask questions about various subjects, including pruning, seed starting, soil preparation and garden management. Sessions will be held at 9 a.m. on Mondays, noon on Wednesdays and 6 p.m. on Thursdays through April 23. More information, including the topic schedule and instructions for joining the Zoom sessions, can be found on UMaine Extension’s website. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also referenced the series in its report “Seed sales soar as Mainers put down roots at home.” Pamela Hargest, horticulture professional with the UMaine Extension Cumberland County Office, said the first session, held on March 30, attracted 67 participants.

Mainebiz covers UMaine Extension resources for farmers, consumers

31 Mar 2020

Mainebiz covered several University of Maine Cooperative Extension resources for farmers and consumers as the growing season begins amid the COVID-19 pandemic. UMaine Extension has an online Maine farm product and pick-up directory that provides information on available local farm products and alternative pickup options developed by farmers statewide, the article states. To help small scale dairy farms that do not have backup in case the farmers get sick, the UMaine Extension Waldo County office is compiling a list of available people with some experience on dairy farms, especially milkers. Names and contact information will then be shared with those dairy farmers requesting assistance, Mainebiz reported. And UMaine Extension is offering Daily Maine Farmer sessions online from 10 to 11 a.m. weekdays for farmers and farm service providers to share information.

Media report Chemical and Biomedical Engineering department helping make hand sanitizer

31 Mar 2020

Maine Public reported the Chemical and Biomedical Engineering department at the University of Maine is helping produce hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 20 Maine breweries and distilleries are distilling ethanol, which is approved for use in hand sanitizer by the Food and Drug Administration, from beer. UMaine then adds glycerol, hydrogen peroxide and distilled water to the ethanol. Pilot batches of the sanitizer have been distributed to medical centers in the state, according to University of Maine System spokesperson Dan Demeritt. The Bangor Daily News, Penobscot Bay Pilot and WVII (Channel 7) also reported on UMaine’s role in producing hand sanitizer. The BDN also carried the Maine Public story.

NSF publishes Ferrini-Mundy's tips for helping kids with math homework

31 Mar 2020

The National Science Foundation published a list of ways to help kids with math homework suggested by Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias and former NSF chief operating officer. The list was republished as a resource for parents to use while schools are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Communication is key to making math homework a positive experience, according to Ferrini-Mundy. Her tips included listening and trying to understand what your child is saying, asking them to think out loud, keeping an open mind and more.

Fogler Library offering Power Researcher Challenge

31 Mar 2020

Interested in learning ways to take your research to the next level? Join Fogler Library from the comfort of your home office, or wherever you have an internet-enabled device, for the Power Researcher Challenge. Each day for five days, you will receive an email with one or two suggested tasks designed to boost your research acumen, stay on top of literature in your field, avoid link rot in your references, and maintain research integrity. The challenge will take place from April 27-May 1. To join, sign up online. Everyone who is interested in receiving the information is encouraged to register, even if they won't have time to complete the challenges during Power Researcher Challenge Week. The activities may be especially resonant for faculty, staff and graduate students.

UMaine Extension 4-H stress management workshop for teens April 16

31 Mar 2020

According to the 2019 Maine KIDS COUNT data [www.mekids.org/site/assets/files/1241/kidscount_2019.pdf, p. 15], the rate of Maine teens with anxiety is 16.1%, nearly double that of the national average. Finding healthy ways to respond to anxiety is particularly important during these stressful times. A free online workshop that focuses on stress management, designed by and for teens, is scheduled from 6–7 p.m. April 16. "#EmpoweringMEandYou – Stress Less" was developed in 2019 by members of the Maine 4-H Healthy Living team selected to attend the annual National 4-H Healthy Living Summit. The 2020 team who presented the workshop at this February's summit will deliver the session for teens ages 13-18, focused on ways to combat and cope with stress. The workshop is free; registration is required. Register online by April 13. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sara Conant, 207.781.6099; sara.conant@maine.edu. An additional workshop, developed by the 4-H Agri-Science Team at this year's National 4-H Agri-Science Summit in January, with a focus on zoonotic diseases — how certain pathogens are passed from animals to humans — and best practices to reduce the spread of infections, is scheduled for this summer.

COVID-19 food safety information from UMaine Extension

31 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension created a collection of food safety resources selected specifically for use during the current pandemic. COVID-19 Food Safety Information for Maine Consumers features links to fact sheets, guidelines and videos with information on proper disinfection techniques, food purchasing and storage, recipes using pantry staples and the role of handwashing in food safety. For more information, contact Kathy Savoie, ksavoie@maine.edu, 800.287.0274; or visit extension.umaine.edu/food-health/food-safety.

Bornean treeshrews can take the heat

01 Apr 2020

As human activity shapes Earth's climate, animals must increasingly adapt to new environmental conditions. The thermoneutral zone — the ambient temperature range in which mammals can maintain their body temperature without expending extra energy — is a key factor in estimating a species' ability to survive in a warming world. Reptiles and other ectotherms that rely on the environment to regulate their body temperature are believed to be more vulnerable to global warming in the tropics than in temperate climates. However, less is known about small tropical mammals, especially those active during the day. To better understand if small tropical mammals also have increased vulnerability as their environments heat up, Danielle Levesque, University of Maine assistant professor of mammology and mammal health, and collaborators from the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak studied Bornean treeshrews. They measured the oxygen consumption of the wild-caught lesser treeshrews (*Tupaia minor*) over a range of temperatures, calculating the animals' resting metabolic rate and thermoneutral zone. The team found that, like other treeshrew species, the animals exhibited more flexibility in body temperature regulation than other small mammals. This contradicts current assumptions that the upper limit of the thermoneutral zone between mammal species has little variation. The findings highlight the importance of further research on the energetics of mammals in the equatorial tropics. The team's findings will be published in the paper "Small tropical mammals can take the heat-high upper limits of the thermoneutrality in a Bornean treeshrew" in May in the journal Physiological and Biochemical Zoology. The study's team included undergraduate students who were funded by two National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates and a Research Coordination Network grants awarded to the University of Arkansas. The research was supported by a grant from the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education and a fellowship from the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Daigneault looks for prosperity through the trees

01 Apr 2020

Adam Daigneault and colleagues will be working with people in forest-dependent communities to build paths toward prosperity. The University of Maine E.L. Giddings Assistant Professor of Forest, Conservation, and Recreation Policy will utilize a $105,030 grant from the U.S Forest Service to strengthen northern border towns' resilience and to enhance their economic development. Many northern border communities in Maine — as well as in New Hampshire, Vermont and New York — rely on the health and sustainable management of forests. And people in those towns are financially dependent on timber or another forest product, as well as tax revenue that the forestry industry provides. So when a paper mill or bioelectricity plant closes, Daigneault says residents experience hardship that can lead to crises of economy, culture and identity. However, economic shocks also can be a catalyst for change, says Daigneault. He cites the Katahdin Region — which includes Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway, Stacyville, Sherman, Patten, Mount Chase and Island Falls — as a

prime example. In the face of two recent mill closings, residents have actively promoted the region's abundant natural resources and recreation opportunities to diversify the economy. Daigneault and colleagues recently completed a study of the Katahdin Region, which inspired this new research. Northern border towns also face increased pressures from land-use changes, land ownership shifts and environmental stressors, including extreme weather and shifts in forest species composition. Daigneault has conducted community resilience research in other parts of the world. "Some of my previous work involved surveying villages in Africa and the South Pacific to better understand how people responded to natural disasters," he says. "I recognized that while the context of that work was different than what we are working on in Maine, the approach to learning how communities adjust to these shocks can be similar whether they are affected by flooding in Fiji or a mill closure in Madison." To point the pathways to prosperity in the right directions, Daigneault and colleagues will develop, quantify, and track a broad set of resilience indicators, such as population change and property tax rates. These indicators can provide insight on where the area may be succeeding as well as opportunities for improvement. Data will come from the U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, as well as from state labor, health, and revenue agencies in all the Northern Border Communities. Daigneault's UMaine colleagues include Aaron Weiskittel, a professor of forest biometrics and modeling and director of Center for Research on Sustainable Forests; as well as Sam Roy, research assistant professor; and Gabrielle Sherman, Ph.D. studentThe scientists will use the data to identify three hotspot communities in Maine that warrant further investigation. They'll work with community leaders, local businesses, and civic organizations to learn about challenges these communities face and help identify opportunities that could emerge. And they'll analyze household data from distressed areas to assess resident and visitor perceptions and future aspirations. The team will share the framework and data with the communities and with the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) — a federal-state partnership created to use transformative community economic development approaches to alleviate economic distress and to position the region for economic growth. UMaine also is partnering with the University of Vermont and Hubbard Brook Research Foundation on the project titled "A Resilience Indicators Approach to Ensuring Equitable, Objective, and Continued Investment in Northern Border Communities." Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Media report UMaine Extension 4-H offering virtual science cafés for teens

01 Apr 2020

Daily Bulldog, Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel and The Bethel Citizen published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release announcing that UMaine Extension 4-H is offering virtual science cafés for teens in seventh grade through senior year of high school from 3–3:45 p.m. Tuesdays beginning March 31. The informal discussions will include UMaine scientists talking about their research, how they became involved in it and what brought them to Maine, the release states. Online registration is required. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jessy Brainerd at 207.581.3877, jessica.brainerd@maine.edu. More information also is online. WVII (Channel 7) spoke with Laura Wilson, 4-H science professional, and Scarlett Tudor, a research assistant at the Aquaculture Research Institute, about the program. "It's a way to reach out and still allow kids across the state and beyond a chance to interact with a scientist doing some really cool things at UMaine," Wilson said. Tudor led the first session, with more than 50 kids attending virtually, WVII reported. "It was amazing! The kids had such good questions," she said, adding that she wants to inspire students and introduce them to new career paths. The Franklin Journal also highlighted the virtual science cafés.

USA Today speaks with Birkel about warm winter records

01 Apr 2020

USA Today spoke with Sean Birkel, research assistant professor in the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, for a report on a record warm winter. This winter was the second warmest worldwide in 141 years of record keeping, showing signs of climate change, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Birkel, who also is the Maine State Climatologist, said the state as a whole saw its sixth-warmest winter on record, but that the northern part of the state had a recognizable winter. "The snow season was very good across Maine's northern climate division, owing to numerous snowfall events and daytime high temperatures generally staying below freezing," he said. Birkel also mentioned that a northern air pattern called the Arctic Oscillation was in an "extreme" phase this year, "reflecting a very strong polar vortex that kept cold air in high latitudes for most of the season." That contributed to this year's warm temperatures at lower latitudes, including the U.S. and Europe, according to the report. The Independent in Massillon, Ohio; Utica Observer-Dispatch; Telegram & Gazette in Worcester, Massachusetts; and Hillsdale Daily News carried the USA Today article.

Media promote Extension's ask-an-expert resource

01 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips, Penobscot Bay Pilot and Daily Bulldog published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release announcing a new ask-an-expert agricultural page devoted to frequently asked questions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Maine farmers and agricultural producers can use an online form to submit questions about COVID-19 and agriculture. Questions still can be submitted to local Extension offices by phone or email as well. For more information about Extension resources for Maine agriculture, call 207.581.3188, email extension@maine.edu or visit extension.umaine.edu/agriculture. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also highlighted the ask-an-expert-resource.

BDN talks with Bayer about COVID-19, antiviral properties of lobster blood

01 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Bob Bayer, professor emeritus of animal and veterinary sciences and former head of the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine, about the possibility that an extract from lobster blood could be used to treat COVID-19. Bayer leads Orono-based startup Lobster Unlimited LLC, which he said is looking for a bio-secure lab that is willing to test the lobster byproduct on the virus. "It's a potential treatment," he said. Hemocyanin, a protein that carries oxygen to a lobster's cells, has antiviral and immune-boosting properties, the BDN reported. Whether or not it might be effective against COVID-19 is "far from a sure thing," according to Bayer, but worth testing. News Center Maine also reported on Bayer's work.

News Center Maine interviews Morrison, UMaine students about student teaching amid coronavirus

01 Apr 2020

News Center Maine interviewed student teachers from the University of Maine and Mia Morrison, a lecturer in instructional technology at UMaine, about

student teaching during the coronavirus pandemic. Olivia Murphy, who teaches third grade at Asa Adams Elementary School, said she and her mentor teacher use Google Classroom, which students have found engaging. Derek Gagne, who has been teaching at Orono High School, said he was surprised at "how many of (my students) have been showing up and continue to show up at time and continue to be present and engaged," in a virtual classroom. Morrison said her students are taught how to bring education to students, and that the most important thing is, "How do (w)e just connect with the students."

Boothbay Register speaks with UMaine student about learning from home

01 Apr 2020

The Boothbay Register talked with Blake Erhard, a first-year engineering student at the University of Maine, about his experience learning from home amid the coronavirus pandemic for the article "When the college-bound become home-bound." Erhard said he has been taking classes online after UMaine stopped in-person classes as a result of COVID-19. "Luckily I have a really good teacher's assistant (for calculus) who emails us and tries to help," he said.

Media reports on historic lead level study involving Mayewski

01 Apr 2020

Science magazine reported on a study that Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, participated in that involved analyzing lead concentrations in ice core samples in correlation with major events in medieval England. Mayewski, in collaboration with Chris Loveluck, an archaeologist with the University of Nottingham, Michael McCormick, chair of the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard University, and other Harvard historians, studied samples from a 72-meter-long ice core drilled in 2013 in the Colle Gnifetti Glacier in the Swiss Alps. The ice core they studied preserved more than 2,000 years of pollution, volcanoes, and Saharan dust storm fallout; and each sample represented between a few days and weeks of snowfall. The team found dramatic lead spikes occurred between 1170 and 1219 C.E., according to the article. Using a model, the team discovered that lead-laced winds blew from Great Britain to the Swiss Alps in the summer rises. Researchers also found that the rises and drops in lead levels correlated with major events surrounding medieval kings, according to Science. Technology Networks Group also reported on the study, and Phys.org published the UMaine news release.

Highest pre-modern lead pollution occurred 800 years ago

01 Apr 2020

Scientists and archaeologists from the University of Nottingham, the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine and Harvard University discovered the highest levels of air pollution before the modern era occurred around 800 years ago. The study, published by Cambridge University Press' Antiquity journal, includes data that represents the highest-resolution, most detailed and chronologically accurate record in existence for pollution, climate change and economic growth over the past two millennia. A team of researchers from the CCI, Heidelberg University and the University of Bern retrieved the ice core from an alpine glacier (Colle Gnifetti) on the border of Switzerland and Italy. The glacier is well known among researchers in Germany, Switzerland (as reported in The New York Times), Italy and the United States for the quality of its ice. Scientists at the Climate Change Institute used cutting-edge laser technology to chemically identify changes in pollution and climate, year by year, and even season by season. "We have improved the sampling resolution in ice cores from the previous standard of 100 samples per meter to 10,000 samples per meter, meaning that even in old, compressed ice at depth, high-fidelity data is emerging that remained masked or 'smoothed out' in lower-resolution records," says Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute. "This leap in data accessibility opens up new realms of investigation into the association between climate, pollution and society." Historians painstakingly matched the data with documents preserved in the archives and libraries of Europe, bringing history to life with a warning for the present. "The mid-late 12th century had the same levels of lead pollution as we see in the mid 17th century and even in 1890, so our notions of atmospheric pollution starting in the industrial revolution are wrong," says professor Christopher Loveluck of the University of Nottingham. Comparing data obtained by analyzing glacial ice and historical records, the team showed how political crises and wars left a mark on Europe's economic growth and environment under some of the most celebrated kings in England — Henry II, John Lackland, and Richard the Lionheart. "By shining a laser on centuries-old ice, we've learned to read glaciers as we read a book. We're doing both to shed light on economic history and its health implications," says professor Alexander More of the CCI, Long Island University, and Science of the Human Past at Harvard. Even low levels of exposure to lead, a toxic metal, can reduce brain function and result in lifelong health complications. Humans have mined and used lead for centuries in coins, roofs, water pipes and paint. Typically, pre-industrial civilization serves as a baseline to compare today's pollution levels. However, contrary to assumptions of a much cleaner yesterday, humans have released toxic chemicals into the environment for far longer than the last two centuries. Indeed, this study shows that before industry, very high levels of lead pollution came from Great Britain, particularly the mines of Carlisle and the Peak District. In addition to their historic findings, the work of the British-American researchers represents a major innovation in the study of pollution, health and economic history. Michael McCormick, chair of the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard, emphasized the consilience of scientific and historical findings. "Thanks to this new technology, those 12th-century particulates embedded in the ice core converge with Britain's medieval royal [financial] archives, the Pipe Rolls, to track yearly lead production, casting sharp new light on the dynamics of the medieval economy," he says. In addition to Mayewski, CCI researchers Andrei Kurbatov, Heather Clifford, Nicole Spaulding, Michael Handley, Laura Hartman, Elena Korotkikh and Sharon Sneed are co-authors of the study. Arcadia, a charitable foundation of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin, funded the research. Contact: Alexander More, afmore@fas.harvard.edu; Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Mainebiz cites UMaine studies in article on warming waters, lobster

02 Apr 2020

Mainebiz cited two 2019 University of Maine studies in the article "Warming Gulf of Maine waters may be stunting lobster growth." The studies point to the role of a warming ocean and local oceanographic differences in the rise and fall of lobster populations along the coast from southern New England to Atlantic Canada, the article states. One study was led by Noah Oppenheim, who earned a dual master's degree in marine biology and marine policy at the Darling Marine Center. The other study was led by marine sciences Ph.D. student Andrew Goode.

BDN notes death, legacy of Hal Borns

02 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News published an article noting the death of Harold “Hal” W. Borns Jr. and recognizing his legacy. A former geology professor at the University of Maine, Borns has a glacier in Antarctica named after him and founded what is now the Climate Change Institute, among other accomplishments. He died on March 17, the BDN reported.

Maine Public interviews Mayewski about pollution slowdown due to COVID-19

02 Apr 2020

Maine Public interviewed Paul Mayewski, director of the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute, about the slowdown in pollution as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. While it will not have much of a direct effect on long term climate trends, Mayewski said some believe it could provide a look into what a post-fossil fuel future may look like. The situation provides scientists an opportunity to examine phenomena that evoke the pre-industrial era. “We will see decreases in the emissions of carbon, potentially for many weeks, if not months. It will be important to see how much of a drop actually occurs in the atmosphere because that gives us a feeling of what kind of reductions might be helpful."

BDN speaks with Extension staff about grocery shopping during pandemic

02 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with several University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff members about how to safely grocery shop during the COVID-19 pandemic. Robson Machado, assistant professor and food scientist, said that the science is evolving and all tips should be taken with a grain of salt as recommendations continue to change. “We just do not have enough scientific data for pinpoint answers. Keep in mind that this a subject that is being researched as we go, and answers could change over time,” he said. Machado, along with Jason Bolton, extension food safety specialist, and Kathleen Savoie, extension educator, recommend using sanitizing wipes to clean handles of shopping carts or baskets. They also recommend washing hands before entering the store and immediately after leaving, or using hand sanitizer if this is not possible; avoiding touching your face; and minimizing the number of items you touch while shopping. “Avoiding handling produce that you are not going to buy is an excellent way to prevent foodborne diseases and likely help with the spread of COVID-19,” Machado said. Other recommendations include staying at least six feet away from other shoppers, going grocery shopping alone and as infrequently as possible, and going during off-peak hours to minimize the number of people you might come into contact with. “Without any evidence to date on transmission from surfaces, there are no specific handling recommendations” for food in packages, Machado said. “[Frequently] washing your hands is the best practice.” And there currently are no additional recommendations for washing produce. Machado noted that soap, other detergents and bleach should not be used on produce.

WABI reports on teen stress coping workshop from Extension 4-H

02 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the “#EmpoweringMEandYou – Stress Less” online workshop from University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H. The free workshop, designed by teenagers for teenagers, will be hosted from 6 to 7 p.m. April 16. “The point is to help kids learn how to cope with stress, learn what the effects of stress are, and come up with some good coping strategies for themselves,” said Sara Conant, a community education assistant and administrative specialist with UMaine Extension 4-H. Prospective participants can register using the online form. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Conant at 207.781.6099 or sara.conant@maine.edu. Morning Ag Clips also highlighted the workshop. The Daily Bulldog and Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also highlighted the workshop.

Media highlight Extension’s food safety resource for COVID-19

02 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel shared the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s new online resource titled “COVID-19 Food Safety Information for Maine Consumers.” The website includes links to fact sheets, guidelines and videos about proper disinfecting, food purchasing and storage, recipes using pantry staples and proper hand washing for food safety. Anyone seeking additional information can contact Jason Bolton, an associate extension professor and food safety specialist with UMaine Extension, at 207.581.1366 or jason.bolton@maine.edu; or Kathy Savoie, a UMaine Extension professor, at 207.781.6099, 1.800.287.0274 (in Maine), or ksavoie@maine.edu.

Emera Astronomy Center supports COVID-19 research efforts with visualization cluster

03 Apr 2020

Emera Astronomy Center at the University of Maine is contributing to global scientific research efforts to fight the coronavirus. The visualization computer cluster in Emera’s Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium is now part of an innovative platform operated by the University of California, Berkeley. It is the second planetarium in the nation to join the effort. The Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing (BOINC), funded by the National Science Foundation, is a volunteer platform that downloads scientific computing jobs to remote computers and runs programs in efforts to advance important research. Emera Astronomy Center is giving BOINC researchers access to the visualization cluster for use in the critical Rosetta@home (R@h) project from the University of Washington. In the COVID-19 outbreak, R@h is being used to predict the structure of proteins important to the disease, as well as to produce new, stable mini-proteins to be used as potential therapeutics and diagnostics, according to the Rosetta@home website. Emera Astronomy Center’s planetarium uses the innovative Sky-Skan Definiti visualization system, the most advanced in Maine. The technology at Emera and the Frost Planetarium in Miami, Florida will be used to help accurately model important coronavirus proteins and predict their three-dimensional shapes. Knowledge gained from studying these viral proteins is now being used to guide the design of novel vaccines and antiviral drugs for COVID-19. “I wanted to find a meaningful way to use our computing technology which is idle with our closure due to this global pandemic,” says Shawn Laatsch, director of the Emera Astronomy Center. “The planetarium is always looking for ways to use our system in new ways. “Just before closing, we hosted our Science Lecture Series that featured Dr. Melissa Maginnis from UMaine’s Department of Molecular and Biomedical Science who presented on viruses. Since we can show proteins in our dome, I started searching for a way to actively use our facility to assist in research to fight COVID-19. I spent about three hours working with Sky-Skan to get our system configured and connected to the BOINC. The planetarium visualization cluster is now online and working on this protein research.” Contact: Shawn Laatsch, 207.385.6836,

shawn.laatsch@maine.edu

Virtual Fulbright Scholar program workshops offered April 9

03 Apr 2020

Want to discover how you can make an impact abroad? The Office of Major Scholarships will host virtual Fulbright Scholar program workshops Thursday, April 9. Grant Stream-Gonzalez, outreach and recruitment officer at the Institute of International Education, will lead a workshop for faculty, staff and administrators at 11 a.m. and one for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students at 2 p.m. Both meetings are free and will be held via Zoom. The 11 a.m. meeting will cover opportunities for teaching, research, and flexible initiatives in more than 140 countries; tips on creating a competitive application, including how to make contacts abroad and choose the right country and award; and ways to increase UMaine's international profile by hosting a Fulbright Visiting Scholar. Signup is online. The 2 p.m. meeting will cover fully funded opportunities for teaching, research and earning graduate degrees in more than 140 countries; finding the right country and award; and crafting a competitive application. Interested students and faculty are encouraged to attend this workshop. Signup is online.

Media commemorate anniversary of first NCAA championship win for men's hockey

03 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Portland Press Herald reported on the 27th anniversary of the University of Maine men's hockey team winning its first national title. The Black Bears defeated the Lake Superior State University Lakers 5–4 to earn the NCAA Division I men's hockey championship April 3, 1993, in Milwaukee, securing the team's championship victory. The Lewiston Sun Journal also commemorated the anniversary of the team's first national championship victory.

BDN reports on UMaine's role in developing shields for doctors amid coronavirus reported

03 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported on the University of Maine Office of Innovation and Economic Development assisting in developing protective gear for health care workers as they deal with a shortage amid the coronavirus outbreak. The office has been working with Dr. Jonnathan Busko and his colleagues at St. Joseph Hospital in Bangor to create a more refined, ready-made version of Busko's intubation shields, which can be used to protect doctors from pathogens patients could expel when receiving breathing tubes. The office has been developing a similar shield for Maine Medical Center in Portland. "We're building prototypes and letting them test them, then making modifications," said Jake Ward, vice president for innovation and economic development at UMaine. "There is a manufacturer that is in the wings ready to make them."

Mount Desert Islander highlights UMM professor Christie's free origami classes amid coronavirus outbreak

03 Apr 2020

The Mount Desert Islander included Audra Christie, an assistant art professor at the University of Maine at Machias, in a list of artists and musicians offering free lessons to residents during the coronavirus outbreak. Christie has been providing live online origami classes.

Mayewski talks with Maine Calling about carbon emission drop amid COVID-19

03 Apr 2020

Maine Public interviewed Paul Mayewski, director of the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, and Andrew Pershing, chief scientific officer and climate change ecologist for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, for the Maine Calling piece "Climate Change & COVID-19: How Pandemic-Driven Changes in Behavior Might Affect Our Environment." The report explores the drop in carbon emissions as the coronavirus pandemic slows down human activity, short-term changes as a result and whether there will be any long-term shifts. Mayewski said the reduction in transportation prompted by the pandemic caused a drop in greenhouse gases and rise in air quality. "There are two very prominent things that we're going to see with respect to climate change as a consequence of this pandemic," he said.

Media interview Reisman about federal coronavirus relief

03 Apr 2020

The Mount Desert Islander and The Ellsworth American interviewed Jon Reisman, an associate professor of economics and public policy at the University of Maine at Machias, for an article about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act approved by Congress and President Donald Trump. "This is a huge injection of liquidity into the economy that should keep things afloat for maybe two or three months," Reisman said. "We're talking about a short-term fix that's going to serve as a flotation device."

UMaine, statewide partners producing hand sanitizer, exploring PPE innovations for Maine hospitals

03 Apr 2020

The University of Maine has formed an innovation team to help evaluate and develop solutions to the shortages of supplies and challenges faced by Maine's health care centers since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The group includes UMaine faculty, staff and students, representatives from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP), MaineHealth, St. Joseph Hospital and Northern Light Health. Other collaborating partners include the Manufacturers Association of Maine and Maine Procurement Technical Assistance Center. The team based at the state's public research university is operating as part of a March 22 umbrella agreement with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) allowing the University of Maine System to provide goods and services to Maine health care facilities and agencies as

coordinated by MEMA. The first UMaine-led initiative to help meet the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers focuses on production of hospital-grade hand sanitizer. Other initiatives include research on protocols for N95 masks, and development of devices supporting intubation and ventilation. All supplies are coordinated by the University of Maine System via the MEMA WebEOC. With hospital-grade hand sanitizer in very short supply, a team led by UMaine's Process Development Center (PDC) and faculty in chemical and biomedical engineering has established limited production of hospital-grade alcohol-based sanitizer in accordance with FDA Temporary Guidance. Beginning March 23, the university's existing supplies were used to pilot the production of FDA- compliant 80% ethanol hand sanitizer, which has been distributed to Central Maine Medical Center and Northern Light. This week, the team began more robust production and distribution, including supplies to Covenant Health, MaineHealth, Cary Medical Center, Houlton Regional Hospital, Down East Community Hospital, Maliseet Health and Wellness Center and Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Hospital. Hospitals have been notified and are able to place their requests online. The Process Development Center is working with Maine Distillers Guild's Ned Wight, who is coordinating the ethanol supply from area distillers. They include New England Distilling, Hardshore Distilling, Stroudwater Distillery, Sebago Lake Distillery, Split Rock Distilling, Blue Barren Distillery, Mossy Ledge Spirits, Chadwick's Craft Spirits, Wiggly Bridge Distillery, Round Turn Distilling and Three of Strong Spirits. Local brewers provide the feedstock for the distilleries. These include: Allagash, Maine Beer, Rising Tide, Foundation, Oxbow, Shipyard, Baxter, Threshers and Tumbledown. UMaine's production has focused on larger volume 55-gallon and 5-gallon containers for use by hospitals. To meet evolving and expanding demand, they are now increasing coordination with other distillers who may remain focused on smaller package production. These include Maine Craft Distillers in Portland and Boston Brands in Lewiston. After April 6, continuous PDC production is expected to be at 400 gallons a day, given the available supply of components. PDC is able to produce a single 55-gallon batch in 30 minutes. The hospital-grade hand sanitizer is intended for immediate use and only for hospitals. As production increases, the hope is to supply other health-related facilities and first responders to meet demand. Nestlé is donating 0.5-liter bottles to help distribute the hand sanitizer in smaller portions. The hand sanitizer is being produced in a 500-square-foot wet lab space in the Process Development Center in Jenness Hall on campus. A three-person production team (two to produce and bottle, and one to move materials and supplies) is required, enabling staff to observe social distancing requirements while at work. Support and management staff coordinate from remote locations. PDC is UMaine's commercial-scale pilot plant, established four decades ago to primarily support the pulp, paper and bioproducts sector with research, development, demonstration and commercialization services. The capacity for commercial-scale products and chemical engineering processes made it possible to adapt to the hand sanitizer production in a safe and efficient way. Maine, like all states and countries worldwide, is experiencing critical shortages of PPE and sanitation materials throughout hospitals and health care centers. The scarcity of these traditional supplies has led many to consider alternative materials and devices, and protocols for using alternatives and reusing limited supplies. The UMaine team, along with the Maine MEP, representatives from Maine's medical centers and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, have been cataloging needs from area hospitals and medical centers, and collecting information worldwide to vet innovations that have been tried and used. An important factor is that alternative materials, technologies and techniques have to be evaluated and approved to be used in the hospital setting to be safe and effective. The team has the ability to review approaches with doctors, clinicians, infection control and pharmacists as well as the Maine CDC, to gain confidence that alternative materials and techniques will work and can be used. The N95 mask is another PPE component in severely short supply. The masks, used by frontline medical personnel in direct contact with patients, are meant to protect the wearer from the highly contagious COVID-19. Typically a single-use mask, hospitals are now evaluating protocols to sterilize and reuse N95s. Researchers in UMaine's Chemical and Biomedical Engineering Department have evaluated known sterilization technologies and techniques. They have conducted scientific literature searches on the performance and effectiveness of techniques, and documented protocols of other hospitals and medical users to better inform Maine hospitals. Equipment often differs from one hospital to another. The compiled information allows health care providers to develop a protocol specific to their institution and guidance on equipment to acquire. They are consulting directly with Maine hospitals as protocols are being evaluated. In addition, the UMaine Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC) is testing N95 masks before and after sterilization treatments to ensure the filtering performance has not been degraded. AMC is UMaine's manufacturing business and engineering support and service center, and is dedicated to promoting economic and workforce development in the state. The center in UMaine's College of Engineering was established to provide a high-level technical resource that would be readily accessible to businesses, entrepreneurs, students and researchers throughout Maine. The UMaine innovation team also is working closely with Maine hospitals and manufacturers to evaluate alternative materials and designs for masks that can be locally manufactured in the quantities needed. With the volume in the hundreds of thousands, this is not a trivial problem. AMC and Maine MEP, led by Larry Robinson, have been vetting designs and testing materials with hospitals. As national demand increases, base material supplies are tightening and alternative materials become more critical. Given the N95 shortage, hospitals also are relying on other known PPE devices, such as the clear plastic face shield and N80 surgical masks. Existing supplies of medical face shields are drying up. UMaine, Maine MEP and hospitals have evaluated prototype designs that can be manufactured in Maine in the huge quantities needed, and in materials that are acceptable for medical use. Protocols are being evaluated for face shield reuse based on materials properties and sterilization techniques. Several Maine manufacturers have shifted production to face shields and are filling orders from hospitals. Those manufacturers include Plas-Tech, Thermoformed Plastics of New England, Flowfold and Maine Source Machining. Newer innovations include a clear plastic "aerosol box," a three-sided shield with handholes that covers the patient's head and shoulders, and allows medical personnel to intubate safely to contain aerosol spray. AMC worked with Maine MEP to design a prototype that has been evaluated by area hospitals and manufacturing is beginning at Maine companies. In addition, 3D printing is being evaluated as a tool to help with the production and prototyping of PPE and other devices, such as ventilator components. UMaine, the University of Southern Maine, Maine community colleges and a variety of companies in the state are evaluating this potential. While an exciting technology, not all 3D printing materials are suitable for medical use or will hold up to sterilization. While formed directly to work with Maine hospitals and Maine manufacturers, the UMaine innovation team welcomes ideas from others. The group is making new connections daily and hopes others will coordinate through the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and MEMA. Questions and can be sent to umaine.innovation@maine.edu. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine aids Bangor Public Health by providing vetted coronavirus research, updates

06 Apr 2020

Efforts to monitor and combat the coronavirus outbreak have produced a barrage of new information daily, some of which can be contradictory or incorrect. A group of University of Maine professors and students is helping the city of Bangor Public Health & Community Services Department navigate the pandemic by sending updates backed by science that they review and compile. Kristy Townsend, an associate professor of neurobiology, and Melissa Maginnis, an assistant professor of microbiology, lead a coalition of 11 undergraduate and graduate student volunteers who are assisting in the effort remotely from their homes. The students collate and evaluate new coronavirus research, government regulations and case figures alongside detailed answers to common questions about the outbreak. Townsend and Maginnis vet the information and submit it to Bangor Public Health. "The information provided by professors Townsend and Maginnis and their team have been invaluable to the Public Health department and their community partners," says Patty Hamiliton, director for Bangor Public Health. "Having this expert team research questions and respond with answers based in science helps us navigate this quickly changing pandemic. The bulletins created by the team are shared with the Healthcare unified command and we are all very appreciative of the work and willingness to step in and assist at this important time." The UMaine team has been working on the initiative since March 23, with a goal to supply information briefs to Bangor Public Health every two to three days. Those briefs are available online. "It's such an important initiative because you can really experience an information overload

during the pandemic," Maginnis says. "I think it's really confusing for people to try to work through all of the conflicting information. Even scientists struggle to keep up with all of the information and weed through counter articles." The team has tackled several different facets of the outbreak, answering questions about how COVID-19 spreads, how it can affect the respiratory system, progress toward vaccines or antiviral medications, whether those who recovered could become reinfected and more. Responses to inquiries about these topics are broken down into series of bullet points to make digesting the information easier. "We're trying to keep to the topics that are at the forefront of people's minds, and what they might get conflicting or misinformation about that we can help clarify," Townsend says. The initiative not only helps a public organization that provides essential services, but also serves as an educational experience for the student volunteers at a time when they cannot access the Townsend and Maginnis labs as usual to perform research. Townsend said analyzing and compiling research and news articles refines students' ability to cross-check and communicate pertinent information to the general public. The professors want each student to follow updates about a specific aspect of the pandemic that complements their individual skill sets so they can become an expert on that particular topic. Ashleigh Beaulieu, graduate student of molecular and biomedical science from Hermon, Maine, has not only provided "the majority of the updates" thus far, but also designed a table of results from a study the group shared in one of its informational packets, Townsend says. The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, described how long the virus can stay and remain infectious on different surfaces. "It's really awesome to see students jump in and be willing to help," Maginnis says. Urgent inquiries for information from Bangor Public Health prompt a rapid response from the team. For example, somebody asked whether they could contract COVID-19 by swimming in an indoor pool, so the group did same-day research on the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, Townsend says. According to CDC, no evidence of the virus spreading to people through pools and hottubs has been found, and appropriate operation, maintenance, and disinfection should remove or inactivate the virus. Sources of information used by the students and professors range from the state and federal CDC and the World Health Organization, to reports from scientific and medical journals such as the Journal of the American Medical Association, the Lancet and the New England Journal of Medicine, and a few news outlets. Not all the questions currently have answers due to limited research or ongoing investigation. Maginnis and Townsend also share this with the health agency. "The job of a scientist is to help clarify where information is lacking and what we just don't know enough about," Townsend says. The group's initiative with Bangor Public Health coincides with the efforts of a UMaine innovation team that is helping evaluate and develop solutions to the shortages of supplies and challenges faced by Maine's health care centers since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine names 2020 valedictorian and salutatorian

06 Apr 2020

Chemical engineering major Sierra Yost of Windham is the 2020 University of Maine valedictorian, and Grace Smith of Holden, a molecular and cellular biology major, is this year's salutatorian. Both are students in the Honors College. "We congratulate Sierra and Grace on the strength, breadth and rigor of their academic achievements and overall University of Maine experience," says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "Their engagement in all that the state's public research university has to offer is an inspiration." Yost is a member of the UMaine cross-country, and track and field teams. Her honors thesis focuses on the application of cellulose nanofibers as an alternative to plastics in disposable utensils. As part of her UMaine experience, she completed a two-term co-op with Onyx Specialty Papers in South Lee, Massachusetts — an opportunity that she credits with sparking her love of research, which has inspired her to pursue a Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Yost is a Mitchell Scholar, and Pulp and Paper Scholar. She is a member of All Maine Women and the UMaine chapter of Engineers Without Borders, and was named to the America East All-Academic Team 2018. Yost has been a peer tutor in science and mathematics, and a volunteer with the Maine Youth Fish and Game Association. "UMaine has offered me more opportunities than I could have ever imagined," Yost says. "I chose UMaine because both of my parents came here and because of the Pulp & Paper Foundation. I immediately felt at home in the community. The professors and my team have been nothing but supportive of everything I have ever tried to accomplish." Smith is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture. She received a 2019 Goldwater Scholarship and an Undergraduate Research in Comparative Functional Genomics Senior Fellowship. Smith is a member of All Maine Women and UMaine Club Track, and served as a peer tutor in organic chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology. She also was a teaching assistant and Maine Learning Assistant. Her honors thesis research focuses on identifying novel regulatory genes that modulate phenotypic severity in muscular dystrophy. As a high school junior, Smith participated in the Maine EPSCoR summer research program, studying the potential of green crabs as dietary supplements, and effects of solarization — a sustainable weed management system — on soil quality and microbial populations. She also was selected for the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research Scientific Summer Scholars Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Amgen Research Scholars Program at Washington University in St. Louis. "The University of Maine has given me an immense support system of peers and faculty that have helped me develop as an independent researcher," says Smith. "Of the schools I was interested in attending, UMaine had the best to offer in terms of research without having to pay exuberant tuition. "UMaine really believes in its students and wants them to succeed. Whether you are interested in research or music or education, the faculty will devote themselves to making your dreams happen." After she receives her degree, Smith will enter a two-year post-baccalaureate program at the National Institutes of Health. She then plans to pursue a dual M.D./Ph.D. and become a principal investigator in a private or academic research laboratory, exploring the role of regulatory genes in cardiac regeneration and disease. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Grace Smith: Molecular and cellular biology major, Outstanding Graduating Student and salutatorian

06 Apr 2020

Grace Smith of Holden, Maine, a molecular and cellular biology major and Honors College student, is the 2020 University of Maine salutatorian and the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture. Smith received a 2019 Goldwater Scholarship and an Undergraduate Research in Comparative Functional Genomics Senior Fellowship. She is a member of All Maine Women and UMaine Club Track, and served as a peer tutor in organic chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology. She also was a teaching assistant and Maine Learning Assistant. Her honors thesis research focuses on identifying novel regulatory genes that modulate phenotypic severity in muscular dystrophy. As a high school junior, Smith participated in the Maine EPSCoR summer research program, studying the potential of green crabs as dietary supplements, and effects of solarization — a sustainable weed management system — on soil quality and microbial populations. She also was selected for the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research Scientific Summer Scholars Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Amgen Research Scholars Program at Washington University in St. Louis. After she receives her degree, Smith will enter a two-year post-baccalaureate program at the National Institutes of Health. She then plans to pursue a dual M.D./Ph.D. degree and become a principal investigator in a private or academic research laboratory, exploring the role of regulatory genes in cardiac regeneration and disease. **Tell us about the research, internships or scholarly pursuits you were involved in as a student.** I was lucky to participate in my first research experience the summer after my junior year of high school through the EPSCoR program at the University of Maine. That summer I researched green crabs, an invasive species to the coast of Maine that harms local marine ecosystems. The next summer, I went back to look at the effect of an organic method of weed management called solarization on microbial communities in the soil. I was lucky enough to continue this research into the next summer of my freshman year of college when I joined the King Laboratory. In the King Lab, I have been fortunate to work on a couple different projects. My research looks

at the role of long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) and microRNAs — two types of regulatory genes. In the first project, my research aimed to understand how regulatory RNAs like long non-coding RNAs and microRNAs can coordinate gene expression to promote regeneration. If we are able to understand how zebrafish restore their hearts, we may be able to design treatments that improve regenerative capacity in humans who have suffered from heart attacks. In the second project, we worked with a novel zebrafish model of dystroglycanopathy, a form of muscular dystrophy characterized by high variability in both severity of symptoms and time of onset. We identified regulatory genes like long non-coding RNAs and microRNAs that were turned on or off in the zebrafish with severe symptoms and identified the gene targets of these regulatory genes. We hope this work may lead to a better understanding of the molecular basis of the disease and identify potential therapeutic targets. The summer after my sophomore year, I participated in the Novartis Summer Scholar Program at Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I worked on implementing a protocol that would allow for quicker and more precise identification of the protein targets of candidate drugs. This could catalyze identification of safer drugs with less side effects. Last summer, I participated in the AMGEN Scholars program at the University of Washington School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. There, I worked on a project to identify prostate cancer patients who were at high risk of metastasis using circulating tumor DNA sequencing. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** Maine Learning Assistant for Organic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Genetics, and Microbiology; Club Track; Maine Society for Microbiology; treasurer of Maine Society for Microbiology; vice president of Maine Society for Microbiology; Girls on the Run coach; All Maine Women; volunteer in the Clinical Research Department at Northern Lights; TRIO Tutor for organic chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** The University of Maine has given me an immense support system of peers and faculty that has helped me develop as an independent researcher. **Why UMaine?** Of the schools I was interested in attending, UMaine had the best to offer in terms of research, without having to pay exuberant tuition. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** UMaine really believes in its students and wants them to succeed. Whether you are interested in research or music or education, the faculty will devote themselves to making your dreams happen. Additionally, a resource that really changed my life was the Office of Major Scholarships.This is an initiative to help undergraduates apply for and achieve more national scholarships and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** I have been incredibly fortunate to have one of the best professors at the University of Maine as my academic and research mentor. Dr. Benjamin King has been an integral factor in any and all successes I've had during my undergraduate. I think everyone needs someone who truly believes in them and pushes them to always try, no matter how unachievable your goals are, and Dr. King has been that for me. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** If you are struggling in anything, don't struggle alone. Ask for help. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Sierra Yost: Chemical engineering major, student-athlete, valedictorian

06 Apr 2020

Chemical engineering major and Honors College student Sierra Yost of Windham, Maine is the 2020 University of Maine valedictorian. Yost is a member of the UMaine cross-country, and track and field teams. Her honors thesis focuses on the application of cellulose nanofibers as an alternative to plastics in disposable utensils. As part of her UMaine experience, she completed a two-term co-op with Onyx Specialty Papers in South Lee, Massachusetts — an opportunity that she credits with sparking her love of research, which has inspired her to pursue a Ph.D. in chemical engineering. Yost is a Mitchell Scholar, and Pulp and Paper Scholar. She is a member of All Maine Women and the UMaine chapter of Engineers Without Borders, and was named to the America East All-Academic Team 2018. Yost has been a peer tutor in science and mathematics, and a volunteer with the Maine Youth Fish & Game Association. She also is involved in intramurals and Hillel. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** UMaine has offered me more opportunities than I could have ever imagined. The professors and my team have been nothing but supportive of everything I have ever tried to accomplish. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** My co-op showed me what it was like to live in the real world. I lived away from everyone I knew and worked full time, and I feel like it really prepared me for the real world. Additionally, unlike most colleges I could still graduate in four years. **Why UMaine?** I chose UMaine because both of my parents came here, and because of the Pulp & Paper Foundation. I immediately felt at home in the community, and the Pulp & Paper Foundation offered me more support than I could've ever asked for. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** The Pulp & Paper Foundation and UMaine athletics were the most important initiatives that helped me succeed. But even people who aren't in those groups can have access to resources like the Career Center and TRIO, and many clubs on campus. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** Professors Doug Bousfield and Mark Haggerty, and Coach Mark Lech. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** Go to office hours. The professors want to help you succeed. Also, make friends in your major. They are the ones who will be with you all four-plus years. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

LaRocque named to UPCEA board of directors

06 Apr 2020

Monique LaRocque, associate provost for the Division of Lifelong Learning at the University of Maine, has been named a director at-large for a two-year term on the board of directors of UPCEA, the association for professional, continuing and online education. A news release is online.

Chat series to offer at-risk residents tips to stay healthy

06 Apr 2020

The University of Maine will host a new chat series that will provide pertinent information and tips for staying healthy during the coronavirus outbreak for senior citizens and other high-risk residents. "UMaine Health Connection Chats" will be held from 11 a.m. to noon every Wednesday starting April 15. The meetings will be held on Zoom, but attendees can also call in, and can send questions to speakers beforehand. Experts from the campus community and beyond will speak about various aspects of the pandemic. Kelley Strout, interim director of the School of Nursing, will kick off the chat series by discussing wellness and general health issues. Additional chats will discuss the virus in relation to nutrition, stress reduction, issues involving people with cancer and more in the coming weeks. For call-in information or Zoom connection links, contact Kelley Morris, office administrator for the UMaine Center on Aging, at kelley.morris@maine.edu or 207.262.7925. For questions, and suggestions for future topics, contact Lenard Kaye, director of the UMaine Center on Aging, at len.kaye@maine.edu or 207.262.7922.

Policy Center launches 'Maine Policy Matters' podcast

06 Apr 2020

The Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center launched a new podcast series about policy decisions and issues across all levels of government and how they affect people. "Maine Policy Matters," hosted by Daniel S. Soucier, a research associate at the center, aims to inform public policy processes and promote civil discourse, integrity and societal decision-making to solve the critical issues facing the state and nation. The center also hopes to foster inclusive communication that will advance relationships between policymakers, community leaders, students, faculty and staff in the University of Maine System. Podcast episodes can be found on the center's website and SoundCloud. In the first episode, Linda Silka, executive editor of Maine Policy Review and senior fellow at the Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at UMaine, discusses emerging and innovative policy research featured in the journal. The next episode will explore universal basic income, the CARES Act, and the U.S. social safety net in the age of COVID-19. "The goal of Maine Policy Matters is to create a space to discuss the political stories unfolding in Maine and the nation through the lens of research and data instead of through pundits and politicians," Soucier says. "By taking a nonpartisan approach to exploring policy matters, the podcast facilitates Senator Margaret Chase Smith's legacy of independent, objective, transparent, and equitable policy processes."

Extension delays opening greenhouse plastic recycling drop-off locations

06 Apr 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, University of Maine Cooperative Extension will delay opening all drop-off locations for greenhouse plastic recycling until on or about June 21. The statewide locations are part of a pilot program to recycle waste greenhouse plastic. The pilot, originally scheduled to start in April, was developed by UMaine Extension and funded by a Maine Department of Environmental Protection Waste Diversion grant. Growers and farmers can still store their plastic in a clean, dry location until local drop-off sites open. The program also accepts white over-wintering plastic if bundled separately from standard greenhouse plastic. Instructions for removing and storing plastic, as well as periodic updates, are on the program website. Online registration to participate opens approximately two weeks before drop-off sites open. For more information, contact David McDaniel, agplasticrecycling@maine.edu.

Media share Hutchinson Center opening registration for summer courses

06 Apr 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and the Bangor Daily News shared that the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast is opening registration for online summer courses for undergraduate, graduate and early college students. Courses will run from May 11 to Aug. 21. The center transitioned the formerly on-campus classes to a remote-access format in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Media report on hand sanitizer production effort

06 Apr 2020

WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) and the Portland Press Herald reported on a University of Maine-led initiative to produce hospital-grade sanitizer for hospitals across the state as part of a partnership between the University of Maine System and the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). UMaine's Process Development Center (PDC) and faculty in chemical and biomedical engineering have been producing FDA-compliant 80% ethanol hand sanitizer since March 23 using university supplies and ethanol supplied by area distillers. Continuous PDC production is expected to be at 400 gallons a day, given the available supply of components. PDC is able to produce a single 55-gallon batch in 30 minutes. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel mentioned the effort in its report "Central Maine distillers turn from spirits to sanitizer," and the Sun Journal also reported on the effort.

Research, community support continue despite pandemic

07 Apr 2020

Researchers propel the University of Maine's state and international impact, even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. While the outbreak of COVID-19 forced students and faculty to stay at home, their work persists. They continue to help improve the fields of health care, manufacturing, climate science, psychology and more from their off-campus locations. The outbreak has also inspired a call to action across the campus community. Experts from the university and their students are assisting local health care providers using their knowledge, skills and resources. Kelley Strout, interim director for UMaine's School of Nursing, has been working with the University of Maine System and other state universities to offer surge response staffing to local health care organizations. They plan to send a survey that will allow any of the 1,600 nursing students and more than 300 faculty and adjunct faculty across the university system to opt-in and become surge response staffers. As protective wear for health care workers dwindles, UMaine's Advanced Manufacturing Center aims to help them restock. The center has been working with manufacturers and hospitals to design and produce face shields and face masks, testing face mask material and designing special boxes that can protect a provider from patients during special procedures. Different university schools and centers have also donated resources to help combat the pandemic. The UMaine School of Nursing provided local health care organizations all of its personal protective equipment. The Maine Center for Research in STEM Education (RiSE Center), lent its 3D printers to the Challenger Learning Center of Maine, Bangor, to print face masks for health professionals. Some UMaine researchers, like Caitlin Howell, assistant professor of biological engineering, are gathering information to help health care providers during the crisis. Howell shared a list of contemporary research on decontaminating N95 masks with all hospitals in the state, which will help them develop decontamination and reuse protocols. Dan Regan, a Ph.D student of biomedical engineering, and Justin Hardcastle, an incoming graduate student, assisted in the effort. The School of Nursing hopes to form a team that will investigate case study reporting on preserving personal protective equipment, health care workforce management and other pertinent topics in other states and countries. Medical researchers have even used tools developed by UMaine like the Climate Change Institute's Climate Reanalyzer to combat the outbreak. A research team wrote in a study titled "Temperature, Humidity and Latitude Analysis to Predict Potential Spread and Seasonality for COVID-19," that weather modeling could help predict community spread of the coronavirus in coming weeks, and that the restricted latitude, temperature and humidity bounds of the initial disease spread are consistent with the behavior of a seasonal respiratory virus. Researchers from the Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing are using another asset from UMaine for COVID-19 research: the Emera Astronomy Center. The visualization computer cluster in Emera's Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium will be used to model coronavirus proteins and predict their three-dimensional shapes as part of the Rosetta@home project from the University of Washington. Studying COVID-19 proteins has helped guide the design of novel vaccines and antiviral drugs for the virus. Students not only still complete classwork during the pandemic, but also engage in activities that showcase their talent. After the seminar in Washington D.C. they planned to attend was canceled, six UMaine trainees from the

New Hampshire-Maine Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NH-ME LEND) program participated in virtual meetings with staffers from the offices Sen. Susan Collins and U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden.They also presented a policy brief they developed with their program cohorts for protecting medicaid coverage for children with disabilities and special health care needs. In lieu of presenting their research posters at the UMaine Science Symposium, which was canceled as a result of COVID-19, students taught by Melody Neely, an associate professor of molecular and biomedical sciences, will showcase them to faculty for judging at a virtual symposium hosted through Zoom on April 17. The coronavirus has not diminished UMaine's commitment to research and education, or dedication to serving the people of Maine. Support and studies from faculty continues to assist the state and cities, towns and villages in it both during and beyond the outbreak. Kody Varahramyan, vice president for research and dean of the graduate school, noted: "We strive to expand the depth and breadth of knowledge and creativity by working with our sister campuses, businesses, and communities," and UMaine's persistence toward that goal remains. More examples of Maine's public research university's service to the state during the coronavirus pandemic are online. Contact: Christel Peters, christel.peters@maine.edu

Application deadline extended for Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship

07 Apr 2020

University of Maine students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply for the Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship — a $3,500 academic-year scholarship to support an independent research project focused on a public policy topic. The deadline for applications has been extended to noon Friday, May 1. Students must be a Maine resident, be an undergraduate enrolled at the University of Maine for 12 credits or more, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and have completed 40 degree hours prior to the current semester. Previous recipients have come from disciplines of geology, history, political science, computer science, international affairs, education, sociology, psychology, social work, landscape horticulture, civil engineering, nursing, mechanical engineering, natural resources, journalism, mass communication, economics, biochemistry and microbiology. More information, including the application, is online. In honor of Sen. Margaret Chase Smith's many years of service to the citizens of Maine and the nation, this scholarship provides assistance to undergraduates who have demonstrated an active interest in public affairs and who show promise for future leadership in, and contribution to, public affairs. Sen. Smith's abiding belief was that real progress would be attained only through the education of young people.

Catch 'Lobster War' featuring Rick Wahle for free via URSUS

07 Apr 2020

Been bingeing movies? Put this one on your list: "Lobster War: The Fight Over the World's Richest Fishing Grounds." The award-winning film includes Rick Wahle, research professor in the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine. The feature documentary, which won "Best New England Film" at the 2018 Mystic Film Festival, is about a climate-fueled conflict between the United States and Canada over 277 square miles of sea. Both countries have claimed this Gray Zone since the end of the Revolutionary War. The film by Andy Laub and David Abel includes gorgeous underwater and coastal views and is available for a limited time via URSUS (University Resources Serving Users Statewide) during the global health crisis. University of Maine community members can watch here.

Gabe contributes to CityLab report on cities most affected by pandemic

07 Apr 2020

Todd Gabe, a professor of resource economics and policy at the University of Maine, conducted analysis with Richard Florida, co-founder and editor at large of CityLab and a senior editor at The Atlantic, for the CityLab article "The Coronavirus Class Divide in Cities." They identified cities and metro areas where workforces are most exposed and at risk from COVID-19. Gabe used data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics O*NET survey to focus on two key at-risk characteristics: the degree to which workers interact directly with the public and jobs that require high levels of close physical proximity to others, according to the report. Based on their percentage of workers who interact directly with the public, they found that cities such as Las Vegas, Miami, Pittsburgh, Providence, Rhode Island, Tuscan, Arizona, and the Greater New York City area are among the major metropolitan areas that are vulnerable to the virus based on the number of workers they have who work in close physical proximity to others, who work directly with the public, or both.

Political science professor, student submit column about census to BDN

07 Apr 2020

Robert Glover, an associate professor of political science and Honors at the University of Maine, and Kevin Fitzpatrick, a third-year political science student at UMaine, wrote an opinion piece for the Bangor Daily News titled "Maine's post COVID-19 economic recovery depends on a fair and accurate census." Glover is co-leader of the Maine Chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network, which brings together scholars across the country to address public challenges and their policy implications. Members' columns appear in the BDN every other week.

Media report on Emera Astronomy Center's role in COVID-19 research

07 Apr 2020

News Center Maine reported that researchers from the Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing are using the visualization computer cluster in Emera Astronomy Center's Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium to model coronavirus proteins and predict their three-dimensional shapes as part of the Rosetta@home project from the University of Washington. Studying COVID-19 proteins has helped guide the design of novel vaccines and antiviral drugs for the virus. "One of the things the planetarium wanted to do was find a way to contribute during this very challenging time," said Shawn Laatsch, director of the Emera Astronomy Center. The Bangor Daily News, WABI (Channel 5), Z107.3 and Inside Edition also reported on how researchers are using the visualization computer cluster at Emera Astronomy Center to study the virus.

WABI, Mainebiz highlight efforts to tackle health care supply shortages

07 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and Mainebiz reported on the University of Maine's efforts to help tackle supply shortages faced by health care providers during the coronavirus pandemic. The station also shared the news release. The first UMaine-led initiative to help meet the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care workers focuses on production of hospital-grade hand sanitizer. Other initiatives include research on protocols for N95 masks, and development of devices supporting intubation and ventilation. "It's been really rewarding to work with the individuals and the organizations very committed to the need, and very innovative and a tremendous amount of creativity in trying to find solutions," said Jake Ward, vice president for innovation and economic development at UMaine.

Media report on UMaine valedictorian, salutatorian

07 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the University of Maine naming the 2020 valedictorian and salutatorian. Chemical engineering major Sierra Yost of Windham, Maine is the valedictorian, and molecular and cellular biology major Grace Smith of Holden, Maine is the salutatorian. Both are in the Honors College. The Windham Eagle wrote an article about Yost being named valedictorian. She is a Mitchell Scholar and Pulp and Paper Scholar, a member of All Maine Women and the UMaine chapter of Engineers Without Borders, and was named to the America East All-Academic Team 2018. She also participates on the UMaine cross-country and track and field teams. WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) also reported on Yost's accolade.

Amir Reza honored with inaugural Sue Estler distinguished alumnus award

07 Apr 2020

Twenty years after earning his master's degree at the University of Maine, Amir Reza has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Sue Estler Distinguished Higher Education Alumnus Award from the College of Education and Human Development graduate program in higher education. Reza grew up on four continents. Born in Tehran, he moved to Switzerland at the age of 12, then relocated to Niger in West Africa, where he learned to speak English. He moved to the United States when he was 14 and settled with relatives in New England, where he's lived ever since. At UMaine, Reza earned a bachelor's degree in international affairs in 1996 and a master's degree in student development in higher education in 2000. Estler, who died in 2019, was a faculty member in the program, as well as a longtime Equal Opportunity director at UMaine. A tireless advocate for equity and inclusion, and a leader for LGBTQ+ rights in Maine and beyond, Estler taught several courses, including history of higher education, higher education policy and politics, and organizational theory for higher education. When Reza was notified of the award he says, "I immediately thought of my fond memories of Sue, and how much she meant to our cohort, the way in which she modeled for us what it means to be an educator." Reza remembers Estler as approachable and down-to-earth. In the higher education and law course, Reza says Estler covered affirmative action and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which he utilizes today. Reza is dean of Babson Academy for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurial Learning and dean of global education at Babson College, a private school in Massachusetts that specializes in business and entrepreneurship education. He oversees internationalization efforts at Babson and programs offered for universities, faculty and students around the world to advance entrepreneurship education. Reza began working at Babson while finishing his master's degree at UMaine. He was presenting his master's research at a NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference when he received the job offer. Director of the higher education program Gerald Work, then a faculty member in educational leadership, encouraged Reza to take the job. "I would come up to Orono and do homework on weekends," says Reza. "They helped me schedule all my classes on Monday, and then Monday night I would drive down to Boston, crash on a friend's couch, and go to work Tuesday through Friday. Then Friday night I was driving back to Orono. That was the last semester of my master's program." UMaine director of international programs Orlina Boteva, who nominated Reza for the award, says he embodies many of the same qualities as Estler. "I will always remember Sue as kind, caring and always taking the time to mentor me and talk about ethics, career paths and leadership," Boteva says. "Amir learned these lessons from Sue very well. He has taken time from his busy life over the years to mentor me, guide me, and help me navigate challenging professional situations. I often turn to him for advice." In 2015, Reza earned a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Boston College. His areas of expertise include international higher education, intercultural development, and international exchange and student mobility. In 2109, he co-authored the book, "Careers in International Education: A Guide for New Professionals." Reza traces his interests back to his time in Maine. He worked as activities coordinator for the UMaine Intensive English Institute, leading trips across the state for international students and scholars that took short courses offered by IEI. "I must have led about 90 trips to Acadia National Park," he says. Reza chose UMaine because it offered a special scholarship for international students, and because it seemed like a tight-knit campus that, while small, still offered a comprehensive public-school education. Reza also has fond memories of James Leck, now deceased, who worked in international programs at UMaine, as well as former faculty members Phil Pratt, who taught a statistics course during his master's program, and Bahman Baktiari, a professor in political science and a fellow Iranian who he connected with during his undergraduate years. "Without those profound experiences of the community and education at UMaine, I would not have been able to achieve my goals and my dream of being an educator that engages with people around the globe and tries to create bridges." Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Maine Agricultural Mediation Program can help farm families, workers during COVID-19

08 Apr 2020

The Maine Agricultural Mediation Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Mediation Program, provides farm coaching and alternative dispute resolution through mediation to farmers, their lenders and others directly affected by the actions of certain USDA agencies. "Sometimes having a neutral third party in the room can help a farm family talk through a difficult topic," says MAMP program director and University of Maine Cooperative Extension human development specialist Leslie Forstadt. The mediation program can offer farm coaching, which includes how to make decisions related to farm finances and leases, and farm transitions, or to create alternative plans in case one of the farm team members falls ill due to COVID-19. During mediation, trained and impartial mediators help participants through the voluntary, confidential process of dispute resolution with the goal of avoiding expensive, lengthy administrative appeals and litigation. For more information call 207.581.3487 or email maineagmediation@maine.edu. MAMP, which works in partnership with Family and Community Mediation, is a member of the Beginning Farmer Resource Network of Maine, and is administered by UMaine Extension.

Black Bears invited to take part in free virtual fitness classes

08 Apr 2020

University of Maine Campus Recreation is participating in the 2020 Recreation Movement, a collaboration between Riddle & Bloom, TikTok, the National

Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) and more than 40 colleges and universities nationwide encouraging people to "stay active together, even when we're apart" during the COVID-19 pandemic. This free virtual fitness program connects university students, faculty, staff and alumni nationwide to offer opportunities for self-care and a sense of community. The website will offer daily online fitness challenges and workout classes, as well as individual exercises including walking, running and hiking. Recreation center directors, students and instructors from participating schools will share a variety of live and recorded workout classes through May 3. Registered users can log their active minutes through the site to contribute to a leaderboard showcasing their school's performance. Each week the top five individual student participants will be rewarded for their engagement in the program. More information about the initiative is online.

MaineBiz reports that MacKay has joined Composites Center

08 Apr 2020

MaineBiz reported on Susan MacKay, co-founder and former CEO of Cerahelix Inc., becoming senior research and development program manager at the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center. MacKay is managing the large-scale biobased additive manufacturing program, researching, developing and commercializing products that involve 3-D printing technology, according to the report. She also will coordinate and manage multiyear projects with Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Maine-based economic development initiatives expected to derive from the projects. While her official start date was April 1, "I'd been working with them several weeks before then, getting up to speed," she said. Maine Startups Insider also highlighted MacKay's new role.

AP highlights Sorg's work to help identify body found in 1969

08 Apr 2020

The Associated Press referenced the work of Marcella Sorg, a research professor of anthropology at the University of Maine, that helped the New Hampshire Attorney General's Cold Case Unit identify the body of a man found Aug. 7, 1969, off Interstate 93 in Salem, New Hampshire. After her examination, Sorg, who also works with UMaine's Climate Change Institute and Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, provided a fuller picture of the appearance of the man, recently identified to be Winston "Skip" Morris, 30, of Barre, Vermont. The Bangor Daily News, New York Times, Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report and Fosters.com shared the AP report.

BDN asks Lindley about tips for new gardeners

08 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Vina Lindley, a food systems and youth development professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension Waldo County Office, for the article "How to determine what size garden you need to feed your family." Lindley shared several tips for new growers about determining the size of their gardens, what to plant, how much to plant and more. Before buying fruit and vegetable seeds, she said gardeners should think about how they'll use what they grow. "For new gardeners, it's easy to get in over your head," she said. "I always recommend to start small and learn as you grow [because] you can always add on but when you become totally inundated with weeds and crops it becomes unmanageable and turns people off from gardening."

News Center Maine shares Extension's advice about washing food

08 Apr 2020

News Center Maine shared University of Maine Cooperative Extension's advice about the best ways to wash produce. Its publication describes optimal methods for keeping raw fruits and vegetables safe for preparation and consumption, how to wash leafy greens, and an assessment of the efficacy of commercial fruit and vegetable rinses. News Center Maine also included Extension's YouTube video featuring instructions for how to wash produce. And ABS-CBN referenced UMaine Extension's advice in a report on cleaning fresh fruits and vegetables.

Press Herald publishes opinion piece co-authored by Johnson

08 Apr 2020

Tora Johnson, chair of the division of environmental and biological sciences at the University of Maine at Machias, co-authored an opinion piece published in the Portland Press Herald titled "COVID maps don't tell the whole story about where virus has spread." Johnson also is an associate professor of Geographic Information Systems and director of the GIS Service Center.

Blackstone co-authors journal article on childfree women in late life

08 Apr 2020

Amy Blackstone, acting associate dean for faculty affairs and interdisciplinary programs, and professor of sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is co-author of an article published recently in "Family Journal." "Lived Experiences and Life Satisfaction of ChildFree Women in Late Life" is a collaboration with Brittany Stahnke and Heather Howard (Florida Atlantic University) that seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the overall life satisfaction of older adult women who have not had children.

Hollie Adams longlisted for 2020 CBC Short Story Prize

08 Apr 2020

Hollie Adams, assistant professor of creative writing and Canadian literature in the Department of English, has been longlisted for the 2020 CBC Short Story

Prize. Her short story “Liking It” was one of 32 finalists selected from more than 2,400 entries. The CBC Short Story prize has been awarded annually by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation since 1979.

New issue of 'Maine Policy Review' now online

09 Apr 2020

The latest issue of 'Maine Policy Review' is now available on Digital Commons.

Undark interviews Ishaq about ethics of fecal sampling from indigenous people

09 Apr 2020

Undark interviewed Sue Ishaq, assistant professor of animal and veterinary sciences at the University of Maine, for the article about ethical issues faced when scientists collect fecal samples from indigenous people. Scientists collect feces from indigenous people to study microorganisms in their digestive tracts that members of industrialized societies have lost. Information derived from the samples could help explain why the collective health of urbanites appears to be in decline. Ishaq believes that discussions about determining the best ethics for collecting fecal and other human samples from indigenous people needs to happen now. One issue involves the ownership of excrement after it leaves the body. The Raute people declined to provide fecal samples because they believe their body, including anything that leaves it, and all their belongings should return to the soil, according to the article. Ishaq said that the ever-changing nature of the gut microbiome, a living ecosystem whose members can move from person to person or vanish, increases the complexity of the issue.

Media announce launch of Maine Agricultural Mediation Program

09 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips, Daily Bulldog and Turner Publishing shared the news release announcing the launch of the new Maine Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP), funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Mediation Program. The program, administered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension, provides farm coaching and alternative dispute resolution through mediation to farmers, their lenders and others directly affected by the actions of certain USDA agencies. It also can help producers create alternative plans in case one of the farm team members falls ill due to COVID-19. “Sometimes having a neutral third party in the room can help a farm family talk through a difficult topic,” said Leslie Forstadt, MAMP program director and University of Maine Cooperative Extension human development specialist. For more information, call 207.581.3487 or email maineagmediation@maine.edu.

Down East highlights Extension as resource for prospective homesteaders

09 Apr 2020

Down East magazine included the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in its article titled “An A–Z Guide to Agrarian Self-Reliance in Maine.” UMaine Extension offers affordable workshops on a variety of agricultural topics, and has posted more than 200 educational videos on YouTube.

Press Herald interviews Ballingall about reduced travel

09 Apr 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Kathryn Ballingall, a research associate with the University of Maine Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, for its story “Smartphone, traffic data reveal sharp reduction in Mainers’ mobility.” State traffic data and publicly available smartphone metadata show that Maine citizens dramatically reduced their movement as a result of the coronavirus and regulations limiting travel. Different regions exhibit varying degrees of mobility reduction, with declines in some rural areas of the state less pronounced than in urban areas of southern Maine. Ballingall said the data must “be taken with a huge grain of salt,” and she worries it may rely on too small of a sample size. The definition of nonessential travel also may be less effective in outlining rural travel patterns. “Is it correct to say that Aroostook County is doing a really bad job at social distancing while Cumberland County is (doing a good job)? Perhaps, this data set is not accurately pinpointing what is considered essential or nonessential,” said Ballingall.

UMaine Extension 4-H launches outdoor activity series

13 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Camps and Learning Centers have created a new outdoor activity series designed to stream live on the UMaine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Tanglewood Facebook page each Wednesday at noon. The first “Wednesdays in the Woods” was held April 8 with a challenge activity — identifying creatively camouflaged objects found outside. Instructions will be posted each week to accompany the activities. Sessions are archived with additional educational resources found on the UMaine Extension 4-H Learn at Home webpage. For more information contact Jessy Brainerd, 207.581.3877, jessica.brainerd@maine.edu.

Fogler Library to archive UMaine experiences during COVID-19 pandemic

13 Apr 2020

University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library is asking students, staff and alumni to help preserve the story of this unprecedented time in our community. The COVID-19 Community Archive Project will document the actions, thoughts and reflections of the UMaine community as they navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. To create this archive, Fogler Library hopes members of the UMaine community will document their experiences and submit those materials to its Special Collections department. Materials could include departmental emails and publications, photographs, personal reflections, social media posts and updated course syllabi. Students, faculty, staff and alumni also are encouraged to submit personal journals, blogs, social media posts and any other materials that capture the day-to-day experience of this time. Materials can be submitted via an online form or by email to matthew.revitt@maine.edu. The ultimate goal of the archive is to make these materials available for future researchers. More information about the project can be found online.

Honors College announces annual Rezendes Ethics Essay Competition winner, finalists

13 Apr 2020

The Honors College at the University of Maine announced the winner and finalists of the 2020 John M. Rezendes Annual Ethics Essay Competition. The competition invites undergraduate students to submit an 8- to 10-page essay that focuses on ethics, broadly construed. This year's theme was "ethics and food systems." Patrick Hurley won with his essay titled "Zombie Fields: Ethical Concerns of Pollination in Industrial Agriculture." The finalists were Dominique DiSpirito, who wrote "The Problem with Snap Judgements: A Call for Food Security Policy Based in Vulnerability-Care Ethics," and Kate Macolini, who wrote "Atoning for Gluttony: Ethical Incentives to Disenabling Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)."

'The Maine Question' podcast looks at why viruses go viral

13 Apr 2020

The latest episode of "The Maine Question" asks, why do viruses go viral? The novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has led to a pandemic that swept the globe, halted economies and upended life as we know it. In the seventh episode of the second season, host Ron Lisnet talks with Melissa Maginnis, an assistant professor of microbiology at the University of Maine, about how and why infections like this occur. How do viruses work? How and why do they go viral? What is the best way to stop their spread and how might scientists learn from this ordeal? Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays this season. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Media report Extension greenhouse plastic recycling opening in June

13 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel published a release announcing University of Maine Cooperative Extension is delaying the opening of all drop-off locations for greenhouse plastic recycling until on or about June 21 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pilot program, originally scheduled to begin in April, was developed by UMaine Extension and funded by a Maine Department of Environmental Protection Waste Diversion grant, according to the release. Online registration opens about two weeks before drop-off sites open. More information is available on the program website or by contacting David McDaniel at agplasticrecycling@maine.edu.

News Center Maine quotes Dill in report on Lyme disease risk amid pandemic

13 Apr 2020

News Center Maine quoted Griffin Dill, an integrated pest management professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, in a report on Lyme disease risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. People are more likely to spend time outside to combat isolation, but need to take precautions to protect themselves and their pets from deer ticks that can carry Lyme disease. The Tick Lab at UMaine has received more than 100 ticks for testing since January, nearly three times as many as the same period last year. More than half of those ticks carried the bacteria that causes Lyme, the report states. People are encouraged to do tick checks after being outdoors, and to wear protective clothing and use repellent containing permethrin to protect against Lyme. "There is no evidence that ticks, mosquitoes, biting pests are able to transmit the coronavirus," said Dill.

WABI, WVII interview UMaine professors, students about vetting information for Bangor Public Health

13 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) reported a team of professors and students at the University of Maine is vetting information about COVID-19 for the Bangor Public Health and Community Services Department. The team looks at new coronavirus research, government regulations and case figures, and answers to questions about the pandemic, and supplies vetted information to the department every two to three days, WABI reported. "There is a lot of information that has been thrown at people and it's been overwhelming in a time of panic anyways. Our hope is to diminish the panic but also emphasize why it's important to know how to protect yourself and others," said Ashleigh Beaulieu, a graduate research assistant. "There have been a lot of myths that have come out and some of it actually comes from published literature that sometimes gets misinterpreted," said Melissa Maginnis, an assistant professor of microbiology. "Something that we were discussing recently was we should probably give some guidance to people that are going out into grocery stores and pharmacies and things like that, so that they can better understand the way in which they need to interact in our new world where we are dealing with COVID-19." Kristy Townsend, an associate professor of neurobiology, said, "I always tell my students 'caveat emptor,' which means buyer beware when you're reading the news. There is a big mental health risk right now with everyone being isolated and not having their normal social support system and the news can be overwhelming especially when you don't understand a virus like this." Maginnis added, "We are biomedical researchers and so really most of us got into this field because we want to help reduce human disease and suffering. In some ways we feel sort of helpless and we want to be able to help and this is a way that we can give back to the community."

BDN speaks with President Ferrini-Mundy, staff about virtual tours for accepted students

13 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias, and Matt LeClair, social media manager for Undergraduate Admissions, for a report on virtual tours being offered for accepted students during the coronavirus pandemic. UMaine's virtual tour features student Lizzy Gillen showing viewers some of the most commonly used buildings on campus, including Fogler Library, the Memorial Union and the New Balance Student Recreation Center, as well as dorm rooms, dining halls and classrooms. UMaine also is offering department-specific tours and allowing prospective students to connect with professors using Zoom, the BDN reported. "Students are actually getting to see things they wouldn't necessarily get from a live tour. Those are restricted to campus," said LeClair. "Here we can show the vast resources UMaine has to draw from." It is too early to tell how the coronavirus will affect college enrollment in the fall semester, according to Ferrini-Mundy. "We're looking at both incoming students and

retention of students. Will they come back?" she said. "We are hopeful, but we are watching very carefully because nationally it's such an unsettled time it's difficult to tell what will happen with college enrollment." The university could even see enrollment growth in some graduate programs such as teacher education and business, as it does during periods of high unemployment, the report states. "Historically those are areas which are career specific which sometimes do grow during these kinds of crises," said Ferrini-Mundy.

UMaine Extension homemakers group makes masks for health care providers

14 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Caribou Homemakers recently made and donated 110 fabric face masks to area hospitals and nursing homes in central Aroostook County. UMaine Extension Homemakers is a volunteer group that develops leadership skills, supports community causes, and promotes Extension's educational programs in nine Maine counties. Several locations with active Homemaker groups are accepting donations of fabric face masks in support of Sewing Masks for Maine, a statewide volunteer effort to provide homemade face masks for health care providers. More information and details on drop-off locations are available on the project webpage, or by contacting Lisa Fishman, 207.316.8310; lisa.fishman@maine.edu.

Republican Journal announces Hutchinson Center summer registration open

14 Apr 2020

The Republican Journal announced registration is open at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast for undergraduate and graduate summer online and remote-access courses and Early College courses offered May 11 through Aug. 21. UMaineOnline offers more than 400 courses during Summer University, in addition to previously scheduled on-campus courses at the center that are being converted to a remote format because of COVID-19. A complete list of summer courses is online. Need-based scholarships are available. For more information about registration and scholarship opportunities, or to schedule an advising appointment, contact Nancy Bergerson, 207.338.8049; nancy.bergerson@maine.edu.

Stoll co-writes piece on coronavirus, community fisheries for The Conversation

14 Apr 2020

Joshua Stoll, assistant research professor of marine policy at the University of Maine, co-wrote a piece for The Conversation titled "As coronavirus threatens seafood economy, community fisheries find ways to stay afloat."

Media report UMaine Extension launching outdoor series

14 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips, Daily Bulldog, Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel and Turner Publishing carried a news release announcing that University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Camps and Learning Centers created an outdoor activity series titled "Wednesdays in the Woods." The series started April 8 and streams live every Wednesday at noon on the UMaine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Tanglewood Facebook page, along with instructions to accompany the activities. Sessions are archived with additional educational resources found on the UMaine Extension 4-H Learn at Home webpage, the release states. For more information, contact Jessy Brainerd, 207.581.3877; jessica.brainerd@maine.edu. WVII (Channel 7) also reported on the series.

UMaine Extension publications provide useful information related to COVID-19 pandemic

14 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension offers a wide selection of publications particularly relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic, including some newly developed to address specific concerns during this time.

New publications include:

- #4103 Social Distancing: What is it? Why do it? And How to Make the Time at Home with Your Kids Fun
- #1065 How Can Livestock Farmers Prepare for the Coronavirus Outbreak?
- #1066 Standard Operating Procedures on Your Dairy Farm: Prepare Now!
- #1067 Guidelines For Maine Dairy Farmers Requiring Temporary Relief Workers Where a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Positive Case Has Been Suspected or Identified

Additional resources are the newly updated #4336 Best Ways to Wash Fruits and Vegetables and #4067 The ABCs of Hand Washing. Other publications of interest include those on home gardening and nutrition. Many UMaine Extension bulletins are available for free download. Browse the full publications catalog of almost 750 bulletins and books. For more information or place an order: 207.581.3792; extension.orders@maine.edu.

UMaine Museum of Art receives naming gift

15 Apr 2020

A $1.3 million naming gift from education leaders and arts supporters Donald and Linda Zillman will expand and enhance the University of Maine Museum of Art. At its March 16 meeting, the University of Maine System Board of Trustees approved the expansion plans and naming opportunity made possible by the gift. The museum is now the Linda G. and Donald N. Zillman Art Museum – University of Maine. The Zillmans, longtime Maine residents who now live in Santa Fe, pledged the gift to the University of Maine Foundation for the construction and operation of five new galleries to showcase the museum's collection of over 4,000 works of modern and contemporary art. A long-term lease agreement will increase the square footage of the museum's public gallery

space by 40%. Construction of five new galleries will bring the total number to 12, with more than 4,700 square feet for exhibitions. “The Zillmans’ vision and generosity have made a difference in Maine for many years,” says University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. “This gift advances the museum’s mission and continued growth with improvements in its physical facilities. The result will be more experiences for visual art lovers of all ages.” Donald Zillman has been a leader in the University of Maine System for 30 years. He served as the fourth dean of Maine Law, from 1991–98. He also served as UMaine interim provost and academic vice president of the University of Maine from 1999–2000; interim president of the University of Maine at Fort Kent in 2001–02; and president of the University of Maine at Presque Isle in 2006. He returned to Maine Law as the Edward S. Godfrey Professor of Law in January 2014. Linda Zillman is an art historian who has written two catalogues and curated two exhibitions on Andy Warhol at the University of Maine Presque Isle. The Zillmans were instrumental in moving the University of Maine Museum of Art from the Orono campus to its current location in downtown Bangor. Linda Zillman has served on the UMMA support board of directors for over 10 years. They are members of the University of Maine Foundation Stillwater Society, and have funded several key museum projects through the years, including a vibrant new sculptural welcome sign erected in fall 2019. “UMMA serves as one of Maine’s premiere art museums. In addition to attracting Maine visitors, it welcomes art enthusiasts from around New England and eastern Canada. Many of these are young people making their first connection to the arts — visits that often begin a lifelong connection with art. Advancing UMMA requires improvements in physical facilities and support growth. We are excited about investing in its future,” the Zillmans say. The UMaine Museum of Art advances the university’s land grant mission of service to citizens through its cultural engagement activities that includes changing exhibitions, a permanent collection and educational programming. Today, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, UMMA launched a series of weekly virtual tours of the exhibitions, and online educational programming for children and families. “The Zillman gift will significantly advance the museum’s mission, dramatically improve the visitor experience, elevate the stature of the institution, and propel the continued growth and success of the museum,” says George Kinghorn, UMMA executive director and curator. A portion of the gift will be included in University of Maine’s $200 million Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign, led by the University of Maine Foundation. The campaign is scheduled to be completed by June 30. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

VEMI Lab researchers find efficacy in new digital map in aiding visually impaired

15 Apr 2020

Interactive tactile maps with raised surfaces and braille labels have helped blind and visually impaired people navigate new environments for years. However, they are expensive to produce. Researchers from the University of Maine have developed and tested a newer, cheaper and more accessible type of digital interactive map that delivers information through vibration and voice messaging. They determined through their study that vibro-audio maps can be as effective as hard copy tactile maps in aiding people with visual challenges. Faculty from the VEMI Lab tested the effectiveness of the newest vibro-audio maps, which can be rendered on tablets and other smart devices, in enhancing skills needed for the visually impaired to learn and maneuver through unfamiliar places. Nicholas Giudice, a professor with the School of Computing and Information Science and chief research scientist at the VEMI Lab; Benjamin Guenther, a lecturer in psychology and VEMI Lab collaborative faculty researcher; Kaitlyn Haase, research lab manager; and Nicholas Jensen, a former UMaine psychology student who graduated last year, published their findings in the journal Frontiers in Human Neuroscience. Their research was funded, in part, by the National Science Foundation. By experimenting with vibro-audio and tactile maps and comparing results, the research team found that their new interactive map can foster spatial learning, mental mapmaking and route-finding as effectively as a traditional map. As a result, vibro-audio maps could help drive a new era of low-cost digital interactive maps on commercially available mobile devices that more people could access, according to researchers. “This is game-changing technology for people with visual impairments as it provides a multisensory mapping solution using commercial smart devices that 80% of blind people already own,” Giudice says. Hard copy tactile maps typically use braille labels to identify the names of places and other written identifiers; raised elements to convey points, lines and regions; and dots, dashes, texture variations and other surface attributes to highlight the symbolic properties and feature characteristics of a territory. Visually impaired children and adults who use tactile maps can improve their abilities to make mental maps of new places, learn and follow routes through them and solve navigational problems. Developing the physical maps, however, can be expensive and time consuming, requiring expert craftsmanship, purpose-built tools and large-format sheets or map booklets. On the other hand, digital interactive maps like VEMI’s vibro-audio maps, which deliver information from touchscreen devices using audio and haptic cues, can be produced on tablets and other commercially available mobile devices. The digital maps offer other advantages, according to VEMI researchers, including updates for ever-changing information and support for map panning, zooming, scrolling and searching operations. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Extension to host virtual town hall April 17 on changes in the meat industry

15 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host an online discussion for producers in the meat industry on changes in current operations due to COVID-19 on Friday, April 17, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., via Zoom. “Town Hall: What to expect from the meat industry with recent COVID-19 developments” will feature an overview of the current and predicted states of the meat industry with an anticipated increase in demand from local producers. University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, food and environment associate Extension professor Gregg Rentfrow and UMaine Extension assistant professor and livestock specialist Colt Knight will lead the discussion. There will be time for questions following the discussion. Instructions on participating in the town hall are on the program webpage. For more information contact Colt Knight, 207.581.2953; colt.knight@maine.edu.

Media report UMaine Extension Homemakers creating, donating masks

15 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release reporting that UMaine Extension Caribou Homemakers recently made and donated 110 fabric face masks for area hospitals and nursing homes in central Aroostook County. More information on the efforts and details on drop-off locations are available on the project webpage, or by contacting Lisa Fishman, 207.316.8310; lisa.fishman@maine.edu. Daily Bulldog reported the Franklin County Extension Homemakers have made and donated 180 masks.

Times Record, BDN speak with McConnon about economics during COVID-19

15 Apr 2020

The Times Record spoke with James McConnon, University of Maine Cooperative Extension business and economics specialist and professor in the School of Economics, for the article “Unfortunate timing, virus waylay new Bath restuarant’s plans.” Sourasay Senesombath was hoping to open Asian Noodle

House, his fourth restaurant, in Bath in early May, but the COVID-19 outbreak has presented several roadblocks. McConnon said this is an especially hard time for nearly all businesses because demand and consumer spending has plummeted. New restaurants are in a particularly hard situation because consumers don't know the business yet, the article states. "Existing businesses have a customer base and with restaurants, loyalty and repeat customers are a big factor," he said. "Like any new business, costs are going to be higher in the beginning too because it takes time to make more and more consumers aware and generate revenue." McConnon said businesses, especially new restaurants, should focus on boosting revenue while reducing costs by creating a limited menu and maintaining a strong social media presence so the public knows about the new business. "Especially during a time like this, any business needs to focus on profitability first and foremost," said McConnon. The Bangor Daily News interviewed McConnon for the article "Economists paint 'dire' picture for Maine in potentially long coronavirus recession." McConnon said current unemployment numbers "are extremely high and troubling, and the impact that has on consumer spending is likely to continue to impact other sectors of the economy and in turn have additional impacts on employment."

Media promote Fogler Library collecting records of community experiences during COVID-19

15 Apr 2020

News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5) and the Bangor Daily News reported the University of Maine's Fogler Library is asking UMaine community members, including faculty, staff, students and alumni, to submit materials reflecting their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic for Special Collections to maintain as a historical resource for future research. The goal of the COVID-19 Community Archive Project is to preserve the story of the unprecedented time, News Center Maine reported. "It's history in our time, really," said Matthew Revitt, an archivist at Fogler. "This is the event that I think people are going to look back on in hundreds of years to see what happened and how people responded." To share a story, send materials to matthew.revitt@maine.edu. The project also was mentioned in the Bangor Daily News April 27 morning update on the coronavirus. The Penobscot Times and The Piscataquis Observer carried the original BDN article.

Media report Zillman Art Museum designated by $1.3 million naming gift

15 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5) and Mainebiz reported the University of Maine's art museum in Bangor has received a $1.3 million naming gift from longtime education leaders and arts supporters Donald and Linda Zillman. The museum is now the Linda G. and Donald N. Zillman Art Museum – University of Maine. "The Zillmans' vision and generosity have made a difference in Maine for many years," said University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "This gift advances the museum's mission and continued growth with improvements in its physical facilities. The result will be more experiences for visual art lovers of all ages." The gift will support an expansion that will nearly double the museum's current size, the BDN reported. "When you enter the museum from the main entrance on Harlow Street, if you look to the right, that entire space will be our five new galleries," said George Kinghorn, the museum's curator and executive director. "It will create visual connectivity between the lower and upper floors. It's a major renovation that will open up the entire space. It will be light-filled and glassed in. When you come in, you will be immediately greeted by art." The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel carried the Press Herald article, and the BDN highlighted the naming gift in a roundup of good news from around the state.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences publishes four UMaine articles linking archaeology, climate change

16 Apr 2020

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the world's most-cited multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal, has published four articles by University of Maine researchers focusing on angles of the relationship between archaeology, climate change and the human experience as part of a Special Feature. By combining these fields of study, the teams hope to bring insights from the past into the present as they and others join forces to search for solutions to climate issues in the near future. All UMaine researchers are affiliated with the Climate Change Institute, as well as other departments.

Torben Rick, of the Smithsonian Institution, wrote "Archaeology, climate, and global change in the Age of Humans" with co-author Daniel Sandweiss, professor of anthropology and Quaternary and climate studies at UMaine. The two jointly organized the Special Feature. Human societies are faced by global challenges including climate change, food insecurity, biodiversity declines and political instability. Scientists and policymakers, along with the general public, are looking for interdisciplinary ways to find solutions to these challenges. Rick and Sandweiss write that "the responses of society to climate change remain one of the greatest challenges of our time, and archaeology has a role to play in helping address and, we hope, transcend this issue." The most effective response will be one grounded in interdisciplinary collaboration, open dialogue and a recognition of the past as a map for the present and future. A key source of information is the record of past environmental change accessible through archaeology, which can yield insights into human ecodynamics, or the interactions between human cultures and climate and the environment. Information from the past can help inform decisions in the present and future.

A team of researchers wrote "Archaeological climate proxies and the complexities of reconstructing Holocene El Nino in coastal Peru." The team included Sandweiss; Paul Roscoe, professor of anthropology; Alice Kelley, instructor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences; and Kirk Maasch, professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences, as well as C. Fred Andrus of the University of Alabama, and Elizabeth Reitz of the University of Georgia. Climate proxies are preserved physical characteristics of the past that scientists can use as a substitute for direct meteorological measurements to reconstruct climate conditions over a period of time. By looking at climate proxy data from archaeological sites in Peru, researchers can find insights into the different varieties of El Nino events after 9,000 B.C. in the eastern Pacific, coastal and central Pacific regions. Having reliable data on the Peruvian coastal paleoclimate is key for testing models of future El Nino events amid climate variability. Archaeological proxies are especially important when looking at coastal Peruvian paleoclimate, as more common paleoclimate proxies such as ice cores, corals, or lake cores are unavailable or ambiguous. Previous evidence from archaeological proxies suggested that El Nino frequency varied over the Holocene, being present in the early Holocene, absent or very infrequent during the middle Holocene and with rapidly increasing frequency after 1,000 B.C. The researchers sought to compare archaeological and non-archeological proxies to address skepticism of the evidence. They reviewed reconstructions of the frequency of El Nino events on the Peruvian coast, looking at apparent contradictions among records and analyzing the impact of different varieties of El Nino as well evaluating the merits of archaeological proxies in

reconstructions of El Nino events. "For the Peruvian coast, we conclude that archaeological climate records are among the most direct and useful for understanding the full complexity of Holocene EN," the researchers write. "The results are crucial for unraveling the full story of EN through time, contributing to modeling exercises to predict future EN behavior, and understanding human ecodynamics that impact lives and livelihoods."

UMaine's Kelley collaborated with Tom Dawson and Joanna Hambly of the University of St. Andrews, William Lees of the University of West Florida, and Sarah Miller of Flagler College to write the article "Coastal heritage, global climate change, public engagement, and citizen science." Climate change threatens many archaeological sites worldwide — possibly hundreds of thousands — that hold cultural and paleoenvironmental significance. These sites are valuable resources for learning about humanity's past and present. Organizations around the world are developing ways to continue studying these sites in the face of a worsening situation. The researchers analyzed how new partnerships and citizen science approaches are building communities of practice in Scotland, Florida and Maine. The goal of these communities is to improve management of threatened coastal archaeological sites, and compare methods that can be utilized to rescue information at climate change-threatened coastal sites around the world. The researchers emphasized the importance of citizen science — incorporating members of the public in data collection and taking action. Other key findings are the importance of partnership building and working with a range of stakeholders, including members of local communities, when addressing risks and resources in the face of climate change. This approach will provide those communities with the tools to address heritage loss issues that will be more common in the face of future climate change. They acknowledged the limitations of citizen science, such as lack of access to sites; concerns over privacy, potential looting or desecration of Native American sites; limited or short-term funding; and difficulty of finding continuous long term volunteers. But the approach also has benefits by making management of the sites relevant to a larger part of the population, connecting people to climate change and educating them about its impacts, and involving people in gathering data to make informed decisions relevant to themselves and their communities.

The article "Leveraging legacy archaeological collections as proxies for climatic and environmental research" was written by Frankie St. Amand, an interdisciplinary Ph.D. student; Sky Heller, an anthropology and environmental policy doctoral student; Bonnie Newsom, an assistant professor of anthropology; and Sandweiss; as well as S. Terry Childs of the Department of the Interior Museum Program; Reitz of the University of Georgia; Rick of Smithsonian Institution; and Ryan Wheeler of the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology. Testing present-day climate models and projections depends on an understanding of the causes and consequences of previous climate change. Archaeological sites can yield some of this information, but climate change has already destroyed many sites and threatens more. To help mitigate this, legacy collections, previously excavated collections from those sites, can offer climate and paleoenvironmental information that may no longer exist otherwise. Archaeological data can contribute significantly to climate research, so it is imperative to collect data from rapidly disappearing sites to preserve local and regional climate, environmental and ecological information throughout history. The team suggested best practices for integrating archaeological data into climate and environmental research, and showed the benefits and challenges of using legacy collections as archives of environmental proxies. Benefits include the data contributing to establishing or confirming ecological baselines and regional climate reconstructions, while challenges include ethical concerns over ownership of and responsibility for cultural resources, especially with regard to Indigenous participation in the processes of fieldwork and cultural heritage stewardship. "Expanding participation of Indigenous communities also refines our understanding of artifacts and delineates how collections may be of use in future research," they write. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers e-commerce, other marketing ideas for farms

16 Apr 2020

In this time of physical distancing from others, farmers in Maine have been using alternative methods to market to their customers, including social media, online farm stores and directories, and other tools. In support of growers and producers developing alternative marketing methods, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has compiled a variety of resources focused on e-commerce platforms and additional marketing options for farms. UMaine Extension professor Donna Coffin authored the new webpage. For more information contact Coffin at 207.262.7726, donna.coffin@maine.edu.

School of Performing Arts hosting virtual Quarantine Cabaret April 17

16 Apr 2020

The University of Maine School of Performing Arts and the Maine Masque present a virtual "Quarantine Cabaret" at 6 p.m. Friday, April 17. Join SPA students and faculty for an evening of songs, monologues, comedy, juggling — and whatever else they can manage from the comfort of home. The event will be live online via Zoom. Virtual admission is free; donations are welcome and can be made online. Proceeds will go toward the Maine Masque and the Maine Artist Relief Fund.

Free webinar to cover advances, applications of artificial intelligence

16 Apr 2020

The University of Maine invites businesspeople, policymakers, attorneys, health care providers, and members of the public to learn about artificial intelligence (AI) from a panel of experts 1–3 p.m. Wednesday, April 29. AI is the development of computer systems that perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making and language translation. UMaine AI's free live webinar will cover: Advances in Artificial Intelligence; Applications of AI in Business, Industry, Government, Health Care and Environment; Education and Workforce Development; and Social, Ethical, Policy and Legal Considerations. There will be opportunities for questions and answers with the 17 experts, whose areas of expertise include computer science, business analytics, engineering, sensor technologies and law. More information about the webinar, including a list of moderators and panelists, is online. Registration also is online. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the UMaine AI website. UMaine AI's mission is to develop through innovative and coordinated research, education, and strategic partnerships transformative AI-based solutions that enhance the social and economic well-being of the citizens of Maine and beyond.

Portland Forecaster promotes Soil Testing Lab

16 Apr 2020

The Portland Forecaster promoted the University of Maine's soil testing kits that can be used to test for lead before planting a home garden. The tests are available through UMaine's Soil Testing Lab.

BDN cites Extension's advice for starting seeds

16 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News cited University of Maine Cooperative Extension in the article "Here are the seeds you should start indoors in Maine." UMaine Extension recommends starting tomatoes six to eight weeks before transplanting the seedlings, depending on the variety, and peppers should be started seven to 10 weeks before the danger of the last frost has passed. Eggplant seedlings should be started indoors seven to 10 weeks before transplanting them outside, and celery can take nine to 21 days to germinate, according to UMaine Extension.

WABI, WVII report Lynch creates YouTube channel to support physical, mental health

16 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) reported Jon Lynch, director of sports performance at the University of Maine, has created a YouTube channel with videos supporting physical and mental health. The at-home training videos are designed for student-athletes who do not currently have access to a gym or other in-person training resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also are available to the public. "Stress management and mental health is essentially what it boils down to because if they're not able to move and feel good then a whole slew of other negative implications can occur," said Lynch, who hopes the resources will help student-athletes and others adapt and make the best of their time at home.

School of Nursing students to graduate early, join workforce, media report

16 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News, WMTW (Channel 8) and Q97.9 reported the School of Nursing at the University of Maine will graduate students early so they can help on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kelley Strout, the program's interim director and an associate professor of nursing, said the 38 seniors will graduate on April 28 to have a chance to become licensed and enter the workforce more quickly. About 33 of them are expected to work in Maine, the BDN reported. "We are facing a pandemic with a need for as many frontline nurses as possible," Strout said. Nursing student Nicole Brown said she is ready for the challenge. "I want to help people and I want to care for people sick with viruses like COVID-19," she wrote in an email. "… I'm excited to get my feet wet and see where this journey of nursing takes me in such a hectic time." News Center Maine also reported on the initiative.

McDonough MacKenzie earns Ecological Society of America's award for young scientists

16 Apr 2020

The Ecological Society of America named Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie a recipient of the George Mercer Award that recognizes outstanding recently published ecological research by scientists 40 years old and younger. The postdoctoral fellow at the University of Maine shares the award with Mason Heberling, who is the study's first author, and with co-authors Jason Fridley, Susan Kalisz and Richard Primack. Ecology Letters published the study, "Phenological mismatch with trees reduces wildflower carbon budgets," in February 2019. "The Mercer Award is such an honor, and I'm so proud to share this with such a wonderful group of collaborators," says McDonough MacKenzie, a David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow at the Climate Change Institute. "This paper sprouted from a side project that started as I was wrapping up my Ph.D. in the Primack Lab and it's been a lovely excuse to stay in touch with my PI Richard Primack and field sites in Thoreau's Concord." McDonough MacKenzie and Primack presented Henry David Thoreau's scientific observations to Heberling, the assistant curator of Botany at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. They also presented data of tree and wildflower leaf-out dates measured for 37 separate years as recently as 2018 in Concord, Massachusetts. "We noticed that the long-term phenology [study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena] records in Concord showed leaf out in canopy trees to be more sensitive to climate change than understory wildflowers and wondered about the impact of that mismatch," says McDonough MacKenzie. The team compared Thoreau's observations to photosynthetic data collected in a forest in Fox Chapel, Pennsylvania by Heberling and Kalisz of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Together, the analyses show that small differences in the responses of wildflowers versus trees to a warming climate already could be harming wildflower abundance and flowering, with greater effects in coming years. "I still can't believe the serendipity of connecting with Mason, Jason, and Susan as they were studying shade and carbon budgets for understory wildflowers," says McDonough MacKenzie. "This collaboration flourished because we were all so excited to find each other. Throughout the project, I was genuinely overwhelmed by my co-authors' openness, generosity, and support." Primarily as a result of human activities, temperatures in Concord, Massachusetts have warmed by 3 degrees Celsius over the past century, the researchers learned. During the same time period, tree and wildflower leaf-out dates — when plants produce leaves — have shifted significantly. "Wildflowers are now leafing out about one week earlier than 160 years ago, but the trees are leafing out two weeks earlier," says McDonough MacKenzie. "Understory wildflowers need the sunny conditions before the trees leaf out for their energy budgets, but we didn't know how a shadier spring would affect these plants on the ground." As the climate warms, the window of time between wildflower emergence and tree leaf out likely will shorten, leaving wildflowers less time to photosynthesize in the spring. Climate models predict a 2.5- to 4.5-degree Celsius temperature increase in the northeastern United States by 2080, potentially more than double the temperature increase during the past century. McDonough MacKenzie says this could result in fewer wildflowers in the future. "Light is so important for these wildflowers in the early spring, and once the trees leaf out, the light availability drops dramatically," she says. "On the one hand, it's great that trees can track the changing temperatures and leaf out earlier — but, the wildflowers aren't keeping up and that could mean less energy to produce flowers, fewer seeds and declining wildflower populations." McDonough MacKenzie is advised by UMaine paleoecologist Jacquelyn Gill and mentored by Acadia National Park science coordinator Abe Miller-Rushing. The award ceremony is slated during the ESA's annual meeting Aug. 2–7 in Salt Lake City. A virtual ceremony and meeting may be held to protect human health due to the pandemic. The theme of the conference: Harnessing the ecological data revolution. "I loved this paper — I got to explore new ideas about phenological mismatch while collaborating with kind, brilliant scientists," says McDonough MacKenzie. "The Mercer Award is incredible icing on the cake." In its announcement, the ESA wrote that the team showed creative and powerful integration of historical records and contemporary experiments covering many species. "They tell a convincing and important scientific story with notably clear writing and compelling visuals. The use of historical phenological observations, the oldest of which were made by Henry David Thoreau in the 1850s, alongside long-term temperature records, contemporary garden

experiments, and a simulation model is the icing on the cake, extending the timespan of the historical data and providing a 'hook' to engage the interest of the media and the general public." Founded in 1915, the Ecological Society of America is the world's largest community of professional ecologists (9,000) committed to advancing the understanding of life on Earth. The George Mercer Award was established in 1948. Mercer was a promising young ecologist and naturalist killed in World War I. In Maine, McDonough MacKenzie continues to study the impacts of climate change on plant communities. She is a Second Century Stewardship Fellow at Acadia National Park. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

38 students in nursing to graduate early to address needs during pandemic

16 Apr 2020

To help meet the health care needs of the state of Maine during the COVID-19 pandemic, 38 undergraduate students in the University of Maine School of Nursing will graduate April 28 — two weeks early. Early graduation allows them to pursue their licensure sooner and, ultimately, expedite their entry into the workforce. "The class of 2020 is a very resilient, dedicated group of graduates," says associate professor and registered nurse Kelley Strout, interim director of the School of Nursing. "I'm so proud of this class. They are committed to enter the workforce and provide patient care on the frontlines of the COVID19 pandemic." The students will graduate with bachelor of science in nursing degrees. When they pass their national licensing exam, they become registered nurses. The UMaine School of Nursing has a 95% first time national licensure exam pass rate; the average national pass rate for first-time test takers is 88%. Thirty-three of the student nurses plan to practice in Maine. The other five will practice out of state, including two who are headed to jobs in nurse residency programs at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. "We are so very proud of these graduates," says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "We thank them for their incredibly hard work, their bravery and dedication to the health care field in Maine and beyond. The highly selective School of Nursing has very high standards, with faculty providing outstanding training and preparation for students who are ready to make a difference in the world. We congratulate the graduates on this fantastic achievement and wish them all the very best as they move out into the field to help all of us during this difficult time with the pandemic." In UMaine's undergraduate nursing program, the last semester for seniors focuses on a partnership experience, Strout says. Each student completes nearly 200 hours working and learning one-on-one with a registered nurse partner in a hospital or community health care facility in Maine. Their typical 12-hour schedules include nights and weekends. In March, the coronavirus pandemic protocols required some hospitals and health care facilities to discontinue clinicals for students. By that time, the student nurses had completed more than half of their required direct-care partnership hours. The Maine State Board of Nursing then allowed the School of Nursing to provide virtual clinical instruction with online and simulation resources along with weekly debriefing sessions in small groups with experienced faculty. Faculty stepped up to provide the instruction, and students "worked around the clock" to complete the hours ahead of schedule, Strout says. The accelerated completion of coursework will allow final grades to be turned in April 20. "I'm part of a group of health care leaders preparing for surge staffing in response to the pandemic. At the School of Nursing, we wanted to do all we could to support the health needs of the state and support our colleagues on the frontlines across the nation. I met with the students and they unanimously were interested in graduating early to support response efforts." The School of Nursing truly pushes for its student nurses to be given the opportunity for success, says senior Katelyn Ford from Presque Isle, who is headed to the Weinberg ICU at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. "Opening the door for us to graduate early is just another example of the constant motivation they provide us," says Ford. "Completing this program was a privilege and I am proud to be a future nurse that was educated by this well-respected program." "I believe the University of Maine has prepared us as well as (it) can to enter the pandemic with an extensive foundational understanding of how to care for these patients," says senior Nicole Brown from Lamoine who will be working as a cardiac nurse at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center when she graduates. "On the other end of things, all of the people orienting us to new jobs and mentoring us through this process have never lived in a pandemic." "It's a learning process for everyone involved, but this is what I signed up for," Brown says. "I want to help people and I want to care for people sick with viruses like COVID-19. In this way, I'm excited to get my feet wet and see where this journey of nursing takes me in such a hectic time." In the annual nursing pinning ceremonies, graduates traditionally receive a pin to symbolize the completion of their coursework and clinicals, and to welcome them into the profession. This year, the School of Nursing pinning ceremony will be virtual, offered online at 7 p.m., April 25 on the School of Nursing Facebook page. "We will do what we can to make the ceremony special, but nothing replaces the in-person event," Strout says. "It is the ultimate sacrifice of a nurse. They are sacrificing this ceremony to serve on the frontlines in a time of need." Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Collins Center offering online arts and cultural resources

17 Apr 2020

The Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine launched a temporary website to offer cultural resources while its physical stage is dark during the COVID-19 pandemic. "For more than three decades, the CCA has been a beacon for cultural and artistic activity in our region," says Danny Williams, executive director of the CCA. "But now — in the absence of face-to-face gatherings — and when people need it the most, we are here. As we do with our regular season program, there is something here for everyone to enjoy. We hope these resources will be educational, entertaining and most of all, fun." The site includes six sections with a variety of offerings: CCA Event Updates, Show Stuff, Maine Talent Showcase, Performances, Performing Arts Links, and Staff Picks. "CCA Event Updates" will provide regular updates to the performance schedule, including cancellations and postponements, for Collins Center and Bangor Symphony Orchestra shows. "Show Stuff" offers three-minute videos by staff and others about what goes on behind the scenes at the CCA. Williams created a video that explains the meaning of a ghost light, and another about the center's Steinway D piano. Scott Stitham, CCA assistant technical director, takes viewers behind the stage and gives them a preview of future videos he will create. Other staff members and student employees will create videos to show people what it takes to put on a small or large event. Do you have a question, such as, "When am I supposed to clap at a chamber music concert?" or, "How do you tune a piano?" Questions can be submitted to cca@maine.edu and may be featured. "Maine Talent Showcase" is a virtual talent contest — the CCA invites people from Maine or who attend school in Maine to send in videos of themselves engaging in the performing arts. Performances could include singing, playing an instrument, dancing, performing a monologue, creating a comedy routine, reading an original poem and more. If music is included, it should be played with live instruments and not be pre-recorded. CCA staff will choose the top 10 finalists, and the public will choose a winner to be featured on the website. Thanks to a generous benefactor, there also will be a total of $1,000 in prizes — $500 for first place, $300 for second place and $200 for third place. "Performances" includes a variety of links to performing arts shows for people to enjoy at home online, with content from sources worldwide, including the Met Opera and National Theatre Live. "Performing Arts Links" provides online resources for many topics related to arts and culture, including classes, educational opportunities, collections of plays and music, and an online musical instrument museum, as well as resources for families. "Staff Picks" features CCA staff members sharing what they're watching, reading, listening to and learning while they work from home. The site overall offers entertainment and meaningful content for UMaine community members and the public to enjoy while awaiting the return of in-person events at the CCA.

Growing more Maine gardeners with UMaine Extension

17 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension has a new online resource designed to encourage all the gardeners who are waiting for warmer weather and soil ready for planting. Every week, "Growing Maine Gardeners" features a new activity and video demonstration suitable for all ages, including making seed tape and forcing branches to bloom indoors. The focus is family-friendly indoor and outdoor gardening projects, including tips on getting the most out of Maine's brief growing season. For more information, call 207.581.3877 or email extension@maine.edu. Visit UMaine Extension Learn at Home for more online educational resources.

Sun Journal interviews van Heiningen for report on Jay mill explosion

17 Apr 2020

The Sun Journal interviewed Adriaan R. P. van Heiningen, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Maine, for a report on the April 15 Jay mill explosion. The Jay mill had two continuous Kamyr digesters, one for hardwood and one for softwood, which is "one of the most important processes in the entire production of pulp and paper," according to van Heiningen. The Portland Press Herald carried the Sun Journal article.

Morning Ag Clips, KJMS promote Extension's meat industry town hall

17 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release advancing a virtual town hall on April 17 for producers in the meat industry. "Town Hall: What to expect from the meat industry with recent COVID-19 developments" will be online via Zoom from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Instructions to participate in the town hall are on the program webpage. For more information, contact Colt Knight, 207.581.2953; colt.knight@maine.edu.

BDN speaks with Lindley about planning harvest food storage space

17 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Vina Lindley, a food systems and home horticulture professional with the Waldo County office of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for an article on planning harvest food storage space. "Now is the time to be thinking about the varieties that can work with the storage options you have available in your home," she said. "You don't want to grow a giant bed of something and not have the capacity to store it." Lindley recommended walking through your home to see if there's an unused bedroom, crawlspace or closet that could be kept unheated, or a space in a garage. "Different vegetables like different storage conditions," Lindley said. "So always be thinking about storage areas you could use in your home."

UMaine, Maine MEP collaborating on production of aerosol shields to protect health care workers

20 Apr 2020

A University of Maine and Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) innovation team developing solutions to COVID-19-related health care challenges has worked with in-state hospitals and manufacturing partners to build, test and start production of two variations of an "aerosol box" meant to protect frontline medical staff as they intubate or transport patients who may be sick with the disease. The two designs of the aerosol boxes are constructed from clear polycarbonate. The first design is a three-sided shield with handholes that covers the patient's head and shoulders, and allows medical personnel to intubate safely to contain aerosol spray from a patient's respiratory tract. The second fully encloses a patient's head and, with the help of a portable tube and filter, creates a negative-pressure environment so that viral particles leaving a patient's respiratory tract can be captured before they contaminate the surrounding air. The boxes were developed collaboratively following a request from MaineHealth that referenced a concept first conceived by Dr. Hsien Yung-Lai, a physician in Taiwan whose aerosol box design to treat COVID-19 patients has been shared widely during the ongoing pandemic. UMaine's first prototype was based on a sketch by John Karp, business growth coach for the Maine MEP and a member of the UMaine innovation team. John Belding, director of UMaine's Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC), and his team worked with Karp to refine the sketch using computer-aided design and drafting software, and produced a prototype box for MaineHealth to test. Maine MEP then worked with its in-state manufacturing contacts to start production on a version of the design, incorporating MaineHealth's feedback. Gorham-based Plas-Tech was the first manufacturer to come online in early April, followed by Thermoformed Plastics of New England, based in Biddeford, and VELUX America in Wells. The negative pressure version of the box developed out of conversations between Dr. Robert Bowie, UMaine professor of biomedical engineering, and hospital contacts at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center and St. Joseph Hospital, both located in Bangor. The team at AMC built prototypes for those hospitals to test, and refined designs to their specifications. A third negative-pressure prototype was recently delivered to Maine Medical Center in Portland. "The transport aerosol box is an example of how the community can contribute to keep frontline staff safe and reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19," says Lindsey Lucas, nursing director, Maine Medical Center Acute Ventilator Unit. "By providing an extra layer of personal protective equipment while transporting a patient who requires oxygen therapy, we can reduce the risk of exposure to our health care workers. The immediate feedback from staff has been positive, as it provides a sense of safety and security, which goes a long way when we are navigating such an unpredictable course." Hospitals can clean and sterilize the boxes for reuse. In-state manufacturing means they can be delivered quickly to area hospitals to meet demand. "This is an example of what we can do collaboratively as a community," says Dr. James Jarvis, FAAFP, medical specialist, COVID-19 incident commander, Northern Light Health. "We remain extremely grateful for the innovative efforts by UMaine to help protect our front line health care workers and will enthusiastically support any assistance that meets all safety standards." The University of Maine COVID-19 innovation team includes UMaine faculty, staff and students, representatives from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, Maine MEP, MaineHealth, St. Joseph Hospital and Northern Light Health. Other collaborating partners include the Manufacturers Association of Maine and Maine Procurement Technical Assistance Center. The team based at the state's public research university is operating as part of a March 22 umbrella agreement with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) allowing the University of Maine System to provide goods and services to Maine health care facilities and agencies as coordinated by MEMA. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

School of Social Work awards fellowships through Coverdell Fellows program

20 Apr 2020

A new fellowship offers tuition reimbursement for returning Peace Corps volunteers interested in earning their Master of Social Work from the University of Maine. UMaine partnered with the Paul D. Coverdell Program to offer three renewable scholarships covering up to 24 credits of full-time tuition per year to returning Peace Corps volunteers. Additional credits will be offered at the in-state rate for out-of-state students. Students in the Master of Social Work program help marginalized populations throughout Maine as a part of their education, making the program well-suited to those who want to continue serving communities in need. “They will have two years with Maine populations and culture. Even if they leave after graduation, they will be spokespersons for and stay connected to Maine,” said Sandra Butler, a professor of social work who helped the School of Social Work become approved for the Coverdell Fellows Program. Starting with the fall 2020 incoming class, students who apply to the on-campus Master of Social Work program will be eligible for the fellowship. More information is on the University of Maine Graduate School website.

Media highlight Extension’s webpage for e-commerce, marketing ideas for farmers

20 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Daily Bulldog highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s new webpage for sharing several resources focused on e-commerce platforms and additional marketing options for farms. For more information, contact UMaine Extension professor Donna Coffin, who authored the webpage, at 207.262.7726, donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Media share Extension’s “Growing Maine Gardners” online resource

20 Apr 2020

The Piscatiquis Observer and Bangor Daily News shared the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s new online resource “Growing Maine Gardeners.” Every week, “Growing Maine Gardeners” features a new activity and video demonstration suitable for all ages, including making seed tape and forcing branches to bloom indoors. The focus is family-friendly indoor and outdoor gardening projects, including tips on getting the most out of Maine’s brief growing season. For more information, call 207.581.3877 or extension@maine.edu. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also highlighted the resource.

Press Herald interviews Frank about applying lessons from wrestling to nursing

20 Apr 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Samantha Frank, a former University of Maine nursing student and four-time national female wrestling champion, about how the lessons she learned as an athlete translated to her work as a nurse during the coronavirus outbreak. Frank, a registered nurse with the cardiovascular progressive care unit at Mercy Hospital, Portland, said “You have to be resilient, you have to be stronger and you have to move forward. We bring that to every new case we get.” Frank, who graduated from UMaine in 2018, also said lessons about teamwork and preparation she learned from wrestling play a vital role in her profession during the pandemic. “When you go into a room by yourself, you’re putting all your practices to work,” she said. “You have to prepare and plan ahead and think about what you’re bringing into that room. And you have to time it so you get everything done and limit your time in the room and your exposure.”

Kennebec Journal, Morning Sentinel report on Extension’s COVID-19 publications

20 Apr 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s new and updated publications that are particularly relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many UMaine Extension bulletins are available for free download. Browse the full publications catalog of almost 750 bulletins and books. For more information or place an order, call 207.581.3792 of email extension.orders@maine.edu.

Gardening for wildlife with Maine native plants

21 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Audubon will offer a four-part series of online classes on using native plants to benefit birds and other wildlife beginning May 6, from 2–3 p.m. Classes meet weekly through May 27. Participants will learn about backyard ecology, the birds of Maine, and selecting and growing native plants. Instructors include UMaine Extension horticulture professional Pamela Hargest and Maine Audubon director of education Eric Topper. Suggested donation for the series is $10; registration is required. Register online. Participants will receive Zoom information after registering. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu. More information also is available on the program webpage.

Coronavirus, data analytics the focus of UMaine online discussion April 25

21 Apr 2020

The implications of the coronavirus pandemic on artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics will be the focus of an online discussion by Saturday, April 25 at 11 a.m. The Zoom meeting link: https://maine.zoom.us/j/98301058439. No password is needed. In the presentation, “Business In and After the Time of COVID-19 Pandemic and Enhanced Roles of AI & Data Analytics,” Yonggang “Tim” Lu, Harold Alfond Associate Professor of Business Analytics at the University of Maine, will discuss the profound current and future impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, especially local and small- to medium-sized businesses. Several critical questions will be addressed, including what are good ways to recover a business from the pandemic, and what are the necessary new skills and knowledge needed to successfully develop a career in the post-coronavirus environment? “The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected every aspect of our society,” says Lu. “When we are fighting together to defeat this invisible enemy, everyone also needs to proactively prepare for the new normal in the business environment after the crisis.” The growing importance of AI technology and data analytics in the business world will also be discussed. “The rapid, global spread of COVID-19 has brought advanced big data analytics tools front and center, with entities from all sectors of health care, policy, and business seeking to monitor and reduce the impact of this virus,” says J. Michael Weber, dean of the University of Maine Graduate School of

Business. “The University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center and the Graduate School of Business are working with the business community to provide resources and expertise in AI and data analytics that are relevant today and tomorrow,” Weber says. “Data analytics will provide the businesses of Maine with the data, tools, and decision metrics to develop scale-up strategies that will be critical for jump-starting their new business models and our economy.”

‘Maine Journal of Conservation and Sustainability’ to be published on Earth Day

21 Apr 2020

“Spire: The Maine Journal of Conservation and Sustainability” will be published on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, says editor-in-chief Elyse DeFranco. This is the fourth annual issue of the online journal — created and compiled by a team of University of Maine graduate and undergraduate students — that highlights work from researchers, writers and artists from across Maine. In the face of the worldwide pandemic and challenges that people are experiencing, “sustainability has come to mean something even deeper to many,” writes DeFranco, who is pursuing a degree in environmental communication. The journal includes pieces that depict resilience, community-building and hope, says DeFranco. “I’m humbled by the relevance of the work in the journal, which further demonstrates the importance of working toward a future together, as a society, one that acknowledges our interdependence and the interconnected nature of each and every choice that we make,” she writes in her letter from the editor. Andrea Lani’s essay titled “Faith in a Seed” about her family’s connection to the American chestnut tree is one example of hope and resilience. “To bring a species back from extinction — for the American chestnut is functionally extinct — is an act of faith, of peering fate directly in the eye and declaring that you will not be undone,” Lani writes. Several other pieces selected for the journal include a research abstract about kelp aquaculture, student perspectives on sustainable food production and diet choice, poetry, and polyester plate lithography prints titled “Crosscut” that observe the history of logging. The cover art is Sarah Lafontaine’s copperplate etching titled “Micro Nomos” of ocean microorganisms called Radiolaria. “The work that I do more often than not depicts textures or creatures from the ocean ... I’ve always tried to capture how beautiful, while also delicate, these specimens are ... These are creatures who have long predated humans, and yet we could easily become their demise,” writes Lafontaine, a UMaine Bachelor of Fine Arts student, in her artist statement. “It’s our responsibility to maintain a balance that our oceans have managed for millions of years, as well as with all other ecosystems on Earth … Efforts towards a fully sustainable future need to continue, and so does our mission of education, awareness, and knowledge.” In DeFranco’s letter, she describes a recent evening walk on campus when she heard the calls of wood frogs making their way to pools after months of frozen isolation. “Miraculous in the best of times, I feel an even stronger admiration and kinship with these frogs today, and will be spending many spring evenings sitting by the pools, listening to their ecstatic reunion, and waiting until the day sometime soon when our turn will come.” Previous issues of Spire also can be found online.

Extension’s support for rebuilding nature trail highlighted by media

21 Apr 2020

The Piscataquis Observer reported that the University of Maine Cooperative Extension is supporting an effort from the SeDoMoCha School to rebuild a nearby natural trail, which garnered the school a $7,350 grant from the Maine Community Foundation. The Bangor Daily News also highlighted Extension’s support for the project. The Piscatiquis Observer shared the BDN article.

Media showcase students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

21 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel and Mount Desert Islander highlighted University of Maine students who were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Jeffrey Sanders, Orono, Aaron Watt, Hampden, and Saman Zare, Old Town, were welcomed into the honor society, according to BDN. Jasmine Gregory, Winslow, was also inducted into the society, according to the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel. Benjamin Williams, Orono, was also initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, according to BDN.

WABI reports on UMaine helping make ‘aerosol boxes’

21 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on a University of Maine and Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) innovation team working with in-state

hospitals and manufacturing partners to build, test and start production of two variations of an “aerosol box” meant to protect frontline medical staff as they intubate or transport patients who may be sick with the disease. The first design is a three-sided shield with handholes that covers the patient’s head and shoulders, and allows medical personnel to intubate safely to contain aerosol spray from a patient’s respiratory tract. The second fully encloses a patient’s head and, with the help of a portable tube and filter, creates a negative-pressure environment so that viral particles leaving a patient’s respiratory tract can be captured before they contaminate the surrounding air. “The university is doing this type of rapid innovation for COVID,” said Jake Ward, vice president for innovation and economic development. “Trying to rapidly get the best information where we can prototype, where we can develop. And then really, one of the most positive things is that Maine manufacturers are really stepping up and changing their traditional manufacturing product lines to address these issues.” Down East magazine also highlighted the initiative.

Washington Post publishes opinion piece from Socolow

21 Apr 2020

The Washington Post published an opinion piece from Michael Socolow, an associate professor in communication and journalism at the University of Maine, titled “The media must make it easier to track President Trump’s covid-19 failures.” Socolow will become the director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center at UMaine in July.

BDN, WVOM interview President Ferrini-Mundy about possible fall opening

21 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News and WVOM's "George Hale and Ric Tyler Show" interviewed University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy about plans to reopen UMaine’s campus in the fall. The largely rural locations of public universities in Maine and social distancing rules Gov. Janet Mills enacted in response to COVID-19 have informed plans to reopen to students potentially earlier than some metropolitan-based universities, she said. “We are not in a city in the way that the Boston universities of course are,” she said. “We’re very much in touch with [public health] networks, which I think gives us an even wider insight into where we are as a state.” UMaine has begun making a list of all large lecture courses to determine if they need to be split up, according to BDN. The university will seek state guidance on international student admissions; general travel by students, professors and athletic teams; athletic events and performances; arrangements for employees returning to work on campus; and the use of residence and dining halls. Enrollment projections for the fall semester at UMaine are “generally on track,” said Christopher Richards, interim vice president of enrollment management at UMaine, although it’s impossible to predict the actual number of students on campus this fall.

Take a virtual tour of Highmoor Farm in Monmouth

21 Apr 2020

The United States Department of Agriculture Northeast Climate Hub has published a virtual tour of the University of Maine’s Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, and videos based on the center’s work that focuses on research and development for Maine’s fruit and vegetable growers. The virtual tour is one of 19 created to date as part of the Northeast Climate Hub’s “As If You Were There” series, designed to “take you to the field” in the growing network of climate-informed demonstration sites. The Northeast Climate Hub partnered with University of Delaware, and other USDA and land grant collaborators in the region to showcase farm and forest sites with 360-degree photography and videos to offer an interactive experience. The regional Climate Hubs link research and program agencies in their regional delivery of timely and authoritative tools and information about climate-informed decision making to agricultural producers and professionals, according to the USDA website. The field tours were developed to allow viewers to “see how farm and forestry practices work in the real world,” according to the “As If You Were There” site. They also introduce the people who are “dealing with and adapting to increasing rainfall intensity, and other weather and climate risks in the Northeast” to practical strategies to adapt to climate change. In 2014, the USDA Northeast Climate Hub announced partnerships with UMaine and 15 other land grant universities in the Northeast to give the region’s farmers, foresters and land managers better access to information and tools for adapting to climate and weather variability. Based in Durham, New Hampshire, the USDA Northeast Climate Hub is one of seven regional hubs nationwide formed to address increasing climate and weather-related risks to agriculture, broadly defined to include farms, forests and aquaculture. The partnership is focused on creating a network of information-sharing designed to provide stakeholders with resources to both mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the challenges of a changing climate. The universities from Maine to West Virginia are active partners in developing, implementing and evaluating materials that describe how to best cope with increasing weather variability and longer-term trajectories of change in the climate system. Ivan Fernandez, Distinguished Maine Professor in the School of Forest Resources and Climate Change Institute, is the UMaine representative to the USDA Northeast Climate Hub.

Honors College, local community members donate 10K meals to Good Shepherd Food Bank

21 Apr 2020

The Maine Day Meal Packout (MDMP), now in its fourth year, has contributed more than 250,000 meals to food pantries across Maine. Coordinated by the Honors College Student Advisory Board at the University of Maine, the MDMP team was planning on donating another 75,000 meals before the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the leadership of senior Honors biomedical engineering major, Lauren Ryan, the team raised close to $25,000 from fundraisers, grants, and campus and community donors to purchase the meals, which would have been packed on Maine Day. “COVID-19 is impacting many people in many different ways, and a large percentage of Mainers are now out of work and in need of assistance more now than ever,” says Ryan, who mobilized the MDMP team to adapt their outreach to suit current circumstances. When The Outreach Program, the Massachusetts-based organization that supplies the food and runs the packout, offered to pack meals for the MDMP, Ryan and other team members jumped at the chance to help food insecure Mainers. With the assistance of Blue Knights Maine Chapter 1 members Sherrie and Dave Wight, local supporters of the MDMP, the team delivered 10,000 meals to the Good Shepherd Food Bank’s Hampden warehouse for local distribution. The Wights, along with several volunteers from other New England states, met up with members of The Outreach Program in New Hampshire, where they picked up the meals destined for Maine. Sherrie Wight recalled the pickup process as one grounded in teamwork and mutual aid. “We all helped load each other’s vehicles one state at a time,” she said. Sherrie Wight acknowledged why she and her husband chose to take on the challenge of picking up and transporting the meals. “It wasn’t a hard choice. In fact, it wasn’t a choice at all,” she said. “It was the only thing to do because it had to be done. We feel so blessed and fortunate. We have a roof over our heads and food on our table. Others do not and, in this especially trying time, their struggle just to survive is magnified.” Sherrie Wight was equally inspired by the Honors

College students. “It wasn’t the meal packout they had envisioned, but they figured out a way to get some meals here at this incredibly difficult time when they are needed more than ever,” she said. “They never gave up, never stopped dreaming of what was possible. When our young people show that kind of determination and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity, they have become our teachers.” The response of the MDMP team and local partners like the Wights demonstrates the flexibility, innovation and dedication to the common good that are characteristic of the UMaine community. MDMP food bank liaison and second-year Honors political science major Dominique DiSpirito noted that, despite the number of cancellations and the atmosphere of uncertainty that COVID-19 has produced, this experience reminded her that “compassion isn’t canceled.” The Honors College is thanking donors to the meal packout on a webpage. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

New online app helps visualize, interpret spatial data on spruce budworm mitigation, forest planning

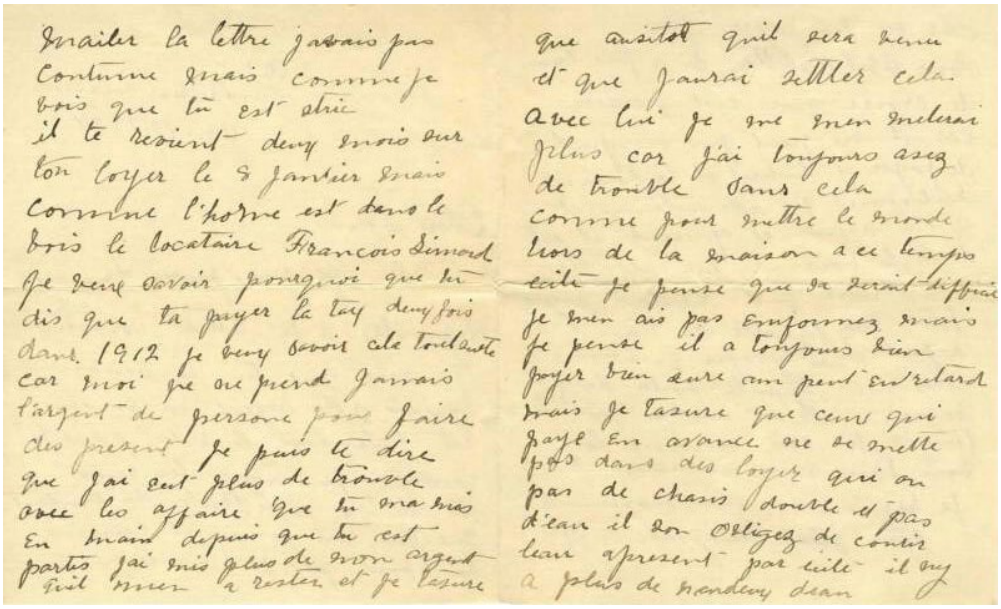
21 Apr 2020

The Intelligent GeoSolutions (IGS) team at the University of Maine’s Center for Research on Sustainable Forests (CRSF) has released a free interactive mapping tool, the Forest Ecosystem Status and Trends (ForEST) app, to provide online decision support to private and public forest managers, natural resource agencies, conservation organizations and other stakeholders. With the current outbreak of eastern spruce budworm expanding south from Quebec, up-to-date information about resource conditions and near-term risk are needed to coordinate mitigation actions in response to the outbreak and related market conditions. The ForEST app is the culmination of three years of research and software development by the IGS team in partnership with UMaine’s Advanced Computing Group. The interdisciplinary project supported two graduate students in the School of Computing and Information Science, each of whom served as lead developer, as well as undergraduate computer science students who worked as team programmers. The interactive web interface is designed to provide near real-time information about changing forest landscape conditions resulting from the spruce budworm outbreak and ongoing management. Current map layers include statewide pheromone trap locations with annual spruce budworm moth trap catch, and maps of forest vulnerability to budworm, percent balsam fir (primary spruce budworm host species), and areas of high probability of Canada lynx occurrence, all derived using Landsat satellite imagery and plot data from the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis program. The mapped area (currently encompassing approximately 4 million acres of forestland) will be expanded statewide over the coming months. ForEST utilizes a semi-automated image processing and machine learning software system known as the Supervised Adaptive Multi-objective Mapper (SAMM) developed by IGS. SAMM integrates multi-objective machine learning algorithms into semi-automated image processing and map production workflows executed on the cloud. SAMM enables efficient, high throughput processing of raw image data into high-quality output products to allow visualization and interpretation of high-resolution maps of forest and habitat conditions. Aaron Weiskittel, professor of forest biometrics and modeling and CRSF director, emphasizes that “stakeholders can now for the first time dynamically and interactively utilize ForEST to view state-of-the-art maps of forest conditions derived from satellite imagery, explore regional budworm population monitoring data, evaluate forest risk in areas of interest, and identify natural resource management tradeoffs.” The app also offers the capacity to download GeoPDFs that allow the data to be used in the field offline. The ForEST app creative team includes Erin Simons-Legaard, assistant research professor in forest landscape modeling; Kasey Legaard, assistant research professor of geospatial analytics and machine learning; Torsten Hahmann, associate professor of spatial informatics; and Weiskittel. Development of the Maine ForEST app was supported by the University of Maine Research Reinvestment Fund, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. Contact: Erin Simons-Legaard, erin.simons@maine.edu

NEH funds development of first-ever online, bilingual portal to several Franco American archives

21 Apr 2020

A University of Maine initiative to create a first-ever bilingual portal to Franco American heritage records from archives in the United States and Canada has received a nearly $60,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Franco American Programs at UMaine, which is spearheading the Franco American Portal, also was awarded $10,000 from the Maine Bicentennial Commission for a similar project titled “Where Were You.” That effort involves developing an online public history, genealogy and map of Franco American populations in Maine. Researchers of history and culture of the French Canadian and Acadian diaspora of New England sometimes struggle to find primary sources when pertinent records are not catalogued with relevant identifiers, or are otherwise difficult to access, says Susan Pinette, director of UMaine’s Franco American Programs. The online, bilingual Franco American Portal will make these Franco American records more visible, searchable and accessible to researchers, educators, students, genealogists and the general public, says Pinette, also a professor of modern languages. The University of Southern Maine Franco-American Collection; University of Maine at Fort Kent Acadian Archives; Assumption College’s French Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts; and Saint Anselm College Msgr. Wilfrid H. Paradis Archives and Special Collections, Manchester, New Hampshire, joined UMaine’s Franco American Programs in developing the online gateway. Jacob Albert, project manager for UMaine’s Franco American Programs, guides portal development, and Pinette oversees it. “Collaboration has been so important to every aspect of this project. Our portal is meant to help people discover disparate materials that are hard to find, but do so in a way that relies on the good work that collecting institutions do to preserve these materials and make them accessible,” Albert says. “This model allows materials that live all over North America to be in conversation with one another in a single space. The possibilities for research and understanding are so wide and so rich.” [caption id="attachment_76494" align="aligncenter" width="650"]



An excerpt of a 1914 letter from Theophile Cyr to his sister.[/caption] The website will provide access to books, letters and other correspondence, scrapbooks, family and business records, photographs and other media depicting Franco American history, culture and people, all curated by the portal project team. Portal users will be able to browse and search through the catalog of records featured on the website, which the portal will categorize by indicators like place, family name, or subject. Once a user selects an item to view, the portal will connect them to that item at its original source in the digital sphere or a physical archive. In addition to connecting users with records from their own universities' collections, the team behind developing the portal will seek to partner with other institutions across the United States and Canada, including the Library of Congress, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Harvard University and others so the portal could provide access to their archives. The group will also digitize physical records highlighting the Franco American experience. The team expects the online gateway to highlight well-known works not typically emphasized as products of Franco American heritage in that way. Pinette says showcasing different records of Franco American individuals, families and institutions from disparate collections in the portal will help broaden a shared understanding of the American experience. NEH, one of the largest supporters of humanities programs in the U.S., allocated the grant for the Franco American Portal project as part of a $22.2 million package of awards for 224 initiatives across the U.S. The grants were awarded to top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent and external reviewers. UMaine's Franco American Programs strives to increase access to Franco American research through digital scholarship, regular programming, publications and curriculum development. The portal project expands that effort by filling a gap in locating Franco American primary sources, Pinette says. "Little of these communities is known, however, outside of the communities themselves and some academic circles," Pinette says. "The Franco American community's negotiation of identity from its eighteenth-century inception in the United States through the present day therefore represents an untapped, rich case study of our country's changing cultural landscape over the past two centuries in language, labor and industrialism, post-industrialism, government, religion, the arts and education,acculturation and assimilation, transnational movement, migration and community building." The "Where Were You," online resource from UMaine's Franco Americans Programs will showcase where Maine's Franco families live now, where they lived in 1820, and the social, cultural, and economic conditions of that time. Pinette says it will include a dynamic, layered, sortable and customizable map linking specific contemporary surnames from Franco American towns in Maine to their 1820 parish in French-speaking Canada; written entries detailing local, regional, and parish histories in Francophone Canada in 1820; resources highlighting the music, folkways, foodways and other realities of that time and place, and more. UMaine has been active in Franco American studies for more than 50 years. The university established the Franco American Centre in 1972, then created a Franco American Studies Program, still the only one of its kind in the U.S., in the 1990s. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@umaine.edu

Maine Policy Matters podcast covers basic income, COVID-19

22 Apr 2020

Daniel Soucier explores the policy matter of universal basic income, assistance programs for the COVID-19 pandemic and why it matters to Maine in the latest installment of "Maine Policy Matters." Soucier is the podcast host and a research associate at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. He virtually sat down with Michael Howard, coeditor of the journal Basic Income Studies and the national coordinator for the United States Basic Income Guarantee Network. They discussed what defines basic income, what type of pilot programs exist in the U.S. and other countries, and the confluence of basic income policies with the novel coronavirus pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law March 27, provides many Americans $1,200 in direct cash payments, plus an additional $500 for each child. Spain recently announced it is moving toward a permanent basic income program to help workers and families affected by the virus. "Maine Policy Matters" is the official podcast of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. Future episodes will focus on childless elders and the coronavirus pandemic; dealing with the twin pandemics of opioid use disorder and COVID-19; and education policy and COVID-19. The podcast can be found on podcast apps on Apple Podcasts, iTunes, Soundcloud, Stitcher, Spotify, Google Play and the center's website.

New video highlights Extension's Maine Farm and Seafood Products Directory

22 Apr 2020

A new video highlights the success of the Maine Farm and Seafood Products Directory coordinated by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Produced by FRAME Media Strategies, Portland, the video features Maine farmers talking about new ways of connecting with consumers in times of crises. UMaine Extension sustainable agriculture professional Jason Lilley also comments on the process of creating the directory map. The directory and all UMaine Extension resources in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are on the Connecting with Maine Communities During COVID-19 webpage.

Wiscasset Newspaper highlights Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station

22 Apr 2020

The Wiscasset Newspaper referenced the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station at the University of Maine's College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture in the article "Home gardening on rise on peninsula." Bob Boyd, co-owner of Boothbay Region Greenhouses, said the station is the best place to go for soil sampling. Sample kits and testing are available at the laboratory.

Press Herald references UMaine, IFW turkey study

22 Apr 2020

The Portland Press Herald referenced a turkey population study conducted by the University of Maine and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the article "Hunters will not need to tag turkeys during Maine spring hunt this year." The study, which began in 2018, involves the state IFW banding male wild turkeys to obtain more refined turkey population estimates across Maine's 29 Wildlife Management Districts, according to the article. The study has one more year left and the agency hopes to have updated estimates in two years, said Maine Wildlife Division Director Nate Webb.

BDN reports on UMaine coaches joining effort to reinforce COVID-19 guidance

22 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that two University of Maine basketball coaches, Richard Barron and Amy Vachon, joined an effort to promote the guidance issued to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through social media. Team New England, which includes the two UMaine coaches and 43 others from the 23 Division I schools, wants to capitalize on the coaches' influence to inform and reinforce the importance of state and federal guidance for the pandemic. "We felt like there might be some people we could reach who would hear the guidelines either for the first time or in a way that would encourage compliance,"Barron said. "And we also wanted to say thank you publicly to those who are on the front lines." Vachon shared a video message about the outbreak on Twitter. "Along with all the other coaches in New England, we want to reach out to our fans and let you know we're thinking about you," she said in the video. "I know this is a really, really hard time right now and some days are a lot tougher than others. But we're going to get through this."

Gill discusses Mount Everest with Live Science for Earth Day article

22 Apr 2020

Live Science interviewed Jacquelyn Gill, an associate professor of terrestrial paleoecology at the University of Maine School of Biology and Ecology and the Climate Change Institute, for the article "Why celebrate Earth Day? Here are 12 reasons." Scientists interviewed for the article shared amazing facts about the planet for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Gill discussed Mount Everest. "The top of Mount Everest is limestone from an ancient ocean floor formed 470 million years ago — before life had even left the ocean! I love this fact, because it reminds us of the tremendous changes our Earth has gone through to bring us to this moment in time, from mass extinctions to asteroid impacts and vast movements of the very ground we stand on. Just as humans are one small speck in a vast universe (thanks, Carl Sagan!), so too are we a tiny blip of time in the long arc of Earth's history," she said.

Cobo-Lewis talks COVID-19 data, psychology with WVOM

22 Apr 2020

WVOM radio interviewed Alan Cobo-Lewis, associate professor of psychology at the University of Maine, about the coronavirus pandemic for an episode of "GHRT Rewind." Cobo-Lewis discussed COVID-19 case data, trends, the need for widespread testing to obtain accurate figures and the psychology of people during the outbreak. "The endgame is to eradicate (COVID-19), or to get it down to a low enough level where you can deal with it," he said. "Either with effective treatment or preferably, eventually a vaccine."

Crawley, Trostel recent guests on Maine Calling

22 Apr 2020

Maine Public interviewed Andrew Crawley, assistant professor of regional economic development with University of Maine School of Economics, and Philip Trostel, professor of economics and public policy with the UMaine School of Economics and Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, for the Maine Calling piece "Maine's Economic Outlook: The Forecast for Economic Health Beyond the COVID-19 Crisis." The piece explores how the pandemic could affect the state economy, as well as what indicators economists have been following to determine the outlook.

UMaine researcher part of new National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology and Education Center

22 Apr 2020

A University of Maine researcher who is a national expert on terrorism research is part of the new National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology and Education (NCITE) Center of Excellence at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The center is funded by a 10-year, $36 million grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Office of University Programs. The University of Nebraska at Omaha leads a national consortium of industry partners and 17 universities selected by the Department of Homeland Security. The new NCTIE is directed by Gina Ligon, the Jack and Stephanie Koraleski Chair for Collaboration Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Karyn Sporer, a UMaine assistant professor of sociology, is one of 63 researchers in the consortium. She serves as a principal investigator for counterterrorism and terrorism prevention research. Sporer received a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and continues to collaborate with a research team there. The team of scholars and faculty from diverse disciplines, including business, industrial/organizational psychology, and information science and technology, is examining the organizational structure of and use of innovation (e.g., malevolent creativity, including innovative weapons, recruitment tactics, etc.) by violent terrorist organizations. Sporer's research project as part of the new center will focus on the role of families of violent Islamic extremists in reporting suspicious behavior. According to Sporer, family members of violent extremists play an important part in preventing terrorism, whether it be with deradicalization and

disengagement, or by alerting authorities when concerned for the safety of their loved one(s) and/or others. “Given the threat posed by a variety of extremists across ideologies in the United States, including the impending release of the many convicted terrorists currently incarcerated, and the important roles family members play in reporting suspicious activity and pre-operational planning behaviors, a better understanding of families of violent extremists is warranted,” Sporer says. The research will employ in-depth, life-history interviews with family members (parents, siblings, intimate partners, and/or children) of suspected or convicted violent extremists in order to understand their unique experiences and to garner insight for barriers they have for reporting suspicious activities associated with ideological violence, says Sporer. “Specifically, using my experiences working with and interviewing hard-to-reach populations, I will focus specifically on interviews with female family members (e.g., mothers, siblings) of Salafi-Jihadist extremists,” Sporer says. In NCITE, Sporer joins leading experts from Stanford University, King’s College London, Pennsylvania State University, George Washington University, University of Central Florida, San Diego State University, Chapman University, Michigan State University, SUNY Albany, University of Oklahoma, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska Medical Center, John Jay College, the National Security Research Institute, and Research Triangle International. News releases about NCITE from the Department of Homeland Security and the University of Nebraska at Omaha are online. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.571.3745

Maine Day ‘going global’ through remote service April 29

22 Apr 2020

Maine Day, inaugurated by President Arthur Hauck in 1935, is traditionally held on the last regular Wednesday of the spring semester at the University of Maine. As part of the annual spring cleanup tradition, UMaine students, faculty and staff take part in a day of service and complete volunteer projects to spruce up campus. This year, for the first time, Maine Day looks different. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UMaine students and community members are spread across several continents with stay-at-home orders and lockdowns in place. To keep the tradition alive, the Division of Student Life is helping Maine Day go global with service projects that can be completed from home. A list of projects is online, with categories ranging from major-based service and spring cleaning, to making cards for essential workers or helping staff the national crisis text line. If you participate in a service project, fill out this form to let the Division of Student Life know how you’re giving back, and send pictures of you doing service to um.getinvolved@maine.edu and tag them on social media (@um.getinvolved) to receive a fun surprise gift. For more information, contact Ben Evans at um.getinvolved@maine.edu.

SEANET’s legacy: The impact of interdisciplinary aquaculture research on Maine

22 Apr 2020

The Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET) was officially completed in January 2020. Since August 2014, the program developed new aquaculture siting tools, discovered new information pertaining to emerging aquaculture sectors, provided suggestions regarding food safety, and continued providing information on aquaculture research outcomes to state officials, stakeholders and community members. SEANET, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) program as a Research Infrastructure Improvement Track 1 project, was the first multiyear effort to research sustainable ecological aquaculture systems (SEASs) as an emerging industry in Maine. The five-year, $20 million grant was highly collaborative, and facilitated interdisciplinary research projects executed by the University of Maine, in collaboration with the University of New England, Downeast Institute, Maine Maritime Academy, Bowdoin College, St. Joseph’s College, and the University of Southern Maine. Program outcomes helped inform sustainable aquaculture practices and promote STEM education among the broader public, including diverse and under-reached communities. Findings, products and outreach that emerged from SEANET related to: aquaculture site selection, sea vegetable aquaculture and food safety, effects of warming ocean temperatures and ocean acidification on species such as lobsters and oysters, potential new and resilient aquaculture species, and the potential impact of aquaculture on Maine’s workforce. SEANET research has been further developed and absorbed by the Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI) at UMaine. This will allow the legacy of the program to live on through continued interdisciplinary research that builds on SEANET’s findings, while responding to new questions that are sure to be asked as the aquaculture industry continues to expand. SEANET research and collaborations have played a key role in helping stakeholders and community members better understand how the utilization of sustainable aquaculture may be able to support and benefit the state as a whole. In addition, SEANET has been a catalyst for future funding and research related to aquaculture and workforce development in Maine. To learn more about SEANET project accomplishments, the full story is here. Contact: Marcella Silver, marcella.silver@maine.edu, 207.581.2289

2020 Edith Patch Award winners announced

23 Apr 2020

Four University of Maine students have been named winners of the 2020 Edith Patch Award. The award is given annually to undergraduate and graduate students who have demonstrated scholarship and service in the fields of science, agriculture, engineering, or environmental education, and who show promise for future contributions in their field. The award is named in honor of UMaine’s first woman scientist, Edith Marion Patch (1876–1954), who was an internationally renowned entomologist, environmentalist and educator in the early 20th century. It is given by the Friends of Dr. Edith Marion Patch in celebration of her life and legacy, as well as in recognition of the accomplishments of the next generation of women at UMaine. This year’s winners are:

- Catherine “Kit” Hamley, a doctoral student in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program, with a certificate in interdisciplinary climate studies
- Sara McBride, a master’s student in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program
- Arianna “Ari” Giguere, an undergraduate student and Honors College member who is majoring in physics and minoring in mathematics
- Brittany Torchia, an undergraduate student and Honors College member who is majoring in marine sciences

Hamley’s groundbreaking work has been internationally recognized for its focus on early human land use impacts in sensitive ecosystems, such as the Falklands, Alaska and coastal Maine; and for considering the relationships among human arrival, climate change, vegetation and megafaunal extinctions. Following in the footsteps of Edith Patch, Hamley is committed to opening the world of science to young learners, reaching thousands of students across the nation with her live-tweeting, virtual Q&As and field videos. McBride’s research focuses on tick-borne disease ecology. Integrating fieldwork, pathogen testing, and spatial analysis, she has created a risk map for exposure to ticks and Lyme disease in Acadia National Park. In addition to providing a tool that can protect park staff and visitors, her work has yielded the ecologically important finding that the greatest risk of tick exposure in the park occurs in areas burned during the Fire of 1947, where old growth coniferous forest has been replaced by more “tick-friendly” deciduous and mixed forest habitat. Like Edith Patch, McBride shares her skills and knowledge as a respected collaborator, mentor and teacher. Giguere has played an important role as teacher and mentor for her fellow undergraduates. Working as a Maine Learning Assistant, she has developed innovative ways to present challenging content for physics

undergraduates. Giguere has earned multiple, highly competitive research opportunities through the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program, including investigating surface science at UMaine, engaging in computational physics at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; and working on ultrafast lasers at the École Nationale Supérieure de Techniques Avancées in Paris. Her Honors thesis integrates her work in math, physics, neurocognition, and education, using a computational tool to analyze middle school students' understanding of energy. Echoing Edith Patch's outreach to teachers and learners, Giguere's work will make an important contribution to the professional development of teachers and the experiences of their students. Torchia's groundbreaking research integrates fieldwork, parasite taxonomy, pathology and molecular biology in the investigation of the myxosporidian parasite *Parahepatospora carcini* in the green crab, an invasive species in Maine waters. This aggressive crab is a threat to mussels and other Maine shellfish, so Torchia's work might prove an important contribution to strategies for controlling this aquatic invader. Torchia is a member of the UMaine Track and Field Team. She has also been active with the Animal and Veterinary Science (AVS) Society by caring for animals at Witter Farm, assisting with the births of the University's Icelandic lambs, and helping guide equestrian experiences for learners with disabilities. Like Edith Patch, she has demonstrated excellence, not only in her focused research, but also in her approach to the wider world. In addition to the Edith Patch Award winners, four UMaine women have been named Distinguished Nominees: doctoral students Tish Carr and Stephanie Shea, who are both in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program; Ruth Sexton, a master's student in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program; and Tongling Ge, a doctoral student in the School of Food and Agriculture.

2020 CUGR summer fellowship winners announced

23 Apr 2020

The University of Maine's Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) has announced the 2020 CUGR summer fellowship winners. Undergraduate proposals will be awarded up to a maximum of $3,300 each. Funding is provided by the UMaine Office of the Vice President for Research and Maine Space Grant Consortium (MSGC). This year's winners are:

- Dawsin Blanchard, computer science, "Deep Network Compression Using Information Theoretic Scores," advised by Salimeh Yasaei Sekeh
- Jacob Cote, microbiology, "The Role of Prophage Mediated Defense in Pathogenic Mycobacteria," advised by Sally Molloy
- Janet Elvidge, studio art, "Creating a Website: Even a Frugal, Non-Techie Artist Can Do It," advised by Giles Timms
- Lauren Genenbacher, political science, "How Capitalism Corrupted America's Public Drinking Water Systems and How the Local and Federal Political Environment Helped Entrench This Issue," advised by Stefano Tijerina
- Emma Gibbons, botany, "Investigating the effects of cytokinin hormone in drought resistance of lowbush and highbush blueberries," advised by Yongjiang Zhang
- Joshua Hamilton, biomedical engineering, "Tuning CNF Fibril Orientation for Tissue Integration," advised by Karissa Tilbury
- Sara Hunt, child development and family relations, "A Qualitative Analysis of Lesbian and Gay Coparenting," advised by Daniel Puhlman
- Kiera Luu, marine sciences, "Dulse sea vegetable nursery," advised by Timothy Bowden
- Joseph Patton, electrical and computer engineering, "MESAT-1 Electrical Power Subsystem," advised by Ali Abedi
- Christian Potts, molecular and cellular biology, "Mechanisms of Cetylpyridinium Chloride Inhibition of Immune Mast Cell Function: Focus on Ca2+ Mobilization," advised by Julie Gosse
- Marlys Rietdyk, botany, "Effects of Warming on Wild Blueberry Growth Pattern and Production," advised by Yongjiang Zhang
- Nicole Ritchey, marine sciences; "Fungal Communities in Ancient and Contemporary Marine Sponges," advised by Laurie Connell
- Chelsea Sainsbury, chemistry, "Synthesis of Photoswitchable Triptan Derivatives and Evaluation of their Activity on Serotonin Receptors," advised by Michael Kienzler
- Karim Seifeldin, management, "Understanding the Pattern of Underdevelopment in the United States," advised by Stefano Tijerina
- Miranda Snyder, secondary education, "How Alumni of Middle and High School Activist Organizations Perceive Their Involvement Related to Their Academic Self-Concept," advised by Susan Gardner
- Basel White, biomedical engineering, "Wavelet-Based Automatic Pectoral Muscle Segmentation from Mammograms," advised by Andre Khalil

'The Maine Question' podcast looks at bioengineering

23 Apr 2020

The latest episode of "The Maine Question" asks, what is bioengineering? It's one of the fastest growing and changing fields in the world of engineering. Bioengineering, or biomedical engineering, is changing the way we do everything from producing fuel and paper to unlocking new ways to improve animal and human health. It's a growing field — particularly for young women aspiring to be engineers. In the eighth episode of the second season, host Ron Lisnet talks with Karissa Tilbury, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering at UMaine, who helps us explore this relative newcomer to the world of engineering. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays this season. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

BDN highlights native plants series from Extension, Audubon

23 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News highlighted the four-part series of online classes from University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Audubon about using native plants to benefit birds and other wildlife in the article "5 free online farming and gardening courses you can take right now." Anyone interested in participating can register online. Participants will receive Zoom information after registering. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu. More information also is available on the program webpage. The Associated Press, The Lincoln County News, Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel and Daily Bulldog also reported on the series. U.S. News & World Report, Benzie Record Patriot and The Free Press carried the AP article.

WABI reports on farmer meeting with Pingree, Extension

23 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on a Zoom meeting hosted by U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension to hear concerns from local farmers about the coronavirus outbreak. Pingree said the next federal funding package will address some of the issues farmers experienced in applying for loan assistance, according to the report. “There will be some changes, and there is certainly more money. We ran out of money very quickly. This will allow more funding in that program. There’s $60-million set aside that’s very specific to people who go to small banks and credit unions,” she said.

Media highlight Alumni Association's Black Bear Tuition Raffle

23 Apr 2020

WGME (Channel 13 in Portland), WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) and WQCB radio station (Q 106.5 FM) highlighted the UMaine Alumni Association’s annual Black Bear Tuition Raffle. The prize — full tuition for a year, or 30 credit hours — will be awarded at a public drawing next month. Based on current in-state tuition rates, the dollar value of those 30 credit hours will be $8,790.

BDN publishes Center on Aging Director Kaye’s opinion piece

23 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News published a guest column by Lenard Kaye, a professor of social work and director of the University of Maine Center on Aging, titled “Older adults are facing dual public health emergencies.” Kaye is a member of the Maine chapter of the national Scholars Strategy Network, which brings together scholars across the country to address public challenges and their policy implications. Members’ columns appear in the BDN every other week.

AP, WABI report on UMaine-led Franco American Portal project

23 Apr 2020

The Associated Press and WABI (Channel 5) reported on a University of Maine initiative to create a first-ever bilingual portal to Franco American heritage records from archives in the United States and Canada. The effort, led by Franco American Programs at UMaine, received a nearly $60,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The online, bilingual Franco American Portal will make Franco American records more visible, searchable and accessible to researchers, educators, students, genealogists and the general public. The Bangor Daily News, U.S. News & World Report, Maine Public, Washington Times and West Plains Daily Quill shared the AP article.

Qualls named for three-year term as UMM head of campus

23 Apr 2020

Daniel Qualls has been appointed vice president for academic affairs and head of campus at the University of Maine at Machias for a three-year term. Qualls, an associate professor of education, has served in an interim capacity since August 2019. Qualls joined the UMM community in 2008 and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. “Dan has provided strong leadership during his interim appointment and has solid support from UMM stakeholders,” says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, to whom the UMM vice president and head of campus reports. “He very clearly understands the need to continue to reshape UMM to its current and future reality, and the opportunities that lie ahead in leveraging the UMaine-UMM relationship.” Promoting enrollment growth, increasing efficiencies, and advancing program and research opportunities are at the heart of the primary partnership between UMaine and the University of Maine at Machias that began July 1, 2017. At that time, UMM became a regional campus of UMaine, while maintaining its mission, degree programs and leadership role in the community. “I'm happy to help provide continuity in leadership and look forward to continuing to work closely with folks at the University of Maine at Machias, the University of Maine and the University of Maine System,” Qualls says. “I am committed to providing UMM students with a quality education as we move toward the future.” Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Maine 4-H hosts state public speaking awards ceremony April 25

24 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is holding its annual state public speaking awards ceremony online starting at 3 p.m. April 25. Public speaking helps youth build confidence, organization and presentation skills. UMaine Extension held its 4-H regional competitions online in March, and now 32 youth, between ages 12 and 19, from across Maine are preparing to present their illustrated talks and demonstrations. Media are invited to view the awards ceremony being live-streamed beginning at 3 p.m. via Zoom Webinar, Facebook Live and YouTube on the event webpage. For more information, contact Sheila Norman at 207.951.7542 or sheila.norman@maine.edu.

Career Center offers alumni free career coaching to help during pandemic

24 Apr 2020

The Career Center at the University of Maine is offering alumni, including those who lost their jobs as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, free career coaching to help them secure employment amid turbulent times. Alumni can schedule a phone or Zoom appointment with the Career Center for a job search strategy session, resume, CV, cover letter review, interview coaching and mock interviews. The center offers two free 30-minute appointments to each alumnus, which can be scheduled between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday by emailing umainecareercenter@maine.edu. Additional times may be available depending on requests. Crisanne Blackie, center director, said unlike career counseling, career coaching provides short-term guidance for immediate actions employment seekers can take to help secure a job as soon as possible. The coaches, which include Blackie and career counselor BJ Roach, will help participants identify occupational opportunities based on their skills and develop a plan that identifies ways to seize on one of those prospects. “It’s a great process for helping people move forward quickly,” Blackie said. “We’re not expecting alumni to work with us for very long, and helping them navigate their options will be important.” Alumni are encouraged to submit any pertinent materials, such as resumes, ahead of time. The Career Center will also grant participants access to CareerLink, an online tool that provides a job search database, employer information and other related tools. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, the center continues to offer its usual services. Additional information on how to access them can be found on the center website.

Penobscot Bay Press reports on Extension aiding volunteers in Blue Hill

24 Apr 2020

The Penobscot Bay Press reported that the University of Maine Cooperative Extension assisted Hands of Hope, a volunteer group in Blue Hill, in its effort to help residents grow Victory gardens. UMaine extension's assistance allowed the group to offer free seeds to families in need, according to the report.

WWJ-TV reports on list naming UMaine 11th safest campus in nation

24 Apr 2020

WWJ-TV (Channel 62 in Detroit) reported on "The Safest Colleges Campuses in America in 2020" list from YourLocalSecurity.com, which ranked the University of Maine as the 11th safest college campus. YourLocalSecurity.com, partner of SafeStreets — an ADT Authorized Provider, aims to provide the security tools and information needed to build a safer home environment, and created its list using data from the U.S. Department of Education's Campus Safety and Security and the FBI's 2018 Uniform Crime Report.

Penobscot Bay Press highlights Extension's gardening initiatives

24 Apr 2020

The Penobscot Bay Press highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Harvest for Hunger Program and "Garden Chats: Growing Resilience from the Ground Up" series in its article "Healthy Acadia suggests sharing home garden produce."

News Center Maine interviews student about fall campus reopening plans

24 Apr 2020

News Center Maine interviewed University of Maine first-year student Emma Ranco about the University of Maine System (UMS) planning to reopen campuses in the fall. Ranco, a nursing major, said she was excited to hear that UMS is devising a plan to bring students back to campuses next semester. "It's been hard being away," she said. "Any way we can get back to school and back to normal, we want to do."

Climate.gov publishes Q&A with Allen about her research

24 Apr 2020

Climate.gov, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, published a Q&A with Katherine Allen, an assistant professor with the University of Maine School of Earth and Climate Sciences and Climate Change Institute. Allen, a former NOAA Climate and Global Change Postdoctoral Fellow, answered questions about her career path, her previous and current research and her experiences as a postdoctoral fellow with NOAA. She has recently been researching Gulf of Maine temperature trends and variability during the past 11,000 years, particularly through analyzing the chemical composition of marine microfossils.

Blackie talks employment during outbreak with Maine Public

24 Apr 2020

Maine Public interviewed Crisanne Blackie, director of the University of Maine Career Center, for the story "Maine's College Seniors Face Uncertainty After Graduation." Blackie said the economic uncertainty brought by the coronavirus outbreak has unnerved college seniors as they try to finish their final semester and search for employment. On the other hand, employers continue to post job opportunities, and Blackie said she continues to encourage seniors to consider opportunities they might not have in the past. "I think if they can go for it and embrace the uncertainty and say, 'I'm willing, maybe, to take a job that I hadn't looked at before, because it wasn't really what I was interested in. But I could do this job, or I could do an internship, or I could volunteer,'" she said. "And look at everything that they do as an opportunity to develop skills, to learn about themselves. They may be surprised at where they end up — in a very different place than where they thought." The Bangor Daily News shared the story.

Well News interviews Brewer about U.S. Senate Race in Maine

24 Apr 2020

The Well News interviewed Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, about the polls for the 2020 U.S. Senate race in Maine. Brewer talked about the political stances and actions of U.S. Rep. Susan Collins and her challenger, Sara Gideon, speaker of Maine's House of Representatives.

Birthisel talks to NYT about solarization weed control approach

24 Apr 2020

The New York Times interviewed Sonja Birthisel, a postdoctoral research associate with the University of Maine School of Forest Resources, for the article "The Easier Way to Make a Garden Bed." Birthisel talks about the chemical-free weed-control strategy of solarization. "Soil solarization is the practice of covering moistened soil with clear plastic for a period of weeks, to create a local greenhouse effect," she said. "If you wanted to take a piece of lawn and turn that into a garden, solarization would be a great first step."

Updated backyard poultry resources from UMaine Extension

24 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is featuring new publications on an updated webpage of resources for backyard poultry keepers. New and updated bulletins available for free download include:

- #2219 Giving chicks a good start
- #2221 Simple Steps to Starting Healthy Chicks in Maine #2222 Nutrition for backyard chicken flocks in Maine

The webpage has been redesigned for ease of use and includes additional topics of interest. Links to fact sheets, videos, webinars, and a list of Maine contacts for health and management issues are available. For more information contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu.

New resources on conducting seedling sales from UMaine Extension

24 Apr 2020

With planting season for gardeners and growers on the horizon, University of Maine Cooperative Extension offers a new collection of resources for retailers and farmers' markets on seedling sales to the general public. Resources were compiled in collaboration with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Seedling Sales Resources During COVID-19 includes guidelines for online ordering and sales, social distancing in retail spaces, and setting up handwashing stations. Other tools are relevant signage from Maine DACF and the CDC, new fact sheets, and a webinar dedicated to seedling sales and logistics. For more information contact Rebecca Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Morning Ag Clips, KJMS report UMaine Extension offering updated poultry resources

27 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release reporting that there are new publications available on an updated webpage of resources for backyard poultry keepers. For more information contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Press Herald quotes Breece in article on Maine's economy

27 Apr 2020

The Portland Press Herald quoted James Breece, an associate professor of economics at the University of Maine, in the article "Maine's economic fallout from coronavirus could be nation's worst." Some models suggest Maine is especially vulnerable to dire economic consequences from the coronavirus pandemic, the article states. "Bottom line, I think that Maine's economy is a little more dependent on social interaction than the rest of the country," said Breece.

Hargest recent guest on 'Maine Calling'

27 Apr 2020

Pamela Hargest, a horticulture professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, was a recent guest on Maine Public's "Maine Calling" radio show. The topic of the show was gardening for relaxation and growing food, including what people can do now to get vegetables, flowers and their yards off to a good start, and what to plant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WABI covers virtual presentation on business, AI

27 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) covered a virtual presentation by Yonggang "Tim" Lu, Harold Alfond Associate Professor of Business Analytics at the University of Maine, focused on the implications of the coronavirus pandemic on artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics. The presentation was held via Zoom at 11 a.m. Friday, April 25. "Data analytics, artificial intelligence, are more like tools in the toolbox of bigger companies, such as Google or Facebook. But I really believe those skills and knowledge will be increasingly important for small- to medium-sized businesses in the future," said Lu.

Press Herald speaks with Handley, Lilley about uncertainty for farmers during COVID-19 pandemic

27 Apr 2020

The Portland Press Herald spoke with Jason Lilley, a sustainable agriculture professional, and David Handley, a small fruit and vegetable specialist, both with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the article "Already in an unpredictable business, farmers face more uncertainties than ever." Farmers have to contend with a whole new set of challenges amid the coronavirus pandemic, in addition to the ones that accompany normal growing seasons. In the first two weeks of the pandemic, the Beginning Farmer Resource Network of Maine surveyed farmers about its effects, the Press Herald reported. The survey included a question asking farmers what they are concerned about. "It was everything," said Lilley. "The complete lack of certainty about anything." But small farms are seeing a surge in demand through distribution methods such as farm stands, CSAs and farmers markets that have been adapted to comply with social distancing measures. "Customers have so far been overwhelmingly supportive of their local farms and farmers," said Handley. With the typical boom of seedling sales in mid-May approaching, UMaine Extension has put together fact sheets to help farmers "think through how they can lay out seedlings to keep people safe," Lilley said. Overall, Maine farmers are facing the challenges of the pandemic with "innovation and grim determination," said Handley.

Media report UMaine nursing students graduate early to help on front lines

27 Apr 2020

News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5) and WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) reported 38 students graduated two weeks early from the University of Maine School of Nursing to help on the front lines during the pandemic. “Words cannot express my gratitude to this class,” Kelley Strout, interim director of the School of Nursing, told News Center Maine. “Essentially we asked them to submit assignments three weeks early, and they’ve been working around the clock. They have not complained, they’ve been motivated.” The students will become registered nurses when they pass their national licensing exam. Thirty-three of the students plan to work at health care facilities in Maine, according to the reports. “This is the end goal. This is what we’ve been preparing for through our rigorous curriculum. Over 1,000 hours of clinical rotations,” said graduating student Nicole Brown, who will begin working in the intensive care unit at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center after passing her board exams. “There are things during this time that we can change, and things that we cannot change, so it’s going to be having the courage to change what we can,” said graduating student Kately Ford, who will work in the ICU at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Maryland. “They will be the most memorable group of students we’ve ever graduated from our school of nursing, because honestly, it’s a historic moment,” said Strout. A virtual pinning ceremony was held at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 25 via Facebook Live.

Virtual groundbreaking for UMaine engineering building April 28 at 1 p.m.

27 Apr 2020

The University of Maine will hold a virtual groundbreaking ceremony for the $78 million Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center at 1 p.m., April 28. Due to coronavirus pandemic protocols, the previously planned in-person event is virtual and available online. Construction of the 105,000-square-foot facility will begin in May, with workers following appropriate COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2022. WBRC Architects Engineers, based in Bangor, and Ellenzweig of Boston designed the Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center; Consigli Construction of Milford, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine is leading its construction.

UMaine students receive Boren Awards

04 May 2020

Two University of Maine graduate students have been awarded the Boren Fellowship and one undergraduate student is an alternate for the Boren Scholarship. The Boren Awards fund the intensive study of language and culture abroad by U.S. undergraduate or graduate students who plan a career in public service. The $24,000 fellowship funds 37 to 52 weeks of language study abroad. Melissa Garand of Manchester, Maine, a 4+1 international affairs, French and Honors undergraduate, and SPIA global policy graduate student has been awarded a Boren Fellowship to study Arabic in Amman, Jordan. Dakota Gramour of Houlton, Maine, a master’s student in history, has been awarded a Boren Fellowship to study Polish in Krakow. Marco D’Amato of Rockport, Maine, a sophomore in international affairs and Honors, is an alternate for a Boren Scholarship to study Turkish in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Institute of International Education will work with these students to determine when it is safe for them to travel and start their programs. The last Boren Fellowship and Boren Scholarship were awarded to UMaine students in 1999 and 1994, respectively. The applications are coordinated by UMaine’s Office of Major Scholarships. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine experts create new learning network to help China protect its fish resources

27 Apr 2020

A team of researchers from the University of Maine is developing a new network of international experts, including scientists and policymakers who are interested in China’s fisheries, to investigate the path forward to protect the country’s marine fish populations from overfishing and related sustainability challenges. The UMaine Fisheries Learning Network project, spearheaded by Yong Chen, professor of fisheries population dynamics, and Bowen Chang, coordinator of the new network, received a $163,300 grant from the Paradise International Foundation. The international network will provide pertinent research and recommend management practices to help China’s policymakers and fisheries managers make the necessary changes to more quickly achieve sustainable fisheries in China. The learning network project follows and complements the Marine Fisheries Partnership (MFP) project, another international collaborative funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, also coordinated by Chang and based in Chen’s laboratory in UMaine’s School of Marine Sciences. MFP conducts annual study tours to bring key scientists, fishery managers, lawmakers, and nongovernment organizations from China and beyond to the same table for exchange and collaborations, with the ultimate aim of generating additional ideas for better fisheries management in China. By offering an opportunity for more Chinese fishery experts to join the cutting-edge, international conversation about how best to preserve marine fish from existing and emerging threats, the learning network project should strengthen science-based policymaking in China and other countries, and foster more collaboration among officials, says Chang. “We strive to create a platform of science and policy exchange and collaboration,” he says. “We want people to work together and bring their expertise to the table.” China is the largest fishing and fish exporting nation in the world. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the country harvested 65.2 million metric tons of fish through capture and aquaculture in 2015, when its fishing fleet consisted of 672,000 motor-powered ships and 370,000 non-powered ships. Overfishing has threatened the sustainability of China’s fisheries and a source of food supply, prompting lawmakers and fishery managers to fight back with protective regulations. “Sometimes catch is way above what science says is sustainable,” Chang says. While China wants to achieve fishery sustainability, and is eager to adopt new technology that will improve fishery management, Chang says, their efforts are not maximized due to a lack of cohesion among fishery policymakers, scientists, and managers across the national, provincial, and local levels. The new learning network, Chang says, should help “break the silos” separating them and collate their efforts, increasing efficiency. “Trying to manage these fisheries as solitary entities seems unproductive sometimes,” Chang says. The multiyear effort to develop the learning network includes composing papers that tackle broad questions about fishery management policy, forming a think tank that will work with Chinese lawmakers to implement reforms effectively and with strong scientific backing, and create additional working groups to tackle emerging problems. The group also hopes to craft a policy toolbox that will offer policymakers easy access to research and institutional fishery management knowledge from various experts in Europe, South America and other areas. The new network will explore the feasibility of various policies implemented in various fisheries for China, such as imposing capture limits for certain fish species and fisheries — also known as total allowable catches (TAC) — which have been incorporated on a trial basis at small Chinese fisheries. As well as Territorial Use Rights for Fishing programs (TURFs) and growing cooperatives that would unite fishermen and advocate for their rights and interests, Chang says. The group also wants to increase data collection, particularly through electronic monitoring, to help guide policy advice. “There’s a lot of political will to achieve fishery sustainability,” Chang says. “In order to achieve that, we need more data collection.” The learning network unites fishery experts worldwide to share recommendations for best practices with each other and government officials to prevent the depletion of fish populations and inability for fishermen to harvest them. The UMaine-based collaborative has advised Chinese central and provincial policymakers on fishery

management since 2018. The group has also facilitated research partnerships among experts from the U.S. and Chinese Academy of Fisheries Sciences and supported inter-university relationships between the University of Maine and three Chinese universities: the Ocean University of China, the Shanghai Ocean University and the Zhejiang Ocean University. Chang says by bringing scientists from across the globe together and garnering more expertise for Chinese fishery officials to rely on, the learning network builds off MFP's goal to serve as a platform for collaborative research, training and scientific exchange. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@umaine.edu; Bowen Chang, bowen.chang@maine.edu

Graduation announcement packages to benefit the Student Crisis Fund

28 Apr 2020

One tradition that comes with earning a degree is announcing it to family and friends. When Printing and Mailing Services at the University of Maine unveiled its two official exclusive Class of 2020 announcement designs, the department wanted to ensure it was giving back to students in need. "Printing Services has a long tradition of producing a wide variety of university print material expressing the commitment we all place on the importance of providing a successful experience for our students and future alumni," says Mark Boyorak, associate director of Printing and Mailing Services. "With the tremendous strain this pandemic has placed on our lives, there are those who will encounter financial difficulties which will impact the ability to continue to pursue their educational goals. "Earning a college degree is something to celebrate," says Boyorak. "Through discussion with Vice President [for Student Life] and Dean of Students Robert Dana, the idea of proceeds from the sales of the 2020 graduation announcement, made on campus, back to the Student Crisis Fund became reality. It truly is students supporting students." The University of Maine Foundation created the Student Crisis Fund to provide "emergency assistance for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Maine or any of its outreach centers or its regional campus for which the student has no other source of funds." Announcements can be ordered on the University Bookstore website. All announcement orders also will receive free shipping.

UMaine Extension 4-H healthy living workshop for teens May 5

28 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H members who have been selected for the National 4-H Healthy Living Summit 2020 team will offer a free online workshop for teens from 6–7 p.m. May 5. "Don't Fall Into the Thinking Trap" is designed to educate youth ages 13–18 about some common negative thought patterns and how to develop useful coping strategies. Participants will engage in small group learning, determine their own thinking patterns and learn ways to revise unhealthy thinking styles. This is the third #EmpoweringMEandYou lesson, part of a multi-year project affiliated with the National Youth Summits on Healthy Living. Each lesson is designed by Maine 4-H youth, with staff assistance, to be taught by and for teens in middle school and high school. The workshop is free; registration is required on the event webpage. 4-H youth development professionals and youth educators from other organizations also are welcome to join. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sara Conant, 207.781.6099; sara.conant@maine.edu.

Camire quoted in Press Herald article on pandemic eating habits

28 Apr 2020

Mary Ellen Camire, a professor of food science and human nutrition at the University of Maine, was quoted in a Portland Press Herald article about how people's eating habits are changing during the coronavirus pandemic. "It's a very stressful time. People are going to seek food, and food is certainly better than alcohol or other vices. But you do feel more tired and worn out when you gain weight, and so people might want to plan their snacks and treats, and spread them out a little bit more," she said. "Facebook is full of people showing what they baked. Well, do you need that whole 9 x 13 pan of brownies? Could you freeze some of them to save for a day when you don't have brownies, and take some of that temptation away?"

AP notes UMaine Extension accepting Master Food Preserver applications

28 Apr 2020

The Associated Press noted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension is accepting applications for the Master Food Preserver program until May 1. The 10-session course is open to anyone 21 years or older, and is expected to take place in Falmouth and Brunswick. It will cover subjects including prevention of food-borne illness, food storage and safety and canning basics. The sessions run through the summer, AP reported. More information is online. U.S. News & World Report, WGME (Channel 13), WPFO (Fox 23 Maine) and WGAN (98.5 FM) carried the AP report.

BDN quotes Saber in report on nursing staff, students helping during pandemic

28 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News quoted Deborah Saber, an assistant professor in the University of Maine's School of Nursing, in a report on Maine university nursing staff and students helping out during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in nursing homes. Saber also works in research at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, and signed up through both her employers to be on the roster for surge staffing in case her services as a registered nurse are needed, the article states. "I'm in a place also in my life where I can give more now than when people have small children, because you have to worry about the children getting infected," she said. "It's not without risk, but I'm comfortable going in and helping where I need to be, and that's basically what drove me to sign up." WGME (Channel 13) carried the BDN article.

UMaine holds virtual groundbreaking for $78 million Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center

28 Apr 2020

Today, donors, architects, builders, alumni, friends and colleagues will celebrate the official groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Maine Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center. Due to coronavirus pandemic protocols, the previously planned in-person event is virtual and available online. Construction of the 105,000-square-foot facility will begin in May, with workers following appropriate COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. The project is expected to be completed in spring 2022. Members of the UMaine Class of 2023, who entered as first-year students in fall 2019, will complete their senior

capstone projects in the center. The groundbreaking for the Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center (Ferland EEDC), which has been in the planning and fundraising stages since 2013, is a significant milestone, says Gov. Janet Mills. "This is an exciting opportunity for UMaine students to learn skills in emerging fields in state-of-the-art classrooms in biomedical and mechanical engineering labs. And once we're on the other side of this pandemic, it will be another crucial tool to help us address our workforce challenges, which is critical to the growth of our economy and our success as a state," Mills notes in her video message for the virtual groundbreaking. The Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center will house the Biomedical Engineering Program and Department of Mechanical Engineering, as well as teaching laboratories for the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program. It also will provide space for all UMaine engineering majors to complete their senior capstone projects and collaborative learning classrooms that will serve the entire campus. A record $25 million in private support has been raised from more than 500 alumni, friends, foundations and corporate donors for this capital priority of UMaine's $200 million Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign, led by the University of Maine Foundation. Approval of $50 million in public support from the state Legislature in July 2017 helped to catalyze the campaign. "With major investment from the Maine Legislature, donors knew that this was a priority for the state and the university, and they were eager to see the project completed," says Jeffery Mills, president of the University of Maine Foundation. "This building represents a key economic cornerstone for UMaine and the state — perhaps now more needed than ever." The building's $10 million naming gift, the largest single gift in UMaine history, came from Skowhegan natives E. James "Jim" Ferland '64 and Eileen P. Ferland, and was announced in 2018. "A UMaine engineering education is a wonderful foundation for any number of careers, and in this time of uncertainty, students should take substantial comfort in knowing that 99% of graduates promptly find employment or go on to graduate school - little wonder that engineering school enrollment is growing so rapidly," according to the Ferlands. Five additional major naming gifts to the project came from the Abagadasset Foundation; Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Research Foundation; Harold Alfond Foundation; Packaging Corporation of America; and Pratt & Whitney. "This facility is key to advancing the College of Engineering, the university and the state," says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "Continuing to increase enrollment in engineering to produce the talent needed by industry is critical to Maine's economy. The project itself is a jobs-creator and includes UMaine engineering alumni returning to their alma mater to contribute to its design and construction. This facility ushers in an important new chapter in our future." WBRC Architects Engineers, based in Bangor, and Ellenzweig of Boston designed the Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center; Consigli Construction of Milford, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine is leading its construction. "Ferland EEDC will become the heart of engineering education at the University of Maine," says Dana Humphrey, dean of the College of Engineering. "It will help to retain talented Maine students, as well as attract even more from out of state. This talent pool will provide the engineering graduates and new innovations critical to moving Maine's economy forward." For more information about giving to the University of Maine, contact the University of Maine Foundation, 207.581.5100. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine Extension offers facts on fiddleheads, recipes for rhubarb

29 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension offers information to help find, grow, use, preserve, and store in-season fruits and vegetables in Maine. Seasonal favorites for May include:

- #4198 Facts on Fiddleheads
- #4060 Facts on Edible Wild Greens in Maine
- #4266 Fruits for Health: Rhubarb

Preserving rhubarb by freezing is demonstrated in an easy-to-follow video. UMaine Extension educator Kathy Savoie cautions that information on canning and preparing food should be up-to-date and research-based. Fiddleheads in particular require exact cooking methods — boiling for at least 15 minutes or steaming for 10–12 minutes. Recommendations on canning methods and equipment are best reviewed annually. Updated information, and bulletins to download or order, are available on the Extension website, or by contacting 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine); extension@maine.edu.

Weekly farmer sessions online, by phone each Friday

29 Apr 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Weekly Maine Farm Zoom sessions are moving to 10–11 a.m. each Friday. The meetings are a way for farmers and farm service providers to ask questions, get answers and share information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Instructions for joining the free sessions, a list of scheduled guests, and notes from previous sessions are on the program webpage. The meetings also are accessible by calling 312.626.6799 with meeting ID 99701320496. For more information contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Jarod Webb: Outstanding Graduating Student

29 Apr 2020

Jarod Webb, of Milo, Maine, has been named the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Education and Human Development. Webb is double-majoring in secondary education and English, with a concentration in analytical writing and a minor in psychology. **Cite your top three academic scholarships, achievements and awards:** University of Maine Presidential Scholarship and the Percy P. and Marion T. Archibald Scholarship. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** I have been lucky enough to be a part of many amazing extracurricular activities throughout my time at UMaine. I have been the President of the Student Maine Education Association for the past three years, which has helped me connect to a lot of my peers in the College of Education [and Human Development] and showed me that I really am capable of taking charge of my own education. I am also a member of Kappa Delta Pi, an honor society for education majors. Lastly, I have served as a College of Education and Human Development Ambassador for the last three years as well, where I have been able to attend accepted student events and talk about the University of Maine. All of these things have been integral to my success at UMaine. **What are your plans after graduation?** I'm not 100% sure yet whether I want to attend grad school or if I want to head into the classroom right away. I had some really amazing student teaching experiences that made me excited about getting my own classroom. I'll either continue my education here or I'll move out into the field and teach English in either a high school or middle school setting. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** UMaine has been a key part of my growth personally and professionally. Coming to UMaine was really scary as a first-generation college student from a very small town. It was a bit of a culture shock (even though I certainly don't think of our campus as being huge anymore). But here, I've really come into my own. I have found success socially, professionally and educationally, which is really all I could have ever hoped for. I have met some of the best friends that I have ever had who I know will be around for the rest of my life. I also have confidence in myself and in my professional ability moving forward that I never would've thought possible. All of these are a result of the growth that I've

experienced right here at UMaine. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** I got the opportunity to go to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival during the summer of 2019 because of an independent study I was doing with Caroline Bicks, the Stephen E. King Chair in Literature. Because of the generosity of this fund, and our resident Shakespeare expert Professor Bicks, my friend and colleague Katie Dube and I got to attend a four-day Shakespeare workshop with three Shakespearean productions in southern Oregon. It was the farthest that I have ever been from home, which was really personally exciting. Spending that period of time with fellow Shakespeare lovers was also an incredible experience. **Why UMaine?** I picked UMaine initially because of its proximity to home and the absolutely gorgeous campus. I have stayed for the last four years because of how many incredible resources that are available and connections that I have made. I am so glad that I decided to come here four years ago. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** One of the best things about UMaine is that there are so many opportunities to succeed. From the tutoring center to mental health services and everything in between, you can immediately tell how much the university wants you to succeed. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** I have had the pleasure of working with so many mentor figures at the University of Maine! Here are some of the ones that come to mind: Dominick Varney, Faith Erhardt, Sally Molloy, Caroline Bicks, Laura Cowan, Asli Sezen-Barrie, Courtney Angelosante, Diane Jackson, Rich Kent, Karyn Field, Martha Gladstone and Kristen Shaw. I have gotten to work closely with a lot of these people and they have all really enriched my experience both educationally and personally. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** Take advantage of every opportunity that UMaine has to help you succeed! Find the professors and faculty that you connect with — they are all wonderful people and you will be all the better for it. Most importantly, believe in yourself. If you stick to what makes you happy here, you will always stay above water. It goes so fast, so enjoy your experience while it's happening and you'll knock it out of the park. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Sally Clark: Outstanding Graduating Student

29 Apr 2020

Sally Clark, of Hudson, Maine, has been named the Outstanding Graduating Student in the Division of Lifelong Learning. Clark is majoring in university studies with leadership studies track, and a minor in Maine studies. She was born and raised in Lincoln, Maine. **Cite your top three academic scholarships, achievements and awards:** Instrumental in creating a gender-neutral living community, Prism+, in our residence halls. In addition, I worked full-time with a family of four and took classes each spring, summer and fall since 2015 to achieve my goal of earning my bachelor's degree. **Tell us about the research, internships or scholarly pursuits you were involved in as a student:** I immersed myself in a myriad of education experiences during the pursuit of my bachelor's degree, ranging from astronomy and weather to political science and journalism. I was particularly interested in subjects pertaining to the State of Maine, which earned me a minor in that subject. As stated above, I was instrumental in the creation of the Prism+ community within our residence halls. This is a safe environment for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies to live and thrive in a welcoming environment. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** I am an avid bird watcher and nature lover. I live by a beautiful little lake, and I thrive on the natural beauty that surrounds us. Most of my free time is spent in nature and with friends around a fire. My two girls are grown now, but when they were growing up, I was their Girl Scout leader and was a member of the Central High School Athletic Boosters. I was very busy with their sports and my oldest daughter's violin lessons. It was after they both graduated and I had extra time on my hands that I decided to pursue my own education again. **What are your plans after graduation?** I plan on continuing to serve the students of UMaine through Housing and Dining Services and continue to grow as a person and a staff member here. I hope to someday become a director and further my leadership skills. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** Working at UMaine has enabled me to complete my bachelor's degree without worrying about going further into debt. The two classes that are allowed each semester for staff allowed me to further my education while still maintaining full-time employment. For that, I will be forever grateful. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** Most definitely, the thing that has helped me change and see the world around me differently is being involved in the University of Maine Diversity Leadership Institute. This program has opened my eyes to my own implicit biases and enabled me to view the world and people around me with a more empathetic, understanding view. **Why UMaine?** I had always wanted to work at UMaine. The community, the students, the campus, the people who work here are all committed to the betterment of our society and our environment. UMaine has opened many doors for me in my 13+ years working here, and I hope to remain until I retire. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** I just think the faculty and staff really care. I know I care. I see the effort in the retention and success of our students, and I am very proud to be a small part of that team. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** Barbara Howard, my adviser, was a constant cheerleader for me. Her guidance and encouragement were a tremendous help in my journey. In addition, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the support and encouragement from my supervisor, Jennifer Perry, and my department heads in Auxiliary Services, Dick Young and Dan Sturrup. Without their support, it would have been very difficult to juggle my full-time job and two classes a semester. I will be always thankful for their trust in me and their never-ending support. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** Just take one semester at a time. Don't get too far ahead of yourself, and hone up your time management skills. Even if you are a scared 48-year-old walking into a classroom full of 18–21 year olds, hold your head up high and know that you have something to contribute, too. I am very proud of earning my bachelor's degree at the age of 53. It shows that it's never too late. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Beate Naglestad: Outstanding Graduating International Student

29 Apr 2020

Beate Naglestad, of Oppegård, Norway, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the Maine Business School. Naglestad is majoring in business administration in management, with a minor in international affairs with a focus on international security. **Cite your top three academic scholarships, achievements and awards:** Academic Achievement in Management award, Outstanding Student Athlete in Business award, Outstanding Graduating International Student in the Maine Business School. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** I was a part of the UMaine women's soccer team throughout my four years (being team captain my senior year), and I served as a team representative for two and a half years in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), in addition to being an officer of the Beta Gamma Sigma chapter here on campus. **What are your plans after graduation?** With these uncertain times, I still do not know 100% what I will be doing. Hopefully, I will be working in the U.S. for a year using the Optional Practical Training program, but if that does not work out, I have applied to take a Master at the University of Oslo in Organization, Leadership, and Employment. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** UMaine has opened up a number of opportunities for me, by first of all giving me the opportunity to move across the world and connect with people I would otherwise never have met. The soccer program has given me a family away from home and an arena to focus on something completely different in the busy everyday life as a college student. Academically, UMaine has offered tons of classes that interested me and made it possible for me to pick and choose areas that I wanted to dig deeper into and understand better. The different professors I have had throughout my years here have been super helpful and have also been interested in my life outside of just being one

of their students, which to me, has been valuable. They have come to my games and been interested in learning more about my background and life at home in Norway. They want you to succeed and will help you find a way for you to achieve what you set your mind to. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** The last semester of my senior year, I took the interconnected course "Camden Conference," which is offered to students in multiple fields or majors, creating an environment of mixed backgrounds, specialties and perspectives. We then went to Camden, Maine, for the annual conference hosted there, a conference covering current topics that change every year, as they bring in speakers from all over the world to talk about the topic for an entire weekend. The Camden Conference class is built up to be a reflection of the current world, rather than based on a textbook, which definitely makes you open your eyes and question what is actually going on around you. **Why UMaine?** I chose UMaine because it felt like a small community offering a safe space. The people working here seemed to have your best interest at heart, and it seemed like a place giving their students the ability to succeed. It also reminded me of home, which is a good thing when you move across the world. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** I think the opportunities for student success at UMaine are great. They are as big as you want them to be. There are so many helpful resources and services offered to the students, so if you want to succeed, you can definitely achieve your goals at UMaine. Throughout my four years here, I visited the Career Center, I reached out to professors and created connections, I used my academic counselors for everything they are worth, and I took advantage of office hours whenever I had any questions. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** Throughout my four years at UMaine, two professors stood out to me and helped me reach my goals and understand where I wanted to go in life, as well as took their time to connect with me in meaningful ways. Stefano Tijerina in the Maine Business School opened my eyes to the world and made me think deeply. By connecting with him, I received valuable advice and guidance that I will take with me after college. Stephanie Welcomer, also in the MBS, is another professor I truly enjoyed being around. Her genuine interest in her students' lives and her frequent follow-ups created a place for myself to air my ideas and thoughts, and receive helpful feedback and motivation to reach even higher. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** My biggest advice for incoming students to get the best start academically is to be organized and disciplined. Know what you have to do, write down your plan and stick with it. By having a plan, I find myself being so much more productive. My other advice would be to reach out to your professors and ask for help, even though it might be the simplest little question. By doing that, you slowly create connections that will help you later. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Brittany Kucera: Outstanding Graduating International Student

29 Apr 2020

Brittany Kucera, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Kucera is double-majoring in anthropology with a concentration in archaeology, and history. **Cite your top three academic scholarships, achievements and awards**: Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) Summer Fellowship Award 2019, reestablishing Anthropology Club as president in 2018, recognized scholar-athlete. **Tell us about the research, internships or scholarly pursuits you were involved in as a student:** I had the opportunity to work on the Nadin-Gradina Archaeological Project in Croatia for which I was awarded a CUGR summer fellowship for my project on the use of ancient cisterns in the Ravni Kotari region of Croatia based on rainwater harvesting potential, through the reconstruction of climate models in the past and projections for climate conditions in the future. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** I played on the women's Division I ice hockey team here at the University of Maine where I made the Hockey East All-Academic Team and worked on campus as an athletic academic tutor for classes from math through history. I spent my senior year on exchange in Germany where I played hockey on a local team and worked remotely on my capstone project. **What are your plans after graduation?** After graduation I am planning on returning to Croatia to work on multiple archaeological projects including an underwater excavation I joined in 2019 on the island of Pag. I will then apply for graduate school to further my studies of anthropology and archaeology in Europe where I can continue my hockey career professionally and work toward obtaining a Ph.D. in hopes of working as a professor or researcher in the future. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** UMaine has introduced me to so many new ways of looking at cultural and historical phenomena that interest me. I have learned so much about theoretical approaches to research, and ways to go about learning that make you consider your impacts on the world. I spent hours redefining the way I see the world, each way more complex than the last. I am so grateful for my professors and classmates who helped me expand my knowledge and encouraged me to continue to pursue my passions. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to join the anthropology field school in 2018. While most of our time was spent excavating the Medieval, Roman and Iron Age archaeological site, the rest of our time there was spent with the Croatian students learning their way of life. We enjoyed homemade food and slacklining in the warm Mediterranean sun, and participated in the university's antique day celebration where we dressed as Roman aristocrats and paraded the streets of Zadar. When I returned to work on the project in 2019 I took the opportunity to participate in a diving expedition excavating a submerged Roman fishing site. There we harvested mussels from the sea for dinner and explored coastal shipwrecks. These experiences have absolutely changed the way I see the world in an amazing way. They helped me to see the true value of life and for that I am so grateful. **Why UMaine?** I had the opportunity to come to UMaine through the scholarship offered to me through the women's ice hockey team. I chose UMaine because it has a great academic reputation. It is also one of the few undergraduate programs in the U.S. that offers both Division I hockey and archaeology courses. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** There are many opportunities for students willing to take chances to have success at the University of Maine. Departments are always looking for research assistants for support in research projects, and individual professors are always supportive of motivated students with research interests of their own. There are so many opportunities through campus organizations such as CUGR for students to leave their mark and make a difference. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** I have worked closely with many professors at UMaine, particularly in the anthropology and history departments. Each of my professors has made my experience at this university remarkably better. The professors here have gone above and beyond for me, from simply being patient with me on assignment submissions, to reaching out when I experienced some of the most difficult times in my life. I only hope that my mentors in the future are half as good as the ones I look up to at UMaine. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** My advice for incoming students, TALK TO YOUR PROFESSORS! Introduce yourself the first day of class, reach out when you have questions. They are there to help you, to support you academically, and to prepare you for a successful future. Any good professor wants the best for you as a student and more than likely they are wishing you would reach out more. Take the chance and talk to your professors about your future, about your goals and about all the questions you have about the world around you. I promise it will be the best thing you will do at UMaine. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Gabriel Karam: Outstanding Graduating Student

29 Apr 2020

Gabriel Karam of Bangor, Maine, is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the Maine Business School. Karam is majoring in business administration in management, with minors in psychology and political science. **Cite your top academic scholarships, achievements and awards**: UMaine Dirigo

Scholarship and the Joseph S. Keating Merit Scholarship. **Tell us about the research, internships or scholarly pursuits you were involved in as a student**: I was part of a small team of students to provide research-based marketing advice for Promised Land Farm. I also have worked in student teams to develop business plans for a hypothetical food truck and a hypothetical convenience store. For my capstone experience, I was part of a student team that competed in virtual business simulations, and developed a possible strategy for GameStop amid a changing video game market. I have also participated in an informal social experiment to assess the qualities of helping others for a psychology course. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** I am a member of the honor societies Beta Gamma Sigma and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). I have been invited to join several other honor societies, including Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Sigma Alpha. I have volunteered for Maine Day several times. I treasure spending time with my family, hiking, biking, swimming, boating and reading. I worked at Getchell Brothers, Inc. for five summers. Currently, I write op-ed articles for The Maine Campus, and I also work at Lowe's. **What are your plans after graduation?** I am not entirely sure of my plans after my graduation. I am keeping my doors open. I have considered starting my own business, working for a newspaper, or even learning a trade. The future is bright, and life is an adventure. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** UMaine provided me with a wealth of knowledge about business operations, such as accounting, financial literacy, marketing creativity, and management strategy. UMaine has provided me with the knowledge, experiences, networks and credentials to succeed. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** I met many interesting classmates and professors from all walks of life. You can do whatever you dream of, but you have to put in the blood, sweat and tears. Be the best that you can be, be thankful and give back. **Why UMaine?** As a public university that is the state's flagship university, UMaine is prestigious, dependable, affordable, and the obvious choice. My mother and older brother both are UMaine alums, and I attended college concurrently with my twin brother, Abram. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** Success is a matter of ability, determination and circumstances. Pursue what you're good at doing, stay focused, and take advantage of the resources available to you. Professors, reference librarians, TAs, textbooks, help labs and fellow classmates are all great resources. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** I have had many great instructors. To name a few, I would thank Professor Carol Patterson-Martineau, Professor Nicole Gogan, Dr. Stephanie Welcomer, Dr. Grant Miles and Dr. Mollie Ruben. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** Stay focused, work hard, and put in the time to succeed. UMaine provides incredible opportunities, but you must be the one to take advantage of them. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Ines Khiyara: Outstanding Graduating International Student

29 Apr 2020

Ines Khiyara of Crisnée, Belgium, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Engineering. Khiyara is majoring in biomedical engineering with a minor in environmental engineering. **Cite your top three academic scholarships, achievements, and awards:** International Presidential Scholarship and Richard E. Durst Scholarship, multiple scholar-athlete awards, America East Honor Roll. **Tell us about the research, internships, or scholarly pursuits you were involved in as a student:** I started being involved in undergrad research this past semester. I was responsible for reading literature research, performing imaging, and collecting and analyzing data in Dr. Karissa Tilbury's lab. Dr. Tilbury's lab explores the Duchenne muscular dystrophy zebrafish model using label-free microscopy tools to characterize sarcomere length. Furthermore, my senior capstone group project consisted of designing and fabricating an efficient and cost-effective portable biohazardous chemical detector for oxygen levels, and hydrogen sulfide and ammonia concentrations for Down East Emergency Medicine Institute (DEEMI). This was done in collaboration with the Orono Fire Department. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** I was part of the women's varsity swim team where I competed for three years. I also taught children basic swimming techniques through the Rec Center and the Black Bear Swim School, and coached Swim Fit, an adult swim program. Another activity that occupied my time was tutoring student-athletes in chemistry, biochemistry and calculus. **What are your plans after graduation?** Attending graduate school for a Master of Science in biomedical engineering. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** As I was learning English, UMaine provided me the confidence to grow and share with people. Classes and professors helped me figure out what topics I was interested in and what I wanted to do with my future career. UMaine has also given me so many great memories and experiences that I will never forget. I have made many amazing friendships, which I am grateful for. In the future, I look forward to visiting my friends that I have made from all across the world. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** Over the past three years, all of the many memories that I made have been largely due to my teammates on the swim team. I have been able to experience and see many different backgrounds and upbringings from multiple countries, which helped me to learn to celebrate all of our differences. Furthermore, studying at UMaine opened many opportunities for future careers and allowed me to learn about different cultures and a new language. During my time in Maine, I was only able to go home for two to three weeks a year. Doing so made me realize how important my goals were and made me much more independent. **Why UMaine?** UMaine was a really great fit for me. I only had three years of eligibility left for swimming; consequently, I had the objective to graduate in three years. UMaine offered me the opportunity to successfully complete my degree by allowing me to arrange my class schedule and take courses in the winter and summer sessions to help me manage a heavy course load. UMaine also allowed me to compete at a Division I level and achieve all of my goals in swimming. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program, or set of resources that helped you succeed?** The swim team and the Athletics department definitely helped me succeed in my daily life. The resources that helped me succeed most were the academic support staff in the Athletics department, as well as my academic adviser in the department of biomedical engineering, Dr. Tilbury. These people gave me great advice and helped me plan my schedule to ensure that I would be able to not only achieve my goals, but also balance both athletics and academics. The Office of International Programs and the Career Center were also great resources that helped me adapt to the college life and plan for my future after graduation. **Have you worked closely with a professor(s) or mentor(s) who made your UMaine experience better?** Many professors were very supportive of my academic goals, most notably Dr. Tilbury, Dr. David Neivandt, Dr. Caitlin Howell, and Dr. Michael Mason, who were always open to helping me to succeed. My coaches, Susan Lizotte and Linda Costello, have also been very understanding of my demanding course load and goals and would arrange practices outside of the team practices so that I was able to attend classes that took place during practice. Jeff Wren, a volunteer coach, was also a strong influence on my swimming career. He helped me become the best swimmer possible, and helped improve my attitude about swimming, racing and other challenges in life. Ben Randall, my strength coach, helped me become a better and stronger athlete during the school year and summer. He was also someone I could always talk to and offered me support. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** My advice to incoming students is to join extracurricular activities and to make friends in your major. I would also advise incoming students to organize their days; wake up early and have to-do lists to ensure that there is time for exercising and social activities. Take advantage of all of the academic opportunities that UMaine has to offer, such as research experiences, co-op programs, study abroad and courses outside of your major. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

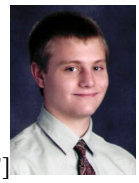
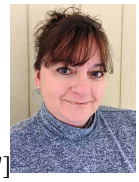
Abram Karam: Outstanding Graduating Student

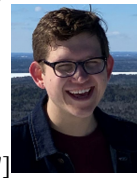
29 Apr 2020

Abram Karam, of Bangor, Maine, is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Engineering. Karam is double-majoring in civil and environmental engineering and mathematics. **Cite your top three academic scholarships, achievements and awards**: Recipient of UMaine's Presidential Scholarship all four years of undergraduate study; received a 2019–20 academic year fellowship from UMaine's Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR). The project title is: "Second-order derivatives of nonsmooth functions with applications in engineering." My project mentor is Peter Stechlinski; various departmental/outside scholarships, including: the Robert J. '47 & Mildred E. Lurvey Scholarship; the Malcolm D. Hardy PaCEsetter Scholarship; the Theodore and Dorothy Whitehouse Scholarship; the Wayne Hamilton, P.E., Civil Engineering Scholarship; the Bancroft and Martin Scholarship; the Harold Grodinsky Mathematics Scholarship; and others. **Tell us about the research, internships or scholarly pursuits you were involved in as a student**: Since January 2019, I have worked in the Stechlinski Lab as an undergraduate researcher, where UMaine professor of mathematics Peter Stechlinski and I have researched second-order lexicographic differentiation. We aim to extend the theory and to develop engineering applications. I will likely continue this research in graduate school. Prior to that, I was employed as a student research assistant at UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, where I deepened my understanding of structural load testing and the hands-on skills pivotal in the realm of engineering research. I also worked as a student engineering assistant at UMaine's Office of Facilities Management under Brian Foley. This position gave me a deep appreciation for the many employees who work hard each day to make UMaine the vibrant, welcoming, and productive place that I have come to know and love. **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupied your time?** Throughout most of my undergraduate career, I have kept busy with internships and research. I am currently researching applied mathematics, but I have also worked as an engineering intern at Facilities Management and the Advanced Structures and Composites Center. I have also volunteered on Maine Day and as a note-taker, in addition to being a member of the honor societies Pi Mu Epsilon, Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, and Chi Epsilon. I am particularly involved in UMaine's chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon (the oldest and largest national mathematics honor society). **What are your plans after graduation?** I will enter UMaine's graduate program in mathematics beginning in fall 2020, where I will further study and research applied mathematics. After earning my master's degree in mathematics, I intend to pursue a Ph.D. and then a career in academia, or to pursue a career in industry (such as engineering, finance or insurance). **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** While at UMaine, I have been afforded an education that is both broad and deep. I expect to use many of the technical skills that I have gained in my future career. I expect that critical thinking and soft skills that I have gained will be useful to me in my career and in life. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** I have met many kind and interesting people (professors, students and employees) at UMaine. I have gained a deeper appreciation for different cultures and viewpoints, and have learned to consider issues from multiple perspectives. **Why UMaine?** UMaine possesses the resources and research opportunities of a large university, but still has the friendly atmosphere of a small college. UMaine provides a competitive education at an affordable price. **How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine? Is there any particular initiative, program or set of resources that helped you succeed?** I've been truly amazed at the diligence with which professors provide research opportunities for students. If you are interested in a professor or institute's research, then you should absolutely reach out and see if you could work with them. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** I owe a great deal of gratitude to Professor Stechlinski. He has been instrumental in getting me into mathematical research, and has also offered me career and academic advice. He encouraged me to apply to graduate school, and helped me navigate the application process. I'd also like to thank professors Per Gårder, Shaleen Jain, Bill Davids, Eisso Atzema, Nigel Pitt, Pushpa Gupta and Ramesh Gupta for their kindness, service and dedication. There is not enough space to list all of the wonderful people I've gotten to know. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** Thomas Edison once said, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Seize the moment, put in the work and take care of yourself. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Meet the 2020 Outstanding Graduating Students

29 Apr 2020

Editor's Note: Story updated May 1, 2020 Ten undergraduates have been named 2020 Outstanding Graduating Students at the University of Maine. Among them is Grace Smith, the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture, and the 2020 salutatorian. The other Outstanding Graduating Students include brothers **Abram and Gabriel Karam** from Bangor, Maine. Abram, the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Engineering, will receive a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Gabriel, the Outstanding Graduating Student in the Maine Business School, will receive a bachelor's degree in business administration in management, with minors in political science and psychology. [caption id="attachment_76687" align="alignright" width="82"]  Abram Karam[/caption] **Abram**, the 2016 Bangor High School valedictorian, is a UMaine Presidential Scholar and multiple scholarship recipient. He received a 2019–20 Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) Fellowship for the project, "Second-order derivatives of nonsmooth functions with applications in engineering." He was a student research assistant at UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center and an engineering intern in the Office of Facilities Management on campus. This fall, Abram will pursue a master's degree in mathematics at UMaine. [caption id="attachment_76688" align="alignright" width="82"]  Gabriel Karam[/caption] **Gabriel**'s multiple awards include a UMaine Dirigo Scholarship and the Joseph S. Keating Merit Scholarship. He was a member of a Maine Business School team that provided research-based marketing advice for a local farm, and his capstone experience involved virtual business simulations. Gabriel, who has minors in political science and psychology, is a Maine Campus opinion columnist. He is considering starting his own business and continuing his writing career. [caption id="attachment_76695" align="alignright" width="82"]  Sally Clark[/caption] **Sally Clark** of Hudson, Maine, is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the Division of Lifelong Learning. She will receive a bachelor's degree in university studies with a leadership studies track, and has a

minor in Maine studies. A native of Lincoln, Maine, Clark has been taking classes since 2015 while working full time with a family of four. She was instrumental in helping launch the Prism+ community within UMaine residence halls, focused on providing a safe, welcoming environment for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies. Clark is an administrative support supervisor in UMaine's Auxiliary Services. [caption id="attachment_76697" align="alignright" width="82"]  Ines Khiyara[/caption] **Ines Khiyara** of Crisnée, Belgium, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Engineering. Khiyara will receive a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering, and has a minor in environmental engineering. A member of the women's swim team for three years, Khiyara received multiple scholar-athlete awards and was on the America East Honor Roll. She also received an International Presidential Scholarship and the Richard E. Durst Scholarship. Khiyara served as a peer tutor, and a youth and adult swim coach. Her undergraduate research experience included work on the Duchenne muscular dystrophy zebrafish model using label-free microscopy tools to characterize sarcomere length. She plans to pursue a master's degree in biomedical engineering. [caption id="attachment_76699" align="alignright" width="82"]  Brittany Kucera[/caption] **Brittany Kucera** of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She will receive a bachelor's degree in anthropology, with a double major in history. Kucera, who was a member of the women's ice hockey team, spent her senior year as an exchange student in Germany. She received a 2019 CUGR Summer Fellowship Award to participate in the Nadin-Gradina Archaeological Project in Croatia. Kucera received multiple scholar-athlete honors, served as a peer tutor, and reorganized and was president of the Anthropology Club. She plans to return to Croatia to work on multiple archaeological projects, including an underwater excavation she joined in 2019 on the island of Pag. Kucera also plans to apply for graduate school to further study anthropology and archaeology in Europe, and continue her hockey career. [caption id="attachment_76700" align="alignright" width="82"]  Beate Naglestad[/caption] **Beate Naglestad** of Oppegård, Norway, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the Maine Business School. Naglestad will receive a bachelor's degree in business administration in management, with a minor in international affairs. She has multiple student-athlete awards as a member of the women's soccer team and served as captain in her senior year. Naglestad also received the Academic Achievement in Management award. She served as a peer tutor and was a team representative to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She has applied to graduate school at the University of Oslo to study organization, leadership and employment. [caption id="attachment_76813" align="alignright" width="82"]  Fanny Wadling[/caption] **Fanny Wadling** of Nacka, Sweden, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Education and Human Development. She will receive a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and physical education, with a minor in business administration, and a concentration in exercise science. Wadling is a member of the women's basketball team and was named to the Elite 18 for America East. For three years, she also was a Team Maine member. She is staying a fifth year at UMaine to earn a business management degree and to play her final year of eligibility. [caption id="attachment_76701" align="alignright" width="82"]  Jarod Webb[/caption] **Jarod Webb** of Milo, Maine, has been named the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Education and Human Development. He will receive a bachelor's degree in secondary education, with a double major in English; a minor in psychology; and concentrations in English and analytical writing. Webb received a UMaine Presidential Scholarship and the Marion T. Archibald Scholarship. Last summer, he attended the Oregon Shakespeare Festival as part of an independent study. He served as president of the Student Maine Education Association and as a College of Education and Human Development Ambassador. He plans to either pursue graduate work or teach English in either a high school or middle school setting. The two other Outstanding Graduating Students are:

- **Cormac Coyle** of Lebanon, New Hampshire, Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, who will receive a bachelor's degree in philosophy, with a double major in French; and minors in political science and Marxist and Socialist studies. He is an Honors College student.
- **Xuyang Gu** of Shanghai, China, Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture, who will receive a bachelor's degree in biology.

Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Mount Desert Islander mentions Riordan's April 23 talk

29 Apr 2020

Mount Desert Islander mentioned a talk by Liam Riordan, a professor of history at the University of Maine, in a report on the Mount Desert Island Historical Society's Chebacco Chats series, live video presentations by contributing authors to the society's journal "Chebacco." On April 23, Riordan discussed his article, "Mount Desert Island and the Long Struggle for Maine Statehood." The Chebacco Chat events continue the next few Thursdays at 4:30 p.m online via Zoom and Facebook Live, the report states.

WABI previews 'Fiddleheads 101' on April 29

29 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5) previewed a "Fiddleheads 101" event set for 2 p.m. April 29 via Zoom, presented by University of Maine Cooperative Extension Franklin County and the Ellsworth Public Library. Preregistration is required; the Zoom link to the event is online.

Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel note updated Extension seedling resource

29 Apr 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release announcing a new collection of resources for retailers and farmers markets on seedling sales to the general public. Resources were compiled in collaboration with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the release states. For more information contact Rebecca Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Media report on groundbreaking for Engineering Education and Design Center

29 Apr 2020

WABI (Channel 5), WVII (Channel 7), Mainebiz and the Associated Press reported on the groundbreaking ceremony for the University of Maine's new Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center, which was held online at 1 p.m. April 28. The $78 million center will give engineering students hands-on education with state of the art laboratories. Construction of the 105,000 square foot facility will begin in May, with appropriate COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, and is expected to be completed in spring 2022, WABI reported. "This is going to be the best space of its kind in the northeast. And because of that, it's going to keep students in Maine, and it's going to attract students from outside of Maine," said Dana Humphrey, dean of the College of Engineering. "The Ferland Center, the way it has been designed, will support the most modern cutting edge ways of approaching teaching and learning. It will provide spaces for groups to work together on the projects they are inventing," said UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. The Bangor Daily News, U.S. News & World Report, Fosters.com and Times Union carried the AP article.

Caleigh Charlebois awarded Barry Goldwater Scholarship

29 Apr 2020

University of Maine junior Caleigh Charlebois has been awarded a Barry Goldwater Scholarship for demonstrating exceptional promise of becoming a next-generation research leader in engineering, mathematics or natural sciences. She will receive up to $7,500 for tuition, books and room and board. To be selected for this award, students need to demonstrate breadth and depth of research experience and skills, ability to make an impact in their research field and intention to continue their academic career with a Ph.D. Charlebois, of South China, Maine, is a zoology major with a minor in technical writing, and is in the Honors College. This is her third semester as a teaching assistant for the Honors phage genomics course sequence. This past summer, Charlebois had an internship at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor focused on researching variation in repetitive DNA in mice. She presented the research at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in November. A full story about her internship is online. This fall, she will work on her Honors thesis with Danielle Levesque, an assistant professor of mammalogy and mammalian health. The project will potentially include helping to analyze data from the 200 Mammals Project, a project that sequenced the genomes of 200 different mammal species. "I hope to gain field experience by helping with the fieldwork other members of her lab are doing, if things go back to normal by the end of the summer or the fall," Charlebois says. Outside of the lab and classroom, Charlebois has a passion for music. She plays ukulele, guitar, keyboard, and folk instruments, and is a hobbyist composer and producer. She helps manage an online music project with 60 music contributors and more than 50 track art contributors from all over the world, and also records vocals and instrumentals for her own songs. After graduating in 2021, Charlebois plans to go to graduate school and gain field experience. Her career goals include earning a Ph.D. in zoology, and conducting research in wildlife genetics, diversity and evolution at a university or nonprofit institution. Her faculty mentors are Sally Molloy, an assistant professor of genomics at UMaine; Beth Dumont, an assistant professor at The Jackson Laboratory; and Uma Arora, a Ph.D. student at The Jackson Laboratory. Robert Wheeler, associate professor of microbiology, is the UMaine campus representative for the Goldwater scholarship and oversees the competitive Campus Nomination process. Charlebois received application support from the Office of Major Scholarships in Estabrooke Hall. The office has more information about the Goldwater Scholarship and other scholarship opportunities on its website. In 1986, Congress established the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation to honor the work of Sen. Barry Goldwater, who served the country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years in the U.S. Senate. Since 1989, the Goldwater Foundation has awarded scholarships totaling more than $71 million to 9,047 students. Goldwater Scholars have been awarded 93 Rhodes Scholarships, 146 Marshall Scholarships, 170 Churchill Scholarships, 109 Hertz Fellowships, and other distinguished awards, including National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. For additional information, the Goldwater Foundation release is online, as is a list of scholarship recipients from each state. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

Granstrom's video showcases long-lasting effects of forestry decisions

29 Apr 2020

When Maren Granstrom learned what a forester friend in Rockland did for a living — spend days outside and talk with people about trees — she decided that was the job for her. So the Vermont native enrolled at the University of Maine and earned a master's in forestry. And she took part in a project spearheaded by her advisers Mindy Crandall and Laura Kenefic that caught her attention. They were examining results from a study that started in the 1950s in the Penobscot Experimental Forest (PEF). "This was a chance to demonstrate long-term, broad-scale results of nine kinds of forest management, and to show how each type of silviculture and harvesting changed the forest over time," says Granstrom. "I started with no knowledge of forestry, but even in my first weeks

of school I walked around the PEF and could clearly see the difference in what happened when you cut just the most valuable trees, versus cutting the lowest-quality trees first." The researchers plan to publish their findings in traditional ways, including in scientific journal articles. But they also thought their results could be communicated in a conversational way. So, for part of her forest resources master's thesis, Granstrom worked with filmmaker Scott Sell of Rockland to produce "Forestry for the Future: Lessons in Sustainable Management from Maine." Experts interviewed in beautiful forest settings include Kenefic, a research forester with the U.S. Forest Service and faculty associate at UMaine; Crandall, former assistant professor of forest management and economics at UMaine and now assistant professor of forest policy at Oregon State University; Keith Kanoti, manager of University Forests; Sally Stockwell, director of conservation at Maine Audubon; Bob Seymour, Curtis Hutchins emeritus professor at UMaine; Allison Kanoti, state entomologist with the Maine Forest Service; Alec Giffen, Maine representative and senior advisor with the New England Forestry Foundation; and Barrie Brusila, consulting forester. "It was an incredible opportunity to spend a few hours with these folks and throw all my questions at them. I hope that we've been able to condense some of their vast knowledge, and more than 65 years of research, into a film that can help show folks the striking and long-lasting effects of forestry decisions," says Granstrom. "What you remove from the forest, and what you leave behind, will determine not just the future value for timber, but the wildlife species that can thrive there, the carbon storage potential, the susceptibility to pests and disease, and more." The 26-minute video starts and ends with Pam Wells, who owns land in Milford and Greenfield. Initially, Wells wanted to tent on her land. Then she also became interested in caring for it, having some sawlogs taken to a mill and keeping wildlife happy. Wells has taken a number of forestry courses at UMaine to learn how to do that. Granstrom has returned to the midcoast and is learning the forester's trade with Brusila, a consulting forester featured in the film. "Every property we visit is a bit different. I love trying to figure out what happened there in the past and how to make that forest thrive in the future." Funding for the project came from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, U.S. Forest Service, UMaine, and the Northeastern States Research Cooperative. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' asks about air quality during pandemic

30 Apr 2020

How has COVID-19 impacted the environment? Find out in this week's episode of "The Maine Question." During the devastating coronavirus pandemic, the world's economy has slowed, which has brought about some profound changes. Sean Birkel, research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute and the Maine State Climatologist, talks about what happens when there's less air travel as well as reduced motor vehicle traffic and industrial activity. The podcast is on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Penobscot Bay Pilot promotes Hutchinson Center's new online professional development programs

30 Apr 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot reported the University of Mane Hutchinson Center is offering two new online professional development programs. Registration is open for the online grant writing certificate program running May 18–22 and the online public speaking program on June 3 and 10. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, michelle.patten@maine.edu; 207.338.8002.

Media report Extension offering fact sheets, recipes

30 Apr 2020

The Daily Bulldog, Morning Ag Clips and Seacoast Online published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release noting that information is available to help find, grow, use, preserve, and store in-season fruits and vegetables in Maine. Bulletins include #4198 Facts on Fiddleheads, #4060 Facts on Edible Wild Greens in Maine and #4266 Fruits for Health: Rhubarb. Updated information, and bulletins to download or order, are available on the Extension website, or by contacting 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine); extension@maine.edu.

Piscataquis Observer advances May 7 online talk by Freeman

30 Apr 2020

The Piscataquis Observer advanced a talk by Mary Freeman, an assistant professor of history at the University of Maine, at 6 p.m. May 7 via Zoom. The talk, titled "The Politics of Slavery in the Era of Maine Statehood," is the first in a series celebrating Maine's Bicentennial. This series is supported by a Bicentennial Grant from the Maine Arts Commission and will explore topics and perspectives sometimes overlooked in traditional narratives of the state's history, according to the article. This event is free and open to the public. Visit the Thompson Free Library website or email thompsonfreelibrary@gmail.com for information about how to participate.

Media preview Extension's online teen healthy living workshop

30 Apr 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release previewing a free online workshop for teens from 6–7 p.m. May 5, led by UMaine Extension 4-H members who have been selected for the National 4-H Healthy Living Summit 2020 team. "Don't Fall Into the Thinking Trap" is designed to educate youth ages 13–18 about some common negative thought patterns and how to develop useful coping strategies. It's the third #EmpoweringMEandYou lesson, part of a multi-year project affiliated with the National Youth Summits on Healthy Living, the release states. The workshop is free; registration is required on the event webpage. 4-H youth development professionals and youth educators from other organizations also are welcome to join. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sara Conant, 207.781.6099; sara.conant@maine.edu.

BDN speaks with Coffin about how to choose gardening gloves

30 Apr 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Donna Coffin, an extension educator with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about how to choose gardening

gloves. Coffin provided advice for purchasing gloves based on factors like fit, price and material.

Clifford's dust storm study among top 10% of JGR: Atmospheres downloaded papers

30 Apr 2020

Heather Clifford's groundbreaking study that found a warming planet will make dust storms more intense in the Mediterranean, which will impact glaciers, air quality and frequency of North Atlantic hurricanes, was among the top 10% of the Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres' most downloaded papers published between January 2018 and December 2019. Clifford is a doctoral student in the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. She was a master's degree student in Quaternary and climate studies, with a concentration in ice cores and data analysis, when she conducted the research. The study was another milestone in the collaboration between the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard University and the CCI. An interdisciplinary team of climate scientists, historians and archaeologists combined data from an ice core retrieved from the European Alps with highly detailed historical records. The CCI's W.M. Keck Laser Ice Facility created a nondestructive system that allows indefinite preservation of the ice, while providing climate data of the unprecedented ultra-high resolution which alone is compatible with detailed historical data. Using the highest-resolution continuous climate record ever published, the study, titled "A 2000 Year Saharan Dust Event Proxy Record from an Ice Core in the European Alps," explains connections between dust storms, extended periods of drought, volcanoes and warming in the Mediterranean, Europe and Asia. "We hope this record will unlock new opportunities to learn about the long-term effects of Saharan dust storms on ecology, human health and climate change," said Clifford. Clifford and all co-authors received a certificate of achievement. Co-authors from the CCI include Alexander More, Nicole Spaulding, Andrei Kurbatov, Elena Korotkikh, Sharon Sneed, Mike Handley, Kirk Maasch and Paul Mayewski. Co-author Michael McCormick is with the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard and co-author Joyce Chaplin is with the History Department at Harvard. Co-author Christopher Loveluck is with the Department of Archaeology at the University of Nottingham. JGR: Atmospheres is a journal of the American Geophysical Union. It publishes original research articles that advance and improve the understanding of atmospheric properties and processes, including the interaction of the atmosphere with other components of the Earth system, as well as their roles in climate variability and change.

Three faculty members awarded fellowship to conduct research in Acadia National Park

30 Apr 2020

Three University of Maine faculty members have been awarded fellowships to conduct research in Acadia National Park. The faculty members are Rachel Fowler, laboratory coordinator with the School of Biology and Ecology; Bonnie Newsom, assistant professor of anthropology; and Jay Wason, assistant professor of forest ecosystem physiology. The fellowships were awarded as part of Second Century Stewardship, an initiative of the National Park Service, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Second Century Stewardship was launched in 2016 upon the centennial of the National Park Service to provide top-quality science research for park stewardship, build public appreciation for science, and pursue solutions to critical issues for parks and society. Fowler aims to develop an early warning system for detecting blooms of cyanobacteria, a kind of algae that thrive in warm, nutrient-rich waters and can be toxic to people and animals. Newsom will analyze existing archaeological collections from shell midden sites in the park to chronicle past occupation and use, and generate a baseline data set for future studies of Indigenous peoples and their connections to the region. And Wason plans to study coastal spruce-fir forests in Acadia. The full news release is online.

Southern, coastal forest landowners needed for Maine Forest Tick Survey

30 Apr 2020

Forest landowners in southern and coastal Maine are partnering with University of Maine researchers as part of the state's first active tick surveillance citizen science program. The Maine Forest Tick Survey based at UMaine seeks volunteer landowners with 10–1,000 wooded acres in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Kennebec, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo and York counties. The citizen scientists will collect ticks for identification and testing for associated pathogens, and send them to the university for analysis. Online training and collection materials, including drag cloths and vials, will be provided for volunteers in June. Sampling will begin in July, the month when blacklegged tick nymphs (the life stage responsible for most human infections) are active. Participating citizen scientists will be asked to sample for ticks on three days throughout the month for an hour each day, and will receive the identification and pathogen test results of their tick samples, as well as reports about the findings of the entire project, during the winter. The Maine Forest Tick Survey focuses on helping landowners understand tick-borne risks in their woods in order to protect themselves. The researchers leading the survey — faculty members Allison Gardner, Jessica Leahy and Carly Sponarski — also are studying the relationship between land management practices and tick-borne risk to help better protect landowners, recreationists and forest workers in Maine. More information about the Maine Forest Tick Survey, including how to volunteer, is available online or by contacting Elissa Ballman, the citizen science coordinator, elissa.ballman@maine.edu. Follow project updates on Facebook and Twitter. Contact: Elissa Ballman, elissa.ballman@maine.edu

Four inaugural Presidential Fellows named

08 May 2020

Four faculty and staff members have been named University of Maine Presidential Fellows in a new leadership program launched by President Joan Ferrini-Mundy to advance three themes tied to UMaine's strategic plan — fostering learner success and research learning; research-practice partnerships; and telling the UMaine story. The themes for 2019–20 are designed to engender universitywide attention to these important priorities. Presidential Fellows Kristy Townsend, associate professor of neurobiology, and Ayesha Maliwal-Bundy, a lecturer of mathematics, will focus on fostering learner success and research learning. They will help define the scope and elements of the initiative, and coordinate its implementation, including the efforts to ensure that every UMaine student has access to an authentic learning experience that integrates research, scholarship or creative production. Presidential Fellow Laura Millay, research and evaluation coordinator for the Maine Center for Research in STEM Education (RiSE Center), will focus on research-practice partnerships that are fundamental to UMaine and the University of Maine at Machias. The initiative will foster communication and collaboration across the university's multiple and varied partnership to provide a larger framework for encouraging and sustaining those collaborations, evaluating their impact on practice and enhancing learning opportunities for students. Presidential Fellow Zhen Zhang, administrative coordinator in the Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering, will focus on telling the UMaine story. He will develop and help implement creative plans for enhancing UMaine and UMM visibility and reputation. "We have leaders here at the university — in Orono, Machias, and all of our other statewide locations — who are in formal roles as administrators,

who may aspire to those sorts of positions, or who are leading through their day-to-day work in a more focused way," said Ferrini-Mundy in her announcement of the program in November. "I appreciate the great ideas and efforts of so many, not only in their specific areas of work, but also in helping shape what is next for our university. We need to consider what we need to do to ensure that the education and opportunities we provide truly have as much potential as possible to shape the future." Townsend, a UMaine alumna known for her advocacy and implementation of learning and evidence-based approaches in her pedagogy and curriculum, talked about her passion for undergraduate research experiences and bringing authentic research into the classroom setting. "UMaine is a sole leader in the state in terms of research and innovation, and student involvement in research and creative classroom curriculum," said Townsend, who will serve as a Presidential Fellow through summer 2020. "This is our selling point, and I am passionate about getting this message out statewide and nationwide." Maliwal-Bundy noted that she is interested in increasing emphasis on impactful teaching and a holistic student experience that takes advantage of all the opportunities of the state's public research university. "I want to focus on strengthening advising and increasing communication across departments to ensure students are making informed decisions and feel supported," Maliwal-Bundy said. "I want to encourage growth in teaching effectiveness through the use of concept inventories to measure learning gains. The data generated from these can help inform instructors about their teaching, ensure courses are aligned with the outlined learning outcomes, and highlight pedagogical differences that can promote evidence-based teaching practices." UMaine research-practice partnerships (RPPs) affect economic and social sectors throughout Maine and beyond, as well as national and international research, and have tremendous potential for even more significant impact, Millay said. "Coordinating across RPPs will create an opportunity to learn from, and better document, our collective successes, challenges and solutions," Millay said. "I believe that we can use this strategy to increase our collective efficiency and effectiveness, as well as to open rich opportunities for collaborative research and theory-building to elevate the quality and profile of our research." Zhang, a UMaine alumnus, is a photographer and videographer. He notes that the university "serves as a conduit to so many science communities across the world that is hard to conceive of the extent of our reach." "I want to capture and distill our many activities into narratives of discovery that will highlight the incredible work that happens here," Zhang said. "I think it is so important to share and make accessible all the work that happens within our decentralized communities. (I want to illuminate) how unique and precious a community of researchers and the culture of collaborative research is for Maine and beyond." Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine Extension starts victory garden video series

01 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering a new eight-part video series for first-time gardeners. "A Victory Garden for ME" provides an overview of vegetable gardening, from how to get started and what to plant to tending and harvesting the home garden. Weekly virtual office hours will be offered following the release of each video. The first video, "Vegetable Gardening: Where to Begin," is now available. The video series is free; registration is not required. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.942.7396; , UMaine Extension also is extending its current series of free online "Garden Chats" each Monday at 9 a.m, Wednesday at noon, and Thursday at 6 p.m. through May 21. Upcoming topics include garden, and pest, show and tell; sustainable landscaping, and community gardening efforts.

Managing safe on-farm cut flower sales with UMaine Extension

01 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a free webinar about managing safe on-farm cut flower sales in the midst of COVID-19 at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 5. Topics in the discussion will include best practices using case studies and input from participants, and troubleshooting specific operations and their protocols. No registration is needed for this free webinar. More information is available on the program website or by contacting Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Honors College hosting online Rezendes Ethics Essay Recognition event May 8

01 May 2020

The Honors College at the University of Maine will host an online recognition event at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 8 for the 2020 John M. Rezendes Annual Ethics Essay Competition. The competition invites undergraduate students to submit an 8- to 10-page essay that focuses on ethics, broadly construed. This year's theme was "ethics and food systems." Ecology and environmental sciences and Honors student Patrick Hurley won with his essay titled "Zombie Fields: Ethical Concerns of Pollination in Industrial Agriculture." The finalists were political science and Honors student Dominique DiSpirito, who wrote "The Problem with Snap Judgements: A Call for Food Security Policy Based in Vulnerability-Care Ethics," and mechanical engineering student Kate Macolini, who wrote "Atoning for Gluttony: Ethical Incentives to Disenabling Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)." The event will be moderated by François Amar, dean of the Honors College. President Joan Ferrini-Mundy will give welcoming remarks and members of the Rezendes family will be in attendance at the event, which will be held on Zoom. For the event link and password, email honors@maine.edu.

Centralmaine.com reports Extension offering weekly farmer sessions

01 May 2020

Centralmaine.com published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release reporting that weekly Maine farm Zoom sessions have been moved to 10-11 a.m. each Friday. The meetings are a way for farmers and farm service providers to ask questions, get answers and share information during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the release. For more information, contact Donna Coffin at 207.262.7726 or donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Boothbay Register publishes UMaine release announcing tick survey

01 May 2020

The Boothbay Register published a University of Maine news release announcing that forest landowners in southern and coastal Maine are partnering with UMaine researchers as part of the state's first active tick surveillance citizen science program. The Maine Forest Tick Survey based at UMaine seeks volunteer landowners with 10–1,000 wooded acres in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Hancock, Knox, Kennebec, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo and York counties, the release states. More information about the Maine Forest Tick Survey, including how to volunteer, is available online or by contacting Elissa Ballman at

elissa.ballman@maine.edu. News Center Maine also reported on the survey. The Associated Press reported on the survey. The U.S. News and World Report, Seacoast Online, WGME (Channel 13 Portland), WPFO (Channel 23 Portland), the Washington Times, Portland Press Herald and the Argus-Times shared the AP article.

BDN consults Dill about woodchucks in the garden

01 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Griffin Dill, an integrated pest management professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for an article about how to handle woodchucks in the garden. “To the dismay of many gardeners the woodchucks can be a significant problem in the home garden and even around the home landscape itself,” Dill said. He discussed preventative measures to stop woodchucks from coming into the garden in the first place and damaging crops, as well as trapping if those measures are not successful. “A lot of people’s first instinct is to trap and relocate,” he explained. “You’re really probably limiting the potential survival of the woodchuck to next to nothing anyway. It’s generally not recommended to move wildlife around like that because you can spread wildlife disease.” Dill said the more humane option is to euthanize the animal, which is done primarily through shooting it. If you are not comfortable with that, Dill recommends hiring a professional pest control company to handle the problem for you. “Not everyone is comfortable in that situation which is understandable,” Dill said. “There are a number of pest control companies that handle wildlife calls like that.”

Castine Patriot talks with Lilley about new seasonal challenges for farmers

01 May 2020

The Castine Patriot interviewed Jason Lilley, a sustainable agriculture professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for an article about new seasonal challenges farmers face amid new uncertainties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The small-scale, direct to consumer model has been beneficial for small farms statewide, while larger farms that market to wholesalers and restaurants have seen demand for their products disappear overnight, according to Lilley. And people are simply more interested in buying locally produced food, the article states. “The public really sees the importance in supporting local agriculture,” said Lilley, adding that for many people, shopping at a farm stand feels safer than entering a grocery store.

BDN cites Machado, Bolton in article on safely exchanging food during COVID-19

01 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News cited University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff Robson Machado, assistant Extension professor and food science specialist, and Jason Bolton, associate Extension professor, in an article about how to safely exchange food during the coronavirus pandemic. There is currently no evidence that the virus can be transmitted through food or food containers. But according to Machado and Bolton, there are steps to take if you are preparing food for someone else — not only to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, but also to practice good food safety protocols. “The person cooking should wash their hands before preparing the food and during cooking if necessary,” Machado said. “Also, cook to appropriate temperatures, avoid cross-contamination and avoid touching your face during preparation. Those are all basic food safety and personal hygiene practices that people should always follow.” And there are additional guidelines for maintaining social distancing when delivering food to another person. “The best suggestion here is to leave the food unattended, like on a porch, mailbox or [at the] front door and immediately notify the recipient,” Machado said, and recommended also using a secondary container like a clean plastic bag or tote bag to put the food container in. Machado said that recipients should remove the secondary container and put the main food container on a clean surface. “After that, wash your hands before handling the food. Also, clean any surfaces that came in contact with the container. Remember to never use soap or any sanitizer directly on the food,” he said. Additionally, it is a good idea to reheat shared food — not because of the coronavirus, but because it is the best practice for general food safety, according to Machado.

Advertiser Democrat interviews Long about Extension gardening education resources

01 May 2020

The Advertiser Democrat spoke with Rebecca Long, an agriculture and food system professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the article “Vegetable pots, plots and gardens are in high demand.” So is spring planting education, according to Long. “We are holding an online series three days a week,” she said. “We’re about halfway through the series so people can continue to attend over the next month. An Extension expert presents on a gardening topic and then holds a Q&A session. The workshops have been well attended, with 40–60 people logging in each time.” No registration is required to attend the series, “Garden Chats: Growing Resilience from the Ground Up.” Details and schedules for the Zoom workshop series are online. Long said that UMaine Extension also will begin airing “Victory Garden for ME,” a series of videos specifically for first time vegetable gardeners, on May 1. More information is available online or by calling 207.743.6329.

BDN speaks with Extension staff about tools for first-time gardeners

01 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff members Kate Garland, horticultural specialist; Donna Coffin, Extension professor; and Alicyn Smart, assistant Extension professor and Extension plant pathologist; for an article about the best tools for first-time gardeners. Beginning gardeners might want to choose a trowel with measurements etched into the handle, Garland said. “A lot of times people get a little bit nervous about depth recommendations and they want to be accurate. If you do buy a trowel, I would suggest buying something that has some measurements on it. There’s a lot of wiggle room with planting, though, so don’t stress out too much on planting depths,” said Garland, who also recommended a right angle trowel for transplanting. “That way, you’re not disturbing the soil [as much]. It’s very fast. If you’re ready to do a whole bunch of transplants it’s very, very efficient.” Coffin added advice on different types of shovels and spades. “If you’re doing edging work like around a flower bed, you want a straight edge shovel,” she said. “A spade is a better all purpose tool. It’s easier to dig with. The straight edge shovel, if you’re spreading garden nutrients, that comes in handy, but you can use a spade to do that, too.” As for rakes, Smart said she prefers metal ones for gardening. “They are able to grab matted down leaves that may have been there for a couple of years,” she said. The trio also gave recommendations for gardening forks, gloves, wheelbarrows and more.

Ruben invites community to snap #Selfie4Science for face mask study

01 May 2020

Next time you put on a face mask before heading into the grocery store, Mollie Ruben would like you to snap a selfie and send it her way. Your #Selfie4Science will support COVID-19-related research. Given the need to wear face masks as well as interact while wearing them, the University of Maine assistant professor of psychology is interested in learning about people's social perceptions and biases related to face masks. She's building a database of people with and without face masks for a study that will have important implications for business, health care, education and interpersonal relationships. "COVID-19 has certainly changed many aspects of our everyday lives but as a nonverbal communication researcher, the most stark change has been in our everyday social interactions," says Ruben. "Not only are we interacting with people in different or fewer ways, but when we do interact with others in public spaces, it's often and will continue to be behind a face mask." Nonverbal research suggests the eye and mouth regions are particularly important for communication purposes and impression formation, she says. "By blocking almost half of the face behind a mask, we are interested in how this impacts perceptions of others. How can we convey to our students this fall that we're friendly, approachable professors without the usual smile?" Ruben is a certified Facial Action Coding System (FACS) coder and is an expert at analyzing facial expressions to assess emotions. At UMaine, she directs the Emotion, Pain, and Interpersonal Communication (EPIC) Lab, where she examines the expression and perception of nonverbal cues, and the role of nonverbal behavior in communication processes. Nonverbal behaviors include facial expressions, body movement, gestures, appearance cues like hairstyle or piercings, tone of voice, and sociodemographic information such as gender, race or age. Ruben's research predominantly involves thin slices of behavior, including photographs or short videos of behavior. "It turns out that individuals can and do regularly make judgments about others based upon this small amount of information," she says. Research on stigma and bias suggests that particular groups of individuals may be perceived differently with or without a mask than others. "For example, a racial minority may seem more threatening in a mask than a racial majority group member," says Shelby Helwig, a graduate student working alongside Ruben. "We are interested in capturing what biases may exist for particular stigmatized groups when wearing or not wearing a mask in the hopes of using this information to help reduce these potential biases from forming." For this initial portion of the project, Ruben is gathering photographs and people's basic demographic information. In the second part, she'll ask people to make first-impression judgments about the photographs. Doctoral student Morgan Stosic also will work with Ruben and Helwig on the project. To take part, upload a photograph of yourself in a face mask to the University of Maine Face Mask Database. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Fanny Wadling: Outstanding Graduating International Student

01 May 2020

Fanny Wadling of Nacka, Sweden, is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Education and Human Development. She will receive a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and physical education, with a minor in business administration, and a concentration in exercise science. Wadling is a member of the women's basketball team and was named to the Elite 18 for America East. For three years, she also was a Team Maine member. She is staying a fifth year at UMaine to earn a business management degree and to play her final year of eligibility. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** Moving here has made me learn more about people in general and myself. It has made me grow as a person and helped me figure out my path for the future. **Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** In many ways, Maine reminds me of home, but in other ways it is completely different. My experience at UMaine has helped me understand cultural differences, but also similarities. **Why UMaine?** UMaine has such a family feel to it and I have felt welcomed since day one. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?** Jennifer McNulty and Niclas Erhardt are two professors who have done so much for me in terms of helping me academically, but also to feel welcomed in a new country. By always having their doors open and wanting to help, they have made my experience at UMaine better. **What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?** Know that there are so many people around you that want to help you succeed, listen to them, and let them help. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine, UMM holding Class of 2020 Recognition Weeks

04 May 2020

The University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias will hold Class of 2020 Recognition Ceremonies to honor the success and achievements of graduates. In-person ceremonies for both universities are tentatively planned for the fall, and will be determined based on health and safety guidance from the federal and state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The Commencement Committee desired to plan a virtual recognition event that would be special, meaningful and memorable for the Class of 2020," says Kimberly Whitehead, UMaine Chief of Staff and Commencement coordinator. "We are

excited to celebrate and honor the achievements of our Class of 2020 graduates, outstanding students and faculty members through the student recognition weeks. We extend best wishes and congratulations to our graduates." UMaine's Class of 2020 Recognition Week is May 4–9, featuring congratulatory messages and videos on the Commencement website. The daily postings at 10 a.m. will include messages from President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Chancellor Dannel Malloy, UMS Board of Trustees Chair James Erwin, student leaders, administrators, faculty members, alumni and friends of the university. Videos include highlights of the past year, interviews with valedictorian Sierra Yost and salutatorian Grace Smith, and the popular Alfond Stadium scoreboard with the running list of Class of 2020 graduates. A virtual yearbook also will be online. UMM Class of 2020 graduates will be celebrated with an online Recognition Ceremony on May 30 at 1 p.m. The event will feature brief remarks from President Ferrini-Mundy, Head of Campus Dan Qualls and Rep. Will Tuell, an alumnus. Information about how to access the virtual ceremony will be posted online.

Introduction to raising backyard poultry May 11

04 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a free online overview of raising backyard poultry from 5:30–7:30 p.m. May 11. Designed for the beginning or prospective backyard and small-scale poultry producers, participants will gain a general understanding of providing for housing, health, and nutrition needs; varieties of waterers and lighting options; and different poultry breeds for meat and egg production. UMaine Extension livestock specialist Colt Knight will lead the program. Register online for the free session. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

KJMS highlight Extension's online workshop to help teenagers combat negative thinking

04 May 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel shared the press release for the free online workshop "Don't Fall Into the Thinking Trap" hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H members who have been selected for the National 4-H Healthy Living Summit 2020. The workshop, hosted from 6 to 7 p.m. May 5, is designed to educate youth ages 13 to 18 about some common negative thought patterns and how to develop useful coping strategies. Participants will engage in small group learning, determine their own thinking patterns and learn ways to revise unhealthy thinking styles. The workshop is free; registration is required on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sara Conant, 207.781.6099; sara.conant@maine.edu.

Media highlight Extension's 'Victory Garden for ME' video series

04 May 2020

The Piscataquis Observer, Morning Ag Clips and Centralmaine.com shared a press release about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's eight-part video series for first-time gardeners titled "A Victory Garden for ME." The free series provides an overview of vegetable gardening, from how to get started and what to plant to tending and harvesting the home garden. The first video, "Vegetable Gardening: Where to Begin," is now available. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.942.7396. The Portland Press Herald also highlighted the new video series in the article titled "Want to learn a new skill? Take a lesson from a local online." The article also referenced other offerings from UMaine Extension, including the series of free online "Garden Chats," which has been extended through May 21, and the weekly "Growing Maine Gardeners" video tutorial series. Pine Tree Watch, Phys.org and The Bridgton News also highlighted the series.

AP highlights fellowship awards for UMaine research in Acadia

04 May 2020

The Associated Press reported on three University of Maine professors who were awarded fellowships to conduct research in Acadia National Park. The faculty members are Rachel Fowler, laboratory coordinator with the School of Biology and Ecology; Bonnie Newsom, assistant professor of anthropology; and Jay Wason, assistant professor of forest ecosystem physiology. The fellowships were awarded as part of Second Century Stewardship, an initiative of the National Park Service, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The U.S. News and World Report, Bangor Daily News, WABI (Channel 5) and WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the AP article. The Mount Desert Islander also reported on the fellowship awards. Mainebiz also highlighted the fellowship awards in its report "Newsworthy people and performances for May 18, 2020."

Press Herald reports on UMaine's upcoming virtual summer orientation

04 May 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported on the University of Maine's decision to develop and host a Virtual Student Orientation Experience in early June as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The orientation will help students become acquainted with UMaine and its many offerings. It will provide information about registering for classes, student services and campus activities. More information about how to attend will be sent at a later date. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also featured the Press Herald article.

Falkner selected for Critical Language Scholarship

05 May 2020

Noah Falkner was selected in March as a recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). He is the first student ever from the University of Maine to receive the award. Falkner, a graduate student in the School of Policy and International Affairs (SPIA), had planned to study Mandarin Chinese in Tainan, Taiwan this summer through CLS's 10-week intensive language and cultural immersion program. Then the coronavirus pandemic struck and changed everything. The U.S. Department of State decided to cancel all CLS Summer Programs for summer 2020 and asked students to reapply next year. The award was not postponed or deferred; however, all finalists and alternates for the 2020 program are encouraged to reapply for the CLS program for 2021, regardless of enrollment status in a degree-seeking program at that time. The scholarship is a competitive national award funded by the

Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as part of a wider government initiative to increase the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages critical to U.S. national security and economic prosperity. The program encourages students of all majors to engage in the study of these languages, and to be citizen ambassadors abroad as well as apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers. Falkner, of Ashland, Oregon, majored in international affairs and minored in both economics and political science at UMaine. Now a 4+1 graduate student in SPIA, he is pursuing a master's degree in global policy, with a concentration in international security and foreign policy. Falkner has spent the entirety of his senior year abroad, studying in Chengdu, China during the fall and in Montevideo, Uruguay in the spring. Falkner traces his interest in international affairs and global politics back to his experience competing in Policy Debate at a national level in high school. "The debate topics that most captivated me usually had something to do with U.S. foreign policy," he says. "From there, my interest in politics and international affairs only deepened as my exposure to academia grew." Falkner selected the CLS program in Chinese because he is drawn to the history and complexity of the Chinese language, as well as Chinese culture and food. "As China becomes an increasingly prominent world power and cultural influence, speaking Chinese will play an integral role in advancing cooperative American interests in the international theater," says Falkner. "By improving my Chinese skills, I hope to increase my effectiveness as a future practitioner of foreign policy." In response to the unexpected turn of events imposed by the global pandemic, Falkner expressed his disappointment, but also a note of optimism. "I share in the frustration and letdown of all of my peers who have had their summer programs and hard-earned professional opportunities wiped out by the virus," he says. "However, I've also taken this time to reflect on the positives in my life and to feel grateful for all the opportunities I've been able to capitalize on up until this point." Falkner strongly encourages students to take advantage of any and all study abroad opportunities. "Living in a foreign context is one of the best ways to challenge our daily assumptions, and to learn and grow as both students and people," he says. Falkner is not certain he will apply again for the 2021 CLS program, but he plans to continue his study of Chinese independently and is confident that he will return to China in the future. In addition to China and Uruguay, Falkner has studied in Cremona, Italy as part of a summer exchange program in high school, and in Haifa, Israel for the spring 2018 semester. All of Falkner's university semesters abroad were coordinated and facilitated by University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), which partners with UMaine's Office of International Programs. A list that identifies the U.S. colleges and universities from which finalists and alternates were selected for the current cycle is on the CLS website. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

Juliana Tavora: Master's student from Brazil unravels ocean's mysteries through sediments

05 May 2020

Juliana Tavora traveled from Brazil to the University of Maine as another step along her journey of unearthing marine mysteries as an oceanographer. The master's student from Maringa, Parana, Brazil, will earn a master's degree in oceanography when she graduates from UMaine this month. Tavora first came to UMaine as an undergraduate student in 2013 after earning a scholarship from the Brazilan government for three semesters of study. The journey was her first abroad, and she says the campus community, particularly her English teachers from the Intensive English Institute and professors from the School of Marine Sciences, "made me feel welcome and sheltered." "The experience was so rewarding I wanted to return to pursue a master's in oceanography, and when I graduated from my bachelor's (program), I was accepted at UMaine," says Tavora, who conducted research with UMaine professor of oceanography Emmanuel Boss. In her master's research, Tavora developed an algorithm for measuring sediment levels in water that could be applied to any coastal area and satellite sensor. Sediments, Tavora says, present a quality parameter for the water in which they reside because they can carry pollutants. They can also affect daily life, fishery health, tourism and the overall economy, she says. Existing algorithms apply usually to specific water bodies or satellite sensors, Tavora says, and to address their limitations, she designed a new algorithm with a more generic method. She says her algorithm also outputs possible errors for each computation. "During my research I became part of a very small and welcoming community (the ocean optics community), participated in conferences and learned beyond the classroom," she says. While in Maine, Tavora says she explored the trails and mountains in Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park. She and her friends even embarked on a challenge where they scaled eight mountains in the White Mountains and Maine and in Baxter State park in eight weekends. When snow fell across the state, she says she cross-country skied. "Each and every season in Maine is so beautiful," she says. Tavora says she has long wanted to become an oceanographer, ever since a family trip to a nonprofit tasked with caring for marine turtles. "As time passed," she says, "I eventually changed my focus from the charismatic megafauna to remote sensing of sediments." Tavora plans to pursue a Ph.D. program in remote sensing in coastal waters in the Netherlands. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

To control disease-transmitting blacklegged ticks, Gardner will isolate ecosystem factors that inhibit them

05 May 2020

Disease-transmitting blacklegged ticks invading new areas are a threat to the health of people and animals and are a burden on the economy. Allison Gardner will seek to isolate ecosystem factors — including temperature and snow pack — that inhibit their geographic spread and that lead to methods to control them during vulnerable life stages and times of year. The National Science Foundation awarded the assistant professor in the School of Biology and Ecology $200,000 for a three-year project that begins Sept. 1. The hard-bodied blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) transmit pathogens that cause numerous diseases in humans, including Lyme, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and Powassan virus. In 2019, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported a record-high 2,079 cases of Lyme disease in the state; about 300,000 are reported annually in the U.S. Untreated, symptoms can include severe headaches, neck stiffness, facial palsy, arthritis with severe joint pain and swelling, irregular heart beat, dizziness, shortness of breath, inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, and shooting pains, numbness, or tingling in hands or feet. In 2018, there were 476 confirmed or probable cases of anaplasmosis in Maine; 101 were hospitalized, according to the Maine CDC. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab reports that the number of cases nearly doubled annually from 2012 to 2017. In addition to some similar symptoms of Lyme disease, others include respiratory failure, bleeding problems and organ failure. Fewer than 1% die, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cases of Powassan virus were first reported 20 years ago in Maine; each year the number of confirmed cases has been in the single digits. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, confusion, loss of coordination, seizures, and slurred speech. The CDC reports about one of every 10 cases ends in death and half of all survivors have permanent brain damage. Gardner says blacklegged ticks' current distribution appears to be mostly limited by abiotic ecosystem factors such as temperature and humidity during the 95% of their two-year life cycle that they're not attached to a host. Blacklegged ticks' life cycle has four stages: egg, six-legged larva, eight-legged nymph, and adult. After eggs hatch, ticks need a blood meal from a host at every stage to survive, molt and reproduce. Gardner will examine to what extent winter conditions of temperature and snowfall constrain the geographic distribution of the blacklegged tick at five field sites spanning statewide latitudinal and coastal-inland gradients. Maine is an ideal natural laboratory, says Gardner, because of its strong natural temperature and precipitation gradients within a narrow geographic range. Given projected warmer and wetter winters in Maine, Gardner also wants to understand potential changes in ticks' future distribution. She and her research team will utilize manipulative field experiments and observational field studies to better understand: interacting effects of temperature and snow cover on overwinter survival; impacts of climate on host-seeking behavior and phenology; and co-invasion dynamics of the blacklegged tick and three of the pathogens it transmits. Collective findings could transform the study and modeling of blacklegged tick populations under current and future climate scenarios. Gardner's experimental approach will be able to be generalized to study numerous other tick species that are expanding their geographic ranges in the northeastern U.S.

and other regions, such as the lone star tick and the Asian longhorned tick. Some students taking part in the research will be part of new NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) and NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) programs in the Initiative for One Health & the Environment that include populations underrepresented in STEM. Some students in the Upward Bound program at UMaine also will take part. Researchers will support the development of a new No Ticks for ME public outreach event to train participants in tick identification, as well as to provide an overview of key research findings, and information about how to promote safe and effective personal tick protection practices in their communities. People are invited to send ticks to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab — which Gardner is not affiliated with — for identification or disease testing. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Morning Ag Clips highlights in-season produce information from Extension

05 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips shared a press release about University of Maine Cooperative Extension offering information to help find, grow, use, preserve and store in-season fruits and vegetables in Maine. Extension's recent publications pertain to rhubarb, wild greens and fiddleheads. Updated information, and bulletins to download or order, are available on the Extension website, or by contacting 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine), or extension@maine.edu. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also reported on the Extension's recent information about in-season fruits and vegetables in Maine.

Franklin Journal interviews Fuller about invasive insect that threatens broccoli, cauliflower crops

05 May 2020

The Franklin Journal interviewed David Fuller, agricultural and nontimber forest products extension professional IV with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for an article about the presence of swede midge in Farmington. The invasive insect from Europe and southwest Asia can damage broccoli, cauliflower and other members of the brassica family. The larvae, not the adult flies, cause the damage, Fuller said. "In Brussels sprouts, the sprouts are missing. Broccoli plants are scarred, no heads form. It's the same with cauliflower," he said. "Broccoli is affected the most, followed by cauliflower. Cabbage plants form several smaller heads. Kale and collards are also affected." Swede midge has so far been identified in Franklin and Aroostook counties, Fuller said.

Boothbay Register, Lincoln County News highlight Girgis' work on environmental monitoring buoy development

05 May 2020

The Boothbay Register and The Lincoln County News highlighted University of Maine alumnus Joshua Girgis' work in helping build an affordable environmental monitoring buoy that oyster and seaweed farmers could use to track conditions on their farms. They buoy gathers real-time water quality information, including ocean temperature, salinity and productivity, that can help aquaculture producers with farm work and fishermen, managers and citizen scientists gather more information about coastal environments, according to the report. Girgis joined the project facilitated by Christopher Davis, executive director of the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, as an intern in summer 2018, the same year he graduated from the UMaine College of Engineering. "I was ready for a challenge, and to connect what I'd learned in classes to real-world problems," he said. Girgis has worked on the project extensively in the Marine Culture Laboratory at the UMaine Darling Marine Center in Walpole, according to the report.

BDN publishes guest column from Mason

05 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News published a guest column from Mitch Mason, an associate extension professor with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, titled "Refugee and asylum seekers in Maine are future volunteers." Mason, a 4-H Youth and Family Development extension educator, is a member of the Maine chapter of the national Scholars Strategy Network, which brings together scholars across the country to address public challenges and their policy implications. Members' columns appear in the BDN every other week.

WABI reports on Ruben's coronavirus-related selfie research

05 May 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on University of Maine professor Mollie Ruben's request for selfies from the public for her coronavirus-related research. Ruben, an assistant professor of psychology, wants to explore people's social perceptions and biases related to face masks, and a #Selfie4Science will help. She's building a database of people with and without face masks for a study that will have important implications for business, health care, education and interpersonal relationships. For this initial portion of the project, Ruben, director of the Emotion, Pain, and Interpersonal Communication (EPIC) Lab, is gathering photographs and people's basic demographic information. In the second part, she'll ask people to make first-impression judgments about the photographs. "We are going to be going out in public more often and we're going to be coming into contact with more strangers and even people who we know that are wearing face masks," she said. "And so how do the face masks affect our initial first impression of these people when we go into a store for the first time and somebody in the business isn't wearing a face mask versus someone who is." To take part, upload a photograph of yourself in a face mask to the University of Maine Face Mask Database. About 50 people have submitted selfies so far, according to WABI. News Center Maine also reported on Ruben's coronavirus-related selfie research. WFVX (Channel 22) also highlighted the research.

Mayewski, Norchi co-author cover story about coronavirus, climate change for Global Geneva

05 May 2020

University of Maine Climate Change Institute director Paul Mayewski and Charles Norchi, Benjamin Thompson Professor of Law at the University of Maine School of Law and Fulbright-Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Iceland) Arctic Scholar, co-authored the cover story "COVID-19 and climate change: the planet's twin crises" in Global Geneva, an independent, international print and online journalism publication in the public interest. "While many may not think climate change and disease are similar or even associated, both can evolve rapidly. Fast changes in climate, operating over one to five-year periods and referred to as

'abrupt climate change', have taken their toll on previously flourishing civilizations," they wrote. "The abrupt onset of drought, for example, contributed to the collapse of the Mesopotamian Empire (modern day Syria and Iraq) 4,200 years ago. And in the 800s AD, it resulted in the demise of the Mayan Empire in Mesoamerica." Today, the authors cite intensification of droughts, floods and storms, millions of deaths annually as a consequence of poor air quality, an increase in vector-borne diseases, species extinction, and food insecurity as some of the consequences of human-induced acceleration of global warming and other climatic impacts. "Climate change not only intensifies the damage caused by COVID-19, but lessens the likelihood of understanding where, when and why such a disease will start in the future," they write. But with the subsequent significant reductions in industry and transportation due to the coronavirus, Mayewski and Norchi say that "the short-term effects are a reminder of our ability not only to decrease emissions on a sustained basis, but to serve as a reminder that we as humans can do with less." Moving forward, the authors write, "The twin problems of COVID-19 and climate change require global collaboration and diplomacy amongst countries, international organizations, research institutions, scientists and policy professionals." Who.What.Why, an investigative journalism publication, shared the story.

Managing pick-your-own operations during COVID-19

05 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will host a twilight meeting online starting at 5:30 p.m. May 12 to discuss best management practices for pick-your-own operations during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The discussion will highlight key considerations, including guidance from the Cornell Small Farms Program, toward keeping everyone safe while still allowing pick-your-own activities this year. Participant input is encouraged.

No registration is needed for this free webinar. More information is on the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Girgis helps design novel low-cost environmental monitoring buoy

06 May 2020

Joshua Girgis '18 earned his degree in mechanical engineering and headed to the Darling Marine Center to work with Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center director Chris Davis and others to design an environmental monitoring buoy. The goal is to build a buoy that gathers real-time information about ocean temperature, salinity and productivity so oyster and seaweed farmers know where to site their farms and when to put seed oysters and kelp in the water. During the last year, Girgis has led the team's efforts to reduce its cost and make it easier to assemble. Read the full release on the center's website. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Community garden guidelines during COVID-19

06 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering guidelines for community gardens during the COVID-19 outbreak based on CDC recommendations.

Community Garden Guidelines in the Time of Social Distancing includes recommendations for at-risk individuals, how to support social distancing, manage the numbers of gardeners, and suggested changes for garden operations and routine maintenance during the growing season.

Resources include UMaine Extension publications and videos, guidance from gardening blogs, and specific recommendations from the CDC. For more information contact 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine); extension@maine.edu.

C&EN interviews Miner on organic pollutant found in Arctic

06 May 2020

Chemical & Engineering News interviewed Kimberley Rain Miner, research assistant professor with the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, for the article titled "CFC replacements are a source of persistent organic pollution in the Arctic." Researchers have discovered short-chain compounds of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a type of organic pollutant, in ice cores in the Arctic, which they believe could be a result of their use after many countries phased out the use of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Miner said more research into the potential toxicity of these new short-chain compounds must be conducted.

Advertiser Democrat reports on Bryant Pond 4-H center staff delivering food to pantries

06 May 2020

The Advertiser Democrat reported on how staff from the University of Maine 4-H Camp & Learning Center at Bryant Pond participated in a coalition that helped deliver food to food pantries in Western Maine. Center staff transported food to Andover Food Pantry, Canton Food Pantry, Dixfield Food Pantry, GRAMPA Food Pantry in Mexico, Servant's Heart Food Pantry in Peru, and Praise Assembly of God Church in Rumford, according to the Sun Journal.

'In this together' shirt to benefit Student Crisis Fund

06 May 2020

"In this together." That's the message that has resonated with the University of Maine student population and the University of Maine System through a most unusual spring semester. University Bookstore, located on the lower level of the Memorial Union, is doing what it can to help bring that message to support students through the Student Crisis Fund. "The mission of the bookstore is always about students, providing them with the resources they need to be successful," says University Bookstore associate director Dean Graham. "With so many students impacted by this pandemic we hope this fundraising effort can contribute to enabling students to continue with their education." Proceeds from the shirt, which features a Life Is Good Company design, will be donated to the Student Crisis Fund created by the University of Maine Foundation. According to the Foundation, the fund provides "emergency assistance for undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Maine or any of its outreach centers or its regional campus for which the student has no other source of funds." The limited-edition shirt, priced at $24.99, can be ordered on the University Bookstore website. There is free shipping on all bookstore orders through the end of May.

UMaine undergraduate, graduate student researchers earn top poster honors at MBMSS

07 May 2020

Twenty student researchers and teams from the University of Maine received poster awards in the annual Maine Biological and Medical Sciences Symposium (MBMSS), a statewide gathering hosted by MDI Biological Laboratory that is designed to encourage students, scientists and entrepreneurs to share research results, exchange ideas, promote collaboration and facilitate networking opportunities. This year's two-day event, held online in April due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, featured 53 undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral researchers from 13 Maine academic and research institutions presenting their scientific posters. Twenty-four judges reviewed and provided feedback on the posters, which were scored on their appearance, scientific content and presentation online. Those students with the highest poster scores in each category received cash awards of $500, $250 and $100 for first, second and third places; $50 for honorable mention. The awardee list follows. An MDI Biological Laboratory news release about the event and awards is online.

MBMSS 2020 Poster Awards

Undergraduate: first- and second-year

First place: Ezekiel Robinson "Low-Dose Arsenic Exposure Impacts the Expression of Orthologous Breast Cancer Associated Genes in Zebrafish Embryos" This poster represents a team of students from the HON 350 course that Keith Hutchison and Ben King mentored. The team includes Ezekiel Robinson, Matthew Cox, Basel White, Lillie Fortier and Tamra Bensen. **Second place: Lauren Cusson** "Epsocamisio, the Little Phage That Could (Without Integrase)" This poster represents a team of students from the HON 155 course that Melody Neely, Michael Wilcek, and Sally Molloy mentored. The team includes Lauren Cusson, Libbie Currie, Andre Daigle and Emma Dunn. **Third place: Basel White — UMaine, Honors; Kahlil Lab** "Wavelet-Based Automatic Pectoral Muscle Segmentation from Mammograms"

HONORABLE MENTION:

Ezekiel Robinson — UMaine, Honors; King Lab (Maine Genomics Research Collaborative) "Identifying potential genes of interest in Danio rerio infected with Influenza A" **Remi Geohegan — UMaine; Maginnis Lab** "ERK Activation Enhances JCPyV Infection" **Anna Briley — UMaine, Honors; Jayasundara Lab (Maine Genomics Research Collaborative)** "Transcriptomic variation underlying pollution resistance in fish"

Undergraduate: third-, fourth- and fifth-year

First place: Lily Charpentier — UMaine, Honors; King Lab "Characterization of ncf1 mutants in a zebrafish model of innate immune function with human influenza A virus infection" **Second place: Kodey Silknitter — UMaine; King Lab (Maine Genomics Research Collaborative)** "Mechanisms of the hyperinflammatory response to influenza infection" **Third place: Francesca Armstrong — UMaine, Honors; Maginnis Lab** "Utilizing primary astrocytes to characterize the host-trafficking mechanisms that are hijacked during a fatal viral brain infection"

HONORABLE MENTION:

Brittnie Hodsdon — University of Maine at Presque Isle; Feinstein Lab "Correlations and Discrepancies between the Genotype and Phenotype of 28 Nosocomial Pathogens" **Emma Freeman — UMaine, Honors; Sally Molloy Lab** "The role of the BPs immunity repressor in the regulation of pathogenic *Mycobacterium* chelonae gene expression"

Graduate Student

First place: Caitlin Waife-Kwakye — UMaine Molecular and Biomedical Sciences "Investigating the impact of prophages on bacterial fitness in Streptococcus agalactiae" **Second place: Michael Wilczek — UMaine Molecular and Biomedical Sciences** "Determining the road map to JC Polyomavirus infection in primary astrocytes: RNA sequencing reveals important cell signaling pathways activated upon virus infection" **Third place tie: Monique Mills — UMaine GSBSE** "The mechanisms of TAp63-dependent and -independent DNA damage response in meiotically arrested oocytes" **Third place tie: George Murray — UMaine GSBSE** "Assessment of SIPA1L2 as a candidate modifier of CMT1A identified in human GWAS"

HONORABLE MENTION:

Colleen Mayberry — UMaine Molecular and Biomedical Sciences "Dissecting the role of beta-arrestin in JC polyomavirus internalization" **Brandi-Lee Soos — UMaine Molecular and Biomedical Sciences** "Innate Immune Response to Influenza A Viral Infection in a Zebrafish Model" **Ashley Soucy — UMaine GSBSE** "RAB27a regulation of exosome function in perivascular adipose tissue" **Jaycee Cushman — UMaine Molecular and Biomedical Sciences** "Characterizing the impact of phage gene products on host fitness and virulence in non-tuberculous pathogenic *Mycobacteria"* **Gabriel Jensen — UMaine GSBSE** "The Meninges and Choroid Plexus are Prominent mTert-Expressing Adult Stem Cell Niches in the Mouse Brain" **Christine Hale —**

UMaine GSBSE "Injury-induced nociceptive sensitization and recovery in *Drosophila"*

'The Maine Question' asks what businesses can learn from the military about decision-making

07 May 2020

What can businesses learn from the military about making good decisions? Find out in this week's episode of "The Maine Question." Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the fast pace of the business world required companies to make good decisions quickly in order to survive and thrive. Maine Business School professors Nory Jones and John Mahon have done research on the decision-making process and how the business world can follow the example of the military to make that process faster and better. Learn about their insights in the 10th episode of Season 2. The podcast is on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. For more information and to suggest podcast topics, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

KJMS shares Extension's informational session on raising backyard poultry

07 May 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel shared a press release about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension offering a free online overview about raising backyard poultry from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. May 11 via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending the event can register on the Extension website. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu. The Lincoln County News and Turner Publishing also shared the release.

WNCN features experiment about hurricane winds by Sturm

07 May 2020

WNCN (Channel 17 in Raleigh, North Carolina) featured an experiment from David Sturm, an instructional laboratory and lecture demonstration specialist at the University of Maine, that showcases how hurricane-force winds can cause small items to propel like bullets when they are in the air. Sturm takes a large polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe with a small ball inside and ends that were taped shut, sucks the air out of the pipe with a vacuum, and then breaks one of the tape seals so outside air can flow into it. The rush of air pushed the ball forward to break through the other seal and pierce cardboard. The key takeaway, he said, is that something as light as a ping pong ball or straw can break through glass, paper, or wood if it's travelling at 200 mph. "This is an experiment which is often called a vacuum cannon. The idea is if you pull air out then you get lower pressure inside a chamber and then if you let air suddenly back in the chamber, that large air pressure will propel objects at high speeds exactly like what high speeds in a hurricane do," he said.

BDN interviews Extension officials about 'murder hornet'

07 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Clay Kirby, an associate scientist with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and James Dill, Extension professor and associate program adminstrator, for the article "The 'murder hornet' is far from Maine. Experts hope it stays that way." The invasive Asian giant hornet, also known as the "murder hornet," because a few of them can destroy a honey bee hive in hours, has recently been found for the first time in the U.S. in Washington State, according to the report. "We're hoping that the regulatory entomologists out there in the Pacific Northwest will nip that in the bud," Kirby said."But that's going to be a whole other bug story I'm sure, hopefully one that will never have to be written from the state of Maine." Dill said if entomologists fail to contain and eradicate the hornet, it would be difficult to determine when it could spread to Maine. "It would probably be a while because they'd have to most likely move on their own," he said.

Media report on fall 2020 enrollment at UMaine

07 May 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and the Bangor Daily News reported on student enrollment for the fall 2020 semester at the University of Maine. More than 2,200 students will attend UMaine in the fall, according to the reports. More than 1,100 out-of-state students enrolled, a 15% uptick from last year, according to WABI. "We are very pleased with the way the enrollment numbers look on the field right now, particularly with the increase in out of state students. We know this means our quality and our affordability message is out widely. And students are taking a good look at being here in Maine with us," said UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "We're trying to make sure that they can anticipate what it will be like to become a Black Bear, and how we'll help them do that."

UMaine Extension offers farmers help with stress reduction, communication

07 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is now offering free online farm coaching, help with stress management and communication, and problem-solving on the farm and within families. Farm Coaching: Supporting Relationships for Farm Success features resources for stress reduction, improved communication and family well-being, including weekly "Small Bites" — short articles on practical ideas. The farm-coaching team includes UMaine Extension human resources specialist Leslie Forstadt and Extension educator Tori Jackson; Polly Shyka, co-owner of Villageside Farm, Freedom; Abby Sadauckas, co-owner of Apple Creek Farm, Bowdoinham; and Karen Groat, executive director, Family and Community Mediation, Scarborough. Farm coaching is offered free of charge and is supported by a grant from Northeast Extension Risk Management Education. For more information, to sign up or request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.3487; leslie.forstadt@maine.edu, or visit the Farm Coaching webpage.

Community Learning for Maine website launch event announced

08 May 2020

The nonprofit Rural Aspirations Project will host a virtual launch for its new website, Community Learning for Maine (CL4ME) on Thursday, May 14 from 4–5 p.m. on Zoom. The University of Maine College of Education and Human Development helped develop the site, with associate professor of educational leadership Catharine Biddle serving in an advisory role and other faculty members providing content. CL4ME is a Maine-based resource that aims to support schools, organizations and communities during remote learning due to the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. Working together to build long-term school-community collaborations and vitality, the site unifies Maine's unique organizational assets to support a wide variety of instructional methods and programs that connect what is being taught in schools to surrounding communities. "Through CL4ME, Maine educators, community leaders and families are invited to join together to build strong, mutually beneficial connections between schools and communities," says Korah Soll, founding director of the Rural Aspirations Project. "These connections demonstrate our collective investment in supporting youth as future leaders, problem solvers and innovators able to navigate transitions, contribute to, and thrive in a changing local and global world." Biddle has coordinated the College of Education and Human Development's contributions to the site. Several faculty members have provided content, including webinars hosted by members of the special education faculty, and the site's Parent/Guardian Resources page, which was compiled by UMaine's Parenting Relationships Research Lab, founded by assistant professor of family studies Daniel Puhlman. "Healthy communities and healthy schools are intertwined in so many ways," says Biddle. "Although this website launched during the COVID-19 crisis, the hope is that it will continue to be a resource for families and teachers in Maine for many years to come." In addition to the college, other partners in the site include the Maine Department of Education, the Island Institute, Island Readers & Writers, the Maine Environmental Education Association and the Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. Members from each organization will be at the Zoom launch for CL4ME, which will include a virtual tour of the site and a Q&A session. The link to register is online. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Maine AgrAbility webinar focuses on farmer stress, resilience

08 May 2020

Maine AgrAbility will offer a free webinar for farmers examining increased stress due to the impacts of COVID-19, and available resources, from 1–2 p.m. May 20. Stress, Resilience, and Resources: Responding to the Impacts of COVID-19 on Farms webinar topics will include how people are managing multiple stressors, how communities are developing support systems, and what information and resources are available for farmers and families during this time. University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor and human development specialist, Leslie Forstadt, will lead the program. The webinar is free; registration is required. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Leilani Carlson, 207.944.1533; leilani.carlson@maine.edu. Maine AgrAbility is a collaboration between UMaine Extension and Alpha One, funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Dallas Innovates references wind-wave basin at UMaine

08 May 2020

Dallas Innovates magazine referenced the W2 Wind-Wave Basin at the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center for an article about an offshore wind project from the University of Texas that received funding. The U.S. Department of Energy and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy awarded Todd Griffith, associate professor of mechanical engineering at The University of Texas, a $3.3 million grant to develop a vertical axis wind turbine. He plans to test his prototype turbine in the wind-wave basin at UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center.

Times Record interviews Mech about browntail moth caterpillar

08 May 2020

The Times Record interviewed Angela Mech, assistant professor of forest entomology at the University of Maine, about the concentration and dangers of the browntail moth caterpillar in the state. The dark brown caterpillars can be identified by their white stripes and red and orange dots. According to the article, they have toxic hairs that, when shed and released into the air, can cause breathing problems when inhaled and a skin reaction like poison ivy. All counties in southern, Down East and south-central Maine have some exposure risk. Mech said there is evidence that cool, wet spring seasons promote the growth of a fungus that attacks the caterpillar and can cause localized population crashes. "The mortality of a large number of caterpillars means a reduction in the number of toxic hairs in that area compared to areas that still have actively feeding caterpillars," she said, "wet weather may help to minimize contact with the toxic hairs by reducing the chance that they become airborne." Mech said the number of overwintering webs can be a good indicator for determining how

problematic the caterpillar will be in a given area.

WABI interviews Gardner about blacklegged tick research

08 May 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on Allison Gardner's research into ecosystem factors, such as temperature and snowpack, that inhibit the spread of blacklegged ticks. The National Science Foundation awarded the assistant professor in the School of Biology and Ecology $200,000 for a three-year project that begins Sept. 1. Blacklegged ticks' current distribution appears to be mostly limited by abiotic ecosystem factors such as temperature and humidity during the 95% of their two-year life cycle that they're not attached to a host. Gardner will examine to what extent winter conditions of temperature and snowfall constrain the geographic distribution of the blacklegged tick at five field sites spanning statewide latitudinal and coastal-inland gradients. "Ultimately the goal of the research is to be able to inform modeling efforts, to try to predict where the tick is going to spread and on what time scale. Perhaps even to what extent it's going to be 'a good year' or 'a bad year' for ticks," she said.

Media highlight Extension's online farm coaching resources

08 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips, Penobscot Bay Pilot and Daily Bulldog shared a news release about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension offering free online farm coaching, help with stress management and communication, and problem-solving on the farm and within families. Farm Coaching: Supporting Relationships for Farm Success features resources for stress reduction, improved communication and family well-being, including weekly "Small Bites" — short articles on practical ideas. For more information about the free service, or to sign up or request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.3487, email leslie.forstadt@maine.edu, or visit the Farm Coaching webpage. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, WVII (Channel 7) and Associated Press also reported on the service, and the U.S. News and World Report, News-Press NOW, WABI (Channel 5) and fosters.com shared the report.

Media share Extension's announcement for community garden guidelines

08 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips, Boothbay Register, Turner Publishing and Centralmaine.com shared a news release about University of Maine Cooperative Extension's guidelines for community gardens during the COVID-19 outbreak based on CDC recommendations. Community Garden Guidelines in the Time of Social Distancing includes recommendations for at-risk individuals, how to support social distancing, manage the numbers of gardeners, and suggested changes for garden operations and routine maintenance during the growing season. For more information call 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine); or email extension@maine.edu. WABI (Channel 5) spoke to Pamela Hargest, a horticulture professional with UMaine Extension, about the guidelines. "Thinking about where we can minimize risk and that really starts with evaluating who is working in the gardens this season," she said. "So, maybe someone could otherwise afford to purchase fresh produce from a local farm maybe they could take the season off. So we can reduce the amount of people that are going in and out of that community garden."

Sámuel Varga: Hungarian student aspires to become leader in world of corporate finance

11 May 2020

Sámuel Varga aspires to become a leader in the world of corporate finance using the knowledge he obtained and skills he refined at the University of Maine. When he first traveled from Erd, Hungary, to Maine as a high school exchange student in 2013, Varga was captivated by the small business culture in the state, he says. Varga planned to open his own small business when he enrolled at UMaine, but studying management and finance at the Maine Business School inspired his new goal of becoming an executive at a financial services firm. "It utilizes my two main strengths, emotional intelligence and quantitative capabilities," he says. For his senior thesis, Varga focused on indicators that predict underpricing in initial public offerings (IPOs). Underpricing occurs when firms first sell shares of ownership through stocks, or make an IPO, at a lower than expected price to "display abnormally high short-term returns on average," he says. Varga chose his thesis topic after completing a previous assignment in which he wrote about a failed IPO. Learning how that IPO faltered inspired his future work. "As a result, I wanted to know if IPO performance, failures or major successes, can be forecasted using certain predictors," Varga says. "I seek to establish new predictors of IPO underpricing to help entrepreneurs, underwriters, and investors of all sizes make better financial decisions," Varga says. At UMaine, Varga also participated in several campus groups and activities. He worked as a resident assistant for three years, two of which he served as a lead resident assistant; was the human resources manager for the UMaine Student Portfolio Investment Fund (SPIFFY), worked as a student ambassador and research assistant for the Maine Business School, and participated in competition teams with fellow Business School students that won the CFA Institute Research Challenge and International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition. "I love that UMaine feels like a town. It is an ecosystem of people doing vastly different things (in studies and activities), and yet people develop friendships intra- and inter-discipline that stay with them beyond college," Varga says. Varga, who earned his degree in May, plans to work as a hedge fund accountant with Stone Coast Fund Services, Portland. "I love the culture of my own department, the Maine Business School. The relationships I was able to develop with the faculty and the administrative staff are treasures, and I hope to maintain many of them during my career in the financial services industry," he says. "I appreciated the genuine care these individuals displayed toward my own personal and professional success." Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Kreutz to examine 10,000-year-old ice to learn more about Pacific Ocean drivers of Arctic warming

11 May 2020

Karl Kreutz and colleagues previously discovered from ice cores from Alaska's Mount Hunter that a doubling of snow accumulation and 60-fold increase in summer melt since the 1850s — the industrial era — is linked to warming in the Tropical Pacific Ocean. The movement of heat from the Pacific, through Alaska, and into the Arctic contributes to Arctic amplification, or the rate of warming in the Arctic that's much higher than that in lower latitudes. This climate pattern is called Pacific multidecadal variability. It alters upper level atmospheric winds and affects coastal sea and continental surface air temperatures from Alaska to California. It can affect Pacific and Atlantic hurricane activity, droughts and flooding around the Pacific basin, as well as the productivity of marine ecosystems, and global land temperature patterns. Those initial Mount Hunter results suggest the recent changes are unique in the last

1,000 years, says Kreutz, a University of Maine scientist. Now, Kreutz will examine whether those same drivers also are relevant for the entire Holocene — the last 11,700 years of Earth's history since the end of the last major "ice age." "The recent, rapid changes in Arctic climate have important implications not only for the high northern latitudes, but mid-latitudes as well," says Kreutz, a professor with the Climate Change Institute and School of Earth and Climate Sciences. "To fully understand these changes, we need to look at and learn from previous warm periods in Earth history. The early Holocene is one of those warm intervals. We hope to learn a great deal about how and why the Pacific Ocean drives Arctic amplification from it." The National Science Foundation has awarded Kreutz $333,031 for a study titled "Evaluating North Pacific hydroclimate during the Holocene using the Denali ice core archive." Colleagues Andrei Kurbatov, Dominic Winski and Seth Campbell will join Kreutz for the three-year research project that begins June 1. The team will concentrate on the bottom 20 meters of the twin 208-meter surface-to-bedrock cores. Preliminary radiocarbon isotope analyses demonstrate the ice that's close to the base of the glacier is more than 10,000 years old, says Kreutz. The international project also will support and mentor the next generation of ice core scientists, including Winski and at least one Ph.D. student. UMaine, in collaboration with Colorado State University and the National Park Service, also will construct STEM educational kits — based on the Mount Hunter ice core record — that target youth in grades 4–12. UMaine will support the distribution and use of the kits in Alaska and Maine schools. Kreutz says the team's ongoing relationship with Denali National Park staff, including scientists, climbing rangers, educators, and administrators, as well as regional park service providers, including those providing air transportation and flightseeing, fosters opportunities for extensive public outreach. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Maginnis an expert on upcoming BioME 'The Science of COVID-19' webinar

11 May 2020

"The Science of COVID-19" will be the focus of a May 28 webinar, sponsored by BioME, the Bioscience Association of Maine. The free webinar, from 3–4:30 p.m., features Melissa Maginnis, University of Maine assistant professor of microbiology; Dr. Dora Anne Mills, chief health improvement officer for MaineHealth; Dr. Edison Liu, president and CEO of The Jackson Laboratory; and Dr. Norman Moore, director of scientific affairs, infectious diseases at Abbott Diagnostics. More information, including how to register, is online.

Republican Journal announces registration open for Hutchinson Center grant writing program

11 May 2020

The Republican Journal announced registration is open for an online professional development grant writing program hosted by the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The program runs May 18–22. Participants will earn a UMaine certificate in grant writing, and 3.0 CEUs/30 contact hours are available, the article states. More information and registration are online. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, michelle.patten@maine.edu or 207.338.8002.

Centralmaine.com advances Extension pick-your-own management webinar

11 May 2020

Centralmaine.com advanced an online webinar focused on best management practices for pick-your-own operations during the COVID-19 outbreak. The virtual meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. May 12, hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. The webinar is free and no registration is required. More information is available online or by contacting Becky Gray at 207.781.6099 or rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

BDN speaks with Garland about how to prepare raised beds

11 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Kate Garland, a horticultural professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for an article on how to prepare raised beds for spring planting, including checking to see if existing raised beds need any repairs before planting. "The big thing is to look out for nails and screws and other sharp portions of the bed, especially if you're going to be gardening with little ones," Garland said.

Media report on virtual Commencement celebrations

11 May 2020

News Center Maine and WABI (Channel 5) reported on virtual Commencement celebrations held by University of Maine System campuses, including the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias. "Every graduating class — of course, it's such a special time," said UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "We're so proud of what they've accomplished, and we're looking forward to when we can congratulate them in person. In the meantime, I'm happy with our virtual recognition week as an attempt to honor the great work that they've done." The online Recognition Week for the UMaine Class of 2020 took place from May 4 through 9 with congratulatory messages and features of outstanding students and faculty members each day at 10 a.m., ending on what would have been the day of the traditional in-person Commencement ceremonies. "The Commencement Committee desired to plan a virtual recognition event that would be special, meaningful and memorable for the Class of 2020," said Kimberly Whitehead, UMaine chief of staff and Commencement coordinator. "We are excited to celebrate and honor the achievements of our Class of 2020 graduates, outstanding students and faculty members through the student recognition weeks. We extend best wishes and congratulations to our graduates." The UMM Class of 2020 graduates will be celebrated with an online Recognition Ceremony at 1 p.m. May 30, News Center Maine reported. The Bangor Daily News published a University of Maine System press release stating that UMaine launched a virtual yearbook along with the Recognition Week offerings, and the Commencement Committee continues to plan for a face-to-face ceremony in the fall. UMaine anticipates conferring approximately 1,900 degrees or awards. UMM is tentatively scheduling a commencement ceremony for its homecoming weekend in September, provided it will be safe to do so. UMM anticipates conferring 83 degrees or awards, the release states.

UMaine to offer new computational thinking, library and media specialist graduate certificates

11 May 2020

This summer, as part of a collaborative program in instructional technology across three University of Maine System campuses, the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development will start offering two new online graduate certificates. The new certificates are a 12-credit program in computational thinking for educators and a 15-credit library and media specialist program, both of which are being offered exclusively through UMaineOnline. They are designed to help teachers, educational leaders and other specialists develop new skills and innovative ways of teaching and learning. "With the rise of online and blended learning, staying up-to-date on the latest in instructional design and technology is a growing need in education," says Jim Artesani, associate dean for graduate education and research with the UMaine College of Education and Human Development. "We're excited to start offering these graduate certificates to teachers and schools in Maine and around the world." The certificate in computational thinking prepares educators to integrate algorithmic thinking, programming, and other innovative concepts and technologies into their instruction. The library and media specialist certificate aligns with current standards for school librarianship by the American Library Association and the American Association for School Librarians. Students who complete the certificate will acquire skills needed to manage library and information services in a PreK–12 environment. U.S. News & World Report ranks UMaine among the best colleges offering online degrees in education. The instructional technology program features instructors from the University of Maine, the University of Maine at Farmington and the University of Southern Maine, as well as incredibly talented educational technology professionals across the state and beyond. Besides the new certificates, the program offers graduate certificates in instructional design and classroom technology integrationist, as well as master's and education specialist (Ed.S.) degrees, all of which are provided via UMaineOnline. Students are able to use the graduate certificates as a stepping stone into or as part of a master's or Ed.S. degree in instructional technology or another graduate program at UMaine. "We are very pleased to add these online graduate certificates to our large offering of graduate programs," says Monique LaRocque, associate provost for the Division of Lifelong Learning. "Our UMaineOnline advisers are here to support educators and others interested in pursuing these offerings from admission through the enrollment process. We are committed to providing the best educational experiences for those seeking to enhance their knowledge and gain skills in these high-interest and emerging fields." Applications for the graduate certificates in instructional technology are available at umaine.edu/graduate/apply. Those interested in speaking with an adviser can contact UMaineOnline at umaineonline@maine.edu; 207.581.5858 or toll-free 1.844.581.5811. More information on the new graduate certificates is available online. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

2020 Presidential Awards announced

11 May 2020

Two faculty members in the School of Marine Sciences and one in the College of Engineering are the recipients of 2020 Presidential Awards at the University of Maine. Sara Lindsay, associate professor of marine sciences, received the Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award. Bob Steneck, professor of marine sciences, received the Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award. Jean MacRae, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering, received the Presidential Public Service Achievement Award. "All three Presidential Award winners are world-class teachers, mentors, researchers and engaged community members," says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "Undergraduate and graduate students fortunate enough to learn from and collaborate with Sara, Jean and Bob gain the valuable experience that comes from being at a research university with this caliber of faculty." [caption

id="attachment_76974" align="alignright" width="223"] Sara Lindsay[/caption] **Lindsay**, who also is a faculty member in the Maine Center for Research in STEM Education (RiSE Center), is recognized for the many classes she has developed and taught, her ongoing efforts to pioneer best practices in teaching, and her growing national reputation as a STEM scholar. Colleagues describe her as "an advocate, practitioner and producer of evidenced-based teaching strategies" who challenges students intellectually while providing the support they need to succeed. Lindsay joined the UMaine community in 1998 as a research assistant professor. Three years later, she was the first School of Marine Sciences undergraduate coordinator, helping develop inquiry-based, hands-on courses that linked theory to real-life problems in marine sciences. In Introduction to Integrative Marine Science (SMS 203), many students learn scientific process and literature, and data analysis for the first time. Graduate teaching assistants collaborating with Lindsay and first-year faculty co-teaching with her learn how to foster learning. "The best thing about teaching with Sara is that she truly cares about how students are learning, not just what they are learning," noted one graduate teaching assistant. Her passion for quality educational experiences for students also is reflected in reenvisioned graduate courses in scientific ethics and in marine biology, and in her engagement with high school and undergraduate student researchers in the lab. In the Maine RiSE Center, Lindsay teaches a course for Maine Learning Assistants and a core course in the Master of Science in Teaching program. As a Fellow of the Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education she works to support departments across the nation interested in inclusive, student-centered, evidence-based teaching and learning. Her research focuses on the ecology and biology of marine invertebrates, as well as on issues related to student learning and effective teaching practices in STEM disciplines. Most recently, Lindsay is a co-principal investigator on a $1.2 million National Science Foundation (NSF) project, "Integrating Computing Into Science Teaching and Learning in Grades 6–8: A Diverse Partnership to Develop an Evidence-Guided Model to Serve Rural Communities." She also is on the education research team that is part of a $3 million NSF award: "Leveraging Intelligent Informatics and Smart Data for Improved Understanding of Northern Ecosystem Resiliency (INSPIRES)." [caption id="attachment_76975"


align="alignright" width="223"] Bob Steneck[/caption] **Steneck**, a UMaine alumnus, is an internationally recognized marine ecologist whose research expertise ranges from coral reefs and kelp forests to fisheries and marine conservation and management. His Gulf of Maine ecosystem research includes extensive studies of the life histories and habitats of the American lobster. His research to identify key habitat needs and data on where lobsters spawn, settle and grow has contributed to the successful resource management of the state's iconic fishery through the past four decades. Steneck's work on ecosystem dynamics has contributed to our understanding of the ecological and socio-economic consequences of fishing, including the shift from a groundfish- to crustacean-dominated Gulf of Maine. Similarly his work on how juvenile coral settle and grow on reefs, and why it is difficult for coral reefs to recover from disturbance, has highlighted the importance of developing an ecosystem approach to reef conservation. His early publications on the evolution and fossil record of coralline algae represent key studies of how such ecological processes as predation and herbivory have changed to shape the structure of marine communities over geological time. Steneck's seminal research has informed the way overexploitation, species invasions and a warming climate in ecosystems from the Gulf of Maine to the Great Barrier Reef are addressed. Steneck, who is based at the Darling Marine Center, joined the UMaine community in 1981. He was named an AAAS Fellow in 1995 and received a Pew Fellowship in Research Conservation in 1998. Steneck is one of the most highly cited marine ecologists of our time. One of his most well-known papers, "Creation of a gilded trap by the high economic value of the Maine lobster fishery," published in "Conservation Biology" in 2011, was selected by Faculty of 1000 Biology as among the top 2% of published articles in biology and medicine. His research funding has included awards from NOAA, National Geographic, NSF, Maine Sea Grant and the Maine Department of Marine Resources. Steneck's research informs his teaching and his community engagement. His classes are interactive and reflect his passion for the micro and macro views of marine sciences. His commitment to advocating for "fisheries science conversations in Maine" has long connected him to those who make their


livelihoods from the sea. [caption id="attachment_76976" align="alignright" width="223"] Jean MacRae[/caption] **MacRae** is the founding faculty adviser to the UMaine student chapter of Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA), which is dedicated to building a better world through engineering projects that empower communities to meet basic human needs and equip leaders to solve the world's most pressing challenges, according to the national organization's website. The UMaine chapter was established five years after the national organization formed in 2002. Since then, hundreds of UMaine students — both engineering and nonengineering majors — have been involved in EWB and contributed to design and fundraising, including dozens who have traveled to partner communities. EWB-UMaine focuses on sustainably solving engineering dilemmas in developing countries through partnerships with local communities. The chapter has conducted service-learning projects in Honduras and Ecuador, where UMaine students collaborate with local professional engineers to develop sanitation infrastructure and propose solutions to providing clean drinking water. Often, these initiatives are undertaken in areas where conventional resources, including electricity and construction equipment, are unavailable. The initiatives make a difference in public health and quality of life for the community members. The students gain an international perspective and real-world understanding of what it takes to undertake and succeed in such projects. Prior to implementation, successful EWB-UMaine projects require relationship-building, planning and fundraising over multiple years. And that requires continuity of leadership and active engagement of student cohorts. "MacRae is the constant that makes this happen," one nominator noted. She also lends her technical expertise as an engineer and a researcher with a focus on microbial processes that affect pollutant and nutrient cycling, and issues related to sustainability issues, water quality and sanitation. MacRae's contributions are global and local. Her research team has made important contributions to addressing water quality and solid waste challenges in Maine. She received an NSF CAREER Award for her research, and College of Engineering awards for teaching and excellence. Most recently, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors. MacRae has been a member of the UMaine community since 1999. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Press Herald speaks with Morrison about remote learning and teaching

11 May 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Mia Morrison, an adviser and lecturer in instructional technology with the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development, for an article about the "new normal" of learning at home for Maine's PreK-12 students and teachers. The piece profiled a second-grade class at Portland's Lyseth Elementary School, showing how the teacher and students are adapting to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "In a classroom you know the instruction and support each child is getting," Morrison told the Press Herald. "It's a guessing game online. I would say that's a big difficulty. You don't have any idea what's happening around the students and how much support they're getting. They may be getting none."

McDonough MacKenzie paper earns award for exemplary botany contributions

12 May 2020

The awards keep coming for Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie, a David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow at the Climate Change Institute. The New England Botanical Club announced that her paper, "Common garden experiments as a dynamic tool for ecological studies of alpine plants and communities in eastern North America," has received the Merritt Lyndon Fernald Award for exemplary contributions to the botany of northeastern North America. McDonough MacKenzie is senior author and Kevin Berend and Kristen Haynes are co-authors of the paper published in Rhodora. The three met at the Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering in April 2018. "None of us had known about each other before the Gathering, and we all bemoaned the fact that there was so little literature on best practices in creating common garden experiments," says McDonough MacKenzie. "So we wrote the paper that we all wished we could have read at the beginning of our graduate projects — a review of common garden research in the Northeast." They'll each receive $1,000 and a certificate. The award is generally presented at the New England Botanical Club meeting in May. For 60 years, Fernald intensively studied the flora of eastern North America. Fernald, born in 1873 in Orono, Maine, made numerous field expeditions throughout the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. He authored more than 800 papers. Earlier this spring, the Ecological Society of America named McDonough MacKenzie a recipient of the George Mercer Award that recognizes outstanding recently published ecological research by scientists 40 years old and younger. In Maine, McDonough MacKenzie continues to study the impacts of climate change on plant communities. She is a Second Century Stewardship Fellow at Acadia National Park.

UMM to offer early college summer program, Ellsworth American reports

12 May 2020

The Ellsworth American reported the University of Maine at Machias plans to offer an Early College Summer Institute, tentatively planned for July 2020. The program is designed for about 60 high school students to focus on three different academic areas: graphic novel, wildlife law, and psychology and community studies. The program is among four education initiatives promoting postsecondary success for underrepresented student populations that were recently awarded $5,000 grants by MaineSpark, the article states.

BDN speaks with Kirby, Dill about black flies

12 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with University of Maine Cooperative Extension staff Clay Kirby, an insect diagnostician, and Jim Dill, a pest management specialist, for an article about black flies. "There are between 40 and 50 different [black fly] species in Maine, and just a handful of them actually go after people. I don't know the exact number, but it's not the majority of the species," Kirby said. "I can remember back when I was in college here as an undergraduate in Maine, there was a black fly season," said Dill. "It went from maybe the middle of May to the middle of June and that was it. But the reason was the waters of Maine were so polluted at that time. The black flies couldn't survive. Now that we've cleaned up our water, we have about 40 species of black flies." Kirby added that black flies are an indicator species that are more common the cleaner the water is. And Dill said that people coming to Maine for the first time could have worse reactions to black fly bites than people who have been in the state for a long time. "What we suggest to people who are gardening is to put a hardhat on and smear it with baby oil," Dill said. "Those [black flies] that are just bouncing off you and driving you crazy will get stuck in the baby oil. They're kind of delicate little creatures, so that's enough to stop them." WGME (Channel 13) published the BDN article.

The Fish Site profiles Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research

12 May 2020

The Fish Site wrote an article about the University of Maine's Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR) in Franklin. CCAR is a business incubator that has helped to launch some of the state's most innovative aquaculture businesses, and is focused on advancing the knowledge and capabilities of aquaculture for the benefit of the people of Maine, and the industry as a whole, the article states. The center will play a role in a partnership between UMaine and Kingfish Zeeland, a Dutch aquaculture company, according to The Fish Site.

President Ferrini-Mundy recent guest on WVOM's 'George Hale and Ric Tyler Show'

12 May 2020

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias, was a recent guest on WVOM's "George Hale and Ric Tyler Show." President Ferrini-Mundy talked about this year's Commencement and Recognition Week, takeaways from the shift to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, what the fall semester could look like and more.

Mainebiz reports UMaine part of statewide hub for PPE production

12 May 2020

Mainebiz reported the University of Maine is part of a statewide production hub for personal protective equipment for health care workers. The team operates under the Maine Emergency Management Agency and includes UMaine, the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MaineHealth, St. Joseph Hospital, Northern Light Health, Manufacturers Association of Maine and Maine Procurement Technical Assistance Center, according to the article. As of late April, production has included 2,800 gallons of hand sanitizer, distributed to 51 hospitals and other health-related facilities; hundreds of intubation boxes and hundreds of thousands of face shields. Initially focusing on hospital-grade hand sanitizer,

UMaine's Process Development Center and chemical and biomedical engineering faculty used existing supplies and Food and Drug Administration guidelines to produce 25 gallons, Mainebiz reported. The team evaluates evolving health care guidance and hospital practices, along with tightening supply chains, and provides a continual conduit of information to manufacturers, said Jake Ward, UMaine's vice president for innovation and economic development. "A lot of our faculty have pretty active and longstanding interactions with folks in health care," said Michael Mason, a professor of chemical and biomedical engineering at UMaine. Researchers in UMaine's chemical and biomedical engineering department have evaluated sterilization technologies and techniques, conducted scientific literature searches on the performance and effectiveness of techniques, and documented protocols of other hospitals and medical users, according to the article. And the Advanced Manufacturing Center at UMaine worked with hospitals to develop prototypes of intubation boxes and face shields.

Press Herald article on University of Maine System enrollment, completion rates quotes President Ferrini-Mundy

12 May 2020

The Portland Press Herald article "Despite pandemic's disruptions, most UMaine System students stayed on course" quoted Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias. Of about 21,100 undergraduates across Maine's seven campuses, almost 350 students dropped, for a semester retention rate of 98.4 percent, the same as last spring, the article states. "We had never done this before," said President Ferrini-Mundy. "Faculty were amazing. They figured out how to do everything from online learning to what you would call remote learning with assignments students could manage to complete in some way no matter their location. We really had no idea what to expect, but the student perseverance through the semester has been remarkable."

Allen named 2020 Gould Award winner

12 May 2020

Professor of philosophy Doug Allen, who is internationally recognized for his lifelong civil rights, peace and social justice scholarship, teaching and activism, is the recipient of the 2020 Steve Gould Award. The award was created in 1981 by the family and friends of Steve Gould in memory of "a man of honest and passionate concern for others." The award is given to those who demonstrate superior qualities of unselfishness and compassion in the course of service to the university and its ideals. Allen, a member of the UMaine community since 1974, is the founder of the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine and the Maine Peace Action Committee on campus — one of the oldest continuous student action groups nationwide. He has committed decades of his life to advocating for equal justice for all and inspiring generations of UMaine students to do the same by finding their voices and becoming engaged citizens. Allen has led students, faculty members and community members through lecture series, newsletters, community events and more, demonstrating a commitment to compassion and humanity locally and globally. Allen is recognized as one of the world's leading scholars on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, the practice of nonviolence and the phenomenology of religion. In 2017 as part of the International Day of Non-Violence, he was invited to address the United Nations on "Mahatma Gandhi on Violence and Nonviolence: Common Misconceptions and Gandhi's Significance Today." Allen teaches courses in Marxism, Hinduism and Buddhism, and has conducted research and lectured extensively in India. He has written and edited 16 books. Allen received UMaine's 1998 Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award, and is the 2000 Distinguished Maine Professor. Allen "is a force on the campus and in the community," wrote one of the nominators. "His tireless practice of struggling for justice is an inspiration to students like me. He lives to speak truth, and will hold himself and others to account with compassion and clarity." Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Combating organic waste a goal for Maine Food Production Leadership Council

13 May 2020

Helping Maine businesses find food waste solutions is the focus of the Maine Food Production Leadership Council, developed as part of a collaborative project led by a team of University of Maine students and faculty in connection with the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. Susanne Lee, executive-in-residence at the Maine Business School and Mitchell Center faculty fellow, worked with a team of students as well as food manufacturers, retailers, distributors, the hospitality industry, farmers, schools, hospitals, hunger relief organizations, solid waste management professionals, and public policy makers to establish the 30-member council. The group has identified the reduction of food waste and the diversion of organic waste from landfills as the highest priorities. Also noted: links between food waste and food insecurity. Nationwide, up to 40% of food produced for human consumption is wasted, according to the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic. Yet Maine also has the highest rate of food insecurity in New England, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service. Food insecurity is defined as "being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food." "Maine is an exciting place to find solutions for global food system challenges like food waste," Lee says. "We have a nationally recognized food scene and yet our relatively small size and resourceful Maine culture means that our food system leaders are more able and willing to work together to find and implement best practice solutions to increase profits, strengthen communities and sustain our natural resources. We truly believe that Maine can be the 'lab' to successfully develop these winning triple-bottom-line solutions and then share with others." After learning from Maine Food Production Leadership Council members about the challenges they face, students Stephanie Ayotte of Saco, Maine, a senior majoring in civil and environmental engineering; Katie Tims of Cornish, Maine, a third-year biology major; and Peter O'Brien of Eliot, Maine, a third-year economics major, researched potential solutions for reducing food waste in Maine, keeping organics out of landfills and addressing food insecurity. "The Maine Grocers and Food Producers Association is proud to collaborate with the University of Maine and the Mitchell Center to find practical solutions to combat food waste," says Christine Cummings, association executive director. "With strengthened connections and communication, their sustainability strategies will ideally result in cost-saving initiatives that help businesses meet the goals of Maine's food recovery hierarchy." The work is part of a Mitchell Center initiative launched in 2015 with a materials management team focused on a sustainable approach to food waste management. Last November, the Maine Food Production Leadership Council held its first work session, led by faculty and students involved in the project to "empower Maine businesses toward sustainability." Contact: Elizabeth Solet, elizabeth.solet@maine.edu

MD Islander cites Extension in article on beekeeping

13 May 2020

Mount Desert Islander cited University of Maine Cooperative Extension in an article about beekeeping. Bees are a keystone organism, meaning they are an essential part of maintaining the integrity, productivity and sustainability of many types of ecosystems, according to a document created by UMaine Extension

highlighting how to understand bees and enhance their habitat, the article states.

UMM announces 2020 senior awards, Machias Valley News Observer notes

13 May 2020

The Machias Valley News Observer reported the University of Maine at Machias announced awards for 2020 graduating seniors. Three seniors are being honored with special recognition for their contributions to the campus community with the Ivy Orator and Senior Watch awards, according to the article.

KJMS reports Charlebois named Goldwater Scholar

13 May 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel published a University of Maine news release announcing student Caleigh Charlebois has been awarded a Barry Goldwater Scholarship for demonstrating exceptional promise of becoming a next-generation research leader in engineering, mathematics or natural sciences. To be selected for this award, students need to demonstrate breadth and depth of research experience and skills, ability to make an impact in their research field and intention to continue their academic career with a Ph.D., the release states. Charlebois, of South China, Maine, is a zoology major with a minor in technical writing, and is in the Honors College.

Centralmaine.com promotes Riordan to speak at May 22 online event

13 May 2020

Centralmaine.com reported Liam Riordan, a professor of history at the University of Maine, will speak at the Margaret Chase Smith Library's virtual version of its annual Maine Town Meeting at 10 a.m. May 22 via Zoom. Riordan will talk about Maine's road to statehood and what characteristics endure and continue to shape the state today. More information and registration are online.

Machias Valley News Observer reports UMM selects valedictorian, salutatorian

13 May 2020

The Machias Valley News Observer reported the University of Maine at Machias named Dawn Johnson of Orleans, Massachusetts the 2020 valedictorian and Kirsten Lisee of Milbridge the salutatorian. Both students majored in psychology and community studies, the article states.

BDN speaks with Dumas about at-home cooking projects

13 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Rob Dumas, food science innovation coordinator at the University of Maine, for an article about at-home cooking projects that are not sourdough bread. "Sourdough has certainly been the most trendy cooking project of the quarantine," he said. "The world is probably oversaturated with sourdough and there isn't much flour available." Dumas talked about how to make pasta, gnocchi, risotto, arancini and macarons. "A lot of neat cooking traditions that have fallen by the wayside as people don't have time. Maybe it's time to revisit those kinds of things," he said.

Bisson, Ballman recent guests on 'Maine Calling'

13 May 2020

University of Maine staff members Beth Bisson, Maine Sea Grant associate director and marine extension program leader, and Elissa Ballman, a research associate in the School of Biology and Ecology, were recent guests on Maine Public's "Maine Calling" radio show. The topic of the show was citizen science, including ways to contribute to citizen science projects across Maine and globally.

New food preservation webinar series from UMaine Extension

13 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is launching a food preservation webinar series Tuesday, May 26, at 2 p.m. The weekly series continues through Oct. 27.

"Preserving the Maine Harvest" begins with freezing fiddleheads and making refrigerator spring pickles. The 45-minute sessions will include discussion and demonstration of research-based preserving methods by UMaine Extension food preservation staff. Topics for June include freezing rhubarb and greens, preserving strawberries and herbs, and drinks from the garden. Participants will have the opportunity to be paired with a trained Extension Master Food Preserver volunteer for advice throughout the growing season.

A $5 donation is suggested for each webinar; payment is not required to participate. Registration is available on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

WAGM, Wiscasset Newspaper cite UMaine Extension in articles on ticks

14 May 2020

WAGM (Channel 8) and Wiscasset Newspaper cited University of Maine Cooperative Extension in articles on preventing tick-borne disease. UMaine Extension's Tick Lab offers free tick identification, as well as testing for common tick-borne diseases, according to the articles. More information is online.

Media reports on Community Learning for Maine launch

14 May 2020

The Sun Journal reported on the launch of the Community Learning for Maine (CL4ME) website, a Maine-based resource that aims to support schools, organizations and communities during remote learning due to the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. The website is run by Rural Aspirations and was developed with help from the University of Maine's College of Education and Human Development. A tour of the resources on the site will be on Zoom at 4 p.m. May 14, the Sun Journal reported. Registration is online. For more information, contact Korah Soll at korah@ruralaspirations.org. WABI (Channel 5) also reported on the new website.

Media promotes new Extension food preservation webinar series

14 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips promoted University of Maine Cooperative Extension's new food preservation webinar series launching at 2 p.m. May 26. The weekly series will continue through Oct. 27. "Preserving the Maine Harvest" begins with freezing fiddleheads and making refrigerator spring pickles. The 45-minute sessions will include discussion and demonstration of research-based preserving methods by UMaine Extension food preservation staff. Topics for June include freezing rhubarb and greens, preserving strawberries and herbs, and drinks from the garden, the release states. Participants will have the opportunity to be paired with a trained Extension Master Food Preserver volunteer for advice throughout the growing season. A $5 donation is suggested for each webinar; payment is not required to participate. Registration is available on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu. The Daily Bulldog the Wiscasset Newspaper, and The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also highlighted the webinar series.

WVII interviews Outstanding Graduating Student twins

14 May 2020

WVII (Channel 7) interviewed Gabriel and Abram Karam, Outstanding Graduating Students at the University of Maine and twin brothers from Bangor. Gabriel is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the Maine Business School, and Abram is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Engineering. "It is kind of encouraging to have a twin brother because we're both trying to do our best and we both encourage each other to push ourselves," said Abram. The twins said they chose UMaine for its great academic programs and following in the footsteps of their mom and older brother. "It's kind of becoming a family thing I guess. Black Bear Nation," said Gabriel. Now Abram will pursue a master's degree in mathematics, and Gabriel is looking to start his career, WVII reported. "As we start to do different things in life I guess we can kind of compare each other like, what did he end up doing? What am I going to do?" said Gabriel. "It's kind of neat in that way."

'The Maine Question' examines spread of ticks and diseases they carry

14 May 2020

What's the tick situation in Maine? Tick-borne diseases, some of which are debilitating, are on the rise in Maine. In this episode of "The Maine Question," host Ron Lisnet asks University of Maine scientists Allison Gardner and Elissa Ballman about the tick situation in the state and goals of their tick-related research projects. Gardner examines environmental factors that could limit the geographic spread of blacklegged ticks. And Ballman coordinates a tick surveillance citizen scientist program to learn more about which tick species are where and what pathogens they carry. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. For more information or to suggest topics of interest, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Two interim deans named

14 May 2020

Two University of Maine faculty members have been named interim deans on campus for the coming fiscal year. Mario Teisl will serve as interim dean for the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture, and Stephanie Welcomer will serve as interim dean for the Honors College.

Teisl is a professor in the School of Economics. He obtained an M.S. in agricultural and resource economics from UMaine and a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from the University of Maryland. Teisl worked for three years in fisheries and agricultural extension in Papua New Guinea (Peace Corps), and for two years in the Consumer Studies Branch of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He served as the director of the School of Policy and International Affairs, and director of the School of Economics at UMaine. His research focuses on valuing environmental and health improvements and how health and environmental information affect values and behavior.

Welcomer, a professor of management, earned a Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State University. Her research has focused on the intersection of sustainable businesses, communities and environments, with recent articles on climate change and farming, farmers' adaptation strategies for energy resources and pro-environmental behavior. Welcomer is a founding member of the Honors College Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative and has conducted research with a number of Honors students. Her teaching areas include strategic management and organizational behavior. She piloted an alternative capstone experience this spring with students working with the Maine Cheese Guild assisting farmers in the state. She served as associate dean of the Maine Business School from 2010–16. Welcomer also has regularly taught courses internationally, including classes in Germany, France, Nicaragua and Vietnam.

Learn to identify, manage invasive plants May 21

14 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will offer two free webinars Thursday, May 21, in support of National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Invasive plant biologist Nancy Olmstead will teach "Invasive Plant Ecology and Identification" from 9–10 a.m. and "Invasive Plant Management" from noon–1 p.m.

The classes are free; registration is required. Register and find more information on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Training for Signs of the Seasons volunteers now online

14 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Sea Grant now have Signs of the Seasons training sessions for volunteer citizen scientists online.

The three-part webinar series focuses on the value of studying phenology in a changing climate, the relevance of indicator species, and how to set up a site and begin observing.

More information is available on the program webpage or by contacting Esperanza Stancioff, 207.832.0343; esp@maine.edu.

State partnership overcomes urgent shortage of key N95 mask testing materials

15 May 2020

The University of Maine has manufactured more than 2,200 bottles of testing solutions required to perform aerosol fit tests of N95 masks in accordance with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration protocols for testing Personal Protective Equipment. Maine public sector enforcement guidance requires that state and local government health care employers perform an initial qualitative fit test for employees using an N95 mask for respiratory protection. University of Maine production of the solutions came at the request of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in response to a national shortage of fit-testing kits and test solutions. The initiative is part of an agreement between the University of Maine System and the Maine Emergency Management Agency to coordinate resources and efforts in support of the state's COVID-19 response. The University of Maine System Office of Strategic Procurement was able to source the materials needed to produce denatonium benzoate solution, more commonly known as Bitrex and one of four chemicals that can be used to conduct a qualitative fit test. The UMaine Process Development Center, the same facility that has been producing hospital-grade hand sanitizer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, produced the solution and made its first delivery to the Maine CDC earlier this month. "We here at the Maine CDC cannot express enough gratitude to the University of Maine System team for their help during the state's time in need," says John Hernandez, medical countermeasures manager at the Maine CDC. "The testing solution is being deployed to the Maine National Guard fit testing teams, fire departments, and other agencies that are conducting fit testing. "These testing teams are helping many agencies ensure that their staff are properly fit tested for the correct N95 size to help reduce the spread and transmission of COVID-19 among first responders and frontline health care workers," Hernandez says. "At UMaine we are deploying the innovation and flexibility we have developed to support our industry partners to find solutions for Maine's COVID-19 challenges," said University of Maine and University of Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "On our campus and across our university system, we are proud of the ingenuity and selflessness of the faculty, staff and students who are contributing to Maine's pandemic response. The Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards issued guidance on fit testing March 23 and provided links to tutorial videos. Follow these links to university images of masks and materials involved in fit testing and a member of the UMS safety management team demonstrating how a fit test is conducted. **Maine CDC Deployment of Solution and Maine National Guard Fit Testing Teams** The Maine CDC is currently deploying the testing solutions produced by the University of Maine to agencies and employers across the state to meet demand. The Maine National Guard has 24 soldiers and airmen from medical job specialities who have received N95 training provided by the Maine CDC. They typically work in four-person teams when conducting fit testing. "Since we began fit-testing missions at the end of April, our Soldiers and Airmen have tested over 700 individuals, and we're prepared to continue that mission as needed," said Brig. Gen. Donald Lagace, Maine's deputy adjutant general. "The Maine National Guard is proud to be working alongside the Maine CDC, MEMA, the University of Maine System, the Department of Transportation and all interagency partners. As community members ourselves, we are glad to play a part in helping and protecting Mainers." Follow this link to an April 30 Maine National Guard release on fit test training with images of soldiers and airmen receiving training from the Maine CDC. Agencies and providers seeking additional information about testing or access to testing materials should be in touch with their county emergency management office. **Background on Fit Testing and UMaine Production** UMaine produced the chemicals at Maine CDC's request in response to the national shortage of testing materials and the expanded need for respiratory protections in health care and other settings. Fit testing, which tests the seal between the facepiece on a respirator mask and the wearer's face, is required by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The test must be conducted when a worker is first fitted for a respirator, such as an N95. The fit test ensures there is a tight seal to prevent contaminated air from leaking in around the facepiece. UMaine has produced and delivered denatonium benzoate solution, more commonly known as Bitrex, one of four chemicals that can be used to conduct a qualitative fit test. In a qualitative fit test, the test subject is outfitted with a respirator mask of the same make, model, style and size that they would wear at work, and a hood is placed over the head. A chemical that the test subject could taste or smell, or that would cause irritation, is released into the hood. The test is pass/fail – if the subject can detect the chemical, the seal is not adequate. The denatonium benzoate, which leaves a bitter taste in the mouth, is being blended at UMaine's Process Development Center in Jenness Hall on campus, the same facility in which the university has been producing hospital-grade hand sanitizer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. PDC is UMaine's commercial-scale pilot plant, established four decades ago to primarily support the pulp, paper and bioproducts sector with research, development, demonstration and commercialization services. The fit test chemical production is overseen by Seongkyung Park, analytical chemist at the facility, and staff chemist Nayereh Dadoo. UMaine has made two deliveries of denatonium benzoate to Maine CDC this month. The PDC team is now turning its production to saccharin-based solution (sweet tasting) and with the assistance of the university's procurement team is in the process of securing the raw materials. Contact: Dan Demeritt, 207.441.6962

PBS NewsHour interviews Fried about upcoming election in wake of coronavirus

15 May 2020

PBS NewsHour interviewed Amy Fried, professor of political science at the University of Maine, for a story about the upcoming election. “At this moment it’s very clear what [the 2020] election is about. It’s about the pandemic, responses to the pandemic, and who’s responsible,” said Fried, who also chairs the political science department at UMaine.

WBTS publishes story about Mayewski

15 May 2020

WBTS (Channel 10 in Boston) published a story about Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, titled “Meet a Climate Scientist Studying Clues Found in Ice.” Mayewski, who the station referred to as “the Ice King,” has led more than 60 expeditions to some of the remotest polar and high altitude reaches of the planet, including Antarctica, Greenland, Himalayas, Tibet, Andes and the sub-Antarctic Islands, to obtain ice core samples for research. He has more than 450 scientific publications and received numerous honors. “The rate in rise of CO_2 in the last hundred years is a hundred times faster than anything recorded in the last 800,000 years,” Mayewski said.

Mainebiz highlights new Maine Food Production Leadership Council

15 May 2020

Mainebiz highlighted the new Maine Food Production Leadership Council, developed as part of a collaborative project led by a team of University of Maine students and faculty in connection with the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. Susanne Lee, executive-in-residence at the Maine Business School and Mitchell Center faculty fellow, worked with a team of students as well as food manufacturers, retailers, distributors, the hospitality industry, farmers, schools, hospitals, hunger relief organizations, solid waste management professionals, and public policy makers to establish the 30-member council. “Maine is an exciting place to find solutions for global food system challenges like food waste,” Lee says. “We truly believe that Maine can be the ‘lab’ to successfully develop these winning triple-bottom-line solutions and then share with others.”

Tuition-free early college summer courses for high school students available at UMaine and UMM

15 May 2020

Through a partnership between the Maine Department of Education, the University of Maine and the University of Maine Machias (UMM), tuition is waived for all qualified Maine high school students, covering full tuition for up to 12 college credits per year at the two universities. Eligible students are able to earn college credit while still in high school. UMaine and UMM offer over 100 fully online summer courses suitable for qualified high school students. Course start dates are in May, June, July and August. Early college classes are taught by world-class faculty and meet general education requirements of the University of Maine System, as well as the majority of colleges nationwide. Students across the state will benefit from the flexibility and variety of early college courses offered this summer. UMaine and UMM have a long history as leaders in supporting early college programming. UMaine’s signature online program, Academ-*e*, launched over 16 years ago. UMM offers early college certificates, offering 14 options with 10 available completely online. The UMaine/UMM Early College Program is committed to providing quality teaching and learning, college-level rigor and academic integrity; access and support to under-resourced communities and first-generation students; and multiple layers of support to ensure student success, including a comprehensive orientation experience and academic advising. Registration is online: explorec.maine.edu. Interested students and parents are encouraged to contact Allison Small, Early College Programs coordinator at UMaine, 207.581.8004; allison.small@maine.edu or Christy Alley, director of Early College at UMM, 207.255.1268; christy.alley@maine.edu to learn more about the application process. The Early College websites: umaine.edu/earlycollege; machias.edu/earlycollege

UMaine alumnae recognized as 2020 Maine County Teachers of the Year

15 May 2020

University of Maine alumnae were among those honored on Thursday, May 14 as County Teachers of the Year by the Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine. Of the educators recognized, eight have degrees from UMaine:

- Cumberland County Teacher of the Year: Cindy Soule, B.S. in social work
- Franklin County Teacher of the Year: Melissa Hoisington, M.S. in literacy education
- Hancock County Teacher of the Year: Kathryn Meyer, M.S. in literacy education and M.Ed. in educational leadership
- Kennebec County Teacher of the Year: Lindsay Mahoney, M.Ed. in education
- Lincoln County Teacher of the Year: Heather Webster, B.A. in English; currently working on an M.Ed. in literacy education
- Oxford County Teacher of the Year: Tonya Prentice, certificate in teaching
- Piscataquis County Teacher of the Year: Jessica Gregory, B.S. in secondary education
- Waldo County Teacher of the Year: Sara Pendleton, B.S. in elementary education

County Teachers of the Year are nominated by members of their community and selected by a panel of teachers, principals and business community members based on their service in education and dedication to their students. They serve as ambassadors for education in Maine, making presentations to local and regional organizations. The county teachers are also finalists for the 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year honor, to be presented in the fall. More information about the 2020 County Teachers of the Year is on the Maine Department of Education website and the Educate Maine website.

During retirement, Mayer continues to contribute at DMC

18 May 2020

After 43 years of research and teaching, Larry Mayer retired in fall 2019 from the University of Maine Darling Marine Center. Then he promptly proceeded to teach a senior college course titled “Humans and the Ever-changing Coast.” On Thursdays, 20 area senior citizens interested in learning about marine environment challenges joined Mayer for lectures and discussions at the center in Walpole. To learn more about Mayer’s career, read Matt Norwood’s story on the DMC website.

Media promote invasive species webinars from Extension, state

18 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel highlighted two free webinars about invasive species that the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry will host on May 21. Invasive plant biologist Nancy Olmstead will teach “Invasive Plant Ecology and Identification” from 9–10 a.m. and “Invasive Plant Management” from noon–1 p.m. Register and find more information on the program webpage. The webinars were offered to support National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Boothbay Register highlights Mayer’s contributions to DMC after retirement

18 May 2020

The Boothbay Register shared a press release from the Darling Marine Center at the University of Maine about how Larry Mayer, a former professor of Oceanography at UMaine’s School of Marine Sciences, continues to contribute to the center after he retired in fall 2019. Mayer taught a senior college course titled “Humans and the Ever-changing Coast.” On Thursdays, 20 area senior citizens interested in learning about marine environment challenges joined Mayer for lectures and discussions at the center in Walpole. “This course was different than teaching undergraduate and graduate students. We focused more on discussion than on getting a certain amount of material covered or developing job skills,” he said.

Mayewski, Potocki featured in Yachting World article

18 May 2020

Paul Mayewski and Mariusz Potocki are highlighted in Skip Novak’s first-person account of a scientific mission in the Southern Ocean titled “Down For The Count” in the June issue of Yachting World. Mayewski directs the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine and advises Potocki, a glaciochemist and doctoral candidate. They ventured to the Sandwich Islands Archipelago aboard *Pelagic Australis* last winter with a team that also included experts in volcanology, penguin biology, whale identification and acoustics, as well as filmmakers. Novak described experiences during the journey, including on the southernmost island group called the United Kingdom Overseas Territory of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. On Saunders Island, Novak wrote that Mayewski and Potocki “went in search of ice with their drilling gear, and also water and snow samples to demonstrate levels of pollution. Don’t believe it? In the Antarctic this team has discovered levels of uranium in melt water conclusively linked to an open pit uranium mine in Australia.” After the five-week mission, Novak wrote that *Pelagic Australis*’ “job was done, but the scientists’ work back in their labs was yet to begin.”

BDN interviews Dill about rise in Tick Lab testing

18 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Griffin Dill, an integrated pest management professional who manages University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab, about the increase in tick testings from the previous year. The lab so far has received 780 ticks for testing, Dill said, a number the lab usually does not reach until June 10. The increase in outdoor activity due to the coronavirus outbreak could be influencing the rise in tick testing, but Dill said it was too early to make a definitive conclusion. Warm spells during the winter could have spurred more tick activity, resulting in more tests. Dill said there are also more deer ticks. “We noticed a really significant number of people who submitted ticks so far this year have not taken any personal protection,” he said. “So we’re just trying to get out there the importance of using repellents and covering up, creating a barrier of clothing.” News Center Maine, Q106.5 and WGME (Channel 13) also reported on the increase in tick testings. Fox News highlighted the increase in tick testing and the BDN article about it, and the Piscataquis Observer shared the BDN article.

Media report on UMaine making testing solutions for N95 masks

18 May 2020

News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) reported on the University of Maine manufacturing more than 2,200 bottles of testing solutions required to perform aerosol fit tests of N95 masks. UMaine production of the solutions came at the request of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in response to a national shortage of fit-testing kits and test solutions. The initiative is part of an agreement between the University of Maine System and the Maine Emergency Management Agency to coordinate resources and efforts in support of the state’s COVID-19 response. "It's remarkable that so many people work together so quickly. It's just a testament to their commitment” said Jake Ward, vice president of innovation and economic development for UMaine to WABI. “Because of our land-grant institution, our chemists, and everybody — we had everybody right there ready to go. Essentially, the same group that was there producing hand sanitizer for the last several weeks jumped right on top of this so we were able to do it as quickly as we could."

Facebook highlights UMaine nursing graduates, pinning ceremony

18 May 2020

Facebook featured University of Maine School of Nursing graduates Kate Ford and Sierra Austin and highlighted the school’s virtual pinning ceremony in its video “#Graduation2020: Facebook and Instagram Celebrate the Class of 2020.” “Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to offer in-person commencement ceremonies, so we celebrated them in a beautiful virtual pinning ceremony,” said Kelley Strout, interim director of the school. Thirty-eight undergraduate students graduated from the School of Nursing two weeks early so they could pursue their licensure sooner and, ultimately, expedite their entry into the workforce. “My mom was able to pin me. She is a nurse herself, so this meant so much to us,” Ford said in Facebook’s video.

UMaine Extension expands resources for small ruminants

18 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension has updated and expanded resources available to keepers of small ruminants on the dedicated sheep and goat program webpage.

The revised site includes new publications on caring for young stock purchased off the farm, updated production and health management information, an updated sheep shearers list, marketing resources and information on relevant UMaine Extension 4-H programs.

For more information contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu.

UMaine researcher, students help state officials forecast economic fallout in Maine from COVID-19

18 May 2020

A University of Maine researcher and six graduate students are helping Maine state officials estimate the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. Andrew Crawley, an assistant professor of regional economic development with the UMaine School of Economics, and his students are working with the State Economist's Office to develop forecasts for how much COVID-19 will affect Maine's economy. They will create five models to evaluate the possible loss in tourism spending, travel-related spending, cruise ship spending, state revenues and overall sectoral output changes. The forecasts will also include prospects for recovery. Developing forecasts will help those who are trying to grapple with the issues posed by the outbreak and guide policymakers' decision making as the state reopens the economy, Crawley says. "Each project we tackle is something the state expressed an interest in knowing more about," he says. "We are trying to better understand the aggregate impact of COVID-19." The effects of the pandemic can ripple through the state economy in many ways, some of which have yet to be quantified or even revealed, Crawley says. Several economic forces also are interconnected, meaning COVID-19 damaging one sector can cause a domino effect. For example, unemployment increasing beyond 100,000 residents results in a drop in state income tax, cutting state revenue, Crawley says. A decrease in travel also results in a decrease in gasoline purchases, thus a drop in gasoline tax revenue; store purchases and other pertinent expenditures. "Those areas (tourism and travel) are highly impacted by COVID-19," Crawley says. The UMaine assistant professor and his team of graduate student volunteers from his Regional Economic Modeling class will design their forecasts using present and historic data for unemployment, tourism, business output and driving patterns. They will also use professional economic impact and modeling tools. Crawley says his class tasks students with performing analyses using "complex, often dirty, imperfect data"; this replicates the challenges researchers face in most professional settings. Creating models to predict the economic damage wrought by COVID-19 using current and dynamic information is a perfect case in point when data is not perfect, Crawley says. It provides hands-on experience for his students, better preparing them to tackle real-world problems. "To see students get gripped, and get really enthusiastic and driven to complete a task is really rewarding," Crawley says. "It's really been incredibly fulfilling to see students get to do this." The state will receive a report from Crawley and his team at the end of May. He will also have it published on the School of Economics website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Lin Wei: Student from China navigates world through code and choreography

18 May 2020

Lin Wei, who goes by Enoch Lin, interacts with the world and its people through code and choreography. The 2020 graduate from Zhangzhou City, Fujian Province, China, enjoys solving technological problems, particularly through programming languages, and traversing fictional realms in video games. A passion for technology motivated him to major in computer science. The sense of achievement when finally getting a computer program to do what people need after days of effort, "is the best feeling in the world," Lin says. "Growing up, I have always been interested in operating a computer and creating things on one," he says. "One part of computer science that I am particularly interested in is video game programming. It is fascinating to be able to create things that are impossible or do things that cannot be easily done in real life." When he leaves the computer lab, Lin explores the multitude of cultures in the world, particularly through dance. For three years, he participated in the UMaine International Dance Festival, performing pieces that evoked Vietnamese, Japanese and Chinese heritage. He also was active in Culturefest. "There are a lot of different cultures out there and I think people can benefit a lot from knowing them, which is why I have been doing what I can do to spread different cultures," Lin says. Lin served as secretary and vice president of the Asian American Association, helping host events such as Taste of Asia, Dim Sum Night and Multicultural Formal. He also was the social media specialist for the Student Heritage Alliance Council, and was president of the Japanese Club. Lin was first introduced to UMaine during his senior year at Stearns High School in Millinocket. He said he visited the campus, met with staff from the Office of International Programs and learned about the university's many offerings. "Overall I had very positive interactions with the UMaine community. That inspired me to want to be a part of it," Lin says. "There are a lot of things to love about UMaine, but my top two would be the beautiful campus and the community. People are nice to each other, even strangers." Lin, along with a few of his classmates, worked with Sean Birkel, a research assistant professor with the School of Earth and Climate Sciences and the Climate Change Institute, for his senior capstone project, which was to create a mobile application for the Climate Reanalyzer. After receiving his degree in May, Lin will begin working for Tyler Technologies in Yarmouth as a software engineer. "I hoped to learn both academically and personally, which I feel like I have achieved in the past four years at the University of Maine," he says. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@umaine.edu

Altvater, Cedor, Prevost, Reardon selected McGillicuddy Humanities Center fellows

19 May 2020

University of Maine students Nolan Altvater, Hailey Cedor, Nola Prevost and Katherine Reardon have been named the fall 2020–spring 2021 Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) undergraduate fellows. Fellows receive $4,000 a semester for two consecutive semesters while they work on their chosen humanities projects and serve as humanities ambassadors to peers, the campus and beyond. Nolan Altvater, from Milford, Maine, a secondary education major with a minor in creative writing, was selected for his project "Decolonizing Maine Education: Creating an Educational Resource for Better Implementation of the Wabanaki Studies Law," to be advised by Bridie McGreavy, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism. Hailey Cedor, from North Kingstown, Rhode Island, a history major and Honors student with a minor in environmental horticulture, will be advised by Anne Knowles, a professor in the Department of History, on her project "Local Involvement, Memorialization, and Denial: the Complexities of the Holocaust in

Lithuania." Nola Prevost, from Brewer, Maine, an English major with a women's, gender, and sexuality studies minor, will be working on a creative project titled "Feminist Fairy Tales" to be advised by Hollie Adams, assistant professor of creative writing in the Department of English. Katherine Reardon, from Westwood, Massachusetts, an English major and Honors student with a minor in political science, was selected for her project "Family Stories, the Truth, and How It Shapes Us," to be advised by Melissa Ladenheim, associate dean of the Honors College. These undergraduate fellows will join the three students returning for their second semester as McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellows: political science major Ivy Flessen, English major Bria Lamonica, and journalism and anthropology double major Leela Stockley. The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center, formerly the University of Maine Humanities Center, established in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2010, demonstrates the immediacy and applicability of humanities studies by advancing teaching, research and public engagement in the humanities in Maine. The center serves as a locus for humanities research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and meaningful conversations among scholars, artists, students and the public through the support of lectures, symposia, panels, performances, and exhibitions, as well as individual and collaborative research by students and faculty. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

UMaine Extension 4-H offers professional development for adults working with youth

19 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer professional development sessions online for adults working with youth starting 9–11:30 a.m. May 27. Sessions continue June 1, 3, 4 and 11. Virtual 4-H Quarantine Professional Development is designed for after-school providers, 4-H volunteers, teachers — any adult working directly with youth. Topics include making and tinkering, supporting social and emotional learning, observing the natural world, and creative problem-solving. Workshops will involve online and independent work. Certificates for contact hours will be provided. The sessions are free; preregistration is required 24 hours in advance. Register for one or more workshops on the program webpage. Participating by video (rather than by phone call) is preferred; sessions will not be recorded. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jessy Brainerd, 207.581.3877; jessica.brainerd@maine.edu.

Burt performing 'An Étude a Day' online

19 May 2020

A University of Maine music professor is keeping sharp at home with daily trumpet exercises that he has been sharing each day on YouTube. Since April 5, Jack Burt, professor of trumpet and music history in the School of Performing Arts, has been recording one video a day from home to help him stay focused. In a series he calls "An Étude a Day Keeps the COVID Away," posted to his personal YouTube account, Burt records standard trumpet études — short musical compositions designed as an exercise to improve technique or demonstrate skill — in one take, with no edits, as a way to keep his playing skills sharp, stay positive, and keep in touch with the trumpet community. Despite what he describes as the "academic" nature of the études, Burt says that the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. "These études are things we as players all teach, and work on ourselves, so there is a lot of relatability," he explains. After the shift to emergency remote instruction in March, Burt encouraged his students to make the most of the situation. "We are in a crisis, and I know every person's situation is different, but I hoped for them that when they do come out of all this they will feel like they accomplished something," he says. "I told them to think of this as an 'unanticipated practice opportunity.'" Eventually, Burt took his own advice to heart and began the series. Getting each étude up to a reasonable quality to record takes many hours for Burt, who admits that occasionally he misses his one-per-day posting schedule when working through a particularly tough piece. But, he says, it's a wonderful chance to really focus on his playing, an opportunity he hasn't had since graduate school. He adds, too, that it helps with mental health. "It has kept me from getting lost in the news, from despairing in a difficult time," he says. Burt was inspired to begin the project by Jim Wilt, associate principal trumpet of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, who has been undertaking a similar exercise, and the two chat regularly about their respective projects — "what we've gotten ourselves into," as Burt describes it. Wilt has been very supportive, Burt says. He adds that at least one other trumpeter, Hakan Hardenberger, who is among the most important trumpet soloists working today, has been posting his own études each week from Malmo, Sweden. How long does Burt plan to keep the series up? "I will keep this up for as long as I have the time," he says. "Wish me luck in continuing!"

BDN interviews Dill about protection against ticks

19 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Griffin Dill, an integrated pest management professional who manages the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab, about how Mainers can protect themselves from disease-carrying ticks. Dill said using Permethrin and repellents that include DEET and picaridin help protect against ticks. "Essential oil products are really popular for being natural products, but unfortunately, those products, the research that has been done — which is fairly minimal at this point — indicates if it works at all, it's for really short periods of time," he said. Several companies have conducted trials for Lyme disease vaccines. "Whether any of them make it to the market in the near term is anyone's guess, unfortunately," Dill said.

Morning Ag Clips highlights Signs of the Seasons training

19 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips highlighted online training sessions for volunteer citizen scientists offered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Sea Grant. The three-part webinar series Signs of the Seasons focuses on the value of studying phenology in a changing climate, the relevance of indicator species, and how to set up a site and begin observing. More information is available on the program webpage or by contacting Esperanza Stancioff, 207.832.0343; esp@maine.edu. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also highlighted the sessions. The County and Turner Publishing also promoted the training.

BDN interviews Garland about staying safe in community gardens

19 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Kate Garland, a horticulture professional with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about how people can protect themselves against the coronavirus while gardening in a community garden. Garland said community gardeners should bring their own tools when

possible, not bring their children to the gardens, minimize their trips, avoid gardening during the weekends and evenings, stay six feet away from others when using a communal spigot and sanitize its surface afterward. “I use a clean pair of gloves before I go water and turn on the spigot,” she said. “Minimize the number of times you need to touch that surface [by watering] at the end or beginning of your time [in the garden].” The article also shared Extension’s community gardening guidelines for the pandemic. The Aiken Standard published the BDN article.

NYT features LeClair’s citizen science project on migratory amphibians

19 May 2020

The New York Times interviewed Greg LeClair, a graduate student of herpetology at the University of Maine, about his effort to rescue and collect data on migrating amphibians as they cross roads. LeClair founded Big Night Maine, a coalition of citizen scientists who help frogs, salamanders and other amphibians cross roads and count them during spring nights. The group has been exploring the possible effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the mortality rate of migrating amphibians. LeClair and his group rescued 1,487 amphibians across Maine and found another 335 dead, according to the article, about a 4-to-1 ratio. That exceeds the 2-to-1 ratio of frogs that crossed the road successfully to frogs that died last year. LeClair recognized the assessment was very preliminary, and determining the overall effect of COVID-19 on the survivability of migratory amphibians would be difficult. The UMaine graduate student, however, said if his findings hold up, they could inform discussions about temporarily closing roads or installing amphibian crossings. “It’s really exciting to see what might come of this year,” he said. “It’s not too often that we get this opportunity to explore the true impacts that human activity can have on road-crossing amphibians.” CBC and The Atlantic also interviewed LeClair about the research.

Morning Ag Clips highlights Extension’s new resources for ruminant caretaking

20 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips promoted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s updated and expanded resources for the caretakers of small ruminants. The Extension’s sheep and goat program webpage now includes new publications on caring for young stock purchased off the farm, updated production and health management information, an updated sheep shearers list, and marketing resources and information on relevant UMaine Extension 4-H programs. For more information contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Lincoln Journal Star interviews Hutchinson about dealing with pig carcasses

20 May 2020

The Lincoln Journal Star interviewed Mark Hutchinson, educator and professor with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the article “Producers eye carcass disposal options.” Farmers are exploring different ways to dispose of the carcasses of pigs they could not send to meat processing plants due to loss in capacity spurred by the coronavirus outbreak, according to the report. Hutchinson said moisture is the largest concern when disposing carcasses. “You want larger particles so the air can move through easily,” he said. Hutchinson said farmers should shape their composting piles like trapezoids with steep sides, and monitor them because the tops may collapse over time.

Morning Ag Clips highlights Extension’s sessions for adults working with youth

20 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s online professional development sessions for adults working with youth. The free Virtual 4-H Quarantine Professional Development is designed for after-school providers, 4-H volunteers, teachers — any adult working directly with youth. Session topics include making and tinkering, supporting social and emotional learning, observing the natural world and creative problem-solving. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jessy Brainerd, 207.581.3877; jessica.brainerd@maine.edu. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also promoted the sessions.

The Conversation publishes article from Socolow about news coverage

20 May 2020

The Conversation published an article by Michael Socolow, associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine, titled “Aiming for novelty in coronavirus coverage, journalists end up sensationalizing the trivial and untrue.” Socolow writes that news organizations’ effort to disseminate new information as fast as possible may cause them to forgo stories that could yield more public benefit. They may overlook following, reminding the public of, or delving deeper into current and ongoing issues, he writes. The coronavirus outbreak has many angles that journalists have yet to explore. “News isn’t always what’s new. Sometimes it’s the barely perceptible moments that tired journalists might overlook,” Socolow writes. “Failure to capture and communicate those stories, because they might not contain the most recent morsel of information, could have political consequences today, and could misinform historians portraying this pandemic tomorrow.” The Telegraph and Midland Daily News shared the article.

University of Maine Press publishes ‘The Bog Walker’s Companion’

20 May 2020

“The Bog Walker’s Companion: A Guide to the Orono Bog Boardwalk” has been published by the University of Maine Press. The 166-page book, edited by Jerry Longcore, James Bird and Robert Klose, features 22 essays covering the following topics: Ice-age origins of the Caribou Bog and the global carbon cycle; ecology; hydrology; fungi; lichens; mosses; plants; trees and tall shrubs; insects; herpetofauna; birds, mammals; moths, ferns and spiders; the Boardwalk reconstruction; the National Natural Landmark Program; and education. Biologist and author Bernd Heinrich wrote the preface. Most of the essay authors are current or former faculty or alumni of the University of Maine. More information about the book is online.

Brandon Emerson: Music student performs national anthem virtually

20 May 2020

Brandon Emerson has always liked the sound of the trumpet. He's played it since fifth grade, and at the University of Maine he double majored in music education and music performance with a concentration in trumpet. For UMaine's 2020 Commencement ceremonies in May, Laura Artesani, chair of the Division of Music at UMaine, tapped Emerson to play the national anthem. Emerson, of Augusta, Maine, played the national anthem for cross-country and track and field home meets as a junior and senior at Cony High School, and has returned for performances as an alumnus. "It was and is always an honor for me to play the anthem, no matter how big the event," he says. "I think Commencement would've been the most memorable for me, as it is such a huge occasion not only for the graduates but their families and faculty as well." When UMaine's Commencement ceremonies were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic and it became apparent that an in-person performance was not an option for May, Artesani asked Emerson to record his performance. The recording, which can be used for future virtual events, is online. Emerson has also been playing guitar since middle school, and through UMaine's music education program, learned how to play all the other instruments that are part of a standard concert band, from flute to tuba to percussion. While at UMaine, Emerson was part of many musical ensembles, including the Jazz Ensemble and the Symphonic Band. He also enjoys disc golf, biking and playing video games. This fall, Emerson will have a graduate assistantship at Baylor University, where he will pursue a master's degree in trumpet performance. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers COVID-19 resources for pick-your-own farms

20 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension compiled resources into a new webpage dedicated to Best Management Practices for U-Pick Farms During COVID-19.

The site offers guidance and practical tips on topics including proper sanitation, maintaining social distancing, safe handwashing systems, and access to a recorded webinar featuring in-depth discussion about best pick-your-own practices for Maine farms. For more information contact Jason Lilley, 207.781.6099; jason.lilley@maine.edu.

Edelman named co-recipient of Music Educator of the Year award

21 May 2020

Philip Edelman, University of Maine assistant professor of music education in the Division of Music in the School of Performing Arts, has been named co-recipient of the Music Educator of the Year award at a virtual ceremony hosted last week by the Maine Music Educators Association (MMEA). The other co-recipient of the Music Educator of the Year award is Caitlin Ramsey, director of bands at Cape Elizabeth Middle School. Presented each year by the MMEA, the oldest recognized state music educators association in the United States, the award recognizes exceptional support and outstanding accomplishments by one or more MMEA members to the advancement of music education in the schools of Maine, highlighting effectiveness in teaching, commitment to educational innovation and investment in professional growth. Nominator Marleina Schwenk Ford, a UMaine music alumna, introduced Edelman by commending him for his tireless and effective work on campus and throughout Maine as a music educator and conductor. Ford cited myriad letters of support for Edelman's nomination, quoting from them at length: letters highlighted his generosity, kindness and approachability. One supporter described Edelman as one who gives of himself and asks nothing in return, while others described the work he does across the state, in large and small schools, and with a variety of community groups, with established music programs and developing ones — working with students of all ages through school visits, clinics and guest conducting engagements. Letters of support highlighted the fruits of his labor in the university classroom, where Edelman teaches Woodwind Methods, Brass Methods, Conducting, and Administration of Secondary Music Performance Programs, as well as his impact on the next generation of music educators in Maine: as one teacher wrote, under Edelman, "Student teachers are more prepared, professional, and excited to teach than I have ever seen." Laura Artesani, chair of the Division of Music, characterized Edelman as, simply, "a positive and powerful force for music education in our state." Edelman notes that the award "reflects the collaborative spirit of the music educators in our state. They have welcomed me with open arms into their classrooms, rehearsal spaces, honor-ensemble events, and performance halls any time that I have asked to attend." He also credits the culture of UMaine's Division of Music. "My chairs and colleagues have made sure that my course schedule has been flexible enough for me to get on the road a few times each week to visit my colleagues in the field. This award is a testament to their broad support of this goal and their flexibility in allowing me to experience what is happening in music classrooms in our state." Edelman, who in addition to his teaching and research, leads UMaine's Concert Band and co-directs the Bangor Band, is thoughtful about his future as a music educator and the future of music education in Maine: "It is my sincere hope that we are still in the beginning stages of a long and fruitful relationship between my colleagues in the field, my colleagues at the University who work to support them, and the broader community of music educators in our state," he says. "We all have the same goal: to create and maintain excellent music programs and experiences all across Maine. Each of our students is worth it. It is incumbent upon us to fight every day for comprehensive music education in each school." "Here at the University of Maine, in collaboration with our colleagues in the field, we will work hard to continue to lead in that fight." Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' explores the role undergraduate research plays

21 May 2020

Research conducted at the University of Maine is vital to the state's economy and workforce. And mentoring undergraduate students to be effective researchers is a major focus at UMaine. But how do students develop their research chops? That's the topic of this week's episode of "The Maine Question." Ali Abedi says research moves people from talking about opinions to talking about facts. He should know. He's a professor of electrical and computer engineering, assistant vice president for research and director of the Center for Undergraduate Research at the University of Maine. He's also co-founder of two startup companies and director of the WiSe-Net Lab, which focuses on wireless sensor networks for structural monitoring, space explorations and bio-medical applications. Abedi talks with host Ron Lisnet about how students learn to verify information, ask important questions and combine knowledge with experience to find answers and solutions that benefit Maine and the world. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. For more information or to suggest topics of interest, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

BDN interviews Dumas about carving, preparing chicken

21 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Robert Dumas, who manages the Dr. Matthew Highlands Food Pilot Plant at the University of Maine, for the article titled "Master these two techniques to prepare cheap cuts of meat." Dumas discusses the process of cutting up and preparing portions of a whole chicken. "If you have a cutting board and a knife, it's not terribly hard," he said. "Taking the leg quarters off or taking the breasts off it's fairly intuitive." Dumas recommended braising tougher cuts in a Dutch oven and searing and butter braising tender breasts. Vegetarians can braise tofu, he said. Leftover chicken bones can be used for chicken stock or bone broth. "Making your own stock is probably the easiest thing you can do to make everything taste better," Dumas said. "A real stock adds a sticky umaminess to a dish that you really can't substitute with boxed broth."

Media report free summer courses available for high school students

22 May 2020

The Lincoln County News, Centralmaine.com, WVII (Channel 7) and the radio station 92 Moose (WMME) reported the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias are offering tuition-free summer courses for high school students through a partnership with the Maine Department of Education.Tuition is waived for all qualified Maine high school students, covering full tuition for up to 12 college credits per year at the two universities. Eligible students are able to earn college credit while still in high school through the Early College programs offered at both institutions. UMaine and UMM offer more than 100 online summer courses suitable for qualified high school students, with course start dates in May, June, July and August, according to the articles. Interested students can register online or contact Allison Small, Early College Programs coordinator at UMaine, at 207.581.8004 or allison.small@maine.edu, or Christy Alley, director of Early College at UMM, at 207.255.1268 or christy.alley@maine.edu. More information is available at umaine.edu/earlycollege and machias.edu/earlycollege.

BDN interviews Garland about hardening off seedlings before transplanting

22 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Kate Garland, a horticulture specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about hardening off, the process of gradually bringing seedlings outside to adapt them to outdoor conditions before transplanting them into the garden. Seedlings that aren't hardened off before planting will suffer from transplant shock, displaying wilting or discolored leaves and generally failing to thrive, or will die altogether, according to the article. Garland recommends hardening off seedlings one to two weeks before transplanting. "Leave them out for half a day [and then] bring them back inside for the remainder of the day," she said. "Do it again the next day, maybe in a little bit of a sunnier spot. You wait until three or four days before you're planting to expose them to full sun all day long."

Centralmaine.com advances UMaine Extension 4-H professional development for adults working with youth

22 May 2020

Centralmaine.com advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H professional development sessions to be offered online for adults working with youth from 9 to 11:30 a.m. starting Wednesday, May 27. Sessions continue Monday, June 1, Wednesday, June 3, and Thursdays, June 4 and 11. Virtual 4-H Quarantine Professional Development is designed for after-school providers, 4-H volunteers, teachers — any adult working directly with youth, the article states. The sessions are free; online registration is required 24 hours in advance. Participating by video (rather than by phone call) is preferred; sessions will not be recorded. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jessy Brainerd at 207.581.3877 or jessica.brainerd@maine.edu.

BDN speaks with Coffin, Knight about farm animal stereotypes

22 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Donna Coffin, a professor with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and Colt Knight, UMaine extension assistant professor and state livestock specialist, for the article "These farm animal stereotypes are debunked by science." Contrary to the stereotype that pigs are dirty, they actually are among the cleanest farm animals, according to Coffin and Knight. "Pigs have a few sweat glands, but they're ineffective at evaporative cooling," said Knight. "They go wallow or lay in a mud puddle. That's when they get dirty. When they're given a choice, [they prefer] to live in a clean dry environment." And Coffin debunked the stereotype that cows are stupid. "They can be very clever, she said. "We used to have trouble with gates and cows letting themselves out. They have to use all sorts of things to make sure they can't get gates up." But the stereotype that chickens are "chicken" is somewhat true. "That comes from the fact that chickens are very reactive and alert. If something scares them, they'll run away," said Knight. "Chickens aren't going to be able to beat up most things so they're going to elect to run away. That's mostly just being prey animals."

UMaine Extension hosts update for Maine farmers with Commissioner Beal

22 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host an update for farmers online 10–11 a.m., May 29, with Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Commissioner Amanda Beal, and Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Director Nancy McBrady.

Topics will focus on the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on Maine's agricultural community. These include the efforts undertaken to date; producer concerns including labor, personal protective equipment, and federal assistance programs; and the ongoing coordination with agricultural partners and service providers in Maine, and regionally and nationally. Farmers and food producers will be able to share questions or concerns during the session as time allows.

The session is free; registration is required. Register online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu. More information also is on the program webpage.

Arthritis and agriculture webinar June 2

22 May 2020

Maine AgrAbility and the Maine CITE Coordinating Center will host a free webinar on the prevalence of arthritis in agriculture from 1–2 p.m. EDT June 2.

Webinar topics include the ways arthritis can affect farmers, and how small changes in routines and using assistive technology can help reduce its impact.

The webinar is free; registration is required. Information on registration and accommodation requests are on the Maine AgrAbility website.

Maine AgrAbility, a collaborative project of University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Alpha One, is dedicated to helping farmers, fishermen and forest workers work safely and more productively. For more information contact 207.944.1533; leilani.carlson@maine.edu.

Betelhem Abay: Student from Ethiopia aspires to fight medical plights with improved imaging

26 May 2020

Betelhem Abay aspires to fight cancer and kidney failure by improving early detection technology. Fueled by passions for research and helping others, Abay, a University of Maine graduate from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, says she studies biomedical engineering so she can develop better computational models for biological-image analysis. These would serve as tools to be used in patient diagnosis, such as pinpointing signs of breast cancer and kidney failure at an early stage of development. Improving medical providers' ability to spot major medical problems sooner, as well as decreasing the likelihood of misdiagnosis, can save lives, she says. "It's very critical in developing and developed countries," says Abay, who was also enrolled in the Honors College. Ethiopia struggles to combat kidney failure due to a lack of doctors, resources, and money, Abay says. The situation in her home country inspired her interest in working toward developing improved medical imaging technology for early detection of kidney failures. Abay knew she wanted to study abroad for college, so she searched across the U.S. for universities with biomedical engineering and related programs. She was attracted by the reputation of the College of Engineering, but it was UMaine's distinction as a research institution with professors who recruit students to assist with studies and experiments that sealed the deal, she says. For her senior thesis, Abay works with Andre Khalil, associate professor of biomedical engineering and director of the CompuMAINE Lab, to help him develop new computational modeling for breast image analysis for improved early cancer detection. The Honors College awarded her the Carolyn E. Reed Pre-Medical Honors Thesis Fellowship as a result. "Having the opportunity to work with very experienced and knowledgeable professors like him who are always ready to share their knowledge with undergraduate students has also been one of the greatest opportunities I got from UMaine," she says. Abay's hard work paid off when, to her surprise, she learned one typical spring day last year that she was to be inducted into the All Maine Women honor society. She served the group as its social media chair and public relations representative. "To be a part of this organization is a recognition for my academics and leadership experience, campus spirit, and is a great opportunity to give back to the community that has helped me grow personally and professionally," she says. Abay also was a member of Team Maine and participated in the Society of Women Engineers as the social chair, the Center for Student Involvement Emerging Leaders Program, Bioengineering Club, and the Student Alumni Ambassadors program. She served as president of the African Student Association and as vice-president of the Honors Student Advisory Board. Abay graduated from UMaine in May. She will pursue a master's degree in biomedical engineering. She also plans to intern with the clinical engineering department at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center this summer. "My experience has been really fantastic," she says. "I'm really glad I made the decision to come here." Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

WABI reports UMaine publishes book about Orono Bog Boardwalk

26 May 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported the University of Maine Press published "The Bog Walker's Companion: A Guide to the Orono Bog Boardwalk," a collection of 22 essays about the boardwalk. Most of the essay authors are current or former UMaine faculty or alumni, WABI reported. Copies of the book can be ordered online.

Turner Publishing previews Extension food preservation webinar series

26 May 2020

Turner Publishing previewed University of Maine Cooperative Extension's "Preserving the Maine Harvest" food preservation webinar series beginning at 2 p.m. May 26 and continuing through Oct. 27. The 45-minute sessions will include discussion and demonstration of research-based preserving methods by UMaine Extension food preservation staff, the release states. A $5 donation is suggested for each webinar; payment is not required to participate. Registration is available on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty at 207.781.6099 or kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

Mainebiz talks with student about in-state career opportunities

26 May 2020

Mainebiz talked with Anna Peterson, a rising senior at the University of Maine, about her internship with Kennebec Savings Bank in Augusta last year that led her to consider banking in Maine as a career. "It was really cool to be running a company's social media," said Peterson, who interned in the bank's marketing department. "I would come up with some ideas, and then look them over with the social media coordinator." She also worked with the bank's community giving director and saw the causes it donates to, and how much work that entails, according to the article. "My favorite part is the connection with the community," she said. "It was really awesome." Peterson will work for the bank again this summer, and is considering returning for a career after she graduates next year as a "definite possibility."

Press Herald speaks with Carter about turning to local food during pandemic

26 May 2020

The Portland Press Herald spoke with Hannah Carter, dean of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about turning to local food to fill supply chain gaps during the coronavirus pandemic. The U.S. national food system is under strain that has been exposed by the pandemic, including producers being undervalued because Americans generally believe food should be cheap. And that results from farmers not being paid fairly for their work, according to the article. Finding labor "is a struggle as individuals can now make 'more' on unemployment (benefits) than they can (earn while) working, so some employees have left farming operations," said Carter. Since the start of the pandemic, farmers, fishermen and food producers have switched gears and sold their products directly to consumers. Carter mentioned the Maine Farms and Seafood Products Directory, an online listing of more than 400 Maine food producers who have set up direct sales operations. The future of Maine's food industry depends on consumer demand for locally sourced food. "Will consumers remember the relationships they established with their local farmer and continue to make it a priority to purchase from them?" Carter asked.

KTVZ, WKTV interview Gardner about ticks

26 May 2020

KTVZ (Channel 21 in Bend, Oregon) and WKTV (Channel 2 in Utica, New York) interviewed Allison Gardner, an assistant professor of arthropod vector biology at the University of Maine, for a report on ticks. "There are numerous tick-borne pathogens that are on the rise," said Gardner, including babesiosis and anaplasmosis. The most common tick-borne disease is still Lyme disease, and the vast majority of cases may go undetected, according to the report. To protect against ticks, Gardner recommended wearing light-colored clothing and tucking pants into socks. And to reduce the risk of ticks in backyards, people can remove invasive plants like Japanese barberry and bush honeysuckle. "Removing these invasive plants in the landscape have the additional benefit of inhibiting exposure to tick-borne pathogens," said Gardner.

Scientific American quotes Mayewski in article on coronavirus, geological records

26 May 2020

Scientific American quoted Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, in the article "Will the Earth 'Remember' the Coronavirus Pandemic?" Amid widespread lockdowns to combat the coronavirus pandemic, worldwide emissions of carbon dioxide are down by 17 percent since a year ago, and analyses suggest that 2020 will see the biggest year-on-year drop for those emissions, the article states. A researcher 100 years from now might look at pollution records in tree rings, ice cores and sediment deposits — but will they find a record of the pandemic's effects on pollution? Mayewski said the most likely marker to be found would be aerosols, ultrafine particles that can float through the atmosphere for days or weeks before falling to the ground. Markers in future ice cores could show signs of the pandemic too. "Ice cores don't lie," Mayewski said. "They capture, to the best of their ability, everything that is transported in the atmosphere."

Making use of fresh strawberries, peas with UMaine Extension

27 May 2020

Freezing berries in season, and putting up homemade jams and jellies are some of the ways to increase access to a year-round supply of local foods, cut back on sugar, and reduce the grocery bill. University of Maine Cooperative Extension publishes information to help find, grow, use and store in-season fruits and vegetables. Discover ways to preserve these June favorites:

- #4047 Let's Preserve Strawberries
- #4039 Let's Preserve Jellies, Jams, Spreads
- #4383 Freezing Fruits
- #4256 Vegetables and Fruits for Health: Peas

Updated information, and bulletins to download or order, are available on the Extension website, or by contacting 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine); extension@maine.edu.

Online Teaching from the Heart program offered at Hutchinson Center

27 May 2020

Registration is open for an online nonviolent communication program, Teaching from the Heart, at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The three-day professional development program for educators, teachers and those working with preschool to third grade children runs June 29–July 1 from 9–11:30 a.m. The cost is $125. More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website. Instructor Gina Simm has taught in early childhood education for over 30 years. Her background in Montessori education and children's theater launched her into the world of public schools, where she spent most of her career as a first grade teacher (including a year spent teaching English in China). Simm worked closely with Miki Kashtan, a co-founder of Bay Area Nonviolent Communication. Simm's knowledge of nonviolent communication has transformed her classroom into a place where systems of the heart create a child-centered environment for moving through conflict. Simm lives in the Pioneer Valley Cohousing Community in Amherst, Massachusetts. More information about her work is online. Participants in the Hutchinson Center online course will learn how to manage classrooms and learning environments with a practical, simple curriculum based on Simm's book, "Heart to Heart: Three Systems for Staying Connected (A Manual for Parents and Teachers)." Skills that help maintain the heart-to-heart connections that support children's ability to self-regulate and improve their emotional intelligence are at the core of this course. The emotional implications of the COVID-19 pandemic will require teachers to think in new ways in order to support their students. The reliable systems taught by Simm will provide participants with empathetic training to help children transition back into the classroom. Participants will earn a UMaine certificate in nonviolent communication, and 0.7 CEU/7 contact hours are available. Reliable internet is required for all participants. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, michelle.patten@maine.edu; 207.338.8002. More information about upcoming UMaine professional development programs, registration and need-based scholarship applications is online.

Penobscot Bay Pilot reports Belfast educator receives UMaine award

27 May 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot reported Belfast educator Laura Miller, RSU 71 assistant superintendent and director of curriculum, was named a recipient of the University of Maine's Outstanding Scholarly-Practitioner in Educational Leadership Ed.D. Student Award. The award is presented to a student in UMaine's Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program in educational leadership who has demonstrated a deep dedication to being a steward in the field of education, the article states. Miller has completed the second year of the four-year program under adviser Ian Mette, an associate professor of educational leadership at UMaine.

Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips preview Extension's online farmer update

27 May 2020

Centralmaine.com and Morning Ag Clips previewed University of Maine Cooperative Extension's online update for farmers scheduled for 10 a.m. May 29, with Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Commissioner Amanda Beal, and Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Director Nancy McBrady. Topics will focus on the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on Maine's agricultural community, the article states. The session is free; registration is required. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Donna Coffin at 207.262.7726 or donna.coffin@maine.edu. More information also is online.

Mainebiz speaks with Chasteen about working in Maine's hospitality industry

27 May 2020

Mainebiz spoke with Todd Chasteen, executive sous chef at the University of Maine, for an article about opportunities for working in Maine's hospitality industry. "It was something I was good at, and something I could do without sitting in an office with wall-to-wall cubicles, pushing paper," he said of his culinary career. "By five years, I wanted to be a sous chef. But before I even graduated [from Eastern Maine Community College], I was a sous chef. Things were fast-tracked."

Down East magazine spotlights research by Groden, Mech on browntail moth caterpillars

27 May 2020

Down East magazine wrote about research by Eleanor Groden, a recently retired professor of entomology at the University of Maine, in an article about browntail moth caterpillars. Maine's browntail outbreak covered 64,000 acres of forest in 2016 and increased to twice that by 2018, according to the article. Biologists do not know what caused it, but Groden and a team of researchers are trying to find answers. Along with Maine Forest Service collaborators, they are coming up with ways to weaken nests and prevent caterpillars from emerging in the first place. Angela Mech, an assistant professor of forest entomology at UMaine, is part of a team conducting experiments on how different environmentally friendly options — from essential oils to detergents to tiny pathogenic worms called nematodes — could weaken those protective winter webs, according to the article. "I don't know that we have any potential long-term strategies that are going to solve the outbreak," said Groden.

UMaine receives NOAA grant for lobster project, AP reports

27 May 2020

The Associated Press reported the University of Maine is one of eight recipients of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association funding for East Coast fishery projects through the Saltonstall-Kennedy program. The UMaine grant is for a project to ensure more lobsters survive to their destinations, according to the report. U.S. News & World Report, San Francisco Chronicle, Fosters.com, Times Union and Houston Chronicle carried the AP report.

BDN consults Gallandt, Birthisel about natural weeding

27 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Eric Gallandt, a professor of weed ecology at the University of Maine, and Sonja Birthisel, a postdoctoral scholar in weed ecology and management at UMaine, for an article about natural weeding solutions. Natural remedies have many advantages over synthetic chemical herbicides, according to the article. "[You] don't have to read any labels," said Gallandt. "[You] don't have to worry about personal protective equipment." Birthisel recommended learning about the weeds you want to address. "Look up the biology of the weed species that are most problematic for you," she said. "The more you understand about the biology, the easier it is to choose the right tool for the job." To prevent weeds naturally, Gallandt and Birthisel recommended mulching, plastic covers, DIY spot treatments and hoeing. "There's not one single tool or technique that's going to work in every application," said Birthisel. "It's important to consider the right tool for the job."

Schroeder researches intersections of feminism, sustainability activism

27 May 2020

Years ago, when Emma Schroeder was managing a small organic farm, she started to ask herself, "How did women in the past combine feminism and ecological activism? Why do we see homes as places to care for the Earth and how does that affect women?" Schroeder, now a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Maine, asks such questions in her current research. She focuses on women in the 1960s and 1970s who were early innovators in what are now considered sustainable or green technologies — passive solar design, organic agricultural practices, and energy conservation practices. She examines what types of citizenship these women could assume when they became creators of scientific knowledge and what demands they made for governments to take responsibility for environmental crises. She also looks at how responsibilities fell unevenly on women as they became caretakers of the planet through their care of homes. "It's great to imagine home as a place we can save things, but it really goes beyond. It has to be an actual political structural change," says Schroeder, who is advised by Richard Judd, professor emeritus of history. Advertisements for sustainable products make people think that they can

prevent ecological devastation with their consumption habits. In contrast, many of the women Schroeder looks at were trying to change policies related to energy production. They looked to social and political changes that linked human well-being to environmental protection. Schroeder found that while some women may have been empowered by such activism, others were not. She found that caring for the Earth was represented by white, middle-class imagery. Therefore, this activism may have supported specific roles for women in society rather than changing them. It also meant people's general understanding of how to care for the Earth omitted activism by people whose race or class did not fit with white, middle-class ideals. Schroeder earned an M.S. in geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where her interest in studying the relationships between humans and the non-human world began. After she completed her degree, she went on to work on farms throughout New England. Through her own experiences on farms, she began to think more about the gendered dimensions of ecological activism. According to Schroeder, the 1970s were a time when people began to speak out about global ecological crises — similar to the way people are speaking out about climate change now. The current changing political landscape, economic uncertainty, and public conversations about humans' reliance on the well-being of the environment are all aspects that resonate with what happened in the 1970s. As for the future? Schroeder hopes that individual choice does not continue to frame environmental debates. Schroeder says the issue of sustainability starts with the individual — but it is a problem that goes beyond that. She continues to study this history in hopes of learning more about social equity issues in relation to the environment and how the history of sustainability impacts women versus men. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

University of Maine Foundation celebrates 25 years of Charles F. Allen Legacy Society

28 May 2020

May 20, the University of Maine Foundation hosted a virtual event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Charles F. Allen Legacy Society. More than $114 million in planned gifts have been received since the inception of the Charles F. Allen Legacy Society. A story about the event is online.

Centralmaine.com notes UMaine Extension offering pick-your-own resources

28 May 2020

Centralmaine.com reported University of Maine Cooperative Extension has compiled resources into a new webpage dedicated to "Best Management Practices for U-Pick Farms During COVID-19." The site offers guidance and practical tips on topics including proper sanitation, maintaining social distancing, safe hand washing systems, and access to a recorded webinar featuring in-depth discussion about best pick-your-own practices for Maine farms, the article states. For more information, contact Jason Lilley at 207.781.6099 or jason.lilley@maine.edu.

Science magazine speaks with Gill about hiring remote postdocs

28 May 2020

Science magazine spoke with Jacquelyn Gill, an associate professor of paleoecology at the University of Maine, for an article about hiring remote postdoctoral researchers. Remote work options, if feasible, should be considered for postdocs because they help make academia more inclusive, particularly for researchers who have family constraints or financial constraints that would prevent moving, according to the article. "Anything we can do to provide more stability (for early-career researchers) — and not just pull more legs out from under the table — is going to help in the long run," said Gill, who first hired a remote postdoc three years ago. She said that went better than she expected, with the individual engaging in regular communication and mentoring of undergraduates. "It … became a great model for our lab," Gill said.

Centralmaine.com reports UMaine Extension expanding resources for small ruminants

28 May 2020

Centralmaine.com reported University of Maine Cooperative Extension has updated and expanded resources available to keepers of small ruminants on the dedicated sheep and goat program webpage. The revised site includes new publications on caring for young stock purchased off the farm, updated production and health management information, an updated sheep shearers list, marketing resources and information on relevant UMaine Extension 4-H programs, the article states. For more information, contact Donna Coffin at 207.262.7726 or donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Press Herald talks with Dill about tick season

28 May 2020

The Portland Press Herald spoke with Griffin Dill, integrated pest management professional and manager of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab, about this year's tick season, which is expected to be worse than usual. "The 2020 tick season has gotten off to an early start. With frequent warm stretches during January and February, ticks were sporadically active throughout the winter and became particularly active during March," said Dill. "Tick submissions to the lab have been much higher than last year, which may be a combined result of suitable weather for ticks and more people recreating outside due to COVID-19 restrictions." Southern and coastal Maine, particularly the midcoast region, seem to have high tick activity and relatively high rates of infection, according to Dill. He recommends that everyone do tick checks when they come in from being outdoors. "Whether it is for a long hike or simply a walk to the mailbox, (people) should be thoroughly checking themselves for ticks," he said.

Centralmaine.com advances Extension arthritis, agriculture webinar

28 May 2020

Centralmaine.com previewed a free webinar on arthritis in agriculture hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Maine AgrAbility program and the Maine CITE Coordinating Center. The webinar will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. June 2 and will cover topics including the ways arthritis can affect farmers, and how small changes in routines and using assistive technology can help reduce its impact. Registration is online. Maine AgrAbility, a collaborative project of University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Alpha One, is dedicated to helping farmers, fishermen and forest workers work safely and more productively, the article states. For more information, contact Lani Carlson at 207.944.1533 or leilani.carlson@maine.edu.

WMTW interviews Crawley for report on food cost increases due to coronavirus

28 May 2020

WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) interviewed Andrew Crawley, an assistant professor of economics at the University of Maine, for a report on the increases of food costs for Mainers due to the coronavirus pandemic. "It's just the whole aspect of the supply chain beginning to change as a result of different work practices, and as a result, I think that's beginning to filter to the prices that we are facing," Crawley said. "Originally it was costs have risen. Now, that's starting to trickle through to prices." According to the USDA's food price outlook, grocery prices will rise 2.5%. Prices have already increased by nearly 4% for meats, poultry and fish, 15% for eggs and 2.7% for cereal and baked goods. "This came about so quickly, most economists could never predicted we would see this at this kind of pace, so unfortunately it is a wait and see," said Crawley. WABI (Channel 5) carried the WMTW report.

Media highlight Extension bulletins on strawberries, peas

28 May 2020

Morning Ag Clips, Wiscasset Newspaper and Turner Publishing posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release highlighting bulletins with information on how to find, grow, use and store in-season fruits and vegetables. The bulletins cover how to preserve strawberries; how to make jellies, jams and spreads; preserving fruit; and peas. Updated information, and bulletins to download or order, are available online; by calling 207.581.3188, or 800.287.0274 (in Maine); or by emailing extension@maine.edu.

Mainebiz previews BioME COVID-19 webinar featuring Maginnis

28 May 2020

Mainebiz previewed a free webinar on May 28 hosted by BioME, the Bioscience Association of Maine, to bring together representatives of businesses in Maine that have taken the lead in the medical aspect of fighting the COVID-19 virus. Melissa Maginnis, an assistant professor of microbiology at the University of Maine, is a panelist in "The Science of COVID-19" webinar. She is on the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board for COVID-19 and is co-chair of of the American Society for Virology Education and Career Development Committee. Discussion is expected to focus on the specifics of the virus and the disease it causes, research progress, testing, possible vaccines and treatment, epidemiology and virology in general, the article states.

UMaine graduate students assist in international fishery management guidance

28 May 2020

At the request of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), University of Maine graduate students this spring semester reviewed scientific reports that will advise several European countries on how to preserve their fisheries. ICES enlisted students from the School of Marine Sciences to evaluate its latest stock assessments for any possible errors or other issues. The assessments, each one presenting data for a particular fish population, provide guidance to the European Union on how to manage its fisheries and prevent overfishing. UMaine was one of two U.S. universities tapped by ICES, an intergovernmental organization that advises 20 countries on sustainable fishing, to assess the reports this year. Yong Chen, a professor of fisheries population dynamics, and his students at the Chen Lab have reviewed stock assessments for ICES since 2014. "The question we most concern ourselves with is does the working group (from ICES) use the best science and methods given the data that is available to them," says Cameron Hodgdon, a Ph.D. student of marine biology and chair of the UMaine review group. "It's a huge responsibility; huge takeaway in terms of experience." The UMaine-team consisted of 25 reviewers, including graduate students, faculty and one undergraduate student from the Chen Lab and others at UMaine, Shanghai Ocean University and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Hodgdon says they evaluated 22 stock assessments from May 4–9. The reports provided details about several fish populations such as golden eye perch, blue ling, roughhead grenadier and blackspot seabream; as well as management advice. The populations they assess reside in bays and seas spread across the north Atlantic and Arctic oceans. The review group determines whether researchers used the optimal science and methods available to prepare their assessments and reach their conclusions, Hodgdon says. Students and faculty presented recommendations for whether ICES should accept the assessments, accept them with caveats, or reject them. Nathaniel Willse, a Ph.D. student of marine biology and sub-group leader for the UMaine team, says he and his fellow students checked for any inconsistencies, inappropriate methods, modeling problems and unexplained findings. They also scouted for technical errors, such as typos and missing labels on figures. "Our job is to go through each report to see if we find any problems, see if we agree with it, see if their justifications are validated," says Jaeheon Kim, a marine biology Ph.D. student who participated in the review. "It's a pretty important part in terms of finalizing the process for ICES." Hodgdon shared the UMaine group's findings for 13 of the 22 stocks it reviewed at a conference hosted by ICES May 18–20. The team, Hodgdon says, found no major issues with those 13 assessments, which he and his colleagues were required to review before they volunteered to evaluate more. "(The findings) were all very well received," Hodgdon says. "All the (advice drafting group) members kept thanking myself and the Chen Lab for our work and wanted us to know just how appreciative they are that we are involved in this process." Evaluating stock assessments helps ensure countries receive proper guidance for overseeing their fish populations. Kim says a mistake could alter how they manage their fisheries and open the door to overfishing. Hodgdon says the worst case scenario would be reporting more fish in a stock than there is, which could result in excess harvesting that can deplete a fish stock. "That's the biggest risk with these errors," Hodgdon says. "If a population gets too small, we may not have that fishery or have that specific fish in the future." Working for ICES grants students a look into the work some fishery scientists perform, a unique hands-on experience offered at UMaine. "It's pretty interesting, as a student, to get involved in this," Willse says. "It's a good glimpse into a pretty large part of my future career." Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' looks at impact of COVID-19 on tourism, economy

28 May 2020

Maine, also called Vacationland, is a favorite destination for visitors. Especially in the summer. What impact might the pandemic have on tourism, tax revenue and the overall economy? Those are topics on this week's "The Maine Question" podcast. This week, host Ron Lisnet talks with Andrew Crawley, a University of Maine assistant professor of regional economic development. He and six graduate students are developing forecasts to evaluate the possible

financial fallout, as well as examine prospects for recovery. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud,Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. For more information or to suggest topics of interest, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

UMaine launches Summer Start Program for first-year students

29 May 2020

University of Maine is offering a new fully online Summer Start Program, designed to help first-year students get ahead before the fall semester. The UMaine Summer Start Program features a selection of courses starting June 22, July 6 and Aug. 3, each running three to six weeks. Students will choose a three-credit course from a variety of topic areas, plus a one-credit course, designed to support success in college. From the one-credit offerings students may choose a "STEM Concept" course to help prepare for physics, chemistry, biology and calculus, which will reintroduce key concepts in one of these fields, or they may choose a more general "Exploring Innovation" or "Success in College" course. Upon successful completion of the four-credit program, students will receive a $250 University Bookstore gift card to be used for the purchase of fall 2020 UMaine textbooks and supplies. They also receive a UMaine hoodie. "The Summer Start Program is an excellent way for first-year students to get a strong start on their UMaine coursework and take advantage of what Summer University has to offer," says Monique LaRocque, UMaine associate provost for the Division of Lifelong Learning."The goal of this program is to connect with students early and during an unprecedented time period so as to build a bridge to a successful first-year UMaine experience." Following UMaine's virtual orientation for first-year students, Summer Start will be an opportunity for incoming students to enroll in courses with other members of the incoming class. Summer University began in May, with all courses offered remotely and online. Summer enrollments are up by almost 11% over last year, with over 700 high school students taking advantage of UMaine's premier Early College programs. For more information or to register, visit the Summer Start Program website. To request an accommodation, contact um.summerprograms@maine.edu. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Hall elected a Geological Society of America Fellow

29 May 2020

Brenda Hall has been elected a Geological Society of America Fellow for her sustained record of distinguished contributions to geosciences and the GSA through publications, applied research, teaching and contributing to public awareness of geology. Hall is a professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences and the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. Her research interests include examining causes of ice ages and of rapid, millennial-scale climate changes. She also studies ice sheet stability. Hall's areas of expertise include glacial geology, geomorphology, geochronology, and paleo-lake reconstruction/geochemistry. GSA Fellow Thomas Lowell nominated Hall for the honor that's bestowed on the best in the profession by election. He is a professor of glacial and Quaternary geology at the University of Cincinnati. Lowell wrote that Hall is "an internationally recognized expert on the glacial and Quaternary geology of Antarctica and other glaciated areas. From long and repeated field campaigns her reports generate new ideas and move the field along. She strives to invest in the next generation of geologists." The GSA is a global professional society with more than 20,000 members in 100-plus countries. It unites thousands of Earth scientists to study mysteries of the planet, and beyond, and to share findings.

New recipe guide now online from UMaine Extension

29 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension has a new recipe guide available online that can help with meal planning options and food shopping decisions. "Make Your Own: A Recipe Guide" is a collection of 10 recipe categories — from salad dressings and casseroles to soups and grain bowls — with a variety of options in each food group. Customizable recipe forms in select categories can be used to print and share personal favorites. For more information, contact Kate Yerxa, 207.581.3109; kate.yerxa@maine.edu.

Introduction to raising backyard poultry June 3

29 May 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a free online overview of raising backyard poultry from 10 a.m.–noon. June 3. The online program, led by UMaine Extension livestock specialist Colt Knight, is designed for beginning or prospective backyard and small-scale poultry producers. Participants will gain a general understanding of poultry housing, health and nutrition needs; varieties of waterers and lighting options; and different breeds for meat and egg production. Register online for the free session. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Penobscot Bay Pilot announces Hutchinson Center offering nonviolent communication program

29 May 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot reported registration is open for an online nonviolent communication program, Teaching from the Heart, at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The three-day professional development program for educators, teachers and those working with preschool to third grade children runs June 29–July 1 from 9–11:30 a.m., the article states. The cost is $125. More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website, or by contacting Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002, michelle.patten@maine.edu.

Maine Public quotes Brewer in report on engaging young voters

29 May 2020

Maine Public quoted Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, for a report on creative, socially distant ways to engage young voters. More than one-third of all eligible voters are under the age of 39, but historically, few of them vote — about 36% turned out in 2018. This year, political parties and advocacy groups are trying to engage younger voters through registration drives, but in accordance with coronavirus pandemic restrictions. They are turning to methods like social media in the absence of door-to-door canvassing and in-person rallies, Maine Public reported. "There have been some campaigns in some election cycles that have been able to get younger voters more engaged than others, not on the level of their older counterparts, but more engaged," said Brewer, citing the 2008 presidential election as an example. The youth vote can make a difference, particularly in a close contest, according to Brewer.

BDN speaks with Garland about troubleshooting plant problems

29 May 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Kate Garland, a horticulture professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for the article "What's wrong with my seedlings? A short troubleshooting guide for finicky plants." If your seedlings are struggling, Garland said not to jump to fertilizing as a solution, as it can exacerbate the problem. "For those that are seeing not perfectly green leaves, don't just jump on the fertilizer bandwagon thinking that will solve your problem," she said. "Most of the time it has to do with the environmental conditions: too cold, or too hot, or too much water." Black spots on plants can be a sign of a fungal pathogen, and Garland recommends reaching

out to your local cooperative extension for guidance. “Whenever concerns related to spots on a leaf or discoloration on leaves, they can send us pictures,” she said. “It’s not something we can easily diagnose through a description. We can find out by looking at a picture in an email.”

WABI reports on Dr. Biden’s virtual campus visit

29 May 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported Dr. Jill Biden, former second lady, met virtually with University of Maine officials on May 28 to discuss their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including partnerships they’ve established with hospitals and local businesses. Dr. Biden virtually toured the Advanced Manufacturing Center, and doctorate students talked about some of the technology they’ve been able to create. Dr. Biden expressed her gratitude for the university's work to support students and the community, according to the report.

Barkan publishes new edition of textbook

29 May 2020

Steven Barkan, professor and chair, Department of Sociology, has published a new edition of his textbook,"Social Problems: Continuity and Change," with extensive material on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Penobscot Bay Pilot shares Extension’s help in meat processing plant inspections

01 Jun 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot highlighted the help University of Maine Cooperative Extension faculty provided the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in authorizing 90-day grants of inspection to three Maine-based custom slaughter operations through its Maine Meat and Poultry Inspection program. The department granted temporary authorizations to Hatch's Custom Meat Cutting, Crystal, Watson's Custom Butcher Shop, Etna, and Blake's Slaughtering and Custom Cut Meats, Alexander; meaning the meat they process can be sold in commerce. Jennifer Eberly, state veterinarian and MMPI director, thanked Jason Bolton, Extension food safety specialist and associate Extension professor, and Robson Machado, associate Extension professor and food scientist, for their assistance in the effort to respond to increased demand for local meat during the COVID-19 pandemic. “We are fortunate to collaborate with Drs. Jason Bolton and Robson Machado, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, on this project, as they provided invaluable assistance in food safety plan coordination and review,” Eberly said.

News Center Maine highlights UMaine professor, graduate students forecasting economic fallout of COVID-19

01 Jun 2020

News Center Maine reported on Andrew Crawley and six University of Maine graduate students helping state officials estimate the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic. Crawley, an assistant professor of regional economic development with the UMaine School of Economics, and his students have been working with the State Economist’s Office to develop forecasts for how much COVID-19 will affect Maine’s economy. They have been developing five models to evaluate the possible loss in tourism spending, travel-related spending, cruise ship spending, state revenues and overall sectoral output changes. "Part of exposing the students to this kind of research or this kind of work is the fact that with this level of uncertainty, you'll never see this in a textbook, you never see this usually taught in theory," Crawley said.

AP reports on $5 million for Transportation Center housed at UMaine

01 Jun 2020

The Associated Press reported on the federal government allocating $5 million toward the Transportation Infrastructure Durability Center (TIDC) housed at the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center. The TIDC, which includes six university members from across New England, strives to develop solutions for improving the durability, cost-effectiveness and the lifespan of existing and new transportation assets in New England and beyond. U.S. Sen. Susan Collins said the funding will “foster UMaine’s important research to build more durable bridges, roads and rail lines.” The U.S. News and World Report, The Hour, the Times Union, the Houston Chronicle, seattlepi.com, the Washington Times, Big Rapids Pioneer, The Courier of Montgomery County and The Telegraph (Nashua) shared the AP article.

News Center Maine covers community gathering to protest George Floyd death, racism

01 Jun 2020

News Center Maine and other area television stations covered a community gathering May 31 to protest the death of George Floyd and racism in the U.S. The event was held at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King Memorial Plaza at the University of Maine. Floyd died in police custody May 25 in Minneapolis. UMaine professor of philosophy Doug Allen, who is internationally recognized for his lifelong civil rights, peace and social justice scholarship, teaching and activism, co-organized the peaceful protest. He said racism leaves many of his students in fear. “(Today is about) bringing people together, connecting, and motivating them to work really hard to bring about lasting changes," Allen said. “We’re trying to create a better world, but it’s only possible if we do so." UMaine student Anna-Patrice Roberts, who also participated in the hour-long protest, noted: “I know we’re sparse, but we are here, and you need to understand our stories and our history, and understand why we feel the way that we feel.”

Secondary education major receives George J. Mitchell Peace Scholarship to study in Ireland

01 Jun 2020

[caption id="attachment_77302" align="alignright" width="223"]  Tom Adams[/caption] Tom Adams, a secondary education major with a concentration in social studies education, has been awarded the George J. Mitchell Peace Scholarship to study abroad in Ireland during the spring 2021 semester as part of the student exchange program. Adams, who plays guitar, plans to use the semester at University College Cork to pursue his passion for music, and to soak up the social and cultural life in Ireland, which he hopes will benefit him as a future middle school social studies teacher. "I've always wanted to involve music in my studies, but I just haven't been able to fit it into my academic plan," says Adams, a rising senior from Falmouth, Maine, who's also a student in the Honors College. "In January, I stumbled across the Office of International Programs' listing for the George Mitchell Peace Scholarship, which specifically mentioned the music program at University College Cork as world-class, and I knew I had no choice but to apply," he says. The competitive merit-based scholarship is made possible by an agreement between Maine and Ireland for a student exchange at the university level. It honors the 1998 Northern Ireland peace accord brokered by Sen. Mitchell between Ireland and the United Kingdom. The University of Maine awards one semester-long scholarship each year, which allows a student to study at UCC. Adams, who's minoring in both anthropology and political science, says he's interested in taking classes on music composition and improvisation, as well as traditional Irish arts during his study abroad. Courses exploring the system of government in Ireland and structure of the European Union also intrigue him. The peace scholarship is "the greatest honor of my academic career," Adams says, adding that the experience "will provide me with the cultural perspective I need to be an effective social studies teacher." For his Honors College thesis, Adams is working with adviser Rebecca Buchanan, assistant professor of curriculum, assessment and instruction in the College of Education and Human Development. His topic is Maine middle school social studies teachers' implementation of a standard that requires them to incorporate civic action and community service projects into their curriculum. "One thing I appreciate about UMaine is how the university has several academic environments nested inside each other," says Adams. "As a member of the Honors College, I work in-depth with small groups of students from vastly different disciplines — biology, art, mechanical engineering and so on." Another thing he says he appreciates is the amount of experience he's gotten in local schools through his education methods and field placement courses. "I've been able to foster connections in the area that will make the transition to teaching so much easier than it would've been otherwise," Adams says. A UMaine campus committee reviews applications for the George J. Mitchell Peace Scholarship. The criteria for selection include high academic achievement, leadership skills, commitment to community service and the ability to promote the scholarship to the academic and wider community. More about the George J. Mitchell Peace Scholarship and other scholarship opportunities are listed on the Office of Major Scholarships website. Other study abroad opportunities can be found on the Office of International Programs website. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

With St. Amand's matrix, town planners can ID at-risk archaeological sites

01 Jun 2020

As sea-level rise, extreme weather events and storm surge become more frequent and severe along the Maine coast, people who live there will move inland. Globally, weather-related hazards accounted for more than 230 million displacements from 2008 to 2018, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. In 2018 alone, 1.2 million people in the United States were displaced from natural disasters. If urgent, unplanned climate-driven migration overwhelms Maine state and local protections, Frankie St. Amand says archeological sites that contain cultural and environmental archives could be destroyed. "It is common that development in Maine, like elsewhere in the United States, occurs on unceded or stolen indigenous land," says St. Amand, a University of Maine Interdisciplinary Ph.D. student. "The destruction of sacred cultural and archaeological sites is a continuation of the violence of colonization. My aim in developing the framework in this pilot study is to help identify these important cultural sites so they may be prioritized and preserved for future generations." St. Amand developed a trial risk-assessment matrix to identify southern Maine municipalities in the Casco Bay area that are likely to experience rapid increases in population and infrastructure development related to climate-driven resettlement. She found that sites containing artifacts of pre-European, Native American life in Scarborough, Saco, Portland and South Portland are at high moderate risk. These four communities share four factors which put them in the high moderate risk category — they're along the Maine Turnpike and are likely to experience increases in population, housing and asphalt parking lots and roads due to people moving because of climate-related factors. Windham and Westbrook are in the moderate risk category. St. Amand's matrix — which includes socioeconomic and demographic data, land cover change analyses and archaeological records — allows state and municipal planners to identify and prioritize the most threatened archaeological sites during this century. "Archaeologists must work with climate scientists, urban planners, communities, and government officials to identify and protect archaeological sites and to increase stewardship of our cultural heritage, in Maine, and in coastal zones throughout the United States and elsewhere," wrote St. Amand, who's from Deer Isle, Maine. Natural Hazards published St. Amand's study titled "Climate-driven migration: prioritizing cultural resources threatened by secondary impacts of climate change" in its May issue. Her advisers, Daniel Sandweiss and Alice Kelley, are co-authors. While the framework is the product of a regionally specific pilot study, St. Amand says that with modifications it would be applicable to counties and states nationwide. In 2017, St. Amand was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship for her demonstrated potential for significant achievement in STEM fields. The fellowships promote innovation, transformative scientific breakthroughs and economic growth in the U.S. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Centralmaine.com posts backyard poultry workshop information

02 Jun 2020

Centralmaine.com posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release about its June 3 free online program for people interested in raising backyard poultry. UMaine Extension livestock specialist Colt Knight will talk about various breeds, housing, health and nutrition needs, and watering and lighting options. For more information and to register: extension.umaine.edu.

Shermerhorn, Allison reminisce about historic Frozen Four contest

02 Jun 2020

Dan Shermerhorn and Blair Allison talked about the 1995 Black Bear men's ice hockey team's historic Frozen Four game — the longest Frozen Four game in Division I history — with the Bangor Daily News. Shermerhorn scored the winning goal versus the University of Michigan 28 seconds into the third overtime to end the 100-minute, 28-second contest. Allison made 47 saves in the 4–3 victory. The 32-6-6 Black Bears lost 6–2 to Boston University in the championship game.

Linh Phan: UMaine experience shapes Vietnamese student into campus leader, enthusiast for accounting and finance

02 Jun 2020

Studying at the University of Maine became a journey of self-discovery for Linh Phan. Hard work and active involvement in the campus community shaped the UMaine alumna from Vinh city, Nghe An province, Vietnam, into a student leader focused on a career in accounting and finance. “From the experience I had in UMaine, I learned that I want to be a leader. I love and understand the power of teamwork, the importance of education, of self-confidence,” Phan says. When she began her college career, Phan, who graduated from UMaine in May, says she struggled with her coursework, and dealt with an uncertain future. With assistance from Jean Henri Akono Ada, assistant professor of accounting; Lizao Zhang, assistant professor of operations management, and other faculty, Phan was able to shift her study methods and foster connections that enabled her to excel. The Maine Business School faculty members are friendly and caring, Phan says. “They have been so helpful to me along the way for my education, and my career.” Phan honed her talents for leadership and collaboration in UMaine student organizations. She served as treasurer and president of the Asian Student Association, was a University of Maine Student Government senator, treasurer for the Institute of Management, a student ambassador for the Maine Business School and a member of its Dean’s Leadership Council. “UMaine has given me various opportunities to figure myself out and to learn what I’m capable of doing, to have the ambition of being better and better every day,” Phan says. Watching her father work as an accountant inspired Phan to study the field at UMaine. She decided to double major in finance after interning with Wipfli CPAs and Consultants. Phan first came to UMaine when she was in high school to attend a campus tour and interview with the Office of International Programs. “UMaine has been the second home for me,” she says. “Things I have learned from here have taught me to be my better self.” Phan will pursue a master’s degree in business analytics from Northeastern University. “I hope to work at a place where I can utilize my knowledge that I learn from my degrees and from my on-campus involvements,” she says, “a place where I can practice my accounting, finance and business analytics knowledge and be able to take on leadership positions in projects and be able to work with a team that share the same level of ambition and interest for the job as I do.” Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Updated: Responsible Conduct of Research training for undergrads begins June 8

08 Jun 2020

The Office of Research Compliance will administer Responsible Conduct of Research training starting Monday, June 8. The training is required for undergraduate students doing National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and/or United States Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture-sponsored research. More information about the online training and a link to register are available on the Office of Research Compliance website. The Office of Research Compliance also is administering online Responsible Conduct of Research training for undergraduate students participating in NSF, NIH, and/or USDA-NIFA sponsored research. More information and a link to the training is here.

Maine AgrAbility to cohost webinar on accessible school, community gardens

03 Jun 2020

Maine AgrAbility and the Maine CITE Coordinating Center will host a free webinar on accessibility for school and community gardens 1–2 p.m. EDT, June 16. Topics will focus on planning community and school gardens for users of all ages and abilities, including the use of adaptive garden tools. Registration is required. Information on registration and accommodation requests are on the Maine AgrAbility website. Maine AgrAbility, a collaborative project of University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Alpha One, is dedicated to helping farmers, fishermen and foresters work safely and more productively. For more information, contact 207.944.1533, leilani.carlson@maine.edu.

Learn about managing finances during pandemic, for free

03 Jun 2020

University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library will host a free webinar about managing personal finances during the COVID-19 pandemic 1–2 p.m. Tuesday, June 16. Topics will include starting a budget, understanding financial literacy and the effect of the pandemic on retirement planning. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. The webinar will feature presentations by Pankaj Agrrawal, UMaine professor of finance; Senta Sellers, business reference librarian at Fogler Library; and SarahJoy Chaples, regional manager for New Ventures Maine. Attendees are asked to register online in advance. Fogler Library also has published a free COVID-19 Personal Finance Guide with information about personal finance, retirement planning, cooking on a budget and free family activities. For more information, contact Brad Beauregard, brad.beauregard@maine.edu.

UMS educators invited to take community-based learning workshop

03 Jun 2020

An online workshop series for educators, “Service Learning/Community-Based Learning: Making It Work for Your Students, Your Community, Your University,” will be offered in July to University of Maine System faculty members and graduate students. Linda Silka, Senior Fellow at UMaine’s George Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions; Lois-Ann Kuntz, associate professor of psychology at the University of Maine at Machias; and Edward Laine, adjunct instructor at UMM, will lead the interactive workshops about designing and delivering community-engaged courses in traditional, online and hybrid formats. The series will be divided into three interactive training sessions conducted 9:30–11:30 a.m. July 27, 29 and 31 via Zoom. Applications are open for educators from UMaine and UMM. Members of other UMS campuses may apply starting June 15. Participants will be invited to a follow-up workshop in October. For more information and to apply, visit machias.edu/cbl-workshop.

Media advance workshop about raising pigs

03 Jun 2020

Morning Ag Clips shared University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s release about its free online workshop from noon to 2 p.m June 16 about raising backyard pigs. Registration is required and more information is on the program webpage. The Daily Bulldog and Centralmaine.com also posted the media release.

Press Herald advances Maine Harvest food preservation webinar

03 Jun 2020

The Portland Press Herald shared information about University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s harvest food preservation series webinar at 2 p.m. Tuesdays from June 9 to Oct. 27. Preregistration is required: extension.umaine.edu.

Phys.org shares release about St. Amand’s matrix that IDs at-risk archaeological sites

03 Jun 2020

Phys.org ran a University of Maine media release about Frankie St. Amand’s trial risk-assessment matrix that identifies southern Maine municipalities likely to experience rapid increases in population and infrastructure development

related to climate-driven resettlement. If urgent, unplanned climate-driven migration overwhelms state and local protections, the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. student says archeological sites containing artifacts of pre-European, Native American life in Scarborough, Saco, Portland and South Portland are at high moderate risk of being destroyed. St. Amand says that the framework, with some modifications, would be applicable nationwide.

News Center shares Chief LaCroix's community message

03 Jun 2020

News Center Maine shared the University of Maine Police Department's community message about the death of George Floyd. Chief Roland J. LaCroix wrote, "The death of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police officers was reprehensible and disturbing. We all extend our condolences to George Floyd's family and friends. We stand firmly on the side of equity and inclusion at the University of Maine...The sanctity of life, safety and justice must be foremost for all, discrimination in any form will not tolerated by UMPD."

Living in a Media World, BDN post Socolow's blog about journalism's objectivity during civil unrest

03 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News published Michael Socolow's opinion piece "Caught in the Crossfire: Journalism's 'Objectivity' Problem in Times of Civil Unrest" that was first a guest blog on Ralph E. Hanson's Living in a Media World site dedicated to current news on journalism and mass communication issues. "Every attack on a working journalist is an attempt to hide something shameful, unlawful, or embarrassing. For the police, and for some of the protestors, journalists are dangerous and must be confronted — for simply doing their jobs, writes the media historian and associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism. "This is, of course, only one small component of the larger tragedy we're all watching. But as the son of a journalist, as a former journalist, and as teacher and mentor to journalists, I'm finding it particularly painful to watch reporters being arrested and assaulted for simply doing their job professionally. Too often we forget that it's honorable work done in service to the citizenry, and without these sacrifices we would be far less well-informed."

WABI covers MBS Corps' cleanup of WWII memorial

03 Jun 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported the Maine Business School Corps, veterans and active duty service members landscaped the area around the World War II memorial near Memorial Union. "This is a hidden gem," said Nory Jones, professor of management information systems. "[W]e come out here to keep it pretty every year and hope that more people will learn about it and come out and see it and remember our World War II veterans."

USA Today talks with Fried about Senate elections

03 Jun 2020

USA Today interviewed Amy Fried, professor of political science, about the impacts of President Donald Trump's impeachment, the coronavirus pandemic, unemployment and George Floyd's death on 2020 Senate elections.

Maine's higher education leaders propose principles for safe fall reopening

04 Jun 2020

Maine's higher education leaders have collaborated on a statement of principles for safely reopening their campuses this fall that summarizes the $4.5 billion impact and essential functions of the state's 38 colleges and universities. The Framework for Reopening Maine's Colleges and Universities in Fall 2020 includes strategies and practices that can be implemented in partnership with civil and public health leaders to improve safety on campus and limit the spread of COVID-19. Maine's colleges and universities acted swiftly in March to protect their 76,200 students, 20,000 regular and student employees, and their partner communities as COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. "Our colleges and universities put student and community health first this spring, sending students home and finishing the semester at a distance to help flatten the curve of COVID-19 infection," said University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy. "Higher education is essential to Maine and its future. The priorities and best practices we have included in our reopening principles are tools our institutions will pursue in their planning to improve safety, manage incidents of infection, and flexibly adhere to civil authority guidance that must continue to adapt to protect public health." The framework serves as a guide for decision making by institutions and for informing collaboration with state and public health partners. It includes six guiding principles for the safe reopening of Maine institutions of higher education as well as detailed topics and factors for further consideration. The framework has been shared with U.S. Sen. Susan Collins in advance of today's U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions hearing, COVID-19: Going Back to College Safely. "One day soon science will develop a vaccine for COVID-19. Until that vaccine is proven effective and widely available, public and student health have to be a daily priority for college leaders," said James Dlugos, President, Saint Joseph's College and President of the Maine Independent College Association. "The reopening framework captures our best thinking on prevention strategies and sets expectations about how campus life will have to be different so we can operate safely and respond swiftly to the evolving COVID-19 threat." The framework commits Maine's colleges and universities to periodic consultation and collaboration across the sector and with public partners. "We look forward to working together with Governor Mills and public health experts as we address the range of considerations required for safely welcoming students back to Maine's campuses this fall," said Clayton Spencer, President of Bates College. "While teaching and learning in residence is the very essence of our educational model, our first concern is protecting the health of our campuses and communities." The framework for reopening also includes a set of recommendations and conclusions to further prepare the state and its colleges and universities for the fall. Items for consideration include partnerships around screening and testing; cooperation around the establishment of guidelines appropriate to campus environments; and higher-education adjustments around quarantine protocols for out-of-state visitors contingent on sufficient testing protocols. "Faculty and staff worked creatively and tirelessly this spring at all of our institutions to meet our educational commitment to our students at a distance, but society looks to us for more than the successful delivery of courses and credit hours," said Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President of the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias. "Our research function and support for Maine industries, cultural enrichment initiatives, experiential learning, and the work we do to fight injustice and promote inclusion, diversity, and tolerance require us to bring people together. With the same selflessness and commonsense that have guided our response to COVID-19's spread, we can manage its risk and be sure our campuses are open this fall fulfilling functions in and beyond the classroom that are critical to Maine's future." Contact: Dan Demeritt, 207.441.6962

Extension offers online workshop about raising pigs

04 Jun 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a free online workshop about raising pigs for small-scale use noon–2 p.m June 16. UMaine Extension professor Donna Coffin and Extension livestock specialist Colt Knight will lead the workshop and discuss housing, health and nutrition, swine breeds, and expected meat yields. Registration is required. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Donna Coffin, 207.942.7396; donna.coffin@maine.edu. More information also is on the program webpage.

Wiscasset Newspaper promotes Tick Lab for identification, testing

04 Jun 2020

People were encouraged to send ticks to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab for identification (free) and testing ($15) in the Wiscasset Newspaper column "Prevention is Key to Staying Tick-free This Summer."

Boothbay Register highlights Steneck's award, career

04 Jun 2020

The Boothbay Register published a media release from the Darling Marine Center about Bob Steneck, who received the University of Maine Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award. The internationally recognized marine ecologist's expertise ranges from coral reefs and kelp forests to fisheries and marine conservation and management. Newsweek, The New York Times, The New Yorker, Atlantic Monthly, National Geographic, Vogue and National Public Radio have highlighted his research. "Never before have we needed marine scientists more, in order to keep our fingers on the pulse of our rapidly changing ocean," says the professor based at the DMC in Walpole. "Nowhere is this more important than the Gulf of Maine, where we see weather, climate change and invasive species rapidly changing the ecosystem and the economic landscape."

Waring talks with AMC Outdoors Magazine

04 Jun 2020

AMC Outdoors Magazine interviewed Tim Waring about environmental benefits that have resulted from grounded flights, shuttered factories and other efforts to contain the coronavirus. "In the U.S., I expect most of the gains in terms of the environment will be quickly reversed [as the economy reopens]. Understanding that is important," says Waring, an associate professor of social-ecological systems modeling. "In short term, people want their normal lives back, and normal lives depend on the fossil fuel economy." Waring's research indicates that a crisis like this pandemic can change societies and institutions, making people more cooperative, which may lead to longer-term positive change. "If we did this by accident, then maybe we can do this intentionally," he says in the article. "Maybe we can use the COVID pandemic as an opportunity to avoid returning to business as usual. What if we did this in a careful, considered way?"

Piscataquis Observer highlights 'One Tomato' program

04 Jun 2020

The Piscataquis Observer featured the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's "One Tomato" program that seeks to introduce or reintroduce folks to gardening. "Tomatoes are a pretty friendly plant. They're generally pretty easy to grow and take care of," says Trisha Smith, community education assistant with the Piscataquis County office of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. "You can grow them in a bucket or a bag of soil." Smith recently provided free cherry tomato seedlings to people at the Dover-Foxcroft Area Food Cupboard. "It's not a lot, but it's something and it's an empowering thing to be able to produce food for yourself and your family," she says. "Maybe people will do this and it will be a confidence booster so they'll grow more next year." While supplies last, Extension staff will have seedlings at Tradewinds in Milo, 7 to 11 a.m. Friday, June 5; Smith's Grocery and Lunch in Brownville, from noon to 3 p.m. June 5; Whitney's Supermarket in Guilford, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 6; and the Piscataquis County Extension Office in Dover-Foxcroft, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, June 8. People also can sign up at bit.ly/OneTomato2020.

Klimis-Zacas receives Musgrave Public Health Award

04 Jun 2020

Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, professor of clinical nutrition in the School of Food and Agriculture, was awarded the Katherine O. Musgrave Public Health Award by the Maine Nutrition Council. The award recognizes outstanding work in nutrition policy, education or research. Klimis-Zacas will be recognized for her achievement at the Council's annual conference on Nov. 18 in Bar Harbor.

'The Maine Question': How does interdisciplinary research make a positive difference?

04 Jun 2020

The world needs help. And University of Maine researchers from diverse disciplines collaborate to address the complex needs of society. Stakeholders are key, too. When they're involved from the start, they help develop effective, insightful solutions. In this episode of "The Maine Question," host Ron Lisnet talks with David Hart and Linda Silka from the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions about results-driven research. Hart, who directs the center, is a professor of biology and ecology. Silka, a Senior Fellow, is trained as a social and community psychologist and focuses on building community-university research partnerships. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. For more information or to suggest topics of interest, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Read Like a Professor booklists now available

04 Jun 2020

Fogler Library has published a list of book recommendations provided by University of Maine faculty. The Read Like a Professor booklists include the suggestions by faculty members across many departments. To compile the lists, faculty members were asked to name their favorite books and those college students should read. In addition to the book recommendations, the booklists include brief explanations on why the faculty member recommended the particular titles. UMaine faculty who want to contribute to the lists can continue to do so throughout the summer.

UMaine Extension offers free tick webinar June 25

05 Jun 2020

"Ticks in Maine" is the topic of a free University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar 1–2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25. Griffin Dill and Dr. Beatrice Szantyr will lead the webinar. Dill manages the Tick Lab of the Cooperative Extension Diagnostic and Research Laboratory and coordinates the Integrated Tick Management Program, including the tick identification and tick-borne disease testing services. The program conducts surveillance of ticks and tick-borne pathogens to track their distribution, detect trends or changes in tick activity, and identify areas of risk for tick-borne disease in Maine. More information about the Tick Lab is online. Dr. Szantyr, who specializes in internal medicine as well as pediatrics and adolescent medicine, is MaineLyme's medical advisor. The Maine-based nonprofit's mission is to decrease the prevalence of Lyme and related tick-borne diseases in the state through awareness, prevention, education and advocacy. Online registration is required. People who have registered will be sent a Zoom link and phone number to connect with the program. The webinar is accessible by computer and phone. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Press previews free 'Ticks in Maine' webinar

05 Jun 2020

Daily Bulldog posted a media release announcing a free University of Maine Cooperative Extension "Ticks in Maine" webinar led by Griffin Dill and Dr. Beatrice Szantyr will be held 1–2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25. Online registration is required. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726, donna.coffin@maine.edu. News Center Maine, Turner Publishing, Seacoastonline.com, Centralmaine.com and the Associated Press also advanced the webinar. U.S. News & World Report, San Francisco Chronicle, ENM News and Seacoastonline.com carried the AP report.

MaineToday Media announces Ferda Farms in Greenlight Maine's collegiate challenge finale

05 Jun 2020

The Portland Press Herald and Centralmaine.com promoted that Ferda Farms, representing the University of Maine, is competing for the $25,000 grand prize in Greenlight Maine's collegiate challenge. Greenlight Maine is a television pitch competition that promotes small businesses. Other finalists are Easy Eats, representing Colby College, and Green Bait, representing the University of New England. The winner will be announced at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 14 on News Center Maine. UMaine students Max Burtis and Sam Dorval founded Ferda Farms in high school. Learn more about them in this MBS Connects profile.

Media report on framework for reopening colleges, universities

05 Jun 2020

The Associated Press, Portland Press Herald, Sun Journal, Bangor Daily News, WABI, WGME, Maine Public and WVII (Channel 7) reported that Maine higher education leaders released a framework for reopening the state's colleges and universities in a way that prioritizes fall on-campus learning. WMTW and The Courier of Montgomery County ran the AP story. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias, was a member of the working group. The BDN reported the University of Maine System has mapped classrooms to understand in-person capacity for each one and is looking at simultaneously offering classes in person and live online. Ferrini-Mundy told WGME that "bringing students together and being able to serve students in Maine is critical."

UMaine study examines link between newborn hearing test data and later diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder

05 Jun 2020

Editors note: Updated June 8, 2020 Newborns who did not pass their initial hearing screen but who later were found to have typical hearing had higher rates of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 5 to 10 years, according to a study conducted by researchers with the University of Maine's College of Education and Human Development. The study looked at Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) data for children born in Maine between 2003 and 2005, linking the data with education records, including special education status, for the 2010–11 and 2013–14 school years. Children who did not pass their newborn hearing test — the Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR) — but who were later found to have normal hearing were at more than eight times the odds of being identified as having ASD when 5 to 7 years old, and more than six times the odds when 8 to 10 years old. The odds decreasing with the older age group can be attributed to various factors, including more children being identified with ASD as they age and outmigration of families from Maine. Shihfen Tu, professor of education and applied quantitative methods, was the lead author of the study. Co-authors include Craig Mason, professor of education and applied quantitative methods; Deborah Rooks-Ellis, assistant professor of special education and director of the Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research; and Patricia Lech, research associate with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute. Further study is needed, but the results suggest that greater collaboration may be warranted between state-level EHDI programs, and educators and other professionals who work with children who have autism or other developmental challenges. "The results are particularly noteworthy because the newborn AABR data and data on ASD status were collected independently and years apart by two different systems, health and education, that do not usually share information," the researchers write. The National Institutes of Health has recommended that all newborns be screened for hearing loss, and AABR is a common method used by EHDI programs. If a child obtains an atypical result on the screening, they are referred for more robust diagnostic testing, such as an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR). If hearing loss is confirmed, the child is referred to service providers in their area. Previous studies have noted atypical results on diagnostic ABR testing in children with autism, but because AABR is widely used across the United States and other countries as a screening tool for hearing loss in newborn infants, a connection between AABR screening at birth and ASD would be potentially valuable. Notably, this was observed even after controlling for various other childhood characteristics, including sex, age, presence of known birth defects, birth weight and placement in a neonatal intensive care unit. Although they caution that the AABR test is not a diagnostic tool for ASD, the researchers argue that the widespread availability AABR screening data "may create opportunities for EHDI programs to support and facilitate the work of colleagues in the ASD community, as well as further assist families already touched by EHDI systems." The study was published in the Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, and is available online. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Media promote Vachon's webinar for girls, women interested in coaching basketball

08 Jun 2020

MaineToday Media and the Bangor Daily News reported on Amy Vachon's free basketball coaching webinar for girls and women from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, June 14. The University of Maine women's basketball coach organized a panel of female hoop coaches for the workshop in order to create awareness, support, empowerment and the number of female coaches in the state. Women coach 28 of 133 schoolgirl varsity basketball squads in Maine, or 21.1 percent. Girls and women who are coaching, have coached, and who are interested in coaching can sign up by emailing Vachon at amy.vachon@maine.edu.

Collins Center for the Arts holds online Maine Talent Showcase

08 Jun 2020

In the absence of face-to-face gatherings, the Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine held the Maine Talent Showcase, an online talent contest. Contestants were encouraged to use social distancing practices to create videos that highlighted their own talents, rather than singing along to pre-produced soundtracks. The pool of more than 100 entries was narrowed to 10 finalists, chosen by Collins Center staffers, and now members of the public can vote for their favorite video. To date, more than 1,300 votes have been cast. Finalists are Megan Howell, Ethan Ho, Benjamin Foss, Leigh Neptune, Juan Condori, Ira Kramer, Brittany Parker, Gerry Wright, Colin Aponte and Anna Briley. They play violin, piano, guitar, ukulele, harp and other instruments. In several videos, contestants play more than one instrument. Voting will continue on the Collins Center's website through June 15. The winner will be announced at 9 a.m. June 16.

Press Herald reports on funding for Center on Aging

09 Jun 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported on the UMaine Center on Aging at the University of Maine receiving $30,000 from the John T. Gorman Foundation for its Senior Companion Program.The program offers homebound seniors volunteer companions who spend 15 hours with them each week, an effort to help reduce their isolation and help them live at home longer.

KJMS highlights Fogler Library webinar about managing finances during COVID-19 pandemic

09 Jun 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel highlighted a free webinar about managing personal finances during the COVID-19 pandemic hosted by the Raymond H. Fogler Library 1–2 p.m. June 16. Topics will include starting a budget, understanding financial literacy and the effect of the pandemic on retirement planning. Attendees are asked to register online in advance. Fogler Library also has published a free COVID-19 Personal Finance Guide with information about personal finance, retirement planning, cooking on a budget and free family activities.

Politico piece cites Socolow's research about NYT op-ed page

09 Jun 2020

Jack Shafer cited University of Maine media historian Michael Socolow in a Politico opinion piece titled “Tom Cotton Did Us a Favor by Exposing a Bad Law with a Bad Op-Ed." Sen. Cotton had penned a New York Times op-ed titled “Send in the Troops” in response to protests against racism and police brutality. Readers and journalists criticized the Times for publishing the piece and on Sunday, NYT editorial page editor James Bennet resigned. Shafer wrote that while people can "criticize the page for running Cotton’s retrograde views," the 50-year-old op-ed section of the New York Times “has been outraging or disappointing — depending on your point of view — readers since its founding.” Shafer noted that Socolow, an associate professor of journalism, had explained in his pocket history of the New York Times op-ed page that the “section was conceived as a forum for extreme ideas that did not fit elsewhere in the paper.”

USDA financial assistance for maple producers webinar June 15

10 Jun 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a free webinar on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) financial assistance programs available to maple producers as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The webinar, which Extension will host at 6:30 p.m. June 15, is co-sponsored by SCORE and the Maine Maple Producers Association. SCORE volunteer Steve Veazey will discuss the Payroll Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program and the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. There will be time for questions during the session. No registration is required for this free webinar. Instructions for joining the session are available on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

UMaine Today online wins national excellence award

10 Jun 2020

UMaine Today online received a national 2020 Silver Excellence Award in Digital Magazines from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Judges noted: The *UMaine Today* website is beautifully laid out, with navigation that is clear and enticing. They take great advantage of the opportunities the web presents. The stories and photos are engaging and well-suited to the web. The navigation by subject area is such a useful addition. *UMaine Today* online won the 2020 CASE District I Silver Excellence Award and the 2019 CASE District I Gold Excellence Award in Web-based Magazines.

Mass Live cites Lobster Institute in article about restaurateur finding rare orange lobster

10 Jun 2020

Mass Live cited Lobster Institute at the University of Maine in its article about a Massachusetts restaurant that found a rare orange lobster. Arnold’s Lobster and Clam Bar, Eastham, found the lobster during one of its wholesale lobster deliveries, and donated it to a local aquarium, according to the report. The restaurant found a blue lobster and donated it to the St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station in Missouri last year. According to the Lobster Institute, the chance of finding a blue lobster is one in two million and “the coloration comes from a genetic defect that causes the lobster to produce an excessive amount of a particular protein.”

KJMS highlights accessibility in school, community gardens webinar

10 Jun 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel highlighted the free webinar about accessibility for school and community gardens that Maine AgrAbility and the Maine CITE Coordinating Center will host at 1 p.m. June 16. Webinar delves into planning community and school gardens for users of all ages and abilities, including the use of adaptive garden tools. Registration is required. Information on registration and accommodation requests are on the Maine AgrAbility website.

BDN interviews UMaine, Extension faculty about making mulch at home

10 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed several University of Maine and University of Maine Cooperative Extension faculty for the article “How to make your own mulch at home.” The article explores ways gardeners can make their own mulch and reduce the need to buy it at stores. A couple of them recommended using newspapers and cardboard. Sonja Birthisel, a postdoctoral research associate at UMaine, said gardners can use cardboard to help control weeds by lining the spaces between garden beds with it. Matthew Wallhead, Extension ornamental horticulture specialist and assistant Extension professor, said water permeates through newspapers more easily than cardboard. He encouraged gardeners to layer several inches of newspaper when using it as mulch because it breaks down faster than wood chips. Katherine Garland, a horticulture professional at Extension, says she lays newspaper, cardboard, or paper bags under straw or bark mulch to serve as a weed barrier. Eric Gallandt, a professor of weed ecology and management at UMaine, says topping cardboard with other mulch helps deter the newsprint from becoming an eyesore in a garden. Newspaper is also cheaper than organic mulches and helps suppress weeds. “You could just put it out there but it’d look terrible just by itself,” Gallandt said. “The newsprint would allow you to use a little less of the organic mulch on top and have less gaps in it. For any mulch you use, the newsprint tends to improve weed supressability.”

Mason awarded University of Maine System Trustee Professorship

11 Jun 2020

[caption id="attachment_77434" align="alignright" width="223"]  Craig Mason[/caption] Craig Mason, a professor of education and applied quantitative methods in the College of Education and Human Development, has been chosen as the 2020–21 University of Maine System Trustee Professor for UMaine. The competitive award provides release time and support for faculty to undertake research and other scholarly creative endeavors not feasible within their normal workload. Mason plans to use his award to expand his involvement in cutting-edge research in developmental epidemiology being conducted at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His specific focus is on newborn hearing loss and the impact of early hearing detection and intervention (EHDI) on developmental outcomes in children born with hearing loss. “I’ll be collaborating with partners at the CDC to analyze recently collected longitudinal, population-level data on 750,000 children across nine states,” Mason says. “This truly unique dataset contains child-level data from multiple points in time, starting at birth, and including newborn hearing screening, diagnostic and early intervention data.” Mason says he hopes to use the data “to examine factors related to the timeliness of diagnostic testing” of hearing loss, “and strategies for identifying those children most at risk of not receiving needed services.” Faculty members are nominated for the trustee professorship by their institutions using a campus-based selection process, and must submit an application describing the work to be pursued during the period of the award. Janet Fairman, associate research professor in the College of Education and Human Development and co-director of the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, nominated Mason. “Craig’s high level of productivity across his career is truly remarkable,” Fairman says. “He has maintained an active research program while teaching and providing extensive and important service to the university, the college, his school and the state of Maine.” Mary Gresham, interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development says Mason personifies the public service mission of the University of Maine and the University of Maine System." “He uses his research expertise to respond to complex challenges in public health to help improve the quality of lives,” Gresham says. Mason joined the College of Education and Human Development faculty in 2001 and was promoted to full professor in 2010. He has published more than 100 scholarly works, and been principal investigator or Co-PI on over 40 grants or contracts totaling nearly $20 million. He has given invited presentations at meetings sponsored by the CDC, the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, among other agencies and groups. In addition to his work on developmental epidemiology and newborn hearing loss, Mason’s research explores biobehavioral informatics, specifically electronic data linkage and data system design in areas such as growth and development in children, as well as risk factors, interventions and outcomes for children with a birth defect or developmental disability. He’s also involved in research on STEM education, particularly technology-enhanced math education for middle school students. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Fogler Library publishes NAACP Civil Rights in Maine Oral History Project online

11 Jun 2020

The Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine published an online version of a collection of interviews with 13 people about the NAACP and civil rights in Maine gathered between 1990 and 1991. The collection, called the NAACP & Civil Rights in Maine Project, is available in the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History section of the library’s ArchivesSpace database. The links also have been added to the URSUS Catalog. Each interview includes a complete transcript and audio files. Charles Lumpkins, an assistant teaching professor of labor and employment relations at Penn State University, gathered the interviews. He also delved into civil rights issues in Maine in his 1992 thesis “Civil Rights Activism in Maine from the 1940s to 1971: Black Mainers, Black and White Activists, and the Resistance Against Racism” and in his report “Civil-Rights in Maine, 1945–1971,” which was published in Maine History in 1997. For more information or assistance accessing these materials, contact Special Collections at the library at 207.581.1686 or um.library.spc@maine.edu. They can also be found using the library’s Guide to the NAFOH Collection.

‘The Maine Question’: Why do we toss 33% of food we produce when people are hungry?

11 Jun 2020

While almost a billion people in the world are food insecure, we annually throw away about one-third of the food we produce. In economic terms, the global cost of that waste is about $200 billion. We can do better. Some countries already do. In this episode of “The Maine Question,” host Ron Lisnet talks with Susanne Lee, executive-in-residence at the Maine Business School, and Peter O’Brien, a senior majoring in economics. They examined food waste and came up with some possible solutions. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and “The Maine Question” website. New episodes are added Thursdays. For more information or to suggest topics of interest, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Analytical Scientist explores CCI researchers’ role in Colle Gnifetti Historical Ice Core Project

11 Jun 2020

The Analytical Scientist featured University of Maine researchers taking part in the joint Climate Change Institute-Harvard University Colle Gnifetti Historical Ice Core Project. One of its main goals, according to the story titled “Frozen in Time,” is to study the intricate relationship between humans and the climate by tracking past events through ice cores. Paul Mayewski, CCI director; Alexander More, research associate at Harvard’s Initiative for the Science of the Human Past (SoHP) and assistant research professor with the CCI; and Heather Clifford, a doctoral student at CCI, are mentioned in the piece. “Without getting these different disciplines together, you can’t make the sort of discoveries necessary to understand really complex systems. It’s really a two-way relationship,” Mayewski said. “We provide them [Harvard] with climate information and they correlate this with significant historical events — it’s extremely useful to be able to calibrate the ice core record with known historical events.” Clifford utilized new laser technology, that takes as many as 20,000 samples per meter in the ice core, to analyze Saharan dust storms. More found that lead pollution has been elevated for the past 2,000 years — excluding a four-year period starting in 1349 A.D. that corresponds with the onslaught of the Black Death in the 14th century when lead dropped to undetectable levels in Europe. “Levels this low suggest there is no ‘natural’ level of lead (at least not a measurable one), and that anything higher must be caused by human activity,” More said. “I think we forget, as humans, that the planet existed before us in a state of equilibrium. We’ve polluted that equilibrium for at least the last 2,000 years, so our environmental standards cannot be based on just pre-industrial levels, 200 to 300 years ago.” Mayewski says COVID-19 also will be indicated in ice cores. “We’ve already seen the short-term impact of worldwide lockdowns on environmental pollutants and I am in no doubt that this will be recorded in ice cores around the globe,” he said.

Bloomberg Businessweek interviews Barkan about police reform

11 Jun 2020

Bloomberg Businessweek interviewed Steven Barkan, professor of sociology and interim chair of the department at the University of Maine, for the article “Police Reform Means Better Cops to Some, Fewer Cops to Others.” Federal and state officials have proposed various reforms to tackle widespread police brutality and systemic racism in the wake of the death of George Floyd. Some city governments plan to reduce police spending, according to the report. Barkan discussed the influence protests across the nation could have on U.S. politics, including the presidential election. Then candidate Richard Nixon capitalized on the fear of rising crime to win the presidential election in 1968, after police beat and used tear gas against antiwar protesters in Chicago, Barkan said. Police abuses, however, have become harder to ignore as many have been filmed and shared with the public. “We’re really talking about police in a very different way,” Barkan said. “There’s increasing recognition of police misconduct, not just among the public but among city officials and the mainstream Democratic Party.”

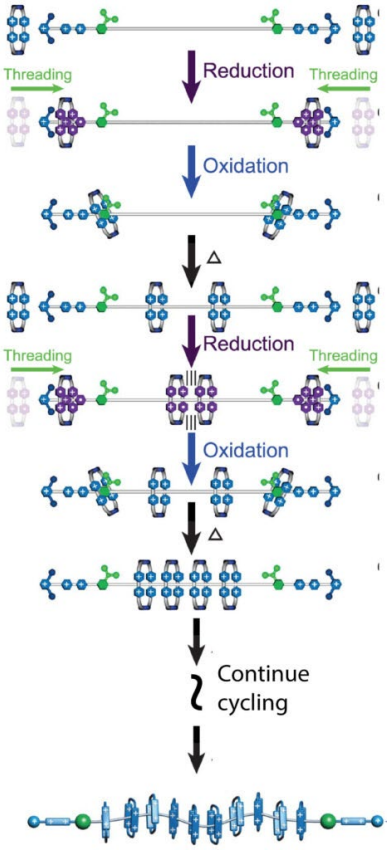
The Conversation publishes article co-authored by Ishaq about city composting

11 Jun 2020

The Conversation published an article about city composting written by Sue Ishaq, assistant professor of animal and veterinary sciences at the University of Maine; Kristen DeAngelis, associate professor of microbiology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; and Gwynne Mhuireach, postdoctoral research fellow of biology and the built environment at the University of Oregon. The piece is titled “City compost programs turn garbage into ‘black gold’ that boosts food security and social justice.” The rising popularity of home gardening has highlighted the importance of using compost, as it can improve soil health. “Large-scale municipal composting is a public resource that can reduce food waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions and promote better stewardship of our most valuable natural resource: soil,” Ishaq and her co-authors wrote. The Telegraph, the Times Union and Next City shared The Conversation article.

New research significantly advances production of polyrotaxanes

11 Jun 2020



[caption id="attachment_77453" align="alignright" width="300"] Schematic illustration of how repetitive cycling of the reduction/oxidation potential can allow the depositing of a precise number of rings onto a polymer capped on either end with a pump cassette — a "recognition site" sandwiched between two moieties that impede movement of the ring. In the reduced state the blue balls allow free movement of a ring (purple) onto the attractive recognition site (purple). When the ring and recognition site are oxidized (blue), the recognition site repels the ring, and the now highly charged ring cannot move over the positively charged blue ball and so moves over the green steric barrier to the collecting chain. This process can be repeated five times to achieve 10 rings on the collecting chain as shown at the bottom.[/caption] Researchers have made a significant advance in the synthesis of high-energy mechanically interlocked polymers (MIP) used in exotic materials, according to a new study in the prestigious journal Science. University of Maine professor R. Dean Astumian, a theorist in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is a corresponding author of the study, along with Sir James Fraser Stoddart, 2016 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry and Board of Trustees Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University, and Xiaopeng Li, an expert in mass spectrometry at the University of South Florida. The article, “A precise polyrotaxane synthesizer,” describes the work, led by postdoctoral researcher Yunyan Qiu at Northwestern University, which demonstrates how artificial molecular machines (AMMs) — that is, artificially synthesized molecular components that produce machine-like movement — can be harnessed to produce polymers such as polyrotaxanes with incredible precision previously unachievable through other methods. The authors report the assembly line-like emergence of polyrotaxanes with increasingly larger numbers of rings and with higher energies by harnessing artificial molecular pumps to deliver rings in pairs onto a polymer chain by cyclical oxidation-reduction of the components. This programmable strategy offers improvements over existing, template-driven methods for polymer synthesis. Templation

uses self-assembly and molecular recognition in the synthesis but does not provide control over their final properties. The newly reported use of artificial molecular pumps, by contrast, leads to the precise incorporation of two, four, six, eight, and 10 rings carrying 8+, 16+, 24+, 32+, and 40+ charges, respectively, onto polymer dumbbells (DB+6). The palindromic arrangement of "pumping cassettes" on either end of the DB molecule separates the long polymer chain from the bulk solution. Because of the kinetic asymmetry arising from the electrostatic barrier facing the solution and a steric barrier facing the polymer "collecting chain," rings are successively pumped onto the site between the barriers when in the reduced state (shown in purple) and expelled to the collecting chain when in the oxidized state (shown in blue) in a mechanism known as an energy ratchet. Up to ten rings were pumped onto the collecting chain to form a very high energy and highly charged molecule. Creation of this molecule would have been impossible using standard synthetic techniques. Producing these mechanically interlocked polymers with a precise number of rings is also important because it makes it possible to find out how their properties change as a function of the number of rings. The method allows scientists to fine-tune the properties of these polymers by adding a prescribed number of rings onto the polymer (dumbbell) chain. The research has important implications for slide-ring gels, battery electrode materials, drug delivery systems, and other technological applications. Astumian points out that the research is also important for understanding one of the deepest questions in chemistry: "What are the principles by which simple matter becomes complex? A key point is that while thermodynamics determines the most likely structures near equilibrium, kinetics plays the dominant role in selecting structures when far from equilibrium." Stoddart, who supervises the lab at Northwestern where Qui conducted the experiments, agrees: "The work tells us that we are drawing ever closer to producing a wholly synthetic machine that is operating similarly to ion pumps that regulate the electrical potential across biological membranes in our cells." Though he cautions that we are not there yet, this work might form the basis for a prototype of, for example, an all-organic battery. Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu

Tan, colleagues plant American chestnuts to return 'perfect tree' to ecosystem

12 Jun 2020

For generations, majestic American chestnut trees flourished and provided food and wood for people from Maine to Florida. These 100-foot "redwoods of the East" were called perfect trees. They grew fast and produced nutritious chestnuts for people and animals. And their straight-grained and rot-resistant wood was ideal for building houses and barns and crafting furniture. But in the late 1890s, a fungus arrived on imported blight-resistant ornamental Chinese chestnut trees. And over the next 40 years, the fungus wiped out nearly 4 billion of the heritage trees. University of Maine faculty and students are working to return these iconic trees to the ecosystem. To do so, they're collaborating with colleagues at Unity College and the University of New England as well as members of the Orono and Sebasticook Regional land trusts and The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF). This spring, they'll help plant 200 diverse wild American chestnut trees (*Castanea dentata*) in plots in Maine. They will be the basis of an orchard that maintains genetic diversity of the species for future use. At UMaine, E. Han Tan, assistant professor of plant genetics, is working with Jay Wason, assistant professor of forest ecosystem physiology; Kathryn "Kat" Klebon, biology major and former intern with the Maine Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation; and Katie Tims, a biology major and Honors College student concentrating in pre-medical studies and minoring in sustainable food systems. They're teaming with Matthew Chatfield, Unity College associate professor of conservation biology; and Thomas Klak, University of New England professor of environmental studies. Klebon, who marvels at the leaves shaped like canoes and spiny burs the color of tennis balls, says it's satisfying to try to rectify this human-caused ecological disaster. The team is eagerly awaiting the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision on whether to deregulate a transgenic OxO chestnut that could help restore the species. Scientists at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), in collaboration with the New York Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation, have successfully transferred a gene from wheat — oxalate oxidase (OxO) — to American chestnuts to make them blight-resistant. Multiple tests have found the transgenic OxO chestnut doesn't result in any significant ecological effects, other than enhancing blight tolerance. Nor does it have any negative effects on human health; the wheat gene already exists naturally in a number of food crops. At UNE, Klak and students are speed-breeding American chestnuts with the wheat gene. While it can take years for American chestnuts to reach sexual maturity in a forest, the UNE lab has reduced that time to nine months. Klak and students are collecting and freezing pollen in the lab to use under a USDA permit while waiting for the deregulation of transgenic OxO chestnut trees. Tims became more intrigued about genetic engineering and its potential to restore the species after learning about the traumatic story of American chestnuts in Tan's genetics class. "We could see a major milestone for the worlds of biotechnology and ecology restoration efforts," she says. Tan says returning the American chestnut tree to the Appalachian hardwood forest ecosystem "could be the first success story to restore a functionally extinct species." Chatfield says the initiative will require citizen science on a scale not commonly seen. "At some point in the not-too-distant future, we'll be requesting that others help plant chestnuts to restore the species to the wild," he says. The effort also brings attention to the value of other tree species and encourages people to be stewards of the forest, says Wason. If all goes well, it could be 50 to 200 years before people again walk in the shade of American chestnuts. Wason says that time frame isn't a deterrent. "We want to start the ball rolling." Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

University of Maine to offer new online bachelor of arts in economics

12 Jun 2020

This fall, the University of Maine School of Economics, in partnership with UMaineOnline, will launch a fully online bachelor of arts (B.A.) degree in economics. The B.A. in economics is the newest addition to UMaineOnline's growing portfolio of undergraduate programs that includes business administration, political science, surveying engineering and university studies, and nearly 40 graduate online programs. "We are excited to add this new degree to our wide array of online programs," says Monique LaRocque, UMaine associate provost for the Division of Lifelong Learning. "UMaine recognizes the importance of studying economics, a discipline especially critical in light of the current public health crisis. Our excellent faculty and dedicated online advising team are ready to support students interested in starting or completing their bachelor's degree." Economics looks to improve societal outcomes through careful analysis, leading to effective decisions or policies. The online B.A. in economics at Maine's flagship university provides students with strong analytical and critical thinking skills necessary for economics, as well as business, law, public administration, public policy and other fields. These skills are in high demand by employers and enhance lifetime earning potential. "Our economics degree will prepare students to enter the job market with the analytical tools to assist them in making decisions using data-driven, multifaceted approaches," says Travis Blackmer, undergraduate program coordinator for the School of Economics. "Resources, whether it is people, money, the environment, information, technology, etc., are scarce and their effective use benefits households, firms and society. We welcome to the program both students new to a university setting as well as students with past college experience looking to gain new skills." Out-of-state students enrolled in a UMaineOnline certificate or degree program are eligible to receive a low e-rate, making tuition cost highly competitive. Scholarships are available. Applications are now being accepted. Interested students are encouraged to contact UMaineOnline at umaineonline@maine.edu or 207.581.5858 to speak with an adviser. More information about the new online B.A. in economics, including how to apply, is online. Contact: Lindsey McMorrow, 581.3131, lindsey.h.mcmorrow@maine.edu

UMaine Health Connection Chats continue in June–July

12 Jun 2020

UMaine Health Connection Chats continue this month and will explore various topics such as home gardening, summertime pests and staying healthy during the coronavirus pandemic. The University of Maine Center on Aging and its community sponsors host the free online chats from 11 a.m.–noon every Wednesday via Zoom. They provide practical information and tips for staying healthy for Maine citizens ages 60 and older and other high-risk residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Upcoming chats include "How to Start and Maintain a Successful Home Garden" on June 17, hosted by Katherine Garland, horticulture professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension; and "Don't Let the Bugs 'Bug' You" on June 24, hosted by James Dill, pest management specialist with UMaine Extension. Sessions are recorded and are available online. More information is available on the Center on Aging website. Call-in information and a Zoom link are available by contacting Kelley Morris, kelley.morris@maine.edu; 207.262.7925.

C&EN interviews Astumian about making polyrotaxane

12 Jun 2020

Chemical & Engineering News interviewed R. Dean Astumian, professor of physics at the University of Maine, about discovering how to make polyrotaxane, which, according to Science Direct, is a supermolecular structure consisting of ring-shaped molecules on a polymer chain. Chemists from the lab of Fraser Stoddart, a professor of chemistry at Northwestern University, made polyrotaxane with a molecular machine that threads rings on the chain two at a time using redox chemistry, according to the report. The setup requires two molecular pumps, each one crafted with "a bipyridinium unit sandwiched between a 2,6-dimethylpyridinium end group and an isopropylphenylene

group that's attached to a poly(ethylene glycol) chain, which acts as the string in the polyrotaxane", according to the report. Astumian, who was part of the research team, said 2,6-dimethylpyridinium and isopropylphenylene and how they are arranged create barriers that prevent the rings from slipping off the chain, making the particular setup essential. Chemistry World also interviewed Astumian about the research.

Press Herald reports on Carter's discussion about struggles, resilience of farmers with state committee

12 Jun 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported on Hannah Carter, dean of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, discussing the struggles and resilience of farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic with the Maine State Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. The newspaper included her talk in the article "Federal funding not enough to meet farmers' needs, state official says." While many farmers faced disruption as a result of the virus, Carter said "there have been silver linings," the largest being a rise in direct sales to customers. The report also highlighted the Maine Farm and Seafood Products Directory.

BDN interviews UMaine, Extension experts about using enough mulch in gardens

12 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed several University of Maine and University of Maine Cooperative Extension faculty members about the appropriate thickness of mulch for gardens. They were interviewed for the article "This is the biggest mistake first-time gardeners make when mulching." Eric Gallandt, professor of weed ecology at UMaine, said gardners need to pack enough mulch into their gardens to ensure it effectively controls weeds. Matthew Wallhead, an ornamental horticulture specialist and assistant professor at Extension, said having at least two inches of mulch, but no more than six, is "a good rule of thumb." Sonja Birthisel, postdoctoral research associate at UMaine, however, said gardeners using organic mulches such as hay, straw or leaf litter, must layer them on extra thick in gardens. Katherine Garland, horticultural specialist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, warned against allowing too much mulch to accumulate in gardens overtime, particularly in ornamental gardens. The article also shared an Extension resource about mulch, soil and compost. The Times Herald-Record (New York) ran the BDN piece.

WABI highlights UMaine's participation in Pride Month festivities

12 Jun 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the University of Maine collaborating with the Orono Public Library to host drag queen story hour as part of the celebration of Pride Month. The UMaine Rainbow Resource Center and library host readings by drag queens every week for nine weeks during the summer, with every reading featuring a new story. The university also provided a bucket truck and workers to help place Pride flags on the Silk Memorial Bridge, according to the center.

LaBouff co-writes opinion piece on police violence

15 Jun 2020

Jordan LaBouff, an associate professor of psychology and honors at the University of Maine, and Charlotte Warren co-wrote an opinion piece for the Bangor Daily News titled "What Maine can do to reduce police violence." LaBouff is a member of the Maine chapter of the national Scholars Strategy Network, which brings together scholars across the country to address public challenges and their policy implications. Members' columns appear in the BDN every other week. Warren represents District 84 in the Maine House of Representatives and is the House chair of Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

BDN publishes op-ed by Miller

15 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News published an opinion piece by Jessica Miller, a professor of philosophy and associate dean for faculty affairs and interdisciplinary programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Maine, about balancing individual freedoms and collective rights during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Especially in times like these, we have moral responsibilities that go beyond asserting our rights," wrote Miller. "We have to protect the vulnerable members of our community. That means making choices that prevent harm to people whose well-being we have the power to affect."

Press Herald article on Maine reality TV quotes Socolow

15 Jun 2020

A Portland Press Herald article titled "Popularity of Maine reality shows proves it's the way TV should be" quoted Michael Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine. The state has had a mark on popular culture predating the recent boom of reality TV and even TV itself, the article states. In 1930, three of the top national radio shows had strong Maine ties, including one hosted by singer Rudy Vallee, who grew up in Westbrook, and the Maine-set series "Seth Parker" and "Uncle Abe and Dave," according to Socolow. And many of Maine native Stephen King's works, which have been the basis for more than 44 films and some 35 TV projects, play on the view of Maine as a place of isolation and long, dark winters, said Socolow, who will become director of the university's McGillicuddy Humanities Center in July, the Press Herald reported. Centralmaine.com also published the article.

Barkan receives two honors from Textbook and Academic Authors Association

15 Jun 2020

Steven Barkan, professor and interim chair, Department of Sociology, has received two honors from Textbook and Academic Authors Association. He received the Pynn-Silverman Lifetime Achievement Award and was named to the TAA Council of Fellows. The Pynn-Silverman Lifetime Achievement Award was established to honor individuals whose achievements over a career of devoted effort and service, demonstrate the highest degree of commitment to excellence in authoring works to advance their discipline, encourage, enlighten and support the work of colleagues, and educate students in the field. The award is named for Ron Pynn and Franklin Silverman, two charter members of TAA who pursued and modeled these qualities in their own work. The TAA Council of Fellows honors distinguished authors who have a long record of successful publishing. Any author whose textbook or other instructional materials have established his/her presence in the marketplace over time, who has been innovative in the presentation of material, is qualified for nomination into the TAA Council of Fellows. Induction into the Council of Fellows is the premier honor bestowed by TAA.

Survey participants needed for kimchi study

16 Jun 2020

Do you make kimchi at home, or are you interested in learning how to make it? Researchers at the University of Maine are seeking Maine residents who are at least 18 years old and want to ferment their own kimchi. Kimchi-makers and those interested in learning more about this traditional cabbage dish will be asked to answer questions and watch a short video about safe fermentation practices. The study's principal investigator is Jacob Rich, a graduate student in food science and human nutrition, who is working under the direction of Mary Ellen Camire, a professor in the UMaine School of Food and Agriculture. The 25-minute research survey is available online. For more information, contact Rich, jacob.rich@maine.edu; 781.475.3862.

Virtual workshop on resume writing, applying to graduate school June 17

16 Jun 2020

The University of Maine's Graduate School and Career Center are teaming up to facilitate a workshop series that provides resources for career exploration, job search, and graduate school options. Current students, alumni and local community members are all welcome to join a YouTube live event at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 17. Topics will include resume writing and graduate school application details and as always, there will be time for audience questions. For more videos in this series and others like it, visit the Graduate School's YouTube channel. Any individual interested in scheduling one-on-one discussions regarding graduate school plans should visit umaine.edu/graduate/visit. For more information, contact Jason Aylmer at jason.aylmer@maine.edu.

Boothbay Register, Wiscasset Newspaper share DMC release on Waller receiving tenure

16 Jun 2020

Boothbay Register and Wiscasset Newspaper shared a University of Maine Darling Marine Center release announcing that Rhian Waller, an associate professor, has been granted tenure. Waller, of Jefferson, Maine, is a cold-water coral biologist in UMaine's School of Marine Sciences and was one of 29 faculty members at UMaine to receive tenure or promotion this spring. The faculty members were nominated by UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy based on a peer and administrative review of their successful teaching, research and public service, and approved by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, the release states.

WVII quotes Tan in report on American chestnut planting

16 Jun 2020

WVII (Channel 7) quoted E. Han Tan, an assistant professor of plant genetics at the University of Maine, for a report on his team's efforts to plant American chestnut trees. The American Chestnut Foundation is addressing a shortage of chestnut trees by teaming up with colleges and universities around the state to help them regrow, according to the report. "A lot of students are excited about forests, ecosystems, conservation, restoration, and it adds a science component to this whole project," said Tan.

News Center Maine speaks with Jackson about downtown Orono Pride Month art

16 Jun 2020

News Center Maine spoke with Rob Jackson, staff associate for diversity and inclusion at the University of Maine, about public art installations in downtown Orono for Pride Month. The sculptures are designed to raise awareness about the LGBTQ+ community, and each animal represents a different pride flag, according to the report. "Our hope is that people will take photos with these sculptures, post them on their social media and help us raise awareness and support," said Jackson. "We also want to raise funds for Maine TransNet, which is really the premier organization in the state that supports trans folks who are among the most vulnerable in the community."

Nolan Altvater: Honorable Mention for the Udall Scholarship in Native American policy

16 Jun 2020

Nolan Altvater of Milford, a University of Maine rising senior majoring in secondary education and minoring in English, was selected as one of 55 students nationwide to receive Honorable Mention for the Udall Scholarship in the Native American policy category. The Udall Foundation awards scholarships, fellowships, and internships for study in fields related to the environment and to American Indians and Alaska Natives in fields related to health care and tribal public policy; provides funding to the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and to the Native Nations Institute to conduct environmental policy research, research on American Indian and Alaska Native health care issues and tribal public policy issues and training; and provides assessment, mediation, training, and other related services through the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution. As a member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, Altvater is a Wabanaki Youth in Science student, and a McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellow at UMaine. He is the first UMaine student to receive an Honorable Mention from the Udall Foundation in the Native American category since at least 2001. UMaine's last Honorable Mention in the environmental category was in 2011. "Being nominated as an Honorable Mention for the Udall Scholarship makes me feel very hopeful for not only my project's interest, but for all of the applicants' research whose goals include improving and or raising awareness of Native American policies and the environment around the country," says Altvater, who received support for his application from the Office of Major Scholarships in Estabrooke Hall. "It's very comforting to both know and be a part of a community that share the same interests and goals for change." **What is the Tribal policy project you focused on in your Udall application?** My project focused on developing a writing community in order to create a resource to work toward a better implementation of the Wabanaki Studies Law (LD 291). Maine legally requires Wabanaki history be taught in K–12 education, but gives the department of education the decision to choose who has the narrative power in relaying the information. This leads to many issues, such as the misunderstanding and falsification of Native American culture and history while contributing to the issue of Maine's education system not meeting the needs of Wabanaki students. Furthermore, the statistics revolving around Native students in education is astoundingly low, which is an issue my project works towards improving. **What did you learn during the application process?** This was actually my first major scholarship application that I have completed in my academic career. It was very deep and detailed; ensuring that the Udall faculty understood my project from the foundation up. The knowledge I gained from the experience is that having assistance from mentors and the faculty at the Office of Major Scholarships on campus. I wouldn't have been able to produce as strong of an application if it wasn't for the guidance and feedback I had from the community at UMaine that helped. **Tell us about the research, internships or scholarly pursuits you are involved in as a student.** At UMaine, I am very actively involved with a community that shares the same interests of decolonization and institutional changes. My current research as both a Wabanaki Youth and Science intern and a McGillicuddy Humanities Fellow involves Community Based Participatory Research where I am using Decolonizing Methodologies in conjunction with Indigenous Research Methodologies to create a Wabanaki Writing Community in order to create a better understanding of my people's culture, epistemologies, and ontologies. As a future Indigenous educator, my research also aims to contribute to the push towards needed legislative changes for the better implementation of The Wabanaki Studies Law (LD 291). **Beyond academics, what extracurricular activities occupy your time?** Outside of school, I am very active and enjoy spending time outdoors either working out or hiking. I also enjoy practicing photography, writing poetry and cooking. On top of being active, I also enjoy lazing around my apartment with my cat while reading a book. **What are your plans for after graduation?** Continuing my research and attending graduate school at UMaine. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** Given the drastically low percentage of Native Americans continuing their education and attending college, UMaine has given me opportunities that I never thought possible. The community and professors have not only given me a strong foundation for my research, but have helped me find my identity as a Native American college student, which is critical in academic success and quality of life. This university allowed me to take my own interests, create my own goals, and give me the resources that I needed in order to reach them, all while developing essential leadership skills. **How would you describe UMaine's academic atmosphere?** In my experience, I find UMaine's academic atmosphere is very holistic. It enabled me to take my life experiences and interests, create challenging academic and career goals, and developed leadership skills while working towards them. It didn't confine me to take one perspective, rather it challenged me to create my own. **Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor?** Bridie McGreavy, who is a professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, has gone beyond the role of mentor in my

studies at UMaine. If it wasn't for her guidance, ability to listen and understand, and the helpful resources she shared, my goals would have never come into fruition. She has made my UMaine experience unique and cherishable. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

41 college students begin 12-week Maine government internships

17 Jun 2020

Forty-one undergraduate and graduate college students are working in state, municipal and county offices through the 2020 Maine Government Summer Internship Program. The Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine administers the program that provides full-time, 12-week work experience to students who are Maine residents and scholars attending Maine colleges. Thirty interns are working in state departments, including Education; Labor; Economic and Community Development; Environmental Protection; Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; and Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Eleven are taking part in municipal and county internships from Saco to Rockport to Bridgton. The students' educational backgrounds include law, business, government, environmental studies, engineering, economics and accounting. They're utilizing knowledge and skills they've gained in higher education to work as GIS specialists, data analysts, infrastructure analysts, hydrogeology assistants, laboratory assistants, marketing and planning specialists, media content creator, and tourist development assistants. Many have expressed interest in pursuing a career in government or public service. The MCS Policy Center pairs each intern with a host agency, department or municipality and matches them with a direct supervisor. Students tackle assigned projects and provide their skills, enthusiasm and fresh approaches to issues facing departments and communities. Students gain professional work experience, networking opportunities, and insights into the functions of local and state governments. Due to COVID-19, many interns are working remotely; most hope to transition to in-person work as government offices reopen. A few will work remotely throughout the summer. The 103rd Maine Legislature established the Maine Government Summer Internship Program in 1967 to attract and select college students with ambition and talent for temporary internships within government. Over the past 50 years, nearly 1,800 students have completed internships. For more information, visit mcspolicycenter.umaine.edu. Following are the interns, in alphabetical order, as well as their hometowns, school attending, and placements. Walter Backman of Raymond, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; actuarial analyst, Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Insurance; Hannah Bonine of Arrowsic, Maine; University of Southern Maine; planning and economic development intern, City of Saco, Planning and Development Department; Nina Ciffolillo of South Portland, Maine; University of Maine School of Law; legal assistant with the Maine Executive Department, Office of the Public Advocate; Skye Cote of Belgrade, Maine; University of Redlands; town manager assistant, Town of Chelsea Town Manager's Office; Taylor Cray of Readfield, Maine; University of Maine; Governor's Welcome Home Program, Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future; Taylor Crosby of Greene, Maine; Hobart and William Smith Colleges; municipal manager assistant, Town of Fayette Town Manager's Office; Scott DeLong of Portland, Maine; University of Maine School of Law; vehicle emissions program assistant, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality; Julie Derzawiec of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; Skidmore College; assistant research analyst, Maine State Housing Authority, Communications, Planning and Development; Allison Emery of Mechanic Falls, Maine; Saint Joseph's College of Maine; community development and comprehensive plan assistant, Town of Gray Community Development/Planning Department; Louisa Goldman of St. Louis, Missouri; Colby College; assessment webmaster, Maine Department of Education, Office of Learning Systems; Emily Grzyb of Lovell, Maine; Bowdoin College; digital records assistant, Town of Bridgton, Office of the Community Development; Eric Hall of Lewiston Maine; Bowdoin College; management assistant, Town of Damariscotta, Town Manager's Office; Danielle Harris of Bath, Maine; Unity College; hydrogeology assistant, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Remediation and Waste Management; Andrew Hutchins of Alna, Maine; University of Maine; business development intern, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Business Development; Tony Inhorn of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; Northwestern University; Volunteer Maine research associate, Maine Department of Education, Volunteer Maine; Robbie Knowles of Skowhegan, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; assistant project manager, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management; Taylor Krowitz of Westbrook, Maine; University of Maine School of Law; consumer credit examiner intern, Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection; Olivia LaRoche of Searsmont, Maine; Wellesley College; town manager's intern, Town of Rockport, Town Manager's Office; Emily Lathrop of South Paris, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; benefits and policies coordinator, Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Employee Health and Benefits; Noal Leonetti of Edmonds, Washington; Bowdoin College; road scholar, Town of Winthrop, Public Works; Michael Levesque of Augusta, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; cemetery census and mapping project organizer, Town of Vassalboro, Town Manager's Office Garrison Looke of Camden, Maine; Davidson College; assistant to the town manager, Town of Union, Town Manager's Office; Lily Matson of Rockland, Massachusetts; Colby College; laboratory intern, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Levi McAtee of Alna, Maine; Bowdoin College; Center for Workforce Research and Information research assistant, Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information; Nathan McIvor of Jefferson, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; Volunteer Maine public affairs associate, Maine Department of Education, Volunteer Maine; Hayden Ouellette of Augusta, University of Maine; energy and engineering assistant, Maine Department of Defense Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Army National Guard; Cassi Parker of Livermore Falls, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; research assistant for solar siting and short-term rental issues, Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry, Land Use Planning Commission; Nicole Ritchey of Coralville, Iowa; University of Maine; GIS assistant, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Public Health; Ryan Roy of Manchester, Maine; University of Maine; solid waste engineering unit assistant, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management; Gabby Smith of Windham, Maine; Unity College; destination development intern, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism; Timothy St. Pierre of Brunswick, Maine; Swarthmore College; assistant to director of opioid response, Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Opioid Response; Liz Theriault of Saint David, Maine; University of Maine; communications intern; Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future; Natalie Thomsen of Lisbon, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; county planning and GIS assistant, Lincoln County Planning Department; Owen Vadala of Rowley, Massachusetts; University of Maine; Step Up Program assistant, Maine Department of Labor, Vocational Rehabilitation; Benjamin Willertz of West Bath, Maine; University of Maine; engineering assistant, Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Army National Guard; Kaia Williams of Durham, Maine; Dalhousie University; emissions inventory and outreach specialist, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Air Bureau; Olivia Wilson of Bangor, Maine; Husson University; website development and content specialist, Maine Department of Education, Office of Special Services; Leslie Wilson of Portland, Maine; University of Maine School of Law; worker advocate assistant, Maine Workers' Compensation Board, Advocate Division; Samantha Wood of Franklin, New Hampshire; University of Maine at Farmington; Bureau of Rehabilitation Services summer intern, Maine Department of Labor, Rehabilitation Services; Dexter Wright of Columbia, Maine; University of Maine at Farmington; data management specialist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Forest Service; and Jake Young of Lewiston, Maine; University of Southern Maine; conservation assistant, Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Army National Guard.

UMaine student receives surveying engineering scholarships

17 Jun 2020

University of Maine student Jennifer Tuomala, of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, is a recipient of the Slavoj Scholarship through the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Foundation. The scholarship is awarded to a student in a two- or four-year undergraduate degree program at an ABET-accredited college or university in the field of surveying engineering. Tuomala was also awarded a scholarship from Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers (MALSCE). A student in UMaineOnline's Bachelor of Science in Surveying Engineering Technology Program, Tuomala has been working in land conservation stewardship for nearly 10 years. She began with AmeriCorps MassLIFT and has been an independent consultant since 2016. The University of Maine's ABET-accredited B.S. in surveying engineering technology focuses on the skills and education required for professional practice. Starting with a basic grounding in mathematics and the physical sciences, students are concurrently and progressively taught a combination of surveying, practical engineering and business. UMaineOnline also offers an undergraduate certificate in surveying engineering technology, graduate certificate in surveying engineering, and professional science master's in engineering and business with a surveying engineering concentration. Tuomala says the university's online program and the scholarships have allowed her to advance her career. "I love conservation work and the cause, but I needed a more steady, reliable career path to help me reach some of my other life goals," she says. "I knew I would need another degree, but finding a program I could afford seemed impossible," Tuomala says. "The costs of a master's degree in my field, housing in a college town, and reduced income for two years were a real barrier. The UMaineOnline B.S. in surveying engineering technology solved all of those problems." With a flexible online course schedule, Tuomala has been able to continue to work while pursuing her educational goals and a career path she hopes will provide increased financial stability and independence. She says she is excited to use her new degree to transition into a new career. "I think it will be empowering, and I hope to continue working for the protection and defense of open spaces, just in a different way. While so many things are uncertain and it seems impossible to plan for anything, I'm so grateful to MALSCE, NSPS and UMaine for the opportunity to take summer classes, so I can come through the pandemic without losing momentum," she says. More information about the online surveying programs at Maine's flagship university is at online.umaine.edu/surveying. A low e-tuition rate is available to students outside of the state of Maine. Questions can be directed to UMaineOnline advisor Tiffany Peterson, tiffany.peterson@maine.edu; 207.581.5858.

Psychological Services Center offering COVID-19 Stress Clinic, general teletherapy

17 Jun 2020

New telepsychology services, including one focused on stress responses to COVID-19, are now available through the Psychological Services Center at the University of Maine. The center is the in-house outpatient clinic for an American Psychological Association accredited doctoral training program in clinical psychology. Staffed by clinician-psychologist teams with specific expertise, the center serves clients throughout the state of Maine. When UMaine shifted to remote learning in mid-March in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the center developed a telehealth program to continue serving existing clients. They are now accepting new clients for programs including general teletherapy and the COVID-19 Stress Clinic (CSC). The CSC is a four- to five-session therapy program designed to help people gain skills to manage stress reactions or emotional difficulties that have arisen because of or been exacerbated by the pandemic, according to Dr. April O'Grady, the center's director. "For many people, learning a few strategies to manage pandemic-related stress can go a long way in improving their overall well-being during quarantine and beyond," says Dr. O'Grady. "Many people that don't need or want a typical course of psychotherapy would be well matched for a shorter course targeted to their needs." Each CSC session focuses on a specific strategy to address the particular needs of the client. The program is now accepting clients ages 16 and older, who start with a confidential intake via phone or videoconferencing and are then assigned to a therapist. Each session is $15. Dr. O'Grady works with three graduate students — Melissa Jankowski, Jessica Shankman and Taylor McMillan — to determine which clinical psychology strategies will be the most helpful for clients. Based on this information, they create a treatment guide focused on specific skills that clinicians at the center can use to ensure uniform treatment for all clients. The team plans to collect data on ways clients cope with stress of the pandemic before and after treatment, and hopes to publish research in the future. The center also offers its typical therapy services through videoconferencing, encompassing research-based psychological treatments, such as cognitive behavior therapy, for a range of needs and ages. Clients can transition to one of these services after completing the CSC, or may enroll separately depending on their needs. Areas of specialty include anxiety, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorders, ADHD-related difficulties, parenting challenges, adjustment difficulties, school difficulties and behavioral difficulties, as well as services for older adults. Fees for typical therapy are on a sliding scale, with a session often less than or equal to an insurance copay. For more information or to become a client, call the center at 207.581.2034 and leave a message. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

Maine Climate Council holding online meetings June 17, 18

17 Jun 2020

The Maine Climate Council will hold meetings via Zoom on Wednesday, June 17 and Thursday, June 18 from 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. both days. Advance registration is required. There are separate registration forms for each day. More information is online. University of Maine professor Ivan Fernandez serves on the Maine Climate Council and co-chairs the Science and Technical Subcommittee. In September it was announced that numerous experts from UMaine and the University of Maine at Machias had been tapped to serve on the Science and Technical Subcommittee, as well as working groups. Nearly half of the 28-member Science and Technical Subcommittee members are from UMaine and UMM.

WABI talks with graduate students about connecting through art

17 Jun 2020

WABI (Channel 5) spoke with graduate art students at the University of Maine about a project they're using as a way to spark community conversations about the COVID-19 pandemic and protests happening throughout the world. Rochelle Lawrence, an Intermedia Master of Fine Arts candidate at UMaine, recalls making bread with her children over a fire at the Common Ground Fair as an experience that brought people together. "So just on a whim, I created a block cut of fire bread," Lawrence said. She printed cloth bags with the design and filled them with all the dry ingredients needed to bake bread, according to the report. "And I just sent it to my classmates," she said, including Adele Drake, arts instructor at Hampden Academy. "It was so engaging for my children and for myself at this time when everybody is just in front of their screens," said Drake. Lawrence started creating the bags for Hampden Academy students to take home and share with their families. "I honestly don't think it would have happened if we weren't doing a remote learning model," said Drake. "So many things were learned during this time and one of them is that in the future, I will hope to always have some aspect of this. Kids who hadn't really engaged at all in my class, they sent me the pictures from the Fire Bread Project." Students also submitted reflections from the project. "The issues that they discussed ranged from things like their daily schedules, the remote learning process to issues of climate change," said Drake. "But the number one issue that they felt is most important to this is Black Lives Matter. You can see that they're processing exactly what's happening right now in the world, so for me that was very successful."

BDN covers AMC, industry collaboration to produce masks

17 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported on a collaboration between the University of Maine's Advanced Manufacturing Center and industry partners to produce masks during the coronavirus pandemic. After several weeks in early March during which Ntension and Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center worked with AMC and the Manufacturers Association of Maine to run extensive filtration tests on the masks, a final product was ready to be produced. The masks are made of a non-woven fabric, and are grade-one medical masks — not N95 masks, but masks that can be used by all Northern Light employees other than those providing direct care to coronavirus patients or performing surgical procedures.

'Race to Save the Planet' Weather Channel documentary featuring Wahle premieres June 17

17 Jun 2020

The documentary "2020 Race to Save the Planet: Swing States" premieres at 9 p.m. ET, 8 p.m. CT June 17 on The Weather Channel. Focused on how climate change is perceived in U.S. swing states, the documentary features the University of Maine's Rick Wahle, director of the Lobster Institute and a research professor in the School of Marine Sciences.

USDA awards $149,000 to climate change adaptation fellowship program

17 Jun 2020

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE-SARE) program has awarded $149,000 to the University of Maine School of Food and Agriculture. The award will support a yearlong fellowship program for agricultural advisers and farmers working in vegetable and small fruit industries to adapt to challenges related to climate change. The vegetable and small fruit growers module is one of four modules that make up the Climate Adaptation Fellowship (CAF) program, which also includes modules geared toward dairy producers, tree fruit producers and foresters. The project is led by Rachel Schattman, an assistant professor of sustainable agriculture and an associate with the Climate Change Institute at UMaine. Co-principal investigators on the award are Erin Lane of the USDA Northeast Climate Hub and Marjorie Kaplan of the Rutgers University Climate Institute. Climate change will lead to many challenges for vegetable and small fruit growers in the northeastern United States in the near future, including extreme rainfall, floods, droughts, and increasing pest problems. For farmers to minimize risk to themselves and their businesses, adaptive management measures are necessary. Farmers must improve their knowledge of climate change adaptation practices relevant to their specific geographic settings and business models. These practices include growing crops better suited to new conditions, using different insurance, and exploring new business ownership structures and revenue sources, such as agrotourism or consulting. "Farmers are already seeing the effects of climate change," says Schattman. "In coming decades, it will become increasingly important that both commercial growers and those that advise them are equipped to assess and adapt to climate-related risks. Successful adaptation will be different for every farm, and this program will help participants take an individualized approach." Participants in the CAF program will enhance their knowledge of climate change, experiment with or evaluate adaptation management practices, and encourage other farmers to explore farm-specific climate change adaptation measures through a peer-to-peer curriculum. Thirty fellows will be selected to work in pairs to develop 15 individual, personalized farm adaptation plans, as well as outreach projects such as newsletters, blog posts, fact sheets, or presentations. Some fellows also will integrate information about climate change

adaptation into new or ongoing programming. UMaine is collaborating with the USDA Northeast Climate Hub, Rutgers University, the University of Vermont, and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) on the program. The curriculum, completed in 2019, is the result of a multiyear collaboration between multiple land grant universities, USDA agencies, nonprofit organizations and land managers. This work is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number #ENE20-164-34268. To apply to the Climate Adaptation Fellowship program or to find out more, visit adaptationfellows.net/news-2. Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

University of Maine School of Law to host conversations on racial injustice

18 Jun 2020

The University of Maine School of Law will host virtual public forums designed to examine the racism in laws and institutions, and to discuss specific policies and practices that could be implemented by local communities and the government to facilitate change through law. The first public forum, "Racial Injustice: Reimagining Policing and Public Safety," will be held noon–1 p.m. June 19, and will feature a panel of local and state leaders. Dates and topics for future events in the series will be announced. The forums are free and open to the public; registration is required online. More information about Juneteenth and the forum series also is online.

Coghlan cited in BDN report on lamprey

18 Jun 2020

Stephen Coghlan, associate professor of freshwater fisheries ecology at the University of Maine, was mentioned in a Bangor Daily News report about lamprey returning to the Penobscot River. Lamprey provide numerous benefits to river and ocean ecosystems, the article states. Coghlan described lamprey as "charismatic," and explained that lamprey help improve the habitat by creating nests. After the lamprey spawn and die, their decomposing carcasses introduce valuable nutrients into those streams and rivers, according to Coghlan.

BDN speaks with Dill about early season pests

18 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Jim Dill, pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, for an article about pests that plague gardens during the early season. "Probably the number one thing I've been getting calls on [recently] is aphids," Dill said. "They seem to be pretty prevalent on everything from ornamentals to garden plants." Large populations can stunt the growth of a plant and cause parts of the plant to die, or cause mold to grow on leaves, according to Dill. He recommends hosing off plants to remove aphids. Dill also discussed flea beetles, imported cabbageworms, cutworms, slugs, cucumber beetles, and ways to manage each pest in the garden. "You should go out there every day and look at things," Dill said. "It seems like sometimes with them they do the damage overnight. Observation is the key." WGME (Channel 13) carried the BDN report.

NatGeo publishes story on Everest research

18 Jun 2020

National Geographic published a story about research connected to the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition. A group of scientists in labs spread across Europe, the U.S. and Nepal have been working on the mountain "remotely" — analyzing a trove of ice, snow, water and sediment samples they collected last spring as part of the expedition, the article states. The project's goal was to turn the world's highest mountain into a giant climate laboratory, according to National Geographic. "We believe the best way to do science on Everest isn't just to do one kind of science, but do many kinds of science," said Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. Mariusz Potocki, a CCI research assistant, succeeded in taking the highest ice core ever recovered, at just above Camp Four — 26,312 feet above sea level. "This ice, it's obviously very old ... I think it has many stories to tell," Potocki said. Mayewski said the ice doesn't lie. "The very idea that the highest part of the planet has been impacted by human activity ought to be a real wakeup call for everybody."

UMaine Extension nutrition education program now online

18 Jun 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program is offering its "10 Steps to a Healthier You" series online.

EFNEP Online is a self-paced program focused on healthy eating, meal planning, staying within a budget at the grocery store, and food safety. Lessons include interactive videos, worksheets and individual access to EFNEP educators. On completion of the series, a certificate and recipe book are provided.

EFNEP is free to income-eligible adults with children. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate Yerxa, 207.581.3109, kate.yerxa@maine.edu.

National Geographic continues legacy exploration by venturing to top of Everest with two bold originals

18 Jun 2020

Editor's note: *Six Climate Change Institute explorers participated in the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition featured in the "Expedition Everest" special scheduled to air at 10 p.m. EST June 30 on National Geographic. CCI director Paul Mayewski was the expedition leader and lead scientist. He guided the biological, geological, glaciological, meteorological, mapping and multimedia enterprise from Base Camp, where doctoral student Heather Clifford conducted research. Doctoral candidate Mariusz Potocki, a member of the climbing team, collected the highest ice core on the planet (at 8,020 meters on South Col). Earth and climate sciences assistant professor Aaron Putnam led a geology team that documented the Khumbu Glacier's chronological history from the last ice age to the present. Peter Strand, a Ph.D. candidate, and Laura Mattas, a Quaternary and climate studies master's student, were members of Putnam's team. "High Achievers" is a UMaine Today story about the CCI scientists' experiences.* National Geographic has a long, deep-rooted history of traveling to one of Earth's most extreme environments atop the highest peak in the world — Mount Everest — to investigate, observe and deliver powerful, groundbreaking stories, despite its risks. Since 1933, when the magazine published a story about flying over the mountain for the first time, to Society's first grant in the region in 1948, to National Geographic's first television broadcast in 1965, which featured footage shot from Everest for the first time, our yellow border in exploring the mountain has been unmatched. Continuing its rich legacy of Everest exploration with unparalleled access from renowned explorers, scientists, photographers and filmmakers, National Geographic once again ventures to the peak Tuesday, June 30, to combine high-altitude alpinism with cinematic storytelling for two original premieres: "Lost on Everest" and "Expedition Everest." Both specials will air globally in 172 countries and 43 languages on National Geographic. For more information, visit natgeotvpressroom.com or follow on Twitter — @NatGeoPR. Beginning at 9 p.m. EST, "Lost on Everest" investigates one of exploration's most perplexing mysteries: What happened to the great explorers Andrew "Sandy" Irvine and George Leigh Mallory, who disappeared June 8, 1924, while attempting the first summit of Everest? The clues to solving this mystery lie frozen somewhere near the top of the world's tallest mountain. The one-hour special, presented commercial-free, is led by journalist, climber and adventurer Mark Synnott, along with National Geographic photographer, climber and mountaineer Renan Ozturk. They are joined

by a world-renowned team of professional climbers with more than 100 combined years of experience on the mountain. Together, they set out to find the body of Everest pioneer Irvine; solve the mystery behind his disappearance; and conclusively determine who successfully conquered the world's tallest mountain — a feat that would rewrite mountaineering history. While the main goal was to locate Irvine's body and camera — Mallory's body was located in 1999 — the expedition team members unwittingly found themselves also fighting for their lives while on assignment and faced harrowing obstacles, including:

- Extreme weather: Team members were caught in hurricane-force winds of more than 100 mph, which blew tents into the air and threw climbers off their feet — inches away from the side of the mountain.
- Overcrowding: With high winds and freezing temperatures limiting the window for climbing to a few critical days, the summit became overcrowded with more than 250 climbers — a condition leading to one of the deadliest climbing seasons in history.
- High-altitude threats: Extreme cold mixed with high altitude caused near deadly complications for two members of the team. A cameraman developed blood clots in his lungs, while another climber suffered a minor stroke, forcing both off the mountain for emergency medical help.

"Lost on Everest" features never-before-seen breathtaking images captured from high-altitude drones and new research from preeminent Everest historian Tom Holzel, who utilizes state-of-the-art computer software to uncover photographic details. As part of the expedition, Ozturk captured a rare and breathtaking 360-degree panorama photograph of Mount Everest, which was featured in National Geographic magazine in 2019. More details can be found here. "Lost on Everest" is executive produced for National Geographic by Taylor Reesand Renan Ozturk, who also directs, with Drew Pulley producing. Serving as executive producers for National Geographic are Bengt Anderson and Alan Eyres, senior vice president of production and development. At 10 p.m. EST, "Expedition Everest" follows a team of international scientists, climbers and storytellers to the top of the world's highest peak to conduct the most comprehensive, single scientific expedition in Mount Everest history. The one-hour special, narrated by actor Tate Donovan ("MacGyver," "The Man in the High Castle") captures trailblazing climate research that is critical to understanding changes facing the mountain and its glaciers, and shines a light on the threats these changes pose to the communities that live downstream. The groundbreaking mission captures drama that the dedicated, elite expedition team faced and reveals the high stakes and motivations of those who risk their lives to discover the secrets of Everest. Follow the team, with members from eight countries and half of whom were from Nepal, as they trek higher up the mountain, conducting valuable research along the way:

- In the valleys that surround Everest, geologists faced icy waters to collect sediment samples from the bottom of a lake created by the Himalayas' melting glaciers.
- In the areas surrounding Everest Base Camp, biologists conducted comprehensive biodiversity surveys at multiple elevations to reveal how plants, animals and insects are adapting to warming temperatures.
- Surveying the famed and notoriously treacherous Khumbu Icefall from above, a team of geographers captured ultra-high-resolution imagery of the entire Khumbu glacier that stretches from base camp all the way up the southern face of the mountain.
- At Everest's South Col, home to some of the mountain's strongest winds and bitter cold, climate scientists sought out thousands-of-years-old ice, retrieving the highest ice core ever collected to give them brand-new insight into how the glacier has evolved.
- In the "death zone," above 26,000 feet, the team braved not only extreme conditions but also dangerous crowding to install the world's highest weather station, providing near-real-time data on conditions at the roof of the world.

"Expedition Everest" gives a behind-the-scenes look at the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest expedition, part of a partnership between National Geographic and Rolex to shine a light — through science, exploration and storytelling — on the challenges facing the Earth's critical life-support systems. By combining National Geographic and Rolex's shared history of exploration with science-based storytelling, the partnership illuminates the impacts of climate change on our planet and helps to equip communities with tools to bolster their resilience. To learn more about the expedition and the vital role mountain systems like Everest play in providing water resources to nearly a quarter of the world's population, visit natgeo.com/everest. "Expedition Everest" is produced by National Geographic Studios, with Christine Weber serving as executive producer, Katie Bauer Murdock as producer and Katherine Chivers as associate producer. In addition to the two National Geographic Everest specials, National Geographic magazine has released its special, single-topic issue spotlighting Mount Everest. The July issue, which includes stunning photography, weaves together the unique history of exploration and discovery on Mount Everest with new, cutting-edge science and storytelling. The issue investigates the quest to solve one of the mountain's biggest mysteries: Who really summited Everest first? It also explores how climate change is altering the world's highest peak; delves into new conservation efforts for snow leopards; and provides an exclusive look inside the expedition that built the world's highest weather station. The special issue is available online June 15 and on newsstands June 30. **About National Geographic Partners** National Geographic Partners LLC (NGP), a joint venture between The Walt Disney Company and the National Geographic Society, is committed to bringing the world premium science, adventure and exploration content across an unrivaled portfolio of media assets. NGP combines the global National Geographic television channels (National Geographic Channel, Nat Geo WILD, Nat Geo MUNDO, Nat Geo PEOPLE) with National Geographic's media and consumer-oriented assets, including National Geographic magazines; National Geographic studios; related digital and social media platforms; books; maps; children's media; and ancillary activities that include travel, global experiences and events, archival sales, licensing and e-commerce businesses. Furthering knowledge and understanding of our world has been the core purpose of National Geographic for 132 years, and now we are committed to going deeper, pushing boundaries, going further for our consumers … and reaching millions of people around the world in 172 countries and 43 languages every month as we do it. NGP returns 27% of our proceeds to the nonprofit National Geographic Society to fund work in the areas of science, exploration, conservation and education. For more information visit natgeotv.com or nationalgeographic.com, or find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and Pinterest. Contacts: Jennifer Driscoll, jennifer.driscoll@natgeo.com, 614.595.9604; Tahli Kouperstein, tahli.kouperstein@natgeo.com, 240.401.9674; Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Press Herald interviews Handley about pick-your-own strawberry season

19 Jun 2020

David Handley, vegetable and small fruit specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, told the Portland Press Herald that he expects most pick-your-own strawberry farms to open this season. The story included interim safety guidance issued by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The Sun Journal carried the Press Herald article.

Portland Press Herald highlights 1964 Black Bear CWS squad

19 Jun 2020

The Portland Press Herald included the University of Maine baseball team's appearance at the 1964 College World Series in its June 18 "This Day in Maine" bicentennial feature. The highlight included: "University of Maine sophomore pitcher Joe Ferris, a Brewer native, wins the Most Outstanding Player Award at the end of the 1964 NCAA University Division Baseball Tournament's College World Series, held in Omaha, Nebraska. The Black Bears place third in the series among eight teams."

Falmouth Enterprise promotes Munson's Middle East Forum lecture

19 Jun 2020

The Falmouth Enterprise advanced Henry Munson's 5 p.m. Aug. 2 webinar that's part of the Middle East Forum of Falmouth. Munson, a professor of anthropology and cooperating professor in the School of Policy and International Affairs at the University of Maine, will address "The Role of Religion in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." Munson's current research focuses on the relationship between religion and violence. A question-and-answer period will follow the free 40-minute lecture. To register, email infomeff.world@gmail.com and for more information visit meff.world.

Marcinkowski discusses changes in dairy industry with WVII

19 Jun 2020

David Marcinkowski talked with WVII (Channel 7) for its story about National Dairy Month. The Extension dairy specialist and associate professor of animal and veterinary sciences at the University of Maine said 25 years ago there were about 700 dairy farms in the state and now there are 210. “The state of Maine has produced historically about 600 million pounds of milk annually and we’re still at 600 million pounds of milk annually,” he said. “When times get tough, dairy products are comfort food. Hopefully if that carries through, there’s going to be better days ahead.”

UMaine, NU launch new collaborative research program

22 Jun 2020

A new Seed Grant Program will facilitate research collaborations between the University of Maine and Northeastern University as part of a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions. The program will fund up to $50,000 for a year of research for each initiative led by at least one researcher from each university in any field or discipline. NU and UMaine faculty will collaborate on research in fields of mutual interest, and to jointly apply for federal funding for initiatives. Research priority areas include artificial intelligence, Earth and climate sciences, health and life sciences, manufacturing and marine sciences. Deadline for proposals is July 22. In January, NU announced the launch of the Roux Institute in Portland, Maine, dedicated to educating students for the digital and life sciences sectors of the innovation economy. The institute also will enable Maine-based companies to get up to speed in the digital era, encourage U.S. businesses to relocate their operations to the state, and generate startup companies. “This program will enable researchers from the University of Maine and Northeastern University and its Roux Institute to advance the frontier of knowledge, develop new technologies and positively impact the economy of Maine and the region,” says David Luzzi, senior vice provost for research at Northeastern University. “We expect exciting outcomes by joining the talents and sharing the capabilities of both universities.” Collaborations between the world-class researchers at the two universities have occurred through the years, says Kody Varahramyan, UMaine vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School. The new memorandum of understanding formalizes and advances future research collaborations. “The new memorandum of understanding provides the framework to systematically grow the collaborations between the two universities, including in advanced composites and manufacturing, artificial intelligence and life sciences,” says Varahramyan. More information on the Seed Grant Program is available by contacting Jason Charland, jason.charland@maine.edu, and Karen Drew, k.drew@northeastern.edu. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Muscat fourth student in four years to be named prestigious NOAA scholar

22 Jun 2020

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has named Abigail Muscat a 2020 Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholar. Muscat, a rising third-year marine sciences major and international affairs minor at the University of Maine, will receive a two-year academic scholarship, a 10-week paid summer internship opportunity and funding to participate in two national science conferences. “It is an honor to be selected for this opportunity, and to represent my college in the program,” says Muscat. “I look forward to expanding my knowledge and networking with the NOAA team and other scholars.” The Bass Harbor, Maine resident is one of 123 Hollings Scholars nationwide this year. Muscat, who attended Ipswich High School in Massachusetts, is a research assistant with Maine Sea Grant and a lab assistant in the Klemmer and Jayasundara labs at UMaine. For Maine Sea Grant, Muscat creates summaries, blogs and social media posts for projects. “It’s helped me with translating ‘sciencey’ language so it’s understood by the general public,” she says. In the Klemmer Lab, which examines food web interactions — often across ecosystem boundaries — Muscat identifies and sorts invertebrate species found in rockweed samples. And in the Jayasundara Lab, which investigates ecological and human health implications of chemical pollution and climate change, she analyzes impacts of mixed well water contamination on the behavior of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) embryos. For as long as Muscat can remember, she’s been interested in marine sciences. Growing up, she interned at the New England Aquarium in Boston and with explore.org, the world’s largest nature network. She chose her minor to understand how international policies are created. The Honors College student also facilitates the Honors course Currents & Contexts. Muscat says she’s experienced considerable personal growth in this role, including understanding how courses are organized and how to communicate more effectively. Muscat recently earned her scuba diving certification. She enjoys hiking, skiing, and most outside activities, including horse riding as a member of the UMaine Equestrian Team. And the Marine Science Club vice president thoroughly enjoyed attending the release of a rehabilitated seal at Popham Beach. She’s the fourth UMaine student in four years to receive the prestigious scholarship. Prior Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate scholars are Brynn Yarbrough (2019), a marine sciences major and Honors College student; Grace McDermott (2017), a marine sciences major; and Brianna DeGone (2016), a bioengineering major and salutatorian of the class of 2018. The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship was established in 2005 in honor of the U.S. senator from South Carolina who supported ocean policy and conservation. “NOAA welcomes the 2020 class of outstanding scholars,” says Louisa Koch, director of NOAA Education. “These students bring new skills and abilities that will help us better understand our changing world.” Muscat plans to attend graduate school and is looking forward to combining her interests in marine science and ornithology by examining the interactions of marine environments and birds. In Bass Harbor, Muscat and her parents, Stefanie and Tyrone share their home with a zebra finch, bearded dragon, fish, turtles, and West Highland white terrier. Muscat says she’d like to have a career at NOAA or a similar agency, conducting research that influences the creation of policies. William Ellis, School of Marine Sciences undergraduate coordinator, supported Muscat’s application, as did the UMaine Office of Major Scholarships and faculty members who wrote recommendation letters. To learn more about this and other prestigious national merit-based scholarships, contact Nives Dal Bo-Wheeler, director of the Office of Major Scholarships. nives.dalbowheeler@maine.edu. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Collins Center for the Arts announces Maine Talent Showcase winners

22 Jun 2020

As a creative outlet for people during the pandemic, the Collins Center for the Arts at the University of Maine held the Maine Talent Showcase, an online talent contest. The winners are Colin Aponte of Blue Hill, Maine; Ethan Ho of Gorham, Maine; and Gerry Wright of Winslow, Maine. Thanks to a generous benefactor, the winners will receive prizes of $500, $300 and $200, respectively. The pool of 118 entries was narrowed to 10 finalists, chosen by Collins Center staffers, and the public cast more than 1,600 votes to choose the winners. Contestants were encouraged to use social distancing practices to create videos that highlighted their own talents, rather than singing along to pre-produced soundtracks. Other finalists included Anna Briley, Juan Condori, Benjamin Foss, Megan Howell, Ira Kramer, Leigh Neptune, and Brittany Parker. The videos can be viewed on the Collins Center’s website.

Virtual workshop on networking, assistantships June 24

22 Jun 2020

The University of Maine’s Graduate School and Career Center are teaming up to facilitate a workshop series that provides resources for career exploration, job search, and graduate school options. Current students, alumni and local community members are all welcome to join a YouTube live event at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 24. Topics will include networking and assistantships and as always, there will be time for audience questions. For more videos in this series and others like it, visit the Graduate School’s YouTube channel. Any individual interested in scheduling one-on-one discussions regarding graduate school plans should visit umaine.edu/graduate/visit. For more information, contact Jason Aylmer at jason.aylmer@maine.edu.

Munson to deliver Middle East Forum lecture

22 Jun 2020

Henry Munson, a professor of anthropology at the University of Maine, will deliver a lecture titled "The Role of Religion in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" at 5 p.m. Aug. 2 as part of the Middle East Forum of Falmouth. The free series of public lectures, now in its 15th year, will be offered via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending should email infomeff.world@gmail.com. More information about the forum can be found on the event website.

The County cites Extension in article on bees, Micmac Farms

22 Jun 2020

The County cited University of Maine Cooperative Extension in an article about Micmac Farms in Caribou, which has seen an increase in bees and other natural pollinators over the past two years since working with the Central Aroostook Natural Resources Conservation Service to set aside three of its 15 acres specifically to attract natural pollinators. According to research conducted by UMaine Extension, there are 270 species of native bees in Maine but habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticides and diseases have caused population declines, the article states.

Morning Ag Clips, Turner Publishing announce Extension nutrition program now online

22 Jun 2020

Morning Ag Clips and Turner Publishing published a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release announcing the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is offering its "10 Steps to a Healthier You" series online. The program focuses on healthy eating, meal planning, staying within a budget at the grocery store, and food safety. A certificate and recipe book are provided upon completion of the series. The program is free for income-eligible adults with children, the release states. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate Yerxa, 207.581.3109, kate.yerxa@maine.edu. The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also shared the release.

Washington Post cites CCI report in article on heat wave

22 Jun 2020

The Washington Post cited the University of Maine Climate Change Institute's report "Maine Climate Future 2020 Update" in an article about a recent heat wave in northern New England. Caribou, Maine experienced its highest recorded temperature on June 19, part of a heat wave in northern New England and eastern Canada, according to the article. Record heat is made more likely due to climate change, which has pushed temperatures upward for decades. The University of Maine notes the state's average temperature has increased 3.2 degrees in the past 124 years, with the rate of warming increasing since 1960, the article states.

WABI reports UMaine offering COVID-19 Stress Clinic

22 Jun 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported the University of Maine's Psychological Services Center is offering a new COVID-19 Stress Clinic to help clients cope with the stress of the pandemic. When UMaine shifted to remote learning in mid-March, the center developed a telehealth program to continue helping clients, and is now accepting new clients, WABI reported. "There is such a lack of access to services for mental health in Maine in general," said Melissa Jankowski, a doctoral student in clinical psychology. "Now because we have been forced to dive into this online format we are suddenly able to open up to a much broader portion of the population and that is very exciting." For more information, call the center at 207.581.2034.

The Conversation cites Socolow's research on NYT op-ed page

22 Jun 2020

The Conversation cited research by Michael Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of Maine, in the article "Journalists believe news and opinion are separate, but readers can't tell the difference." According to Socolow, John Oakes, the editorial page editor of the New York Times in 1970, created the first op-ed page because, he felt, "a newspaper most effectively fulfills its social and civic responsibilities by challenging authority, acting independently, and inviting dissent."

Extension experts talk with media about impact of dry spell on gardens

22 Jun 2020

Kate Garland, a horticulture professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, spoke with the Bangor Daily News for an article on advice for gardeners during Maine's dry spell. Precipitation is currently an inch to an inch and a half below normal for this time of year, and growers need to ensure their seeds and plants are getting enough moisture, according to the article. "People should be taking action now," said Garland. "The things that are the most susceptible now are the newly established plantings." Garland said gardeners need to water plants to make up for the precipitation deficit and make sure they're receiving about an inch of water per week. "Consider reshaping the dirt like a donut around your plants to create a small well to trap water," she said. "If you mulch, do the same thing with your mulch." Garland said it's better to water more heavily and less frequently. "If you water lightly and frequently, you get shallow roots that are more susceptible to the dry conditions," she explained. David Handley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension vegetable and small fruit specialist, told Maine Public that farmers without irrigation are spending a lot of time getting water to their crops. "The vegetables that are real high-demand water ones, this would be sweet corn, melons and squash. They're really watering to beat the band as much as they can get on there, and I've already talked to some growers who said, 'You know, I can't water every field every time.'"

Faculty incorporate COVID-19 content into curricula

23 Jun 2020

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic this spring, many University of Maine faculty members helped students navigate the crisis through education. Professors introduced coronavirus-related content into their spring 2020 syllabi so students could delve deeper into the real-time problems it presents. This fall, even more UMaine classes in multiple academic areas will include COVID-19-related content. Faculty in microbiology, history, philosophy, biochemistry, mathematics, literature and other fields plan to incorporate aspects of COVID-19, or the overall topic of pandemics, into assignments, lectures and discussions. Students will learn about the biology of COVID-19, the cultural effects and demographic impact of the pandemic, how various institutions have responded or adapted, and more. Melissa Maginnis, who leads the Scientific Advisory Board for the University of Maine System, says while the pandemic has been challenging for students in many ways, it offers opportunities for faculty to use real-world examples when teaching key concepts in various disciplines. "I am so impressed with the ways that our faculty are incorporating COVID-19 content into their courses," says Maginnis, a UMaine assistant professor of microbiology. "We are living through a time in history that others will write about and study, and our students are eager to learn more about COVID-19 and how this entire pandemic — started by a virus — has completely shaped many aspects of their lives including the social, educational and economic impacts." In philosophy, professor Kirsten Jacobson and her students will discuss the existential ethics and responses to pandemics, injustices toward vulnerable populations and racial disparities during outbreaks in her Existentialism and Literature course. Derek Michaud, a philosophy lecturer and coordinator of religious studies and Judaic studies, and his students will explore how local Jewish, Christian and Muslim congregations adapted to the pandemic. Patrick Callaway, a part-time instructor, plans to dedicate part of his Epidemics in American history course to COVID-19. Kristin Vekasi, an assistant professor of political science and policy and international affairs, will task students in her Politics of Media and Censorship class with conducting case studies about the dynamics of censorship and media coverage during the outbreak in a country of their choosing. When assigning students in her Physical Biochemistry class to create presentations about applying

various biophysical techniques to different biomedical issues, Julie Gosse, associate professor of biochemistry, will allow them to select a COVID-19 application for their chosen technique. Seniors in the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences studying under Sue Ishaq, assistant professor of animal and veterinary sciences, will choose between evaluating either how COVID-19 affects the livestock industry or veterinary practices for their capstone projects. "COVID has very suddenly and dramatically changed the way we interact with each other, and has had repercussions for food, agriculture and animal care industries," Ishaq says. "Students need to understand these changes to build more resilient and sustainable food and health care systems." UMaine shifted to remote-learning in the middle of the spring 2020 semester in response to the coronavirus pandemic. When students returned home to continue their education, faculty members reoriented their curricula to help them grapple with the outbreak that altered their lives. Tracy Bigney, cooperating faculty of management at Maine Business School, taught students in her Human Resource Management class about how human resources is involved in carrying out policies for work from home, closures, leave, pay and infection control in the workplace. Liam Riordan, a professor of history, discussed a smallpox epidemic set off by the American Revolution in his upper-level course about the war. Dana Humphrey, dean of the College of Engineering, directed students in his Engineering Leadership and Management course to develop hypothetical plans for producing and distributing critical equipment for tackling COVID-19. Kevin Roberge, an adjunct lecturer of mathematics, addressed prominent quantitative issues presented by the pandemic and featured in the news using real-time data. Benjamin King, assistant professor of bioinformatics, began each Introduction to Bioinformatics class by updating students on the number of sequenced SARS-CoV-2 genomes and discussing the sequence variants discovered. As she taught her Advanced Virology course, Maginnis included course content on viral emergence and zoonotic transmission of SARS-CoV-2, discussed the responses and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, and had students investigate antiviral and vaccine development for COVID-19. When students in her Seminar in Microbiology class were selecting topics for a project about analyzing the dissemination of scientific information in social media in January, Maginnis says two chose COVID-19, then called Novel Coronavirus. "Two students requested to cover the novel coronavirus, and I obliged and asked one to present their project at the beginning of the semester and the other at the end, to have different perspectives," Maginnis says. "We really couldn't have imagined that by the time the second student presented that we would be in the middle of a pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus and conducting our class remotely on Zoom. It was a surreal moment where I acknowledged my own privilege of having the opportunity to teach amazing students about really interesting topics and also conducting research on viruses in my laboratory." UMaine has helped the state and several institutions combat COVID-19 since mid-March. Faculty helped manufacture hand sanitizer, face shields and testing solutions for N95 masks; created a Local Catch Network that provides consumers with local, healthful, low-impact, and economically sustainable seafood; graduated nursing students early so they can join the workforce, helped Maine state officials predict the economic fallout from the virus, and more. "Using COVID-related topics across the University curriculum represents opportunities for students to engage in applied learning to build scientific literacy, critical-thinking skills, and communication skills while also presenting opportunities for personal and professional growth through interdisciplinary dialog," Maginnis says. "These opportunities will enable our students to emerge as leaders in their fields and communities." Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Learn to make quick-pack cucumber pickles July 7

23 Jun 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension offers new webinars in its "Preserving the Harvest" series, including one for quick-pack cucumber pickles 2–2:45 p.m. July 7. Other topics for July include fermented cucumber pickles, canning and freezing green beans, and freezing Maine seafood. Registration is required; a $5 donation per session is optional. Register on the program webpage to attend the live session or get the link to the webinar recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

Reuters includes UMaine in article about costs in age of COVID-19

23 Jun 2020

The University of Maine is mentioned in a Reuters article about controlling college costs in the age of COVID-19. "The University of Maine [System] is offering in-state pricing for out-of-state students whose colleges have had to shut down," reads the article. The New York Times posted the Reuters piece.

Rosenbaum provides WABI insights about posting on social media

23 Jun 2020

Judith Rosenbaum, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, shared advice about posting on social media with WABI (Channel 5). She advised users to consider everyone with whom they're engaging. "I think a lot of people fail to consider the perspectives of all of those audiences," she said. "Think to yourself, am I OK with this person that I totally don't know, knowing this about me or seeing this opinion that I hold?" She also encouraged people to remember that human connection is at the core of social media. "Behind every post, behind every comment is another human being," she said. "Be kind, be graceful. Think before you post."

Beacon highlights Michelle's intertribal climate change coalition

23 Jun 2020

The Beacon featured Natalie Michelle, an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. candidate at the University of Maine who's establishing an intertribal climate change coalition. Michelle, who is Penobscot and Passamaquoddy, says a goal of the partnership will be to create a climate change adaptation workbook targeted toward the Maine environment and based on Wabanaki epistemologies and traditional values.

Barkan co-authors Oxford University Press blog 'Black lives matter in prisons too'

23 Jun 2020

University of Maine Sociology professor Steven Barkan co-authored an Oxford University Press blog titled "Black lives matter in prisons too" with Bates College associate professor of sociology and alumnus Michael Rocque. They wrote that if Black people have higher street crime rates "it's because they are so much more likely than whites to live in poverty and near poverty; to live in low-income urban neighborhoods whose social and physical features contribute to crime rates; and to be victims of racial discrimination and microaggressions." And inside prison, "African-Americans are more likely to be assaulted by staff … . In addition, some research has found African-Americans are more likely to be placed in solitary confinement, which is associated with poorer mental health outcomes." The professors wrote that strategies such as "ending legacy policies from the war on drugs, removing mandatory minimums, and offering implicit bias training to criminal justice system actors can help" as can "increasing the focus on reintegration, particularly the obstacles facing people released from prison, will also help break the cycle."

Volin named UMaine executive vice president for academic affairs and provost

24 Jun 2020

[caption id="attachment_77619" align="alignright" width="223"]  John Volin[/caption] John Volin, vice provost for academic affairs at the University of Connecticut, has been named University of Maine executive vice president for academic affairs and provost, effective Aug. 14. Faye Gilbert, dean of the Undergraduate School of Business in the Maine Business School, has served as interim executive vice president and provost since Sept. 1. “We thank Dr. Gilbert for her incredible leadership for the past 10 months, which included exceptional guidance in helping meet the needs of students and faculty during the pandemic, and we welcome Dr. Volin to the UMaine community,” says President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. “Dr. Volin’s administrative experience as vice provost and a faculty member, and his global research in natural resources and the environment make him a great fit for our university and the state. I look forward to working with him.” Volin has been a professor of natural resources and the environment at UConn since 2007. He served a decade as department head and conducted research in ecosystems around the world, focusing on invasive species and restoration ecology. He has been awarded more than $27 million in extramural funding for both research and foundational activities. He also directed UConn’s Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences Program and co-founded the Eversource Energy Center. The award-winning Natural Resources Conservation Academy he established focused on conservation and land use planning education for high school students. In 2017, Volin was named vice provost for academic affairs, with responsibility for UConn’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Institute for Student Success, Enrichment & Honors Programs, Center for Career Development, Veterans Affairs and Military Programs, and Student-Athlete Success Program. His numerous awards include a 2017 Excellence in Research Award from the UConn College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, and a 2019 UConn Environmental Leadership Award. Prior to joining UConn, Volin was professor and chair of biological sciences, and director of the Environmental Sciences Program at Florida Atlantic University. Volin received a Ph.D. in forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he also did a postdoctoral fellowship. “I am thrilled to be joining the UMaine community,” says Volin. “It’s a university known for having a long tradition and culture as a student-centered institution committed to community engagement, for its cutting-edge research programs in areas important to society, and for its commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship.Through its new strategic vision and shared values, UMaine has set a course to build on these strengths and to continue to advance its already strong relationship with the state and external partners. I am excited to join this exceptional community as it progresses toward its goals.” Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

TRJ previews ‘Teaching from the Heart’ program at Hutchinson Center

24 Jun 2020

The Republican Journal advanced a three-day online communication program titled “Teaching from the Heart” that will be held online 9–11:30 a.m. from June 29 to July 1, through the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The professional development program will provide educators, teachers and people working with preschool through third-grade children tangible ways to manage the classroom and maintain heart-to-heart connections that support children’s ability to self-regulate and improve their emotional intelligence. Cost is $125. More information is on the Hutchinson Center website. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, michelle.patten@maine.edu, 207.338.8002.

Free Press advances Riordan’s bicentennial lecture

24 Jun 2020

The Free Press previewed Liam Riordan’s bicentennial lecture that will be livestreamed at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 6 on the Belfast Free Library’s Facebook page. The University of Maine history professor’s illustrated presentation will explore the long statehood process in Maine that culminated in 1820 with separation from Massachusetts For more information, call the Belfast Library, 207.338.3884, ext. 10.

Daily Bulldog shares Extension updates about safe preservation of peaches, elderberries

24 Jun 2020

The Daily Bulldog posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension media release announcing recent U.S. Department of Agriculture research indicates freezing is the only recommended method of preserving white-fleshed peach varieties. The USDA and Extension’s canning recipes for peaches are only safe when using the yellow-fleshed variety. More information is available here. USDA research also indicates elderberries (*Sambucus spp.*) and their juice are low in acid and cannot be safely used in USDA- or UMaine Extension-recommended recipes that have been tested with other berries naturally high in acid, such as blueberries or blackberries. More information is available here, as well as on the Extension food preservation website, or by calling 207.581.3188, or 800.287.0274 (in Maine). The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel also shared the release.

Adams awarded Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship

24 Jun 2020

The 2020–2021 Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship has been awarded to Tom Adams, a University of Maine secondary education major from Falmouth, Maine. Adams will build on his experiences teaching in middle school and mentoring students in community service projects by conducting independent research related to civics education in Maine middle schools. He references a noted decline in civics education and civic participation in the United States. Adams notes the essential responsibility of civics education in public schools is to prepare students to participate in a democratic society. A 2019 revision of the state Department of Education’s Maine Learning Results (MLR) for youth in grades 6–8 attempts to rectify perceived shortcomings in civics education. Since the revision was recently implemented, data about its impact is not yet available. Adams’ study “aims to analyze the implementation, quality, and impact of citizenship education projects undertaken by Maine’s middle school social studies teachers in response to the MLR.” He’ll collect data through surveys and interviews with teachers about types of projects they’re pursuing. Then he’ll evaluate the quality of citizenship education, comparing schools based on location and demographics. Adams will conduct the project under the direction of Rebecca Buchanan, assistant professor of curriculum, assessment and instruction. Her research examines the intersection of educational policy and social justice. When Adams’ project is completed, he’ll make a policy recommendation to the Maine DOE that identifies institutional supports that schools and teachers need to strengthen their civics projects. The scholarship was established in 1991 with gifts from Harold Alfond to the Margaret Chase Smith Foundation in Skowhegan,

Maine. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Sen. Smith's election to the U.S. House of Representatives, and in recognition of her many years of dedicated public service to the citizens of Maine and the nation from 1940 to 1973, the scholarship is awarded to Maine residents enrolled full time at UMaine who have exceptional academic records and a clear research agenda in public affairs. The scholarship supports Sen. Smith's abiding belief that real progress for Maine can only be attained through the education of its young people. For more information, as well as an application, visit the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center website or contact Peggy McKee, Margaret.mckee@maine.edu. Contact: Peggy McKee, Margaret.mckee@maine.edu

UMaine spinout Neuright receives $225,000 NSF Small Business Technology Transfer award

24 Jun 2020

Neuright, Inc., a University of Maine biotech spinout focused on the early diagnosis and treatment of peripheral neuropathy, has been awarded $225,000 under the National Science Foundation's Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program to further develop its technology for delivery to market. Peripheral neuropathy, a condition in which nerve fibers die back from the skin, is estimated to affect more than 20 million people in the U.S. and can cause symptoms including pain, numbness and loss of limb control. Diabetes, which affects an estimated 34 million Americans, is the leading cause of peripheral neuropathy — up to 70% of those with diabetes will also have peripheral neuropathy. Wide-ranging and variable symptoms make peripheral neuropathy difficult to diagnose, and while there is no cure, early intervention and treatment can help patients minimize and manage the often debilitating effects. Recognizing an opportunity to address these issues, Magdalena Blaszkiewicz, who graduated from UMaine in 2019 with a doctoral degree in biomedical sciences, and Kristy Townsend, an associate professor of neurobiology, co-founded Neuright in 2018 to create and commercialize an affordable medical device to measure nerve conduction and stimulate the regrowth of nerves. The company's founders took advantage of several new and existing programs that help advance university research toward commercialization and are offered by or connected with UMaine's Office of Innovation and Economic Development. Neuright's technology evolved out of Townsend's National Institutes of Health-funded research into brain-adipose communication and how peripheral nerves in adipose (fat) tissue function. The Townsend lab had discovered that adipose tissues under the skin also experience peripheral neuropathy with obesity, diabetes and aging. This loss of proper brain-adipose neural communication likely worsens metabolic control. The ability to measure neuropathy as it descends to deeper tissue layers is one goal of the medical device being optimized under the STTR award. The device being developed allows measurement of nerve electrical activity as an indication of neuropathic state, and is currently being tested in neuropathic mouse models. The university recently filed a provisional patent application to protect the technology. The decision to form a startup and pursue commercialization was a direct result of the team's participation in the first cohort of MIRTA, a UMaine accelerator program made possible by the University of Maine System Research Reinvestment Fund that seeks to develop research tied to Maine businesses or industries critical to the future of the state. The next step toward commercialization saw Neuright join the UMaine-facilitated Bangor cohort of the statewide Top Gun accelerator, which matches high-growth potential entrepreneurs with experienced mentors. Neuright was one of two grand prize winners in 2019, receiving the $25,000 David Shaw prize, thanks to their successful pitch at the showcase event. The company has also received funding from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI), and was supported by MTI as they prepared their STTR application. Neuright currently occupies office space at the UpStart Center for Entrepreneurship in Orono, a facility operated in partnership by the Bangor Target Area Development Corporation and the University of Maine. The space is available as part of a co-working arrangement established by the town of Orono in 2019 to encourage local companies and UMaine spinoffs to pursue their development in the region. "This STTR funding will allow Neuright to continue our important collaboration with UMaine researchers and optimize our technology over the next year," says Blaszkiewicz, the company's president and CEO. "These are critical steps as we look ahead to clinical testing in humans and we are grateful for the ongoing support of our network here in Maine." Neuright's STTR award will permit the company to hire an employee who will be based at the UpStart Center and will coordinate UMaine's ongoing research involvement. Other UMaine faculty partnering on this research include lead biomedical engineer Rosemary Smith, neuroscientist Len Kass, and electrical/computer engineers Nuri Emanetoglu and Ali Abedi. A UMaine student will also be hired to assist with device testing under the STTR award. Once the device is finalized, the Neuright team will apply for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program funding with NIH in order to begin clinical testing in humans. Contact: Renee Kelly, rwkelly@maine.edu

Lyme Time columnist advises Mainers to submit ticks for testing

25 Jun 2020

The Wiscasset Newspaper column titled Lyme Time advised Maine readers to mail ticks to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab for identification (free) and for testing to see if it is carrying a disease ($15).

Centralmaine.com runs release about student government interns

25 Jun 2020

Centralmaine.com posted a University of Maine media release announcing that 41 college students are working in state, municipal and county offices through the 2020 Maine Government Summer Internship Program administered by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. Thirty interns are working in state departments and 11 are taking part in municipal and county internships. The 103rd Maine Legislature established the program in 1967 to attract and select college students with ambition and talent for temporary internships within government. Nearly 1,800 students have completed internships in the last 50 years.

Burt's interview with 207 about trumpet videos slated to air June 26

25 Jun 2020

University of Maine trumpet professor Jack Burt shared how he's staying positive and keeping his skills sharp with News Center's 207. The interview is slated to air at 7 p.m. Friday, June 26. Almost daily since April 5, Burt has recorded "An Étude a Day Keeps the COVID Away," which he uploads to his YouTube account. He records standard trumpet études — short musical compositions designed as an exercise to improve technique or demonstrate skill — in one take, with no edits. "These études are things we as players all teach, and work on ourselves, so there is a lot of relatability," he said in May.

Carter talks with edible MAINE about Cooperative Extension

25 Jun 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is the featured nonprofit in the summer issue of edible MAINE, a food magazine based in Portland. "If you like local food, you should love the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. It touches over 5,000 food-based operations in Maine annually," the story began. "With the help of 5,000 volunteers, it offers hands-on help with everything from pest management practices for wild blueberry farmers to food packaging advice for new salsa makers. And it works to make connections between pressing issues, like food insecurity and surplus food production, or hard science and environmental stewardship." Hannah Carter, chief executive officer of Cooperative Extension, said the goal of each interpersonal interaction — including those in Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver programs and in 4-H collaborations with middle and high school students — is to create positive change in the lives of the learners. Conditions for agricultural growth in Maine amount to a perfect storm, she said. "I mean that in a good way. There is affordable land, folks who are interested in farming, and a proven market."

Bonnet discusses navigating (mis)information on social media with WABI

25 Jun 2020

Jen Bonnet shared advice with WABI (Channel 5) about sorting facts from fiction and navigating (mis)information on social media. The social sciences and humanities librarian at Fogler Library encouraged people to SIFT: Stop to

examine whether information is reputable and recognizable; Investigate the source, including credentials and agenda of the person who created it; Find corroborating sources; and Trace the information to its original context. "That might help us make sense of the information we find and decide what actually is reliable and credible and what we want to share with others," Bonnet says. "If we care about the kinds of impact that sharing information that could be false or misleading could have, then the onus really is on us to do our due diligence." To take a COVID-19 Misinformation Challenge, visit libguides.library.umaine.edu/covid19. For strategies to evaluate information, visit libguides.library.umaine.edu/fakenews.

Faculty speak with WVII about including COVID-19 content in courses

25 Jun 2020

WVII (Channel 7) reported that University of Maine faculty are incorporating COVID-19-related content in multiple courses. History professor Liam Riordan said that it's important to think about dramatic continuities across time to "understand our own moment." Associate professor of political science and international policy Kristin Vekasi said seizing the opportunity to learn about the coronavirus gives students the ability to interpret data in order to benefit people. And philosophy lecturer Derek Michaud said responding to the pandemic in this way "gives us a nice window to how well religious traditions, like any living tradition, adapt."

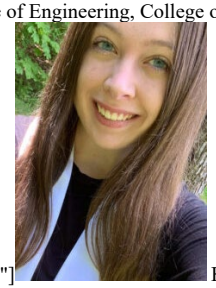
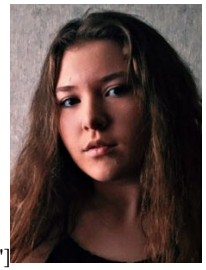
Carter to take part in Maine Calling show about COVID-19, agriculture

25 Jun 2020

Hannah Carter, dean of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will participate in a Maine Calling discussion about agriculture and COVID-19 at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 30. Amanda Beal, commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; and Sarah Alexander, executive director of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, also will be part of the panel.

Brann, Ellis and Libby are first to earn degrees as Maine's Top Scholars

25 Jun 2020

Kaylee Brann of Albion, Katelyn Ellis of Dixfield and Sadie Libby of Skowhegan are the first people to earn degrees as Maine's Top Scholars at the University of Maine. Maine's Top Scholar (MTS) program, which began in 2017, provides high-achieving undergraduates with full tuition, a designated faculty mentor and opportunities for research experience. They're also invited to join the Honors College. Today, more than 100 students are designated Maine's Top Scholars. And they're taking courses in a number of academic areas, including the College of Education and Human Development, College of Engineering, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture; the Honors College; and the Maine Business School. [caption id="attachment_77668" align="alignright" width="148"]  Kaylee Brann[/caption] Brann, a biology major who will graduate in December 2021, has been admitted into a 3+4 Accelerated Program undergraduate partnership at the New England College of Optometry. Through the program, she'll be awarded a joint Bachelor of Science degree from UMaine and, later, a doctorate from the New England College of Optometry. At UMaine, she conducted research with associate professor of biological sciences Clarissa Henry and graduate student Elisabeth Kilroy. "The MTS program meant a great deal to me, especially in regard to the research opportunities," says Brann. "My mentor became someone who I greatly look up to, for she taught me invaluable lessons about what it means to be a great researcher and a well-rounded student." [caption id="attachment_77669" align="alignright" width="148"]  Katelyn Ellis[/caption] Ellis will earn her Bachelor of Arts in kinesiology this summer, then attend the University of New England to pursue a master's degree in occupational therapy. "It [MTS scholarship] allowed me to study hard and pursue my dreams without the stress of debt," says Ellis. Libby earned a degree in psychology with a behavioral/cognitive concentration. She minored in international affairs, concentrated in women's studies and conducted psychology research with associate professor of psychology Shannon McCoy and graduate student Shelby Helwig. [caption id="attachment_77693" align="alignright" width="148"]  Sadie Libby[/caption] "The MTS scholarship is the reason I chose to go to UMaine, as I felt that UMaine valued me as a student and person to give such a generous award, says Libby. "I felt like the school must have believed in me and my abilities, and was helping me try to fulfill my potential by allowing me to study there with minimal costs." Next year, Libby will take courses to prepare for graduate study in medical science. All three had planned to march at Commencement in May. But due to the coronavirus, a traditional ceremony has not yet been held. Contact: Nives Dal Bo-Wheeler,

umaine.topscholars@maine.edu

'The Maine Question': What can we learn from UMS experts about coronavirus?

25 Jun 2020

How does the University of Maine System stay up to date with breaking COVID-19 developments involving testing, treatments, transmission mitigation, contact tracing and vaccine development? It turns to its experts on the UMS Scientific Advisory Board. Chancellor Dannel Malloy created the six-member board chaired by UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. She is joined by Melissa Maginnis, UMaine assistant professor of microbiology; Kristy Townsend, UMaine associate professor of neurobiology; Caitlin Howell, UMaine assistant professor of biomedical engineering; Robert Wheeler, UMaine associate professor of microbiology; and Sara Huston, University of Southern Maine associate research professor and chronic disease epidemiologist. Listen to the final episode of the second season of "The Maine Question" to learn more about the coronavirus that, as of June 26, had reportedly caused 487,292 deaths worldwide. Find the podcast on iTunes, Google Play, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify and "The Maine Question" website. To suggest topics of interest for podcasts in the third season, email mainequestion@maine.edu.

Mainebiz posts release about Neuright being awarded grant

26 Jun 2020

Mainebiz shared a University of Maine media release about the university biotech spinoff Neuright, Inc. being awarded $225,000 through the National Science Foundation's Small Business Technology Transfer program. Magdalena Blaszkiewicz, who earned a doctoral degree in biomedical sciences, and Kristy Townsend, associate professor of neurobiology, co-founded the company. The goal is to develop diagnostic and therapeutic options for peripheral neuropathy, a condition in which nerve fibers die back from the skin. Diabetes, which affects about 34 million Americans, is the leading cause of peripheral neuropathy. Early intervention and treatment can help people minimize and manage the often-debilitating effects. The name Neuright comes from the company's goal: to "make neuropathy right in all its forms."

Hargest contributes to Press Herald piece about drought

26 Jun 2020

Pamela Hargest, horticulture professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, talked with the Portland Press Herald for its article about the recent record lack of rain and drought conditions in the state. Hargest said mulching and regular watering are beneficial for home gardens. "I would say that people really want to stay on top of making sure their vegetables get enough water because it can result in plant stress, which can make them more susceptible to pest and disease problems," she said. It's important, she added, to water deeply so plants can establish deeper roots, which means keeping the top 5 or 6 inches of soil moist. Hargest encouraged people to use a rain gauge so they know how much water their gardens are getting. "We typically recommend, for vegetable gardens, at least 1¼ to 1½ inches of rain per week." As part of its Victory Garden series, UMaine Extension released a new "How to Water Your Garden" instructional video.

Duffy researches community perspectives through Maine Coast Photovoice Project

26 Jun 2020

Should the environment be viewed as a resource to use or a spectacle to remain untouched by humans? Kevin Duffy's interest in Maine community members' perspectives regarding the complexities of this question, and others related to coastal development, was sparked by his participation in the Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Network (SEANET) research project. Duffy, now a fifth-year Ph.D. student in environmental communication at the University of Maine, joined the Maine EPSCoR-funded SEANET grant as a research fellow in 2016. He researched newspaper media representations of aquaculture and the news routines journalists use to deal with covering the complexities of aquaculture development in New England, including the use of "balance" when discussing the positives and negatives of aquaculture. This research led to Duffy's interest in the more complicated perspectives of community members. He wanted to look beyond media representation to see the role of the local environment in people's everyday lives. His goal was to show the complexity of views on and knowledge of environmental change among people in their own community. For his Maine Coast Photovoice Project, Duffy recruited participants from two different regions, including seasonal and year-round residents living near the Damariscotta River and Bagaduce River estuaries. The aim of the community-based participatory photo project is to give a voice to community members' own views through photography. Their own photos tell a story about "sites of value and change" they identify. "You can take a photo of just about anything and tell a personal story or relate to it," says Duffy. "So I'm interested in how community members can actually use photos to tell their story. And in what ways they do that." Duffy takes a social-ecological systems perspective. He wants to see the connections people make between physical, ecological and social dimensions of multi-use waterfronts, and how people view those connections in relation to opportunities and threats of future change in their community. He wants to focus on the changes people are seeing in their own environment and help empower them to speak through photographic storytelling — an opportunity for more open public dialogue about resource use than those often mandated for management related decisions. "I'm really focused on these communities' ability to not only acknowledge and incorporate change, but respond to it in a way that's personally relevant to their everyday lives," says Duffy. After the photos were taken, Duffy interviewed each recruited community member about the "values and changes" their photos expressed. This summer, he plans on meeting with people from both regions in virtual focus groups via Zoom — one of several COVID-19-related project adaptations. The focus groups were designed to be a safe space for people to discuss the findings and their feelings. He knows that providing a platform for people to speak out freely about the issues they care about is important, and he takes their participation as "co-researchers" seriously. This is why "that team science aspect of it is really important to me and kind of breaking down those barriers of power," says Duffy. After the focus groups are held, Duffy plans to compile a photo exhibition with the goal of involving a wider community. He hopes to have one per region, as well as to have some representation of the project on campus. He may adapt the timing or format of the exhibits to comply with public safety guidelines but hopes to use them as another platform for community dialogue about their visions of change. Duffy knows each photo tells a different story to each person, so he wants to study the connections between the photos and dialogue. Discussion can open up or change a person's relationship to these photos, including the meaning of a particular view or action in their everyday life. Ultimately, Duffy wants to see how people respond to and complicate the question about viewing the environment as a resource or spectacle. He plans to do so by analyzing the photos, interviews and discussions. "One thing that's really important to me and part of the reason that I'm doing this project is just to promote skills in practice of visual thinking, learning and communicating," says Duffy. He suggests it is critical to use this "skill or adaptive capacity to understand what residents' place in their own community might look like. "And how they can navigate these inevitable changes that are going to happen throughout the rest of their life by connecting with and in some cases, empathizing with the views of others, especially if they don't agree." Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Nguyen awarded Marilyn B. Young Dissertation Completion Fellowship

29 Jun 2020

History Department Ph.D. student An Nguyen has been awarded the Marilyn B. Young Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). This highly competitive fellowship funds one doctoral candidate each year. Nguyen, who is working with professors Ngo Vinh Long and Elizabeth McKillen, will use the significant support to finish her work on "Third Force: South Vietnamese Urban Opposition to the Nixon Doctrine in Asia, 1969–1975." Nguyen also was recently awarded a Chase Distinguished Research Assistantship at UMaine.

UMaine Extension 4-H announces summer fun workshops

29 Jun 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer more than 50 summer learning activities throughout July and August for all youth ages five to 18. UMaine Extension 4-H staff and volunteers will offer a wide variety of experiential learning workshops both online and offline. Topics include leadership development, science and engineering challenges, creative cooking, art and photography, animal sciences and natural sciences. Participants do not need to be enrolled in 4-H. Workshops are free, although some have suggested donations for materials. Register and find workshop descriptions on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sarah Sparks, sarah.sparks@maine.edu; 207.581.8206. Extension 4-H summer programming is supported by the Maine 4-H Foundation.

Centralmaine.com shares Extension notice about browntail moth caterpillars

29 Jun 2020

Centralmaine.com shared an earlier notice from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension warning about browntail moth caterpillars in the article "Dry weather a boon for pest browntail moth caterpillars in central Maine." The June 19 notice from UMaine Extension highlighted reports from the Maine Forest Service stating that the "caterpillars have begun to pupate at all monitoring sites from north of Belfast south to Portland and west to Turner." According to the Extension's notice, "the silky cocoons surrounding the pupae contain the last cast skin of the caterpillar and are full of toxic hairs. Many people become exposed to the hairs through encounters with the cocoons as they can pupate on buildings and vehicles/trailers as well as host tree foliage."

Press Herald asks Miller, 'When will life get back to normal?'

29 Jun 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Jessica Miller, professor of philosophy at the University of Maine, for the article "When will life get back to normal?" The Press Herald posed the question to a variety of experts, including doctors, philosophers, historians and sociologists. When asked the question, Miller said "Normal will never be the same, and that's not necessarily a bad thing." The pandemic, she said, highlights the disparities in health, issues with congregate living settings such as nursing homes and prisons, the effects of racism and injustice in policing. "I hope these awakenings lead to meaningful social change, a new and more just normal for those whose health and well-being have counted for less," she said. "For everyone, the pandemic has meant a daily reminder of the fragility and limits of human life. With a vaccine and treatments on the horizon, I expect our anxieties will subside, but I hope we retain two things, one practical and one philosophical."

KJ, Morning Sentinel highlight Extension information about black knot

29 Jun 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel highlighted information about black knot fungus from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension for an article about it infecting several cherry trees in the city of Augusta. The fungus in particular spread across 14 cherry trees in Monument Park, which city officials plan to remove, according to the article. Black knot, according to UMaine Extension's Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, is "one of the most common diseases" among cherry and plum trees in the state. "This disease appears as obvious hard black elongated swellings (knots) which may be one-to-six inches or more in length," according to the lab. "These knots are scattered throughout the tree with the number increasing in successive years if the disease is left untreated."

New fiddlehead study warns against overharvesting

29 Jun 2020

Fiddleheads, a traditional springtime delicacy in New England and Eastern Canada, can decline significantly over time if harvesters pluck too many from the same plants in a season, according to a new four-year study conducted by a University of Maine Cooperative Extension expert. Fern crowns with all the fiddleheads removed in a single harvest suffered significant decline in growth in the subsequent years, and in some cases were killed outright, according to David Fuller, UMaine Extension agricultural and nontimber forest products professional. A more sustainable harvest removed 50% of the fiddleheads in a one-time picking, but also resulted in reduced frond production in subsequent years. In his study of the long-term effects of harvesting ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), Fuller analyzed how varying degrees of fiddlehead harvesting affect frond production and mortality. His findings were published in the Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. The study focused on 30 ostrich ferns, each producing a minimum of four fiddleheads per crown, and growing under mature sugar maples in a naturalized stand in Franklin County. Every spring, Fuller collected 100% of the fiddleheads from one group of ferns, 50% from another group and none from the third. He only harvested once each year from 2006 to 2008. Fuller observed a significant decline in production in the plants from which he collected 100% of their fiddleheads. By the third consecutive year of harvesting, those ferns exhibited a drop in mean fiddlehead yield per crown from 5.1 to 1.4, as well as mortality in 50% of the crowns. The plants in which he harvested half of their fiddleheads exhibited a decrease in the mean number of fiddleheads from 6 to 4.7 per crown in the third year. The control group of plants left unharvested produced the same average number of fiddleheads every year. "These findings suggest that fewer than half of the fiddleheads from a given plant could be harvested and be sustainable with no follow-up harvest that year," Fuller says. "Plants whose fiddleheads have already been harvested by other harvesters that spring should be left alone." Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Hillyer's environmental leadership earns her a Brookie Award

29 Jun 2020

Gabrielle Hillyer is one of six recipients of the first-ever Brookie Awards for her leadership on environmental issues. The University of Maine doctoral student in ecology and environmental sciences was chosen for the honor by NRCM Rising, a Natural Resources Council of Maine project that engages and mobilizes the state's emerging generation of environmental leaders and advocates. At UMaine, Hillyer applies principles from ecology, population genetics, economics, political science, and other areas to preserve nature as part of the National Research Traineeship (NRT) Enhancing Conservation Science and Practice program. The program is designed to equip graduate students with skills to address challenges presented by global and local changes in the environment, economy, society and climate. Hillyer also is gaining considerable skills and experience with the Maine Shellfish Learning Network (MSLN). She co-developed the network with her adviser, associate professor of environmental communication Bridie McGreavy. The MSLN emerged from Hillyer and McGreavy's ongoing work with the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions to strengthen and support coastal economies. This first-of-its-kind network connects people across multiple projects from 20-plus coastal communities from Lubec to Yarmouth. Harvesters, researchers and people from state agencies share knowledge to promote learning, leadership, and equity for the health and sustainability of coastal shellfisheries. "We want to understand issues that the entire shellfish community cares about, define our action items based on stakeholder feedback and continue to make progress," says Hillyer. Those issues, she says, can vary from seeding clams, to invasive green crabs to pollution DNA. "Partnerships are at the heart of the learning network, and Gabby really gets what that means in practice," says McGreavy. "Her ability to listen to the interests and concerns of our partners and shape the learning network efforts to match these interests is central to her leadership style." Hillyer has been fascinated by, and appreciative of, the ocean and its inhabitants since she was a child. "As a young girl, going to the ocean was the biggest treat in the whole world," says Hillyer, who grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada. These days, Hillyer likes working on large-scale healthy ocean issues, including fisheries, oceanography and ecology. Toward that end, when she was pursuing a dual master's degree in oceanography and marine policy at UMaine, Hillyer designed a device called a Bucket Drifter for the Medomak Water Quality Partnership. "Think of a 10-gallon bucket you'd get at Home Depot with science equipment in it," says Hillyer. The Bucket Drifter measures tides and collects other data with the goal of better understanding how harmful bacteria is flushed out of the tidal river estuary near in Waldoboro. Currently, after it rains an inch or more, levels of noxious bacteria in the water can elevate, triggering a mandatory closing of the clam flats, which negatively impacts harvesters. Hillyer wants to have as many tools in her belt as possible to help reshape how the public understands environmental issues. "Science can solve problems and create connections," she says, which she adds is needed as the world faces repercussions of climate change. The six "Brookies" include students, artists, and scientists ranging in age from 15 to 30. Each is creatively implementing solutions to a variety of environmental challenges. The recipients receive a $1,000 cash prize and an invitation to attend a nature-based skill-building retreat. Because brook trout are small, strong and captivating to watch, the award is named to "recognize the young and mighty individuals whose positive impact on Maine's environment ripples beyond themselves, much like true

brookies." NRCM leadership giving director Fiona Gordon, who helped create the Brookie Awards program, says these six people lead with powerful words and effective action that brings Mainers together to create long-lasting beneficial change. "I can't say 'thank you' enough. I'm really excited to be honored," says Hillyer. "But this is a team award. All this work represents a team effort." Hillyer and the other award recipients will take part in a free 90-minute webinar from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. Tuesday, June 30. Each recipient will talk about their motivations and why their work is critical and answer listeners' questions. Register here. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

University of Maine announces spring 2020 Dean's List

30 Jun 2020

The University of Maine recognized 4,210 students for achieving Dean's List honors in the Spring 2020 semester. Of the students who made the Dean's List, 2,769 are from Maine, 1,333 are from 41 other states and 108 are from 43 countries other than the U.S.

Due to the unusual and challenging circumstances faced this semester amid the global pandemic, the university has modified its Dean's List policy for the spring 2020 term. The requirement that students earn 12 calculable credits to be eligible for Dean's List has been waived. Instead, students will be eligible 1) if they earned Dean's List recognition in fall 2019 and have placed all of their spring 2020 courses on pass/fail; or 2) if they have earned a minimum GPA of a 3.5, regardless of the number of credits taken, in spring 2020. Also available is a breakdown of the Dean's List by Maine counties.
Please note that some students have requested that their information not be released; therefore, their names are not included.

Last name	First name	City	State	Country
Abay	Betelhem	Addis Ababa		Ethiopia
Abbott	Emily	Newport	VT	
Abbott	Hannah	Portland	ME	
Abbott	Marshall	Portland	ME	
Abell	Madeline	Stoneham	MA	
Abercrombie	John	Cumming	GA	
Acharya	Arnav	Biratnagar Bazar		Nepal
Ackley	Caleb	Hampden	ME	
Ackroyd	Jacob	Pittsfield	ME	
Acosta	Christian	Bangor	ME	
Adam	Danny	Bangor	ME	
Adamo	John	Portland	ME	
Adams	Amatullah	Orono	ME	
Adams	Ileana	Hermon	ME	
Adams	Jack	Westerly	RI	
Adams	Mary	Buxton	ME	
Adams	Molly	Caribou	ME	
Adams	Tom	Falmouth	ME	
Adaschik	Allie	Salem	NH	
Aghjayan	Christopher	Lynn	MA	
Agneta	Dominic	Windham	ME	

Agneta	Melissa	Windham	ME	
Aiello	Nick	Nashua	NH	
Aiken	Chloe	Westford	MA	
Al hejab	Mohammed	Orono	ME	
Ala	Madison	Wenonah	NJ	
Alamro	Omar	Orono	ME	
Albanese	Joelle	Erwinna	PA	
Albert	Belle	Ellsworth	ME	
Albert	Eli	York	ME	
Alcorn	Trevor	Orono	ME	
Aleksov	Aleksandar	Kovhani		Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
Alexander	Peter	Waldoboro	ME	
Alexander	Tessa	Brunswick	ME	
Alexander	Wyatt	Ellsworth	ME	
Alhamad	Abrar	Old Town	ME	
Allard	Alexis	Levant	ME	
Allard	Rebecca	Southington	CT	
Allen	Beth	Glenburn	ME	
Allen	Emily	Pittston	ME	
Allen	Jordan	Bangor	ME	
Allen	Julie	Morrill	ME	
Allen	Mary	Owls Head	ME	
Alley	Charlotte	Lamoine	ME	
Allie	Carigan	Scarborough	ME	
Almansoori	Ahmed	Abu Dhabi		United Arab Emirates
Almarzooq	Hussain	Saihat		Saudi Arabia
Almohsen	Ali	Orono	ME	

Alo	Cyril	Bloomfield	NJ	
Alqahtani	Bandar	Orono	ME	
Alqahtani	Mashari	Orono	ME	
Alqarni	Faisal	Orono	ME	
Alsaeedi	Ali	Orono	ME	
Alsamsam	Maher	Bangor	ME	
Alsamsam	Omar	Bangor	ME	
Alshuwaysh	Hassan	Old Town	ME	
Altvater	Nolan	Milford	ME	
Alvarado	Sebastian	Readfield	ME	
Ambach	Liv	Shrewsbury	MA	
Ambeliotis	Maggie	Peabody	MA	
Ambrosio	Hannah	Northport	NY	
Ames	Mikey	Levant	ME	
Ammerman	Ian	Benedicta	ME	
Amos	Perry	Auburn	ME	
Andersen	Amalie	Herning		Denmark
Andersen	Emilie	Orono	ME	
Andersen	Mike	Beverly	MA	
Andersen	Patty	Durham	NH	
Anderson	Ashley	Southwest Harbor	ME	
Anderson	Caitlyn	Lincoln	ME	
Anderson	Chris	Lincoln	ME	
Anderson	Erik	Ipswich	MA	
Anderson	Heather	Old Town	ME	
Anderson	Henry	South China	ME	
Anderson	Jessie	Merrimac	MA	
Anderson	Luke	Williamsburg	VA	
Anderson	Sydney	Bowdoinham	ME	

Anderson	Travis	Worthington	PA	
Andle	Josh	Bangor	ME	
Andoniades	Iorthanis	Augusta	ME	
Andrews	Bryce	South Portland	ME	
Andrews	Hailey	Levant	ME	
Andrews	Nate	Brockport	NY	
Andrews	Todd	Seymour	CT	
Andrews	Zach	Somersworth	NH	
Anson	Morgan	North Vancouver	BC	Canada
Arakelian	Sachristy	Atkinson	NH	
Arbo	Tyler	Newburgh	ME	
Arbour	Anthony	Richmond	ME	
Archambault	Dakota	Concord	NH	
Archambault	Griffin	Wayland	MA	
Archer	Jakob	Hampden	ME	
Arey	Erin	Gorham	ME	
Arey	Kara	Old Town	ME	
Arey	Molly	Gorham	ME	
Armitage	Gwenyth	Falmouth	ME	
Armstrong	Francesca	Easton	ME	
Arnold	Corbett	Lincoln	ME	
Aromando	Logan	Old Town	ME	
Arsenault	Andrew	Rumford	ME	
Arsenault	Kenzie	Rumford	ME	
Arsenault	Laura	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Arsenault	Lyndsey	Windham	ME	
Arsenault	Megan	Stetson	ME	
Arsenault	Michaela	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Arsenault	Ray	Amesbury	MA	

Artkop	Mikayla	Searsmont	ME	
Arya	Nishchay	Bangor	ME	
Ashe	Megan	Colchester	CT	
Ashe	Nicole	Williamstown	VT	
Asherman	Davis	Eddington	ME	
Ashley	Bethany	Buxton	ME	
Atwater	Cyd	Bangor	ME	
Audet	Hope	Old Town	ME	
Audet	Layne	Winthrop	ME	
Audet	Scott	Bangor	ME	
Auffant	Jason	Chebeague Island	ME	
Austin	Jared	Brewer	ME	
Austin	Kaleb	Orono	ME	
Austin	Katherine	Sanford	ME	
Austin	Marina	Cape Neddick	ME	
Austin	Sierra	Norwich	CT	
Autry	Ben	Standish	ME	
Avena	Sydney	East Lyme	CT	
Averill	Collin	Brewer	ME	
Avery	Nick	Bradley	ME	
Awad	Moayied	Westbrook	ME	
Awalt	Brian	Hancock	ME	
Ayers	Michael	Waterville	ME	
Ayotte	Stephanie	Saco	ME	
Ayub	Danielle	Brewer	ME	
Baartvedt	Mille Sofie	Oslo		Norway
Babbidge	Ellen	Bangor	ME	
Babbidge	Jacob	Bethel	ME	
Badstubner	Anna	Shewsbury	MA	

Baert	Nathan	North Waterboro	ME	
Baertlein	Owen	Jamestown	RI	
Baez	Alan	Waterville	ME	
Bagley	Cedar	Milford	ME	
Baiguy	Mikayla	Windham	ME	
Bailey	Douglas	Andover	ME	
Bailey	Jordan	Corinna	ME	
Bailey	Joshua	Indianapolis	IN	
Bailey	Kal	Pittsfield	ME	
Bailey	Madi	Topsham	ME	
Bailey	Michael	Holden	ME	
Bailey	Nicole	Nepean	ON	Canada
Baiungo	Anna	Searsmont	ME	
Baker	Abbie	Phippsburg	ME	
Baker	Charles	Brooklyn	NY	
Baker	Chase	Brewer	ME	
Baldwin	Connor	Hollis Center	ME	
Ballard	Brianna	Old Town	ME	
Balsley	Kayla	Summit	NJ	
Bamford	Hannah	Rochester	NH	
Bamford	Olivia	Old Town	ME	
Bamford	Stephanie	Orono	ME	
Bane	Ryanne	Burnham	ME	
Bangs	Madi	South Paris	ME	
Banker	Mary	Old Town	ME	
Banks	Grace	Poland	ME	
Banks	Jalen	West Hartford	CT	
Banks	Nicolas	Parempuyre		France
Bao	Lei	Chalan Pago		Guam

Barakat	Sarah	Mount Laurel	NJ	
Baranowski	Juliana	Falmouth	ME	
Baratta	Sydney	Elbridge	NY	
Barbaria-Harris	Sadie	Saco	ME	
Barbee Bamford	Shay	Columbia	ME	
Barbour	Julia	Rockland	ME	
Barboza	Liv	Cumberland	RI	
Barnes	Alyssa	West Gardiner	ME	
Barnett	Alex	Calais	ME	
Baron	Alex	Old Town	ME	
Baron	Joseph	Milford	PA	
Baron	Nicholas	Old Town	ME	
Barra	Kira	Dillingen		Germany
Barrett	Kaila	Berlin	MA	
Barrett	Kaleb	Freeport	ME	
Barrett	Steven	Lynnfield	MA	
Barry	Nick	Kennebunk	ME	
Barry Grant	Castine	Brewer	ME	
Bart	Juliana	Portland	ME	
Bartash	Riley	Lincoln	ME	
Bartie	Odin	Westport	CT	
Bartlett	Jonathan	Guilford	CT	
Bartley	Alexa	Clinton	ME	
Barto	Benjamin	Avon	CT	
Bartow	Evan	Green Lake	WI	
Barwood	Joel	Francestown	NH	
Basile	Matthew	Saco	ME	
Bassett	Isabel	Auburn	ME	
Batey	Lucy	Greenbush	ME	

Batron	Rebecca	Exeter	ME	
Batson	Nathanael	Fairfield	ME	
Bauling	Grace	Dekalb	IL	
Baumann	Elizabeth	Bucksport	ME	
Baumann	Jake	Falmouth	ME	
Baur	Alex	Windham	ME	
Bayer	Molly	Tolland	CT	
Bazzinotti	Angela	Dorchester	MA	
Beady	Peyton	Weymouth	MA	
Beal	Lili	Cape Neddick	ME	
Beal	Sierra	Tenants Harbor	ME	
Beals	Allie	Chelmsford	MA	
Bean	Julia	Norfolk	MA	
Beaton	Zachary	Hermon	ME	
Beauchemin	Abby	North Smithfield	RI	
Beauchesne	Jacob	Dracut	MA	
Beauchesne	Madeline	Shapleigh	ME	
Beaudoin	Julian	Salem	MA	
Beaudoin	Samuel	Acton	ME	
Beaulieu	Caitlyn	Sanford	ME	
Beaulieu	Jaida	Washburn	ME	
Beauregard	Mark	Avon	CT	
Beckshaw	Marie	Haverhill	MA	
Bedak	Nera	Portland	ME	
Bedsole	Isaiah	Abington	MA	
Begos	Gabrielle	Westbrook	ME	
Belanger	Ciera	Lewiston	ME	
Belden	Kendra	Hampden	ME	
Beliveau	Victoria	Auburn	ME	

Bell	Brad	Clifton	ME	
Bell	Chandler	Caribou	ME	
Bell	Connor	Gorham	ME	
Bell	Rebecca	Skowhegan	ME	
Bellavance	Kaylee	Bradley	ME	
Belleau	Maggie	Lewiston	ME	
Bellefleur	Alexis	Auburn	ME	
Bellefontaine	Jackie	Malden	MA	
Belvin	Morgan	Rochelle Park	NJ	
Bender	Ally	Seal Harbor	ME	
Bendo	Klei	Tirana		Albania
Benea	Sam	Lynn	MA	
Benedict	Brianna	Vassalboro	ME	
Beneski	Jessica	Revere	MA	
Benicio	Maitana	Washington	ME	
Benjamin	Jake	Bolton	MA	
Bennett	Abigail	Brewer	ME	
Bennett	Cooper	Hampden	ME	
Bennett	David	Topsfield	MA	
Bennett	Drew	Brewer	ME	
Bennett	Eliza	Windham	ME	
Bennett	Emma	Bucksport	ME	
Bennett	Jessica	Scarborough	ME	
Bennett	Meggie	Medway	MA	
Benning	Montana	Waterloo	WI	
Bennoch	Casey	West Bath	ME	
Bennoch	Connor	West Bath	ME	
Benson	Allison	Orono	ME	
Benson	Courtney	Bucksport	ME	

Benson	Gabby	Chelsea	ME	
Benson	Scott	Arundel	ME	
Benson	Tamra	Turner	ME	
Bentivegna	Judy	Mahopac	NY	
Benton	Joyce	Waterbury	CT	
Benttinen	Hunter	Pittsfield	ME	
Beressi	Cam	Orono	ME	
Berez	Ellie	Camden	ME	
Berg	Ezra	Honolulu	HI	
Bergdoll	Abi	Burnham	ME	
Berger	Hadley	Camden	ME	
Berghoff	Sonia	Easthampton	MA	
Bergin	Conor	Abington	MA	
Berke	Carly	Camden	ME	
Bermeo	Grace	Biddeford	ME	
Bernero	Kyle	Upton	MA	
Bernheim	Lilja	South China	ME	
Bernier	Abby	Pittsfield	ME	
Bernier	Amy	Orono	ME	
Bernier	Jonathan	Windham	ME	
Berry	Cal	Scarborough	ME	
Berry	Josh	Hermon	ME	
Berry	Melanie	Morrill	ME	
Berry	Raeann	Southold	NY	
Berry	Ryan	Brunswick	ME	
Berube	Peter	Andover	MA	
Berwick	Kyle	Gorham	NH	
Bess	Evan	Madison	ME	
Bessette	Alison	Ocala	FL	

Bessette	Jordan	Haverhill	MA	
Bessette	Wendy	Mystic	CT	
Betterley-Dow	Emma	Old Town	ME	
Bewley	Justin	Forked River	NJ	
Beyer	Cyrus	Concord	MA	
Bhatta	Priyanshu	Nepalgunj		Nepal
Biagini	Claudia	North Weymouth	MA	
Bickel	Savannah	Manahawkin	NJ	
Bickford	Blake	Oakland	ME	
Bickford	Gabby	Springvale	ME	
Bidwell	Jordan	Middletown	CT	
Biegel	Abby	Gorham	ME	
Biela	Kimberly	Southington	CT	
Bielecki	Jarod	Hermon	ME	
Bierman	Madeline	Sorrento	ME	
Bierut	Alexa	Plymouth	MA	
Bifulco	Hope	Camden	ME	
Bigelow	Sera	Durham	ME	
Biggs	Corey	Bridgewater	NJ	
Bigosinski	Rem	Wilton	CT	
Bilella	James	Berlin	NJ	
Billson	Millie	Northampton		United Kingdom
Bilodeau	Cam	Arundel	ME	
Bilodeau	Chloe	Westwood	NJ	
Birden	Christopher	Orono	ME	
Bishop	Anna	Plymouth	MA	
Bishop	Jenna	Bangor	ME	
Bishop	Olivia	East Sandwich	MA	
Bista	Bivek	Damak		Nepal

Biswas	Oisin	Brewer	ME	
Black	Hayden	Hermon	ME	
Black	Lauren	Windham	ME	
Blackwell	Emily	Rockport	ME	
Blair	Emma	Brunswick	ME	
Blair	Liam	Tucson	AZ	
Blair	Madeline	Bethlehem	PA	
Blanchard	Dawsin	Gray	ME	
Blanchard	Gabe	Scarborough	ME	
Blanchard	Grace	Orrington	ME	
Blanchard	Jared	Barre	VT	
Blanchette	Jess	Sudbury	MA	
Blanchette	Jonny	New Canada	ME	
Bland	Lindsay	Ellsworth	ME	
Blangiardi	Peter	Newburyport	MA	
Blankenship	Forrest	Brunswick	ME	
Blatt	Tobyn	Brunswick	ME	
Bleakney	Allison	Old Town	ME	
Blodgett	Miranda	Lowell	MA	
Blondin	Faith	Westfield	MA	
Blood	Ben	Orono	ME	
Bloomer	Alex	Bangor	ME	
Bloomer	Tim	Milford	MA	
Blutt	Julia	Milton	MA	
Bock	Chris	Yarmouth	ME	
Bock	Phil	Yarmouth	ME	
Bogner	Molly	Milford	MA	
Boisselle-Byers	Emerald	Orono	ME	
Boisvert	Noah	Yarmouth	ME	

Bolduc	Andrew	Winslow	ME	
Bolduc	Celine	Dixfield	ME	
Bolduc	Connor	Lewiston	ME	
Bolduc	Dylan	Portland	ME	
Bolender	Dan	East Waterboro	ME	
Bolozova	Alexandra	Poprad		Slovakia
Bombacini	Rafael	Colorado Springs	CO	
Bond	Kacie	Blue Hill	ME	
Bond	Seth	Ludlow	ME	
Bonenfant	Mitchell	Augusta	ME	
Bonin	Shaine	Dorchester	MA	
Bonner	Derek	Norwood	MA	
Bonney	Rachel	Oxford	MA	
Boone	Christian	Glenburn	ME	
Boone	Lucy	Beaumont	TX	
Boone	Meg	Presque Isle	ME	
Boos	Meghan	Naples	ME	
Boria	Isabelle	Charlton City	MA	
Borley	Mia	Dover		United Kingdom
Boschetto	Christian	Framingham	MA	
Bouchard	Mikayla	Brunswick	ME	
Bouchard	Nathan	Houlton	ME	
Boucher	Abby	Bangor	ME	
Boucher	Adam	Wellesley Hills	MA	
Boucher	Jenna	Greene	ME	
Boucher	Jessie	Mapleton	ME	
Bouchles	Dalton	Auburn	ME	
Boudreau	Jacob	South China	ME	
Bouhalloufa	Zac	Plymouth	MA	

Boulch	Hadrien	Bangor	ME	
Bourassa	Elise	Westbrook	ME	
Bourassa	Noah	Salem	NH	
Bourett	Claire	Waldoboro	ME	
Bourque	Casey	Gardiner	ME	
Bourque	Kyle	Wells	ME	
Bourque	Olivia	Farmingdale	ME	
Boutin	Andrew	Williston	VT	
Boutin	Nick	Old Town	ME	
Bouton	Anna	Yarmouth	ME	
Bowden	Hali	Lebanon	ME	
Bowden	Katrina	Bangor	ME	
Bowen	Cagney	Old Town	ME	
Bowen	CJ	Plaistow	NH	
Bowen	Claire	Hampden	ME	
Bower	Nicholas	Orrington	ME	
Bowers	Ian	Augusta	ME	
Bowers	Matt	Melrose	MA	
Bowie	Thom	Orono	ME	
Bowker	Katelynn	Eddington	ME	
Boyce	Calleena	Bangor	ME	
Boyd	Danielle	Plymouth Meeting	PA	
Boyer	Colby	Dighton	MA	
Boyer	Cory	Lancaster	OH	
Brace	Kayla	Lewis Lake	NS	Canada
Bradbury	Clark	Bridgewater	ME	
Bradbury	Dan	Tiverton	RI	
Bradbury	Maggie	Nobleboro	ME	
Bradfield	Amelia	Sidney	ME	

Bradford	Maggi	Raymond	ME	
Bradley	Annie	Wallingford	CT	
Bradley	Grace	Chester	CT	
Bradley	Liam	Newburyport	MA	
Bradshaw	Jacob	Berwick	ME	
Bradstreet	Erin	Brunswick	ME	
Bradstreet	Olivia	Orono	ME	
Braga	Samuel	Auburn	ME	
Bragdon	Emma	Eddington	ME	
Bragg	Kate	Winterport	ME	
Bragg	Lily	Jefferson	ME	
Bragg	Maggie	Sumner	ME	
Bragg	Thomas	Nashua	NH	
Braley	Ciera	Bangor	ME	
Bramanti	Joey	North Andover	MA	
Brann	Kaylee	Benton	ME	
Brannigan	Annie	Chelsea	ME	
Braun	Jeremy	Orono	ME	
Braverman	Cooper	Houston	TX	
Bray	Caroline	Needham Heights	MA	
Bray	Connor	Cumberland Center	ME	
Bray	Ryan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Brayson	Katie	Exeter	ME	
Breau	Christien	Orono	ME	
Breitnauer	Thomas	Denver	CO	
Brennan	Peter	Westford	MA	
Bresnahan	Andrea	Maynard	MA	
Bresnahan	Tom	Middleton	MA	
Brethauer	Maddy	West Chicago	IL	

Brett	Abigail	Rapid City	SD	
Brewer	Erin	Poland	ME	
Brewer	Kristen	Monticello	ME	
Brewer	Meredith	Greene	RI	
Brich	Tea	Glenwood	NJ	
Brickman	Lily	Fort Kent	ME	
Briggs	Alex	Peru	ME	
Briggs	Lauren	Freeport	ME	
Briley	Anna	Cumberland Center	ME	
Brillant	Karlie	Topsham	ME	
Brinn	Declan	Searsmont	ME	
Brissette	Nicole	Bangor	ME	
Brisson	Jack	Rockport	MA	
Brittain	Katie	Wilton	ME	
Britton	Alex	Falmouth	ME	
Brochu	Camille	Hardwick	VT	
Brochu	Landon	Livermore	ME	
Broderick	Ava	Lincoln	ME	
Broderick	Jacob	Arnold	MD	
Broetzman	Audrey	Belfast	ME	
Brogna	Ashleigh	Woburn	MA	
Bromley	Alex	Voorhees	NJ	
Brooks	Ben	Monmouth	ME	
Brooks	Bennett	Winthrop	ME	
Brooks	Noah	Portland	ME	
Brown	Andrew	Gorham	ME	
Brown	Ashley	Richmond	ME	
Brown	Bethany	Oakville	CT	
Brown	Chris	Orono	ME	

Brown	Heather	Riegelsville	PA	
Brown	John	Bangor	ME	
Brown	Justin	Ellsworth	ME	
Brown	Kaitlyn	Weare	NH	
Brown	Kaylin	Winslow	ME	
Brown	Kendall	Allison Park	PA	
Brown	Matt	Clinton	ME	
Brown	Molly	Bar Harbor	ME	
Brown	Nathan	Clifton	ME	
Brown	Nicole	Lamoine	ME	
Brown	Nina	West Roxbury	MA	
Brown	Rian Ali	Pittsburgh	PA	
Brown	Sam	South Portland	ME	
Brown	Shannon	Medford	MA	
Brown	Trevor	Allison Park	PA	
Bruneski	Dawson	New Norway	AB	Canada
Brunken	Shannon	Stony Brook	NY	
Bruno	Jessie	Beachwood	NJ	
Bryant	Bayley	Hermon	ME	
Bryant	Nathan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Bryer	Graham	Boothbay	ME	
Bryson	Rosalie	South Portland	ME	
Buchanan	Morgan	Orono	ME	
Buckelew	Tahnee	Carlisle	MA	
Budri	Natalia	Portland	ME	
Budway	Emma	Scarborough	ME	
Bui	Morgan	Ottawa	ON	Canada
Bullock	Olivia	Millstone Township	NJ	
Bunch	Emma	Gouldsboro	ME	

Bunker	Danny	Bucksport	ME	
Burby	Jim	Bangor	ME	
Burby	Noah	Winterport	ME	
Burby	Sarah	Winterport	ME	
Burch	Isabel	Woolwich	ME	
Burch	Tristan	Woolwich	ME	
Burchett	Justin	Lowell	MA	
Burgason	Johanna	Old Town	ME	
Burgess	Maddie	Lawtons	NY	
Burgess	Samuel	Lexington	KY	
Burgher	Nick	West Shokan	NY	
Burk	Owen	Denmark	ME	
Burke	Christopher	Norwell	MA	
Burke	Nathaniel	North Chelmsford	MA	
Burke	Tammy	Canaan	ME	
Burnell	Jack	Portland	ME	
Burnham	Ashley	Farmington	ME	
Burns	Alden	Ridgefield	CT	
Burns	Delaney	Gorham	ME	
Burns	Emily	Hermon	ME	
Burrell	Sami	Pownal	ME	
Burris	Brandon	Orono	ME	
Burt	Lucas	Bangor	ME	
Burt	Travis	Windham	ME	
Burtis	Max	Brunswick	ME	
Burton	Jack	Marlborough	CT	
Burton	Sarah	Wolcott	CT	
Bush	Clayton	Warren	NJ	
Bush	Matt	Orono	ME	

Bussiere	Noah	Hollis Center	ME	
Bustamante	Olivia	Evanston	IL	
Butala	Simon	Downingtown	PA	
Butler	Cole	Orono	ME	
Butler	Kendall	Harwinton	CT	
Butler	Yonas	Watertown	MA	
Butt	Carson	Boxford	MA	
Buxton	Brooke	Veazie	ME	
Buzby	Noa	Southampton	PA	
Buzzelli	Angelina	Charleston	ME	
Byers	Michaela	Old Town	ME	
Byers	Ryan	Hermon	ME	
Byorak	Ben	Brewer	ME	
Byram	Kyle	Hermon	ME	
Byrne	Emilia	Kittery	ME	
Caccese	Gino	Bangor	ME	
Cacciapouti	Sarah	Grafton	MA	
Cadima	Justin	Dighton	MA	
Cadorette	Cameron	Saco	ME	
Cadran	Emma	New Gloucester	ME	
Cadran	Haley	New Gloucester	ME	
Caesar	Daniel	Morganville	NJ	
Cahoon	Skye	Wrentham	MA	
Calcagno	Giorgia	Veazie	ME	
Cali	Joe	Henrietta	NY	
Cali	Rick	Bangor	ME	
Callahan	Lani	Waterboro	ME	
Callahan	Mikaela	Waterboro	ME	
Callas	Jacob	Brooks	ME	

Callnan	Lori	Fort Kent	ME	
Camire	Brooke	Acton	ME	
Camire	Kyle	Winslow	ME	
Camire	Summer	Acton	ME	
Campbell	Becca	Sanford	ME	
Campbell	Ben	Wells	ME	
Campbell	Keijaoh	Bangor	ME	
Campbell	Kiera	Bangor	ME	
Campbell	Margaret	San Diego	CA	
Campbell	Sonya	Tilton	NH	
Campbell	Spencer	Orono	ME	
Campion	Ryan	Kittery	ME	
Canders	Lily	Brewer	ME	
Cannon	Jack	Saco	ME	
Canty	Myia	Windham	ME	
Capreri	Anthony	Pennsburg	PA	
Capuzzi	Clare	Morris Plains	NJ	
Car	Noah	Hobe Sound	FL	
Caragine	Cat	Norwalk	CT	
Carbone	Emma	Richmond	ME	
Card	Hannah	Woolwich	ME	
Cardin	Rooster	Hermon	ME	
Carey	Liam	Mansfield	MA	
Carignan	Abbey	Saco	ME	
Carlson	Guy	Grand Rapids	MN	
Carlson	Nicole	Brewer	ME	
Carmichael	Chase	Bucksport	ME	
Carney	Keith	Paradise Valley	AZ	
Caron	Lydia	Glenburn	ME	

Caron	Maya	Stratton	ME	
Carotenuto	Amanda	Acton	MA	
Carpenter	Erica	Trumbull	CT	
Carpenter	Jeremie	Milton	MA	
Carpenter	Ken	Hermon	ME	
Carreira	Kat	Eddington	ME	
Carrell	Bo	Cumberland Center	ME	
Carrick	Emily	Natick	MA	
Carrier	Devon	Calais	ME	
Carroll	Maeve	Oakton	VA	
Carroll	Natalie	Colchester	CT	
Carroll	Nathan	Millville	MA	
Carson	Colton	Bryant Pond	ME	
Carson	Hunter	Bozrah	CT	
Carter	Amanda	Bucksport	ME	
Carter	Bailey	Fairfield	ME	
Carter	David	Raynham	MA	
Carter	Isaiah	Harrison	ME	
Carter	Max	Bangor	ME	
Carter-Dawson	Abbie	Tavistock		United Kingdom
Cartwright	Joy	Ellsworth	ME	
Cartwright	Sam	Veazie	ME	
Caruso	Joey	Peru	ME	
Caruthers	Austin	Rehoboth	MA	
Carver	Haley	Sidney	ME	
Carver	Lauren	Emmitsburg	MD	
Casburn	Alex	Orrington	ME	
Casburn	Garrett	Orono	ME	
Casey	Andrea	Tribes Hill	NY	

Casey	Bridget	Bangor	ME	
Casey	Darby	Bellmawr	NJ	
Casey	Julia	Brunswick	ME	
Cashman	Stella	Winterport	ME	
Casino	Bailey	Sandwich	MA	
Castiello	Isabella	Lynn	MA	
Castonguay	Abby	Livermore	ME	
Castonguay	Rachel	Wayne	ME	
Castro	Dante	New Gloucester	ME	
Cates-Wright	Dakota	Orono	ME	
Cavanagh	Becca	Norwalk	CT	
Cavanaugh	Katie	Calais	ME	
Cayford	Lindsay	Skowhegan	ME	
Cecelya	Jack	Hudson	MA	
Cedor	Hailey	North Kingstown	RI	
Celano	Andres	Brewer	ME	
Cenatiempo	Sophia	Woodbury	CT	
Cerneck	Henry	Southbury	CT	
Cetean	Daniela	Astoria	NY	
Cha	SooZin	Little Deer Isle	ME	
Chabot	Jon	Scarborough	ME	
Chalande	Christopher	Cape Neddick	ME	
Chamard	Sara	Portland	ME	
Chambers	Caitlin	Topsham	ME	
Chambers	Gabriel	Harmony	ME	
Champagne	Hailey	Lewiston	ME	
Champagne	Lizzy	Poland	ME	
Chandler	Nicole	Lee	ME	
Chapin	Emily	Gorham	ME	

Chapman	Lauren	Exeter	ME	
Chapman	Will	Saco	ME	
Chappelle	Christopher	Milford	ME	
Chappelle	Tim	Boothbay Harbor	ME	
Chard	Brewster	Topsham	ME	
Charest	Samantha	Methuen	MA	
Charette	Zak	Ellsworth	ME	
Charlebois	Caleigh	Orono	ME	
Charpentier	Ashley	Bangor	ME	
Charpentier	Jordan	Bangor	ME	
Charpentier	Lily	Naples	ME	
Charrier	Megan	Sanford	ME	
Charron	Taylor	Sturbridge	MA	
Chartier	Gabby	Dixfield	ME	
Chase	Henry	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Chase	Mackenzie	Chesapeake	VA	
Chase	Rudy	Milton	MA	
Chasse	Benjamin	Hampden	ME	
Chasse	Brandon	Bangor	ME	
Chasse	Camden	Old Town	ME	
Chasse	Nicole	East Millinocket	ME	
Chau	Nhan	Orono	ME	
Chavaree	Alanna	Old Town	ME	
Chavez	Jessica	Lynn	MA	
Chen	Jiaying	Old Town	ME	
Cheng	Peng	Ashland	ME	
Chenier	Adam	Tiverton	RI	
Chern	Lara	Bow	NH	
Chesley	Alice	Brunswick	ME	

Chestnut	Liberty	North Anson	ME	
Chevannes	Chantai	Windham	ME	
Chiasson	Ashley	Maynard	MA	
Chin	Jade	Madison	CT	
Cholod	Kyle	Portland	ME	
Chomas	Evan	Braintree	MA	
Chomicz	Taylor	Branford	CT	
Chouhan	Tanay	Old Town	ME	
Chouinard	Ben	Windham	ME	
Chouinard	Nathanial	Minot	ME	
Chozick	Rachel	West Hartford	CT	
Christensen	Sarah	Ashland	MA	
Christian	Logan	Hampden	ME	
Christianson	Devin	Old Town	ME	
Christopher	Marcus	Skowhegan	ME	
Ciaffaglione	Aiden	Southington	CT	
Ciance	Michael	Contoocook	NH	
Cianchette	Erin	Falmouth	ME	
Ciano	Christopher	Castine	ME	
Cifra	Jillian	Everett	MA	
Cifune	Edward	Bristol	RI	
Cilfone	Gabrielle	Torrington	CT	
Cirignano	Leann	Pembroke	MA	
Cisowski	Michaela	Torrington	CT	
Clark	Carleigh	South Deerfield	MA	
Clark	Dylan	Bangor	ME	
Clark	Eli	Milford	ME	
Clark	Jacob	Old Town	ME	
Clark	John	Windham	ME	

Clark	Josh	Brunswick	ME	
Clark	Keely	Yucaipa	CA	
Clark	Sally	Hudson	ME	
Clark	Sarah	Berlin	NH	
Clark	Timothy	Groveland	MA	
Clarke	Emily	Acton	ME	
Claus	Kyle	South Berwick	ME	
Clavette	Renee	South Berwick	ME	
Cleaves	Julianna	Bar Harbor	ME	
Cleaves	Zeb	Windham	ME	
Clement	Evie	Falmouth	ME	
Clement	Hannah	Orono	ME	
Clemons	Hannah	Harpswell	ME	
Clifford	Sam	Walpole	MA	
Closson	Christina	Bernard	ME	
Clough	Jason	Tolland	CT	
Cloutier	Adam	Waterboro	ME	
Cloutier	Amanda	Brunswick	ME	
Cloutier	Samantha	Readfield	ME	
Cloutier	Sarah	Readfield	ME	
Cloutier	Troy	Waterboro	ME	
Cobb	Katie	Fairfield	ME	
Coburn	Jamie	Old Town	ME	
Coccoluto	Briana	Wilmington	MA	
Coco	Aviana	Orono	ME	
Coffin	Cheryl	Surry	ME	
Coffin	Jonah	Sudbury	MA	
Cogley	Peter	Roxbury	ME	
Cohen	Jonathan	Montvale	NJ	

Cohn	Micah	Minneapolis	MN	
Cole	Denise	Taunton	MA	
Cole	Halle	Hermon	ME	
Cole	Jeremy	Bucksport	ME	
Cole	Kelsey	York	ME	
Colee	Bryce	Tampa	FL	
Coleman	Alex	Pensacola	FL	
Coleman	Natalie	Bucksport	ME	
Colgan	Riley	Bangor	ME	
Collard	Tanner	Arundel	ME	
Collier	Jonas	Denver	CO	
Collins	Michael	Plymouth	MA	
Collins	Olivia	Billerica	MA	
Collins	Rebecca	Presque Isle	ME	
Colter	Emily	Hampden	ME	
Colton	Brittany	Groton	MA	
Comeau	Alli	Ipswich	MA	
Comeau-Waite	Lily	Stillwater	ME	
Comfort	Hannah	Winslow	ME	
Comtois	Abigail	Warwick	RI	
Conant	Jenna	Rockland	ME	
Conant	Jill	Canton	ME	
Conant	John	Orono	ME	
Conant	MacKenzie	Billerica	MA	
Conley	James	Standish	ME	
Conlow	Jim	Mount Laurel	NJ	
Connelly	Katie	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Conner	Sarah	Orono	ME	
Connolly	Caeli	Elizabethtown	PA	

Connolly	Iris	Agoura Hills	CA	
Connolly	Sean	Dorchester	MA	
Connor	Mackenzie	Orono	ME	
Conrad	Michael	Kennebunkport	ME	
Conroy	Ashley	Franklin	MA	
Constantine	Alexandra	Scarborough	ME	
Conway	Maia	Rutland	VT	
Cook	Abbi	Saco	ME	
Cook	Brian	Norway	ME	
Cook	Karen	Greene	ME	
Coombs	Corey	Orono	ME	
Coombs	Kyle	Gardiner	ME	
Coombs	Samantha	Orono	ME	
Cooney	Sam	Marshfield Hills	MA	
Cooper	Ally	Orono	ME	
Cooper	Karissa	New Hartford	CT	
Cooper	Mackenzie	Acton	MA	
Corbin	Kellie	Salisbury	MA	
Corcoran	Holly	East Granby	CT	
Cordes	Jess	Huntington Station	NY	
Corey	Taylor	Plainville	MA	
Corless	Bailey	Wallingford	CT	
Cormier	Drew	East Walpole	MA	
Cornish	Carly	Topsham	ME	
Coro	Whitney	Skowhegan	ME	
Cortez	Nicole	Enterprise	AL	
Corthell	Delaney	Bow	NH	
Cossar	Casey	Norway	ME	
Cossette	Emma	Quebec	QC	Canada

Costello	Sarah	Old Town	ME	
Costigan	Eliza	Vassalboro	ME	
Costigan	Julie	Cold Spring	NY	
Cote	Cam	Sanford	ME	
Cote	Jacob	Bangor	ME	
Cote	Macie	Newburgh	ME	
Cote	Sam	Pawtucket	RI	
Cote	Vanessa	Rumford	ME	
Cotner	Stella	Saint Paul	MN	
Cotton	Ben	Glenburn	ME	
Cotton	Jared	Framingham	MA	
Coughlin	Alec	Warren	ME	
Courser	Madi	Warner	NH	
Cousins	Robert	Brewer	ME	
Couture	Abby	Berwick	ME	
Couture	Brian	South Berwick	ME	
Couture	Ethan	Dixfield	ME	
Couvillier	Jessica	Jacksonville	FL	
Covino	Ariana	Milford	MA	
Cowan	Katherine	Barnet	VT	
Cox	Chessie	Boston	MA	
Cox	Julie	Corinth	ME	
Cox	Matthew	Bar Harbor	ME	
Cox	Shana	Bristol	CT	
Cox	Tom	Camden	ME	
Coyle	Cormac	Lebanon	NH	
Coyne	Joe	Yarmouth	ME	
Coyne	Patrick	Bangor	ME	
Cozatt	Darin	Troy	OH	

Crafts	Lauren	Attleboro	MA	
Craig	Lucas	Ashland	ME	
Cram	Baylie	West Bath	ME	
Crane	Christian	Bangor	ME	
Crawford	Loreli	Portsmouth	NH	
Crawford	Vincent	Wells	ME	
Creamer	Mac	Chelsea	ME	
Crick	Chad	Medford	MA	
Crise	Amelia	Lee	ME	
Crispin	Rose	Wilmington	MA	
Cristan	Emma	Waterville	ME	
Crocker	Brett	Lincoln	ME	
Crockett-Current	Sophia	Saco	ME	
Crone	Jennifer	Kenduskeag	ME	
Cronin	Garrett	York	ME	
Cronin	Hanna	Methuen	MA	
Crooks	Emma	Acton	MA	
Cros	Cherl	Gloucester	MA	
Crosier	Wendy	Portland	ME	
Cross	Alexander	Bangor	ME	
Cross	Kestrel	Bangor	ME	
Crossman	Fallon	Hampden	ME	
Crowley	Morgan	Saco	ME	
Crucianelli	Paula	Westbrook	ME	
Crump	Skye	Orono	ME	
Cuddy	Robert	Hudson	MA	
Cummings	Brandon	Gorham	ME	
Cummings	Caid	Brewer	ME	
Cummings	Claudia	Indian Island	ME	

Cummings	Julia	Brewer	ME	
Curioli	Laura	Hampden	ME	
Curioli	Sarah	Hampden	ME	
Curran	Claire	Oakville	ON	Canada
Curro	Tiffany	Biddeford	ME	
Curtis	Brooke	Skowhegan	ME	
Curtis	Hunter	Richmond	ME	
Cusack	Amanda	Kittery	ME	
Cushman	Grace	Pownal	ME	
Cushman	Rylee	Hermon	ME	
Cusick	Rebecca	Warwick	RI	
Cusson	Lauren	Eliot	ME	
Cusumano	Bri	Trumbull	CT	
Cutshall	Isaiah	Trenton	ME	
Cyr	Alec	Caribou	ME	
Cyr	Harrison	Orrs Island	ME	
Cyr	Jackson	Orrs Island	ME	
Cyr	Jake	East Waterboro	ME	
Cyr	Kallie	Westbrook	ME	
Cyr	Pascal	Eddington	ME	
Cyr	Rebecca	Hampden	ME	
Cyr	Shaylyn	Glenburn	ME	
Czuchra	Nicholas	Searsmont	ME	
Czwakiel	Andrew	Springfield	VT	
D'Amato	Marco	Rockport	ME	
D'Ambrosio	Tyler	Queensbury	NY	
D'Andrea	Craig	Stamford	CT	
D'Angelo	Dominic	Bradley	ME	
D'Aran	Elijah	South Berwick	ME	

D'Arcy	Josh	Salisbury	MA	
D'Errico	Matt	Franklin	MA	
Dacey	Ellie	Hampden	ME	
Dagher	Anna	Veazie	ME	
Dagher	Joseph	Veazie	ME	
Dagley	Christa	Orono	ME	
Daigle	Alex	Madawaska	ME	
Daigle	Andre	Caribou	ME	
Daigle	Courtney	Madawaska	ME	
Daigneault	Daigs	Winslow	ME	
Dailey	Ben	Bangor	ME	
Daley	Kate	Lexington	MA	
Dalton	Abbie	Honolulu	HI	
Dalton	Ann Marie	Hampden	ME	
Dalton	Elizabeth	Lamoine	ME	
Daly	Cameron	Brunswick	ME	
Daly	Colin	Shelton	CT	
Damboise	Oliviah	Old Town	ME	
Damon	Bri	Sumner	ME	
Damon	Madison	South Portland	ME	
Damuck	Ellie	Stockton Springs	ME	
Danby	Sarah	Bangor	ME	
Danforth	Abbey	Gray	ME	
Daniels	Liam	Presque Isle	ME	
Danner	Ben	Waterville	ME	
Daoud	Sabrina	Rumford	ME	
Dapprich	Susanna	Lawrence Township	NJ	
Darling	Angel	Gorham	ME	
Darling	Meredith	Orono	ME	

Darwish	Jafar	Orono	ME	
DaSilva	Chloe	Orono	ME	
Dau	Alyssa	Bowdoinham	ME	
Daub	Elyse	Hampden	ME	
Daub	Emily	Hampden	ME	
Daugherty	Erin	Sioux Falls	SD	
Dauphinee	Sam	Bradley	ME	
Davee	Molly	Rockport	ME	
Davenport	Erin	Orono	ME	
Davenport	James	Cumberland Center	ME	
David	Hunter	Bow	NH	
Davidson	Rachel	Sharon	MA	
Davies	Kristin	Groveland	MA	
Davis	Amanda	Middleboro	MA	
Davis	Amberle	Albuquerque	NM	
Davis	Caroline	Kenduskeag	ME	
Davis	Chase	Kingfield	ME	
Davis	Chloe	Houlton	ME	
Davis	Cody	Bucksport	ME	
Davis	Daniel	Dedham	ME	
Davis	Elizabeth	Gray	ME	
Davis	Gwen	Bangor	ME	
Davis	Hana	Delta		Canada
Davis	Justin	Portland	ME	
Davis	Kaylin	Livingston	CA	
Davis	Kelsey	Pittsburgh	PA	
Davis	Krissa	Petersburg	AK	
Davis	Mariah	Lovell	ME	
Davis	Nick	Auburn	ME	

Davis	Sam	Belfast	ME	
Davis	Seth	Liberty	ME	
Davis	Tara	Bangor	ME	
Davis	Tashie	Milbridge	ME	
Davis	Taylor	South Portland	ME	
Davison	Emily	North Waterboro	ME	
Davoli	Noah	Scarborough	ME	
Dawe	Adam	Gander	NL	Canada
Dawkins	Grant	Katy	TX	
Day	Kelsi	Brewer	ME	
Day	Ryan	Brewer	ME	
de Vries	Kendall	Marblehead	MA	
Deabreu	Parker	Oshawa	ON	Canada
Dean	Allie	Brewer	ME	
Dean	Allison	Madison	ME	
Dean	Jenny	Madison	ME	
Deans	Zoe	Belmont	ME	
DeBlois	Brandon	Smithfield	RI	
DeCataldo	Mark	Charlestown	RI	
DeCristofano	Emily Jean	Southwest Harbor	ME	
DeGrave	Byron	Bangor	ME	
deHaas	Amy	Bath	ME	
Delaney	Amber	Livermore	ME	
Delaney	Jamie	Hollis Center	ME	
Delano	Allie	Mansfield	MA	
Delano	Sarah	Houlton	ME	
DeLap	Daniel	Dekalb	IL	
Delargy	Ty	Bangor	ME	
Delgado	Hebert	Bangor	ME	

DellaRatta	Sarah	Greenfield Center	NY	
Dellavalle	Wyatt	Oquossoc	ME	
DelMonico	Justin	North Andover	MA	
DelMonico	Matt	North Andover	MA	
Delp	Bonnie	Bangor	ME	
Delp	James	Yarmouth	ME	
Delpino	Daniela	Old Town	ME	
Demanche	Alyssa	Brunswick	ME	
DeMarchi	Chris	River Vale	NJ	
DeMaria	Michael	Parkman	ME	
Demaris	Colleen	Milo	ME	
Demling	Nick	Bridgewater	MA	
DeMoranville	Maddie	Exeter	ME	
DeMoura	Ethan	Berwick	ME	
Denbow	Emma	Harrington	ME	
Denholm	Bradley	Old Town	ME	
Denny	Joe	Manlius	NY	
Denny	Kyle	Franklinville	NJ	
Denny	Nick	Rockport	ME	
Densmore	Siobhan	Portland	ME	
Dent	Frances	Waukesha	WI	
Deon	Hanna	Industry	ME	
DePippo	Dominique	Bath	ME	
DePuy	Brianna	Levant	ME	
Deree	Kevin	Halifax	MA	
DeRusha	Lindsey	Wrentham	MA	
Deschaine	Stephanie	Old Town	ME	
Deschenes	Hannah	Brentwood	NH	
Deschenes	Jeffrey	Amesbury	MA	

DeSilva	Camille	Orono	ME	
DesJardin	Nancy	Winterport	ME	
Desjardins	Claudia	Bangor	ME	
Desjardins	Erica	Bangor	ME	
Desmond	Evan	Stockholm	ME	
Detwiler	Sean	Arrowsic	ME	
Devaney	Jack	Leominster	MA	
Dever	Jack	Woburn	MA	
Devine	Dan	Brockton	MA	
Devoe	Marcus	Naples	ME	
Dewaard	Ross	Hope	ME	
DeWolfe	Jared	North Yarmouth	ME	
Dewsnap	Alison	Peabody	MA	
Dezii	Paul	Haddon Township	NJ	
Dhungana	Aashish	Bhaktapur		Nepal
DiAngelo	Connor	Greenville Junction	ME	
Diaz	Chris	Orono	ME	
Dickey	A.J.	New Hartford	CT	
Dickson	Beth	Bangor	ME	
Dickson	John	Williamsburg	VA	
Dickson	Lauren	Arundel	ME	
Diehl	Amos	Orrington	ME	
DiFederico	Gina	Milford	CT	
DiFilippo	Ally	Essex Fells	NJ	
DiFranco	Anna	Melrose	MA	
DiLeo	Annalisa	Brookfield	CT	
Dill	Hannah	Saco	ME	
Dill	Todd	Lake Havasu City	AZ	
Dillon	Seth	Madison	ME	

DiMinno	David	Brewster	NY	
Dimock	Nate	Madison	ME	
Dineen	Maeve	Beverly	MA	
Diodato	William	New York	NY	
Dionne	Colby	Raymond	ME	
DiPano	Daniel	Pepperell	MA	
DiPesa	Mickey	Unity	ME	
DiPreta	Tony	Stamford	CT	
DiSpirito	Dominique	Woonsocket	RI	
Dixon	Brandon	Solon	ME	
Dixon	Elliot	Albion	ME	
Dixon	Julian	Fayette	ME	
Dixon	Kimberly	Bangor	ME	
Dixson	Sequoia	Locke	NY	
Doak	Kenny	Perkasie	PA	
Doane	Aylee	Bangor	ME	
Dobbs	Rachel	Bangor	ME	
Dobson	Liam	perth	ON	Canada
Docos	Gunnar	Harrison	ME	
Dodge	Lauren	Orono	ME	
Dodge	Lindsey	Lee	ME	
Doherty	Anthony	Marshfield	MA	
Doiron	Rhiannon	Westbrook	ME	
Domigan	Kaylee	Salem	NH	
Domingo	Priscilla	Cornwall	ON	Canada
Dominique	Nick	Rome	GA	
Donadio	Danielle	Narragansett	RI	
Donahue	Connor	Saco	ME	
Donahue	Molly	Bel Air	MD	

Donald	Evan	Freeport	ME	
Donisvitch	Soren	Sidney	ME	
Donnelly	Jon	Brewer	ME	
Donovan	Emma	Quebec	QC	Canada
Donovan	Marissa	Hampden	ME	
Donovan	Matthew	Bowdoinham	ME	
Dore	Becky	Grantham	NH	
Dorey	Sarah	Dedham	ME	
Dorion	Bennett	Oxford	ME	
Dorney	Sierra	Kennebunk	ME	
Dorogi	Keeling	Gardiner	ME	
Dorronsoro	Vanessa	Walpole	MA	
Dorsky	Sophie	Camden	ME	
Doty	Will	Ellsworth	ME	
Doucette	Olivia	Hampden	ME	
Dougherty	Brooke	West Roxbury	MA	
Doughty	Cody	Winslow	ME	
Dow	Delaney	Ellsworth	ME	
Dowd	Shannon	Mendon	MA	
Dowling	Kate	Saco	ME	
Downey	Declan	Dedham	MA	
Downing	Emma	Carrabassett Valley	ME	
Downing	Patrick	Natick	MA	
Doyle	Jake	South Berwick	ME	
Doyle	Kellen	Orono	ME	
Doyle	Maddie	Brimfield	MA	
Doyon	Eedy	Orono	ME	
Drake	Madison	Holden	ME	
Drazhi	Daniel	Orono	ME	

Drewrey	Kevin	Medway	ME	
Drews	Kelby	Milo	ME	
Drinkert	Daisy	Orono	ME	
Driscoll	Anna	Scarborough	ME	
Driscoll	Paige	South Windsor	CT	
Driscoll	Ryan	Eliot	ME	
Drislane	Harrison	Lynnfield	MA	
Drobot	A.J.	Southampton	PA	
Drummond	Grace	Orono	ME	
Drummond	Sara	Toronto	ON	Canada
Duarte	Henry	Brentwood	NH	
Duarte	Stephanie	Brownville	ME	
Dubay	Hannah	Auburn	ME	
Dube	Katie	Arundel	ME	
Dube	Mary	Winterport	ME	
Dube	Meagan	Caribou	ME	
DuBois	Austin	Orono	ME	
DuBois	Michael	Windham	ME	
Dudley	Amanda	North Waterboro	ME	
Duffield	Charlie	Old Town	ME	
Duffy	Ben	York	ME	
Duffy	Hannah	Waterboro	ME	
Duffy	Hannah	Cinnaminson	NJ	
Duffy	Jordan	Old Town	ME	
Dugal	Brenden	Brewer	ME	
Dugal	Elena	Orono	ME	
Dugal	Jenna	Madawaska	ME	
Dugal	Trevor	Brewer	ME	
Dullaert	Emma	South Burlington	VT	

Dumas	Jazlyn	Lewiston	ME	
Dumond	Nicole	Merrimac	MA	
Dumont	Karineh	Williamsburg	VA	
Dunbar	Ashton	Lee	ME	
Dunham	Ben	Boxford	MA	
Dunlap	Emily	Old Town	ME	
Dunn	Nigel	Falmouth	ME	
Dunn	Vanessa	Wiscasset	ME	
Dunn Ferri	Hunter	Katy	TX	
Duplissie	Aubrey	Brewer	ME	
Dupuis	Peter	Northbridge	MA	
Duranko	Jessie	Westport	CT	
Durgin	Lindsey	Hollis Center	ME	
Durkee	Olivia	Oakland	ME	
Durkin	Caileigh	Barrington	RI	
Durocher	Carl	North Berwick	ME	
Dustin	Aaron	Bowdoin	ME	
Dustin	Adam	Bowdoin	ME	
Dustin	Zane	Minot	ME	
Dwelley	Lynn	Lincoln	ME	
Dwelley	Mikala	Bowdoin	ME	
Dwyer	Philip	Melrose	MA	
Dye	Jarod	Hallowell	ME	
Dyer	Hannah	Hermon	ME	
Dyer	Jesse	Mount Desert	ME	
Dyer	Rachael	Westbrook	ME	
Dymowski	Matt	Elkton	MD	
Earley	MaryKate	Portland	ME	
Early	Logan	East Stroudsburg	PA	

Eason	Alex	Mount Desert	ME	
Eason	Hannah	Winthrop	ME	
East	Alec	Jamaica Plain	MA	
Eastham	Lauren	Houlton	ME	
Eastman	Gunnar	Bangor	ME	
Eastman	Taylor	Alton	ME	
Eaton	Miles	Kennebunkport	ME	
Eaves	Schyler	Topsham	ME	
Eckert	Olivia	Canton	CT	
Edgar	William	South Portland	ME	
Edgecomb	Hannah	Mount Desert	ME	
Edgerly	Briar	Madison	ME	
Edman	Paul	Orono	ME	
Edwards	Lauren	Gorham	ME	
Edwards	Luke	Kenduskeag	ME	
Edwards	Marissa	Scarborough	ME	
Edwards	Nick	Attleboro	MA	
Egan	Grayson	Bethlehem	CT	
Egan	Spenser	Bowdoinham	ME	
Egbert	Summer	Brick	NJ	
Eichelroth	Jeanette	Uxbridge	MA	
Eichorn	Victoria	Hebron	ME	
Elbrolosy	Abdelrahman	Alexandria		Egypt
Elkouram	Sarah	Medford	MA	
Elliot	Greg	Passadumkeag	ME	
Elliott	Avery	Auburn	ME	
Ellis	Colby	Kennebunk	ME	
Ellis	Kate	Dixfield	ME	
Ellis	Olivia	Frankfort	ME	

Ellis	William	Vienna	ME	
Elsemore	Lauren	South Portland	ME	
Elvidge	Janet	Orono	ME	
Emanuel	Will	Falmouth	ME	
Embelton	Cody	Easton	ME	
Emerson	Brandon	Augusta	ME	
Emerson	Kyle	Dexter	ME	
Emery	Josh	Newport	ME	
Emmertz	Colby	Casco	ME	
Engholm	Jack	York	ME	
England	Joey	Quincy	MA	
Eno	Stephen	Brunswick	ME	
Enos	Kya	Taunton	MA	
Eramian	Matthew	Boonton	NJ	
Erikson	Theo	Orono	ME	
Erlandson	Tatum	Durham	ME	
Esber	Ethan	Byfield	MA	
Espinosa	Vianca	Portland	ME	
Estrach	Liron	Tel Aviv		Israel
Esty	Colby	Skowhegan	ME	
Ettinger	Andrew	Hollis Center	ME	
Eure	Austin	Fairburn	GA	
Evangelista	Jaclyn	Stoughton	MA	
Evans	Katie	Essex	CT	
Everett	Alexis	Chelsea	ME	
Everett	Emma	Presque Isle	ME	
Everett	Erika	Topsham	ME	
Ewing	Leanna	Orono	ME	
Fabel	Catherine	Eden Prairie	MN	

Fabrizio	Anthony	Orono	ME	
Facey	Rushanne	Hulls Cove	ME	
Fagan	Michael	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Fagnano	Joe	Williamsport	PA	
Faherty	Kaylee	Scarborough	ME	
Faietta	Lexi	Cumberland Center	ME	
Fair	Isaac	Orono	ME	
Fairchild	Ryan	East Hartland	CT	
Fallon	Caitlyn	Warwick	RI	
Falone	Samantha	Hermon	ME	
Fandel	Olivia	Orono	ME	
Fanjoy	Samantha	Winterport	ME	
Fanotto	Zach	Seymour	CT	
Farley	Tami	Saint Albans	ME	
Farnham	Matt	Hermon	ME	
Farragher-Gemma	Laura	Millis	MA	
Farrell	Erin	Saco	ME	
Farrell	Kenzie	Framingham	MA	
Farrin	Abigail	Jefferson	ME	
Farrington	Adam	Hampden	ME	
Farrington	Grace	Orono	ME	
Farrington	Keegan	Lincoln	ME	
Farrington	Koby	Lincoln	ME	
Faunce	Will	Limington	ME	
Favreau	Gretchen	Falmouth	ME	
Fay	Amanda	Millbury	MA	
Fay	Greg	Winthrop	ME	
Fay	Kyle	Reading	MA	
Fazzino	Andrew	Middletown	CT	

Fedotov	Natalie	Bayonne	NJ	
Feely	Michael	South Portland	ME	
Feeney	Marshall	Marshfield	MA	
Feenstra	Rachel	Ellington	CT	
Feeny	Chloe	Cochranville	PA	
Feero	Keegan	Old Town	ME	
Feero	Nick	Old Town	ME	
Feix	Jon	Bangor	ME	
Feldman	Jamie	North Babylon	NY	
Felix	Julia	Oak Bluffs	MA	
Ferguson	Quinn	Poland	ME	
Fernald	Ian	Phippsburg	ME	
Fernald	Izzy	West Poland	ME	
Fernandez-Faucher	Annie	Orono	ME	
Ferrante	Noah	Portland	ME	
Ferrarese	Steven	West Caldwell	NJ	
Ferraro	Jocelyn	Wilmington	MA	
Ferrauolo	Nick	Wallingford	CT	
Ferreira	Will	Cranberry Isles	ME	
Ferrell	Hannah	Bucksport	ME	
Ferri	Cassie	Springfield	MA	
Ferris	Amber	Peru	ME	
Festa	Gregg	Oakland	NJ	
Fetha	Allison	Hermon	ME	
Fiandaca	Zoe	Palmyra	ME	
Ficcardi	Max	Medfield	MA	
Fidje	Haley	Sherman	CT	
Field	Tyler	Milford	ME	
Fields	Sarah	Indian Island	ME	

Figueroa	Monica	Orono	ME	
Filer	Collette	Bangor	ME	
Finch	Lily	Bangor	ME	
Findlen	Austin	New Sweden	ME	
Findley	Beca	Seymour	CT	
Fine	Ryan	Slatington	PA	
Finnemore	Kate	Caribou	ME	
Fintonis	Rebecca	Framingham	MA	
Fiore	Anthony	Bangor	ME	
Fish	Adrianna	Brewer	ME	
Fisher	Abigail	Auburn	ME	
Fisher	Charlotte	Township of Washington	NJ	
Fisher	Sabrina	Auburn	ME	
Fitch	Anna	Cumberland Center	ME	
Fitts	Abbie	Carmel	ME	
Fitts	Madison	Pittsfield	ME	
Fitz-Marquez	Aurianne	Hull	MA	
Fitzgerald	Garrett	Holden	ME	
Fitzgerald	Minwin	Brewer	ME	
Fitzmaurice	Ryan	Bath	ME	
Fitzpatrick	David	Scarborough	ME	
Fitzpatrick	Emma	Fayette	ME	
Fitzpatrick	James	Dayton	ME	
Fitzpatrick	Kevin	Bristol	ME	
Fitzpatrick	Liv	Buzzards Bay	MA	
Flagg	Chloe	Livermore Falls	ME	
Flaherty	Chase	Saint George	ME	
Flaherty	Joseph	Attleboro Falls	MA	
Flaherty	Matthew	Jamaica Plain	MA	

Flanagan	Joshua	Brunswick	ME	
Flanders	Ashley	Belfast	ME	
Flannery	Michael	Concord	MA	
Flannery	Zachary	Hampden	ME	
Flegel	Gabe	Bucksport	ME	
Fleming	Hannah	Winter Harbor	ME	
Flessen	Ivy	Oswego	IL	
Fletcher	Madyson	East Falmouth	MA	
Flewelling	David	Topsham	ME	
Flight	Jared	Woburn	MA	
Flint	David	Rockport	ME	
Flores	James	Center Valley	PA	
Florio	Aiden	Hamden	CT	
Florio	Haley	Butler	NJ	
Floyd	Amanda	Bangor	ME	
Flubacher	Liam	Winter Harbor	ME	
Flubacher	Tara	Winter Harbor	ME	
Fludgate	Patrick	Riverhead	NY	
Fluta	Matt	Oxford	NJ	
Flynn	Conor	Oakland	NJ	
Flynn	James	Lewiston	ME	
Flynn	Jillian	Caribou	ME	
Flynn	Liam	Raymond	ME	
Fogarty	Kelly	Walpole	MA	
Fogg	John	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Fogg	Kate	Dedham	ME	
Foglio	Evan	Waterboro	ME	
Folger	Claudia	South Berwick	ME	
Fong	Tristan	Hope	ME	

Fontaine	Bronte	Brunswick	ME	
Fonzi	Nick	Ipswich	MA	
Foran	Molly	Ware	MA	
Ford	Ethan	Appleton	ME	
Ford	Katelyn	Presque Isle	ME	
Ford	Morgan	Appleton	ME	
Foreman	Haley	Portland	ME	
Fortier	Lillie	Oakland	ME	
Fortunato	Sophie	Wethersfield	CT	
Foss	A.J.	Solon	ME	
Foss	Jacob	Old Town	ME	
Fossier	Mitchell	Alpharetta	GA	
Foster	Katherine	Scarborough	ME	
Foster	Luke	South Portland	ME	
Foster	Margo	Newport Center	VT	
Foster	Tyreik	West Bath	ME	
Fountain	Alex	Liberty	ME	
Fournier	Andrew	Bangor	ME	
Fournier	Jordan	Buxton	ME	
Foust	Sarah	Pittston	ME	
Fowler	Camden	Newtown	CT	
Fox	Matt	Monmouth	ME	
Foye	Eliza	Eliot	ME	
Frager	Lillian	Portland	ME	
Frahn	Spencer	Auburn	ME	
Francis	Anna	Alton Bay	NH	
Francis	Landyn	Bangor	ME	
Francis-Mezger	Dominic	Searsport	ME	
Frank	Josh	South Portland	ME	

Fraone	Timothy	Walpole	MA	
Fraser	Caitlin	Brewer	ME	
Fraser	Jesse	Rockport	ME	
Frederick	Kaydin	Thomaston	ME	
Freedman	Noah	Peabody	MA	
Freedman	Richard	Eddington	ME	
Freeman	Cam	Manchester	ME	
Freeman	Emma	Scarborough	ME	
Freeman	Kristen	Old Town	ME	
Frein	Jack	Johnston	RI	
Fremouw	Kell	Orono	ME	
French	Audrie	Hampden	ME	
French	Nathaniel	Stow	MA	
French	Rebecca	Topsham	ME	
Freudenberger	Laura	Palmyra	ME	
Friedman	Hannah	Brewer	ME	
Friedman	Harry	Mashpee	MA	
Friend	Tristin	Searsport	ME	
Fritz	Sam	Georgetown	MA	
Frost	Syd	Stetson	ME	
Funk	Henry	Falmouth	ME	
Furlong	Julia	Weymouth	MA	
Furrow	Lilly	Bangor	ME	
Furrow	Trudy	Bangor	ME	
Gadsby	Gabby	Blue Hill	ME	
Gagne	Derek	Bangor	ME	
Gagne	Gabby	Gorham	ME	
Gagner	Emily	Hampden	ME	
Gagnon	A.J.	Epsom	NH	

Gagnon	Alec	Brewer	ME	
Gagnon	Avery	Lewiston	ME	
Gagnon	Von	Saco	ME	
Gahris	Michael	Garland	ME	
Gaidola	Alexander	Topsham	ME	
Gaines	Susannah	Lexington	MA	
Gakuru	Nshuti	Orono	ME	
Galante	Cori	York	ME	
Galarneau	Troy	Lisbon	ME	
Galgano	Sierra	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Gallant	Austin	Gray	ME	
Gallant	Logan	Bangor	ME	
Gallant	Shari	Hampden	ME	
Galli	Michael	South Hamilton	MA	
Gallup	Aiden	Portland	ME	
Gamache	Gabrielle	Colchester	CT	
Gamache	Shelby	Hermon	ME	
Ganzel	Tabetha	Linneus	ME	
Garand	Brad	Sidney	ME	
Garbuz	Sophie	Wilton	CT	
Garcia	Alyssa	Colchester	VT	
Gardner	Andrew	New Sharon	ME	
Gardner	Sophie	Raymond	ME	
Garfein	Laura	Walnut Creek	CA	
Garfield	Jeffrey	Lowell	ME	
Gartley	Jared	South China	ME	
Garvey	Eimile	Orono	ME	
Gaston	Imani	Chesapeake	VA	
Gaudette	Brady	Braintree	MA	

Gauthier	Nick	Hampden	ME	
Gauvin	Emile	Burien	WA	
Gawronski	Robert	Saco	ME	
Gay	Alexander	York	ME	
Gay	Jared	Newport	ME	
Gazder	Harris	Narragansett	RI	
Gebhart	Jake	Cranston	RI	
Gehring	Cory	Granger	IN	
Geiser	Arianna	Bangor	ME	
Gellis Morais	Bella	Montevideo		Uruguay
Gendreau	Nate	Gray	ME	
Genenbacher	Lauren	Old Town	ME	
Genereux	Adam	Sanford	ME	
Genrich	Loren	Hulls Cove	ME	
Genthner	Brianna	Damariscotta	ME	
George	Benaiah	Putnam	CT	
Georgia	Savannah	Portland	ME	
Gerace	Michael	Bel Air	MD	
Gerardi	Emily	Bangor	ME	
Gerencer	Alex	North Yarmouth	ME	
Gernhard	Maddy	Spring	TX	
Gerow	Kennedy	Glenburn	ME	
Gerrish	Emily	Brownville	ME	
Gervais	Mikki	Sabattus	ME	
Gervais	Olivia	Frenchville	ME	
Gervais	Ryan	Jewett City	CT	
Giannos	Alexandros	Pound Ridge	NY	
Gibbons	Emma	Dover	NH	
Gibbons	Miranda	Mansfield	MA	

Gibbs	Eric	Hermon	ME	
Gibson	Josh	Middletown	CT	
Gichana	Maria	North Andover	MA	
Giffault	Paige	Stonington	CT	
Giglio	Mary	Falmouth	ME	
Giguere	Arianna	Westbrook	ME	
Giguere	Jaimie	Scarborough	ME	
Gilbert	Jessie	Newington	CT	
Gilbert	Sean	Dixmont	ME	
Gilboe	Austin	Orono	ME	
Gillen	Lizzy	Blaine	ME	
Gillert	Nick	Orono	ME	
Gillespie	Ethan	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Gillespie	Kobey	Calais	ME	
Gillespie	Sydney	Rochester	NH	
Gillette	Andrew	Brewer	ME	
Gillingham	Evan	Steep Falls	ME	
Gilmore	Emily	Holden	ME	
Gilmore	Erin	Dedham	MA	
Gilmore	Kelsey	Holden	ME	
Gilson	Connor	Middleboro	MA	
Gilson	Hank	Topsham	ME	
Giniger	Adam	Carlisle	MA	
Girardin	Milly	Brunswick	ME	
Girgis	Jacob	Madison	ME	
Giroux	Anna	Westbrook	ME	
Giroux	Sydney	Portland	ME	
Giungi	Michael	West Hartford	CT	
Given	Sophie	Waterville	ME	

Glass	Ryan	Topsham	ME	
Glatter	Ella	Orono	ME	
Glatter	Sarah	Houlton	ME	
Glazer	Jordan	Cote St Luc	QC	Canada
Gleason	Devon	Winslow	ME	
Gleason	Kyle	Sidney	ME	
Glick	Joshua	Longmeadow	MA	
Glocke	Mason	Saugus	MA	
Godbout	Nathan	Hebron	ME	
Godin	Melodie	Wells	ME	
Godin	Michael	Edgecomb	ME	
Godino	Caley	Revere	MA	
Goff	Zoe	Rockland	ME	
Gogan	David	Littleton	ME	
Golder	Josh	Winterport	ME	
Goldsmith	Josh	Phillipsburg	NJ	
Goldsmith	Matt	Phillipsburg	NJ	
Gomes	Jordan	York	ME	
Gonyar	Ally	Bangor	ME	
Gonzalez-Tenga	Isa	Bangor	ME	
Goodale	Jesse	Lincolnville	ME	
Goodell	Raven	Wells	ME	
Goodenough	Bryant	Eliot	ME	
Goodenough	Turner	Eliot	ME	
Goodine	Tanner	Bangor	ME	
Goodman	Connor	Miami Beach	FL	
Goodstein	Jordan	West Bath	ME	
Goodwin	Kiana	Beaver Cove	ME	
Gordley-Smith	Lucien	Belfast	ME	

Goss	Jenna	Waterville	ME	
Gosselin	Avery	Burnham	ME	
Gosselin	Luke	Saco	ME	
Gould	Antyna	Washington	ME	
Goulette	Joey	York	ME	
Goulette	Liz	Turner	ME	
Goulette	Nathanael	Turner	ME	
Goulette	Spencer	York	ME	
Gouveia	Anthony	North Andover	MA	
Gower	Rachel	Winterport	ME	
Graham	Garrett	Orono	ME	
Graham	Grace	Cary Plt	ME	
Graham	Jackson	Pembroke	MA	
Graham	Vanessa	Bangor	ME	
Gramse	Matthew	Falmouth	ME	
Gramse	Mike	Falmouth	ME	
Graney	Nick	Topsham	ME	
Grant	Alli	Berwick	ME	
Grant	Emalee	Union	ME	
Grant	Katelyn	Orrington	ME	
Gravel	Kaitlyn	Brewer	ME	
Graves	Brianna	Hermon	ME	
Graves	Katharine	Hermon	ME	
Gray	Jasmine	La Mirada	CA	
Gray	Melissa	Belfast	ME	
Grayer	Jaron	Steelton	PA	
Greaves	Fiona	Norfolk	MA	
Greco	Cliff	Greene	ME	
Green	Abby	Casco	ME	

Green	Adam	Bangor	ME	
Green	Adam	Winslow	ME	
Green	Andrew	Newbury		United Kingdom
Green	Kendra	Old Town	ME	
Green	Sheldon	Barkhamsted	CT	
Greenberg	Kyle	Barrington	RI	
Greendale	Joe	Natick	MA	
Greenlaw	Kathleen	Bangor	ME	
Greenlaw	Tyla	Steep Falls	ME	
Greenlee	Aidan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Greenlee	Liam	Cumberland Center	ME	
Greeno	Moriah	Reading	MA	
Greenwood	James	Lewiston	ME	
Gregory	Aidan	Gardiner	ME	
Gregory	Jasmine	Winslow	ME	
Gregory	Jordan	Minot	ME	
Gresh	Jack	Windham	ME	
Grey	Keegan	Ellsworth	ME	
Gridley	Quinn	West Milford	NJ	
Griffin	Brenda	Wells	ME	
Griffin	Eric	Springvale	ME	
Griffin	Joe	Middleton	MA	
Griffin	Liam	North Berwick	ME	
Griffin	Morgan	Berwick	ME	
Griffin	Riley	Cheshire	CT	
Griffin	Sara	Parlin	NJ	
Griffith	Matthew	Parkman	ME	
Griffiths	Eva	Portland	ME	
Griffiths	Hunter	South Portland	ME	

Griffiths	Sarah	Newton	NJ	
Grillo	Sarah	South Paris	ME	
Grilo	Britney	Bradford	NH	
Grindle	Kaylee	Bucksport	ME	
Grindle	Megan	Old Town	ME	
Grindle	Riley	Ellsworth	ME	
Grisham	Brad	Melbourne	AR	
Grob	Ashley	Westwood	NJ	
Groening	Patrick	Belfast	ME	
Grogan	John	Holden	MA	
Grondin	Kyaira	Yarmouth	ME	
Grondin	Noah	Yarmouth	ME	
Grous	Emma	Ashford	CT	
Grover	Hayle	Swanville	ME	
Grover	Kassie	Pittsfield	ME	
Grunewald	Connor	Telford	PA	
Grzywacz	Amira	Manchester	NH	
Gu	Tony	Shanghai		China
Gu	Yicheng	Changhsu		China
Guarino	Sophie	Medford	ME	
Gudde	Madeline	Caribou	ME	
Gudroe	Jordan	Old Town	ME	
Guenzel	Krista	Ewing	NJ	
Guerrette	Nickolas	Caribou	ME	
Guibord	Luke	Scarborough	ME	
Guidi	Dan	Bangor	ME	
Guidotti	Haley	West Hartford	CT	
Guillemette	Mair	Manchester	ME	
Guimond	Andrew	Orono	ME	

Guiod	Gabriella	Houlton	ME	
Guisado	Rich	Northport	NY	
Gundermann	Sara	Palmyra	PA	
Gustafson	Andrew	Middletown	RI	
Gutheinz	Izzy	Camden	ME	
Guy	Brianna	Orono	ME	
Guy	Whitney	Kenduskeag	ME	
Haas	Derek	Old Town	ME	
Haded	Rebecca	Burlington	MA	
Hadley	Bruce	North Easton	MA	
Hadley	Jordan	Madison	ME	
Hagarman	Sydney	Old Town	ME	
Haggerty	Jillian	Houlton	ME	
Haggerty	Olivia	East Sandwich	MA	
Hagin	Amber	Warren	ME	
Hainer	Ainsley	Lincoln	ME	
Haley	Emily	Portland	ME	
Hall	Jacqueline	Owls Head	ME	
Hall	Mackenzie	Ashland	ME	
Hall	R.J.	Cushing	ME	
Hall	Rachael	Bangor	ME	
Haller	Jack	Orono	ME	
Hallett	Dylan	Bangor	ME	
Halliday	Casey	North Berwick	ME	
Halliday	Jason	Falmouth	ME	
Halvorsen	Johan	Guilford	ME	
Ham	Melissa	Teaticket	MA	
Hamilton	Jared	Ellsworth	ME	
Hamilton	Jess	Worcester	MA	

Hamilton	Josh	Alton	ME	
Hamilton	Justin	Topsham	ME	
Hamm	Matteah	Old Town	ME	
Hamm	Taylor	Orono	ME	
Hammill-Nordfors	Camryn	Bangor	ME	
Hammond	Sarah	Auburn	ME	
Hamzavi	Paul	Falmouth	ME	
Hanafin	Thomas	Burlington	MA	
Hancock	Jacob	Lancaster	MA	
Hancock	Ryan	Orono	ME	
Hand	Alyssa	Kenduskeag	ME	
Handlon	Ryan	Lewiston	ME	
Haney	Chris	Brewer	ME	
Haney	Megan	Hudson	ME	
Hanks	Lily	Hopkinton	MA	
Hanlon	Madeline	North Smithfield	RI	
Hanly	Bryan	Quincy	MA	
Hanna	Mackenzie	Lamoine	ME	
Hannan	Alicia	Buxton	ME	
Hanscom	Darren	Orrington	ME	
Hanscom	Emily	Bethel	ME	
Hansen	Darria	Orono	ME	
Hansen	Jens	Augusta	ME	
Hansen	Michelle	Charlottenlund		Denmark
Hanson	Tim	Wrentham	MA	
Hanson	Tom	Brunswick	ME	
Harakles	Lila	Scarborough	ME	
Harding	Brady	Howland	ME	
Hardison	Kaori	Aurora	CO	

Hardy	Ali	Lincoln	ME	
Hardy	Amy	Deer Isle	ME	
Hardy	Brielle	Scarborough	ME	
Hargraves	Cam	Sun Prairie	WI	
Hargreaves	Abby	Concord	CA	
Hargrove	Hannah	Sidney	ME	
Harhart	Tyler	Lugoff	SC	
Harling	Mitchell	Durham	NH	
Harlow	Jake	Peabody	MA	
Harman	Grace	Veazie	ME	
Harmon	Austin	Putnam	CT	
Harmon	Conan	Hampden	ME	
Harmon	Danielle	Lincoln	RI	
Harmon	Natalie	Fayette	ME	
Harper	Josie	Maxfield	ME	
Harper	Luke	Madison	ME	
Harriman	Emily	Belfast	ME	
Harriman	Jw	Orrington	ME	
Harriman	Wyatt	Winterport	ME	
Harrington	Elizabeth	Orono	ME	
Harrington	Emalee	Bethel	ME	
Harrington	Jack	York	ME	
Harrington	Raegan	Old Town	ME	
Harris	Bethany	Bangor	ME	
Harris	Bryan	Lake Hopatcong	NJ	
Harris	Carli	Shrewsbury	MA	
Harris	Chandler	Monmouth	ME	
Harris	Dorothy	Sinclair	ME	
Harris	Jesiah	Bangor	ME	

Harris	Julia	Gilford	NH	
Harris	Justin	Bangor	ME	
Harris	Justin	South China	ME	
Harris	Shailey	Windham	NH	
Harrison	Leah	Freeport	ME	
Hart	Cooper	Waterville	ME	
Hart	Kai	Camden	ME	
Hart	Robert	Brick	NJ	
Hartford	Mila	Dexter	ME	
Hartley	Madisyn	Pittsfield	ME	
Hartley	Sofia	Auburn	ME	
Hartwell	Abigail	Billerica	MA	
Harvey	Ryan	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Harzewski	Matt	Dixmont	ME	
Hase	Niklas	Buxton	ME	
Haskell	Ryan	Stockton Springs	ME	
Haskell	Shelby	Hartland	ME	
Haskell	Victoria	Bangor	ME	
Hassler	Sarah	Scarborough	ME	
Hastings	Lisa	Milford	ME	
Hathaway	Caitlin	Orono	ME	
Hatt	Arianna	Winslow	ME	
Haverty	Erin	Fitchburg	MA	
Haviland	Luck	Norway	ME	
Hawkins	Courtney	Brewer	ME	
Hawkins	Hannah	Glens Falls	NY	
Hawthorne	Liam	South Berwick	ME	
Hayden	Jessica	Milford	ME	
Hayes	Aidan	North Yarmouth	ME	

Haynes	Juliana	Rockport	ME	
Hayward	Abigail	Bangor	ME	
Hayward	Tucker	Bethel	ME	
Hazelton	Ian	Leominster	MA	
Hazlewood	Jaclyn	Westbrook	ME	
Head	Brittany	Denison	TX	
Healy	Maggie	Portland	ME	
Heaton	Ainsleigh	Mansfield	MA	
Hebert	Ben	Madawaska	ME	
Hebert	Branden	Presque Isle	ME	
Hebert	Cheyenne	Stockton Springs	ME	
Hebert	Connor	Lewiston	ME	
Hebert	Evan	Madawaska	ME	
Heethuis	Eric	Linden	MI	
Heffernan	Bailey	Old Town	ME	
Heft	William	Stafford	VA	
Heikkinen	Kaisa	Paris	ME	
Heins	Mackenzie	Kittery	ME	
Helal	Malak	Orono	ME	
Helfen	Kaitlyn	Brewer	ME	
Helinski	Mina	Whitinsville	MA	
Helman	Emma	Wilton	CT	
Hembree	Tamara	Holden	ME	
Henderson	Ashlie	Bangor	ME	
Henderson	Ian	Castine	ME	
Henderson	Jill	Bangor	ME	
Hendricks	Shea	Falmouth	ME	
Hennie	Jacob	Rancho Cucamonga	CA	
Henri	Cassandra	Orono	ME	

Henriquez	Donnell	Harrisburg	PA	
Henry	Jacob	Bangor	ME	
Hepburn	Chloe	Eliot	ME	
Hepler	Ada	Orono	ME	
Hepler	Irja	Orono	ME	
Herboldsheimer	Joe	Portland	ME	
Herlihy	James	Livermore Falls	ME	
Herlihy	Tanna	Livermore Falls	ME	
Hernandez	Kay	Newburgh	NY	
Hernandez	Nathaniel	Auburn	ME	
Herner	Oliver	Budapest		Hungary
Hersey	Chris	Kenduskeag	ME	
Hersey	Tyler	Brewer	ME	
Hershbine	Nicholas	Exeter	ME	
Hess	Jordan	Orono	ME	
Hetherington	Kieley	Harpswell	ME	
Hichens	Emma	Eliot	ME	
Hickey	Lauren	Westbrook	CT	
Hickey	Matt	North Berwick	ME	
Hickey	Rose	Waldoboro	ME	
Hicks	Asaad	West Hartford	CT	
Hicks	Dan	Summit	NJ	
Hicks	Jon	Clinton	CT	
Hicks	Mary	Hallowell	ME	
Hicks	Reilley	Sumner	ME	
Higgins	Alex	Skowhegan	ME	
Higgins	Austin	Beverly	MA	
Higgins	Helena	Portland	ME	
Higgins	Warren	Sullivan	ME	

Hill	Alexandria	Millis	MA	
Hill	Cassidy	Searsmont	ME	
Hill	Sierra	Litchfield	ME	
Hill	Tycen	Litchfield	ME	
Hiller	Sam	Burlington	VT	
Hillery	Caitlin	Glenburn	ME	
Hills	Alison	Orono	ME	
Hills	Olivia	Searsmont	ME	
Hilt	Alexia	Friendship	ME	
Hilton	Jason	Mercer	ME	
Hinds	Hayley	Windsor	ME	
Hines	Kelsey	Eddington	ME	
Hinkle	T.J.	Scarborough	ME	
Hinman	Kat	Martinez	CA	
Hirtle	Sean	Rowley	MA	
Hisakawa	Maho	Camden	ME	
Hixon	Noah	Westmanland	ME	
Ho	Dylan	Westbrook	ME	
Hobbs	Emily	South Portland	ME	
Hobbs	Rachel	Hampden	ME	
Hodgdon	Essence	Sneads Ferry	NC	
Hodgdon	Leia	Naples	ME	
Hodgdon	Taylor	Brunswick	ME	
Hodge	Emma	East Hampstead	NH	
Hodge	Stuart	Madison	ME	
Hodgkin	Benjamin	Leeds	ME	
Hodgkins	Anna	Hallowell	ME	
Hodgkins	Desiree	Westbrook	ME	
Hofmann	Aldous	Old Town	ME	

Hogan	Steven	Ballston Spa	NY	
Holbrook	Sam	South Portland	ME	
Holbrook	Victoria	Amesbury	MA	
Holesinsky	Adrian	Cadca		Slovakia
Holland	Caeley	Orono	ME	
Hollandsworth	Rachel	Milford	ME	
Hollifield	Austin	Portland	ME	
Hollstein	J.J.	Pembroke	MA	
Holmes	Angela	Brooks	ME	
Holmes	Ashley	Waldoboro	ME	
Holmes	Jake	Palermo	ME	
Holmes	Kailey	Eddington	ME	
Holmes	Nathaniel	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Holt	Chase	Cape Neddick	ME	
Holt	Emily	Cape Neddick	ME	
Holz	Jessica	Orono	ME	
Hooper	Abbott	Lebanon	CT	
Hooper	Ellie	Portland	ME	
Hopkins	Cari	Augusta	ME	
Hopkins	Carolyn	Vinalhaven	ME	
Horne	David	Falmouth	ME	
Horovitz	Jane	Washington	ME	
Horr	Ellie	Brewer	ME	
Horton	Karen	Stillwater	ME	
Horton	Molly	North Yarmouth	ME	
Horton	Skyler	Lancaster	PA	
Horvat	George	Saco	ME	
Horvath	Sarah	Danielson	CT	
Horwood	Caroline	East Sandwich	MA	

Hosford	Eliza	Bucksport	ME	
Hoskins	Devin	Topsham	ME	
Hotaling	Jake	Wilbraham	MA	
Hotham	Jimmy	Blaine	ME	
Houde	Cameron	Dayton	ME	
Houghton	Abby	Bangor	ME	
Houk	Paige	Lyman	ME	
Houtz	Carolyn	Stamford	CT	
Howard	Grace	Kennebunk	ME	
Howard	Lisa	Nobleboro	ME	
Howe	Abigail	Southwick	MA	
Howe	David	Stow	MA	
Howell	Billy	South China	ME	
Howell	Megan	Mount Desert	ME	
Howell	Sydney	Ludlow	ME	
Howes	Andrew	Bangor	ME	
Hu	Miao	Bucharest		Romania
Hubbard	Arthur	Augusta	ME	
Huber	Nicole	Greenwich	CT	
Huber	Shaelyn	West Milford	NJ	
Hudson	Sophie	Moorestown	NJ	
Huff	Jim	Sullivan	ME	
Hughes	Bronwyn	Portland	ME	
Hughes	Chelsea	Scarborough	ME	
Hughes	Krista	Bangor	ME	
Hughes	Mackenzie	Saugus	MA	
Hughes	Mariah	Dexter	ME	
Hugo-Vidal	Virginia	Buxton	ME	
Humpage	Aubrey	Scarborough	ME	

Hunt	Ella	Old Town	ME	
Hunt	Kimberly	Corea	ME	
Hunt	MacKenzie	Littleton	ME	
Hunt	Sara	Dedham	ME	
Hunter	Autumn	Hampden	ME	
Hunter	Michael	Caribou	ME	
Huntington	Dom	Orono	ME	
Huo	Emily	Biddeford	ME	
Hurlburt	Zachary	Alfred	ME	
Hurley	Pat	Medford	NJ	
Hurm	Biz	Elkton	MD	
Hurt	Maddie	Elmhurst	IL	
Huston	Nick	Lisbon Falls	ME	
Hustus	Katelyn	Chelsea	ME	
Hutchins	Dakota	Fairfield	ME	
Hutchins	Trinity	Fairfield	ME	
Hutchinson	Courtney	Bangor	ME	
Hutchinson	Jacob	Veazie	ME	
Hutchinson	Jessica	Canterbury	NH	
Hutchinson	Jessie	Wilton	ME	
Hutchinson	Richard	Saint Joseph	MI	
Huth	Kendra	Beverly	MA	
Huynh	Pat	Trumbull	CT	
Hyde	Courtney	Veazie	ME	
Iannuzzi	Julia	Sparta	NJ	
Iasenytska	Iaryna	Kyiv		Ukraine
Ickes-Coon	Nellie	Topsham	ME	
Ilic	Natasa	Boca Raton	FL	
Iluyomade	Solomon	London		United Kingdom

Imam	Sara	Skowhegan	ME	
Imperato	Noah	York	ME	
Ingalls	Colin	Bowdoin	ME	
Ingalls	Conner	Bowdoin	ME	
Ingalls	Rachel	Hermon	ME	
Ingersoll	Derek	Kingston	MA	
Ingo	Stephane	Mississauga	ON	Canada
Ingram	Matt	Winthrop	ME	
Ireland	Meghan	Tampa	FL	
Ireland	Morgan	Presque Isle	ME	
Ireland	Rachel	Corinth	ME	
Ireland	Zack	Old Town	ME	
Irujo	Carmen	Newburyport	MA	
Ismail	Lauren	Glenburn	ME	
Ittleson	Claire	West Hartford	CT	
Ivanicka	Dominika	Orono	ME	
Jablonski	Zach	Shrewsbury	MA	
Jack	Simaiya	Taunton	MA	
Jackson	Carly	Amherst	NS	Canada
Jackson	Emily	Casco	ME	
Jackson	M.J.	Milo	ME	
Jackson	Maddy	Old Town	ME	
Jackson	Randy	Sussex	NJ	
Jackson	Sydney	Upland	CA	
Jacob	Kylee	Waterboro	ME	
Jacobs	Alex	Westbrook	ME	
Jacobs	Cole	Wayland	MA	
Jacobs	Nicholas	Glenburn	ME	
Jacobson	Alicia	Old Town	ME	

Jacques	Kyle	Norridgewock	ME	
Jacques	Miranda	Manchester	NH	
Jamerson-Martin	Maya	Parsonsfield	ME	
James	Halle	Auburn	ME	
James	Sarah Kate	York	ME	
Jameson	Mitchell	Bangor	ME	
Jamieson	Claire	Upper Saddle River	NJ	
Jamison	Caitlyn	Villas	NJ	
Jandreau	Isabelle	Madawaska	ME	
Janes	Ali	Avon	CT	
Jans	Theodore	Trescott Twp	ME	
Jarosz	Danielle	Wells	ME	
Jarujinda	Thanisorn	Bangkok		Thailand
Jarvis	James	Kennebunk	ME	
Jaszay	Ciarra	Mesa	AZ	
Jean-Charles	Ori	Monsey	NY	
Jellison	Rowan	Strong	ME	
Jenkins	Jordan	Greenville	RI	
Jennings	Sam	Wilmington	MA	
Jensen	Dustin	Leeds	ME	
Jerome	Evangeline	Orrington	ME	
Jerome	Riley	Gorham	ME	
Jewell	Caleb	Orono	ME	
Jiang	Evan	Orono	ME	
Jiang	Guanyu	Orono	ME	
Jiang	Qikai	Shanghai		China
Jimenez	Alicia	Medfield	MA	
Jimenez	Sofia	Wakefield	MA	
Jin	Xiang	Lianyungang		China

Jipson	C.J.	Auburn	ME	
Jipson	Kaylee	Auburn	ME	
Jobe	Devon	Frederick	MD	
Jodoin	Kaitlyn	Gorham	ME	
Johanson	Chris	Old Town	ME	
Johndro	Camden	Norridgewock	ME	
Johnson	Alexandra	Milwaukee	WI	
Johnson	Alissa	Groton	MA	
Johnson	Alyssa	Northborough	MA	
Johnson	Anna	Springvale	ME	
Johnson	Bea	Falmouth	ME	
Johnson	Ben	Stoneham	MA	
Johnson	Chris	Old Town	ME	
Johnson	Claudia	Islesboro	ME	
Johnson	Dean	Springvale	ME	
Johnson	Ella	Exeter	NH	
Johnson	Ethan	Falmouth	ME	
Johnson	Grace	Bedford	NH	
Johnson	Haloye	Kennebunk	ME	
Johnson	Hannah	Kennebunk	ME	
Johnson	Isaac	Calais	ME	
Johnson	Lia	Orrington	ME	
Johnson	Mary	Falmouth	ME	
Johnson	Matthew	Charlton	MA	
Johnson	Morgan	Bowdoinham	ME	
Johnson	Olivia	Levant	ME	
Johnson	Ryan	Ledyard	CT	
Johnson	Sam	Mount Desert	ME	
Johnson	Samantha	Fryeburg	ME	

Johnson	Stephen	Topsham	ME	
Johnson	Susan	Lewiston	ME	
Johnson	Will	Boxborough	MA	
Johnston	Kelsey	York	ME	
Johnston	Olivia	Dixfield	ME	
Johnstone	Brandon	North Waterboro	ME	
Jolliffe	Emily	Searsmont	ME	
Jones	Jamie	Bangor	ME	
Jones	Kevin	Coatesville	PA	
Jones	Sarah	Hialeah	FL	
Jones	Trevor	Terryville	CT	
Jones	Zach	Glenburn	ME	
Jordan	Abe	Scarborough	ME	
Jordan	Kaylyn	Casco	ME	
Jordan	Nate	Scarborough	ME	
Jordan	Nate	Winterport	ME	
Jorge	Maddie	Ayer	MA	
Joslin	Amanda	Coventry	CT	
Josselyn	Courtney	Mechanicsburg	PA	
Jourdain	Emma	Becket	MA	
Judkins	Jordyn	Deer Isle	ME	
Juster	Sarah	East Blue Hill	ME	
Kachmar	Sydney	Southwest Harbor	ME	
Kackmeister	Jake	Gray	ME	
Kaczynski	Gabbi	Bloomsbury	NJ	
Kahaly	Keith	Norfolk	MA	
Kahelin	Anna	Helsinki		Finland
Kaiser	Alexandra	Cinnaminson	NJ	
Kalb	Kaleigh	Califon	NJ	

Kallis	Liv	Sanford	ME	
Kamath	Rishab	Mumbai		India
Kanagy	Victoria	Old Town	ME	
Kane	Kat	Falmouth	ME	
Kane	Kevin	Falmouth	ME	
Kane	Seamus	Kearny	NJ	
Kanihan	Laura	Wilmington	MA	
Kaplan	Julia	Hull	MA	
Kaplan	Stephen	South Berwick	ME	
Karam	Abram	Bangor	ME	
Karam	Gabriel	Bangor	ME	
Karas	Maggie	Bangor	ME	
Karchenes	Tanager	Stratton	ME	
Karim	Abdul	Saco	ME	
Kariores	Kyle	Gloucester	MA	
Karlins	Alyssa	South Windsor	CT	
Karp	Matt	Franklin	MA	
Karparis	Dan	Plympton	MA	
Karris	Xander	Hampden	ME	
Karter	Alexandra	Winslow	ME	
Karunasiri	Chathu	Caribou	ME	
Katinger	Madison	Shelton	CT	
Katzenbach	Alika	Old Town	ME	
Kaufman	Mia	Gorham	ME	
Kauppila	Wesley	Newburgh	ME	
Kaurin	Aleksandar	South Portland	ME	
Kay	Annie	Marblehead	MA	
Kayser	Ashley	Kennebunk	ME	
Kaze	Steve	Portland	ME	

Kearney	Sean	Veazie	ME	
Keaton	Joanna	North Reading	MA	
Keedy	Michael	Lebanon	CT	
Keefe	Charlie	Yarmouth	ME	
Keegan	Colleen	Kennebunk	ME	
Keenan	Klare	Falls Church	VA	
Keene	Paisley	Poland	ME	
Keezer	Kyle	Winthrop	ME	
Keighley	Charles	Sudbury	MA	
Keim	Sierra	Dixfield	ME	
Kelleher	Bradley	Amesbury	MA	
Kelleher	Justin	Stoughton	MA	
Kelleher	Molly	Mashpee	MA	
Keller	Hannah	Orono	ME	
Keller	Kat	Hinsdale	MA	
Kelley	Adam	Windham	ME	
Kelley	Ana	Northport	ME	
Kelley	Grace	Winfield	IL	
Kelley	Jordan	Old Town	ME	
Kelley	Kaitlyn	Saco	ME	
Kelley	Meaghan	Old Town	ME	
Kelley	Mitchell	Falmouth	ME	
Kelly	Ryan	Bar Harbor	ME	
Kelly	Tom	Garrett	PA	
Kelsey	Courtney	Hermon	ME	
Kemble	Peter	Bangor	ME	
Kenison	Matt	Topsham	ME	
Kennedy	Evan	Morrill	ME	
Kennedy	Kelli	Milbridge	ME	

Kennedy	Nicole	Greenbush	ME	
Kennedy	Scott	Glastonbury	CT	
Kent	Liam	Scarborough	ME	
Kern	Jennifer	South Portland	ME	
Kerschner	Sierra	Oakland	ME	
Kershner	Noah	Newport	ME	
Ketch	Emily	Bradley	ME	
Ketch	Jacob	Bradley	ME	
Keur	Nina	Naarden		Netherlands
Keydel	Oscar	South Burlington	VT	
Khalaf	Khulod	Old Town	ME	
Khan	Omar	Brewer	ME	
Khatri	Sabina	Orono	ME	
Khiyara	Ines	Crisnee		Belgium
Kiely	Danielle	Averill Park	NY	
Kiernan	Jenny	Arlington	VT	
Kieu	Khoa	Da Nang		Vietnam
Kihn	Naomi	Warren	ME	
Kiley	Andrew	Holden	ME	
Kilgore	Savannah	Concord	NC	
Kilgour	Alyssa	Hampden	ME	
Kilroe	James	Franklin	MA	
Kimball	Jada	Woodville	ME	
Kimble	Maddie	Avon	OH	
Kincaid	Jonathan	Orrington	ME	
King	Andrew	South Hadley	MA	
King	Brittany	Eliot	ME	
King	Cade	Palermo	ME	
King	Courtney	Ellsworth	ME	

King	Dylan	Uxbridge	MA	
King	Ethan	Milford	ME	
King	Jason	New Bedford	MA	
King	Jess	Orono	ME	
King	Liam	Amherst	NH	
King	Sam	Thomaston	ME	
King	Samuel	Barton	VT	
Kingman	Bailey	Wilmington	MA	
Kinney	Marissa	Belgrade	ME	
Kinney	Ryan	Bangor	ME	
Kirby	Dean	Haddonfield	NJ	
Kirby	Natalie	Hampden	ME	
Kirk	Andrew	Old Town	ME	
Kirk	Katherine	Scarborough	ME	
Kirk	Paul	Scarborough	ME	
Kirkland	Asha	Orland	ME	
Kirkpatrick	Kyle	Windsor	ME	
Klebon	Kat	Old Town	ME	
Klimkofski	Kirstin	Sandown	NH	
Klopman	Ethan	Framingham	MA	
Klutzaritz	Jared	Bangor	ME	
Knapp	Andrea	Sullivan	ME	
Kneissler	Casey	Fryeburg	ME	
Knight	Dustin	Berwick	ME	
Knight	Rachel	Dixfield	ME	
Knights	Tyler	Hampden	ME	
Knowles	Joseph	Topsham	ME	
Knowlton	Natalie	Deer Isle	ME	
Koehler	Hannah	Alburtis	PA	

Koelker	Robbie	Dyersville	IA	
Kohls	Mitchell	Bucksport	ME	
Kohn	Colby	Glenburn	ME	
Kolenovic	Deanna	Montclair	NJ	
Kollman	Reggie	Bangor	ME	
Kolota	Anna	Jefferson	ME	
Konitzer	Bridget	Ipswich	MA	
Kosmin	Stephanie	North Chelmsford	MA	
Kotfila	Corey	Silver Lake	NH	
Kotliarov	Antonia	Arlington	VA	
Kowash	Michael	Saco	ME	
Koza	Dylan	Raymond	ME	
Krause	Thomas	Fort Fairfield	ME	
Kremin	Michael	Lincolnville	ME	
Kriebisch	Annalena	Potsdam		Germany
Krivorotko	Dima	Orono	ME	
Krolak	Madison	Brunswick	ME	
Kroll	Michael	Oak Ridge	NJ	
Kroushl	J.	Franklin	MA	
Krueger	Nik	Chester	NH	
Krull	Alexis	Bucksport	ME	
Kucera	Brittany	North York	ON	Canada
Kuhn	Michaela	Holtsville	NY	
Kukk	Kora	Brookfield	CT	
Kuoppala	Ida	Pietarsaari		Finland
Kutzinski	Kira	Buende		Germany
Kuusela	Branden	Gorham	ME	
Kwiatkowsky	Zane	Bath	ME	
Kyle	Kaley	Charlestown	MA	

L'Heureux	Allison	Springvale	ME	
Labbay	Lauren	Bowdoin	ME	
Labbe	Kyle	Brunswick	ME	
Labbe	William	Brunswick	ME	
Labelle	Makayla	Corinth	ME	
Labonte	Gabriel	Lewiston	ME	
Laboy	Chloe	Leonia	NJ	
LaBreck	Jesse	South Gardiner	ME	
LaBree	MacKenzie	Bradley	ME	
Labrie	Alyssa	Clinton	ME	
Labun	Mike	Hampden	ME	
Lacasse	Jesse	Kennebunk	ME	
LaChance	Megan	Orono	ME	
LaCombe	Zach	Winslow	ME	
Lacorazza	Auden	Norwell	MA	
Ladd	Mackenzie	Bangor	ME	
Ladstatter	Kate	Saunderstown	RI	
LaFlamme	Joey	Granby	CT	
LaFlamme	Tanner	Westbrook	ME	
Lafleur	Nicholas	Stonington	CT	
Lafontaine	Sarah	Greene	ME	
LaFortune	Alex	Saco	ME	
LaFrance	Joanna	Alfred	ME	
LaFrance	Sophia	Alfred	ME	
Lage-Lichko	Steph	Waldoboro	ME	
Lagerstrom	Emily	Presque Isle	ME	
Lagerstrom	Lindsey	Presque Isle	ME	
LaGross	Ryan	Palmyra	ME	
Lalor	Crockett	Lincolnville	ME	

Lamb	Jada	Poland	ME	
Lamb	Jasmine	Poland	ME	
Lambert	Jordan	Winslow	ME	
Lambert	Matthew	Bar Harbor	ME	
Lambert	Noah	Gorham	ME	
Lambert	Parker	Orono	ME	
Lambrecht	Isaac	Winslow	ME	
Lambros	Paige	North Tonawanda	NY	
Lamkin	Chaz	Standish	ME	
Lamkins	Jordan	Southington	CT	
Lammert	Aiden	Newport	RI	
Lammert	Devon	Scarborough	ME	
Lamonica	Bria	Blackwood	NJ	
LaMontagne	Jacob	Berwick	ME	
Lamontagne	Nolan	Scarborough	ME	
Lamoureux	Briana	Kittery	ME	
Lamphear	Wes	Inlet	NY	
Lander	Meg	Orrington	ME	
Lander	Sam	Orrington	ME	
Landon	Nate	Bangor	ME	
Landry	Elisabeth	Brewer	ME	
Landry	Haley	Windham	ME	
Landry	Kayla	South Berwick	ME	
Landry	Laura	Hampden	ME	
Lane	Anna	York	ME	
Lane	Eric	Gorham	ME	
Lane	Julia	Lancaster	MA	
Langley	Alexys	Freeport	ME	
Langley	Austin	Freeport	ME	

Langlois	Connor	Scarborough	ME	
Lantagne	C.J.	Acton	ME	
LaPlant	Nicole	Canton	CT	
LaPlante	Caleb	Milford	ME	
Laplante	Evan	Lawrence	MA	
LaPointe	David	Andover	MA	
Lapointe	Gary	Greene	ME	
LaPointe	Jillian	Stow	MA	
Larence	Ciara	Northbridge	MA	
Larmore	Townsend	Virginia Beach	VA	
Larosa	Nadia	Longwood	FL	
LaRosa	Talie	Longwood	FL	
Larsen	Isabel	Old Town	ME	
Laskey	Eamon	Eddington	ME	
Laskey	Sarah	Southington	CT	
Laszlo	Cheyenne	Woodland	ME	
Latario	Sarah	Groton	MA	
Laubscher	Alec	Simsbury	CT	
Laurence	Abbe	Greenland	NH	
Laurita	Henry	Hope	ME	
LaValley	Elizabeth	Greenfield	MA	
Laverriere	Michael	Arundel	ME	
Lavertu	Emily	Frenchville	ME	
Lavigne	Layla	Trescott	ME	
Lavigne	Trevor	York	ME	
Lavoie	Lydia	Winthrop	ME	
Lavoie	Lyndsey	Van Buren	ME	
Lavoie	Matthew	Wells	ME	
Lawler	Jacob	North Augusta	SC	

Lawlor	Adan	Waterville	ME	
Lawrence	Matt	Topsham	ME	
Lawson	Mitchell	Bethlehem	PA	
Le	Hoang	Dong Da		Vietnam
Le	Jasmin	Lisbon	ME	
Le	Kaylin	Lisbon	ME	
Leacy	Meg	Upton	MA	
Leadbetter	Bek	Newport	ME	
Leake	Joshua	Folsom	PA	
Leary	McKayla	South Berwick	ME	
LeBlanc	Kennedi	Sidney	ME	
LeClair	Emily	Milford	ME	
LeClair	Garret	Buxton	ME	
Leclerc	Nick	Camden	ME	
Lecrone	Ty	Waterville	ME	
Ledesma	Cameron	Kennebunk	ME	
Ledger	Katherine	Linneus	ME	
Ledue	Emily	Harmony	ME	
Lee	Carmen	Lewiston	ME	
Lee	Gabriella	Bangor	ME	
Lee	Jessica	Waterville	ME	
Lee	Olivia	Lewiston	ME	
Leech	Taylor	Bowdoinham	ME	
Lefebvre	Ed	Freeport	ME	
Lefever	Adrian	Fayette	ME	
Legassey	Madison	Portland	ME	
Legere	Jenna	Milford	ME	
Lehmann	Jess	Tewksbury	MA	
Lehmann	Rachele	Oklahoma City	OK	

Leidenfrost	Abby	Liberty	ME	
Leider	Sydney	Oceanside	NY	
Leifholt	Emily	Jim Thorpe	PA	
Leighton	Maria	Scituate	MA	
Lekousi	Thomas	Windham	ME	
Leland	Zoe	Portland	ME	
Lelievre	Jake	Lebanon	ME	
Lemoine	John	Saco	ME	
Lennox	Alexandria	Shamong	NJ	
Leonard	Evan	Portland	ME	
Lerner	Claire	Stafford	VA	
Lessard	Alexandra	Jackman	ME	
Lester	Tim	Cumberland Center	ME	
Letourneau	Kiana	Fairfield	ME	
Letourneau	Mitchel	Gorham	ME	
Leung	Annapurna	Braintree	MA	
Leung	Holly	Brooklyn	NY	
Levasseur	Rebecca	Auburn	ME	
Levenson	Arianna	Halifax	MA	
Lever	Brooke	Auburn	ME	
Levesque	Andrew	Augusta	ME	
Levesque	Savannah	Veazie	ME	
Levinson	Adam	Yarmouth	ME	
Levy	Ethan	Saco	ME	
Lewandowski	Alysa	Jefferson	ME	
Lewandowski	Ruth	Portland	ME	
Lewey	Brett	Bangor	ME	
Lewis	Bailey	Skowhegan	ME	
Lewis	Lenora	Portland	ME	

Lewis	Lindsey	Washington	ME	
Lewis	MacKenzie	Augusta	ME	
Leydon	Connor	Kingston	MA	
Li	Yanyan	Hampden	ME	
Libby	Hayden	Topsham	ME	
Libby	Jonathan	Chester	ME	
Libby	Sadie	Skowhegan	ME	
Libby	Tom	Camden	ME	
Liberty	Trey	Fairfield	ME	
Lick	Trent	Orono	ME	
Liebler-Bendix	Ailin	Jamesville	NY	
Liedtka	Claire	San Antonio	TX	
Lifland	Bre	Limington	ME	
Light	Thomas	Gorham	ME	
Limewood	Alexyss	Bonaire	GA	
Lin	Enoch	Zhangzhou		China
Lin	Hua	Portland	ME	
Linares	Carlos	Miami	FL	
Lindbom	Eric	Orono	ME	
Lindelow	Edward	Orono	ME	
Lindstrom	Hannah	North Attleboro	MA	
Lindyberg	Jack	Stockton Springs	ME	
Link	Gabby	Bar Harbor	ME	
Linkel	Reilly	Orland	ME	
Linkletter	Zachary	Athens	ME	
Lisewski	Zach	Morris Plains	NJ	
Littlefield	Jeffrey	Hermon	ME	
Littlefield	Rebekah	Winterport	ME	
Littlehales	Kristina	Franklinville	NJ	

Liu	Kaitlin	Orono	ME	
Livingston	Makayla	Hampton Falls	NH	
Llerena	Julianne	Hampden	ME	
Lobdell	Brady	Hampden	ME	
Loberti	Andrew	Bellingham	MA	
Loc	Tom	South Portland	ME	
Lockard	Jordan	Hampden	ME	
Locke	Emma	Hudson	MA	
Lockhart	Olivia	Monroe	ME	
Logan	Abby	Buxton	ME	
Logan	Maddy	Buxton	ME	
Logue	Natalie	Orono	ME	
Loiselle	Sara	Windham	ME	
Lok	Thomas	Westbrook	ME	
Lolar	Ian	Bradley	ME	
Long	Jordyn	Limington	ME	
Long	Ryan	South Berwick	ME	
Longe	Chrystal	Walpole	NH	
Looney	Aurore	Old Town	ME	
Looney	Brody	Vienna	ME	
Loper	Kelton	Norway	ME	
Loper	Sydney	North Yarmouth	ME	
Lopes	Katie	Waterville	ME	
LoPiccolo	Ryan	South Hackensack	NJ	
Loranger	Jake	Portland	ME	
Loranger	Matthew	Norton	MA	
Loranger	Nathan	Portland	ME	
Lord	Ethan	Alfred	ME	
Lord	Griffin	Gorham	ME	

Loredo	Angel	Bangor	ME	
Loredo	Angelica	Bangor	ME	
Lorello	Dom	Portland	ME	
Lorenzo	Jacob	Falmouth	ME	
Loring	Sarah	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Lough	Olivia	Madison	VA	
Love	Carrie	Old Town	ME	
Love	Delaney	Orono	ME	
Love	Johnny	Reading	MA	
Lovejoy	Olivia	Northport	ME	
Loveless	Austin	Cumberland Center	ME	
Loveless	Noah	Cumberland Center	ME	
Lovell	Noah	Falmouth	MA	
Lovering	Alyssa	Old Town	ME	
Lovering	Gabe	Auburn	ME	
Lovill	Juan	Nutley	NJ	
Low	Maria	Brewer	ME	
Low	Sarah	Orland	ME	
Lowe	Trevor	Wallingford	PA	
Lowell	Ethan	Scarborough	ME	
Lowry	Rhys	Falmouth	ME	
Lucas	Ainsleigh	Harpswell	ME	
Lucas	Karissa	Readfield	ME	
Luce	Matt	Brewer	ME	
Luchon	Adam	Willington	CT	
Lucy	Michelle	Bangor	ME	
Lueders	Emma	Canton	ME	
Lufkin	Blake	Bangor	ME	
Lumbra	Devin	Colchester	VT	

Lunt	Chloe	Greenfield	MA	
Luo	Ning	Brewer	ME	
Luo	Xingzhou	Orono	ME	
Luong	Joseph	Scarborough	ME	
Luopa	Lindsay	Saco	ME	
Lupien	Claire	Waldoboro	ME	
Lurgio	Aidan	Foster	RI	
Lust	Thomas	New Providence	NJ	
Luther	Ray	Montville	ME	
Luttrell	Josh	South Thomaston	ME	
Luu	Kiera	Silver Spring	MD	
Lydon	Tim	Rochester	MA	
Lydon	Zoe	North Weymouth	MA	
Lynch	Danielle	Burlington	MA	
Lynes	Brady	Westbrook	ME	
Lynn	Sophia	Winthrop	ME	
Lyons	Felicia	New Gloucester	ME	
Lyons	Jenna	North Falmouth	MA	
Lyons	Richard	Lubec	ME	
MacAskill	Erin	New Fairfield	CT	
Macauley	Madeleine	Mount Desert	ME	
MacBurnie	Amanda	Stillwater	ME	
MacDonald	Davis	Bangor	ME	
Macek	Aaron	Wade	ME	
Macewen	Keegan	Mattapoisett	MA	
MacFarlane	Olivia	Plymouth	MA	
MacGrath	Grace	Charlton	MA	
Mack	Jada	Cornville	ME	
Mack	James	Portland	ME	

Mackay	Finn	Carrabassett Valley	ME	
Mackeldey	Seana	Pleasant Point	ME	
Mackridge	Shannon	Camden	ME	
MacLean	Ella	Antigonish	NS	Canada
MacLeod	Shayla	Wayland	MA	
MacMullen	Samiera	Brunswick	ME	
Macneil	Brenna	Harrison	ME	
Macolini	Jack	Wells	ME	
Macolini	Kate	Wells	ME	
MacTavish	Brett	Kingston	MA	
Madden	Bryant	Woodstock	GA	
Madden	Dylan	Greenbush	ME	
Madden	Patrick	Washington	ME	
Magill	Carolyn	North Attleboro	MA	
Magnan	Maria	Enosburg Falls	VT	
Magnani	Ralph	Southwest Harbor	ME	
Magnano	Sal	Southington	CT	
Magnuson	Erica	South Portland	ME	
Magnuson	Erin	Ellington	CT	
Mahan	Madison	Portland	ME	
Mahar	Alexander	Rockland	ME	
Maher	Lauren	North Weymouth	MA	
Mahoney	Ashley	Hampden	ME	
Mahoney	Julia	Orono	ME	
Maidman	Jonathan	Carrabassett Valley	ME	
Majors	Joshua	Poland	ME	
Malcolm	Erin	Sanford	ME	
Mallet	Mitchell	Shrewsbury	MA	
Mallett	Autumn	Old Town	ME	

Malloy	Aishah	Madison	ME	
Malone	Meghan	Stoneham	MA	
Maloney	Grace	Portland	ME	
Maloney	Maeve	West Hartford	CT	
Malpica	Henry	North Haledon	NJ	
Maltby	Megan	Chatham	NJ	
Malvin	Jackie	Greenbush	ME	
Malvin	Jenna	Blue Hill	ME	
Manahan	Aidan	Newcastle	ME	
Mandile	Katherine	Marshfield	MA	
Mandy	Olivia	Wallingford	CT	
Manfredonia	Madeline	Southbury	CT	
Mangano	Ryan	Landing	NJ	
Mann	Rick	Bowdoinham	ME	
Mansfield	Sarah	Annandale	VA	
Manson	Hillary	Corinna	ME	
Mao	Shuhan	bucharest		Romania
Marcellino	Allison	Wakefield	RI	
Marchand	Rebecca	Methuen	MA	
Marchio	Jacob	Opelika	AL	
Marcotte	Sarah	Bangor	ME	
Marcotte	Sarrah	Biddeford	ME	
Marcotte	Shannon	Dracut	MA	
Marcoux	Leah	Westbrook	ME	
Marden	Sarah	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Marinaccio	James	Cheshire	CT	
Mark	Michael	Kingwood	TX	
Markie	Grady	Bangor	ME	
Marks	Jacob	Falmouth	ME	

Marley	D'anna	Woonsocket	RI	
Marsanskis	Luke	Cumberland Center	ME	
Marsh	Devin	Newtown	CT	
Marsh	Hannah	Rowley	MA	
Marshall	Ennis	Little Deer Isle	ME	
Marshall	John	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Marshall	Kai	Natick	MA	
Marston	Caleb	South Portland	ME	
Martell	Trevor	Belfast	ME	
Martenson	Cam	York	ME	
Martin	Brea	Winslow	ME	
Martin	Dexter	Holly Springs	NC	
Martin	Josh	Farmington	CT	
Martin	McKenna	Midlothian	IL	
Martin	Peter	Scarborough	ME	
Martin	Rebekkah	Hampden	ME	
Martin	Sarah	Sidney	ME	
Martin	Seth	Windham	ME	
Martin	Will	Eddington	ME	
Martinez	Ashley	Paterson	NJ	
Martinez	Bryson	Mattawamkeag	ME	
Martwichuck	Abigail	Beverly	MA	
Marty	Hannah	Harwich	MA	
Marzano	Amaya	Freeport	ME	
Mascarenhas	Cassandra	Mississauga	ON	Canada
Mason	Clayton	Rutland	MA	
Mason	Ethan	Orange	CT	
Mason	George	Old Town	ME	
Mason	Mikayla	Orono	ME	

Massaad	Patrick	Machiasport	ME	
Masse	Libbey	Brunswick	ME	
Mastico	Nathaniel	Hanson	MA	
Mathers	Kassidy	Island Falls	ME	
Mathews	Mae	Old Town	ME	
Mathewson	Nathaniel	Linesville	PA	
Mathieu	Alissa	Orono	ME	
Mathieu	Emilee	Sanford	ME	
Mathieu	Ethan	Sanford	ME	
Mathieu	Hannah	Sidney	ME	
Mathisen	Sam	Elmore	VT	
Mattrick	Amelia	Rochester	VT	
Matula	Kensi	Albion	ME	
Mault	Jacqueline	Chester	ME	
Maurais	Hannah	Jay	ME	
Maurer	Jon	Old Town	ME	
Max	Theresa	Ottsville	PA	
Maxsimic	Katie	Kingfield	ME	
Maxsimic	Maria	Holden	ME	
May	Miriam	Dennis	MA	
Mayers	Victoria	Woonsocket	RI	
Maynard	Devin	Old Town	ME	
Maynard	Teresa	Fort Fairfield	ME	
Maynor	Zack	Jackson	NJ	
Mayo	Douglas	Bridgton	ME	
Mayo	Matthew	Bridgton	ME	
Mazzella	Meghan	South Hamilton	MA	
Mazzelli	Bri	Pleasant Valley	NY	
McA'Nulty	Sean	Milton	MA	

McAfee	Drake	Biddeford	ME	
McAlary	Hannah	Saco	ME	
McBarry	Juliette	Greenfield	MA	
McCallister	Sarah	Stratham	NH	
McCallum	Bridget	South Easton	MA	
McCallum	Ian	Petersburg	AK	
McCann	Jack	Rehoboth	MA	
McCann	Lauren	Somerdale	NJ	
McCarthy	Ben	Saco	ME	
McCarthy	Logan	Windham	ME	
McCarthy	Natalie	Lincoln	ME	
McCarthy	Sam	Nashua	NH	
McCauley	Faith	Carmel	NY	
McCleary	Regan	Buxton	ME	
McClendon	David	Watertown	CT	
McCloy	Scott	Santa Fe	NM	
McCluskey	Connor	Orono	ME	
McCluskey	Leah	Seymour	CT	
McConnell	Erin	Ellington	CT	
McConnell	Luke	Bolton	MA	
McCullough	Kaitlin	Ellsworth	ME	
McCurdy	Anna	Lawrence	KS	
McCusker	Cassidy	Windham	ME	
McDaniels-Rossiter	Hunter	Union	ME	
McDermott	Sydney	Lake Stevens	WA	
McDermott	Wyatt	Wells	VT	
McDevitt	Thomas	Nahant	MA	
McDonald	Cecelia	Livermore	ME	
McDonald	Meghan	Beverly	MA	

McDonnell	James	Madison	NJ	
McDonough	Bryson	Bangor	ME	
McElreath	Megan	Upton	MA	
McEttrick	Bradlyn	Attleboro	MA	
McEwen	Brady	Danforth	ME	
McFadden	Katelynn	Bensalem	PA	
McFaden	Delaney	Stafford	VA	
McFarlane	Tristin	Farmington	ME	
McGarry	Morgan	Scarborough	ME	
McGeoghegan	Chris	Litchfield	ME	
McGill	Eli	Windham	ME	
McGilvery	Reilly	North Berwick	ME	
McGinn	Brandon	Old Town	ME	
McGlauflin	Chase	Mount Vernon	ME	
McGlone	Aidan	Limington	ME	
McGlynn	Alyssa	Westwood	NJ	
McGrath	Corrine	Lyman	NH	
McGraw	Ryan	Hampden	ME	
McGrew	Lily	Warren	CT	
McGuire	Caitlin	Shelton	CT	
McInnis	Tim	Portland	ME	
McIntosh	Ashlee	Rockport	ME	
Mcintyre	Duncan	Lincoln	ME	
McIsaac	Brianna	Pembroke	MA	
McKechnie	Alexis	Levant	ME	
McKelvy	David	Scarborough	ME	
McKendry	Elise	Long Pond Twp	ME	
McKenna	Brynn	Bristol	RI	
McKenna	Kaylee	Assonet	MA	

McKenna	Tara	East Northport	NY	
McKenney	Caitlin	Harmony	ME	
McKenney	Jacob	South Berwick	ME	
McKenney	Sydnie	Hampden	ME	
McKeon	Daniel	Searsport	ME	
McKeon	Meagan	Searsport	ME	
McKinney	Tracey	Belfast	ME	
McLain	Skylar	Traverse City	MI	
McLaughlin	Kalee	Old Town	ME	
McLaughlin	Lily	Bangor	ME	
McLaughlin	Mark	Hampden	ME	
McLaughlin	Mark	Manchester	ME	
McLaughlin	Rebekah	Bangor	ME	
McLellan	Andrew	Calais	ME	
McLellan	Curtis	Plymouth	MA	
McLellan	Sierra	Augusta	ME	
McLeod	Hayley	Harrison	ME	
McLeod	Kasey	Oakland	ME	
McLeod	Ryann	Rutland	VT	
McMahon	Karlene	Lakeville	MA	
McMillan	Kassidy	Kenduskeag	ME	
McNally	Mike	Moscow	ME	
McNally	Zoe	Bowdoin	ME	
McNamara	Charlie	Marshfield	MA	
Mcnamara	Jennifer	Orland	ME	
McNamara	Tess	Eliot	ME	
McNicholl	Gemma	Downingtown	PA	
McNutt	Nate	Norway	ME	
McPhail	Jevan	Edmunds Twp	ME	

McPhee	Will	Winchester	MA	
McVicar	Maddy	Calais	ME	
McWhorter	Audrey	Tipp City	OH	
Meade	Julia	Skowhegan	ME	
Meader	Sydney	Boothbay Harbor	ME	
Meador	Andrew	Marblehead	MA	
Mealey	Jacob	Farmington	ME	
Meas	Felix	Sanford	ME	
Medalssi	Aiden	Wesley Chapel	FL	
Medenica	Marija	Phippsburg	ME	
Meeker	Victoria	East Haven	CT	
Meherg	Courtney	Winterport	ME	
Mehrhoff	Isabelle	Mercer	ME	
Meidahl	Hannah	Clinton	ME	
Mejias	Jazmyne	Standish	ME	
Melanson	Sierra	Lewiston	ME	
Menard	Eric	Orrington	ME	
Meneley	Sarah	Tolono	IL	
Menter	Maggie	Lebanon	ME	
Mercado	Isabella	Brimfield	MA	
Mercer	Jordan	Hancock	ME	
Merchant	Erin	Windham	ME	
Merchant	Hunter	Northport	ME	
Merchant	Keith	Lynnfield	MA	
Merchant	Taylor	Franklin	ME	
Mercier	Katie	Sidney	ME	
Mercier	Lauren	Sidney	ME	
Meredith-Pickett	Sydney	Orono	ME	
Merkle-Scotland	Maeve	Madison	CT	

Merriam	Nick	Brooks	ME	
Merrifield	Hilary	Rockport	ME	
Merrill	Mitchell	Salisbury	MA	
Mersereau	John	Plymouth	MA	
Meserve	Arianna	South Paris	ME	
Meservier	Justin	Farmington	ME	
Messier	April	Camden	ME	
Metivier	Julia	Foxboro	MA	
Metivier	Luc	Salisbury	MA	
Meyer	Claire	Bangor	ME	
Meyer-Waldo	Sarah	West Bath	ME	
Michaud	Aidan	North Yarmouth	ME	
Michaud	Cameron	Brewer	ME	
Michaud	Dana	Belgrade	ME	
Michaud	Isaac	Wells	ME	
Michaud	Reba	Carmel	ME	
Michaud	Sahvannah	Hermon	ME	
Michaud	Sawyer	Belgrade	ME	
Michienzi	Haley	Orono	ME	
Mierzejewski	Nicholas	New Hartford	CT	
Milashouskas	Trahmel	Bangor	ME	
Milbourn	Kyle	Brunswick	ME	
Mild	Owen	Bernard	ME	
Miles	Bethany	Old Town	ME	
Miljone	Liga	Kekava		Latvia
Milkowich	Suzie	Blue Hill	ME	
Millan-Modia	Blanca	A Coruna		Spain
Millay	Chanthu	Bangor	ME	
Miller	Abbe	Bar Harbor	ME	

Miller	Brody	Embden	ME	
Miller	Caleb	Bowdoinham	ME	
Miller	Cody	Dummer	NH	
Miller	Dillon	Ledgewood	NJ	
Miller	Dominic	Houlton	ME	
Miller	Dre	Old Town	ME	
Miller	Dylan	Auburn	ME	
Miller	Joseph	Audubon	NJ	
Miller	Josie	Bowdoinham	ME	
Miller	Makayla	Bangor	ME	
Miller	Shane	Orono	ME	
Miller-Finch	Margaret	Bangor	ME	
Milligan	Mary	Winthrop	ME	
Milliken	Brenna	Gray	ME	
Mills	Nic	Chelsea	ME	
Mills	Sam	Biddeford	ME	
Milton	Jacob	Portland	ME	
Miner	Jordan	East Baldwin	ME	
Minni	Quintin	Endicott	NY	
Minor	Josh	Westbrook	ME	
Minskoff	Natasha	Bangor	ME	
Misler	Zara	Winterport	ME	
Mitchell	Audrey	York	ME	
Mitchell	Maddie	Gorham	ME	
Mitchell	Sarah	Camden	ME	
Mix	Marlana	Orono	ME	
Mohamed	Abdel	Haledon	NJ	
Mohamud	Mohamed	Lewiston	ME	
Mohawass	Marina	Bangor	ME	

Moline	Brendan	Lincolnville	ME	
Monahan	Kenzie	Sterling	MA	
Moniz	Kyle	Salem	NH	
Monroe	Garry	Bangor	ME	
Montemurro	Joseph	Bangor	ME	
Monteyro	Braden	Pittsfield	ME	
Monto	Noah	Sanford	ME	
Moody	Elizabeth	Chelmsford	MA	
Moody	Miles	Westbrook	ME	
Moody	Sarah	Lewiston	ME	
Moon	Bri	Howland	ME	
Mooney	Mike	Westbrook	ME	
Moore	Ben	Westford	MA	
Moore	Cole	Cumberland Center	ME	
Moore	Daniel	Westwood	MA	
Moore	Hadley	Old Town	ME	
Moore	Jess	Oakland	ME	
Moore	Lauren	Freeport	ME	
Morales	Brittany	Levant	ME	
Moran	Brittney	Verona Island	ME	
Moreau	Daniel	Auburn	ME	
Morel	Jordyn	Fall River	MA	
Moreno	Stella	Caruthers	CA	
Morgan	Daniel	Voorhees	NJ	
Morgus	Matthew	Lancaster	NY	
Morin	Andrea	Ipswich	MA	
Morin	Chad	Turner	ME	
Morin	Charis	Parkman	ME	
Morin	Donna	Saint David	ME	

Morin	Justin	Old Town	ME	
Morneault	Hollie	Madawaska	ME	
Morneault	Maddy	Winslow	ME	
Morneault	Sarah	Mapleton	ME	
Moroney	Deven	Northborough	MA	
Morrell	Jordan	Poland	ME	
Morrell	Richie	East Wareham	MA	
Morrill	Hailey	Gorham	ME	
Morrill	Haley	Rangeley	ME	
Morrill	Jason	Saco	ME	
Morris	Nicholas	Winslow	ME	
Morrison	Alex	Baileyville	ME	
Morrison	Ally	Barnet	VT	
Morrison	Bailey	Wells	ME	
Morrison	Emily	Wells	ME	
Morrison	Kara	Blue Hill	ME	
Morrison	Tian	Springvale	ME	
Morrison-Ouellette	Abigail	Scarborough	ME	
Morrissey	Felix	Portland	ME	
Morrissey	Liam	New Boston	NH	
Morrissey	Lilly	Woodbridge	CT	
Morse	Sam	Bangor	ME	
Morse	Spencer	Freeport	ME	
Morse	Zechariah	Presque Isle	ME	
Morton	Madison	Detroit	ME	
Mosca	Christiana	Augusta	ME	
Moseley	Kody	North Berwick	ME	
Mosqueda	Peter	Reading	MA	
Moss	Elwin	Waterville	ME	

Mosson	Abigail	Hiram	ME	
Mount	Trevor	Long Valley	NJ	
Moyer	Nathaniel	Old Town	ME	
Moynihan	Naomi	Bangor	ME	
Mucciaccio	John	Holliston	MA	
Muchemore-Allen	Steele	West Newfield	ME	
Muggeo	Brian	Harrington Park	NJ	
Mulcahy	Paul	Shrewsbury	MA	
Mullally	Erica	Millis	MA	
Mullally	Jacquie	Millis	MA	
Mullen	Grace	Salem	NH	
Mulligan	Abigail	Thunder Bay	ON	Canada
Mulligan	Monica	Bangor	ME	
Mullin	Natalie	Cumberland Center	ME	
Mullin	Sean	Redding	CT	
Mulvey	Chris	Wappingers Falls	NY	
Munday	Rylee	Springvale	ME	
Munro-Ludders	Eli	Bath	ME	
Munroe	Heather	Penobscot	ME	
Munson	Jennifer	Old Town	ME	
Murdaugh	Kayla	East Machias	ME	
Murdaugh	Shaina	East Machias	ME	
Murphy	Alyssa	Middleboro	MA	
Murphy	Cassidy	Willow Grove	PA	
Murphy	Drew	Bangor	ME	
Murphy	Jacob	Scarborough	ME	
Murphy	Lauren	Scarborough	ME	
Murphy	Matthew	Pilesgrove	NJ	
Murphy	Meghan	Topsham	ME	

Murphy	Michael	West Baldwin	ME	
Murphy	Nick	Orono	ME	
Murphy	Olivia	Old Town	ME	
Murphy	Rachael	Orono	ME	
Murphy	Sean	Wallingford	CT	
Murphy	Tim	Saco	ME	
Murray	Emily	Scarborough	ME	
Murray	Kimberly	Waterbury	VT	
Murray	Liz	Oakland	NJ	
Murray	Mackenzie	Thomaston	ME	
Murray	Murray	Hampton	VA	
Muscat	Abigail	Bass Harbor	ME	
Muscatell	Annabelle	Bangor	ME	
Musor	Jon	Bangor	ME	
Mutchler	Juliana	Hanover	MA	
Muthyam	Rajashekar	Scarborough	ME	
Mutlu	Michael	Hancock	ME	
Mutz	Alex	Trumbull	CT	
Myers	Kyle	Brighton	MI	
Nadeau	Hannah	Litchfield	ME	
Nadeau	Kaitlyn	Caribou	ME	
Nadeau	Kassie	Vassalboro	ME	
Nadeau	Tim	Skowhegan	ME	
Nadeau	Travis	Litchfield	ME	
Naglestad	Beate	Son		Norway
Nagy	Jason	Old Town	ME	
Nahabedian	Natalie	Southborough	MA	
Nally	Colin	Endicott	NY	
Narcisse	Lizzi	Fayville	MA	

Nascimento	Ryan	Swansea	MA	
Nash	Zach	Hermon	ME	
Nason	Alex	Cumberland Foreside	ME	
Nason	Dillion	Bangor	ME	
Nason	Maraia	Sebago	ME	
Natali	Peter	Sutton	MA	
Natalizia	Jake	Saunderstown	RI	
Nduaguibe	Alex	South Berwick	ME	
Neal	Jason	Veazie	ME	
Neal	Josh	Monmouth	ME	
Neal	Madi	Monmouth	ME	
Nealley	Erica	Monroe	ME	
Nee	Amanda	Broadlands	VA	
Nee	MaryGrace	Reading	MA	
Neel	Patty	Bangor	ME	
Neely	Brianna	Harleysville	PA	
Neff	Peter	Falmouth	ME	
Neil	Sam	Mattawamkeag	ME	
Nelson	Amelia	Kennebunk	ME	
Nelson	Cooper	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Nelson	Emma	Wells	ME	
Nelson	Graham	Framingham	MA	
Neptune	Leigh	Bangor	ME	
Neptune	Sage	Indian Island	ME	
Neumann	Carson	Biddeford	ME	
New	Syeira	Limerick	ME	
Newcomb	Emma	Chelmsford	MA	
Newhook	Markie	Foxboro	MA	
Newkirk	James	Bryant Pond	ME	

Newton	Kiana	Littleton	NH	
Nguie	Gil	Old Town	ME	
Nguyen	Thao	Waterville	ME	
Nguyen	Tommy	Portland	ME	
Nicholas	Abigail	Mechanicsville	MD	
Nichols	Annalyse	Bangor	ME	
Nichols	Sarah	Brentwood	NH	
Nickel	Trip	Lakeway	TX	
Nieblas	Izzy	Bakersfield	CA	
Niehoff	Erin	Blue Hill	ME	
Nielsen	Jason	Windham	ME	
Nisbet	Leanne	Swampscott	MA	
Nitchman	Bryce	Scarborough	ME	
Nixon	MacKenzie	Holden	ME	
Nkulikiyinka	Theophile	Old Town	ME	
Noble	Aaron	Bangor	ME	
Noble	Uriah	Sanford	ME	
Noddin	Connor	Bangor	ME	
Noonan	T.J.	Marshfield	MA	
Nordstrom	Zachary	Harwinton	CT	
Norman	Ian	Holden	ME	
Normand	Jamie	Orono	ME	
Norris	Emily	Orrington	ME	
Norton	Molly	Mansfield	MA	
Novak	Abby	Hampden	ME	
Novicki	Allie	Minot	ME	
Nowak	Claire	Geneva	IL	
Noyes	Frank	Holden	ME	
Noyes	Kody	Topsham	ME	

Noyes	Tavia	Gardiner	ME	
Nurse	Ryan	Auburn	MA	
Nuttall	Sabrina	Old Town	ME	
Nutting	Allie	Turner	ME	
Nutting	J.T.	Fairfield	ME	
Nye	Parker	Burlington	CT	
Nygaard	Aubree	Old Town	ME	
Nygaard	Zane	Old Town	ME	
O'Brien	Liam	Oxford	CT	
O'Brien	Peter	Eliot	ME	
O'Brien	Seamus	Falmouth	ME	
O'Brien	Terence	Eliot	ME	
O'Brien	Thomas	Millis	MA	
O'Clair	Kenzie	Westerly	RI	
O'Clair	Michael	Standish	ME	
O'Clair	Taylor	Manchester	NH	
O'Connell	Megan	Sanford	ME	
O'Donnell	Laura	Tewksbury	MA	
O'Donnell	Mackenzie	Portland	ME	
O'Donoghue	Jack	Orono	ME	
O'Dowd	Kelly	Millis	MA	
O'Dowd	Kristin	Millis	MA	
O'Flaherty	Mary	Lowell	MA	
O'Grady	Shannon	Hopewell	NJ	
O'Keefe	Armand	South Orange	NJ	
O'Keefe	Ryan	Amesbury	MA	
O'Kelly	Jack	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
O'Neil	Meghan	Albany	NY	
O'Neil	Will	Orono	ME	

O'Neill	Colin	Randolph	MA	
O'Neill	Dan	Bangor	ME	
O'Rourke	Ethan	Orono	ME	
O'Toole	Shannon	Kennebunk	ME	
Oakes	Breanne	Hermon	ME	
Obaidan	Ali	Orono	ME	
Oberly	Brody	Stewartsville	NJ	
Ocana	Ellie	Lincoln	ME	
Ochoa	Israel	Clermont	FL	
Odeleye	Mandy	Brewer	ME	
Oehler	Morgan	Elkridge	MD	
Ogle	Allison	Oxford	CT	
Olds	Terence	Cumberland Center	ME	
Olivares	Jasmine	San Antonio	TX	
Oliver	Noah	Westbrook	ME	
Oliver	Thomas	Lebanon	OR	
Oliver	Tyler	North Berwick	ME	
Olmstead	Emma	Veazie	ME	
Olmsted	Billy	Warren	ME	
Olsen	Amanda	Columbus	OH	
Olsen	Tucker	Hartford	ME	
Olshin	Jasmine	Scarborough	ME	
Olson	Ethan	Austin	TX	
Olson	Isabelle	Islesboro	ME	
Olzinski	Molly	Johnson City	NY	
Oprzedek	Evelyn	Peabody	MA	
Orach	Ethan	Gorham	ME	
Orakwue	Chisom	Lagos		Nigeria
Oranje	Paige	Lincoln	ME	

Orchanian	Jonathan	Burlington	MA	
Ordazzo	Caroline	South Weymouth	MA	
Ordway	Seth	New Gloucester	ME	
Orethun	Darien	Lancaster	WI	
Ormiston	Cate	Wakefield	RI	
Orne	Katherine	Camden	ME	
Orth	Kirk	Glenolden	PA	
Orton	Emma	Waterford	NY	
Osborne	Annabelle	Hermon	ME	
Osborne	Brody	West Springfield	MA	
Osterhout	Sydney	Bath	ME	
Otash	Trent	Berwick	ME	
Otte	Erynn	White Hall	MD	
Otterbine	Lauren	Middletown	NJ	
Otto	Alex	Saint Louis	MO	
Ouellette	Ashley	Bangor	ME	
Ouellette	Chantal	Ellsworth	ME	
Ouellette	Emma	Simsbury	CT	
Ouellette	Rachel	Woolwich	ME	
Outwater	Timothy	Millbrook	NY	
Overcash	Slade	Scarborough	ME	
Overturf	Maija	Corinth	ME	
Overturf	Tuuli	Corinth	ME	
Owen	Sydney	Buxton	ME	
Owsiany	Matthew	Clark	NJ	
Oxley	Cameron	Holden	ME	
Oyugi	Joshua	Germantown	MD	
Pacholski	Max	Orrington	ME	
Paddon	Sophia	Portland	ME	

Padilla	Mikayla	Midland	TX	
Paetow	Sabrina	Topsham	ME	
Page	Ashley	Manchester	PA	
Page	Lauren	Scarborough	ME	
Palangas	Sophia	Weare	NH	
Palaski	Kate	Rocky Hill	CT	
Palazzo	Gavin	Simsbury	CT	
Palazzo	Hana	Poughkeepsie	NY	
Palfi	Ty	Elkton	MD	
Paliwoda	Ryan	Berkeley Heights	NJ	
Palmer	Dan	Woodbridge	CT	
Palmer	Jared	Washington	ME	
Palmeter	Josh	Orono	ME	
Palsgrove	Shawn	Highlands	NJ	
Palumbo	Alex	Warwick	RI	
Panetta	Brina	Saugus	MA	
Paradie	Emma	Auburn	ME	
Paradis	Alex	Hampden	ME	
Paradis	Amanda	Sumner	ME	
Parady	Cassidy	Trenton	ME	
Parady	Eli	Trenton	ME	
Parchman	Jimmy	Loveland	OH	
Pardilla	Keyana	Old Town	ME	
Parent	Joseph	Kennebunk	ME	
Parent	Tucker	Cumberland Center	ME	
Park	Jinyoung	Old Town	ME	
Parker	Elisabeth	Northport	ME	
Parker	Isaac	Dover	NH	
Parker	Lacey	Norton	MA	

Parkinson	Nate	Mount Desert	ME	
Parks	Ben	Fairfield	ME	
Parks	Jordan	Orono	ME	
Parks	Will	Rockport	ME	
Parquette	Liam	Walpole	MA	
Parsons	Alia	Orrington	ME	
Parsons	Stephanie	Bishop's Stortford		United Kingdom
Passarelli	Josh	Scarborough	ME	
Patashnik	Emily	Scarborough	ME	
Pate	Maura	Milbridge	ME	
Patel	Niraj	Sanford	ME	
Pateman	Nicole	London	ON	Canada
Patenaude	Justin	Harvard	MA	
Patenaude	Robert	Augusta	ME	
Paterson	Adam	Mapleton	ME	
Patten	Connor	Hermon	ME	
Patten	Donny	Belfast	ME	
Patton	Joseph	Topsham	ME	
Patton	Taylor	North Haven	CT	
Paul	Ashley	Saco	ME	
Paul	Miles	Warren	ME	
Paul	Sam	Biddeford	ME	
Pazdziorko	Andrew	Winthrop	ME	
Peabody	Ethan	York	ME	
Pearson	Chase	Alpharetta	GA	
Pearson	Courtney	Holden	ME	
Pearson	Mariah	Mooresville	NC	
Pearson	Seth	Holden	ME	
Peary	Alexandra	Cumberland Center	ME	

Pease	Isabel	York	ME	
Peavey	Cameron	Raymond	ME	
Pedersen	Ryan	Whitefield	ME	
Peirce	Cammie	Hermon	ME	
Peitz	David	Fairfield	ME	
Pellerin	Jordan	Windham	NH	
Pelletier	Chelsea	Madawaska	ME	
Pelletier	Courtland	Methuen	MA	
Pelletier	Ellie	Industry	ME	
Pelletier	Miles	Industry	ME	
Pelletier	Nicole	Brunswick	ME	
Peluso	Gabriella	Dumont	NJ	
Pender	Troy	Amesbury	MA	
Pendleton	Alisha	Lincolnville	ME	
Pendleton	Frances	Rockport	ME	
Penley	Hunter	Saco	ME	
Penney	Sarah	South Thomaston	ME	
Peoples	Kyle	Gorham	ME	
Perez	Mary	Laguna Niguel	CA	
Perfito	Olivia	Bangor	ME	
Perkins	Chandler	Exeter	ME	
Perkins	Chris	Wiscasset	ME	
Perkins	Daniel	Bangor	ME	
Perkins	Drake	Orono	ME	
Perrault	Elaina	Kittery	ME	
Perrault	Maegan	Biddeford	ME	
Perron	Grace	Bangor	ME	
Perrotta	Margaret	Freeport	ME	
Perry	Cole	Hallowell	ME	

Perry	Ember	Orrington	ME	
Perry	Hailey	Hermon	ME	
Perry	Julia	Mexico	ME	
Perry	Leah	Mexico	ME	
Perry	Maura	Cumberland Center	ME	
Perry	Ryan	Middleboro	MA	
Perry	Simon	Winter Park	FL	
Pesiri	Alex	Winthrop	MA	
Peters	Sam	Nobleboro	ME	
Petersen	Jillian	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Petersen	Olivia	Eliot	ME	
Peterson	Jackson	Levant	ME	
Peterson	Josh	Levant	ME	
Peterson	Lydia	Auburn	ME	
Petherick	Andrew	Groton	CT	
Petit	Emily	Saco	ME	
Petrarca	Greg	Tiverton	RI	
Petrie	Maxwell	Northborough	MA	
Petrovich	Matthew	Bridgeport	CT	
Pett	Sarah	Portland	ME	
Petty	Jadon	Windham	ME	
Peyton	Madeline	Herkimer	NY	
Phalon	Max	Mason	NH	
Phan	Julia	Bangor	ME	
Phan	Linh	Orono	ME	
Philbrick	Maddy	Searsport	ME	
Philippone	Maura	Camillus	NY	
Phillips	Claire	Falmouth	ME	
Phillips	Collin	Brewer	ME	

Phillips	Katelyn	Medford	NY	
Phillips	Rusty	Lincoln	ME	
Phipps	Owen	Newburyport	MA	
Picard	Sarah	Saco	ME	
Picazo	Noemi	Santee	CA	
Piccari	Stephen	Chatham	NJ	
Piccirillo	Andrew	Trumbull	CT	
Pickard	Renee	Sabattus	ME	
Picone	Jojo	Bangor	ME	
Pidden	Christopher	Yarmouth	ME	
Pierce	Emily	Barre	VT	
Pierson	Cody	Ennis	MT	
Pigott	Sean	Tyngsboro	MA	
Pike	Aiden	Belfast	ME	
Pike	Samantha	Falmouth	ME	
Pillow	Dawson	Durham	ME	
Pinard	Nate	Fairhaven	MA	
Pine	Casey	Owls Head	ME	
Pinkham	Jon	Damariscotta	ME	
Pinnette	Anthony	Waterville	ME	
Pirruccello-McClellan	Aidan	Foster	RI	
Pisone	Chase	Laurel	MD	
Pitcairn	Joshua	Lincolnville	ME	
Pitman	Julia	Beverly	MA	
Pitrat	Liam	Hatfield	MA	
Pitts	Delaney	Shapleigh	ME	
Place	Eliott	Eliot	ME	
Plant	Sydney	Bowdoinham	ME	
Pleau	Sarah	Vassalboro	ME	

Plese	Andrew	Richardson	TX	
Pliskaner	Jacob	North Andover	MA	
Plosker	Bennett	Waltham	MA	
Plouff	David	Orono	ME	
Plummer	Evan	Gray	ME	
Poirier	Abbey	Doylestown	PA	
Poirier	Brianna	Winchester	NH	
Poisson	Ben	Vancouver	BC	Canada
Poisson	Owen	Brunswick	ME	
Poisson	Rachel	Bangor	ME	
Poissonnier	Logan	Sidney	ME	
Poitras	Brennan	Caribou	ME	
Poland	Joshua	Edgecomb	ME	
Poliquin	Jamie	Lewiston	ME	
Pollard	Christine	Old Town	ME	
Pollard	Jeffrey	Raymond	ME	
Pollard	Mark	Old Town	ME	
Pomerleau	Sierra	Westbrook	ME	
Pomeroy	Allison	Old Town	ME	
Pontillo	Toby	Montville	ME	
Pontius	Kate	Portland	ME	
Poole	Nate	South Berwick	ME	
Pooler	Emma	Fort Kent	ME	
Popadak	Amanda	Bowdoinham	ME	
Porreca	Hadley	Attleboro	MA	
Porter	Carolyn	Needham	MA	
Porter	Cody	Hermon	ME	
Porter	Kaylee	Palermo	ME	
Porter	Krystoff	Highland Lakes	NJ	

Porter	Loryn	North Bay	ON	Canada
Porter	Tyson	Sherman	ME	
Potter	Abby	Ipswich	MA	
Potter	Isaiah	Washington	ME	
Pottle	Cameron	Old Town	ME	
Potts	Christian	Freeport	ME	
Poulin	Leah	Cumberland Center	ME	
Poulin	Nick	Augusta	ME	
Power	Savanna	Norridgewock	ME	
Powers	Julia	Billerica	MA	
Prackup	Nicole	Weston	CT	
Pratl	Jaymie	Grant Park	IL	
Prats	Zoe	York	PA	
Pratt	Banalata	Bangor	ME	
Pratt	Logan	Palmyra	ME	
Pratt	Seth	Cornville	ME	
Pratt-Holt	Nate	Farmington	ME	
Praul	Jacob	South China	ME	
Prell	Jonathan	West Simsbury	CT	
Prescott	Matthew	Camden	ME	
Prescott	William	Orrington	ME	
Press	Ida	Uppsala		Sweden
Preston	Reese	Windham	ME	
Prevost	Nola	Brewer	ME	
Pribylova	Vendula	Unicov		Czech Republic
Principe	Tom	Tiverton	RI	
Pringle	Noah	Thorndike	ME	
Proctor	Cassandra	Belgrade	ME	
Proctor	Corin	Beverly	MA	

Proctor	Josh	Hermon	ME	
Profenno	Lucas	Portland	ME	
Prue	Jamie	Sabattus	ME	
Puccetti	Emileigh	Clearwater	FL	
Pullen	Ryan	Oakland	ME	
Purseglove	Havelock	Tewksbury	MA	
Pushard	Matt	Brewer	ME	
Quereux	Mark	Newton Upper Falls	MA	
Quimby	Ben	Old Town	ME	
Quimby	Jordan	Brooks	ME	
Quinlivan	Jack	Shrewsbury	MA	
Quinn	Liam	Scituate	MA	
Quirion	Briana	Waterville	ME	
Quirrion	Hunter	Jay	ME	
Radakovic	Veljko	Novi Sad		Republic of Serbia
Radziszewski	Aaron	Scarborough	ME	
Radziucz	Aaron	South Portland	ME	
Rae	Polly	Buxton	ME	
Rafferty	Neil	Mason	NH	
Rafford	Trevor	North Yarmouth	ME	
Rahl	Carly	Hillsdale	NJ	
Raimondi	Abby	Groveland	MA	
Ramsay	Ian	Orland	ME	
Ramsay	William	South Berwick	ME	
Ramsdell	Emily	Ashburn	VA	
Ramsey	Jillian	Concord	NH	
Rand	Colby	Orrington	ME	
Rand	Emily	Billerica	MA	

Randall	Jordan	Pownal	ME	
Ransley	Sam	New Harbor	ME	
Raplee	Brooke	Manorville	NY	
Rappaport	Devon	Kensington	MD	
Rattray	Kalista	Ludlow	ME	
Ratz	Marcus	Limerick	ME	
Rauch	Reid	Palermo	ME	
Raven	Kristen	Thorndike	ME	
Rawat	Pooja	Navi Mumbai		India
Raymond	James	Brewer	ME	
Raymond	Kayla	Standish	ME	
Raymond	Kaylyn	Hermon	ME	
Raymond	Kent	Hermon	ME	
Reardon	Dylan	North Reading	MA	
Reboquio	R.J.	Lewiston	ME	
Reed	Caroline	Veazie	ME	
Reed	Eva	Augusta	ME	
Reed	Joey	Topsham	ME	
Reed	Josh	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Reed	Lauren	West Enfield	ME	
Reed	Sydney	Skowhegan	ME	
Reese	Connor	Veazie	ME	
Reese	Nate	Veazie	ME	
Reese	Olivia	Scarborough	ME	
Reese	Tracy	Veazie	ME	
Reeves	Mindy	Old Town	ME	
Regan	Adam	Old Town	ME	
Regan	Aidan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Regis	Caroline	Acushnet	MA	

Reichel	Melissa	Hampden	ME	
Reid	Emily	Dighton	MA	
Reid	Nate	Orono	ME	
Reilly	Ally	Merrick	NY	
Reilly	Josh	Hope	ME	
Reimer Guardiola	Samantha	McAllen	TX	
Reinke	Tyler	Pound Ridge	NY	
Remick	Leah	Brewer	ME	
Rengifo	Valentina	Rochester	MI	
Rennaker	Sam	Lowell	MI	
Renzulli	Mike	Fairfield	CT	
Requena	Alexandra	Gray	ME	
Reyes Jusino	Gabriela	Lakeland	FL	
Reynolds	Ashley	Dexter	ME	
Reynolds	Kelli	Mansfield	MA	
Reynolds	Mikayla	Waterville	ME	
Rezack	Stephen	South Berwick	ME	
Rheinhardt	Jon	Succasunna	NJ	
Rhoads-Doyle	Collin	Holden	ME	
Rhoads-Doyle	Jamison	Holden	ME	
Rhoten	Jordan	Highland	IN	
Rich	Max	Jamaica Plain	MA	
Richard	Cully	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Richard	Joseph	Peabody	MA	
Richard	Sam	Standish	ME	
Richards	Jeremy	Westbrook	ME	
Richards	Jules	Brunswick	ME	
Richards	Kailey	Eddington	ME	
Richardson	Ali	Westport Island	ME	

Richardson	Ben	Plymouth	ME	
Richardson	Emily	Leominster	MA	
Richardson	Emma	Blue Hill	ME	
Richardson	Jeremiah	Rumford	ME	
Richardson	Lauren	Brewer	ME	
Richardson	Rachael	Hillsborough	NJ	
Richardson	Sadie	Milton Twp	ME	
Richardson	Taylor	Brewer	ME	
Richmond	Dylan	Mason Twp	ME	
Richter	Danny	Suffield	CT	
Ricker	Ashley	Westbrook	ME	
Rideout	Angela	Newburgh	ME	
Ridge	Cassie	Brunswick	ME	
Ridgell	Colin	Arlington	VA	
Ridley	Kaitlyn	Brunswick	ME	
Riehl	Peter	Hebron	CT	
Rigazio	Jack	Andover	MA	
Riley	Bryan	Augusta	ME	
Riley	Madison	Williamsport	MD	
Riley	Makala	Searsport	ME	
Riley	Olivia	Brockton	MA	
Riordan	Chandler	Lisbon Falls	ME	
Riordan	Declan	Bangor	ME	
Rioux	Brady	Gorham	ME	
Ritchey	Nichole	Caralville	IA	
Ritger	Davis	Freeport	ME	
Rivera	Sofia	Oakhurst	NJ	
Rivet	Jack	Groton	MA	
Robbins	Noah	Searsmont	ME	

Roberge	Derek	Saco	ME	
Roberts	Abigail	Damariscotta	ME	
Roberts	Dimarco	Wells	ME	
Roberts	Lauren	Corinna	ME	
Roberts	Margo	Bangor	ME	
Roberts	Sam	North Scituate	RI	
Roberts	Sean	Harpswell	ME	
Robertson	Connor	Orono	ME	
Robertson	Derek	Yonkers	NY	
Robertson	Kaylie	Pembroke	ME	
Robertson	Will	South China	ME	
Robichaud	Anson	Saco	ME	
Robidoux	Tyler	Merrimack	NH	
Robins	Doug	Delran	NJ	
Robinson	Connor	Gray	ME	
Robinson	Ellie	Scarborough	ME	
Robinson	Jada	Bangor	ME	
Robinson	John	Orono	ME	
Robinson	Kaitlyn	Frankfort	ME	
Robinson	Morganne	Palmyra	ME	
Robinson	Natalie	Wells	ME	
Robison	Daniel	Exeter	NH	
Robson	Ben	Belfast	ME	
Roche	Erica	North Easton	MA	
Rocks	Morgan	Jonesport	ME	
Rodolitz	Lena	Keene	NH	
Rodriguez	Sethany	Veazie	ME	
Roe	Dustin	Salt Lick	KY	
Roebuck	Lewis	Wakefield	RI	

Roehrich	Kacey	Flanders	NJ	
Rogers	Harley	Old Town	ME	
Rogers	Kirstie	Winslow	ME	
Rogers	Maev	Bar Harbor	ME	
Rogers	Mariah	Johnson City	TN	
Rogorzenski	Callie	Marstons Mills	MA	
Roix	Bryce	Washburn	ME	
Rolfe	Avery	Windham	ME	
Rolfe	Bryce	Windham	ME	
Rollins	Caitlyn	Livermore	ME	
Rollins	Leila	Orono	ME	
Rollins	Logan	Pittsfield	ME	
Roman	Victoria	Alexandria	NH	
Roman	Zander	Belfast	ME	
Romanoski	Xavier	Strong	ME	
Romanski	Bill	Westerly	RI	
Romick Barrell	Joey	Milford	CT	
Rooker	Brady	Rutland	VT	
Rooms	Caitlyn	Guthrie	OK	
Rosander	Chad	Sanford	ME	
Rosati	Antonia	Medford	MA	
Rose	Dillon	Goldvein	VA	
Rosenthal-Baxter	Andrew	West Hartford	CT	
Ross	Callie	Walpole	MA	
Ross	Julia	Vancouver	BC	Canada
Ross	Katy	Kennebunk	ME	
Rossi	Marissa	Waltham	MA	
Roth	Emily	Auburn	ME	
Roth	Emily	Little Egg Harbor Twp	NJ	

Rottari	Josiah	New Gloucester	ME	
Round	Elizabeth	North Andover	MA	
Roussel	Simon	Gorham	ME	
Rowe	Ben	Waldoboro	ME	
Rowell	Amelia	Eliot	ME	
Roy	David	Fort Kent	ME	
Roy	Jasmine	Norway	ME	
Roy	Samuel	Mechanic Falls	ME	
Roy-Becker	Jack	Yarmouth	ME	
Royal	Tyler	Orono	ME	
Rubin	Emily	Wakefield	MA	
Rubocki	Skylar	Auburn	ME	
Rudis	Jarrod	Berwick	ME	
Ruggiero	Andrew	Swansea	MA	
Ruggiero	Lindsey	Orrington	ME	
Ruksznis	Jackie	South Berwick	ME	
Rumohr	Michael	Old Town	ME	
Rumsey	Genevieve	Orono	ME	
Rumsey	Roisin	Orono	ME	
Ruopp	Paul	Monmouth	ME	
Rush	Adam	Hermon	ME	
Rush	Kiera	Hudson	ME	
Rusiecki	Aaron	Freeport	ME	
Russell	Ashley	Readfield	ME	
Russell	Christopher	Peabody	MA	
Russell	Christy	Rockport	ME	
Russell	Travis	Skowhegan	ME	
Russo	Vincent	Poland	ME	
Rutherford	Alex	Vancouver	WA	

Rutkowski	Derrick	South Windsor	CT	
Ryan	Alex	Pearl River	NY	
Ryan	Ally	Leeds	ME	
Ryan	Joshua	Braintree	MA	
Ryan	Lauren	Babylon	NY	
Ryan	Tim	Abington	MA	
Ryan	Tim	Holliston	MA	
Ryckman	Matt	Orono	ME	
Saar	Dor	Maanit		Israel
Sabourin	Mary	Stow	MA	
Sailor	Ethan	Bangor	ME	
Sainsbury	Chelsea	Watertown	CT	
Salafia	Anthony	Orono	ME	
Salamon	Phil	Tyngsboro	MA	
Salisbury	Aidan	Temple	ME	
Salisbury	Will	Temple	ME	
Salley	Alyssa	Bangor	ME	
Salley	Kyle	Smithfield	ME	
Saltzman	Lydia	Beverly	MA	
Salvo	Dan	Norton	MA	
Sambu	Justin	Rocky View	AB	Canada
Sample	Riley	Montgomery	TX	
Sanborn	Matt	Falmouth	ME	
Sanchez	Brian	Soledad	CA	
Sandberg	Amanda Linnea	Skurup		Sweden
Sandler	Ilanah	South Berwick	ME	
Sandor	Ildiko	New Milford	CT	
Sanor	Jamie	Beloit	OH	
Sansoucie	Mikaella	South Berwick	ME	

Santerre	Haley	Portland	ME	
Santiago	Steven	Hampden	ME	
Santos-Iglesias	Amy	Bucksport	ME	
Sapiel	James	Perry	ME	
Sargent	Jamie	South Portland	ME	
Sargent	Jessica	Brewer	ME	
Satar	Dylan	Newton Highlands	MA	
Saucier	Desiree	Waterboro	ME	
Saucier	John	Presque Isle	ME	
Sauer	Olivia	Marlborough	MA	
Saulnier	Aiden	Narragansett	RI	
Sauls	Jake	North Andover	MA	
Saulter	Sammi	Waterville	ME	
Savage	Jacob	Union	ME	
Savage	Leah	Skowhegan	ME	
Savage	Owen	Holliston	MA	
Savage	Spencer	Caribou	ME	
Savarese	Lea	Orono	ME	
Savoie	Renee	Falmouth	ME	
Sawtelle	Alainie	Vassalboro	ME	
Sawtelle	Sydney	Lyman	ME	
Sayles	Emily	Warwick	RI	
Scalia-Bruce	Bhavana	Portland	ME	
Scamperle	Sarah	Bucksport	ME	
Scanlon	Carley	Bucksport	ME	
Scanlon	Ian	Topsham	ME	
Scarponi	Sam	Newmarket	NH	
Schade	Hunter	Rockport	ME	
Schaefer	Matt	Glenburn	ME	

Schaff	Joshua	Oakland	ME	
Schaffer	Claire	Berlin	MA	
Schanck	Aaron	Pittsfield	ME	
Scharf	Zoe	Waldoboro	ME	
Schatzabel	Brennan	Kennebunk	ME	
Schatzabel	Casey	Kennebunk	ME	
Scheimreif	Kennedy	Waldoboro	ME	
Schell	Vinny	Oceanside	NY	
Schena	Chris	Middleton	MA	
Scher	Lucas	Orono	ME	
Scherber	Matthew	Reading	MA	
Schildroth	Taylor	Blue Hill	ME	
Schlipstein	Dylan	Bangor	ME	
Schmidt-Svejstrup	Jacob	Charlottenlund		Denmark
Schmitt	Ryan	Mendon	MA	
Schneider	Ty	Presque Isle	ME	
Schnoor	Ceejai	Atlantic Highlands	NJ	
Schofield	Mackensie	Troy	ME	
Schor	Kim	Cromwell	CT	
Schrader	Jeremiah	Denmark	ME	
Schroeter	Ingrid	Grand Rapids	MI	
Schumacher	Sophie	Newcastle	ME	
Schuman	Steven	Topsham	ME	
Schumann	Anna	Moers		Germany
Schwartz	Ethan	Ambler	PA	
Schwehm	Maya	Boothbay	ME	
Scillia	Aaron	Ellsworth	ME	
Scinto	Christian	Trumbull	CT	
Scobie	C.	Hampden	ME	

Scocchi	P.J.	Wakefield	RI	
Scott	Brendan	Cumberland Center	ME	
Scott	Caden	Portland	ME	
Scott	Carlton	Catonsville	MD	
Scott	Caroline	York	ME	
Scott	Dakota	Milford	ME	
Scott	Vincent	Readfield	ME	
Scrapchansky	Lea	Brunswick	ME	
Scribner	Ethan	Scarborough	ME	
Scribner	Shanna	Bedford	NH	
Scruton	Emily	Framingham	MA	
Scuderi	Alexandria	Sebec	ME	
Scully	Hope	Stonington	ME	
Searle-Belanger	Brogan	Saco	ME	
Seddiqi	Parry	Bangor	ME	
See	Isabelle	Portland	ME	
Seekins	Erick	Orrington	ME	
Seekins	Jordan	Bangor	ME	
Seekins	Katie	Oakland	ME	
Seeley	Devyn	Perry	ME	
Segal	Jake	Windham	ME	
Segal	Sydney	Windham	ME	
Segovia	Remy	Wiscasset	ME	
Seguin	Leah	Lewiston	ME	
Seifeldin	Karim	Exeter	ME	
Seigars	Colt	Edgecomb	ME	
Selby	Maddi	Conway	NH	
Sellinger	Sydney	Baltimore	MD	
Semmel	Sierra	Dedham	ME	

Sennett	Max	Bangor	ME	
Sentayehu	Fabrice	Orono	ME	
Seo	Juyoung	Daegu		Korea, Republic of
Sernyk	Isabella	Windham	ME	
Servetas	Jordan	Bucksport	ME	
Seuch	James	Trumbull	CT	
Seuch	Matt	Trumbull	CT	
Sevigny	Hanna	York	ME	
Sewall	Erin	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Sewell	Marissa	Eliot	ME	
Sforza	Matt	Hermon	ME	
Shane	Amber	Vinalhaven	ME	
Shane	Andrea	Vinalhaven	ME	
Shannon	Logan	Orono	ME	
Sharp	Alainna	Glen Gardner	NJ	
Sharper	Bella	Orono	ME	
Sharples	Caitlyn	Buxton	ME	
Sharrow	Olivia	Glenburn	ME	
Shaughnessy	Amanda	Nashua	NH	
Shaw	Chrissy	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Shaw	Claire	Bernard	ME	
Shaw	Dayna	Gorham	ME	
Shaw	Jonathan	Portland	ME	
Shaw	Mari	Mapleton	ME	
Shaw	Nathanael	South Paris	ME	
Shaw	Oren	Turner	ME	
Shaw	Parker	Bangor	ME	
Shea	Aisling	Boston	MA	
Shea	Maeve	Brunswick	ME	

Shea	Mikaela	Southington	CT	
Shea	Molly	East Kingston	NH	
Sheehan	Anne	Bridgton	ME	
Sheets	Jodie	Hebron	ME	
Sheil	Raegan	South Portland	ME	
Shepardson	Victoria	South Windsor	CT	
Shepherd	Noah	Fairfield	ME	
Shepley	Chris	Winchester	VA	
Sheridan	Liam	Chester	NH	
Sherman	Nicholas	Hodgdon	ME	
Sherwood	Clement	Brookline	NH	
Shevlin-Fernandes	Jennifer	Falmouth	MA	
Shields	Chloe	Eliot	ME	
Shinde	Omkar	Newton	MA	
Shipman	Josh	Paoli	IN	
Shipsey	Olivia	Arrowsic	ME	
Shirland	Ashley	Brewer	ME	
Shkara	Ibrahim	Orono	ME	
Shokal	James	Alexandria	NH	
Shooter	Cori	Monroe	ME	
Shorette	Ryan	Milford	ME	
Shorey	Laura	Hudson	ME	
Shrestha	Sanskar	Yau Ma Tei		Hong Kong
Shuipis	Tim	Colrain	MA	
Shunk	Nathan	State College	PA	
Sibo	Asael	Old Town	ME	
Siciliano	Gabbie	Simi Valley	CA	
Siciliano	Katrina	Middleboro	MA	
Sidoti	Danielle	North Andover	MA	

Sikora	Jack	Sandyston	NJ	
Siliato	Sophia	Mahopac	NY	
Silknitter	Kodey	Bangor	ME	
Sillsby	Belle	Kittery Point	ME	
Silva	Michele	Teaneck	NJ	
Silver	Julianna	Old Town	ME	
Silvera	Jasmine	Lowell	MA	
Silvia	Emily	Middletown	RI	
Silvia	Patrick	North Attleboro	MA	
Simbari	Izzy	Falmouth	ME	
Simmons	Griffin	South Berwick	ME	
Simon	Anne	Sandweiler		Luxembourg
Simon	Korinna	Southborough	MA	
Simonds	Alyssa	Belfast	ME	
Simons	Airikah	Norway	ME	
Simpson	Bentley	Orono	ME	
Simpson	Jordan	Old Town	ME	
Sinacola	Nick	North Attleboro	MA	
Sinclair	Jessi	Scarborough	ME	
Sinclair	Megan	Blackwood	NJ	
Sinclair	Owen	Rangeley	ME	
Sincyr	David	Skowhegan	ME	
Sinderson	Donne	Orrington	ME	
Singer	Alyssa	Oxford	MA	
Singer	Violet	Falmouth	ME	
Singlar	Callie	Exeter	NH	
Sintiris	Madelin	South Berwick	ME	
Siracusa	Zack	Trenton	NJ	
Sirois	Joshua	Springvale	ME	

Sirota	Jakub	Orono	ME	
Sitz	Eliza	Kingfield	ME	
Skilton	Shannon	Swedesboro	NJ	
Skroski	Madeline	Phippsburg	ME	
Skvorak	Katie	Windham	ME	
Slade	Caroline	Watervliet	NY	
Slater	Abigail	Hebron	OH	
Slattery	Bobby	Old Orchard Beach	ME	
Slattery	Lucy	Ashland	ME	
Slauenwhite	Abigail	Bangor	ME	
Slaven	Michael	Beverly	MA	
Slocum	Bella	Bangor	ME	
Slocum	Caitlin	Austin	TX	
Small	Erika	Hudson	ME	
Small	Joel	Brewer	ME	
Smelter	Kyle	Bristol	CT	
Smerekanicz	Andrew	New Boston	NH	
Smestad	Anna	Corinna	ME	
Smith	Aaron	Brewer	ME	
Smith	Anna	Carmel	ME	
Smith	Audrey	Orono	ME	
Smith	Brett	York	ME	
Smith	Bryce	West Gardiner	ME	
Smith	Cassidy	Brewer	ME	
Smith	Chiara	East Montpelier	VT	
Smith	Connie	Old Town	ME	
Smith	Eli	Farmingdale	ME	
Smith	Emma	Bangor	ME	
Smith	Emma	Old Town	ME	

Smith	Garret	Livermore Falls	ME	
Smith	Grace	Holden	ME	
Smith	Hope	North Smithfield	RI	
Smith	Hunter	Duxbury	MA	
Smith	Jake	Orono	ME	
Smith	Jared	Orono	ME	
Smith	Jasmine	Old Town	ME	
Smith	Jason	Bangor	ME	
Smith	Joshua	Bradley	ME	
Smith	Justin	Rochester	MA	
Smith	Kiera	glasgow		United Kingdom
Smith	Lexi	Camden	ME	
Smith	Mari	Farmingdale	ME	
Smith	Meghan	Saint Paul	MN	
Smith	Paige	Winslow	ME	
Smith	Peyton	Hampden	ME	
Smith	Shannon	Orono	ME	
Smith	Torin	Dexter	ME	
Smith	Tyler	Kennebunkport	ME	
Smith-Cobb	Jonathan	Townsend	DE	
Smith-D'Addio	Savanna	Old Town	ME	
Smoloski	Rob	Wye Mills	MD	
Smy	Isabelle	Cumming	GA	
Snell	Hawthorne	Plymouth	NH	
Snell	Shannon	Sedgwick	ME	
Snow	Aaron	Howland	ME	
Snow	Anna	Stetson	ME	
Snow	Jake	Plainfield	CT	
Snow	Sierra	Hermon	ME	

Snow	Trevor	Stetson	ME	
Snowiss	Ben	Franklin	MA	
Snyder	Bonnie	Mount Desert	ME	
Snyder	Miranda	Brimfield	MA	
Sobczak	Adam	South Portland	ME	
Sobus	Aja	Falmouth	ME	
Sockbeson	Nyle	Orono	ME	
Soctomah	Brooke	Waddell	AZ	
Solomon	Tessa	Houlton	ME	
Sommer	Jasper	Portland	ME	
Soper	Chris	Bucksport	ME	
Soper	Nick	Trenton	ME	
Sorenson	Erika	Shrewsbury	MA	
Sorgini	Brianna	Amesbury	MA	
Soucy	Collin	Bangor	ME	
Soucy	Evangeline	Augusta	ME	
Soucy	Melanie	Old Town	ME	
Soucy	Nick	Harrison	ME	
Soucy	Sean	Falmouth	ME	
Souder	Ian	Agawam	MA	
Soule	Braden	Fairfield	ME	
Soule	Keenan	Hampden	ME	
Soule	Nate	Nashua	NH	
Sousa	Dalton	Carver	MA	
Sousa	Ross	Somerset	MA	
Southworth	Katie	Hope	ME	
Spada	Carli	Wilmington	MA	
Spaller	Will	Newbury	MA	
Spann	Jennifer	Newburgh	ME	

Sparks-Willey	Isaac	Scarborough	ME	
Spaulding	Anna	Brewer	ME	
Speakman	Brynne	Bethel	ME	
Spear	Betsy	Holden	ME	
Spearin	Belle	Bangor	ME	
Speck	Birte	Reinheim		Germany
Spencer	Caroline	Falmouth	ME	
Spencer	Kelena	Bangor	ME	
Spencer	Madison	Hermon	ME	
Sperber	Jacob	Yarmouth	ME	
Spicer	Cam	Erie	CO	
Spiller	Elizabeth	Orono	ME	
Spors	Jeremy	Carmel	ME	
Sprecher	Hannah	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Spriggs	Holly	Dover	NH	
Springer	Brooke	Glenburn	ME	
Springer	Tom	South Berwick	ME	
St Jean	Drew	Stillwater	ME	
St Jean	Nate	Stillwater	ME	
St John	Amelia	Scarborough	ME	
St Peter	Eleanor	Presque Isle	ME	
St Peter	Melissa	Bucksport	ME	
St Peter	Mitch	Caribou	ME	
St Pierre	Elyse	Winslow	ME	
St Pierre	Shane	Hartford	ME	
St-Pierre	Marc	Clifton Park	NY	
St. Louis	Natalie	Milford	ME	
Staalsoe	Matthias	Copenhagen		Denmark
Stafford	Patrick	Winthrop	MA	

Stahle	Madison	Wiscasset	ME	
Staines	Liam	Trumbull	CT	
Stamey	Mia	Westbrook	ME	
Stange	John	Peaks Island	ME	
Stanley	Brian	Brewer	ME	
Stanley	Lexi	Plattsmouth	NE	
Stanley	Will	Bangor	ME	
Stansfield	David	Berwick	ME	
Staples	Tori	Stockton Springs	ME	
Stapleton	Jack	Lebanon	ME	
Stasiak	Lena	Milwaukee	WI	
Stasinos	Evan	Peabody	MA	
Stead	Sally	Cumberland	ME	
Stedt	Cortney	Milford	ME	
Steeves	Rylea	Machiasport	ME	
Steeves	Spenser	Skowhegan	ME	
Steinbarger	Sophia	Surry	ME	
Steinbrecher	Jared	Bellingham	MA	
Steinhoff	Nathan	Medway	MA	
Steinman	Kim	Cumberland Center	ME	
Stella	Joe	Pittston	PA	
Stenger	Matthew	Sidney	ME	
Stenslien	Erik	Fort Leonard Wood	MO	
Stephanou	Andreas	Nicosia		Cyprus
Stephens	Corey	Bangor	ME	
Stephens	Meredith	California	MD	
Stetson	Harmony	Orrington	ME	
Steva	Benjamin	Saco	ME	
Steven	Willis	Bethel	ME	

Stevens	Annie	Windham	ME	
Stevens	Braedon	Hermon	ME	
Stevens	Carter	Kennebunk	ME	
Stevens	Conor	Kennebunk	ME	
Stevens	Isabelle	Smithfield	RI	
Stevens	James	Oakland	ME	
Stevenson	Olivia	Orono	ME	
Stewart	Chris	Orono	ME	
Stewart	Colin	Pownal	ME	
Stewart	James	North Berwick	ME	
Stewart	Kaitlin	Louisville	OH	
Stewart	Liam	Orrington	ME	
Stewart	Mitchel	Bristol	ME	
Stewart	Sarah	Groveland	MA	
Stewart	Shannon	Beverly	MA	
Stickney	Max	Cumberland Center	ME	
Stiles	Mark	Bucksport	ME	
Stinchfield	Elliot	Corinna	ME	
Stockford	Meri	Bowdoinham	ME	
Stockley	Leela	Orono	ME	
Stoddard	Kimberly	Danforth	ME	
Stoltzfus	Karly	Weyers Cave	VA	
Stone	Josh	Jefferson	ME	
Stone	Samuel	Greenwood	ME	
Storey	Cam	Bolton	MA	
Story	Eli	North Monmouth	ME	
Stott	Catherine	Oldham		United Kingdom
Stover	Austin	Ellsworth	ME	
Stover	Lindsey	Enfield	CT	

Straight	Michael	Westwood	NJ	
Strandberg	Ebba	Kalmar		Sweden
Stranieri	Danielle	Syosset	NY	
Strasko	Paige	Easton	PA	
Streeter	Holly	Glastonbury	CT	
Streinz	Caleb	Hersey	ME	
Streletsky	Michelle	Haverhill	MA	
Strickland	Nicole	Owls Head	ME	
Strickler	James	Tewksbury	MA	
Stroba	Julie	Eddington	ME	
Stroian-Ilina	Stephan	Bangor	ME	
Strolic	Caroline	Phoenix	AZ	
Stromvall	Kayla	Winterport	ME	
Stuart	Eve	Marblehead	MA	
Stuart	Gabrielle	Chelmsford	MA	
Stuart	William	Marblehead	MA	
Studholme	Maeve	North Easton	MA	
Stupak	Lauren	Oakton	VA	
Stutzman	Jake	Orono	ME	
Styles	Sarah	Guildhall	VT	
Suchovic	Jessie	Port Murray	NJ	
Sudbeck	Casey	Hampden	ME	
Suderley	Kari	Winterport	ME	
Sudol	Samantha	Ramsey	NJ	
Suleiman	Lia	Gorham	ME	
Sulinski	Brooke	Old Town	ME	
Sullivan	Alexander	Kennebunkport	ME	
Sullivan	Amelia	Kittery	ME	
Sullivan	Cameron	Old Town	ME	

Sullivan	Colleen	Rockland	ME	
Sullivan	Eric	Augusta	ME	
Sullivan	Mark	Holden	ME	
Sullivan	Natalie	Dracut	MA	
Sullivan	Oliver	Yarmouth	ME	
Sundstrom	Brian	Walpole	MA	
Supple	Ben	Kingston	MA	
Suriano	Sophia	Manassas	VA	
Svec	Malcolm	Eastbrook	ME	
Swanson	Parker	North Yarmouth	ME	
Swanson	Tracey	Bangor	ME	
Swayman	Jeremy	Anchorage	AK	
Swazey	Jessica	Bucksport	ME	
Swede	Allison	Catharpin	VA	
Sweeney	Jessie	Bradley	ME	
Sweet	Seth	Mount Desert	ME	
Sweetser	Brooke	Old Town	ME	
Swett	Sara	Glen Ridge	NJ	
Swett	Zoe	Old Town	ME	
Swift	Logan	Gorham	ME	
Swope	Samuel	Eagle Lake	ME	
Syer	Madison	Watertown	MA	
Sylvester	Eddie	Peaks Island	ME	
Syphers	Lauren	Windham	ME	
Szewczyk	Thomas	Bangor	ME	
Szumilas	Kendall	Bucksport	ME	
Szwez	Alex	Penobscot	ME	
Szymanski	Edison	Orono	ME	
Tafelski	Andrew	Grand Rapids	MI	

Takaoka	Johannes	Machida		Japan
Tallapureddy	Arihant	Bolton	CT	
Talvacchia	Mark	Newton Center	MA	
Tanner	Desiree	Brunswick	ME	
Tanner	Tiffany	Carmel	ME	
Tanous	Haid	South Paris	ME	
Tanous	Natalie	Bangor	ME	
Tapley	Sierra	Bar Harbor	ME	
Taplin	Dylan	Ellsworth	ME	
Tarallo	A.J.	Medfield	MA	
Tardiff	Colin	Scarborough	ME	
Tatten	Madison	Northborough	MA	
Tauke	Jake	Old Town	ME	
Taylor	Ashley	Dexter	ME	
Taylor	Avery	Kingfield	ME	
Taylor	Maria	Bangor	ME	
Taylor	Matt	Portsmouth	NH	
Taylor	Michael	Holliston	MA	
Taylor	Nathaniel	Bar Harbor	ME	
Tedenby	Celine	Orono	ME	
Teed	Kenzie	Mashpee	MA	
Tefft	Kenzie	Orrington	ME	
Teichman	Quest	Veazie	ME	
Teisl	Deven	Holden	ME	
Telschow	Rob	Cherry Hill	NJ	
Tereshkina	Dasha	Chelyabinsk		Russian Federation
Terrill	James	Bucksport	ME	
Terry	Grace	Gray	ME	
Tesini	Nicolas	Bolton	MA	

Testa	Madeline	Gray	ME	
Tetrault	Erika	Wallingford	CT	
Tetreault	Rachel	Walpole	MA	
Thacker	Alex	Readfield	ME	
Thayer	Amanda	New Gloucester	ME	
Thelander	Tommy	Bristol	ME	
Theriault	Liz	Saint David	ME	
Theriault	Nathalie	Minot	ME	
Thibeau	Austin	Presque Isle	ME	
Thibodeau	Arend	Harmony	ME	
Thibodeau	Gage	Bangor	ME	
Thibodeau	Landon	Freeport	ME	
Thielbar	Jillian	Albany Twp	ME	
Thieme	Rachel	Topsham	ME	
Thiessen	Matthew	Altona	MB	Canada
Thistle	Mairead	Madison	WI	
Thoman	Sophia	South Portland	ME	
Thoman-Thurber	Eryk	Foster	RI	
Thomas	Katherine	Garland	ME	
Thomas	Osiris	Kennebunk	ME	
Thomas	Seth	Kingfield	ME	
Thomas	Spencer	Lovell	ME	
Thomas	Zach	Kingston	NH	
Thomas	Zoe	Wimberley	TX	
Thompson	Alyson	Howland	ME	
Thompson	Garrison	Durham	ME	
Thompson	Haley	Gorham	ME	
Thompson	Kayla	Harrington	ME	
Thompson	Kristen	Colchester	VT	

Thompson	Makao	Industry	ME	
Thompson	Marissa	Bucksport	ME	
Throckmorton-Hansford	Willow	Somerville	ME	
Tibbetts	Cassidy	Litchfield	ME	
Tibbetts	Elizabeth	Mechanic Falls	ME	
Tibbetts	Siera	Litchfield	ME	
Tibbits	Lauren	Old Town	ME	
Tidd	Allisyn	Eddington	ME	
Tiernan	Holly	South Glastonbury	CT	
Tijerina	Santiago	Old Town	ME	
Tillotson	Stephanie	Cumberland Foreside	ME	
Tilton-Flood	Lilla	Clinton	ME	
Timm	Alex	Healy	AK	
Tims	Katie	Cornish	ME	
Tiner	Nick	Winslow	ME	
Tittle	Morgan	Skowhegan	ME	
Tiuraniemi	Veli	Oulu		Finland
Tobey	Ali	Orono	ME	
Todd	Olivia	West Roxbury	MA	
Todorova	Simona	Ruse		Bulgaria
Tolmasoff	Arlena	Bucksport	ME	
Toman	Anna	Gardiner	ME	
Tomassini	Antonio	North Branford	CT	
Tomlinson	Laura	Wilbraham	MA	
Toomey	Niamh	Auburn	MA	
Toothaker	Chris	Old Town	ME	
Toothaker	Evan	Ellsworth	ME	
Toothaker	Mallory	Kingfield	ME	

Topper	Izzy	Hudson Falls	NY	
Torchia	Brittany	Jewett City	CT	
Torres	Jose	Ponce		Puerto Rico
Totaro	Michael	South Hackensack	NJ	
Toussaint	Noah	Auburn	ME	
Toussaint	Raleigh	Madawaska	ME	
Tovey	Travis	Sanford	ME	
Towle	Annemarie	Augusta	ME	
Towle	Tanner	Smithfield	ME	
Towne	Julia	Kennebunk	ME	
Tozier	Melissa	Northport	ME	
Trafford	Cameron	Limington	ME	
Tragakis	Mac	Norfolk	MA	
Trainor	Lauren	Allendale	NJ	
Trammell	David	Scarborough	ME	
Traphagen	Elizabeth	Franklin	MA	
Trapier	Chad	Howland	ME	
Trask	Jacob	Winslow	ME	
Trawick	Kylie	Orono	ME	
Treadwell	Alayna	Orrington	ME	
Treat	Allison	Carmel	ME	
Trebilcock	Katie	Topsham	ME	
Trebouet	Nicolas	Brewer	ME	
Tremblay	Isaac	Mariaville	ME	
Trevisani	Elizabeth	Wellesley Hills	MA	
Treworgy	Annie	Levant	ME	
Triana	Jen	Prospect	CT	
Tripp	Matthew	Hermon	ME	
Trott	Ethan	South Berwick	ME	

Trought	Darren	Doylestown	PA	
Troxell	Alec	Portland	ME	
True	Mikayla	Sedgwick	ME	
Truong	Khang	Sanford	ME	
Trusty	Yuri	Bangor	ME	
Tschirhart	Julie	North Andover	MA	
Tucker	Orion-Bay	Flanders	NJ	
Tully	Conor	York	ME	
Tumal	Dana	Florence	MA	
Tuomala	Jenn	Fitchburg	MA	
Tupper	Kion	Searsport	ME	
Turcotte	Haley	Livermore	ME	
Turgeon	Kasidy	Chelsea	ME	
Turgut	Ata	Ankara		Turkey
Turlla	Vasiliqi	Bangor	ME	
Turlo	Emma	Hampden	ME	
Turner	Ben	Belfast	ME	
Turner	Blake	North Yarmouth	ME	
Turner	Davis	Oxford	ME	
Turner	Kathrina	Old Town	ME	
Turner	McCall	Washburn	ME	
Turner	Olivia	West Gardiner	ME	
Turner	Paul	Old Town	ME	
Turso	Mike	Ramsey	NJ	
Tuttle	Brian	Effingham	IL	
Tuttle	Souix	Bethel	ME	
Tykulsky	Hayden	Wellesley Hills	MA	
Tyler	Caleb	Palermo	ME	
Tymm	Sarah	Watertown	MA	

Umhofer	Thomas	Redwood City	CA	
Underwood	Tristan	Wilton	ME	
Upton	Alex	North Berwick	ME	
Urli	Stephen	Massapequa	NY	
Usilton	Haley	Bridgton	ME	
Utesch	Peter	Atlanta	GA	
Vaccaro	Sam	Kennebunk	ME	
Vadala	Owen	Rowley	MA	
Vaidya	Nikhil	Orono	ME	
Vail	Blaize	Portland	ME	
Vaillancourt	Cole	Boxford	MA	
Vaillancourt	Matty	Acton	MA	
Vainio	Hannah	Monson	ME	
Valcourt	Tony	Fort Kent	ME	
Valentine	Sydney	Eliot	ME	
Valenzano	Josh	Buzzards Bay	MA	
Valley	Adelaide	Holden	ME	
Van Duijn	Claudio	Blue Hill	ME	
Van Fossen	Michael	Lansing	MI	
Van Steenberghe	Julia	Old Town	ME	
Van Tassell	Joel	Lyman	ME	
Vanacore	Sarah	North Haven	CT	
Vanaria	Tatiana	Lunenburg	MA	
Vanderblue	Dane	Fairfield	CT	
Vanderblue	Greta	Fairfield	CT	
VanDerburgh	Sophie	Portland	ME	
VanGorder	Lauren	Tewksbury	MA	
VanSantvoord	Josh	Hampden	ME	
VanVliet	Ben	Old Saybrook	CT	

Varga	Jarred	Nashua	NH	
Varga	Sabrina	East Meadow	NY	
Varga	Samuel	Bristol	ME	
Vargas	Mia	Orono	ME	
Vargo	Alyssa	Brewer	ME	
Varney	Abigail	Turner	ME	
Varney	Christina	Abington	MA	
Varney	Devon	Pittsfield	ME	
Varney	Dylan	Windham	ME	
Varney	Hannah	Turner	ME	
Varney	Olivia	Augusta	ME	
Varnum	Alexa	Dixfield	ME	
Vedral	John	Buxton	ME	
Veilleux	Carson	Moose River	ME	
Veilleux	Cody	Waterville	ME	
Venard	Kevin	Sullivan	ME	
Ventura	Zeke	Belfast	ME	
Verrengia	Carter	Hebron	CT	
Verrill	Lilas	Peachtree Corners	GA	
Vickers	Mei-Ella	Jamestown	RI	
Vidoni	Anna	South Easton	MA	
Viekman	Sarah	Dixmont	ME	
Viens	Brett	Middlebury	VT	
Vilasuso	Ashlee	Orrington	ME	
Villemaire	Amanda	Wells	ME	
Villemaire	Emily	Orono	ME	
Vina Lopez	Maria	Santiago de Compostela		Spain
Vinal Harvie	Nicole	Brunswick	ME	
Viola	Patrick	Portland	ME	

Viselli	Anthony	Bangor	ME	
Visser	Jordyn	Gilmanton Iron Works	NH	
Vitick	Jason	Commerce Township	MI	
Vo	Gina	Bangor	ME	
Volk	Lilly	Saco	ME	
Vose-Gimbel	Jack	South Portland	ME	
Wackerman	Ashley	Rockledge	PA	
Wadling	Fanny	Saltsjo-Boo		Sweden
Wagenknecht	Maria	Ellsworth	ME	
Wagner	Will	Gibsonia	PA	
Waite	Jasmine	Old Town	ME	
Wald	Leah	Framingham	MA	
Walker	Courtney	Laconia	NH	
Walker	Danica	Caribou	ME	
Walker	James	Skowhegan	ME	
Walker	Luke	Andover	MA	
Walker	Samuel	Mount Desert	ME	
Wallace	Abby	Wilton	ME	
Wallace	Libby	Albion	ME	
Wallace	Liv	Bangor	ME	
Wallinga	Caitlyn	Old Town	ME	
Walorz	Kaity	Lakeville	MA	
Walsh	Alexandra	Presque Isle	ME	
Walsh	Kaitlin	Dedham	ME	
Walsh	Katelyn	Hermon	ME	
Walsh	Kerrigan	Ashburn	VA	
Walsh	Liz	Benton	ME	
Walsh	Ryan	Franklin	MA	

Walter	Isaiah	Weston	FL	
Walton	Sadie	South Easton	MA	
Waltz	Cara	Gray	ME	
Warburton	Evan	Cape May Court House	NJ	
Ward	Brendan	Beverly	MA	
Ward	Darren	Lisbon Falls	ME	
Ward	Michelle	Biddeford	ME	
Ward	Shelby	Greenville Junction	ME	
Ward	Spencer	Orono	ME	
Ward-Rubin	Noah	Fayette	ME	
Wardwell	Taylor	Bucksport	ME	
Warger	Ellie	Skowhegan	ME	
Warner	Emma	Phippsburg	ME	
Warren	Emmy	Oakland	ME	
Warren	Katelyn	Skowhegan	ME	
Washburn	Brooklyn	Durham	ME	
Washburn	David	Norridgewock	ME	
Waterman	Sadie	Sabattus	ME	
Watras	Emma	Seal Cove	ME	
Watson	Alex	Brimfield	MA	
Watson	Julie	Mendon	MA	
Watson	Katie	Millinocket	ME	
Watson	Nate	Windham	ME	
Weaver	Danielle	Saint George	ME	
Weaver	Jacqui	North Haven	CT	
Webb	Jarod	Orono	ME	
Webber	Abby	Garland	ME	
Webber	Brett	Dedham	ME	
Webber	Josh	Springvale	ME	

Webber	Kaitlyn	Garland	ME	
Webber	Lily	Westbrook	ME	
Webber	Matthew	Springvale	ME	
Weber	Chris	Centerville	MA	
Weber	Pat	Marshfield	MA	
Webster	Serena	Brewer	ME	
Weeks	Elliott	Portland	ME	
Weeks	Rebecca	Lynnfield	MA	
Weeks	Trevor	Laconia	NH	
Weinstein	Myky	Hartland	ME	
Weir	Kelsey	Copley	OH	
Weiss	Ma'ayan	Mount Kisco	NY	
Weitman	Mo	Hampden	ME	
Welch	Alexis	Boothbay	ME	
Welch	Colin	Saint Cloud	FL	
Welch	Gerren	Sidney	ME	
Welch	Lily	Readfield	ME	
Welch	Sarah	Pittsfield	ME	
Welsh	Kathleen	Cockeysville	MD	
Wentworth	Emma	Sidney	ME	
Wentworth	Steve	Fort Fairfield	ME	
Werner	Ash	South Hamilton	MA	
Werner	Larry	Searsport	ME	
West	Ian	Jackman	ME	
West	Julyan	Norway	ME	
West	Michael	Kinnelon	NJ	
Westbrook	Katie	Methuen	MA	
Westerlund	Emil	Linkoping		Sweden
Westfield	Austin	Whitehouse Station	NJ	

Westman	Zachary	York	ME	
Weston	Andrew	Rumford	ME	
Weyand	Anna	Buxton	ME	
Wheeler	Gideon	Bowdoin	ME	
Wheeler	Justin	Glenburn	ME	
Wheeler	Mickala	Orono	ME	
White	Basel	Jefferson	ME	
White	Emma	Wells	ME	
White	Grady	Cumberland Center	ME	
White	Jasper	Melrose	MA	
White	Kaitlyn	Old Town	ME	
White	Maggie	Duxbury	MA	
White	Michaela	Bangor	ME	
White	Patrick	Waldoboro	ME	
White	Steven	Mount Vernon	ME	
White	Victor	Bangor	ME	
White	Zachary	Berwick	ME	
Whitehouse	Andrew	Gardiner	ME	
Whitemyer	Evan	Rockland	MA	
Whitmore	Abby	Holden	ME	
Whitney	Thayer	Orono	ME	
Whittemore	Emily	Lewiston	ME	
Whitten	Hannah	West Enfield	ME	
Wibby	Jess	South Portland	ME	
Wichterman	Dennis	Moorestown	NJ	
Wick	Kayleigh	Orono	ME	
Wicks	Natalie	Readfield	ME	
Widdecomb	Paige	Cushing	ME	
Wiggins	Justin	Orono	ME	

Wilcox	Adam	Warren	ME	
Wilcox	Leah	Warren	ME	
Wilcox	Sophia	Brunswick	MD	
Wilkins	Alex	Wells	ME	
Wilkins	Brad	Old Town	ME	
Willard	Elizabeth	Winterport	ME	
Willard	Kendall	North Ridgeville	OH	
Willett	Jake	Exeter	NH	
Willey	Emmeline	Monmouth	ME	
Willey	Kendrah	Pittsfield	ME	
Willey	Liam	Standish	ME	
Williams	Anna	Norwell	MA	
Williams	Ben	Cumberland Center	ME	
Williams	Connor	Union	ME	
Williams	Emma	Wilton	ME	
Williams	Ethan	Madawaska	ME	
Williams	Jacob	Irvine	PA	
Williams	Kat	New Bern	NC	
Williams	Lauren	Cumberland Center	ME	
Williams	Madeline	Mason Twp	ME	
Williams	Mookie	Cape Elizabeth	ME	
Williams	Nathan	Orrington	ME	
Williams	Rhakim	Worcester	MA	
Williams	Taylor	Presque Isle	ME	
Williams	Victoria	Yarmouth	ME	
Williamson	Dean	Teaneck	NJ	
Willkomm	William	Havertown	PA	
Wilmot	Erich	East Walpole	MA	
Wilson	Amanda	Corinna	ME	

Wilson	Andrew	Solon	ME	
Wilson	Ben	Groveland	MA	
Wilson	Calie	Reading	PA	
Wilson	Graham	Dover Foxcroft	ME	
Wilson	Hannah	Berwick	ME	
Wilson	Sam	Fairfield	ME	
Wilson	Sidney	North Monmouth	ME	
Wilson	Taylor	Hope	ME	
Wind	Willow	Orono	ME	
Winfree	Perry	Cary	NC	
Wingard	Abby	Orono	ME	
Winn	Cait	Windham	ME	
Winship	Hannah	Hodgdon	ME	
Winslow	Byron	Veazie	ME	
Winslow	Stephanie	Mapleton	ME	
Winters	Chavaleh Joi	Bangor	ME	
Wintle	Rylan	Detroit	ME	
Witham	Athena	Bangor	ME	
Witham	Emily	Orono	ME	
Withey	Courtney	New Vineyard	ME	
Witkowski	Jason	Woodbury	NJ	
Witting	Jacob	Penobscot	ME	
Wivell	Maeve	Kittery	ME	
Wogan	Grace	Harpswell	ME	
Wojcik	Maciej	Glendale	NY	
Wojdakowski	Kelsey	Orono	ME	
Wolfenden	Jack	North Andover	MA	
Wolff	Michael	Camden	ME	
Wolfington	Johnny	Milford	ME	

Wollard	Aran	Maplewood	NJ	
Wollenhaupt	Devin	Norton	MA	
Wondoloski	Anthony	Enfield	CT	
Wood	Kyle	Lincolnville	ME	
Wood	Lexi	Brewer	ME	
Woodard	Bailey	Parkman	ME	
Woodhouse	Daniel	South Portland	ME	
Woods	Addie	Hodgdon	ME	
Woods	Brittany	New Sharon	ME	
Woodward	Delaney	Corea	ME	
Woolfolk	Matthew	Mount Desert	ME	
Worgull	Max	Bangor	ME	
Worgull	Tessa	Bangor	ME	
Worrick	Lauren	Aurora	CO	
Worster	Jason	Lincoln	ME	
Wortman	Daniel	Ashland	ME	
Wright	Haleigh	Ticonderoga	NY	
Wright	Jared	Ellsworth	ME	
Wright	Kelsey	Sanford	ME	
Wright	Trey	Scarborough	ME	
Wright-McLeish	Ja'Shonte	Lasalle	QC	Canada
Wyatt	Bruce	Gorham	ME	
Wyman	Alison	Hanover	ME	
Wyman	Danielle	Orono	ME	
Wyman	Richard	Searsmont	ME	
Wynne	Eamon	Woonsocket	RI	
Wynott	Christian	Norway	ME	
Xiao	Kelly	Bangor	ME	
Yagodin	Misha	Odessa		Ukraine

Yang	Ely	Winslow	ME	
Yarborough	Andrew	Saco	ME	
Yarbrough	Brynn	Wrentham	MA	
Yardley	Kira	Bangor	ME	
Yelle	Hannah	Carlisle	MA	
Yesse	Hannah	South Portland	ME	
Ying	Amber	Portland	ME	
Yochim	Courtney	Point Pleasant Boro	NJ	
Yoder	Tate	Penobscot	ME	
Yong	David	Sanford	ME	
York	Bryant	Jefferson	ME	
York	Mitchell	Portland	ME	
Yorkey	Lucas	Poland	ME	
Yost	Matt	Brunswick	ME	
Yost	Rene	Brunswick	ME	
Yost	Sierra	Windham	ME	
Yost	Wyatt	Gray	ME	
Youells	Nik	South Portland	ME	
Young	Caitlin	Old Town	ME	
Young	Davin	Binghamton	NY	
Young	Garrett	Orange	CT	
Young	Kalle	Freeport	ME	
Young	Kenzie	South Berwick	ME	
Young	Maddi	South Berwick	ME	
Young	Madelyn	Owls Head	ME	
Young	Star	Pembroke	MA	
Yu	Mason	Hangzhou		China
Yurkanin	Joel	Milford	ME	
Yutuc	Nikki	Saipan, MP		Northern Mariana

				Islands
Zacchilli	Peter	Monroe	CT	
Zachariason	Sarah	Minnetonka	MN	
Zanin	Matt	Lexington	MA	
Zanoni	Jude	Lubec	ME	
Zeitlin	Benjamin	Milford	ME	
Zenga	Anthony	Easton	PA	
Zhang	Yuhan	Yinchuan		China
Zhou	Jinwei	Orono	ME	
Ziegra	Carolyn	Orono	ME	
Zientara	Grace	Wellesley Hills	MA	
Zikova	Anna	Cesky Tesin		Czech Republic
Zimmerman	Stephen	Saint Charles	IA	
Zippert	Tristan	Hillsborough	CA	
Zmistowski	Anna	Phillips	ME	
Zucca	Kelvy	New Milford	CT	
Zucker	Aaron	East Meadow	NY	
Zuo	Zoey	Orono	ME	
Zuras	Everett	Presque Isle	ME	

Spring 2020 Dean's List by Maine counties

Androscoggin County
Aroostook County
Cumberland County
Franklin County
Hancock County
Kennebec County
Knox County
Lincoln County
Oxford County
Penobscot County
Piscataquis County
Sagadahoc County
Somerset County
Waldo County
Washington County
York County

Androscoggin County

Auburn: Perry Amos, Isabel Bassett, Victoria Beliveau, Alexis Bellefleur, Dalton Bouchles, Samuel Braga, Nick Davis, Hannah Dubay, Avery Elliott, Abigail Fisher, Sabrina Fisher, Spencer Frahn, Sarah Hammond, Sofia Hartley, Nathaniel Hernandez, Halle James, C.J. Jipson, Kaylee Jipson, Rebecca Levasseur, Brooke Lever, Gabe Lovering, Dylan Miller, Daniel Moreau, Emma Paradie, Lydia Peterson, Emily Roth, Skylar Rubocki, Noah Toussaint **Durham**: Sera Bigelow, Tatum Erlandson, Dawson Pillow, Garrison Thompson, Brooklyn Washburn **Greene**: Jenna Boucher, Karen Cook, Cliff Greco, Sarah Lafontaine, Gary Lapointe **Leeds**: Benjamin Hodgkin, Dustin Jensen, Ally Ryan **Lewiston**: Ciera Belanger, Maggie Belleau, Connor Bolduc, Hailey Champagne, Jazlyn Dumas, James Flynn, Avery Gagnon, James Greenwood, Ryan Handlon, Connor Hebert, Susan Johnson, Gabriel Labonte, Carmen Lee, Olivia Lee, Sierra Melanson, Mohamed Mohamud, Sarah Moody, Jamie Poliquin, R.J. Reboquio, Leah Seguin, Emily Whittemore **Lisbon**: Troy Galarneau, Jasmin Le, Kaylin Le **Lisbon Falls**: Nick Huston, Chandler Riordan, Darren Ward **Livermore**: Landon Brochu, Abby Castonguay, Amber Delaney, Cecelia McDonald, Caitlyn Rollins, Haley Turcotte **Livermore Falls**: Chloe Flagg, James Herlihy, Tanna Herlihy, Garret Smith **Mechanic Falls**:

Samuel Roy, Elizabeth Tibbetts **Minot**: Nathanial Chouinard, Zane Dustin, Jordan Gregory, Allie Novicki, Nathalie Theriault **Poland**: Grace Banks, Erin Brewer, Lizzy Champagne, Quinn Ferguson, Paisley Keene, Jada Lamb, Jasmine Lamb, Joshua Majors, Jordan Morrell, Vincent Russo, Lucas Yorkey **Sabattus**: Mikki Gervais, Renee Pickard, Jamie Prue, Sadie Waterman **Turner**: Tamra Benson, Liz Goulette, Nathanael Goulette, Chad Morin, Allie Nutting, Oren Shaw, Abigail Varney, Hannah Varney **West Poland**: Izzy Fernald

Aroostook County

Ashland: Peng Cheng, Lucas Craig, Mackenzie Hall, Lucy Slattery, Daniel Wortman **Benedicta**: Ian Ammerman **Blaine**: Lizzy Gillen, Jimmy Hotham **Bridgewater**: Clark Bradbury **Caribou**: Molly Adams, Chandler Bell, Alec Cyr, Andre Daigle, Meagan Dube, Kate Finnemore, Jillian Flynn, Madeline Gudde, Nickolas Guerrette, Michael Hunter, Chathu Karunasiri, Kaitlyn Nadeau, Brennan Poitras, Spencer Savage, Mitch St Peter, Danica Walker **Cary Plantation**: Grace Graham **Eagle Lake**: Samuel Swope **Easton**: Francesca Armstrong, Cody Embelton **Fort Fairfield**: Thomas Krause, Teresa Maynard, Steve Wentworth **Fort Kent**: Lily Brickman, Lori Callnan, Emma Pooler, David Roy, Tony Valcourt **Frenchville**: Olivia Gervais, Emily Lavertu **Hersey**: Caleb Streinz **Hodgdon**: Nicholas Sherman, Hannah Winship, Addie Woods **Houlton**: Nathan Bouchard, Chloe Davis, Sarah Delano, Lauren Eastham, Sarah Glatter, Gabriella Guiod, Jillian Haggerty, Dominic Miller, Tessa Solomon **Island Falls**: Kassidy Mathers **Linneus**: Tabetha Ganzel, Katherine Ledger **Littleton**: David Gogan, MacKenzie Hunt **Ludlow**: Seth Bond, Sydney Howell, Kalista Rattray **Madawaska**: Alex Daigle, Courtney Daigle, Jenna Dugal, Ben Hebert, Evan Hebert, Isabelle Jandreau, Hollie Morneault, Chelsea Pelletier, Raleigh Toussaint, Ethan Williams **Mapleton**: Jessie Boucher, Sarah Morneault, Adam Paterson, Mari Shaw, Stephanie Winslow **Monticello**: Kristen Brewer **New Canada**: Jonny Blanchette **New Sweden**: Austin Findlen **Presque Isle**: Meg Boone, Rebecca Collins, Liam Daniels, Emma Everett, Katelyn Ford, Branden Hebert, Morgan Ireland, Emily Lagerstrom, Lindsey Lagerstrom, Zechariah Morse, John Saucier, Ty Schneider, Eleanor St Peter, Austin Thibeau, Alexandra Walsh, Taylor Williams, Everett Zuras **Saint David**: Donna Morin, Liz Theriault **Sherman**: Tyson Porter **Sinclair**: Dorothy Harris **Stockholm**: Evan Desmond **Van Buren**: Lyndsey Lavoie **Wade**: Aaron Macek **Washburn**: Jaida Beaulieu, Bryce Roix, McCall Turner **Westmanland**: Noah Hixon **Woodland**: Cheyenne Laszlo

Cumberland County

Bridgton: Douglas Mayo, Matthew Mayo, Anne Sheehan, Haley Usilton **Brunswick**: Tessa Alexander, Ryan Berry, Emma Blair, Forrest Blankenship, Tobyn Blatt, Mikayla Bouchard, Erin Bradstreet, Max Burtis, Julia Casey, Alice Chesley, Josh Clark, Amanda Cloutier, Cameron Daly, Alyssa Demanche, Stephen Eno, Joshua Flanagan, Bronte Fontaine, Milly Girardin, Tom Hanson, Taylor Hodgdon, Madison Krolak, Kyle Labbe, William Labbe, Samiera MacMullen, Libbey Masse, Kyle Milbourn, Nicole Pelletier, Owen Poisson, Jules Richards, Cassie Ridge, Kaitlyn Ridley, Lea Scrapchansky, Maeve Shea, Desiree Tanner, Nicole Vinal Harvie, Matt Yost, Rene Yost **Cape Elizabeth**: Laura Arsenault, Michaela Arsenault, Katie Connelly, Sierra Galgano, Ethan Gillespie, Ryan Harvey, Nathaniel Holmes, Sarah Loring, Jack O'Kelly, Jillian Petersen, Cully Richard, Erin Sewall, Mookie Williams **Casco**: Colby Emmertz, Abby Green, Emily Jackson, Kaylyn Jordan **Chebeague Island**: Jason Auffant **Cumberland**: Sally Stead **Cumberland Center**: Connor Bray, Ryan Bray, Anna Briley, Nathan Bryant, Bo Carrell, James Davenport, Lexi Faietta, Anna Fitch, Aidan Greenlee, Liam Greenlee, Tim Lester, Austin Loveless, Noah Loveless, Luke Marsanskis, Cole Moore, Natalie Mullin, Terence Olds, Tucker Parent, Alexandra Peary, Maura Perry, Leah Poulin, Aidan Regan, Brendan Scott, Kim Steinman, Max Stickney, Grady White, Ben Williams, Lauren Williams **Cumberland Foreside**: Alex Nason, Stephanie Tillotson **East Baldwin**: Jordan Miner **Falmouth**: Tom Adams, Gwenyth Armitage, Juliana Baranowski, Jake Baumann, Alex Britton, Erin Cianchette, Evie Clement, Nigel Dunn, Will Emanuel, Gretchen Favreau, Henry Funk, Mary Giglio, Matthew Gramse, Mike Gramse, Jason Halliday, Paul Hamzavi, Shea Hendricks, David Horne, Bea Johnson, Ethan Johnson, Mary Johnson, Kat Kane, Kevin Kane, Mitchell Kelley, Jacob Lorenzo, Rhys Lowry, Jacob Marks, Peter Neff, Seamus O'Brien, Claire Phillips, Samantha Pike, Matt Sanborn, Renee Savoie, Izzy Simbari, Violet Singer, Aja Sobus, Sean Soucy, Caroline Spencer **Freeport**: Kaleb Barrett, Lauren Briggs, Evan Donald, Leah Harrison, Alexys Langley, Austin Langley, Ed Lefebvre, Amaya Marzano, Lauren Moore, Spencer Morse, Margaret Perrotta, Christian Potts, Davis Ritger, Aaron Rusiecki, Landon Thibodeau, Kalle Young **Gorham**: Erin Arey, Molly Arey, Connor Bell, Abby Biegel, Andrew Brown, Delaney Burns, Emily Chapin, Brandon Cummings, Angel Darling, Lauren Edwards, Gabby Gagne, Riley Jerome, Kaitlyn Jodoin, Mia Kaufman, Branden Kuusela, Noah Lambert, Eric Lane, Mitchel Letourneau, Thomas Light, Griffin Lord, Maddie Mitchell, Hailey Morrill, Ethan Orach, Kyle Peoples, Brady Rioux, Simon Roussel, Dayna Shaw, Lia Suleiman, Logan Swift, Haley Thompson, Bruce Wyatt **Gray**: Dawsin Blanchard, Abbey Danforth, Elizabeth Davis, Austin Gallant, Nate Gendreau, Jake Kackmeister, Brenna Milliken, Evan Plummer, Alexandra Requena, Connor Robinson, Grace Terry, Madeline Testa, Cara Waltz, Wyatt Yost **Harpswell**: Hannah Clemons, Kieley Hetherington, Ainsleigh Lucas, Sean Roberts, Grace Wogan **Harrison**: Isaiah Carter, Gunnar Docos, Brenna Macneil, Hayley McLeod, Nick Soucy **Naples**: Meghan Boos, Lily Charpentier, Marcus Devoe, Leia Hodgdon **New Gloucester**: Emma Cadran, Haley Cadran, Dante Castro, Felicia Lyons, Seth Ordway, Josiah Rottari, Amanda Thayer **North Yarmouth**: Jared DeWolfe, Alex Gerencer, Aidan Hayes, Molly Horton, Sydney Loper, Aidan Michaud, Trevor Rafford, Parker Swanson, Blake Turner **Orrs Island**: Harrison Cyr, Jackson Cyr **Peaks Island**: John Stange, Eddie Sylvester **Portland**: Hannah Abbott, Marshall Abbott, John Adamo, Juliana Bart, Nera Bedak, Dylan Bolduc, Noah Brooks, Natalia Budri, Jack Burnell, Sara Chamard, Kyle Cholod, Wendy Crosier, Justin Davis, Siobhan Densmore, MaryKate Earley, Vianca Espinosa, Noah Ferrante, Haley Foreman, Lillian Frager, Aiden Gallup, Savannah Georgia, Sydney Giroux, Eva Griffiths, Emily Haley, Maggie Healy, Joe Herboldsheimer, Helena Higgins, Austin Hollifield, Ellie Hooper, Bronwyn Hughes, Steve Kaze, Madison Legassey, Zoe Leland, Evan Leonard, Ruth Lewandowski, Lenora Lewis, Hua Lin, Jake Loranger, Nathan Loranger, Dom Lorello, James Mack, Madison Mahan, Grace Maloney, Tim McInnis, Jacob Milton, Felix Morrissey, Tommy Nguyen, Mackenzie O'Donnell, Sophia Paddon, Sarah Pett, Kate Pontius, Lucas Profenno, Haley Santerre, Bhavana Scalia-Bruce, Caden Scott, Isabelle See, Jonathan Shaw, Jasper Sommer, Alec Troxell, Blaize Vail, Sophie VanDerburgh, Patrick Viola, Elliott Weeks, Amber Ying, Mitchell York **Pownal**: Sami Burrell, Grace Cushman, Jordan Randall, Colin Stewart **Raymond**: Maggi Bradford, Colby Dionne, Liam Flynn, Sophie Gardner, Dylan Koza, Cameron Peavey, Jeffrey Pollard **Scarborough**: Carigan Allie, Jessica Bennett, Cal Berry, Gabe Blanchard, Emma Budway, Jon Chabot, Alexandra Constantine, Noah Davoli, Anna Driscoll, Marissa Edwards, Kaylee Faherty, David Fitzpatrick, Katherine Foster, Emma Freeman, Jaimie Giguere, Luke Guibord, Lila Harakles, Brielle Hardy, Sarah Hassler, T.J. Hinkle, Chelsea Hughes, Aubrey Humpage, Abe Jordan, Nate Jordan, Liam Kent, Katherine Kirk, Paul Kirk, Devon Lammert, Nolan Lamontagne, Connor Langlois, Ethan Lowell, Joseph Luong, Peter Martin, Morgan McGarry, David McKelvy, Abigail Morrison-Ouellette, Jacob Murphy, Lauren Murphy, Emily Murray, Rajashekar Muthyam, Bryce Nitchman, Jasmine Olshin, Slade Overcash, Lauren Page, Josh Passarelli, Emily Patashnik, Aaron Radziszewski, Olivia Reese, Ellie Robinson, Ethan Scribner, Jessi Sinclair, Isaac Sparks-Willey, Amelia St John, Colin Tardiff, David Trammell, Trey Wright **Sebago**: Maraia Nason **South Portland**: Bryce Andrews, Sam Brown, Rosalie Bryson, Madison Damon, Taylor Davis, William Edgar, Lauren Elsemore, Michael Feely, Luke Foster, Josh Frank, Hunter Griffiths, Emily Hobbs, Sam Holbrook, Aleksandar Kaurin, Jennifer Kern, Tom Loc, Erica Magnuson, Caleb Marston, Aaron Radziucz, Jamie Sargent, Raegan Sheil, Adam Sobczak, Sophia Thoman, Jack Vose-Gimbel, Jess Wibby, Daniel Woodhouse, Hannah Yesse, Nik Youells **Standish**: Ben Autry, James Conley, Chaz Lamkin, Jazmyne Mejias, Michael O'Clair, Kayla Raymond, Sam Richard, Liam Willey **Steep Falls**: Evan Gillingham, Tyla Greenlaw **West Baldwin**: Michael Murphy **Westbrook**: Moayied Awad, Gabrielle Begos, Elise Bourassa, Paula Crucianelli, Kallie Cyr, Rhiannon Doiron, Rachael Dyer, Arianna Giguere, Anna Giroux, Jaclyn Hazlewood, Dylan Ho, Desiree Hodgkins, Alex Jacobs, Tanner LaFlamme, Thomas Lok, Brady Lynes, Leah Marcoux, Josh Minor, Miles Moody, Mike Mooney, Noah Oliver, Sierra Pomerleau, Jeremy Richards, Ashley Ricker, Mia Stamey, Lily Webber **Windham**: Dominic Agneta, Melissa Agneta, Lyndsey Arsenault, Mikayla Baiguy, Alex Baur, Eliza Bennett, Jonathan Bernier, Lauren Black, Travis Burt, Myia Canty, Chantai Chevannes, Ben Chouinard, John Clark, Zeb Cleaves, Michael DuBois, Jack Gresh, Adam Kelley, Haley Landry, Thomas Lekousi, Sara Loiselle, Seth Martin, Logan McCarthy, Cassidy McCusker, Eli McGill, Erin Merchant, Jason Nielsen, Jadon Petty, Reese Preston, Avery Rolfe, Bryce Rolfe, Jake Segal, Sydney Segal, Isabella Sernyk, Katie Skvorak, Annie Stevens, Lauren Syphers, Dylan Varney, Nate Watson, Cait Winn, Sierra Yost **Yarmouth**: Chris Bock, Phil Bock, Noah Boisvert, Anna Bouton, Joe Coyne, James Delp, Kyaira Grondin, Noah Grondin, Charlie Keefe, Adam Levinson, Christopher Pidden, Jack Roy-Becker, Jacob Sperber, Oliver Sullivan, Victoria Williams

Franklin County

Carrabassett Valley: Emma Downing, Finn Mackay, Jonathan Maidman **Farmington**: Ashley Burnham, Tristin McFarlane, Jacob Mealey, Justin Meservier, Nate Pratt-Holt **Industry**: Hanna Deon, Ellie Pelletier, Miles Pelletier, Makao Thompson **Jay**: Hannah Maurais, Hunter Quirrion **Kingfield**: Chase Davis, Katie Maxsimic, Eliza Sitz, Avery Taylor, Seth Thomas, Mallory Toothaker **New Sharon**: Andrew Gardner, Brittany Woods **New Vineyard**: Courtney Withey **Oquossoc**: Wyatt Dellavalle **Phillips**: Anna Zmistowski **Rangeley**: Haley Morrill, Owen Sinclair **Stratton**: Maya Caron, Tanager Karchenes **Strong**: Rowan Jellison, Xavier Romanoski **Temple**: Aidan Salisbury, Will Salisbury **Wilton**: Katie Brittain, Jessie Hutchinson, Tristan Underwood, Abby Wallace, Emma Williams

Hancock County

Bar Harbor: Molly Brown, Julianna Cleves, Matthew Cox, Ryan Kelly, Matthew Lambert, Gabby Link, Abbe Miller, Maev Rogers, Sierra Tapley, Nathaniel Taylor **Bass Harbor**: Abigail Muscat **Bernard**: Christina Closson, Owen Mild, Claire Shaw **Blue Hill**: Kacie Bond, Gabby Gadsby, Jenna Malvin, Suzie Milkowich, Kara Morrison, Erin Niehoff, Emma Richardson, Taylor Schildroth, Claudio Van Duijn **Bucksport**: Elizabeth Baumann, Emma Bennett, Courtney Benson, Danny Bunker, Chase Carmichael, Amanda Carter, Jeremy Cole, Natalie Coleman, Cody Davis, Hannah Ferrell, Gabe Flegel, Kaylee Grindle, Eliza Hosford, Mitchell Kohls, Alexis Krull, Amy Santos-Iglesias, Sarah Scamperle, Carley Scanlon, Jordan Servetas, Chris Soper, Melissa St Peter, Mark Stiles, Jessica Swazey, Kendall Szumilas, James Terrill, Marissa Thompson, Arlena Tolmasoff, Taylor Wardwell **Castine**: Christopher Ciano, Ian Henderson **Corea**: Kimberly Hunt, Delaney Woodward **Cranberry Isles**: Will Ferreira **Dedham**: Daniel Davis, Sarah Dorey, Kate Fogg, Sara Hunt, Sierra Semmel, Kaitlin Walsh, Brett Webber **Deer Isle**: Amy Hardy, Jordyn Judkins, Natalie Knowlton **East Blue Hill**: Sarah Juster **Eastbrook**: Malcolm Svec **Ellsworth**: Belle Albert, Wyatt Alexander, Lindsay Bland, Justin Brown, Joy Cartwright, Zak Charette, Will Doty, Delaney Dow, Keegan Grey, Riley Grindle, Jared Hamilton, Courtney King, Kaitlin McCullough, Chantal Ouellette, Aaron Scillia, Austin Stover, Dylan Taplin, Evan Toothaker, Maria Wagenknecht, Jared Wright **Franklin**: Taylor Merchant **Gouldsboro**: Emma Bunch **Hancock**: Brian Awalt, Jordan Mercer, Michael Mutlu **Hulls Cove**: Rushanne Facey, Loren Genrich **Lamoine**: Charlotte Alley, Nicole Brown, Elizabeth Dalton, Mackenzie Hanna **Little Deer Isle**: SooZin Cha, Ennis Marshall **Mariaville**: Isaac Tremblay **Mount Desert**: Jesse Dyer, Alex Eason, Hannah Edgecomb, Megan Howell, Sam Johnson, Madeleine Macauley, Nate Parkinson, Bonnie Snyder, Seth Sweet, Samuel Walker, Matthew Woolfolk **Orland**: Asha Kirkland, Reilly Linkel, Sarah Low, Jennifer Mcnamara, Ian Ramsay **Penobscot**: Heather Munroe, Alex Szwez, Jacob Witting, Tate Yoder **Seal Cove**: Emma Watras **Seal Harbor**: Ally Bender **Sedgwick**: Shannon Snell, Mikayla True **Sorrento**: Madeline Bierman **Southwest Harbor**: Ashley Anderson, Emily Jean DeCristofano, Sydney Kachmar, Ralph Magnani **Stonington**: Hope Scully **Sullivan**: Warren Higgins, Jim Huff, Andrea Knapp, Kevin Venard **Surry**: Cheryl Coffin, Sophia Steinbarger **Trenton**: Isaiah Cutshall, Cassidy Parady, Eli Parady, Nick Soper **Verona Island**: Brittney Moran **Winter Harbor**: Hannah Fleming, Liam Flubacher, Tara Flubacher

Kennebec County

Albion: Elliot Dixon, Kensi Matula, Libby Wallace **Augusta**: Iorthanis Andoniades, Mitchell Bonenfant, Ian Bowers, Brandon Emerson, Jens Hansen, Cari Hopkins, Arthur Hubbard, Andrew Levesque, MacKenzie Lewis, Sierra McLellan, Christiana Mosca, Robert Patenaude, Nick Poulin, Eva Reed, Bryan Riley, Evangeline Soucy, Eric Sullivan, Annemarie Towle, Olivia Varney **Belgrade**: Marissa Kinney, Dana Michaud, Sawyer Michaud, Cassandra Proctor **Benton**: Kaylee Brann, Liz Walsh **Chelsea**: Gabby Benson, Annie Brannigan, Mac Creamer, Alexis Everett, Katelyn Hustus, Nic Mills, Kasidy Turgeon **Clinton**: Alexa Bartley, Matt Brown, Alyssa Labrie, Hannah Meidahl, Lilla Tilton-Flood **Fairfield**: Katie Cobb, Kiana Letourneau, J.T. Nutting **Farmingdale**: Olivia Bourque, Eli Smith, Mari Smith **Fayette**: Julian Dixon, Emma Fitzpatrick, Natalie Harmon, Adrian Lefever, Noah Ward-Rubin **Gardiner**: Casey Bourque, Kyle Coombs, Keeling Dorogi, Aidan Gregory, Tavia Noyes, Anna Toman, Andrew Whitehouse **Hallowell**: Jarod Dye, Mary Hicks, Anna Hodgkins, Cole Perry **Litchfield**: Sierra Hill, Tycen Hill, Chris McGeoghegan, Hannah Nadeau, Travis Nadeau, Cassidy Tibbetts, Siera Tibbetts **Manchester**: Cam Freeman, Mair Guillemette, Mark McLaughlin **Monmouth**: Ben Brooks, Matt Fox, Chandler Harris, Josh Neal, Madi Neal, Paul Ruopp, Emmeline Willey **Mount Vernon**: Chase McGlauflin, Steven White **North Monmouth**: Eli Story, Sidney Wilson **Oakland**: Blake Bickford, Olivia Durkee, Lillie Fortier, Sierra Kerschner, Kasey McLeod, Jess Moore, Ryan Pullen, Joshua Schaff, Katie Seekins, James Stevens, Emmy Warren **Pittston**: Emily Allen, Sarah Foust **Readfield**: Sebastian Alvarado, Samantha Cloutier, Sarah Cloutier, Karissa Lucas, Ashley Russell, Vincent Scott, Alex Thacker, Lily Welch, Natalie Wicks **Sidney**: Amelia Bradfield, Haley Carver, Soren Donisvitch, Brad Garand, Kyle Gleason, Hannah Hargrove, Kennedi LeBlanc, Sarah Martin, Hannah Mathieu, Katie Mercier, Lauren Mercier, Logan Poissonnier, Matthew Stenger, Gerren Welch, Emma Wentworth **South China**: Henry Anderson, Lilja Bernheim, Jacob Boudreau, Jared Gartley, Justin Harris, Billy Howell, Jacob Praul, Will Robertson **South Gardiner**: Jesse LaBreck **Vassalboro**: Brianna Benedict, Eliza Costigan, Kassie Nadeau, Sarah Pleau, Alainie Sawtelle **Vienna**: William Ellis, Brody Looney **Waterville**: Michael Ayers, Alan Baez, Emma Cristan, Ben Danner, Sophie Given, Jenna Goss, Cooper Hart, Adan Lawlor, Ty Lecrone, Jessica Lee, Katie Lopes, Elwin Moss, Thao Nguyen, Anthony Pinnette, Briana Quirion, Mikayla Reynolds, Sammi Saulter, Cody Veilleux **Wayne**: Rachel Castonguay **West Gardiner**: Alyssa Barnes, Bryce Smith, Olivia Turner **Windsor**: Hayley Hinds, Kyle Kirkpatrick **Winslow**: Andrew Bolduc, Kaylin Brown, Kyle Camire, Hannah Comfort, Daigs Daigneault, Cody Doughty, Devon Gleason, Adam Green, Jasmine Gregory, Arianna Hatt, Alexandra Karter, Zach LaCombe, Jordan Lambert, Isaac Lambrecht, Brea Martin, Maddy Morneault, Nicholas Morris, Kirstie Rogers, Paige Smith, Elyse St Pierre, Nick Tiner, Jacob Trask, Ely Yang **Winthrop**: Layne Audet, Bennett Brooks, Hannah Eason, Greg Fay, Matt Ingram, Kyle Keezer, Lydia Lavoie, Sophia Lynn, Mary Milligan, Andrew Pazdziorko

Knox County

Appleton: Ethan Ford, Morgan Ford **Camden**: Ellie Berez, Hadley Berger, Carly Berke, Hope Bifulco, Tom Cox, Sophie Dorsky, Izzy Gutheinz, Kai Hart, Maho Hisakawa, Nick Leclerc, Tom Libby, Shannon Mackridge, April Messier, Sarah Mitchell, Katherine Orne, Matthew Prescott, Lexi Smith, Michael Wolff **Cushing**: R.J. Hall, Paige Widdecomb **Friendship**: Alexia Hilt **Hope**: Ross Dewaard, Tristan Fong, Henry Laurita, Josh Reilly, Katie Southworth, Taylor Wilson **Owls Head**: Mary Allen, Jacqueline Hall, Casey Pine, Nicole Strickland, Madelyn Young **Rockland**: Julia Barbour, Jenna Conant, Zoe Goff, Alexander Mahar, Colleen Sullivan **Rockport**: Emily Blackwell, Marco D'Amato, Molly Davee, Nick Denny, David Flint, Jesse Fraser, Juliana Haynes, Ashlee McIntosh, Hilary Merrifield, Will Parks, Frances Pendleton, Christy Russell, Hunter Schade **Saint George**: Chase Flaherty, Danielle Weaver **South Thomaston**: Josh Luttrell, Sarah Penney **Tenants Harbor**: Sierra Beal **Thomaston**: Kaydin Frederick, Sam King, Mackenzie Murray **Union**: Emalee Grant, Hunter McDaniels-Rossiter, Jacob Savage, Connor Williams **Vinalhaven**: Carolyn Hopkins, Amber Shane, Andrea Shane **Warren**: Alec Coughlin, Amber Hagin, Naomi Kihn, Billy Olmsted, Miles Paul, Adam Wilcox, Leah Wilcox **Washington**: Maitana Benicio, Antyna Gould, Jane Horovitz, Lindsey Lewis, Patrick Madden, Jared Palmer, Isaiah Potter

Lincoln County

Boothbay: Graham Bryer, Maya Schwehm, Alexis Welch **Boothbay Harbor**: Tim Chappelle, Sydney Meader **Bristol**: Kevin Fitzpatrick, Mitchel Stewart, Tommy Thelander, Samuel Varga **Damariscotta**: Brianna Genthner, Jon Pinkham, Abigail Roberts **Edgecomb**: Michael Godin, Joshua Poland, Colt Seigars **Howland**: Aaron Snow **Jefferson**: Lily Bragg, Abigail Farrin, Anna Kolota, Alysa Lewandowski, Josh Stone, Basel White, Bryant York **New Harbor**: Sam Ransley **Newcastle**: Aidan Manahan, Sophie Schumacher **Nobleboro**: Maggie Bradbury, Lisa Howard, Sam Peters **Somerville**: Willow Throckmorton-Hansford **Waldoboro**: Peter Alexander, Claire Bourett, Rose Hickey, Ashley Holmes, Steph Lage-Lichko, Claire Lupien, Ben Rowe, Zoe Scharf, Kennedy Scheimreif, Patrick White **Westport Island**: Ali Richardson **Whitefield**: Ryan Pedersen **Wiscasset**: Vanessa Dunn, Chris Perkins, Remy Segovia, Madison Stahle

Oxford County

Albany Township: Jillian Thielbar **Andover**: Douglas Bailey **Bethel**: Jacob Babbidge, Emily Hanscom, Emalee Harrington, Tucker Hayward, Brynne Speakman, Willis Steven, Souix Tuttle **Bryant Pond**: Colton Carson, James Newkirk **Canton**: Jill Conant, Emma Lueders **Denmark**: Owen Burk, Jeremiah Schrader **Dixfield**: Celine Bolduc, Gabby Chartier, Ethan Couture, Kate Ellis, Olivia Johnston, Sierra Keim, Rachel Knight, Alexa Varnum **Fryeburg**: Samantha Johnson, Casey Kneissler **Greenville Junction**: Connor DiAngelo **Greenwood**: Samuel Stone **Hanover**: Alison Wyman **Hartford**: Tucker Olsen, Shane St Pierre **Hebron**: Victoria Eichorn, Nathan Godbout, Jodie Sheets **Hiram**: Abigail Mosson **Lovell**: Mariah Davis, Spencer Thomas **Mason Township**: Dylan Richmond, Madeline Williams **Mexico**: Julia Perry, Leah Perry **Milton Township**: Sadie Richardson **Norway**: Brian Cook, Casey Cossar, Luck Haviland, Kelton Loper, Nate McNutt, Jasmine Roy, Airikah Simons, Julyan West, Christian Wynott **Oxford**: Bennett Dorion, Davis Turner **Paris**: Kaisa Heikkinen **Peru**: Alex Briggs, Joey Caruso, Amber Ferris **Roxbury**: Peter Cogley **Rumford**: Andrew Arsenault, Kenzie Arsenault, Vanessa Cote, Sabrina Daoud, Jeremiah Richardson, Andrew Weston **South Paris**: Madi Bangs, Sarah Grillo, Arianna Meserve, Nathanael Shaw, Haid Tanous **Sumner**: Maggie Bragg, Bri Damon, Reilley Hicks, Amanda Paradis

Penobscot County

Alton: Taylor Eastman, Josh Hamilton **Bangor**: Christian Acosta, Danny Adam, Jordan Allen, Maher Alsamsam, Omar Alsamsam, Josh Andle, Nishchay Arya, Cyd Atwater, Scott Audet, Ellen Babbidge, Jenna Bishop, Alex Bloomer, Abby Boucher, Hadrien Boulch, Katrina Bowden, Calleena Boyce, Ciera Braley, Nicole Brissette, John Brown, Jim Burby, Lucas Burt, Gino Caccese, Rick Cali, Keijaoh Campbell, Kiera Campbell, Max Carter, Bridget Casey, Ashley Charpentier, Jordan Charpentier, Brandon Chasse, Dylan Clark, Riley Colgan, Jacob Cote, Patrick Coyne, Christian Crane, Alexander Cross, Kestrel Cross, Ben Dailey, Sarah Danby, Gwen Davis, Tara Davis, Byron DeGrave, Ty Delargy, Hebert Delgado, Bonnie Delp, Claudia Desjardins, Erica Desjardins, Beth Dickson, Kimberly Dixon, Aylee Doane, Rachel Dobbs, Gunnar Eastman, Jon Feix, Collette Filer, Lily Finch, Anthony Fiore, Amanda

Floyd, Andrew Fournier, Landyn Francis, Lilly Furrow, Trudy Furrow, Derek Gagne, Logan Gallant, Arianna Geiser, Emily Gerardi, Ally Gonyar, Isa Gonzalez-Tenga, Tanner Goodine, Vanessa Graham, Adam Green, Kathleen Greenlaw, Dan Guidi, Rachael Hall, Dylan Hallett, Camryn Hammill-Nordfors, Bethany Harris, Jesiah Harris, Justin Harris, Victoria Haskell, Abigail Hayward, Ashlie Henderson, Jill Henderson, Jacob Henry, Abby Houghton, Andrew Howes, Krista Hughes, Courtney Hutchinson, Mitchell Jameson, Jamie Jones, Abram Karam, Gabriel Karam, Maggie Karas, Peter Kemble, Ryan Kinney, Jared Klutzaritz, Reggie Kollman, Mackenzie Ladd, Nate Landon, Gabriella Lee, Brett Lewey, Angel Loredo, Angelica Loredo, Michelle Lucy, Blake Lufkin, Davis MacDonald, Sarah Marcotte, Grady Markie, Bryson McDonough, Lily McLaughlin, Rebekah McLaughlin, Claire Meyer, Trahmel Milashouskas, Chanthu Millay, Makayla Miller, Margaret Miller-Finch, Natasha Minskoff, Marina Mohawass, Garry Monroe, Joseph Montemurro, Sam Morse, Naomi Moynihan, Monica Mulligan, Drew Murphy, Annabelle Muscatell, Jon Musor, Dillion Nason, Patty Neel, Leigh Neptune, Annalyse Nichols, Aaron Noble, Connor Noddin, Dan O'Neill, Ashley Ouellette, Olivia Perfito, Daniel Perkins, Grace Perron, Julia Phan, Jojo Picone, Rachel Poisson, Banalata Pratt, Declan Riordan, Margo Roberts, Jada Robinson, Ethan Sailor, Alyssa Salley, Dylan Schlipstein, Parry Seddiqi, Jordan Seekins, Max Sennett, Parker Shaw, Kodey Silknitter, Abigail Slauenwhite, Bella Slocum, Emma Smith, Jason Smith, Collin Soucy, Belle Spearin, Kelena Spencer, Will Stanley, Corey Stephens, Stephan Stroian-Ilina, Tracey Swanson, Thomas Szewczyk, Natalie Tanous, Maria Taylor, Gage Thibodeau, Yuri Trusty, Vasiliqi Turlla, Anthony Viselli, Gina Vo, Liv Wallace, Michaela White, Victor White, Chavaleh Joi Winters, Athena Witham, Max Worgull, Tessa Worgull, Kelly Xiao, Kira Yardley **Bradley**: Nick Avery, Kaylee Bellavance, Dominic D'Angelo, Sam Dauphinee, Emily Ketch, Jacob Ketch, MacKenzie LaBree, Ian Lolar, Joshua Smith, Jessie Sweeney **Brewer**: Jared Austin, Collin Averill, Danielle Ayub, Chase Baker, Castine Barry Grant, Abigail Bennett, Drew Bennett, Oisin Biswas, Ben Byorak, Lily Canders, Nicole Carlson, Andres Celano, Robert Cousins, Caid Cummings, Julia Cummings, Kelsi Day, Ryan Day, Allie Dean, Jon Donnelly, Brenden Dugal, Trevor Dugal, Aubrey Duplissie, Adrianna Fish, Minwin Fitzgerald, Caitlin Fraser, Hannah Friedman, Alec Gagnon, Andrew Gillette, Kaitlyn Gravel, Chris Haney, Courtney Hawkins, Kaitlyn Helfen, Tyler Hersey, Ellie Horr, Omar Khan, Elisabeth Landry, Maria Low, Matt Luce, Ning Luo, Cameron Michaud, Mandy Odeleye, Collin Phillips, Nola Prevost, Matt Pushard, James Raymond, Leah Remick, Lauren Richardson, Taylor Richardson, Jessica Sargent, Ashley Shirland, Joel Small, Aaron Smith, Cassidy Smith, Anna Spaulding, Brian Stanley, Nicolas Trebouet, Alyssa Vargo, Serena Webster, Lexi Wood **Carmel**: Abbie Fitts, Reba Michaud, Anna Smith, Jeremy Spors, Tiffany Tanner, Allison Treat **Charleston**: Angelina Buzzelli **Chester**: Jonathan Libby, Jacqueline Mault **Clifton**: Brad Bell, Nathan Brown **Corinna**: Jordan Bailey, Hillary Manson, Anna Smestad, Elliot Stinchfield, Amanda Wilson, Julie Cox, Rachel Ireland, Makayla Labelle, Maija Overturf, Tuuli Overturf **Dexter**: Kyle Emerson, Mila Hartford, Mariah Hughes, Ashley Reynolds, Torin Smith, Ashley Taylor **Dixmont**: Sean Gilbert, Matt Harzewski, Sarah Viekman **East Millinocket**: Nicole Chasse **Eddington**: Davis Asherman, Katelynn Bowker, Emma Bragdon, Kat Carreira, Pascal Cyr, Richard Freedman, Kelsey Hines, Kailey Holmes, Eamon Laskey, Will Martin, Kailey Richards, Julie Stroba, Allisyn Tidd **Exeter**: Rebecca Batron, Katie Brayson, Lauren Chapman, Maddie DeMoranville, Nicholas Hershbine, Chandler Perkins, Karim Seifeldin **Garland**: Michael Gahris, Katherine Thomas, Abby Webber, Kaitlyn Webber **Glenburn**: Beth Allen, Christian Boone, Lydia Caron, Ben Cotton, Shaylyn Cyr, Kennedy Gerow, Caitlin Hillery, Lauren Ismail, Nicholas Jacobs, Zach Jones, Colby Kohn, Matt Schaefer, Olivia Sharrow, Brooke Springer, Justin Wheeler **Greenbush**: Lucy Batey, Nicole Kennedy, Dylan Madden, Jackie Malvin **Hampden**: Caleb Ackley, Jakob Archer, Kendra Belden, Cooper Bennett, Claire Bowen, Benjamin Chasse, Logan Christian, Emily Colter, Fallon Crossman, Laura Curioli, Sarah Curioli, Rebecca Cyr, Ellie Dacey, Ann Marie Dalton, Elyse Daub, Emily Daub, Marissa Donovan, Olivia Doucette, Adam Farrington, Zachary Flannery, Audrie French, Emily Gagner, Shari Gallant, Nick Gauthier, Conan Harmon, Rachel Hobbs, Autumn Hunter, Xander Karris, Alyssa Kilgour, Natalie Kirby, Tyler Knights, Mike Labun, Laura Landry, Yanyan Li, Julianne Llerena, Brady Lobdell, Jordan Lockard, Ashley Mahoney, Rebekkah Martin, Ryan McGraw, Sydnie McKenney, Mark McLaughlin, Abby Novak, Alex Paradis, Melissa Reichel, Steven Santiago, C. Scobie, Peyton Smith, Keenan Soule, Casey Sudbeck, Emma Turlo, Josh VanSantvoord, Mo Weitman **Hermon**: Ileana Adams, Zachary Beaton, Josh Berry, Jarod Bielecki, Hayden Black, Bayley Bryant, Emily Burns, Ryan Byers, Kyle Byram, Rooster Cardin, Ken Carpenter, Halle Cole, Rylee Cushman, Hannah Dyer, Samantha Falone, Matt Farnham, Allison Fetha, Shelby Gamache, Eric Gibbs, Brianna Graves, Katharine Graves, Rachel Ingalls, Courtney Kelsey, Jeffrey Littlefield, Sahvannah Michaud, Zach Nash, Breanne Oakes, Annabelle Osborne, Connor Patten, Cammie Peirce, Hailey Perry, Cody Porter, Josh Proctor, Kaylyn Raymond, Kent Raymond, Adam Rush, Matt Sforza, Sierra Snow, Madison Spencer, Braedon Stevens, Matthew Tripp, Katelyn Walsh **Holden**: Michael Bailey, Madison Drake, Garrett Fitzgerald, Emily Gilmore, Kelsey Gilmore, Tamara Hembree, Andrew Kiley, Maria Maxsimic, MacKenzie Nixon, Ian Norman, Frank Noyes, Cameron Oxley, Courtney Pearson, Seth Pearson, Collin Rhoads-Doyle, Jamison Rhoads-Doyle, Grace Smith, Betsy Spear, Mark Sullivan, Deven Teisl, Adelaide Valley, Abby Whitmore **Howland**: Brady Harding, Bri Moon, Alyson Thompson, Chad Trapier **Hudson**: Sally Clark, Megan Haney, Kiera Rush, Laura Shorey, Erika Small **Indian Island**: Claudia Cummings, Sarah Fields, Sage Neptune **Kenduskeag**: Jennifer Crone, Caroline Davis, Luke Edwards, Whitney Guy, Alyssa Hand, Chris Hersey, Kassidy McMillan **Lee**: Nicole Chandler, Amelia Crise, Lindsey Dodge, Ashton Dunbar **Levant**: Alexis Allard, Mikey Ames, Hailey Andrews, Brianna DePuy, Olivia Johnson, Alexis McKechnie, Brittany Morales, Jackson Peterson, Josh Peterson, Annie Treworgy **Lincoln**: Caitlyn Anderson, Chris Anderson, Corbett Arnold, Riley Bartash, Ava Broderick, Brett Crocker, Lynn Dwelley, Keegan Farrington, Koby Farrington, Ainsley Hainer, Ali Hardy, Natalie McCarthy, Duncan Mcintyre, Ellie Ocana, Paige Oranje, Rusty Phillips, Jason Worster **Lowell**: Jeffrey Garfield **Mattawamkeag**: Bryson Martinez, Sam Neil **Maxfield**: Josie Harper **Medway**: Kevin Drewrey **Milford**: Nolan Altvater, Cedar Bagley, Christopher Chappelle, Eli Clark, Tyler Field, Lisa Hastings, Jessica Hayden, Rachel Hollandsworth, Ethan King, Caleb LaPlante, Emily LeClair, Jenna Legere, Dakota Scott, Ryan Shorette, Natalie St. Louis, Cortney Stedt, Johnny Wolfington, Joel Yurkanin, Benjamin Zeitlin **Millinocket**: Katie Watson **Newburgh**: Tyler Arbo, Macie Cote, Wesley Kauppila, Angela Rideout, Jennifer Spann **Newport**: Josh Emery, Jared Gay, Noah Kershner, Bek Leadbetter **Old Town**: Abrar Alhamad, Hassan Alshuwaysh, Heather Anderson, Kara Arey, Logan Aromando, Hope Audet, Brianna Ballard, Olivia Bamford, Mary Banker, Alex Baron, Nicholas Baron, Emma Betterley-Dow, Allison Bleakney, Nick Boutin, Cagney Bowen, Johanna Burgason, Michaela Byers, Camden Chasse, Alanna Chavaree, Jiaying Chen, Tanay Chouhan, Devin Christianson, Jacob Clark, Jamie Coburn, Sarah Costello, Oliviah Damboise, Daniela Delpino, Bradley Denholm, Stephanie Deschaine, Charlie Duffield, Jordan Duffy, Emily Dunlap, Keegan Feero, Nick Feero, Jacob Foss, Kristen Freeman, Lauren Genenbacher, Kendra Green, Megan Grindle, Jordan Gudroe, Derek Haas, Sydney Hagarman, Matteah Hamm, Raegan Harrington, Bailey Heffernan, Aldous Hofmann, Ella Hunt, Zack Ireland, Maddy Jackson, Alicia Jacobson, Chris Johanson, Chris Johnson, Victoria Kanagy, Alika Katzenbach, Jordan Kelley, Meaghan Kelley, Khulod Khalaf, Andrew Kirk, Kat Klebon, Isabel Larsen, Aurore Looney, Carrie Love, Alyssa Lovering, Autumn Mallett, George Mason, Mae Mathews, Jon Maurer, Devin Maynard, Brandon McGinn, Kalee McLaughlin, Bethany Miles, Dre Miller, Hadley Moore, Justin Morin, Nathaniel Moyer, Jennifer Munson, Keyana Pardilla, Olivia Murphy, Jason Nagy, Gil Nguie, Theophile Nkulikiyinka, Sabrina Nuttall, Aubree Nygaard, Zane Nygaard, Jinyoung Park, Christine Pollard, Mark Pollard, Allison Pomeroy, Cameron Pottle, Ben Quimby, Mindy Reeves, Adam Regan, Harley Rogers, Michael Rumohr, Asael Sibo, Julianna Silver, Jordan Simpson, Connie Smith, Emma Smith, Jasmine Smith, Savanna Smith-D'Addio, Melanie Soucy, Brooke Sulinski, Cameron Sullivan, Brooke Sweetser, Zoe Swett, Jake Tauke, Lauren Tibbits, Santiago Tijerina, Chris Toothaker, Kathrina Turner, Paul Turner, Julia Van Steenberghe, Jasmine Waite, Caitlyn Wallinga, Kaitlyn White, Brad Wilkins, Caitlin Young **Orono**: Amatullah Adams, Mohammed Al hejab, Omar Alamro, Trevor Alcorn, Ali Almohsen, Bandar Alqahtani, Mashari Alqahtani, Faisal Alqarni, Ali Alsaeedi, Emilie Andersen, Kaleb Austin, Stephanie Bamford, Allison Benson, Cam Beressi, Amy Bernier, Christopher Birden, Ben Blood, Emerald Boisselle-Byers, Thom Bowie, Olivia Bradstreet, Jeremy Braun, Christien Breau, Chris Brown, Morgan Buchanan, Brandon Burris, Matt Bush, Cole Butler, Spencer Campbell, Garrett Casburn, Dakota Cates-Wright, Caleigh Charlebois, Nhan Chau, Hannah Clement, Aviana Coco, John Conant, Sarah Conner, Mackenzie Connor, Corey Coombs, Samantha Coombs, Ally Cooper, Skye Crump, Christa Dagley, Meredith Darling, Jafar Darwish, Chloe DaSilva, Erin Davenport, Camille DeSilva, Chris Diaz, Lauren Dodge, Kellen Doyle, Eedy Doyon, Daniel Drazhi, Daisy Drinkert, Grace Drummond, Austin DuBois, Elena Dugal, Paul Edman, Janet Elvidge, Theo Erikson, Leanna Ewing, Anthony Fabrizio, Isaac Fair, Olivia Fandel, Grace Farrington, Annie Fernandez-Faucher, Monica Figueroa, Kell Fremouw, Nshuti Gakuru, Eimile Garvey, Austin Gilboe, Nick Gillert, Ella Glatter, Garrett Graham, Andrew Guimond, Brianna Guy, Jack Haller, Taylor Hamm, Ryan Hancock, Darria Hansen, Elizabeth Harrington, Caitlin Hathaway, Malak Helal, Cassandra Henri, Ada Hepler, Irja Hepler, Jordan Hess, Alison Hills, Caeley Holland, Jessica Holz, Dom Huntington, Dominika Ivanicka, Caleb Jewell, Evan Jiang, Guanyu Jiang, Hannah Keller, Sabina Khatri, Jess King, Dima Krivorotko, Megan LaChance, Parker Lambert, Trent Lick, Eric Lindbom, Edward Lindelow, Kaitlin Liu, Natalie Logue, Delaney Love, Xingzhou Luo, Julia Mahoney, Mikayla Mason, Alissa Mathieu, Connor McCluskey, Sydney Meredith-Pickett, Haley Michienzi, Shane Miller, Marlana Mix, Nick Murphy, Rachael Murphy, Jamie Normand, Jack O'Donoghue, Will O'Neil, Ethan O'Rourke, Ali Obaidan, Josh Palmeter, Jordan Parks, Drake Perkins, Linh Phan, David Plouff, Nate Reid, Connor Robertson, John Robinson, Leila Rollins, Tyler Royal, Genevieve Rumsey, Roisin Rumsey, Matt Ryckman, Anthony Salafia, Lea Savarese, Lucas Scher, Fabrice Sentayehu, Logan Shannon, Bella Sharper, Ibrahim Shkara, Bentley Simpson, Jakub Sirota, Audrey Smith, Jake Smith, Jared Smith, Shannon Smith, Nyle Sockbeson, Elizabeth Spiller, Olivia Stevenson, Chris Stewart, Leela Stockley, Jake Stutzman, Edison Szymanski, Celine Tedenby, Ali Tobey, Kylie Trawick, Nikhil Vaidya, Mia Vargas, Emily Villemaire, Spencer Ward, Jarod Webb, Mickala Wheeler, Thayer Whitney, Kayleigh Wick, Justin Wiggins, Willow Wind, Abby Wingard, Emily Witham, Kelsey Wojdakowski, Danielle Wyman, Jinwei Zhou, Carolyn Ziegra, Zoey Zuo **Orrington**: Grace Blanchard, Nicholas Bower, Alex Casburn, Amos Diehl, Katelyn Grant, Darren Hanscom, Jw Harriman, Evangeline Jerome, Lia Johnson, Jonathan Kincaid, Meg Lander, Sam Lander, Eric Menard, Emily Norris, Max Pacholski, Alia Parsons, Ember Perry, William Prescott, Colby Rand, Lindsey Ruggiero, Erick Seekins, Donne Sinderson, Harmony Stetson, Liam Stewart, Kenzie Tefft, Alayna Treadwell, Ashlee Vilasuso, Nathan Williams **Passadumkeag**: Greg Elliot **Plymouth**: Ben Richardson **Stetson**: Megan Arsenault, Syd Frost, Anna Snow, Trevor Snow **Stillwater**: Lily Comeau-Waite, Karen Horton, Amanda MacBurnie, Nate St Jean, Drew St Jean **Veazie**: Brooke Buxton, Giorgia Calcagno, Sam Cartwright, Anna Dagher, Joseph Dagher, Grace Harman, Jacob Hutchinson, Courtney Hyde, Sean Kearney, Savannah Levesque, Jason Neal, Emma Olmstead, Caroline Reed, Connor Reese, Nate Reese, Tracy Reese, Sethany Rodriguez, Quest Teichman, Byron Winslow **West Enfield**: Lauren Reed, Hannah Whitten **Woodville**: Jada Kimball

Piscataquis County

Beaver Cove: Kiana Goodwin **Brownville**: Stephanie Duarte, Emily Gerrish **Dover Foxcroft**: Henry Chase, Michael Fagan, John Marshall, Cooper Nelson, Josh Reed, Chrissy Shaw, Hannah Sprecher, Graham Wilson **Greenville Junction**: Shelby Ward **Guilford**: Johan Halvorsen **Medford**: Sophie Guarino **Milo**: Colleen Demaris, Kelby Drews, M.J. Jackson **Monson**: Hannah Vainio **Parkman**: Michael DeMaria, Matthew Griffith, Charis Morin, Bailey Woodard **Sebec**: Alexandria Scuderi

Sagadahoc County

Arrowsic: Sean Detwiler, Olivia Shipsey **Bath**: Amy deHaas, Dominique DePippo, Ryan Fitzmaurice, Zane Kwiatkowsky, Eli Munro-Ludders, Sydney Osterhout **Bowdoin**: Aaron Dustin, Adam Dustin, Mikala Dwelley, Colin Ingalls, Conner Ingalls, Lauren Labbay, Zoe McNally, Gideon Wheeler **Bowdoinham**: Sydney Anderson, Alyssa Dau, Matthew Donovan, Spenser Egan, Morgan Johnson, Taylor Leech, Rick Mann, Caleb Miller, Josie Miller, Sydney Plant, Amanda Popadak, Meri Stockford **Phippsburg**: Abbie Baker, Ian Fernald, Marija Medenica, Madeline Skroski, Emma Warner **Richmond**: Anthony Arbour, Ashley Brown, Emma Carbone, Hunter Curtis **Topsham**: Madi Bailey, Karlie Brillant, Caitlin Chambers, Brewster Chard, Carly Cornish, Schyler Eaves, Erika Everett, David Flewelling, Rebecca French, Alexander Gaidola, Hank Gilson, Ryan Glass, Nick Graney, Justin Hamilton, Devin Hoskins, Nellie Ickes-Coon, Stephen Johnson, Matt Kenison, Joseph Knowles, Matt Lawrence, Hayden Libby, Meghan Murphy, Kody Noyes, Sabrina Paetow, Joseph Patton, Joey Reed, Ian Scanlon, Steven Schuman, Rachel Thieme, Katie Trebilcock **West Bath**: Casey Bennoch, Connor Bennoch, Baylie Cram, Tyreik Foster, Jordan Goodstein, Sarah Meyer-Waldo **Woolwich**: Isabel Burch, Tristan Burch, Hannah Card, Rachel Ouellette

Somerset County

Athens: Zachary Linkletter **Canaan**: Tammy Burke **Corinna**: Lauren Roberts **Cornville**: Jada Mack, Seth Pratt **Detroit**: Madison Morton, Rylan Wintle **Embden**: Brody Miller **Fairfield**: Nathanael Batson, Bailey Carter, Dakota Hutchins, Trinity Hutchins, Trey Liberty, Ben Parks, David Peitz, Noah Shepherd, Braden Soule, Sam Wilson **Harmony**: Gabriel Chambers, Emily Ledue, Caitlin McKenney, Arend Thibodeau **Hartland**: Shelby Haskell, Myky Weinstein **Jackman**: Alexandra Lessard, Ian West **Long Pond Township**: Elise McKendry **Madison**: Evan Bess, Allison Dean, Jenny Dean, Seth Dillon, Nate Dimock, Briar Edgerly, Jacob Girgis, Jordan Hadley, Luke Harper, Stuart Hodge, Aishah Malloy **Mercer**: Jason Hilton, Isabelle Mehrhoff **Moose River**: Carson Veilleux **Moscow**: Mike McNally **Norridgewock**: Kyle Jacques, Camden Johndro, Savanna Power, David Washburn **North Anson**: Liberty Chestnut **Palmyra**: Zoe Fiandaca, Laura Freudenberger, Ryan LaGross, Logan Pratt, Morganne Robinson **Pittsfield**: Jacob Ackroyd, Kal Bailey, Hunter Benttinen, Abby Bernier, Madison Fitts, Kassie Grover, Madisyn Hartley, Braden Monteyro, Logan Rollins, Aaron Schanck, Devon Varney, Sarah Welch, Kendrah Willey **Saint Albans**: Tami Farley **Skowhegan**: Rebecca Bell, Lindsay Cayford, Marcus Christopher, Whitney Coro, Brooke Curtis, Colby Esty, Alex Higgins, Sara Imam, Bailey Lewis, Sadie Libby, Julia Meade, Tim Nadeau, Sydney Reed, Travis Russell, Leah Savage, David Sincyr, Spenser Steeves, Morgan Tittle, James Walker, Ellie Warger, Katelyn Warren **Smithfield**: Kyle Salley, Tanner Towle **Solon**: Brandon Dixon, A.J. Foss, Andrew Wilson

Waldo County

Belfast: Audrey Broetzman, Sam Davis, Ashley Flanders, Lucien Gordley-Smith, Melissa Gray, Patrick Groening, Emily Harriman, Trevor Martell, Tracey McKinney, Donny Patten, Aiden Pike, Ben Robson, Zander Roman, Alyssa Simonds, Ben Turner, Zeke Ventura **Belmont**: Zoe Deans **Brooks**: Jacob Callas, Angela Holmes, Nick Merriam, Jordan Quimby **Burnham**: Ryanne Bane, Abi Bergdoll, Avery Gosselin **Frankfort**: Olivia Ellis, Kaitlyn Robinson **Islesboro**: Claudia Johnson, Isabelle Olson **Liberty**: Seth Davis, Alex Fountain, Abby Leidenfrost **Lincolnville**: Jesse Goodale, Michael Kremin, Crockett Lalor, Brendan Moline, Alisha Pendleton, Joshua Pitcairn, Kyle Wood **Monroe**: Olivia Lockhart, Erica Nealley, Cori Shooter **Montville**: Ray Luther, Toby Pontillo **Morrill**: Julie Allen, Melanie Berry, Evan Kennedy **Northport**: Ana Kelley, Olivia Lovejoy, Hunter Merchant, Elisabeth Parker, Melissa Tozier **Palermo**: Jake Holmes, Cade King, Kaylee Porter, Reid Rauch, Caleb Tyler **Searsmont**: Mikayla Artkop, Anna Baiungo, Declan Brinn, Nicholas Czuchra, Cassidy Hill, Olivia Hills, Emily Jolliffe, Noah Robbins, Richard Wyman **Searsport**: Dominic Francis-Mezger, Tristin Friend, Daniel McKeon, Meagan McKeon, Maddy Philbrick, Makala Riley, Kion Tupper, Larry Werner **Stockton Springs**: Ellie Damuck, Ryan Haskell, Cheyenne Hebert, Jack Lindyberg, Tori Staples **Swanville**: Hayle Grover **Thorndike**: Noah Pringle, Kristen Raven **Troy**: Mackensie Schofield **Unity**: Mickey DiPesa **Winterport**: Kate Bragg, Noah Burby, Sarah Burby, Stella Cashman, Nancy DesJardin, Mary Dube, Samantha Fanjoy, Josh Golder, Rachel Gower, Wyatt Harriman, Nate Jordan, Rebekah Littlefield, Courtney Meherg, Zara Misler, Kayla Stromvall, Kari Suderley, Elizabeth Willard

Washington County

Baileyville: Alex Morrison **Calais**: Alex Barnett, Devon Carrier, Katie Cavanaugh, Kobey Gillespie, Isaac Johnson, Andrew McLellan, Maddy McVicar **Columbia**: Shay Barbee Bamford **Danforth**: Brady McEwen, Kimberly Stoddard **East Machias**: Kayla Murdaugh, Shaina Murdaugh **Edmunds Township**: Jevan McPhail **Harrington**: Emma Denbow, Kayla Thompson **Jonesport**: Morgan Rocks **Lubec**: Richard Lyons, Jude Zanoni **Machiasport**: Patrick Massaad, Rylea Steeves **Milbridge**: Tashie Davis, Kelli Kennedy, Maura Pate **Pembroke**: Kaylie Robertson **Perry**: James Sapiel, Devyn Seeley **Pleasant Point**: Seana Mackeldey **Trescott**: Layla Lavigne **Trescott Township**: Theodore Jans

York County

Acton: Samuel Beaudoin, Brooke Camire, Summer Camire, Emily Clarke, C.J. Lantagne **Alfred**: Zachary Hurlburt, Joanna LaFrance, Sophia LaFrance, Ethan Lord **Arundel**: Scott Benson, Cam Bilodeau, Tanner Collard, Lauren Dickson, Katie Dube, Michael Laverriere **Berwick**: Jacob Bradshaw, Abby Couture, Ethan DeMoura, Alli Grant, Morgan Griffin, Dustin Knight, Jacob LaMontagne, Trent Otash, Jarrod Rudis, David Stansfield, Zachary White, Hannah Wilson **Biddeford**: Grace Bermeo, Tiffany Curro, Emily Huo, Sarrah Marcotte, Drake McAfee, Sam Mills, Carson Neumann, Sam Paul, Maegan Perrault, Michelle Ward **Buxton**: Mary Adams, Bethany Ashley, Jordan Fournier, Alicia Hannan, Niklas Hase, Virginia Hugo-Vidal, Garret LeClair, Abby Logan, Maddy Logan, Regan McCleary, Sydney Owen, Polly Rae, Caitlyn Sharples, John Vedral, Anna Weyand **Cape Neddick**: Marina Austin, Lili Beal, Christopher Chalande, Chase Holt, Emily Holt **Cornish**: Katie Tims **Dayton**: James Fitzpatrick, Cameron Houde **East Waterboro**: Dan Bolender, Jake Cyr **Eliot**: Lauren Cusson, Ryan Driscoll, Eliza Foye, Bryant Goodenough, Turner Goodenough, Chloe Hepburn, Emma Hichens, Brittany King, Tess McNamara, Peter O'Brien, Terence O'Brien, Olivia Petersen, Eliott Place, Amelia Rowell, Marissa Sewell, Chloe Shields, Sydney Valentine **Hollis Center**: Connor Baldwin, Noah Bussiere, Jamie Delaney, Lindsey Durgin, Andrew Ettinger **Kennebunk**: Nick Barry, Sierra Dorney, Colby Ellis, Grace Howard, James Jarvis, Haloye Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Ashley Kayser, Colleen Keegan, Jesse Lacasse, Cameron Ledesma, Amelia Nelson, Shannon O'Toole, Joseph Parent, Katy Ross, Brennan Schatzabel, Casey Schatzabel, Carter Stevens, Conor Stevens, Osiris Thomas, Julia Towne, Sam Vaccaro **Kennebunkport**: Michael Conrad, Miles Eaton, Tyler Smith, Alexander Sullivan **Kittery**: Emilia Byrne, Ryan Campion, Amanda Cusack, Mackenzie Heins, Briana Lamoureux, Elaina Perrault, Amelia Sullivan, Maeve Wivell **Kittery Point**: Belle Sillsby **Lebanon**: Hali Bowden, Jake Lelievre, Maggie Menter, Jack Stapleton **Limerick**: Syeira New, Marcus Ratz **Limington**: Will Faunce, Bre Lifland, Jordyn Long, Aidan McGlone, Cameron Trafford **Lyman**: Paige Houk, Sydney Sawtelle, Joel Van Tassell **North Berwick**: Carl Durocher, Liam Griffin, Casey Halliday, Matt Hickey, Reilly McGilvery, Kody Moseley, Tyler Oliver, James Stewart, Alex Upton **North Waterboro**: Nathan Baert, Emily Davison, Amanda Dudley, Brandon Johnstone **Old Orchard Beach**: John Fogg, Sarah Marden, Bobby Slattery **Parsonsfield**: Maya Jamerson-Martin **Saco**: Stephanie Ayotte, Sadie Barbaria-Harris, Matthew Basile, Cameron Cadorette, Jack Cannon, Abbey Carignan, Will Chapman, Abbi Cook, Sophia Crockett-Current, Morgan Crowley, Hannah Dill, Connor Donahue, Kate Dowling, Erin Farrell, Von Gagnon, Robert Gawronski, Luke Gosselin, George Horvat, Abdul Karim, Kaitlyn Kelley, Michael Kowash, Alex LaFortune, John Lemoine, Ethan Levy, Lindsay Luopa, Hannah McAlary, Ben McCarthy, Jason Morrill, Tim Murphy, Ashley Paul, Hunter Penley, Emily Petit, Sarah Picard, Derek Roberge, Anson Robichaud, Brogan Searle-Belanger, Benjamin Steva, Lilly Volk, Andrew Yarborough **Sanford**: Katherine Austin, Caitlyn Beaulieu, Becca Campbell, Megan Charrier, Cam Cote, Adam Genereux, Liv Kallis, Erin Malcolm, Emilee Mathieu, Ethan Mathieu, Felix Meas, Noah Monto, Uriah Noble, Megan O'Connell, Niraj Patel, Chad Rosander, Travis Tovey, Khang Truong, Kelsey Wright, David Yong **Shapleigh**: Madeline Beauchesne, Delaney Pitts **South Berwick**: Kyle Claus, Renee Clavette, Brian Couture, Elijah D'Aran, Jake Doyle, Claudia Folger, Liam Hawthorne, Stephen Kaplan, Kayla Landry, McKayla Leary, Ryan Long, Jacob McKenney, Alex Nduaguibe, Nate Poole, William Ramsay, Stephen Rezack, Jackie Ruksznis, Ilanah Sandler, Mikaella Sansoucie, Griffin Simmons, Madelin Sintiris, Tom Springer, Ethan Trott, Kenzie Young, Maddi Young **Springvale**: Gabby Bickford, Eric Griffin, Anna Johnson, Dean Johnson, Allison L'Heureux, Tian Morrison, Rylee Munday, Joshua Sirois, Josh Webber, Matthew Webber **Waterboro**: Lani Callahan, Mikaela Callahan, Adam Cloutier, Troy Cloutier, Hannah Duffy, Evan Foglio, Kylee Jacob, Desiree Saucier **Wells**: Kyle Bourque, Ben Campbell, Vincent Crawford, Melodie Godin, Raven Goodell, Brenda Griffin, Danielle Jarosz, Matthew Lavoie, Jack Macolini, Kate Macolini, Isaac Michaud, Bailey Morrison, Emily Morrison, Emma Nelson, Dimarco Roberts, Natalie Robinson, Amanda Villemaire, Emma White, Alex Wilkins **West Newfield**: Steele Muchemore-Allen **York**: Eli Albert, Kelsey Cole, Garrett Cronin, Ben Duffy, Jack Engholm, Cori Galante, Alexander Gay, Jordan Gomes, Joey Goulette, Spencer Goulette, Jack Harrington, Noah Imperato, Sarah Kate James, Kelsey Johnston, Anna Lane, Trevor Lavigne, Cam Martenson, Audrey Mitchell, Ethan Peabody, Isabel Pease, Caroline Scott, Hanna Sevigny, Brett Smith, Conor Tully, Zachary Westman *Back to full list*

Media report on new fiddlehead study warning against overharvesting

30 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News and News Center Maine reported on a new study from a University of Maine Cooperative Extension expert that highlights the dangers of overharvesting fiddleheads. David Fuller, an agricultural and nontimber forest products professional, found that fern crowns with all the fiddleheads removed in a single harvest suffered significant decline in growth in the subsequent years, and in some cases were killed outright. By the third consecutive year of harvesting, those ferns exhibited a drop in mean fiddlehead yield per crown from 5.1 to 1.4, as well as mortality in 50% of the crowns. The plants in which Fuller harvested half of their fiddleheads exhibited a decrease in the mean number of fiddleheads from 6 to 4.7 per crown in the third year. The control group of plants left unharvested produced the same average number of fiddleheads every year. “These findings suggest that fewer than half of the fiddleheads from a given plant could be harvested and be sustainable with no follow-up harvest that year,” Fuller said. “Plants whose fiddleheads have already been harvested by other harvesters that spring should be left alone.” WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the BDN report. Phys.org and Centralmaine.com shared the UMaine news release.

WMTW interviews Birkel about climate change action

30 Jun 2020

WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) interviewed Sean Birkel, research assistant professor in the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, for a story about state and local efforts to combat climate change. Birkel provides technical assistance to the state’s climate action council, which “has recommended a push for Maine-made renewable materials, clean energy heating and cooling and modernizing the electric grid,” according to the report. Birkel tracks trends in the arctic, which has exhibited record-high temperatures, and analyzes how global events like the loss of sea ice might affect Maine. “So as the arctic warms, there’s a change in the strength of the winds, a change in circulation patterns,” he said. “So there are implications both on shorter timescales and longer timescales.” According to the report, when Birkel was asked whether quarantine measures implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have affected climate change, he said “it is like filling a bathtub. If you turn the faucet down, the water level in the tub still goes up. WABI (Channel 5) also shared WMTW’s report.

Media reports on UMaine request to change name of Little Hall

30 Jun 2020

The Bangor Daily News, News Center Maine and Science magazine reported on University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy seeking approval to rename Clarence Cook Little Hall from the University of Maine System. The announcement follows a recommendation to change the name from a universitywide task force the president convened in March to explore the matter. According to the task force’s June 23 report, the name should be changed because Little, who served as president of UMaine from 1922–25, “promoted a scientific theory anchored in invidious judgments about the relative worth of different kinds of people,” referring to eugenics, and because he lead a campaign to “discredit public health evidence about smoking in order to protect a profitable industry.” “I agree with the task force that the renaming of Little Hall is necessary,” President Ferrini-Mundy said to the BDN. “It provides an opportunity to promote reflection and conversations about the meaning of diversity, equity and inclusion on our campus, and to address specific issues of racism.” WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the BDN article.

WABI reports on funding for Advanced Structures and Composites Center to assist U.S. Army

30 Jun 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the U.S. Army Natick Soldiers Systems Center awarding more than $3.2 million to the Advanced Structures and Composites Center at the University of Maine. The funding from a new five-year contract will allow the center to continue developing products for the army, such as Modular Ballistic Protection Systems used for army tents, inflatable arches used to quickly set up shelters, 3D-printed shelters and shelter materials, according to the report. The center will also use the funds to expand its laboratory, hire more full-time researchers and recruit more graduate and undergraduate students for research work. “The ASCC’s work with the Natick Soldier SSC has resulted in two Maine spinoff companies, Compotech and Advanced Infrastructure Technologies (AIT), both located in Brewer,” said Habib Dagher, center director and professor of civil engineering at UMaine. “The ASCC has also been hiring new research engineers and technicians, including 15 new personnel and 60 students this year.”

Steneck to discuss climate impacts on lobster industry during virtual seminar

01 Jul 2020

Robert Steneck will present “Maine's changing lobster fishery: some direct and indirect impacts of climate change” at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 10, during a webinar hosted by the University of Maine Darling Marine Center in Walpole. “Challenges for this fishery have never been greater,” says the UMaine marine ecologist. “Today, the economic impact of COVID-19, international trade problems, concerns about the northern right whale and bait shortages all weigh heavily on everyone who fishes for lobsters on the Maine coast. A less conspicuous concern relates to the warming Gulf of Maine.” Steneck’s research the last three decades has focused on climate change impacts on coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them, here in Maine and around the world. In the webinar, he’ll discuss one of the most valuable fisheries in the United States — the Maine fishery for American lobster. The professor of oceanography, marine biology and marine policy in the School of Marine Sciences is internationally known for his dedication to underwater field expeditions from the North Atlantic to the Caribbean and Indo-Pacific regions, as well as for mentoring hundreds of students at UMaine and other institutions. This spring, Steneck was presented the university’s highest research honor — the Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award. The webinar will kick off the DMC’s three-part summer science summer series. Presentations July 24 and Aug. 7 will provide additional opportunities for participants to learn about current marine science and policy topics in which UMaine researchers and students are actively engaged, in Maine and beyond. Visit dmc.umaine.edu for more information about the talk, to register, and to learn about upcoming speakers and topics.

Press Herald reports on student-athlete safety protocols

01 Jul 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported that University of Maine student-athletes are testing safety protocols implemented due to the coronavirus pandemic. Athletes have participated in voluntary workouts facilitated by strength and conditioning staff and training staff at Mahaney Diamond since June 18. According to the article, UMaine is the first college in the state to facilitate workout sessions for student-athletes. “We knew things would be significantly different (from the past), that there would be changes. But until you run it, there are going to be things you’re going to miss,” said Jonathan Lynch, director of sports performance. “We felt we needed to do this with a low number of athletes with very little risk of exposing them to the virus. And I think we’ve been very successful.” Workouts have been limited to athletes who stayed within a 30-mile radius of campus in the last 14 days, according to the report. They complete a wellness survey and have their temperatures checked before they can participate, and they keep 15 feet apart and wear a mask on campus when not training. “This is our initial work to get our protocols down,” said athletic director Ken Ralph. “We want to get it down correctly before moving onto bigger groups and moving into indoor facilities.”

Maine Public talks with Mayewski about ‘Expedition Everest’

01 Jul 2020

Maine Public interviewed Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute, about his participation in the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition. Mayewski served as expedition leader and lead scientist. He was joined by five CCI colleagues on the international mission. National Geographic premiered “Expedition Everest" on June 30. The one-hour show was a behind-the-scenes look at trailblazing climate research that's

critical to understanding changes facing the mountain and its glaciers, and shines a light on threats that these changes pose to communities downstream. “This is the upper level of the atmosphere that we live in, and in order to understand better how that portion of the atmosphere is responding to recent climate change, we need much more information,” Mayewski said. “So we put up automatic weather stations, collected the highest ice core ever, which would allow us to go back through time, collected water and snow samples, looked at biological material to see what the extent of the biology is up to those elevations, [and] conducted extremely detailed mapping surveys to provide a baseline for future change.” To learn more about the expedition and the vital role mountain systems like Everest play in providing water resources to nearly a quarter of the world’s population, visit natgeo.com/everest. The Science Times also interviewed Mayewski about the expedition.

Media share economic study detailing effects of coronavirus on hospitality industry

01 Jul 2020

The Portland Press Herald and News Center Maine reported on a study by University of Maine economists that projected the coronavirus pandemic may result in Maine’s hospitality industry losing tens of thousands of jobs and one-third of its revenue this year. The report indicates hospitality employment is expected to drop by 42% to about 46,200 workers, and revenue is expected to fall about 23% to about $1.6 billion for the full year, according to the Press Herald. The preliminary findings were based on revenue, payroll and employment for the first four months of 2020, as well as an economic recovery model developed by researchers at Harvard and Brown universities and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. “The analysis does not assume that the current travel restrictions will continue through the end of the year,” said Todd Gabe, professor of resource economics and policy and report co-author, to the Press Herald. According to the Press Herald, “An updated report is expected in August, using May and June hospitality sales figures from Maine Revenue Services.” The Associated Press and USA Today also cited the study.

BDN posts Ferrini-Mundy’s column about research contributions during pandemic

01 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News published a column by University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy titled “100 days in, pandemic proves payoff of public investment in UMaine research.” She wrote, “When the life-or-death importance of good hand hygiene led to a global shortage in the supply of sanitizer early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Maine health care organizations looked to a long-time partner for help: the University of Maine.”

President Ferrini-Mundy quoted in articles about UMS partnerships

01 Jul 2020

Mainebiz, the Portland Press Herald, Q 96.1, USA Today and the Associated Press quoted University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy about new partnerships between the University of Maine System, The Jackson Laboratory (JAX) and ConvenientMD (CMD) to provide comprehensive COVID-19 testing across all campuses. The President and UMS Chancellor Dannel Malloy announced that CMD will provide “wrap around” services, establishing sites at each UMS university to gather samples and administer and report results. The samples will be tested by JAX for the presence of the virus. The partnership will focus on RT-PCR testing, which is considered one of the most reliable COVID-19 tests. “We know that one of our biggest community health challenges is that asymptomatic people can be transmitting the coronavirus for weeks,” said Ferrini-Mundy, who chairs the UMS Scientific Advisory Board. “Our screening strategies will help us identify and isolate infection.” UMaine assistant professor of microbiology Melissa Maginnis, a virologist who leads the UMS Scientific Advisory Board, also was quoted in news reports. “The coronavirus is especially stealthy and can be transmitted for up to 14 days by carriers who feel healthy and show no signs of infection,” she said. ”The biomedical community is working very hard to develop a vaccine and antiviral treatments for COVID-19 but we may still be several months or more away from a breakthrough.”

UMaine Extension to host wild blueberry virtual field days in July

02 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is hosting weekly wild blueberry virtual field days 5–6:30 p.m. Thursdays from July 9 to July 30. Lily Calderwood, an assistant professor of horticulture with UMaine Extension, will begin by leading a session about weeds, mulch and fertilizers applied to leaves. Future field day topics include insect integrated pest management, climate change and disease IPM. The sessions are free and require no registration. More information is available on the webinar series webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Calderwood, 207.581.2321; lily.calderwood@maine.edu.

Media advance seminar about lobster industry, climate change

02 Jul 2020

The Wiscasset Newspaper, the Lincoln County News and The Free Press shared a media release about the University of Maine Darling Marine Center’s virtual seminar at 10:30 a.m. July 10. Robert Steneck, professor of oceanography, marine biology and marine policy in the School of Marine Sciences, will talk about “Maine's changing lobster fishery: some direct and indirect impacts of climate change.” “Challenges for this fishery have never been greater,” he said. “Today, the economic impact of COVID-19, international trade problems, concerns about the northern right whale and bait shortages all weigh heavily on everyone who fishes for lobsters on the Maine coast. A less conspicuous concern relates to the warming Gulf of Maine.” Steneck’s talk will kick off the DMC’s three-part summer science summer series, which includes presentations July 24 and Aug. 7. To register for the July 10 seminar and learn more about the series, visit the DMC website.

Media preview summer fun workshops

02 Jul 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel and Morning Ag Clips shared a media release about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s 50-plus summer fun workshops. UMaine Extension will host online and offline experiential learning sessions for youth ages 5-18 throughout July and August. Topics include leadership development, science and engineering challenges, creative cooking, art and photography, animal sciences and natural sciences. Register and find workshop descriptions on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sarah Sparks, sarah.sparks@maine.edu, 207.581.8206.

Chronicle of Higher Education announces hiring of vice president of academic affairs and provost

02 Jul 2020

The Chronicle of Higher Education highlighted the University of Maine naming John Volin as executive vice president for academic affairs and provost effective Aug. 14. Since 2017, Volin has served as vice provost for academic affairs at the University of Connecticut.

Carter talks about farmers adapting to coronavirus on 'Maine Calling'

02 Jul 2020

Hannah Carter, dean of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, was a recent guest on Maine Public's "Maine Calling." The topic was how the COVID-19 pandemic affected Maine farmers and how they're adapting.

Kreutz co-authors 'Stories from the Ice' in Shared Voices

02 Jul 2020

Karl Kreutz co-wrote "Stories from the Ice" in Shared Voices, the UArctic Magazine. The professor with the Climate Change Institute and School of Earth and Climate Sciences co-authored the article with Cameron Wake, research professor at the University of New Hampshire; Erich Osterberg, associate professor at Dartmouth College; and Alison Criscitiello, director of the Canadian Ice Core Lab at the University of Alberta. "The clear retreat of glaciers and loss of sea ice provide stark and iconic examples of climate change that are impossible to ignore," the article begins. "The implications are profound for Earth's climate, ecosystems, socioeconomics, security, northern communities, as well as the unique beauty of Arctic landscapes." The authors note the emissions history of pollutants with health and environmental impacts, including lead, mercury and others, "can be precisely reconstructed and evaluated in the ice core record." While there is abundant reason to be concerned about the ongoing impact of these pollutants on northern communities, the authors indicate the ice core record provides an important positive message: "When the use of leaded gasoline was phased out in the 1970s, and clean air legislation reduced the emission of sulfates in the 1980s, the levels of lead and sulfate in Greenland dramatically decreased. Focused effort through prudent emissions reductions and political action can make a difference." The authors say that going forward, co-producing knowledge with northern communities is important. "A new approach, with a detailed understanding of Arctic climate based on state-of-the-art observations, models, and traditional environmental knowledge of northern communities, can guide ice core research to directly address northern needs and priorities."

WVOM interviews President Ferrini-Mundy about fall reopening

02 Jul 2020

WVOM interviewed University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy on Aug. 31 about plans to welcome students back to campuses. UMaine, UMM and other University of Maine System campuses shifted to remote learning during the spring semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. UMS released the Together for Maine: Principles for a Safe Return guidance, which includes a cascade of messaging to keep stakeholders informed of campus-specific plans and updates over the summer as officials plan to return to face-to-face instruction for the fall 2020 semester. The universities plan to end in-person instruction and ask students to depart residence halls before the start of the Thanksgiving holiday, with plans to complete the remaining semester instruction and exams remotely to limit travel-related spread of infection. President Ferrini-Mundy said UMaine and UMM will offer options for virtual instruction, as well as a hybrid of virtual and in-person instruction, to accommodate students and faculty who cannot physically attend classes. Class sizes will be smaller to accommodate for state coronavirus guidance, the President said. "We are and have been working with our faculty and staff for weeks now on what the course arrangements will look like in the fall, and there will be a wide variety of options for our students and our faculty as well." UMS is partnering with The Jackson Laboratory (JAX) and ConvenientMD (CMD) to provide comprehensive COVID-19 testing across all campuses. President Ferrini-Mundy said the partnerships are crucial to preparing to reopen campuses. "We're doing everything we can to ensure that safety is foremost and that we will be able to observe the kinds of requirements that are expected at this time," she said. "We're working with our scientists. They're watching all of the modeling and all of the projections." WABI (Channel 5) and the Portland Press Herald also quoted President Ferrini-Mundy in coverage of the system's plans to reopen campuses.

WABI to interview Carter, Aylmer about career, graduate school workshop series

06 Jul 2020

WABI (Channel 5) will interview Lisa Carter, a career counselor with the University of Maine Career Center, and Jason Aylmer, a recruitment specialist with the Graduate School, about the Virtual Career Exploration and Graduate School Workshop Series at 10 a.m. July 9. The video series provides resources for career exploration, job search and graduate school options, including programs still accepting applications for the fall. Recorded workshops and other video resources are available on the Graduate School's YouTube channel.

CentralMaine.com highlights Extension offering nutrition education program online

06 Jul 2020

CentralMaine.com shared a media release about University of Maine Cooperative Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program offering its 10 Steps to a Healthier You series online. The online series is a self-paced program focused on healthy eating, meal planning, staying within a budget at the grocery store, and food safety. The program is free to income-eligible adults with children. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate Yerxa at 207.581.3109, kate.yerxa@maine.edu.

Savoie speaks with Press Herald about Extension's food preservation webinar series

06 Jul 2020

Kathleen Savoie, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension educator and professor, spoke with the Portland Press Herald about the "Preserving the Maine Harvest" series, which will offer new webinars this month. The Press Herald interviewed Savoie for the article titled "Learn to cook online from local chefs with these classes." More than 100 people from across the country have signed up for each free Zoom webinar, which Extension hosts at 2 p.m. every Tuesday through Oct. 27. "The topic of food preservation is more popular now than ever, given some of the issues that people have found as a result of the pandemic and food supply — growing their own food, preserving their own food," Savoie said. "It's gone beyond just personal satisfaction. The pandemic has changed the thinking a little bit around why people want to be preserving, and that is to ensure their own food supply." Extension will teach participants about quick-pack cucumber pickles during the next session, which will be held at 2 p.m. July 7. Other topics for July include fermented cucumber pickles, canning and freezing green beans, and freezing Maine seafood. Registration is required; a $5 donation per session is optional. Register on the program webpage to attend the live session or get the link to the webinar recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty at 207.781.6099 or kate.mccarty@maine.edu. CentralMaine.com shared a media release about the July webinars.

KJ, Morning Sentinel highlight first students to earn degrees as Maine's Top Scholars

06 Jul 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel shared a University of Maine media release highlighting the first students to earn degrees as Maine's Top Scholars: Kaylee Brann of Albion, Katelyn Ellis of Dixfield and Sadie Libby of Skowhegan. Brann, a biology major who will graduate in December 2021, has been admitted into a 3+4 Accelerated Program undergraduate partnership at the New England College of Optometry. Through the program, she'll be awarded a joint Bachelor of Science degree from UMaine and, later, a doctorate from the New England College of Optometry. Ellis will earn her Bachelor of Arts in kinesiology this summer, then attend the University of New England to pursue a master's degree in occupational therapy. Libby earned a degree in psychology with a behavioral/cognitive concentration. She minored in international affairs, concentrated in women's studies and conducted

psychology research with associate professor of psychology Shannon McCoy and graduate student Shelby Helwig. Maine's Top Scholar (MTS) program, which began in 2017, provides high-achieving undergraduates with full tuition, a designated faculty mentor and opportunities for research experience. They're also invited to join the Honors College.

UMaine student veterans speak with WABI about service, patriotism

06 Jul 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed two veterans studying at the University of Maine about their service and patriotism in a two-part series recognizing Independence Day. Matt Schaefer, who studies education, served in the U.S. Marines for 12 years, and said he takes great pride in his service. Schaefer also said Americans should not "hide from the events of the past" because it "diminishes those" who were affected by them. "This country has amazing opportunities, but a lot of people in this country don't get to see them all," he said. "So, I think the most important thing is for those who get to experience those amazing opportunities is not to stand by idle and be indifferent to those who seem to be struggling." Ryan D'Amato, who also served in the Marines, said he learned discipline and goal-setting during his service. D'Amato also said he was thankful for his upbringing. "I have the opportunity to feel incredibly patriotic because my country has gone out of its way to help take care of me and I had a sense of pride in service because of that," he said. "I grew up in a good community with all the resources acceptable to me. Other people don't have that sort of community or structure that makes you patriotic. So until everybody has all the access to the resources that I did not everyone is going to be as patriotic as I am and that is completely understandable."

Press Herald quotes Ferrini-Mundy, Ralph about prospective return of sports

06 Jul 2020

The Portland Press Herald quoted University of Maine President Joan-Ferrini Mundy about the possible return of college sports to campuses this fall. While President Ferrini-Mundy said she is hopeful that college athletes will be able to compete, officials have been developing "contingency plans in the event that our seasons are shortened, delayed or interrupted," as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. "If you examine national trends," she continued, "we have to recognize the possibility we may not have a traditional season. If we do not think we can provide the level of experience our students have come to expect from the University of Maine or if we believe the requirements of intercollegiate sports could create health risks in the campus community, we would look to delay participation until we had the necessary level of certainty to continue." The Press Herald also included a quote from Director of Athletics Ken Ralph. "We continue to have constant communication with our conference colleagues as we craft solutions for safe opportunities for our students to compete," he said. "Having clarity on our campus plans will help guide our portion of those discussions."

Gilbert, Ralph speak with News Center Maine about return to campus

06 Jul 2020

News Center Maine interviewed Faye Gilbert, interim executive vice president of academic affairs and provost at the University of Maine, about the university reopening campus for the fall 2020 semester. The university shifted to remote-learning in March in response to the coronavirus pandemic, but officials plan to bring back in-person instruction, complemented with options for remote and hybrid learning, for the upcoming semester. "(Our goal is) to make sure the community is safe and stays that way through our actions," said Gilbert, who also serves as dean of the Undergraduate School of Business in the Maine Business School. The University of Maine System is partnering with The Jackson Laboratory (JAX) and ConvenientMD (CMD) to provide comprehensive COVID-19 testing across all campuses in preparation for the planned return of students. If a student tests positive for the virus, Gilbert said "We have blocks of rooms for quarantine or self-isolation purposes." News Center Maine also interviewed Director of Athletics Ken Ralph. "Travel is going to be a concern, I mean you take a look at our schedule (and) we are all over the place for the first couple of weeks of the season," he said. UMaine sports enthusiasts may question whether the university will allow spectators at matches. "Right now, we're not worried about having fans in the stands, we're worried about can we actually play," Ralph said.

Melissa Flye: Communication key to natural resources management

06 Jul 2020

Melissa Flye analyzed communication patterns of people and groups working to restore Atlantic salmon to Maine rivers. The University of Maine doctoral student says experts understand what's needed, but that barriers to doing what's scientifically beneficial can arise due to lack of trust and effective communication. Read more about her research on the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions' website. Contact: Elizabeth Solet, elizabeth.solet@maine.edu

Learn about safe harvesting of wild blueberries during pandemic

07 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a discussion about safely harvesting Maine wild blueberries during COVID-19 from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. All Maine wild blueberry growers are invited to join the discussion by Zoom or phone for updates on ways to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during harvest. Lily Calderwood, UMaine Extension wild blueberry specialist and assistant professor of horticulture, will lead the discussion. Registration is not required. More information is available on the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation contact Calderwood, 207.581.2321, lily.calderwood@maine.edu.

Media highlight Extension's wild blueberry virtual field days

07 Jul 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, News Center Maine, Morning Ag Clips and WABI (Channel 5) highlighted University of Maine Cooperative Extension hosting weekly wild blueberry virtual field days 5–6:30 p.m. Thursdays from July 9 to July 30. The sessions are free and require no registration. More information is available on the webinar series webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Calderwood, 207.581.2321; lily.calderwood@maine.edu.

BDN interviews UMaine experts about proposed salmon farm in Belfast

07 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed three University of Maine experts from the School of Marine Sciences and School of Earth and Climate Sciences about the possible environmental effects of what is expected to be one of the world's largest indoor salmon farms proposed for construction near the Little River in Belfast. Damian Brady, an associate professor of marine sciences; Lawrence Mayer, a professor emeritus of oceanography; and Andrew Reeve, a professor of geological sciences, spoke to the BDN about Nordic Aquafarms's $500 million facility, which it expects will "produce 72.7 million pounds of Atlantic salmon annually for consumers in the northeastern United States," according to the article. Brady said all of the wastewater discharge from the farm, which would amount to 7.7 million gallons per day, will dissolve before entering Belfast Bay. Dissolved nutrients can alter the environment, but "the

Maine Department of Environmental Protection has monitored the nutrient levels in water closely since the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972," according to the BDN. "I don't think anyone can say that a single discharger within Belfast Bay will degrade the water quality of Penobscot Bay writ large," Brady said. "People hear 7 million gallons per day, and it sounds like a big number — and it is a big number … . But it's small relative to the tidal exchange." Some fear excavation in the intertidal zone to lay pipes for Belfast farm will dislodge mercury sediments on the ocean floor, but Mayer said mercury would more likely be found in quiet waters with fine-grained mud on the bottom than where the farm has been proposed. "The Little River is small, so I would doubt there is enough place for fine-grained mud to deposit," he said. Nordic Aquafarms plans to use 1,205 gallons of freshwater per minute drawn from the Belfast Water District municipal supply, on-site groundwater wells and surface water from Belfast Reservoir No. 1, and a 55-acre containment pond near the mouth of the Little River to support its facility in Belfast, according to the article. Reeve independently reviewed one of the company's modeling reports, and said it put forth a "good effort" to provide the public with reasonable data. He also recognized that the information has not quelled critics' fears. "It's almost like people decide what they want, and decide which model matches what they want, instead of doing it the other way," he said. While state scientists monitor water quality and levels, Reeve said watershed or riverkeeper groups should also keep track of the data. "It's in Nordic's interest to have a sustainable water supply, but I'll quote Ronald Reagan and say, 'Trust, but verify,'" he said. "I would certainly have local community involvement, or somebody else looking over [the company's] shoulder."

News Center Maine highlights UNE documentary featuring Wahle

07 Jul 2020

News Center Maine reported on a documentary created by the University of England about the effects of climate change on Maine that features Richard Wahle, a research professor in the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences and director of the Loberst Institute at UMaine. "Reckoning with Climate Change in the Gulf of Maine," which includes input from researchers across the state, will air on Maine Public at 9 p.m. July 9 and 2 p.m. July 11. The people doing research, the professors, the scientists, they've got a different niche or angle in climate change, said Sarah Delage, UNE director of public relations and communications who co-created the documentary. "I really didn't want it to just be a UNE promotional thing, so we brought in people from the outside. Rick Wahle was gracious enough to take part; he's one of the leading experts on lobster in the state with the University of Maine Lobster Institute. We have Peter Slovinsky, who's with the Maine and U.S. Geological Survey, he's an expert on sea level rise and flooding; and we got Dan Chadbourne who was kind of like an old salt, regular guy, he's a lobsterman who's been doing it for years; his dad was a lobsterman, and he's the Saco Harbormaster."

WABI reports on study examining link between newborn hearing test data and later diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder

07 Jul 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on a study conducted by researchers with the University of Maine's College of Education and Human Development concluding that newborns who did not pass their initial hearing screen but who later were found to have typical hearing had higher rates of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 5 to 10 years. Children who did not pass their newborn hearing test — the Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR) — but who were later found to have normal hearing were at more than eight times the odds of being identified as having ASD when 5 to 7 years old, and more than six times the odds when 8 to 10 years old. The odds decreasing with the older age group can be attributed to various factors, including more children being identified with ASD as they age and outmigration of families from Maine. "We just think it's important that we find ways to help identify these conditions as early as possible so that proper intervention services can be provided to these children," said Shihfen Tu, professor of education and applied quantitative methods and the lead author of the study. Co-authors include Craig Mason, professor of education and applied quantitative methods; Deborah Rooks-Ellis, assistant professor of special education and director of the Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research; and Patricia Lech, research associate with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute.

Press Herald highlights importance of UMaine in local economy

07 Jul 2020

The Portland Press Herald discussed the University of Maine's contribution to the local economy when describing a report issued by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston titled "College Towns and COVID-19: The Impact on New England." The report found that Maine leads the region in the number of municipalities that depend heavily on colleges and universities for their local economies, according to the Press Herald. More than 10 percent of local jobs in Penobscot County were in higher education as of 2018. Orono Town Manager Sophie Wilson told the Press Herald "the university and its students are the primary economic force in the town." If UMaine decided not to open in the fall, she said the effects would be "sudden and severe." Some businesses would suffer, and thus collecting property taxes could prove difficult, she said. UMaine also "pays $4.5 million to the town for emergency medical, firefighting, sewer and other services," according to the Press Herald. The Associated Press highlighted the Press Herald's reporting. The U.S. News and World Report, Bangor Daily News, WGAN, fosters.com and NECN shared the AP report.

New report analyzes combined economic contribution of Maine colleges and universities

07 Jul 2020

Maine's 38 colleges and universities generate a total annual economic contribution — including the spending of students and visitors, and multiplier effects — of an estimated $4.5 billion in output, 31,267 full- and part-time jobs, and $1.7 billion in labor income, according to a recent report by researchers in the University of Maine School of Economics, and the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. The report, "Economic Contribution of Colleges and Universities in Maine," was produced by research associate Megan Bailey, assistant professor Andrew Crawley and professor Todd Gabe. In it, the researchers analyze the collective statewide economic contribution of the public and private colleges and universities in Maine that educate 72,605 students, employ a combined 14,621 non-student workers and generate about $2.2 billion in annual revenue. Maine's colleges and universities support at least 10 jobs in 125 Maine sectors, and there are statewide employment impacts of 20 jobs or more in 108 industries, the authors note in their summary. In addition to the impacts documented in this report, Maine's colleges and universities contribute to the state's economy through new company startups, research and technology transfers, business assistance, arts and culture, and considerable other ways. "The most important impacts of Maine's colleges and universities are the students who graduate each year and go on to have successful careers in Maine and beyond," the authors write. "The high earnings premium associated with a postsecondary degree shows that graduates who stay in Maine generate substantial economic impacts — not captured in this report — over the rest of their lives." A copy of the report is online. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Fernandez to take part in 'Maine Calling' show about Maine Climate Council action plan

08 Jul 2020

Ivan Fernandez, a professor of soil science and forest resources and cooperating professor in the Climate Change Institute, will participate in a Maine Calling discussion about the Maine Climate Council's four-year action plan to address climate change. Fernandez is one of two scientists who serve the council. Hannah Pingree, director of the Maine Office of Policy Innovation & The Future and co-chair of the council; Jerry Reid, commissioner of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection and co-chair of the council; Joyce Taylor, chief engineer for the Maine Department of Transportation; and Kathleen Meil, director of policy and partnerships for Maine Conservation Voters, will also be a part of the discussion.

Maine Summer Youth Music now online

08 Jul 2020

The Division of Music in the University of Maine School of Performing Arts has launched Maine Summer Youth Music (MSYM) Online, featuring a small library of instructional videos for music students in grades 5 to 12. The site offers a virtual alternative to the Maine Summer Youth Music Camp, normally held on campus each year for up to 300 young musicians. The pandemic caused the cancellation of the junior and senior camps this summer — the first time since the program began in 1972. MSYM Online, which includes instruction on a variety of instruments and skill levels, was created by Christopher White, UMaine director of sports bands and director of the Maine Summer Youth Music Camp. White says he "wanted to make sure that MSYM did something this year to help people through the summer months and enrich our campers' musical lives." He hopes, too, that the project will remind viewers of the powerful impact that MSYM can have on its participants and the wider community. "We're already planning for a triumphant return in 2021," White says. The project is sustained by the volunteer efforts of UMaine faculty, including Isaac Bray, instructor of voice; Jack Burt, professor of trumpet; Anatole Wieck, professor of music, violin/viola, and orchestra; and Beth Wiemann, professor of composition, clarinet, and music theory. White is also taking requests for what lessons music students would like to see next, with more video lessons to be posted over the summer. Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu; Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Socolow named director of McGillicuddy Humanities Center

08 Jul 2020

Michael Socolow, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, has been named director of the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center at the University of Maine, effective July 1. Since 2010, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center has demonstrated the immediacy, relevance and applicability of humanities scholarship by advancing teaching, research and public engagement in the humanities in Maine. Socolow is an award-winning author and former broadcast journalist. His scholarship on media history and media regulation has appeared in numerous academic journals, and his commentary has been published widely in mainstream media, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Slate, Politico and Columbia Journalism Review. In 2019, Socolow was a Senior Fulbright Research Scholar at the News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra. "I look forward to building upon the center's terrific record of establishing partnerships with arts and humanities institutions in Maine, and encouraging and supporting collaborations between the faculty at the University of Maine and the public throughout the state," Socolow says. "In this challenging and unprecedented era, the type of understanding, reflection and exchange promoted by humanistic inquiry and creative endeavor is needed more than ever." The McGillicuddy Humanities Center serves as a locus for humanities research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and meaningful conversations among scholars, artists, students and the public through the support of lectures, symposia, panels, performances and exhibitions, as well as individual and collaborative research of students and faculty. Under the guidance of outgoing director Margo Lukens, the center recently added a successful undergraduate Fellows program offering young scholars mentorship and support for their humanities research.

Press Herald promotes Extension bulletins about composting

08 Jul 2020

The Portland Press Herald highlighted information in two bulletins from University of Maine Cooperative Extension about composting in the article titled "Maine Gardener: True compost is hard to create, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try." The bulletins promoted in the article include "Bulletin #1143, Home Composting" and "Bulletin #1159, How Compost Happens."

Media highlight Extension's native plants for pollinators webinar

08 Jul 2020

The Daily Bulldog, Morning Ag Clips, the Associated Press and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's webinar about selecting native plants for a pollinator-friendly garden, which will be held noon–1 p.m July 20. "Choosing Native Plants for Pollinators" will inform participants about how to select native plants for pollinators and specific growing conditions for different planting combinations, as well as offer time for questions. This session is the first in a six-part summer gardening webinar series to be offered every other Monday through September. Register on the event webpage to attend or to receive the link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu. U.S. News & World Report, the Bangor Daily News, WABI (Channel 5) and the Caledonian Record shared the AP report.

Mount Desert Islander advances virtual talk featuring Singleton

08 Jul 2020

The Mount Desert Islander advanced an upcoming virtual talk about symbols that reinforce racism, such as Confederate flags and monuments honoring leaders of the Confederacy, at which Seth Singleton, an adjunct and libra professor of international relations at the University of Maine, will speak. Singleton will discuss "how others have tried to confront the sins and symbols of their history, and why historical ghosts are never quite laid to rest, with tales from Russia, Vietnam, China and South Africa," according to the report. The Jesup Memorial Library will host the talk at 7 p.m. July 14. The session will also feature discussions from Fred Benson, who served in the U.S. Army in senior positions with the offices of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army; and Nathaniel "Nat" Fenton, a former lawyer who teaches at Acadia Senior College. Anyone interested in attending can register on the library's website.

Fresh magazine interviews Camire about benefits of Maine wild blueberries

08 Jul 2020

Mary Ellen Camire, professor of food science and human nutrition, was interviewed for a story about Maine's wild blueberry industry in the July–August edition of fresh magazine. Hannaford Supermarkets publishes the magazine for their customers to highlight seasonal ingredients, and provide recipes and cooking and nutrition tips. Camire, who has conducted research for the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine, noted that the state's wild berries have higher levels of antioxidants than cultivated berries, providing enhanced health benefits. But she said she sees the renewed focus on health benefits derived from consuming blueberries as a blessing and a curse. As cultivation increases to meet growing demand for blueberries, prices for Maine wild berries have fallen, in spite of their popularity with bakers, and an endorsement from Maine summer resident Martha Stewart. Promoting the enhanced health benefits of Maine's wild blueberry, which is featured in countless Maine-made products and is the central attraction at numerous annual festivals and statewide events, is a tried and true strategy. But Camire said she likes to emphasize the mystique of the wild blueberry. "When you go into a wild blueberry field, all these different varieties grow together. You might have some that are bigger, some that are sweeter, some that are tarter," she said. "That's kind of what makes it fun — you're not sure what you're gonna get."

Volk speaks with News Center Maine about tick tracking

08 Jul 2020

News Center Maine interviewed Michelle Volk, a graduate student of ecology and environmental sciences at the University of Maine, about tracking tick populations in the state. Field biologists have been collecting tick samples from all 16 counties in Maine to provide a snapshot of the overall population, according to the report. Volk has been monitoring tick migration in northern and Down East Maine. She previously concluded in her research that ticks

can survive the winter in some areas. The UMaine graduate student collected 635 ticks from several sites including Orono and Cape Elizabeth, according to the article. Those ticks were tested for the bacteria that causes Lyme, Anaplasmosis and Babeisois. “Lyme disease was about 20% in Cape Elizabeth and then 9% in Orono,” Volk said. She and other graduate students tried to locate ticks at Seboeis public lands outside of Millinocket and in Presque Isle, but came up empty handed. Volk plans to defend her data for her thesis to earn a master’s degree in ecology and environmental sciences. According to the report, her research could be compiled into a tick tracking map that shows the public where deer ticks are located, especially in areas that report very few cases of Lyme disease.

Counseling Center staff speak with BDN about dealing with pandemic burnout

08 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Kathrine Butler Hepler, a psychologist at the University of Maine Counseling Center, and Jessica Browne, staff clinician and co-coordinator of outreach and prevention at the center, for the article titled “How to deal with pandemic burnout.” Helper said anyone experiencing mental fatigue from the outbreak of COVID-19 should try “a little self compassion” by reaffirming who they are or how they feel by meditating, journaling, or talking to themselves in the mirror in an affirming way. She also recommended establishing small daily goals and celebrating when they are completed, participating in outdoor activities, limiting time spent on social media, and finding new ways to connect with people. “We need other humans,” Helper said. “Find ways to do that and grow that in your life, even if it’s a little unconventional. Get creative.” Browne said people should stop “engaging in comparative suffering and struggling because that leads to invalidating our own experiences.” She also encouraged setting boundaries for news consumption, engaging in other media like books that provide a calming effect, and trying new things. “This is new,” Browne said. “We don’t have a handbook on how to handle or navigate a pandemic. Things are hard and confusing. Be gentle with yourself.”

WABI interviews Dagher about saving lives with local innovation

08 Jul 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Habib Dagher, founding executive director of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center, about the impacts of ballistic technology developed at the University of Maine. “I was in my office, and I got a call one day,” Dagher said. “Someone from the Army, someone in Afghanistan that said, ‘thank you very much. You’ve just saved a number of lives.’ You don’t get too many calls like this every day.” The portable Modular Ballistic Protection System, which has been in development for more than a decade, includes ballistic panels that convert tents — an Army staple — into blast resistant shelters. The Advanced Structures and Composites Center has also yielded local benefits, sparking successful commercialization of technologies developed at the center by two Brewer businesses. Compotech produces a commercial version of the ballistic panel that is marketed to the Department of Defense as an expeditionary system, and Advanced Infrastructure Technologies (AIT) produces bridge systems using Bridge in a Backpack components and 3D printed girders. Ken Sweeney, president and CEO of AIT, recognizes that a number of his competitors allocate significant resources to research and development to remain on the leading edge and ensure success. “What we have with the university is innovation right here in Maine," Sweeney said. To Dagher, that’s just part of the mission. “The goal is to save lives at the end of the day, educate students, and create jobs,” he said.

Long Road closed for two weeks starting July 13

09 Jul 2020

A section of Long Road in the vicinity of the construction site of the Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center will be closed for approximately two weeks beginning July 13 to complete utility work. Long Road will be closed from the Memorial Gym to the Bennett Lot, with detours to Munson and Flagstaff roads. Gym Drive also will be closed. Traffic in this area will be limited to construction and emergency vehicles. Bennett Hall parking lot will be open.

BDN interviews Dixon about reducing plastic use

09 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Daniel Dixon, director of the Office of Sustainability and research assistant professor in the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, about how to reduce plastic use. Purchasing reusable items in lieu of disposable ones can help decrease plastic consumption, but Dixon said they must be used carefully to ensure they maintain a long lifespan. “Reusable items actually take up a lot more energy to produce than the plastic itself [and] if that energy is coming from fossil fuels, then you haven’t done the environment any favors,” he said. Removing single-use plastics by replacing them with reusable products, however, can still help decrease pollution that harms wildlife, particularly in marine environments. “To reduce the plastic that’s flowing around as trash in the ocean, there’s no argument to be had there,” Dixon said. “We have to stop using plastic, period. It’s a scourge on the environment and it’s going to end up poisoning us all. I think from that point of view reusable items do make sense. Energy-wise, not so much.”

Media highlight UMaine’s assistance for new RAS facility

09 Jul 2020

Mainebiz and The Ellsworth American highlighted the University of Maine assisting Kingfish Maine, a Dutch land-based aquaculture company, in building a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) facility in Jonesport. UMaine conducted a study on the economic effects of the project on Jonesport for the company. The preliminary data from the study “shows a potential value-added, multiplier impact of $46 million to the region,” according to Mainebiz. UMaine’s Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research also is helping the company build fish broodstock for the facility, which is projected to produce 6,000 to 8,000 metric tons of yellowtail kingfish each year.

Dill speaks to BDN about spittlebugs

09 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed James Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist, about spittlebugs. Spittlebug nymphs produce foam that deters predators and prevents them from drying out while they feed on plant juices, according to the article. “It’s a secretion from the butt of the spittlebug,” Dill said, “so it’s not really spittle … A lot of people used to call it snake spit. I don’t know why. As a kid, that’s what I called it, even though I knew there was an insect in there.” The foam also can protect spittlebug nymphs from insecticides, Dill said. Water can be used to remove them if needed. “Normally we don’t see it bad enough that it warrants any action,” Dill said. Spittlebug infestations can stunt and distort stems and branches on certain evergreen trees, and can even kill them in a few years. They can cause problems for Christmas tree farmers and other people who grow evergreens for ornamental purposes, Dill said.

Fernandez talks about Maine Climate Council action plan on ‘Maine Calling’

09 Jul 2020

Ivan Fernandez, a professor of soil science and forest resources and cooperating professor in the Climate Change Institute, was a recent guest on Maine Public’s “Maine Calling.” The show’s topic was about the Maine Climate

Council's four-year action plan to address climate change. Fernandez is one of two scientists who serve the council.

UMaine Extension expert offers advice on lawns statewide damaged by fungal disease due to drought

10 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension plant pathologist Alicyn Smart recently began receiving reports of Maine lawns turning black in certain areas during the recent drought. Smart determined the cause is a fungal disease commonly known as "black lawn," which is caused by the pathogen *Cladosporium sp*. It occurs when grass becomes stressed, such as times of sparse rainfall. Some landscapers in the state report not encountering it at all throughout their careers. Smart, who directs UMaine Extension's Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab, says the best response is to reseed damaged areas. Photos from affected lawns and UMaine Extension publications about correctly restoring damaged areas are now available on a new black lawn resource page. The disease does not appear to affect vegetables and flowers, but could affect other grasses. For more information, contact Alicyn Smart, 207.581.3883; alicyn.smart@maine.edu.

Choosing native plants for pollinators with UMaine Extension July 20

10 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar about selecting native plants for a pollinator-friendly garden noon–1 p.m July 20. "Choosing Native Plants for Pollinators" will inform participants about how to select native plants for pollinators and specific growing conditions for different planting combinations, as well as offer time for questions. UMaine Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Ginger Laurits will discuss the role native plants play in Maine ecosystems and how to support local pollinator populations by planting native species. This session is the first in a six-part summer gardening webinar series to be offered every other Monday through September. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend or to receive the link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Providence Journal interviews Crittenden about grandparents raising grandchildren during COVID-19

10 Jul 2020

The Providence Journal interviewed Jennifer Crittenden, associate director at the University of Maine Center on Aging, about the challenges grandparents who raise their grandchildren face during the coronavirus pandemic. Many grandparents have relied on school, Pre-K and daycare to provide care for their grandchildren while they worked, completed chores, or rested, according to the article. After these facilities shuttered for several months as a result of COVID-19, many grandparents have struggled with looking after and educating their grandchildren while also performing required daily tasks, especially when the outbreak limits their interaction with others who could provide support. Critteden said the pandemic has also heightened grandparents' stress because the children they care for are often emotionally vulnerable because they typically come to live with their grandparents following loss or trauma. "So much of caregiver well-being is tied up with how the kids are doing," she said. "If the kids aren't doing well, the grandparents also worry. I see the emotional support needs of these families being that much more important during COVID."

Pine Tree Watch interviews UMaine, Extension faculty about shift in weather patterns

10 Jul 2020

Pine Tree Watch interviewed Sean Birkel, research assistant professor in the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, and John Jemison, a soil and water quality specialist with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about shift weather patterns fueled by climate change. According to the article, "Rain deficits can be prompted by "atmospheric blocking patterns" linked to a weakened jet stream." Birkel said weakened jetstreams can increase the odds for both heat and cold waves, and the blocking patterns can remain in places for weeks. As Maine's climate warms, "it remains uncertain whether drought becomes more or less prevalent," Birkel said, "but it's a plausible scenario." When asked about increasing garden resilience to wet and dry conditions, Jemison said gardeners should be "building better soil structure," particularly by adding compost or other organic material. He also said he recommends using raised beds or walking boards, which reduce compaction by distributing weight. The article also shared Extension's online resource for managing gardens and yards and manual to train Master Gardener Volunteers — which includes tips for stormwater management techniques like creating rain gardens and using cover crops to minimize erosion. It also included a quote from Ivan Fernandez, a professor of soil science and forest resources and cooperating professor in the Climate Change Institute, published in Wild Seed magazine. "Never again will we have the climate system of the 20th century," he wrote. The Boothbay Register, Penobscot Bay Pilot and Wiscasset Newspaper shared Pine Tree Watch's report.

Press Herald interviews Gilbert about class instruction for fall 2020

10 Jul 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Faye Gilbert, interim executive vice president of academic affairs and provost at the University of Maine, about plans to host classes in-person, remotely or online in the fall. Gilbert said she is communicating with families and to any confusion surrounding these decisions. UMaine is still finalizing class schedules and how courses will be delivered, which could change between now and Aug. 1. "We will do everything we can within the guidelines of the system to make sure (students) have impactful in-person experiences and that they have high quality distance experiences if that's what they need to progress," Gilbert said. "For 150 years we've been meeting students where they are. This fall is going to be a little different but we're still very determined to be sure every one of them can progress." Eight percent of classes are scheduled to be taught asynchronously online at this time, which Gilbert said is not vastly different from a typical semester.

Gilbert, Neuman speak with BDN about faculty perspectives for returning to campus

10 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Faye Gilbert, interim executive vice president of academic affairs and provost at the University of Maine, and Lisa Neuman, an associate anthropology professor who leads UMaine's chapter of the Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine (AFUM), about a survey detailing how participating faculty feel about returning to campus in the fall. A survey by the union in June found 57% of the more than 250 faculty respondents "said they felt uncomfortable with teaching in classrooms this fall as the coronavirus pandemic continues and as new cases surge nationally." On the other hand, 49% of faculty who responded to the survey said they were preparing for in-person instruction. "It's not the actual percentage that really matters there. It's just that there was a discrepancy that was significant between those who would like to return and those who were actually making those plans," Neuman said. Gilbert said UMaine administrators expect more than half of the classes taught in the upcoming semester will be in-person. "It seems to be laying out pretty well with people expressing their beliefs about the best way to offer their classes, and that portfolio of needs," Gilbert says. Neuman noted that the university "is trying to work with everybody to make sure people have some options, and that they are aware of the options that they have." WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) also mentioned the BDN article.

UMaine economists research economic fallout from COVID-19 in Maine's hospitality industry

13 Jul 2020

Two University of Maine economists predict that earnings for Maine restaurants and lodgings will drop by more than one-third from the previous year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Todd Gabe, a professor of economics, and Andrew Crawley, an assistant professor of regional economic development, conducted a study exploring the economic fallout from the outbreak in the hospitality industry, which includes restaurants, hotels, motels, inns and other lodging establishments. They shared their findings, which rely in part on data from Maine Revenue Services and the Opportunity Insights project, with the trade group HospitalityMaine. "We've been studying Maine's hospitality industry for years, so when we were asked to do this update (by HospitalityMaine), we knew we had the data and expertise," Gabe said. "It was a natural thing for us to try to figure out what's happening." Gabe and Crawley predict that 2020 hospitality sales will reach between $2.5 and $2.8 billion by the end of the year, a 35 to 42 percent drop from last year, when sales were $4.3 billion. The forecast relies on actual data from January to April and estimated earnings for May through December, which are based on a variety of scenarios about how the rest of the year will play out. Daily consumer spending in hospitality fell 66 percent between January and early April, 50 percent between January and early May and 33 percent between January and early June, according to the report. Hospitality sales gradually rose between April and June, but remain below a typical year, Gabe says. Maine hospitality sales fell by 35 percent between March 2019 and 2020, and by 63 percent between April 2019 and 2020. One the other hand, sales were up by 12 percent in January and February when compared to last year. "Certainly, the large impact on hospitality sales (from COVID-19) started at the beginning of the pandemic," Gabe said. "If you took January and February as indicators, this year was supposed to be a good year starting out for hospitality." Restaurant activity generates about 70 percent of taxable sales in the Maine hospitality industry, Gabe says, and the pandemic affects them and lodging operators in different ways. "You hear hotel operators say 'Our reservations are down.' We know motels and hotels are getting hit harder than restaurants," he says, adding that some eateries have adapted by offering takeout and curbside pick-up services, as well as outdoor seating. HospitalityMaine previously asked Crawley and Gabe to conduct studies about the economic contribution of Maine's hospitality industry to the state economy last year and in 2018. Jumping off from their previous work, the UMaine economists estimated how much COVID-19 will affect the industry's contribution this year. The Maine hospitality industry is expected to generate $2.65 billion in direct revenue, 33,085 full- and part-time jobs in direct employment and $1 billion in labor income for workers, according to the report. The direct revenue should spur a statewide economic contribution — including multiplier effects — of $4.6 billion in revenue, 46,196 full- and part-time jobs and $1.6 billion in labor income. That contribution falls short of 2018 and 2017 by 33 and 29 percent respectively. Gabe says hospitality creates more than 10 percent of jobs in some counties, and the economic loss as a result of COVID-19 could be significant in those areas. "It'll be a bigger hit in coastal areas," he says. The two UMaine economists plan to update their findings as new data becomes available, with a new report expected to be released in August. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Updated UMaine Extension berry publications available

13 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension offers two updated bulletins for summer berries. "Raspberry and Blackberry Varieties for Maine" includes information on the different types of brambles — from yellow raspberries to thornless blackberries — propagation methods and how to choose the best stock and plants for a given location. The bulletin also offers online instructional videos for both home gardeners and commercial growers. "Strawberry Varieties for Maine" details berry varieties by ripening time, site requirements, disease resistance and the subjective, but important, flavor factor. The publication includes over 20 varieties with images and an online instructional video for growing strawberries in the off-season. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog or by contacting 207.581.3792; extension.orders@maine.edu.

CentralMaine.com advances safe blueberry harvesting webinar

13 Jul 2020

CentralMaine.com reported on the upcoming University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar on the topic of safely harvesting Maine wild blueberries during COVID-19. The webinar runs noon–1 p.m. July 14. All Maine wild blueberry growers are invited to join the discussion by Zoom or telephone for updates on ways to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during harvest. UMaine Extension wild blueberry specialist and assistant professor of horticulture Lily Calderwood will lead the discussion. More information is available on the event webpage. Contact Calderwood to request a reasonable accommodation at 207.581.2321; lily.calderwood@maine.edu.

MD Islander highlights Muscat selection as NOAA scholar

13 Jul 2020

The Mount Desert Islander profiled University of Maine student Abigail Muscat, who was recently named a 2020 Ernest A. Hollings Undergraduate Scholar by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Muscat, a third-year marine sciences major and international affairs minor from Tremont, is the fourth UMaine student in four years to receive this prestigious scholarship. After completing her undergraduate degree and the NOAA 10-week internship, she plans to attend graduate school. She hopes to combine her interests in marine science and ornithology research by examining the interactions of marine environments and birds.

WABI advances virtual career exploration workshops

13 Jul 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Lisa Carter, a career counselor with the University of Maine Career Center, and Jason Aylmer, a recruitment specialist with the Graduate School, about the recently launched Virtual Career Exploration and Graduate School Workshop Series. Aylmer notes that the focus of these workshops is on helping the community by supporting displaced workers. Collaborator and career counselor Lisa Carter agrees. "We're hoping that these videos help people think about their values and where they're at in their life," she said. "Do they want to go back to school, do they want to try a certificate program?" Carter and Aylmer know that developing new skills can facilitate career change. The video series provides resources for career exploration, job search and graduate school options, including highlighting programs still accepting applications for the fall. Recorded workshops and other video resources are available on the Graduate School's YouTube channel. The next live workshop will be held at 2 p.m. July 15. More information is available on the Graduate School website.

Media interview Smart about black lawn

13 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News, WABI (Channel 5), News Center Maine and WGAN Morning News interviewed Alicyn Smart, plant pathologist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about a little-known plant disease spreading across Maine. Black lawn, an opportunistic fungus that attacks dying tissue, has not been seen in Maine for at least three decades. But Smart notes that the fungus, *Cladosporium*, has likely been here and remained dormant until conditions were right. "The spores are always present but we just don't see them," Smart said. There is no treatment for black lawn, which thrives in dry and humid conditions, so Smart recommends watering as a preventive measure. The fungus is not harmful to humans, pets, vegetables or flowers. Cooperative Extension has published an online black lawn resource page. The Associated Press, Portland Press Herald, U.S. News & World Report, Piscataquis Observer, Morning Ag Clips, Coast 93.1, fosters.com, boston.com and Centralmaine.com shared a UMaine media release about black lawn and assistance from Extension. WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the BDN article.

Kelley speaks with AP about rising sea levels threatening salt marshes

13 Jul 2020

The Associated Press interviewed Joseph Kelley, a professor of marine geology at the University of Maine, about the threat rising sea levels pose to salt marshes. A group of scientists led by Neil Ganju, a Woods Hole, Massachusetts-based oceanographer, found that four of the country's coastal salt marshes would be gone in 350 years, and another four were relapsing. Salt marshes face pressure from rising sea levels, land development and natural erosion, according to the report. "Somebody in 50 years who looks at some of the marshes we've looked at, they'll just see lots of open water," said Kelley, who was not part of the scientists' study. The Los Angeles Daily News and Manila Bulletin shared AP's report.

Faculty, students speak with media about new ICE rules

13 Jul 2020

News Center Maine and the Bangor Daily News interviewed faculty and international students from the University of Maine about new regulations from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). "I need to focus on staying in the country first, and then think about my health, because I don't know my chances of getting COVID-19, but there's a 100 percent chance that if I don't rejoin the campus, I will be sent out of the country," said Raj Anupam, a UMaine graduate student studying to become a physics teacher, to BDN. New rules from ICE require international students to take in-person classes in the fall 2020 semester in order to stay in the country and prevent their visas from becoming invalidated. "So that uncertainty you can imagine is not a comfortable way to live, or to focus on your studies and what you are learning because the worry of is it today, is it tomorrow that I have to have all my things in a suitcase ready to depart the country?" said Faye Gilbert, interim executive vice president of academic affairs and provost at the University of Maine, to News Center. UMaine, however, satisfies ICE's requirements by offering in-person instruction and hybrid teaching, a mixture of in-person and online teaching. "We will be switching to a remote instruction on November 25th, but because it's part of our hybrid instructional model for the fall semester, our students can remain in the country and complete their semester," said Orlina Boteva, director of International Programs at UMaine, to News Center. Maine Public shared the BDN report.

Irregular reports on National History Day in Maine contest

14 Jul 2020

The Irregular reported on students from Strong Elementary School competing in the National History Day in Maine contest, co-organized by the University of Maine and the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan. The contest, held virtually this year, is an annual event for teachers and students in grades 6–12 that promotes critical thinking skills through project-based learning. To learn more about the contest and this year's showcase, visit the event webpage. The Sun Journal also highlighted the event in its report about Logan Landry, a teacher at Bruce M. Whittier Middle School in Poland, having participated in the National History Day summer professional development program.

Media advance UMaine Extension webinar, updated bulletins

14 Jul 2020

The Wiscasset Newspaper, Boothbay Register and Daily Bulldog and advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's all-season gardening webinar and two updated bulletins for summer berries. The webinar, which will be held noon–1 p.m. Aug. 3, will discuss how to build a small movable greenhouse or low tunnel structure for growing winter greens and boosting spring and summer season crops. Register on the event webpage to attend or receive a link to the recording. The updated bulletins pertain to raspberry, blackberry and strawberry varieties for Maine. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog or by contacting 207.581.3792; extension.orders@maine.edu. Morning Ag Clips also advanced the webinar and updated bulletins.

VillageSoup highlights UMaine Extension helping tackle food insecurity in Waldo County

14 Jul 2020

VillageSoup highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office in Waldo County participating in a new initiative to tackle food insecurity. Waldo County Bounty is a community fundraising and resource-sharing initiative backed by a coalition of community leaders, farmers, small businesses and other supporters, according to the article. UMaine Extension in Waldo County provides educational materials and other resources that support gardners trying to improve personal food security and share goods with neighbors and hunger relief programs.

BDN reports on Fogler Library gathering materials about Mainers' COVID-19 pandemic experiences

14 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News included the Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine in a report about libraries in Maine archiving residents' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Matthew Revitt, special collections and Maine shared collection librarian, said he has been collecting revised syllabi from classes that went online, screenshots of web pages and emails from various UMaine academic and administrative departments, and personal stories from alumni gathered with help from UMaine's Alumni Association. These materials can be viewed on the library's website. "I wanted to be able to show the broad response from the university itself, and then how individual departments adapted, as well ordinary people," Revitt said. "We want to get a kind of big picture of what happened, so that people in 10, 15, 100 years time that are researching this moment in history can really get a sense of what life was like, and how the university at all levels reacted." To share a story, send materials to matthew.revitt@maine.edu. The Piscataquis Observer shared the BDN report. The Forecaster also included the Raymond H. Fogler Library in its story about libraries around the state collecting items to archive for future generations to study what it was like to live through the coronavirus pandemic.

Media interview Brewer about Senate race in Maine

14 Jul 2020

Reuters, the Associated Press, ABC News and Vox interviewed Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, about the U.S. Senate race between Susan Collins and the Democratic challenger to be determined in the Tuesday primary. The Algemeiner, Aljazeera, Yahoo! News, WTVB and the National Post shared the Reuters article. U.S. News & World Report, Seacoastonline.com and The Westerly Sun shared the AP report. MSN shared the ABC News and Vox reports.

Virtual Career Exploration and Graduate School Workshop July 15

14 Jul 2020

The University of Maine Career Center and UMaine Graduate School will host the next live University of Maine Virtual Career Exploration and Graduate School Workshop at 2 p.m. July 15. The free public event, available on the

UMaine Graduate School YouTube channel, is part of a workshop series that provides resources for career exploration, networking, job search and graduate school options. Graduate School admissions counselors also are available by appointment. For more information, visit the Graduate School website or contact recruitment specialist Jason Aylmer, jason.aylmer@maine.edu.

Times Telegram highlights Extension's food preservation assistance

15 Jul 2020

The Times Telegram highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension helping residents preserve their food. UMaine Extension offers the "Preserving the Maine Harvest" webinar series, which features new weekly sessions at 2 p.m. every Tuesday through Oct. 27. Register for each webinar on the program webpage to attend the live session or get the link to the recording.

Laramie Boomerang quotes Vekasi about China's monopoly on minerals

15 Jul 2020

The Laramie Boomerang quoted Kristin Vekasi, an assistant professor of political science and policy and international affairs at the University of Maine, in the article titled "Growing tensions with China could affect land deal." Vekasi was part of a National Press Foundation Webinar on global trade during coronavirus on July 7, 2020. Titled "Essential Ingredients: Will China's Dominance in Raw Materials Imperil the US?," the briefing discussed why the U.S. gave up production of many vital raw materials (such as vitamins and rare Earth elements), what could happen if China locks down exports of them, and the prospects for diversifying vital supply chains. "For decades, China's state-run monopoly on rare Earth minerals has been one of the few arrows in the country's quiver," she said, "and one that it threatened to use in a 2010 trade dispute with Japan in 2010."

Sun Journal highlights Extension's guidance on plants for pollinators

15 Jul 2020

The Sun Journal highlighted guidance from University of Maine Cooperative Extension about how to support pollinators. UMaine Extension recommends planting tubular-flowered plants in the mint family, like sage and lavender, and plants in the Aster family, like sunflowers and daisies, in gardens. The webinar, "Choosing Native Plants for Pollinators," is from noon–1 p.m July 20. Register on the event webpage to attend or to receive the link to the recording.

KJ, Morning Sentinel advance farm products directory

15 Jul 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Maine Farm and Seafood Products Directory in the article titled "An increased appetite for local food keeps farm stores bustling in Maine." UMaine Extension worked with Allison Lakin, owner of East Forty Farm and Dairy, and Lakin's Gorges Cheese in Waldoboro, to develop the database of Maine farmers' creative distribution strategies implemented for the public. The farm product and pick-up directory of the participating farms is online.

Kaye speaks with Machias Valley News Observer about seniors dealing with mental health during COVID-19

15 Jul 2020

The Machias Valley News Observer interviewed Lenard Kaye, director of the University of Maine Center on Aging, in an article about how senior citizens can deal with mental health challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Maintain daily contact. That's the most important factor," he said, adding that "I encourage everyone to take control of their life and set up a structure. You need to have structure, day in and day out." The article also advanced the center's UMaine Health Connection Chats, held 11 a.m. every Wednesday. Judith Josiah-Martin, a lecturer with the School of Social Work at UMaine, will deliver the chat titled "Dealing Effectively with the Trauma of Living During COVID-19" on July 22. More information is available on the Center on Aging website.

UMaine professors advance framework for developing socially conscious teacher leaders

15 Jul 2020

In order to develop teacher leaders in preK–12 schools, three University of Maine faculty members suggest a career-spanning framework that emphasizes continuous inquiry, social justice, and an expanded notion of teachers' roles in schools, communities and society. Rebecca Buchanan, Tammy Mills and Evan Mooney — faculty members in the College of Education and Human Development's School of Learning and Teaching — outline their ideas in an article published recently in the journal Professional Development in Education. While acknowledging that theirs is one among many possible frameworks, Buchanan, Mills and Mooney argue that developing teacher leaders should be viewed as more than a linear process where educators with more experience are given more responsibilities. Nor should teacher leadership necessarily be seen as a stepping-stone to being a school administrator. Rather, they say their "proposed framework views teacher leadership as an avenue for rethinking the entire profession as interacting with myriad shaping forces and with the ability to enact equity and justice at multiple levels." The first part of their framework is to develop a "critical inquiry stance," which the authors define as "having an open mind and a questioning, curious attitude towards the familiar contexts in which teachers find themselves." To encourage this stance, Buchanan, Mills and Mooney say teacher education programs should give teachers tools that they can use throughout their careers to ask critical questions and participate in "difficult, but necessary, discussions and counternarratives." An emphasis on social justice — the second aspect of the framework — is closely related to a critical inquiry stance. "In other words," Buchanan, Mills and Mooney write, "teachers who engage with an inquiry stance conduct a critical analysis of their context and pledge to disrupt the status quo and move towards social transformation." Again, the authors say teacher education programs play an important role in developing the capacity for teachers to be socially transformative leaders. Ultimately, Buchanan, Mills and Mooney's framework rests on the idea that this emphasis on inquiry and social justice can help classroom teachers cultivate a set of beliefs and practices that allows them to develop into socially conscious leaders, not just in schools, but in their communities and society at large. "Teacher's beliefs and practices are intertwined and inform each other," they write. "As teachers engage in new practices, they reconsider their previous beliefs, which — in turn — shapes future practices." After sketching their framework, Buchanan, Mills and Mooney offer examples of how it works in practice through a case study drawing on their work at UMaine. The case study is broken down into the different stages of a teacher's career: preservice/novice; novice/mid-career; and mid/late career. "In order for teachers to develop leadership capacities, these skills must be honed, practiced and supported across contexts," they write. The authors point to partnerships between local schools and university-based teacher education programs as a good example of the kind of work that can help all teachers gain leadership skills. Although such collaborations can create challenges of their own, Buchanan, Mills and Mooney write that they also "offer a unique set of opportunities to support the development of teacher leadership across the career span." "Ideally, these partnerships would extend beyond the university-school relationship to also include relevant community organizations," they say. The article, "Working across time and space: developing a framework for teacher leadership throughout a teaching career," is available online. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

UMaine WiSe-Net Lab, AMSAT partner to develop Maine's first small satellite

16 Jul 2020

The University of Maine Wireless Sensing Laboratory (WiSe-Net Lab) and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) have signed an agreement to collaborate on the building and operating MESAT1, Maine's first small satellite, to be launched in space in the next three years. MESAT1 is the state's first CubeSat — one of 18 small research satellites selected by NASA to carry auxiliary payloads into space between 2021–23. It is part of NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative that provides opportunities for nanosatellite science and technology payloads built by universities, schools and nonprofit organizations to ride share on space launches. MESAT1 is being led by UMaine, in partnership with the University of Southern Maine and a trio of K–12 schools — Saco Middle School, Fryeburg Academy and Falmouth High School. A UMaine release about the NASA announcement earlier this year is online. AMSAT is an educational organization that advances amateur radio participation in space research and communication. Since 1970, it has constructed and/or operated more than 20 amateur satellites, and has been a major influence on the "small satellite revolution." UMaine's WiSe-Net Lab, established in 2005, is involved in aerospace and space research. The lab was founded by Ali Abedi, assistant vice president for research and director of the Center for Undergraduate Research. Lab researchers have developed the first wireless sensor network for NASA's lunar habitation project and launched wireless leak-detection to the International Space station. The MESAT1 initiative will enable K–12 students and teachers in Maine to access space data for educational and research purposes, and encourage students to pursue STEM careers. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Composites Center awarded $3.2M for R&D to protect troops

16 Jul 2020

The University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center has been awarded more than $3.2 million from the U.S. Army Natick Soldiers Systems Center to support development of technologies that protect troops in the field. The research builds on decades of R&D that led to the development of products like modular ballistic protection systems to protect military personnel in tents and inflatable arches that allow for rapidly deployable shelters. The modular ballistic panel system is lightweight and rapidly deployable. Researchers are exploring use of 3D printing to create shelters, and the development of new materials to increase protection and reduce detection, weight, production times and overall costs. UMaine also is developing inflatable arches to allow troops to quickly set up shelter. The Composites Center's work with the Natick Soldiers Systems Center has resulted in two Maine spinoff companies, Compotech and Advanced Infrastructure Technologies (AIT), both located in Brewer. A news release on the most recent award for research and development is online. Contact: Meghan Collins, megan.collins@maine.edu

Allan, colleagues providing free hazing prevention professional development opportunities

16 Jul 2020

As colleges and universities continue to face uncertainty during the coronavirus pandemic, professor of higher education Elizabeth Allan and other members of the University of Maine community are supporting campus professionals nationwide this summer with free virtual office hours and a series of free webinars. These professional development opportunities are being offered in conjunction with the StopHazing Research Lab, directed by Allan. "We decided to host the virtual office hours to provide practitioners with more access to our research and expertise related to hazing prevention," says Allan, who has authored or co-authored several pioneering studies on campus hazing and hazing prevention, including the first Hazing Prevention Toolkit. "Because of the ongoing pandemic, we will use video conference technology to talk with student affairs professionals interested in learning more about data-driven and research-informed hazing prevention approaches and strategies," Allan adds. Depending on need, Allan says some of the topics covered during the sessions include:

- Strategies for assessing campus climate relative to hazing
- Implementing a coalition-based approach for campus hazing prevention
- Building capacity for campus hazing prevention
- Conducting a problem analysis to inform strategic planning for hazing prevention
- Evaluated strategies for strengthening knowledge and skills relative to hazing and its prevention
- Intersections between hazing, sexual violence and other campus safety concerns
- Hazing and student well-being
- Student leadership development for hazing prevention
- Campus investigations and accountability for hazing violations
- How to strengthen institutional transparency relative to hazing

In addition to Allan, two other members of the UMaine community will offer assistance during the office hours. Lauri Sidelko, assistant dean and director of community life and a doctoral student in higher education, will provide practitioner-focused technical assistance. David Kerschner is a Ph.D. student in higher education whose research focuses on hazing and small college athletics. The University of Maine was a member of the first cohort of the Hazing Prevention Consortium. The office hours are being offered through the end of July. There's no cost to participate, however campus professionals are asked to sign up and indicate which topics they would like to cover in advance using an online form. Allan and StopHazing will also provide three webinars on campus hazing and hazing prevention in late August and early September: Hazing 101 (Aug. 24); Hazing & Prevention Science (Aug. 31); and Hazing Prevention Framework (Sept. 8). Registration for these free sessions is also available online.

BDN highlights UMaine assisting sturgeon counts

16 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News highlighted the University of Maine assisting workers at the sorting facility at the Milford Dam when they count endangered shortnose sturgeon. According to the article, Sturgeon are fitted with tracking tags and UMaine researchers return them to the river.

Mainebiz references UMaine logging study in report

16 Jul 2020

Mainebiz referenced a study conducted by University of Maine faculty titled "The Economic Contribution of Logging and Trucking in Maine," in an article about the return of a 12-week certificate program in logging. According to the study, conducted by researchers from the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and School of Forest Resources, the logging and woods trucking industries contributed $619 million to Maine's economy. The output supports Maine's forest product industry, which contributed $7.7 billion to the state economy in 2016.

BDN interviews UMaine counselors about finding mental health services

16 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Kathrine Butler Hepler, psychologist at the University of Maine Counseling Center, and Jessica Browne, staff clinician and co-coordinator of outreach and prevention at the center, about how to find mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to find a therapist, Hepler recommended using Psychology Today's online "Find a Therapist" search engine or asking a primary care physician to recommend one.

“Come in for a session or two [and] dance in and out of it as you need,” Browne said. “This is not a one year commitment, and you don’t have to tell me about your mother either if that’s not what you want to talk about.” Both UMaine counselors also recommended alternatives to in-person therapy sessions, such as employee assistance programs or talking with priests, ministers or pastors when dealing with issues involving faith.

Penobscot Bay Pilot advances restorative practices certificate program

16 Jul 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced a six-session restorative practices certificate program co-organized by the University of Maine Hutchinson Center, Belfast, and Union + Co., Bath. The course, which is part of the Hutchinson Center’s professional development program, will be held from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Aug. 20–21, Sept. 25, Oct. 29–30 and Nov. 19. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; 207.338.8002. For more information about upcoming professional development programs, to register online or apply for a need-based scholarship, go online.

International students speak to BDN about rescinding of ICE rules

16 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Janina Deisenrieder and Raj Anupam, both international graduate students from the University of Maine, about the federal government rescinding new regulations from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that affected international students. The rules, before being withdrawn Tuesday, required international students to take in-person classes in the fall 2020 semester in order to stay in the country and prevent their visas from becoming invalidated. Deisenrieder, a graduate student of communications and global policy from Germany, said the reversal “gives me a little bit of hope that they see the value of international students to the community and to the country.” She also said when the rules were announced, the University of Maine System assured her and other international students that UMS officials would advocate for them. “We have a choice now (to take classes online), like American students,” said Anupam, a graduate student from India studying to become a physics teacher. “Having that ability to choose is really important.”

AI Initiative seed grant awards announced

17 Jul 2020

Earlier this year, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School announced the University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Initiative. Its vision is to make Maine a world-class hub for AI research, education and applications through its mission to develop transformative AI-based solutions that enhance the social and economic well-being of the citizens of Maine and beyond. The following four projects were competitively selected to receive seed grant funding from a field of 16 projects. The teams will commence their one-year projects on Aug. 1, 2020. Plans are also in place for each of these teams to provide an update on their progress to the university community as part of the UMaine AI initiative’s webinars series. **Improved Adversarial Attack Detection Toward Robustness of Deep Neural Networks.** PI: Salimeh Yasaei Sekeh (School of Information and Computer Science (SCIS)). Co-PIs: Ali Abedi (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering); Richard Corey (VEMI Lab); Nicholas Giudice (VEMI Lab); Collaborator: Theodore Nowak (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory). **Advancing Legal-Technological Approaches for Protecting Privacy Rights and Civil Liberties in the Age of Big Data**. PI: Harlan Onsrud (SCIS). Co-PIs: Chaofan Chen (SCIS); Sepideh Ghanavati (SCIS); Manuel Woersdoerfer (SCIS/Maine Business School/Department of Philosophy). Collaborators: Peter Guffen (UMaine Law School/Pierce Atwood LLP) and James Campbell (Maine Freedom of Information Coalition and UMaine adjunct graduate faculty). **Interpretation of Light-Material Interactions with Machine Learning for the Detection of Shared Surface Contamination.** PI: Caitlin Howell (Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering). Co-PIs: Salimeh Yasaei Sekeh (SCIS); Sheila Edalatpour (Department of Mechanical Engineering); Richard Corey (VEMI Lab). **Context-Dependent Deep Learning for Seabird Recognition in Drone Survey Imagery.** PI: Roy Turner (SCIS). Co-PIs: Cynthia Loftin (U.S. Geological Survey, Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit/UMaine Department of Wildlife Ecology); Salimeh Yasaei Sekeh (SCIS). The entire announcement can be read here.

VillageSoup highlights Maine Forest Tick Survey

17 Jul 2020

The VillageSoup highlighted the Maine Forest Tick Survey, based at the University of Maine, in a news roundup about the Town of Jackson. The survey is a multiyear, multidisciplinary project established to determine how forest land management practices impact tick populations and disease risk. Learn about the survey on its webpage.

Mount Desert Islander reports on Dagher’s talk about 3D-printing, boatbuilding and offshore wind

17 Jul 2020

The Mount Desert Islander reported on an online talk from Habib Dagher, founding executive director of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center at the University of Maine, about large-scale 3D-printing, particularly for boatbuilding, and offshore wind technology. The Jesup Memorial Library, Bar Harbor, and A Climate to Thrive, Mount Desert, hosted the talk. Dagher said the UMaine Composites Center has been researching 3D-printing molds for boat parts that Hodgdon Yachts in East Boothbay can implement in boats with roofs for limo tenders. “Over the next year we’re looking at printing a mold for a whole boat,” he said.

VillageSoup highlights Tick Lab services

17 Jul 2020

The VillageSoup highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab’s testing services in an opinion piece titled “Slugs and ticks.” Maine residents can send ticks to the lab to be tested for pathogens that can cause tick-borne diseases. For more information, visit the lab website.

Maginnis quoted in BDN editorial about Maine’s COVID-19 response

17 Jul 2020

Melissa Maginnis, an assistant professor of microbiology at the University of Maine, spoke with the Bangor Daily News for an editorial about Maine’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Maginnis leads the UMS Scientific Advisory Board.

UMaine names President’s Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

17 Jul 2020

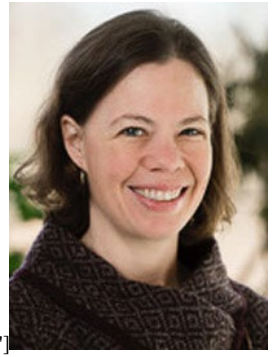
University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy has appointed a 30-member Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to advise campus leadership and report on institutional efforts and actions to ensure inclusive excellence. The President's Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is co-chaired by Kimberly Whitehead, chief of staff to the President, and Susan McKay, founding director of the Maine Center for Research in STEM Education and professor of physics. "The University of Maine is committed to the core values of inclusion, diversity, equity and anti-racism," said President Ferrini-Mundy in her appointment letter to the inaugural council members. "We must further and operationalize that commitment now. Inclusive excellence is foundational at the university. This is perhaps the most important activity that the University of Maine can undertake at this time." The President announced her intention to form the council on June 10, following the death of George Floyd, and in the context of protests nationwide and global reckoning on racism. In a May 30 community message, President Ferrini-Mundy and Robert Dana, vice president for student life and inclusive excellence, and dean of students noted that "this act of violence must rally us to continue our fight to eliminate racism, inequality and violence in our society. We are defined by our humanity, and the actions of the perpetrators were unnecessary, unacceptable and abhorrent. Bigotry, out of control power, and cruelty are vile reminders of why we must continue to work together as antiracists and as a community where inclusivity and respect define us." The response from UMaine community members was immediate, heartfelt and strong, with many people requesting to be on the council and many more ready to support its efforts, says Whitehead. "I am honored to co-lead the President's DEI Council and excited about engaging with this distinguished cadre of colleagues from UMaine and UMM," Whitehead says. The standing committee of the President's Office will advise the President and members of the President's Cabinet on matters of diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Maine. The council will provide an annual report on the status of the university's efforts and actions, will identify major challenges and problems, and propose solutions. The annual council report will subsume UMaine's longstanding Diversity Action Plan. An interim status report with recommendations will be made Dec. 1. Council members, who will serve terms ranging from one to three years, were asked by the President to begin by considering the following questions:

- What are areas of systemic racism and other structural impediments to diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Maine, and what policies and practices must be changed to dismantle and reform those structures? In particular, what positions, realignments of responsibility, and other changes are most urgently needed?
- Are major university planning documents and processes, including the Strategic Vision and Values Framework and the Define Tomorrow initiative, sufficiently focused on advancing the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion?
- What data should the university be collecting and reviewing to guide its progress and identify problems and priorities in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion?
- Is UMaine's current portfolio of committees, offices, organizations and activities that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion well aligned and adequately resourced to move us into a transformed future with inclusion at the core?

Supporting the work of the council will be vice president Dana; Anila Karunakar, UMaine director for diversity and inclusion; Sara Hammond, assistant director of the Office of Equal Opportunity at UMaine; and Megan Clough, University of Maine System director of learning and organizational development. Other members of the President's Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are: Orlina Boteva, Office of International Programs; Alan Cobo-Lewis, Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies; John Bear Mitchell, Native American Programs; Denise Skonberg, School of Food and Agriculture; Hannah Carter, University of Maine Cooperative Extension; Mary Gresham, College of Education and Human Development; Lauri Sidelko, Division of Student Life; Mike Scott, School of Computing and Information Science; Silvestre Guzman, Admissions; Alyssa Anaya, Human Resources; Lenard Kaye, Center on Aging; Kevin Roberge, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program; Marnie Kaler, University of Maine at Machias Admissions and Student Life; Gayle Zydlewski, Maine Sea Grant; Sandra Caceres Tijerina, Maine Educational Talent Search; Mary Freeman, Department of History; Meredith Kirkmann, School of Engineering Technology; Judith Josiah-Martin, School of Social Work; Margo Lukens, Department of English; Marcus Librizzi, UMM Division of Arts and Letters; Marwa Hassanien, alumna and graduate student; MJ Smith, undergraduate student; Deshawn Stevens, student-athlete; Abdou Hagenimana, UMM undergraduate student; Suriya Lakshmi Balasubramaniam, graduate student. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Estapa to discuss links between ocean life, future climate in DMC webinar

20 Jul 2020

[caption id="attachment_78006" align="alignright" width="200"]  Margaret Estapa[/caption] Margaret Estapa will talk about "Untangling the links between ocean life, the global carbon cycle, and future climate" at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 24, during a free webinar hosted by the University of Maine Darling Marine Center in Walpole. The assistant professor of geosciences at Skidmore College in upstate New York will soon be an assistant professor of chemical oceanography in the UMaine School of Marine Sciences based at the DMC. Her research has focused on oceanic biogeochemical processes in open ocean, coastal and benthic environments, with funding support from NASA, the National Science Foundation and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. She conducts extensive field observations at sea, often hundreds of miles from the coast, then validates those measurements with painstaking laboratory work that leverages cutting-edge chemistry. During the webinar, Estapa will discuss how "the global ocean acts as a sponge for atmospheric carbon dioxide, including human emissions, and how the ocean will influence carbon uptake in the future." This virtual seminar will be the second in the DMC's three-part summer science summer series. DMC Director Heather Leslie will provide the summer's third opportunity Aug. 7 for people to learn about current marine science and policy topics in which UMaine researchers and students are actively engaged, in Maine and beyond. Visit the DMC website for a full description of the talk and to register for the webinar.

Savoie, McCarty speak with BDN about canning

20 Jul 2020

Kathleen Savoie, extension educator at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and Katherine McCarty, food systems professional at UMaine Extension, spoke with the Bangor Daily News for two articles about canning. They discussed how to pressure can and what components in canning can and cannot be reused. "First-time canners will make an investment in a case of jars and say, 'Oh, this is an expensive hobby,'" Savoie said. "It becomes more economical each year."

Islander, Ellsworth American highlight free soil pH tests offered by Extension

20 Jul 2020

The Mount Desert Islander highlighted University of Maine Cooperative Extension working with the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District and U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide free soil pH tests to Hancock County residents. Volunteers will collect soil samples for testing 4–6 p.m. July 16, 23 and 30 at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Office, 474 Bucksport Road, Ellsworth. The Islander's sister paper, The Ellsworth American, also posted the release.

Scocchi speaks to WERU about 4-H

20 Jul 2020

Carla Scocchi, a 4-H development professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, was a recent guest on WERU Community Radio's "Let's Talk Animals: From Aardvarks to Zebras" show. The program focused on 4-H.

Media cover drug death report compiled by Sorg

20 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Associated Press, WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland), WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) and the VillageSoup advanced a drug death report compiled by Marcella Sorg, a research professor at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine. The report, which the Maine Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner released, presents figures demonstrating that drug overdose deaths significantly increased during the first quarter of 2020. The Enhanced Q1 Drug Death Report, which was also shared by the center, showed that 127 deaths were caused by drugs in the first three months of 2020. This represents a 23% increase over the fourth quarter of 2019. "Most of the increase is related to international and out-of-state drug trafficking," said Sorg, who is also a forensic anthropologist and works with the Climate Change Institute, to WMTW. The U.S. News & World Report, WABI (Channel 5), the Caledonian Record, WBZ (Channel 4 in Boston) and the Connecticut Post shared the AP article. The Portland Press Herald also highlighted the report in a story about the city's new public health director. The Mount Desert Islander described the report in an opinion piece about overdose deaths in Maine.

UMaine, UMass Amherst researchers bioengineering novel membrane to capture COVID-19 airborne droplets

21 Jul 2020

Detection and analysis of airborne coronavirus droplets using a bioengineered membrane is the focus of exploratory research at the University of Maine and University of Massachusetts Amherst, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Their inspiration comes from nature — the pitcher plant, with its liquid membrane that traps insects. The project, led by UMaine biomedical engineer Caitlin Howell and UMass Amherst chemical engineer Jessica Schiffman, received a more than $225,000 NSF EAGER award — early-concept grants for exploratory research. Collaborating on the project is UMaine virologist Melissa Maginnis. According to NSF, EAGER funding supports "untested, but potentially transformative research ideas or approaches." The research typically involves "radically different approaches, applies new expertise or engages novel disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspectives." The spread of COVID-19 via aerosolized droplets by talking, coughing and sneezing is a major concern during the coronavirus pandemic. The interdisciplinary research team at UMaine and UMass Amherst hopes to develop novel technology to facilitate the efficient collection of viruses from bioaerosols. Their model for the membrane technology is the carnivorous Nepenthes pitcher plant, which has a slippery rim and inner walls that cause insects to fall and become trapped within its digestive fluid. The team will engineer a composite material with a liquid layer on the surface of a membrane to capture pathogenic particles for analysis. The goal is to develop a membrane that can be used as an insert in any air filtration system to capture virus-containing droplets and make them easier to collect from the insert for analysis. The technology would be inexpensive and widely deployable in high-risk locations, such as hospitals, schools, elder-care facilities and travel hubs. "Disease-causing agents such as the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that take form as bioaerosols present unique challenges for disease surveillance, containment, and treatment," noted the researchers in their NSF proposal. "This work will fill a critical gap in current methods of monitoring the spread of disease." Previous attempts to design aerosol collection systems for viruses have had limited success due to either the difficulty of retrieving intact virus particles from a solid filter surface or inadequate or low air filtration rates. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.571.3745

Learn to build a greenhouse, extend Maine's growing season

21 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer an "All Season Gardening" webinar that teaches participants how to build a movable greenhouse to extend the growing season noon–1 p.m. Aug. 3. UMaine Extension educators Frank Wertheim and Marjorie Peronto will cover how to build a small greenhouse or low tunnel structure for growing winter greens and boosting spring and summer season crops. Additional topics will include production schedules, which hardy greens to use for winter growing, and when and how to get them started. Registration is required. A $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage. This session is the second in a six-part summer gardening webinar series offered every other Monday through September. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Piscataquis Observer previews free plant clinic

21 Jul 2020

The Piscataquis Observer advanced the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Piscataquis County Office's free Fourth Friday Plant Clinic via Zoom. Donna Coffin and Trisha Smith will discuss garden- and plant-related questions gleaned from recent emails and Facebook posts at 10 a.m. Friday, July 24. To preregister, visit the Extension website.

KJ, Morning Sentinel advance updated berry bulletins

21 Jul 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release announcing updated bulletins about summer berries are available: "Raspberry and Blackberry Varieties for Maine" and "Strawberry Varieties for Maine." To access the bulletins, visit extensionpubs.umext.maine.edu, call 207.581.3792, or email extension.orders@maine.edu.

Wiscasset Newspaper promotes Estapa's ocean life, climate webinar

21 Jul 2020

The Wiscasset Newspaper ran a University of Maine Darling Marine Center media release about Margaret Estapa's free webinar "Untangling the links between ocean life, the global carbon cycle, and future climate" at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 24. Estapa, now an assistant professor of geosciences at Skidmore College, will join UMaine later this summer as an assistant professor of chemical oceanography. Visit the DMC website to register and for more information.

Harkins plugs Blitz in Mainebiz

21 Jul 2020

Jason Harkins talked with Mainebiz about Blitz, a free virtual conference 12:45–4:45 p.m. Thursday, July 23 that seeks to provide entrepreneurs with valuable information and business connections during the pandemic. Harkins is an associate professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Maine, cofounder of Blitz, a downtown Bangor business owner and co-managing director of Scratchpad Accelerator, which provides support to promising scalable companies. Greater Bangor's entrepreneur ecosystem — which includes UMaine — is growing, said Harkins. "All of this effort has galvanized around the idea of building the Bangor region of the future on the backs of innovation-driven enterprises," said Harkins. "These … are key drivers of economic prosperity, bringing in dollars from outside the region into the Bangor area." In the last two years, more than 200 people have built connections to others while working to start and run a business, he said. To learn more and register, click here.

Allan talks with WVII about free hazing webinars

21 Jul 2020

WVII (Channel 7) interviewed Elizabeth Allan about the free webinars and office hours that she and colleagues are providing to campus professionals nationwide this summer. "We're working together to adapt to the conditions and circumstances of COVID and provide our resources in a more accessible way," said the professor of higher education who directs the StopHazing Research Lab. Allan, who has authored pioneering studies about campus hazing and hazing prevention, says people have been interested in specific issues, including bystander intervention.

Want to grade maple syrup products? Extension offers training resources

22 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering a new training resource for the maple syrup industry as part of the International Maple Syrup Institute Maple Grading School. The Handbook for Maple Grading and Judging Training is a series of nine videos and related resources designed to equip anyone with knowledge and skills needed to enter and judge the quality of maple syrup and maple products. Topics include international maple grading and judging guidelines, judging fundamentals, and tasting syrup for off-flavors and allergens. The handbook was produced in collaboration with UMaine Extension, University of Vermont Extension, the North American Maple Syrup Council, the International Maple Syrup Institute, the Government of Ontario, and the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association. More information is on the Maple Grading School webpage, and by contacting Kathy Hopkins, 207.474.9622; khopkins@maine.edu.

Community invited to accept Racial Justice Challenge

22 Jul 2020

The University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion will host the Racial Justice Challenge. Each day during the Aug. 3–7 online event, participants will receive an email with several tasks designed for them to learn, listen, share and take action regarding race, racism and anti-racism. The challenge will explore how to be anti-racist (versus "not racist"), move beyond a single story, examine issues of race in the media and design a personalized racial justice plan. The Racial Justice Challenge is open to the public. All interested can register and complete the challenge at their own pace. For more information, contact Jen Bonnet, social sciences and humanities librarian, at jenbonnet@maine.edu.

Acheson mentioned in LCN feature about suspense novel

22 Jul 2020

Author Jenny Milchman told The Lincoln County News that she read James Acheson's book "The Lobster Gangs of Maine" and talked with him for background research for her novel "The Second Mother." Acheson is a research professor of anthropology. Milchman's suspenseful mystery, which will be released Aug. 18, is set on a fictional Maine island. "I was in touch with Acheson and it was super useful," Milchman said. "He told me tons of stuff. It all came down to the lobstering."

Barkan's ACA op-ed appears in BDN, Adirondack Daily Enterprise

22 Jul 2020

Sociology professor Steven Barkan penned a guest column about the Affordable Care Act that ran in the Bangor Daily News and the Adirondack Daily Enterprise. "The repeal of Obamacare will not make America great again," wrote Barkan. "Instead it will once more put us at the mercy of insurance companies, and it will worsen many people's health and cause much premature death and needless suffering."

Free Press shares economists' forecast for hospitality industry

22 Jul 2020

The Free Press shared results of a study by University of Maine economists that indicated earnings for Maine restaurants and lodgings will drop by more than one-third from 2019 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Todd Gabe, a professor of economics, and Andrew Crawley, an assistant professor of regional economic development, predict that 2020 hospitality sales will reach between $2.5 and $2.8 billion by the end of the year, a 35- to 42-percent drop from last year, when sales were $4.3 billion. The forecast relies on actual data from January to April and estimated earnings for May through December.

Media report on efforts to develop membrane to capture coronavirus-containing droplets

22 Jul 2020

News Center Maine, Business Insider and FOX 22/WFVX Bangor reported that University of Maine and University of Massachusetts Amherst researchers are exploring how to detect and analyze airborne coronavirus droplets using a bioengineered membrane. The team, led by UMaine biomedical engineer Caitlin Howell and UMass Amherst chemical engineer Jessica Schiffman, seeks to develop a membrane that can be used as an insert in air filtration systems to capture virus-containing droplets, according to the report. "We have this expertise," Howell said. "When we work together, we can do something that nobody else can do, and so we're here stepping up trying to help our communities." SciTechDaily wrote that the research to detect and analyze airborne coronavirus droplets using a bioengineered membrane gets its inspiration from nature — the pitcher plant, with its liquid membrane that traps insects.

Mainebiz highlights AMC's role helping manufacturers during pandemic

22 Jul 2020

The University of Maine Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC) was touted in a Mainebiz story for its collaboration with the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership and Manufacturers Association of Maine to help area businesses recover during the pandemic. "COVID has put many manufacturers in a difficult situation. They wish to keep workers safe but still need to keep their staff at efficient levels and production on track to meet yearly targets," said AMC director John Belding. "Many don't have the time and resources to keep pace with the changing COVID best practices. This consortium will use all of our combined expertise to give Maine manufacturers that upper edge to be both safe and efficient during these difficult times." The AMC offers engineering services for businesses seeking to develop custom solutions to technical challenges. It has state-of-the-art services and equipment for product and process development. The AMC also can expand its range of expertise by working with UMaine engineering faculty or other university research centers, according to the story.

Registration open for program that teaches nonadversarial problem-solving skills

23 Jul 2020

Registration is open for a six-session restorative practices certificate program offered concurrently from August to November at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast and Union + Co. in Bath. Carrie Sullivan and Sarah Matari from Restorative Justice Project Maine will lead the course, which is part of the Hutchinson Center's professional development program. Sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 20–21, Sept. 25, Oct. 29–30 and Nov. 19. Cost is $650 per person. A light breakfast and catered lunch are included. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available. Upon completion, participants will earn a certificate in restorative practices and 4.2 CEUs/42 contact hours. Participants will learn about nonadversarial problem-solving tools to reach solutions in moments of conflict that go beyond deescalation and build safer, healthier and more equitable environments. Systematic use of restorative practices can leave participants and the people they interact with feeling connected to positive, resilient and accountable communities. Educators, parents, school administrators, health care providers, social workers, police officers, municipal workers and nonprofit workers can benefit from restorative practices. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu. Visit the Hutchinson Center website to learn more about upcoming professional development programs, to register online, or to apply for a need-based scholarship. Early registration is recommended as spots are limited.

Check out Extension's four fruit, vegetable preservation webinars

23 Jul 2020

August yields some favorite fruits and vegetables for preserving. Learn how to savor summer flavors all year with four new live University of Maine Cooperative Extension food preservation webinars. Freezing fruit is the topic 2–2:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4. Topics at the same time on subsequent Tuesdays in August include steam canning, freezing tomatoes and corn, and canning salsa and tomatoes. Registration is required; a $5 donation per session is optional. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. Webinars are recorded. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099, kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

Jones, Graham, Llerena promote Undiscovered Maine on WAGM

23 Jul 2020

Professor of Management Information Systems Nory Jones and students Grace Graham and Julianne Llerena spoke with WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) about Undiscovered Maine. This Maine Business School project uses social media to bring attention to sometimes overlooked areas of the state and small businesses there, including those struggling during the pandemic. "Our regular website has all the different regions … and then you can go into the specific towns. And we just have lists of all the different small businesses and categories like lodging, dining and different shops and stuff like that," said Graham, who grew up in Aroostook County.

Dill shares browntail moth expertise with BDN

23 Jul 2020

James Dill, pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, talked with the Bangor Daily News about browntail moths, an invasive species that can be hazardous to people. "I'm getting a lot of calls from people wondering what to do about them. I tell people to kill them any way they can," he said, excepting spraying chemical pesticides. Dill suggested donning gloves, sweeping the moths off buildings and putting them in a pail of soapy water. One female browntail moth can lay hundreds of eggs. Tiny hairs on the caterpillars can cause a rash similar to that of poison ivy. For some, the rash can be serious and last several weeks. If inhaled, hairs can cause serious respiratory issues. Stray hairs also fall off flying moths. "Those toxic hairs stay in the environment for two to three years," he said. "So even if you don't see any caterpillars and feel safe, you could come in from raking leaves or mowing grass and discover you have the rash because you have stirred up those stray hairs that are on the ground."

Birkel, Fernandez talk with Civil Eats about climate change's impact on farmers

23 Jul 2020

Ivan Fernandez, professor with the Climate Change Institute, told Civil Eats — a news source about the American food system — that 2020 has borne out a pattern of longer, drier summers punctuated by more intense precipitation events. "We're living with a bit of whiplash this year, with both drought as well as extreme precipitation and they're not very predictable," he said. Research assistant professor Sean Birkel said overall the state is getting warmer and wetter. Much of the warming is occurring in the winter, with more rain, less snow, and nearly two weeks of additional frost-free days than in 1930. The combination of drought and intense rains complicates land management for farmers. Our Daily Planet used Fernandez's quote about drought and extreme participation from the article in Civil Eats about farmers adapting to climate change.

UMaine, UMM offer early college fall courses for high school students

24 Jul 2020

Through a partnership between the Maine Department of Education and the University of Maine System, tuition is waived for all qualified public high school students in the state for as many as 12 college credits per year at the University of Maine or at the University of Maine at Machias. In addition, a reduced tuition rate of $138.25 per credit is available to students attending Maine private high schools. Starting Aug. 31, UMaine will offer more than 100 and UMM will offer more than 40 live, remote and online courses suitable for qualified high school students. Classes are taught by world-class faculty and meet general education requirements of the University of Maine System and the majority of colleges nationwide. UMaine has a long history of being a leader in supporting early college programming. UMaine's signature online program, Academ-*e*, launched more than 16 years ago. The UMaine and UMM Early College Programs are committed to providing quality teaching and learning, college-level rigor and academic integrity; access and support to under-resourced communities and first-generation students; and multiple layers of support to ensure student success, including a comprehensive orientation experience and academic advising. Aug. 24 is the fall application deadline; registration is online at explorec.maine.edu. Students and parents interested in courses at UMaine are encouraged to contact Allison Small, Early College Programs coordinator, 207.581.8004, allison.small@maine.edu, or visit umaine.edu/earlycollege to learn more about the application process. Students and parents interested in courses at UMM are encouraged to contact Christy Alley, Early College Programs director, 207.255.1268, christy.alley@maine.edu, or visit machias.edu/earlycollege for more information.

Media post release about food preservation seminar

24 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Wiscasset Newspaper, Morning Ag Clips and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel shared a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release about four new live food preservation webinars Tuesdays in August. Freezing fruit is the topic 2–2:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty at 207.781.6099 or kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

Centralmaine.com advances webinar about building small greenhouses

24 Jul 2020

Centralmaine.com ran a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release about its webinar that will teach people how to build a movable greenhouse to extend the growing season. UMaine Extension educators Frank Wertheim and Marjorie Peronto will lead the webinar from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3. To register, visit extension.umaine.edu. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest at 207.781.6099, pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Media share link to Extension's maple grading resource

24 Jul 2020

Morning Ag Clips, VillageSoup, Centralmaine.com and the Daily Bulldog posted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release announcing that it's offering a training resource for the maple syrup industry as part of the International Maple Syrup Institute Maple Grading School. The Handbook for Maple Grading and Judging Training includes nine videos and related resources designed to equip anyone with the knowledge and skills needed to enter and judge the quality of maple syrup and maple products. More information is available on the Maple Grading School webpage or by contacting Kathy Hopkins, 207.474.9622, khopkins@maine.edu.

Dill discusses invasive emerald ash borer with WAGM

24 Jul 2020

WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) interviewed University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist Jim Dill about the emerald ash borer that has been spotted this summer in Edmundston and parts of northern Maine. The invasive, metallic green beetles are a devastating threat to ash trees, and since its discovery in the United States in 2002, it has killed millions of the trees. "You want to look for flagging in the trees ... You want to look, as I say, for holes in the bark where they've emerged." Dill says people can cut other ash trees around one that's impacted "because then you can use the lumber [and] try to stop the spread of it."

GMA cites Gillon's study about racism in fraternities, sororities

24 Jul 2020

A story on Good Morning America's website about Black students experiencing racism in college Greek life cited a 2019 study by Kathleen Gillon, assistant professor of higher education at the University of Maine. Historically Black fraternities and sororities launched in the early 1900s when traditional social organizations excluded BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) from joining. "The same concepts that legalized racial segregation in America, and the power structure that caused [Black Greek Letter Organization] BGLOs' founders to form these organizations, still are in place today," according to the study. Gillon researched "Race and Racism in Fraternity and Sorority Life" with Cameron C. Beatty and Cristobal Salinas Jr.

Lausier, Jain develop framework to evaluate equitable stewardship of water resources

24 Jul 2020

Water is essential for life. And Anne Lausier and Shaleen Jain say a reevaluation and refocusing of the ways that water resources are managed are urgently needed. Equity should be a foundational tenet of management, they say, especially today when there are unprecedented pressures on Earth's freshwater resources and ecosystems. Toward that goal, Lausier and Jain put forth a Water Resources Stewardship (WRS) framework that includes six interlinking elements to comprehensively evaluate water management. They shared the framework in August 2019 in their research article "Water resources stewardship in an era of rapid change" in the journal Water Security. And they penned an invited article based on their research titled "Water resources stewardship: Changes, extremes, and equity," posted in June 2020 in Global Water Forum, a United Nations global portal for water-related issues and knowledge. Lausier conducted the research when she was a civil engineering doctoral student and a U.S. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow at the University of Maine. She's now a physical scientist at the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Jain is a professor of civil and environmental engineering at UMaine and holds appointments with the School of Policy and International Affairs and the Climate Change Institute. They wrote in their Global Water Forum article that broadly they view Water Resources Stewardship "as a societal imperative" that demands carefully devised solutions toward "our shared human responsibility for the environment under changing conditions." This type of stewardship, they say, "requires that the inclusion and respect of peoples, their values and knowledges, and diverse relationships with ecosystems, are promoted for the shared production of solutions in support of equitable and sustainable futures." The six elements of WRS draw explicit attention to aspects of equity and can be used as a lens to appraise water management. **Interlinkages across scales** in space and time value a holistic, rather than a narrow, view of human relationships with nature, including those that support health and livelihoods. This approach represents progress toward identifying more equitable trade-offs between people and the environment. **Inclusion of people, places and values** ensures "that a broader set of priorities are considered, and consequences are not overlooked." **Diverse knowledges,** including Indigenous and experiential knowledges, create opportunities to "foster new understandings of human-environment interactions, address local needs, values and aspirations, and empower individuals in decision processes." Knowledge is defined by ways of understanding the world around us and informs values, perspectives, and underlies decisions. **Governance and institutions** structure how we make decisions. Arrangements that enable higher-quality engagement with affected populations "is critical to address change and uncertainty in an equitable manner." **Co-produced solutions** that result from collaborative decision processes among decision-makers, researchers and stakeholders, "offer opportunities for knowledge-sharing, locally responsive management approaches, and increased capacity." **Adaptive risk management** combines the likelihood and consequence of an event. Taking into account interlinked events, such as a simultaneous drought and heatwave, "can produce compound extremes that otherwise may not be extreme individually." These events "impact water supply, water quality, infrastructure, and ultimately health and livelihoods." Lausier and Jain say that acknowledging and addressing inequity are important because "consequences are not equally experienced across populations." Therefore, governance structures and management strategies "must be responsive to change from emerging needs and populations, as well as new knowledges, and evolving values and priorities to better contend with unexpected consequences and challenges." Lausier and Jain used WRS to analyze Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) case studies. IWRM has been implemented internationally at river basins and at national levels for sustainable and equitable management of water resources in the face of conflicting water demands. They said that prominent water management approaches, including IWRM, promote goals such as stakeholder participation, adaptation, and balancing human and ecosystem needs that are difficult to appraise without addressing equity. Lausier and Jain found that IWRM could be strengthened in several areas, including "inclusion of people, places, and values and greater emphasis on co-produced solutions." They wrote that optimistically, a water-focused approach that works for all of nature and society has the potential to overcome the piecemeal attention to equity in current approaches to water management. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

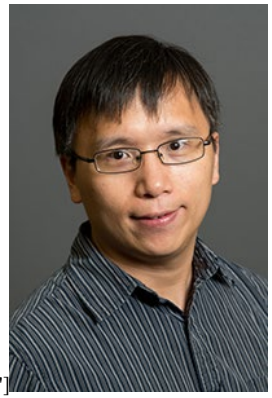
Citizen-science project initiated at UMaine applied in National Parks nationwide

24 Jul 2020

Citizen science is a powerful tool for assessing the risk of environmental contamination, according to a new assessment of a nationwide project initiated at the University of Maine. The Dragonfly Mercury Project encourages students, volunteers and visitors of National Parks to collect dragonfly larvae to measure mercury levels in water bodies. The continental-scale study is the brainchild of Sarah Nelson, who launched the initiative when she was an associate research professor in the UMaine School of Forest Resources. The framework was adapted and deployed in National Parks nationwide by the U.S. Geological Survey. The project's recently published assessment in the journal Environmental Science & Technology includes findings from more than 4,000 citizen scientists who collected 14,831 dragonfly larvae from 457 sites in 100 National Park Service units. Mercury contamination is the leading cause of fish consumption advisories in North America. The pollutant is cited as one of the top 10 chemicals of major public health concern by the World Health Organization, posing risks to both humans and wildlife. Compared to more commonly studied fishes, dragonfly nymphs are ubiquitous in water bodies of all sizes — from vernal pools that can be crossed with a single step to large lakes and rivers — on every continent except Antarctica. They are also easy to capture and identify, making them ideal subjects for study. Akin to canaries in coal mines, these ravenous aquatic insects help scientists on the project assess the mercury risk in aquatic ecosystems. The idea of focusing on dragonfly nymphs came to Nelson when she worked with Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park to analyze invertebrates that high school students collected for an inquiry-based science course. "I was attending a poster session where two schools got together to share their findings, and suddenly I realized that both schools had sampled dragonfly larvae, and were seeing a pattern that made a lot of sense given my research up to that point in geochemistry: the dragonfly larvae from one stream that was downstream from a wetland had higher mercury than the mercury in dragonflies from another stream that did not have a wetland upstream," said Nelson, who now directs research for the Appalachian Mountain Club. "This is what they call a eureka moment: seeing the results from these students together made me connect that macroinvertebrates could be just the kind of indicator — or biosentinel — we were looking for, to tell us which water bodies were likely to have higher mercury risk." During a later meeting about mercury pollution, Nelson mentioned the monitoring she was doing with high school students using dragonflies. Colleen Flanagan Pritz of the National Park Service Air Resources Division was in attendance and told Nelson that she would like to see the concept deployed in National Parks. That first year, Nelson and Flanagan Pritz bootstrapped the Dragonfly Mercury Project with no funding and a handful of colleagues. The project expanded to 11 national parks in 2012 with pilot funding from the University of Maine, then grew to include 25 parks with National Park Service funding in 2013. With UMaine, collaborators at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Park Service, Dartmouth College and University of Wisconsin-La Crosse joined in writing a proposal that helped the project expand nationwide — over 70 parks were sampled from 2014–15 — and more deeply investigate the water chemistry, sediment and food web interactions of each site. Contact: Erin Miller, erin.miller@maine.edu

UMaine professors receive Department of Energy grant to design novel energy-storage materials

27 Jul 2020


[caption id="attachment_78162" align="alignright" width="200"] Liping Yu[/caption] Two University of Maine researchers will use artificial intelligence-aided design to develop new materials for improved batteries and supercapacitors. The research initiative led by Liping Yu, assistant professor of physics, and Yingchao Yang, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, "Artificial-Intelligence Aided Design and Synthesis of Novel Layered 2D Multi-Principal Element Materials for Energy Storage," is one of 31 projects that were awarded a total of $21 million from the Department of Energy (DOE) through the federal Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). "Existing energy storage devices experience limitations such as inadequate power, capacity, efficiency, lifespan and cost effectiveness," says Yu, principal investigator of the project that was awarded $750,000 in DOE funding. "To overcome such limits, new electrode materials are critically needed." [caption id="attachment_78163" align="alignright" width="200"]  Yingchao Yang[/caption] The goal of their research is to predict, synthesize and characterize a new class of 2D materials for active electrodes in batteries and supercapacitors. These 2D materials will comprise four or more chemical elements in nearly equal concentrations; distinct from both traditional 2D materials, which consist only of two or three elements, and conventional alloys, which contain relatively small amounts of secondary elements added to a primary element. "The new materials, if successfully predicted and experimentally validated, will have the capability to accommodate significant lattice strains and the potential to yield a huge improvement in electrode performance," says Yang, co-investigator of this project. "Such materials could also be interesting for many other important applications including catalysts, hydrogen storage, sensors, quantum information and flexible electronics." Yu's research focuses on the theoretical and computational prediction of new materials with properties suitable for sustainable clean energy and electronic applications, such as solar cells, supercapacitors and catalysts. His research methods include high-throughput computations, quantum mechanical electronic structure theory, and materials informatics such as machine learning. "Traditionally, materials are discovered by serendipity or trial-and-error methods. From discovery

to application, it takes about 20 years on average," Yu says. "The research in my group aims to significantly accelerate the pace of new materials discovery using high-performance computers." Yang's research encompasses fabrication-property-application of novel materials, which includes synthesizing 1D and 2D nanomaterials through chemical vapor deposition, hydrothermal thermal reaction, and other means; mechanics of nanomaterials in situ and ex situ investigated with micromechanical devices; and application of nanomaterials in energy harvest, energy storage and water treatment. "With the guidance of theoretical prediction, we are able to precisely control the growth parameters to get crystals and films with various sizes and targeted performance" Yang says. "The mission of my research group is to conceive new materials, unveil their fundamental characteristics, and achieve promising applications to serve us." The DOE-funded research project will support one postdoctoral scientist and one graduate student at UMaine, who along with Yu and Yang will partner with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to collaboratively design new materials for energy storage applications. "They will have the opportunity to visit ORNL several times a year, and work in close contact with research staff taking advantage of advanced computing resources and state-of-the-art experimental resources at ORNL," Yu says. Both Yu and Yang are associate members of the Frontier Institute for Research in Sensor Technologies (FIRST) at UMaine. FIRST is providing support for an additional graduate student to work on the project. A closed interactive feedback loop between theory and experiment is being established that leverages both the DOE-user facilities at ORNL and materials synthesis and characterization capabilities within FIRST and other laboratories at UMaine. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine receives patent for composite building products made with cellulose nanofibers

27 Jul 2020

The University of Maine has been issued a patent for a process to create construction materials that are bound with cellulose nanofibrils (CNF) and offer increased durability and environmental friendliness. While the technology can be used to create a variety of commonly used building materials, the primary application for this patent focuses on a replacement for particle board, which is used widely in furniture and countertops. Particle board is traditionally manufactured from wood chips bound with a synthetic resin that typically contains formaldehyde, which is classified as a known human carcinogen. Off-gassing is cited by the EPA as the primary method by which people are exposed to formaldehyde, and pressed-wood products represent a common source of off-gassed formaldehyde in homes. The process developed by UMaine researchers eliminates the use of formaldehyde as a binding agent, replacing it with a CNF slurry. The resulting product tests higher for fracture toughness and sequesters carbon and oxygen into the building product for its life span — typically decades. The UMaine inventor is professor of chemical and biomedical engineering Doug Bousfield. Co-inventor is Michael Bilodeau, the former director of UMaine's Process Development Center (PDC), a commercial-scale pilot plant on campus devoted to pulp and paper research and development. Mehdi Tajvidi, associate professor of renewable nanomaterials, also is a leading UMaine researcher in this area and is developing related technology as part of P3Nano, a public-private partnership founded by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the U.S. Forest Service. "CNF technology could transform the way we make not only building materials, but a host of other products," says Bousfield. "Particle board is only one potential application – a similar process could be used to create composite fiber board for insulation, cements, and even paint. We are also researching alternatives to single-use plastics for applications such as food packaging, drink lids and utensils." UMaine's PDC is the only publicly accessible facility in the United States that can manufacture CNF at a rate of one ton per day. The center supplies CNF and cellulose nanocrystals (CNC) to academic, public and private research groups interested in evaluating and developing applications for these materials, and UMaine is a global leader in related research. The university also is a partner in FOR/Maine, a cross-sector collaboration between industry, communities, government, education, and nonprofits that seeks to innovate and grow Maine's forest economy. "UMaine's ongoing research and technology development in this area is critically important to the forest sector here in Maine," says Steve Schley, chair of the FOR/Maine executive committee. "Cellulose nanofibrils can be refined from wood waste products and any innovation that expands their use contributes to the full utilization of a renewable local resource and supports one of Maine's traditional industries." The University of Maine is actively seeking a development partner for the technology. The patent number is U.S. 10,695,947. Contact: Ashley Forbes, ashley.forbes@maine.edu

Mitchell Center to assess equity of Maine's climate strategies

27 Jul 2020

Sustainability experts from the University of Maine will advise a governor's council on how efforts to combat climate change could support historically underrepresented populations in the state. The Maine Climate Council tapped the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions to assist with its efforts to improve equity outcomes of the state Climate Action Plan. The center will provide expertise to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to help determine how the Climate Council's strategies for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change can benefit underserved residents and communities. The Mitchell Center's work complements the Climate Council's establishment of a new equity advisory group, which will offer ongoing guidance and input on the creation of the four-year Climate Action Plan. Climate change affects the various populations in Maine in different and unequal ways, says Linda Silka, a Mitchell Center senior fellow. To help all Mainers, officials can focus on reducing the disproportionate effects of climate change on lower-income and rural populations, older adults, tribal communities, persons of color and other underrepresented groups. "Our responsibility is to look at equity issues in a clear, systematic and well-informed way," Silka says. "It's a wonderful way to say, 'We're not the kind of state that's good for some people. We want it to be good for everyone.'" Silka will join David Hart, director of the Mitchell Center; Sara Kelemen, a graduate student of plant, soil, and environmental science; and other partners to evaluate climate action proposals from the Climate Council's working groups for their ability to achieve equity and foster diversity and inclusion. They also will recommend ways to improve how any particular strategy can support the various underserved populations in Maine. As state officials solicit citizen feedback on climate action strategies, the Mitchell Center also will advise them on how to connect with underrepresented communities across the state, including groups that may be unaware of the Climate Council's work, residents without internet access and others. "We want the process to be as inclusive as possible," Hart says. "But that's not easy — especially during a pandemic — so we'll be looking for creative ways to ensure that the Climate Council's work benefits from diverse voices and expertise." In late August, the Mitchell Center will provide a report summarizing its findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. "Addressing the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on Maine people is a priority of the Maine Climate Council," says Hannah Pingree, co-chair of the Climate Council and director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. "We are excited to work with the Mitchell Center to ensure historically underrepresented populations have a voice in determining Maine's climate future." The center's ability to bring together diverse expertise from inside and outside of UMaine, dedication to public service, and long-standing partnerships with historically underserved populations suit it for the task of advancing the equity goals of the Climate Action Plan, says Hart. "Developing solutions to climate change problems will take many different kinds of knowledge and know-how," Hart says. "We have to find ways to work together when we're trying to address a challenge that has so many moving parts." UMaine professor Ivan Fernandez serves on the Maine Climate Council, and is co-chair of the Science and Technical Subcommittee. Numerous other experts from UMaine and University of Maine at Machias serve on the Science and Technical Subcommittee, as well as working groups.

Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Maine AgrAbility gives farmers guidance about hiring workers with disabilities

27 Jul 2020

Maine AgrAbility has a new resource for farmers hiring workers with disabilities. "Tips for Farmers Who Hire Individuals with Disabilities" provides guidance throughout the process, including identifying goals and expectations, understanding limitations, safety and health considerations, and developing adaptations for workers for successful outcomes. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog, and by contacting 207.581.3792, extension.orders@maine.edu. Maine AgrAbility is a nonprofit collaboration with University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Alpha One.

Free livestock nutrition webinar series begins Aug. 6

27 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a free, five-part livestock nutrition webinar series beginning 6–8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6. The series continues Thursdays through Sept. 3. Topics include basic nutrition needs of beef cattle, small ruminants, pigs and poultry, as well as processing expectations. Colt Knight, UMaine Extension assistant professor and state livestock specialist, leads the series. Windham Butcher Shop is the co-sponsor. The series

is free; registration is required. Register on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.781.6099, rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Extension updates hay directory, recommends sourcing winter feed now

27 Jul 2020

Hay and forage producers in Maine have experienced major swings in weather the past two years. Excessive rain delayed harvests last season, which reduced quality. And this year excessively dry conditions in some parts of the state are reducing yields for second and third cuttings. University of Maine Cooperative Extension's hay and straw directory, in which sellers list and buyers locate feed resources for livestock, is being updated with feed resources available for the 2020 harvest. Growers can visit the site to update or add their available products. Information about forage quality testing and feed budgeting also is available. "Livestock producers who purchase hay should line up sources of feed now to ensure an adequate supply of quality feed for the winter," says UMaine Extension professor Rick Kersbergen. For more information about feed resources or listing products for sale, contact Kersbergen, richard.kersbergen@maine.edu, 207.342.5971.

Media plug Extension's updated hay directory

27 Jul 2020

Morning Ag Clips, the Daily Bulldog and Bangor Daily News shared a media release that University of Maine Cooperative Extension's hay and straw directory is being updated with feed resources available for the 2020 harvest. UMaine Extension professor Rick Kersbergen encouraged those who purchase hay for livestock to line up sources of feed now to ensure an adequate supply of quality feed for the winter. For more information, contact Kersbergen, richard.kersbergen@maine.edu, 207.342.5971.

KJ, Morning Sentinel share AgrAbility info for farmers

27 Jul 2020

Centralmaine.com posted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension release about Maine AgrAbility's resource for farmers who hire workers with disabilities. "Tips for Farmers Who Hire Individuals with Disabilities" offers guidance throughout the process, including identifying goals and expectations, understanding limitations, safety and health considerations, and developing adaptations for workers for successful outcomes.

Daily Bulldog, Centralmaine.com preview livestock nutrition webinar series

27 Jul 2020

The Daily Bulldog and Centralmaine.com advanced the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's free, five-part livestock nutrition webinar series beginning 6–8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6. Topics include basic nutrition needs of beef cattle, small ruminants, pigs and poultry, as well as processing expectations.

Lobster Institute cited in pieces about blue lobster at Akron Zoo

27 Jul 2020

The University of Maine Lobster Institute was cited in stories by NBC's "Today," News 5 Cleveland, the Alliance Review and the Akron Beacon Journal (ABJ) about a blue lobster. In Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, a Red Lobster employee noticed the lobster's color and reached out to the Akron Zoo about the find, ABJ reported. The lobster named Clawde will eventually be on display in the zoo's Komodo Kingdom. According to the Lobster Institute, the likelihood of catching a blue lobster is about 1 in 200 million, according to the story. USA Today shared the ABJ report.

Media report on vigil marking Minor's death

27 Jul 2020

WABI-TV and FOX 22/WFVX Bangor reported on the University of Maine football team's July 24 vigil that marked the two-year anniversary of the death of first-year student-athlete Darius Minor. The Black Bears have Minor's No. 39 jersey at all its games.

BDN, WMTW promote free courses for high school students

27 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News and WMTW posted the University of Maine media release announcing that tuition at UMaine will be waived for qualified public high school students in Maine for as many as 12 college credits per year. Starting Aug. 31, UMaine will offer more than 100 fall courses suitable for qualified high school students. Aug. 24 is the fall application deadline; registration is online at explorec.maine.edu. Interested students and parents are encouraged to contact Allison Small, Early College Programs coordinator, at 207.581.8004 or allison.small@maine.edu or visit umaine.edu/earlycollege.

NYT mentions UMaine in article about seismic noise reduction during pandemic

27 Jul 2020

The New York Times mentioned the University of Maine in its coverage of research published in the journal Science about "the longest and most coherent global seismic noise reduction in recorded history" due to the coronavirus. The quieting, according to the researchers, resulted from social distancing, industrial shutdowns and drops in travel and tourism. Researchers also came from the Royal Observatory of Belgium, Imperial College London, University of Auckland in New Zealand, the U.S. Geological Survey, Princeton University, Stanford University, the University of Alaska and the University of California. The Baltimore Sun ran the NYT piece.

Girls Engineer Maine (GEM) receives funding to recruit women engineers

27 Jul 2020

Girls Engineer Maine (GEM), a program in the University of Maine College of Engineering, has been awarded a three-year, more than $93,000 grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to continue to help build the pipeline for engineering workforce development in Maine. Proposed project activities include a three-and-a-half-day summer residency at UMaine for 10 high school girls, when federal and state COVID-19 health and safety guidance allows. The girls will be recruited predominantly from rural areas of the state, particularly from communities where forest operations and forest bioproducts have historically anchored local economies. This project seeks to build on the previous success of the Sustainable Energy Leaders of the Future (SELF) program, which launched at UMaine in 2013 with a four-year NIFA grant. Since 2018, the SELF program has sustained statewide outreach efforts with financial support from the College of Engineering and the Forest Bioproducts Research Institute. In total, 74 high school girls have participated in the SELF program; 18 are currently enrolled at UMaine. In 2021, SELF participants will be connected to ongoing research related to UMaine's Medicine and Rural Health Grand Challenge and the UMaine Artificial Intelligence Initiative. The revised program will offer opportunities for girls to engage with science, and with female scientists and engineer mentors who are working to address challenges affecting participants' home communities. Sheila Pendse, project development associate in the College of Engineering, is the principal investigator of the SELF project. Co-investigators include Jessica Leahy, professor of human dimensions of natural resources; Ling Li, assistant professor of sustainable bioenergy systems, and Hemant Pendse, professor and chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering. More information is available on the GEM website. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Navatek and UMaine win $5M Navy contract for research into additive manufacturing for Navy vessels

28 Jul 2020

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) has awarded Navatek LLC and the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center (ASCC) a $5 million contract to research materials and novel manufacturing tools and methods to improve the design and construction of Navy and Marine Corps vessels; maximizing the speed, range, payload and survivability for Naval missions, while lowering cost and build time. This research will explore opportunities to apply additive manufacturing (i.e., 3D printing) to surface vessel design and construction. The research will develop tools and techniques that will enable engineers to increase trust in additively manufactured structures, evaluate new materials, produce more complex structures, improve throughput, and reduce cost. The work will culminate in applying these technologies and tools to design USVs using a modular approach to vessel structural design. "The Navy's decision to fund cutting-edge research in Maine is a testament to our state's extremely talented shipbuilders, engineers and academic institutions," said U.S. Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King, and Reps. Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden. "This investment will support the extraordinary research being done by the University of Maine's faculty and staff along with their partner, Navatek, to improve naval technology and better protect our sailors, while also creating good-paying jobs. We are proud that this work to strengthen our national security will be conducted right here in the state of Maine." Navatek is continuing its partnership with UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center; a worldwide leader in composites and additive manufacturing technology. The University of Maine will design, evaluate, fabricate, and test composite materials and structures for this project. "Our collaboration with Navatek is what attracted them to opening offices in Maine. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Navatek and the ONR, creating transformative knowledge in advanced manufacturing for the Navy and transferring that knowledge into high-paying, Maine-based jobs," said Habib Dagher, ASCC executive director. "Our research, advanced manufacturing and testing will help open the design space for 3D printed parts and frameless additive manufacturing to be applied to new vessels for the Navy. This project is a result of UMaine's work last year where we commissioned the largest polymer 3D printer in the world at UMaine-ASCC and 3D printed a 25-foot-long, 5,000-pound patrol vessel." "Navatek is proud to work with the University of Maine in support of the Navy and Marine Corps's goal of fielding unmanned surface vessels or USVs," said Martin Kao, Navatek CEO. "Along with our office in Portland, Navatek recently opened a second office in Bangor, which is collocated with the University of Maine to increase collaboration. We are expanding our presence in the state to 80 engineers and scientists in our Bangor and Portland offices over the course of these programs, with room to grow to over 120 in our new facilities, expected in 2021." Contact: Meghan Collins, mc@maine.edu; 207.852.8414

Study finds wild blueberry extracts influence blood vessel formation

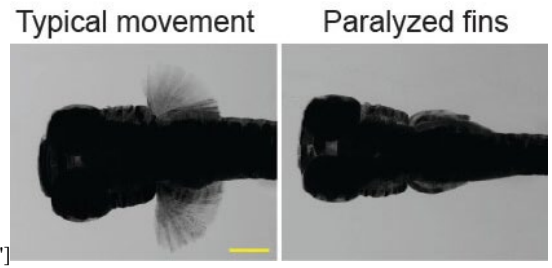
28 Jul 2020

When the human body sustains injury, cells spring into action. New blood vessels emerge through a process called angiogenesis, and cells migrate in a coordinated campaign of healing. The ability to control these mechanisms has the potential to advance therapies ranging from cancer to wound treatment. Polyphenols, a type of bioactive compounds that naturally occurs in certain plants, have emerged as candidates for enhancing or slowing these processes. Lowbush blueberries like those grown in Down East Maine are among the richest known sources of polyphenols. At the University of Maine, scientists are working to identify exactly which of these wild blueberry polyphenols at what concentrations influence cell migration, angiogenesis and inflammation, and how they can be applied in clinical settings. A recently published study from the laboratory of Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, professor of clinical nutrition in the School of Food and Agriculture at the University of Maine, evaluated how two polyphenol fractions found in wild blueberries, anthocyanins and phenolic acids, influence blood vessel tube formation, gene expression and the synthesis of proteins — all of which are important factors in the tissue healing process. The study found that different extracts and concentrations of these compounds could be applied to increase or decrease these activities in cell cultures. The findings advance a project led by Klimis-Zacas that aims to develop and commercialize a prototype therapy to enhance wound healing and tissue regeneration in difficult-to-treat injuries like burns or for patients with poor circulation due to preexisting conditions, like diabetes. The biomedical research team is also examining the potential of wild blueberry polyphenols to reduce inflammation, which is associated with widespread chronic diseases including obesity and heart disease. "These are novel findings that help us appreciate the differential effects of these bioactive compounds in our in vitro model, has led us to confirm them in preclinical studies and are in the process of developing a biomedical prototype for clinical applications," Klimis-Zacas said. Panagiotis Tsakiroglou, a doctorate student advised by Klimis-Zacas, was lead author of an article detailing the study's findings, "Angiogenesis is Differentially Modulated by Anthocyanin and Phenolic Acid Extracts from Wild Blueberry (*V. angustifolium)* Through PI3K Pathway," that was published in the Journal of Medicinal Food in July 2020. Klimis-Zacas and James Weber, associate professor of veterinary sciences, also in the School of Food and Agriculture, and Sharon Ashworth, assistant research professor of biological sciences in the UMaine School of Biology and Ecology, were co-authors of the study with Cristian Del Bo of the Division of Human Nutrition, Department of Food, Environmental and Nutritional Sciences at the Università degli Studi di Milano. The project was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Maine Agricultural Forest Experiment Station, and the Wild Blueberry Association of North America. Contact: Erin Miller, erin.miller@maine.edu

Talbot helps ID muscle gene that, when altered, causes joint disease

28 Jul 2020

Jared Talbot is part of a 32-member international research team that identified a gene that, when altered, can cause bent fingers and toes, clubfoot, scoliosis, and short stature. The team discovered that partial loss of the protein coding gene *MYLPF* (myosin light chain, phosphorylatable, fast skeletal muscle) results in a disorder called distal arthrogryposis (DA) that's present at birth. July 23, The American Journal of Human Genetics (AJHG) published the team's paper "Mutations in *MYLPF* Cause a Novel Segmental Amyoplasia that Manifests as Distal Arthrogryposis" that details the findings. In May, bioRxiv — a free online and distribution service — also posted a preprint of the paper. Talbot, an assistant professor in the University of Maine School of Biology and Ecology, is the study's second author. He contributed equally with Jessica Chong, the first author and an assistant professor of human genetics at the University of Washington. The discovery has several exciting implications. "Before a disease can be effectively treated, its cause needs to be understood," says Talbot. "Right now, DA is treated through surgery, which often has to be repeated several times over a lifetime. By understanding the disease better we may be able to discover longer-lasting and less-invasive ways to treat it." More broadly, the breakthrough adds to scientists' knowledge about how prenatal muscle formation affects health throughout a lifetime, he says. Chong began the project while working with Dr. Michael J. Bamshad in the University of Washington's Division of Genetic Medicine. They identified the initial cases and headed an international team that, so far, has identified *MYLPF* mutations in 19 people with DA in eight families. Their results also could provide insight into arthrogryposes, which occurs in about 1 in 3,000 births. Arthrogryposes are a larger group of conditions characterized by multiple joint contractures at birth, including in the shoulders, hips and knees. The most common type of arthrogryposis is amyoplasia, which involves muscle loss. "We hope that our findings may help to shed light on potential genetic causes of amyoplasia, because to date, the etiology of most cases of amyoplasia remains unknown," says Chong. Chong and Bamshad also learned of a person with DA who had no muscle in one of their feet, which indicates there may be more similarity than previously thought between DA and amyoplasia. Bamshad and Chong contacted Talbot, who studies the same gene in zebrafish embryos. Zebrafish have a similar genetic structure to humans. They share 70% of genes with people and 84% of genes known to be associated with human disease have a zebrafish counterpart. Zebrafish muscle development also

mirrors that of people and their embryos grow quickly and are see-through. [caption id="attachment_78205" align="alignright" width="416"] 

Impaired *mylpf* gene function also affects zebrafish limbs, causing fin paralysis.[/caption] Talbot investigated how muscle development is affected by loss of this gene's function, to understand the "why" behind the human findings. He began work on *MYLPF* while a postdoc in Dr. Sharon Amacher's laboratory at The Ohio State University. There, he mentored Emily Teets, who studied *MYLPF* function as part of her undergraduate honors thesis. They generated mutations that remove one of the two zebrafish *MYLPF* genes, called *mylpfa*, and found that this gene is needed for normal muscle structure and function. Last fall, Talbot began research at UMaine, where he uses zebrafish to investigate muscle formation and model this human muscle disease. "*MYLPF* protein acts in the muscle. We think the crooked joints of DA arise because of reduced muscle function when those joints are forming in the womb," he says. "We can't study people's muscle strength before they're born, but we can study zebrafish in their early development and use these fish to model what happens in people." Talbot found that zebrafish with *mylpfa* knocked out had complete paralysis in their pectoral fin and reduced overall muscle strength. In addition, he and Teets discovered that muscle eventually degenerated in the zebrafish. This, he says, suggests that some muscle loss that people with DA experience may be due to degeneration in utero. Talbot used protein models to understand why some of the specific mutations found in humans have dominant inheritance (where one copy of a mutation can cause disease) and other mutations have recessive inheritance, (where two copies must be mutated for a disease to occur). He found the dominant mutations are caused by changes in parts of the protein that directly contact another protein called myosin, which is the motor protein that contracts muscle. And, working with David Warshaw at the University of Vermont, they showed that myosin function is reduced in the zebrafish DA model. Together, these fish and human findings show that *MYLPF* mutations cause a disease, DA, and they offer insights into how and why that disease arises before birth. "I have investigated several disease models, but this was the first time that I was able to offer insights from a model organism at the same time that the gene's function was being connected to a human condition," says Talbot. "Our basic-science study paired beautifully with the clinical findings to tell one cohesive story that was enriched by everyone involved." Other participating researchers include Samantha Previs, Brit Martin, Kathryn Shively, Colby Marvin, Arthur Aylsworth, Reem Saadeh-Haddad, Ulrich Schatz, Francesca Inzana, Tawfeg Ben-Omran, Fatima Almusafri, Mariam Al-Mulla, Kati Buckingham, Tamar Harel, Hagar Mor-Shaked, Periyasamy Radhakrishnan, Katta Girisha, Shalini Nayak, Anju Shukla, Klaus Dieterich, Julien Faure, John Rendu, Yline Capri, Xenia Latypova, Deborah Nickerson, Paul M. Janssen, and the University of Washington Center for Mendelian Genomics. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Leslie to share progress of Maine Climate Council on Aug. 7

28 Jul 2020

Heather Leslie will present a webinar titled "Climate science and action for Maine's coast and coastal communities" at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 7. Leslie is the director of the Darling Marine Center and an associate professor in the School of Marine Sciences. Since September 2019, she has co-led the Coastal and Marine Working Group of the Maine Climate Council. Gov. Janet Mills and the Legislature created the Council of scientists, industry leaders, bipartisan local and state officials, and engaged citizens. Its charge is to deliver a plan to the Legislature this year that enables Maine to reduce carbon emissions and enhance resilience of communities to climate-related impacts. "I'm excited to share strategies that the Coastal and Marine Working Group has identified as potential elements of Maine's Climate Action Plan," Leslie says. "Given the short timeline of this process and the challenges created by the pandemic, it's more important than ever that the people who live and work on our coast have the opportunity to weigh in on these strategies, as the Council continues its work." In support of the Council's work, Leslie and the other 37 members of the Coastal and Marine Working Group met 10 times in the last year to develop recommendations related to the state's coastal communities, companies and ecosystems. In the seminar, Leslie will highlight strategies related to Maine's fisheries and working waterfronts, as well as strategies that support aquaculture and other seafood-related businesses as they adapt to climate-related challenges. Details of the strategies are on the Maine Climate Council website. Leslie's seminar is the final one in the DMC's three-part summer science series. Visit the center's website for a full seminar description and to register.

Media highlight fall activities to improve soil health

28 Jul 2020

The Daily Bulldog, VillageSoup, Morning Ag Clips, the Piscataquis Observer and CentralMaine.com shared a University of Maine Cooperative Extension media release about its webinar focused on fall garden activities that can improve soil health. UMaine Extension educator Caragh Fitzgerald will lead the talk titled "Cover Crops and Soil Management in the Garden" noon–1 p.m. Aug. 17. Register on the event webpage to attend the webinar live or receive a link to the recording. This is the second in a six-part summer gardening webinar series offered every other Monday through September.

Boothbay Register advances Leslie's talk about Climate Council working group initiatives

28 Jul 2020

The Boothbay Register advanced Heather Leslie's webinar at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 7 about strategies to combat climate change proposed by a Maine Climate Council working group. Leslie, director of the Darling Marine Center, will discuss the climate change initiatives recommended by the Coastal and Marine Working Group, which she serves as co-leader. The virtual talk is titled "Climate science and action for Maine's coast and coastal communities." The Darling Marine Center will host the webinar. "I'm excited to share strategies that the Coastal and Marine Working Group has identified as potential elements of Maine's Climate Action Plan," Leslie said. Register for the event on the center website.

Howell speaks to Business Insider about membrane to capture airborne COVID-19 droplets

28 Jul 2020

Business Insider interviewed University of Maine biomedical engineer Caitlin Howell about efforts to develop a bioengineered membrane to capture airborne coronavirus droplets. The National Science Foundation allocated $225,000 for the project, a joint effort between UMaine and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The project team, led by Howell and UMass Amherst chemical engineer Jessica Schiffman, will engineer a composite material with a liquid layer on the surface of a membrane to capture pathogenic particles for analysis. Researchers aim to develop a membrane that can be used as an insert in any air filtration system to capture virus-containing droplets and make them easier to collect from the insert for analysis. "The goal is to be able to get the information of what was there and how dangerous it was," Howell said.

Media promote fall class registration at Hutchinson Center

29 Jul 2020

The Free Press, MDI Islander,VillageSoup, Penobscot Bay Pilot and Bangor Daily News posted a media release that registration is open at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center for more than 300 undergraduate and graduate courses in the fall 2020 semester. All courses will be provided remotely. The Hutchinson Center will be open by appointment to students needing access to Wi-Fi and/or computers. Face coverings are required. To make an appointment, call 207.338.8000. For more information about classes, scholarships, or starting or continuing your college journey, contact Hutchinson Center interim director Kim Wilson-Raymond at 207.338.8034 or kim.raymond@maine.edu.

WABI, News Center report on Racial Justice Challenge

29 Jul 2020

News Center Maine reported on the Racial Justice Challenge hosted by the University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion. Each day during the Aug. 3–7 online event, participants will receive an email with several tasks designed for them to learn, listen, share and take action regarding race, racism and anti-racism. "Where our hope is, is that instead of saying, 'Here's a checklist, here's the top 100 things you can do to be anti-racist,' we're saying that it involves some work of self-reflection and diving deep within yourself," said organizer and UMaine director of diversity and inclusion Anila Karunakar. WABI shared that more than 2,500 people had signed up to take the challenge designed by Karunakar, Madelyn Woods, Ph.D. student in Earth and Climate Sciences; and Jen Bonnet, social sciences and humanities librarian. Anyone interested in participating can register and complete the challenge at their own pace. For more information, contact Bonnet, jenbonnet@maine.edu.

Medical Xpress highlights Talbot's gene research

29 Jul 2020

Medical Xpress shared a University of Maine media release about Jared Talbot helping identify a gene that, when altered, can cause bent fingers and toes, clubfoot, scoliosis, and short stature. A 32-member research team, which included the assistant professor in the School of Biology and Ecology, discovered that partial loss of the protein coding gene *MYLPF* (myosin light chain, phosphorylatable, fast skeletal muscle) results in a disorder called distal arthrogryposis (DA) that's present at birth. The American Journal of Human Genetics (AJHG) published the team's paper about the research titled "Mutations in *MYLPF* Cause a Novel Segmental Amyoplasia that Manifests as Distal Arthrogryposis" on July 23. "Before a disease can be effectively treated, its cause needs to be understood," says Talbot. "Right now, DA is treated through surgery, which often has to be repeated several times over a lifetime. By understanding the disease better we may be able to discover longer-lasting and less-invasive ways to treat it."

Mainebiz, Maine Public, WABI cover patent to create construction materials with CNF

29 Jul 2020

Mainebiz and Maine Public reported that the University of Maine received a patent for a process to create construction materials that are bound with cellulose nanofibrils (CNF) and offer increased durability and environmental friendliness. While the technology can be used to create a variety of commonly used building materials, the primary application focuses on a replacement for particle board, which is used widely in furniture and countertops. Particle board is traditionally manufactured from wood chips bound with a synthetic resin that typically contains formaldehyde, which is classified as a known human carcinogen. The process developed by UMaine researchers eliminates the use of formaldehyde as a binding agent, replacing it with a CNF slurry. The inventor is professor of chemical and biomedical engineering Doug Bousfield. Co-inventor is Michael Bilodeau, former director of the Process Development Center (PDC), a commercial-scale pilot plant on campus devoted to pulp and paper research and development. Mehdi Tajvidi, associate professor of renewable nanomaterials, also is a leading UMaine researcher in this area. WABI also reported on the development.

Business Insider interviews Howell about 'virus-fighting' denim jeans

29 Jul 2020

Business Insider interviewed Caitlin Howell, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, for its article titled "Diesel is selling 'virus-fighting' denim, but experts say it's just a marketing ploy." "We need to be very careful to verify and validate new solutions as people will rely on them to be effective," Howell wrote in an email to Business Insider. "There's no way that this company could know that this treatment is 99% effective across every kind of virus in every situation."

Learn to manage woodchucks, prevent tunneling

29 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension has a new publication in response to a common issue — how to manage woodchucks *(Marmota monax)* on lawns and in gardens in Maine. "Managing Woodchucks on Your Maine Property" includes recommendations to help protect vegetable gardens and prevent destructive tunneling, as well as techniques to avoid based on the biology and natural history of woodchucks. The publication was produced by the University of Maine, University of Southern Maine and UMaine Extension, with funding provided by the USM Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog or by contacting 207.581.3792; extension.orders@maine.edu.

Media post release about guide to manage woodchucks

30 Jul 2020

Morning Ag Clips and Centralmaine.com shared a media release about University of Maine Cooperative Extension's publication that details how to manage woodchucks. "Managing Woodchucks on Your Maine Property" includes recommendations to protect vegetable gardens and prevent destructive tunneling, as well as techniques to avoid based on the biology and natural history of woodchucks. The University of Maine, University of Southern Maine and UMaine Extension produced the publication, with funding from the USM Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog or by contacting 207.581.3792, extension.orders@maine.edu.

BDN interviews Lichtenwalner about unexpected roosters among flocks

30 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Anne Lichtenwalner about what chicken owners can do if there's an unexpected rooster in their flocks. When purchasing a batch of chicks, even those advertised as female, some buyers end up with roosters because they can be accidentally mixed together, according to the article. "The best thing anyone can do is plan their flock before they get it," said the associate professor of animal and veterinary science and director of the University of Maine veterinary diagnostic laboratory. "Think ahead if you are going to need a rooster at all or, if you end up with one, what you will do with it."

WAGM talks with Dill about many mosquitoes despite dry weather

30 Jul 2020

WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) interviewed Jim Dill, pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about nuisance mosquitoes despite their reproductive activity being slowed by the recent dry weather. Mosquitoes rely on stagnant water sources for breeding. “Some of those breeding sites have certainly dried up. But I can tell you, when you’re out in the woods in some areas where I’ve been, you wouldn’t know that it’s dried up, cause … there’s plenty of mosquitoes out there, and there always are,” Dill said. “And the thing is, it doesn’t take much water.”

Sun Journal highlights early college fall courses for high school students

30 Jul 2020

The Sun Journal shared a media release about the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias waiving tuition for qualified public high school students in the state for as many as 12 college credits per year. The offering is a result of a partnership between the Maine Department of Education and the University of Maine System. In addition, a reduced tuition rate of $138.25 per credit is available to students attending Maine private high schools. Aug. 24 is the fall application deadline; registration is online at explorec.maine.edu.

Media report on contract to improve design of Navy, Marine vessels

30 Jul 2020

WABI, WVII and Mainebiz reported that the Office of Naval Research awarded a $5 million contract to Navatek LLC and the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center to research materials and novel manufacturing tools and methods to improve the design and construction of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps vessels. This research will explore opportunities to apply additive manufacturing (3D printing) to surface vessel design and construction.The research will develop tools and techniques to enable engineers to increase trust in additively manufactured structures, evaluate new materials, produce more complex structures, improve throughput, and reduce cost. The work will culminate in applying these technologies and tools to design unmanned surface vessels using a modular approach to vessel structural design. “We look forward to continuing our partnership with Navatek and the ONR, creating transformative knowledge in advanced manufacturing for the Navy and transferring that knowledge into high-paying, Maine-based jobs,” said Habib Dagher, executive director of the UMaine Composites Center. Work Boat World and 3D Printing Media Network also reported on the contract.

Stancioff speaks with Guardian about lobster industry changes

30 Jul 2020

The Guardian interviewed Esperanza Stancioff, climate change educator for University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Sea Grant, about changes in the lobster industry. Stancioff said that over time the center of Maine’s lobster fishery has shifted from Thomaston to Stonington and Canada. Lobsters also have been moving farther offshore, requiring fishermen to obtain an offshore license, a larger boat and different gear, Stancioff said. Lobster fishermen also worry about increasing regulation and gear upgrades implemented to protect right whales. “There’s a lot coming at them,” Stancioff said. “COVID-19 put it over the edge.”

Cover crops, soil management topics of webinar Aug. 17

31 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar from noon to 1 p.m. Aug. 17 about fall garden activities that improve soil health. UMaine Extension educator Caragh Fitzgerald will discuss “Cover Crops and Soil Management in the Garden” with a special emphasis on cover crops. Fitzgerald will talk about what cover crops to plant, when to plant them, and how to manage them to get the most benefit. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the webpage to attend the webinar live or receive a link to the recording. This is the second in a six-part summer gardening webinar series offered every other Monday through September. For more information, or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099, pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Extension invites contributions to virtual demonstration garden

31 Jul 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension invites Maine gardeners to contribute personal photos demonstrating best horticultural practices — from creative trellising to ingenious ways of deterring hungry wildlife — as a resource in a new virtual demonstration garden. Photos should be high-quality image files that focus on subjects that can educate and inspire viewers. Categories include fruit trees and small fruits, garden design and maintenance, school and community gardens, seed starting and propagation, and conservation practices. Submissions will be reviewed and selections will be shared on the UMaine Extension My Maine Garden webpage and social media. "With more people sticking close to home this season, we're seeing a surge in questions from both new and experienced gardeners. We also know folks are taking the time to implement creative solutions to common landscape challenges and simply make their gardens better than ever this season,” says Kate Garland, UMaine Extension horticulturist in Penobscot County. “This inspired us to use this unique time as an opportunity to help new and seasoned gardeners share ideas and gather inspiration from their fellow Maine gardeners." Photos can be submitted via the program webpage. Participation is free; submissions are welcome on an ongoing basis. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact katherine.garland@maine.edu or 207.942.7396.

Coastal media outlets highlight 'Teaching from the Heart' program

31 Jul 2020

VillageSoup, the Mount Desert Islander and Penobscot Bay Pilot shared a media release about the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast offering an online program about nonviolent communication 9-11:30 a.m. Aug. 24-26. The professional development program, Teaching from the Heart, is geared toward educators, teachers and those working with preschool-third grade children. For more information, visit the Hutchinson Center website.

Nikkei Asian Review interviews Long about Vietnam’s containment of COVID-19

31 Jul 2020

The Nikkei Asian Review interviewed Ngo Vinh Long, professor of Asian History at the University of Maine, for the article titled “Vietnam rushes to repatriate COVID-infected workers.” Vietnam, which is smaller than California

with more than twice the population, serves as an early success story for containing COVID-19. Long said the country logged just over 430 COVID-19 cases and no deaths, compared with more than 463,000 cases and more than 8,500 deaths in California.

Calderwood speaks with Good Fruit Grower about dealing with spotted wing drosophila

31 Jul 2020

Good Fruit Grower magazine interviewed Lily Calderwood, University of Maine Cooperative Extension wild blueberry specialist and assistant professor of horticulture, about dealing with the spotted wing drosophila (SWD) when growing blueberries. Calderwood says growers in Maine harvest blueberries earlier than in years' past in response to SWD. The insect peaks in mid or late August, prompting blueberry producers who previously began harvesting the first week of August to start the last week of July, she said.

BDN speaks to Brazee about helping seniors adopt internet services, new technology

31 Jul 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed former University of Maine professor Edward Brazee about helping Mainers in the baby-boom generation use the internet and adopt modern technology during the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazee co-founded the company BoomerTECH Adventures in 2015. He and colleagues have helped older Mainers learn how to use Zoom, order groceries online, pay municipal bills, make telemedicine appointments and more. "It went from something where people could learn on their own time, to 'Oh boy, I'd better figure this out right now,'" said Brazee, who retired from his position as a professor of education in 2014. "I think people have realized that this is how it's going to be for a long time, and they'd need to learn how to do things online, and quickly." The publication Government Technology shared the BDN article.

Press Herald reports on effort to develop new remote learning models

31 Jul 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported the University of Maine, Maine Department of Education and other educational organizations will design and pilot new models of remote learning. The U.S. Department of Education awarded Maine $16.9 million for the endeavor, Rethinking Remote Education Ventures (RREV), through a Rethink K-12 Education Models grant funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act, according to the Press Herald. The new learning models, as they are created and tested, will be offered "through an open-source community of practice platform to support collegial sharing, ongoing critical feedback, and continual revision and improvement to sustain a culture of innovation and to foster statewide access to exciting remote learning models," according to the Maine DOE.

Want healthier soil? Check out free cover crop planning webinar

03 Aug 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a free webinar about key considerations for planning a cover cropping system 6–7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12. Adding diversity to a cover cropping system creates healthier soil and can benefit crop production and a farm's ecosystem. UMaine Extension sustainable agriculture professional Jason Lilley will discuss several versatile cover crop options. The webinar is free; registration is required. Register on the event webpage to receive the Zoom link. For more information, or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Rebecca Gray, 207.781.6099, rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Morning Ag Clips, Daily Bulldog advance free cover crop webinar

03 Aug 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Daily Bulldog shared a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release about its free cover crop webinar 6–7 p.m. Aug. 12, led by UMaine Extension sustainable agriculture professional Jason Lilley. Register on the event webpage to receive the Zoom link.

BDN cites Extension blueberry fact sheet

03 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News cited a University of Maine Cooperative Extension fact sheet in its story about coronavirus outbreaks at blueberry farms in the state. Maine is the nation's top producer of wild blueberries, with fields on 44,000 acres, according to the article. Working with UMaine, the Maine Wild Blueberry Commission group has provided 800 protective face coverings for workers to wear during the harvest.

Multiple outlets share Extension invitation to share garden photos

03 Aug 2020

Morning Ag Clips, WAGM, WABI, Daily Bulldog, The Piscataquis Observer and Centralmaine.com shared a University of Maine Cooperative Extension release that invites gardeners to submit photos of their best horticultural practices as a resource for a virtual demonstration garden. Photos can be submitted via the program website. After review, submissions will be shared on the UMaine Extension "My Maine Garden" webpage and social media.

PPH publishes 4-H youth photo essay

03 Aug 2020

The Portland Press Herald posted a photo essay titled "For Maine's 4-H kids, raising animals a labor of love." Photographers captured 4-H animals and youth who usually take part in Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs but won't this year because most fairs have been canceled due to the coronavirus. This summer would have been Natalie Domin's last season as a 4-Her. "I'm pretty disappointed. It's been a big part of my life for 10 years now," said the Freeport resident. "It's kind of sad for it to end, but there's still a lot I can do as an adult volunteer." Domin plans to attend the University of Maine and major in animal and veterinary sciences.

Press Herald promotes Zillman Art Museum exhibits

03 Aug 2020

The Portland Press Herald listed the Zillman Art Museum's three new free exhibits: "Maine Inspired: Art Luminaries at the Bicentennial"; "Being Here: Marcie Jan Bronstein"; and "Wood Nymphs: Joanne Carson" in its Things to Do roundup. Hours of the museum, at 40 Harlow St. in Bangor, are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday.

ScienceLine interviews Blomberg about spruce grouse decline

03 Aug 2020

ScienceLine interviewed Erik Blomberg about the decline of spruce grouse. The University of Maine associate professor said the grouse population on Mount Desert Island could be an indication of broader species decline in Maine. Some of his current unpublished research indicates that spruce grouse in northern Maine are having a difficult time surviving. "There's some reason to think that spruce grouse could be a pretty good 'canary in the coal mine,'" he said. Because spruce grouse depend entirely on the forest and live there year-round, he said the health of the species is closely tied to the health of the forest.

UMaine researchers release report on reopening Maine schools based on local districts' initial coronavirus responses

03 Aug 2020

When the coronavirus forced schools across the country to halt in-person instruction in March, many districts in Maine chose to focus on whole child well-being as part of their pandemic responses. Maine schools also tried to strike a balance between supports for families and possible disease exposure for teachers, staff and others in the community. Another common approach was to engage in strategic and even new community partnerships. These responses form the foundational principles for meeting the needs of Maine students and families as schools look to resume in-person classes in the fall, according to a new report released by a team of researchers in the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development. "Many districts adopted a 'hold harmless' approach to student learning that focused on supporting student and parent physical and mental health as much as or more than academic learning," the report says. "Moving beyond crisis schooling: What can we learn from the innovation of Maine districts to support remote student learning from March–June 2020?" is available online. It was produced by associate professor of educational leadership Catharine Biddle and Maria Frankland, a lecturer of educational leadership, as well as student research assistants Ryan Crane, Brooke Sulinski and William O'Neil. The researchers analyzed public communications and resources from every district in the state, offering a glimpse into how educators managed the early months of the pandemic. They looked at nearly 2,000 documents, including letters from superintendents to families, remote learning resources, guidance department websites, websites with health and wellness strategies, COVID-19 blogs, videos and social media feeds. The report highlights some of the most innovative responses to help guide Maine districts through the complexities of planning for a new school year with the virus still a threat. "We know that Maine school leaders and educators learned a great deal between March and June of this year as they worked to refine their response to school closure and resume student learning amongst very challenging circumstances," the authors write. The foundational principles that the team identified "support the frame of mind necessary to innovate to meet the needs of students and families in an environment characterized by a high degree of uncertainty and information that has, at times, changed on an almost daily basis," the report says. Many districts were doing novel things before the pandemic, but still had to adapt to the new reality of the coronavirus. For example, many schools were engaged in strategic community partnerships prior to the virus. But since March, such collaborations have taken on new importance, and the authors of the report say they "will pay dividends in student learning by reducing the stress of survival in a challenging and uncertain time." In addition to the foundational principles, the report includes about 30 specific recommendations of best practices, organized around the Maine Department of Education's "Framework for Returning to Classroom Instruction." Specifically, the researchers base their suggestions on Part IV of the framework, "Common Expectations for Hybrid and Remote Learning Models." All of the examples come from actual responses by Maine districts, and the report itself links to districts' websites so other educators can see how the ideas were implemented in practice. The recommendations include:

- Clearly articulate expectations for teachers, students and families using remote learning compacts
- Do not expect students to attend every class, every day
- Provide information regarding where students and families may access the internet throughout the community
- Make clear how students and families can get technical support for their devices
- Provide families with information and strategies for coping with anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns
- Create opportunities for routine open check-ins with school counselors
- Use a web-based social and emotional learning curriculum
- Create school or district wide projects to promote mental health and wellness for students, faculty, and caregivers
- Recognize diverse family structures and living arrangements for students
- Work with a local food pantry distribution center to start a food pantry at your physical school sites *that will remain open* if the school buildings close
- Create space on your district website dedicated to housing a one-stop shop for remote/hybrid schooling
- Establish office hours for building and district administrators so caregivers can ask questions and obtain answers directly from decision-makers

The report is the first of several that will be released during the 2020–21 school year by the UMaine researchers, who are studying coronavirus responses in Maine and Pennsylvania schools. The research was made possible in part by a grant from the Spencer Foundation. The research team plans to hold a series of question and answer sessions via Zoom. Register online to attend one of the following sessions:

- Wednesday, Aug. 5, noon–1 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 6, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12, 9:40–11:10 a.m. (part of Community Learning 4 ME's 1 Fall: 3 Plans Conference)

To read the report and download a PDF copy, go to umaine.edu/beyond-crisis-schooling. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Take part in survey, learn to safely make fermented pickles

04 Aug 2020

Do you make fermented pickles at home, or do you want to learn how? If so, University of Maine researchers are seeking Maine residents at least 18 years old to answer questions and watch a short video about safe fermentation practices. Jacob Rich is the study's principal investigator. The UMaine graduate student in food science and human nutrition works under the direction of Mary Ellen Camire, professor in the School of Food and Agriculture. The Maine Food and Agriculture Center is sponsoring the research. The 25-minute research survey is online. For more information, contact Rich at jacob.rich@maine.edu, 781.475.3862.

Media report on blueberry health benefit research

04 Aug 2020

Morning Ag Clips posted a media release about University of Maine scientists working to identify concentrations of specific wild blueberry polyphenols — bioactive compounds that naturally occur in certain plants — that influence cell migration, angiogenesis and inflammation, as well as how they can be applied in clinical settings. The findings advance professor Dorothy Klimis-Zacas' project to develop and commercialize a therapy to enhance wound healing and tissue regeneration in difficult-to-treat injuries for patients with poor circulation. The biomedical research team also is examining the potential of wild blueberry polyphenols to reduce inflammation, which is associated with

widespread chronic diseases. “The wild blueberry, it’s an indigenous product of Maine,” Klimis-Zacas told WABI (Channel 5). She added the product will be all-natural, affordable and not have side effects. News Center Maine and WAGM (Presque Isle) also reported this story.

Johnson joins panel to improve GIS education during pandemic

04 Aug 2020

Point of Beginning shared that Tora Johnson, director of the Geographic Information Systems Laboratory at the University of Maine at Machias, will be a panelist for Global GIScience’s conversation “Pedagogies for Resilient GIScience Education” 2-3:30 p.m. Aug. 4. The conversation is to formulate best practices for the GIS community. People can register for the free, public Zoom conversation here.

BDN editorial board cites analysis of effect of COVID-19 on restaurants, lodging

04 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News editorial board cited an analysis by Todd Gabe and Andrew Crawley of the University of Maine. They found Maine’s tourism industry could see a 40% drop in revenue in 2020 due to the pandemic and restrictions. Gabe is a professor and Crawley an assistant professor in the School of Economics. While Mainers can’t make up all the lost tourist revenue, the editorial board encouraged residents to explore their home state this summer. The editorial also ran in The Piscataquis Observer.

New task force seeking community input on renaming Little Hall

04 Aug 2020

A new 12-member task force has been appointed by University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy to make recommendations on the renaming of UMaine’s Little Hall.

A website has been created to collect community input for consideration by the C.C. Little Hall Name Task Force. The site, with an online submission form, is taking suggestions, recommendations and advice through Sept. 18, 2020.

In her June 29 community message, President Ferrini-Mundy announced that she will request that the University of Maine System Board of Trustees remove the name of Clarence C. Little from the academic building. Little served as UMaine president from 1922–25.

UMaine will submit a request to the University of Maine System Facilities/Finance/Technology Committee for consideration at its September meeting. The naming of University of Maine physical facilities is covered by University of Maine System policy.

In its June 23 report, the 10-member C.C. Little Hall Name Task Force chaired by Kenda Scheele, associate vice president for student life, noted that “a combination of the historical record about the career of C.C. Little, and the goal to create and maintain a university topography representative of current institutional values, compels a renaming of Little Hall.”

President Ferrini-Mundy noted in her letter to the members of the new task force, which includes some who served on the first group, “the University of Maine continues to engage swiftly and deliberately in opportunities to take actions for meaningful change.”

“The next step in the sequence of action items designed to address specific issues of racism and exclusivity is to convene a task force to review recommendations for renaming Little Hall,” the President said in her letter.

Scheele also chairs the new task force charged with providing recommendations on names for the building.

contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Diamond Offshore Wind, RWE Renewables join the University of Maine to lead development of Maine floating offshore wind demonstration project

05 Aug 2020

The University of Maine will collaborate with New England Aqua Ventus, LLC (NEAV), a joint venture between Diamond Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation, and RWE Renewables, the second largest company in offshore wind globally, to develop UMaine’s floating offshore wind technology demonstration project off the coast of Maine. As the developer, NEAV will own and manage all aspects of permitting, construction and assembly, deployment and ongoing operations for the project. UMaine’s Advanced Structures and Composites Center will continue with design and engineering, research and development and post-construction monitoring. The project will consist of a single semisubmersible concrete floating platform that will support a commercial 10–12 megawatt wind turbine and will be deployed in a state-designated area 2 miles south of Monhegan Island and 14 miles from the Maine coast. The purpose of the demonstration project is to further evaluate the floating technology, monitor environmental factors and develop best practices for offshore wind to coexist with traditional marine activities. It will supply clean, renewable electricity to the Maine grid. Construction, following all permitting, is expected to be completed in 2023. Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King and Reps. Chellie Pingree and Jared Golden issued a joint statement on the partnership announcement: “For generations, Maine has been a national leader when it comes to using our natural resources sustainably to create jobs, protect our environment and power our economy. The University of Maine’s floating deepwater offshore wind project carries on that tradition. We have strongly supported UMaine’s development of the Aqua Ventus project. We are proud to see the project’s progress and applaud the $100 million public-private partnership launched today, which will accelerate UMaine’s development of its innovative technology and create jobs. Maine’s offshore wind resource potential is 36 times greater than the state’s electricity demand, making this project so significant for Maine’s clean energy future.” An immediate priority for the new development team is to engage with the fishing industry, other maritime users, coastal communities and other interested parties on how to ensure this new renewable energy source can optimally provide economic growth to Maine and work with maritime industries. Since 2008, the University of Maine has researched floating offshore wind technology as a solution to Maine’s overdependence on imported fossil fuels. After winning funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the university worked with Maine-based construction firm Cianbro to build and deploy the first grid-connected offshore wind turbine in the U.S. in 2013, a one-eighth scale prototype of its VolturnUS floating hull technology. The success of the project led to additional funding from the DOE to further advance the VolturnUS technology, which has been issued 43 patents to date. The university and Cianbro sought to partner with a world-class offshore wind developer to further demonstrate this technology on a commercial scale. UMaine will continue to own its VolturnUS floating hull intellectual property and license it to NEAV for this project. “Diamond Offshore Wind and RWE Renewables bring global expertise in offshore wind project development and construction, and we look forward to working with them to demonstrate UMaine’s floating hull technology in Maine waters,” says Habib Dagher, executive director of UMaine’s Advanced Structures and Composites Center, where the VolturnUS hull technology was invented. “Our design is ideally suited for deepwater deployment anywhere and has the potential to play a significant role in global efforts to decrease dependence on fossil fuels.” Diamond Offshore Wind and RWE Renewables, with years of collective offshore energy experience and success, will invest $100 million to build the project and help demonstrate the technology at full scale. Combined, the two new partners are responsible for nearly a quarter of the world’s offshore wind capacity. “We are pleased to see the University of Maine continuing to make progress and that new private sector partners recognize the great potential of this project,” says Daniel Simmons, assistant secretary of energy efficiency and renewable energy for the U.S. Department of Energy. “This complements the investment of research, development and demonstration funding from DOE to advance innovation in a floating design for offshore wind.” Under the Mills administration and with a long history of bipartisan support, Maine has moved boldly ahead on renewable energy and offshore wind development, including enacting

legislation authorizing approval by the Maine Public Utilities Commission of the power purchase contract for Aqua Ventus, and initiating a study of the port at Searsport as a potential site to support and develop offshore wind. The governor also accepted the invitation for Maine to join the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, along with New Hampshire and Massachusetts, which is charged with facilitating coordination related to renewable energy activities in federal waters in the Gulf of Maine. “The strength of Maine’s economy, the preservation of our natural resources, the long-term health and well-being of our communities and of future generations depend in great part on our transitioning to clean energy and tackling the threat of climate change,” says Gov. Janet Mills. “This new public-private partnership joins world-class offshore wind developers and the University of Maine, and puts us on track to be home to the nation’s first floating offshore wind project, reflecting the major economic growth opportunity of the clean energy economy. I am pleased this project is moving forward, and encouraged by the partners’ strong commitment to work collaboratively with Maine fishermen to protect and support our traditional industries as we chart a greener future for our state.” “This is a significant milestone for the University of Maine, the offshore wind research team and the state of Maine,” says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. “As Maine’s research university, UMaine is continually advancing its broad land grant, sea and space grant mission. The path from fundamental research to economic realization is complex, and success takes incredible innovation, persistence and strategic partnerships. Many faculty, staff and students have participated in the development of this technology, and will continue to support the energy and marine economy as this project transitions to the private sector. This collaboration exemplifies our role and commitment to creating and supporting the future of Maine.” NEAV will continue to involve Maine companies in permitting, construction and assembly, deployment, and ongoing operations and maintenance of the project. In addition, NEAV has committed to working with the University of Maine on research, development and design to take the technology elsewhere in the U.S. and the world. The concrete hulls are designed to be built in communities adjacent to potential projects, generating local construction jobs and other benefits during the building and assembly phase. The project is projected to produce more than $150 million in total economic output and create hundreds of Maine-based jobs during the construction period. “Cianbro has been a founding member of the Aqua Ventus team for over 10 years and we remain deeply supportive and committed to the development of offshore wind in Maine,” says Pete Vigue, chair of The Cianbro Companies. “We look forward to working with the NEAV team and all related stakeholders to complete the initial demonstration unit.” The developers also will work with the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and Maine Maritime Academy to attract K–12 students to science, engineering and business programs, prepare college students and help to create a skilled workforce in Maine with the technical skills necessary to support offshore wind development and operation. “We are pleased to partner with the university to bring its ideas for floating offshore wind to fruition,” says Chris Wissemann of Diamond Offshore Wind. “This project south of Monhegan is a perfect opportunity to demonstrate a new technology that can be built in Maine, create jobs in Maine, and demonstrate how fishing and offshore wind can co-exist. Together with RWE, our engineers conducted an extensive due-diligence review of UMaine’s VolturnUS floating wind technology, and believe it is a world leader in floating wind that reduces costs and creates local jobs. We are really focused on creating economic opportunities for Maine as this new carbon-free economy emerges.” “We see great potential for floating wind farms worldwide, especially in countries like the U.S., with deeper coastal waters,” says Sven Utermöhlen, chief operating officer, Wind Offshore Global of RWE Renewables. “This innovative project combines the University of Maine’s knowledge with the state’s maritime heritage, allowing RWE Renewables to gain the experience that can help us provide future opportunities to grow local economies and produce clean, renewable power.” Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine researchers find rising ocean temperatures, acidification worsen immune response, physiology in lobsters

05 Aug 2020

Rising ocean temperatures and acidification, which results from decreasing pH levels, can increase adolescent lobsters’ vulnerability to disease and impact their physiology, according to University of Maine scientists. Amalia Harrington studied the individual and combined effects of increased ocean acidification and warmth on adolescent, female American lobsters as a postdoctoral researcher at UMaine. Faculty from the Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI) collaborated with her on the study, including Heather Hamlin, an associate professor of aquaculture and marine sciences; Deborah Bouchard, ARI director; and Robert Harrington, an ARI research associate. The team found that these lobsters could face weakened immune responses and reduced thermal tolerance by the end of the century if oceans continue to warm and acidify. The researchers published their findings in the Journal of Crustacean Biology. The study, the first to look at the combined effects of ocean warming and acidification on the physiology and immune response of adolescent, female American lobsters, was funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Science Foundation. “Our work is unique because we focused on understanding both the individual and interactive effects of two important environmental stressors, warming and acidification, on lobsters that are in transition to adulthood,” says Harrington, now a marine extension associate with Maine Sea Grant. “Changes in their physiology to respond to these stressors could result in trade-offs with other critical biological processes, potentially impacting their success as adult lobsters in this important fishery.” The researchers conducted an environmental-stressor experiment in which they exposed lobsters to what ocean water temperatures and pH levels are predicted to reach by the end of the century, if greenhouse gas emissions continue rising. Four groups of lobsters experienced different conditions so the UMaine team could ascertain the individual and combined effects of both stressors on lobster biology. The first group was exposed to typical Maine summer conditions to serve as a control scenario. The second group was exposed to only elevated temperatures to mimic just a warming scenario. The third group was only exposed to reduced pH levels to replicate an acidified environment. The final group was exposed to both warming and acidification. The adolescent lobsters experienced the environmental stressors for 42 days, after which the researchers tracked their capacity to deal with an additional stressful event by measuring heart rate during a temperature ramping experiment. The team monitored heart function as they consecutively increased temperatures during the two-hour experiment. Researchers found that lobsters exposed to both predicted end-century temperatures and pH exhibited a reduced ability to maintain heart function during the ramp experiment, unlike the crustaceans subjected to only one of the stressors or current summer conditions. The finding suggests that the combined effects of warming and acidification could reduce physiological performance in adolescent American lobsters and inhibit their capability to deal with other stressors or maintain proper biological functions. Following the environmental-stressor experiment, the UMaine scientists measured the lobsters’ hemocytes, or blood cells, and tested their ability to fight off disease to understand how warming and acidification might influence their immune response. Lobsters pre-exposed to warmer temperatures, regardless of pH, had significantly fewer hemocytes, which help fight disease, compared to lobsters that experienced current ocean temperature treatments, suggesting that they might possess a weaker immune response. The group then conducted a 21-day pathogen challenge with the bacteria that can cause Gaffkemia. Known as a wasting disease, Gaffkemia can result in reduced appetite and lethargy, as well as limb loss and death in American lobsters. They found that lobsters preexposed to warmer temperatures, regardless of pH, could die up to five days sooner than lobsters exposed to current summer temperatures. Almost twice as many lobsters exposed to both warming and acidification lost at least one claw compared to the lobster groups exposed to other conditions, which could increase the risk of death by a secondary infection. “While this in no way implies our lobster populations are on the verge of collapse, it does suggest we need to continue to be vigilant in surveying our lobsters for disease outbreaks, and the possibility of other stressors,” Hamlin says. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Join Extension's 4-H virtual fun run along the Maine coast

05 Aug 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is hosting a public virtual fun run along the Maine coastline Aug. 15–Sept. 15. Help ME Conquer the Maine Coastline is a virtual run, walk and bike along all 3,478 miles of Maine’s coastline. The event includes an interactive map to follow as the miles add up as well as videos about points along the way. The event is free; registration is required. Register on the program webpage any time until Sept. 15; miles can be logged beginning Aug. 15. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Cathy Gray, 207.581.8203, cathy.gray@maine.edu.

Zillman Art Museum opens with three new exhibits

05 Aug 2020

Three new exhibitions are open at the University of Maine Zillman Art Museum: "Maine Inspired: Art Luminaries at the Bicentennial," featuring works from the ZAM collection; "Being Here: Marcie Jan Bronstein," featuring watercolor compositions by the Maine-based artist; and "Wood Nymphs: JoAnne Carson," featuring a selection of drawings and large-scale sculptures. The exhibitions run through Dec. 23. More information is online. ZAM, at 40 Harlow St. in Bangor, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Information about health and safety guidelines for visitors is on the museum website. Admission is free thanks to the generosity of Deighan Wealth Advisors.

WABI, Observer, BDN advance library efforts to collect COVID-19 stories

05 Aug 2020

The Piscataquis Observer and the Bangor Daily News advanced the Zoom event at 4 p.m. Aug. 13 titled "All in This Together: Preserving Maine's COVID-19 Memories." Matthew Revitt, shared collections librarian at Fogler Library, will join other archivists from across Maine for this seminar. The free event seeks to share information about statewide library initiatives focused on documenting the pandemic in Maine, and to provide information about how Mainers can contribute to the project. WABI (Channel 5) also promoted the event. "While there's going to be an interest in the big government responses to this, there's also going to be interest in the everyday lives, how peoples' lives changed during the pandemic," Revitt said. "And that's the kind of thing we're really interested in and what we're talking about at this event." The Zoom link is mainestatelibrary.omeka.net. More information about this collaborative project, funded by the federal CARES Act, is online.

Talking Points Memo features Fried analysis of Senate race

05 Aug 2020

Talking Points Memo (TPM) published Amy Fried's analysis of the impact of ranked-choice voting on the U.S. Senate contest. The professor and chair of the Political Science Department explained how instant runoff voting and a ballot with more than two candidates could impact the outcome of the U.S. Senate race in Maine. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, she indicated that ranked choice vote tabulation could delay announcement of the results increasing anxiety about the outcome.

NSFA faculty awards announced

05 Aug 2020

The College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture announced that Jacquelyn Gill, associate professor of terrestrial paleoecology, Kelly Jaksa, lecturer and coordinator of the Bachelor of Social Work program, and Brian McGill, professor of biological sciences, have been recognized with faculty awards for 2020. Gill received the Outstanding Public Service Award, Jaksa was recognized with the Outstanding Teaching Award, and McGill was honored with the college's Outstanding Research Award. Gill, a co-founder and organizer of the March for Science, has more than 89,000 Twitter followers. Her podcast Warm Regards attracts nearly 10,000 listeners per episode. She is being honored for her unique and effective methods of connecting a diverse stakeholder base to cutting-edge science. Jaksa draws on her work in community and healthcare settings to create critical experiential learning opportunities for her students. Her heavy teaching and advising load is welcomed, as she seeks to engage her students, her advisees and all she comes in contact with, and to foster their enthusiasm for helping others. The Outstanding Research Award recognizes McGill as a thought leader in the field of macroecology, where his large-scale investigations in biodiversity facilitate prediction of variations in species range and ecological community composition in response to human action and climate change. Read more about the awards online.

Applying for an NEH grant? Attend McGillicuddy Humanities Center's workshop

06 Aug 2020

The University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center will offer a virtual workshop about applying for grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25. Mark Silver, senior program officer in the NEH Division of Research Programs, will lead the free, public workshop. Advance registration is required. Space is limited and priority will be given to those in the Midcoast, Down East and Highlands regions of Maine. Silver will give an overview of the variety of NEH funding opportunities and offer guidance for writing competitive proposals. He'll also run a mock application review panel. Panelists will discuss and rank sample proposals using NEH guidelines to provide insight into how applications are evaluated and recommended for NEH funding. Silver also will be available in the afternoon Thursday, Sept. 24, and Friday, Sept. 25, to virtually meet with prospective applicants to discuss their projects and offer advice about their proposals. People interested in scheduling a 20-minute appointment will be asked to submit in advance a one-page, single-spaced project overview. For more information, email mhc@maine.edu.

Kelley, Roche to take part in conversation about coastal resilience, sea level rise

06 Aug 2020

A University of Maine marine geologist and Ph.D. student will participate in the first webinar of the Bangor Daily News Climate Conversation series at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13. "BDN Climate Conversations: Coastal Resilience and Sea Level Rise," will feature Joseph Kelley, a professor of marine geology with the School of Earth and Climate Sciences with a cooperating appointment with the Climate Change Institute; and Abby Roche, a Ph.D. student in the Communication and Journalism Department, among other speakers. Kelley studies responses of developed and pristine shorelines to sea-level change, which involves measuring alterations in sea level and studying contemporary coastal processes. Roche is a community-based researcher. For her dissertation, she focuses on public engagement in risk-related decision-making contexts and how participatory communication approaches may influence the diverse and complex ways area citizens engage in practices to build resilience to local coastal flooding. Registration is required, and can be done on the event webpage. The conversation will be the first in the four-part BDN Climate Conversations series.

Piscataquis Observer announces Extension office in Dover-Foxcroft to reopen Aug. 10

06 Aug 2020

The Piscataquis Observer announced the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office in Piscataquis County will reopen to the public at 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 10. The office is at 165 East Main St. in Dover-Foxcroft. Following University of Maine guidance and protocols, staff and clients will practice physical distancing, wear face coverings, frequently use hand sanitizer and minimize the number of people in the office. People who feel well and can provide contact tracing information are welcome. Face coverings and hand sanitizer will be available.

Daily Bulldog promotes pickle fermentation survey

06 Aug 2020

The Daily Bulldog posted a media release announcing that researchers are seeking Maine residents at least 18 years old to answer questions and watch a short video about safe pickle fermentation practices. The 25-minute research survey is online. For more information, contact Jacob Rich at jacob.rich@maine.edu, 781.475.3862.

Dill shares potato beetle expertise with WAGM

06 Aug 2020

Jim Dill, pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, told WAGM in Presque Isle that potato beetles and other insects have been spotted in farm fields and private gardens in Aroostook County. Dill said this is the time of year that beetles mate and lay eggs.

Media advance virtual fun run

06 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald and Centralmaine.com promoted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H virtual free fun run along the Maine coastline from Aug. 15 to Sept. 15. Help ME Conquer the Maine Coastline is a virtual public run, walk and bike event along the 3,478 miles of Maine's coastline. Registration is required.

WABI interviews Biddle about importance of resources during remote learning

06 Aug 2020

Catharine Biddle talked with WABI (Channel 5) about a study that sought to capture examples of interesting and innovative responses of Maine school districts to school closures last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "To what extent is that creativity affected by differences in rurality, differences in access to particular kinds of funding, particular kinds of partnerships, and what role is the school district leader playing in amplifying the ability of the school to meet those needs," said the associate professor. "Moving beyond crisis schooling: What can we learn from the innovation of Maine districts to support remote student learning from March–June 2020?" is online. Biddle and other researchers plan to create recommendations and best practices for schools this fall.

Mayewski talks with WVII about pandemic, cleaner air

06 Aug 2020

Paul Mayewski told WVII (Channel 7) that fewer toxic substances are being emitted into the atmosphere during the pandemic and that the air is cleaner. "The fact we can live with less [and] consume more local products is good for us. It's good for the environment," said the director of the Climate Change Institute. "The fact that the economy is impacted, of course, is very serious, but this is our opportunity to think about how we perhaps would like to deal with energy in the future." For more information, visit the Climate Reanalyzer, a site that visualizes climate and weather datasets.

Media cover venture to develop floating offshore wind demonstration project

06 Aug 2020

A number of media organizations covered the University of Maine announcement that two industry heavyweights are investing in the development of a pioneer floating offshore wind technology project. Diamond Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of Mitsubishi company, is joining with RWE Renewables to invest $100 million to build and deploy a full-scale, floating wind farm 14 miles off Maine's coast. The new company, called New England Aqua Ventus, will collaborate with the UMaine Advanced Structures and Composites Center that is designing, engineering, researching and monitoring the floating platform technology. The full-scale project, which features a giant turbine on a floating, concrete hull made of concrete, is expected to be completed by 2023 and could create 350 jobs. "This will likely be the first project in the U.S. of commercial scale, if all goes according to schedule," Habib Dagher, executive director of the UMaine Composites Center, told the Portland Press Herald. Its sister papers, the Sun Journal, Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal carried the PPH article. Northeast Energy News linked to the Portland Press Herald piece; the New Hampshire Union Leader printed the PPH story. Maine Public, 4C Offshore, renews.biz and WVII (Channel 7) also reported the development. Bangor Daily News ran the UMaine media release. The Associated Press, OffshoreWIND.biz and Windpower Monthly also reported on the project. The Washington Times and the Journal Record (Oklahoma) ran the AP story. Mainebiz used information in the UMaine media release for its story.

Grew guest editor of special edition of Elements magazine

07 Aug 2020

Edward Grew, University of Maine research professor of Earth sciences, is co-guest editor, with Robert Bowell and Philip Pogge von Strandmann, of a special edition of Elements, focused on lithium. Elements is an international magazine of mineralogy, geochemistry and petrology. The August issue also features an article by Grew, "The Minerals of Lithium." Grew and the other contributing authors and editors are from four continents and seven countries, "studying everything from isotope geochemistry to mining to advanced batteries to medical biochemistry, while working in universities, national labs, technology and mining companies, consulting agencies and a medical center."

Request a Master Gardener Volunteer to be a mentor

07 Aug 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is starting a program that matches Maine gardeners of all experience levels — from novice to seasoned pro — with a garden mentor for the growing season. The Garden Mentorship Program will match UMaine Extension Master Gardener Volunteers with gardeners to provide virtual technical assistance and coaching. Garden mentor requests are first come, first served, and will prioritize beginning gardeners. Maine residents are invited to complete a Garden Mentor Request Form to be considered for the program. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact pamela.hargest@maine.edu, 207.781.6099.

Printing Services earns platinum award for DMC brochure

07 Aug 2020

The Association of College and University Printers (ACUP+) awarded University of Maine Printing Services a first-place platinum production award (large institution) for its work on a Darling Marine Center trifold recruitment brochure. "I am very proud of our staff for their outstanding work producing this brochure and for identifying this job as a competition worthy piece," said Mark Boyorak, associate director of Printing and Mailing Services. "We also appreciate the trust our clients put in this shop to produce high-quality work." Val Ireland, manager of creative services and director of licensing in the Division of Marketing and Communications, designed the brochure. She worked with Linda Healy at the Darling Marine Center and with the support of university administration. "We appreciate the recognition, and also the great work of the UMaine Division of Marketing and Communications, who enabled us to produce this new trifold brochure for UMaine's Darling Marine Center," said DMC director Heather Leslie. "As the university's marine laboratory and a hub for marine research and education statewide, we are delighted to be able to showcase the diversity of programs we offer to friends both new and old through this publication." Here's the Darling Marine Center's current recruitment brochure. ACUP+ is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting college and university print and mail shops.

Media cover DOE award to UMaine for student services

07 Aug 2020

Mainebiz and Penobscot Bay Pilot listed the University of Maine among universities in the state that split $5 million awarded by and the U.S. Department of Education's Student Support Services (SSS) Program during the pandemic. UMaine was awarded $668,084. The Bangor Daily News, Maine Public, The Washington Times and Seacoast Online carried the Associated Press story about the award.

Media mention UMaine in stories about success of Maine Grains

07 Aug 2020

The University of Maine was mentioned in an article that ran in the Portland Press Herald and on CentralMaine.com about sales at Skowhegan-based Maine Grains skyrocketing during the pandemic. Founder Amber Lambke said the business has had a 4,000% increase in online sales. She said the company's collaborative business model is an example in rural areas. "One of the reasons why Maine is such a model right now for the revival of grains is the commitment to collaboration," she said. That includes connecting with farmers and working alongside the University of Maine, which has been a key player in getting the money to focus on grains and their trials. A recent New York Times opinion column lauded the approach of Maine Grains. Rob Dumas, food science innovation coordinator and facility manager at UMaine, was included in a photo leading a discussion about grains. WVII (Channel 7) also reported this story.

Dill gives BDN details about tomato-destroying tobacco hornworms

07 Aug 2020

James Dill talked with the Bangor Daily News about the tomato plant-destroying tobacco hornworms. "You look at your garden all summer and nothing is wrong and then one morning there's this worm eating your tomatoes," said the University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist. Overnight, tobacco hornworms, which are bright green with white diagonal stripes, can devour an eggplant, pepper plant or tomato plant. Dill said hornworms will be right above their droppings, or frass. He recommended picking them off plants one by one.

Jacobs featured on Guides Gone Wild podcast

07 Aug 2020

Lauren Jacobs was a guest on the Guides Gone Wild podcast. She is a lecturer in kinesiology and physical education and coordinator of the outdoor leadership concentration and minor in the College of Education and Human Development. The interview focused on Jacobs' personal outdoor journey, from growing up on a lake in Maine, to professional Nordic ski racer, to working at a nonprofit dedicated to increasing outdoor sport opportunities and access for Maine kids, to UMaine's outdoor leadership program. She also discussed her master's thesis research on Maine school districts' weather policies for outdoor recess, and advocating for more outdoor time and physical activity in public schools. Jacobs is a registered Maine Guide, a certified paddling instructor, a cross-country ski instructor and registered yoga instructor.

WABI, PPH highlight findings that warmer, acidic ocean water stresses lobsters

07 Aug 2020

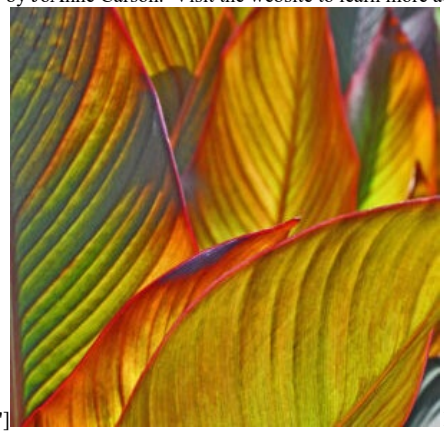
WABI (Channel 5) and the Portland Press Herald reported on a University of Maine study that found lobsters living in ocean water as warm and acidic as the Gulf of Maine is expected to be by the end of the century will be less able to cope with stress or fight off disease. While higher water temperatures and acidification seem to hurt lobsters' heart function and immune response individually, scientists Amalia Harrington, Robert Harrington, Deborah Bouchard and Heather Hamlin discovered the combined impact of both likely end-of-century environmental conditions will likely leave lobsters especially vulnerable. Hamlin, an associate professor of aquaculture and marine sciences, said this doesn't mean lobster populations are on the verge of collapse but "it does suggest we need to continue to be vigilant in surveying our lobsters for disease outbreaks, and the possibility of other stressors."

View what's new, and old, at UMaine-affiliated museums, gallery

07 Aug 2020

For people eager to again appreciate art and artifacts in person, three University of Maine museums and a gallery are open, or soon will be. Admission to the Hudson Museum, Page Farm and Home Museum, Zillman Museum (ZAM) and Lord Hall Gallery is free. Guests are required to wear face coverings and follow all other health and safety guidance in the UMaine facilities. [caption id="attachment_78450" align="alignright" width="337"]

Award-winning Passamaquoddy artist Molly Neptune Parker (1939–2020) created this extraordinary fancy basket, which is part of the "Tree and Tradition II" exhibition in the Hudson Museum. She was the matriarch of four generations of basketmakers and a founding member and president of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance.[/caption] The Hudson Museum in the Collins Center for the Arts is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Twenty-seven guests may be in the museum at a time. "Tree and Tradition II," the special exhibit in the Merritt Gallery, explores the evolution of the ancient artform of Wabanaki basketmaking, changing attitudes to land use and access to natural resources, and threats to the artform, including climate change and the emerald ash borer. This exhibit celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Hudson's collaboration with the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (MIBA). It features museum holdings as well as MIBA collections and research from the university's School of Forest Resources, Native American Programs, and Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. The Minsky Culture Lab is the site of "Maine Threatened Shell Middens: Losing a Link to our Past." Associate research professor Alice Kelley curated the exhibit that features 27 images

exploring the remarkable deposits of clam, mussel and oyster shells along the Maine coast. Today, rapidly changing sea levels, freeze/thaw cycles and looting threaten these shell heaps that contain cultural and paleoenvironmental information. To learn about virtual field trips, online exhibits, documentary videos, and digital access, visit the Hudson Museum website. The Page Farm and Home Museum — home to an important collection of farm technologies and artifacts of rural culture — is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Twenty guests may be in the main building at a time and five may be in each outbuilding. The museum provides insights into Maine's farming past. The complex includes the Maine Experiment Station Barn, built in 1833. It's the last original agricultural building on the UMaine campus and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The complex also includes a one-room schoolhouse from Holden, Maine, built in 1855; a replica carriage house; a replica blacksmith shop; and two heritage gardens in which heirloom varieties of herbs, flowers and vegetables are cultivated. Bangor Stone Ware pieces recently donated to the museum will be exhibited Aug. 26 in the Farnsworth General Store on site. Andrew (Anders) Persson founded the Bangor Stone Ware Company, which operated between 1880 and 1917. Oyster jars from Alfred Jones' Sons are part of the collection. In 1924, the Maine Experiment Station of the University of Maine examined oysters from 98 markets and dealers across the state, says museum director Patricia Henner. People also are invited to explore the Page Farm and Home Museum from their homes. They can test their knowledge about artifacts in the Whatz-It challenge, try Depression-era recipes — including Lumber Camp Molasses Doughnuts — from Brownie's Kitchen, and choose activities for K–2 Home Learners. A virtual gallery tour of the Early American Decoration Collection is on tap. And if school field trips aren't feasible this fall, virtual tours via Zoom will be added. [caption id="attachment_78451" align="alignright" width="418"]  Winslow Homer, "Eight Bells," 1887, is included in the "Maine Inspired: Art Luminaries at the Bicentennial" exhibition at Zillman Art Museum. The etching on paper is a gift of Adeline F. and Caroline R. Wing.[/caption] The Zillman Art Museum, formerly the University of Maine Museum of Art, has three new exhibitions open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, at 40 Harlow St. in downtown Bangor. Fifteen visitors are permitted in the museum at a time, and as many as four people are allowed simultaneously in each gallery. Group tours are currently not offered. "Maine Inspired: Art Luminaries at the Bicentennial"; Being Here: Marcie Jan Bronstein"; and "Wood Nymphs: JoAnne Carson" are on display through Dec. 23. "Maine Inspired: Art Luminaries at the Bicentennial" showcases artists who have contributed to the cultural fabric of the state and whose pieces are internationally lauded. The exhibition showcases an assortment of works from the ZAM collection, including prints by Winslow Homer; watercolors and etchings by John Marin; watercolors by Andrew Wyeth; photographs by Berenice Abbott; and contemporary pieces by Alex Katz. "Being Here" features a stunning selection of watercolor compositions by Marcie Jan Bronstein, and "Wood Nymphs" includes drawings and large-scale sculptures by JoAnne Carson. Visit the website to learn more about these exhibits, as well as about ZAM's mission, history and educational resources, and to view past exhibits. [caption id="attachment_78452" align="alignright" width="332"]  Laurie E. Hicks, "Folio VI," 2020, photograph, is part of the "Featured Faculty/2020" exhibition at Lord Hall Gallery.[/caption] When Lord Hall Gallery reopens Monday, Aug. 17, "Featured Faculty/2020" will be exhibited until late September or early October. Photography, sculpture, ceramics, paintings and prints will present a sampling of the research and creative accomplishments of studio, art history and art education faculty members John Eden, Michael Grillo, Susan Groce, Laurie E. Hicks, James Linehan, Ed Nadeau, Gregory Ondo and Ellen Roberts. The gallery is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fifteen people will be allowed in the gallery at a time and signs will be in place to guide visitors, said professor of art history Justin Wolff. If the gallery is at maximum capacity, visitors will add their names to a waitlist at the Department of Art office. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Wilson Center offers Summer Fun Boxes for personal reflection

10 Aug 2020

The University of Maine Wilson Center is sharing resources to make the last month of summer productive by supporting fun and personal reflection. Summer Fun Boxes, which contain coloring sheets and colored pencils, gratitude stones, poems and a candle, among other items, can be picked up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays at 67 College Ave. in Orono. Anyone unable to visit the center during these hours can request a box by email at wilsoncenterorono@gmail.com. For more information, call the Wilson Center at 207.866.4227.

Media promote Garden Mentorship program

10 Aug 2020

Several media organizations shared the University of Maine news release highlighting a new gardening mentorship program developed by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The program matches volunteer Master Gardeners with people seeking technical gardening assistance and coaching. The program is intended to support the rapidly increasing number of home gardeners seeking pandemic-safe activities. Volunteer mentors will provide support virtually to Maine residents for the growing season. The announcement appeared in CentralMaine.com, the Daily Bulldog, the Wilton Bulletin and Turner Publishing. The Associated Press article ran in The Washington Times, The Boston Globe and the San Francisco Chronicle.

BDN interviews Savoie about making herbal vinegars

10 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Kathleen Savoie, extension educator with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about using fresh herbs to produce unique and flavorful vinegars. For more information about using and preserving herbs, watch the UMaine Extension webinar "Preserving in the Maine Harvest."

Rural families of children with autism may benefit from telehealth, study says

11 Aug 2020

Families of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder who live in rural areas might receive better and more equitable access to early intervention services using telehealth technology, according to a recent study led by two University of Maine professors. Studies have shown that early intervention is key to improving developmental and educational outcomes for children with autism. However, rural families often have to travel great distances for such services, which are more readily available near population centers. Telehealth is one option for addressing this problem. "Increasing the availability of evidence-based interventions through telehealth may be a valid solution to closing the gap between service demand and availability in rural and underserved areas," the study says. Led by assistant professors of special education Deborah Rooks-Ellis and Sarah Howorth, the study looked at what happened when a state program provided an early intervention service to families via telehealth. The service was the parent-Early Start Denver Model, a relationship-based intervention that works with caregivers and children, targeting multiple skills within the child's daily routine designed to strengthen and support development. Over a 12-week period, an experienced state interventionist worked with families on P-ESDM skills during 90-minute videoconferencing sessions. Parents who participated in the study showed a better grasp of the intervention strategies and reported satisfaction with how easy it was to access services through telehealth. In addition, caregivers generally were pleased with the gains made by their children. The researchers found statistically significant changes in children's ASD symptoms pre- and post-intervention in areas such as communication, social reciprocity, and repetitive and restricted behaviors. For example, following intervention, "parents reported their child shared enjoyment or excitement with others." Children also "experienced problems in communicating with others less frequently" and "certain rituals or routines were reported to have less impact on… daily functioning." Although further research is needed, the authors conclude that: "Providing intervention using telehealth as a service delivery model may alleviate higher costs of services associated with travel time, distance between families, and provider shortages." In addition to Rooks-Ellis and Howorth, the study was conducted by Susane Boulette with the Maine Department of Education; Megan Kunze at the University of Oregon; and Ella Sulinski with UMaine's School of Social Work. The research was made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Department of Education. The results were published in the Journal of Childhood, Education & Society. The article is available online. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Registration open for 'Teaching from the Heart' program

11 Aug 2020

Registration is open for an online nonviolent communication program, "Teaching from the Heart," at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. The professional development program for educators, teachers and those working with preschool-third grade children will be held 9-11:30 a.m.Aug. 24–26.Cost is $125 and need-based scholarships are available. More information is on the Hutchinson Center website. Instructor Gina Simm has taught in early childhood education for more than 30 years. Her background in Montessori education and children's theater launched her into the world of public schools, where for much of her career she taught first grade, including a year teaching English in China. Simm worked closely with Miki Kashtan, co-founder of Bay Area Nonviolent Communication. Her knowledge of nonviolent communication has transformed her classroom into a place where systems of the heart create a child-centered environment for moving through conflict. Simm lives in the Pioneer Valley Cohousing Community in Amherst, Massachusetts. More information about her work is online. Participants in the online course will learn how to manage classrooms and learning environments with a practical, simple curriculum based on Simm's book, "Heart to Heart: Three Systems for Staying Connected (A Manual for Parents and Teachers)." Skills that help maintain the heart-to-heart connections that support children's ability to self-regulate and improve their emotional intelligence are at the core of the course. Participants also will learn how to use children's literature to teach principles of nonviolent communication. Emotional implications of the COVID-19 pandemic will require teachers to think in new ways to support their students. The reliable systems taught by Simm will provide participants with empathetic training to help children transition back into the classroom. Participants will earn a UMaine certificate in nonviolent communication, and 0.7 CEU/7 contact hours are available. Reliable internet is required for participants. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, michelle.patten@maine.edu, 207.338.8002. More information about upcoming UMaine professional development programs, registration and need-based scholarship applications are online.

Press Herald plugs soil testing service, soil health webinar

11 Aug 2020

The Portland Press Herald advises gardeners to begin preparing for the 2021 gardening season, with a test from the Maine Soil Testing Service, and by attending a University of Maine Cooperative Extension virtual webinar Aug. 17. Gardeners can find more information and sampling instructions on the soil testing website, and register online for the webinar, Cover Crop and Soil Management.

BDN, VillageSoup speak with Dill about fall webworms

11 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News and VillageSoup interviewed Jim Dill, University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist, about fall webworms, which are building their silky nests in increasing numbers. "The fall webworms are on the march," Dill said to the BDN. "Calls are coming in and this pest seems to be abundant this year." He suggested a live-and-let-live approach to dealing with a webworm infestation, noting that their impact is limited to aesthetics. "There is no reason to panic if you see them on your trees," Dill said to the BDN. "You may see some brown leaves and your tree may look ugly, but it will be fine."

AAAS highlights Yu, Yang award from DOE

11 Aug 2020

Eurekalert!, a website managed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, posted a University of Maine news story about a $750,000 Department of Energy grant awarded to researchers Liping Yu and Yingchao Yang. Yu, an assistant professor of physics, and Yang, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, seek to characterize a new class of 2D materials to be used for energy storage in batteries and supercapacitors.

WABI reports on virtual town hall about COVID-19 testing plan

11 Aug 2020

WABI (Channel 5) covered the University of Maine virtual town hall during which plans for testing students and employees were outlined by Joan Ferrini-Mundy, president of the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Machias. “It begins with obtaining evidence of a negative PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test or of actually testing about 12,500 students across the University of Maine System between July 22 and Sept. 4,” explained Ferrini-Mundy. “So, it has started already.” Dick Young, associate executive director of Auxiliary Services, and Melissa Maginnis, assistant professor of microbiology and chair of the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board, also discussed topics, including establishing a campus testing site, and plans for testing throughout the semester.

NSF funds Karp-Boss’ research into processes affecting plankton

11 Aug 2020

A University of Maine marine scientist will investigate the processes affecting the abundance, diversity and movement of plankton populations in the Pacific Ocean. The National Science Foundation awarded Lee Karp-Boss, a professor with the School of Marine Sciences, about $370,000 for her research into the influences of Island Mass Effect on various planktonic communities. Emmanuel Boss, professor of oceanography, will serve as co-principal investigator for the study. The team of researchers also includes two graduate students, Guillaume Bourdin, a Ph.D. student of oceanography who received a three-year NASA graduate fellowship through the Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology (FINESST) program, and another graduate student that Karp-Boss’ team plans to recruit. Karp-Boss also was awarded more than $180,000 from NSF to study the sinking behavior of diatoms, which she says can affect how organic carbon is transported from the surface of the ocean, where it is produced by diatoms through photosynthesis, to a deeper layer of the ocean where it can be sequestered. Bradford Gemmell, a marine scientist from the University of Southern Florida, and Glen Wheeler, a molecular cell biologist from the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth, England, will work on the research project with Karp-Boss. The National Environment Research Council of the United Kingdom allocated funding to support the collaboration. Phytoplankton fuel life in the ocean, thus knowledge on distributions, abundances and species composition of phytoplankton is central for understanding the ecology of the ocean, says Karp-Boss. Tropical and subtropical regions of the Pacific Ocean, especially the western portion, are characterized by nutrient-poor surface waters that support low biomass of phytoplankton. Remote sensing data reveals that near island concentrations of phytoplankton are elevated compared to background concentrations in the surrounding ocean. Coral reef islands and atolls alter the circulation of ocean and air currents, which imbue the surface water with nutrients from deeper waters. This process, known as Island Mass Effect, can foster phytoplankton blooms and high plankton biomass that bring additional nourishment to ecosystems. Karp-Boss says she and her team seek to learn whether Island Mass Effect results in different plankton communities and higher diversity compared to the background ocean, as well as how it affects food webs in marine ecosystems. Previous researchers primarily studied the process and its influence by observing chlorophyll concentrations in ocean waters, a proxy for phytoplankton, through satellite remote sensing. Karp-Boss, however, plans to study both the abundances and community composition of plankton assemblages in the vicinity of 20 islands across the Pacific Ocean, the most in any project, using plankton imaging and metagenomics approaches. Karp-Boss, Boss and Bourdin will use a dataset collected during the TARA Pacific expedition, conducted 2016–2018 to study the biodiversity of coral reefs and how the environment, climate change and human actions have affected them over time. Bourdin served as an engineer for the expedition, and collected the data Karp-Boss says her team will use for the study. The influence of Island Mass Effect makes islands a natural laboratory to study how groups of plankton respond and change as a result of the disturbances in their physical and chemical environment, Karp-Boss says. The study may provide plankton inventory data that could enhance ecosystem models for one of the most undersampled regions of the world’s oceans. In the other NSF-funded study, the UMaine oceanographer and fellow researchers from the U.S. and U.K. plan to investigate the vertical motion of one of the most prominent groups of phytoplankton, diatoms. Diatoms are nonmotile and encased in a glass-like outer wall that make cells denser than the surrounding water, enabling them to sink. The laws of physics suggest that cells would sink at a steady speed, but these tiny cells, smaller than the width of a human hair, actually control their sinking speeds and exhibit an unsteady behavior. They sink rapidly for a short time, then stop and hover before starting to sink rapidly again. Karp-Boss says that sinking enhances nutrient delivery to cells, but at the same time, the quality and quantity of light for photosynthesis decreases as they settle away from the illuminated upper layer of the ocean, also known as the photic zone. The increase in nutrient flux is a function of sinking speed, but constant fast sinking would cause diatoms to leave the photic zone. Karp-Boss says she and her colleagues believe unsteady sinking serves as an adaptation of diatoms to vertical distributions of resources in the water column. Unsteady sinking provides cells the opportunity to boost their nutrient supply, but unlike in steady sinking, this behavior decreases the mean sinking velocity and the distance traveled. Unsteady sinking, therefore, reduces diatoms’ chances of settling out of the photic zone. The action requires rapid modulations of buoyancy, but Karp-Boss says how diatoms execute that over time at the scale of nano-seconds remains a mystery. The UMaine professor and her fellow scientists will explore how and why diatoms unsteadily sink. They will also examine how environmental and physiological changes, such as sharp gradients in light and nutrients, affect this behavior, as well as some of the cellular processes involved. In order to answer these questions, the research team will examine individual diatom cells using state-of-the-art video technology, microscopy and microelectrodes. Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Sandweiss’ two-year term as Phi Kappa Phi president underway

12 Aug 2020

A University of Maine archaeologist has begun his two-year term as president of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective multidisciplinary collegiate honor society that was founded at the University of Maine. Daniel H. Sandweiss, professor of anthropology and Quaternary and climate studies, served as vice president for chapter development since 2016. He also sits on the organization’s board of directors. Ten seniors, led by Marcus L. Urann, founded Phi Kappa Phi in 1897 at UMaine. They sought to start an honorary society that recognizes outstanding students, faculty and staff from all disciplines. In 1900, the University of Tennessee and Pennsylvania State University joined the society originally named Lambda Sigma Eta Society, making it a national society. Phi Kappa Phi has since grown to an international society headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with more than 1.25 million members from more than 300 campuses across the United States and the Philippines. The society awards an average of $1 million annually in grants and fellowships. Its mission is “to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.”

Ippolito talks about TikTok with WVII

12 Aug 2020

WVII (Channel 7) featured Jon Ippolito, a University of Maine professor of new media, in its story about data collection by TikTok, a China-based application used by social media fans around the world. U.S. Intelligence officials characterize the app as a security threat. Ippolito said TikTok collects selected user data, commonly used for marketing purposes. “It’s not clear to me how the Chinese government would use that information to nefarious ends,” he said.

UMaine assistive technology spinout UNAR Labs receives $300,000 NIH Small Business Innovation Research award

12 Aug 2020

UNAR Labs, a University of Maine spinout company that develops assistive technology for blind and visually impaired (BVI) users, has been awarded $300,000 under the National Institute of Health’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I program to further prove its concept. With the award, the company plans to prototype an information access system that would help educational institutions develop accessible learning materials more efficiently. The company’s mission is to make the visual graphic information that has become such a big part of modern daily life more accessible to BVI users on the digital devices they already have, including smartphones and tablets. “More than 60 to 70 percent of digital content is completely inaccessible to visually impaired users — think of maps, images, photos, Facebook, Twitter,” says Hari Palani, co-founder and CEO of UNAR Labs. “We want to provide a bridge and enable BVI users with access to all this information.” UNAR Labs’ core technology is a software platform called Midlina that translates visual graphical information into an accessible multisensory graphic that BVI users can touch, feel and hear using the haptic, vibration and audio features built in to digital smart devices (phones/tablets). The SBIR award will allow Portland-based UNAR Labs to focus on improving the process to translate textbooks and other educational materials – including the graphical components — into a multisensory format that makes them fully accessible for BVI students. Using existing methods, this process can take two weeks to two

months (depending on the complexity of the material), involves significant manual labor, and can cost many thousands of dollars, according to Palani. The company is developing a software system that aims to cut this time down to hours and reduce the manual labor that makes it so expensive. “Translating visual information into equivalent non-visual information is not a trivial task, so we have a long research agenda to achieve this technical feat,” says Palani, who came to UMaine in 2011 to conduct graduate research on accessible technology with professor of spatial informatics Nicholas Giudice, co-founder of UNAR Labs. The two began to explore commercialization of their research after connecting with the team at UMaine’s Foster Center for Innovation in 2017. Their path to commercialization has been deliberate. In 2017, UNAR Labs became the first team from Maine to be invited to participate in the National I-Corps program. After completing I-Corps, where Palani and Giudice conducted extensive customer discovery research, they joined the MIRTA accelerator at UMaine in 2019, built a prototype, and began to prove the feasibility of their technology. A $225,000 National Science Foundation Phase I SBIR award in 2019 helped fund this work, along with a $100,000 commercialization support grant from the Maine Technology Institute. UNAR Labs is participating in the 2020 Top Gun program, a statewide accelerator that targets startups with high growth potential. Giudice, who is visually impaired, believes that UNAR Labs has a distinct edge in advancing this technology. “Lots of companies are interested in this type of technology, and for good reasons, but they’re often coming at it from a technical standpoint and not thinking about it from the human side — the perceptual, cognitive aspects of it,” says Giudice. “We’re working in a field that we both have had a lot of experience in, personal and professional. This company is built out of a lot of Hari’s dissertation work and my experience as a blind scientist who has dealt with trying to find solutions to this for the last 20 years and understands what works, what doesn’t and the real challenges.” That’s a key reason why UNAR Labs is building solutions for use in commercially available hardware (e.g., smartphones). A dedicated device with a braille display to show graphics can cost upwards of $15,000, Giudice says. For institutions, the process of producing accessible versions of textbooks involving graphic information is in the range of $20,000 to $30,000 and involves a complex, multi-step production process that requires an experienced transcriber to convert the materials to a tactile format and a second person to check that they are accurate before printing on a tactile embosser. UNAR Labs’ software would automate this process and eliminate those manual steps, setting it up so that educational institutions (or commercial production facilities) could quickly and easily prepare accessible material from standard visual materials for printing and delivery. The company’s long-term goal is to create a suite of products that will meaningfully improve information accessibility for the BVI community across platforms and devices. “We have met all our planned milestones thus far and are well on our trajectory toward creating a truly inclusive and accessible digital world,” Palani says. UNAR Labs is in the process of hiring its first full-time employee, and Palani says they hope to add four more positions before the end of 2020. In addition, the company has contracted with UMaine’s Virtual Environment and Multimodal Interaction (VEMI) Lab — known for innovative research to support nonvisual information access — to help conduct some of the human usability studies with the products being developed as part of their new NIH project. Contact: Ashley Forbes, ashley.forbes@maine.edu

WABI interviews Trostel about grocery prices, inflation

12 Aug 2020

WABI (Channel 5) talked with professor of economics and public policy Philip Trostel about the likelihood of experiencing inflation based, in part, on the rate of increase in the cost of groceries. “My initial knee-jerk reaction is we would see the biggest increase in prices in April when things were locked down the most, and as things have started to ease a little bit, actually the rate of increase has continued to go up instead of stabilize or even go down,” he said. Trostel indicated there is not enough data to predict if prices will continue to rise, or what the rate of increase might be.

Maginnis talks with BDN about second round of COVID-19 testing

12 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported on the University of Maine’s plan to require a second COVID-19 test for some staff and students seven to 10 days after they return to campus as part of a three-phase surveillance strategy recommended by the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board. Assistant professor of microbiology Melissa Maginnis, who leads the scientific advisory board, notes that a second screening will facilitate identification of asymptomatic or presymptomatic individuals who could be spreading the virus. “The science tells us that a second round of screening is essential due to [the] incubation period. Retesting our students shortly after arrival provides an additional layer of safety to limit viral transmission at the outset of the semester.” UMaine has developed a COVID-19 Testing Guide for students and an informational video about what students can expect as part of Phase I. WABI (Channel 5) and CentralMaine.com noted that UMaine also plans to test wastewater throughout the semester. Mainebiz’s article focused on the University of Maine System testing and monitoring plan.

News Center talks with university officials about return to campus

12 Aug 2020

News Center Maine reported on the University of Maine’s plans for students to return safely to campus. "At the University of Maine and across the System we are engaged in an unprecedented health and safety campaign to do our best to keep our students and communities safe," said President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. Dick Young, associate executive director of auxiliary services, and Melissa Maginnis, chair of the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board, also were interviewed by News Center about UMaine’s COVID-19 testing plans.

UMAA hosts Mayewski for talk about National Geographic expedition to Everest

13 Aug 2020

World-renowned explorer and glaciologist Paul Mayewski will talk about "Pushing Climate Change Research to the Roof of the World: Expedition Everest" 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20 during the University of Maine Alumni Association’s free, live webcast. In 2019, the director of the Climate Change Institute led the National Geographic and Rolex mission by leading a team of international researchers to Mount Everest to install the world's highest weather-monitoring stations and extract the highest ice core ever collected. The expedition was the subject of the documentary "Expedition Everest" and is the subject of a special edition of National Geographic magazine. Mayewski is a Distinguished Professor with the School of Earth and Climate Sciences, School of Marine Sciences, School of Policy and International Affairs, and Maine Business School. He also serves on the faculty of the University of Maine Law School's Center for Ocean and Coastal Law. Mayewski has authored more than 450 scientific publications and two popular books, “The Ice Chronicles” and “Journey Into Climate.” His contributions to science have resulted in numerous national and international honors. He has been interviewed hundreds of times by media, including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the PBS series NOVA, National Public Radio and "60 Minutes.” He also appeared in the Emmy Award-winning Showtime series "Years of Living Dangerously." Registration is required for the free session that’s limited to 500 participants.

Wiscasset Newspaper, Boothbay Register promote Tick Lab

13 Aug 2020

The Lyme Time column in the Wiscasset Newspaper and Boothbay Register cited statistics from University of Maine Cooperative Extension, including that there are 15 species of ticks identified in Maine. The column also indicated the public can submit ticks to the university’s Tick Lab for identification (free) and testing for diseases ($15).

Islander advances fermentation study

13 Aug 2020

The Mount Desert Islander advanced a university study in which Mainers 18 years and older are invited to answer questions and watch a short video about safe pickle fermentation practices. For additional information, contact Jacob

Rich at jacob.rich@maine.edu or 781.475.3862.

BDN interviews coaches of fall sports about summer schedules

13 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with University of Maine fall coaches about their respective summers in light of COVID-19, their seasons being put on hold until spring, and an NCAA ban on in-person recruiting. “We watched a showcase in Sweden online,” said women’s soccer coach Scott Atherley said. “It has been a game-changer, but it has been a game-changer for everyone. This is an opportunity to get creative with technology to maximize what we can do given the current rules.” Field hockey coach Josette Babineau said that she and assistant Michelle Simpson “have been thinking about [the players’] situations and what is best for them and their future” regarding eligibility. She said she’s found recruiting calls to be a “lot deeper and more meaningful” than some traditional in-person conversations. Football coach Nick Charlton said the staff has compiled a video folder of recruits doing drills, in addition to playing games because “a lot of student-athletes aren’t going to have seasons this fall.” Men’s and women’s cross-country coach Mark Lech said he’s been communicating via Zoom with other coaches in America East due to the potential problem if cross-country and outdoor track are held in the spring.

Dill, Handley discuss spotted wing drosophila that lay eggs in berries

13 Aug 2020

Jim Dill and David Handley talked with the Bangor Daily News about this summer’s spotted wing drosophila population explosion. “This is a whole different species than the fruit fly people are used to if they leave bananas out too long on the counter and then start flitting around and driving you crazy,” said Dill, pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative Extension. “The spotted wing drosophila is out in the fields or in your garden laying eggs in your fruit.” Handley, vegetable and small fruit specialist with Cooperative Extension, said that “anybody who grows berries that ripen later in the season should be concerned.” Those berries include wild and highbush blueberries, late summer raspberries, everbearing raspberries and strawberries, he said. The best defense against the spotted wing drosophila is picking fruit earlier than normal, which will give flies less time to lay eggs. Once the fruit is picked, it should immediately be refrigerated to at least 34 F to halt development of eggs or larvae already in the berries, according to the article.

Rooks-Ellis, Howorth talk about success of telehealth for rural families

13 Aug 2020

WABI (Channel 5) talked with Deborah Rooks-Ellis and Sarah Howorth about their findings that telehealth technology may provide better and more equitable access to early intervention services for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder who live in rural areas. “This started with 10 families,” said Rooks-Ellis, assistant professor of special education. “But then when the pandemic hit, they were able to do it statewide across multiple families.” Howorth said, “One woman said it was life-changing and it wasn’t a short-term solution but was a life solution for their family.”

Brawley honored with PSA Award of Excellence

14 Aug 2020

Editor's note: story updated Aug. 18, 2020 Susan Brawley, professor of plant biology and cooperating professor of biological sciences in the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences, received one of two 2020 Awards of Excellence from the Phycological Society of America (PSA). Craig Schneider, the Charles A. Dana Professor of Biology at Trinity College, received the second PSA career award. PSA promotes research and teaching in all fields of phycology, the study of algae, disseminating scientific advances and discoveries in its flagship publication, the Journal of Phycology. With global membership, the organization builds broad understanding of algae with the goal of elucidating algal ecology, molecular physiology and systematics, and developing innovative applications for micro- and macroscopic algae. The PSA Award of Excellence recognizes Brawley’s research, which integrates cell biology, algal ecology, and genomics to advance understanding of macroalgal reproduction and development. Her work at the University of Maine has supported development of Maine’s growing macroalgal aquaculture industry. According to Dale Casamatta, president of PSA, Brawley has had a “remarkable impact” on the PSA and the field of phycology. “The PSA Awards of Excellence that have been made previously are to researchers in our wide field, from all over the world,” says Brawley. “I grew up admiring these people and their work so much, and to be honored in the same way by my professional peers is more than exciting to me.” She highlights the relevance of algal research, noting that hardly an issue of the journals Science or Nature appears without a major discovery based on studies of algae. Brawley joined the UMaine faculty in 1991 as an associate professor from a tenured position as an associate professor at Vanderbilt University; she earned tenure and was promoted to professor at the University of Maine in 1994. Over the course of her career, her research has been supported with funding from the National Geographic Society, the Department of Interior, the United States Department of Energy, and Maine Sea Grant (NOAA). Brawley's research has been funded continuously by the National Science Foundation since 1984. In addition, she received an award from the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in support of eight months of aquaculture research in China in 1984 with scientists at the Chinese Academy of Sciencies' Institute of Oceanology. She has mentored numerous postdoctoral fellows and undergraduate and graduate students, providing valuable research training and international field experiences. Her current research focus is on the North Atlantic macroalgal microbiome. In 2012, Brawley was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of just 10 full-time UMaine faculty to receive this honor. She was one of the initial cohort of three female scientists to receive a Career Recognition Award from UMaine’s Rising Tide Center in 2014. Schneider is being honored for his work delineating the evolutionary history of macroalgae of the mid-Atlantic and Bermuda, including discovery and taxonomic classification of more than 100 new genera and species from warmer zones in the Atlantic Ocean. Brawley and Schneider received the award in July at the virtual meeting of the PSA, but are expecting to be honored in person at the group’s 2021 annual meeting slated for June 13–17 in Providence, Rhode Island. More information about PSA is online. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

Lobster Institute statistics cited in Kennebec Journal

17 Aug 2020

The Kennebec Journal quoted University of Maine Lobster Institute statistics in a story about a blue lobster found in a shipment to Hallowell Seafood & Produce. The crustacean was caught off Cabbage Island near Boothbay Harbor, and will be returned to the ocean or donated to an aquarium.

Savoie promotes home food preservation with WGME

17 Aug 2020

WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) discussed trends in food preservation during the pandemic with University of Maine Cooperative Extension Educator Kathy Savoie. Savoie says that economic disruption often leads to an increase in home gardening, with beginners tending to plant too much for their consumption. UMaine Extension anticipated the pandemic-related resurgence in home gardening and the need for food preservation education, introducing a free webinar series in May. The series, which emphasizes food safety, includes lessons on canning, drying, fermenting, and freezing. More than 1,000 people have participated in these online sessions. Savoie notes the videos are not recorded lectures, but are demonstrations. "There is a lot to home food preservation, and we want it to go right for them to help keep it safe," she said.

Wahle talks about lobster population changes with Christian Science Monitor

17 Aug 2020

Richard Wahle, research professor at the University of Maine Darling Marine Center and founder of the Lobster Settlement Index, was quoted in a Christian Science Monitor article highlighting the changing movement patterns of lobster in New England and the impact on the fishery.

New England Aqua Ventus offshore wind project cited in CentralMaine.com op-ed

17 Aug 2020

CentralMaine.com published an opinion piece from Jeff Marks indicating that the recently announced public-private partnership between the University of Maine and New England Aqua Ventus could boost Maine's renewable energy industry and the state's economy. Marks is the director and senior policy advocate at the Acadia Center, a clean-energy research and advocacy nonprofit in Rockport.

Media report breaks canceled, travel restricted, room and board reduced

17 Aug 2020

The Associated Press, Mainebiz, Bangor Daily News, WABI (Channel 5), WAGM, News Center Maine and Maine Public reported on University of Maine System actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Semester breaks traditionally scheduled for October and March have been canceled, and work-related employee travel will be allowed with special permission. Employees are also being asked to limit personal travel, and to follow state guidelines for testing and quarantining after traveling. To mitigate financial hardships resulting from the pandemic, resident students will see room and board fees reduced by 20% to reflect a move to distance learning after Thanksgiving. A testing dashboard will be available online to report data on the numbers of COVID-19 tests and infections. U.S. News and World Report and WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the AP report. MSN Money picked up WAGM coverage; University Business quoted the BDN story.

BDN reports on fire on University trails

17 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that a small forest fire broke out on the University of Maine recreational trail near an Old Town shopping plaza Friday afternoon. Fire crews from Old Town, Alton, Bradley and Milford assisted in extinguishing the fire, which burned less than one acre. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

MEOC offers Higher Opportunities for Pathways to Employment (HOPE)

17 Aug 2020

Maine Educational Opportunity Center has been contracted by the Department of Health and Human Services Higher Opportunities for Pathways to Employment (HOPE) Program to coordinate navigator services for parenting students in need of educational support. The HOPE Program is designed to help Maine parents pursue training and education beyond high school. In addition to guidance through the education systems, eligible participants could receive financial support related to tuition, books, fees, childcare, travel and more. Eligible participants: • are a parent or caretaker relative of a minor child living with them. • are a Maine resident between the ages of 16-64. • meet financial qualifications. • have been accepted to or are enrolled at least half-time in a qualifying training or education program • are not currently receiving, or someone in their family unit is not currently receiving, a monthly Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Parents as Scholars (PaS) cash benefit. • are a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-U.S. citizen. • do not have a marketable bachelor's degree. • are making satisfactory progress and on track to graduate. For more information, contact Teri Mann, MEOC coordinator of HOPE Navigator Services, teresa.mann@maine.edu, 800.281.3703.

Long Road closed for paving Aug. 21

17 Aug 2020

Long Road from the Memorial Gym to the Bennett Lot will be closed for paving Friday, Aug. 21. Detour signs will be posted at Munson and Flagstaff roads. Access on this section of Long Road will be limited to construction and emergency vehicles. Pedestrian traffic will be routed around this area during this time.

Emera Astronomy Center to reopen Sept. 1, host online event Aug. 21

17 Aug 2020

Emera Astronomy Center will reopen Sept. 1 and regular public shows will resume Friday, Sept. 4. "We Are Stars" will be September's 7 p.m. Friday public program and "Magic Treehouse–Space Mission" will be the 2 p.m. Sunday family matinee, said director Shawn Laatsch. Visitors and staff will be required to wear face coverings (over the nose and mouth) and disposable masks will be available for visitors. Maximum capacity is 11 people inside the planetarium. Staff will usher visitors to assigned seats, which have been marked to ensure 6-foot social distancing. Tickets must be reserved in advance through the website or by calling 207.581.1341. Onsite ticketing will not be available. The building — including door handles, railings, seats, flat surfaces, and bathrooms — will be cleaned and sanitized prior to each program. Hand sanitizer will be located in several locations, including the check-in counter and building entrances. Prior to the Sept. 1 opening, Emera Astronomy Center will offer the online event Secrets of the Universe at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21, with University of California, Davis physicist Manuel Calderón de la Barca Sánchez. In Geneva, Switzerland, the professor of physics collaborates with a thousand scientists from 100 countries on the largest and most complex machine that humans have ever built. The Large Hadron Collider has a circumference of nearly 17 miles and is buried as deep as 500 feet underground. The scientists use the particle accelerator to try to get back to the beginning of time to unravel secrets of the universe. In the trailer for the event, Calderón de la Barca Sánchez says every shred of scientific wisdom throughout history has brought them to this moment. To sign up for "Secrets of the Universe," email your name and email address to Laatsch at planetarium@maine.edu. Stay informed by following the center on Facebook and visiting the website.

UMaine Extension offers webinar on pain-free gardening Aug. 31

18 Aug 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar about ways to address the physical strain of gardening noon–1 p.m. Aug. 31. This is the fourth in a six-part summer gardening webinar series to be offered every other Monday through September. "Pain-free Gardening," led by Maine AgrAbility specialist Ellen Gibson, will include discussions about ergonomics and tool choices, and demonstrations of safely bending, stretching and getting your body ready to garden. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099, pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

USM, UMaine offer COVID-19 webinar series

18 Aug 2020

The University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service and the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center will offer the special course series “Understanding the COVID-19 Pandemic: Resilience and Recovery.” This free, 12-session series is an updated version of the June 2020 class offered by the Muskie Center, and is designed to enhance understanding of the pandemic and its local and global impacts. The class is organized into three modules that capture the lessons learned since the pandemic began, highlight local and global outcomes, and lay the groundwork for recovery. Guest lecturers include experts in public health and public policy, community development, economics, international law and politics, and social justice who will frame the impacts of the pandemic through the lens of their professional discipline. Drs. Nirav Shah and Dora Mills will facilitate the first session. Classes are set for 5-6 p.m. Thursdays and will run from Sept. 3 to Nov. 19. Participants must register in advance. Registrants may be eligible for CEU credits, which requires attendance at 10 of the 12 sessions and payment of a processing fee. More information about this class, including a list of guest speakers and topics, is online.

CentralMaine.com announces Webber’s seaweed webinar

18 Aug 2020

CentralMaine.com highlighted an upcoming seminar, Sensational Seaweed, with University of Maine Ph.D. candidate Hannah Webber at 6 p.m. Aug. 20. This one-hour virtual event is sponsored by the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust. The event is free, but registration is required. More information is available online.

BDN talks with Garland about saving tomato seeds

18 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with University of Maine Cooperative Extension horticulture specialist Kate Garland about why gardeners should save seeds from that perfect summer tomato. “Our food system would be less stable if we were just relying on one or two varieties because they won’t have the resilience when disease and other pressures come along,” said Garland. “It’s really important in our food system to have a lot of varieties. Saving seeds is an important way of contributing to that.” Garland also described the processes for harvesting, drying and storing the seeds to ensure success when planted.

Smart discusses tomato disease with BDN

18 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with Alicyn Smart, assistant professor and plant pathologist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about blossom end rot. This marker of calcium deficiency is common during hot, dry growing seasons. According to Smart, a lot of Maine gardeners may be losing tomatoes and peppers to blossom end rot this year. She recommended careful and thorough watering of vegetables as the best way to control the disease because it encourages the development of a healthy root system to facilitate calcium uptake.

Media advance Extension virtual exhibit hall

18 Aug 2020

Village Soup, the Boothbay Register, the Sun Journal and CentralMaine.com highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Maine State Virtual Fair, which was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to allow 4-H members to share projects that would normally be exhibited during fair season. More than 180 exhibits are featured at the fair, including art, sewing, building models and entrepreneurship and agriculture-related projects. Visit the fair, which runs through Sept. 15, online.

WABI interviews Dana about students’ return to campus

18 Aug 2020

WABI (Channel 5) toured the University of Maine campus to highlight preparations for students to return safely Aug. 31. Robert Dana, vice president of student life and inclusive excellence, said students won’t lose “the college experience.” First-year student enrollment is similar to last year, with 2,100 students expected. "The university is running a public health campaign and has preventative measures in place. You can see when you look around campus there are a lot of safety features," said Dana. Those safety features include new signage, free face coverings, floor markings, Plexiglas barriers and the designation of Knox Hall as a quarantine dormitory, among others. “We’ve interacted with our students, faculty, and staff and I think everybody is ready to do the heavy lifting that requires us all to be safe,” Dana said.

Ferrini-Mundy quoted in bulletin about NSF program changes

18 Aug 2020

FYI, the online bulletin from the American Institute of Physics, quoted University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy in a story about recent changes in the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program. From 2011 to 2017, Ferrini-Mundy led the NSF directorate that administers the GRFP. The GRFP, established in 1950, is considered one of the most prestigious federal research fellowship programs, funding more than 50,000 fellows to date. Historically, GRFP seeks applications from scholars in a broad list of disciplines. The call for proposals released last month indicates the agency will now emphasize the fields of artificial intelligence, quantum information science and computationally intensive research. Ferrini-Mundy noted there is a precedent for fostering growth in the professional pipeline in particular disciplines with NSF student programs. “I've talked to colleagues here on campus who feel that it's good leadership for NSF to say, ‘Here's where we would like to be sure we let people know that these are eligible areas.’”

President Ferrini-Mundy cited in release about support for research community

18 Aug 2020

A news release issued by Sen. Susan Collins on Aug. 17 regarding cosponsorship of bipartisan legislation to support the research community during the COVID-19 pandemic quoted University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "Federally funded research at the University of Maine has grown our local natural resource economy, strengthened the state’s quality of life and environment, safeguarded American troops, and sustained thousands of good-paying Maine jobs,” President Ferrini-Mundy said. ”COVID-19 caused unprecedented disruption to our research laboratories and centers, which pivoted quickly to meeting the pandemic-related

needs of the state, from producing hand sanitizer to innovating PPE to protect frontline health workers. As president of the state's only public research university, I thank Senator Collins for her leadership in cosponsoring the bipartisan RISE Act, which will help us restart the research and development projects stalled by the coronavirus that are essential to Maine's economic recovery, national security and global competitiveness."

UMaine again in annual Princeton Review, Fiske guides

19 Aug 2020

The University of Maine is among the best 386 colleges nationwide, according to The Princeton Review's 2021 edition of its annual guide, and also is included again this year in the Fiske Guide to Colleges. Colleges and universities profiled in this year's "The Best 386 Colleges" represent about 14% of the 2,800 four-year colleges in the United States, according to Princeton Review. The company chooses the colleges based on data collected annually from administrators about their institutions' academic offerings. Princeton Review also considers data it gathers from its surveys of college students who rate and report on various aspects of their campus and community experiences. Princeton Review's news release about its 29th edition, "The Best 386 Colleges," is online. This year, UMaine also was one of 40 colleges on the Fire Safety Honor Roll by receiving a Fire Safety Rating of 99 (the highest possible score). Fiske Guide to Colleges 2021 provides more than 300 of the "best and most interesting" schools in the United States, as well as in Canada, Great Britain and Ireland. In the Princeton Review "Students Say" section on the University of Maine, it is noted that "the class choices are amazing," professors and peers are helpful, and hands-on learning opportunities abound. As a result, students seeking "opportunity and a sense of community" say that UMaine feels like home. For UMaine's profile in the Fiske Guide, a biology major noted: "I didn't know professors could be so attentive, intelligent, and dedicated to building their students' knowledge." As they did in Princeton Review, students told Fiske Guide about UMaine's safe, caring community. One said that at UMaine, "we're competitive, we're focused on groundbreaking technology in our academics, and above all, we're focused on taking care of each other." Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine Extension offers pollinator-friendly garden certification

20 Aug 2020

Gardens created to attract essential pollinators are the focus of a new pollinator-friendly garden certification from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers program. Pollinator-friendly gardens provide food and habitat for native insects and animals in a dedicated garden space. Maine gardeners can apply to have existing or new gardens certified when specific criteria are met. Guidelines and educational resources are included for each step of the process. Maine gardeners can apply online; the nonrefundable fee is $10. Certified gardens can purchase a permanent display sign for an additional $30. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.942.7396, extension.pollinators@maine.edu.

Check out 180-plus projects in 4-H virtual exhibit hall

20 Aug 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, University of Maine Cooperative Extension created a virtual exhibit hall for Maine 4-H members in lieu of traditional exhibits generally displayed during fair season. UMaine Extension 4-H members from across the state have entered more than 180 projects to this inaugural Maine State Virtual Fair, ranging from art to building models, animal science, sewing, agriculture and more. Each exhibit represents projects completed and skills gained by 4-H members over the past program year. The virtual exhibit hall is open for public viewing through Sept. 15. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kristy Ouellette, 207.581.8202, kristy.ouellette@maine.edu.

Media promote pain-free gardening webinar

20 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Daily Bulldog, Morning Ag Clips, Village Soup and CentralMaine.com shared a media release about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's webinar addressing the physical strain of gardening from noon–1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31. "Pain-free Gardening," led by Maine AgrAbility specialist Ellen Gibson, will include discussions about ergonomics and tool choices, and demonstrations of safely bending, stretching and getting your body ready to garden. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest at 207-781-6099 or pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

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Extension's newborn chick information shared by media

20 Aug 2020

The Portland Press Herald incorporated University of Maine Cooperative Extension information about newborn chicks in an article about mail-order chicks delivered by the U.S. Postal Service arriving to farmers dead. According to UMaine Extension, newly hatched chicks can survive for up to two days without food and water because they draw nutrition from yolks in the eggs from which they hatched. The Sun Journal, the Denver Post and Farm Forum shared the Press Herald article.

Yahoo! Finance covers deployment of composite arch bridge system

20 Aug 2020

Yahoo! Finance shared a media release from AIT Bridges about the company deploying the first composite arch bridge system, developed at the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composite Center, on the West Coast. According to AIT Bridges, a division of Advanced Infrastructure Technologies (AIT), the bridge system will be located in Duvall, Washington. This bridge consists of 12 fiberglass composite arches manufactured at AIT's Brewer facility. Its arches span 51 feet and were cut in half to facilitate cross-country shipping, according to AIT Bridges.

Free Press highlights reopening, exhibits at museums, gallery

20 Aug 2020

The Free Press highlighted the reopening of three University of Maine museums and a gallery, as well as their new exhibits. The Hudson Museum in the Collins Center for the Arts is open with two new exhibits from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Page Farm and Home Museum — home to an important collection of farm technologies and artifacts of rural culture — is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and will exhibit Bangor Stone Ware pieces Aug. 26 at the Farnsworth General Store. The Zillman Art Museum, formerly the University of Maine Museum of Art, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, at 40 Harlow St. in downtown Bangor. The museum features three new exhibitions. Lord Hall Gallery is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and offers the new "Featured Faculty/2020" exhibit available until late September or early October.

Mainebiz advances UNAR's Small Business Innovation Research award

20 Aug 2020

Mainebiz shared a media release about UNAR Labs, a University of Maine spinout company that develops assistive technology for blind and visually impaired (BVI) users, being awarded $300,000 under the National Institute of Health's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I program. The company plans to prototype an information access system that would help educational institutions develop accessible learning materials more efficiently. "More than 60 to 70 percent of digital content is completely inaccessible to visually impaired users — think of maps, images, photos, Facebook, Twitter," says Hari Palani, co-founder and CEO of UNAR Labs. "We want to provide a bridge and enable BVI users with access to all this information." UNAR Labs' core technology is a software platform called Midlina that translates visual graphical information into an accessible multisensory graphic that BVI users can touch, feel and hear using the haptic, vibration and audio features built in to digital smart devices (phones/tablets). The SBIR award will allow Portland-based UNAR Labs to focus on improving the process to translate textbooks and other educational materials — including the graphical components — into a multisensory format that makes them fully accessible for BVI students. Palani arrived at UMaine in 2011 to conduct graduate research on accessible technology with professor of spatial informatics Nicholas Giudice, co-founder of UNAR Labs.

Two UMaine grads finalists for Maine Teacher of the Year

21 Aug 2020

Cindy Soule, a fourth-grade teacher at Portland's Gerald A. Talbot Community School, and Heather Webster, an English teacher at Medomak Valley High School, Waldoboro, are two of the three finalists for 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year. Both are alumnae of the University of Maine. Soule, the 2020 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year, has a Bachelor of Science in social work. Webster, the 2020 Lincoln County Teacher of the Year, earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and is working on a Master of Education in literacy education with a concentration in writing and the teaching of writing in College of Education and Human Development at UMaine. They are joined by 2020 Knox County Teacher of the Year Alison Babb-Brott as the third finalist for the Maine Teacher of the Year. Babb-Brott is a second-grade teacher at St. George School. The finalists were selected from the list of Maine County Teachers of the Year, previously announced by the Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine. This year, eight of the 16 county teachers earned degrees at UMaine. The Maine Teacher of the Year serves as an advocate for the teaching profession, education and students, and represents Maine in the National Teacher of the Year program. The awardee will be announced in October. More information is on the Maine Department of Education website and the Maine Teacher of the Year website.

UMM marine biology program introduces three new concentrations

21 Aug 2020

The University of Maine at Machias has restructured its marine biology program, adding concentrations in aquaculture, marine ecology and coastal conservation. The revised program will retain a core curriculum focused on experiential learning and foundational scientific knowledge, while offering more flexibility for students and an increased emphasis on career-oriented skill sets, including geographic information systems training. The three optional concentrations were added in response to student interests and needs of the Maine workforce. A news release is online.

News Center notes biofuels processing in piece about Maine, Finland forest industries

21 Aug 2020

News Center Maine discussed the University of Maine converting waste from pulp processing into jet fuel and other petroleum products in a story about the Maine forestry industry learning from Finland how to evolve. UMaine houses the Forest Bioproducts Research Institute, which aspires to build research infrastructure dedicated to facilitating a forest-based biorefinery in Maine that manufactures fuel from trees. The university also aims to augment the pulp and paper and building products industries with new revenue streams from margin chemicals, plastics and nanotechnology products and new sources of energy.

BDN highlights 4-H centers helping schools plan outdoor learning opportunities

21 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Centers are helping schools plan outdoor learning opportunities. Schools across Maine are building outdoor classrooms to make social distancing easier and to protect students and educators from COVID-19, as well as to enjoy fresh air and the Maine wilderness, according to the BDN.

Media advance new food preservation webinars

21 Aug 2020

The Boothbay Register shared a media release about new food preservation webinars from University of Maine Cooperative Extension, which will focus on preserving local food with safety and flavor in mind. Canning relish is the topic 2–2:45 p.m. Sept. 1. Other webinars in the series will focus on preserving apples, which will be held Sept. 8; pressure canning soups and stocks, which will be held Sept. 15; fermenting vegetables, which will be held Sept. 22; and dehydrating fruits and vegetables, which will be held Sept. 29. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu. The Bangor Daily News, VillageSoup, Centrailmaine.com and Morning Ag Clips also announced the fall webinar series.

Media report alumnae named finalists for Maine Teacher of the Year

21 Aug 2020

The Portland Press Herald, the Penobscot Bay Pilot, the VillageSoup and the Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel reported on the finalists for 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year, including two University of Maine alumnae.

Finalists Cindy Soule, a fourth-grade teacher at Portland's Gerald A. Talbot Community School, and Heather Webster, an English teacher at Medomak Valley High School, Waldoboro, both graduated from UMaine. They are joined by 2020 Knox County Teacher of the Year Alison Babb-Brott, a second-grade teacher at St. George School, as the third finalist for Maine Teacher of the Year. Soule, the 2020 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year, has a Bachelor of Science in social work. Webster, the 2020 Lincoln County Teacher of the Year, earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and is working on a Master of Education in literacy education with a concentration in writing and the teaching of writing in College of Education and Human Development at UMaine.

UMM restructured marine biology program shared by Penobscot Bay Pilot

21 Aug 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot shared a University of Maine at Machias media release about the institution rolling out a newly restructured marine biology program for the fall 2020 semester. The program features new concentrations in aquaculture, marine ecology and coastal conservation. It will retain a core curriculum focused on experiential learning and foundational scientific knowledge, while offering more flexibility for students and an increased emphasis on career-oriented skill sets, including geographic information systems training. "The new concentrations are designed to give students a competitive advantage when seeking employment in high-demand sectors of the marine economy," says Tora Johnson, chair of the Environmental and Biological Sciences division at UMM.

Three UMaine students isolating after testing positive for COVID-19

21 Aug 2020

Orono, Maine — Two University of Maine students living off campus in Orono and one student living in a fraternity house have tested positive for COVID-19. Maine Center for Disease Control protocols are in place.

The students are in isolation and their close contacts are in self-quarantine.

One of the students participated in the asymptomatic testing program on campus; the others were tested at alternative sites.

Following public health protocols, the Maine CDC is managing the cases.

The University of Maine's phase one testing program is working as intended. UMaine has identified its first case of asymptomatic infection through that program. The university will be following its comprehensive, science-based plans to maintain vigilance and support all known affected individuals, and to trace and isolate to minimize the spread of the virus and keep the UMaine community safe.

The University of Maine System dashboard provides updates and transparency on asymptomatic on-campus tests being conducted at UMaine and across UMS to keep students and communities safe. Per reporting protocols, only individuals testing positive through the university's testing program are noted on the dashboard and updates are made the day following reports.

UMaine will continue to provide updates as appropriate in Friday Futurecasts. Information about CDC-led university protocols regarding outbreaks is online.

Members of the UMaine community are reminded that it is critically important that they stay home if they are sick. The CDC guidance on coronavirus symptoms is online. For questions related to the UMaine community, call the COVID information line, 207.581.2681.

Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

New pitch competition to help marine and coastal businesses address COVID-19 challenges

24 Aug 2020

Maine Sea Grant has launched Buoy Maine, a new pitch competition to fund innovative projects and ideas to help coastal businesses better address the challenges of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. The competition consists of two phases — a short, written proposal and a five-minute verbal pitch — and concludes with a virtual public celebration. The announcement is online. Contact: Hannah Robbins, hannah.robbins@maine.edu

Center on Aging receives AmeriCorps planning grant

24 Aug 2020

The University of Maine Center on Aging will receive a planning grant of $49,971 to support development of a competitive grant proposal to be submitted to AmeriCorps in 2020–21, according to Volunteer Maine, the state service commission. With this award, the center will lead community partners in a 10-month collaboration intended to facilitate design of a tailored program that aligns with AmeriCorps values while meeting regional needs. Project partners will host five AmeriCorps members who will facilitate long-term COVID-19 recovery response by providing direct service and building capacity in select rural Maine communities. A total of nearly $142,000 was awarded to the Center on Aging and two other Maine nonprofits to support AmeriCorps proposal development activities, including funding for the Town of Van Buren and Penquis Community Action Program. Six other Maine organizations will receive awards intended to support new community-strengthening initiatives and to sustain established Americorps programs. More information about Volunteer Maine and the Center on Aging is available online.

Birthisel named Wilson Center director

24 Aug 2020

Sonja Birthisel has been named director of the Wilson Center effective Sept. 1. Birthisel, a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Maine and an alumna, has been actively involved in youth ministry for over 15 years. She has a passion for community service and experience as a teacher and community organizer. As a member of the Wilson Center since 2013, she was active in the long-running SpiritualiTEA discussion group. She coordinated the SCOPE grants for community service and social justice, and the annual Dorothy Clarke Wilson Peace Writing Prize at various times. She also served as caretaker for the Wilson Center garden. As a member of the Church of Universal Fellowship in Orono, she serves on the Board of Trustees and is a co-leader of the Young Adults with Pizzazz (YAWP) program. She will be attending the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America New England Synod's School of Lay Ministry part time beginning this fall. The Wilson Center is a multifaith, ecumenical organization that has served the UMaine community for more than a century. Its mission is to create progressive, ecumenical and multifaith dialogue for the University of Maine community and, through worship, study and service, to work for social justice, honor diversity and offer opportunities for spiritual growth.

Media advance garlic webinar

24 Aug 2020

The Daily Bulldog, VillageSoup, CentralMaine.com and Morning Ag Clips publicized a free University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar about growing garlic in Maine noon–1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14. Topics will include planting stock, site selection, timing of harvest and proper drying. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording.

Maine Public announces UMaine AI Lunch and Learn series

24 Aug 2020

Maine Public highlighted the University of Maine Artificial Intelligence Lunch and Learn Fall Series, which kicks off at noon Thursday, Sept. 3. Monthly Zoom seminars will focus on all things AI. More information, including a list of monthly topics and registration links, is available online.

WVII reports on School of Nursing pinning ceremony

24 Aug 2020

WVII (Channel 7) reported on the University of Maine School of Nursing virtual pinning ceremony on Aug. 22. A video of the ceremony, which recognized 28 students who completed their bachelor's degree in nursing this month, is available on the school's Facebook page.

Media cover President's update on positive COVID tests, safe return plans

24 Aug 2020

The Associated Press, Maine Public, the Penobscot Bay Pilot, WABI (Channel 5) and WAGM in Presque Isle reported on a statement by UMaine president Joan Ferrini-Mundy made last week following the detection of three cases of COVID-19 among UMaine students. U.S. News and World Report printed the AP story. The president's message provided details about the cases and confirmed that contact tracking had been completed, and highlighted UMaine's efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus. UMaine's safe return guidelines are online.

Ferrini-Mundy, Dana talk with media about COVID-19 testing on campus

24 Aug 2020

WGME (Channel 13) interviewed UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and Robert Dana, vice president for student life and inclusive excellence and dean of students at UMaine, about campus testing facilities and procedures in advance of the return of 6,000 students to Orono this week. "COVID is among us, and it's a powerful reminder that we have to live with its unpredictability while putting in place all of the measures we can," Ferrini-Mundy said following detection of three student cases on Friday. Dana described campus testing procedures to Maine Public. "The students will go through a large six-bay tent, where they will be rapidly tested and then they will await in their rooms, where they will self-quarantine, for their results, which we hope to have back in a maximum time of 48 hours," Dana said. CentralMaine.com, WABI, WVII and the Bangor Daily News also reported on UMaine plans to welcome students back safely.

Maine Public interviews Ferrini-Mundy about updated student conduct guidelines

24 Aug 2020

Maine Public quoted UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy following the announcement of new student conduct guidelines by the University of Maine System. The student code of conduct was updated to allow suspension or dismissal of students who host or attend gatherings that violate current state guidelines aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19. "This is a different kind of start," Ferrini-Mundy said. "And so when it might be traditional to have larger gatherings and get together and see friends, we really are asking our students to do this within all guidance and safely. The behavior of our community and our students, in particular, is vital to doing all that we're able to do to prevent outbreaks." WAGM in Presque Isle, News Center Maine (Channel 6 in Portland), WABI (Channel 5) and CentralMaine.com also reported on the updated guidelines.

Lindsey Lagerstrom: Student from Presque Isle named inaugural Glickman Fellow in Clinical Psychology

24 Aug 2020

University of Maine graduate student and alumna Lindsey Lagerstrom of Presque Isle, Maine, has been named the inaugural Glickman Fellow in Clinical Psychology at UMaine. Lagerstrom worked in outpatient mental health and substance abuse in Aroostook County while earning a bachelor's degree in psychology at UMaine. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in neuropsychology this fall. The Glickman Fellowship in Clinical Psychology was made possible by a major gift from the Albert B. Glickman Family Foundation, with additional support from the UMaine Graduate School. It was developed in recognition of the fact that the health and well-being of residents in Maine depends on the availability of trained mental health providers, and is designed to help meet the increasing demand for high quality mental health providers in Maine by recruiting and funding students specifically from Maine. The fellowship fully funds one doctoral student from Maine per year for the next five years. According to the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration, multiple counties in Maine are federally designated as having mental health provider shortages. "Because best practice recommendations for increasing access to health care in rural areas suggest recruiting students with a rural background, the Glickman Fellowship was set up specifically to recruit students from Maine and provide them with training to ensure they will be leaders in mental health," says Emily Haigh, associate professor and director of clinical training in the UMaine Department of Psychology. As part of the program, the Glickman Fellow will be exposed to generalist training curricula, conduct mentored research, and receive supervision and training in evidence-based practice. In addition, there will be opportunities for a variety of rural community training experiences at UMaine's on-campus clinic and at external sites statewide, such as forensic assessments (Department of Corrections), behavioral health interventions in primary care settings (Maine General Hospital), school assessments (RSU 63), neuropsychological assessments (Acadia and Northern Light Medical Center), and assessment and intervention for inpatients (Riverview Psychiatric Hospital). While the overarching goal is to increase the number of high quality providers by targeting students from Maine, the Glickman Fellowship is also designed to increase access to evidence-based mental health in Maine by allowing the fellow to dedicate double the number of clinical hours in the community, including training other mental health providers in empirically-supported treatments. Lagerstrom says that her interest in psychology emerged in high school, when she became interested in understanding the human mind. Her mother and grandfather, who were clinical social workers, instilled in her "a passion for helping and healing." Her undergraduate research received the competitive UMaine Center for Undergraduate Research Fellowship award. For her senior research project, she conducted a survey about telehealth practices among mental health professionals in Maine, a source of helpful information about the availability of these services in the state. Fayeza Ahmed, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology who worked closely with Lagerstrom for four years, describes her as dedicated and hard working, with an aptitude for critical thinking. In the Ahmed lab, Lagerstrom was involved in recruitment, data entry, data analysis, lab management and training of new undergraduate research assistants. "While working in the field, the gap in mental health care services, specifically psychological assessment, in my home community became more apparent to me," Lagerstrom says. "As both of my parents have strong roots in Aroostook County, and being raised there myself, one of my long-standing career goals is to return to Presque Isle to address a disparity in psychological care through the insight of neuropsychological assessment." Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu

To enhance clam populations, focus on predators, not shells

24 Aug 2020

Excluding predators dramatically increases the abundance of juvenile clams; adding shells to mudflats in an effort to counteract coastal acidification does not, according to a study led by researchers at the Downeast Institute and the University of Maine at Machias. A news release about the findings, published in the Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, is online. Contact: Cara Cushing, cara.cushing@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers new food preservation webinars in September

25 Aug 2020

September brings the bounty of both summer and fall produce to Maine. Five new food preservation webinars from University of Maine Cooperative Extension focus on preserving local food with safety and flavor in mind. Canning relish is the topic 2–2:45 p.m. Sept. 1. Other webinars in the series will focus on preserving apples, which will be held Sept. 8; pressure canning soups and stocks, which will be held Sept. 15; fermenting vegetables, which will be held Sept. 22; and dehydrating fruits and vegetables, which will be held Sept. 29. Registration is required; a $5 donation per session is optional. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. The webinars are recorded. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

Observer advances pressure gauge testing in Dover-Foxcroft

25 Aug 2020

The Piscataquis Observer highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Presto home canning pressure gauge testing event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4. Laurie Bowen, Extension food system aide and community educator will be conducting the testing on site at 165 East Main St. Dover-Foxcroft More information is available online.

BDN interviews Savoie about making sweet, savory summer beverages

25 Aug 2020

Kathleen Savoie, extension educator at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, talked with the Bangor Daily News about using summer fruits to prepare shrubs, also known as drinking vinegars. “Shrubs really do have a history all the way back to colonial times when people would look to find a means to extend fruit that had perhaps gone past its peak for eating,” said Savoie. “They are incredibly fun.”

Media talks with Zydlewski about Buoy Maine program

25 Aug 2020

Gayle Zydlewski, director of Maine Sea Grant, talked with VillageSoup about Buoy Maine, a new pitch competition to fund innovations that will help coastal businesses operate safely and profitably during the pandemic. “We continue to be inspired by the creativity and resourcefulness Maine’s coastal businesses have already shown as declines in tourism, shifting markets, and other challenges continue to impact the way they operate,” said Zydlewski. “These funds are meant to celebrate that tradition of ingenuity and provide the resources to help transformative ideas become reality.” More information about Buoy Maine is available online. Mainebiz and WABI (Channel 5) also reported this story. News Break picked up the Mainebiz report.

AP cites Ferrini-Mundy in return to campus story

25 Aug 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy was quoted in an Associated Press report on the return of students to the University of Maine campus on Monday, just days after four students, including one from the University of Maine School of Law in Portland, tested positive for coronavirus. “Our screening strategy is working as intended, identifying and isolating a case of COVID-19 that might otherwise have gone undetected and possibly spread infection on our campus and in our classrooms,” said Ferrini-Mundy. The University System is testing all out of state students and all those residing in campus residence halls. NewsCenter Maine, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Times Union, and Maine Public shared the AP story.

Ferrini-Mundy, Maginnis quoted in media reports of expanded COVID-19 testing

25 Aug 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot reported that the University of Maine is extending asymptomatic COVID-19 testing through the end of in-person instruction this fall, with plans to sample approximately 2,000 students, staff and faculty members at least every 10 days. “More than 5,000 Black Bears have already committed themselves to being leaders in our science-based public health campaign this fall,” said University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. “With everyone doing their best, we can stay safe and together throughout the semester.” Melissa Maginnis, assistant professor of microbiology and leader of the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board, said “Our team of scientists will use asymptomatic sampling data to build predictive models that assess the prevalence of disease, and inform campus-based containment and health strategies.” UMaine will also conduct wastewater testing with a focus on residence halls. The Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, Mainebiz, Maine Public and WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) also reported on UMaine plans to expand asymptomatic testing.

BDN op-ed co-authored by Miller

25 Aug 2020

Jessica Miller, professor of philosophy and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Maine; Erika Ziller and Katherine Weatherford Darling co-wrote an opinion piece published in the Bangor Daily News titled “COVID-19 demands ethical, as well as scientific, decisions.” Ziller and Darling are members of the Maine chapter of the national Scholars Strategy Network, which brings together scholars across the country to address public challenges and their policy implications. Members’ columns appear in the BDN every other week.

Morning Ag advances September food preservation webinars

26 Aug 2020

Morning Ag Clips promoted the slate of new food preservation classes being offered in September by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The focus of this month-long series will be preserving local food with safety and flavor in mind. More information is available online.

BDN covers Di Giovanni honor

26 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that journalist Janine Di Giovanni, who graduated from the University of Maine in 1983, has received the 2020 Bernard Lown Humanitarian Award in recognition of her distinguished conflict storytelling. The University of Maine Alumni Association sponsors the award, which honors UMaine graduates who are dedicated to outstanding service and impact at the regional, national or global level through active engagement in saving lives, relieving suffering, and promoting human dignity.

Media report fourth positive COVID-19 test among UMaine students

26 Aug 2020

News Center Maine , the Bangor Daily News and WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) reported that a fourth student at the University of Maine has tested positive for COVID-19, increasing the number of positive cases across the University of Maine System to five. The most recently identified case is a member of the same fraternity as one of the previously diagnosed students. All eight members of the fraternity are now quarantining.

Maine Aquaculture Hub invests more than $200,000 in projects to advance aquaculture innovation in Maine

26 Aug 2020

The Maine Aquaculture Hub is awarding $216,000 in funding to support five projects seeking to strengthen the aquaculture industry in Maine.

Two funded projects, one from Butterfield Shellfish and the other from the Maine Aquaculture Co-op, will be testing new technology to automate the cleaning process. Keith Butterfield of Butterfield Shellfish, an oyster farm in Casco Bay, will be testing a device that mechanically flips oyster bags. Valued at $9.6 million in 2019, farm-raised oysters represent a large part of Maine's aquaculture industry.

Caitlin Cleaver, a Maine Aquaculture Co-op board member and University of Maine Ph.D. candidate, will test a sea scallop lantern net washer and determine the feasibility of sharing the machine between farmers. Nate Perry, owner of Pine Point Oyster Co., will develop a less expensive biotoxin testing method for roe-on scallops. Most farmers sell scallop meat only, but roe-on scallops are sold in their shell and fetch a higher price. The cost of testing can prevent farmers from expanding their production.

Peter Rahn, Atlantic Sea Farms production manager and food safety specialist, will add a kelp blancher to increase the company's capacity for processing kelp. This expansion will allow Atlantic Sea Farms to buy more raw material from kelp farmers across the state.

Robert Wood of the Downeast Fisheries Partnership, will try to expand mussel operations and opportunities by testing cultured seed. Standard practice is for mussel farmers to use wild-recruited seed, which can be unreliable. This study will focus on blue mussels, including the golden mussel. A full news release is on the Maine Sea Grant website.
Contact: Heather Sadusky, heather.sadusky@maine.edu

WABI highlights UMaine recognition of new students

26 Aug 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported that first-year and transfer students will be able to mark the launch of academic careers at UMaine by seeing their names displayed on the Morse Field scoreboard when they arrive on campus this week, and again when they graduate. The student names, which number in the thousands, will cycle on the football stadium scoreboard through Aug. 30.

Ferrini-Mundy, Dana speak with media about welcoming students during the pandemic

26 Aug 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy spoke with the Bangor Daily News about this year's welcome for new and returning students. "It's very different in terms of sort of the physical arrangements," Ferrini-Mundy said of move-in day. "But we have wanted to convey the same warm welcome. We still want them to feel connected and to give them a chance to do things that people normally do when they first start on a college campus." News Center Maine interviewed UMaine Dean of Students Robert Dana. "For students, coming back to the campus is really important. There's a sense of connectedness and engagement that we work very hard to do from a remote perspective – but being on campus really gives people a different sense of purpose." WABI (Channel 5) also reported on the students' return to campus.

Dana talks with BDN after student suspended

26 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that one student has been suspended from the University of Maine and seven others have been disciplined after attending parties where COVID-19 guidelines for social gatherings were ignored. "We delivered a letter to all students today reminding them that parties in particular are unsafe and they should not participate," Dana said. "There's prevention and expectation, but also enforcement. And I want students to actually find comfort in that." WABI (Channel 5), News Center Maine, the Portland Press Herald, the Sun Journal and Associated Press also reported this story. U.S. News & World Report, WHDH (Channel 7 in Boston), Q96.1 (Presque Isle), The Washington Times, the Times Union, Tulsa World, the San Francisco Chronicle and TheDerrick.com shared the AP report.

Boston news media covers COVID-19 testing at UMaine

26 Aug 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy was interviewed by WBTS (Channel 10 in Boston) about the return of students to the UMaine campus for the first time since March. "We're a university, we're about bringing

people together in campus settings and communities so my biggest hope is that when we start classes next week, it will be going smoothly," Ferrini-Mundy said. So far, one positive coronavirus case has been identified among 1,300 tests administered at the campus drive-through testing site. Five other coronavirus cases have previously been diagnosed among students in the University of Maine System, including four affiliated with the Orono campus who were not screened at the mobile testing site.

Innovative class lab during pandemic earns international attention from Phycological Society of America

26 Aug 2020

At the University of Maine, SMS 373 — Marine and Freshwater Algae — is a four-credit course that provides a comprehensive introduction to the evolution, ecology, and physiology of these diverse photosynthetic organisms. School of Marine Sciences Professor of Plant Biology Susan Brawley has been teaching the course for 12 years. This past spring, she was joined by teaching assistant Kyle Capistrant-Fossa, a recent UMaine graduate and a research assistant in Brawley Lab. As usual, the course emphasized the fundamental roles of the algae in shaping the evolution of other life on Earth and determining characteristics of different ecosystems and food webs. Laboratory work emphasized the study of living material in the first half of spring 2020, with the second half of the laboratory normally devoted to algal isolations and culture from natural habitats, field trips, and special research projects. Then the pandemic hit, and SMS 373, like all UMaine courses, went remote in the second half of the semester. The result was innovative course delivery that was one of the 10 winning entries from members, according to the Phycological Society of America (PSA). The PSA Education Committee is dedicated to the promotion and improvement of teaching and research in phycology. Its first #TeachAlgae contest drew 27 entries from around the world. The winners and a selection of their submitted resources are online. "Our exercise let students continue to learn the techniques I'd planned for the first weeks after spring break by providing a way for students to isolate pure algal cultures at the many different locations they were at after spring break. Also, it maintained class interest and spirit as we shared results for a few minutes at the beginning of each Zoom lecture. Every time a student reported that a likely algal colony had appeared on their plates, we all got excited! " says Brawley. "I'm sure lots of people will use this exercise." UMaine's contest-winning initiative, "Remote Isolation (of algae as well as people)", focused on active studies of natural communities of algae through independent work by students — wherever they were sheltering under COVID-19 conditions. This contributed to comparative studies across ecosystems, and just seeing the range of pH values from marshes, rivers, and streams across the U.S. was interesting. Brawley and Capistrant-Fossa assembled kits containing the lab materials needed for the 18 students to make isolations on solid plates and transfer individual colonies that developed to liquid cultures. Those colonies, incubated on window sills, were sent back to campus to be photographed. Students also took photos of the bodies of water and habitats where they collected their samples, and made environmental measurements, including the pH, nitrate, and nitrite at their collection sites. Students prepared a few PowerPoint slides each that covered their isolations and data, and Brawley and Capistrant-Fossa put it together as an Atlas of Spring Algae. An excerpt of this Atlas appears in the winning exercise, so that users know what can be achieved. Brawley said, "We all learned so much together!" By following the detailed instructions in the kits, and following online discussions, nearly two-thirds of the students achieved successful isolations, say Brawley and Capistrant-Fossa. The ones who did not still had excellent habitat information and isolation experiences to share. Understanding the learning outcomes needed and then determining the methods to achieve that learning were key, making the initiative a valuable lesson in teaching phycology. "Students seemed to really enjoy the course, and it helped us stay connected while spread across the U.S. from COVID-19," says Capistrant-Fossa. "It taught me the importance of being able to adapt a course quickly, and how important labs can be for class morale." Capistrant-Fossa, who is originally from West Springfield, Massachusetts, was an Honors student who graduated in 2 1/2 years with a bachelor's degree in marine sciences and earned a master's in marine biology, both from UMaine. In Brawley's lab, his research focused on the spread of an invasive red alga, *Grateloupia turuturu,* in Maine, and bacterial communities associated with Maine's rockweeds. This fall, Capistrant-Fossa begins his Ph.D. work on a five-year assistantship at the University of Texas, based at the Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. His adviser will be UMaine alumnus Kenneth Dunton. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Biology lecturer adapts teaching to pandemic with outdoor lab fostering independent inquiry, classwide collaboration

26 Aug 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Julia McGuire to scrap the remaining labs for 200 BIO 100 students and create a new one within a week in March. Despite shifting to remote-instruction, she ensured students achieved their learning goals while fostering independent exploration and analysis in the spring 2020 semester. And she's taking that two-way learning experience into the fall. The UMaine biology lecturer plans to enhance her lab instruction by offering a similar, more in-depth learning experience with greater collaboration and reflection. McGuire coordinates classroom and lab teaching for the basic biology class, BIO 100, with instructors, teacher's assistants and Maine Learning Assistants. She also coordinates BIO 200 — Biology of Organisms, with Farahad Dastoor, director of the School of Biology and Ecology. The UMaine lecturer and her colleagues planned four large-scale labs for their spring BIO 100 students that required equipment and other supplies, the remainder of which were canceled in mid-March as a result of the pandemic. "Immediately, I was overwhelmed. I care deeply that we provide our students with equitable access to learning, so I buckled down, and worked together with our BIO 100/200 team to come up with a plan to help our students reach the outcomes of the course," McGuire says. Like other UMaine faculty, McGuire reoriented lecture and lab work to suit a new remote learning environment. In response to the shift in classroom modality, McGuire, lab coordinator Rachel Fowler and teaching assistant Edna Pedraza developed an experiment that could be conducted anywhere. The five-week lab tasked students — wherever they were sheltering in place, urban and rural settings from South Korea to Maine — with gathering observations, developing hypotheses, testing them, and analyzing and interpreting results. Students began by recording the flora, fauna, their surroundings and the interactions between them — living and nonliving things, and environmental conditions — in a 50-pace straight line, or transect. McGuire says they could conduct their observations in a forest, along a city street, in their backyard or anywhere else. Students then had to make a focused prediction about what they expected to see over time, a testable hypothesis like seeing more plant and animal life overtime as spring temperatures warm. After forming hypotheses, students investigated them by performing subsequent observations, which included quadrat sampling. They submitted presentations of their findings, supported with outside research and illustrated with graphs; and analysis and interpretations of the results. Students achieved the learning objectives for the biology lab, while also posing well-developed questions and enjoying time outside, McGuire says. The experiment also advanced an ongoing effort among the School of Biology and Ecology faculty to implement inquiry-based instruction, which involves students tackling questions they pose themselves with individualized experiments that have unknown results. "Honestly, it was a devastating time, but what came out of it was a course model that was flexible, but also engaging, active and fun," McGuire said. While instruction shifted to primarily online, asynchronous teaching in the spring, not all students have sufficient access to the internet. To compensate, McGuire used Google Forms and Google Documents to deliver and accept coursework, lab notes and final presentations. Students, she says, could access both programs anywhere on their phones or computers. "There were other unanticipated challenges, such as students who couldn't leave their houses due to immunocompromised family members, or students who were in quarantine in other countries," McGuire says. "I came up with several adaptations for these situations that we will be able to use again this year." This fall, McGuire says she plans to have BIO 100 instructors host all classes and labs asynchronously online, allowing "flexibility in a well-supported consistent weekly structure that can be shifted if emergencies occur." The UMaine lecturer will reintroduce the spring experiment into the fall BIO lab, but at a much larger scale and with more collaboration. The project will span the entire semester, and include an interactive mapping tool showcasing all students' data for comparison and answering questions. The lecture will compliment the lab with case-based learning to teach students the skills needed to conduct the lab. Flexibility with greater focus on learning objectives than specific class plans will be key to providing successful online learning experiences, McGuire says. "It is important to lead with compassion and empathy, and be communicative and flexible," she says. "It is also important to be open and understanding of the diverse challenges that we are all facing." Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Boester devises methods to preserve collaborative, learner-focused mathematics instruction during pandemic

26 Aug 2020

Students enrolled in Timothy Boester's precalculus class learn and implement mathematical concepts through group work, even during a pandemic. Boester, an assistant professor of mathematics education at the University of Maine, says eliciting responses from students through learner-focused instruction not only helps them grasp the material, but helps him monitor their progress. Collaborative assignments also help students learn to articulate their thought processes to others, a vital skill in the world of professional employment, Boester says. For example, to ensure each student understood the difference between an angle and an angle's measure at the beginning of the trigonometry unit, Boester asked them to define the term "angle" and discussed their responses with the class. The activity builds on students' prior knowledge, highlighting where they may have inappropriately merged the two ideas. Incorrect answers, Boester says, can serve as teaching moments. By having students discuss the material, Boester says he learns how they think and can enable them to obtain a more thorough understanding of the concepts in precalculus. "Learning needs to be an active process, thinking about what we learn and how we solve problems mathematically," Boester says. "We try to take students' conceptions and build off of those ideas to give them a more robust sense of what's going on. This approach to instruction is well supported by research on mathematics teaching and learning." UMaine's shift to remote-instruction in mid-March in response to COVID-19 challenged Boester's ability to facilitate group work, but he devised a solution. Boester typically hosts the introductory math class, MAT 122, with 50–60 students in a collaborative learning space in Estabrooke Hall, where group members sit together

and use the whiteboards on the walls. In an effort to replicate a collaborative work environment remotely, Boester created breakout chat rooms for each group of students during Zoom calls with the entire class. Student groups would enter the separate Zoom chat rooms to tackle collaborative assignments, then rejoin the main call with everyone to share their results for discussion. The UMaine educator typically visits each group while they work and provides guidance when needed. The switch to online instruction made supervising group work more difficult, but feasible all the same, he says. “I needed to come up with ways that would be faithful to the learning objectives I wanted to fulfill before the pandemic using these new modes,” of teaching, Boester says. “Some of the groups continued to work very well that way.” To maintain active, collaborative learning in his precalculus curriculum, Boester plans to use a primarily online, synchronous mode of learning with elements of in-person instruction for fall 2020. The majority of students will participate in group assignments remotely over Zoom, but each group will have one or two classmates to represent their group in person in the classroom on a rotating basis. Those students will serve multiple roles for their group. They will collect the group’s ideas and showcase them in the classroom, either on the whiteboard walls or on the classroom television screens. They will be able to see the work of the other groups and can report back to their group what the class as a whole is thinking. They will also serve as the primary spokespersons for their group, in order to request assistance or to voice their group’s thinking to the class. The UMaine assistant professor will be physically present in his chosen classroom to monitor and instruct students when needed. After completing their tasks, the student groups will come back together over Zoom to recap what they’ve learned. Assigning groups, discussing the parameters and expectations of collaborative work, and tracking students’ progress may prove more difficult in a predominantly online form of instruction, but Boester says having some students representing their groups as they perform the work in person should help. “They’re going to assist me in building the norms of group work,” he says. In addition to teaching UMaine students, Boester plans to work with five Maine high schools to incorporate a learner-focused precalculus curriculum in their classes. Participants include Old Town, Searsport, Dirigo and Massabesic high schools and Mattanawcook Academy. Boester says implementing this learner-focused form of instruction can be difficult, but it helps teachers monitor their students’ progress and reinforce the mathematical concepts they teach. “Start thinking carefully about what students are thinking and create opportunities where you can collect evidence for what they are thinking,” Boester says. “There are opportunities for your students to be doing work so you can observe what they are doing and understand what they are seeing. This method has really helped me connect with my own students.” Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Wahle, Harrington co-author chapter on lobster fisheries in 'Natural History of the Crustacea'

27 Aug 2020

Richard Wahle, director of the Lobster Institute and the Clare S. Darling Professor of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine, led a co-authored chapter on lobster fisheries of the world for the latest volume of the "Natural History of the Crustacea" book series published by Oxford University Press. In 19 chapters the new volume nine, "Fisheries and Aquaculture," provides comprehensive coverage of crustacean wild capture fisheries and husbandry globally. Co-authors include Amalia Harrington, marine extension associate with Maine Sea Grant, and Adrian Linnane, sub-program leader for crustaceans, South Australian Research and Development Institute. The other eight volumes published to date give a thorough treatment of topics ranging from embryonic development, physiology and behavior to biogeography, ecology and evolution.

UMaine Extension offers new pesticide applicator recertification resource

27 Aug 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering a new training video for pesticide applicators seeking recertification credits. “Sprayer Calibration” is now available for viewing, along with instructions for accessing the one-credit quiz and other current pesticide applicator recertification training videos. Quiz results are shared with the Maine Board of Pesticides Control. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kerry Bernard, 207.581.3884; kerry.bernard@maine.edu.

Media highlight pesticide application recertification

27 Aug 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel, VillageSoup and Morning Ag Clips shared a media release about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension offering a new training video for pesticide applicators seeking recertification credits. “Sprayer Calibration” is now available for viewing, along with instructions for accessing the one-credit quiz and other current pesticide applicator recertification training videos. Quiz results are shared with the Maine Board of Pesticides Control. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kerry Bernard, 207.581.3884; kerry.bernard@maine.edu.

Pen Bay Pilot, VillageSoup advance Hutchinson Center public speaking, online presentations webinar

27 Aug 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and VillageSoup highlighted a two-part professional development program, Public Speaking & Online Presentations, hosted by the University of Maine Hutchinson Center. The webinar, which will feature Tom Dowd, speaker, author, trainer, coach and Distinguished Toastmaster with Toastmasters International, will be held 6–9 p.m. Sept. 9. Program participants will learn how to relieve the stress associated with speaking publicly; become skilled in speaking with or without notes; and support their message most efficiently. For more information, to register or request a reasonable accommodation or need-based scholarship application, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002; um.fhc.pd@maine.edu, or visit the program webpage.

Centralmaine.com highlights Emera Astronomy Center reponing

27 Aug 2020

Centralmaine.com shared a University of Maine media release about the astronomy center on campus reopening Sept. 1, with regular public shows resuming Sept. 4. Visitors and staff will be required to wear face coverings (over the nose and mouth) and disposable masks will be available for visitors. Maximum capacity is 11 people inside the planetarium. Staff will usher visitors to assigned seats, which have been marked to ensure 6-foot social distancing. Tickets must be reserved in advance through the website or by calling 207.581.1341. Onsite ticketing will not be available.

Yarborough speaks with BBC news about limited wild blueberry crop

27 Aug 2020

David Yarborough, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Maine, spoke with BBC News about the 2020 wild blueberry crop in Maine, and challenges wild blueberry farmers face. The crop, picked throughout August, will be limited this year, said Yarborough, also a professor emeritus wild blueberry specialist with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. "It is to do with the weather. We had a series of frosts at the beginning of June, and then significant drought for the whole of the summer,” he says. “So we have much less fruit, and the berries are much smaller. It is a disaster." The Center Square incorporated quotes from the BBC interview with Yarborough in its report on challenges Maine blueberry farmers face.

Media report on updated positive COVID-19 test figures for UMS

27 Aug 2020

News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5), the Bangor Daily News and the Penobscot Bay Pilot reported that seven students across the University of Maine System tested positive for COVID-19. Those seven students include students at the University of Maine, University of Maine School of Law and the University of Maine at Fort Kent. UMaine is extending asymptomatic COVID-19 testing through the end of in-person instruction this fall, with plans to sample about 2,000 students, staff and faculty members at least every 10 days.

Extension's blueberry statistics featured in Castine Patriot, Weekly Packet story

28 Aug 2020

The Castine Patriot and The Weekly Packet incorporated blueberry harvesting statistics from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in an article titled "Hot, dry July diminishes local blueberry yields." According to UMaine Extension, some 50 million pounds of blueberries were harvested from about 18,800 acres across the state in 2018. Fresh Plaza carried the article.

WABI interviews Brewer about presidential candidates

28 Aug 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, about the upcoming presidential election and candidates, incumbent Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden. "(Trump has) made it clear that he is the top adviser to his political campaign," Brewer said. "That worked for him in 2016 for sure. For me this is the most anticipated moment of either convention. Watching to see how President Trump approaches his time in the spotlight (Thursday)."

Sun Journal advances Pinette's Franco-American Writers presentation

28 Aug 2020

The Sun Journal advanced an upcoming online presentation from Susan Pinette, director of the University of Maine's Franco American Programs, about Franco-American Writers 5:30–6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3. The free, public program, hosted by the Lewiston Public Library, will take place live via Zoom. In conjunction with the Maine Humanities Council as part of their World in Your Library series, the program will explore the work of Franco American authors such as Jack Kerouac, Grace Metalious and David Plante. Attendance for the online event is free, but advance registration is required as space is limited. For more information and to register, contact the library at or 207.513.3135; lplreference@lewistonmaine.gov.

Brewer speaks with Maine Public about Trump's interactions with lobster industry

28 Aug 2020

Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with Maine Public for a news story titled "'That Sealed the Deal' — Trump Hopes Attention Paid to Lobster Industry Will Win An Electoral Vote." Brewer says the president's actions involving the lobster industry might not only affect how lobstermen vote in the next general election, but could also affect voting across Maine's 2nd Congressional District. "I think it also sends a message to the larger 2nd District as a whole. I mean the 2nd Congressional District in Maine is heavily reliant on extraction of natural resources. It doesn't take a very big stretch of the imagination to imagine a logger saying, 'You know, Trump is having some affinity for the lobstermen — he's good for lobstermen, he's good for me, too,'" he said. The Bangor Daily News shared the Maine Public story.

BDN, Mainebiz highlight Maine Aquaculture Hub more than $200,000 investment for new projects

28 Aug 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Mainebiz shared a Maine Sea Grant media release about the Maine Aquaculture Hub awarding $216,000 to support five projects aiming to bolster the aquaculture industry in Maine. Recipients of the Maine Aquaculture Hub awards include industry members, sea farmers themselves, and companies that provide goods and services to sea farmers. Awardees will be using funds to address identified barriers to the industry. News Center Maine also carried the story. A full news release is on the Maine Sea Grant website.

The Hill interviews Brewer about Biden, battle for Senate control

28 Aug 2020

The Hill interviewed Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, for an article titled "Biden agenda hinges on Senate majority." "Control over the Senate is going to be brought up on both sides of this race," said Brewer about the U.S. Senate Race between incumbent Susan Collins and challenger Sara Gideon, speaker for the Maine House of Representatives.

Fitness trackers, environmental sensors prototyped to improve survival in the lobster supply chain

31 Aug 2020

Editor's note: Story updated Sept. 1. Miniature fitness trackers for lobsters and devices to monitor the quality of their shipping conditions are being prototyped as part of an initiative to reduce stress points and improve survival in the lobster supply chain for the Maine lobster industry. The University of Maine Lobster Institute leads the initiative in collaboration with lobster industry partners and scientific collaborators at Saint Joseph's College and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. This effort to improve practices to reduce mortality throughout the lobster supply chain was one of 30 projects nationwide to receive funding earlier this year from the National Oceanographic

and Atmospheric Administration Saltonstall-Kennedy Program. Of the eight funded projects in the Atlantic region, it is the only one focused on the American lobster. "Maine's lobster industry asked the institute to help quantify and mitigate stress points in the lobster supply chain that reduce survival and profitability," says Lobster Institute director Rick Wahle, who is based at UMaine's Darling Marine Center. "The industry calls it 'shrink' — the mortality lobsters experience as they change hands from capture to kitchen. It's been a long-standing, contentious issue that is heating up, both literally and figuratively, in a changing climate and competitive world market." As part of the two-year project funded at more than $299,000, miniature sensory devices — crustacean heart and activity trackers (C-HAT, pronounced sea-hat) — are being prototyped. Comparable to a human fitness tracker, the noninvasive device strapped on a lobster is designed to monitor heart rate and movement as the crustacean passes from trap to on-board live tank to live storage crate to truck to wholesaler or processor. A separate sensor-equipped device called the MockLobster will also travel along with crated lobsters to log environmental conditions experienced, including temperature, light and dissolved oxygen. "The idea is to strap the C-HAT on a lobster in a crate as a representative of how a lobster responds to the trip from boat to wharf to wholesaler and to its final destination," says Ben Gutzler of Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, who is collaborating on the devices along with Steve Jury of Saint Joseph's College. "Ideally, we will also have a MockLobster traveling with the C-HAT to measure temperature, motion and other conditions, as the crate makes the trip. We'll then do it all over again for more trips, so we have a representative sampling of trips from a particular wharf." Concurrently, UMaine researchers are working with harvesters and dealers to develop an economical, standardized protocol to monitor water quality and the health of lobsters as they move from trap to boat wells to live tanks on wharfs and inland storage facilities. Andrew Goode, a UMaine Ph.D. student in oceanography and a lobsterman from Boothbay, and Cassie Leeman, a master's student in marine biology, have been undertaking the initial setup for monitoring, data collection and analysis in collaboration with working supply chain companies, such as Ready Seafood and Luke's Lobster, both members of the Maine Lobster Dealers' Association. The initial work was catalyzed by a one-year, $35,000 2019 Graduate Assistantship Award to Goode from the University of Maine System Research Reinvestment Fund. The project aims to track both conditions and lobster health through the supply chain. Goode's and Leeman's academic adviser, Damian Brady, UMaine assistant professor of marine sciences who also is based at the Darling Marine Center, is a co-investigator on the project; his focus is on monitoring and mitigating the conditions that lobster experience as they move from trap to dealer. At the same time, co-investigator Deborah Bouchard, UMaine Aquaculture Research Institute director, is leading the development of protocols to monitor lobster health along the way, including behavior, blood proteins, and other physiological indicators. By developing and implementing quality-control mechanisms, and defining best practices, the researchers and industry leaders seek to address the longstanding issue of mortality in the lobster supply chain that is becoming an even greater concern with the large volume of lobster handled by the fishery, the changing climate and increasingly competitive global markets. The goal is to improve handling practices to minimize waste and make more efficient use of the natural resource, according to the science-industry team members, including the Maine Lobster Dealers' Association and Maine Lobstermen's Association. "This project is the first comprehensive industry-science collaboration to look at the way our industry does business and asks the question: How can we do things better?" says Curt Brown of Ready Seafood in Portland and Saco. "Small improvements in holding and handling practices can potentially lead to big improvements in the bottom lines of everyone along the supply chain." The Maine Lobster Dealers' Association and the Maine Lobstermen's Association have been the driving forces in the project, Wahle says. "We are making a collective effort to bring new technology to bear to address stress points as lobsters change hands multiple times in their trip from trap to table. If we can demonstrate that we have the tools to track the fate of lobsters through the supply chain and enhance their survival, that will be a success." The Lobster Institute, in UMaine's College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture, has been working with the lobster industry since 1987. Its mission is to foster collaboration and communication in support of a sustainable and profitable lobster industry in the Northeast U.S. and Canada. More information is online. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

WMTW reports on University of Maine System start of classes

31 Aug 2020

WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) reported that remote and in-person classes at all University of Maine System campuses resume Monday, Aug. 31, noting that across the system, nine students and staff have tested positive for coronavirus as of Aug 31.

MDIslander covers announcement of new endowed scholarship

31 Aug 2020

The Mount Desert Islander reported that First National Bank has pledged $25,000 to assist island residents seeking to attend the University of Maine. Jeffrey Mills, University of Maine Foundation president, said, "We appreciate the bank's investment in future UMaine students from the MDI community." The gift provides $20,000 toward the Mount Desert Island Region Leaders Club of the University of Maine Scholarship, an endowed scholarship fund, and an additional $5,000 over the next five years to support the scholarship program while the endowment grows. The gift was received as part of the UMaine Foundation's Vision for Tomorrow campaign.

AP reports on COVID-19 cases at UMaine, UMS

31 Aug 2020

The Associated Press printed a story featuring a round-up of COVID-19 news from New England, which included the number of active coronavirus cases among students and staff within the University of Maine System, and a list of UMaine System campuses with positive tests. WABI, the Bangor Daily News, and the Portland Press Herald also reported the updated case totals. CentralMaine.com shared the Press Herald story; The Telegraph shared the AP report.

Evans talks with WABI about welcoming activities

31 Aug 2020

WABI reported on The AMainezing Race, a scavenger hunt at the University of Maine aimed at welcoming new students. "We're doing so many more diverse programs, so many more inclusive programs. Just getting students involved whether they're on campus, in Maine, or Alaska or anywhere in between," said Ben Evans, coordinator of campus activities. The scavenger hunt is part of an initiative to keep students safe while enjoying college life.

AP announces $3M grant to UMaine for Arctic research

31 Aug 2020

The Associated Press reported that the University of Maine will receive nearly $3 million from the National Science Foundation to support 57 graduate students training in the interdisciplinary field of Arctic systems science. The Bangor Daily News, Maine Public and WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the AP story.

John Cangelosi: Bangor High School science teacher, UMaine grad honored with Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching

01 Sep 2020

Bangor High School science teacher and University of Maine alumnus John Cangelosi ('96, '12G) is one of 107 educators nationwide to receive a 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House, the awards are considered the highest honor bestowed by the federal government for K–12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics teaching. Awardees are viewed as leaders in the field of STEM education, and models for their colleagues. The recognition also comes with a $10,000 prize, and in a typical year, a trip to Washington, D.C. for a series of events and professional development opportunities. "I feel very lucky to be chosen. It's a great honor," Cangelosi says, humbly. But he adds that seeing his students succeed in the classroom and beyond is the biggest honor of his teaching career. "One of the nicest things to hear is that when they go to college, they feel like they're totally prepared because of what they learned in high school," Cangelosi says. And he credits the University of Maine for playing no small part in his own educational journey. Growing up in Tarrytown, New York and Williamstown, Massachusetts, Cangelosi's mother was a preschool teacher. But he admits that he wasn't a very good student through high school. In his early twenties, he did two years at a community college in Massachusetts. Then took time off to travel and work in the recreation industry in Maine and other states. When his wife enrolled at UMaine to pursue a degree in nursing, Cangelosi says he decided it was time for him to go back to school as well. In 1996, he earned a bachelor of science in geological sciences (now Earth sciences). "The culture and the environment in the geological sciences department were very welcoming," Cangelosi says of why he chose UMaine. "You have instructors and researchers who operate at a high level," he adds. "And small classes. To me it almost felt like I was getting an individualized education." After completing his degree, Cangelosi worked as a laboratory manager at UMaine's Sawyer Environmental Chemistry Lab (now the Sawyer Water Research Lab), where he helped facilitate environmental research for students, faculty, and state agencies. During his 10 years at the lab, he again turned to UMaine, taking classes through the College of Education and Human Development to earn his teaching certification. "I really enjoyed interacting with students at the lab," Cangelosi says. "And even when I was working in the recreation industry, I always had it in the back of my mind that I would one day enjoy teaching." In 2008, Cangelosi started teaching at Bangor High School, still the only place he's taught full-time. He ultimately earned a M.Ed. in science education at UMaine. Although his path to teaching was unique, he says he always felt welcomed by his instructors and fellow graduate students. "I remember one of the last graduate classes I took in education, everyone was going around the room and talking about how long they'd been teaching, and I looked at my watch and said, 'About six hours,'" he jokes. "I'd say the same things that attracted me to UMaine for my bachelor's degree made me want to do my master's there," he says. "You have small classes, and knowledgeable instructors, who really give you the tools to be prepared for teaching high school." Cangelosi has continued to stay connected to UMaine during his teaching career, benefiting both him and his students, he says. For the past six years, he has been an instructor and facilitator in UMaine's NSF-funded Stormwater Management Research Team (SMART) program. Participants collect environmental data and work on solutions to the problem of storm-water pollution in their communities. The summer institute encourages attendance from underrepresented groups in STEM fields. At Bangor High School, Cangelosi teaches in a multiyear STEM program, where students work on projects over the course of their high school careers. For several years, his students took part in the Maine Wind Blade Challenge, a team-based competition hosted by UMaine, where high school students try to design and build blades for wind energy systems. In fact, in his application for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, Cangelosi wrote about teaching wind energy, including working with students to make models of their wind blades using 3D printing. During his first year advising students in the wind blade challenge, Cangelosi says the team did "horribly." But in subsequent years the students did more research, consulting with experts at UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, and others who work in Maine's wind energy industry. "And in 2016, our team of three female STEM students won!" he says. "In other years we got close, second and third place." "That felt really good," he says. "To see students dive into the research, and learn the science behind what they are working on is the biggest honor for me." Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Growing garlic in Maine with UMaine Extension Sept. 14

01 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar about growing garlic in Maine noon–1 p.m. Sept. 14. "Growing Garlic in Maine" topics will include planting stock, site selection, timing of harvest and proper drying. The webinar will be led by UMaine Extension agriculture and non-timber forest products professional David Fuller, who has grown garlic for 25 years and conducted applied research on hardneck garlic for the past eight years. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This session is the fifth in a six-part summer gardening webinar series to be offered every other Monday through September. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Applying for an NEH grant? Attend McGillicuddy Humanities Center's workshop

01 Sep 2020

The University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center will offer a virtual workshop about applying for grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25. Mark Silver, senior program officer in the NEH Division of Research Programs, will lead the free, public workshop. Advance registration is required. Space is limited and priority will be given to those in the Midcoast, Down East and Highlands regions of Maine. Silver will give an overview of the variety of NEH funding opportunities and offer guidance for writing competitive proposals. He'll also run a mock application review panel. Panelists will discuss and rank sample proposals using NEH guidelines to provide insight into how applications are evaluated and recommended for NEH funding. Silver also will be available in the afternoon Thursday, Sept. 24, and Friday, Sept. 25, to virtually meet with prospective applicants to discuss their projects and offer advice about their proposals. People interested in scheduling a 20-minute appointment will be asked to submit in advance a one-page, single-spaced project overview. For more information, email mhc@maine.edu.

WABI covers pain-free gardening webinar, advances upcoming sessions

01 Sep 2020

WABI reported on the University of Maine Cooperative Extension pain-free gardening webinar, which was held virtually Aug. 31, and highlighted additional webinars scheduled for every other Monday in September.

Marble talks with Daily Bulldog about virtual fair

01 Sep 2020

The Daily Bulldog interviewed Tara Marble, University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth development professional, about the virtual exhibit hall developed so children can display their work. “We’re trying to connect kids in a time when we’re not connected at all,” said Marble. National 4-H recognized the Maine branch for their work in trying to address the challenges facing members this year.

Biddle discusses pandemic-related achievement gaps with Maine Monitor

01 Sep 2020

Catharine Biddle, associate professor of educational leadership, talked with The Maine Monitor about how school officials in the state are managing student achievement gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who already faced challenges, such as economic, food or housing insecurity, have seen those challenges grow during the pandemic, Biddle told the Monitor. In addition, school officials noticed other problems associated with school closures in the spring, including poor attendance, lack of structure and internet access. “I do think we can say pretty confidently that the kids most disadvantaged by the pandemic are the kids who were already the most disadvantaged,” said Biddle.

Press Herald updates COVID-19 numbers across UMS

01 Sep 2020

In a story about an investigation of a party that University of New England students who have tested positive for coronavirus attended, the Portland Press Herald reported that there are 12 active cases of coronavirus among students and staff in the University of Maine System as of Aug. 31.

Media report on lobster health tracking innovation

01 Sep 2020

News Center Maine, WABI (Channel 5), WVII (Channel 7), Mainebiz and New Atlas picked up a University of Maine news story about the Lobster Institute’s efforts to reduce mortality among lobsters as they move through the supply chain from capture to consumer. UMaine researchers are working with scientists at St. Joseph’s College and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and with lobster harvesters and dealers to develop and test miniature sensory devices that will travel with lobsters to monitor and mitigate conditions that impact their health.

WABI interviews Ferrini-Mundy in return-to-campus story

01 Sep 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy talked with WABI about having students on campus for the first time since March. “I am confident that our planning has been thorough, that we are as ready as we can be and I’m just delighted that our students are back,” she said. UMaine is now in Phase II of coronavirus testing, which requires retesting students and monitoring wastewater. Phase III calls for sampling 2,000 students and staff at least every 10 days. WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) featured the WABI story.

Winski to analyze Alaskan ice core to understand fire conditions in 21st century

01 Sep 2020

The National Science Foundation awarded Dominic Winski $137,419 to reconstruct 1,500 years of summer climate and wildfire history in Alaska, western Canada and Siberia using an ice core from Denali National Park. Studies that combine past records of summer climate and wildfire are critically needed, says Winski. “Right now, the climate and landscape are changing. We know that in many areas, this means more wildfires, but we do not yet fully understand the relationship between climate and wildfire as we move into the future.” Winski, a research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute, is principal investigator of the project. UMaine is the lead institution in the collaborative study with the University of New Hampshire, Dartmouth College and the University of California, Irvine that was awarded $570,428 in total by the NSF. “The Arctic is warming more rapidly than any other region of the world,” says Winski. “To anticipate and prepare for a warming Arctic, it is critical to better understand past variations in summertime climate and their associated environmental effects, particularly during warm periods such as the Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA), circa 1000–1300 Common Era (CE).” Wildfires in the Arctic are projected to increase with continued summer warming. “Wildfires in that region can induce climate changes on a global scale via carbon emissions, in addition to regional impacts on Arctic landscapes and ecosystems already stressed by human activities,” says Winski. To place the current trends in perspective, studies that combine paleorecords of summer climate and wildfire are critically needed where wildfires and climate fluctuations occur over longer time periods than covered by direct observations, he says. “The goal of the proposed research is to improve our understanding of relationships between summertime climate and wildfire activity, focusing especially on the MCA when temperatures were perhaps as warm as the 20th century but without the complicating influence of widespread fire ignition and suppression by humans,” says Winski. To accomplish this goal, Winski plans to develop the most comprehensive suite of North Pacific fire and summer climate proxy records since 500 CE. Because compounds released by wildfires now can be measured in ice cores, it’s possible to develop a robust fire record capable of comparison with regional paleoclimate reconstructions. With that record, the researchers will address three primary questions:

- How has Alaskan climate varied during the last 1,500 years?
- How did fire regime characteristics — patterns, frequency and intensity — naturally respond to past warm summer conditions?
- Are there consistent relationships between fire regime and climate?

The team will develop records of summer atmospheric circulation that will be regionally unique and fill a critical gap in the suite of North Pacific paleoclimate records. Researchers will use an ice core from Denali National Park in Alaska, gathered from some of the highest and most inaccessible peaks in the country. “The ‘Denali Ice Core’ is the highest-quality and most rigorously dated ice core from the North Pacific region,” Winski says. “Using this unique ice core means that we will produce fire records with synchronously dated information on past temperature, rainfall and wind patterns.” The research will open a window into a time when Alaskan temperatures were about as warm as today, but with a much smaller human influence. “By studying this time, we are hoping to provide land managers and citizens with a roadmap of likely fire conditions in the 21st century,” he says. “We may soon experience major

changes to our forests and grasslands that we will need to plan for if we hope to safely occupy fire-prone landscapes in the future." The team, which includes UMaine professor Karl Kreutz, will analyze the archive Denali ice core for black carbon, which is derived from both biomass and fossil fuel combustion, as well as for organic aromatic acids and monosaccharide anhydride, which are produced solely from biomass burning. The project will support undergraduate students at each participating institution. And, through the NSF-supported School of Ice, faculty at historically Black colleges and minority-serving institutions will learn about ice cores and climate change. STEM kits centered on the Denali ice core record also will be developed for underserved K–12 students in Maine and Alaska. And the team's findings will be presented and displayed at the Denali National Park visitor center in Talkeetna. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Mason Crocker: Dedicated alum, enthusiastic medical student

02 Sep 2020

Mason Crocker graduated from Gorham High School in 2012. While he had an affinity for academics, particularly science and especially biology, his sights were not set on college while in high school. It was only with strong encouragement from his English teacher and guidance counselor that his application to the University of Maine was completed. As a first-year student at UMaine, Crocker admits he "was not an easy student." As an 18-year-old and a first-generation college student, he followed a less serious path initially. He also worked multiple jobs, just to cover expenses and feed himself. Crocker started off in the Biology Department and was a microbiology major by the end of his first year, taking the challenging Phage Genome Discovery course, where he struggled a bit. Deciding he needed more self-discipline, Crocker enrolled in the Army Reserve, delaying his schooling as he went through boot camp and combat training. Then his unit was called up for deployment to Iraq and Kuwait, where he served for a year as a medic in a northern Iraq hospital and absolutely excelled. He loved talking with the general surgeons over breakfast, asking constant questions, while also practicing sutures and studying medical texts in his downtime. Those surgeons would later write his strongest letters of recommendation for med school. Crocker returned to UMaine a self-assured student/future doctor. Before deployment, Crocker had asked his future adviser, professor Melissa Maginnis, if he could do his capstone research project in her lab when he returned, and she accepted him. "He performed capstone research in my lab for one year, assisting a graduate student with the development of a high-throughput system to measure viral infectivity, and (he) also co-authored a paper," says Maginnis, assistant professor of microbiology. "His goal was to attend medical school, but had a commitment to the Army Reserve in New Hampshire for two more years, so I encouraged him to apply to our M.S. program in microbiology and continue working with me. "He applied and was accepted. In order to keep his momentum going, I helped him apply for a Maine Space Grant Consortium Fellowship (viral reactivation in space due to immunosuppression — rocket science stuff), which funded his summer between B.S. and M.S. degrees." Crocker earned his master's degree in two years, serving as a teaching assistant for students in molecular and biomedical sciences. His research focused on testing antiviral drugs for reduction of viral infection, which can be applied broadly to the field of virology research. He wrote and defended his thesis remotely in April to complete his degree during the COVID-19 pandemic. Crocker has no specific plan once he finishes medical school. He knows that a research physician can have a large impact by adding to the greater body of knowledge, but he is also passionate about patient care. At age 26, he has time to accomplish a great deal. When asked about his time at UMaine, Crocker spoke of the faculty. "The people who teach at UMaine aren't there for themselves, but are committed to their students," he says. "Dr. Maginnis is a selfless person." Maginnis says when she came to UMaine in 2014, "I fell in love with the place, with the students, and with my colleagues. This is a dynamic, energizing institution." In July 2020, Crocker started as a first-year medical student at Tufts University Medical School in the Maine Track MD Program, offered in partnership with Maine Medical Center to provide Maine students the opportunity to work in rural health care at clinical sites throughout Maine, where there are shortages of physicians. Crocker says his long-term vision is to return to Maine to give back to the state he loves. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

UMaine awarded nearly $3M to train graduate students to be future Arctic scientists

02 Sep 2020

The University of Maine will train future Arctic scientists to help address the socio-environmental challenges resulting from the world's most rapidly changing environment with a nearly $3 million award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The new UMaine initiative, Systems Approaches to Understanding and Navigating the New Arctic, is funded by the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program, which encourages the development and implementation of "bold, new, potentially transformative models" for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduate education training. This is UMaine's third NRT award; the first two are the One Health and the Environment initiative and Enhancing Conservation Science and Practice. All align with the University of Maine System "Research and Development Plan" and emphasize workforce development. The new Arctic initiative to train graduate students in the interdisciplinary field of Arctic systems science is led by Jasmine Saros, associate director of UMaine's Climate Change Institute (CCI) and a professor of lake ecology. Its focus is on the interconnected nature of environmental and social changes in the Arctic and Northern Hemisphere. "UMaine's Climate Change Institute has been an internationally-recognized leader in polar science for more than four decades. This new training program builds off of our legacy to advance understanding of the interconnected impacts of Arctic change on people and ecosystems, both in the Arctic and in Maine," according to Saros, one of more than a dozen UMaine professors who have been conducting research in the Arctic in recent years. Saros also co-leads the international working group, the Kangerlussuaq International Research Network (KaIRN), that focuses on recent climate-driven environmental changes in the West Greenland ice sheet, and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Over the next five years, the program is expected to train nearly 60 master's and Ph.D. students, including 20 funded trainees in ecology, Earth sciences, anthropology, economics and marine sciences. Their training will include an interdisciplinary curriculum, Arctic field experience, and research focused on changes in Maine, southwest Greenland and the Arctic–North Atlantic. UMaine-led research has demonstrated that the region is rapidly warming, with mean annual air temperatures between 2007–12 in Greenland 3 degrees Celsius higher than the average from 1979–2000. As a result, Greenland's ecosystems are changing rapidly, with shifts in recent decades in glacial meltwater discharge, dust production, plan phenology and lake ice out timing. Impacts on Maine are many, according to UMaine researchers. Greenland ice sheet melt has reduced seawater salinity and altered ocean circulation, contributing to rapid increase in sea-surface temperature in the Gulf of Maine, altering distributions and health of marine species and fisheries. The recent warming in the Gulf is linked to changes in large-scale atmospheric circulation. Among the research projects being developed in the new Arctic program: Greenland atmospheric blocking links to heavy precipitation and shellfish closures in Maine. This next generation of leaders need to be prepared to advance understanding of the local and global effects of changes in the Arctic and conduct solutions-driven research on the socio-environmental systems. That includes anticipating and adapting to the changes people living in the northern hemisphere are experiencing, such as abrupt shifts in weather patterns and altered availability of natural resources. Cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives must address emerging environmental and economic issues. In partnership with stakeholders, the work of Arctic scientists must help foster resilience in the face of change and inform Arctic policy, says the multidisciplinary UMaine research team behind the NRT initiative. Communication of research findings will include publication of Arctic science policy briefs. The new graduate training program to foster systems perspectives to address the Arctic's complex changes builds on UMaine's strengths and expertise in polar biophysical research, cross-cultural perspectives and integration of knowledge systems, Arctic law and policy, and socio-environmental systems research. The full team of faculty researchers involved: Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute and distinguished Maine professor; Lee Karp-Boss, professor of oceanography in the School of Marine Sciences; Darren Ranco, associate professor of anthropology and chair of Native American Programs; Kathleen Bell, professor of economics and interim director of the School of Economics; Kristin Schild, CCI and School of Earth and Climate Sciences (SECS) research assistant professor; Sean Birkel, CCI and SECS research assistant professor and state climatologist; Keith Evans, associate professor of marine resource economics; and Charles H. Norchi, Benjamin Thompson Professor of Law in the University of Maine School of Law. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Disease-control webinars offered to farmers

02 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry — Animal Health Division will offer webinars in October to help livestock producers lay a strong foundation for disease control ahead of any infection that may be introduced to swine, sheep, goats or beef cattle. The free webinars will be held at 12:15 p.m. Oct. 7 for swine, Oct. 14 for sheep, Oct. 21 for goats and Oct. 28 for beef cattle. Veterinarians and livestock staff from UMaine Extension and MDACF will review the basic elements of livestock biosecurity, introduce suggested record-keeping and official animal identification systems, and demonstrate these tools in action using a hypothetical livestock disease event. Discussion will include the use of the USDA Animal Disease Traceability program to implement farm-level contact tracing to prevent disease and prepare for verification of livestock health if there is an animal disease outbreak in the region. Registration is required online on the Nip Livestock Disease in the Bud: Create Your Own Contact Tracing Program page. Register in advance with this Zoom Meeting Registration Form.

Morning Ag, CentralMaine.com promote October livestock disease control series

02 Sep 2020

Morning Ag Clips and CentralMaine.com advanced a new webinar series, Nip Livestock Disease in the Bud, developed by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Animal Health Division (MDACF) to control disease in sheep, goats, swine and beef cows. Registration is required. More information, including a schedule and list of speakers, is available online.

Press Herald updates coronavirus case numbers for UMaine, UMS

02 Sep 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported 13 active coronavirus cases among staff and students across the University of Maine System, including two new cases at the University of Maine. Systemwide, six cases have been identified through testing of asymptomatic students and staff returning to campus. CentralMaine.com featured the Press Herald story. WABI reported systemwide COVID-19 totals. The Associated Press and WVII ran stories noting only that coronavirus cases have been identified at UMaine with no additional detail. SFGate, the San Francisco Chronicle, and Seacoastonline shared the AP story.

Dinesh talks with Mainebiz about online entrepreneurship, support

02 Sep 2020

Mainebiz interviewed Veena Dinesh, director of business incubation for the University of Maine Office of Innovation and Economic Development, about operational changes implemented to sustain businesses during the pandemic. “When COVID hit, we realized we had to adjust our support services,” she said. “We were more worried about the engagement aspect. But it’s interesting to see how everyone has adapted so well to this.” Dinesh anticipates that support services will continue to be offered online this fall. The article also advanced upcoming online pitch competitions, including the Top Gun Showcase, Big Gig finale, and Buoy Maine.

Lilley to lead Sept. 28 webinar about root cellaring

03 Sep 2020

Root cellaring is a low-energy method for storing the bounty from the garden. University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar focused on how to store produce from noon to 1 p.m. Sept. 28. UMaine Extension Professional Jason Lilley will cover ideal storage conditions for crops, and how to create those conditions throughout most households in the webinar titled “Root Cellaring: A Cheap and Easy Method for Preserving Your Harvest.” While the talk will touch on specialized outbuilding structures for root cellaring, the focus will be on cheap and simple modifications to your garden or areas of your homes to optimize produce storage length and quality. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the final session in the summer gardening webinar series. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099, pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Media advance ‘Growing Garlic’ event

03 Sep 2020

The Free Press, Centralmaine.com and Morning Ag Clips shared a University of Maine Cooperative Extension media release about its “Growing Garlic in Maine” webinar noon–1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099, pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

New UMaine Extension crops specialist based in Presque Isle

03 Sep 2020

Bee Chim has been named the University of Maine Cooperative Extension crops specialist based in Presque Isle. As an Extension agronomist, Chim’s focus is assisting potato growers and other farmers with crop-related educational programs, and applied research. She also has an appointment with the University of Maine at Presque Isle, where she will teach one course each year in the Agricultural Science and Agribusiness program. Chim has a master’s degree in soil fertility from Oklahoma State University, and a Ph.D. in crop and soil environmental science from Virginia Tech. She is originally from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Chim has experience and training in soil fertility, plant nutrition, cropping systems and precision agriculture. She has worked with a diversity of field crops, including winter wheat, barley, triticale, corn, soybean and grain sorghum. For the past two years, Chim has been a postdoctoral research at the USDA–ARS in Brookings, South Dakota, where her work focused on crop and soil management practices, such as diversified cropping systems, no-till practices and cover crop management to improve farming efficiency, row crop management and soil health in the Northern Great Plains region. Throughout her research career, Chim has worked with scientists, students, Extension staff and producers — diverse groups well-suited to solve real-world problems. She looks forward to building relationships with similar groups in Aroostook County to help develop sustainable management practices and regional specific guidelines for producers. "I’d like to get to know and interact with farmers, industry representatives and Extension staff to better understand their needs and what kind of products/services can make their lives easier," says Chim who looks forward to helping farmers improve crop production, quality of management and soil health. For more information or to welcome Chim to Maine and Aroostook County with a tour of your farm, write bee.chim@maine.edu.

Penobscot Times interviews Alumni Humanitarian Award recipient Janine di Giovanni

03 Sep 2020

The Penobscot Times talked with Janine di Giovanni ’83, recipient of the 2020 Bernard Lown ’42 Alumni Humanitarian Award, for her award-winning journalism. For nearly 30 years, di Giovanni has written about conflicts on four continents. Her focus on war crimes, human rights abuses, and the plight of refugees has given voice to the voiceless. She told the Penobscot Times that former political science professor Charles Scontras’ courses were incredibly illuminating and that she occasionally still shares her articles with him.

UMaine included in BDN’s Wednesday coronavirus compilation story

03 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with University of Maine System spokesperson Dan Demeritt for its Wednesday compilation of coronavirus cases in the state. Demeritt told the BDN that infections across the System numbered 13. That included two new cases at the University of Maine, where 10 students have been infected. Five are isolating on campus while the others are in isolation off campus, according to the story.

Hutchinson Center offers online training to develop public speaking skills

03 Sep 2020

Do your knees turn to jelly when it's your turn to speak in front of a crowd? Does your mind transform everything you thought you knew into a jumbled mess? The University of Maine Hutchinson Center will offer an online professional development training program "Public Speaking & Online Presentations." Tom Dowd, a prize-winning speaker and best-selling author, will teach participants how to improve their skills in a two-part session 6-9 p.m. Sept. 9 and Sept. 16. Cost is $125; need-based scholarships are available. Another session will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 6. For more information, visit the Hutchinson Center website.

UMaine's Natural Climate Solutions Initiative releases interim report on Maine land sector's greenhouse gas mitigation potential

03 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Natural Climate Solutions Initiative has released an interim report that explores approaches for mitigating the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through management in forestry and agriculture. Natural climate solutions (NCS) are conservation, restoration and improved land management actions that increase carbon storage or avoid greenhouse gas emissions in landscapes and wetlands. The report focuses on using Maine's farms and working forests to optimize future carbon sequestration rates and reduce GHG emissions, and evaluates how the price of carbon influences the outcome. The report evaluates the potential of several alternative NCS to decrease GHG, which include reforestation, planting fast-growing tree species and extended rotations in forests, as well as no-till cultivation, cover cropping and capturing methane from manure on farms. Both the cost and effectiveness of these various approaches were compared to standard business-as-usual practices. Forest NCS practices were found to cost between $10–$20 per ton carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e), which is relatively inexpensive compared to most non-NCS options. Various scenarios are possible that combine practices with different outcomes. For example, increasing the intensity of active forest management, coupled with permanently conserving 20% of the total forest area in Northern Maine could increase carbon sequestration by about 3.1 million metric tons CO_2e at a cost of $34 million per year, which equals about 18% of Maine's current annual greenhouse gas emissions. The study also found that this approach made it possible to increase sequestration and maintain a sustainable fiber supply — a win-win opportunity. For agriculture, Maine's farmers could collectively amend their soil with biochar, reduce their tillage intensity, plant riparian buffers and utilize anaerobic digesters to manage dairy manure waste. This could theoretically result in the agricultural sector in Maine being able to completely offset its current emissions and potentially be net negative. This combined set of NCS is estimated to mitigate up to 0.8 million metric tons CO_2e per year at a cost $26.3 million per year, or about $34/$tCO_2e$. The initiative is led by Adam Daigneault, the E.L. Giddings Assistant Professor of Forest, Conservation, and Recreation Policy at UMaine. Funding was provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Maine Farmland Trust, and the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, with administrative support from the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. "Our analysis indicates that Maine's natural and working lands could play a significant role in helping the state be carbon neutral by 2045, or even earlier. However, there is no single practice or land use that we can rely on to achieve that goal, and we should thus keep all options on the table at this point," says Daigneault. Going forward, the team will meet and survey forest owners and land managers, large commercial potato and blueberry growers, and operators of small diversified farms about whether the identified solutions can work in the real world. Additional scenarios will be assessed and outreach materials developed. For this effort, Daigneault teams with five other University of Maine colleagues: Ivan Fernandez, professor of soil science; Aaron Weiskittel, professor of forest modeling and director of the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests; Erin Simons-Legaard, assistant research professor in forest landscape modeling; Sonja Birthisel, postdoctoral research associate and lecturer; and Jennifer Carroll, Ph.D. student. The report, fact sheets and supplemental files are available on the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests' Forest Climate Change Initiative website. Contact: Adam Daigneault, adam.daigneault@maine.edu; 207.581.2805

Mette co-authors article encouraging civic education to foster stronger democracy

03 Sep 2020

Creating more opportunities for civic education in U.S. schools can lead to a stronger democracy. That's the argument of a new article co-written by UMaine associate professor of educational leadership Ian Mette in the September issue of School Administrator, the journal of the School Superintendents Association (AASA). "Democratizing Schools From the Inside Out" was co-authored by Mette and Carl Glickman, professor emeritus of education at the University of Georgia. They previously collaborated on a book, "The Essential Renewal of America's Schools," published earlier this year by Teachers College Press. "We should be striving for the same micro-community in our schools that we wish to have as a macro-community in our society," Mette and Glickman say in the article. "This is accomplished by using participatory learning practices throughout the school and its community to make connections between what is taught, what students learn and how students apply their learning to the larger world," they write. The article highlights innovative examples of civic education in preK–12 schools, as well as research that shows how expanding such opportunities can create more democratically oriented students, schools and communities. State and federal regulations giving local districts and schools more flexibility over things like curriculum and instruction are an invitation to expand civic-minded education, Mette and Glickman say. However, they caution that as school leaders navigate these policies that they include "a schoolwide promise about what students will learn;" "a commitment to democratically share governance by all stakeholders;" and "a problem-solving process involving the entire school community to study and craft a uniquely powerful and purposeful education environment." School Administrator is distributed to about 13,000 AASA members nationwide, including CEOs, superintendents and senior school administrators, professors, and others interested in school leadership. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

UMaine 4-H Centers partner with Maine K–12 schools to provide outdoor and STEM education for students

03 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension's 4-H Learning Centers will play a pivotal role in the education plans of K–12 schools in Maine communities this fall by providing venues for vibrant outdoor learning, and experiential STEM and outdoor education lessons that add depth to standard grade-level curriculum. "Outdoor learning centers are playing a significant role in the reopening of schools across the country," says Ryder Scott, state director of UMaine Extension 4-H Camps and Learning Centers. "With strong community relationships, program-ready facilities and talented education staff, the UMaine 4-H Centers are rapidly becoming leaders in partnerships between outdoor learning centers and public school districts in Maine." One such partnership is between UMaine's Blueberry Cove 4-H Center and the St. George Municipal School Unit (MSU). The K–8 school serving the peninsula community reached out to Blueberry Cove 4-H Center director Ryan LeShane near the end of the last school year to explore opportunities to expand outdoor educational opportunities for middle school students using the experiential STEM resources of the 4-H Center. This year, all St. George MSU sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders will spend their school day at Blueberry Cove on a rotating basis, for the entire school year. Students will engage in outdoor, field-based science with support from UMaine professionals. In addition, the 4-H Center will provide the technology necessary for those students to participate in educational opportunities that will connect them with expert educators, including UMaine faculty in various disciplines. Up the coast at UMaine's Tanglewood 4-H Center in Lincolnville, Cooperative Extension staff are working with the Captain Albert W. Stevens School (CASS) in Belfast to build upon an existing, grant-funded STEM mentorship program called 4-H Tech Wizards. With funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, the UMaine 4-H Centers provide experiential STEM education that helps engage students and creates strong relationships with caring adults. "This is an exciting time for outdoor learning," says CASS principal Glen Widmer. "We've been making a concerted effort over the past few years to increase our outdoor programming. If there is a silver (green?) lining to our current situation, it is the increased interest on the part of both the families and the teachers to get outside more and connect the curriculum to the out of doors. We are most grateful for our partnership with Tanglewood, as it is the vehicle that drives the process," says CASS principal Glen Widmer. In Oxford County at UMaine's 4-H Center at Bryant Pond, Extension staff are preparing for a busy fall, partnering closely with several western Maine districts. In particular, in MSAD 17, principals have the option to bring students to the 4-H Center for outdoor learning, allowing the schools to space students out and giving them an opportunity to experience all the facility has to offer. In addition, for the sixth consecutive year, the Bryant Pond 4-H Center and SAD 44 are working together to host the Telstar Freshman Academy, an interdisciplinary, project-based learning program for the ninth grade from Telstar High School. All Telstar ninth-graders spend a portion of their school day at the 4-H Center, where a team of teachers works with them on project-based units that meet standards in English language arts, science and social studies. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Enterprise, Fox News cite Lobster Institute after blue crustacean trapped in Plymouth Bay

04 Sep 2020

The Enterprise and Fox News mentioned the University of Maine Lobster Institute in their stories about 13-year-old Adam Carpenter trapping a blue lobster in Plymouth Bay. According to the Lobster Institute, about one in 200 million lobsters is blue. “I might give it to the New England Aquarium. They’ll give it a good home,” Carpenter told The Enterprise, a newspaper published in Brockton, Massachusetts.

WIA Report announces Brawley’s Phycological Society of America award

04 Sep 2020

WIA Report, which tracks the progress of women in Academia, posted a University of Maine story about Susan Brawley receiving the 2020 Award of Excellence from the Phycological Society of America. The society promotes research and teaching in all fields of phycology, the study of algae. Brawley is a professor of plant biology and cooperating professor of biological sciences in the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences. The PSA Award of Excellence recognizes her research, which integrates cell biology, algal ecology and genomics to advance understanding of macroalgal reproduction and development. Her work at the University of Maine has supported development of Maine’s growing aquaculture industry.

Leahy, Seymour featured as Outstanding Tree Farmers in Piscataquis Observer

04 Sep 2020

The Piscataquis Observer reported that Jessica Leahy and Bob Seymour, winners of the Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year, hosted a small tour of masked participants in Wicopy Woods in Sebec. Leahy and Seymour are licensed foresters. Leahy is professor of human dimensions of natural resources in the University of Maine School of Forest Resources and Seymour recently retired from UMaine’s School of Forestry Resources faculty after more than 30 years as Curtis Hutchins Professor of Silviculture, according to the article. The Outstanding Maine Tree Farmer of the Year started in 1954 to reward good forestry practices on properties from 10 acres to 10,000 acres, primarily family-owned. These small woodland owners maintain nearly a third of Maine’s 15.5 million acres of privately owned forests and produce 40 percent of the state’s wood supply. There are 87,000 woodlot owners in Maine and many of these forests are certified as Tree Farms. Wicopy Woods is named after the tree species Eastern leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) which is also called wicopy. It’s estimated at least 300 wicopy plants reside in this forest and the largest may be more than 100 years old.

Pen Bay Pilot posts piece about 4-H Centers providing outdoor, STEM education

04 Sep 2020

Penobscot Bay Pilot shared a University of Maine Cooperative Extension story about UMaine 4-H partnering with schools for outdoor, STEM education. University of Maine Cooperative Extension’s 4-H Learning Centers — including Blueberry Cove 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Tenants Harbor, Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Lincolnville, and the 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond — will provide venues for vibrant outdoor learning, and experiential STEM and outdoor education lessons that add depth to standard grade-level curriculum. “Outdoor learning centers are playing a significant role in the reopening of schools across the country,” said Ryder Scott, state director of UMaine Extension 4-H Camps and Learning Centers. “With strong community relationships, program-ready facilities and talented education staff, the UMaine 4-H Centers are rapidly becoming leaders in partnerships between outdoor learning centers and public school districts in Maine.”

Howell talks with Business Insider about COVID-19, frozen food

04 Sep 2020

Caitlin Howell shared her expertise with Business Insider for an article about coronavirus precautions. Business Insider India ran a portion of the story. The assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering said the chance of catching COVID-19 from frozen food is slim. "It is possible, but the virus is not very stable outside the human body. Freezing or refrigerating the virus can help to extend the period of time that it stays infectious, which is why we think that outbreaks at meatpacking plants were occurring so frequently, but transmission via surfaces still appears to be rare — even when those surfaces are frozen or refrigerated." The coronavirus typically spreads via airborne droplets (and likely aerosols as well), according to the article. "Throughout the entire pandemic so far, there has continued to be shipping of products all over the world. If transmission via surfaces — whether frozen or refrigerated or not — were a major driver of infection, we would be seeing many case reports on it," Howell said. “The fact that we're not suggests that it is not a major route of infection." She recommended that shippers and shoppers stay vigilant and diligent. "The best thing that can be done by the manufacturers, shippers, and others in the supply chain is to have a strong, enforced policy of wearing masks, washing hands, and staying home when sick. The best thing for consumers to do is simply to avoid touching their face until they've had a chance to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer."

BDN updates coronavirus total at UMaine

04 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported Thursday that known infections across the state’s public universities numbered 14. That includes three new cases at the University of Maine, where nine students are infected. University of Maine System spokesperson Dan Demeritt said three students are isolating on campus and the rest are in isolation off campus. Four previously infected students have been released from isolation, according to the story.

Local news report UMaine awarded $236,574 for lobster research

04 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and News Center Maine reported the University of Maine has been awarded $236,574 as part of the Sea Grant Lobster Initiative funded by NOAA’s National Sea Grant College Program. “Fishing in hot water: defining sentinel indicators of resilience in the American lobster fishery” was awarded $125,808. And “Incorporating changes in thermal habitat and growth to improve the assessment of American lobster stocks and spatial distribution in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Southern New England” was awarded $100,766. Seafood Source published an article about the awards, with a particular focus on funding for a study led by Joshua Stoll, a professor of marine policy at UMaine, about collecting data to find indicators of the health of the lobster industry; and shared the News Center Maine story. Mainebiz and the Mt. Desert Islander and Lincoln County News also reported on the awards, and the Boothbay Register shared the UMaine media release about them.

Maginnis talks with WVII about COVID-19, athletics

04 Sep 2020

Melissa Maginnis talked with WVII (Channel 7) about the coronavirus, participation in athletics, and safety in light of the Maine Principals’ Association's work to align its protocols with state guidelines. “Think about this as a marathon, not a sprint. We want to make sure these children are healthy and they can continue to engage in sports for a long period of time, not just for the upcoming season,” said the virologist, assistant professor of microbiology, associate director of the Center for Undergraduate Research, and lead of the UMS Scientific Advisory Board. “It’s really important that we can physically distance when we’re exercising, and there have been some studies that when

we are exercising we expel more of those potential particles."

Rosenbaum co-edits book of essays

08 Sep 2020

Judith Rosenbaum, associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism, is co-editor of a new book of essays from Palgrave Macmillan. "Twitter, the Public Sphere, and the Chaos of Online Deliberation" provides a critical view of the nature and quality of political and civic communication on Twitter. Combining an overview of perspectives in the field and 11 empirical case studies, the book draws attention to the chaotic, insular, uncivil and emotionally charged nature of debate and communication on Twitter.

Coffin to serve on GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names

08 Sep 2020

Mike Coffin will represent Australia on the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN). As a member of the subcommittee, the University of Maine marine geoscientist and research professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences will help define the guidelines used to name undersea features and consider proposed names of newly-discovered features. The SCUFN also maintains a digital gazetteer of the names, generic feature type, and geographic position of features on the seafloor. The subcommittee advances the work of GEBCO, the world's foremost source of publicly-available bathymetry of the world's oceans. GEBCO operates jointly under the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Marcotte, Muscat awarded Killam Fellowships to study in Canada

08 Sep 2020

University of Maine students Sarah Marcotte and Abigail Muscat earned Killam Fellowships to study in Canada during the spring 2021 semester. Marcotte, a third-year biology major, plans to study at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Muscat, a third-year marine sciences major and international affairs minor, plans to study at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. The Killam Fellowships Program provides exceptional undergraduate students from universities in Canada and the United States with the opportunity to experience a semester (or a full academic year) as an exchange student in the other country. Marcotte and Muscat, who both are in the Honors College, will each receive $5,000, plus a grant for an educational field trip. Killam Fellows are slated to take part in an orientation program in Ottawa this fall and a seminar in Washington, D.C. in the spring. [caption id="attachment_79032" align="alignright" width="223"]  Sarah Marcotte[/caption] Marcotte, of Bangor, Maine, wants to experience academics at another university and explore another part of the world. “Also, my family is French Canadian, so I wanted to go to Canada to connect with that heritage.” She looks forward to intensifying her study of French, and becoming a more confident and fluent speaker. She’s also excited to learn from Dalhousie’s agriculture and botany experts, and to make friends. Marcotte has camped with her family in the Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick areas, and visited Quebec City, Montreal and Halifax. “I’m interested in gaining a new sense of independence,” she says. “This will be my first time traveling by myself without family or friends. I'm also hoping to have the opportunity to visit Toronto or Ottawa for the first time.” Marcotte plans to pursue a career in agricultural or horticultural science, possibly specifically relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation. [caption id="attachment_79033" align="alignright" width="223"]  Abigail Muscat[/caption] When Muscat started searching for study abroad opportunities, she sought a way for it to be at the University of British Columbia. “In April of 2018, I traveled to B.C. to see the gray whale migration and I fell in love with the natural wonders and species of the area, from the black bears and rhinoceros auklets (seabird), to the orcas and nudibranchs (molluscs),” she says. “During this trip, I briefly visited the UBC campus and afterwards I knew I wanted to find an opportunity to go back, which led me to apply for the Killam Fellowship.” Muscat says UBC has an excellent ocean sciences program and ornithology courses and she’s eager “to gain field

experience on the Pacific Northwest Coast and learn more about a unique marine environment that I am passionate about." She's also enthused to cultivate her interest in international affairs, including experiencing firsthand another culture's local and international conservation dialogue. The Bass Harbor resident plans to pursue a Ph.D. and have a career that combines her love of birds and the ocean, and that informs policymaking in these areas. The Canadian-American Center and the Office of Major Scholarships supported Muscat and Marcotte's applications. Betsy Arntzen, Canadian-American Center education outreach coordinator, assisted students with the application, provided the UMaine nomination letter and mailed the application packet. Previous UMaine students who received Killam Fellowships include Lucas Yoder, Claire Fouchereaux, Nicole Turmel, Kristen Brown, Mallory Lavoie and Kristin Kirouac. To learn more about this fellowship and other merit nationally competitive scholarships, contact Nives Dal Bo-Wheeler at the Office of Major Scholarships, nives.dalbowheeler@maine.edu. Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Maine Sea Grant, UMaine advance national initiative to increase lobster fishery resilience

08 Sep 2020

Maine Sea Grant College Program staff and University of Maine scientists will advance a multimillion-dollar NOAA Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative (ALI), which has announced a second round of research funding. The newly funded research will continue to address critical gaps in knowledge about how American lobster *(Homarus americanus)* is affected by environmental change in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and southern New England. The focus of this research is based on specific language in the NOAA National Sea Grant Program's 2020 federal funding bill. The American lobster is one of the nation's most iconic fisheries. The American lobster fishery, with a 2019 landing value estimated at $626.7 million, represents one of the largest and most valuable fisheries along the Atlantic coast, according to NOAA Fisheries. Yet, American lobster habitats are changing rapidly. Ocean temperatures are increasing, marine and coastal waters are becoming more acidic, and intense rainfall events are adding more freshwater to coastal ecosystems. Scientists have already documented some of the ways that these physical and chemical changes are affecting marine species, including the American lobster. Understanding and responding to these changes will allow for a more resilient lobster fishery. "The American Lobster Initiative provides a great opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships, and build new collaborations between research, industry and management across the Northeast," said Amalia Harrington, a marine extension team member with Maine Sea Grant at UMaine and the regional extension coordinator for the American Lobster Initiative. "I look forward to working with the new research teams and to building our regional network." The American Lobster Initiative, which began in 2019 with an initial $2 million investment from the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, supports both a regional Sea Grant extension program and scientific research to increase the American lobster industry's resilience to the biological, economic and social impacts of ecosystem change in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank and southern New England. Maine Sea Grant continues to provide leadership and overall coordination for the effort, working in collaboration with six other northeastern state Sea Grant programs, Sea Grant-funded researchers at more than 20 research institutions, the lobster industry, and marine resource management agencies throughout the Northeast. This additional $2 million investment in American lobster research in 2020 will support nine new projects, two of which will be led by UMaine researchers. Project descriptions for all ALI-funded research and extension projects are online. Yong Chen, a professor in the UMaine School of Marine Sciences, was awarded a two-year grant to assess and forecast the dynamics of American lobster in a changing ecosystem. As ocean temperatures rise, the locations of suitable lobster habitats may change. Chen's team will build a forecasting model, taking into account how predicted temperature changes in the Gulf of Maine may affect spatial distributions of lobster populations, to predict stock size and catch seasonality. Additionally, Chen's team will test the existing UMaine Lobster Stock Assessment model, which is currently used by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. "This project will provide us an opportunity to more closely engage with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Lobster Technical Committee in our effort to further improve the University of Maine Lobster Stock Assessment Model," said Chen. "Hopefully, this will lead to further improved lobster stock assessment and management." Joshua Stoll, an assistant professor in the School of Marine Sciences, was awarded a two-year grant to develop social indicators with the lobster industry to help detect early signs of vulnerability among fisheries participants in the Gulf of Maine. Understanding vulnerability is vital to informing future management decisions and coastal community resilience. "We are thrilled to be part of the American Lobster Initiative," said Stoll. "These indicators will complement ongoing efforts that monitor the health of the resource itself by bringing attention to the people who earn a living from the fishery." Stoll will be collaborating with Kathleen Reardon of Maine Department of Marine Resources, Carla Guenther of Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Patrice McCarron of Maine Lobstermen's Association, Lisa Colburn of Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Michael Jepson of Southeast Fisheries Science Center. Chen and Stoll join UMaine ALI affiliate faculty Rick Wahle, director of the UMaine Lobster Institute and a research professor in the School of Marine Sciences, and Damian Brady, an associate professor in the School of Marine Sciences. Wahle and Brady were funded in the 2019 call for proposals. Maine DMR and Gulf of Maine Research Institute scientists also received funding. Jesica Waller of Maine Department of Marine Resources will lead a team to test and develop new methods and noninvasive protocols to assess female maturity. Current methods, developed by DMR in 2018, are both time- and resource-intensive. Kathy Mills of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute will lead a team developing complex projections that take into account juvenile and adult life stages, environmental conditions, food web interactions and changes in distribution over time. Additional research supported through this round of American Lobster Initiative funding includes:

- Assessing the broad-scale distribution and abundance of lobster larvae and their potential food sources throughout the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, Heidi Henninger, Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association
- Bait alternative development and future visioning in the New England lobster fishery, Adrian Jordaan, University of Massachusetts
- Early life history of American lobsters in coastal Southern New England waters, Jeremy Collie, University of Rhode Island
- Surface convergences: a critical pelagic microhabitat for American lobster postlarvae? Jesús Pineda, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- Understanding the cause of low dissolved oxygen in Cape Cod Bay and initiating a hypoxia warning system for the lobster fisher, Tracy Pugh, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

Contact: Amalia Harrington, amalia.harrington@maine.edu

Daily Bulldog promotes expanded virtual education program

08 Sep 2020

The Daily Bulldog highlighted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension offering, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), is now open to pregnant women and adults with children in their households. The distance education program uses digital and telephonic class meetings hosted by UMaine Extension staff to promote healthy cooking and eating, help clients save money on groceries, and to keep families active. More information about the program, which is free to SNAP, WIC or Head Start participants, and to income eligible adults, is available online.

Dill talks with BDN about fuzzy oak galls

08 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Jim Dill, University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist, about orange or fuzzy galls on oak leaves. The galls are displaying deepening fall colors now. According to Dill, the galls and the tiny wasps incubating inside are benign.

WABI cites UMaine study on economic impact of snowmobiling

08 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) cited a University of Maine study, "The Economic Contribution of Snowmobiling in Maine," in reporting that grant funds of more than $400,000 had been awarded to five snowmobile clubs to support local businesses and economic growth in rural Maine.

Press Herald promotes COVID-19 webinar series

08 Sep 2020

The Portland Press Herald advanced a new weekly webinar series, "Understanding the COVID-19 Pandemic: Resilience and Recovery." The free series, which was developed by the University of Maine Graduate and Professional Center in partnership with the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service, runs 5–6 p.m. Thursdays from Sept. 3 to Nov. 19. More information is available online.

Chim appointed to UMaine Extension, teaching position at UMPI

08 Sep 2020

CentralMaine.com and The County picked up a University of Maine news release announcing the appointment of Bee Chim as a University of Maine Cooperative Extension crops specialist in Presque Isle. Chim will focus on assisting potato growers and other farmers with crop-related educational programs and applied research. She has a joint appointment with the University of Maine at Presque Isle, where she will teach one course each year in the Agricultural Science and Agribusiness program.

Media share updated COVID-19 numbers from UMS

08 Sep 2020

The Portland Press Herald and CentralMaine.com reported 11 active coronavirus cases in the University of Maine System as of Sept. 7, including 8 at the University of Maine and one newly diagnosed case at the University of Maine Fort Kent. WAGM in Presque Isle and WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) covered the announcement of the new coronavirus case among students at UMaine Fort Kent, which was detected through asymptomatic testing. UMaine Fort Kent President Deb Hedeen indicated that that student, who is now quarantining, did not live on campus and had not been attending in-person classes.

UMaine listed in "Best Colleges for your Money" 2020 report

08 Sep 2020

Money magazine's 2020 list of the best colleges in America includes the University of Maine. The magazine's annual ranking recognizes schools that combine quality and affordability based on an analysis of more than 20,000 data points, including tuition and fees, average student debt, graduation rates and career earnings. News Center Maine and the Modesto Bee covered the Money report.

Winski grant highlighted in local media

08 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and the Maine Campus reported that Dominic Winski, a research assistant professor at the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, received a grant of $137,419 from the National Science Foundation to study a 700-foot ice core harvested in Denali National Park. "The goal of the proposed research is to improve our understanding of relationships between summertime climate and wildfire activity, focusing especially on the Medieval Climate Anomaly when temperatures were perhaps as warm as the 20th century but without the complicating influence of widespread fire ignition and suppression by humans," says Winski.

Kaye pens pandemic op-ed for CentralMaine.com

08 Sep 2020

An opinion piece by Lenard Kaye, professor of social work and director of the Center on Aging at the University of Maine, was featured in CentralMaine.com as part of a series authored by members of the Maine Scholars Strategy Network to address public policy challenges in Maine. Kaye's column identified the obvious and subtle impacts of the pandemic, detailing the disproportionate effects on older adults.

Chen, Wahle to participate in conversation about warming Gulf of Maine, effects on marine economy

09 Sep 2020

A University of Maine fisheries scientist and the director of the Lobster Institute at UMaine will participate in the second webinar of the Bangor Daily News Climate Conversation series at 4 p.m. Sept. 17. "BDN Climate Conversations: A Warming Gulf of Maine and our Marine Economy," will feature a panel of experts that include Yong Chen, a professor of fisheries population dynamics, and Richard "Rick" Wahle, the Clare S. Darling Professor of Marine Sciences and Lobster Institute director. Both UMaine professors will join Kathy Mills, research scientist at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, and Bill Mook, founder of Mook Sea Farm in Walpole, in discussing the warming of the Gulf of Maine and how it affects the marine economy. Temperatures in the gulf have risen three times faster than the global average over the past three decades, and they are warming more rapidly than 99% of water bodies worldwide. Chen's research focuses on quantitative fisheries ecology and stock assessment and management, studying how harvesting and the environment may affect fish populations. His work incorporates fisheries biology, ecology, mathematical and statistical modeling, and computer simulation to develop models for fisheries stock assessments for a wide range of invertebrate and vertebrate species. Wahle explores the influences of the ocean's physical and biotic environment on the population dynamics and distribution of marine benthic organisms. The Lobster Institute he directs promotes, conducts and communicates research about the sustainability of the American lobster fishery in the U.S. and Canada. Registration can be done on the event webpage. The conversation will be the second in the four-part BDN Climate Conversations series.

VillageSoup, Pen Bay Pilot promote SAT prep course

09 Sep 2020

VillageSoup and the Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) preparation course, "Prep Matters" which will run from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday and Sunday for three weeks beginning Oct. 3. This online course is offered by the University of Maine Hutchinson Center. More information is available online.

The County advertises virtual pressure canning course

09 Sep 2020

The County highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar focused on pressure canning soups and stocks from 2-2:45 p.m. Sept. 15 in the calendar of events for Sept. 9-15. More information about this virtual event, which is part of the UMaine Extension series, "Preserving the Maine Harvest," is available online.

Media advance root cellaring webinar

09 Sep 2020

WABI, Morning Ag Clips, CentralMaine.com and The Piscatiquis Observer promoted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar "Root Cellaring: A Cheap and Easy Method for Preserving Your Harvest," noon–1 p.m. Sept 28. This free webinar is the last in UMaine Extension's 2020 summer gardening series. More information about this event is online.

Newman Center reopens with precautions in place

09 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that the Newman Center, a gathering place for the Catholic community at the University of Maine, has reopened with a full liturgical schedule and plans to host other virtual and in-person events, including two weekly meals. The center's reopening plan meets all safety guidelines implemented by UMaine, the Maine Center for Disease Control and the Diocese of Portland.

Hutchinson Center to offer virtual SAT prep course

10 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Hutchinson Center will offer PrepMatters, a Zoom course for high school students planning to take the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) this fall. The course runs from 11 a.m. to noon Saturdays and Sundays for three weeks beginning Oct. 3. For 15 years, course instructor Mary Smyth, M.D., has tutored students preparing for college entrance exams, including the ACT, SAT and SAT subject tests, and the Advanced Placement (AP) calculus test. Smyth seeks to enhance students' understanding of key concepts tested in the SAT to reduce or eliminate cramming. Students can register online; the cost is $240. A limited number of need-based scholarships may be available to applicants from Knox and Waldo counties. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation contact Allison Small, Early College Program Coordinator, allison.small@maine.edu; 207.581.8024.

VEMI Lab founders featured in MIT podcast about automated driving

10 Sep 2020

The founders of the VEMI (Virtual Environment and Multimodal Interaction) Lab participated in a podcast about automated driving hosted by MIT Technology Review. "AI in the Driver's Seat" featured a panel of experts that included Richard Corey, director of the VEMI Lab, and Nicholas Giudice, a professor with the School of Computing and Information Science and chief research scientist at the lab. They joined Rashed Haq, vice president of robotics at Cruise, and Ryan Powell, head of UX Design & Research at Waymo, in a discussion about creating a language to facilitate communication between vehicles and occupants, a crucial and missing component needed to advance automated driving.

Election Engagement mini-grants available to students, staff

10 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Political Science Department and UMaine UVote are partnering to offer mini-grants of as much as $500 to support nonpartisan activities intended to raise awareness about voting and the November election. Election Engagement mini-grants are available to all members of the UMaine community, with applications accepted online on a rolling basis until program funds are expended. Applicants proposing on-campus activities must submit an event planning form to obtain approval for in-person events before grant funds are disbursed. Projects will be funded, in part, with financial support from the Students Learn Students Vote Coalition and the Ask Every Student program. For more information, contact Robert Glover, associate professor of political science and Honors, robert.glover@maine.edu; or Jenny Desmond, leadership development coordinator and UMaine UVote chair, jennifer.desmond@maine.edu.

WGME story features Lobster Institute's calico lobsters facts

10 Sep 2020

WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) incorporated information about calico lobsters from the University of Maine Lobster Institute in a story about a Kittery lobsterman catching two of them in one day. According to the institute, the chance of finding a live calico lobster is 1 in 30 million, rarer than spotting blue or live red lobsters.

Riordan noted in media reports about Bicentennial Series

10 Sep 2020

The Advertiser Democrat, VillageSoup and Wiscasset Newspaper highlighted Liam Riordan, a professor of history at the University of Maine, as one of several notable presenters for the Maine Historical Society's MAINE AT 200 virtual series. The program, which the historical society will broadcast from September through March via Zoom, will feature conversations and panels on topical issues and explore how Maine became a state in 1820, what it meant to Maine people, and how 13,000 years of history shape the issues that matter to Mainers today. Riordan will deliver his talk, "Becoming Maine," on Oct. 22.

Mainebiz highlights Mitchell Center assisting Climate Council

10 Sep 2020

Mainebiz highlighted the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions helping the Maine Climate Council with its efforts to improve the equity outcomes of the state Climate Action Plan. The center provided expertise to the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to help determine how the Climate Council's strategies for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change can benefit underserved residents and communities. Center faculty evaluated climate action proposals from the Climate Council's working groups for their ability to achieve equity and foster diversity and inclusion.

News Center reports on UMaine training future Arctic scientists

10 Sep 2020

News Center Maine reported on the University of Maine's plans to train future Arctic scientists using a nearly $3 million award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The new UMaine initiative, Systems Approaches to Understanding and Navigating the New Arctic, will train 60 master's and Ph.D. students in the interdisciplinary field of Arctic systems science. Their training will include an interdisciplinary curriculum, Arctic field experience, and research focused on changes in Maine, southwest Greenland and the Arctic–North Atlantic. "I think a lot of students who pursue this really want to make a change," said Jasmine Saros, the associate director of the Climate Change Institute and a professor of lake ecology at UMaine. Saros will lead the new program. "They're very interested in the science, but they also definitely want to see that science applied in a way that could help us to be better problem solvers."

Socolow speaks with NBC News about timing of Woodward's release of President's COVID-19 remarks

10 Sep 2020

Michael Socolow, an associate professor in communication and journalism at the University of Maine, spoke with NBC News for a story titled "Bob Woodward criticized for not releasing Trump's COVID-19 comments sooner." Socolow said the veteran Washington Post journalist, known best for his coverage of the Watergate scandal involving former President Richard M. Nixon, has used the same reporting practices for more than four decades and the ethics of his work "have been debated and discussed ad nauseum." "The bigger issue ... is that journalists hold incredibly damaging information all the time, for all kinds of reasons," said Socolow, who also serves as director of the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center at UMaine. "To assume reporters always rush to publish all the valuable information they collect is to overlook a lot of the history of U.S. journalism … They might hold stuff for political reasons, or to enrich themselves, or for other reasons — and we can debate the ethics of that — but they withhold stuff. That's reality."

Extension features tips for farm resiliency on social media

11 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is hosting a seven-week series of tips for farm resiliency on social media beginning Sept. 13. Each post on the UMaine Extension Facebook page will feature a new entry from the weekly "Small Bites" series, offering short articles with practical tips for stress reduction, communication and farm team and family well-being. The series ends Oct. 25 with a new video on managing farm stress. The farm coaching program with UMaine Extension and industry experts is offered free of charge and supported by a grant from Northeast Extension Risk Management Education. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.3487, leslie.forstadt@maine.edu.

Applications open for grants to help finance cultural events

11 Sep 2020

The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee is accepting grant applications from the University of Maine community for events beginning on or after Oct. 26. Requests for support for virtual programming and festivities are highly encouraged. Grants support up to 50% of expenses associated with cultural events that enhance the artistic, cultural and intellectual life of the UMaine. The CA/DLS committee accepts applications four times a year. The next application deadline is Sept. 28. Proposals must be submitted online using the CA/DLS Grant Application Form. Past awards have supported lectures and lecture series, Culturefest, the International Dance Festival, exhibits, performances and guest artists.

Season 3 of 'The Maine Question' podcast debuts Sept. 17

11 Sep 2020

During Season 3 of "The Maine Question" podcast, host Ron Lisnet will interview University of Maine movers and shakers working to improve people's lives and the world. Here's a preview of three topics this season, which kicks off Thursday, Sept. 17 Catherine Biddle and Maria Frankland from the College of Education and Human Development will share best practices for school districts to safely educate students in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Peter Schilling from the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning will talk about how faculty can utilize new technologies to create compelling online courses from anywhere, including labs, in the field and in boardrooms. And Lily Calderwood, Extension wild blueberry specialist, will discuss the past, present and future of Maine's iconic crop. What topics do you want to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

Weekly Packet article highlights Maine Compost School

11 Sep 2020

The Weekly Packet highlighted the Maine Compost School course in an article about the Maine Department of Environmental Protection awarding a $40,000 grant for a new composting facility in Brooklin. The Maine Compost School, co-operated by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and the environmental protection department, trains and certifies personnel to operate compost sites, according to the program website.

KJ, Morning Sentinel advance tips for farm resiliency on social media

11 Sep 2020

The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel shared a media release about the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's seven-week series of tips for farm resiliency on social media that begins Sept. 13. Each post on the UMaine Extension Facebook page will feature a new entry from the weekly "Small Bites" series, offering short articles with practical tips for stress reduction, communication, and farm team and family well-being. The series ends Oct. 25 with a new video on managing farm stress.

Brewer speaks with Maine Public about lobstermen aid, politics

11 Sep 2020

Mark Brewer, professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with Maine Public for a story titled "Lobster Dealers, Processors Say They Were Left Out Of Federal Aid Deal — And Some Blame Politics." According to the story, the federal government awarded Maine lobstermen $50 million to compensate for financial losses that resulted from trade disputes between the U.S. and China, but dealers and processors cannot access the funds. Brewer said the award follows other actions from President Donald J. Trump's administration, such as negotiating a deal with the European Union to lower tariffs on U.S. lobster. Trump won Maine's 2nd Congressional District by 10 points in 2016, Brewer said. "Doing better than that is going to be very difficult for him to do under any circumstances," he said. "The bigger question is: Does it help him to hang on to that Electoral College vote in the 2nd CD (Congressional District) and there I think the answer is 'yes.'"

Inquire Within reports on Maine AgrAbility's Boots-2-Bushels

11 Sep 2020

Inquire Within, the digital magazine from the organization WorkingNation, reported on Maine AgrAbility's Boots-2-Bushels program, which teaches military veterans the skills needed to be their own agribusiness bosses. The 30-week program, which launched in January, includes classes taught by experts from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, as well as field work designed to help veterans and their families transition into agriculture careers. "Veterans are well-suited to working in agriculture for several reasons: work ethic, dedication, perseverance, creativity, and resilience," said Anne Devin, Maine AgrAbility Farmer Veteran outreach coordinator. Devin and her husband, both veterans of the Marine Corps, worked with UMaine Extension to create Boots-2-Bushels.

ScienceDaily reports on Steneck's study about reef disappearance in Alaskan kelp forests

11 Sep 2020

ScienceDaily reported on a study co-authored by Robert Steneck, a professor of oceanography, marine biology and marine policy at the University of Maine, about the effects of predator loss and climate change on the devastation of living reefs in Alaskan kelp forests. According to the report, the red alga *Clathromorphum nereostratum* built the limestone reefs, located in kelp forests in the Aleutian Islands, but sea urchins have been consuming them at an alarming rate. The functional extinction of the sea urchin's predator, the Aleutian sea otter, in the 1990s allowed the marine invertebrate to explode in population, devour the kelp forests and threaten the reefs built by algae. Rising global temperatures have made it easier for sea urchins to pierce through the red alga's protective layer and eat it. "Ocean warming and acidification are making it difficult for calcifying organisms to produce their shells, or in this case, the alga's protective skeleton," said Douglas Rasher, a senior research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences and the lead author of the study. "This critical species has now become highly vulnerable to urchin grazing — right as urchin abundance is peaking. It's a devastating combination." The study was published in the journal Science.

Center on Aging to host virtual Clinical Geriatrics Colloquium Oct. 27

14 Sep 2020

Registration is now open for the University of Maine Center on Aging's 15th Annual Clinical Geriatrics Colloquium, Creating Age-Friendly Health Systems, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 27. This colloquium, offered via Zoom, explores the Age-Friendly Health Systems movement and the implications of the movement for optimizing the quality of health care provided to older adults. Discussions will focus on issues relevant to older adults, including preventing isolation and loneliness, understanding the social determinants of health for rural populations, identifying elements of the 4Ms framework, and using technology to promote health and connectivity, among others. Registration, which is required to attend, must be completed by Oct. 19. A $30 fee applies; students are admitted free. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits have been requested for attendees; approval is currently pending. The schedule and list of invited speakers is online. For more information, or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kelley Morris, 207.262.7925, kelley.morris@maine.edu.

Flu shots available to UMaine employees Sept. 19

14 Sep 2020

Northern Light Cutler Health Center will offer University of Maine employees covered by Cigna health insurance flu shots beginning Sept. 19. A drive-thru clinic is planned to keep the campus community safe. Employees can schedule a visit online. A completed consent form and Cigna insurance card must be presented at the clinic to receive the vaccine. The clinic will be staged in the Gannett Road parking lot adjacent to Cutler Health Center with egress to Long Road. Employees should approach the drive-thru clinic via Hilltop Road to Gannett Road. Additional clinics may be available on campus in the future; employees will be notified by email. UMaine employees not covered by Cigna can call Cutler Health Center at 207.581.4000 to request a shot. Northern Light Cutler Health Center will offer flu shot clinics for students in the near future.

Bangor Daily talks squash pests with Dill

14 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Jim Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist, about the squash vine borer, a known pest in southern Maine that has been identified in central Maine this summer. "This year I have gotten quite a few calls from gardeners about it," said Dill. "Far more calls than in the past and that may be due to the nice dry weather making it a good year for them." Dill offered recommendations for controlling the borer, including planting butternut squash. "I have no idea why, but they don't care much for butternut squash," Dill said. "So if you really want squash, you might want to plant a lot of that."

Pen Bay Pilot, VillageSoup advance project management course

14 Sep 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and VillageSoup announced that registration is now open for an in-person project management course, Practical Project Management, at the Hutchinson Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 2, 9 and 16. This comprehensive professional development course provides useful skills for managing projects in the real world with participants walking through a project from start to finish. More information is available online.

Ellsworth American promotes free soil testing from Cooperative Extension

14 Sep 2020

The Ellsworth American highlighted a free soil testing program sponsored by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in partnership with the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Resources Conservation Service. Residents of Hancock can have the pH of their soil tested by dropping off samples throughout the month of September.

Dill cited in AP story about impact of drought on mosquitoes

14 Sep 2020

Griffin Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick lab coordinator, was cited in an Associated Press story about reductions in insect borne disease resulting from drought conditions in the Northeast. The Washington Times, the Lewiston Sun Journal and CentralMaine.com shared the AP story.

McCarty highlights supply shortages in Maine Public segment

14 Sep 2020

Maine Public interviewed Kate McCarty, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension food systems professional, about the increase in home canning during the pandemic, and the resulting shortage of food preservation supplies.

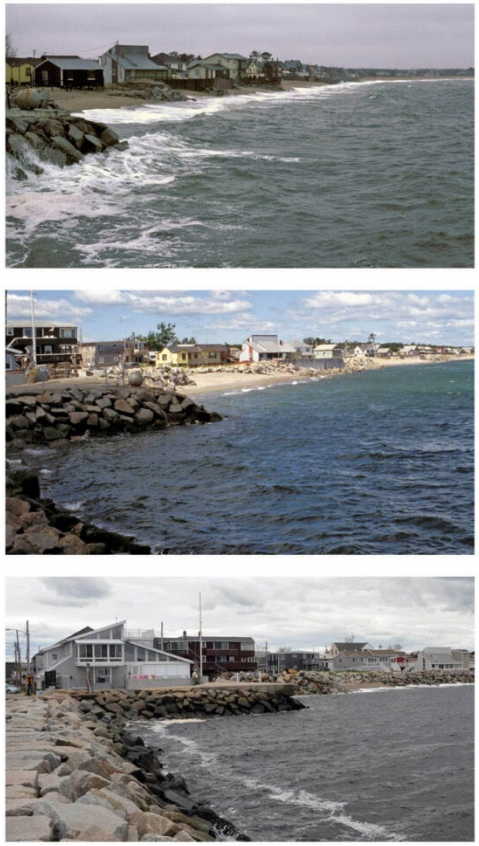
BDN interviews Coffin about contact tracing for livestock

14 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Donna Coffin, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor, for a story about contact tracing for livestock. According to Coffin, contact tracing has long been recognized as a successful biosecurity strategy. The Piscataquis Observer also shared the BDN story.

UMaine marine geologist archives nearly four decades of images of history, change in Maine landscapes

14 Sep 2020



[caption id="attachment_79169" align="alignright" width="400"] The shoreline along Camp Ellis in Saco as seen in 1983, 1995 and 2017.[/caption] Every year since 1982, Joseph Kelley captured photos of the fastest deteriorating portion of Maine's coast, located in Camp Ellis, for use in his work as a state marine geologist, and research and teaching at the University of Maine. Later this fall, the public will have the opportunity to view decades of geologic transformation captured in the images taken of the Saco-area shoreline, as well as thousands of others depicting dramatic changes in Maine's coastal vistas. The professor emeritus partnered with the Maine Geological Survey to archive 8,000 of his landscape images, most of which depict the coast, in an online database on the state agency's website. Users will have access to photos capturing vistas at particular moments in history and time series collections featuring the shifting geology of certain places over time. The coast of Maine always changes, and every photograph of it captures an iteration no one will witness again, says Kelley, who retired from UMaine Sept. 1. "On the coast, every photo is a 'before,'" he says. Research Kelley conducted in the last 38 years, including studies of the response of developed and pristine shorelines to sea-level change, provided ample opportunities to take photographs. His collection features photos taken from the ground and some from the air highlighting the geology of locations such as Silsby Plain in Aurora, Jasper Beach in Machiasport and Sand Beach in Acadia National Park. "It's one thing to be on the ground and see erosion happening, but it's really nice to be able to be above it all and look down to get the context of everything," he says. "I've flown up and down the coast many, many times." The U.S. Geological Survey provided more than $30,000 in funding for the archiving project. Kelley, with help from students, has been scanning photos and uploading them with information about the location, time and keywords. The state agency recruited three other geologists to submit photos for the online database. Kelley, who worked as the state's marine geologist from 1982–99 before joining UMaine, says he hopes other geologists can replicate his project and create a comprehensive, national photo archive that documents the history of landscapes across the U.S. and how they have changed throughout the years. "Geology is fundamentally a historical science," he says. "It's understanding the history of our planet." Contact: Marcus Wolf, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

VillageSoup, BDN advance Hutchinson Center project management course

15 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News and VillageSoup promoted a three-day course, Practical Project Management, offered Oct. 2, 9 and 16 in-person at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. More information is available online.

Shaler interviewed by Forest Landowner

15 Sep 2020

Stephen Shaler, director of the School of Forest Resources, talked with Forest Landowner Magazine about the evolution of forestry education before, and as a result of the pandemic. "The maintenance of 'dirt forestry' skills (e.g. inventory skills, navigation, tree ID, etc.) in the curriculum is something that we have heard from stakeholders in the state for many years. We have worked to maintain those," said Shaler. "However, with the recent explosion in data and technology (LiDAR, GPS layers, handheld devices), it is key that students have a solid foundation in GIS skills and data literacy. Excel is our friend."

Glover talks with WABI about voting-related mail

15 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Rob Glover, associate professor of political science at the University of Maine, about the recent uptick in election-related mailings across Maine. "Multiple mailers will show up at individuals' houses or sometimes they are getting absentee applications for folks that haven't lived in the house in a number of years," said Glover, who noted that voters should submit just one absentee ballot request, even if they continue to receive ballot requests in the mail.

Practical Project Management Certificate Program offered at Hutchinson Center

15 Sep 2020

Registration is now open for an in-person project management course, Practical Project Management, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 2, 9 and 16 through the University of Maine Hutchinson Center. Practical Project Management is a comprehensive professional development course that provides useful skills for managing projects in the real world with a concrete and targeted approach. Participants will walk through a project from defining the parameters to determining scope, building a work breakdown structure, and developing a timeline and Gantt charts. Communication plans, time management, negotiations, conflict, engaging stakeholders and team building will be included in discussion. Angela Wheaton, M.A., P.M.P., C.S.M., will facilitate the classes. Wheaton holds a Master of Arts degree in theology and counseling, is certified by the Project Management Institute, holds a Scrum Master certification, and is a certified Facilitative Leader and Trainer. She has leadership experience in the retail, banking, education, technology, social service and healthcare fields. Attendees will earn a badge in Project Management Level 1 and a UMaine certificate of completion; 2.3 CEUs/23 contact hours are available. The course fee is $495 per person, with need-based scholarships available. More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website. This professional development program will be held in person, utilizing strict social distancing measures. For more information or to request an accommodation contact Michelle Patten, Conference and Professional Development Coordinator, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; 207.338.8002.

UMaine UVote to celebrate National Voter Registration Day

15 Sep 2020

The University of Maine's nonpartisan campus voting initiative, UMaine UVote, will help register voters Tuesday, Sept. 22, at several locations on campus in celebration of National Voter Registration Day. During the civic holiday, volunteers participate in a cross-country effort to register voters in advance of the general election in November. Members of UMaine UVote will host voter registration drives, and provide information about absentee voting, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the University Mall, Stewart Quad and Hilltop Quad. The event is part of a semester-long effort to engage the UMaine campus. Over the past few weeks, UMaine "Student Voting Ambassadors" have been talking with hundreds of students about voting and working to register new voters through digital content, Zoom sessions and in-person class announcements. Student Voting Ambassadors and other UMaine faculty, students and staff will help the town of Orono administer the election by assisting with election preparations and serving as poll workers. UMaine UVote and the UMaine Political Science Department also are offering grants to host virtual and in-person nonpartisan events about voting and the upcoming election.

Brown University VP, UMaine alum to host Sept. 21 virtual events

15 Sep 2020

Race scholar Shontay Delalue, vice president of institutional equity and diversity at Brown University and University of Maine alum ('00, '03G), will facilitate a workshop and offer a public presentation on Monday, Sept. 21 for the University of Maine community. BLACK@UMaine is an online workshop that will provide current students with an opportunity to share their experiences with anti-Blackness, and to explore methods of leveraging their time on campus to enhance their leadership skills in preparation for life after college. This workshop, which is intended for staff and students, begins at 1 p.m. Registration is required. The virtual public presentation, Constructing Race: A History of Race and Racism in the United States, begins at 3 p.m. Race scholars have long posited that the fabric of society in the U.S. is built on racial hierarchies. This presentation will trace the construction of race and its role in the founding of the U.S., and illustrate how it is reflected in our daily lives, while offering practical strategies for faculty to actively support students from underrepresented groups. Registration is required. These events are sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Communications and Journalism, and presented with support from the University of Maine Foundation and the University of Maine Alumni Association. For more information contact Judith Rosenbaum, judith.rosenbaumandre@maine.edu.

University of Maine project tells story of COVID-19 pandemic through arts

15 Sep 2020

Editor's note: story updated Sept. 21. Maine residents are invited to participate in a new project at the University of Maine that is using the arts to tell the story of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Jack Pine Project, a collaboration of the Maine Folklife Center, Maine Studies Program and the Hutchinson Center, connects professional artists, including UMaine faculty, with residents statewide, including vulnerable groups such as incarcerated people and cancer patients. The free workshops are underway; registration is online. The Jack Pine Project uses the creative arts to help residents tell their stories of the pandemic and its impacts on their lives, according to Kreg Ettenger, director of Maine Studies and the Maine Folklife Center, and associate professor of anthropology. It takes its name from the tree that releases its seeds in times of stress, such as after a wildfire. "Art is something that everyone can relate to, and that touches us in powerful ways," Ettenger says. "One goal of the project is to bring people together who share a common experience, such as health care workers or teachers, and have them work with an artist to present this shared experience to others." Art can also help people begin the process of healing from the shock and grief of a pandemic that has killed over 100 people in the state, sickened thousands, and touched the lives of many more. Several of the workshop instructors are trained as art or music therapists, Ettenger says, and will use their skills to help participants deal with their emotions while creating art. The project involves a number of workshops in various genres, from visual arts to songwriting and the dramatic arts. Instructors include printmakers, theater producers, songwriters, fiber artists and others. Each will work with a small group to teach them a craft, then help them produce projects that reveal different facets of Maine's coronavirus experience. Among the project's dozen or so workshops: music therapist Carla Tanguay is working with cancer patients in the Ellsworth region to create a group songwriting project.

Stephen Legawiec, artistic director of the Camden Shakespeare Festival, is meeting via Zoom with other theater producers, directors and actors statewide to put their coronavirus experiences into dramatic monologues. Another instructor is working with veterans in the Maine prison system as they explore the impacts of COVID-19 on their lives, which have become even more isolated and dangerous as a result of the pandemic. A full list of workshops with registration information is on the project's website. All Jack Pine Project workshops are free for participants, although space is limited, and some workshops are restricted to certain groups. A live event next year and the project website will share the art with the wider community. "The Hutchinson Center is proud to be a part of this important project, supporting our community as (people) explore their COVID-19 experiences and begin the process of healing through the arts," says interim director Kim Wilson-Raymond. "The project aligns with the goals of the Hutchinson Center to provide education, arts and cultural opportunities for our community." Contact: Kreg Ettenger, kreg.ettenger@maine.edu

Bear's Den app available for on-the-go orders

16 Sep 2020

A bit hungry, or need something to eat ASAP? The University of Maine Bear's Den can help satisfy your cravings with a new mobile dining app. The free app, which requires a MaineStreet ID, can be used to order take-out from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays; the Bear's Den remains open for in-person orders Monday-Friday until 4 p.m. Mobile orders can be picked up at Union Central Market. More information is available online.

NEH grant-seeking workshop set for Sept. 25

16 Sep 2020

The University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center will offer a virtual workshop about applying for grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25. Mark Silver, senior program officer in the NEH Division of Research Programs, will lead the free, public workshop. Advance registration is required. Space is limited and priority will be given to those in the Midcoast, Down East and Highlands regions of Maine. Silver will give an overview of the variety of NEH funding opportunities and offer guidance for writing competitive proposals. He'll also run a mock application review panel. Panelists will discuss and rank sample proposals using NEH guidelines to provide insight into how applications are evaluated and recommended for NEH funding. Silver also will be available in the afternoon Thursday, Sept. 24, and Friday, Sept. 25, to virtually meet with prospective applicants to discuss their projects and offer advice about their proposals. People interested in scheduling a 20-minute appointment will be asked to submit in advance a one-page, single-spaced project overview. For more information, email mhc@maine.edu.

Savoie recipe recommendations in Press Herald

16 Sep 2020

An article in the Portland Press Herald offering food safety tips for home canners included recipe recommendations from Kathleen Savoie, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Educator. CentralMaine.com shared the story.

Press Herald, Ellsworth American interview Moran about apple crop

16 Sep 2020

The Portland Press Herald and Ellsworth American talked with Renae Moran, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor of pomology, about this year's apple crop. She noted to the Press Herald the crop seems to be as good as it can be considering Maine's drought conditions. The professor said to the Ellsworth American she has witnessed above average "pre-harvest fruit drop" in the orchards at Highmoor Farm in Monmouth, the University of Maine's apple, small fruit and vegetable research facility.

Press Herald talks with Savoie about increased interest in canning

16 Sep 2020

The Portland Press Herald spoke with Kathleen Savoie, University of Maine Cooperative Extension educator, about attendance at UMaine Extension webinars focused on food preservation and the burgeoning demand for canning support and supplies. "People are pickling anything they get their hands on," said Savoie. She believes that gardening and canning are not a manifestation of hoarding or doomsday preparation, but are new hobbies. The UMaine Extension food preservation webinars continue through Oct. 27. Centralmaine.com also shared the story.

News Center Maine reports no active COVID-19 cases in UMS

16 Sep 2020

News Center Maine reported that as of Sept. 15, there are no active cases of COVID-19 across the seven University of Maine System campuses. The 14,712 tests administered to asymptomatic students and staff identified 13 positive results to date; none are currently classified as active. The Portland Press Herald also shared that there are no active cases of coronavirus across the University of Maine System.

WABI interviews Artesani about UMaine music, band programs innovations

16 Sep 2020

A WABI (Channel 5) story described methods of keeping University of Maine music students and band members safe during live practice sessions, including face coverings for singers and trash bags covering wind instruments. Laura Artesani, music division chair, said she has heard no complaints from the students. "They are happy to be back here. They are happy to be making music," she said.

Johnson joins Maine Calling panel to discuss rising sea level

16 Sep 2020

Tora Johnson, University of Maine at Machias Division of Environmental and Biological Sciences chair, participated in a panel discussion on Maine Calling, focused on the impact of rising sea levels and how to help coastal communities prepare.

Wheeler talks with Maine Public about testing wastewater for COVID-19

16 Sep 2020

Maine Public interviewed Rob Wheeler, a University of Maine associate professor of microbiology, about testing campus wastewater for coronavirus. “Testing the whole population every week is something that is really logistically and financially quite demanding, and we’re not able to do that at this time,” said Wheeler. He notes that testing wastewater before it enters municipal systems gives a snapshot of the campus population. “I never would have thought before this that that’s what I would be doing, but it turns out to be a really powerful tool.”

Kamath to examine impact of parasites on moose survival

16 Sep 2020

Editor's note: A Morris Animal Foundation news release is online. Pauline Kamath will investigate how parasites affect moose survival and health to inform management strategies targeted at maintaining healthy populations of the large mammal in Maine and across North America. The Morris Animal Foundation awarded the University of Maine assistant professor of animal health in the School of Food and Agriculture $148,492 for the three-year project that begins in January 2021. Dramatic declines of some moose populations in North America over the past couple of decades are thought to be driven, in part, by increasing tick burdens that reduce winter survival, says Kamath. Young calves are particularly at risk, which contributes to herd declines. Calves with heavy tick loads often die in their first winter and winter tick epizootics (during which more than 50% of calves die) have been increasing in frequency in Maine, she says. There are an estimated 60,000–70,000 moose in Maine. While the population is believed to be stable in the state, Kamath says populations across the southern edge of their range in the United States are in decline due to winter ticks as well as other parasites. Not a lot is known about how the increasing parasite burden impacts wildlife, says Kamath, who began working in the field of animal diseases while earning her doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley. She turned her attention to moose after arriving at UMaine in 2017. Kamath is joined on the project by Sandra De Urioste-Stone, associate professor of nature-based tourism in the School of Forest Resources; Anne Lichtenwalner, Extension veterinarian and associate professor and director of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; Sabrina Morano, assistant research professor in the Maine Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Conservation Biology; and Lee Kantar, moose biologist with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been collaring moose for several years for its ongoing field study on the impact of winter ticks on moose survival and population dynamics. Since 2017, UMaine has received blood and winter tick samples from collared moose and has been screening for intracellular blood parasites, including those from the genus *Anaplasma* and *Babesia*, which may be transmitted by ticks. In Kamath’s project, the team will continue to screen for and evaluate the intensity of these parasite infections in moose. “By combining infection data with information known on individual sex, age, location, condition, as well as nutritional, stress, and anemia status, one of our goals is to identify risk factors for parasite infections in moose,” she says. The team also will conduct a moose genomic study to identify gene variants associated with tolerance to parasite infections. “Ultimately, we will use these findings to build a comprehensive survival model to assess and predict the long-term viability of the Maine moose population,” says Kamath. In addition, De Urioste-Stone will examine stakeholder risk perceptions and prioritization of wildlife management actions for reducing the negative impact of parasites on moose health. “This study will help us to better understand how stakeholders like recreationists and managers perceive the role of parasites on the health of moose, and inform management strategies that reduce negative impacts of parasites on moose,” she says. The study is titled “Evaluating the Impacts of Winter Ticks and Tick-borne Disease on Moose Survival.” This project comes out of initial work supported by the Interdisciplinary Undergraduates Research Collaborative (IURC) program at UMaine. Preliminary data generated from this internal grant was instrumental in making our proposal to the Morris Animal Foundation a success, says Kamath. In addition, several members of the research team participate in the One Health Initiative at UMaine. This project will include graduate and undergraduate student training through UMaine’s One Health National Science Foundation Research Traineeship and Research Experiences for Undergraduates programs. The programs utilize transdisciplinary approaches — combining social and biophysical sciences — to better tackle challenging problems at the intersection of human, animal and environmental health. Kamath has recruited a graduate student who will participate in the new One Health training program and conduct research that combines biophysical and social science aspects of the project. In addition, De Urioste-Stone is advising master’s student Asha DiMatteo-LePape, who will conduct a survey this fall to understand recreationists’ perceptions of moose health, risks and opinions regarding management strategies. As an undergraduate in 2018–19, DiMatteo-LePape took part in one of the inaugural IURC research projects with Kamath, De Urioste-Stone and Lichtenwalner. Kamath’s moose-parasite study is one of 12 supported this year by the Morris Animal Foundation’s awarding of $930,000 in wildlife health research grants. The Foundation, which was started by a veterinarian in 1948, seeks to bridge science and resources to advance the health of animals. Studies focus on critical animal health challenges, including encephalomyocarditis virus in elephants, iron overload syndrome in rhinos, and health and reproductive consequences of noise on wildlife. Read the Morris Animal Foundation release about its recent grants supporting wildlife research. Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Experts to address climate change topics, questions in free webinar

16 Sep 2020

What is Maine doing to address climate change? How does climate change impact geopolitical unrest? Are the wildfires in the western United States related to climate change? People interested in learning more about these and other topics are invited to the “A Climate Change Forum — Your chance to ask questions about climate change” webinar 6–7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28. The forum kicks off Maine Impact Week, a virtual celebration of the University of Maine’s research and creativity, from Sept. 28 through Oct. 2. Five UMaine faculty members will address various aspects of climate change — including why it matters and how we respond to it, and the importance of messaging. After all of the individual 5-minute presentations, panelists will answer questions submitted by webinar attendees. Panelists and topics they’ll address are: **Dr. Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute and Distinguished Maine Professor** Mayewski will discuss “Why Climate Matters!” We are in the midst of many serious issues today: Climate change, COVID-19, inequality, geopolitical unrest, and a damaged economy. Climate change, on its own and interacting with the other issues, is an immediate and long-term threat to our health, wealth and security. **Dr. Cindy Isenhour, associate professor of anthropology and climate change** Isenhour is particularly interested in cross-cultural analyses of climate risk perception and variable responses in public policy. The cultural anthropologist will highlight how many societies have responded to the dual crises of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic to pair economic recovery and a transition to a low-carbon future. **Dr. Sean Birkel, Maine State Climatologist and research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute, with a joint appointment to the School of Earth and Climate Sciences** Birkel will give an overview of the past century of climate change in Maine, recent extreme weather events, and note important linkages to the Arctic and elsewhere. He’ll also discuss how the changing climate impacts Maine's economy and health, and what changes we’re likely to see in the future. **Dr. Ivan J. Fernandez, professor with the School of Forest Resources and Climate Change Institute, and Distinguished Maine Professor** Fernandez will focus on the Maine Climate Council’s ongoing work that addresses the urgent needs for a coordinated framework to address the unfolding climate crisis in Maine and on the planet. This work is timely and highly integrated into the simultaneous urgency for smart investments in economic recovery from the pandemic, and doing so with an unprecedented attention to social justice and sustainability. **Dr. Laura Rickard, associate professor with the Department of Communication and Journalism and Climate Change Institute** Public “engagement” in climate change can mean many things, but is often characterized by three general approaches: the cognitive (knowing facts about climate change); the affective (perceiving risk associated with climate change); and behavioral (supporting climate change policy). While much attention focuses on the importance of the cognitive and behavioral categories, Rickard will suggest how understanding affective reactions to the causes and impacts of climate change is likewise critical, and can help guide our creation of “effective” climate change communication messaging. Registration is required for this free, public webinar. People can submit questions for panelists when they register. Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

UMaine UVote to host voter registration drives today in celebration of Constitution Day

17 Sep 2020

The University of Maine’s nonpartisan campus voting initiative, UMaine UVote, will host voter registration drives from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at several locations on campus in celebration of Constitution Day. The drives will be held on the University Mall, Stewart Quad and Hilltop Quad. Anyone interested in registering must print and provide a photocopy of their Maine Street record, a current utility bill, bank statement, paystub, or government document that shows their name and local address. Those who moved in the last year must register again with their new address.

Potential for fisheries co-management shaped by interplay between formal, informal fisheries institutions, UMaine researchers find

17 Sep 2020

Integrating local norms and fishermen's knowledge into fisheries regulations helps increase trust in fisheries management institutions and can make it easier for co-management to work. That was a discovery of University of Maine researchers Kara Pellowe and Heather Leslie, who looked at the interplay between formal and informal institutions and the implications for the co-management potential of a Mexican small-scale fishery. The peer-reviewed scientific journal Marine Policy recently published that and other findings of the UMaine conservation scientists. Pellowe, a former UMaine postdoctoral student now based at the Stockholm Resilience Centre in Stockholm, Sweden, and Leslie, director of the Darling Marine Center in Walpole, Maine, contend that conflicts between formal institutions, like government agencies, and informal institutions, like unwritten agreements among families and friends, can represent a significant barrier to effective fisheries management. They examined the potential for co-management, where power and decision-making are shared by fisheries managers and fishermen, in a Mexican fishery that is currently managed via top-down control. They concluded that integrating local norms and knowledge into formal regulations, together with broadened community participation, are necessary precursors to co-management. Doing so would also result in more successful fisheries management. Their study is based on research that Pellowe conducted as part of her doctoral dissertation in ecology and environmental sciences at UMaine. She completed her dissertation in August 2019. From 2014–20, Pellowe regularly traveled to Baja California Sur, Mexico, to work closely with fishermen, managers and stakeholders in the fishery of the Mexican chocolate clam (*Megapitaria squalida)* in Loreto Bay National Park, on the Baja peninsula. For the study, Pellowe and Leslie define institutions as the rules, norms, and practices governing interactions between people and the marine environment, including the fish that people target for harvest. Formal institutions are written rules and regulations, while informal institutions are the unwritten rules and social norms that originate from ecological knowledge and traditional practices. Both types of institutions contribute to resource sustainability. Understanding how they intersect, overlap and conflict is essential for assessing the potential for successful co-management. Like the Maine lobster, the Mexican chocolate clam is a culturally and economically important species, providing food, income and cultural value to many communities in Baja. Ensuring the sustainable management of the species requires the trust and cooperation of fishermen. Integrating the rich, local ecological knowledge of fishers into formal regulations can increase fishery sustainability and lead to management that is better able to adapt to future change. Pellowe and Leslie conducted five years of sociological field work to identify institutions, and document their effects on fishing practices. They documented that a complex web of formal and informal rules governs fishing practices for this one species, the Mexican chocolate clam. In some cases, formal and informal institutions reinforce one another, presenting potential leverage points for co-management. However, in other cases, formal and informal institutions are in conflict. Understanding the role and interplay of diverse institutions is essential for identifying pathways and barriers to inclusive and sustainable fisheries management, whether in Mexico, Maine, or elsewhere. "This is a wonderful example of unveiling social factors which contribute to complex ecological systems and their feedbacks, which may influence fisheries production," said Betsy Von Holle, program director at the National Science Foundation. For more information about this and related studies, contact Leslie at the Darling Marine Center at heather.leslie@maine.edu. Contact: Kara Pellowe, kara.pellowe@maine.edu; Heather Leslie, heather.leslie@maine.edu

Food insecurity in the time of COVID-19 talk Sept. 21

17 Sep 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will offer an interactive online session on food insecurity during COVID-19 3–4 p.m. Sept. 21. "Safety nets and bootstraps: Mainers and food insecurity in the time of COVID-19" will discuss the fundamentals of food insecurity, and summarize a recent survey of how Mainers' food security has been affected by COVID-19 and what they are doing to cope. Rachel Schattman, an assistant professor with the UMaine School of Food and Agriculture, and Kate Yerxa, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor and coordinator for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, will lead the discussion. Schattman and Yerxa are members of the National Food Access and COVID Research Team, a collaboration of researchers across 15 states exploring the impact of the pandemic on food access, food security and food systems. The webinar is free; registration is required. Register on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196, hallsworth@maine.edu.

UMM student-produced documentary selected to compete in global film festival

17 Sep 2020

Instructor Alan Kryszak and his students at the University of Maine at Machias are celebrating the announcement that their 2020 film, "Privacy and the Power of Secrets," was selected for an international film festival. The 60-minute student-produced documentary is an official selection at The Hague Global Cinema Festival, where it will compete against 130 selections from more than 80 different countries. Finalist films will be screened during a three-day festival Nov. 13–15 at the prestigious Filmhuis Den Haag in the Netherlands, and online. "Privacy and the Power of Secrets" is the fourth feature-length production of Downeast Documentary, a filmmaking course that Kryszak teaches each fall. The student crew members were Aquila Chase, Cassie Wilcoxson, DeMauria Tropet, Dawn Johnson, Andrew Duval, Billy Bentz, Grace Turse, Elias Reyes, Julian Bauman and Shneider Vil. "The students practiced all the varied skills of a film crew," says Kryszak. "They led phone interviews and live interviews; performed a historical reenactment of 18th-century Atusville (a settlement started by formerly enslaved people after the American Revolution); practiced lighting, composition and editing; and even contributed an improvised musical score in two scenes." Kryszak describes the film as "a look at exposed secrets versus the quest for privacy in a hyperconnected world" that explores a wide range of Maine experiences. Interview subjects include Passamaquoddy song archivist Dwayne Tomah, animal rights activist Sandra Birnhak, American Indian Movement activist Maynard Stanley, and the distant relatives of Sir William Phips, a Massachusetts governor who is credited by some historians with ending the Salem Witch Trials. Past student productions have aired on Maine Public/PBS and include "Whatever Works: Exploring Opiate Addiction," which received a 2018 Docs Without Borders award. The Downeast Documentary course is offered as a professional skills elective to creative arts majors and as an optional elective for all UMM students. More information about The Hague Global Cinema Festival is online.

'The Maine Question' asks about best practices for educators during pandemic

17 Sep 2020

"What best practices can educators use during the pandemic?" Find out in the first episode of Season 3 of "The Maine Question" podcast. When the coronavirus was causing a major shift last spring in how schools across the country educated children, Catherine Biddle, Maria Frankland and students from the College of Education and Human Development decided to do some research. They explored how schools were managing during the evolving situation, including how they were communicating decisions to families. One of the researchers' goals was to identify best practices for educators to use during the pandemic, or any other large disruption. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

BDN, Pen Bay Pilot highlight funding for UMaine Foundation, Hudson Museum to promote traditional handcrafts

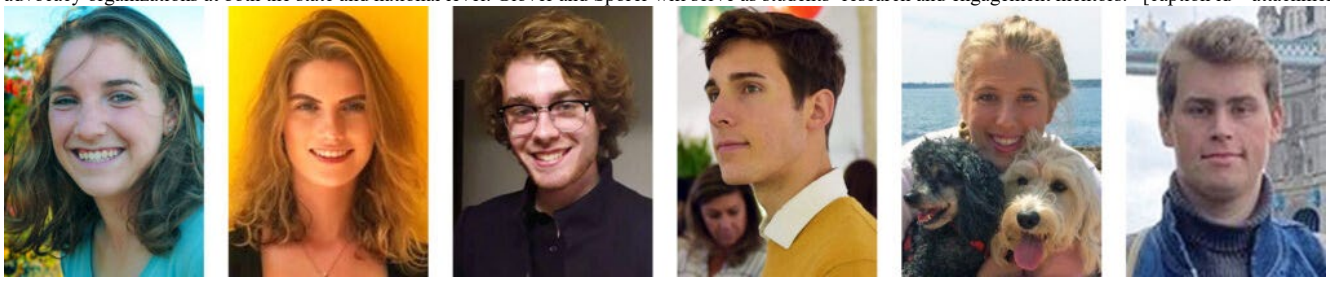
17 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Penobscot Bay Pilot highlighted funding the University of Maine Foundation and Hudson Museum were awarded through the Belvedere Traditional Handcrafts Fund. The funds, which total $112,807 for 13 projects from several organizations, will help finance projects that promote traditional handcrafts throughout Maine, including fiber arts, ceramics, basketry, jewelry, glass arts, woodwork, leather and traditional Native American handcrafts. The University of Maine Foundation and Hudson Museum were awarded $10,000 to create online educational content featuring Wabanaki traditional art forms specifically to promote learning for Maine students and teachers grades K–12.

UMaine undergraduates chosen as Drug Policy Research Fellows

17 Sep 2020

Seven University of Maine students will learn how research can inform the process of drug policy reform this academic year as part of a new, innovative undergraduate research fellowship. Robert Glover, an associate professor of political science and honors, and Karyn Sporer, an assistant professor of sociology, developed the program while researching attitudes toward drug policy reform in Maine, with an emphasis on decriminalization and harm reduction strategies and a geographic focus on rural areas such as Down East Maine and Aroostook County. The project, funded by a grant from Open Society Foundations, is being conducted as people die from accidental overdose at alarming rates in Maine during the ongoing opioid crisis. Students participating in the fellowship during the 2020–21 academic year will choose their own issue area and learn how to translate existing research into clear and actionable policy communications and information to enrich public understanding. These Drug Policy Research Fellows will engage with state and local lawmakers, officials in state agencies, impacted community members, and policy research and advocacy organizations at both the state and national level. Glover and Sporer will serve as students' research and engagement mentors. [caption id="attachment_79254" align="alignright" width="1024"]



Left to right: Evie Clement, Elizabeth Davis, Elijah Munro-Ludders, William Somes, Sara Todd and Aran Wollard. Not pictured: Sabrina Paetow.[/caption] Elijah Munro-Ludders, a senior studying political science and philosophy, will serve as a research assistant for the project. Glover recruited Munro-Ludders last year for a similar project pertaining to labor policy. Other undergraduate students working with Glover and Sporer through the new fellowship include Evie Clement, a communication major, Elizabeth Davis, a political science major, Sabrina Paetow, who is majoring in anthropology and sociology, William Somes, a political science major, Sara Todd, a nursing major, and Aran Wollard, a Sociology major. "Raised in rural Washington county, I have witnessed firsthand how drugs affect the lives of so many Mainers," Somes says. "I hope to share my experience with decision-makers and help put an end to Maine's opioid epidemic." UMaine's Drug Policy Research Fellows were chosen out of a large and extremely talented pool of applicants and all offered compelling reasons for why they wanted to be involved. "I am excited to bring a medical perspective to this project," Todd says. "My passion surrounds helping those impacted by the opioid epidemic, focusing on cases concerning pregnant mothers and fetal development." Glover has received numerous awards for his efforts to fuse community engagement and community-based research with undergraduate teaching, including the 2018 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching and the 2014 Donald Harward Award for Service Learning Excellence from Maine Campus Compact. Sporer is a UMaine Faculty Fellow and was recently part of a $36 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security, where she is principal investigator for counter-terrorism and terrorism prevention research. Contact: Robert Glover, 207.581.1880, robert.glover@maine.edu

Washington Examiner interviews Fried about ranked-choice voting, mail-in voting

17 Sep 2020

Amy Fried, professor and chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Maine, spoke with the Washington Examiner about ranked-choice voting in Maine and mail-in voting. "There were fewer spoiled and blank ballots in the 2018 ME-2 race than in previous years before ranked-choice voting was used," she said. "The ballot instructions clearly state that voters can rank as many candidates as they wish. In 2018, in the ME-2 race, the most common ranking was a single vote for Republican Bruce Poliquin."

Ruben speaks with WNPR about how masks effect perception, interaction

17 Sep 2020

Mollie Ruben, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Maine, was a guest on WNPR's "The Colin McEnroe Show" to discuss how masks have changed individual perception and interaction with others, as well as what they might look like in the future.

Sun Journal reports on Comin's talk about what Earth would be like with no moon

17 Sep 2020

The Sun Journal reported on a talk from Neil Comins, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Maine, about what Earth would be like if the moon did not exist. Comins, who spoke during an online version of the Great Falls Forum, said life would be more primitive and different and Earth would not experience seasons, among other alterations. The moon provided "a more tranquil world," Comins said. "We humans have the potential to make the world a better place by taking care of it and preventing bad things from happening," he said. Centralmaine.com shared the Sun Journal story.

Media advance Kelley's photo archiving project

17 Sep 2020

Seacoastonline.com, the Saco Bay News and the Machias Valley News Observer shared a University of Maine media release about Joseph Kelley archiving nearly four decades of photos he captured depicting the history and change in Maine landscapes. The professor emeritus of marine geology partnered with the Maine Geological Survey to archive 8,000 of his landscape images, most of which depict the coast, in an online database on the state agency's website. Users will have access to photos capturing vistas at particular moments in history and time series collections featuring the shifting geology of certain places over time. "On the coast, every photo is a 'before,'" Kelley says.

Developmental Biology students choose their adventure

18 Sep 2020

Like playing a "Choose Your Own Adventure" game, students in BIO 336 — Developmental Biology this fall have options for completing the course, providing both flexibility and social distancing to adapt to COVID-19. Jared Talbot, assistant professor of developmental biology, will still require every student to read their textbooks, write thought-prompts, take quizzes and conduct experiments. This year, they also will have more choice in how they meet the course objectives, and not just by deciding whether to attend lab and lecture in-person or online. The three multipart labs in Developmental Biology will feature a variety of experiments, and student groups can choose which ones to complete. Talbot says he crafted his experiments in part by using protocols developed by UMaine professor emeritus Mary Tyler and University of South Carolina professor April DeLaurier. By allowing groups to select which experiments to pursue, Talbot says the lab portion of the course can accommodate for students' varying schedules. For example, every student must complete the initial experiment in the first lab, which involves injecting sea urchins with potassium chloride and placing the eggs and sperm they produce in petri dishes to monitor fertilization and cell division. Each group will then choose two out of the six follow-up experiments to pursue. One group will

investigate rates of egg fertilization based on sperm distance, another will initiate cell division in unfertilized eggs, and the third will investigate the disruption of gastrulation by adding lithium chloride to the seawater. "At the end, they're all going to hear each other's stories about what they learned from the experiments so they can augment one another's experience," Talbot says. Multiple students from each group will work on the experiment in-person while others participate remotely through Zoom. Talbot says each group will produce a collective report, which describes the findings, discusses what they learned, and outlines the contributions by each team member. The lecture portion of Developmental Biology also will feature a choice component. In lieu of mid-term and final exams, Talbot will task students with crafting and presenting three narratives about different development processes. Each student will choose a process not covered in course curricula, but still relates to its key themes, to research, create a narrative about and teach to the class. Students will be able to deliver their presentations remotely or in-person. "If these oral presentations go well, I would like to keep these presentations as part of the course even after the COVID-19 pandemic, because I think the students will enjoy them," Talbot says. The assistant professor plans to host live lectures in-person and through Zoom, while also recording them so students can view them through Brightspace on their own time. Offering multiple options for lecture participation accommodates for each students' schedule and ability to access campus based on where they live and their health. "I want to help them to stay safe while we work together in this pandemic," he says. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Extension greenhouse plastic recycling collection starts Sept. 25

18 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension begins collection of greenhouse plastic for recycling Sept. 25 with 16 drop-off sites across the state. Disposal is free of charge through Dec. 15 to all Maine growers who register. The target material for recycling is clear, low-density, polyethylene (LDPE#4) plastic typically used to cover greenhouses, high tunnels, hoop houses and other agricultural structures. Collection sites can also accept white over-wintering LDPE#4 film used by the nursery industry. Materials not being accepted include black plastic field mulch, irrigation tape, silage bales and other types of agricultural plastic, and non-agricultural LDPE#4 films such as boat wrap and construction plastic. Registration is required. Register and find complete instructions on the greenhouse plastic recycling project webpage. Growers without internet access can register by calling 207.342.5971. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact David McDaniel, 207.323.4315; agplasticrecycling@maine.edu. The pilot project was developed by UMaine Extension and funded by a Maine Department of Environmental Protection Waste Diversion grant. Affiliated partners donating additional time and resources include the Maine Organic Gardeners Association, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Maine, and the Maine Resource Recovery Association.

Two Maine 4-H teens featured in a National Academies video about the COVID-19 pandemic and racism

18 Sep 2020

Two 4-H Teen Teachers from University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H in Cumberland County — 16-year-old Anna Deng and 14-year-old Naimo Mohamed — are featured in a video produced by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The teens were selected because they demonstrated leadership this summer through participation in the 4-H Community Central project in Maine, funded by the USDA Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Grant Program. The video, which focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic and racism, features 15 teens and adults from throughout the country. It debuted Sept. 14 at a virtual forum "Re-imagining a System of Care to Promote the Well-Being of Children and Families."

Climate Change, AI, medicine and more featured at Maine Impact Week

18 Sep 2020

The annual Maine Impact Week celebration includes a number of activities of interest from Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. All events will be virtual and are free and open to the public with registration required. Events include:

- Climate Change Forum
- UMaine AI Webinar
- UMaine Institute of Medicine Presentation
- Q&A with the VEMI Lab
- Research Impact Challenge

The UMaine Student Symposium is the culminating event of Maine Impact Week and will be held virtually on Oct. 2. Over 120 student presentations are available to view online. A variety of live programming will be available on the day of the event – including workshops, presentations and a live broadcast performance by Travis Mills. Registration is required. The event is free and open to the public. More details can be found online.

WABI, WVII highlight 4-H Club Foundation award for Greenland Point Learning Center rehabilitation

18 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) highlighted that the Pine Tree State 4-H Club Foundation was awarded $50,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for rehabilitating all facilities at the Greenland Point Learning Center, Princeton. Repairs will include roofing, flooring, interior wall repair and painting and staining exterior facilities. The foundation and three other recipients were each awarded $50,000 for facility improvements through a combined $200,000 allocation from USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities Programs. The foundation was established in 1961 as a charitable organization dedicated to supporting UMaine Extension initiatives, including the Princeton center.

Morning Ag Clips notes Maine AgrAbility participation in Virtual State Fair

18 Sep 2020

Morning Ag Clips noted Maine AgriAbility's participation in the upcoming inaugural AgrAbility Virtual State Fair in October. AgrAbility projects from 19 states, including Maine, will take part in the online event to provide resources and information to farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers who labor in production agriculture with a disability, functional limitation or health condition.

Dill shares tips for protecting gardens from snails and slugs with Realtor.com

18 Sep 2020

Jim Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist, shared tips about how to protect gardens from snails and slugs for a Realtor.com article. Advice from Dill includes releasing toads, which are natural predators, and using copper fencing, which can be toxic to snails and slugs, among other guidance. "You can use two strips of bare copper wire about a half-inch apart attached to a board around the area you are trying to protect," Dill says. "Or fence the area with a copper screen."

Pen Bay Pilot highlights Belknap's promotion at Island Institute

18 Sep 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot noted that the Island Institute promoted Sam Belknap, a Ph.D student of anthropology and environmental policy, to strategic lead of Marine Economy programs and Climate & Energy Pilots. The new role includes serving as project lead for Maine's Marine Economy Roadmap/Workforce Development Project (SEAMaine). Belkap joined the Island Institute in 2018, working with the energy, broadband and sea level rise teams. He previously provided management and oversight for the institute's sea level resilience and aquaculture work.

News Center Maine interviews Dill about drop in tick samples this year

18 Sep 2020

Griffin Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick lab coordinator, spoke with News Center Maine about the decline in tick samples this summer compared to the same time in 2019. "The number of nymphs that were submitted to our lab was less than half of what it was last year, we are really trending down," he said. According to the article, tick populations are far less active and go into a hibernation-like state as a result of the dry spell. Experts say drought conditions have helped decrease the deer tick population.

Media promote Hutchinson Center's critical thinking workshop

18 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Penobscot Bay Pilot and VillageSoup advanced an online critical thinking workshop, Increasing Effectiveness with Critical Thinking, offered Oct. 23 and Oct. 30 through the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast in partnership with the Maine Business School. This workshop will improve participants' ability to discriminate between facts and arbitrary statements, present clear perspectives, make clear decisions, generate creative solutions and collaborate to find solutions. The two-day online course, part of the Hutchinson Center's professional development program, will be held 9 a.m.–1 p.m. via Zoom. The cost is $150 per person and need-based scholarships are available. More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website.

Mette co-authors op-ed for AJC.com education blog

18 Sep 2020

Ian Mette, associate professor of educational leadership, co-wrote an opinion piece for the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Get Schooled education blog titled "A generation endured test-centric schooling? Did it help?" The piece was co-authored with Carl Glickman, professor emeritus of education at the University of Georgia. Mette and Glickman wrote that school reform efforts aimed at gathering more data through testing were supposed to "identify discrepancies across groups, specifically among racial and socioeconomic demographics." However, two decades later, they questioned whether society and schools are really better off. "Sadly, the ability to debate openly and honestly about issues of social justice, human rights, the value of peer-reviewed science, and the philosophical differences we have based on our own racial and cultural backgrounds is clearly under attack in our politics and our society at large," Mette and Glickman wrote. They argued that schools have an important role to play in building a stronger democracy. "Decentralizing schools and empowering them to move away from testing regiments would allow schools to reengage with the needs of their communities, which come at a critical time based on the social era we are experiencing," they wrote.

Student Accessibility Services raises awareness about concussions

18 Sep 2020

Student Accessibility Services has created a concussion awareness website and podcast to acknowledge and support Concussion Awareness Day, Sept. 18.

New guide assists community reuse organizations on reopening during COVID-19

21 Sep 2020

A new guide from the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine can help community reuse organizations make decisions about how — and whether — to open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Brie Berry, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at UMaine and member of the Mitchell Center's materials management research team, studies the value and meaning of reuse in rural communities. She created the Reopening Reuse guide to help decision-makers weigh the benefits and risks of reopening in ways that make sense for their staff, patrons and donors. "Amid the pandemic many organizations don't know how to continue their work without putting their volunteers and patrons at risk," Berry says. "I decided to develop this guide to make it easier for people to assess risk and think creatively about how to reopen during this time. I'd hate to see these reuse organizations shut down, and that is a real risk right now." Community reuse organizations across the state include thrift stores, furniture banks, yard sales, secondhand shops, antique stores and swap shops. They provide many benefits, including offering useful goods at low cost, keeping items out of landfills, and providing an opportunity to give back to the community, and a place to connect with neighbors and friends. Many reuse organizations also use their profits to fund social services like food pantries, support for local schools and health facilities. These organizations are often staffed by older volunteers, who are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and may be working in small spaces where social distancing could be difficult. The guide compiles state and federal guidance on COVID-19 safety practices and presents case studies focused on how other organizations are adapting. The guide also describes a range of reopening scenarios to help stakeholders envision creative and flexible ways to continue making used goods available to their communities. "As we discuss when and how to resume service, it has been invaluable to have these important considerations and best practice ideas gathered in one document," says Debe Averill of the Orono Thrift Shop. The guide is available from the Mitchell Center's website. Contact: Brie Berry, brieanne.berry@maine.edu, 207.200.4996

Order Christmas trees online through Oct. 8

21 Sep 2020

The University of Maine's Xi Sigma Pi forestry honor society is accepting orders for balsam and Fraser fir trees online through Oct. 8 to protect customers and student volunteers during the pandemic, and to ensure access to Christmas trees during a predicted shortage. Tree prices, by suggested donation, range from $20 to $50 for 4- to 8-foot trees. Online orders can be picked up on campus on Tuesday, Nov. 24 and Wednesday, Nov. 25; payment will be accepted at pick-up. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Xi Sigma Pi scholarship fund. For more information, contact xisigumaine@gmail.com.

Free online Extension workshop on photographing beef cattle for market sale Sept. 30

21 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Beef Producers Association will offer a free online workshop about photographing beef cattle for virtual markets at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 30. Designed for youth and adults with experience using digital cameras or smartphones, topics include location selection, determining the best light, and positioning the animal. Presenter Kelly Hamilton is a photographer for 4-H livestock sales at the Bangor State Fair. Registration for the free workshop is required; a link is available online. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.564.3301 or anette.moulton@maine.edu.

Press Herald reports no active COVID-19 cases at UMaine

21 Sep 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported that as of Sunday, there was one active COVID-19 case in the University of Maine System, a student enrolled at the University of Southern Maine.

Media spotlight greenhouse plastic recycling initiative

21 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5), the Sun Journal, The Piscataquis Observer and Centralmaine.com highlighted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension effort to recycle low-density polyethylene plastic (LDPE #4) typically used in greenhouses, hoop houses and other agricultural structures. More information about the program, which is funded by a Maine Department of Environmental Protection waste diversion grant, is online.

Media advance photography for marketing beef cattle webinar Sept. 30

21 Sep 2020

Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips and the Daily Bulldog announced a University of Maine Cooperative extension webinar at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 30 focused on photographing beef cattle for virtual sales. More information about the event, which is co-sponsored by Maine Beef Producers Association, is available online.

WAGM interviews Mann about HOPE program

21 Sep 2020

As part of their Aroostook Community Matters series, WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) interviewed Terri Mann, coordinator of the University of Maine Higher Opportunities to Pathways to Employment (HOPE) program, about the types of support HOPE provides.

Phys.org highlights Leslie collaboration study

21 Sep 2020

Phys.org reported on a study co-authored by Heather Leslie, director of the University of Maine Darling Marine Center, that highlights the importance of formal and informal collaborations in sustainable fisheries management. The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal Marine Policy.

Calderwood talks with AP about challenges to Maine blueberry industry

21 Sep 2020

The Associated Press interviewed Lily Calderwood, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension wild blueberry specialist, about the impacts of drought, disease and the pandemic on Maine's blueberry industry in 2020. "It was uniquely challenging, but we have had late frosts in the past and we have had drought in the past," said Calderwood. "The growers are a very resilient group of farmers who grow a very diverse crop." Morning Ag Clips, the Bangor Daily News, CentralMaine.com, the Lewiston Sun Journal, WGME (Channel 13 in Portland), the Antelope Valley Press, Petoskey News and Seacoastonline all shared the AP story.

Morning Ag Clips promotes food insecurity discussion with Schattman, Yerxa

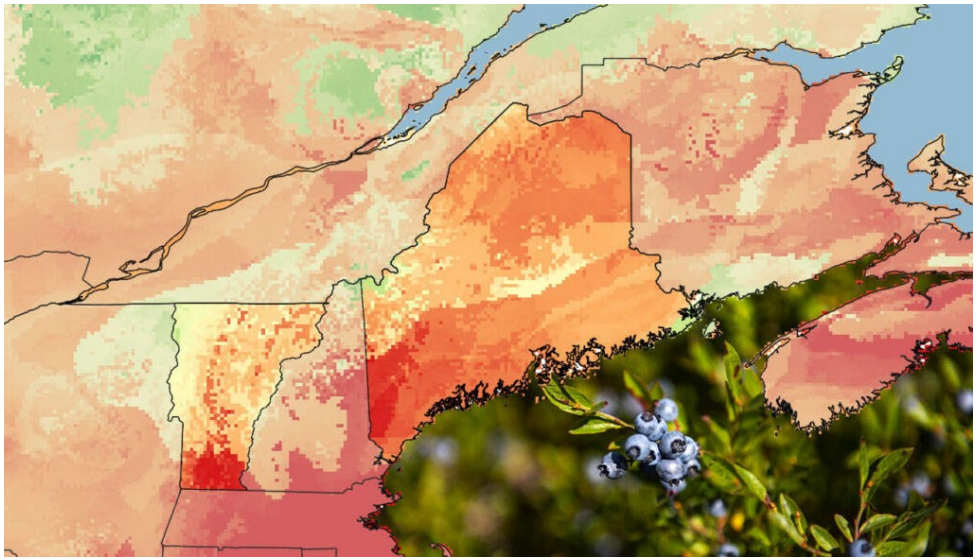
21 Sep 2020

Morning Ag Clips picked up a University of Maine news release announcing a Sept. 21 interactive webinar, "Safety nets and bootstraps: Mainers and food insecurity in the time of COVID-19," with UMaine Cooperative Extension Professor Kate Yerxa and School of Food and Agriculture Assistant Professor Rachel Schattman. The online event, which is set for 3–4 p.m. Sept. 21, is presented by The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. More information and a registration link are available online.

New data science project to model range shifts of hundreds of plant and animal species in New England

21 Sep 2020

In response to a changing climate, populations of plants and animals move to more hospitable locations. Predicting where species will end up, and how New England farmers and rural communities need to plan and adapt accordingly is the focus of a new interdisciplinary research initiative led by the University of Maine. The National Science Foundation awarded $4 million over four years to the EPSCoR Research Infrastructure project to develop novel approaches and software for modeling, visualizing and forecasting spatial and temporal data. The team — researchers from UMaine, University of Vermont, University of Maine at Augusta and Champlain College — will build some of the first mechanistic models of shifts in species ranges in response to climate change. By harnessing diverse current and historical data with space and time dimensions, scientists will be able to better predict and help rural communities respond to the impact of climate change on biodiversity. [caption id="attachment_79346" align="aligncenter" width="750"]



Projected changes in suitability for wild lowbush blueberry growth *(Vaccinium angustifolium)* by 2070 under a "business as usual" climate change scenario (RCP 8.5). Darker reds are larger declines in suitability for growth. Darker greens are larger increases (darkest greens are off the map to the north). Yellows represent neutral or little change in suitability. This model shows that predicting how climate change will impact organisms growing outdoors requires the use of data science and also the degree to which rural economies based on agricultural resources will need projections of change to plan for and adapt to climate change, the core research areas funded in this grant.[/caption] The goal is to better understand how plant and animal species — from forest plants and wildlife to diseases and their carriers, and agricultural crops — will respond to a changing climate in the next century. Data science and modeling will help inform farmers' adaptation strategies, according to the research team. The four-year initiative has multifaceted economic implications for Maine and Vermont, which are both EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) states. It will help create a trained workforce and strengthen research in the high-growth field of data science, provide insights to help conserve natural resources critical to livelihoods and cultural identity, and help farmers and other community stakeholders better prepare and manage their crops. "Climate change is no longer an abstraction for farmers, foresters and others making their living off the land in Maine and Vermont. People are living the change. Scientists urgently need to move from warning about climate change to predicting the detailed nature of the changes we can expect and communicating this effectively to the people who need the information," according to principal investigator Brian McGill, UMaine professor of biological sciences, who has a joint appointment in the Sen. George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. Co-principal investigators on the project are Nicholas Gotelli, the George H. Perkins Professor of Zoology, and Meredith Niles, assistant professor of food systems, both at the University of Vermont; Timothy Waring, UMaine associate professor of social-ecological systems modeling, who also is affiliated with the Mitchell Center; and Matthew Dube, assistant professor in computer information systems at the University of Maine at Augusta. Other members of the research team are Laurent Hébert-Dufresne, UVM assistant professor of computer science; Laura Corlew, UMA associate professor of psychology; and Narine Hall, assistant professor and program director in data science at Champlain College. Using historical data, Gotelli and McGill will lead development of a new model of how hundreds of species across geographic ranges in the United States will respond to climate change over time. The model seeks to better predict the transient dynamics of species' range shifts, including the effects of human modification of landscapes, for each decade (2030–2120). Hébert-Dufresne will extend these models to explore the effects of climate change on diseases. This will be the first Eastern U.S. analysis of species of animals, plants, crops and zoonotic diseases, such as Lyme, West Nile and Equine Encephalitis. "This research brings together experts in biodiversity, disease dynamics, cultural evolution, agriculture and computer science. With this diversity of perspectives, we are excited to begin working together," says Gotelli, who, like McGill, has collaborated extensively in the last 15 years on research related to community ecology and biodiversity response to global change. Waring will lead development of cultural evolution models of rural community adaptation to climate change. He and his team will explore what social and economic conditions determine how a natural resources-based community adapts to climate-induced change over time, and whether cultural adaptation models coupled with data on species changes can better inform farming practices in the future. Niles will develop a large-scale spatiotemporal dataset that will focus on and inform farmer adaptation behaviors. The data will include projected range shifts in crops, models of key crop weeds and pathogens, and socioeconomic and demographic information on the rural resource users. Together, the work of Waring and Niles will be the first to leverage significant ecological and social datasets to study climate adaptation in a spatiotemporal context. Dube, McGill and Hall aim to increase research capacity, by creating new software tools to make it easy for scientists to work with and analyze the high volumes of spatiotemporal data being generated. The project also seeks to go beyond producing new research and tools for scientists by developing the communication systems and workforce development needed to effectively create, implement and advance them in the next 100 years. Led by Corlew, the researchers will work closely with New England farmers to understand what data they need to plan and manage climate change-related shifts in crops that are potentially most viable on their land. The resulting complex data related to climate adaptation ultimately must be communicated effectively to stakeholders and the community. Led by Hall, outreach will include the creation of "tools that make it easy for nonprogrammer scientists to work with and merge diverse formats of spatiotemporal data," note the researchers in their proposal. The project has significant implications for workforce development in data science, an expanding job market in New England. In addition to building research capacity and expertise at the four higher education institutions, the project will provide curriculum and training in data science at the high school, undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels. "This project will help to train the future data science workforce in Maine and Vermont, and will build capacity to utilize spatiotemporal data within the existing workforce," according to the research team. "Our workforce development plans extend from high school students to senior faculty members. In addition, our outreach to the agricultural sector will help farmers make more informed decisions that impact their livelihoods, the character of rural communities and the quality of food that is available in Northern New England." Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Rural youth share aspirations in large-scale surveys in Maine, Oregon

22 Sep 2020

For middle and high school students in some forest-dependent rural communities in Maine and Oregon, a lack of money for education is the top barrier to pursuing the career they want, according to a survey of more than 2,000 youth by researchers at the University of Maine and Oregon State University. The teens surveyed in Piscataquis and northern Somerset counties in Maine, and in Coos County in Oregon were in agreement that training in hands-on skills, advice on education or college, and advice on jobs and applications would be most valuable in helping them realize their aspirations. The Rural Youth Futures project survey results, published in a series of fact sheets and available on Digital Commons, provide schools and communities in the two counties with insights into what the next generation of residents and workers value and need as their rural hometowns face economic, demographic and workforce changes, according to professors Mindy Crandall and Jessica Leahy. "Middle and high school students in both Maine and Oregon were able to clearly communicate what they would like to see as a future for their hometowns, and what they'd like to see for themselves — whether more school, a career, or where they live as adults," says Leahy, UMaine professor of human dimensions of natural resources. In 2017, Crandall and Leahy, faculty members in the UMaine School of Forest Resources, launched the three-year study, "Youth aspirations and labor market transitions in rural communities," funded by a more than $458,000 USDA award. The project looked at economic restructuring, community characteristics and young people's perceptions of local labor markets in traditionally forest-dependent rural communities in Maine and Oregon. The project explored rural youths' perceptions and aspirations, with a goal of better understanding youth decisions about their human capital investments, and the potential impact their choices may have on rural community persistence in the future. The survey included questions designed to learn how teens felt about their local community, their school, and their economy. "These facts sheets — either for the full study area or survey findings for specific schools — can be used by the schools, community leaders, nonprofits and others working on economic development to provide rural youth with opportunities to achieve their aspirations," according to Crandall, now an assistant professor in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. In 2019, more than

1,300 students in seven Coos County schools and 578 youths in five Piscataquis and Somerset county schools were surveyed. The Maine schools were Forest Hills Consolidated School, Greenville Consolidated School, Penquis Valley High School, Piscataquis Community High School and SeDoMoCha Middle School. Schools in rural communities are critical, say Leahy and Crandall. They bring families together, support civic interaction, and foster workforce development. Schools also influence youth aspirations for future education. Students were asked about their school experiences and goals, what they felt were barriers to those goals. They also were asked about their communities, including the most important problems. For Maine students, the top three important problems facing their communities were: people not having enough money, not enough things to do in town and not enough jobs. The Oregon youth cited: drug and alcohol abuse, not enough things to do in town and people not having enough money. When asked where they want to live and expect to live when they are 30 years old, the largest percentage of Maine students — 31% and 35%, respectively — said it would be in the same town, or nearby. The largest percentage of Oregon teens — 24% — said they want to live in a city in another state, but 28% expect to be living in an Oregon city and 27% expect to be in their same hometown, or nearby. An important feature of this project was the community involvement, Crandall says. The survey included both questions from published literature, as well as local community member input through our site-specific steering committees, and involved Cooperative Extension experts and local nonprofit groups in both states. The resulting fact sheets provide important perspectives and insights for communities, schools and organizations dedicated to helping meet the needs of youth as they make choices about their future. Those decisions can be difficult for young people living in natural resource-dependent communities, where economic uncertainty and diminished local work prospects have resulted in declining populations and outmigration, according to the researchers. “We hope that this project will lead to better connections between youth, their community, and the local labor markets,” Crandall says. “Ultimately, we just want more options for kids so that they have the tools to choose what’s best for them — whether it’s college or work. That’s why getting the results back to the local communities was a high priority for us.” Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

UMaine Medicine kicks off fall seminar series Sept. 25

22 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Institute of Medicine has announced its fall seminar series, with Zoom events scheduled 3–4 p.m. Fridays from Sept. 25 through Nov. 13. All events are free, but registration is required. The series kicks off Sept. 25 with “Zebrafish Muscle Development Provides Insight into Human Disease,” presented by Jared Talbot, an assistant professor in the University of Maine School of Biology and Ecology. Registration remains open for this event. To register or learn more about the fall seminar series, visit the UMaine Institute of Medicine website. The series includes: Oct. 2: Advanced Optical Imaging in Neuroscience Oct. 9: Cellular and Molecular Determinants of a Fatal Viral Infection Oct. 16: Ecological and Social Drivers of the Spread of Vector-borne Diseases Oct. 23: The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research from the Engineering Perspective Oct. 30: Water Pollution, Rising Temperatures and a mysterious kidney disease Nov. 6: A Crash Course in the Gut Microbiome Nov. 13: A Novel Role of Wild Blueberry Phenolic Extracts to Promote Endothelial Cell Migration and Angiogenesis Associated with Wound Healing and Tissue Regeneration For more information, or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Cecile Ferguson, cecile.ferguson@maine.edu, 207.581.3026.

Critical Thinking workshop offered online in October

22 Sep 2020

Registration is open for an online critical thinking workshop, Increasing Effectiveness with Critical Thinking, offered via Zoom 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Oct. 23 and Oct. 30 through the University of Maine Hutchinson Center. This two-day workshop, which is presented in partnership with the Maine Business School, will improve participants’ ability to discriminate between facts and arbitrary statements, present clear perspectives, make clear decisions, generate creative solutions and collaborate to find solutions. The workshop will benefit professionals in social and human services, business leaders and workers, government officials, students, and those seeking enhanced efficacy in their communications. Terry Porter, a UMaine associate professor emerita, will facilitate the workshop. She holds a master’s degree in clinical psychology and is a certified mental health counselor with more than 30 years of experience as a teacher and facilitator. The cost to attend is $150 per person; a limited number of need-based scholarships are available to Knox and Waldo County residents. Participants will earn a UMaine certificate of completion and are eligible to apply for 0.75 CEUs/7.5 contact hours. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; 207.338.8002.

UMaine Health Connection announces chat topics for September, October

22 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Center on Aging and UMaine Medicine are promoting an online chat series to help Maine citizens 60 and older and particularly high-risk populations stay healthy, active and safe during the pandemic. Sessions from UMaine Health Connection Chats run from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays. The series includes: Sept. 23: The Importance of Staying Active and Exercising During COVID-19 Sept. 30: Growing with Maine’s Lifelong Communities Oct. 7: The Healthful Benefits of Yoga During the COVID-19 Pandemic Oct. 14: AARP’s Perspective on COVID-19 and Staying Safe and Well Oct. 21: Planning for Retirement in the Age of COVID-19 Oct. 28: The Importance of Volunteering and Remaining Civically Engaged These sessions offer practical information and tips online via Zoom and by telephone; presenters will answer participant questions. All events are free, but registration is required. More information, including a list of presenters, is available online. Contact Kelley Morris, 207.262.7925, kelley.morris@maine.edu, to register, submit questions, obtain a Zoom link or request a reasonable accommodation. Suggestions for future topics can be submitted to Len Kaye, 207.262.7922, len.kaye@maine.edu.

Backyard orchard webinar advanced by Centralmaine.com

22 Sep 2020

Centralmaine.com promoted an Oct. 7 webinar, Planning your Backyard Orchard, offered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension as part of their fall gardening series. The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) is partnering with UMaine Extension for this event. More information is online.

UMaine Extension cited in Press Herald op-ed

22 Sep 2020

A guest column by Allison Hepler in the Portland Press Herald recognized the University of Maine Cooperative Extension for connecting Maine’s agricultural producers directly with consumers during the pandemic, when restaurant and food service orders have significantly decreased.

Media advance Calderwood, Koehler, Birkel future of farming talk

22 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Downeastmaine.com promoted a free online presentation sponsored by the University of Maine George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions and facilitated by Lily Calderwood, UMaine Cooperative Extension wild blueberry specialist and assistant professor of horticulture, 3-4 p.m. Oct. 5. “The Future of Farming: Building Tools for Tech Savvy Farmers,” will feature discussion with Glen Koehler, associate scientist in integrated pest management and Sean Birkel, research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute focusing on a partnership between UMaine Extension members, the state climatologist and Maine farmers who are collaborating to develop whole system approaches to wild blueberry production in Maine. More information is available online. Newstral shared the BDN story.

Koller interviewed by WMTW

22 Sep 2020

WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) interviewed Greg Koller, supervisor at the University of Maine's Highmoor Farm, about the impact of the drought on wells and crops at the farm.

LaBouff article appears in The Conversation

22 Sep 2020

University of Maine Associate Professor of Psychology Jordan LaBouff's article, "Voting While God is Watching –Does Having Churches as Polling Stations Sway the Ballot?" appeared in The Conversation. AlterNet shared the article.

Vox quotes Brewer in story about Maine's senate race

22 Sep 2020

University of Maine Professor of Political Science Mark Brewer was quoted in a Vox analysis of the U.S. Senate race between Susan Collins and Sara Gideon. "There's a reason she's (Collins is) the only northeastern Republican left," said Brewer. "She doesn't really fit into the Trump GOP. She was increasingly an ill fit for the Republican Party before Trump."

Glover discusses UMaine UVote initiative with WABI

22 Sep 2020

In recognition of National Voter Registration Day, WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Associate Professor of Political Science Rob Glover about the non-partisan, student-led, UMaine UVote movement at the University of Maine. "As they process unprecedented numbers of voter registration and absentee ballot requests, we're trying to supplement their efforts a little bit and also give students an experience in which they get to participate in an election and help administer an election," said Glover.

Media highlight UMaine arts collaboration documenting life during the pandemic

22 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5), Centralmaine.com and VillageSoup picked up a University of Maine news release highlighting The Jack Pine Project, a new initiative intended to document the impact of COVID-19 through creative arts, and to reflect the common experiences of Maine residents during the pandemic. The project, which includes a number of free instructional workshops, is sponsored by the Maine Folklife Center, Maine Studies and the Hutchinson Center. More information about the project is online.

Ferrini-Mundy commemorates UMaine anniversary in WABI interview

22 Sep 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy was interviewed by WABI (Channel 5) in a story about the evolution of UMaine from the State College of Agriculture in 1897 to the University of Maine 152 years later. "It's a little bit humbling to be reminded of this anniversary and to look back over those decades and to just know that so many people have been so much a part of working to be of service to the state of Maine and to make a difference nationally," said Ferrini-Mundy.

UMaine Extension 4-H offers virtual science cafés starting Oct. 1

23 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H will offer virtual science cafés for teens in grades 7–12 every Thursday, from 3:30–4:15 p.m., beginning Oct. 1. Online sessions will include University of Maine scientists discussing their research, how they became involved in their work and what brought them to Maine. Participants will learn about science in action in an informal discussion format. The series begins with Sonia Naderi, UMaine electrical engineering Ph.D. candidate, whose research focuses on utilizing artificial intelligence in wireless networks to enable widespread environmental monitoring. Registration is required for each session; links are available on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jessy Brainerd, 207.581.3877; jessica.brainerd@maine.edu. More information on additional educational resources is on the UMaine Extension 4-H Learn at Home webpage.

WhoWhatWhy releases online student voting guide

23 Sep 2020

WhoWhatWhy, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization focused on investigative journalism, has developed a voter guide geared specifically to college students. The free online resource, Student Voter Guide 2020, identifies barriers to student voting and recent college voting trends to motivate civic engagement. The guide was developed following a WhoWhatWhy survey of 76 U.S. colleges and universities with results reported online in "Does your School Rate? The Top Voting Campuses in the U.S." The University of Maine ranked 31st according to the report. The mission of WhoWhatWhy is to foster forensic journalism by "seeking the truth, not quote seeking." The organization pairs experienced senior reporters with young journalists to facilitate the transfer of values, methods, and culture to advance adaptive journalism that facilitates contemporary news delivery.

WABI, News Center Maine report on voter registration initiatives at UMaine

23 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Jenny Desmond, coordinator for leadership development at the University of Maine's Center for Student Involvement, in a story about voter registration efforts at UMaine as part of National Voter Registration Day. "It's essential that students know that this is their civic duty and responsibility to contribute to the communities they are in," said Desmond. "The University of Maine is their community right now, and we are thrilled that we have their voices." News Center Maine also reported voter registration initiatives on campus on National Voter Registration Day.

WVII interviews Fernandez on 50th anniversary of Clean Air Act

23 Sep 2020

WVII (Channel 7) spoke with Ivan Fernandez, University of Maine professor of soil science and forest resources, in a story about the impact of the Clean Air Act.

BDN advances Mitchell Center climate presentation Sept. 28

23 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News promoted "The Road to Maine's New Climate Action Plan," a free webinar set for 3 p.m. Sept. 28. The presentation, which is sponsored by the University of Maine George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, will be offered by Cassaundra Rose, senior science analyst and climate council coordinator for the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation. More information is available online.

WABI, Observer report on Leahy's rural student study

23 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and The Piscatiquis Observer reported on a study conducted by Jessica Leahy, a University of Maine professor of human dimensions of natural resources, designed to provide information to rural communities that will facilitate student success. The Rural Youth Futures study surveyed students in Maine and Oregon seeking information about their aspirations and obstacles, and their perspectives on their schools and communities.

Ranco interview about WaYS program featured in NSF blog

23 Sep 2020

Darren Ranco, chair of Native American Programs and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Maine, was interviewed by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Includes Network for an online story about the Wabanaki Youth Science (WaYS) program at UMaine. The WaYS program facilitates Wabanaki student engagement in STEM fields, especially environmental science, through culture and heritage. The program, which began in 2012, has evolved into a collaboration between UMaine, the U.S. Forest Service, Wabanaki tribes and Native American high school students across the state.

Plant studies during the pandemic: UMaine instructor incorporates flexibility, support network to preserve outdoor learning

23 Sep 2020

Interacting with plant life outdoors plays a crucial role in BIO 464 — Taxonomy of Vascular Plants. University of Maine students enrolled in the course typically collect local flora on and around campus for lab research, but this semester, they can harvest vegetation and conduct experiments from anywhere as a result of accommodations in response to COVID-19. Jose "Dudu" Meireles, UMaine assistant professor of plant systematics, says clear instructions, prompt support from him and teacher's assistants, and instructor flexibility allow 60 students across three sections of BIO 464 to either conduct coursework remotely or in person. Lab work, in particular, now consists of independent projects that do not require microscopes and stereoscopes, although a magnifying glass might help. Meireles says labs will often require plant collection, but students can harvest them from their backyards, fields on campus, hiking trails, the Dwight B. Demeritt Forest, or any other area they choose. Using smartphones, students can capture pictures of the plants they gathered and submit a photographic portfolio, with information about each plant's morphology and scientific name, via Brightspace. Meireles says last week, for example, he tasked students with completing a fern scavenger hunt on campus. They worked in socially distanced teams to gather different ferns, identify them, describe their morphology and sketch distinguishing characteristics. Students not on campus collected plants from nearby habitats. All submitted annotate virtual collections. "Remote students can contact their TA or me with questions or additional instructions," Meireles says. "This support system is there at any point in their lab." To maintain classroom discussion, the UMaine assistant professor uses breakout rooms in Zoom for group activities, tasking students to team up and answer a particular question each lecture. They then reconvene for a classwide discussion about each groups' responses. "Students always have new ways of seeing things and I always learn something new from these discussions," Meireles says. The BIO 464 course also features a "Plants of the Day" activity this semester. Meireles says every lecture begins with two students introducing a plant they collected, showing it on camera, and describing various aspects of it. "The reason why I love this 'plants of the day' activity is that the students play a critical role in teaching each other about plants," Meireles says. "It is truly a community effort. Every student has a voice and helps to shape what we will learn as a group." Students enrolled in BIO 464 will learn the basic structure of plants, how to identify different plant groups, particularly among Maine flora; and how varying morphological, physiological and life history innovations have led to extensive biodiversity worldwide. "Teaching has actually been great," Meireles says. "Despite the many difficulties imposed by the pandemic, my students have been very interested and engaged in the lectures and labs." Contact: Marcus Wolf; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Study co-authored by UMaine glacial geologist finds seismic monitoring may improve early warnings for glacial lake outburst floods

23 Sep 2020

A team of scientists, including one from the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, found that monitoring ground vibrations may enhance early warning systems for sudden floods resulting from glacial melting. Aaron Putnam, an assistant professor in the UMaine School of Earth and Climate Sciences and CCI, participated in a study spearheaded by Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in which researchers used seismic analysis to learn more about a 1994 glacial lake outburst flood that ravaged the downstream Bhutanese village of Punakha in the Himalayas. Science Advances published a report of the researchers' findings. The group discovered that a seismometer array located about 100 kilometers, or about 60 miles, from the glacial lake where the outburst flood originated had recorded it five hours before flood waters reached the village. Using data from the array and other tools, the group created a numerical flood model of the incident, demonstrating how seismic data can improve modeling and help warn downstream inhabitants of a potential outburst. Researchers also used satellite imagery from before and after the flood to evaluate its effects on the area. "Melt from glaciers of the high Himalaya is a critical resource for downstream communities. Not only are these water resources being threatened by the loss of glacial ice in the Himalayas, but the development of lakes in place of glaciers in these steep mountain environments is increasing the threat of outburst floods, which can devastate downstream communities," Putnam says. "Early warning systems are critical." Read the full release on the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory's website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Join the virtual March Against Domestic Violence on Oct. 7

24 Sep 2020

The University of Maine's seventh annual (and first virtual) March Against Domestic Violence will be held at noon Wednesday, Oct. 7. All are invited to attend the event on the UMaine March Against Domestic Violence Facebook page. In the leadup to the march, UMaine community members and partners are posting videos and information about abuse, prevention and how to get help on the page. The Maine Business School (MBS) Corps sponsors the march. Partners include Title IX Student Services, Student Life, UMaine Athletics, UMaine Army ROTC, the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Partners for Peace, and other organizations. Scheduled speakers include Robert Dana, vice president for student life and inclusive excellence and dean of students; Anila Karunakar, director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion; John Volin, executive vice president for academic affairs and provost; Ken

Ralph, director of athletics; Jessica Browne, therapist at the Counseling Center; representatives of MBS Corps, Male Athletes Against Violence (MAAV), UMaine Army ROTC and Partners for Peace; as well as survivors of domestic violence. Joyce Benton, finance major and MBS Corps president, will emcee. Partners for Peace has a confidential 24-hour helpline, 1.800.863.9909, for anyone who is being abused, and anyone concerned about someone they know being abused. For more information, email Nory Jones at njones@maine.edu.

Development of State Climate Action Plan talk on Sept. 28

24 Sep 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk on the development of a State Climate Action Plan 3–4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28. The Maine Climate Council is crafting a four-year plan to address climate change that will be sent to the governor and legislature by Dec. 1, 2020. In the talk, "The Road to Maine's New Climate Action Plan," Cassaundra Rose, senior science analyst and Maine Climate Council coordinator with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, will talk about the process of putting the plan together and provide an overview of the strategies being considered. Rose has more than ten years of climate research, science communications and policy experience. She holds a master's degree in geology from the University of California and a Ph.D. in earth and environmental science from Columbia University. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, please see the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196; hallsworth@maine.edu.

BDN shares hay directory in article about drought in Aroostook County

24 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News shared the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Hay Directory in an article titled "Aroostook County declared a disaster area amid extreme drought." The directory allows sellers to list and buyers to locate feed resources for livestock. Information about forage quality testing and feed budgeting also is available.

Media highlight virtual science cafés

24 Sep 2020

Centralmaine.com, the Piscataquis Observer, Daily Bulldog, Sun Journal, Penobscot Bay Pilot, Morning Ag Clips and WAGM in Presque Isle highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H offering virtual science cafés for teens in grades 7–12 every Thursday, from 3:30–4:15 p.m., beginning Oct. 1. Online sessions will include University of Maine scientists discussing their research, how they became involved in their work and what brought them to Maine. Registration is required for each session and is available on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Jessy Brainerd, 207.581.3877; jessica.brainerd@maine.edu.

Fried speaks with Financial Times about Collins, U.S. Senate race

24 Sep 2020

Amy Fried, professor and chair of the political science department at the University of Maine, spoke with the Financial Times about U.S. Sen. Susan Collins and the U.S. Senate race in Maine. The armenian reporter shared the Financial Times article.

Media advance reopening during COVID-19 guide for community reuse organizations

24 Sep 2020

The Advertiser Democrat, the Lewiston Sun Journal and Centralmaine.com shared a media release about a new guide from the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine created to help community reuse organizations make decisions about how — and whether — to open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Brie Berry, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at UMaine and member of the Mitchell Center's materials management research team, created the Reopening Reuse guide to help decision-makers weigh the benefits and risks of reopening in ways that make sense for their staff, patrons and donors. "I decided to develop this guide to make it easier for people to assess risk and think creatively about how to reopen during this time," she said. "I'd hate to see these reuse organizations shut down, and that is a real risk right now." The Bethel Citizen printed the Sun Journal story.

BDN reports recent wastewater samples from UMaine, other campuses show no signs of COVID-19

24 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that wastewater samples collected recently from the University of Maine, University of Southern Maine's Gorham campus and the University of Maine at Fort Kent have tested negative for COVID-19. The University of Maine System incorporated wastewater testing at the three universities, which house 78% of its resident hall student population, into the third phase of its planned asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.

'The Maine Question' asks what the future looks like for state's wild blueberries

24 Sep 2020

"What does the future look like for Maine's wild blueberries?" Find out in the second episode of Season Three of "The Maine Question" podcast. Wild blueberries are synonymous with Maine, serving as an iconic product from the only state in the U.S. where they grow. Drought, disease and the COVID-19 pandemic have challenged the industry this year, but promising developments are emerging for wild blueberries and the people who grow and make products from them. Host Ron Lisnet speaks with Lily Calderwood, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension wild blueberry specialist, about work being done at UMaine to grow the industry and what the past, present and future holds for the delicious, native crop. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

UMaine's Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign exceeds $200 million goal

24 Sep 2020

Orono, Maine — The University of Maine Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign has exceeded its $200 million goal by more than $8 million, according to UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and University of Maine

Foundation President Jeffery N. Mills in announcing the successful completion of the record-setting fundraising effort. The public phase of the campaign was announced in October 2017 with $121 million raised. The comprehensive campaign that raised a total of $208,586,510 has four major priority areas — Fostering Student Success, Ensuring Access for All of Maine, Catalyzing Maine's Economy, and Accelerating Discovery to Impact. Each area received significant investments. Almost 60% of the funds raised were for student and faculty support. Highlights include gifts supporting UMaine's six colleges, athletics and the University of Maine Alumni Association, over 500 new scholarship funds, and major funding for the new Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center, which is under construction and expected to be open in fall 2022. An anonymous $1 million matching gift created over $4.8 million in total new investment for scholarships and other endowment support for Maine students to attend UMaine. Also created or established during the campaign: the Emera Astronomy Center, the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center, the Stephen E. King Chair in Literature, the Zillman Museum of Art expansion and naming gift, the Kenneth W. Saunders and Henry W. Saunders Professorship in Engineering Leadership and Management, the Edward Sturgis Grew Earth Sciences Endowment, and the Savage Challenge Fund to support men's ice hockey. Major gifts to support the efforts of the University of Maine Pulp & Paper Foundation included over $1.65 million from the Packaging Corporation of America. The Maine 4-H Foundation completed several major projects during the campaign, including the new Lafayette and Rawcliffe 4-H Science and Engineering Center on campus, and the new UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Greenland Point in Washington County. In addition, the Maine 4-H Foundation has added more scholarships and other support to continue to expand and enhance 4-H STEM, leadership, service and arts programs for Maine youth. Gifts of forestland, a plane, boats, real estate and scientific equipment rounded out the multiple types of donations received. Donors, including 35,499 alumni, friends, foundations and corporations, were from all 50 states and 32 countries. The Alfond Fund for Athletics, the Maine Day of Giving, and the Employee Giving Campaign were new fundraising initiatives launched during the campaign. Giving society memberships are at record levels. Membership in the Charles F. Allen Legacy Society, for those who have established planned gifts, is up 30%; Stillwater Society membership, for donors whose lifetime giving exceeds $25,000, is up 39%; President's Club membership, which includes donors who make annual gifts exceeding $1,000, is up 57%; and Triple Crown donor membership, for those in the President's Club, the Stillwater Society and the Charles F. Allen Legacy Society, is up 73% since 2013. A significant number of bequest gifts resulted in new scholarships and other support for UMaine students, including the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund, and the Thomas P. Hosmer Fund that supports campus maintenance. A recent major effort in the campaign was the Student Crisis Fund, created by the University of Maine Foundation to help students with emergency funding during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, over $220,000 has been raised for the fund, with more than 500 students receiving grants. "The success of the campaign reflects the importance of the University of Maine to alumni, friends, business and community partners, and the people of the state of Maine and beyond," says Ferrini-Mundy. "As we continue to reshape the institution for a bold new future, this investment has placed us in a very good position for change that builds on all of our strengths. We are truly grateful." University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy congratulated UMaine and the University of Maine Foundation on the successful comprehensive campaign, and noted the importance of private and corporate investment in the future of higher education. "Sharing a vision for tomorrow at the state's research university and investing in it are critical for our students, faculty and staff, for the entire System and for Maine," says Malloy. "Higher education is more important than ever in this challenging, changing world, and this successful comprehensive campaign provides a firm foundation on which we will continue to build." "This campaign has demonstrated that donors can work with us to choose a gift type that best suits their financial position while accomplishing their philanthropic goals for supporting UMaine. During the campaign, we traveled across the country meeting with alumni and friends, there is a great fondness for and connection to the college of our hearts always, and it shows in the support we received," Mills says. The University of Maine Foundation led the campaign. Honorary co-chairs for the Vision for Tomorrow campaign are Paul and Giselaine Coulombe. Paul, a member of the UMaine class of 1975, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and went on to become a prominent business leader. He and Giselaine are generous philanthropists. Additional information can be found online at umaine.edu/visionfortomorrow. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers new food preservation webinars in October

25 Sep 2020

October closes out the season for growing and preserving Maine foods. Four new food preservation webinars from University of Maine Cooperative Extension begin 2–2:45 p.m. Oct. 6, with the first talk focusing on how to store vegetables through the winter. Subsequent webinars scheduled for the same time on Tuesdays through Oct. 27 will address storing Maine grains and repackaging bulk items, pressure canning meat and preserving cranberries. Registration is required; a $5 donation per session is optional. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. Webinars are recorded. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty. 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

UTC finalizes 2020-21 professional development series

25 Sep 2020

The University Training Center (UTC) for Reading Recovery and Maine Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy (MPCL) has finalized its professional development series for the 2020–21 school year. Ongoing professional development is key to the comprehensive literacy model that schools and districts across Maine have implemented with the help of the UTC. The model provides for continuous school improvement through powerful classroom instruction along with a broad range of literacy interventions, providing multiple layers of differentiated instruction for learners in kindergarten through grade 12. Improved student learning outcomes result from high quality expert teaching in a collaborative team approach that supports each and every student. This year, UTC will offer three remote, synchronous professional development modules open to educators in Maine Reading Recovery and MPCL schools. In addition, the UTC will offer conference or seminar-style professional development events this year. Read the full release on the University Training Center (UTC) for Reading Recovery and Maine Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy (MPCL) website. For more information, contact Kathie Wing, 207.581.2493; katherine.wing@maine.edu.

BDN reports on Gulf of Maine talk featuring Chen, Wahle

25 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News published answers to the biggest questions posed during its webinar about warming in the Gulf of Maine and its ramifications. The online talk, which was part of the Bangor Daily News Climate Conversation series, featured a panel of researchers that included Yong Chen, a professor of fisheries population dynamics at the University of Maine, and Richard Wahle, the Clare S. Darling Professor of Marine Sciences and Lobster Institute director at UMaine.

Press Herald column highlights Maine Farm and Seafood Products Directory

25 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Maine Farm and Seafood Products Directory was highlighted in a recent guest column published in the Portland Press Herald. UMaine Extension worked with Allison Lakin, owner of East Forty Farm and Dairy, and Lakin's Gorges Cheese in Waldoboro, to develop the database of Maine farmers' creative distribution strategies implemented for the public.

Utility Dive notes UMaine, New England Aqua Ventus floating offshore wind project

25 Sep 2020

Utility Dive noted the collaboration between the University of Maine and New England Aqua Ventus LLC (NEAV) to develop UMaine's floating offshore wind technology demonstration project in an article titled "Maine regulators OK state's largest renewables solicitation with 482 MW solar, but skip storage." The project will consist of a single semisubmersible concrete floating platform that will support a commercial 10–12 megawatt wind turbine and will be deployed in a state-designated area 2 miles south of Monhegan Island and 14 miles from the Maine coast.

Smart speaks with BDN about powdery mildew

25 Sep 2020

Alicyn Smart, assistant professor and plant pathologist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and director of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, spoke with the Bangor Daily News about powdery mildew. According to the article, powdery mildew can afflict gourds and various plants found in gardens. It interferes with photosynthesis, causing leaves to yellow or die back; and can reduce sugars in fruits and affect their taste. “It looked like somebody walked into your garden with a dough boy and dropped it on your plant,” Smart said. “Typically we see it on the topside of the leaf but we can also see it on the stem of plants as well as in some cases fruit.”

WABI highlights forum on climate change

25 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) highlighted “A Climate Change Forum — Your chance to ask questions about climate change” webinar 6–7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28. Five University of Maine faculty members will address various aspects of climate change — including why it matters and how we respond to it, and the importance of messaging. After all of the individual 5-minute presentations, panelists will answer questions submitted by webinar attendees. Registration is required for this free, public webinar. People can submit questions for panelists when they register. The forum kicks off Maine Impact Week, a virtual celebration of the University of Maine’s research and creativity, from Sept. 28 through Oct. 2.

BDN Advances UMaine Institute of Medicine seminar series

25 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News advanced the University of Maine Institute of Medicine's upcoming webinar series, with each Zoom event slated for 3–4 p.m. Fridays from Sept. 25 through Nov. 13. All events are free, but registration is required. To register or learn more about the fall seminar series, visit the UMaine Institute of Medicine website. For more information, or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Cecile Ferguson, cecile.ferguson@maine.edu, 207.581.3026.

Pellowe speaks with Mainebiz about benefits of co-managing fisheries

25 Sep 2020

Mainebiz interviewed Kara Pellowe, a former University of Maine postdoctoral student, about the value of integrating local norms and fishermen’s knowledge into fisheries regulations. Pellowe, now based at the Stockholm Resilience Centre in Stockholm, Sweden, co-authored a study with Heather Leslie, director of the Darling Marine Center in Walpole, Maine, exploring the interplay between formal and informal institutions and the implications for the co-management potential of a Mexican small-scale fishery. They found that incorporating fishermen input into fishery rules can increase trust in fisheries management institutions, make it easier for co-management to work and increase success. The peer-reviewed scientific journal Marine Policy recently published the findings from Pellowe and Leslie. “I think that highlighting the value of explicitly drawing out local norms and increasing engagement of shellfish committees with local harvesters directly links to the findings from our paper,” Pellowe said. The National Science Foundation shared the media release about the study from Pellowe and Leslie.

More speaks with Popular Science, Mirage News about ice core revealing climate anomaly effects on WWI, H1N1 pandemic

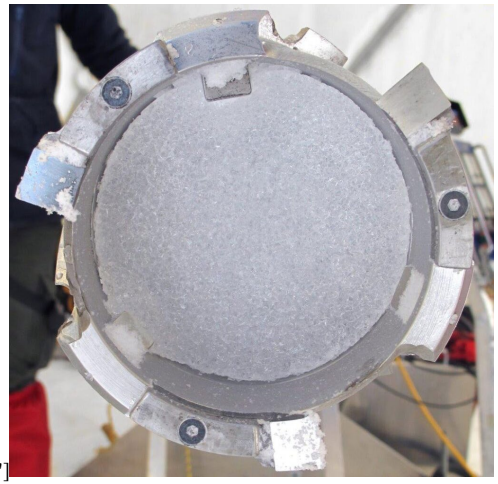
25 Sep 2020

Alexander More, an assistant research professor with the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, spoke with Popular Science and Mirage News about how a once in a century climate anomaly exacerbated the H1N1 flu pandemic of 1918-1919 and casualties in World War 1. Through studying an ice core from the European Alps, More, also a historian with Harvard University and an associate professor of environmental health at Long Island University, and colleagues from the CCI and University of Nottingham discovered that a weather anomaly that lasted from 1914 to 1919 brought an influx of cold air from the Atlantic Ocean and with it, cold temperatures and torrential rain that resulted in increased mortality in Europe. “We’ve always known that the weather during World War I, in particular during certain battles...was atrocious,” More said “But we never knew really what was going on — what caused this cold weather and how long did this happen?” GeoHealth published a research article of the team’s findings. A news release by the American Geophysical Union about the research is posted on EurekAlert!. The Weather Network also reported on the study, and that report was shared by Yahoo! News. Archaeology, a publication of the Archaeological Institute of America, highlighted the study as well.

More finds 6-year climate irregularity impacted World War I, ‘Spanish flu’ casualties

25 Sep 2020

A once-in-a-century climate deviation that resulted in torrential rain and cold air over Europe from 1914 to 1919 likely increased the number of people who died during World War I and the Spanish flu pandemic. The documented severe, incessant rains and unusually cold temperatures impacted major battles from 1914 to 1918 on the Western Front. “That included the battles of the Somme and Passchendaele, during which more than 1 million soldiers were killed or wounded,” says Alexander More, lead author of the study titled “The Impact of a Six-Year Climate Anomaly on the ‘Spanish Flu’ Pandemic and WWI.” GeoHealth, a journal of the American Geophysical Union, published the study. The weather also exacerbated the H1N1 pandemic known as the “Spanish flu,” says More, a climate scientist and historian at Harvard University and the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, and an associate professor of environmental health at Long Island University. The pandemic, which included an initial and a second wave, claimed an estimated 50 million lives between 1918 and 1919. It also infected 500 million people, which was one-third of the world’s population at that time. “Besides sending a warning for our own pandemic’s second wave, this article proves once again, the insights we gain with interdisciplinary research, connecting data from fields that were once separate — climate science, history and public health — are now being brought closer together by projects like ours, spurred by the urgency to find solutions to the two major crises we’re facing: man-made climate change


and the pandemic," says More. [caption id="attachment_79479" align="alignright" width="375"] Colle Gnifetti ice core in the drill.[/caption] For the study, More and colleagues reconstructed environmental conditions over Europe during the war using data from an ice core from the Colle Gnifetti Glacier in the European Alps. CCI scientists used next-generation laser technology to provide the ice core data. More and Christopher Loveluck from the University of Nottingham compared environmental conditions to historical records of deaths during the World War I years. The ice core record backs up historical accounts of flooded trenches and soldiers dying from drowning, pneumonia and infections. Paul Mayewski, CCI director and co-author, says this research underscores the value of interdisciplinary discovery, "which is only heightened under the modern pressure of climate change, pandemics, disruptions to economies, and other threats to humans and the ecosystem." More also discovered that the extremely high precipitation in fall 1918 paralleled the pandemic's mortality pattern. The increased precipitation was part of the six-year climate anomaly that brought rain and cold air from the North Atlantic over Europe, in a sustained Icelandic low pressure system. More and Mayewski say a likely reason for the anomalously cool, wet period was the war. They say the major increase in dust and explosives could have cooled the local atmosphere and formed nuclei for precipitation. Famines and the disruption of migratory patterns of wildlife — including the mallard duck, one of the main reservoirs and vectors of the H1N1 influenza — also likely contributed to weakening the population and increasing mortality. Because the birds were close to military and civilian populations, a particularly virulent strain of H1N1 influenza may have transferred to people through bodies of water. Philip Landrigan, director of the Global Public Health Program at Boston College, says it's interesting to think that very heavy rainfall may have accelerated the spread of the virus. "One of the things we've learned in the COVID pandemic is that viruses seem to stay viable for longer in humid air than in dry air," says Landrigan, who was not connected to the study. "So it makes sense that if the air in Europe was full of humidity during those years of World War I, that the transmission of the virus might have been accelerated." More says as we stare down a second wave of COVID-19 this fall, we should be mindful of the impact that climate and environmental conditions have on disease. "Several ongoing epidemics are affected by man-made climate change, as animals and the diseases they carry migrate away from normal habitats to find food and water now made scarce by our impact on the environment," he says. In addition to More, Mayewski and Loveluck, study co-authors are Heather Clifford, Michael Handley, Elena Korotkikh and Andrei Kurbatov at UMaine; and Michael McCormick at the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard University. The research is the result of a collaboration of the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past at Harvard and the CCI, with ongoing contributions from researchers at LIU in New York City, and the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. The Historical Ice Core Project is funded by Arcadia, a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin. Contact: Alexander More, afmore@fas.harvard.edu, 617.417.5608; Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu; Media kit available here

UMaine Medicine to host optical imaging seminar Oct. 2

28 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Institute of Medicine fall seminar series continues with a presentation by Ph.D. candidate and National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellow Wilson Adams of Vanderbilt University. In this virtual presentation, scheduled for 3-4 p.m. Oct. 2, Adams will provide an overview of the latest developments in optical imaging and neuromodulation for neuroscience research, with a focus on multiphoton approaches. More information and a registration link is available online.

UMaine Extension releases new guidance for supporting bee habitat

28 Sep 2020

Updated research on supporting habitat for Maine's 278 species of bees is included in a new publication from University of Maine Cooperative Extension. "Selecting Plants to Support Bees in Maine: Summary of the Bee Module Project" includes data from the original project conducted 2012–15 across four Maine sites, broad and specific recommendations for planning or enhancing bee habitat, specific results with key takeaways, data tables and additional resources. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog, by calling 207.581.3792, or by emailing extension.orders@maine.edu.

Produce safety course available for fruit, vegetable growers

28 Sep 2020

For Maine farmers who must comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act, or who want to hone their skills regarding food safety, University of Maine Cooperative Extension is offering two sessions of the Produce Safety Alliance grower training from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Nov. 5–Nov. 6 or Dec. 11 and Dec. 18. Training topics include foundational farm food safety best practices and coordinated management information based on FSMA requirements. Participants who complete the course are eligible for the FSMA certificate that may be required for their farm compliance. Three pesticide credits are also available. The $20 fee includes the training manual and certificate. Registration deadline for the Nov. 5–6 class is Oct. 25; register for the December class by Nov. 29. Register and find more information on the training webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Tilton, 207.942.7396; theresa.tilton@maine.edu.

Media promote produce safety course for growers

28 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Morning Ag Clips, Turner Publishing and Centralmaine.com promoted a two-part University of Maine Cooperative Extension safety course, Produce Safety Alliance grower training, which will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 5–6 and again Dec. 11 and Dec. 18. Training topics include foundational farm food safety best practices and coordinated management information based on Food Safety Mordernization Act

(FSMA) requirements. Participants who complete the course are eligible for the FSMA certificate that may be required for farm compliance. More information is available online.

Daily Bulldog advances October food preservation webinars

28 Sep 2020

The Daily Bulldog and Morning Ag Clips advanced four webinars to be offered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension 2–2:45 p.m. Tuesdays in October, beginning Oct. 6. Topics include saving vegetables through the winter, storing grains and repackaging bulk items, pressure canning meat, and preserving cranberries. More information about the series is online.

Pen Bay Pilot cites Maginnis in story about UMS COVID-19 sampling

28 Sep 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot quoted Melissa Maginnis, a University of Maine associate professor of microbiology and leader of the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board, in a story about testing participation and positivity rates following the completion of the second phase of coronavirus sampling across the university system. “The strong participation at all of our campuses during the Phase 1 (arrival) and Phase 2 (follow-up) screening at the start of the semester established a baseline and identified positive cases that were isolated and traced for contacts who were quarantined to contain the virus,” said Maginnis. “The efforts the campuses are making to meet our sampling targets in subsequent rounds are essential to our plans for monitoring COVID-19 throughout the rest of the semester.” Recently completed random sampling yielded a positivity rate of zero % compared to a statewide rate of 0.5%, and a national rate of 5%.

WABI, BDN detail Allan, Hakkola high school hazing study

28 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and the Bangor Daily News highlighted research by Elizabeth Allan, University of Maine professor of higher education, and Leah Hakkola, assistant professor of higher education, that focused on the role of gender and power in high school hazing. The study, “High School Hazing Prevention and Gender: Implications for School Counselors,” has been published in the Journal of School Counseling.

News Center highlights UMaine study on economic fallout in hospitality from COVID-19

28 Sep 2020

News Center Maine highlighted an earlier University of Maine study that explored the possible economic fallout in the Maine hospitality industry from COVID-19 in a story about the toll from the pandemic on both hospitality and tourism in the state. Todd Gabe, a professor of economics, and Andrew Crawley, an assistant professor of regional economic development, previously predicted in their study that earnings for Maine restaurants and lodgings would drop by more than one-third from the previous year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Steve Hewins, CEO of HospitalityMaine, said the losses experienced in July “were right on track” with predictions from the two UMaine economists.

Kamath, De Urioste-Stone, Lichtenwalner moose parasite study featured in BDN

28 Sep 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported on a collaborative research project, “Evaluating the Impacts of Winter Ticks and Tick-borne Disease on Moose Survival,” to be conducted by three University of Maine faculty. Pauline Kamath, assistant professor of animal health, Sandra De Urioste-Stone, associate professor of nature-based tourism, and Anne Lichtenwalner, director of the UMaine Cooperative Extension Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, will partner to evaluate the impact of parasites on moose health to develop a survival model that informs management practices.

More talks with CNN about impact of climate change on pandemics

28 Sep 2020

Cable News Network (CNN) interviewed Alexander More, an associate professor at the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, about using ice cores to illustrate the impact of climate conditions on the number of deaths during a pandemic. Using an Alpine ice core to reconstruct the climate in Europe from 1914 to 1919, More discovered that cold, rainy weather which was part of a once-in-a-century climate anomaly caused more soldiers’ deaths in World War I, and increased the severity of the 1918 flu pandemic. "There's no question that they are connected," More said, adding that interdisciplinary research is critical to understanding the links between climate change and pandemics.

DOE advances novel energy-storage materials research

28 Sep 2020

The Department of Energy (DOE) shared a media release about two University of Maine researchers using artificial intelligence-aided design to develop new materials for improved batteries and supercapacitors. The research initiative led by Liping Yu, assistant professor of physics, and Yingchao Yang, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, was one of 31 projects that were awarded a total of $21 million from the DOE through the federal Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). The goal of their research is to predict, synthesize and characterize a new class of 2D materials for active electrodes in batteries and supercapacitors.

WABI advances Maine Impact Week climate change webinar, Q & A

28 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) advanced a free climate change webinar at 6 p.m. Sept. 28. “A Climate Change Forum-Your chance to ask questions about climate change,” is a virtual panel discussion with University of Maine faculty who will answer questions from participants. Registration is required; more information is available online.

UMaine study examines the role of gender in high school hazing

29 Sep 2020

A new study from researchers in the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development found that a hazing prevention workshop for high school athletes was effective at increasing students' knowledge of hazing and making them more receptive to prevention measures. In interviews with participants, the researchers also found gendered perceptions and themes of power and status around issues of hazing and prevention. Hazing is defined as any activity that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers a person who joins or participates in a group, such as a team or club, regardless of whether the person willingly participates in the activity. Professor of higher education Elizabeth Allan, assistant professor of higher education Leah Hakkola, and doctoral student David Kerschner conducted the study with sports teams at two high schools in Maine — one urban and one rural. The high school athletes and select members of the school staff, including counselors, athletic directors, principals, teachers and coaches completed a pre-workshop survey to gauge their knowledge of hazing and hazing prevention. The training workshop was approximately 75 minutes, and consisted of a guided discussion surrounding the short documentary "We Don't Haze." Participants then completed a second, post-workshop survey to see if there was any change in their understanding of hazing and hazing prevention. The research team also followed up at each school one to two months after the workshop for focus groups with a smaller number of students. "Focus groups were an important component to our study as we wanted to gain a better understanding of the knowledge and skills that students learned from participating in this pilot initiative. We also aimed to examine students' perceptions of how power and gender may have influenced hazing behavior and to identify elements of the program that were perceived to be most impactful," the researchers write. The survey results showed that the workshop had a statistically significant impact for both male and female students in terms of knowledge about hazing, attitudes and perceptions of hazing, and knowledge about hazing prevention strategies. However, for staff members the results showed a statistically significant change in hazing knowledge, but not for attitudes and perceptions or hazing prevention knowledge, although there was movement in a positive direction for both of those categories. In the focus groups, students discussed power in relation to hazing as being "associated with status, position, and leadership." However, some students suggested that power dynamics don't always contribute to hazing behaviors. For instance, members of a soccer team at one school said that seniors used "their power to prevent hazing." The discussion of gender was similarly mixed, with participants at one school saying they did not feel there was any difference in hazing behavior between genders. A majority of participants at the other school said they thought hazing occurred more among boys than girls. That group also chalked up perceived differences in hazing behaviors between genders to issues of identity and personality. Although most hazing studies have focused on behaviors that occur on college campuses, Allan, Hakkola and Kerschner previously published a separate article describing their research with high schools. Both articles were made possible by a 2016 College of Education and Human Development Research Seed Grant. In the latest article, the researchers offer some recommendations for high school staff, especially counselors, including ways to incorporate research and intervention strategies into their work. "Having a policy in handbooks is not enough," they write. "Educators must consider additional strategies for shifting hazing attitudes and behaviors. Given their knowledge of the school climate and relationships with individual students and colleagues associated with co-curricular activities, school counselors are well positioned to advocate for more comprehensive and research-informed prevention at the school level." The study, "High School Hazing Prevention and Gender: Implications for School Counselors" is available online from the Journal of School Counseling. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Poland Spring, University of Maine to explore bio-based materials

29 Sep 2020

The University of Maine's Forest Bioproducts Research Institute (FBRI) is collaborating with Poland Spring Brand 100% Natural Spring Water and its parent company, Nestlé Waters North America, to evaluate and develop bio-based solutions that could serve as alternative packaging for Poland Spring products. As part of the collaboration, UMaine will explore new possible uses of materials derived from sustainably harvested Maine wood. FBRI represents an interdisciplinary group of researchers and scientists dedicated to advancing understanding and development of forest-based bioproducts. The institute is directed by Hemant Pendse, professor and chair of the Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering. FBRI has brought the Maine forest industry and public and private technology innovators together to explore emerging bio-based solutions from materials to chemicals to fuels, demonstrating the exciting possibilities available through advancement of the circular economy. "UMaine is grateful for Poland Spring's support of our world-leading research, development, and commercialization in this area," says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "Forestry is a cornerstone of Maine's economy, and the Forest Bioproducts Research Institute was created to provide and promote technology validation and partnerships that will meet societal needs for materials, chemicals and fuels in an economically and ecologically sustainable manner. "This collaboration serves that important mission," says Ferrini-Mundy, "leveraging the expertise of our faculty and staff, and facilitating the engagement of our students in cutting-edge research with important implications for our state and the wider world." The initiative aligns with the University of Maine System Research and Development Plan. A news release is online. Contact: Aly Sturm, 203.629.7233; alyson.sturm@waters.nestle.com; Ashley Forbes, ashley.forbes@maine.edu

Guidance available for hosting Maine maple tours during COVID-19

29 Sep 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry have developed guidelines for producers planning to participate in Maine maple tours this October. "Maine Maple Tours: Guidance During COVID-19" is based on current Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for planning, communicating expectations for, and participating in this outdoor event to help keep sugaring families, staff and customers safe. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog, by calling 207.581.3792, or by emailing extension.orders@maine.edu.

Lobster Institute, Sea Grant offer chats highlighting collaborative research

29 Sep 2020

The University of Maine Lobster Institute, Maine Sea Grant and the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) will partner for a series of free monthly Zoom chats featuring marine scientists, researchers and fishermen discussing collaborative efforts in the lobster industry. The webinar series, Successful Research Projects in the Lobster Industry, will feature discussions of research findings — what works and what doesn't — and strategies for making collaborative research a priority. The series kicks off at 7 p.m. Oct. 8 with Lessons from a Collaborative Trapping Experiment in Tenant's Harbor. This chat, which will be hosted by Carl Wilson, director of the Maine DMR Bureau of Marine Science, includes panelists Sarah Cotnoir, DMR liaison to the lobster councils, and Josh Miller of the fishing vessel (F/V) Dorcas Anne of Tenant's Harbor. Additional topics include A Retrospective Look at Collaborative Research in Maine, 6:30 p.m. Oct 28.; Maximizing Value by Identifying Stressors in the Supply Chain, 7 p.m. Nov. 19; and The Lobster and Jonah Crab Fleet: A Unique Partnership Between Lobstermen and Scientists, 7 p.m. Dec. 2. Maine Sea Grant will host the series, which will be presented with live closed captioning and recorded to ensure access for those who cannot join the Zoom chat. More information about the webinar series, including a Zoom link, is online. For questions or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Amalia Harrington, amalia.harrington@maine.edu, 207.581.1440.

Morning Ag Clips, Centralmaine.com promote Extension guidance for safe conduct of Maine maple tours during pandemic

29 Sep 2020

Morning Ag Clips and Centralmaine.com promoted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension bulletin, "Maine Maple Tours: Guidance during COVID-19," developed by Sustainable Agriculture Professional Jason Lilley in partnership with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The bulletin is available online, or can be ordered by calling 207.581.3792 or emailing extension.orders@maine.edu.

Ferrini-Mundy highlights successful return to campus in WVII story

29 Sep 2020

WVII (Channel 7) interviewed University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy in a story about the safe and successful return of students to campus. "The students are thrilled to be here in person. With all these safety conditions in place, I'm hearing that students feel safe and they enjoy the experience to be in classes, be with friends to experience that college life," said Ferrini-Mundy, noting that the students have adjusted to the reality of COVID-19.

Maine Public talks with Ferrini-Mundy about Little Hall name change

29 Sep 2020

Maine Public interviewed University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy about the University of Maine System Board of Trustees' vote to rename Little Hall. After students petitioned to remove Clarence Little's name, Ferrini-Mundy formed a task force to study the issue. "This is not in any way meant to be a sanitization of the past. We acknowledge this piece of our past. It's a piece of the history of the University of Maine," Ferrini-Mundy said. "And history allows us, on looking back, to learn more about current times and learn more about ourselves. So we do have a plan for material to be posted in the hall, when it is renamed, to acknowledge what its name was, for that period." The Bangor Daily News, WVII (Channel 7), the Portland Press Herald and Q106.5 FM also reported on the board's vote. The Associated Press and Mainebiz reported on the name change. The San Francisco Chronicle, The Wilton Bulletin and Seacostonline.com shared the AP story. Centralmaine.com shared the Press Herald story.

UMaine Extension, MOFGA offer webinar on decorating with nature

30 Sep 2020

Using the colors and textures of fall to decorate at home is the focus of a webinar from University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association scheduled for noon–1 p.m. Oct. 21. "Decorating with Nature for Fall" topics include plants to choose and plants to avoid, and how to make them last in designs for doors, mantles and tables. UMaine Extension community education assistant Lynne Holland will lead the workshop. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the second in a six-part fall gardening webinar series offered alternate Wednesdays through Dec. 16. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

UMaine research challenge events continue in October, December

30 Sep 2020

University of Maine Fogler Library and the Office of Research Development are offering two additional professional development opportunities this fall to help faculty, staff and graduate student researchers identify relevant funding opportunities and prepare competitive grant proposals. Grants 101: Seeking, Analyzing, and Writing Basics is scheduled for 10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 13. Workshop participants at this free Zoom event will conduct a guided search for grant opportunities in Fogler Library's online funding database, PIVOT; analyze an agency's request for proposals; and learn grant writing basics. Online registration is required. The final session in the fall research series, Finding Funding Challenge, is set for Dec. 14-18. Participants in this weeklong challenge will receive a daily email with tasks designed to build grant-seeking skills such as efficient and effective identification of relevant funding opportunities, strategic reading of requests for proposals, and developing a competitive grant proposal. Online registration is required. Those who cannot participate during challenge week are encouraged to register to receive the information for use at a later date. For more information about these events, or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact jenbonnet@maine.edu.

Media advance UM Extension, MOFGA decorating for fall webinar

30 Sep 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot, the Boothbay Register, The Piscataquis Observer, Centralmaine.com and the Bangor Daily News advanced a webinar, "Decorating with Nature for Fall," scheduled for noon-1 p.m. Oct. 21. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) are sponsoring the workshop, which will be facilitated by Lynne Holland, UMaine Extension community education assistant. More information about the event is online.

WABI, Centralmaine.com cite UMaine Extension study of Maine's bee populations

30 Sep 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and Centralmaine.com reported on a University of Maine Cooperative Extension study highlighting the decline of Maine's bee populations. The study, "Selecting Plants to Support Bees in Maine: Summary of the Bee Module Project," is available online.

Wheeler talks with Currents for story about wastewater testing on college campuses

30 Sep 2020

IDEXX Currents interviewed Robert Wheeler, University of Maine associate professor of microbiology, about testing water from UMaine's campus wastewater system for coronavirus. According to Wheeler, who is a member of the University of Maine System COVID-19 advisory board, analyzing wastewater complements the individual testing programs already in place. He has recruited a student experienced in environmental water testing and qPCR to assist with this sampling initiative.

Media report on bio-based materials collaboration between UMaine, Poland Spring

30 Sep 2020

The Associated Press, Mainebiz, the Sun Journal, WABI (Channel 5) and New England Cable News (NECN) reported on a new partnership between the Forest Bioproducts Research Institute (FBRI) and Poland Spring. FBRI will explore production of renewable packaging from sustainably harvested Maine wood to replace petroleum-based plastic water bottles. The Portland Press Herald and Centralmaine.com shared the Sun Journal story. The Albany Times Union, The Middletown Press and the San Francisco Chronicle shared the AP story. Plastic News and New England Cable News (in Boston) also covered the story. Business Insider shared a news release from Poland Spring's parent company, Nestlé Waters North America.

Nicholas Slabyj: Rediscovering a family legacy

01 Oct 2020

University of Maine Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies student Nicholas Slabyj has long been interested in family history. The son and grandson of Ukrainian immigrants, he readily acknowledges the impact of his grandparents, Olha and Roman Fedoriw, on his life. "I can still recall stories my grandmother told me to ensure that I knew what our family stood for," he wrote in an email. "The most important aspects of their lives in Chernivtsi,

Ukraine, was the forging of relationships with people of various backgrounds, and to always expand oneself through education. My grandfather attended what is now the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University for a baccalaureate and law degree, and my grandmother attended Academia Superioara de Croitorie si Mode, a fashion school in Bucharest, in the 1930s." His grandparents sustained their cultural sensitivity and civic-mindedness in their personal and professional relationships after arriving in Boston in 1948. Olha spoke of navigating an ethnically diverse workforce in order to emphasize the importance of acceptance and community. His grandmother's stories of how strangers treated "an Eastern European woman with respect and kindness," woven with her memories of Ukraine under Soviet and Nazi occupation taught Slabyj many valuable life lessons. Slabyj first visited Chernivtsi in May 2018 with his parents, returning in 2019 to attend an icon writing course at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. Each trip increased his interest in Ukrainian cultural traditions exponentially, crystallizing his desire to learn to read Ukrainian. The benefits of becoming a competent reader would be two-fold — supporting his graduate studies focused on the philosophical and theological interpretation of Ukrainian religious iconography within a framework of historical and political contexts, while enhancing understanding of his family history. This past summer, Slabyj received a merit scholarship to enroll in Ukrainian for Reading Knowledge, a seven-week, eight-credit course offered at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The course is designed to support graduate students in humanities and social sciences who wish to advance their research by mining resources available in Ukrainian. Due to the pandemic, HURI classes were conducted online this year. While engaged in his summer coursework, Slabyj was reminded of the role his grandparents played in advocating for establishment of HURI more than 40 years ago. He rediscovered an invitation to a HURI donors' event neatly folded in the pocket of his grandfather Roman's tuxedo, which Olha had given him after Roman's death in 1994. This invitation, dating back to 1982, prompted Slabyj to begin researching the history of HURI, and led him to a June 2020 article penned by the President of the Ukrainian Studies Fund at Harvard, Bohdan Vitvitsky. In the Ukrainian Weekly article, Vitvitsky acknowledged the role the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States and Canada played in establishing HURI, noting that donations totaling more than $3.8 million (in 1970s dollars) from 13,000 Ukrainian community members funded the institute that continues to foster research and scholarship in Ukrainian history and culture. "There would not exist a Ukrainian program at Harvard had it not been for the generosity of the Ukrainian community, as mobilized by the extraordinary efforts of the Ukrainian Studies Fund," wrote Vitvitsky. Today, Slabyj honors his family's legacy as he benefits from his grandparents' tenacity, commitment and generosity. "I could not be more proud and honored to have known them and be inspired from their hard work and sacrifice, since our accomplishments in this world are always on the shoulders of those who came before us," he wrote. Slabyj, who is a full-time employee in the College of Education and Human Development, also acknowledges the impact of Michael Grillo, the chair of his graduate committee, on his studies. "Michael has always supported my academic pursuits, encouraging me to discover and follow my own personal interests. I am truly grateful for Michael as a colleague and friend." Slabyj seeks to contribute to the Ukrainian cultural community through his academic endeavors. He expects to complete his M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2021. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

UMaine receives federal grant to train special educators, other professionals to support young children with high-intensity communication needs

01 Oct 2020

The University of Maine will provide funding to support 40 graduate students working toward master's degrees in special education or communication sciences and disorders with an early childhood intervention focus thanks to a nearly $1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. The Cross-disciplinary Online Training to promote Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Tele-Intervention for Maine (CONTAACT-ME) project will train educators to support young children with intensive communication needs and their families, including the use of augmentative and alternative communication tools. UMaine will receive $249,950 from the U.S. DOE during the first year of the grant, with continued funding expected for five years. Deborah Rooks-Ellis, assistant professor of special education in the College of Education and Human Development's School of Learning and Teaching and director of the Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research, will lead the project. Partners include Jennifer Seale, assistant professor in the UMaine Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and the Maine Department of Education. "Infants and young children with high-intensity needs also commonly have communication impairments, which when left unaddressed increase a child's risk for limited cognitive, language and social development," Rooks-Ellis says. The goals of CONTAACT-ME include teaching master's students evidence-based strategies for working with children with disabilities who also have specialized communication needs and their families, with an emphasis on children and families in rural, remote and sparsely populated areas with limited access to resources. The project will use research-based tele-intervention practices to provide equity and access and to support language and cognitive skill development for young children. "Early interventionists and speech-language pathologists serving this population are critical for helping families, related service providers and educators recognize the ways in which they can support a child's social skill development," says Rooks-Ellis. UMaine is the only institution in the state to provide graduate programs in early childhood intervention and communication sciences and disorders. The CONTAACT-ME program will assist students in earning a master's degree that leads to state-approved certification in early childhood special education (birth-age 5). Speech-language pathology students will earn a master's in communication sciences and disorders with an early intervention concentration. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

University of Maine awarded $700K to host 2021 National NSF EPSCoR Conference in Portland, Maine

01 Oct 2020

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded the University of Maine more than $700,000 to host the 27th NSF EPSCoR National Conference in Portland, Maine next year. The national EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) conference is proposed for November 2021. Its theme, "Translating Stakeholder Needs Into Impactful Research Outcomes," will engage audiences from different sectors, disciplines and jurisdictions, including state legislators, congressional representatives, federal employees, jurisdictional project directors and administrators, as well as members of EPSCoR state committees, scientists, junior faculty members, and students. EPSCoR aims to increase research capacity, strengthen STEM education, and advance science and engineering in jurisdictions that have historically received limited funding from NSF. The 27th NSF EPSCoR National Conference will support this overall mission. "We are very pleased that the University of Maine is hosting this important and very significant event designed to bring together our stakeholders across all 28 jurisdictions," says Loretta Moore, who serves as the section head of NSF EPSCoR. "The selected theme is important in facilitating our vision of advanced research competitiveness, and this meeting will create tailored opportunities for all participants to engage." The conference will not only provide the necessary tools and inspiration for EPSCoR communities to create national change, but also encourage EPSCoR jurisdictions to find new and innovative ways to impact their home states and territories, says Shane Moeykens, director of Maine EPSCoR, which is based at the University of Maine. Workshops and information sessions will focus on broadening community participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), economic development, commercialization, best practices for virtual delivery of curricular content to underrepresented communities, and more. Students from EPSCoR jurisdictions will present their research, and research outcomes achieved through community science engagement will be showcased. This conference will also offer opportunities to explore new ideas, build collaborations, and gain new skills, which will result in increased research and education capacity in EPSCoR jurisdictions across the nation, including Maine. "We are delighted to be hosting this event, and appreciate NSF's confidence in selecting us to serve in this leadership role for the 27th NSF EPSCoR National Conference," says Kody Varahramyan, UMaine Vice President of Research and Dean of the Graduate School. More information on the national conference will be available on the Maine EPSCoR website closer to the event. Contact: Marcella Silver, marcella.silver@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' asks how technology and online classes are changing education

01 Oct 2020

"How are technology and online classes changing education?" Find out on the third episode of Season 3 of "The Maine Question" podcast. COVID-19 initially forced schools and universities throughout the U.S. to cease in-person instruction and shift to online learning. Changes in how and where educators teach, however, were already underway. Online curricula offered through digital platforms like Zoom and Brightspace are now a key component of virtually every student's instruction. Host Ron Lisnet speaks with Peter Schilling, executive director of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning at UMaine, to discuss the benefits of using online technologies for teaching, as well as whether they will replace or supplement in-person, face-to-face teaching and what the future holds for online education. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

WABI highlights McKillen in report on Celtic Crossroads Festival

01 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) highlighted Elizabeth McKillen's involvement in the 2020 Bangor Celtic Crossroads Festival, which features several virtual events. McKillen, a professor of history at the University of Maine, will deliver a lecture about Irish suffragist Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, who founded the Irish Women's Franchise League in 1908, at 6:30 p.m. tonight on Facebook Live. Register for the event on the Bangor Public Library website.

Media advance virtual March Against Domestic Violence

01 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5), WVII (Channel 7) and The Free Press advanced the University of Maine's seventh annual (and first virtual) March Against Domestic Violence scheduled for noon on Wednesday, Oct. 7. All are invited to attend the event on the UMaine March Against Domestic Violence Facebook page. In the leadup to the march, UMaine community members and partners are posting videos and information about abuse, prevention and how to get help on the page. For more information about the march, email Nory Jones at njones@maine.edu.

Brewer speaks with WABI about presidential debate

01 Oct 2020

Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with WABI (Channel 5) about the presidential debate between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday. "If nothing changes in the polling which so far the stuff that I have seen come in that was done last night and come out this morning doesn't indicate a whole lot of change, the closer we get to election day with the president consistently trailing nationally and in battleground states the more aggressive I think he is going to get," Brewer said.

BDN interviews Birkel about whether climate change affects storm frequency

01 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Sean Birkel, a research assistant professor at the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, about whether the changing climate has caused an increase in storm frequency in Maine, as warming oceans are imbuing the atmosphere with more moisture. Birkel said while climate change could be the culprit, the question is not easy to answer, in part because varying characteristics make determining what constitutes a storm difficult to classify over long periods of time. There has been an emerging pattern of more extreme weather events in the past decade or so in North America, but Birkel says whether they are part of a long-term trend in Maine is unclear. "There needs to be more research done," he said.

WABI, WVII report on Ferrini-Mundy, Malloy COVID-19 testing on campus

01 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) reported on University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy receiving COVID-19 tests on campus as result of random sampling for asymptomatic COVID-19 testing. "Extraordinary low," Ferrini-Mundy said about UMS's COVID-19 positivity rate. "Lower than the state of Maine. We're just thrilled people are coming together to do what we need to do for testing." Out of 17,000 COVID-19 tests administered so far, officials have found less than 15 positive cases throughout UMS campuses, according to the report.

Coping with COVID project compiles perspectives on pandemic public health protocols in our daily lives

01 Oct 2020

People are invited to share reflections and perspectives on how their everyday lives have been affected by public health guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic in a new project led by a University of Maine researcher. Kathryn Swacha, an assistant professor of English, is seeking participants for a public storytelling project titled "Coping with COVID." The project will compile photos, videos and stories that offer a glimpse into how people have adjusted their everyday lives to accommodate recommendations like social distancing, masking and self-monitoring. In addition to submitting their own reflections, participants are encouraged to explore the submissions of others from across the United States and Canada who are working COVID-19 public health guidelines into their own routines. Swacha's goal in the Coping with COVID project is to interrogate some of the public health conversations surrounding the pandemic, giving public voice to people's everyday lived experiences negotiating those conversations and public health recommendations. How are people negotiating COVID-related health guidelines with other factors of their everyday lives? How do people interpret and act on public health guidelines that are not intuitive for them? Which COVID-related public health guidelines have become intuitive? Through its specific focus on how public health recommendations are impacting daily life, this project is distinct from, yet complements other COVID-related humanities projects currently underway. Those include, for example, UMaine's Jack Pine Project and Maine Memory Network's My Maine Stories, which are importantly gathering and facilitating historical, therapeutic, and arts-based responses to the pandemic. A scholar of health communications, Swacha's research focuses broadly on how people incorporate official written health information, such as advice from their doctors or recommendations from public health organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, into their day-to-day lives. COVID-19 has presented a unique challenge for health communications, she explains, because the public health guidelines that we see promoted on signs, websites and posters might make sense rationally, but are difficult to integrate with the intuitive knowledge we have built up over time that tells us how to interact with other people, and which includes cognitive, emotional, cultural and bodily factors like distance, facial expressions, physical environment and touch. "It is one thing to see a flyer at your doctor's office that tells you to wear a mask and think 'yeah, that makes sense. I'll try to do that,'" Swacha says. "It's another thing to follow that recommendation as you move through your daily life — to stay 6 feet from a family member who you haven't seen in months, for example, or to remember to wear your mask every time you open your front door to greet a neighbor." The project uses a participatory method, in which study participants become more actively involved in the research process and the data collected. The study asks people to provide photos, videos, or other media that tell their story because images, videos, and stories can provide a window into people's daily experiences that might not show up through more traditional qualitative research methods like interviews or focus groups. Coping with COVID seeks participants widely, from Maine as well as across the country and in Canada, so that researchers might better understand how people's geographic location, cultural/political context, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic position, and other factors affect how they interpret and act on public health recommendations. "Understanding how people use public health information in their everyday lives can provide health communicators with key insights into how to more effectively communicate that information," Swacha says. These insights are particularly important at a time when so many of us have become what she calls "unlikely health communicators." For example, small business owners who have to create signage communicating COVID-related public health guidelines at their restaurants and stores, teachers who have to explicitly remind students about masking in classrooms, or individuals who need to explain safe social distancing to resistant family members. Swacha hopes that the data gathered through the study will be useful both to such "unlikely health communicators" and larger organizations as they continue to promote COVID-related public health guidelines to their clients. Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu

Mitchell Center offers talk on tools to help farmers adapt to climate change

02 Oct 2020

Developing tools to help farmers adapt to climate change will be the focus of a free virtual presentation hosted by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine 3–4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5. Researchers from University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Climate Change Institute at UMaine are working with Maine farmers to better understand their needs for weather information and decision-making tools in the face of climate change. In the talk, "The Future of Farming: Building Tools for Tech-Savvy Farmers," Lily Calderwood and Glen Koehler of UMaine Extension, and state climatologist Sean Birkel of the Climate Change Institute

will discuss progress toward providing site-specific weather information for Maine farms. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, see the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196; hallsworth@maine.edu.

Rebecca Traister's talk about women, anger, political change rescheduled to Oct. 29

02 Oct 2020

Award-winning journalist Rebecca Traister will discuss women, anger and political change in a lecture hosted by the University of Maine. The free, public talk "Good and Mad: Rebecca Traister on Women, Anger, and Political Change," will be held 5–6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, via Zoom. Traister is a leading voice on gender, society and politics. She has written three books, including The New York Times bestsellers "Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger" and "All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation." Traister is a writer-at-large for New York magazine and The Cut. Novelist and nonfiction writer Anne Lamott called Traister "the most brilliant voice on feminism in this country." Registration is required and can be done on the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.3822. The Stephen E. King Chair lecture series, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and UMaine Alumni Association are co-sponsors of the event, with generous support from the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund. More information about the King Chair Lecture Series is online.

Fosters.com, Seacoast Online cite Lobster Institute in story about blue lobster caught near Kennebunkport

02 Oct 2020

Fosters.com and Seacoast Online cited research from the University of Maine Lobster Institute in a story about a blue lobster caught near Kennebunkport. According to the institute, fishermen have a one in 2 million chance of catching a blue lobster. According to the institute, fishermen have a one in 2 million chance of catching a blue lobster.

Savoie speaks to BDN about safely fermenting food at home

02 Oct 2020

Kathleen Savoie, extension educator with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, shared tips with the Bangor Daily News about how to safely ferment food at home. "With any home preservation there is always a concern around workspace cleanliness. There [are] just less safety steps or controls in place at home than there are at a production facility," Savoie said. "People need to understand what is going on with fermentations and that salt, moisture, oxygen levels and temperature are all a part of the equations that needs to be followed closely to make sure in the end you have a safe product."

Maine Monitor interviews Shaler about carbon footprint of wood for housing

02 Oct 2020

Stephen Shaler, director of the School of Forest Resources and associate director of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center at the University of Maine, spoke with The Maine Monitor about comparing the carbon footprint of wood to other building materials. Shaler, also a professor of wood sciences, was featured in a "Sea Change" commentary piece titled "Cottage Industry: Small wood homes yield big climate benefits." According to the article, "Up to half of a structure's lifetime carbon footprint can come from the harvest, manufacturing and transportation of its components, known collectively as the 'embodied carbon.'" Shaler said sustainably harvested wood has a smaller carbon footprint than other building materials like steel and concrete, especially when transport is minimal. The article also highlighted UMaine's effort to build a demonstration-scale nanocellulose plant that will advance next generation bio-based products. The Center Square highlighted the interview from The Maine Monitor article in its story titled "Small homes made of Maine materials could boost economy, aid climate, council says." The Washington Examiner shared The Center Square piece.

Pen Bay Pilot, Eurekalert highlight UMaine hosting 2021 NSF Conference

02 Oct 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and Eurekalert shared a media release about the National Science Foundation awarding the University of Maine more than $700,000 to host the 27th NSF EPSCoR National Conference in Portland in November 2021. The theme of the national EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) conference will be "Translating Stakeholder Needs into Impactful Research Outcomes." The conference will not only provide the necessary tools and inspiration for EPSCoR communities to create national change, but also encourage EPSCoR jurisdictions to find new and innovative ways to impact their home states and territories, according to Shane Moeykens, director of Maine EPSCoR, which is based at UMaine. "We are very pleased that the University of Maine is hosting this important and very significant event designed to bring together our stakeholders across all 28 jurisdictions," said Loretta Moore, who serves as the section head of NSF EPSCoR.

Johnson speaks to Maine Monitor about inequity in storm preparedness

02 Oct 2020

Tora Johnson, who chairs the Division of Environmental and Biological Sciences at the University of Maine at Machias, spoke with The Maine Monitor about addressing equity issues in storm preparedness as climate change intensifies storms and flooding. Johnson, also director of the Geographic Information Systems Laboratory and Service Center and associate professor of GIS at UMM, was featured in a "Sea Change" commentary piece titled "Stormy forecast: Preparing Maine for climate-fueled winds and flooding." She said aiding communities vulnerable to storms and lacking the resources to prepare for them requires social scientists aware of local constraints and capable of "spanning the distance between academia, technocrats and local decision-makers." "Whether communities will grapple with what they need to has more to do with psychology, sociology and economics," she added, and with practitioners who understand local constraints and provide customized support. The Penobscot Bay Pilot shared The Maine Monitor story.

Mittelstaedt named 2020 Switzer Environmental Fellow

05 Oct 2020

University of Maine graduate student Hannah Mittelstaedt from Maple Valley, Washington has been awarded a 2020 Switzer Environmental Fellowship for creative and compelling leadership in environmental science, policy and justice. Mittelstaedt, a doctoral candidate in ecology and environmental sciences, is advised by Amanda Klemmer and Brian Olsen. Her research focuses on discerning how anthropogenic and environmental pressures change coastal ecosystems by assessing the effects of seaweed harvest on invertebrate communities and food webs. She hopes this work will inform sustainable management of coastal resources. "I am very grateful to have been selected as a Switzer Fellow and am excited to be joining a network of leaders working towards positive environmental change," says Mittelstaedt, who was one of 20 fellowship recipients. The $15,000 fellowship is awarded by the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation, which is celebrating its 34th cohort of Switzer Fellows. The cash award and leadership training supports the career development and graduate studies of environmental leaders at institutions in New

England and California, according to the foundation in its news release. During their fellowship year, the 2020 Switzer Fellows will receive training in personal leadership skills focused on advancing social equity, according to the foundation. They will complete an intensive policy training that culminates in fellows developing relationships and sharing their expertise with decision makers in Washington, D.C. The Switzer Foundation, based in Belfast, Maine, has nearly 700 Switzer Fellows worldwide. It aims to mobilize leaders from diverse disciplines who focus on integrated solutions to environmental issues. More information about the 2020 Switzer Fellows is online. Contact: Christel Peters, christel.peters@maine.edu

UMaine researchers team up to develop AI to count, identify birds in aerial photos

05 Oct 2020

Biologists count and identify birds in thousands of aerial photos when conducting wildlife surveys, a laborious task that consumes many hours. To reduce time spent analyzing images and the margin for error, University of Maine researchers endeavor to create artificial intelligence that will perform the task. Faculty and graduate students from several units at UMaine will collaborate to develop machine learning technology that can pinpoint colonial nesting birds in photos captured by cameras mounted in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or planes. The AI developed by UMaine researchers will use object recognition and image segmentation to determine the number of birds, their species and behaviors in aerial photos captured on Maine's offshore islands and over inland rookeries during the spring and summer months. Researchers involved in the effort include Roy Turner, associate professor of computer science and director of the Maine Software Agents/Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (MaineSAIL); Cynthia Loftin, associate professor of wildlife ecology and leader of the United States Geological Survey Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; Salimeh Yasaei Sekeh, assistant professor of computer science; Kate Beard-Tisdale, professor of spatial information science and engineering; Daniel Hayes, Barbara Wheatland Associate Professor of Geospatial Analysis and Remote Sensing; David Sandilands, aerial survey pilot and remote sensing technician with the Wheatland Geospatial Lab in the School of Forest Resources; and Anthony Guay, remote sensing technician specialist with the Wheatland lab and School of Forest Resources. The project received $43,000 from the UMaine AI Initiative seed grant funding program, and builds on previously funded grants and partnerships involving UMaine faculty and state and federal agency partners. Researchers hope to improve the efficiency and accuracy of colonial nesting bird surveys with artificial intelligence. "Humans are prone to fatigue, error," says Turner. "It takes forever to do this by hand. Graduate students can take several hours identifying birds in one image." The project coincides with the UMaine AI initiative, an effort to transform the state into a world-class hub for artificial intelligence research and education and develop AI-based solutions that enhance social and economic wellbeing. Turner and his team plan to develop their Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), a deep learning AI algorithm typically used for visual analysis, using a method for image segmentation called Mask R-CNN, although Turner says they will explore other tactics. Researchers will use components of the University of Maine System Computer Cluster, managed by the Advanced Computing Group, that provide about four petaflops of processing power, which were previously purchased with a National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation grant Turner helped secure, to execute their project. The CNN will find and classify the birds in an image by analyzing the pixels that form them. Turner says the network analyzes the pixels in much the same way a person's visual system does to detect and identify objects. To test their network, the scientists will task it with pinpointing and specifying birds in images that other researchers have already analyzed to ensure the AI achieves the same results. Turner says his team plans to develop, evaluate and launch the machine learning tool by fall 2021. Turner says he believes the technology could be incorporated into UAVs to identify birds as they photograph them. Implementing AI into UAVs could result in additional nesting surveys by providing scientists a better view of inaccessible areas like remote islands with dangerous terrain and rookeries with birds nesting in the canopy tops, Loftin says. The new method of surveying could also reduce disturbance to colonies, particularly by eliminating the need to walk around in their habitats, which also could allow for more surveying later in the season. "This project provides an exciting opportunity for wildlife and computer science students to work together to apply emerging technologies to help wildlife conservation practitioners solve a real-world problem," Loftin says. Professors recruited Alex Revello, a master's student of computer science, to help integrate the CNN. Meredith Lewis and Logan Kline, master's students in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences program in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology, are developing protocols for using UAVs to collect imagery of nesting colonial birds and evaluating how this methodology can reduce disturbance while also enhancing survey efficiency. The team also employed undergraduates in summer 2020 fieldwork and recruited a new group of seniors to help with the project this semester and in spring 2021 as their Capstone project. "This is the future of a lot of research, interdisciplinary teams that also involve AI analyzing data," Turner says. "I think this is going to be the normal kind of way of doing business, interdisciplinary teams that usually involve some sort of computer science." Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Medicine announces October events

05 Oct 2020

The University of Maine Institute of Medicine fall seminar series continues Oct. 9 with a virtual presentation by Melissa Maginnis, University of Maine associate professor of microbiology, associate director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and member of the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board. In this presentation, Cellular and Molecular Determinants of a Fatal Viral Infection, Maginnis will discuss medical and scientific developments relevant to colleges and universities dealing with the pandemic. The series continues 3-4 p.m. Fridays through Nov. 13. Upcoming October webinars include Ecological and Social Drivers of the Spread of Vector-Borne Diseases on Oct. 16 and The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research from the Engineering Perspective on Oct. 23. More information and registration links for the October events are available online.

Ippolito, Albert, Revitt presenting at Maine Archives & Museums conference

05 Oct 2020

Three University of Maine experts will speak during the 2020 Maine Archives & Museums Conference to be held online on Oct. 8. During his talk, "Build a Mobile App for Your Collection," Jon Ippolito, a professor of new media and director of the digital curation program, will walk participants through the creation of cross-platform smartphone apps that allow museum and archive curators to augment their collections with interactive exhibits. Jacob Albert, project manager for the Franco-American Portal, will participate in a panel about efforts to create a unified statewide system for accessing manuscript repositories. Matthew Revitt, special collections and Maine shared collection librarian, will take part in a panel on building community COVID-19 archives. For more information or to register, visit the Maine Archives & Museums website.

Press Herald reports three active COVID-19 cases at UM

05 Oct 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported that as of Oct. 3, there were three active coronavirus cases at the University of Maine and five active cases in the University of Maine System. News Center Maine reported the numbers were unchanged as of Oct. 5.

Lobster Institute mentioned in Weather Network report of rare lobster catches

05 Oct 2020

The Weather Network cited University of Maine Lobster Institute statistics in a story about rare lobsters caught this year by a Canadian fisherman. Yahoo News shared the Weather Network story.

Maine Public story mentions UMaine report on hospitality industry

05 Oct 2020

A Maine Public story about the impact of the pandemic on the state's hospitality industry referenced a report by University of Maine researchers expected to be released next week. The report will likely reflect more than $2 billion in

industry losses for 2020 as compared to the previous year. The Bangor Daily News shared the Maine Public report. New England Cable News in Boston and Seacoast Online also mentioned the UMaine report in a story.

Brewer talks with Maine Public about Golden, Crafts campaign

05 Oct 2020

Maine Public interviewed Mark Brewer, University of Maine professor of political science, about the 2nd District congressional race between incumbent Jared Golden and challenger Dale Crafts.

Media interview UMaine faculty, student about projects at Leonard's Mills

05 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) talked with Meredith Kirkmann, University of Maine assistant professor of Construction Engineering Technology (CET), about the outdoor projects senior CET students are working on at the Maine Forest and Logging Museum's Leonard's Mills demonstration site in Bradley. The students are wearing face coverings and following social distancing guidelines. WVII (Channel 7) talked with Curtis Marston, University of Maine lecturer in Construction Engineering Technology, and Frank Schweizer, a senior at UMaine about the ongoing construction in Bradley, and dealing with safety challenges inherent in the industry and those presented by coronavirus.

Student Symposium award winners announced

05 Oct 2020

Winners from the 2020 University of Maine Student Symposium (UMSS20) have been announced following the virtual symposium on Oct. 2, which featured more than 130 student projects in 10 categories. Student presentations are available for viewing on the UMSS20 website, and a list of winners is available online. The symposium program included an opening ceremony, various workshops and presentations, a live broadcast by featured speaker Travis Mills, and an award ceremony for graduate and undergraduate winners.

McKillen gives lecture on Irish suffragist

06 Oct 2020

Elizabeth McKillen, Adelaide and Alan Bird Professor of History, gave a Zoom lecture, "Transatlantic Subversive? Irish Nationalist and Suffragist Hanna Sheehy Skeffington's American Lecture Tours, 1916–1923" on Oct. 1. The lecture was sponsored by the Bangor Celtic Crossroads Festival and the Bangor Public Library. Among the audience members were three surprise guests from Ireland, including Hanna Sheehy Skeffington's granddaughter and namesake. Micheline Sheehy Skeffington is currently making a documentary on her grandmother's life.

Maylinda Boynton: UMaine is 'home'

06 Oct 2020

University of Maine graduate student and alumna Maylinda Boynton of Belfast, Maine learned a lot about performing arts at UMaine. Before she graduated in 2019 with two degrees — in music education and political science — she performed with four different band groups, sang with University Singers and Mainely Voices, and acted in Maine Masque Theatre productions. She even established a late-night program, Melodies with Maylinda, for student karaokers and open-mic aficionados. But her undergraduate career was not all about music. Maylinda was inducted into the National Society for Leadership and Success, the Pi Sigma Alpha National Honor Society for Political Science and the Kappa Delta Pi National Honor Society for Education. She was an enthusiastic member of Team Maine for five years, and Boynton was UMaine's Homecoming Queen in 2018. She was clearly an engaged Black Bear. Now in her second year of a master's program in human development, and year six of her life as a Black Bear, she is engaged in a new way. As a graduate assistant in the Student Wellness Resource Center, Boynton serves as a program coordinator, providing alcohol and drug education to fellow students, and support to those working toward recovery. She recently competed in her first scholarship pageant where she received the spokesmodel award, and was crowned USA National Miss Maine 2021. She will compete for the title of USA National Miss in Orlando, Florida next July. In spite of her accomplishments, Boynton remains grounded, noting that she entered the Miss Maine pageant to bolster her self esteem. And she is effusive about UMaine, saying that she has known since sixth grade that she was a Black Bear at heart. She felt a deep sense of community even as a middle school student attending summer music camps in Orono. "I have never felt more part of a community than I do here," said Boynton, noting that nothing has been more life-changing than her time at UMaine. **How would you describe the academic atmosphere and student experience at UMaine?** After graduating from a small high school in coastal Maine coming to the University was quite a culture shock. The student experience here is completely what you make of it, the staff and faculty at UMaine give you every opportunity to expand your horizons way beyond the classroom. **Have you worked closely with a mentor, professor or role model who has made your UMaine experience better, and if so, who and how?** I have worked with some incredible faculty here at the University of Maine, but the person who truly inspired me every day for the two years was Ginger Hwalek, a recently retired piano instructor. No one has pushed me harder, or cared about my well-being and academics more than Ginger. She is one of the most caring individuals I have ever met, and I was lucky enough to have her accompany my junior recital. I couldn't think of anyone I'd rather have by my side during one of the most stressful and exciting experiences of my entire life. **What is the most interesting, engaging or helpful class you've taken at UMaine?** I believe that MUE 320 — Teaching of General Music–Elementary was the most helpful class that I have taken in my time at UMaine because it was my first experience working in person with real students. We were lucky to have a working relationship with the Stillwater Montessori school who would bring their 17 students to the university each week to work with us on music projects and lessons. This was a great experience for their students to have more exposure to different styles of music, but an even greater opportunity for us to get hands-on time with students before stepping foot in the classroom. **Have you gained any hands-on or real-world experience through your coursework? If so, tell us about it:** I was blessed to have the opportunity to student teach in RSU 34, Old Town school district, in spring 2019. This was a truly incredible hands on opportunity to work with K–12 music students at all levels. Through this experience I was able to conduct and teach 4th and 5th grade band and chorus, all the way through high school band and jazz band. This experience helped to prepare me for the classroom, following my graduate work here at UMaine. **What do you hope to do after graduation?** I plan to teach music here in Maine to help give back to the state that has given me so many incredible opportunities in the past 23 years. I want to teach with a trauma informed approach, helping students to use music as an escape from the turmoil they may be facing in their lives. **What difference has UMaine made in your life?** My time at UMaine over the last six years has helped me to grow exponentially. When I came to the university I was an outgoing but unworldly student, and following my experience here I feel completely prepared to go into the world and make a difference. I am eternally grateful for the hundreds of opportunities I have been given in my time here, and the memories I have made. **Describe UMaine in one word.** Home. **Explain:** I have known that I wanted to attend the University of Maine since I was in the sixth grade, although my parents disagreed. After touring schools from Maine to North Carolina and applying to 18 of them, I always knew in my heart that this was where I belonged. And I believe that I could not have made a better choice. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

Margaret Campbell: Californian chooses UMaine for marine science

06 Oct 2020

Third-year University of Maine student Margaret Campbell from San Diego, California is an ocean lover who aspires to a career in marine affairs. She started college at the University of California, Davis, a campus renowned for its marine and coastal science programs, but quickly realized that for her, bigger was not necessarily better. "The University of Maine has a top-ranked marine sciences program, a smaller student body and lots of opportunities for student research," says Campbell. "I was also very excited to move across the country and experience seasons." Now a double major at UMaine in marine sciences and history, Campbell has been immersed in research for the last

year, studying marine algae with professor Susan Brawley. "Working in her lab I have learned what it takes to conduct research, gained an understanding of how much work goes into it, and have learned a lot about algae," says Campbell. This summer, she was an intern with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Diadromous Ecosystem Research Program, working with Justin Stevens of Maine Sea Grant to assess the health of Maine's alewife populations. While the pandemic kept her from wading into Maine's sea-run rivers to monitor the fish passages in person, Campbell's virtual efforts have helped characterize the biological and population metrics of an increasingly valuable natural resource. Back on campus, Campbell continues her work with Sea Grant, evaluating the sustainability measures she has learned so much about, and compiling the data she analyzed in a scientific publication that researchers can use to inform species management in the Penobscot River watershed. Since her return to Maine late this summer, she has finally been able to visit some of the data collection sites she had never seen, including the Milford Dam. "After having looked at the data all summer, it was exciting to see where the river herring runs and restoration takes place," says Campbell. And she gets in the water - fresh or salty — at every opportunity, having vowed to swim in the Stillwater River, which she notes is a bit colder than the Pacific Ocean, every day in September. **How would you describe the academic atmosphere and student experience at UMaine?** UMaine offers a diverse range of academically challenging classes, however, there are multiple resources that are there to help students get through the classes. Living in the dorms I met many friendly people who gave me a "hearty Maine hello" and quickly accepted me into their friend group. I also enjoyed the events put on by UMaine Student Life and found myself attending many events last year for free food with friends. I've enjoyed attending UMaine ice hockey games, and taking part in the campus spirit. **You did a virtual summer internship at NOAA. Can you tell us more about that?** This summer I worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in conjunction with Maine Sea Grant in the Diadromous Program as an intern. Due to the pandemic my internship was online, and I worked from home in San Diego instead of being in the rivers in Maine. The topic I focused on was evaluating sustainability metrics during river herring restoration, specifically in the Penobscot watershed. This internship gave me a lot of data analysis experience, as well as opportunities to connect with professionals across the fisheries field in NOAA, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and a fisheries biologist at the Penobscot Indian Nation. **Have you worked closely with a mentor, professor or role model who has made your UMaine experience better, and if so, who and how?** I have been working closely for just over a year now with Dr. Brawley. Being a student researcher has made my UMaine experience better because I have become more involved in what is happening at the university. I have expanded my knowledge and learning from Dr. Brawley, and have made important connections within the marine science field. **Have you had an experience at UMaine — either academically or socially — that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** One of my favorite experiences at the University of Maine has been exploring the environment around the school. Being from San Diego and a marine science major, I absolutely love the water. Being out in nature I've gained an appreciation for different ecosystems and have had my passion for marine science cemented. **Describe UMaine in one word.** Welcoming. **Explain:** From the beginning I've felt welcomed and at home at the University of Maine. The campus is filled with friendly people, helpful teachers, and spirited events that make you feel welcomed. **What do you hope to do after graduation and how has UMaine helped you reach those goals?** After graduating I hope to get my master's degree in marine policy or marine affairs. Ultimately I want to work for either the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or for the Environmental Protection Agency in creating legislation to protect our oceans. The University of Maine has given me the student research experiences that will make me stand out from my peers when applying to graduate school. It has given me the foundation to pursue my dreams of protecting the ocean. **What is the most interesting, engaging or helpful class you've taken at UMaine?** The most interesting class I have taken so far at the University of Maine has been SMS 201 — Biology of Marine Organisms with Sara Lindsay. I began taking this class last spring and ended up continuing it online at home once the pandemic hit. This class covered a lot of information, but the thing that really stood out to me was learning about bioluminescence. Being home, I was in San Diego when learning about this, it just so happened that we were having a large bioluminescent event and I was able to go swimming in the electric blue water while having just learned all the information behind how and why it happens. **What difference has UMaine made in your life?** The University of Maine has given me an unforgettable college experience, I am thankful everyday I decided to transfer here. This school has brought me great friendships, research opportunities, and an academic understanding of important concepts that will help me in my future career. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers updates for agricultural industry Oct. 14

06 Oct 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer two updates specific to the agricultural industry 7–8 p.m. Oct. 14. "Navigating the Label Regulatory Requirements for Soil Fumigation" will be presented online by Maine Board of Pesticide Control inspector Keith Brown, followed by "*Dickeya* in the Maine Potato Industry" with UMaine Extension crops specialist Steve Johnson. The cost is $5; registration is required to receive the link. Register and get additional details on the event webpage. Participants can earn one pesticide recertification credit and one CCA credit. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.554.4374; stevenj@maine.edu.

Maine Hunger Dialogue focuses on college student food and housing insecurity

06 Oct 2020

The Maine Hunger Dialogue will convene by webinar from 10 a.m.–noon Oct. 23. The event is free and open to the public. With a focus on food and housing insecurities experienced by college students, speakers will address best practices for campuses, discuss the results of a statewide survey on the primary issues, and explore food preservation techniques. Participating Maine college students and staff can also apply for $500 grants focused on campus food insecurity. The Maine Hunger Dialogue began in 2014. It grew out of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Maine Harvest for Hunger program which, since 2000, has donated 3,083,638 pounds of surplus fruits and vegetables to individuals, soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters in the state. "The goal of the Maine Hunger Dialogue is to inspire students from the state's public and private universities and colleges, including community colleges, to learn, share ideas, network and work together to fight hunger across Maine," says Frank Wertheim, as associate extension professor of agriculture/horticulture. Registration is required for the free webinar. Register on the event webpage. The Maine Hunger Dialogue will also be live-streamed on YouTube and will be recorded for those who cannot participate live. The event is sponsored by UMaine Extension, University of Maine at Presque Isle, the University of Maine System, Husson University and Maine Campus Compact.

Bowen talks with BDN about safety of home-canned foods

06 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Laurie Bowen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension food system aide, about preserving only the amount of food someone will use and when to toss home canned goods. "Honey found in thousand-year-old Egyptian tombs is still good," said Bowen. "But that's not the case with home canning. If properly processed and preserved, food is good for a year."

BDN reports on Phi Kappa Phi inductees at UMaine

06 Oct 2020

A Bangor Daily News story identified nine University of Maine faculty members recently inducted into Phi Kappa Phi honor society. The organization, with a mission of promoting academic excellence in all fields of higher education and engaging scholars in service to others, inducts an estimated 30,000 faculty, staff and students each year.

WABI, WVII cover Newman Center blessing of the pets

06 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WVII (Channel 7) reported on the Oct. 4 blessing of the pets at the University of Maine Newman Center. Father Kyle Doustou officiated at the traditional Catholic ceremony conducted on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. "I love seeing all the different kinds of dogs especially, but I'm waiting for a really exotic animal to come like a snake or an iguana or something, maybe a horse or a cow," said Doustou.

Media advance Maine Hunger Dialogue

06 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com and The County advanced the virtual Maine Hunger Dialogue scheduled for 10–11 a.m. Oct. 23. "The goal of the Maine Hunger Dialogue is to inspire students from the state's public and private universities and colleges, including community colleges, to learn, share ideas, network and work together to fight hunger across Maine," said Frank Wertheim, University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor and committee chair of the Maine Hunger Dialogue. This event evolved from the UMaine Extension program, Harvest for Hunger, which since 2000, has donated more than three million pounds of surplus fruits and vegetables to individuals, soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters across Maine. More information about the event is online.

Cammen quoted in AP story about controlling seal populations

06 Oct 2020

The Associated Press interviewed Kristina Cammen, University of Maine assistant professor of marine sciences, for an article highlighting recent increases in seal populations along Maine's coast. Cammen, a marine mammal scientist, advises against using hunting to reduce seal numbers. "A healthy ecosystem has sharks, seals and humans and they all have a place in that ecosystem." The Chicago Tribune, WBZ (Channel 4 in Boston) Maine Public and the Borneo Bulletin shared the AP story.

More, Mayewski talk to Harvard Gazette about impact of weather anomalies on deaths in 1918 pandemic, WWI

06 Oct 2020

The Harvard Gazette interviewed Alexander More, University of Maine assistant research professor with the Climate Change Institute, and Paul Mayewski, professor and director of the institute, about research using an ice core taken from a glacier in the European Alps that links climate conditions to mortality from the flu pandemic and World War I. "The environment is a complex system. We can't account for all variables of how climate affects the outbreak of disease, but we know for a fact that it does," said More. Mayewski noted that environmental conditions revealed in the ice core are similar to conditions today as society faces climate change and a coronavirus pandemic.

Morin featured in WABI story about online youth tutoring

06 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Lisa Morin, coordinator of the University of Maine Bodwell Center for Service and Volunteerism, about Black Bear Tutoring, a program that connects UMaine students with K–12 students seeking academic assistance with everything from reading to advanced placement calculus. Because tutoring sessions are online, children from across Maine now have access to the program.

Media report UMaine, partners to receive $2 million to advance offshore wind power

06 Oct 2020

The Portland Press Herald, Centralmaine.com and National Fisherman reported that the University of Maine will partner with Governor Mills' Energy Office and other state agencies and stakeholders to develop an economic roadmap for establishing Maine as a leader in offshore wind power. The partnership is expected to create jobs and build a skilled sustainable energy workforce in the state with $2.1 million from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration and $380,000 in state and local matching funds including in-kind contributions from the University of Maine.

Media cover project seeking to identify, count birds with AI technology

06 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com, the Bangor Daily News and Fosters.com picked up a University of Maine press release highlighting efforts to develop technologies that can locate colonies of nesting birds and capture images with cameras mounted in unmanned aerial vehicles. Cynthia Loftin, associate professor of wildlife ecology, and Roy Turner, associate professor of computer science will collaborate to develop artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that use the aerial photos to determine the number and species of birds in environments that are challenging to access, such as offshore islands and inland rookeries.

Media cite UMaine study of hospitality revenue losses during pandemic

06 Oct 2020

The Associated Press, the Bangor Daily News, WBTS (Channel 10 in Boston), New England Cable News (NECN) in Boston, The Telegraph and Financial World cited a University of Maine study outlining 2020 revenue losses of $1 billion in the state's hospitality industry due to the pandemic. WHDH (Channel 7 in Boston), the Times Union, the Washington Times, Seacoast Online and U.S. News and World Report ran the AP story. WGAN News Radio in Portland also shared the AP story.

Harold Alfond Foundation investing $240M to bring transformative change to the University of Maine System

07 Oct 2020

The Harold Alfond Foundation's historic investment in Maine and its people includes a $240 million commitment to the University of Maine System to bring transformative change to the state's largest educational, research, innovation and talent development asset. The Alfond investment in the University of Maine System is the largest ever to a public institution of higher education in New England and the 8th largest gift ever made to a U.S. institution of public higher education. This commitment is a display of tremendous confidence in the faculty, staff and students of the University of Maine System. Collaboratively, UMS will build on strong foundations already in place at its universities and take effectiveness to new levels by implementing creative, innovative ideas and programs to serve the students and people of Maine. The Harold Alfond Foundation's $240 million commitment over the next 12 years recognizes how the University of Maine System's first-in-the-nation unified accreditation, approved in June by the New England Commission on Higher Education, provides new opportunities for faculty development, student support and innovative collaborative degree programs to advance Maine's economy and workforce in partnership with the public and private sectors. "The University of Maine System is rising to meet the challenges of our state in a very big way. Through the initiatives we are supporting, it is perfectly poised to set new standards for how public higher education serves students and at the same time partners with employers in the pursuit of economic development and opportunity," said Greg Powell, Chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation. "It needs resources to do that and so we are betting big on its success and urging others to join us," said Powell. "Our investment in the University System is the largest single gift in the history of the Foundation and deservedly so. The System and its universities have a terrific leadership team and that leadership is setting an exciting strategic direction that commits our state's largest education and workforce development asset to student success, partnership and greater prosperity for the people of Maine." The University of Maine System will leverage the Harold Alfond Foundation's transformative gift to

secure an additional $170 million in matching funds over the next 10 years from private, state and federal sources, resulting in $410 million total investment in Maine's public university system. "Maine is receiving a transformative, unprecedented investment in its people and its future from the Harold Alfond Foundation," said Chancellor Dannel Malloy. "And it comes at a time when we need optimism and an affirmation that we work best when we work together. Through the work to achieve unified accreditation for our universities and, more recently, to bring our students back to Maine in one of the safest fall reopenings in the country, we have remained focused on both the success, and public health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, and the Maine communities where they learn, teach and engage in research. "We are extremely grateful for the Harold Alfond Foundation's commitment to Maine's public universities," Malloy said. "We're ready to use these generous investments and the matching dollars they leverage to transform our academic collaborations and facilities, provide resources to faculty for development and innovation, support student success and provide scholarships, and work with state and global partners to accelerate workforce and economic opportunities for Maine. All of this honors the Harold Alfond Foundation's 70-year legacy of service and generosity." "The Board of Trustees is incredibly appreciative of the Harold Alfond Foundation's support for and confidence in the steps we have taken to provide Maine's public universities with the leadership and strategic direction necessary for them to become an accessible, affordable, and responsive 21st-century leaders in education, research and workforce development," said James Erwin, Chair of the UMS Board of Trustees. "Given the right educational and experiential learning opportunities, Maine students and workers can compete with anyone in the world," Erwin said. "With the Alfond Foundation's historic partnership, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to become the high-performing statewide institution of public higher education Maine families, employers and community leaders need to overcome the state's demographic and skills-gap challenges, and to participate fully in the rapidly changing knowledge economy." **Harold Alfond Foundation $240 Million Investment** The Harold Alfond Foundation's investment in the University of Maine System will be focused in four areas:

- $55 million for the Maine Graduate and Professional Center — Supporting scholarships, integrated program development across business, law, public policy and graduate engineering; and a state-of-the-art building on the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus to house the Maine Center programs and Maine Law, and to serve as a center for collaboration and engagement to help attract and strengthen the Maine economy.
- $75 million for a multi-university Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science to be cooperatively led by the University of Maine — Providing additional undergraduate engineering programs at the University of Southern Maine, UMaine graduate engineering programs offered in Portland, expanded pathways into the statewide college from all UMS universities, new opportunities for shared programs, interdisciplinary structures and partnerships, and further renovations to UMaine's engineering education infrastructure alongside the Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center currently under construction.
- $20 million for student success and retention — Funding for three programs to be piloted at UMaine and expanded across the University of Maine System that include research learning opportunities for first- and second-year undergraduate students, a gateways to success initiative to expand learning assistance and curricular redesign to reduce failure rates and improve retention in "gateway" STEM courses, and a pathways-to-careers program to expand access to credit-bearing internships and other experiential learning opportunities Systemwide.
- $90 million for athletic facilities at the University of Maine and the well-being of Maine people — Providing support to maintain excellence in the state's only Division I athletics program, advance gender equity, and provide a preferred destination for high school sports championships, large academic fairs and competitions, and community events. All of the university's students and people from throughout Maine will be able to use the state-of-the-art athletic and convening venues at the state's flagship university in Orono.

University of Maine System universities will be sharing additional details on these initiatives, including facility renderings and master plan updates, program expansions, new partnerships, faculty hires and other innovations in future announcements, and through engagements with university, community and industry stakeholders. **UMS TRANSFORMS** With the Harold Alfond Foundation's historic commitment to transformative change in public higher education, the University of Maine System will shortly announce how the initiatives will be developed, beginning with discussions about the opportunities with interested faculty, staff and students. In the initial stages of this work, termed UMS TRANSFORMS, university and System leaders will be convening information sessions and open forums, identifying individuals interested in participating and establishing an implementation structure. University community input, continued conversation with the Harold Alfond Foundation, and engagement with other grantees and state partners will help to define outcomes and measures of success for the initial stages of the initiatives. **University Leaders Respond to the Harold Alfond Foundation's Investment University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy** We are deeply grateful to the Harold Alfond Foundation for providing this extraordinary opportunity for transformation at the University of Maine and across the University of Maine System. This investment will have a far-reaching impact throughout Maine and well beyond. The UMS and other initiatives announced today will enable the development of talent that will serve Maine for decades to come, grow the environments that foster innovation and entrepreneurship, and renew infrastructure for research and education. The investments in Black Bear athletics are an investment in Maine. They will strengthen and solidify the state's only Division I athletics program and ensure gender equity. UMaine will have the facilities to be able to welcome schools and organizations from across Maine for athletic competitions and championships, and other statewide initiatives ranging from STEM to the arts. The Alfond Foundation's vision and leadership give us opportunities unlike any we have ever had to emphasize student success and retention; expand engineering, computing and information science education statewide at the undergraduate and graduate levels, in partnerships with K–12, higher education, and the public and private sectors; and help drive economic recovery and growth in Maine through the integration of business, law and public policy. I thank the Alfond Foundation for its confidence in our capabilities and potential to use this gift of unprecedented magnitude to transform our institutions and our state. The President's Oct. 7 community email and her video message are online. **University of Southern Maine President Glenn Cummings** The Harold Alfond Foundation has our community's deepest gratitude for this historic gift to Maine's flagship university, to the entire University of Maine System and to the University of Southern Maine. The Foundation's commitment will have a transformative and lasting impact on Maine students. The gift will allow our universities to add even greater value to our state's workforce and will strengthen our graduates' contributions to their communities. It's especially wonderful to see the Foundation's commitment to build new facilities for the Maine Graduate and Professional Center on USM's Portland Campus and provide USM students with expanded scholarships. The Foundation's investment will strengthen the Center's ability to marshal programs in law, business, policy and public health to grow Maine's economy. We will all gain from the Center's ongoing service to Maine's businesses and civic, legal and nonprofit organizations. On behalf of the USM community, I thank the Harold Alfond Foundation for their confidence in our ability to realize the full potential of their investment and the magnitude of their generosity. **University of Maine School of Law Dean Leigh Saufley** On behalf of the students — current and future — of Maine Law and the Graduate and Professional Center, we send our deepest gratitude to the Harold Alfond Foundation, not just for the extraordinary generosity demonstrated through this transformative grant, but also for the vision and support for collaborative and cross-disciplinary education. The interplay of business, law, science, engineering, and policy has never been more important in Maine and this country. The work already made possible through prior generosity of the Foundation has demonstrated the critical importance of educating the next generation of Maine's business leaders, lawyers, policy makers, scientists and engineers across multiple disciplines, and this extraordinary gift will advance the reframing of graduate education in a way that will add immense value to Maine for generations to come. **University of Maine Athletic Director Ken Ralph** Words cannot adequately convey our appreciation for the generosity of the Harold Alfond Foundation. This gift to the University of Maine System and to Black Bear Athletics once again shows how the Board of the Harold Alfond Foundation continues to honor Mr. Alfond's passion for excellence in education and athletics. This grant will allow us to upgrade our facilities to improve the competitiveness of our Division I teams, advance our stated commitment to gender equity in our athletics programs, as well as create a destination for youth club programs and high school championship level events, cementing Orono as the premier destination in Maine for sports while drawing countless youth to our campus to enjoy the thrill of competing. This grant will allow us to build out some new facilities and upgrade existing facilities. The full execution of our plan will positively impact all 17 of our varsity programs while also providing better facilities for our on-campus recreational sports. The spectator experience will also be enhanced so people can more easily make the decision to come to campus to cheer on their Black Bears. Since the mid-'70s when Harold Alfond made a gift which would become Alfond Arena, the Alfond family has positively impacted generations of athletes in Orono. This new grant will allow us to enhance the Alfond legacy with the University of Maine and the Black Bears. We are humbled by the generosity shown by the Harold Alfond Foundation and will work hard every day to live up to the expectations Harold Alfond had for the university and its athletic department. Contact: Dan Demeritt, 207.441.6962, dan.demeritt@maine.edu

Mitchell Center hosts talk about tools for managing coastal pollution

07 Oct 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk about developing tools to help coastal communities deal with pollution problems 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 19. In this talk, "The Land-Sea Conjunction Junction … What's the Function? Connecting Coastal Places, People and Science," UMaine researchers Lauren Ross and Sean Smith will discuss the progress made by scientists and stakeholders to provide better predictions of water quality conditions in Maine estuaries, as well as new forms of information, data sources and analytical tools to help natural resource managers and shellfishing communities respond to pollution problems. Ross and Smith's research focuses on the dynamics of where freshwater, tidal circulation of seawater and coastal shellfishing communities connect. Ross is an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering. Smith is an associate professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences and the Mitchell Center. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, visit the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or hallsworth@maine.edu.

UVAC supports Maine Cancer Foundation with T-shirt sales during Breast Cancer Awareness month

07 Oct 2020

The University Volunteer Ambulance Corps (UVAC) is commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month by selling "UVAC for A Cure" T-shirts to raise awareness and support the Maine Cancer Foundation. The foundation will receive 100% of the proceeds from T-shirt sales, helping the organization provide various resources ranging from transportation assistance to patient support grants to individuals and groups across the state. UVAC members are also promoting breast cancer awareness by wearing their shirts, dressing their ambulance in pink and adoring their truck with pink ribbons. T-shirts can be purchased for $20 from the University of Maine Bookstore or from UVAC crew members in-person at their ambulance station, located next to Cutler Health Center on Long Road. Email um.uvac@maine.edu before coming for pickup or follow the group's Instagram for days and times they will be outside tabling.

Centralmaine.com promotes virtual geriatrics colloquium Oct. 27

07 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com advanced the 15th annual Clinical Geriatrics Colloquium, Creating Age Friendly Health Systems, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 27 via Zoom. Conference goals include examining the progress of Age-Friendly Health Systems nationally and in Maine, and understanding the social determinants of health for older adults, particularly in rural settings, among others. A schedule and more information about the event are available online.

WAGM talks with Dill about dry weather, caterpillars

07 Oct 2020

WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) interviewed University of Maine Cooperative Extension Pest Management Specialist Jim Dill about the impact of Maine's drought on caterpillars. According to Dill, the dry weather has limited the growth of bacteria and fungi that attack caterpillars, making it a good year for them, and particularly for Woolly Bears.

Media covers Swacha's coping with COVID project

07 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Kathryn Swacha, a University of Maine assistant professor of English, about her public storytelling project, "Coping with Covid." Swacha seeks to compile people's lived experiences as they deal with coronavirus, and interpret social distancing and public health guidelines in their everyday routines. Centralmaine.com picked up the UMaine news release about Coping with Covid.

UMaine researchers co-author opinion published by Centralmaine.com

07 Oct 2020

Ryan LaRochelle, University of Maine lecturer at the Cohen Institute for Leadership and Public Service, Rob Glover, associate professor of political science, and Brieanne Berry, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology contributed to an opinion published by Centralmaine.com. In the column, "What's at Stake in the November Election," LaRochelle and Glover expressed perspectives from the Scholar Strategies Network related to the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on vulnerable populations, and the opportunity presented in the November election. Berry argued that now is the time for Maine to develop regional solutions to address climate change. Retired Professor of Sociology Steve Barkan also contributed to the piece.

Pitman interviewed by Michigan Chronicle about the price of black life

07 Oct 2020

Brian Pitman, University of Maine assistant professor of sociology, was interviewed by the Michigan Chronicle in a story highlighting the racial dichotomy in the American criminal justice system where "legal" and "just" are often mutually exclusive. According to Pitman, the U.S. legal system is enabling violence by white supremacists empowered to act on behalf of police.

Media report on Alfond gift of $240 million to UMS, UMaine

07 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, WABI (Channel 5), the Associated Press, Maine Public, News Center Maine and Mainebiz reported that the University of Maine System will receive a grant of $240 million from the Harold Alfond Foundation. A portion of the funds will be used to establish a system-wide College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science and for improvements to the engineering education infrastructure at the University of Maine. Centralmaine.com published an opinion piece about the funding. U.S. News & World Report, WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland), WQDY/WALZ radio station and The Washington Times shared the AP story. The Sun Journal shared the Press Herald story.

UMaine 2020 Homecoming to be a three-day virtual event

07 Oct 2020

Alumni and friends of the University of Maine will gather online Oct. 16–18 for what organizers describe as "the most unique Homecoming in UMaine's history." As in the past, UMaine's annual Homecoming — an event which normally attracts more than 10,000 visitors to Orono each October — will feature a variety of social events, programs, sports and entertainment. However, this year those activities will be presented as virtual events — both live and prerecorded — due to pandemic-related health and safety precautions. "As the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, turn those lemons into lemonade," says Annie Cutler, vice president of the UMaine Alumni Association and Homecoming coordinator. "It became evident months ago that Homecoming could not be held as an in-person event. So, with President (Joan) Ferrini-Mundy's enthusiastic support, we've pulled together dozens of programs and activities that alumni and friends can enjoy from a cozy chair or couch at home." The UMaine Alumni Association has a long history of bringing people together in the name of Maine's flagship university, and it will do it again this year, says President Ferrini-Mundy. "During the pandemic we've learned a number of lessons, including how to continue to gather, celebrate and have important conversations with people from all over, remotely, and the Alumni Association has been a leader in this area," says President Ferrini-Mundy. "We will miss seeing everyone on campus for Homecoming this year, but the online offerings will continue the tradition of bringing Black Bear Nation together." As detailed on Homecoming's website, programming starts on Friday, Oct. 16 at noon EST with a welcome and Q&A session with President Ferrini-Mundy. It will be followed by a presentation by Habib Dagher, executive director of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center, who will explain and demonstrate the cutting-edge offshore wind power technology developed at the UMaine facility. Other featured virtual programming on Friday includes an interview and Q&A session featuring Political Science Professor Richard Powell, UMaine 2020 Distinguished Maine Professor Award recipient; socials and presentations offered by a variety of academic

departments; a dress rehearsal of the Pride of Maine Black Bear Marching Band; "Stargazing," hosted by UMaine's Versant Power Astronomy Center from its Jordan Planetarium; and a wide assortment of on-demand videos related to the university's history and alumni. Saturday's agenda includes more virtual socials and gatherings. Black Bear Athletics will be hosting a virtual "Tailgate Party," along with a replay of UMaine's 2018 Homecoming football game against Albany. University faculty members currently involved in COVID-19-related research will discuss and answer questions about the pandemic. Several academic units, alumni groups and clubs will hold virtual socials throughout the day. On-demand video programming will remain available, including the Collins Center for the Arts' popular "Six Picks" performance series. Sunday's offerings include continued access to all on-demand programming and online shopping opportunities featuring Maine crafters, the Alumni Association's online store, and University Bookstore. Contact: Annie Cutler, anne.e.cutler@maine.edu; 646.842.2194

New website collects educational resources for preK–12 teachers and families

07 Oct 2020

PreK–12 schools in Maine and around the country reopened for in-person instruction this fall after abruptly closing in the spring due to the coronavirus pandemic. But with many now operating on a hybrid schedule to limit the spread of the disease, educators and families continue to face uncertainty, and demand for reliable resources related to remote learning and other issues raised by COVID-19 has increased. To meet this need, the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development has created a website to help address questions and provide research-backed information for teachers and parents. The PreK-12 Resources for Educators and Families site includes links to helpful materials on topics such as social-emotional learning, trauma-informed teaching, special education, literacy and more. Faculty experts and graduate students in the college vetted all of the resources and provided short descriptions to make it easy for members of the public to understand how each one can be used. In addition, the different topic areas are organized into resources for educators and resources for families to make it easier for users to find the most relevant information. While other educational organizations offer resource websites, one unique aspect of this site is the ability to highlight the latest in research and outreach from the College of Education and Human Development, as well as its collaborators. For example, the homepage features links to the Beyond Crisis Schooling project and Community Learning for ME. Led by educational leadership faculty members Catharine Biddle and Maria Frankland, the Beyond Crisis Schooling research team analyzed how Maine schools adapted during the initial months of the coronavirus pandemic, highlighting "examples of the most interesting and innovative responses of Maine school districts to school closure." Community Learning for ME is a volunteer-driven, grassroots website designed to be a community resource to support parents and teachers. Several faculty members in the college have contributed content to the site since it launched in the spring. As the needs of the public shift during the pandemic and beyond, the college plans to update the resource website with the latest in research-based information and links. Members of the public with questions or suggestions about content listed on the website are encouraged to email the college: coehd@maine.edu. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Maine AgrAbility hosts virtual state fair on social media

08 Oct 2020

Maine AgrAbility will feature success stories and resources for farmers and other agricultural workers in a day-long virtual state fair Oct. 20 on Facebook and Twitter. Maine AgrAbility provides assistance, education and support to agricultural workers with disabilities. Events during the virtual fair will include videos of clients showcasing the breadth of Maine's agriculture and solutions to address common limitations faced by agricultural workers related to mental, physical or cognitive health issues. Stories include veterans serving their country in a new way, women-owned businesses, and students' first jobs on a farm. The day ends with a video premiere of "Managing Farm Stress," with a discussion led by University of Maine Cooperative Extension human development specialist Leslie Forstadt. Content will be available on the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair Facebook page and Twitter feed (@AgrAbilityVSF). For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.944.1533; leilani.carlson@maine.edu. More information also is available on the Maine AgrAbility website. Maine AgrAbility is a nonprofit collaboration of University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Alpha One with programming funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

'The Maine Question' podcast asks how diversity strengthens education and community

08 Oct 2020

"How does diversity strengthen education and community?" Find out on the fourth episode of Season Three of "The Maine Question" podcast. The death of George Floyd is just one of several incidents that pushed issues of race, diversity and justice to the front burner in 2020. University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy created the Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to address these issues and help the university foster a more inclusive and equitable campus atmosphere. Host Ron Lisnet speaks with council co-chairs Kimberly Whitehead, vice president and chief of staff to the president, and Susan McKay, a professor of physics and director of the Center for Research in STEM Education, or RiSEse Center, about efforts, which began this fall, to make UMaine and the education it provides more just and reflective of the diverse world UMaine students will enter. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

Pen Bay Pilot, Free Press note Tick Lab in report on Maine CDC's tick warning

08 Oct 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and The Free Press noted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab while reporting on warnings from the Maine Centers for Disease Control about taking precautions against ticks during the second peak in adult deer tick activity. The Tick Lab provides tick diagnostics, public outreach, and conducts applied research on ticks in Maine. Questions about ticks can be emailed to tickID@maine.edu.

Daily Bulldog, Centralmaine.com highlight Extension's small business food safety plan workshop

08 Oct 2020

The Daily Bulldog and Centralmaine.com highlighted University of Maine Cooperative Extension's upcoming workshop for small-scale food producers about compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act from noon–1:30 p.m. Oct. 20. Topics include relevant regulations, good manufacturing practices training, required and optional documentation, and safety practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. Register on the event webpage to receive the link. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Tilton, 207.942.7396; 800.287.1485 (in Maine); theresa.tilton@maine.edu.

BDN advances Extension's agricultural industry updates

08 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's webinar to offer two updates specific to the agricultural industry 7–8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 14. "Navigating the Label Regulatory Requirements for Soil Fumigation" will be presented online by Maine Board of Pesticide Control inspector Keith Brown, followed by "Dickeya in the Maine Potato Industry" with UMaine Extension crops specialist Steve Johnson. Register and get additional details on the event webpage.

WABI reports on March Against Domestic Violence

08 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the 7th Annual (and first ever virtual) March Against Domestic Violence hosted by the University of Maine. “In Maine, a domestic violence assault is informed to law-enforcement every two hours and 22 minutes.,” said Nicole Pelletier, president of UMaine Women in Business. “The only way that violence against women is going to stop is if the arena of masculinity is re-constructed,” said Kenny Doak of Male Athletes Against Violence. “We need to start raising more boys to be different kinds of men, so that we can stop raising little girls to fear for their safety as women.”

Bloomberg highlights Coming Home map in Native Land online map

08 Oct 2020

Bloomberg highlighted the University of Maine Canadian-American Center’s Come Home to Indigenous Place Names in Canada map in a report about Native Land, an online map showcasing an overlap of Indigenous territories, languages and treaties. The Canadian-American Center’s map depicts many Indigenous place names across Canada, shared with permission of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and people. The intention of the map is to create respect for Indigenous homelands and sovereignties, and a feeling for and understanding of the place names.

Brewer speaks with NPR about ranked choice voting, Senate race

08 Oct 2020

Mark Brewer, professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with National Public Radio (NPR) about ranked choice voting and the U.S. Senate Race between incumbent Susan Collins and challenger Sara Gideon.

UMaine, Northeastern fund shared research projects of social, economic significance

09 Oct 2020

The University of Maine and Northeastern University and its Roux Institute have jointly awarded seed funding to five collaborative research teams to address topics important to people in Maine and beyond. Broadly, the projects involve improving aquaculture vaccines, examining the link between pacifier use and sudden infant death syndrome, better understanding influenza A, creating an improved model of human-artificial intelligence interaction in self-driving vehicles, and developing an instrument that could have vast applications for human health monitoring. The projects are the first funded in a new collaborative research initiative established between the two universities. Through a rigorous review process involving peer faculty reviewers and research leaders at each university, the five projects were selected from a pool of 21 applications. Each team has been awarded $50,000 to conduct the one-year projects and will work together to pursue larger external funding programs through federal and private sponsors. “As manifested by the five selected joint research initiatives, faculty from both institutions should be commended for developing such high-impact projects of significant social and economic benefit to Maine and beyond,” says Kody Varahramyan, UMaine vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School. David Luzzi, senior vice provost for research and vice president of Northeastern’s Innovation Campus at Burlington, Massachusetts, says, “In today’s world of complex, interdisciplinary challenges, partnerships bring together researchers with complementary expertise that accelerate research progress. This program taps the diverse, deep expertise at our institutions. In addition to funding five impactful projects in the areas of human health and sustainability, the program has resulted in many more new collaborations that will drive progress against important societal challenges for Maine and globally.” UMaine and Northeastern began to seek ways to formalize partnerships in areas of shared expertise and significance — artificial intelligence (AI), Earth and climate sciences, health and life sciences, manufacturing and marine science — after the formation of The Roux Institute at Northeastern University was announced in January 2020. Officials signed a research agreement between the two universities in May and a request for seed grant proposals followed in June. The Roux Institute, in Portland, Maine, seeks to build expertise at the intersection of humans and machines. This focus dovetails into the Artificial Intelligence Initiative and other strengths of UMaine, the state’s research university. “It is part of the Roux Institute’s mission to help build the Maine tech and life science economy with the power of Northeastern’s research and learning enterprise,” said Michael Pollastri, senior vice provost for Portland and academic lead for the Roux Institute. “The projects we are funding through this program highlight the exciting complementarity between the research ecosystems at the University of Maine and at Northeastern University — and this type of complementarity will quickly drive us forward in our mission.” Following are the projects and the collaborating researchers: **A Novel Adjuvant for Aquaculture Vaccines Using Engineered Bacteria Targeting the STING Pathway** Viral and bacterial infectious diseases in fish represent a major economic issue in aquaculture worldwide. This team will test the safety and effectiveness of a new, cost-effective, easily deployable and highly potent ingredient to help create a stronger immune response in fish. Collaborators are Jiahe Li, assistant professor of bioengineering at Northeastern; Deborah Bouchard, director of the Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI) and division lead for University of Maine Cooperative Extension Diagnostic Research Laboratory’s Aquatic Animal Health Lab; Ian Bricknell, professor of aquaculture biology at UMaine; Sarah Turner, master’s candidate and scientific research specialist at University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the ARI; and Xin Sun, doctoral candidate at Northeastern. **Whispering Gallery Mode Resonator Analysis of Dermal Interstitial Fluid** Dermal interstitial fluid (ISF), which surrounds cells in body tissues, is an alternative to blood for monitoring human health. ISF can be accessed with minimal invasiveness, it contains many of the same biochemical constituents in blood plasma, and it’s clear. This team will seek to develop a new biofluid analysis instrument that would have unprecedented sensitivity and selectivity, and could have broad applications for health care and medical diagnoses. Researchers are Rosemary Smith, professor of electrical and computer engineering at UMaine; Srinivas Tadigadapa, professor and chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Northeastern; Caleb Berry, master's student in chemical engineering at UMaine; and Vedant Sumaria, Ph.D. student in electrical engineering at Northeastern. **Using artificial intelligence to examine the interplay between pacifier use and sudden infant death syndrome** In 2018, about 1,300 babies younger than 1 year old died due to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). While causes of death are unknown in SIDS, pacifier use has been shown to be protective in reducing SIDS. UMaine and Northeastern researchers will design an AI-guided monitoring platform to examine how nonnutritive sucking movements with and without a pacifier can alter babies’ respiratory frequency and arousal levels during sleep. Collaborators are Emily Zimmerman, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northeastern; Rebecca Schwartz-Mette, assistant professor of psychology and director of the Peer Relations Lab at UMaine; Marie Hayes, professor emerita of psychology at UMaine and cofounder, chief executive officer and chief strategy officer at Activas Diagnostics, LLC; Sarah Ostadabbas, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at Northeastern; Xizofei Huang, Ph.D. student in electrical and computer engineering at Northeastern; and Matthew Rothman, Ph.D. student in clinical psychology at UMaine. **Developing an Artificial Intelligence-based gene network modeling approach to characterize the regulation of the innate immune response to Influenza A virus infection** The World Health Organization has estimated that as many as 650,000 people die annually from respiratory diseases associated with seasonal influenza infections. This team will investigate the immune system’s response to the influenza A virus infection and develop an automated AI-based network modeling approach to find new antiviral therapeutic targets. Researchers are Benjamin King, assistant professor of bioinformatics at UMaine; Mingyang Lu, assistant professor of bioengineering at Northeastern; Ataur Katebi, associate research scientist in the Department of Bioengineering at Northeastern; and Brandy-Lee Soos, Ph.D. student in molecular and biomedical sciences at UMaine. **Combining Real-Time Deep Learning and Human-Vehicle Collaboration Techniques in Autonomous Vehicles to Assist Older and Visually Impaired Passengers** Global investment in fully autonomous vehicles (FAVs) is projected to reach more than $556 billion by 2026. FAVs have many advantages, and this project addresses their untapped societal benefit to assist older drivers and those who are blind and visually impaired (BVI). The team will develop a new model of human-AI vehicle interaction to support BVI and older adults by ensuring they understand what the AI driver is doing and that the AI driver can sense, interpret, and communicate with the passenger. Collaborators are Nicholas Giudice, professor of spatial informatics, and founder and chief research scientist at the Virtual Environments and Multimodal Interaction (VEMI) Laboratory at UMaine; Shelley Lin, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Northeastern; Richard Corey, director of the VEMI Lab and associate graduate faculty in the School of Computing and Information Science; Mengshu Sun, Ph.D. student in electrical and computer engineering at Northeastern; and Grant Beals, multimodal engineer at the VEMI Lab. “Including students at all levels in these seed projects was of paramount importance to both institutions, and the reviewers really took this to heart during their rigorous process,” says Kim Holloway, vice provost for research development at Northeastern. “Students are the next cadre of research superstars, and we should make every effort to nurture their development in these strategically important areas.” Jason Charland, senior advisor to the president and director of research development at UMaine, says the next steps are to get the five project teams up and running by Nov. 1 and to convene a spring research summit at which teams can update the public on their work. “The Offices of Research Development on both campuses will also work with and support the other 16 project teams that submitted applications to the joint seed grant program,” says Charland. “The level of response and quality of applications received in this first round demonstrate a strong interest in collaboration among the faculty at both universities and we plan to run a second round of seed grants next summer.” Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Waller to discuss role math plays in research, expeditions in webinar for educators

09 Oct 2020

University of Maine marine biologist and National Geographic Explorer Rhian Waller will discuss how she uses mathematical concepts in her research and expeditions during a webinar designed for math educators at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 21. Big Ideas Learning and National Geographic Learning will host the webinar as part of its Spotlight on STEM series, which helps educators make connections between mathematics and STEM concepts. The series will feature three National Geographic Explorers, including Waller, an associate professor of marine sciences at UMaine, discussing their projects and field work, how math plays a role and their efforts to create a sustainable future. Register online.

Extension hosts workshop on food safety plan development for small food businesses

09 Oct 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will host a workshop for small-scale food producers about compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act from noon–1:30 p.m. Oct. 20. Intended for small food entrepreneurs, farm market managers and directors of shared-use kitchens, this webinar is an opportunity to develop food safety plans with coaching from instructors. Topics include relevant regulations, good manufacturing practices training, required and optional documentation, and safety practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. UMaine Extension associate professor and food safety specialist Jason Bolton, Extension assistant professor and food scientist Robson Machado, and Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences assistant professor of food science Abby Snyder lead the workshop and a round-table discussion. Participants are encouraged to bring questions. The webinar is free; a $20 donation to support UMaine Extension 4-H is optional. Register on the event webpage to receive the link. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Tilton, 207.942.7396; 800.287.1485 (in Maine); theresa.tilton@maine.edu. This webinar is made possible through a grant supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

UMaine alumna honored as 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year

09 Oct 2020

Cindy Soule, a fourth-grade teacher at Portland's Gerald E. Talbot Community School, is the 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year. A lifelong Maine resident, Soule has a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Maine ('92) as well as a master's degree in special education from the University of Southern Maine. An announcement from the Maine Department of Education, which administers the state's Teacher of the Year program along with Educate Maine, says Soule "has an innate ability to create a learning community that disrupts the opportunity gap." It goes on to say that she "inspires curiosity and citizenship in her fourth-grade students" and "empowers students to see themselves as meaningful contributors to their community." One way Soule has contributed to Maine's education community is by serving as a mentor teacher to UMaine College of Education and Human Development students as they completed their student teaching semesters. As 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year, Soule will spend her year of service advocating for students and teachers, as well as making public appearances to speak to the importance of education in preparing Maine students for the future. She also will represent Maine in the National Teacher of the Year program.

Campus community invited to vote for winners of Honors Talent Show Competition

09 Oct 2020

Honors students versed in poetry, music, slacklining and other aptitudes are vying for the top spots in the Honors Talent Show Competition, in which the campus community will decide the victors. The Honors College received video submissions from 15 contestants, all of which are displayed on the event webpage. To help determine the winners, the college asks voters to watch the videos and select their favorite by filling out an online form. The five entrants who receive the most votes will receive a gift card prize. Voting closes at noon on Friday, Oct. 15.

Media promote series for parents, caregivers of young children

09 Oct 2020

The Free Press, Sun Journal, Bangor Daily News, Wiscasset Newspaper and Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Families' four-week series for parents and caregivers of young children from 9–10 a.m. every Thursday from Oct. 29 to Nov. 19. This virtual coffee break, hosted by UMaine Extension Waldo County parent education professional Alicia Greenlaw, offers an informal way to connect with other parents, ask questions, and discuss relevant topics with professionals in the field. Register and find more details on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Greenlaw, 207.944.1843; alicia.greenlaw@maine.edu. The Advertiser Democrat and the Franklin Journal shared the Sun Journal story.

Media highlight virtual state fair hosted by Maine AgrAbility

09 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5), the Bangor Daily News, Morning Ag Clips, Centralmaine.com and the Penobscot Bay Pilot highlighted Maine AgrAbility hosting a day-long virtual state fair, which will feature success stories and resources for farmers and other agricultural workers, on Tuesday, Oct. 20, on Facebook and Twitter. Events during the virtual fair will include videos of clients showcasing the breadth of Maine's agriculture and solutions to address common limitations faced by agricultural workers related to mental, physical or cognitive health issues. Content will be available on the AgrAbility Virtual State Fair Facebook page and Twitter feed (@AgrAbilityVSF). For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.944.1533; leilani.carlson@maine.edu.

WSFX interviews McConville about UMaine UVote work

09 Oct 2020

WSFX in Wilmington, North Carolina, interviewed Keely McConville, a first-year student studying political science at the University of Maine, about her volunteer work for UMaine UVote. McConville participated in the registration drives and Zoom calls, trying to convince her friends to register to vote.

News Center reports on UMaine alumna honored as Teacher of the Year

09 Oct 2020

News Center Maine reported on fourth-grade teacher Cindy Soule, a University of Maine alumna, being named 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year. A lifelong Maine resident, Soule has a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Maine ('92) as well as a master's degree in special education from the University of Southern Maine. She teaches at Portland's Gerald E. Talbot Community School.

Ellsworth American interviews Calderwood about wild blueberry season

09 Oct 2020

Lily Calderwood, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension blueberry specialist, spoke with the Ellsworth American about how blueberry farmers fared this season, particularly after facing frost and drought. “This has been a challenging year for all of Maine’s 485 wild blueberry growers,” said Calderwood, also an assistant professor of horticulture with the School of Food and Agriculture at UMaine, said Sept. 11. “Many farmers were hit by three frosts during crop bloom and from then to now we have been dealing with a severe drought.”

National Fisherman notes Billings’ retirement

09 Oct 2020

National Fisherman, a publication focusing on the U.S. commercial fishing industry, shared a media release about Cathy Billings retiring from her position as associate director of the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine on Sept. 21 after 20 years of service.

WABI reports on DOE official visiting Composites Center

09 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on Paul Dabbar, under secretary for science with the Department of Energy, visiting the Advanced Structures and Composites Center at the University of Maine. Dabber saw recent projects and equipment, including the latest VolturnUS floating concrete hall for a wind turbine to be completed in 2023 and the center’s 3D printer, the largest in the world. “Their next step here is to scale up this test to something bigger next year. Once they do that, next step is for them to have a full-scale large turbine, the largest turbine available in the world down the road,” Dabbar said of the VolturnUS project. “So, I think they’ll be starting testing on this in about a year at this facility.”

Gill speaks with Vogue India about climate grief

09 Oct 2020

Jacquelyn Gill, an associate professor of paleoecology and plant ecology at the University of Maine, spoke with Vogue India about climate grief, anxiety and despair associated with climate change and the natural disasters it fuels. To prevent succumbing to climate despair, Gill said she focuses on solutions, such as “leaning into sustainable ways of living that worked for thousands of years,” and finds hope in history. “The Mayan people didn’t just disappear,” she said. “They changed how they lived and dispersed out of these big cities with hierarchical structures. And they still persist to this day, even through colonialism and genocide.”

'Archival Outlook' publishes story on UMaine COVID-19 community archive

13 Oct 2020

The September/October edition of "Archival Outlook" featured a story about the University of Maine COVID-19 Community Archive. The article was written by Matthew Revitt, Fogler Library Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, and details the efforts to capture the experiences of the UMaine community as they navigate the COVID-19 Pandemic. "Archival Outlook" is published by the Society of American Archivists. Articles in the publication focus on best practice and how-to pieces on timely and relevant topics, how archives are used by the public, and archivists on the job.

Ishaq to join BioME virtual panel Oct. 14

13 Oct 2020

The third session of the free virtual coffee hour series sponsored by the Biosciences Association of Maine (BioME) is scheduled for 10–11 a.m. Oct. 14. Sue Ishaq, assistant professor of animal and veterinary sciences, will join a panel of experts seeking to connect life science entrepreneurs, scientists and faculty to learn more about research currently being conducted in Maine. Guests will offer a miniature presentation followed by Q&A with audience members, who will also have an opportunity to connect with each other. The goal of this series is to sustain Maine’s life science community during uncertain times and to educate attendees about what businesses and researchers are doing to advance biosciences and foster research in Maine. More information about the event, including a registration link, is online.

BDN Climate Conversation to feature Birkel, Leahy Oct. 15

13 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News will host the third of four Climate Conversations at 4 p.m. Oct. 15. This event, “Snow Business: What do Shorter, Milder Winters Mean for the Outdoor Industry?” will feature Sean Birkel, University of Maine research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute, Jessica Leahy, professor of human dimensions of natural resources in UMaine’s School of Forest Resources, Sarah Nelson, director of research for the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Matt Polstein, founder and chief executive officer of the New England Outdoor Center. This series of conversations is intended to foster wider discussion of issues that impact every economic sector and every region of Maine. Attendance is free; participants must register online.

Johnson talks drought, potatoes with American Agriculturist

13 Oct 2020

Steven Johnson, University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor and crop specialist was interviewed by American Agriculturist about the impact of drought conditions on Maine’s potato crop. The article also promoted the UMaine Extension Hay Directory, which is available online.

BDN interviews Kirby about dust mites

13 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with Clay Kirby, University of Maine Cooperative Extension insect diagnostician, for a story about dust mites. Kirby notes that while it is impossible to eliminate dust mites completely, there are

methods of reducing their populations.

News Center Maine, WABI report active COVID-19 numbers for UMS, UMaine

13 Oct 2020

News Center Maine and WABI (Channel 5) reported that as of Monday, there were eight active cases of coronavirus among the 30,000 students, staff and faculty across the University of Maine System, including four at UMaine. Centralmaine.com also reported the number of active cases at UMaine.

Centralmaine.com advances managing coastal pollution talk

13 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com promoted "The Land-Sea Conjunction Junction … What's the Function? Connecting Coastal Places, People and Science," scheduled for 3 p.m. Oct. 19. University of Maine faculty Lauren Ross, assistant professor of hydraulics and water resources engineering, and Sean Smith, associate professor of watershed modeling, will discuss the progress made by scientists and stakeholders to provide better predictions of water quality conditions in Maine estuaries, as well as new forms of information, data sources and analytical tools to help natural resource managers and shellfishing communities respond to pollution problems. More information about the event, which is hosted by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, is online.

Pen Bay Pilot highlights UMaine, Northeastern research collaborations

13 Oct 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot picked up a University of Maine news release highlighting a new program established to support research collaborations between the University of Maine and Northeastern University. Through a rigorous review process involving peer faculty reviewers and research leaders at each university, five projects were awarded $50,000 in seed funding intended to support development and submission of innovative research proposals to other external sponsors.

Sun Journal interviews Pickard for story on women's rights in Maine

13 Oct 2020

The Lewiston Sun Journal interviewed Jennifer Pickard, University of Maine adjunct faculty in Maine studies and history, for a story about the progress of women's rights in Maine. Pickard co-authored a piece with Mazie Hough about women's rights in 1820 for the bicentennial story Maine Turns 200 in UMaine Today.

WABI, Centralmaine.com promote virtual UMaine Homecoming Oct. 16-18

13 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and Centralmaine.com picked up a University of Maine news release highlighting activities planned for UMaine's most unique Homecoming ever. The celebration, which historically attracts nearly 10,000 visitors and alumni, will feature a variety of social events, programs, sports and entertainment — live and prerecorded — because of the COVID-19 pandemic-related health and safety precautions. More information and a Homecoming schedule is available online.

Gill joins WNPR discussion of implications of melting permafrost

13 Oct 2020

Jacquelyn Gill, University of Maine associate professor of paleoecology, joined a WNPR (Connecticut Public Radio) discussion of how thawing permafrost could exacerbate climate change by releasing carbon currently sequestered in frozen organic matter.

UMaine Aquaculture Research Institute, USDA Agricultural Research Service partner to help salmon and oyster aquaculture succeed in the U.S.

14 Oct 2020

Over the past decade, Maine has seen 2.2% annual growth in aquaculture, which has had an overall economic impact of $140 million annually. Tackling the growing challenges for the sector — from emerging finfish and shellfish diseases to the effects of climate change — is critical. To address these issues facing the industry in Maine and the nation, an Aquaculture Experiment Station has been established by the University of Maine Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Auburn University. This cooperative agreement is a commitment to an ongoing conversation between researchers and the aquaculture industry to increase sustainable production and industry stability. The cooperative research and development agreement, eligible for renewal every five years, is funded by $950,000 from USDA ARS for the first year, and $750,000 annually thereafter. The Aquaculture Experiment Station will harness the expertise of ARI-affiliated faculty in Orono and at UMaine's Darling Marine Center in Walpole, and ARS researchers based on the Orono campus and at the National Marine Cold Water Marine Aquaculture Center in Franklin. The agreement also includes shellfish researchers at Auburn University in Alabama. "An Aquaculture Experiment Station at the state's research university aligns with our mission as the land, sea and space grant institution in Maine," said UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "Aquaculture is critical for the future of our coastal communities and for the economic recovery of Maine. For more than a decade, UMaine's nationally and internationally recognized aquaculture researchers and facilities have been dedicated to problem-solving, student experience and workforce development, and advancing this sector to benefit the state's economy. This partnership builds on those strengths, and creates a synergy among cutting-edge expertise, resources and research." "This cooperative agreement is a great example of the effectiveness of public-private partnerships among the University of Maine, USDA and the aquaculture sector," said Sebastian Belle, executive director of the Maine Aquaculture Association. "Maine has been a leader in the development of sustainable aquatic farming practices for many years. Those progressive methods are founded on science and innovation. The work that the Aquaculture Research Institute and USDA National Cold Water Aquaculture Center does is critical to the continued growth, sustainability and competitiveness of the Maine aquaculture sector," said Belle. "While UMaine has collaborated with USDA for years, this recognized formal partnership will bring national attention to UMaine as a leader in aquaculture research," said ARI director Deborah Bouchard. "The committed funding allows for long-term research strategies not often provided through standard funding avenues and allows us to hire researchers, professional staff, and students that strengthen ARI's research and workforce development programs," she said. ARI faculty leads Deborah Bouchard, Damian Brady and Paul Rawson work at a national level in aquatic animal health, shellfish genetics and intelligent farm siting. As researchers in the Aquaculture Experiment Station, the three UMaine experts will expand their work to address USDA ARS priorities, such as alternative feeds for finfish, selective breeding in oysters and "off-flavor" in salmon meat. The experimental station will allow researchers to provide rapid response to industry in a farm and hatchery setting. New research initiatives, focused on genetic improvement of North American Atlantic salmon and the Eastern oyster for aquaculture production, advance the goals of localized selective breeding strategies that improve performance for economically important traits, including

growth and disease resistance. “The research proposed by UMaine and USDA ARS is being driven by input from industry and stakeholders,” said Brian Peterson, research leader and director of the National Cold Water Marine Aquaculture Center in Orono and Franklin. “The new collaboration will allow scientists to focus on emerging diseases, off-flavor, and selective breeding strategies that improve performance of economically important traits such as growth disease resistance.” Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Virtual Engineering Job Fair set for Oct. 21

14 Oct 2020

The University of Maine Career Center and College of Engineering have partnered for 22 years to connect students with employers at the annual Engineering Job Fair (EJF). This year, the EJF, which is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 21, will be a virtual event presented via a Symplicity platform accessible through the CareerLink Career Management System. More than 75% of the 90 employers participating will be recruiting summer interns. Students planning to attend the EJF should visit the Career Center website to register, create a CareerLink profile, search for participating employers, or learn more about the event. Registration requires an @maine.edu address. Questions about the day of the fair can be directed to 207.581.1359 or umainecareercenter@maine.edu. A live chat feature will also be available at umaine.edu/career, or in the Career Center Zoom room within the EJF platform.

Hutchinson Center to offer public speaking training in November

14 Oct 2020

The University of Maine Hutchinson Center will offer a two-part professional development training course 6-9 p.m. Nov. 6 and 19. Practical Public Speaking and Virtual Presentations will be facilitated live via Zoom by Distinguished Toastmaster, author, and prize-winning speaker, Tom Dowd. Cost is $125; a limited number of need-based scholarships are available. For more information, visit the Hutchinson Center website.

UMaine Extension hosts series for parents, caregivers of young children

14 Oct 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Families will offer a four-week series for parents and caregivers of young children from 9–10 a.m. every Thursday from Oct. 29 to Nov. 19. This virtual coffee break, hosted by UMaine Extension Waldo County parent education professional Alicia Greenlaw, offers an informal way to connect with other parents, ask questions, and discuss relevant topics with professionals in the field. Topics will include mindfulness for parents, diversifying a child's library, co-parenting during COVID-19 and preparing for this holiday season. The series is free and open to all; registration is required. Register and find more details on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Alicia Greenlaw, 207.944.1843, alicia.greenlaw@maine.edu. More information also is on the UMaine Extension parenting webpage.

BDN reports partnership between Ferrini-Mundy, Malloy helped secure Alfond support

14 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that the largest ever gift to the University of Maine System was awarded in part to recognize efforts to unify campuses in the system through institutional accreditation, and to increase intercampus collaboration. George Jacobson, professor emeritus of biology, ecology and climate change at the University of Maine, praised UMS Chancellor Dannel Malloy and UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy for pursuing critical mutual goals, such as building research infrastructure. “I know they work closely together, and I know that their focus is to have us be a stronger research university for the state of Maine, and that’s all I ever cared about,” said Jacobson. The Piscataquis Observer shared the BDN story. Newscenter Maine also reported on the gift to the University of Maine System and UMaine.

UMaine’s new Institute of Medicine provides foundation for collaborative advancement in health care in Maine and beyond

14 Oct 2020

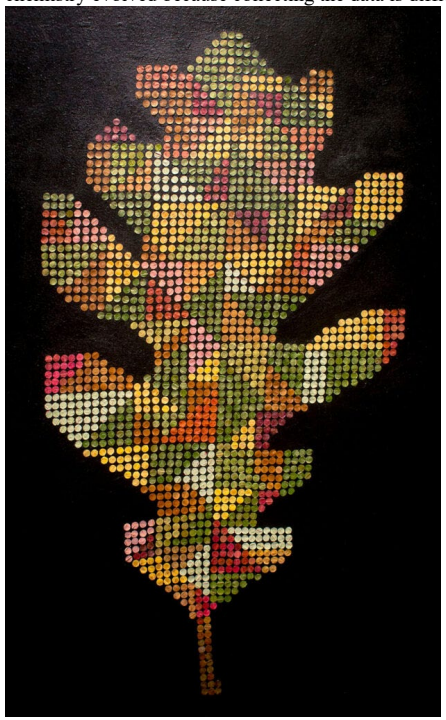
A new Institute of Medicine at the University of Maine will coordinate and support the research and public outreach efforts of some of the state’s leading experts whose research and scholarly work at UMaine advances rural health care, diagnostic medicine, immune system diseases and disorders, and medical humanities. The newly formed institute will serve as a bridge connecting the health care community with the university, and in doing so, it will provide guidance related to medical research, medical device development, rural health care and outreach, community engagement and workforce development. By bringing together ideas from the state’s research university and health care providers, it is expected that new strategies for therapeutics, medical devices, rural outreach and counseling will be developed, having significant positive impact on health care for people in Maine, says David Harder, institute director and research professor of medicine, who joined the university in 2019. Through the institute, new initiatives and partnerships will benefit the state and beyond. A joint sponsorship with the Center on Aging to host weekly health chats geared for Maine’s elder population will discuss topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic, healthy living and other health-related issues. The institute provides the structure for over 100 faculty engaged in biological and medical research, biomedical engineering, food science/nutrition, clinical psychology, social sciences and nursing to interact, share resources and develop joint programs. Moreover, the development of a formal research agreement between UMaine and Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center involves the creation of a joint study on genetic mechanisms related to chronic kidney disease in Maine’s rural populations. The institute is built on a foundation established by the UMaine Medicine initiative launched in fall 2018. The initiative supported and coordinated the growth and development of research and scholarly activity in health and life sciences, and helped advance related community outreach and engagement efforts. The initiative also included some of the state’s strongest university-based health care programs, including UMaine’s Center on Aging; and Maine’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service, based on the Orono campus. Today, the institute includes a community of collaborating interdisciplinary researchers and educators who, in partnership with health care providers and other stakeholders, are dedicated to discovery and learning in health and life sciences, and health care workforce development. The institute is working closely with the UMaine and University of Maine System researchers, as well as medical professionals in institutions statewide to develop transformative solutions that enhance human health and well-being. Planned collaborations include biomedical scientists, social scientists and physicians with Northern Light Health, St. Joseph Healthcare, Penobscot Community Health Care, MDI Biological Laboratory, The Jackson Laboratory, and Maine Medical Center Research Institute. The innovative and coordinated research and scholarly activity, education, in conjunction with strategic partnerships will advance a national model for rural medicine, Harder says. Moreover, the institute’s vision and mission align well with the University of Maine System Research and Development Plan. State flagship universities have a responsibility to be primary social and economic drivers, says Kody Varahramyan, UMaine vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School. UMaine Medicine was created in 2018 to help UMaine become a leader in health care and related economic growth in Maine, with specific focus on rural sectors. Now the Institute of Medicine will continue and intensify these efforts. Contact: Cecile Ferguson, cecile.ferguson@maine.edu; 207.581.3026

The way leaves reflect light reveals evolutionary history of seed plants, UMaine researcher finds

14 Oct 2020

The way leaves reflect light can illuminate the evolutionary history of seed plants, according to an international team of scientists led by a University of Maine researcher. Plant reflectance spectra, or the light profile leaves reflect across different wavelengths, capture the change and diversification of seed plants as a result of evolution, according to Dudu Meireles. The UMaine assistant professor of plant evolution and systematics and colleagues from the United States, Canada, Switzerland and England explored how spectra have evolved and diversified over the last 350 million years of plant evolution. Researchers found that by measuring the light spectrum reflected by a leaf, they can identify the plant, learn about its chemistry and evolution, and pinpoint its place in the tree of life, Meireles says. Spectra also can be used to “provide breakthrough assessments of leaf evolution and plant phylogenetic diversity at

global scales," the group wrote in its report for the study. Meireles says he hopes to eventually perform these measurements remotely using unmanned aerial vehicles, airplanes, or satellites. "We know little about how plant traits and chemistry evolved because collecting the data is difficult and slow, but spectra enables us to gather those data at unprecedented rates." Meireles says. [caption id="attachment_79905" align="alignright" width="337"]



"Biomimicry" by Adriana Cavalcanti, leaves and reclaimed wood, 2019 was featured in the October 2020 issue of New Phytologist.[/caption] New Phytologist, an international plant science research journal, published the group's findings in its October 2020 issue and promoted the study on the cover. The cover also features art by Adriana Cavalcanti of Orono, an Intermedia MFA student. According to the journal, the leaf art created from hole punches of autumn foliage evokes "how light reflectance spectra capture leaf chemical diversity and reveal the evolutionary history of plants." Cavalcanti says she created the artwork, titled "Biomimicry," last fall by hole punching a variety of leaves and gluing the different circles to reclaimed wood to form a multicolored leaf. The ways technology intertwines with science and nature inspired the piece, she says, adding how nature observations have influenced several technological advancements. While working on his plant reflectance spectra research, Meireles encouraged Cavalcanti, who is also a botanist, to submit "Biomimicry" to New Phytologist, she says. The journal, which accepts original artwork that reflects the primary topic of each issue, selected her piece to represent Merieles' findings. "When I heard that my work was selected for the cover, it was a big surprise. First, because I don't usually see art pieces on the cover of scientific journals. Secondly, because It wasn't created with that in mind," Cavalcanti says. "For me, it is just an example of how open minded we need to be about our own art creations; the importance of leaving space for people to get their own perception about art." The research team conducted the study using a dataset of more than 16,000 leaf-level reflectance spectra, ranging from visible to infra-red light, from 544 seed plant species in the tropical and temperate latitudes of the Americas and Europe. They measured leaf spectra using two full-range field spectroradiometers, leaf clips and artificial light sources. While spectra highlights the phylogenetic history of seed plants, the location of the signal presenting that information in spectra can vary among plant lineages, according to researchers. They found, for example, that the signal yielding the evolutionary record for the monocot lineage of plants is located in near-infrared light reflected from their leaves, but the signal for the gymnosperm lineage resides in short-wave infrared light reflected from leaves. To monitor plant diversity, Meireles says scientists have to measure the full spectrum of light reflected from leaves rather than a handful of bands. The team created a model that can help simulate how different evolutionary dynamics, such as convergent adaptation to shade, affect spectra. Their framework also revealed that evolution constrains the variation of spectra in seed plants to different extents, particularly for the visible region associated with pigments such as chlorophyll and carotenoids. Meireles and his colleagues hope that increasing availability of high-resolution spectral data not only for leaves, but also at the canopy- and landscape-levels will help improve how scientists monitor plant biodiversity. "Ecosystem function, and by extension human wellbeing, depend on biodiversity. We must monitor diversity to understand, manage and preserve it, and reflectance spectra is one of the best tools we have to do that job efficiently." Meireles says. The National Science Foundation, NASA, the Maine Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, and National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis funded the research. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721

Rebecca Traister to talk about women, anger, political change

14 Oct 2020

[caption id="attachment_75774" align="alignright" width="238"]  Rebecca Traister[/caption] Women, anger and political change are topics of a virtual lecture by award-winning journalist Rebecca Traister on Oct. 29 as part of the Stephen E. King Chair lecture series at the University of Maine. The free, public lecture "Good and Mad: Rebecca Traister on Women, Anger, and Political Change" begins at 5 p.m. via Zoom. Online preregistration is required at our.umaine.edu/king-chair-lecture-series. Traister is a leading voice on gender, society and politics. She has authored three books, including The New York Times bestsellers "Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger" and "All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation." She is a writer-at-large for New York magazine and The Cut and has been called "the most brilliant voice on feminism in this country" by American novelist and nonfiction writer Anne Lamott. The lecture was originally scheduled to be held April 2 on campus. The Stephen E. King Chair in Literature; the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and the University of Maine Alumni Association are co-sponsoring the event, with support from the Alton '38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the departments of Sociology and Communication and Journalism. More information about the lecture series is online. To request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.1226.

Gill presented with 'Friend of the Planet' award by National Center for Science Education

15 Oct 2020

The National Center for Science Education has named Jacquelyn Gill a 2020 Friend of the Planet. Gill is an associate professor of paleoecology and plant ecology at the University of Maine and cohost of the "Warm Regards" podcast. She studies past ecosystems, including the impacts of climate change and extinction, and the geographical distribution of living things through space and time. "Both in her research and her outreach on climate change, Jacquelyn Gill has been nothing less than extraordinary," said Ann Reid, executive director of NCSE. As a publicly funded scientist and educator, Gill said that outreach is part of her job and that there are many ways that scientists can make their work accessible to the public. "For me, social media and podcasting have been such a great way to connect with folks from all walks of life," she said. "Whether we're using Twitter to connect with classrooms from remote locations, or folks are using our podcast as part of a class curriculum, or I'm Skyping into a classroom across the country, we're working to make sure science doesn't stay locked behind the walls of a university." Gill said she's honored to be recognized by NCSE as a Friend of the Planet. "They're one of the most important organizations breaking down barriers so that every student has access to quality STEM education. Climate change can be a challenging subject for K–12 teachers, but it's a vitally important one, and anything we can do as researchers and other climate professionals to make teachers' jobs easier is so, so valuable." Last January, Gill's "Warm Regards" was one of five nominees for "Best Green Podcast" at the iHeartRadio Podcast Awards 2020 in Los Angeles. Part of the podcast description reads: "We're just as much a podcast about what it means to be human as we are about climate change — how we think, decide, love, grieve, change our behavior, and roll up our sleeves to tackle our toughest challenges." In 2018, she was a member of an international research team that took part in an expedition to Siberia to film "Lost Beasts of the Ice Age." Gill and colleagues explored permafrost caves and examined mummies of woolly mammoths, woolly rhinos, wolves, lions and birds. "We want to capitalize on what the tunnels are revealing about lost worlds. These are the best specimens in the world," Gill said. Science Channel subscribers can watch the 84-minute show online. Also in 2018, she began exploring "Environmental Change and Extinction on the Mammoth Steppe" with funding from an $800,000 National Science Foundation CAREER Award. "Herbivores remain some of the most threatened animals today, so understanding the 'Serengeti of the ice age' can help in the management of Earth's largest animals today, and may provide insights into the role native grazers play in a warming Arctic," Gill wrote of the research. On Twitter, more than 93,000 people learn from @JacquelynGill. Followers include Greta Thunberg, Sarah Parcak, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Tig Notaro, Margaret Atwood, Ava DuVernay, Bill McKibben, Popular Science, Sally Kohn, and The Nature Conservancy. The two other recipients of the 2020 Friend of the Planet award are Frank Niepold, senior climate education program manager and coordinator at NOAA's Climate Program Office and founding member and co-chair of the leadership board of CLEAN (Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network); and Spencer Weart, the physicist-turned-historian who wrote "The Discovery of Global Warming." For more than three decades, the Oakland, California-based NCSE has worked to ensure that what is taught in science classrooms and beyond is accurate and consistent with the best current understanding of the scientific community. Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' asks how philosophy can help deliver the best medical care

15 Oct 2020

"What is philosophy's role in medical care?" Find out on the fifth episode of Season Three of "The Maine Question" podcast. Some may imagine that people who major in and pursue careers in philosophy are relegated to poring through old dusty books about Plato and Socrates and other historic thinkers. But in reality, students who major in philosophy pursue careers in law, entertainment and many other fields. Jessica Miller, a professor of philosophy at the University of Maine, also is a bioethicist. She helps hospitals and other institutions make decisions about medical care. Podcast host Ron Lisnet speaks with Miller about bioethics and how it benefits families and medical professionals. She also dispels a few myths as to what philosophy is really about. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes will be added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

Winter Session registration opens Nov. 2

15 Oct 2020

Registration begins Nov. 2 for University of Maine Winter Session, Jan. 4–22. Courses will be available to view on MaineStreet Oct. 26. The more than 50 online courses include several general education requirements, as well as some upper-level courses. Winter Session courses are intensive in nature, with students earning one to three credits in three weeks. For more information, including a list of courses and how to register, visit the Winter Session website.

Wiscasset Newspaper notes Fernandez's guest talk for upcoming awards banquet

15 Oct 2020

The Wiscasset Newspaper noted that Ivan Fernandez, a professor of soil science and forest resources and cooperating professor in the Climate Change Institute, will guest speak at the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District's first Virtual Awards Banquet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10. Fernandez will offer a talk called "Climate Change in Maine and a Way Forward."

WABI (Channel 5) reported on University of Maine music education students giving virtual lessons

15 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on University of Maine music education students providing virtual lessons to students from Leonard Middle School in Old Town. Philip Edelman, assistant professor of music education, teamed up with Shianne Priest, director of music for the middle school, to offer the service. "We can talk about the theories of teaching until we're blue in the face but until they actually sit down with a 7th grader and say, 'no, you have to push this button on your trumpet to make that note,' you know, it's impractical," Edelman said.

Brewer speaks with OZY about presidential election

15 Oct 2020

Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with OZY about the upcoming presidential election. "There are a number of scenarios early on which indicated that that one Electoral College vote could be critical in determining the winner or resulting in a tie," Brewer said.

AlKhaleej Today, Free Press advances Meireles' plant reflectance spectra research

15 Oct 2020

AlKhaleej Today and The Free Press shared a media release about research from Dudu Meireles, an assistant professor of plant evolution and systematics at the University of Maine, about how plant reflectance spectra, or the light profile leaves reflect across different wavelengths, can illuminate the evolutionary history of seed plants. Meireles and his colleagues found that by measuring the light spectrum reflected by a leaf, they can identify the plant, learn about its chemistry and evolution, and pinpoint its place in the tree of life.

Bouchard speaks with U.S. News & World Report about environmental impact of large-scale aquaculture

15 Oct 2020

Deborah Bouchard, director of the Aquaculture Research Institute at the University of Maine, spoke with U.S. News & World Report about the environmental impact of large-scale aquaculture as Nordic Aquafarms plans to build a facility to harvest 72 million pounds of salmon each year. "These fishery corporations are way ahead of the curve on environmental impact. They're very responsible," says Bouchard, also a division lead for University of Maine Cooperative Extension Diagnostic Research Laboratory's Aquatic Animal Health Lab. "And it's in the interest of national food security that we not only raise our own food but also keep it close to the communities that rely upon it." The story also highlights a 2017 UMaine report concluding that aquaculture in Maine has a direct economic impact of $73.4 million in product and another $35.7 million in labor income, making it one of the leading drivers in the state's financial health. Coastal News Today shared the story.

NSF, Science advance Gerbi's study about how marine invertebrates respond to climate change

15 Oct 2020

The National Science Foundation and the magazine Science reported on a study co-authored by Greg Gerbi, an assistant researcher professor of oceanography at the University of Maine, that found that marine invertebrates are responding to climate change by moving into warmer waters, a troubling development for the animals, and the shellfish farms and wild fisheries that depend on them. The journal Nature Climate Change published his study.

Chronicle of Philanthropy highlights UMS grant from Alfond Foundation

15 Oct 2020

The Chronicle of Philanthropy highlighted the Harold Alfond Foundation's historic $500 million investment to Maine and its people, which includes a $240 million commitment to the University of Maine System to bring transformative change to the state's largest educational, research, innovation and talent development asset. The Alfond investment in the University of Maine System is the largest ever to a public institution of higher education in New England and the 8th largest gift ever made to a U.S. institution of public higher education.

Darling Marine Center interns: Summer science stories

16 Oct 2020

This summer, eight research interns from the University of Maine, Bates College and Brandeis University collaborated with UMaine scientists based at the Darling Marine Center. Some worked remotely, while other students were out in the field and on UMaine research vessels, collecting data on our changing ocean as part of their capstone and thesis projects. In addition, more than 20 graduate students affiliated with the Darling Marine Center continued with their educational and research activities in summer 2020, in the midst of the pandemic. The undergraduate interns captured their summer 2020 science stories as personal essays. Several are featured here. [caption


id="attachment_79957" align="alignright" width="223"] Jocelyn Cooper[/caption] **Jocelyn Cooper of Boxford, Massachusetts, junior majoring in marine sciences with a concentration in marine biology, UMaine** *Research team led by Jeffrey Runge, research professor of oceanography* My internship experience at the University of Maine Darling Marine Center was a unique opportunity to experience science during a worldwide pandemic. It shaped me, both personally and professionally. During the month I spent at the DMC this summer, I had a chance to interact with students and scientists from the UMaine School of Marine Sciences, as well as researchers from a number of other scientific organizations. I worked closely with Professor Runge, who has a zooplankton ecology-focused research program at the DMC. Earlier this year, Professor Runge moved his lab from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland to UMaine's Darling Marine Center. Significant amounts of important lab and scientific equipment needed to be unpacked, sorted and organized — we managed to do this in just a few weeks. Another aspect of the internship that I enjoyed was collecting and analyzing live zooplankton. I observed live copepods (*Calanus finmarchicus*) under the microscope, after collecting them on the DMC's 42-foot research vessel, the Ira C, in the Gulf of Maine. It was interesting to experience the process of sampling, counting, measuring and analyzing the data about this species, and experience what zooplankton researchers do everyday. I have grown as a marine scientist through these activities. I also have gained an appreciation of the importance of having an organized and efficient lab space in order to engage in successful research. [caption id="attachment_79958"


align="alignright" width="223"] Lydia Harris[/caption] **Lydia Harris of Damariscotta, Maine, senior majoring in biology and environmental studies, Brandeis University** *Research team led by Robert Steneck, professor of marine sciences* One day this summer, I saw a lobster do a handstand. The poor creature was trying its best to climb up the wall and get out of the flowing seawater tank, but it was a remarkable sight, nevertheless. Because of safety precautions and changed schedules related to COVID-19, this summer internship may not have been as action-packed as originally planned, but, then again, how many people have seen a lobster do a handstand? I'm willing to bet not many, and so I count myself as one of the lucky ones. I worked with Dr. Bob Steneck, professor in UMaine's School of Marine Sciences, and graduate student Robert Jarrett, helping conduct research on lobster behavior and the effects of changing oxygen levels. Most of our time was spent setting up and conducting a laboratory experiment to test whether lobsters prefer to shelter in high or low-oxygen environments. We also measured oxygen levels in the field, and surveyed lobsters and habitat types with a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV. I grew up near the Darling Marine Center, and visited the lab on school field trips. So it was especially cool for me to be able to participate in real research on the campus, as a young marine science professional. As we all know, this year has thrown everything into turmoil, so I feel very lucky to have had this summer experience, even if it was not quite as originally planned. I learned a lot and gained a new appreciation for what "doing science" really entails. I've learned so much about lobsters and the ecology of the Gulf of Maine just by listening to Bob ramble (his rambles are easier to follow and more informative than many lectures I've sat through). I also had to bring my problem-solving skills to a new level as we designed, built, repaired, rebuilt, configured, reconfigured, redesigned, organized, and analyzed our experimental setup. To be a scientist, you may also need to be a carpenter, plumber, computer programmer, mechanic, lobster-wrangler and, most of all, an out-of-the-box thinker. Knowing how to use Microsoft Excel doesn't hurt either. But, most importantly, this summer I learned that science (and life, really) never actually goes according to plan. You can be as focused and organized as possible (and this is very important), but unless you're also creative and adaptable, you're not going to get very far. However straightforward the scientific method may seem in class, in practice, it can be quite convoluted. You need to be able to think through new questions and methods when the first set doesn't work. It's a never-ending process, but that's also what makes it fun. There's always something new to explore. [caption id="attachment_79959" align="alignright" width="223"]


Madeline Williams[/caption] **Madeline Williams of Bethel, Maine, sophomore majoring in marine sciences with a concentration in biology, UMaine** *Research team led by Heather Leslie, associate professor of marine sciences and director of the Darling Marine Center* When I applied for an internship with the Maine Coast Shellfish Resilience Project led by Professor Heather Leslie, work in the field, laboratory and community was the focus. But because of the pandemic, we have had to adapt. The goal of the project is to gather and integrate scientific and local knowledge about the health of the Damariscotta and Medomak river estuaries in ways that can help inform municipal shellfish management. Dr. Leslie is working with UMaine School of Marine Sciences graduate students Sarah Risley and Melissa Britsch and town leaders and shellfish harvesters in Damariscotta, Newcastle and Bremen on this project, thanks to funding from the Broad Reach Fund. For my internship, I prepared participatory mapping study materials for the fishermen, boaters, municipal leaders and other community experts with whom the team is working. Participatory mapping is the practice of using maps as a tool that participants can engage with to provide information on a topic. For our study, participants are using maps and stickers to indicate areas of the Damariscotta and Medomak rivers with different shellfish abundances and marine-dependent activities. This will enable us to learn more about how estuary resources are used and how they have changed through time. My curiosity about coastal systems grew over the eight weeks I worked on the project. As part of my internship, I immersed myself in scientific literature associated with the project. I also had a chance to interview a number of people involved with the project. These conversations and readings strongly shaped how I see the research process and understand the questions we are asking about these estuaries, and the people and ecosystems that are part of them. Our approach requires integrating data gathered from diverse sources: local experts, fisheries license and permit records, and oceanography and ecological studies of the estuaries. It also requires using methods from different disciplines. This intersection of information and methods intrigues me, and is a thread I hope to follow throughout my career. [caption id="attachment_79960" align="alignright" width="223"]


Sydney Avena[/caption] **Sydney Avena of East Lyme, Connecticut, senior majoring in marine science with a concentration in marine biology, UMaine** *Research team led by Chris Davis, executive director and adjunct assistant professor of marine sciences, and Anne Langston-Noll, project manager, Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center* This summer I worked remotely as an intern for the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center (MAIC) on a project funded by the World Wildlife Fund on the social license to operate for aquaculture in coastal waters. Social license describes the relationship between an industry and the broader community, or a network of stakeholders. This is an ongoing relationship that is built on trust, communication, and transparency of information and decision-making. Social license is important in coastal marine aquaculture because farms can be located where there may be a variety of uses for the coastline, such as recreational, navigational, and historical and cultural. Therefore, a positive relationship between aquaculture farmers and their communities is necessary for the success and continued development of aquaculture farms. I researched case studies that demonstrate good practices related to social license, as well as cases where farmers did not have success working with communities. I researched these case studies through media searches and lease decision documents to understand the perspectives of the aquaculture farmers and members of the community such as shoreline landowners and conservation organizations. This fall, I am continuing my work, researching case studies and setting up interviews with key stakeholders. Through this internship, I was introduced to many different people who are working to expand and improve aquaculture. Our team held a knowledge exchange meeting in July that brought together leaders in aquaculture and social license research from around the U.S. and Scotland. I have also learned about the social, economic and environmental issues that need to be evaluated to choose appropriate sites for aquaculture. This internship has introduced me to the challenges and opportunities of coastal marine aquaculture. I am excited to continue this project and to work in this field in the future. Contact: Matthew Norwood, matthew.norwood@maine

Mitchell Center hosts talk about transforming timberland to 'equity worth buying'

16 Oct 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk on how the valuation of timberland has changed over the past several decades 3–4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26. In the talk, "Waste Land to Portfolio: How Timberland Was Transformed from a Resource to be Mined — to Equity Worth Buying," forester Dave Edson will discuss the shift toward viewing timberland as a resource that will continue to serve the needs and interests of future generations. He will explain how this shift has been reinforced by a global movement of equity investment in forested land and the ability of the global conservation movement to participate on the same level as the free market economy. During his time with the James W. Sewall Company, Edson witnessed major timberland transactions from the 1970s through 2010. Now retired after a long career with the company, Edson serves on their board. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, visit the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or hallsworth@maine.edu.

BDN highlights Gardner's talk about lyme disease, ticks for MDI Lab

16 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News highlighted Allison Gardner, an assistant professor of arthropod vector biology at the University of Maine, giving an upcoming talk about blacklegged ticks and lyme disease for the MDI Biological Laboratory's MDI Science Cafes. The program, "Tick Talk: Understanding the Socio-Ecological Drivers of the Emergence of Lyme Disease in Maine," will be held at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending can register on the MDI Biological Laboratory's website.

VillageSoup, Pen Bay Pilot advance Hutchinson Center's public speaking and virtual presentations program

16 Oct 2020

VillageSoup and the Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced the University of Maine Hutchinson Center's two-part professional development program about public speaking and virtual presentations. Distinguished Toastmaster Tom Dowd will lead the session, Practical Public Speaking & Virtual Presentations, at 6–9 p.m. Nov. 9. This program, held via live Zoom session, will help participants gain the confidence and skills to adapt to the ever-evolving need to conduct business online. For more information, to register or request a reasonable accommodation or need-based scholarship application, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002; um.fhc.pd@maine.edu, or visit the Hutchinson Center website.

BDN advances Mitchell Center talk about timberland valuation transformation

16 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News advanced a media release about the University of Maine Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions hosting a talk on how the valuation of timberland has changed over the past several decades scheduled for 3–4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26. In the talk, "Waste Land to Portfolio: How Timberland Was Transformed from a Resource to be Mined — to Equity Worth Buying," forester Dave Edson will discuss the shift toward viewing timberland as a resource that will continue to serve the needs and interests of future generations. To register and receive connection information for the free talk, visit the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or hallsworth@maine.edu.

Bouchard, Brady speak to WABI about new partnership to help salmon, oyster aquaculture succeed

16 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Deborah Bouchard, director of the University of Maine Aquaculture Research Institute, and Damian Brady, an associate professor of marine sciences at UMaine, about a new partnership to ensure salmon and oyster aquaculture in the U.S. succeeds. UMaine, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and Auburn University in Alabama teamed up to create an Aquaculture Experiment Station to increase sustainable production and industry stability and tackle issues the industry faces. "This really is a new system that we're going to pilot in the state of Maine and hopefully it will be a national program to help the aquaculture industry address problems as they arise. So, it's really about being responsive to those problems within the industries," said Brady. "It also affords (us) the opportunity to be proactive as well and to develop new and emerging technologies for these industries," said Bouchard. The Ellsworth American also highlighted the new partnership and resulting Aquaculture Experiment Station.

BDN interviews Dill about avoiding stink while removing western conifer

16 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Jim Dill, a pest management specialist with University of Maine Cooperative extension, about the western conifer, a stink bug relative, and how to remove it without triggering its release of foul odor. "If you squish one, it gives off an unpleasant chemical smell and if you disturb it in any way, it will give off that same smell as a defense," Dill said. WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the BDN story.

Steneck speaks with BBC about Canada's decades-long lobster feud

16 Oct 2020

Robert Steneck, a professor of oceanography, marine biology and marine policy at the University of Maine, spoke with BBC News about the Sipekne'katik First Nation's lobster fishery, which it launched in September. The Sipekne'katik created the fishery, which operates outside of the Nova Scotia's commercial fishery, in response to what the tribe says is a lack of enforcement of a 1999 Supreme Court ruling establishing that they "had the right to not just sustain themselves by hunting and fishing, but to earn a 'moderate livelihood,' even in the off-season," according to the BBC. Commercial fishermen, however, demand that the government shut it down, with some worrying it may affect the sustainability of the fishery. Steneck said given the small size of the Sipekne'katik's fishery, it should have a limited effect on lobster populations. "Frankly, I don't think it really makes a difference," he said.

Powell commends UMaine Leadership in BDN story about Alfond Foundation's $90 million gift to athletics

16 Oct 2020

Greg Powell, chair form the board of directors for the Harold Alfond Foundation, commended University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Athletics Director Ken Ralph, Senior Associate Athletic Director Seth Woodcock and University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy for their leadership in a Bangor Daily News article about the Harold Alfond Foundation's $90 million gift for UMaine Athletics. "Ken Ralph is the best athletic director in the free world and Chancellor (Dannel) Malloy and President (Joan) Ferrini-Mundy are rock stars," Powell said, adding that Woodcock is a terrific asset for the university system. The $90 million gift for UMaine Athletics, part of an overall $240 million commitment to the University of Maine System, will provide support to maintain excellence in the state's only Division I athletics program, advance gender equity, and provide a preferred destination for high school sports championships, large academic fairs and competitions, and community events. "Mr. Alfond believed deeply in the UMaine athletic program. It's our only Division I program and he (always) felt a need to make a major contribution to lift the program to a whole new level," Powell said.

UMaine professors contribute to report advising how governments can tackle biodiversity loss through COVID-19 recovery

16 Oct 2020

Two University of Maine professors contributed to a report that explores how governments can help mitigate ecosystem and species loss through their COVID-19 stimulus and recovery plans. While many countries hope to implement regulatory and funding measures to help "return to normal," the authors of a Rutgers University-led paper, including Michael Howard and Cynthia Isenhour from UMaine, urge officials to take measures that would help halt decades of biodiversity degradation exacerbated by previous policy decisions. Their recommendations include incentives, regulations, fiscal policy and employment programs that would support ecosystem resilience and prohibit actions that threaten various animals, plants and other wildlife. "A widely recognized policy that would reduce carbon emissions and put us on a more sustainable path is a carbon tax," Howard says. "One way to address the impact of such a tax on low-income households would be to distribute the revenue as a dividend." Howard, a professor of philosophy, Isenhour, an associate professor of anthropology and climate change, and their colleagues from

institutions worldwide also found that most countries have not implemented environmental preservation-related economic reforms or investments during the pandemic. Some, including the U.S., Brazil and Australia, have relaxed laws created to protect nature. The 2019 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), however, found that about 1 million species face extinction, some in decades, unless policy changes are enacted. "As disastrous as the pandemic has been, the disruption does provide an opportunity to reconsider our path and to design economic systems that are more sustainable, healthy and resilient," Isenhour says. Pamela McElwee, an associate professor in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, served as lead author of the report, which was published in the journal One Earth. Read the full release on the Rutgers University website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Emera Astronomy Center is now Versant Power Astronomy Center

19 Oct 2020

The University of Maine Emera Astronomy Center will change its name to Versant Power Astronomy Center, reflecting the new ownership of the state's second-largest electric utility. The University of Maine System Board of Trustees approved the name change at its Sept. 28 meeting. Emera Inc., which donated $1 million toward construction of the center in 2013, reassigned the naming right to Versant Power. Through its corporate parent, ENMAX Corp., Versant Power will fund the center's name change as well as provide programmatic support. The company also will support the Richard H. Hill Power Engineering Scholarship established by Emera Maine. The astronomy center is home to the state's largest planetarium, Maynard Jordan Planetarium. The $5.2 million center was made possible by a $3.2 million anonymous gift, part of UMaine's $200 million Vision for Tomorrow comprehensive campaign led by the University of Maine Foundation. The center's technology received a more than $200,000 upgrade in July with continued support from the same anonymous donor. "The Versant Power Astronomy Center has a critical role in UMaine outreach to K–12 students, promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education," says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "We are grateful that Versant Power is making this investment in our community of life span learners and explorers." Versant Power President and Chief Operating Officer Mike Herrin noted: "We are proud to have such a strong, collaborative relationship between Versant Power and the University of Maine and to support its STEM outreach and academic programs to inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists and astronauts." The planetarium recently reopened with new guidelines to keep visitors and staff safe during the pandemic. It is equipped with a state-of-the-art Sky-Skan Definiti 4K digital projection system, utilizing a specialized visualization, computing cluster under its 10-meter dome. "Versant Power Astronomy Center continues the tradition of sharing the beauty of Maine's night skies with visitors of all ages, championing dark sky preservation so everyone can enjoy the wonders of our universe," says Shawn Laatsch, director of Versant Power Astronomy Center. Information about planetarium shows, offered in accordance with health and safety guidance, is online. Face coverings are required; seating is limited to 11 visitors per program. Advanced tickets are required and can be purchased online or by calling 207.581.1341 during regular business hours. Contact: Shawn Laatsch, shawn.laatsch@maine.edu

UMaine Early College to offer high school students new pathways to degree programs tuition free

19 Oct 2020

The University of Maine announces four new Early College pathways aimed at inviting students interested in the fields of education, human development, and health and wellness to get started on a UMaine degree while still in high school. Designed to introduce high school students to higher education and careers of interest, Early College Pathways allow students to make progress toward a University of Maine degree through a chosen selection of courses. Each pathway includes a set of core courses that relate to a UMaine degree program and a few courses that fulfill general education requirements. Each Early College Pathway consists of 15 college credits that equate to a full semester's worth of courses. Students will earn dual credit for high school and college when they participate in this tuition-free program. Currently, Maine public high school students are eligible for up to 12 credits per year tuition free. The UMaine College of Education and Human Development will offer three fully online Early College Pathways in Child Development and Family Relations, Teaching K–12, and Health and Wellness. A fourth pathway in Outdoor Leadership is offered in a hybrid format with live and online courses. More pathways will be announced as they become available. Preference will be given to high school juniors and seniors, but will extend to sophomores on a case-by-case basis. Students and parents interested in UMaine Early College Pathways are encouraged to contact Kari Suderley, 581.8024, um.earlycollege@maine.edu or visit umaine.edu/earlycollege/pathways for more information.

'War of the Worlds' anniversary a timeless reminder of fact vs. fiction, according to UMaine media historian

19 Oct 2020

It's about that time again. The anniversary of the classic radio broadcast of the Orson Welles drama "War of the Worlds." Halloween eve 1938, 23-year-old Welles took to the airwaves for an hour to describe a martian invasion in such detail that it caused nationwide hysteria. That was according to newspaper headlines the next day. And to urban legend. That's until media scholars Jefferson Pooley at Muhlenberg College and Michael Socolow at the University of Maine wrote a seminal article for Slate that helped set the record straight. Three-quarters of a century later. In their article, "The Myth of the War of the World Panic," Pooley and Socolow documented that the reports of mass hysteria following the broadcast were greatly exaggerated. Newspaper reports claiming panic in the streets were created in an attempt to discredit radio and win over advertisers. The 2013 article ignited its own media frenzy. This time on an international scale, with interviews with the two scholars by media worldwide that October. And nearly every year since. Socolow, a UMaine associate professor of communication and journalism, is a sought-after, widely published, nationally recognized media historian. But this time of year, it's "War of the Worlds" that continues to capture imaginations and is seemingly more relevant than ever. In their 2018 Washington Post op-ed, "Unraveling the myth of 'War of the Worlds," Pooley and Socolow argued that instead of spreading hysteria, reports about the broadcast spread fake news, and racial and gendered stereotypes. And now, the "War of the Worlds" scholarship of Pooley and Socolow is immortalized in an SAT practice test, in the writing and language section. Oct. 27, an episode of the Professor Buzzkill History Podcast will feature an interview with Pooley and Socolow about "War of the Worlds" and mass panic. The legend continues.

UMaine computer scientist helps develop NSF-backed AI to predict, track flood damage to city infrastructure, services

19 Oct 2020

When a flood strikes a city, the damage can ripple through its many interconnected systems of infrastructure and services. Surging waters inundating a culvert or tunnel can prevent access to a particular neighborhood. If a substation shuts down, a group of homes or a hospital can lose power. Despite the interwoven nature of infrastructure, no tool can holistically predict or track the ramifications of a flood event in a metropolitan area. A coalition of scientists, including one from the University of Maine, hope to develop a program governed by artificial intelligence that will identify what homes and neighborhoods would be inundated, what roads would be inaccessible, what systems would become inoperable and what areas would need evacuation during a flood. Torsten Hahmann, an associate professor of spatial informatics at UMaine, teamed up with researchers from across the country to create the Urban Flooding Open Knowledge Network (UF–OKN). The University of Cincinnati is leading the development, which is backed with about $6 million from the National Science Foundation. The UF–OKN will not only provide hydrological projections for a city facing a flood, but also identify which neighborhoods, businesses, roads, dams and public health, water, sewer and power systems would be threatened. The network will forecast probable courses of a flood event 48 hours before it reaches a city, with predictions updated every half hour. It will also provide real-time, high resolution data that allows emergency managers and other stakeholders to track damage and crises created by a flood, Hahmann says. "At its core, the UFO-OKN uses a knowledge graph that brings together ontologies and data. The technology of knowledge graphs and ontologies is an important piece of the overall landscape of AI tools," says Hahmann, also director of the Spatial Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence (SKAI) lab at UMaine. "It provides computers with the human knowledge necessary to correctly interpret and connect vast amounts of disconnected information. It has been evolving for a number of years, but there really hasn't been a big use case for us to showcase what the technology could do (until now)." The knowledge network will serve as a customizable database providing users, including homeowners, emergency responders, water and sewer system operators, agencies and more, with the information they need to prepare and maneuver through a flood event. Hahmann says information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, cities, states, power companies and other sources will provide the backbone for network forecasts. Stakeholders will be able to incorporate their own, private data to tune the predictions and real-time information based on public information to their needs. Users accessing the UF–OKN on their computers or smartphones will see a map visualization of the dependencies between different infrastructure systems in a city, and how the inundation of one could affect another, by linking them to each other like a web. For example, if a bridge that grants access to a neighborhood becomes flooded, network

users would see on a map, chart or other visual that the neighborhood would become unreachable, Hahmann says. The UF–OKN will not only help cities prepare for an imminent flood and respond to it when it strikes, but also provide information to help municipal leaders bolster their communities against future inundation, according to the researchers. "It's really one pool of information that feeds multiple purposes and multiple users," Hahmann says. Hahmann has been structuring the UF–OKN knowledge graph with colleagues from the project team, particularly focusing on the semantics that will govern it. According to the UMaine professor, the graph in the network semantically describes the data and connects users to diverse, yet related information about a location or topic. For example, when a user searches "coffee shop near me" on a search engine, the computational semantics of what a coffeeshop is and how people use it provides locations, hours, menus and reviews with coffee shop names, according to Hahmann and his colleagues. Semantics will allow the UF–OKN to describe how infrastructure systems affect each other when flooded in a similar fashion. Hahmann says he and his team need to develop the UF–OKN to establish the necessary semantic connections that turn the existing data into an AI system. In addition to connecting information from different components of urban infrastructure, the UMaine professor says the program will also help model and explain weak points in the infrastructure and how stakeholder decisions' during a disaster affect other systems or neighborhoods. "It's pointless to find patterns that may or may not make sense, that may be coincidental or have no value if you don't identify their connections or don't have the terminology to explain them," he says. The NSF awarded about $6 million for the project in two separate allocations, both as part of the organization's Convergence Accelerator. Hahmann's work will be financed with $253,500 from the NSF funds. Shirly Stephen, a Ph.D. student of spatial information science and engineering, helped the UMaine professor gather and encode the relevant hydrological and semantics last year, and he says he hopes to recruit another Ph.D student to assist him for the next two years. The team began its work in 2019. In addition to fleshing out the knowledge graph and other technological components, Hahmann says the group has been contacting agencies and utilities for data. Hahmann says the team hopes to present a pilot version of the UF–OKN that will represent a particular city in 2021. By demonstrating the capabilities of the network, he says he hopes to attract more municipalities, including those in Maine, and other potential users to buy into the network to support its ongoing development. "It's technology that actually helps improve decision making and saves lives," Hahmann says. "We're really trying to address a real problem, a pressing concern that could benefit from this technology." Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Ranco and colleagues to bolster WaYS program for Native students, bring it to UMM

19 Oct 2020

Editor's note: story updated Oct. 28. Darren Ranco plans to bolster one of the Wabanaki Center's signature programs to increase Native American student retention and success in college and bring it to the University of Maine at Machias. The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded Ranco, chair of Native American Programs at the University of Maine, and his colleagues, $283,164 to expand the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) Program. The program attracts Native students to STEM and FANH, or Food, Agriculture, Natural Sciences and Human Sciences, fields and helps retain them in secondary and post-secondary studies. The new initiative to enhance WaYS, called New Beginning for Tribal Students (NBTS), will bring the educational program to UMM and create a new mentorship program called WaYS Ambassadors, in which advanced Native American graduate and undergraduate students will guide peers at the Machias and Orono campuses through research projects and professional development activities. After three years of implementation, Ranco and his colleagues hope the NBTS initiative will help increase Native American student enrollment by 5%, or seven students, at UMaine and by 15%, or five students, at UMM. They also aim to boost graduation rates for Native American students by 5%, or seven students, at UMaine and 10%, or three students, at UMM. "This is a great opportunity for the University of Maine System to participate in this new funding opportunity from USDA and support Native American student success at both UMaine and UMM," says Ranco, also an associate professor of anthropology and faculty member in the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. The WaYS program was created in 2013 to promote STEM fields and Native American environmental stewardship to middle and high school students. They participate in week-long summer camps that offer various hands-on learning activities, such as weaving baskets receiving instruction about brown ash trees, examining medical and edible saltwater plants, and more. The program also offers miniature camps throughout the year that offer hiking, foraging, fire building, ice fishing, archaeology, shelter-building, leadership training and other educational ventures. Ranco and his colleagues expanded WaYS in 2017 to retain and support post-secondary Native American students at UMaine, particularly by integrating indigenous culture and science in college-level curricula. Cultural Knowledge Keepers help incorporate both by co-teaching courses with faculty and helping frame the instruction, which Ranco says can improve learning outcomes for Native and non-Native students. By fostering cultural science, community connection and mentoring in coursework, the WaYS program can help eliminate barriers to success in post-secondary education for Native American students, according to Ranco. To date, 250–300 Native American K–12 students and 40 Native American and 400 non-Native American college students have participated in WaYS programming at UMaine. The inclusion of WaYS Ambassadors through the NBTS initiative will build on program goals by providing peer mentorship to youth on- and off-campus. Ambassadors, who will receive an annual stipend of $1,500 during the course of their service, will engage with tribal communities by participating in their programs, and join various university activities such as roundtables and faculty and student research presentations, according to Ranco. UMaine and UMM will each receive five ambassadors, and one part-time employee will coordinate outreach and engagement opportunities. Ranco and his colleagues will kick off the implementation of WaYS at UMM by first incorporating it in the education class EDU 328 — Environmental Literacy. Recruitment for the course will focus on Passamaquoddy Tribal citizens working toward or lapsing in their education degrees. According to the UMaine Native American Programs director, including both Wabanaki cultural science and a cultural knowledge keeper can improve "both the 'interest in degree completion' and 'plans for a career in the tribal community'" among Native American students. Washington County, where Machias and UMaine's titular regional campus is located, houses the largest percentage of Native Americans in Maine who are located primarily on the Passamaquoddy Tribal reservations of Indian Township and Pleasant Point. The NBTS initiative allows WaYS to provide the support to help many Downeast Native American youth advance in their education. "Adding mentoring support and bringing indigenous Wabanaki science into more educational contexts is a great benefit to Native students, especially Passamaquoddy students at UMM — also, our research shows bringing Native and non-Native knowledge systems and communities together greatly benefits everyone, Native and non-Native alike." Ranco says. The NBTS initiative and WaYS program join several initiatives from UMaine to enhance collaboration with Native American Communities. UMaine in previous years signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Penobscot Nation to co-manage university holdings of Penobscot cultural heritage items, incorporated bilingual signs to identify campus buildings and roads in both Penobscot and English, and created a tuition waiver program for Native American students. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Institute of Medicine highlights October webinars

19 Oct 2020

The University of Maine Institute of Medicine fall seminar series continues 3–4 p.m. Oct. 23 with a virtual presentation by Somayeh Khosroazad, a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Maine. In this presentation, The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research from the Engineering Perspective, Khosroazad will provide an overview of an artificial intelligence-based processing algorithm that demonstrates how developments at the intersection of engineering, artificial intelligence (AI) and psychological science can advance medicine and enhance quality of life for patients diagnosed with sleep disorders. The sixth webinar in the virtual series, Water Pollution, Rising Temperatures and a Mysterious Kidney Disease, is scheduled for 3 p.m. Oct. 30. The seminar series will continue Friday afternoons through Nov. 13. More information about the series, including topics, presenter bios and registration links, is online.

UMaine Extension, MOFGA offer backyard composting webinar Nov. 4

19 Oct 2020

Home composting is the focus of a webinar from University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association noon–1 p.m. Nov. 4. "Backyard Composting" topics include the basic principles of composting, what can safely be composted and when and how to use home compost. UMaine Extension professor Mark Hutchinson leads the workshop on home compositing, which is one way to reduce organic materials entering the waste stream and harvest a safe soil amendment. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the third in a six-part fall gardening webinar series offered every other Wednesday through mid-December. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

McCarty discusses pressure canning meat with BDN

19 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Kate McCarty, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension food systems professional, about the basics of canning meat safely. “I think it’s accessible, but there is an aura of fear around it,” said McCarty. Cooperative Extension will host a webinar focused on pressure canning meat at 2 p.m. on Oct. 20; more information about the event is online.

News Center interviews Cutler about UMaine virtual homecoming

19 Oct 2020

News Center Maine interviewed Annie Cutler, vice president and chief operating officer of the University of Maine Alumni Association, for a story about UMaine’s first ever virtual homecoming Oct. 16–18. While local businesses noted that they would miss the crowds of alumni that usually visit campus during homecoming, Cutler indicated that including a virtual element in future homecoming celebrations is under consideration. WABI (Channel 5) also reported on the virtual homecoming.

Fitzgerald talks with WABI about Maine AgrAbility virtual state fair

19 Oct 2020

Caragh Fitzgerald, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate educator, talked with WABI (Channel 5) about the Oct. 20 AgraAbility Virtual State Fair for disabled agricultural workers. “We see that a lot of farmers, fishermen, folks in the woods, they suffer injuries or they work around different physical or mental challenges and those don’t go away just because we can’t gather together," said Fitzgerald. The virtual fair, which offers resources and support, can be accessed on Twitter and Facebook. More information is available online.

WGME discusses Harvest for Hunger with Holland

19 Oct 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Community Education Assistant Lynne Holland talked with WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) about the UMaine Extension program Harvest for Hunger. According to Holland, the pandemic presented an opportunity to educate people about gardening, increasing the number of small farmers and gardening volunteers who can support community gleaning and food sharing programs such as Harvest for Hunger.

Kamath speaks with News Center about moose parasite study

19 Oct 2020

University of Maine Assistant Professor of Animal Disease and Diagnostics Pauline Kamath talked with News Center Maine about a three-year collaborative study of moose parasites intended to inform population management practices. UMaine collaborators include Sandra De Urioste-Stone, an associate professor of nature-based tourism, and Anne Lichtenwalner, director of the Cooperative Extension Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Press Herald discusses ‘transformational’ Alfond donation with Ralph, Woodcock

19 Oct 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Seth Woodcock, University of Maine associate athletic director for development, and Ken Ralph, athletic director, about the impact of a $90 million donation from the Harold Alfond Foundation to UMaine athletics. Ralph believes the gift will facilitate recruitment of Maine’s top high school athletes. “We want them growing up with Maine gear in their closets,” Ralph said. “Hopefully they’ll come play here, go to camps here, attend youth events here, and this will be the only place they consider.” The gift, which must be matched with $20 million in private donations to be raised by UMaine, will be used to build new athletic facilities, upgrade existing athletic infrastructure, and to enhance gender equity across the university’s sports programs. Centralmaine.com shared the Press Herald story.

Register for UM Extension produce safety course by Oct. 25

20 Oct 2020

Registration closes Oct. 25 for the Produce Safety Alliance grower training offered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Nov. 5–6. Training topics include foundational farm food safety best practices and coordinated management information based on Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements. Participants who complete the course are eligible for the FSMA certificate that may be required for farm compliance. Three pesticide credits are also available. Maine farmers who must comply with the FSMA will have a second training opportunity Dec. 11 and Dec. 18; registration for the December session closes Nov. 29. The $20 registration fee includes the training manual and certificate. Register and find more information on the training webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Tilton, 207.942.7396; theresa.tilton@maine.edu.

Media advance Nov. 4 home composting webinar

20 Oct 2020

The Daily Bulldog, the Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com and The Piscataquis Observer advanced an upcoming home composting webinar hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and the Gardeners Association noon-1 p.m. Nov. 4. Topics for “Backyard Composting,” include the basic principles of composting, what can safely be composted and when and how to use home compost. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. This is the third in a six-part fall gardening webinar series offered every other Wednesday through mid-December. More information about the event is online.

Birkel comments on Maine weather in Downeast magazine

20 Oct 2020

In the article “5 Things a Maine Newcomer Should Know” in Downeast magazine’s November 2020 issue, Sean Birkel, a University of Maine research assistant professor and Maine state climatologist, indicated temperature variations of as much as 10 degrees are common between northern and southern Maine. Birkel also differentiated coastal and inland snow patterns, noting that the mountains and other inland areas of Maine generally receive more and drier snow than coastal areas.

Media cite UMaine researchers in story about Maine spiders project

20 Oct 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot, the Mount Desert Islander and the Bangor Daily News cited assistance from University of Maine graduate students and researchers in an article announcing the publication of the Checklist of Maine Spiders by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation's Maine Forest Service. The story noted that many of the specimens cataloged were contributed by UMaine researchers studying spruce budworm and blueberry production, among other graduate student projects. The checklist, which is the culmination of a 14-year collaboration, is available online.

Berry touts media literacy in BDN opinion

20 Oct 2020

In advance of national media literacy week Oct. 26–30, a Bangor Daily News opinion piece by Alan Berry, University of Maine instructor and member of the Maine chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network, promoted media literacy and advanced the virtual news literacy challenge sponsored by UMaine's Fogler Library.

BDN editorial on climate change cites Leahy, Birkel

20 Oct 2020

A Bangor Daily News editorial cited the participation of Jessica Leahy, a University of Maine professor of human dimensions of natural resources, and Sean Birkel, Maine state climatologist and research assistant professor with UMaine's Climate Change Institute, in an online forum sponsored by the newspaper. The discussion, one in an ongoing conversation focused on climate change in Maine, highlighted the importance of adapting to changing conditions while working to address the underlying causes.

WVII talks with Hahmann about using AI to predict urban flood damage

20 Oct 2020

WVII (Channel 7) interviewed Torsten Hahmann, associate professor of spatial informatics, about research that seeks to predict the impact of flooding on specific neighborhoods, roads, municipal service sites and infrastructure. The project, Urban Flooding Open Knowledge Network (UF-OKN), is funded by the National Science Foundation. "So it's a big project. The vision is really like to kind of make flood forecasts as simple and as accurate as weather forecasts," said Hahmann. Village Soup shared the UMaine news release about the project.

Pen Bay Pilot covers expansion of Wabanaki ambassador program to UMM

20 Oct 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot featured a University of Maine news release detailing the expansion of the Wabanaki Youth Science (WaYS) program to the University of Maine Machias campus. The initiative, New Beginnings for Tribal Students (NBTS), will also establish a mentorship program called WaYS Ambassadors, in which advanced Native American graduate and undergraduate students will guide peers at the Machias and Orono campuses through research projects and professional development activities. Darren Ranco, associate professor of anthropology and chair of Native American programs at UMaine, will lead the project which seeks to increase the enrollment of Native American students and to enhance their graduation rates at both campuses.

BDN interviews Sorg for report on prevalence of fentanyl analogs in Penobscot County

20 Oct 2020

Marcella Sorg, University of Maine research professor and director of the Rural Alcohol and Drug Research Program, talked with the Bangor Daily News about a recent study by Millennium Health LLC that ranked Penobscot County first in the nation for the presence of rare fentanyl copycat drugs in samples collected from patients as part of their routine care. The ranking was based on analysis of results from counties that submitted more than 10 fentanyl-positive samples to Millennium Health — a total of 181 counties in 30 states nationwide. According to Sorg, the results confirm the wide distribution of fentanyl analogs across Maine, but based on sampling protocols such as the number and location of Maine providers who use Millennium Health drug testing services, the findings may not present an accurate picture of fentanyl use in Penobscot County.

Sabrina Sultana: Green solvents, recyclable materials can sustain Maine's forest industry

21 Oct 2020

Doctoral student Sabrina Sultana understands how Maine's forests contribute to the state's economic health. With her adviser, Carl Tripp, she is working to develop innovative industrial materials that can sustain Maine's forestry industries while advancing bio-based, recyclable materials. Read more about Sabrina's research on the Advanced Structures and Composites Center website. Contact: Meghan Collins, mc@maine.edu

New challenge tests and strengthens news literacy

21 Oct 2020

The University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library and Department of Communication and Journalism will host a new series of fun trials that test news literacy throughout the last week of October. "Friend, Enemy, or Frenemy? A News Literacy Challenge," will offer brief tasks designed to build participants' media literacy skills every day from Oct. 26–30. Activities include discerning fact from fiction in popular news stories, deconstructing the purpose and content of the news, and examining the role of confirmation bias in how we interact with news media. Register for the event online. For additional information, contact Jen Bonnet at jenbonnet@maine.edu.

Silver Duo to offer free performance at UMaine Oct. 24

21 Oct 2020

The University of Maine School of Performing Arts presents Silver Duo, featuring Division of Music faculty members pianist Phillip Silver and cellist Noreen Silver performing works of French and Russian composers 7 p.m. Oct. 24. in Minsky Recital Hall. Admission is free, but space is limited; social distancing and face coverings will be required. For more information about the event, contact Brian Jansen, 207.581.1955; brian.jansen@maine.edu. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Birdie Sawyer, 207.581.1781; fredrick.sawyer@maine.edu.

Page Museum to hold fall potato sale

21 Oct 2020

The Page Museum will host the 2020 Great Fall Potato Sale through 3 p.m. Nov. 3. with orders accepted by telephone at 207.581.4100. Potatoes can be picked up on Friday, Nov. 6 or Saturday, Nov. 7. Buyers will be asked to select a pick-up time when orders are placed. Museum staff and volunteers will complete the transaction carside, following social distancing guidelines, and load potatoes into buyers' cars at pickup; customers should remain in their vehicles. Prices noted below reflect increased costs to the grower and to the museum based on expenses for supplies, transportation and labor during the pandemic. Varieties available for sale include red potatoes Norlands, Pontiac and Chieftain, and white potatoes Katahdin, Kennebec, Green Mountain and Yukon Gold. Pricing for red and white varieties is $9 for 20 pounds and $16 for 50 pounds. The price for Caribou Russets is $10 for 20 pounds, $18 for 50 pounds. More information about the sale is available online, or by calling the Page Museum at 207.581.4100.

Student-curated exhibit opens to public at UMM Art Gallery

21 Oct 2020

Students in a museum management course at the University of Maine at Machias have completed the installation of a new art exhibit featuring work from the gallery's permanent collection. "Works by Maine Artists from the UMM Permanent Collection: Celebrating 200 Years of Maine Statehood" is on view at the UMM Art Gallery through Feb. 2021. The show features artwork with a representational subject, including a number of Maine landscapes. Among the works are paintings and sculptures from renowned Maine artists of the early 20th-century modernist movement, including John Marin, Edwin Gamble and William Muir. The students responsible for curating and installing the exhibit, and for producing information cards for each work, were Spencer Atkinson, Alayna Brown, Berlynn Haupt, Mary Marble, Jana McDonald, Praise Moore, Joscelyn Rebello, Jenn Simon, Daniel Snape and Sophia Squire. In addition to teaching the fundamentals of gallery organization and promotion, UMM's museum management course offers lessons on preserving an art collection, developing contracts with artists, presenting educational and virtual exhibits, and handling museum security and public controversy. The students are now planning their final project, a virtual exhibit with the theme of "fear," with works exploring the COVID-19 pandemic, global conflict, climate change and cultural upheaval. The gallery on the first floor of Powers Hall is free and open to the public from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, following all appropriate health and safety protocols. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.255.1200.

News Center Maine reports coronavirus numbers at UMaine, across UMS

21 Oct 2020

News Center Maine reported Tuesday that there are seven active cases of COVID-19 across the University of Maine System, including one at UMaine. These numbers are unchanged from the previous day.

Daily Democrat, Seacoastonline highlights online, tuition-free UMaine programs for high school students

21 Oct 2020

Foster's Daily Democrat and Seacoast Online advanced a University of Maine news release announcing new programs for students to simultaneously earn high school and college credits tuition free. Early College Pathways offers online courses for high school juniors and seniors seeking degrees in education, human development and health and wellness, and hybrid classes in the outdoor leadership program. More information about the early college program is online.

Centralmaine.com advances Mitchell Center talk on timberland equity

21 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com advanced a free talk sponsored by the University of Maine Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26. The Zoom talk, "Waste Land to Portfolio: How Timberland Was Transformed from a Resource to be Mined — to Equity Worth Buying," will be presented by Dave Edson, retired employee and member of the board of directors at the James W. Sewall Company. More information about the event is online.

Bangor Daily notes passing of Harris, UMaine superfan

21 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that Jeff Harris, a University of Maine graduate and loyal supporter, died last Thursday at the age of 75. Harris, who was a fixture at UMaine sporting events, will be remembered for his many contributions to the UMaine community and for his positivity and contagious enthusiasm. The Piscataquis Observer shared the BDN story.

Glover comments in WalletHub study predicting influence of minorities on elections

21 Oct 2020

Rob Glover, a University of Maine associate professor of political science and member of the Scholars Strategy Network, was interviewed for a WalletHub story featuring predictions about the outcomes of future presidential elections made using 2008 and 2016 minority voter turnout rates and minority population estimates. In an Ask the Experts segment included in the article, Glover commented on the likelihood of emergence of a third political party, the impact of innovations like instant runoff voting and electoral college reform on election outcomes, and if additional Congressional seats would ensure a more representative body. Patch shared the WalletHub story.

Socolow cited in Press Herald story about partisan 'news' sites

21 Oct 2020

The Portland Press Herald featured comments from Michael Socolow, director of the University of Maine's McGillicuddy Humanities Center, in a story about news aggregate websites that promote a conservative political agenda. "If these outlets are being fully honest with readers about their ownership and funding, then the fact that they might be providing news content with a political bias isn't necessarily unethical," wrote Socolow. "From an ethical standpoint, the more important questions concern whether the content is accurate, fact-based, verifiable, and supported by established, accepted evidence." Centralmaine.com shared the Press Herald story.

Learn about environmental and climate justice from leading experts

22 Oct 2020

Members of the University of Maine community can learn about environmental and climate justice from a few of the leading scholars in the field during a webinar scheduled for 7–9 p.m. Oct. 26. During the talk, "Environmental & Climate Justice: Anti-Racist Movements and Principles for Practice", panelists from the Yale School of Law, Northeastern University, Vermont School of Law and the University of Hawaii at Manoa will explore the birth and history of the environmental justice movement and its implications for climate policy, the incorporation of environmental and climate justice principles in the practice of law and policy creation, and the professional and ethical obligation to identify and fight against environmental racism. Register for the event, hosted by the Energy and Environmental Law Society at the University of Maine School of Law, UMaine Graduate & Professional Center and the UMaine Graduate School of Business, on its webpage. For more information, contact Josh Rosen, president of the Energy & Environmental Law Society, at jp@maine.edu.

'The Maine Question' asks how face masks affect first impressions

22 Oct 2020

What role do face masks play in how people are judged during the pandemic? Find out in Episode 6 of Season 3 of "The Maine Question" podcast. There's an adage that people don't get a second chance to make a first impression. Mollie Ruben, assistant professor of psychology, examines how face masks affect people's first impressions of others during the COVID-19 outbreak. For example, do people appear more or less smart to others, depending on whether they're wearing or not wearing a mask? More or less friendly? Podcast host Ron Lisnet interviews Ruben, who is using people's submitted selfies — both with and without masks — for the project. Ruben directs the Emotion, Pain, and Interpersonal Communication (EPIC) Lab at the University of Maine, where she examines the expression and perception of nonverbal cues, and the role of nonverbal behavior in communication. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

Morning Ag Clips advances Extension's registration deadline for produce safety course

22 Oct 2020

Morning Ag Clips and the Bangor Daily News highlighted the Oct. 25 registration deadline for the University Cooperative Extension's Produce Safety Alliance grower training from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Nov. 5–Nov. 6. The $20 fee includes the training manual and certificate. Register and find more information on the training webpage.

Centralmaine.com, Mount Desert Islander highlights stories from the sea talk

22 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com and the Mount Desert Islander shared a University of Maine media release about the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions' talk on stories from the sea and what they reveal about Maine fishing communities from 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2. Marine Extension Associate Natalie Springuel of Maine Sea Grant will talk about bringing life back to these stories so they can be useful for decision-making, community development and cultural heritage today. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, please see the event webpage.

Centralmaine.com advances educational resource website for teachers, families

22 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com shared a media release about the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development's new website to help address questions and provide research-backed information for teachers and parents. The PreK-12 Resources for Educators and Families site includes links to materials on topics such as social-emotional learning, trauma-informed teaching, special education, literacy and more.

Jemison speaks with BDN about tips for managing well water systems

22 Oct 2020

John Jemison, a soil and water quality specialist with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, spoke with the Bangor Daily News about tips for managing well water systems. "It's a good idea to have a sense of what (water yield) you have in your well, monitor it and don't overdo it," he said, among other advice.

WABI reports on Virtual Engineering Job Fair

22 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the UMaine Virtual Engineering Job Fair hosted by the University of Maine Career Center and College of Engineering. The fair, scheduled for 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Oct. 21, will be presented via a Symplicity platform accessible through the CareerLink Career Management System. Students planning to attend the fair should visit the Career Center website to register, create a CareerLink profile, search for participating employers, or learn more about the event.

State Chamber of Commerce features Ferrini-Mundy, Malloy on podcast

22 Oct 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy and University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy were special guests on the Maine State Chamber of Commerce's "The Bottom Line" podcast. They joined co-hosts Dana Connors of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and John Williams of Williams Broadcasting to discuss what the recent Harold Alfond Foundation investment means for Maine and the role of a public university system and a research university in helping accelerate the state's economic recovery.

UMaine researchers develop models to forecast lethal ASP toxin movement in waterways

22 Oct 2020

University of Maine researchers will develop a tool for predicting how biotoxins released by algal blooms that can cause public health issues travel through estuarine and coastal waters. The focus of the UMaine-led effort pertains to

marine harmful algal blooms of the diatom Pseudo-nitzschia that causes medical problems through the production of the toxin domoic acid. The illness it causes is called Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP), which can lead to deadly neurological and gastrointestinal symptoms in people. When the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) finds signs of the toxin in shellfish, it closes the regional area where they were found, forbidding any harvesting. MEDMR reopens the area after conducting additional tests, which can last a couple of days or longer and, if extensive, adversely affect the livelihoods of fishermen and aquaculture farmers. Lauren Ross from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Sean Smith from the School of Earth and Climate Sciences, and Sean Birkel from the Climate Change Institute at UMaine will collaborate with scientists from the Maine Department of Marine Resources, U.S. Geological Survey and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to quantify and simulate conditions associated with Pseudo-nitzschia blooms. The study area includes eight connected estuaries and their watersheds flowing into Frenchman and Blue Hill bays surrounding Mount Desert Island. The research is designed with stakeholder input to provide better predictions for the blooms and management responses based on better knowledge of factors related to the watersheds and the estuaries they drain into. Science communication will be a major component of their three-year project, with the intention of adapting outcomes from their research into management decision tools to guide coastal monitoring activities, pinpoint public health risks pertaining to ASP, and prompt shorter closures to shellfish harvesting with smaller, more precise boundaries. Another prominent component of their research will be the development of a numerical model to evaluate conditions that influence ASP events. By the end of the project in 2023, the team plans to have publically accessible coastal pollution prediction and management decision support tools available on the internet. “The results of this project will provide a blueprint for other municipalities, states and regions to better understand bloom development in estuarine environments,” says Ross, the principal investigator for the project. The team’s project, funded by a $250,000 grant from the USGS, builds off of previous research by Ross and Smith in the Watershed Process and Estuary Sustainability (WPES) research group that they collaboratively lead to predict bacterial pollution problems affecting shellfishing industries along Maine’s coast. The research project, called “Safe Beaches and Shellfish Project,” was initiated by an EPSCOR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) grant led by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. It included extensive work to measure, model and map conditions related to coastal bacteria pollution in Maine. The current WPES research group includes graduate researchers Sohaib Alahmed, a Ph.D. student in civil and environmental engineering, and Bea Van Dam, a Ph.D. student in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences. Their research has focused on land-sea connections to advance the scientific basis for shellfish closures in response to coastal precipitation runoff with focused attention on Frenchman Bay, the Medomak River, and Wells Harbor areas. This new project will be an important next step in the work by WPES collaborators with expanded partnerships to build new sustainability solutions for Maine seafood industries and coastal communities, Smith said. The USGS allocated the funding for the project as part of the national Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) Grant Program. The Mitchell center houses Maine’s congressionally-authorized water institute and receives the base funding from the national- and state-level WRRI grant funding programs. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Marine science course connects distant students of sustainability science

23 Oct 2020

In spring 2020, as the world locked down in response to COVID-19, Darling Marine Center director Heather Leslie considered at what moment to cancel the full summer of field courses planned at the University of Maine’s marine laboratory in Walpole. Knowing many UMaine graduate students were looking forward to immersing themselves in the interdisciplinary course she planned to teach, she took a deep breath and imagined how to create something different, yet still meaningful, online. Leslie and her co-instructor, Kara Pellowe of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, transformed what they had designed as a three-week field course into a 10-week online graduate seminar. Drawing on examples from their research on small-scale fisheries in Maine and northwestern Mexico, the instructors guided students through interactive lectures and discussions focused on interdisciplinary research design, natural and social science research methods, and the research related to team science, collaboration and communication. [caption id="attachment_80160" align="alignright" width="375"]

UMaine Ph.D. student Phoebe Jekielek measures scallops in the field. The online seminar was Jekielek’s first course for her degree program. It enabled her to connect with other students at UMaine, as well as with students at institutions across the U.S. and Europe.[/caption] Thanks to the online delivery of the course, students could log on from anywhere, and did, from across 12 time zones from as far away as Bremen, Germany and Manoa, Hawaii. The instructors had planned on 12 students participating, but were able to enroll 17, from UMaine and six other institutions in the United States and Germany. “This course came at a critical time,” says Leslie. “It gave us an opportunity to share knowledge and research experiences, and to support students as they reenvisioned their work. Many were in the research design phase of their thesis projects, and the pandemic was really disruptive, upending fieldwork, course plans and collaborations.” Struan Coleman, a second year master’s student in marine sciences, joined the course from his family home in New York for the first few sessions and then later from his residence near the Darling Marine Center, in Damariscotta. “This course forced me to think about my research in a novel way,” Struan said. “I was exposed to new social science and ecological methods that clarified many of the challenges that I've been facing with my work.” Leslie and Pellowe plan to offer SMS 598 — Interdisciplinary Methods for Social-Ecological Systems Science as a two-credit synchronous online course in summer 2021. Learn more about this course and other UMaine Summer University offerings online. Contact: Matthew Norwood, matthew.norwood@maine.edu, 207.563.8220

Springuel to share stories from the sea Nov. 2

23 Oct 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk on stories from the sea and what they reveal about today’s Maine fishing communities 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2. Scattered among Maine’s coastal communities in historical societies, museums, libraries, community radio stations and schools, the voices of Maine’s fishing communities have been recorded for posterity. With climate change and other factors driving ecological shifts, the local fisheries knowledge contained in Maine’s rich oral history archives is a critical source of information about coastal communities and ecological change. Marine Extension Associate Natalie Springuel will talk about bringing life back to these stories so they can be useful for decision-making, community development and cultural heritage today. Springuel has been a marine extension associate with Maine Sea Grant since 2000. Her extension programs address working waterfronts and coastal access, fisheries heritage and sustainable tourism planning. She coordinates the Downeast Fisheries Trail, is a founder of the National Working Waterfront Network and hosts the award-winning public affairs radio show "Coastal Conversations." The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, see the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or hallsworth@maine.edu.

Mountain Times, AP report on UMaine-led American woodcock study

23 Oct 2020

The Mountain Times and Associated Press reported on a University of Maine-led study about the American woodcock migratory habits along the Eastern seaboard. According to the report, "this study is designed to provide precise and timely GPS data to track the seasonal movement and habitat selection of American woodcock during pre-migration periods in the Northeast and southern Canadian provinces, southerly migration paths and stopovers, wintering periods in southeastern states, and reverse migration routes to northern breeding grounds." UMaine Ph.D. students have worked with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Vermont chapter of the Nature Conservancy and Audubon Vermont on the project. U.S. News & World Report, the Valley Post, the Connecticut Post, the Times Union and The Washington Times shared the AP article.

BDN reports on climate change, winter recreation talk featuring Birkel, Leahy

23 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News published answers to the biggest questions posed during its webinar on how climate change affects winter recreation in Maine. The online talk, which was part of the Bangor Daily News Climate Conversation series, featured a panel of researchers that included Sean Birkel, University of Maine research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute, Jessica Leahy, professor of human dimensions of natural resources in UMaine's School of Forest Resources.

OZY interviews Brewer about ranked-choice voting

23 Oct 2020

OZY interviewed Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, for a story about ranked-choice voting titled "Will Maine Lead a New Election Model for the Nation?" "I think it's here to stay in Maine," he said. "You are already seeing ranked-choice supporters using Maine's example as a reason to adopt it in other places, and I think that momentum will only increase regardless of how it plays out in this particular race."

Socolow speaks with Illinois Public Media about presidential debates

23 Oct 2020

Illinois Public Media interviewed Michael Socolow, professor of communication and journalism and director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center at the University of Maine, for a segment titled "Do Presidential Debates Even Matter?"

Media advance new Early College Pathways offerings

23 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Sun Journal, Centralmaine.com and WQAD (Channel 8 in Davenport, Iowa) advanced four new Early College Pathways from the University of Maine. The program, designed to introduce high school students to higher education and careers of interest, now offers pathways for child development and family relations, teaching K–12, health and wellness, and outdoor leadership. Students and parents interested in UMaine Early College Pathways are encouraged to contact Kari Suderley, 581.8024, um.earlycollege@maine.edu or visit the Early College Pathways webpage for more information.

Media covers drug-related deaths report Sorg compiled

23 Oct 2020

The Associated Press, Bangor Daily News, News Center Maine, Sun Journal and WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) covered a report compiled by Marcella Sorg, a research professor at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine, about drug-related deaths in Maine during the second quarter and first half of 2020. According to the report, which Sorg compiled for the Maine Office of the Attorney General, there were 258 drug-related fatalities in the first half of 2020, up 26% from the previous half year, or July–December 2019; and 131 deaths during the second quarter of 2020, up 3% from the first quarter. WABI (Channel 5) WAGM in Presque Isle, Q 96.1, the Houston Chronicle, the Times Union, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Washington Times and Seattle PI shared the AP story. The Ellsworth American highlighted the report in an editorial titled "The other epidemic."

Forbes highlights Alfond Foundation gift to UMS

23 Oct 2020

Forbes highlighted the $240 million allocation from the Harold Alfond Foundation to the University of Maine System in an opinion piece about a new trend in gifts to higher education institutions. The Alfond investment in the University of Maine System is the largest ever to a public institution of higher education in New England and the 8th largest gift ever made to a U.S. institution of public higher education.

State Chamber publishes story about UMaine hand sanitizer production in inaugural issue of 'OneVoice Maine'

23 Oct 2020

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce published a story about the University of Maine producing hand sanitizer for healthcare centers across the state in its inaugural issue of "OneVoice Maine" magazine. UMaine led the effort launched in response to a supply shortage among medical institutions at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The university worked with the Maine Distillers Guild to obtain the ethanol needed to produce hospital-grade hand sanitizer at a large scale.

New study finds seabird response to abrupt climate change 5,000 years ago transformed island ecosystems in the Falklands

23 Oct 2020

The Falkland Islands are a South Atlantic refuge for some of the world's most important seabird species, including five species of penguins, Great Shearwaters, and White-chinned Petrels. In recent years, their breeding grounds in the coastal tussac *(Poa flabellata)* grasslands have come under increasing pressure from sheep grazing and erosion. And unlike other regions of the globe, there has been no long-term monitoring of the responses of these burrowing and

ground nesting seabirds to climate change. A 14,000-year paleoecological reconstruction of the sub-Antarctic islands led by University of Maine researchers has found that seabird establishment occurred during a period of regional cooling 5,000 years ago. Their populations, in turn, shifted the Falkland Islands ecosystems through the deposit of high concentrations of guano that helped nourish tussac, produce peat and increase the incidence of fire. This terrestrial-marine link is critical to the islands' grasslands conservation efforts going forward, says Dulcinea Groff, who led the research as a UMaine Ph.D. student in ecology and environmental sciences, and part of a National Science Foundation-funded Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Research Traineeship (IGERT) in Adaptation to Abrupt Climate Change (A2C2). The connection of nutrients originating in the marine ecosystem that are transferred to the terrestrial ecosystem enrich the islands' nutrient-poor soil, thereby making the Falkland Islands sensitive to changes in climate and land use. The terrestrial-marine linkage in the Falkland Islands was the focus of Groff's dissertation in 2018. "Our work emphasizes just how important the nutrients in seabird poop are for the ongoing efforts to restore and conserve their grassland habitats. It also raises the question about where seabirds will go as the climate continues to warm," says Groff, who conducted the research in the Falkland Islands during expeditions in 2014 and 2016 led by Jacquelyn Gill, an associate professor of paleoecology and plant ecology in UMaine's College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture and the Climate Change Institute. "Our 14,000-year record shows that seabirds established at Surf Bay during cooler climates. Seabird conservation efforts in the South Atlantic should be prepared for these species to move to new breeding grounds in a warmer world, and those locations may not be protected," says Groff, who is now a postdoctoral research scientist at the University of Wyoming. The UMaine expedition team, which included Kit Hamley, then a master's student in Quaternary studies and a Climate Change Institute Fellow, collected a 476-centimeter peat column from Surf Bay, East Falkland. The 14,000-year record revealed in the undecomposed tussac leaves of the peat column "captures the development of a terrestrial-marine linkage that supports some of the most important breeding colonies of seabirds in the Southern Ocean today," according to the research team, which published its findings in the journal Science Advances. The absence of seabirds at the East Falklands site prior to 5,000 years ago suggests that seabirds may be sensitive to warmer mediated sea surface temperatures, which can impact their food supply, according to the research team. With a warming South Atlantic today, the question is whether the Falkland Islands, about 300 miles east of South America, will continue to be a seabird breeding "hot spot." "Our work suggests that as the Southern Ocean continues to warm in the coming decades, the Falkland Islands seabird communities may undergo abrupt turnover or collapse, which could happen on the order of decades," according to the research team, which, in addition to Groff, Hamley (now a UMaine doctoral student) and Gill, involved Trevor Lessard and Kayla Greenawalt of UMaine, Moriaki Yasuhara of the University of Hong Kong, and Paul Brickle of the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute, all co-authors on the American Association for the Advancement of Science journal article. The Falkland Islands are at the boundary of a number of potential climate drivers, note the researchers. And *P. flabellata* peatlands have the world's highest accumulation rates, "providing an unusually high-resolution record capable of recording abrupt change" — preserved charcoal, seabird guano and pollen data that can be used to analyze fire history, seabird population abundance and vegetation composition, respectively. In the Falklands, where there are no native mammals or trees, settlers introduced sheep in the 17th century. Today, residents make their livelihoods from fishing, sheep farming and tourism. The 14,000-year record from East Falkland revealed that for 9,000 years before the arrival of seabirds, the region was dominated by low levels of grasses, a heathland of ferns and dwarf Ericaceous shrubs. About 5,000 years ago, the researchers say, an "abrupt transition" appears to occur. Concentrations in bio-elements such as phosphorus and zinc increase. Grass pollen accumulation rates skyrocket, indicating the establishment of tussac grasslands within 200 years of the establishment of seabird colonies on the island. Also found in the core: increased accumulation rates of peat and charcoal. It's clear that the addition of seabird populations bringing nutrients from the marine environment to the island drove changes in the terrestrial plant community structure, composition and function, according to the researchers, as well as increased fire activity and nutrient cycling. What remains unclear is what drove the abrupt ecosystem shift, says Gill, one of the world's leading authorities on paleo-ecosystems, including the impacts of climate change and extinction, and the geographical distribution of living things through space and time. "We know seabirds arrived at Surf Bay during a time when the climate was becoming cooler in the South Atlantic, though we still don't know for sure what it was they were tracking. We also don't know where these birds took refuge when climates were warmer, and that's concerning as the South Atlantic gets hotter into the future," says Gill, an NSF CAREER researcher who most recently was named a 2020 Friend of the Planet by the National Center for Science Education. "Our study is also a powerful reminder of why we need to understand how different ecosystems are connected as the world warms," says Gill. "We know that many seabirds in the South Atlantic rely on these unique coastal grasslands, but it turns out that the grasses also depend on the nutrients seabirds provide. Because they rely on ecosystems in the ocean and on land for their survival, seabirds are really good sentinels of global change. We just don't have good long-term monitoring data for most of these species, so we don't know enough about how sensitive they are to climate change. The fossil record can help us fill in the gaps." Contact: Jacquelyn Gill, jacquelyn.gill@maine.edu

Media report on COVID-19 cases across UMS

26 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com, News Center Maine and the Portland Press Herald reported that there were eight active cases of COVID-19 across the University of Maine System, including one at the University of Maine, as of Friday.

News Center highlights Maine Tick Data in tickborne disease report

26 Oct 2020

News Center Maine highlighted Maine Tick Data from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab in a segment titled "Cases of tickborne diseases down so far this year."

Stanley speaks with BDN about using seaweed for healthy spring garden

26 Oct 2020

Elizabeth Stanley, horticulture community education assistant at University of Maine Cooperative Extension, spoke with the Bangor Daily News for an article titled "For a healthy spring garden, try using seaweed for winter protection." "It's a great source of organic matter for your garden and compost pile, and an excuse to visit a beach in the fall," she said.

Center Square highlights University of Maine report about hospitality industry loss

26 Oct 2020

The Center Square reported on a University of Maine report commissioned by HospitalityMaine forecasting that COVID-19 will cause $1 billion loss in direct taxable revenue for the state hospitality industry this year compared to last year.

AP interviews Mark Brewer about ranked choice voting

26 Oct 2020

The Associated Press interviewed Mark Brewer, professor of political science at the University of Maine, about how ranked choice voting could affect the general election. Brewer said there is a possibility that many Maine residents will not rank their choices for the presidential election at all. The Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald and WGAN in Presque Isle shared the AP story.

Carter recent guest in 'Maine Calling' segment about Mainers helping each other during pandemic

26 Oct 2020

Maine Public featured Hannah Carter, dean of University of Maine Cooperative Extension, on a recent segment of 'Maine Calling' about how Mainers have helped one another during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sara Kelemen: Addressing equity in Maine's climate strategies

26 Oct 2020

Sara Kelemen informed dozens of Maine Climate Council members last month about how their efforts to combat climate change can lead to equitable outcomes. The Climate Council invited representatives from the University of Maine Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions to a webinar to discuss their equity assessment of the council's Climate Action Plan strategies. The center evaluated different tactics proposed by council working groups for their ability to support historically underrepresented populations in the state. Kelemen, who worked as a graduate assistant at the Mitchell Center this summer, took the proverbial podium and presented the findings from the report. Climate Council members learned about the strategy she, David Hart, director of the Mitchell Center, and Linda Silka, a Mitchell Center senior fellow, used to appraise the equity of each proposed initiative, as well as a variety of recommendations. "Issues of equity can slip through the cracks if they're not addressed head on," Kelemen says. "It was really exciting and nerve-wracking (delivering the presentation). A lot of the people who were presenting have years, if not decades, of experience working on equity issues. We wanted to create what David, Linda and I think should begin a really long and committed process of addressing the equity of Maine through the Climate Action Plan." The master's student of plant, soil and environmental studies, began her assistantship in June by helping Hart and Silka create the equity assessment framework. They spent hours researching similar efforts conducted by organizations, state and cities across the country, including New York City, Boston, Providence, Rhode Island, and Portland, Oregon. The team then used the framework to review proposed Climate Action plan strategies from the working groups. The 112-page assessment features a multitude of findings about the ability for each group's initiatives to foster equity and guidance for how they can support underserved populations. Kelemen says she, Hart and Silka, for example, evaluated the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Maine aims to obtain 100% of its energy from renewable sources like solar and wind, but Kelemen says questions about how the initiative will be financed, particularly whether low-income residents would have to pay more for energy due to the transition, presents an equity issue. One group also proposed creating incentive programs to increase renewable energy buy-in, but Kelemen says state officials must first ensure that any offerings support those most vulnerable to the ramifications of climate change, such as lower-income, rural and island residents and people of color. "Working with David and Linda has been instrumental," Kelemen says. "They pointed me in the right direction. They have years of experience doing this. We divided the work, bounced ideas off of each other and thought deeply about topics that were new to me." Kelemen will join Silka in giving another talk about the equity assessment for climate action strategies 3–4 p.m. Nov. 9 via Zoom. "We're grateful for the hard work of the Mitchell Center, especially the contributions of Sara Kelemen, on this assessment with few precedents in Maine," says Hannah Pingree, director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and Climate Council co-chair. "From electric vehicle deployment to sea level rise considerations, Sara's thorough and thoughtful approach delivered strong and specific equity considerations for the Climate Council to consider as we develop policy and programs. Her contributions to the assessment will certainly impact the success of our climate actions going forward." In addition to her summer graduate assistantship at the Mitchell Center, Kelemen is working with Rachel Schattman, assistant professor of sustainable agriculture, at the UMaine Agroecology lab. The UMaine graduate student says she will interview farmers in Kansas about climate change and soil health practices that could help sequester carbon and increase water quality. "Institutions of higher education have a lot of power, and I think that power can be mobilized to create a lot of meaningful change in the world, and I hope to be able to create meaningful change through the resources given by my education," Kelemen says. Contact: Marcus Wolf; 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Media write about UMaine-led study involving seabirds, climate change and Falkland Islands

26 Oct 2020

Cosmos, Vice, Eurasia Review, Courthouse News Service, Mirage and the Natural History Museum wrote about a University of Maine-led study exploring how seabird responses to climate change 5,000 years ago transformed the Falkland Islands. A 14,000-year paleoecological reconstruction of the sub-Antarctic islands created by researchers found that seabird establishment occurred during a period of regional cooling 5,000 years ago. Their populations, in turn, shifted the Falkland Islands ecosystems through the deposit of high concentrations of guano that helped nourish tussac, produce peat and increase the incidence of fire. "One of the main reasons why seabirds are so cool is because they are so sensitive to changes that are happening in the ocean, where they are getting their food from, and also the land where they are breeding or building their nests," said Dulcinea Groff, who led the research as a UMaine Ph.D. student in ecology and environmental sciences, and part of a National Science Foundation-funded Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Research Traineeship (IGERT) in Adaptation to Abrupt Climate Change (A2C2), to Vice. Groff, now a postdoctoral research scientist at the University of Wyoming, and his colleagues published their findings in a paper in the journal Science Advances. "We know that many seabirds in the South Atlantic rely on these unique coastal grasslands, but it turns out that the grasses also depend on the nutrients seabirds provide," said Jacquelyn Gill, study co-author and an associate professor of paleoecology and plant ecology in the UMaine Climate Change Institute, to Cosmos. "Because they rely on ecosystems in the ocean and on land for their survival, seabirds are really good sentinels of global change." Gill led expeditions to the Falkland Islands in 2014 and 2016, during which the study was conducted. MecroPress, ScienceDaily, earth.com, Hindi Khabre, Space Force, Everydaynews, BuradaBiliyorum.Com and SciTechDaily also highlighted the study.

President Ferrini-Mundy to receive 2020 Seaman A. Knapp Award, present memorial lecture

26 Oct 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy will deliver the Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture in a virtual webinar sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The Oct. 28 event from 3–5:30 p.m. begins with the Community of Scholars Celebrating Excellence: Cooperative Extension and Research Awards Presentation, followed by the Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture at approximately 4:55 p.m. Registration for the free public webinar is online. President Ferrini-Mundy's address, "Positives in Pandemics: The Increased Need and Importance of Extension During Times of Crisis," will focus on the response of Maine's land grant university and its Cooperative Extension program, serving through county offices, research farms and 4-H camps, and online. In recognition of her leadership and contributions to food and agricultural sciences, she also will receive the 2020 Seaman A. Knapp Award. "University of Maine Cooperative Extension is the largest outreach component of Maine's research university, playing a critical role in fulfilling the statewide land grant mission," says President Ferrini-Mundy. "In keeping with Seaman Knapp's vision, UMaine Extension and other states' programs nationwide meaningfully change lives. Extension's efforts during the pandemic — ranging from providing critical K–12 learning opportunities to problem solving to help maintain the economic viability of producers and the quality of the food system — continue to be pivotal in nimbly responding to ongoing needs. And, as always, making a difference." The Knapp Award and memorial lecture recognize President Ferrini-Mundy's leadership at the helm of the state's land grant university, her nationally recognized expertise in STEM education, commitment to equity and inclusion, and understanding of both the importance and impact of Cooperative Extension and its 4-H youth programming, says UMaine Cooperative Extension dean Hannah Carter. Annually since 1980, NIFA and APLU have sponsored a lecture by leaders in agriculture, research, education and Extension. The lecture series honors three of the most important land grant university system figures: William Henry Hatch for research; Seaman A. Knapp for Extension; and Justin Smith Morrill, namesake of the act that created the land grant university system. In 1906, Knapp initiated the county agent plan. To promote the plan, he organized boys' cotton and corn growing clubs and, in 1910, a girls' corn and poultry club — the forerunners of today's 4-H clubs. Knapp's success as a national leader of the Farm and Home Demonstration System helped bring about the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, which resulted in the creation of the Cooperative Extension Service in every state. As a trusted resource for more than 100 years, University of Maine Cooperative Extension conducts community-driven, research-based programs in every Maine county. UMaine Extension helps support, sustain and grow the food-based economy. It is the only entity in our state that touches every aspect of the Maine food system, where policy, research, production, processing, commerce, nutrition, and food security and safety are integral and interrelated. UMaine Extension also conducts the most successful out-of-school youth educational program in Maine through 4-H. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

UMaine economist co-authors report guiding U.S. toward carbon-neutral economy

27 Oct 2020

The director of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center co-authored a strategic plan to guide the U.S. toward a carbon-neutral economy by 2050 as a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN USA). University of Maine economist Jonathan Rubin and other members of SDSN USA, which was launched to implement the United Nations' sustainable development goals, released America's Zero Carbon Action plan today. The network will deliver its plan to the executive branch and Congress in November. The comprehensive policy report provides pathways for decarbonizing power systems, transportation, food and land use, industry, buildings and materials. Using the latest modeling and research, the plan also illustrates how achieving a net-zero carbon emission economy backed by renewable energy is possible and would only cost 0.4% more than the fossil-fuel support

economy. It also details how initiatives will spur net employment gain with millions of new jobs each year. "The roadmap is a science-based, realistic assessment of how we can get to zero carbon emissions," says Rubin, also a professor of resource economics and policy at UMaine. "We kept our goals in mind: zero carbon emissions in transportation, fairness and enhancing economic opportunities. Something this complex and important will evolve, but we point to ways to help move the nation forward." The SDSN USA will host a free webinar focusing on the chapter of the report that details decarbonizing the transportation sector at 3 p.m. Thursday. Rubin will serve on the webinar panel and discuss how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and other transportation resources in rural areas. Anyone interested in attending the public webinar can register online. "We will briefly outline the roadmap and leave lots of time for people to ask questions and interact with the panel." Rubin says. America's Zero Carbon Action plan was drafted by the Zero Carbon Consortium, a coalition of about 100 experts in climate change policy, clean energy pathways modeling, industrial policy, regulatory policy and other related fields. Co-authoring report appealed to Rubin's expertise in transportation, energy and the environment. The UMaine economist served six years as chair of the Environment and Energy Section of the U.S. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

New NASA project at UMaine will use lasers from space to map carbon in forests

27 Oct 2020

Researchers from the Wheatland Geospatial Laboratory (WGL) in the University of Maine School of Forest Resources and the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests (CRSF) have been selected to join NASA's Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI) Science Team. The three-year research project was awarded $500,000 to map carbon stocks and changes across a large and complex forest region using data from NASA's newly launched ecosystem LiDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) instrument, orbiting the Earth on the International Space Station. WGL director Daniel Hayes and CRSF director Aaron Weiskittel will join colleagues at Michigan State University and the University of Minnesota to harness the data as part of the FORest Carbon Estimation (FORCE) project. The team will develop and test their mapping methods at research sites in Maine, New Brunswick, Ontario and Minnesota, and then apply the approach across the larger temperate-boreal transition forest of northeastern North America, which will be a challenging demonstration of GEDI data. The mix of tree species either at the northern or southern limit of their ranges come together in a complex, extensively managed forest region spanning two countries. A full news release about the project is online. Contact: Meg Ferguson, 207.581.3794

Handley cited in Morning Ag story about Maine specialty crop grants

27 Oct 2020

Morning Ag Clips shared a Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) news release featuring a quote from David Handley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension small fruit and vegetable specialist, about the announcement of Specialty Crop Block Grant awards in Maine.

Maine Public to air video history of UMaine's Holt Research Forest

27 Oct 2020

Maine Public will air the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests' video, "Holt Research Forest: 4 Decades of Long-term Ecosystem Research & Education," at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, as part of its Community Films Series. More information is available online.

Saros leads research into how warmer winters affect toxic blue-green algal blooms in Maine's lakes

27 Oct 2020

Toxic blooms of blue-green algae have infested lakes across Maine and the U.S. at greater frequency over the years. The associate director of the Climate Change Institute seeks to understand the role global warming plays in their incidence. Jasmine Saros will lead a team of researchers from the University of Maine and other institutions in studying how warmer winters affect the presence of these summertime toxic algae accumulations, known as cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms (cyanoHABs), in Maine lakes over the past 125 years. Michael Kinnison, Maine Center for Genetics in the Environment, Peter Countway from the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Denise Bruesewitz from Colby College, and Charlie Culbertson from the U.S. Geological Survey New England Water Science Center will work with Saros on the project. The study, funded by a $249,432 grant from the U.S. Geological Survey, will particularly focus on how rising temperatures in the winter months have influenced the prevalence of Gloeotrichia. The toxin producing, bloom-forming species serves as the primary cyanoHAB of concern in lakes with low or medium levels of nutrients. It also produces microcystin-LR, the most prevalent and harmful cyanobacterial toxin in Maine and the Northeast, according to researchers. Information from Saros and her colleagues' research could enhance warning systems for summer cyanoHABs and help government officials and nonprofit lake management agencies prepare for them based on conditions from prior winters. "The ecological factors that promote formation of cyanoHABs are poorly understood, and large uncertainty remains about how climate interacts with other drivers to shape cyanoHABs," says Saros, also a professor of paleolimnology and lake ecology in the UMaine School of Biology and Ecology. "The long-term perspective provided by the fossil record in lake sediments will help us to understand the role of climate in driving these blooms." Winter has become the fastest changing season in Maine, with the warming rate twice that of summer. With past studies finding a link between cyanobacterial summer blooms and winter conditions, and the presence of Gloeotrichia increasing in low-nutrient lakes in the Northeast, the question of how warming winters influence the frequency of these blooms has come to the forefront. Saros and her team will confirm the forces that drive the uptick in cyanoHABs over the past century by harvesting, dating and analyzing sediment cores from 12 lakes varying in nutrient concentrations and climate zones. They will inspect the cores for algal pigments, sedimentary DNA (sedDNA) and sediment chemistry. By conducting multiple analyses on the sediment cores and using climate data and land use records, the group will ascertain how the interaction between nutrient composition and temperature affect the frequency of cyanoHABs, and how increasing temperatures during winters have influenced their presence. Researchers also hope to learn how the effects of warming winters relate to cyanobacterial diversity and cyanoHAB dominance overtime. The study will support ongoing research conducted through the Maine-eDNA program facilitated by Maine EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research). The team will recruit a UMaine Ph.D. student to conduct pigment and metabarcoding analyses of sediment cores, and two undergraduate students from Colby College to help perform sediment coring and chemical analyses and present team findings at conferences. The USGS allocated the funding for the project as part of the national Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) Grant Program. The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions houses Maine's congressionally authorized water institute and receives the base funding from the national- and state-level WRRI grant funding programs. "We're excited about this project because it will advance understanding of this important issue by using new tools developed through Maine-eDNA and by continuing strong partnerships with Maine DEP (Department of Environmental Protection), the Portland Water District and Lakes Environmental Association with help from USGS funding," Saros says. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Medicine hosting Oct. 30 webinar on impacts of pollution, climate change on human health

27 Oct 2020

The University of Maine Institute of Medicine fall seminar series continues with a virtual presentation by Nishad Jayasundara, assistant professor in the School of Marine Sciences and Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering, 3–4 p.m. Oct. 30. In this presentation, Water Pollution, Rising Temperatures and a Mysterious Kidney Disease, Jayasundara will discuss his research examining the biochemical and physiological consequences of exposure to stressors in the environment to highlight the impacts of chemical pollution and climate change on human health. The seminar series will continue Friday afternoons through Nov. 13. More information about the series, including topics, presenter bios and registration links, is online.

UMaine study analyzes how virtual and augmented reality can be used to teach mathematics concepts

27 Oct 2020

New research from the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development's School of Learning and Teaching shows how emerging technologies such as virtual and augmented reality are creating novel ways of exploring mathematical ideas. The study, published in Digital Experiences in Mathematics Education, was conducted by Justin Dimmel, assistant professor of mathematics education and instructional technology, Eric Pandiscio, associate professor of mathematics education, and Camden Bock, a doctoral candidate in STEM education. It examined the idea of spatial inscriptions — that is, math concepts that are drawn or inscribed in real or rendered spaces. Traditionally, mathematicians, teachers and students have explored these ideas in two-dimensions, on surfaces such as slate, notebooks or chalkboards. The advent of virtual reality and other digital tools for learning and teaching has created new opportunities to explore these inscriptions in three-dimensions. Dimmel, Pandiscio and Bock analyzed how separate groups of college students and high school math teachers experienced two virtual-reality environments created by graduate and undergraduate research assistants in the Immersive Mathematics in Rendered Environments (IMRE) Lab, located in Shibles Hall on the UMaine campus. They paid special attention to how "participants moved their bodies, used their gaze, and transformed the spatial canvases by making inscriptions." The first environment — the line and sphere environment — was a virtual canvas for drawing points, lines and spheres, which participants could manipulate using their hands. The researchers envisioned an environment that would allow learners to construct spatial figures from the intersections of planes and spheres, analogous to two-dimensional circle and line constructions that students in a geometry class, for example, would make with a compass and straight-edge. This iteration of the line and sphere environment was a start toward that goal, as it provided a spatial compass tool with which immersed learners could inscribe and transform spheres. The second environment — LatticeLand — was a complement to the line and sphere environment designed to be the spatial equivalent of a geoboard. Participants were able to manipulate the environment using their hands, but instead of simple lines and spheres, they were able to create lattice polygons or polyhedrons: Two- or three-dimensional figures whose sides are straight and whose corners (or vertices) are points on a 10x10x10 square grid. Based on the experiences of study participants, the researchers found that the virtual environments created new and unique educational opportunities. For example, in the line and sphere environment, "participants looked along lines and from within spheres," rather than being constrained to viewing inscriptions on a two-dimensional surface. One teacher participant commented about the LatticeLand environment: "You have to think very differently. I'm used to doing this on a white board in my classroom, and this is very different. The 3D changes how I think about the shapes." The study was conducted at the IMRE Lab with commercially available technology, including VR head-mounted displays, which in recent years have become more readily available. "Our work shows what is possible with off-the-shelf hardware and software that was developed in an academic research lab," Dimmel, Pandiscio and Bock conclude, adding that the study shows "the potential to reconfigure how mathematics can be experienced." The article, "The Geometry of Movement: Encounters with Spatial Inscriptions for Making and Exploring Mathematical Figures" is available online. Dimmel and Bock also created a video demonstrating the IMRE Lab's line and sphere environment, available on the College of Education and Human Development's YouTube channel. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Science, public health, economics, law experts create 'why climate change matters' website

27 Oct 2020

Experts from the University of Maine, Harvard and Long Island universities, and the University of Maine School of Law have created a website with 10 talking points titled: "Why Climate Change Matters to your Security, Health & Wealth." The site offers a one-stop shop for undecided voters and the general public to understand how climate change affects the most sensitive aspects of their everyday lives, and how efforts to reduce and reverse its effects represent the defining opportunity of our time. Paul Andrew Mayewski, Distinguished Maine Professor and director of the Climate Change Institute (CCI) at UMaine; Alexander More, associate professor of environmental health at LIU and research associate at Harvard and the CCI; and Charles H. Norchi, the Benjamin Thompson Professor of Law at the University of Maine School of Law and director of the Center for Oceans and Coastal Law, framed the talking points and the research supporting them. Multiple authorities from the U.S. Department of Defense have named climate change the leading security risk to this country. Extreme droughts, sea-level rise, and other threats to infrastructure weaken the effectiveness of defense at home and abroad. The effects of climate change and pollution on health are life-threatening, a problem worsened by the convergence of climate and public health crises. For example, longer summers and warmer winters have caused tick populations to grow exponentially, causing Lyme disease to spread throughout the Northeastern U.S. The same warming caused by climate change means mosquitoes carrying dengue hemorrhagic fever and the Zika virus can now reach New England, causing tropical diseases to threaten our health. And in the last six months, scientists have shown that exposure to pollution is a risk factor for COVID-19. At the same time, the authors show the current situation represents a great opportunity for economic prosperity and a healthier, more secure future. Efforts toward climate change mitigation and resiliency have created the most vibrant new sector of the economy — renewable energy — with exponential growth in new, enduring, high-quality jobs and U.S.-made technologies that are attracting billions of dollars in investments, and that could boost the U.S. back toward a leadership role in the global economy. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Reminder: Traister to offer virtual Good and Mad seminar Oct. 29

28 Oct 2020

Women, anger and political change are topics of a virtual lecture by award-winning journalist Rebecca Traister 5 p.m. Oct. 29. This free event is part of the Stephen E. King Chair lecture series at the University of Maine. More information, including a registration link, is available online. To request a reasonable accommodation, call 207.581.1226.

WABI interviews Grant about virtual facilitation workshop series

28 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) talked with Kristen Grant, a University of Maine Sea Grant professional, about a new workshop series designed to build virtual facilitation skills 10:30 a.m.–noon Nov. 17 and Dec. 1. Participants will learn fundamental concepts and strategies for applying them in virtual meetings as well as techniques for brainstorming, prioritizing and decision making. "Because the training will deal with really essential facilitation skills whether you're in person or online, I think that it's applicable for our immediate needs as well as any time in the future," said Grant. More information about the workshop series, which is co-sponsored by University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Maine Sea Grant, is online. Centralmaine.com, the Bangor Daily News and the Penobscot Bay Pilot also promoted the workshop series.

Wiscasset Newspaper, Lincoln County News highlight construction at Darling Marine Center

28 Oct 2020

Wiscasset Newspaper and The Lincoln County News picked up a Darling Marine Center (DMC) news release about the waterfront improvement projects now underway at DMC. Planned construction includes upgrading the flowing seawater system, renovating the oldest seawater laboratory and replacing the Center's main pier. "Amid all the challenges people are facing right now, we're grateful for the support of the state and federal government to undertake this project," said University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "These improvements will enable the Darling Marine Center and University of Maine more broadly to better serve the people of Maine." Construction Equipment Guide shared the Wiscasset Newspaper story.

Jackson talks to WABI about coming out week activities at UMaine

28 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Robert Jackson, a University of Maine staff associate for diversity and inclusion, about Coming Out Week activities at UMaine, which according to Jackson, offer critical support during times of social isolation.

Maine Public speaks with Brewer about control of state senate

28 Oct 2020

Professor of Political Science Mark Brewer talked with Maine Public about the likelihood of Democrats maintaining control of the state Senate following next week's election. "The control of the Maine Senate is a pure toss-up," said Brewer, who indicated a number of important state races are not garnering voter or media attention.

BDN talks with Dill, Gardner about fall tick resurgence

28 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Griffin Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick expert, and Allison Gardner, an assistant professor in the School of Biology and Ecology, about the impact of drought on ticks and the expected increase in tick activity with wetter, cooler fall weather. WVII (channel 7) and WGME (channel 13 in Portland) also interviewed Dill about the expected increase in the activity of adult ticks in October and November. The Piscataquis Observer and Cherokee Tribune and Ledger News shared the BDN story.

Socolow connects War of the Worlds panic, media literacy in WABI interview

28 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) talked with Michael Socolow, director of the University of Maine's McGillicuddy Humanities Center, about Orson Welles' 1938 radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds," noting that at that time, radio was the social media of its day. "We should apply media literacy and think about things critically. That was important in 1938 when people thought this mass of crowds were in the streets but it's really important in 2020. Media literacy really matters," Socolow said. Socolow was also interviewed for the Oct. 27 episode of "Professor Buzzkill History Podcast."

Boston Globe quotes Brewer about Trump's popularity in rural Maine

28 Oct 2020

The Boston Globe quoted Mark Brewer, a University of Maine professor of political science, in an article about the popularity of President Donald Trump in Maine's Second Congressional District.

Good Morning America video footage captures UMaine

28 Oct 2020

Good Morning America incorporated video footage depicting the University of Maine in a segment about how the state has handled COVID-19. The program complemented an interview with Dr. Nirav Shah, director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, with clips showcasing UMaine students adorned in face coverings walking around campus, particularly in front of the Raymond H. Fogler Library.

Expanded Early College program at UMM adds new certificates, scholarships

29 Oct 2020

In response to workforce needs in the region and the state, the Early College program at the University of Maine at Machias has expanded to include seven new certificate pathways and additional scholarship opportunities. The program, which allows high school students to earn college credits at UMM, now offers certificates in aquaculture, conservation law, creative arts, geographic information systems, inclusive early childhood education, supporting diverse learners and outdoor leadership. Most of the 13–19 credit certificates can be completed online. The majority of students qualify for a full tuition waiver funded by the University of Maine System and Maine's Department of Education. Students who complete the certificates are offered scholarship opportunities if they enroll at UMM for the fall semester after their graduation, including the opportunity to apply for a room and board waiver valued at $4,600. A new scholarship added this year provides $500 toward undergraduate tuition at any school in the University of Maine System. Students can apply now for spring semester courses at explorec.maine.edu. For more information, contact UMM Early College program director Christy Alley, 207.225.1268; ummearlycollege@maine.edu; or visit machias.edu/earlycollege.

Media promote UMaine Extension's '4-H for All' club

29 Oct 2020

Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips, the Bangor Daily News, Rangeley Highlander, The Irregular, The Lincoln County News and Daily Bulldog advanced a new University of Maine Cooperative Extension club for youth ages 5–19 interested in participating with 4-H, or new to 4-H. The "4-H for All" club is a way for families to learn about 4-H and connect with others across Maine. Youth will choose a project to complete and discover how to become more involved in Maine 4-H. More information about the club is online.

WVII reports on installation of composite bridge girders developed at UMaine

29 Oct 2020

WVII (Channel 7) reported that the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) will use composite tub girders, a technology developed at the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center, to repair the Grist Mill Bridge in Hampden. UMaine licensed the technology to Advanced Infrastructure Technologies (AIT) of Brewer, who produced the girders for MDOT.

Wason discusses drought's impact on trees

29 Oct 2020

WABI (Channel 5) talked with Jay Wason, assistant professor of forest ecosystem physiology in the University of Maine's School of Forest Resources, about how the drought that struck Maine this summer may affect trees in the region. "The trees use a couple different sources of water, one is the surface water that we think about when we just look at the ground and see if it's moist or not. The other is deep water, so lots of trees actually have roots than can go relatively deep and access groundwater that's deeper than the surface water that we might think about," Wason said. "If it's been really dry for a long time, then all of a sudden we have all this moisture and now the soil is loose and if winds pick up, then you can have an event where the trees may not be holding on to the soil as well as they would have."

FBRI mentioned in Press Herald story about zero emissions oil refinery

29 Oct 2020

A Portland Press Herald story about Biofine Developments Northeast Inc. noted an ongoing collaboration with the University of Maine Forest Bioproducts Research Institute (FBRI). Biofine is currently seeking to develop a biorefinery in Maine; Biofine and FBRI currently operate a pilot plant in Old Town jointly.

Pen Bay Pilot reports on launch of 'Why Climate Change Matters' website

29 Oct 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot picked up a University of Maine news release announcing the launch of a new website, "Why Climate Change Matters To Your Security, Health & Wealth." The site includes concise talking points intended to enhance public understanding of the threats posed by climate change, and actions that must be taken to mitigate those threats.

Brewer talks with News Center about two-party political system

29 Oct 2020

University of Maine Professor of Political Science Mark Brewer spoke with News Center Maine about the two-party political system that often frustrates younger voters. Several students were interviewed as well, echoing that the lack of choice among candidates is discouraging while acknowledging the importance of the 2020 election.

Traister speaks with Maine Public before UMaine presentation

29 Oct 2020

Award-winning journalist Rebecca Traister spoke with Maine Public prior to her lecture about women, anger and political change as part of the University of Maine Stephen E. King Chair lecture series. During the radio program "All things considered," Traister spoke about systems of oppression against women, the civil rights and other historic movements and elections in the context of those movements. UMaine's free, public lecture with Traister, "Good and Mad: Rebecca Traister on Women, Anger, and Political Change" begins at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

DLA highlights partnership with UMaine Forest Bioproducts Research Institute

29 Oct 2020

The Defense Logistics Agency, the nation's combat logistics support agency, published a news release about its partnership with the University of Maine Forest Bioproducts Research Institute to conduct renewable fuel research. UMaine was awarded $4.8 million through the DLA Energy Readiness Program in September to expand and validate hydrocarbon fuel production capability using forest resources, according to the agency.

'The Maine Question' asks how climate impacted number of WWI, Spanish flu casualties

29 Oct 2020

Did the climate affect how many people died during World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic in Europe? Find out in Episode 7 of Season 3 of "The Maine Question" podcast. Alex More and Paul Mayewski from the Climate Change Institute say that a once-in-a-century climate deviation that resulted in incessant torrential rain and cold air over Europe from 1914 to 1919 likely increased the number of people who died during World War I (22 million) and the Spanish flu pandemic (50 million). The colleagues connected data from climate science, history and public health to make the discovery. They say the climate anomaly may have been caused by dust and explosives from the war that cooled the local atmosphere and formed nuclei for precipitation. As we anticipate another wave of COVID-19, More says we should be mindful of the interconnectedness of human-caused climate change, environmental conditions and disease. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

Maine Science Podcast features Fernandez in latest episode

30 Oct 2020

The Maine Science Podcast features Ivan Fernandez, professor of soil science and forest resources at the University of Maine, in its latest episode. Fernandez, a distinguished professor with the Climate Change Institute and School of Forest Resources, discussed his research and student mentoring work with UMaine and his service to the state, particularly as a member of the Maine Climate Council. The podcast, a production of the Maine Science Festival, has also featured other experts from the UMaine community.

Wiscasset Newspaper highlights new assistant professor at Darling

30 Oct 2020

The Wiscasset Newspaper shared a media release about the University of Maine's Darling Marine Center in Walpole welcoming its newest member: Meg Estapa. "My time here as a grad student showed me that midcoast Maine is a great place to live," said Estapa, a libra assistant professor of chemical oceanography with UMaine's School of Marine Sciences. "I am looking forward to building a fun, supportive, productive research group, and teaching students of all levels that come to the DMC, as well as getting to know my new community!"

Media advance Extension webinar about starting food businesses

30 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips, the Penobscot Bay Pilot, the Portland Press Herald and the Daily Bulldog advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's upcoming online workshop about

starting a food business from 9 a.m.–noon on Friday, Nov. 20. "Recipe to Market" is intended for entrepreneurs, farmers and others interested in starting a home-based specialty food business with products such as jams and jellies, fermented foods, dry mixes and candies, baked goods and confections. Registration is required on the event webpage.

Center Square interviews Brewer about ranked choice voting

30 Oct 2020

Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with The Center Square about ranked choice voting, particularly as it relates to the presidential election and U.S. Senate race in Maine. "There's a very good chance ranked choice voting will determine the outcome in the U.S. Senate race," he said. "You can also easily see a situation where [Libertarian presidential candidate] Jo Jorgensen and the other independent candidates collectively come up with a large enough percentage of the total vote to deprive either Biden or Trump of a majority in the 2nd Congressional District … So then you'd have to look at ranked choice to decide that district, and that would take days."

Media note Guesman's induction into Maine Press Association Hall of Fame

30 Oct 2020

The Associated Press, Ellsworth American and Mount Desert Islander noted the induction of the late Arthur Guesman, former University of Maine professor who served as advisor to the Maine Campus newspaper, into the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame this month. U.S. News & World Report, The Hour, the Caledonian Record, the Herald Standard, the Times Union and the Washington Times shared the AP article.

News Center Maine interviews students, Brewer about election

30 Oct 2020

News Center Maine interviewed several University of Maine students for their thoughts about the election and candidates for various races. "I think once you get down to a person-to-person level, it's a lot less partisan. I think a lot of partisanship is for show," said junior Virginia Hugo-Vidal, who serves as vice president for the UMaine College Democrats. "It's about having each person want to hear the other side," said senior Anna Zmistowski, chair for UMaine College Republicans. "We need to cultivate a greater ability to listen to one another and not speak." Mark Brewer, a professor of political science, also spoke with News Center Maine about students' perspectives on the election, particularly a desire to see third party representation. He also said that regardless of political affiliation, he has noticed a general agreement among students about certain issues like climate change and racial justice.

Senior art exhibition 'Surviving Anecdotes' runs through Nov. 12

30 Oct 2020

The University of Maine 2020 senior art exhibition "Surviving Anecdotes" will be on display through Nov. 12 in the Lord Hall gallery. The show features more than 100 works — from paintings and sculptures to animation and performance art — from 16 student artists. Participating seniors this year include Kara Arey, Emma Betterley-Dow, Victoria Bobrova, Tristan Bryant, Caid Cummings, Sarah DellaRatta, Amos Diehl, Sarah Foster, Raquel Garmony, Darria Hansen, Gab Lee, Arianna Levenson, Chenoa Longoria, Jules Mogul, Rachael Murphy and Kate Westhaver. The studio art majors produced all aspects of the exhibition including matting, framing, hanging, labeling and lighting their works as part of their studio art class, led by professor of art James Linehan. The gallery is open 9 a.m.–4 p.m. weekdays. Events are free and open to the public. Masks are required when in the gallery. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact the UMaine Department of Art at 207.581.3245 or um.art@maine.edu.

Update: UMaine to conduct annual emergency communications system test Nov. 9

30 Oct 2020

The University of Maine will conduct its annual emergency communications system test on Monday, Nov. 9, complete with three outdoor sirens sounding for several minutes. The sirens are part of UMaine's multifaceted emergency communications system established in 2007 that allows university safety and communications professionals to use several mechanisms to quickly communicate vital information to the community during emergency situations. When UMaine's emergency communication system is activated, several notifications occur: A text message is sent to subscribers of UMaine's umaine.alerts system; UMaine PD sounds the sirens; information is posted on the university's homepage and the UMaine portal; and a recorded telephone message may be heard by dialing 207.581.INFO. Members of the University of Maine community are reminded to register to receive UMaine's emergency notifications. The emergency notification service alerts the UMaine community to public safety issues, including inclement weather conditions causing class cancellations. Those registered for UMaine alerts will receive a message about the emergency notification system on Nov. 9, as well as on the 15th of every month. Registration for texts and/or email alerts is online.

Dumas to be featured in Dash of Maine Holiday Cooking Challenge videos

02 Nov 2020

Food science innovation coordinator Rob Dumas will be featured in three cooking tips videos as part of Maine Public's Dash of Maine Holiday Cooking Challenge. Each week for six weeks beginning Nov. 6, Maine Public will feature a recipe from the "Maine Bicentennial Community Cookbook" and challenge home cooks to recreate the recipe and share their results. Each recipe will come with a cooking tips video, with Dumas providing tips in three of the six videos, including recipes for a chocolate stout donut and apple walnut cake. More information about the challenge is online.

WABI reports on UMaine request for students to be mindful of coronavirus safety on Halloween

02 Nov 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported that the administrators at the University of Maine asked students to be safe on Halloween and reminded the campus community that COVID-19 mandates, including social distancing and wearing face coverings, would be strictly enforced on campus over the weekend.

Dill talks with WAGM about ladybug numbers

02 Nov 2020

Jim Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management specialist, talked with WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) about the ladybug numbers this year in Maine. According to Dill, drought conditions facilitated a

dramatic increase in aphid populations, making it a good year for those that feed on aphids, such as ladybugs.

Dan ’63 and Betty Churchill announce $6.5 million bequest to UMaine

02 Nov 2020

At a recent University of Maine Foundation virtual Homecoming event, University of Maine benefactors Dan ’63 and Betty Churchill shared their intentions to make estate gifts estimated at up to $6.5 million to benefit the University of Maine. Their gifts will endow two $1.5 million School of Policy and International Affairs (SPIA) professorships, one Climate Change Institute (CCI) postdoctoral position or professorship, a SPIA faculty research fund, with additional funding for multiple SPIA internships and fellowships, along with a CCI student/faculty travel fund. A news release is online. Contact: Monique Hashey, monique.hashey@maine.edu

BDN spotlights UMaine students working at polls

02 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that University of Maine students are engaging with the political process this year by assisting at the polls across Maine, replacing older poll workers who are concerned about contracting coronavirus.

Centralmaine.com promotes developing equity assessment talk

02 Nov 2020

Centralmaine.com advanced a Zoom talk 3–4 p.m. Nov. 9 on the topic of developing an equity assessment for the Maine Climate Council. The University of Maine Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions will host “Maine Can Lead in Fair Planning for Addressing Climate Change: Steps in an Equity Assessment,” which will be facilitated by Linda Silka, senior fellow at the Mitchell Center, and Sara Kelemen, master’s candidate in the School of Food and Agriculture. More information about the event is online.

BDN advances ‘Surviving Anecdotes,’ UMaine student art show

02 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News promoted a Lord Hall art show curated by University of Maine students and featuring more than 100 works from 16 student artists. The exhibit, which includes paintings, sculptures, animation and performance art, can be seen in Lord Hall Gallery 9 a.m.–4 p.m. weekdays. More information about the gallery is online.

Brewer speaks with BDN about election turnout, young voters

02 Nov 2020

University of Maine Professor of Political Science Mark Brewer talked with the Bangor Daily News about the expected voter turnout on Tuesday, predicting that the number of younger voters is likely to equal or come close to the number of older voters casting a ballot.

SBDC effort will connect entrepreneurs to UMaine to support reopening

02 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that a newly launched Maine Small Business Development Center initiative will offer resources to small businesses to respond to and recover from the pandemic. The Recovery and Relaunch Resource Center, which is funded by the federal CARES Act, will provide Maine business owners with access to UMaine students, resources and services. The Irregular shared the SBDC press release.

UMaine to honor veterans with week of in-person, virtual events

02 Nov 2020

The University of Maine will recognize veterans with a week of in-person and virtual events to coincide with Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The activities are coordinated by the UMaine Office of Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS) and UMaine Veterans Association. UMaine Veterans Week festivities kick off with a flag raising ceremony at noon Nov. 9 in front of the Raymond H. Fogler Library. Army and Navy ROTC will raise the U.S. and POW/MIA flags in honor of the veteran community. Classes are cancelled Nov. 11 in observance of the national holiday. Other UMaine Veterans Week activities include:

- 1 p.m. Nov. 9 — Green zone training held via Zoom for faculty, staff and students wishing to learn more about the student veteran experience.
- Noon Nov. 10 — Virtual veterans center lunch. Up to 50 lunch vouchers will be available to student veterans on campus.
- 11 a.m. Nov. 12 — A research presentation held via Zoom about understanding veteran suicide from Teagan LaPiere, military veteran and undergraduate recipient of the Susan J. Hunter Award.
- Noon Nov. 13 — A senior art exhibition by Kara Arey titled Post Traumatic held at the Memorial Room in the Union.

Learn more about and register for any event on the UMaine Veterans Week webpage. For additional information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Tony Llerena, VETS coordinator and school certifying official for veterans, at 207.581.1316 or tony.llerena@maine.edu.

Pen Bay Pilot, BDN advance UMaine plans to honor veterans

03 Nov 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and the Bangor Daily News advanced the University Maine’s schedule of events to honor veterans Nov. 9–13. More information and an events listing for Veterans Week is online.

Media promote native seed seminar Nov. 18

03 Nov 2020

Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips and The Piscataquis Observer promoted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar, Native Seed Starting, scheduled for noon–1 p.m. Nov. 18. The webinar, which is co-sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, will focus on starting native plants from seed and caring for native plant species. More information about the webinar is online.

AP talks with Brewer about elections, voting in Maine

03 Nov 2020

Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with the Associated Press about Maine's ranked choice voting system and voter turnout in Maine. "If there's one thing that people can agree on, advocates of the progressive left or the far right, I think they agree the stakes are incredibly high in this election," said Brewer. Maine is the only state to approve ranked choice voting for statewide contests, and this is the first time it will be used in a presidential race. The Bangor Daily News shared the AP report.

UMaine UVote student ambassadors argue youth 'are the present' in BDN column

03 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News published a column by Michael Delorge and Julia Whinston, University of Maine undergraduate students and UMaine UVote ambassadors, about youth voting. In a column invited by the Scholars Strategy Network, the pair argued that young voters have the motivation and the numbers to elevate issues such as college debt, climate change and racial equity, and to promote national unity through voting.

Brewer quoted by Press Herald about likely delay in finalizing election results, Maine senate race

03 Nov 2020

Mark Brewer, University of Maine professor of political science, noted in a Portland Press Herald story that because of ranked choice voting, residents will likely not know who won all of Maine's political races on election night. In a separate Portland Press Herald story shared by Centralmaine.com, Brewer described Maine's Senate race as the most consequential in the nation, noting that control of the U.S. Senate will depend on the outcome in Maine.

BDN interviews Wheeler about testing wastewater for COVID-19

03 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with Robert Wheeler, a University of Maine associate professor of microbiology and member of the University of Maine System Scientific Advisory Board, about the presence of SARS CoV-2 virus fragments in wastewater samples collected at UMaine on Oct. 28. Levels of viral fragments in wastewater tend to increase as case numbers in a community rise according to Wheeler. UMaine had just one active case of COVID-19 as of Oct. 28. WABI (Channel 5) shared a media release about the wastewater testing results. WOKQ 97.5 advanced the BDN article.

Munson to discuss US influence on Iraq, Iran relations in Nov. 5 talk

03 Nov 2020

Henry Munson, a University of Maine professor emeritus of anthropology and author of "Islam and Revolution in the Middle East," will offer a free Zoom presentation, How the US Turned Iraq into Iran's Client State: The Unintended Consequences of a Myopic Foreign Policy, 4:30–6 p.m. Nov. 5. The talk, which will highlight U.S. actions that solidified an anti-American partnership between Iraq and Iran, is hosted by The Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Registration is required to attend. More information is online.

Maine Hunger Dialogue student mini-grants still available

03 Nov 2020

More than 100 students and educators attended the 2020 virtual Maine Hunger Dialogue on Friday, Oct. 23, which focused discussion on a study of food and housing insecurity among Maine's college students. Those who missed the dialogue can register to view the event recording, and to become eligible for mini-grants available to student groups at any Maine college campus. Registration instructions are on the Hunger Dialogue webpage; information about the grants program is available under the Mini-Grants tab.

Maine AgrAbility coordinator Carlson recognized by national association

03 Nov 2020

Maine AgrAbility state coordinator Leilani Carlson of Belgrade received the Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents during the 2020 annual meeting and professional improvement conference Sept. 28–Oct.1. Carlson was one of several honorees representing the top 1% of the membership selected by their peers and the director of Cooperative Extension. As the statewide coordinator for Maine AgrAbility since 2012, Carlson has grown the program by conducting outreach and education through participation in over 75 agriculture-related and nonagricultural-related events annually, working directly with more than 100 farm families, and sharing technical assistance to over 900 clients, reaching all 16 counties in Maine. Maine AgrAbility is dedicated to helping Maine farmers, fishermen and forest workers overcome disabilities, injuries or other barriers so they can continue to work safely and productively. Maine AgrAbility is a nonprofit collaboration of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Alpha One, and part of a nationwide network of United States Department of Agriculture programs begun through the 1990 Farm Bill. For more information, contact Maine AgrAbility at 207.944.1533, 800.287.1478 (in Maine); maine.agrability@maine.edu.

UMaine students provide music mentorship for middle schoolers

03 Nov 2020

COVID-19 restrictions in Maine's K–12 schools have transformed the way that teaching looks — particularly for the state's many music programs. With students unable to play their instruments together in-person, music educators have had to get creative to teach their students technique from home. That's why Philip Edelman, assistant professor of music education at the University of Maine, and Shianne Priest, director of music at Leonard Middle School in Old Town, have teamed up to pilot a program that pairs music education majors in the UMaine School of Performing Arts with budding middle school musicians for free, private online lessons. As part of their classes this semester,

more than 30 students who enrolled in MUE 210 — Introduction to Music Education and MUE 401 — Organization and Administration of Secondary Music Performance Programs with Edelman have been partnered for music mentorship with students in grades six through eight. The collaboration begins with each music education student indicating availability to Priest and Leonard Middle School parents; interested parents then contact students via Priest for lessons. The pilot program is beginning its third month, with most of the UMaine students acting as online music mentors for up to three students. Each week, the UMaine students deliver their half-hour or one hour lessons via Zoom. After each lesson, the UMaine student completes an online reflection that identifies successes and challenges in each session, providing perspective on their own practice as a teacher-in-training, giving Edelman, Priest, and the students themselves the chance to consider trends over time, develop skills, and follow up on issues. Selected sessions also are recorded so that Edelman can offer clear feedback on students' teaching practice and technique. The collaboration is a natural fit, Edelman says. Under COVID-19 restrictions, the middle school students can't play their instruments together in-person; UMaine music education students, in turn, aren't able to conduct the lab ensemble component of their classes, which would normally form a central part of their music teacher preparation program in nonpandemic conditions. Many music education students also were worried about opportunities for student teaching in a pandemic. So far, Edelman says, the program has been a great success. "In terms of service to the community and the educational element for us, this has been a real home run," he says. Priest says the university students are making it fun for the middle school students "during a time when music could be a real drag." "We can talk about theories of teaching until we're blue in the face, but until they actually sit down with a seventh grader and say, 'no, you have to push this button on your trumpet to make that note,' you know, it's impractical," added Edelman. Music education major Jacob LaMontagne, a sophomore in Edelman's MUE 210 class, agrees. "The best way for my colleagues and I to learn teaching skills is to get field experience early on. I'm beyond thankful for this opportunity and I'm proud to be a part of it," he says. LaMontagne also notes that the middle school students are "patient, hardworking and flexible. We couldn't have asked for better students." Megan Howell of Mount Desert, a double major in music education and flute performance, adds that she values the connections she's been able to make. "The students really brighten my day, and I look forward to seeing them each week," she says. Howell, like LaMontagne, is thankful for the hands-on experience that she was worried the pandemic might have precluded, and for the chance to develop skills in a mode of instruction that will likely become increasingly common in the future. Edelman says the pilot program has been invaluable for him as a music educator: students' reflections and recorded lessons have prodded him to consider his own curriculum and his own pedagogy. In studying students' teaching, Edelman can examine the specific kinds of situations — technical and pedagogical — that arise. "Reviewing students' lessons and their reflections is a great chance to challenge my own assumptions and ask what's really important to cover in the classroom as we help our students become effective music teachers down the road," he says. The pilot collaboration between UMaine and Leonard Middle School continues through the fall, but Edelman hopes to see it continue into the new year and beyond: if all goes well, he would like to see it expanded to other schools and made a permanent part of UMaine music education. Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu

Claudia Cummings: Connections are key to success

03 Nov 2020

Claudia Cummings earned her Bachelor of Arts in social work from the University of Maine in May 2020. She knows her success at UMaine can be attributed, at least in part, to her personal engagement during her undergraduate years. But she also learned that before changing the world students must find their niche. After changing her major, Cummings found her niche in the School of Social Work. "The professors at the School of Social Work are empathetic, compassionate, friendly, supportive and inviting. The peers I had were ones that truly cared about their education and about each other," Cummings said. A member of the Penobscot Nation and native of Indian Island in Old Town, Cummings has experienced firsthand the power of community support. And at UMaine, she found a network of "unexpected" friends in the School of Social Work. A Dean's list student in her sophomore, junior and senior years, she also served as vice president of Yarn Over Orono, a student organization seeking to build community through fiber arts education and philanthropy, participated with the curriculum committee for the School of Social Work, and in 2018 she attended Maine New Leadership (NEWL), a Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center program designed to prepare young women to seek and hold elected office and leadership roles. Cummings also represented the Penobscot Nation and UMaine's Native student population in her role on the Penobscot Language Signage Committee, the group that motivated installation of bilingual campus signage — in the Penobscot language and in English — acknowledging that the University of Maine sits on Native land. She put the exclamation point on her undergraduate career earlier this year when she received the Sharon Barker Student Activism Award, an honor reserved for students who work to enrich their communities through social justice advocacy. Now enrolled in the Master of Social Work program, she remains connected to her network in the School of Social Work, and empowered by their support. She gratefully acknowledges Robin Russel, UMaine professor of social work, as her mentor, and for helping her find her voice, and her niche. It was Russel who first discussed social work through the lens of politics and policy with Cummings. It was Russel who encouraged her to apply to NEWL. And it was Russel who convinced her to campaign for a seat on the Indian Island Tribal Council. Cummings, the youngest member ever elected to the council, is serving a four-year term. "Robin is now a dear friend who pushes me to be a better social worker and person," she said. Cummings notes that without the tuition waiver available to Native students, she may have been unable to attend UMaine. Expected to graduate in May 2022, she hopes to learn more about Indigenous communities and plans to work in Maine to address social justice issues, including substance abuse and domestic violence. "I will continue to be present in policy making and politics. My background as a social worker will help me make policy decisions about what Maine clients need." Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

Julia Van Steenberghe: Miss Maine USA says, 'I definitely bleed blue'

03 Nov 2020

On a recent Wednesday afternoon, Julia Van Steenberghe's parents' living room in Old Town was transformed into a veritable TV studio, with ring lights surrounding her as she gave probably the biggest interview of her life so far. Van Steenberghe — a master's student in human development at the University of Maine — was chatting virtually with officials from the Miss USA pageant. After being postponed in the spring due to the coronavirus, Miss USA is finally slated to take place Nov. 7–9 at Graceland in Memphis. For Van Steenberghe, who was crowned Miss Maine USA in November 2019, it's been a most interesting year to say the least. "If you were to ask me two and a half years ago what Miss USA was, I genuinely would have had no idea," she says. Back then she was an undergraduate student, double majoring in elementary education and child development and family relations in the UMaine College of Education and Human Development. A Presidential Scholar involved in several groups and activities both on and off campus, Van Steenberghe was approached by Erica Cole, who represented Maine in the 2005 Miss USA competition, who suggested that she compete in the 2018 state pageant. "I was looking for a way to challenge myself mentally and physically, and the timing was really good, so I jumped right in and haven't looked back since," Van Steenberghe says. With Cole serving as her mentor and coach, Van Steenberghe was named first runner up of the 2018 Miss Maine competition. She returned to the pageant last year, earning the title. Training for the pageants meant keeping her body and mind in peak condition, Van Steenberghe says. She describes waking up at 4 a.m. to go to the gym, so she could workout before attending classes full-time. She also says she read or listened to a variety of news sources to make sure she was up-to-date on current events. "After I won Miss Maine, it was just an indescribable feeling that came over me, because it's one of those things that you work so hard for. I can honestly say I have dedicated part of every day for the past two years toward the goal of competing at Miss USA," she says. As she prepares for the in-person portion of the competition, Van Steenberghe reflects on how much UMaine has helped her toward her goals. "The University of Maine has provided me with academic opportunities that have helped me in many aspects of my life. Even pageantry — it's really helped me explore passions and explore what I want to change in the world," she says. "I definitely bleed blue," she adds. The finals of the Miss USA competition will air on the FYI, Network. More information is available online. **How would you describe the academic atmosphere and student experience at UMaine?** Well I'm sitting in the Admissions office right now. That's where my graduate assistantship is through, so I'm a little biased. But I couldn't have chosen a better school. It has large school opportunities, like I was able to do cheer for three seasons at Division I football and basketball games. But I was also able to form really close connections with faculty members and other students in my classes. So it was really the perfect combination of the big school opportunities with the small school feel. **Have you worked closely with a mentor, professor or role model who has made your UMaine experience better, and if so, who and how?** I would have to say Dr. Sandy Caron has been my go-to-professor since my first semester as an undergrad. She was the reason I switched from my original major, business, to child development and elementary education. I've done research with her, and she's been amazing and really guided me through my entire academic experience. But honestly, everyone in the elementary education program has been amazing. So I could probably list every professor I've had in the College of Education and Human Development and say they've been the best. They're so involved and they want to see you succeed, and are willing to go above and beyond to make sure you're successful. **What is the most interesting, engaging or helpful class you've taken at UMaine?** I love school, so it's hard to narrow it down. But I have to say my social studies methods course (ESS 315 — Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School) with Evan Mooney was amazing. It really helped when I taught fifth grade for a semester, but also it helped me personally develop my thoughts on what's going on in the world. Also, CHF 351 — Human Sexuality with Dr. Caron was a really amazing course. There's so many more, but those two stand out. **Have you gained any hands-on or real-world experience through your coursework? If so, tell us about it:** Being in the elementary education program, you have student teaching, which I actually decided not to do because I was originally anticipating that Miss USA would be in April or May, and I didn't want my student teaching semester to be interrupted. So, what I did instead, I took a long-term substitute position with RSU 22 in Hampden, teaching fifth grade. That taught me that I was in the right field and it made me realize that I wanted to go back to school for a Master's degree. **When do you plan to graduate from your master's program, and what do you hope to do after graduation?** I want to get my Ph.D. I'm not sure of the focus yet, probably school or clinical counseling/psychology. **What clubs, activities or organizations have you been involved with during your time at UMaine?** I was very active in Greek Life as an undergrad. I cheered on the cheerleading team for three years. I was on Team Maine, so I worked for the Admission's office. I also worked several jobs at Campus Recreation, including teaching fitness classes. And then I did a lot of things outside the university, like coaching the middle school cheerleading team in Old Town. So I kept

pretty busy. **What difference has UMaine made in your life?** I credit a lot of who I am today to the University of Maine. If you were to ask me in 2016 if this school would have such a big impact on my life, I probably wouldn't have thought so. I would've thought, I'm just going to school and I'm going to get my degree. I had no idea that UMaine would give me my best friends, it would give me opportunities, it would give me a graduate assistantship to pay for graduate school. It has really shaped the person I am in all realms of my life, personal, professional, academic. **Describe UMaine in one word.** Home. **Care to elaborate?** It's been the place that's allowed me to grow into the person that I've always wanted to become. It's given me the tools and the opportunities that I've needed, and that's something that I'm so thankful for. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

UMaine computer scientist researches interpretable machine learning, develops AI to explain its discoveries

03 Nov 2020

Artificial intelligence helps scientists make discoveries, but not everyone can understand how it reaches its conclusions. One UMaine computer scientist is developing deep neural networks that explain their findings in ways users can comprehend, applying his work to biology, medicine and other fields. Interpretable machine learning, or AI that creates explanations for the findings it reaches, defines the focus of Chaofan Chen's research. The assistant professor of computer science says interpretable machine learning also allows AI to make comparisons among images and predictions from data, and at the same time, elaborate on its reasoning. Scientists can use interpretable machine learning for a variety of applications, from identifying birds in images for wildlife surveys to analyzing mammograms. "I want to enhance the transparency for deep learning, and I want a deep neural network to explain why something is the way it thinks it is," Chen says. "What a lot of people have been starting to realize is that a deep neural network is like a black box, and people need to start figuring out ways to open the black box." Chen began developing interpretable machine learning techniques while studying at Duke University, where he earned his Ph.D in computer science in May. Before joining UMaine, Chen and research colleagues at Duke developed machine learning architecture known as a prototypical part network (ProtoPNet) to pinpoint and categorize birds in photos, then explain its findings. The ProtoPNet, which the team completed last year, would explain why the bird it identified was a bird and why it embodies a particular type of bird. Researchers trained the ProtoPNet to determine what kind of bird is in a photo. The AI, for example, would learn a set of prototypical features that characterize each bird species, and compare different parts of a bird image with these prototypical features from a variety of bird species. For example, the ProtoPNet would compare what it thought was the head of a bird in the image to prototypical bird heads from a variety of bird classes. Using similarities to prototypical features of a bird species, the ProtoPNet can explain why the image was a particular kind of bird, Chen says. The team shared its findings in a paper presented during the 33rd Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems last year in Vancouver, Canada. "It's a very visual way of gauging the whole reasoning process … that 'this bird is a clay colored sparrow because it contains parts that are prototypical of a clay colored sparrow," Chen says. "Bird recognition is a popular benchmark for fine-grained image classification, so I thought that it would be a good showcase for our technique." The UMaine computer scientist has begun another AI study with colleagues and students from Duke University exploring how they can apply ProtoPNet to review mammograms for signs of breast cancer. The ProtoPNet, however, struggles to focus on the crucial portions of the mammogram for pinpointing signs of breast cancer as it lacks the training instilled in doctors, Chen says. The team will train the network to evaluate mammograms like a medical professional and learn and identify crucial patterns in the imagery. Chen's partners for the project, all from Duke University, include Ph.D. students Alina Jade Barnett and Yinhao Ren, undergraduate student Chaofan Tao, professor of computer science Cynthia Rudin, professor and Vice Chair for Research and Radiology Joseph Lo, and postdoctoral radiology researcher Fides Regina Schwartz. "This has real impact," Chen says. "I certainly love seeing my work make a positive contribution to society." Chen's research coincides with the UMaine AI initiative, an effort to transform the state into a world-class hub for artificial intelligence research and education, and develop AI-based solutions that enhance social and economic wellbeing. "It's satisfying for me to see not only the ability (for AI) to predict something and predict something well, but to emulate human thinking," he says. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Yestramski named interim vice president, chief business officer for UMaine

03 Nov 2020

Joanne Yestramski, CPA, recently retired senior vice chancellor of finance, operations and strategic planning at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, has been named interim vice president and chief business officer for the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias. This appointment is effective Nov. 4. Joanne will fill the position of Claire Strickland, who is retiring as chief business officer after a 45-year career at UMaine. Joanne has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, first at Bentley College as vice president of finance and treasurer beginning in 1996, and as chief financial officer and treasurer for the University of Maine System from 2001–08. She joined UMass Lowell in 2008. "I am so excited to be joining UMaine as interim VP and chief business officer," says Yestramski, who holds an MBA from Texas A&M University and a bachelor's degree in business administration from UMass Lowell. "I could never imagine having this opportunity once again — making a contribution to the great state of Maine, my home state, and the alma mater of my father and many other relatives and siblings."

Mitchell Center hosts talk on developing equity assessment for Climate Council

04 Nov 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk on the development of an equity assessment for the Maine Climate Council 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9. UMaine has important roles to play in helping the state prepare for the effects of climate change. One such role is to assess the equity and fairness of proposed climate action plans. A Mitchell Center team analyzed the equity aspects of recommendations made by Climate Council working groups, and made an initial report to the council in September. In this talk, "Maine Can Lead in Fair Planning for Addressing Climate Change: Steps in an Equity Assessment," Linda Silka and Sara Kelemen will report on their equity assessment work, discuss what they are learning and describe the ways UMaine can continue to be involved. Linda Silka is a social and community psychologist whose work focuses on building and leading community-university partnerships on environmental, economic development and environmental health issues. She is a senior fellow at the Mitchell Center. Sara Kelemen is a master's candidate in the School of Food and Agriculture at UMaine who is interested in crafting accessible and equitable plans for dealing with the effects of climate change. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, please visit the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196 or hallsworth@maine.edu.

Free Press advances Harlan-Haughey's Robin Hood presentation

04 Nov 2020

The Free Press advanced an online presentation from Sarah Harlan-Haughey, an associate professor of English at the University of Maine, called "Fact, Fiction and Fandom: The Virtual Reality of Late Medieval Rymes of Robin Hood." The Rockland Public LIbrary will host the lecture at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 12 via Zoom. Harlan-Haughey will introduce the tradition of late medieval "rymes" about Robin Hood and other outlaws and explore how the virtual world of the outlaw tradition overlaid and influenced real life, politics and art in England in the 14th and 15th centuries. Email pking@rocklandmaine.gov by 4 p.m. on the day of the webinar to request a Zoom link. For more information, call the library at 207.594.0310.

BDN highlights first-year students serving as poll workers

04 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News highlighted University of Maine first-year students Jessica Cleary-Reuning and Jacob Chaplin in an editorial thanking poll workers. Chaplin, a political science student, said he was motivated to help at the polls in Orono because of concerns about the effects of COVID-19 on older people. "I think a lot of younger people are more politically aware this year between the schools closing down and the nationwide protests," he said. "They're seeing the pandemic play out right in front of them."

Brewer speaks with People, KPAX about U.S. Senate race

04 Nov 2020

Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke with People magazine and KPAX in Missoula, Montana, about the U.S. Senate Race in Maine between incumbent Susan Collins and challenger Sara Gideon. “Susan Collins really is the last of the traditional, New England Republicans — more moderate, fiscally conservative, but not conservative on social issues,” Brewer said to People. “The others have either retired or lost re-election. Collins is the only one left standing.” The Associated Press also interviewed Brewer, to which he spoke about the gravity of the general election this year.

Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips highlight Carlson’s achievement award

04 Nov 2020

Centralmaine.com and Morning Ag Clips advanced a media release about the National Association of County Agricultural Agents giving Maine AgrAbility state coordinator Leilani Carlson of Belgrade an Achievement Award. The organization announced the award during its 2020 annual meeting and professional development conference held Sept. 28–Oct.1. Carlson was one of several honorees representing the top 1% of the membership selected by their peers and the director of Cooperative Extension.

Mainebiz reports on DMC infrastructure improvement

04 Nov 2020

Mainebiz reported on the ongoing $5.2 million infrastructure improvement project at the University of Maine’s Darling Marine Center in Walpole. Construction includes upgrading the center’s flowing seawater system, renovating its oldest seawater laboratory and replacing its 50-year-old main pier. The improvements are funded by an award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration with matching funds from UMaine and state marine bond funds. “We’re bringing the laboratory into the 21st century,” said center Director Heather Leslie.

Animal and veterinary sciences seniors: Capstone stories

04 Nov 2020

In the University of Maine animal and veterinary sciences capstone course AVS 401, students have the opportunity to combine their knowledge and skills with ongoing research of UMaine faculty. Some work in the laboratory or field, some assimilate decades of research literature into a review, and some fashion research into industry best practices or evidence-based white papers. All the students synthesize what they have learned and apply it to real-world situations. This fall, in the course led by assistant professor Sue Ishaq, the students are taking the principles of research and developed a project in collaboration with a research mentor. They proposed a question and a course of investigation to pursue, developing their skills in experimental design conceptualization, and project planning and management. In the spring semester, they will proceed with their independent study and synthesize their findings. Their projects encompass research in animal health and zoonosis, animal nutrition, physiology and technology, and the interplay between animal production and ecology. Collectively, the work of these seniors and their faculty research mentors is relevant to various industries in Maine, including livestock, equine, aquaculture and fishing, and health. A month into their projects, some of the students shared summaries of their capstone research projects. **Case study on the morbidity, mortality and diagnostics of scours in a dairy calf facility** AVS senior Alex Eisner Adviser: Dave Marcinkowski, associate professor, University of Maine Cooperative Extension dairy specialist A case study will be run in a calf barn with about 60 pre-weaned calves in an environment with a 98% morbidity rate of scours. Scours affects all animals at around the seventh day, and lasts anywhere from four to 10 days. These animals are treated with supportive therapies such as oral electrolytes, subq, or iv fluids, and penicillin/norocillin when presenting with bloody scours. I plan to run fecal samples to identify the pathogen that is causing the illness. I also plan to run blood protein panels on calves to determine whether or not there is successful antibody transfer from colostrum. From this information, we can determine if we need to make adjustments to dry cow vaccination protocols, or general management or sanitation practices. I would like to also take this information and see the financial benefits that would result from improving the rate of scours. Calves rarely die from this due to the amount of treatment that we give them, but again they are still getting 1–2 L of fluids every day for up to 10 days, and the price of that adds up very quickly.

Meningeal worm risk reduction using sustainable techniques AVS senior Laura Freudenberger Adviser: Anne Lichtenwalner, associate professor, Extension veterinarian and director of the UMaine Animal Health Laboratory In this project, the researchers are testing the hypothesis that incorporation of aromatic plants in pasture land would act as a deterrent for snails which are the carriers of brain worm. This will be tested using trials within the lab to determine if snails display tropism in response to the presence of said aromatic plants. Ideally, field application would occur in the spring to determine ideal placement of these plants in pastures. The presence of the meningeal brain worm in herds would hypothetically be reduced if the snail’s aversion is palpable.

Devil facial tumour disease affecting the endangered Tasmanian devil population AVS seniors Kendra Huth and Julia Powers Adviser: Jim Weber, associate professor of animal and veterinary sciences Devil facial tumour disease affects the endangered Tasmanian devil population. This research project focuses on the biological components of the disease, as well as the different methods currently being researched to prevent and treat it.

Deer ked and moose flies as potential vectors of Anaplasma infections in moose AVS senior Catherine Fabel Adviser: Pauline Kamath, assistant professor of animal health Several moose populations in the Northeastern United States have decreased over the past decade, with states like New Hampshire losing around 40% of the population. The main cause of this decline has been high calf mortality due to high parasite loads, which is hypothesized to be driven by a longer tick season and an expanding parasite range due to climate change. Upon analyzing blood moose samples, it was discovered that many moose (~54%) in Maine are infected with *Anaplasma* bacteria, a blood parasite that has been extensively researched in Norwegian moose populations where it is spread via Ixodes ricinus ticks, a tick species that is not in the U.S. The Kamath laboratory tested for *Anaplasma* in the winter tick *(Dermacentor albipictus)*, which commonly parasitizes moose in North America. While some winter ticks tested positive for *Anaplasma*, none were infected with the same strain identified in moose. This project focuses on testing flies as a potential *Anaplasma* vector.

Effectiveness of sodium lignosulfonate as a hay preservative AVS senior Kaycee Ames Adviser: Juan Romero, assistant professor of animal nutrition This project focuses on testing the effectiveness of sodium lignosulfonate (a low-cost paper mill by-product) as a hay preservative. It will be compared to a negative control (untreated) and propionic acid (positive control), the preservative most commonly used on hay and the most effective so far. Mini-bales in insulation boxes (designed to mimic field bales) will be incubated in a controlled environment to analyze the differences in nutritive value, microbial communities, the temperature during storage (bales heat when they spoil), and dry matter losses.

Pastured Poultry Project AVS senior Maddy Philbrick Adviser: Colt Knight, assistant Extension professor, state livestock specialist The focus of this pastured poultry project is an extension of a project that Colt Knight and Josh Hatley completed in 2017. Data was collected over the summer. This project involved raising two strains of broilers on pasture that the supplying company previously didn’t have growth data for. A total of 140 birds in two breeds were purchased for this project — two different strains of Cornish crosses, one of the most popular breeds of broilers. The birds were raised in four pens and evaluated for their feed, water and grass consumption, and average growth rate over eight weeks.

The effect of dietary salt on the rumen bacteria of beef cattle AVS senior Enya Childs and co-student researcher Adviser: Sue Ishaq, assistant professor of animal and veterinary sciences, in collaboration with a team led by Tim DelCurto and Carl Yeoman of Montana State University The project focuses on salt and its interaction with the rumen microbes. It is specifically looking at beef cattle intake, digestion and rumen fermentation while on a low-quality

diet. I will be working with the bacterial DNA sequences from inside the rumen to analyze any changes that might be occurring due to varied salt intakes.

Quantifying Equine Grazing Behavior Characteristics Utilizing GPS Tracking Collars AVS senior Cody Marlin Adviser: Colt Knight, assistant Extension professor, state livestock specialist The focus of this research is to develop long-lasting battery GPS collars for horses to quantify equine behavior and grazing patterns. The GPS sensor data will be correlated with observed behaviors of the horses. The goal is to create a program that reads the GPS data and recognizes the behavior associated to determine resting, sleeping, exercising and traveling behavior. Through this knowledge of equine behavior, an individual could identify a horse that is getting sick or has been injured, and use the collars to maximize pasture distribution. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

CUGR announces student award winners for two new fellowships

05 Nov 2020

The University of Maine's Center for Undergraduate Research has announced the first winners for two recently established fellowship programs. Supported by the Office of Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, CUGR created the UMaine Institute of Medicine and UMaine Artificial Intelligence fellowships this year with their respective program, and will welcome undergraduate students to them for the 2020–2021 academic year. Undergraduate proposals will be awarded $1,200 each. The UMaine Institute of Medicine and UMaine AI provided funding for their respective fellowships with assistance from the UMaine Office of the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School. Special consideration was given to fellowships that focused on response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's UMaine Institute of Medicine fellowship winners are:

- Harrison Cyr, medical laboratory sciences, "SARS-COV2 RNA Extraction Optimization for Saliva and Wastewater Testing," advised by Robert Wheeler
- Colin Welch, microbiology, "Determining the Diversity of Prophage in Mycobacterium abscessus Clinical Isolates," advised by Sally Molloy
- Erika Pacheco, zoology, "The Relationship Between Kidney Function and Cognitive Function in Type 2 Diabetics," advised by Fayeza Ahmed
- Anna Schumann, molecular and cellular biology, "The role of McProf's ESX-like TA cassette in M. chelonae antibiotic resistance," advised by Sally Molloy
- Daniella Leal Espinal, microbiology, "Quantification of Concentration dependency of pathogen suppression in Black Soldier Fly larvae vermicompost," advised by Robert Gundersen
- Maria Vina Lopez, biology, "Study on the synergistic activity of Fluconazole and Cyclosporine A on Candida albicans," advised by Robert Wheeler
- Audrie French, microbiology, "RT-LAMP Optimization for Wastewater COVID-19 Testing," advised by Robert Wheeler
- Gerren Welch, physics, "Computational Analysis and Classification of SHG Images of Cancerous Pancreatic Tissue Based on Collagen Fiber Alignment," advised by Karissa Tilbury
- Remi Geohegan, microbiology, "Investigating the Cell-Type Dependent Cell Signaling Mechanisms of JCPyV Infection," advised by Melissa Maginnis

This year's UMaine AI fellowship winners are:

- Sabrina Varga, biology, "3D Tracking of muscle precursor cells movement in zebrafish," advised by Jarod Talbot
- Christopher Roberts, biomedical engineering, "Microscopy Analysis Using Second Harmonic Generation," advised by Karissa Tilbury
- Jazlyn Dumas, marketing, "The Importance of a Checkmark: An Investigation Into the Perceptions of a Social Media Verification and its Effects on Consumer Trust," advised by Stefano Tijerina
- Basel White, biomedical engineering, "Wavelet-Based Automatic Pectoral Muscle Segmentation from Mammograms," advised by Andre Khalil
- Jonathan Libby, finance, "Regulation of Crypto Derivatives Trading in Institutional Financial Markets," advised by Stephen Jurich

For more information, visit the CUGR website or email cugr@maine.edu.

WVII talks with Edelman about virtual music lessons for local students

05 Nov 2020

WVII (Channel 7) interviewed Philip Edelman, University of Maine assistant professor of music education, about a program that connects local students middle school students with UMaine students offering free, online music lessons.

Brewer talks with WVII about young voters

05 Nov 2020

Mark Brewer, a University of Maine professor of political science, talked with WVII (Channel 7) about this year's increase in voting by 18–29-year-olds. According to Brewer, the trend among his students mirrors national turnout estimates for this demographic.

Sun Journal quotes Fried in report on absentee voting in Maine

05 Nov 2020

The Sun Journal quoted University of Maine Professor of Political Science Amy Fried in a story about absentee and early voting patterns in Maine. According to Fried, Maine voting trends, which reflect those across the U.S., can be attributed to the pandemic.

Mayewski contributes to Wilson Center publication about research in Antarctica

05 Nov 2020

Paul Mayewski, director of the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute, contributed to a Wilson Center publication, "The White Continent and South America: Climate Change, Global Policy, and the Future of Scientific Cooperation in Antarctica." The Wilson Center is a non-partisan policy forum working to address global issues through independent research and open dialogue. Mayewski authored the chapter, "From the Arctic to Antarctica: Understanding Climate Change in the Polar Regions."

Samuel Tan: Exploring microbial communities in Maine-eDNA research

05 Nov 2020

Samuel Tan traveled from Singapore to study at the University of Maine and work for Maine-eDNA. The Ph.D. student of marine sciences' research for the Maine EPSCoR program will involve microbial communities and how they change in response to disturbances, such as the effects of seasonality and human action. The technology for eDNA research has changed since Tan, also a graduate research assistant, completed his undergraduate studies in the United Kingdom. When he was an undergraduate, he used shotgun sequencing rather than metabarcoding, which is typically used with eDNA today. "The technology has advanced considerably since then," he says Read more about Tan on the Maine EPSCoR website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' asks how cold-water corals impact marine ecosystems, Earth

05 Nov 2020

When people think of coral reefs, they might imagine snorkeling in warm Caribbean waters while on vacation. But corals also live in the Gulf of Maine and in some of the most extreme environments on Earth, including the Arctic and Antarctic. What do these cold-water corals look like? What roles do they have in the ecosystem? Rhian Waller, associate professor of marine sciences, answers these questions and more when she talks with host Ron Lisnet in Episode 8 of Season 3 of "The Maine Question" podcast. Like their warm-water cousins, these cold-water creatures play a vital role in the ocean ecosystem. It's not easy to find or study them, but Waller, a National Geographic Explorer, dives deep in near-freezing water around the world to learn more about what she calls the rainforests of the ocean. Waller examines how cold-water corals live and reproduce; how climate change, fishing and oil exploration affect their ecology and reproduction; and what effect their altered life cycle might have on the marine ecosystem and, ultimately, the planet. In this episode of "The Maine Question," Waller talks about the science of studying cold-water corals and about adventures that are part of this work. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

Students test their farm management knowledge in intercollegiate dairy challenge

06 Nov 2020

More than 120 college students from 14 U.S. and Canadian universities tested their knowledge of farm management during the first-ever virtual Northeast Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge hosted by the University of Maine Oct. 29 and 30. Brigeen Farms in Turner opened its gates so teams of students could virtually evaluate all aspects of the farm operations and create presentations providing management recommendations. Judges evaluated the groups' lectures for their quality and accuracy, the management opportunities they identified and their suggestions for how farm leadership could improve operations and animal care. Prior to the challenge, students learned about the dairy industry in Maine, latest research and career opportunities. David Marcinkowski, an associate professor in the School of Food and Agriculture and dairy specialist for University of Maine Cooperative Extension, organized the event. More than three dozen agribusinesses and agricultural organizations sponsored and participated.

CUGR, Maine Space Grant Consortium announce undergraduate awards

06 Nov 2020

The University of Maine Center for Undergraduate Research and Maine Space Grant Consortium have announced MSGC Undergraduate Research Learning Experience recipients for the 2020–2021 academic year. The center has also announced recipients for the CUGR Research and Creative Activities Fellowships for the 2020–2021 academic year. The purpose of the MSGC research learning experience at UMaine is to provide research opportunities to undergraduate students in aerospace technology, space science, Earth science, human exploration and space development, and other non-STEM related fields. The applications were jointly reviewed by CUGR advisory committee, faculty fellows and MSGC representatives. Selected projects are awarded $1,200 each, financed by a MSGC and NASA external grant and matched by CUGR and the College of Engineering Crowley Fund. This year's MSGC research learning experience winners are:

- Samuel Bonnevie, chemistry, "Modelling the filling of methane in the heterogeneous pore network of catalyst support SBA-15," advised by Brian Frederick
- Benjamin Chasse, biomedical engineering, "Design of theoretical modeling to support a regenerative radiation shield for deep space exploration," advised by Caitlin Howell
- Kettie Cormier, civil and environmental engineering, "Concentrating viruses from sewage for SARS-CoV-2 monitoring," advised by Jean MacRae
- Miao Hu, mechanical engineering, "Advanced design of 3D printing head for aligning wood fibers into three-dimensional structures," advised by Yingchao Yang
- Aidan McGlone, mechanical engineering, "Fabrication of Metallic Organic Frameworks on Carbon for High-performance Supercapacitors," advised by Yingchao Yang
- Steele Muchemore-Allen, computer engineering, "MESAT-1 flight computer and data handling," advised by Ali Abedi
- Angel Nieves, chemistry, "Conjugation of glycans with a versatile anthranilamide-based auxiliary," advised by Matthew Brichacek
- Leah Parrish, computer science, "Exploration of olfactory interventions as a synergistic emotional and cognitive recovery technique," advised by Nimesha Ranasinghe

This year's CUGR Fellowship winners are:

- Peng Cheng, chemistry, "Determining relationships between surface polymer length and initial monomer concentration during synthesis for polymer-functionalized CNF," advised by William Gramlich
- Tyler D'Ambrosio, new media, "Pathfinder: A digital therapeutic," advised by Jon Ippolito
- Jon Donnelly, Computer Science, "Applying nonsmooth eigendata sensitivity theory to graph centrality problems," advised by Peter Stechlinski
- Sara Griffin, zoology, "Predicting range shifts for the Virginia opossum based on climate change," advised by Danielle Levesque
- Zachary Maynor, botany, "Effects of biochar and mulch on wild blueberry soil properties for mitigating drought stress of wild blueberry crops in Maine," advised by Yongjiang Zhang
- Casside McCusker, psychology, "Understanding mental health stigma," advised by Mollie Ruben
- Jacob Mealey, computer engineering, "Contact tracing via Bluetooth beacons," advised by Michael Scott
- Tuuli Overturf, animal and veterinary sciences, "Control of a ruminant pathogen, Parelaphostrongylus tenuis, using poultry: Effects of gastropod diets on ducks," advised by Anne Lichtenwalner
- Caitlin Sharples, new media, "Projection mapping and meditation: An immersive installation for anxious individuals," advised by Jon Ippolito
- Isabelle Stevens, psychology, "Chronic and acute stress as moderating variables in the relationship between socioeconomic status and obesity," advised by Shannon McCoy

Media note new COVID-19 cases at UMaine

06 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported on five administrative employees working for the University of Maine Office of Facilities Management having tested positive for COVID-19 as of Thursday. Mainebiz previously reported seven active cases of coronavirus at UMaine and 12 across the University of Maine System, including students.

Brewer speaks to WABI about election polls

06 Nov 2020

Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, spoke to WABI (Channel 5) about the discrepancy between the polling numbers and the results of the general election races. “You thought 2016 had issues, 2020 was worse,” he said. “What the polls were saying was going to be this blue wave across the country, turned out to not be any kind of a blue wave at all.”

Dill speaks with BDN about dealing with porcupines in yards

06 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Griffin Dill, an integrated pest management professional with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about porcupines and how to prevent them from causing property damage. “Wrap a strip of 24 to 30 [inch] aluminum flashing around the trunks of individual trees to prevent porcupine access” to yards, said Dill, who also serves as Extension’s tick lab coordinator. “Keep dogs leashed or within fenced areas when outside to minimize the chance of a porcupine encounter.”

Vox interviews Brewer about Collins winning U.S. Senate Race

06 Nov 2020

Vox interviewed Mark Brewer, a professor of political science at the University of Maine, about incumbent Susan Collins winning the U.S. Senate race in Maine. “There’s a reason she’s the only Northeastern Republican left,” Brewer said. “She doesn’t really fit into the Trump GOP. She was increasingly an ill fit for the Republican Party before Trump.”

Money interviews Humphrey about earning engineering degree online

06 Nov 2020

Money interviewed Dana Humphrey, dean of the University of Maine College Engineering, for an article titled “Can You Actually Earn an Engineering Degree Online? How It Works and What It Costs.” Humphrey stressed the importance of experiential learning, even when obtaining a degree online. UMaine’s online surveying engineering technology degree program requires students to find a local surveyor to supervise their lab projects and mentor them. “A critical part of being an engineer is that experience of taking something and putting it together,” Humprey said. “That doesn’t come from watching somebody on a video, that comes from actually having something directly in front of you.”

Reminder: UMaine to conduct annual emergency communications system test today

09 Nov 2020

The University of Maine will conduct its annual emergency communications system test on Monday, Nov. 9, complete with three outdoor sirens sounding for several minutes. The sirens are part of UMaine’s multifaceted emergency communications system established in 2007 that allows university safety and communications professionals to use several mechanisms to quickly communicate vital information to the community during emergency situations. When UMaine’s emergency communication system is activated, several notifications occur: A text message is sent to subscribers of UMaine’s umaine.alerts system; UMaine PD sounds the sirens; information is posted on the university’s homepage and the UMaine portal; and a recorded telephone message may be heard by dialing 207.581.INFO. Members of the University of Maine community are reminded to register to receive UMaine’s emergency notifications. The emergency notification service alerts the UMaine community to public safety issues, including inclement weather conditions causing class cancellations. Those registered for UMaine alerts will receive a message about the emergency notification system on Nov. 9, as well as on the 15th of every month. Registration for texts and/or email alerts is online.

UMaine Extension releases new water conservation and safety tips

09 Nov 2020

Every Maine county experienced some level of drought in 2020, with September reported as the driest on record, according to the National Weather Service. Because the autumn rains Maine received may not benefit thirsty gardens and wells until later in the year, water conservation makes good economic and ecological sense year-round. “Conserving Water at Home” from University of Maine Cooperative Extension provides guidance on conserving water to save money, responding to resource fluctuations, and reducing the risk of damage to septic systems and the quality of drinking water, lakes, ponds and streams. UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog, by calling 207.581.3792, or by emailing extension.orders@maine.edu. More information about water conservation and safety is available on UMaine Extension’s Well Water Safety webpage or by contacting 207.581.3188; extension@maine.edu.

Media promote final weeks of greenhouse plastics recycling

09 Nov 2020

The Daily Bulldog, Centralmaine.com and The Piscataquis Observer published a reminder that the University of Maine Cooperative Extension greenhouse plastics recycling program will end on Dec. 15. Home gardeners can drop off clear, low-density, polyethylene (LDPE#4) plastic used to cover greenhouses, high tunnels, hoop houses and other agricultural structures, and white over-wintering LDPE#4 film at designated sites by registering online.

Media advance Extension maple syrup production webinar

09 Nov 2020

The Associated Press, Morning Ag Clips, Centralmaine.com, Turner Publishing, WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle), the Daily Bulldog and the Wiscasset Newspaper promoted the webinar “Backyard Sugaring: Maple Syrup 101,” scheduled for 9–11:30 a.m. Dec. 5.The online event is sponsored by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Southern Maine Maple Sugarmakers Association. Webinar topics include identifying and tapping trees, collecting and boiling sap, and filtering, grading and canning syrup. More information about the event is online. U.S. News and World Report and WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the AP story.

O’Neill quoted in Sun Journal story about downturn in logging, paper production in Maine

09 Nov 2020

The Sun Journal interviewed Shane O'Neill, forest industry business development manager in the University of Maine School of Forest Resources, about the loss of jobs and revenue in the state's traditional industries such as logging and paper making. O'Neill expressed optimism about the forest industry in Maine, predicting development of new products and new markets such as plastic alternatives and cross-laminated timber, and increased biofuel production. "There's this whole myriad of categories that trees were never really a part of," said O'Neill. "That opens up these other pathways, so if one thing's down, you're not hurting as bad." The Portland Press Herald and Centralmaine.com shared the Sun Journal story.

Rubin cited in Energy News story on electric vehicles in Maine

09 Nov 2020

Jonathan Rubin, University of Maine professor of economics and director of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center was cited in an Energy News Network story about the barriers affecting purchase and ownership of electric vehicles in Maine. The Maine Monitor and the Penobscot Bay Pilot shared the Energy News Network story.

Media promote Extension's water conservation tips

09 Nov 2020

The Piscataquis Observer, the Boothbay Register, Centralmaine.com and the Daily Bulldog promoted the release of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension publication "Conserving Water at Home." The bulletin is intended to help homeowners save money while protecting their septic systems, drinking water and nearby lakes, ponds and streams.

BDN features student op-ed about handling the pandemic

09 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News printed an opinion by Quinn Galletta, a fourth-year journalism and political science student at the University of Maine, lauding the University of Maine System's handling of the pandemic and praising fellow students for maintaining a safe learning environment while sustaining campus spirit.

Media quote Ferrini-Mundy on new COVID-19 cases among UMaine staff

09 Nov 2020

The Associated Press, WABI (Channel 5) and Mainebiz reported on comments made by University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy following the diagnosis of 10 facilities management employees with coronavirus. "We are hopeful that all individuals in our communities who have tested positive and are afflicted or impacted by COVID-19 will have good health and rapid recovery, and will experience quarantine and isolation periods that progress easily," she said. The employees' diagnosis prompted the closing of the facilities management administration building and testing of another 240 employees identified through contract tracing. The Portland Press Herald also reported on the 10 recently diagnosed staff members at UMaine. The Portland Press Herald and New England Cable News (in Boston) also reported on the 10 recently diagnosed staff members at UMaine. Centralmaine.com, U.S. News and World Report, the San Francisco Chronicle, The Washington Times and the Herald Review shared the AP story.

Campus as living laboratory

10 Nov 2020

The EES 217 field course led by Kate Ruskin, a University of Maine lecturer and undergraduate coordinator in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program, met Nov. 6–8. Typically, the students in the course spend a weekend tackling a real-world environmental problem in Acadia National Park. To adapt to COVID-19 restrictions, the course this fall was held on campus to assess the tick risk on UMaine's campus — addressing a research question that, "as far as we can tell, hasn't been done before," Ruskin says. In collaboration with UMaine professor Allison Gardner's lab, the EES 217 students examined the vegetation, wildlife and abiotic associations of ticks on campus. They also sampled ticks to kickoff for a long-term monitoring project on campus. During the 48-hour research course, the students broke into groups on Friday evening and designed their experiments, collected data in the field Saturday and then returned to the lab to enter and analyze it. Sunday evening, they presented their results to the public in a presentation.

Centralmaine.com advances 'Cultivating Ecological Virtues' talk Nov. 16

10 Nov 2020

Centralmaine.com promoted a talk by Don Beith, a University of Maine assistant professor of environmental philosophy, at 3 p.m. Nov. 16. "Cultivating Ecological Virtues" will help participants go beyond simply applying human values to environmental problems, with strategies for making ethical thinking itself more ecological. This free Zoom event is sponsored by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. More information, including a registration link, is online.

WVII covers students' tick research

10 Nov 2020

WVII (Channel 7) reported that University of Maine Ecology and Environmental Science (EES) students have been gathering data about tick populations on campus to assess the risk of contracting Lyme disease on and around the UMaine campus, and to reduce the incidence of tick bites. More information is available on the EES Facebook page.

WABI updates active coronavirus case numbers for UMaine, UMS

10 Nov 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on Monday evening that there are 33 active coronavirus cases across the University of Maine System, including 13 at the University of Maine. The system wide total includes five students living in residence halls at several campuses.

Mainebiz reports on NASA carbon mapping project at UMaine

10 Nov 2020

Mainebiz picked up a University of Maine news release highlighting the use of lasers to map carbon deposits from space. Daniel Hayes, director of the Wheatland Geospatial Laboratory, and Aaron Weiskittel, director of the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, will partner with researchers at Michigan State University and the University of Minnesota to analyze data gathered on the international space station as part of NASA's Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation (GEDI) science team.

UMaine Extension greenhouse plastic recycling collection ends Dec. 15

10 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is accepting greenhouse plastic for recycling through Dec. 15 before closing out the season. The recycling program accepts clear, low-density, polyethylene (LDPE#4) plastic used to cover greenhouses, high tunnels, hoop houses and other agricultural structures. Collection sites can also accept white over-wintering LDPE#4 film used by the nursery industry. The program is free of charge and open to all Maine farmers, gardeners and horticulturalists who preregister. Register on the program webpage, where instructions and an interactive map of drop-off sites also are available. Growers without internet access can register by calling 207.342.5971. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact David McDaniel, 207.323.4315; agplasticrecycling@maine.edu.

Sydney Greenlee: Studying harmful algal blooms in Maine EPSCoR initiative

12 Nov 2020

Sydney Greenlee found her passion for molecular ecology through a research undergraduate experience at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. Now a participant in the Maine-eDNA program, the Ph.D. student of marine sciences at the University Maine delves deeper into her chosen field, primarily researching harmful algae blooms. Greenlee says she plans to investigate and develop eDNA techniques to make harmful algal blooms easier to study. "I love the way that eDNA can be used to answer so many different questions, but it's also pretty robust as well," says Greenlee, a graduate research assistant. "It's pretty cool to be on the cutting edge of this technique and of marine science." Read more about Greenlee on the Maine EPSCoR website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine researcher's study reveals public sentiment toward National Monument review using AI

12 Nov 2020

Public comments can help government officials evaluate potential policy decisions that affect national monuments and other federal land. The introduction of online comments, however, has brought staggering amounts of feedback that can be difficult to summarize, and can bury concerns federal agencies should consider. Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie, a postdoctoral research fellow with the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, led a team of postdoctoral conservation researchers in testing the use of a machine learning algorithm to quantify public sentiment toward decisions involving federal land. They reported their findings in a study published in the journal Conservation letters. "AI (artificial intelligence) like our machine learning program empowers conservation biologists with the ability to focus on the trends and patterns rather than the raw data," says Tony Chang, study co-author and data scientist at Conservation Science Partners. The group tasked a deep recurrent neural network with analyzing more than 750,000 remarks submitted during the 2017 public comment period for the Department of the Interior's executive review of 27 national monuments. The review resulted in the federal government reducing the footprints of the Bears Ears and Grand Escalante national monuments in Utah. The Interior Department at the time dismissed comments that were critical of the review as "a well-orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple groups." McDonough MacKenzie and her colleagues, however, found using machine learning that out of the comments submitted by individuals, not organizations or bots that would typically be used in campaigns, 97.4% expressed opposition toward the review. The finding suggests overwhelming support for maintaining national monument designations, says McDonogh MacKenzie, also a visiting assistant professor at Colby College. "We started this project as a group of conservation postdocs. We wrote one of the 750,000 public comments in response to the review of National Monuments. When the Trump administration dismissed our perspective, we started wondering 'What was the real public sentiment toward National Monuments — not in form letters, but in individual comments? And did this align with our letter and our work in conservation?'" she says. "This research actually says we're in good company — 97.4% of humans writing original comments opposed this review." Colleagues from the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellows worked on the project with McDonough MacKenzie. Participants included Michael Dombeck, executive director of the fellowship, former acting director of the Bureau of Land Management and former U.S. Forest Service chief under President Bill Clinton. The team had to teach their algorithm to differentiate between comments with positive language about the national monuments themselves and responses with positive language expressed toward the review of said monuments. McDonough MacKenzie said the task proved to be the hardest during the project. During their analysis, McDonough MacKenzie and her colleagues were eliminating duplicate comments from bots in the Interior Department's review, and they discovered the repeat feedback overshadowed individual comments and form letters. In response to their discovery, researchers tasked their AI with grouping all comments based on whether they derived from humans, organizations or bots. The deep recurrent neural network found that out of the more than 750,000 comments submitted in response to the monument review, 20% derived from human individuals, 11% came as form letters, or "individual comment(s) drafted by nongovernmental organizations and customized for submission by humans," and 69% originated from bots, according to researchers. Human comments were defined and identified based on their complete uniqueness from other comments. The AI discovered form letter comments by pinpointing collections of very similar comments that contained small differences from one another, typically in the form of a submitter's name or a custom sentence. According to researchers, comments from bots were detected when the AI identified complete duplications of text, although some contained combinations of text from different form letters that were submitted tens of thousands of times. The AI also found that 96.4% of form letter comments and 99.6% of bot comments expressed opposition toward the Interior Department's national monument review. "Through machine learning, we discovered that it's not form letter campaigns that are overshadowing individual public comments, but bots," McDonough MacKenzie says. "In this case, excluding form letters and bots does not change public sentiment, because unique, individual comments resoundingly opposed the national monuments review. But across all public comments, bots hamper public participation in comment periods — they reduce the impact of individuals and drown out the best available science." McDonough MacKenize says automated software bots that mimic human participation in online forums can disrupt the public comment process through manipulation, and the Interior Department should have addressed the number of bot comments submitted for the review in its reporting. The lack of captcha security in online feedback submissions and insufficient monitoring for bot comments raises concerns about policy decision making for public land, she says. "AI is not science fiction anymore. It's a real tool we are using to tackle problems that used to be dismissed for their vastness," says Mallika Nocco, study co-author and an assistant Cooperative Extension specialist in soil-plant-water relations and irrigation management with the University of California-Davis Department of Land, Air and Water Resources. "No more. We can now compel and expect our government to hire conservation scientists, like us, to listen and respond to the public when they take the time to write a comment." Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

President Ferrini-Mundy named to APLU Board of Directors

12 Nov 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy has been selected to serve a three-year term as an at-large member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Board of Directors. The 28-member roster for the 2021 APLU Board of Directors was announced at the association's 133rd Annual Meeting on Nov. 11. "We're excited to have Joan Ferrini-Mundy on the APLU Board of Directors," said APLU President Peter McPherson. "The board plays an instrumental role in shaping the public higher education agenda across North America, and we're thrilled to have her expertise as we work to advance public universities' education, research and engagement missions." UMaine's Strategic Vision and Values align with APLU's mission: to expand access and improve student success to deliver the innovative workforce of tomorrow; advance and promote research and discovery to improve society, foster economic growth, and address global challenges; and build healthy, prosperous, equitable, and vibrant communities locally and globally. "It is an honor to serve with other national and international leaders on the Board of Directors of APLU, which is dedicated to strengthening and advancing public universities collectively," says Ferrini-Mundy. "As a land grant university, UMaine has long been involved in APLU's forward-thinking initiatives that have made a difference in public higher education nationwide. I look forward to being actively involved on the Board of Directors for the next three years." Ferrini-Mundy has been president of the University of Maine

and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias, since 2018. She is a national leader in STEM education research and policy, and the former chief operating officer of the National Science Foundation. Her extensive national and state leadership includes co-chairing the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Mathematics Expert Group Programme for International Student Assessment 2021, and serving as a member of the National Academies Board on Higher Education and the Workforce. Ferrini-Mundy chairs the UMS Scientific Advisory Board, and is leading the implementation of a University of Maine System plan for research and development. Ferrini-Mundy's most recent national honor was the 2020 Seaman A. Knapp Award in recognition of her leadership and contributions to food and agricultural sciences. The award was presented following the Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture she delivered in a virtual webinar sponsored by APLU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture on Oct. 28. APLU is a research, policy and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. With a membership of 246 public research universities, land grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research and expanding engagement. The Board of Directors, which provides oversight and direction for the APLU's work, is charged with setting membership and governing policies for the association. Board members work to make public institutions of higher education more effective in delivering quality and affordable higher education while advancing cutting-edge research, and robust community and economic engagement. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

UMaine named a top sustainability performer by AASHE

12 Nov 2020

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) ranked the University of Maine among the top performing higher education institutions for sustainability. The organization uses its Sustainable Campus Index to recognize colleges and universities that excel in 17 impact areas, including air and climate, curriculum, food and dining, energy, research, waste and much more. UMaine earned a score of 100% in the grounds category, deeming the university as one of the top 10 performers in that area for its biodiversity, campus land management and sustainable landscaping. The report for UMaine noted its abstinence from using fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides on campus grounds; its decision to mulch and compost grass clippings, and the environmentally sensitive areas it houses on campus. "I am very proud of the way UMaine manages its campus grounds," says UMaine sustainability director Daniel Dixon, who is also a research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute. "We have an in-vessel composting unit onsite that produces in excess of 150 metric tons of top-quality compost each year. Our grounds crew uses that compost as a soil amendment all over campus. We have lots of fields, lawns, flower beds, and unusual tree species on campus — maintaining all of that area without chemicals is no easy task!" Higher education institutions receive top sustainability performer recognition from an AASHE analysis using its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, or STARS. The system measures achievements in five overall areas — academics, engagement, operations, planning and administration, and innovation and leadership. The culmination of the association's evaluation results in top performer designations and sustainability ratings. UMaine earned its first STARS Silver Rating last year, and it will maintain that classification through 2022. The association awarded UMaine the Silver accolade as a result of the university recycling and composting nearly half of its waste, reducing water consumption by 20% per campus user, locally-sourcing more than 20% of all dining food purchases, implementing student life opportunities like the Green Living and Learning dorm floor, and much more. "It is appropriate that AASHE is recognizing the ongoing campuswide sustainability efforts at UMaine. We have been a top sustainability performer for more than a decade and will remain so with the ongoing effort and dedication of folks like our Facilities Management grounds crew," Dixon says. AASHE's STARS program has more than 900 participants in 40 countries. It was created to provide a framework for understanding sustainability, enable meaningful comparisons, create incentives for continuous improvement, facilitate information sharing and support and build the campus sustainability community. STARS is open to all institutions of higher education; criteria that determine ratings are transparent and publicly accessible. As a charter signatory of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, UMaine has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and incorporate sustainability into its research, scholarship and community service operations. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Camire talks with How Stuff Works

12 Nov 2020

How Stuff Works interviewed Mary Ellen Camire, professor of food science and human nutrition in the University of Maine's School of Food and Agriculture, about cooking with shallots. Camire explained that shallots offer a more delicate flavor than onions and made recommendations for preparation. "I think that deep-fat frying would ruin shallots' flavor. The mild taste would work well in salad dressings compared to onions," Camire said.

Brewer discusses ranked-choice voting with Press Herald

12 Nov 2020

Mark Brewer, a University of Maine professor of political science, spoke with the Portland Press Herald about Maine's ranked-choice voting in local and national elections. He noted that other states are looking to follow Maine's lead. While ranked-choice voting is receiving a lot of attention, no other states are using this method for choosing the president.

Moran quoted in BDN article about keeping apples crisp

12 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Renae Moran, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension fruit tree specialist and professor of pomology in the School of Food and Agriculture, about preserving the flavor and crisp texture of fresh picked apples. She noted that apples harvested before they are completely ripe will maintain their crisp texture better in storage while those picked at the end of the season have better flavor that is more difficult to maintain over time.

WABI, WMTW report uptick in COVID-19 cases at Maine universities

12 Nov 2020

WABI (Channel 5) and WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) reported that numbers of coronavirus cases are increasing at many of Maine's universities, including the University of Maine System campuses where there are 37 active cases. Twenty-five of those cases are at the University of Maine. The Portland Press Herald also reported on the number of active cases across the University system.

Calder, McConnon speak with WAGM about upcoming Extension workshop

12 Nov 2020

WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) interviewed Beth Calder, University of Maine associate professor of food science and James McConnon, professor of economics, about the "Recipe to Market" online workshop 9 a.m.–noon Nov. 20. The workshop is intended to support increasing numbers of small, home-based food businesses by answering questions and helping entrepreneurs plan their next steps.

Phillips joins Maine Calling panel on Veterans Day

12 Nov 2020

Army Maj. Nicolas Phillips, University of Maine assistant professor of military science, was a guest on Maine Calling. Phillips joined a panel discussing military history in Maine and talking with veterans across the state about their service and their experiences in the military.

Maine Public reports UMaine exploring dry ice production

12 Nov 2020

Maine Public reported that the University of Maine is exploring dry ice production and increasing cold storage capacity to support coronavirus vaccine distribution. A UMaine spokesperson indicated that the University will report their findings to the Maine CDC by the end of this week.

Mainebiz covers efforts to develop Maine-based supply chain for UMaine's offshore wind project

12 Nov 2020

Mainebiz and the Portland Press Herald reported on efforts by the developer of the University of Maine's offshore wind demonstration project, New England Aqua Ventus LLC, to include Maine businesses in every aspect of the project, beginning with the supply chain.

McGillicuddy Humanities Center to host 'Telling the Story of Climate Change' Nov. 17

12 Nov 2020

The University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) will host a discussion focused on effectively communicating the impact of climate change 7:30–8:30 p.m. Nov 17. Part of the MHC's 2020-2021 Symposium on "The Story of Climate Change," this event brings together professionals in varied disciplines who seek to effectively communicate the impact of climate change to diverse stakeholder groups. This Zoom session, which features a veteran news reporter and two scientists working with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW), will be moderated by Katherine Glover, research associate with the University of Maine Climate Change Institute. Panelists will discuss best practices for telling the story of climate change, and for helping the public understand environmental transformation on a local and global scale. More information about this free event, which will be recorded, is online.

UMaine Extension offers tips on preparing local holiday foods Nov. 17

12 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer ideas for using local foods in a traditional Thanksgiving dinner from 2–3 p.m. Nov. 17. Topics include cost-effective ways to shop for local foods, food safety tips for handling turkey and leftovers, and how to use Maine foods in traditional holiday dinner recipes. Instructors will demonstrate preparing recipes in an interactive format. Registration is required; a $5 donation per session is optional. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

'The Maine Question' explores how to teach music during a pandemic

12 Nov 2020

The coronavirus has disrupted just about every facet of academia, especially music education. Like concerts and jam sessions, teaching music is a shared community experience, but the pandemic has prompted several educators to shift instruction from in-person to remote. The inability for students to play their instruments together forced music educators to get creative to teach their students from home. That's why Philip Edelman, assistant professor of music education at the University of Maine, and Shianne Priest, director of music at Leonard Middle School in Old Town, teamed up to pilot a program that pairs music education majors in the UMaine School of Performing Arts with budding middle school musicians for online lessons. How can a teacher help a student improve when they can't be in the same room or even play together? Host Ron Lisnet speaks with Edelman to find out on Episode 9 of Season 3 of "The Maine Question" podcast. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension co-sponsors virtual facilitation skills series starting Nov. 17

13 Nov 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people are participating in and facilitating more virtual meetings. To support this shift in format, University of Maine Cooperative Extension has co-sponsored a new two-session series about building virtual facilitation skills from 10:30 a.m.–noon Nov. 17 and Dec. 1. The workshop, hosted by University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, will feature key facilitation concepts and how to apply them when working with groups virtually. Participants will also learn and practice specific virtual techniques for brainstorming, prioritizing, action planning and decision making. UMaine Extension, UNH Extension and Maine Sea Grant are co-sponsoring the workshop. The fee to attend is $30; registration is required by Nov. 10. Register online with UNH Extension. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kristen Grant, 207.646.1555, ext. 115; kngrant@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension 4-H offers new club for youth of all ages

13 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is offering a new club for youth ages 5–19 who are new, or interested in becoming, 4-H members. Meetings will be held from 6–7 p.m. starting Nov. 18 and continuing Dec. 16 and Jan. 20. The "4-H for All" club is a way for youth and families to learn about 4-H and connect with others across Maine. Youth will choose a project of their own to complete and discover how to become more involved in Maine 4-H. The club is free to join; registration is required. Register on the 4-H for All webpage to receive the meeting link. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Sara King, 207.743.6329; sara.king@maine.edu.

Holiday cards, wrapping paper for sale through Dec. 31

13 Nov 2020

The University of Maine Bookstore is embracing the holiday spirit by offering holiday cards and wrapping paper through Dec. 31. Printing Services created both the cards, featuring a variety of UMaine winter scenes, and wrapping paper, which comes in two different designs. Customers can purchase single or boxed sets of holiday cards and a single sheet, two sheets and rolls of wrapping paper from the bookstore in-person or online. University departments, organizations and colleges interested in sending cards for the holidays can contact Printing Services at 207.581.3767 or um.printing@maine.edu for bulk pricing. Printing services can also print custom interior greetings and address and mail the cards. Bulk orders should be placed before Dec. 11 to guarantee they will be ready for the holidays. Printing Services provides large quantities of and custom designs for wrapping paper as well. Anyone interested should call or email Printing Services.

Media highlight fruit tree experts panel

13 Nov 2020

The Daily Bulldog, The Piscataquis Observer and the Bangor Daily News highlighted a webinar for aspiring or current hobby orchardists and commercial growers about growing fruit trees in Maine from noon–1 p.m. Dec. 2. "Reflections on the Season: Growing Fruit Trees in Maine," hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, will feature UMaine Extension tree fruit specialist and professor of pomology in the School of Food and Agriculture Renae Moran, orchardist Scott Miller, ReTreeUS program manager Richard Hodges, and Molly DellaRoman and Tim Skillin, owners of Five Star Orchard in Brooklin, for a panel discussion. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording.

Media advance local foods for Thanksgiving dinner workshop

13 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Boothbay Register, Centralmaine.com and Wiscasset Newspaper advanced a University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar exploring how to use local foods in a traditional Thanksgiving dinner 2–3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty at 207-781-6099 or kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

Stacker shares UMaine information in health care article

13 Nov 2020

Stacker cited information from the University of Maine in an article titled "Best States for Health Care." When describing the top health issues faced by Maine people, which include access to health care, chronic disease, exposure to hazards in the environment, and infectious disease, among others; Stacker cited "Maine Policy Review," published by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at UMaine. The Daily Progress, Billings Gazette and Princeton Daily Clarion shared the Stacker article.

Edelman speaks with BDN about UMaine music students mentoring Old Town middle schoolers

13 Nov 2020

Philip Edelman, assistant professor of music education at the University of Maine, spoke to the Bangor Daily News about a program that pairs music education majors in the UMaine School of Performing Arts with budding middle school musicians for free, private online lessons. Edelman teamed up with Shianne Priest, director of music at Leonard Middle School in Old Town, to pilot the program for the school in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of their classes this semester, more than 30 students who enrolled in MUE 210 — Introduction to Music Education and MUE 401 — Organization and Administration of Secondary Music Performance Programs with Edelman have been partnered for music mentorship with students in grades six through eight. "The growth that I've seen in my students far surpasses what I thought would have happened," Edelman said.

E&E News reports on UMaine's floating offshore wind research

13 Nov 2020

E&E News' Climatewire reported on floating offshore wind technology research at the University of Maine in an article about the developments occurring in the field. The article noted UMaine's collaboration with New England Aqua Ventus, LLC (NEAV), a joint venture between Diamond Offshore Wind, a subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation, and RWE Renewables to develop UMaine's floating offshore wind technology demonstration project off the coast of Maine. Habib Dagher, founding director of the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center, discussed the time UMaine researchers began exploring alternative energy sources in 2009 when the price for heating oil climbed to $4.00 per gallon and an economic crisis was looming. "It was not sustainable and a big crisis in the state," he said. The Scientific American shared the article.

Dana speaks with Inside Higher Ed about campus discourse, politics

13 Nov 2020

Robert Dana, vice president of student life and inclusive excellence and dean of students at the University of Maine, spoke to Inside Higher Ed about how presidential politics has influenced campus discourse over the years. "We spend a lot of time with students talking about their responsibility to be thought leaders and change makers, but to be effective at that, you have to be communitarian in your approach and you can't be combative and disregarding the needs, rights and hopes of others," he said. "A divided society is a society imperiled, so unity at the top of the ticket helps, and I've seen this since this election happened. People are extending olive branches."

Auxiliary Services sponsoring food drive to support Black Bear Exchange

16 Nov 2020

University of Maine Auxiliary Services will sponsor a campuswide food drive Nov. 18–Dec. 31 with donation boxes located in the University Bookstore and in the Hilltop, Wells and York dining halls. All donations will go to the Black Bear Exchange food pantry, which provides support to university faculty, staff and students with no application required. Black Bear Exchange has requested non-perishable food donations of boxed cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter or nut butter, jelly or jam, tuna fish, and macaroni and cheese. Items can be donated at University Bookstore 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday, or deposited in donation boxes in the dining halls during regular dining hours. Donate three items in the bookstore to receive a discount voucher for the purchase of one regular-priced item valid through Dec. 31. For more information about the food drive, contact Deb Bell, 207.581.3774; debra.bell@maine.edu. Information about the Black Bear Exchange food pantry, including instructions for requesting support, is available online.

Starting native seeds with UMaine Extension, MOFGA Nov. 18

16 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will offer a webinar about starting native plants from seed noon–1 p.m. Nov. 18. “Native Seed Starting,” led by UMaine Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Ginger Laurits, will discuss how to successfully start native plants indoors in late fall and winter, and how to care for native plants. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the fourth in a six-part fall gardening webinar series offered every other Wednesday through mid-December. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu.

Media advance Extension farming, gardening boot camp for veterans, disabled

16 Nov 2020

The Associated Press, New England Cable News (in Boston), the Bangor Daily News, Morning Ag Clips and the Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced a University of Maine Cooperative Extension workshop series, “Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners and Farmers,” January–September, 2021. The series includes semimonthly online classes Jan. 11–May 24, and weekly hands-on fieldwork sessions May-September. More information about the course is online. WGME (Channel 13 in Portland), The Washington Times, the Titusville Herald and U.S. News and World Report shared the AP story.

Moran talks with BDN about long-term impact of drought on Maine apples

16 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News spoke with Renae Moran, University of Maine Cooperative Extension fruit tree specialist and professor of pomology in the School of Food and Agriculture, about the impact of Maine’s drought on next year’s apple crop. According to Moran, this year’s drought has likely already affected next year’s fruit tree blossoms.

Media promote virtual run to benefit 4-H camps

16 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com and WABI (Channel 5) advanced a virtual run hosted by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Nov. 21–29. The fourth annual Wobble and Gobble 5K is a virtual run replacing the traditional Thanksgiving Day race to benefit UMaine Extension 4-H programs at Bryant Pond and Greenland Point.

Fernandez, Mallory panelists in BDN Climate Change series

16 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that Ivan Fernandez, a University of Maine professor of soil science and forest resources, and Ellen Mallory, a professor of sustainable agriculture in the School of Food and Agriculture and Cooperative Extension specialist, joined a panel of experts who answered questions from the public about the impact of climate change on Maine’s farms and forests.

AP talks with Brewer about Collins’ re-election

16 Nov 2020

Mark Brewer, University of Maine professor of political science, was interviewed by the Associated Press for a story about Mainers sending U.S. Sen. Susan Collins to Washington for a fifth term.

Media report UMaine a top AASHE sustainability performer

16 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com and the Penobscot Bay Pilot picked up a University of Maine news release highlighting UMaine’s recognition by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). UMaine ranked in the top ten in the grounds category, recognizing biodiversity on campus, campus land management practices and sustainable landscaping.

Press Herald editorial touts benefits of UMaine offshore wind research

16 Nov 2020

The Portland Press Herald highlighted the benefits of the University of Maine floating wind turbine research, citing $125 million in new economic activity and the creation of hundreds of jobs during construction. In addition, the demonstration project will model the integration of floating wind power and traditional marine industries while supporting Maine’s climate change and emissions goals.

New study finds Med diet found to lower blood pressure in older adults in U.S.

16 Nov 2020

Eating a diet similar to the Mediterranean diet is associated with lower blood pressure among U.S. adults, according to a study by University of Maine and the University of South Australia researchers. The study, conducted by researchers Fayeza Ahmed, Benjamin Guenther and Merrill Elias at UMaine, and Alexandra Wade and Karen Murphy at the University of South Australia was published in the Journal of Clinical Hypertension in September. The researchers examined the relationship between adherence to a Mediterranean diet (Med diet) and blood pressure in a sample of older (average age 62.2 years) women and men living in the United States and participating in the Maine-Syracuse Longitudinal Study (MSLS). Maintaining a healthy blood pressure is a key component for healthy living. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death, and high blood pressure is a leading risk factor for cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The Med diet has been associated with a range of health benefits, including anti-inflammatory properties. A number of studies also have associated the Med diet with lowering of blood pressure levels, but many used self-reported blood pressure values that often are unreliable, according to the authors of the journal article. Moreover, many studies have not adequately addressed additional variables that must be considered when studying hypertension. In addition, many studies examining Med diet and cardiovascular disease risk factors have been done in Mediterranean populations. The diet may be less effective in United States populations where Med diet is not common to the culture. The study addressed these issues and related consumption of a Med diet to blood pressure to measured blood pressure values with statistical adjustment for multiple risk factors related both to rise and lowering of blood pressure and dietary preferences. Using MSLS data, the UMaine–University of South Australia research team analyzed cross-sectional data (Wave 6) for 851 participants. Med diet adherence was calculated using food frequency questionnaire data and a literature-based Med diet adherence score. Dependent (outcome) variables included systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), pulse pressure (PP) and mean arterial pressure (MAP). Controls included age, gender, education, and numerous variables related to blood pressure and diet. The researchers found statistically significant but modest associations between higher levels of Med diet and

lower levels of systolic and diastolic BP among those who consumed higher amounts of Med diet foods, albeit only minor lowering of BP values were observed. While minor on an individual level, the lowering of blood pressure even by this amount is important in terms of the U.S. population as a whole. Indeed, it's been determined that lowering SBP by even 2mmHg at the population level reduced cardiovascular disease by 10% (Lewington et al., 2002). MSLS, a study of aging, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and cognitive function, was launched in 1974 at Syracuse University by Elias. It has obtained longitudinal and cross-sectional data from young adulthood to the elder years for 1,000 individuals, and cross-sectional data for more than 2,400 individuals initially recruited from central New York and followed throughout the U.S. Data collection support has included the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the National Institute on Aging; and travel grants from NATO and the University of South Australia. Ahmed is associate director for the MSLS and Guenther serves as the UMaine statistician for the MSLS. Contact: Margaret Nagle, 207.581.3745

Marrs teaches master class to Singapore music conservatory students

16 Nov 2020

Stuart Marrs, a professor of percussion in the University of Maine Division of Music in the School of Performing Arts, delivered a remote master class on timpani to percussion studies students at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore on Nov. 4. "This was, indeed, a master class given by a master!" said conservatory faculty member Jonathan Fox about Marrs' session. "The students had fun, learned a lot, and were engaged from start to finish. The amount of knowledge imparted in a few hours was simply remarkable. Dr. Marrs' unique teaching style had students fixing problems on the spot and thinking for themselves, all the while smiling, laughing, and enjoying making music. Truly inspiring stuff, from technique to musical expression." Read more about Marrs' lecture on the Division of Music website.

Neiman co-edits special issues of Romantic Textualities

16 Nov 2020

Elizabeth Neiman, an associate professor in English and the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, co-edited a special issue of the journal Romantic Textualities: Literature and Print Culture, 1780–1840 with Tina Morin, head of English at the University of Limerick. The issue was dedicated to the popular London printing house Minerva, which brought an unprecedented number of women novelists into the market between 1790 and 1820 and incited anxiety among the best-known writers of the day, who were anxious to secure their own readership.

Michaud contributes to book about theology, ecology and COVID-19

16 Nov 2020

Derek Michaud, coordinator of the religious and Judaic studies programs at the University of Maine, contributed the essay, "The Multidimensional Unity of Life, Theology, Ecology, and COVID-19," to the book "Pandemic, Ecology and Theology: Perspectives on COVID-19," edited by Alexander J.B. Hamilton (Routledge, 2020). In the essay, the philosophy lecturer argues that efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis limited to a single dimension of life ultimately fail to promote holistic human health. Rather, an adequate conception of humanity, the natural world and the challenges people face, as well as the metaphysical grounds for hope to motivate long-term remediation efforts, are needed.

International team including UMaine research professor Edward Grew reports two new nanominerals from Tibet

16 Nov 2020

Edward Grew, research professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine, has assisted an international team with obtaining approval for two new nanominerals from a mine in Tibet. In 2018, Grew was invited to join the research team led by Fahui Xiong and including Xiangzhen Xu, Paul T. Robinson, and Jingsui Yang from Beijing, Guangzhou and Nanjing in China; Enrico Mugnaioli and Mauro Gemmi from the Center for Nanotechnology of the Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia in Pisa, Italy; and Richard Wirth from the Helmholtz Center in Potsdam, Germany. Grew helped to develop and guide the proposals for the new minerals through the rigorous review and approval by the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification of the International Mineralogical Association (IMA). He also co-authored the journal article reporting the discoveries, published Nov. 2, 2020 in the European Journal of Mineralogy: "Two new minerals, badengzhuite, TiP, and zhiqinite, $TiSi_2$, from the Cr-11 chromitite orebody, Luobusa ophiolite, Tibet, China: is this evidence for super-reduced mantle-derived fluids?" In recent years, new technology has made it possible to investigate and characterize very tiny crystals of minerals. Increasingly, new minerals approved by IMA are so small that they can only be seen with an electron microscope. The new minerals studied by Grew were found as inclusions in crystals of corundum extracted from chromitite ore from a mine in the Luobusa ophiolite in southern Tibet. Ophiolites are slices of ocean crust and upper mantle that are incorporated in mountain belts when continents collide as a result of tectonic plate motion. One of the great ophiolite belts of the world is in Tibet, where the Indian subcontinent collided with the rest of Asia and pushed up the Himalaya Range. The surface expression of this boundary is the Yarlung-Zangbo Suture Zone south of Lhasa, Tibet, along which a series of ophiolites hosts the largest economic chromite deposits in China. The new minerals are interpreted to have formed in the Earth's upper mantle by the action of mantle methane and hydrogen on basaltic melts in the Luobusa ophiolites. The new minerals, named after Chinese geologists, have simple chemical formulas: badengzhuite TiP (titanium monophosphide) and zhiqinite, TiS2 (titanium disilicide). Both compositions and structures have been previously synthesized in the laboratory, but this is their first reported occurrence in a geologic setting. The nanominerals were characterized by 3D electron diffraction, which can solve the crystal structures of phases less than a micrometer in size.| The results of this research contribute to our understanding of the mineralogy of ophiolites and deeply subducted crustal rocks and their exhumation back to the Earth's surface. The remarkable complexity of the assemblage of nanominerals also demonstrates the fractal nature of mineral assemblages.

UMaine students get immersive experience in engineering education

16 Nov 2020

In 2019, Maine adopted the Next Generation Science Standards for K–12 schools, which call for integrating engineering concepts and practices into science classrooms. Asli Sezen-Barrie, associate professor of curriculum, assessment and instruction in the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development, noticed that many science teachers have limited knowledge of engineering and rarely have opportunities to interact with different types of professional engineers. So Sezen-Barrie redesigned her class on Teaching Science in the Secondary School to provide more opportunities for preservice teachers at UMaine to learn about engineering concepts and meet with engineers. "We created opportunities for our students to interact with and observe professional engineers, and learn about how they tackle everyday engineering problems, such as repairing the Hubble Space Telescope or responding to an outbreak caused by a viral infection," says Sezen-Barrie, whose research focuses on engineering and science education. Thanks to funding from the Maine Space Grant Consortium, Sezen-Barrie also is working with the Challenger Learning Center of Maine in Bangor, as well as UMaine's Versant Power Astronomy Center and M.F. Jordan Planetarium, to provide hands-on teaching experiences for students in her class this fall. "Our preservice teachers are developing and teaching virtual learning modules on engineering risk analysis to middle school students participating in afterschool programs at the Challenger Learning Center," she says. Due to COVID-19, the modules are delivered via Zoom in accordance with special programming guidelines developed by the Challenger Center for the pandemic. For the sessions that use the planetarium, students are seated at least 6 feet apart and wear face coverings. Throughout the project, Sezen-Barrie plans to study how the future science teachers' thinking about the concept of risk analysis in engineering changes as they work with professional engineers and the middle school students. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

Rene Francolini: Using computational biology talents for Maine-eDNA program

17 Nov 2020

Graduate research assistant Rene Francolini will employ her knowledge of computational biology to tackle research in the Maine-eDNA program. Sequencing eDNA produces large amounts of data, and Francolini, a University of Maine Ph.D. student of marine sciences, can parse through and manipulate it for analysis using computational programs and models. She previously worked on eDNA projects at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Her work for the Maine-eDNA program, an initiative of Maine EPSCoR, focuses on kelp forests. "I love doing fieldwork and collecting samples, but I also love doing the molecular and computational work," Francolini says. Read more about Francolini on the Maine EPSCoR website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721, marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Tech Center offers bonus during special Apple product sale

17 Nov 2020

The University of Maine Bookstore Tech Center will offer a bonus $50 bookstore gift card to customers who purchase or pre-order qualified Apple Products Nov. 18–20. Qualified products include and iPad, iMac, MacBook and Apple watch. Full-time employees who have worked at UMaine for 12 consecutive months can use a payroll deduction to spread out payments for their Apple products without incurring interest. For more information, contact Derek Husson or TJ Bouchard, 207.581. 2580; tj.bouchard@maine.edu. The Tech Center is open from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. Shoppers can check prices on the bookstore website.

Entries for Rezendes Ethics Essay competition sought

17 Nov 2020

The University of Maine Honors College is now accepting entries for the 2020-21 John M. Rezendes Ethics Essay Competition. All UMaine undergraduate students who are enrolled for the Spring 2021 semester are invited to submit an 8- to 10-page essay that focuses on ethics, broadly construed. This year, the suggested theme is deconstructing systems of oppression, but essays on any topic of ethical concern are welcome. Cash prizes will be awarded as follows: $3,200 for first prize and two $500 finalist prizes. Students can attend informational Zoom workshops and discussions of ethics sponsored by the Honors College at noon Dec. 7 and Feb. 5. Essays must be submitted before midnight on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021. More information, including writing prompts and submission guidelines and winning essays from previous years, is available online.

University Bookstore announces holiday specials

17 Nov 2020

Deck the halls and start your holiday shopping Nov. 18–20 in person at the University of Maine Bookstore, and online until Dec. 18. The annual holiday sale features special discounts, unique gift options, holiday cards and wrapping paper for purchase, and daily flash sales on select UMaine clothing. Nov. 18–20, shoppers who spend $25 in the store will receive a free, limited edition ornament while supplies last. Tech Center customers will receive a $50 University Bookstore gift card with the purchase of select Apple products. Online UMaine Bookstore shoppers can take advantage of flash sales and be entered into a drawing for one of five prizes with any order. The winners will be announced Dec. 21. The store will also host Tinsel Tuesday online on Dec. 15. Customers who bring three non-perishable items from the list below to donate to the Black Bear Exchange will receive a voucher for 30% off one regular priced item. Eligible food donations include three boxes of macaroni and cheese, one jar of nut butter or peanut butter, one jar of jam or jelly, one box of cereal, one container of oatmeal, and one can of tuna fish. Products must be donated at the University Bookstore during regular business hours to receive the discount voucher, which will be valid through Dec. 31. Follow University Bookstore on Facebook and Instagram to hear about additional holiday specials, or visit the bookstore website for more information. Information about the Black Bear Exchange food pantry, including instructions for requesting support, is available online.

Raising our Voices series to examine race, racism

17 Nov 2020

The University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) will host a two-part virtual series on defining race and confronting racism 4-5 p.m. Nov. 19 and Nov. 30 in partnership with Native American Programs, the departments of Anthropology, Communications and Journalism, Philosophy, Political Science, and the School of Social Work. The Nov. 19 session, titled "Defining Race and Racism: Institutionalization and Experience," includes discussion with Douglas Allen, professor emeritus of philosophy, Amy Fried, professor and chair of political science, and School of Social Work faculty member Judith Josiah-Martin. The Nov. 30 event, "Confronting Racism: Historical Reckonings and Contemporary Reforms," will feature MHC faculty adviser, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of Native American Programs Darren Ranco; Chelsea Fairbank, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology; John Dieffenbacher-Krall, representing the Episcopal Diocese of Maine Committee on Indian Relations; Bridie McGreavy, associate professor of environmental communication; and MHC undergraduate fellow Nolan Altvater. Registration is required to attend the webinars; more information is available online. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact cyntiha.isenhour@maine.edu.

Press Herald updates UMaine, UMS COVID-19 case numbers

17 Nov 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported on Sunday that there are 43 active cases of coronavirus at University of Maine System campuses, including 30 at the University of Maine. Six residence hall students are among those diagnosed with COVID-19 systemwide.

Morning Ag Clips advances seminar for orchardists, aspiring fruit growers

17 Nov 2020

Morning Ag Clips promoted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension online seminar for commercial fruit growers and hobby orchardists noon–1 p.m. Dec. 2. "Reflections on the Season: Growing Fruit Trees in Maine," will feature a panel of experts reflecting on the 2020 season, sharing challenges and tips from around the state, and helping participants begin planning for next year. More information about the event, which is co-sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, is online.

DellaMattera talks with WalletHub about Thanksgiving in Maine

17 Nov 2020

Julie DellaMattera, University of Maine associate professor and director of the School of Educational Leadership, Higher Education and Human Development, was interviewed by WalletHub for a report about the best states for Thanksgiving celebrations in 2020. Maine ranked 8th overall based on affordability and celebrations, pandemic safety, statewide reopening measures and giving thanks. Vermont, ranked 6th, was the only other New England state in the top ten.

Jacobs, Ranco in Press Herald story about enhancing diversity in outdoor leadership programs

17 Nov 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Lauren Jacobs, University of Maine lecturer in outdoor leadership, and Darren Ranco, associate professor of anthropology and chair of Native American Programs, about efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion in UMaine's outdoor leadership programs, and about the need to acknowledge Indigenous lands.

HPC Wire notes UMaine participation at supercomputing event

17 Nov 2020

HPC Wire listed the University of Maine as a participant at SC20, the supercomputing conference intended to promote the value of computational research. The event is being held online this year. Bruce Segee, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, is a member of the Northeast Cyberteam who will present Methods, Results and Expansion via the Cyberteam Portal at 3 p.m. Nov. 17.

Media cover launch of skin care company by UMaine grads

17 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, News Center Maine, New England Cable News (in Boston) and WABI (Channel 5) reported that University of Maine graduates Amber Boutiette and Patrick Breeding have co-founded a new small business in South Portland that is marketing a skin hydration cream made with lobster hemolymph. While Marin Skincare's first commercial product was not developed at UMaine, Boutiette and Breeding were encouraged by Bob Bayer, the former director of the UMaine's Lobster Institute, who had overseen other efforts to develop value-added products using lobster processing waste. Marin Skincare's Soothing Hydration Cream is currently being sold online, but the company is exploring offering it in spas and marketing it locally in Portland. WBNS (Channel 10 in Davenport, Iowa) and WHOU (Channel 11 in Houston, Texas) shared the News Center story.

'Recipe to Market' workshop covers product development, licensing, food safety

18 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a multidisciplinary online workshop about starting a food business in Maine from 9 a.m.–noon Nov. 20. "Recipe to Market" is intended for entrepreneurs, farmers and others interested in starting a home-based specialty food business with products such as jams and jellies, fermented foods, dry mixes and candies, baked goods and confections. Topics include an overview of the specialty food industry and product development process, licensing and regulations, business basics and food safety. Instructors include Extension professor emeritus Louis Bassano, Extension business and economics specialist and professor of economics Jim McConnon, and Extension food science specialist and associate professor of food science Beth Calder, who also directs UMaine Food Testing Services. UMaine Extension wild blueberry specialist and assistant professor of horticulture Lily Calderwood will facilitate. The fee is $25; financial assistance is available. Registration is required on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Theresa Tilton, theresa.tilton@maine.edu; 207.942.7396; 800.287.1485 (Maine only).

UMaine Extension offers resources to producers during hay shortage

18 Nov 2020

Many livestock and equine owners in Maine purchase all of their hay and forage needs for winter. While this year's growing season started out well, forage growth was reduced due to low rainfall in most of the state, especially for second and third hay cuttings. According to University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor Rick Kersbergen, now is the time for livestock owners to assess what they have for feed, the number of animals they will be feeding, and what they will need for the next six to seven months. Kersbergen advises against waiting until winter to source forage in the midst of a shortage. UMaine Extension maintains a regularly updated interactive hay directory to help locate forage sources. Additional resources include how to determine the amount of forage needed and how to test the quality of forage. For more information, contact Rick Kersbergen, 207.342.5971; richard.kersbergen@maine.edu.

Medical Xpress reports on UMaine/University of South Australia study of Mediterranean diet

18 Nov 2020

Medical Xpress picked up a University of Maine new release highlighting a study by UMaine and University of South Australia researchers that found that adhering to a Mediterranean diet can lower blood pressure for older adults in the U.S. and reduce the incidence of cardiovascular disease. Among those involved in the research: Fayeza Ahmed, assistant professor of psychology and associate director of the Maine-Syracuse Longitudinal Study (MSLS), Benjamin Guenther, lecturer and project statistician, and Merrill Elias, professor emeritus and founding investigator of MSLS.

Media promote UMaine Extension hay directory

18 Nov 2020

Morning Ag Clips, Centralmaine.com and the Daily Bulldog advanced the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's interactive hay directory and other forage-related resources, noting that drought conditions have impacted the supply of hay and straw in Maine.

BDN mentions Extension in article about pests on holiday greenery

18 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News reminded readers that holiday plants or greenery should be inspected before shipping and upon receipt to prevent the introduction of insect pests to Maine or their transfer to other states. The article cited the University of Maine Cooperative Extension as a resource if pests are found.

Powell talks with WVII about presidential transitions

18 Nov 2020

WVII (Channel 7) interviewed Rich Powell, a University of Maine professor of political science, about the transition of power following a presidential election, and the timeline for certification of the election by the head of the General Services Administration.

Media promote Extension food safety advice, Thanksgiving resources

18 Nov 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and Centralmaine.com featured a University of Maine Cooperative Extension news release offering food safety tips from Kate Yerxa, Extension associate professor, and Kathy Savoie, Extension professor, along with links to recipes, turkey handling advice, and other Thanksgiving related publications.

News Center advances UMaine's Early College program

18 Nov 2020

News Center Maine promoted the University of Maine's Early College pathways online program for high school students. Mark Brewer, a professor of political science, and Patricia Libby, associate dean in the Division of Lifelong Learning, touted the program, noting that early college students have less anxiety about transitioning to college and have proven themselves ready for college admission.

UMaine Extension partners with UNH, UVM on USDA grant for rural youth STEM education

18 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension, in partnership with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and University of Vermont Extension, has been awarded $328,191 in support of developing and delivering remote STEM and agricultural sciences programming to rural K–12 students across the three-state region. The project, "Northeast 4-H Collaborative: Closing the Gap," submitted to the competitive USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative program by the three land grant universities, received a total of $680,000. UMaine Extension 4-H Centers' staff will play a lead role in delivering the remote learning model. UNH Cooperative Extension is the lead institution for the project. In the next two years, the project will serve 1,500 youth from across the rural parts of northern New England. It also cements a partnership among the three land grant universities, paving the way for further collaboration. "This is an exciting collaboration among the three states," says Lisa Phelps, UMaine Extension 4-H program administrator. "I am confident it will make a tremendous difference for youth and teachers in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont." "This grant will showcase the work of our outstanding staff for the benefit of rural youth from around New England," says UMaine Extension Dean Hannah Carter. "We are thrilled at both the award and the impact it will certainly make." For more information about UMaine Extension 4-H contact 207.581.3877; extension@maine.edu. More information also is on the Extension 4-H website. This work is supported by the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, Education and Workforce Development Program (grant no. 2021-67037-33475/project accession no. 2020-09648) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Contact: Ryder Scott, ryder.scott@maine.edu; 207.890.8626

Hutchinson Center offers 20% discount on online winter professional development programs Nov. 27–30

19 Nov 2020

Registration is now open for all online winter professional development programs through the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. All winter 2021 professional development programs will be 20% off Black Friday (Nov. 27) through Cyber Monday (Nov. 30). More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website. The UMaine Hutchinson Center's professional development programs are designed to benefit professionals from a range of sectors, including health care workers, educators and members of nonprofit organizations, as well as people who are unemployed, underemployed or trying to make a change in their careers. All programs are held synchronously via Zoom. Class sizes are small and the programs are engaging and highly interactive (programs are not prerecorded). Given their online nature, these professional development programs are accessible to professionals nationwide, offering an opportunity to further expand professional networks. To participate, stable internet connection is required. Two five-day sessions of Grant Writing Essentials, taught by Elizabeth Haffey, will be offered (Session 1: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Session 2: March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16). In this high-calibre program, participants will navigate grant proposals from inception to completion, and about finding and vetting funding sources. In Practical Project Management, taught by Angela Wheaton (offered March 12, 17, 19, 24, with a follow-up session April 9), participants will gain useful skills for implementing project management in the real world. Self-Care for Clinicians, taught by Wendy Rapaport (offered January 29–30) will teach strategies to prevent burnout and build resilience. Health care workers, social workers, therapists, birth workers and health care administrators are shouldering a heavy burden. This self-care program will provide space to process and reflect in order to support clinicians and, therefore, those who rely on them. Tom Dowd will be offering a three-part Career Transformation Series (Jan. 15, 22, 29). These sessions will focus on building professional networks, and strengthening resumes and interview skills, with the end result being increased career success during unprecedented times. Career Transformation Sessions are available à la carte or as a series. The Hutchinson Center is pleased to offer a new program this winter, thanks to a partnership with Racial Equity & Justice, founded by David Patrick and Desiree Vargas, both graduates of the University of Maine. A Racial Equity, Diversity and Implicit Bias training will be offered on March 5. This program is the first step for professionals looking for concrete steps to address racism, diversity, equity and inclusivity in their personal and professional lives. Additional programs are listed on the Hutchinson Center's website. Custom programs catered to the specific needs of a company, organization or school also are available. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; 207.338.8002. For more information about upcoming professional development programs or to register, go online. Early registration is recommended as spots are limited. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available to people who live or work in Knox or Waldo counties.

WAGM talks with Lilley about Dec. 5 maple syrup webinar

19 Nov 2020

WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) talked with Jason Lilley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension sustainable agriculture professional about the Dec. 5 webinar, "Backyard Sugaring: Maple Syrup 101." According to Lilley, the online course will cover everything from identifying and tapping trees, collecting and boiling the syrup, to packaging. More information about the event is online. Centrailmaine.com and the Bangor Daily News also highlighted the webinar.

AP reports on USDA blueberry grants to UMaine

19 Nov 2020

The Associated Press reported that the University of Maine School of Biology and Ecology has received two specialty crop grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support blueberry growers through a study of foliar fertilizers and soil amendments that could enhance crop resilience and application of integrated pest management to control plant disease. The Bangor Daily News, U.S. News & World Report and Morning Ag Clips shared the AP story.

News Center Maine promotes Extension's AgrAbility resources for veterans

19 Nov 2020

News Center Maine highlighted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's resources for veterans who have taken up farming, or are interested in farming. More information about the program, which is co-sponsored by Maine AgrAbility, is online.

Piscataquis conservation district lauds Leahy, UMaine student volunteers

19 Nov 2020

In their November cooperator's newsletter, the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) highlighted a critical partnership between the district and Jessica Leahy, a University of Maine professor in the School of Forest Resources. Leahy, a long-time cooperator with the PCSWCD, facilitates hands-on learning opportunities for UMaine students while supporting the district's goals. Recent student projects include development of a forest management plan for the district's Law Farm, building a bridge on a public hiking trail at the farm, and updating the district's demonstration forest trail maps to make georeferenced files available online.

Blackstone cited in Refinery 29 story about women's health, child-free choices

19 Nov 2020

University of Maine Professor of Sociology Amy Blackstone was quoted in a Refinery 29 story about doctors' tendencies to prioritize fertility over physical and mental health. "Not providing the treatment that women seek because you believe you know better than them what is best for them not only infantilizes women but is just one more way that women are denied their right to choose for themselves whether, when or how many children they will have," said Blackstone.

Ferrini-Mundy delivers Knapp Lecture to APLU

19 Nov 2020

A Public Voice, the newsletter of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), reported that University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy delivered the Seaman A. Knapp Memorial Lecture online on Oct. 28. The President's address, *"*Positives in Pandemics: The Increased Need and Importance of Extension During Times of Crisis*,"* focused on UMaine Cooperative Extension programs developed to support stakeholders across Maine during the pandemic. The lecture is available online.

Mitchell Center hosts talk about collaborating for community well-being Nov. 23

19 Nov 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk about how municipalities can collaborate with researchers to improve community development 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23. Over the past 20 years, Dave Milan has helped municipalities learn how departments can work together to improve community well-being. Milan is director of community development for the town of Orono, and in this role he has also guided University of Maine students in aligning their research projects with the needs of local government, the private sector and community organizations. In this talk, "Unkicking the Can: How Community Development Can Make a Difference Now," he will share some of the lessons he has learned about how university research can strengthen community development. After a 26-year career in law enforcement, Milan brought his talents as a criminal investigator and problem-solver to community and economic development. He has served in leadership positions on regional boards and committees including Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Eastern Maine Community College, Hancock County Planning Commission, Bangor Region Development Alliance and the Bangor Target Area Development Corporation. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, please see the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196; hallsworth@maine.edu.

Maine AgrAbility, Extension develop farming resources for veterans

19 Nov 2020

Maine AgrAbility and University of Maine Cooperative Extension have developed resources specifically for Maine military veterans who are farming or want to know more about farming in Maine. Maine AgrAbility Veteran Resources includes a checklist for veterans looking for farm employment, UMaine Extension's publication Guide to Veteran-to-Farmer Training Pilot Program Resources in Maine and links to other relevant local and national programs. For more information, contact 207.944.1533, 800.287.1478 (in Maine), or maine.agrability@maine.edu. Maine AgrAbility assists farmers, fishermen and forest workers to overcome disabilities, injuries or other barriers so they can continue to work safely and productively in agriculture. This material is supported by a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) under sponsored project number 2018-41590-28715.

Virtual run to benefit UMaine Extension 4-H at Bryant Pond, Greenland Point starts Nov. 21

19 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H camps and learning centers at Bryant Pond and Greenland Point are hosting a virtual 5K run Nov. 21–29. The fourth annual Wobble and Gobble 5K, a virtual run in place of the traditional Thanksgiving Day race, is open to runners of all ages. All proceeds benefit UMaine Extension 4-H programs at Bryant Pond and Greenland Point. The $20 per person fee includes an event T-shirt; registration is required. Register and find details on the program webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Bethany Pelletier, 207.665.2068; bethany.pelletier@maine.edu.

Jordon Gregory: Hands-on learning in the pulp and paper industry

19 Nov 2020

Jordon Gregory of Minot, Maine, plans to work as an engineer in the pulp and paper industry, and her two internships with Maine companies confirmed her career choice. The Pulp & Paper Foundation scholarship recipient has had internships at Verso Paper in Jay, and Solenis at ND Paper in Rumford. Solenis also offered her another internship to continue to learn about the industry, and gain hands-on experience running trials and improving the papermaking process. Extracurricular activities also have opened engineering pathways for Gregory. The third-year student participates in the UMaine chapters of the American Institute for Chemical Engineering and the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry. She also is a member of Team Maine, the Campus Activities Board and Alternative Breaks. "Since coming to UMaine, I really have been able to catch a glimpse into what the future holds for me," she says. University faculty have fostered a welcoming and supportive atmosphere by answering any questions and helping her succeed, she says. College of Engineering Dean Dana Humphrey's Introduction to Engineering Leadership class stands out for teaching her leadership skills through real-world examples. Gregory describes UMaine as "innovative" — from its nanocellulose research and the launch of the world's largest 3D printer to the pilot paper machine that provides hands-on learning for future pulp and paper industry leaders. "The University of Maine engineering program is always on the search for new opportunities for students to help impact the world," she says. "I am very

excited to see where my career in the industry is going to take me, whether it is working for a chemical supplier like Solenis or working for a manufacturer like Verso. The need now in the industry is for new engineers." **Why UMaine for you?** I chose to come to UMaine for the engineering program because it is one of the top programs in New England. I also chose to come here because of the location. For me, it is close to home where I can go back on the weekends, but far enough away where I am able to make new friends and new connections that I couldn't if I stayed where I was. Since coming to UMaine, I have fallen in love with all aspects of campus — from the academics to the student atmosphere. I am truly grateful to be a part of the Black Bear community. **How would you describe the academic atmosphere and student experience at UMaine?** The academic atmosphere is very welcoming. Professors are always looking out for our best interests and you are able to tell that they want us to succeed, and will do anything to help you. They are willing to answer any and all questions that I have, whether it is in class or outside of class. The overall student experience at UMaine is very inviting. All of the events that different offices and clubs hold on campus make me feel like UMaine is a second home rather than just a place for academics. **Have you had an experience at UMaine — either academically or socially — that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?** My first year at UMaine, I had the opportunity to join Alternative Breaks, one of the volunteer organizations on campus. My first year, I traveled to Brick, New Jersey and focused on the social issue of homelessness and disaster relief. My second year, I traveled to Niagara Falls, New York and focused on homelessness in the area. Through my participation in these experiences, I was exposed to parts of the country that I would never have seen growing up in a small town in Maine. This opened my eyes to the issues that are affecting parts of our country's population, which has motivated me to do more for my surrounding community and to take any opportunities I can to help others around me. **What difference has UMaine made in your life?** UMaine has made a huge difference in my life. Growing up I had ideas of what I wanted to do with my life, but it was difficult to conceptualize those ideas not knowing where I would be or what I would be doing. I have been fortunate enough to be a part of the Pulp & Paper Foundation, where over the past two summers I have been able to gain experience in my field by working at multiple paper mills in the state. It is crazy to think that just in this small amount of time, this university has opened so many doors for me, and offered me so many amazing opportunities. All of which has led me to where I am now, in my third year of a chemical engineering degree with an internship lined up for the summer and a world of possibilities at my feet. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

'The Maine Question' closes third season asking how lobsters are doing

19 Nov 2020

Lobsters are synonymous with Maine, defining it alongside lighthouses, forests, rocky coasts, blueberries and potatoes. Beyond its reputation as a delicious meal, the iconic crustacean propels a major industry, draws tourists from around the world and serves as a bellwether for climate change and environmental health. Few people know lobster from all angles better than Rick Wahle. The research professor and director of the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine has made it his life's work to study this renowned shellfish. The scientist based in the Darling Marine Center in Walpole has explored population trends, larval transport, settlement, and post-settlement processes, the effects of ocean acidification and warming on lobster larvae, and much more. Host Ron Lisnet speaks with Wahle to learn more about lobster and the health of Maine's fishery in Episode 10 of Season Three of "The Maine Question" podcast, the final episode of the season. Listen to the podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays. Do you have topics that you'd like to learn more about? What questions would you like UMaine experts to answer? Email them to mainequestion@maine.edu.

Climate change, human impacts altering Everest faster, more significantly than previously known

20 Nov 2020

New findings from the most comprehensive scientific expedition to Mount Everest in history are in today's interdisciplinary scientific journal One Earth. The collection of research papers and commentaries about Mount Everest, known locally as Sagarmatha and Chomolangma, identifies critical information about the Earth's highest-mountain glaciers and the impacts they're experiencing due to climate change. As part of the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, climate scientists, including those with the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, studied environmental changes, including in Everest's "death zone," to understand future impacts for life on Earth as global temperatures rise. This new research fills a critical knowledge gap about the health and status of high-mountain environments, which are incredibly difficult to study due to the inhospitable environmental conditions. Key findings include:

- The highest-ever recorded sample of microplastics was found on the "Balcony" of Mount Everest at 8,440 meters, one of the last resting spots before reaching the summit. This microplastic is likely coming from the clothing and equipment worn by climbers, highlighting the impacts of humans on even the highest reaches of our planet.
- Researchers surveyed nearly 80 glaciers around Mount Everest and found evidence of consistent glacial mass loss over the last 60 years and that glaciers are thinning, even at extreme altitudes above 6,000 meters. Using declassified spy satellites and a new highest-resolution data set, this is the most complete assessment of the status of the world's highest glacier as a baseline for future research on its changes.
- Additionally, the research captures the first documented surge of a glacier (when it moves 10 to 100 times faster than it normally does) in the Mount Everest region, a phenomenon that can put people and communities at risk.

[caption id="attachment_80819" align="alignnone" width="1350"]

Heather Clifford collects samples near Everest Base Camp. The National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition was the most comprehensive single scientific expedition to the mountain in history. A diverse team of scientists, storytellers, and expert climbers and guides surveyed the mountain's geography, geology and biodiversity; installed a network of weather stations, including the world's highest; and collected ice and lake cores, all in order to better understand the impacts of climate change on the world's tallest mountain.[/caption] Glaciers like those on Everest provide one-fifth of the global population with a steady supply of freshwater around the world. But due to the extreme conditions of these high mountains, until now little information has existed about the impacts of climate change at elevations above 5,000 meters. “Mountains and their rapidly-disappearing glaciers are the ‘water towers’ of our planet, storing and transporting freshwater to nearly two billion people around the world,” said Paul Mayewski, scientific and expedition lead, and director of the Climate Change Institute. “That water supply is increasingly under threat due to rising temperatures, melting glaciers, pollution, and other human-caused and environmental stressors.” Mayewski is the lead author of the preview “Pushing Climate Change Science to the Roof of the World” published in One Earth. Aaron Putnam, climate sciences assistant professor and the 2019 Expedition’s geology team co-leader, is one of 17 co-authors. Mayewski also is lead author on the reflection “Climate Change in the Hindu Kush Himalayas: Basis and Gaps.” Sean Birkel, CCI research assistant professor, is one of three co-authors. Microplastic pollution near the highest point on Earth is a direct result of increased tourism and waste accumulation. A large proportion of that waste is made out of nonbiodegradable plastic. While visible plastic previously has been reported on Mount Everest, the pristine environment near Earth’s highest peaks is changing. The new data highlight that the collected snow samples had significantly more microplastics compared to the stream samples, with the majority of microplastics being fibrous. “With increased tourism, microplastics throughout Mount Everest is expected to rise, creating issues for the environment and people of the Khumbu region,” said Imogen Napper, National Geographic Explorer and first author of “Reaching New Heights in Plastic Pollution — Preliminary Findings of Microplastics on Mount Everest.” Mayewski and UMaine doctoral students Heather Clifford and Mariusz Potocki are co-authors. [caption id="attachment_80815" align="alignnone" width="1200"]

High-elevation expedition climbers and Sherpa wear “Himalayan suits” made of waterproof acrylic fibers at the Balcony (~8,440 m.a.s.l.). Behind them rest disused metal oxygen canisters and other waste which is a regular sight at this common resting point. In the far distance is the long line of climbers waiting to ascend Everest’s summit. The National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition was the most comprehensive single scientific expedition to the mountain in history. A diverse team of scientists, storytellers, and expert climbers and guides surveyed the mountain's geography, geology and biodiversity; installed a network of weather stations, including the world's highest; and collected ice and lake cores, all in order to better understand the impacts of climate change on the world's tallest mountain.[/caption] Results from the highest weather stations in the world demonstrate that the majority of precipitation to the Mount Everest region is sourced in the Bay of Bengal, highlighting the importance of atmospheric circulation to high mountain glaciers. Further, the weather stations enabled a full reconstruction of climbers’ oxygen availability during past Everest summit attempts to generate a comparison of climbing difficulty. Mayewski and Potocki are co-authors of “Into Thick(er) Air? Oxygen Availability at Humans’ Physiological Frontier on Mt. Everest.” First author is Tom Matthews of Loughborough University. Potocki collected the highest ice core on Earth — at 8,020 meters on South Col — during the 2019 Expedition. His photograph titled “Everest Night Lights” is a featured image in the One Earth package. The glaciochemist and renowned photographer snapped the shot of climbers’ headlights illuminating Khumbu Icefall, illustrating “how humans can brighten and change the landscape even on the roof of the world.”

[caption id="attachment_80817" align="alignleft" width="800"] 

The high-altitude expedition team drills the world's highest ice core sample at 8,020 meters above sea level during the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition in spring 2019. Learn more at www.natgeo.com/everest.[/caption] Kimberley Miner, research assistant professor at CCI, is first author of the primer "An Overview of Physical Risks in the Mt. Everest Region." Miner, who also is a scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab, said risks inherent to climbing Mount Everest are likely to increase in coming years with growing glacier melt, precipitation changes, geologic shifts, and chemical pollution. "The impacts the climbing and tourism industry has in the region should be characterized and understood to protect the residents in the watershed below," she said. Clifford, Potocki and Mayewski are among the 20 co-authors of that study. Mayewski, who led the expedition from Base Camp, is also co-author of the backstory "Behind the Scenes of a Comprehensive Scientific Expedition to Mt. Everest." Sandra Elvin of the National Geographic Society is lead author. And he is co-author of "Precipitation Characteristics and Moisture Source Regions on Mt. Everest in the Khumbu, Nepal." L. Baker Perry of Appalachian State University is lead author. Other papers and perspectives from the National Geographic collaboration published Nov. 20 in One Earth include: "Understanding the World's Water Towers through High-Mountain Expeditions and Scientific Discovery"; "Six Decades of Glacier Mass Changes around Mt. Everest Are Revealed by Historical and Contemporary Images"; and "Voices from the Roof of the World." In April and May 2019, an international, multidisciplinary team of scientists conducted the most comprehensive single scientific expedition to Mount Everest in the Khumbu Region of Nepal, as part of the National Geographic and Rolex partnership. Team members from eight countries, including 17 Nepali researchers conducted trailblazing research in five areas of science that are critical to understanding environmental changes and their impacts: biology, glaciology, meteorology, geology and mapping. UMaine Today's story High Achievers details experiences of the CCI faculty and students — including Mayewski, Putnam, Potocki, Clifford, Laura Mattas and Peter Strand — who participated in the 2019 Everest Expedition. Scientists now are utilizing the samples and data they collected during the 2019 Expedition to gain unique insights into how climate change and human populations are affecting even the highest reaches of our planet. [caption id="attachment_80816" align="alignnone" width="1500"]

Mariusz Potocki of the University of Maine collected the highest ice core on Earth — at 8,020 meters on South Col — during the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition. His photograph titled “Everest Night Lights” is a featured image in the One Earth package.[/caption] Even the highest glaciers on Earth are reeling from human activity around the globe. “Mountains will outlast us,” the One Earth editorial team wrote in its “The Changing Face of Mountains” editorial. “But without immediate action and integrated approaches to adaptation and sustainable development, they will lose their majesty. They will become diminished. With consequences for us all.”
Contact: Carly Britton, 617.417.7053; Kirsten Weymouth, kweymouth@ngs.org; Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Maine Science Podcast features Hamlin in latest episode

20 Nov 2020

The Maine Science Podcast features Heather Hamlin, an associate professor of aquaculture at the University of Maine, in its latest episode. Hamlin discussed her research seeking to understand how human-induced changes in the environment, whether it be climate change, ocean acidification or pollutants, can affect the reproduction and development of aquatic animals that are important to Maine’s economy, among other matters. The podcast, a production of the Maine Science Festival, has also featured other experts from the UMaine community.

Fogler library creates list of Wabanaki-authored books

20 Nov 2020

In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, and in honor of the University of Maine's place within the homeland of the Penobscot Nation, the Raymond H. Fogler Library created a list of books by Wabanaki authors available at awihkhikaní-wikwam ("book house" or "Fogler Library" in the Penobscot language). The growing list contains nearly 70 titles including both print and ebooks. Suggestions and additions can be sent to Jen Bonnet, social science and humanities reference librarian, at jenbonnet@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension offers Thanksgiving recipes, food safety tips

20 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension has several resources to help prepare a safe and healthy Thanksgiving meal. Before buying that turkey, UMaine Extension associate professor and registered dietitian Kate Yerxa suggests "planning for one to 1 ½ pounds of turkey per person. This will provide enough for the meal and leftovers for turkey sandwiches or a favorite turkey recipe." "How to safely thaw the turkey is a common question," says UMaine Extension professor Kathy Savoie. "The length of time it will take to thaw a turkey in the refrigerator depends on its size. Plan on 24 hours per five pounds of frozen turkey." Turkey should be cooked to reach an internal temperature of 165 F to kill harmful bacteria. Using a food thermometer, the temperature should be measured in the innermost part of the thigh and wing, and the thickest part of the breast. Leftovers should be stored in the refrigerator at 40 F or colder, within two hours of being cooked. Leftovers should be frozen or used within four days; gravy should be used within two days. UMaine Extension has simple healthy recipes that use local Maine produce and "Mainely Dish" recipe videos demonstrate a variety of recipes. Extension publications for a healthy Thanksgiving, including "Helpful Hints for Handling Turkeys for Thanksgiving" also are featured. The USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline is available 8 a.m.–2 p.m. EST Thanksgiving Day at 1.888.MPHotline (1.888.674.6854), from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. EST Monday through Friday, or from live chat at ask.usda.gov. For more information, contact 207.591.3188 or extension@maine.edu.

Mark calendars for sixth annual Student Symposium April 16, 2021

20 Nov 2020

The 2021 UMaine Student Symposium will be held virtually Friday, April 16. The sixth annual symposium will offer an opportunity for the public and university community to interact one-on-one with UMaine students as they present their research and creative work. Updates will be shared on the event webpage. Also look out for additional information on social media using #UMSS21.

Pen Bay Pilot, BDN highlight Hutchinson Center's discount for professional development programs

20 Nov 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot, Village Soup and the Bangor Daily News shared a media release about the University of Maine Hutchinson Center's 20% discount for online winter professional development programs. All winter 2021 professional development programs will be 20% off from Black Friday, Nov. 27 through Cyber Monday, Nov. 30. More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website.

Coffin, Knight speak to BDN about benefits of mules

20 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor Donna Coffin and UMaine Extension state livestock specialist Colt Knight spoke with the Bangor Daily News about the benefits of having mules. "They seem to be hardier than horses, (which is) that hybrid vigor kicking in," Coffin said. "They are very effective guard animals, as long as the mule is trained to be a guard animal," Knight said.

News Center, Centralmaine.com advance resources for veterans interested in farming

20 Nov 2020

News Center Maine and Centralmaine.com advanced resources from University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine AgrAbility for veterans interested in farming. Resources are available online.

Dumas speaks to BDN about planning small Thanksgiving Dinner

20 Nov 2020

Robert Dumas, food science innovation coordinator at the University of Maine, spoke with the Bangor Daily News about tips for planning a small Thanksgiving dinner. Families, Dumas said, should ensure they have a balanced meal with protein, starch and vegetables. "Look at your local farmers markets and build your side dishes there, especially as it pertains to vegetables," said Dumas, who manages the Dr. Matthew Highlands Food Pilot Plant at UMaine. "The traditional Thanksgiving is based on the New England seasons. You'll see all the greatest hits of Thanksgiving right there."

Media report on UMM 'swap and send' site

20 Nov 2020

News Center Maine, the Bangor Daily News and the Machias Valley News Observer reported on the new COVID-19 "swab and send" testing site at the University of Maine at Machias. "We're pleased to have the opportunity to help expand access to COVID-19 testing in rural Maine," UMM Head of Campus Dan Qualls said to News Center. "UMM stands ready to support this critical effort to serve the needs of our community."

Media highlight Extension's rural youth STEM education initiative

20 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Morning Ag Clips and The Piscataquis Observer shared a news release about University of Maine Cooperative Extension, in partnership with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and University of Vermont Extension, developing and delivering remote STEM and agricultural sciences programming to rural K–12 students across the three-state region. The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded $680,000 for the

project, “Northeast 4-H Collaborative: Closing the Gap,” through its Agriculture and Food REsearch Initiative program. In the next two years, the project will serve 1,500 youth from across the rural parts of northern New England.

Miner writes about microbes escaping from permafrost in Scientific American

20 Nov 2020

Kimberley Miner co-wrote the opinion piece “Deep Frozen Arctic Microbes Are Waking Up” in Scientific American. The assistant professor at the Climate Change Institute writes that in Siberia and northern Canada, the abrupt thaw has created sunken landforms, or thermokarst — where the oldest and deepest permafrost is exposed to the warm air for the first time in hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. While consequences of ancient escaping microorganisms are largely unknown, in Siberia in 2018, consequences were deadly: A permafrost thaw led to an anthrax outbreak and the death of a child and 200,000 reindeer. Discovering and identifying stirring microbes, bacteria and viruses are rising challenges for scientists. And the clock is ticking. In the last decade, Arctic warming “has led to glacier melt and permafrost thaw levels that weren’t forecast to happen until 2050 or later,” she writes. Arwyn Edwards and Charles Miller also co-wrote the piece. Sputnik reported on the Scientific American piece co-authored by Miner.

Putnam talks with Reuters about retreating glaciers

20 Nov 2020

Reuters spoke with Aaron Putnam, a University of Maine assistant professor in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences and the Climate Change Institute, about the causes and implications of China’s retreating glaciers. According to the story, rapid melting has caused devastating flooding and unreliable water availability for downstream farmers — a preview of the crippling water crisis that may arrive in as few as ten years once melting peaks. “Those glaciers are monitoring atmospheric warming trends that apply to nearby glaciated mountain chains that contribute runoff to the upper Yellow and Yangtze Rivers,” Putnam said. CNN shared the Reuters story.

Mitchell Center hosts talk about working together for community well-being

20 Nov 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk about how municipalities can collaborate with researchers to improve community development 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23. Over the past 20 years, Dave Milan has helped municipalities learn how departments can work together to improve community well-being. Milan is director of community development for the town of Orono, and in this role he has also guided University of Maine students in aligning their research projects with the needs of local government, the private sector and community organizations. In this talk, “Unkicking the Can: How Community Development Can Make a Difference Now,” he will share some of the lessons he has learned about how university research can strengthen community development. After a 26-year career in law enforcement, Milan brought his talents as a criminal investigator and problem-solver to community and economic development. He has served in leadership positions on regional boards and committees including Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Eastern Maine Community College, Hancock County Planning Commission, Bangor Region Development Alliance and the Bangor Target Area Development Corporation. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, see the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196; hallsworth@maine.edu.

Culturefest 2020 to share international traditions online

20 Nov 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the International Student Association (ISA) will highlight the international community at the University of Maine by celebrating Culturefest 2020 online. A Culturefest website will be launched on Monday, Nov. 23, to highlight the rich traditions of UMaine’s international faculty, staff and students. The website will incorporate many of the aspects of live Culturefest — food, exhibits and arts — which will be accessible to the public online far beyond one celebratory weekend. In addition to sharing recipes, modeling traditional clothing, and providing information about their countries and their cultures, student groups are working with local photojournalist, Ellie Markovitch, to produce multimedia projects that vividly convey the stories of UMaine’s international students. Visitors to the website will learn about diverse cultures through the lens of individual students and their lived experiences. The Culturefest website will evolve as new groups share their stories. At this time, 10 groups are planning projects, but additional participants will be welcomed through the end of winter break in Jan. 2021. OIP staff hope that the live event, which is historically well attended, will be revived in the future, when conditions allow. “Although we are saddened to miss hosting a live Culturefest, we are excited that this 2020 initiative will create a lasting product that can be expanded over time, and will ultimately serve as a companion to Culturefest long after the pandemic is over,” wrote Sarah Joughin, senior associate director of the Office of International Programs. More information about Culturefest, including instructions for participating via the website, is available online.

Calhoun receives one of NRCM’s 2020 Conservation Leadership Award

20 Nov 2020

Aram Calhoun, a University of Maine professor of wetlands ecology, received a 2020 Conservation Leadership Award from the Natural Resources Council of Maine for her significant, long-lasting contributions to protecting the nature of Maine. Calhoun's research focuses on vernal pool ecology and conservation, and wetland ecology. Learn more about the award on the council’s website.

JAX, UMaine scientists lead discovery of new connection between Alzheimer’s dementia and existing gene

23 Nov 2020

[caption id="attachment_80921" align="alignright" width="223"] Catherine Kaczorowski[/caption] A gene known for helping facilitate communication between neurons in the nervous system has been discovered to be connected with Alzheimer's dementia and cognitive decline, according to a national research team led by The Jackson Laboratory and University of Maine. Catherine Kaczorowski, associate professor and Evnin family chair in Alzheimer's research at The Jackson Laboratory (JAX), and adjunct professor with the UMaine Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering (GSBSE), spearheaded a study to pinpoint the genetic mechanisms that affect resistance or vulnerability to weakening cognition and dementias, such as Alzheimer's. Andrew Ouellette, a Ph.D student at JAX and a GSBSE NIH T32 predoctoral awardee, led the project, along with his mentor Kaczorowski and scientists from across the U.S. By studying the memory and brain tissue from a large group of genetically diverse mice, the team found that the expression of the gene Dlgap2 is associated with the degree of memory loss in mice and risk for Alzheimer's dementia in humans. Further research will ascertain how the gene influences dementia and mental function. Dlgap2, located in the synapses of neurons, serves to anchor critical receptors for signals between neurons required for learning and memory. When studying post-mortem human brain tissue, the team discovered low levels of Dlgap2 in people experiencing "poorer cognitive health" and "faster cognitive decline" prior to death, according to researchers. The team's findings were published in the journal Cell Reports. "The reason why this is so important is because a lot of research around cognitive aging and Alzheimer's has been hyper-focused on well-known risk genes like APOE and brain pathologies," Kaczorowski says. "We wanted to give ourselves the option of looking at new things people keep ignoring because they've never heard about a gene before." Researchers found that Dlgap2 influences the formation of dendritic spines on neurons, which can affect cognitive function. Longer, thinner spines shaped like mushrooms demonstrate higher mental performance than stubbier spines in mice, Ouellette says, and decreased cognition correlates with a loss in dendritic spines. The study serves as a springboard for additional research into Dlgap2. Ouellette will explore how it influences cognition and how it can be used in therapeutic treatment for memory loss, in part by manipulating the gene with the editing tool CRISPR. Other members of the Kaczorowski lab are studying how to regulate Dlgap2 with pharmaceuticals to help prevent cognitive decline with age. Scientists relied on Diversity Outbred mice, a population from eight parents created by The Jackson Laboratory to better reflect genetic diversity in humans. The Dlgap2 study involved 437 mice, each one either six, 12 or 18 months old. "It's great because you can harness the best parts of a mouse study and human society," Ouellette says. "Historically, research has been done with inbred mice with similar genetic makeups; same, similar genetic models. But clinically, humans don't work like that because they're not genetically identical." The team performed quantitative trait loci mapping on the mouse population, examining entire genome sequences to identify genes responsible for varying cognitive function and where they occurred in the sequences. After pinpointing the connection between Dlgap2 and memory decline in mice, researchers evaluated its significance in human mental functionality using genomewide association studies for Alzheimer's dementia and studying samples of post-mortem brain tissue using imaging, microscopy and other methods. Kaczorowski says the project relied on information and expertise from all 25 co-authors. For example, Gary Churchill, professor and Karl Gunnar Johansson chair at JAX, Elissa Chesler, professor at JAX, and postdoctoral fellow Niran Hadad provided their expertise in utilizing diversity outbred models and cross-species genomic data integration to the project. Their efforts, she says, emphasizes the importance of teamwork in advancing medical research. "We're going to be able to contribute a lot more to human health with team science," she says. The GSBSE and The Jackson Laboratory partner to provide cooperative Ph.D. programs that include on-site training at the laboratory in Bar Harbor. The school also partners with other academic and research institutions to provide similar learning experiences. UMaine grants the degrees for these programs. Kaczorowski says the GSBSE's biomedical science Ph.D. program gives students hands-on learning opportunities that, like with Ouellette, can help them realize their passion and talents. Researching Dlgap2 with Kaczorowski influenced Ouellette's Ph.D. dissertation further exploring how the Dlgap2 influences cognition in animals. "I really like this study because it's very interdisciplinary," Ouellette says, adding that it harmonizes biological and computational science. "This study set me on a path that makes me want to be a more interdisciplinary scientist." Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers resources to producers during hay shortage

23 Nov 2020

Many livestock and equine owners in Maine purchase all of their hay and forage needs for winter. While this year's growing season started out well, forage growth was reduced due to low rainfall in most of the state, especially for second and third hay cuttings. According to University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor Rick Kersbergen, now is the time for livestock owners to assess what they have for feed, the number of animals they will be feeding, and what they will need for the next six to seven months. Kersbergen advises against waiting until winter to source forage in the midst of a shortage. UMaine Extension maintains a regularly updated interactive hay directory to help locate forage sources. Additional resources include how to determine the amount of forage needed and how to test the quality of forage. For more information, contact Rick Kersbergen, 207.342.5971; richard.kersbergen@maine.edu.

Fall issue of Maine Policy Review now available, includes winning student essays

23 Nov 2020

The fall 2020 issue of Maine Policy Review (Volume 29, No. 2), a special issue celebrating Maine's bicentennial, is now available on MPR's Digital Commons site. A brief look at this issue is available on MPR's website. The issue provides an overview of Maine's rich history with articles that focus on the state's economic development and demographics and articles that examine the impacts of state policies on Indigenous peoples, immigrants and people of color. Other pieces recognize the state's enormous natural beauty and resource wealth and assess the role of people and policies in the stewardship and development of these natural resources. It also includes submissions by Margaret Chase Smith Library High School Essay Contest winners, two of whom are now UMaine students: Michael Delorge of Biddeford and Neily Raymond of Hermon. Maine Policy Review publishes independent, peer-reviewed analyses of public policy issues important to the state. Archival issues are available on MPR's Digital Commons.

UMaine wins UPCEA Marketing Award

23 Nov 2020

The University of Maine is a recipient of a 2020 UPCEA Crisis Management Marketing Award. UMaine's Division of Lifelong Learning partnered with Enrollment Management on their submission "UMaine Summer Start," which earned a bronze award. The Crisis Management Marketing Award celebrates flexibility and creativity in marketing during the pandemic, recognizing an outstanding professional, continuing or online organization that has demonstrated the ability to pivot their marketing and implement new plans during these challenging times. University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) is the leading association for these fields, serving

most of the leading public and private colleges and universities in North America. This achievement will be honored virtually at the UPCEA Marketing and Enrollment Management Seminar Dec. 2–4 and shared with attendees in a poster presentation, "Freezing First Year Summer Melt: A New Enrollment Strategy for Engaging Incoming Students Through Summer University."

Franklin Journal promotes decorating with Maine evergreens workshop

23 Nov 2020

The Franklin Journal promoted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Oxford County's 4-H Program offering a virtual workshop for youth about decorating with Maine evergreens at noon Dec. 2. Register on the event webpage.

Media advance Extension seed selection webinar Dec. 16

23 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, The Piscataquis Observer, the Daily Bulldog, Morning Ag Clips, Centralmaine.com and the Boothbay Register promoted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar, "Planning Your Vegetable Garden: Selecting the Right Seeds," from noon–1 p.m. Dec. 16. More information about the event is online.

BDN interviews Kersbergen about hay shortage in Maine

23 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with Rick Kersbergen, University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor, about the availability of hay and straw this year. According to Kersbergen, drought and increased demand for winter forage have created a shortage and resulted in significant price increases.

Press Herald updates UMS COVID-19 case numbers

23 Nov 2020

The Portland Press Herald reported 67 active coronavirus cases among the eight University of Maine System campuses on Sunday, including 10 students and 47 total cases at UMaine. Centralmaine.com shared the Press Herald story.

BDN advances Mitchell Center talk about nanotechnology for sustainable water treatment

23 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News advanced an upcoming webinar about how nanotechnology can contribute to sustainable water treatment hosted by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine. Onur Apul, an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMaine, will deliver the talk, "Sustainable Water Treatment — Moving from Victorian Era Technology to Nanotechnology," from 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 30. To register and receive connection information, visit the event webpage.

Wheeler cited in Press Herald coverage of campus wastewater testing

23 Nov 2020

The Portland Press Herald talked with Robert Wheeler, University of Maine associate professor of microbiology and leader of the COVID-19 water sampling initiative at UMaine, about testing wastewater to predict coronavirus outbreaks on campus and in the town of Orono.

Blackstone in Lifehacker story about the childfree choice

23 Nov 2020

Amy Blackstone, a University of Maine professor of sociology, was quoted in a Lifehacker story offering tips for reframing and answering questions about childlessness. Blackstone is the author of "Childfree by Choice: The Movement Redefining Family and Creating a New Age of Independence."

Washington Post interviews Socolow about reality-based journalism

23 Nov 2020

The Washington Post quoted Michael Socolow, University of Maine media historian and director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, about how journalists can mitigate the spread of disinformation by featuring regular Americans in their reporting rather than politicians.

Maine AgrAbility, UMaine Extension offer resources to veterans about farming in Maine

24 Nov 2020

Maine AgrAbility and University of Maine Cooperative Extension have developed resources specifically for Maine military veterans who are farming or want to know more about farming in Maine. Maine AgrAbility Veteran Resources includes a checklist for veterans looking for farm employment, UMaine Extension's publication Guide to Veteran-to-Farmer Training Pilot Program Resources in Maine, and links to other relevant local and national programs. For more information, contact 207.944.1533, 800.287.1478 (in Maine), or maine.agrability@maine.edu. Maine AgrAbility assists farmers, fishermen and forest workers to overcome disabilities, injuries or other barriers so they can continue to work safely and productively in agriculture. This material is supported by a grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) under sponsored project number 2018-41590-28715.

Mitchell Center hosts talk about using nanotechnology for sustainable water treatment

24 Nov 2020

The Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine will host a talk about how nanotechnology can contribute to sustainable water treatment 3–4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 30. Safe drinking water is essential for life on Earth, yet billions of people around the world lack access to it. Many of the most common water treatment systems still rely on technologies from the Victorian era and were not designed for modern water safety challenges. Crises such as lead in drinking water in Flint, Michigan, and microplastics and PFAS around the globe underline the vulnerability of current water systems. In this talk, "Sustainable Water Treatment — Moving from Victorian Era Technology to Nanotechnology," the final in the Mitchell Center's series of sustainability talks for fall 2020, Onur Apul will discuss solutions that nanotechnology can offer for sustainable water treatment in today's world. Apul is assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMaine. He has published more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, submitted five patent applications, and has given 50 presentations, including invited keynote lectures and talks at national and international meetings. The talk is free and available via Zoom; registration is required. To register and receive connection information, please see the event webpage. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Ruth Hallsworth, 207.581.3196; hallsworth@maine.edu.

Male Athletes Against Violence release 'Hands are not for Hitting' videos

24 Nov 2020

Members of the University of Maine's Male Athletes Against Violence group released videos of members reading the children's book "Hands Are Not for Hitting," and are making them available to local elementary schools. The 2009 book, written by psychologist Martine Agassi and illustrated by Marieka Heinlen, teaches children that violence is never OK, and how to manage anger and other strong emotions. UMaine athletes usually visit schools to read the book to children in-person, but opted to provide the videos this year due to the pandemic. Videos from UMaine student athletes Dawson Bruneski, a hockey player, Matt Pushard, a baseball player, and Kenny Doak, David Gelb and Justin Sambu, all football players, are posted on the MAAV website. Children look to adults as role models, and UMaine's student athletes are excellent role models, says professor of family relations and human sexuality Sandra Caron, MAAV faculty advisor.

BDN advances Dec. 3 talk about the American Revolution in Maine

24 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News advanced a Zoom talk by Liam Riordan, a University of Maine professor of history, at 7 p.m. Dec. 3. "Does the American Revolution Look Different from the Penobscot River?" is presented by the Witherle Memorial Library of Castine and the Maine Humanities Council. More information and a registration link are online.

Media highlight Extension's edible gifts webinar

24 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Penobscot Bay Pilot, The Piscataquis Observer, Centralmaine.com, WAGM and Turner Publishing highlighted University of Maine Cooperative Extension's webinar about preparing edible holiday gifts 2–3 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

WABI reports on bookstore's discount to support Black Bear Exchange

24 Nov 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the University Bookstore offering a discount to customers who donate food items to Black Bear Exchange, the on-campus food pantry. The store will offer a voucher for 30% off one regular priced item valid through Dec. 31 in exchange for three eligible nonperishable food items. "There's just such a need out there, and it's even hyped up more with the pandemic, so I think us partnering with them is huge this holiday season, and I think that it's very, very important, even more so today than a year ago," said Ranee Dow, manager of Bear Necessities.

AP, Centralmaine.com advance Boots-to-Bushels program

24 Nov 2020

The Associated Press and Centralmaine.com advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension training program in small-scale farming for market sales to military veterans and family members and farmers with disabilities starting in January. "Boots-2-Bushels: Boot Camp for Market Gardeners and Farmers," features semimonthly online classes that will be held through May 24 via Zoom and weekly, hands-on fieldwork from May–September at the Kennebec Valley Community College Harold Alfond Campus, 677 Skowhegan Road, Clinton. The first online class will be held from noon–4 p.m. Jan. 11. Registration is required and can be done on the event webpage. The Bangor Daily News, WGME (Channel 13 in Portland), New England Cable News, U.S. News and World Report, The Caledonian Record, The Irregular, the Argus-Press, The Clay Center Dispatch, The Washington Times, The Titusville Herald and Granthshala News shared the AP report.

BDN, WMTW report on COVID-19 case figures

24 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News and WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) reported on recent COVID-19 case figures for the University of Maine System, including the number of cases at the University of Maine. UMS reported 84 known cases of COVID-19 among students and employees, including 66 at UMaine, as of Nov. 23. Inside Higher Ed shared the BDN story.

Media report on UMaine, Aqua Ventus helping build first floating offshore wind research array

24 Nov 2020

Maine Public, the Portland Press Herald, Riviera, Renewable Energy Magazine and OffshoreWIND.biz reported that Gov. Janet Mills, in partnership with the University of Maine and New England Aqua Ventus, seeks to build the first floating offshore wind research array in the U.S. Mills is searching for 16 square miles of ocean that can be leased to house as many as 12 floating wind turbines. The turbines will be sited 20-40 miles offshore in water 50-200 meters deep.

President Ferrini-Mundy recent guest on 'Maine Calling'

24 Nov 2020

University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy participated in a recent "Maine Calling" episode about the $500 million gift to higher education and research institutions in Maine from the Harold Alfond Foundation.

UMaine, UMS will have roles in implementing recommendations of the state's Economic Recovery Committee

25 Nov 2020

Innovation, entrepreneurship and talent development and attraction are key to growing Maine's economy, according to the second and final report of Gov. Janet Mills' Economic Recovery Committee. Those also are the strengths of the University of Maine System and the state's research university, the University of Maine — Maine's public higher education institutions that are more committed than ever to helping the state emerge from the pandemic and pursue its economic development strategy, according to UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. Indeed, the Economic Recovery Committee's newly released report echoes the tenets of the UMS Research and Development Plan FY20–FY24, and UMaine's Strategic Vision and Values: A Framework for the University's Future. It also aligns with the recent $240 million investment by the Harold Alfond Foundation in the UMS TRANSFORMS initiatives. "The recommendations of the Economic Recovery Committee recognize that innovation, entrepreneurship and development of a workforce with the 21st-century skills drive economic growth and are worthy of bold public investment to accelerate Maine's recovery," says President Ferrini-Mundy, who served on the strategic work team that helped develop Maine's 10-year strategic economic development plan, "Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029: A Focus on Talent and Innovation," that was announced in December 2019. "Many of the recommendations, especially around innovating for the future of our heritage industries while harnessing our winds and waters to create a new clean energy industry, build on the existing strengths and partnerships of the University of Maine. We applaud the committee's vision and look forward to partnering on the bold initiatives that will sustain and add value to our vital natural resources while improving our already outstanding quality of life, especially in the state's rural regions." UMaine innovation and research were cited in the new report that called for investment in "high-potential industries," especially bioproducts and clean energy. UMaine research and development in bioproducts and clean energy generation has helped make Maine a national leader, notes the report. That includes the university's work in offshore wind, bioenergy, bioplastics and cross-laminated timber, according to the committee report. Also noted in the report's section on accelerating Maine's economic growth by investing "boldly, strategically and consistently in next-generation technology and innovation to grow our value-add economy" — UMaine's leadership as one of eight national regional centers designated by the U.S. Department of Energy to support deployment of highly efficient combined heat and power technologies. The report also calls for the need to "unleash the potential of Maine's workforce by creating educational and training pathways for people of all experience levels to access careers in high-demand fields." It notes that the University of Maine System, the Community College System and private higher education institutions in the state will have major roles to play in helping ensure accessible, affordable education for working adults. That same leadership is needed in helping ensure that all in Maine have high-quality broadband "to support economic development, remote work, distance education, telehealth and meaningful community connections," according to the report. Those are roles that UMS embraces and will advance as part of the state's economic recovery efforts, says Chancellor Dannel Malloy. "Prioritizing the safety and success of students in the pandemic has accelerated the pace of change and broadened access to higher education," Chancellor Malloy says. "The Economic Recovery Committee's $93 million proposed investment in postsecondary education would build on the bet the Harold Alfond Foundation has made on the future of the University of Maine System, its students, and our state. Innovation must be the expectation when it comes to creating pathways that connect learners to attainment, employers and careers in the high-demand fields that will drive our economic recovery and future." Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

BDN interviews Dill about dealing with rats on farms

25 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Griffin Dill, an integrated pest management professional at University of Maine Cooperative Extension, about how to deal with rats on farms. "I never wish harm on any creature," Dill said. "But rats are reservoirs of disease and one of those things that can cause a lot of devastation in the settings they inhabit."

Ippolito speaks with News Center about safety online

25 Nov 2020

Jon Ippolito, a professor of new media at the University of Maine, spoke with News Center Maine about ways to keep children safe while they are online. Children, Ippolito said, should use fake usernames, avoid sharing passwords and personal information, and think twice about allowing apps to use their contacts and the cameras in their devices. "All of these social media apps need to be scrutinized by parents and they need to teach their kids about oversharing and good practices for staying safe and keeping their data private," he said.

BDN reports on new COVID-19 case numbers

25 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported on updated active COVID-19 case totals for the University of Maine System, which includes a figure for the University of Maine. UMS reported on Nov. 24 that a total of 88 known active cases of COVID-19 have been found among students and employees, including 75 at UMaine.

KSAT reports on discoveries from Everest expedition

25 Nov 2020

KSAT in San Antonio reported on research from the most comprehensive scientific expedition to Mount Everest. Several researchers, including scientists from the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, participated in the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, and shared their findings in papers published in the interdisciplinary scientific journal One Earth. Paul Mayewski, director of the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, said the discovery of accelerating ice loss in glaciers around Mount Everest in particular serves as "a real wake-up call."

Media advances JAX, UMaine Alzheimer's dementia research

25 Nov 2020

ScienceDaily and News Medical advanced a media release about a Jackson Laboratory- and University of Maine-led research team discovering a connection between the gene Dlgap2 and Alzheimer's dementia. Catherine Kaczorowski, associate professor and Evnin family chair in Alzheimer's research at The Jackson Laboratory (JAX), and adjunct professor with the UMaine Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering (GSBSE); Andrew Ouellette, a Ph.D student at JAX and a GSBSE NIH T32 predoctoral awardee; and their colleagues found that the expression of the gene Dlgap2, which helps facilitate communication between neurons in the nervous system, is associated with the degree of memory loss in mice and risk for Alzheimer's dementia in humans.

Miner speaks with Smithsonian Magazine about Everest oxygen study

25 Nov 2020

Kimberley Miner spoke to Smithsonian Magazine about a study exploring how climate change has altered oxygen levels at Mount Everest. The study, which the assistant professor at the Climate Change Institute was not involved in, revealed that the rise in air pressure resulting from climate change near the summit has made oxygen more available. It also showed how dramatic the variability in air pressure can be. "Looking at the way that oxygen is affected in the higher alpine environments [is] something that probably doesn't strike people immediately when you talk about climate change, but these secondary impacts could have very specific effects on climbers and mountaineers [and are] also just as significant," Miner said. The authors of the study joined Miner and other CCI researchers in the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, the most comprehensive scientific expedition to Mount Everest.

CBS News cites Climate Reanalyzer in Arctic warming story

25 Nov 2020

CBS News cited the Climate Change Institute Climate Reanalyzer in a story about "astonishingly warmer" temperatures in the Arctic. The average temperature for the Arctic Circle, which spans 7.7 million square miles, reached 12 degrees Fahrenheit above normal Nov. 21–22, according to the reanalyzer. Since 2012, University of Maine CCI research assistant professor Sean Birkel has been building the Climate Reanalyzer site that provides access to climate and weather models, as well as historical station data. Grist shared the CBS News story.

Mayewski speaks with Popular Science about Everest research

25 Nov 2020

Paul Mayewski, director of the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, spoke with Popular Science about research from the most comprehensive scientific expedition to Mount Everest. CCI scientists joined others in the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, which resulted in several papers published in the interdisciplinary scientific journal One Earth. "This special edition accounts for like 20 percent of the information we collected," Mayewski said. "I believe this expedition will produce around 50 to 100 new papers. It's really comprehensive."

University of Maine Wabanaki Center gift to benefit student success

30 Nov 2020

An anonymous donor has made a $100,000 gift to create the Wabanaki Student Development and Success Fund at the University of Maine Foundation. The fund will assist Native American students pursuing University of Maine degrees "so that they can graduate as tomorrow's leaders of their communities." John Bear Mitchell, Wabanaki Center outreach and student development coordinator, worked with the donor to establish the fund. Mitchell says the donor was inspired by another gift that supports pre-law Native American students enrolled in the University of Maine System. "We are so very grateful for this wonderful gift," says University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. "It supports our work on diversity, and student success and retention — three of UMaine's highest priorities. This gift also helps us with our matching gift goals as part of the recently announced Harold Alfond Foundation grant." The Wabanaki Center works to enhance awareness of Native Americans through its participation in campuswide efforts to promote cultural diversity, and through its significant contributions to the development of university curricula and programs. The center promotes Native American student development, and provides support for their academic, career and personal objectives. Darren Ranco, associate professor of anthropology and chair of Native American Programs, says this gift will support students "in both big and small ways, with the aim of keeping our Native students in successful college careers, graduating, and pursuing careers to benefit their communities, the state and the region." Emily Haddad, dean of the UMaine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, says "gifts like this help keep a UMaine degree within reach for any Native student, preparing graduates to sustain their communities and lead rewarding lives." Due to the structure of the gift, some funds will be made available immediately to help students and a portion of the gift will be endowed to provide ongoing support. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Want to grow fruit trees? Experts to offer lessons at Dec. 2 discussion

30 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will offer a webinar for aspiring or current hobby orchardists and commercial growers about growing fruit trees in Maine from noon–1 p.m. Dec. 2. "Reflections on the Season: Growing Fruit Trees in Maine" will feature UMaine Extension tree fruit specialist Renae Moran, orchardist Scott Miller, ReTreeUS program manager Richard Hodges, and Molly DellaRoman and Tim Skillin, owners of Five Star Orchard in Brooklin, for a panel discussion. Topics include reflections on this past growing season, lessons and challenges from different parts of the state, and plans for next year's growing season. Attendees will be able to submit questions when they register. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu. This is the fifth in a six-part fall gardening webinar series offered every other Wednesday through mid-December.

UMaine Extension hosts home maple syrup production webinar Dec. 5

30 Nov 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is hosting a webinar with the Southern Maine Maple Sugarmakers Association (SMMSA) about the home maple syrup production process 9–11:30 a.m. Dec. 5. Webinar topics include identifying and tapping trees, collecting and boiling sap, and filtering, grading and canning syrup. Instructors include UMaine Extension sustainable agriculture professional Jason Lilley, SMMSA president Rich Morrill, who also owns Nash Valley Farm in Windham, and Frank Ferrucci, owner of Maple Moon Farm in Lebanon. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Becky Gray, 207.781.6099; rebecca.gray@maine.edu.

Bangor Daily reports latest coronavirus case numbers for UMaine, UMS

30 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that as of Nov. 30 there are 114 active coronavirus cases across the University of Maine System campuses, including 104 at UMaine.

Media promote birding club for Maine youth

30 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Penobscot Bay Pilot, The Piscataquis Observer, the Daily Bulldog, Centralmaine.com, Turner Publishing and The Irregular advanced the University of Maine Cooperative Extension "4-H Bird Chats" club for youth ages 9–18. The statewide club, which will meet online once a month, will teach participants about citizen science by reporting local bird sightings to Project FeederWatch. More information about the club is online.

Media report UMaine students quarantined over Thanksgiving

30 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News and WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) reported that 50 students across the University of Maine System were quarantined during Thanksgiving, and interviewed a first year UMaine student for the story. The College Post reported that 15 students quarantined at UMaine were provided access to counseling services, were having meals delivered daily and receiving invitations to virtual events. WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the BDN story.

WABI talks with Quinn about food insecurity, SAAC support for campus food pantry

30 Nov 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Buffie Quinn, cooperating faculty in the Maine Business School and adviser to the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) about SAAC efforts to raise money to support the Black Bear Exchange, a campus food pantry that serves students, faculty, staff and their immediate families. Quinn noted that the need has increased significantly this year due to the pandemic.

Media advance webinar for livestock owners Dec. 9

30 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com and Morning Ag Clips promoted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar, "Got Livestock, Need Hay?" to be offered at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Dec. 9. Webinar topics include assessing the amount of livestock feed required for winter and on hand, sharing strategies for addressing shortages, and providing crop insurance information specific to livestock producers. More information about the webinar is online.

Kaye opinion piece on hospice, end of life care services utilization in BDN

30 Nov 2020

The Bangor Daily News published a guest column by Lenard Kaye, University of Maine professor of social work and director of the Center on Aging, highlighting a lack of knowledge about hospice and end of life care services among the public and medical providers in the Bangor area. Kaye is a founding member of the Collaborative for Hospice and End of Life Care, which was launched in 2019 to increase awareness and timely utilization of these services in Greater Bangor.

Ferrini-Mundy talks with News Center about successful semester at UMaine

30 Nov 2020

President of the University of Maine and the University of Maine Machias Joan Ferrini-Mundy was interviewed by News Center Maine to mark the conclusion of in-person learning last week. "We had a fantastic plan and so many people worked all the way through the semester, and I think it went really, very, very well," Ferrini-Mundy said. "Our students were remarkable."

Press Herald mentions UMaine's Aqua Ventus project in story about Biden administration

30 Nov 2020

In an article highlighting the impact in Maine of policy differences between the Trump and Biden administrations, the Portland Press Herald noted that the Department of Energy will likely support the University of Maine's Aqua Ventus project with federal investment in clean, renewable energy research and innovation.

UMaine researchers explore population size, density in rise of centralized power in antiquity

30 Nov 2020

Early populations shifted from quasi-egalitarian hunter-gatherer societies to communities governed by a centralized authority in the middle to late Holocene, but how the transition occurred still puzzles anthropologists. A University of Maine-led group of researchers contend that population size and density served as crucial drivers. Anthropology professor Paul "Jim" Roscoe led the development of Power Theory, a model emphasizing the role of demography in political centralization, and applied it to the shift in power dynamics in prehistoric northern coastal societies in Peru. To test the theory, he, Daniel Sandweiss, professor of anthropology and Quaternary and climate studies, and Erick Robinson, a postdoctoral anthropology researcher at Utah State University, created a summed probability distribution (SPD) from 755 radiocarbon dates from 10,000–1,000 B.P., or before present. The team found a correlation between the tenets of their Power Theory, or that population density and size influence political centralization, and the change in power dynamics in early Peruvian societies. The team shared their findings in a report published in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B. "I've always been interested in how, in the space of just five to 10,000 years, humans went from biddy little hunter-gatherer groups in which nobody could really push anyone else around to vast industrial states governed by a few people with enormous power. From my fieldwork and other research in New Guinea, it became clear that leaders mainly emerged in large, high-density populations, and Power Theory explained why," Roscoe says. "Unfortunately, it was difficult until recently for archaeologists to get a handle on the size and densities of populations in the past. SPD techniques are a major help in bringing these important variables into understanding how human social life underwent this dramatic transformation." Scientists have previously posited that population in northern coastal Peru rose during the Late Preceramic, Initial, Early Horizon and Early Intermediate periods, or between about 6,000–1,200 B.P. The SPD from Roscoe and his colleagues validates the notion. The people who settled in the coastal plain first lived as mobile hunter-gatherers or incipient horticulturalists in low density groups, according to researchers. Millennia afterward in the Late Preceramic period, however, several developments brought increased interaction and shareable resources. People began farming, developed irrigation systems and became more settled as time passed. Eventually, some of the world's first 'pristine' states formed in the plain. The onset and growth of agriculture, irrigation and sedentism, propelled by upticks in population size and density, fostered the capacity of political agents to interact with and manipulate others. Political centralization and hierarchy formed as a result, according to researchers. Roscoe and his colleagues demonstrated through their radio-carbon SPD that the rise in centralized authorities in early Peruvian communities that resulted from farming, irrigation and settlement coincided with an uptick in population size. The results of their work demonstrate "a broad, low-resolution congruence between the expectations of Power Theory and what is currently known about coastal Peruvian antiquity," they wrote in their study. The project also highlights the capability of SPDs for examining the influence of demography in the growth of prehistoric political centralization. Determining the extent of that influence, however, requires additional study. "We're hoping this work demonstrates the value of SPDs for understanding the role of demography in the emergence and development of power centers on Earth," Roscoe says. "What we need now is to increase the size of our SPD databases and filter out some of the weaknesses we know they contain." Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers tips for preparing edible gifts Dec. 8

01 Dec 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar about preparing edible holiday gifts from 2–3 p.m. Dec. 8. Topics include cost-effective ways to make edible holiday gifts, food safety tips to consider, and Maine foods to use in soup and baking mixes and preserved products. UMaine Extension staff will demonstrate recipes in an interactive format. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty, 207.781.6099; kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

News Center Maine updates coronavirus numbers for UMaine

01 Dec 2020

News Center Maine reported that there are currently 110 active cases of COVID-19 at the University of Maine, and 121 across all the University of Maine System campuses. WTNA (Channel 24 in Memphis, Tenn.) shared the News Center story.

Phys.org highlights Roscoe's Power Theory model

01 Dec 2020

Phys.org shared a University of Maine news release describing a study by Jim Roscoe, professor of anthropology, and Daniel Sandweiss, professor of anthropology and Quaternary and climate studies, that tested Roscoe's Power Theory. Using a radiocarbon summed probability distribution (SPD) model, the team found that population size and density influenced political centralization in Peru from 10,000–1,000 before present. Their findings were published in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B.

Associated Press reports UMaine to train workforce for tourism, recreation

01 Dec 2020

The Associated Press reported that the University of Maine has received nearly $287,000 from the Northern Border Regional Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to build the tourism workforce to serve western Maine. The Portland Press Herald and Centralmaine.com shared the AP story.

McGill named one of the most cited researchers in the world for second consecutive year

01 Dec 2020

For the second consecutive year, University of Maine professor of biological sciences Brian McGill, whose research focuses on modeling large-scale ecology and global change, has been named one of the most cited researchers worldwide, according to Clarivate. The company's 2020 Highly Cited Researchers list identifies researchers who produced multiple scientific papers ranking in the top 1% by citations for their field and year of publication, demonstrating significant influence among their peers. Highly Cited Researchers make up just 0.1% of all researchers. The 2020 Highly Cited Researchers list of 6,167 "identifies and celebrates exceptional individual researchers who are having a great impact on the research community as measured by the rate at which their work is being cited by others," according to Clarivate, a global leader in providing solutions to accelerate innovation. The organization's Web of Science citation index, which it uses to create the list, provides "the largest publisher-neutral citation index and research intelligence platform." Among those on the 2020 list are 26 Nobel laureates and other researchers from more than 60 nations. McGill is one of 2,650 researchers from the United States, accounting for the largest percentage — 41.5% — of the 2020 list. The full list of Highly Cited Researchers for 2020 is online. McGill's accolade follows his inclusion in the organization's 2019 Highly Cited Researchers list. Since 2003, McGill had 117 publications cited a total of 9,622 times. The top three: "Rebuilding community ecology from functional traits," for which he was first author, published in 2006 in "Trends in Ecology and Evolution" (cited 2,223 times); "The return of the variance: intraspecific variability in community ecology," published in 2012 in "Trends in Ecology and Evolution" (cited 723 times); and "Species abundance distributions and moving beyond single prediction theories to integration within an ecological framework," for which he also was first author, published in 2007 in "Ecology Letters" (cited 714 times). The UMaine professor has been published in a total of 46 journals, including Nature, Science, Global Change Biology and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. McGill has been a faculty member in the UMaine School of Biology and Ecology since 2010. He holds a joint appointment in the Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions and a cooperating appointment in the Climate Change Institute. In his research, McGill studies biodiversity at large scales — large areas of space, long periods of time and across many species — that are critical to addressing conservation and management questions. Goals include developing the ability to predict how species ranges will respond to climate change, and measuring the impact of humans on community structure. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Experts contribute to Maine's plan for climate action

02 Dec 2020

The Maine Climate Council released its four-year plan for climate action Tuesday, the same day 60-mph wind gusts were battering the state. As Council member Ivan Fernandez remarked during the public release of the report that the five hottest years in Earth's recorded history were the last five, the temperature in a number of communities in Maine had hit 60 degrees. On Dec. 1. When Gov. Mills convened the Council in September 2019, she announced an executive order to make Maine's economy carbon neutral by 2045. The Council's plan is titled "Maine Won't Wait." Fernandez, University of Maine Distinguished Maine Professor in the School of Forest Resources, the Climate Change Institute, and the School of Food and Agriculture, said the state, and the world, can't wait. "The indicators of climate change are accelerating and so too must our response," he says. Fernandez referenced 2020's increasingly common intense winds, the Gulf of Maine's record-warm temperatures, megafires that have scorched 8 million U.S. acres, punishing drought, 30-plus tropical storms and hurricanes, and mounting devastation due to sea-level rise. That's some of the bad news. The good news, he says, is that the Council knows what needs to be done. The Maine Climate Action plan lays out a pathway. Fernandez and other experts from UMaine, the University of Maine at Machias, the University of Maine School of Law, the University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine at Farmington helped inform and craft the plan with government officials, scientists, business and industry leaders, and citizens. The path includes investing in renewable energy, harnessing natural climate solutions to store carbon, and building resilience in farms, forests, and fisheries to survive and thrive in the 21st century. "We have seen time and again that science-informed policy is cost-effective for American society," Fernandez says. Fernandez, who also co-chaired the Council's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and served on the Natural and Working Lands Working Group, says it's important that "we invest in the future rather than in the past. This is guidance to do that." Sean Birkel, the Maine State Climatologist and a research assistant professor with UMaine's Climate Change Institute and School of Earth and Climate Sciences, served with Fernandez on the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. He says that by "implementing climate mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency strategies now, we can help minimize future climate impacts, while also protecting Maine's economy and natural environment." Birkel, who developed the Climate Reanalyzer, says there's clear evidence of climate change in Maine during the past century, especially the past 20 years. "The changing climate affects all of Maine's economic sectors, from tourism, to agriculture and forestry, to trade." UMaine and University of Maine at Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy says that faculty, staff and students will continue to address complex challenges of local, national and international significance — including climate change — with research-based knowledge. Ferrini-Mundy also notes the UMS Research and Development Plan FY20–FY24, UMaine's Strategic Vision and Values: A Framework for the University's Future and the $240 million investment by the Harold Alfond Foundation in the UMS TRANSFORMS initiatives align with findings in Gov. Mills' Economic Recovery Committee report that call for innovation, entrepreneurship and talent development and attraction. "We take seriously our mission to improve the quality of life for people in Maine, to build economic prosperity, and to promote responsible stewardship of human, natural, and financial resources," she says. Habib Dagher, executive director of the UMaine Advanced Structures and Composites Center, calls this day a historic one for the state. "Following two decades of research and development, we are ready to leverage Maine's vast offshore wind and wood resources to fight climate change and strengthen our economy," he says. "Our leading

research programs in deepwater offshore wind and bio-based additive manufacturing create pathways for the state to achieve the strategies outlined in the Climate Action Plan, including ambitious emission reduction goals and the development of sustainable energy and Maine forest products. What we have discovered is that not only are these goals achievable, we can do so while lowering long-term energy costs and creating good-paying jobs." Gayle Zydlewski, director of Maine Sea Grant, says the Council's work is critical for the sustainability and resilience of the state's coastal communities and ecosystems. Climate-related changes are already threatening valuable wild and farmed fisheries, along with the marine heritage and cultural identity of coastal communities. "Based on our work with coastal communities, the seafood industry, and statewide coastal energy and infrastructure planning initiatives, we understand that the cost of not advancing these efforts will far outstrip the cost of making what changes we can make today to help communities and industry mitigate and adapt to the challenges of climate change," she says. Maine Sea Grant, Zydlewski says, will continue to engage with the Council, state and Legislature and its partners on climate change strategies moving forward, and is available to provide technical expertise and help support outreach and education efforts." Dan Dixon, UMaine's sustainability director and a research assistant professor with the Climate Change Institute, says Maine, and the entire planet, is in the midst of a rapid climate change event caused by unchecked emission of fossil carbon into Earth's atmosphere. At UMaine, he leads efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of the campus through energy-use reduction, energy-efficiency improvements, composting, recycling, eliminating waste, and sustainability education and outreach. UMaine is a charter signatory of The Carbon Commitment, which is focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving carbon neutrality as soon as possible. Darling Marine Center director Heather Leslie, who co-led the Coastal and Marine Working Group, is eager to begin conscientiously implementing strategies outlined in the report. "My hope is that people who've been involved in the work will stay involved, and those that haven't yet had the opportunity, read and hear about what the Council is recommending and find a way to make their perspectives heard and contribute to the work ahead." Jonathan Rubin says a thoughtful approach to change is key. He directs the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and is a professor in the UMaine School of Economics. He serves on the Transportation Working Group and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. "The idea that it's cheapest to do nothing is simply not true," says Rubin, who specializes in climate change economics, including transportation energy and economic mechanisms to help attain environmental goals. It's important to balance smart regulations that both reduce damage and position Maine's businesses to be in sync with other businesses across the country and world, he says. Tora Johnson, who directs the GIS Laboratory and Service Center at UMM, says climate adaptation and mitigation will be beneficial for citizens' well-being and the economic health of the state. "If we go about business as usual, the green economy will pass us by," says Johnson, a social scientist who focuses on climate resilience and adaptation in rural communities. And the costs of doing nothing will pile up. For instance, if a vulnerable wastewater plant fails, the waste that pours into a river and estuary threatens the health of people, the river, clams, and jobs. If the Council's recommendations are implemented, Fernandez envisions a state with more electric vehicles, offshore wind technologies, energy-efficient and climate-friendly buildings, a clean-energy economy, regenerative agricultural practices, communities with prioritized investments for climate resilience, improved tracking of vector-borne diseases, better delivery of medical treatment, and substantial gains with regard to equity. People and society can change fast, he says. "COVID has shown that. If we put a price on carbon, a lot can change quickly. I am optimistic." Experts from the University of Maine System serving on the Council's subcommittees/working groups include:

- Brian Beal, UMM; Ivan Fernandez (co-chair), Sean Birkel, Adam Daigneault, Joe Kelley, Rick Kersbergen, Glen Koehler, Bradfield Lyon, Jonathan Rubin, Robert Steneck, Rick Wahle and Aaron Weiskittel, UMaine, Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
- Abigayle Hargreaves, Jeff Thaler (and University of Maine School of Law), and Jake Ward, UMaine, Energy Working Group
- Jonathan Rubin, UMaine, Transportation Working Group
- Heather Leslie (co-chair), Kathleen Bell, Dave Townsend, Hattie Train and Jessica Reilly-Moman, UMaine; and Curtis Bohlen, USM, Coastal and Marine Working Group
- Hannah Carter and Ivan Fernandez, UMaine, Natural and Working Lands Working Group
- Andrew Barton, UMF; Tora Johnson, UMM; and Esperanza Stancioff, UMaine, Community Resilience Planning, Public Health, and Emergency Management Working Group
- Dan Dixon and Steve Shaler, UMaine, Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group

Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Shop, learn Dec. 12 at virtual Wabanaki Winter Market

02 Dec 2020

After last year's 25th annual Maine Indian Basketmakers Holiday Market, organizers renamed the event Wabanaki Winter Market to better represent participants and the wide range of artforms. And because of the coronavirus, the word "virtual" has been added to the name of the 26th annual market slated for Saturday, Dec. 12. This year's popular collaboration between the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and the University of Maine Hudson Museum will still include demonstrations and performances. John Bear Mitchell, Penobscot, will emcee the livestreamed event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shoppers and browsers can find names of participating basketmakers and other artists in the Hudson Museum's Wabanaki Artist Directory. Click on a name to get that artist's contact information, biography, photographs, and links to their professional websites and social media. From there, market-goers can visit each artist's website to purchase one-of-a-kind creations, including basketry, clothing, jewelry, beadwork and more directly from the artist. "In 26 years, we've never had to cancel," says Jennifer Neptune, director of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance. "We've had snowstorms and so many different conditions. We waited until the last possible moment to go virtual. I'm so happy that we found a way to do this for the 26th year." Neptune says the market is important for artists because during the pandemic, many other shows where they sell their works have been canceled. "Buying from local artists and small businesspeople makes a big impact in their lives and in area communities because the money stays here and gets spent locally," she says. Hudson Museum director Gretchen Faulkner says in addition to the market providing important income for Wabanaki artists at a crucial time of the year, it also provides an opportunity for the public to learn about Wabanaki history and culture through demonstrations, storytelling and music. "We could not have imagined at our 25th anniversary event last year that we would not be able to hold an in-person show this December," she says. "It was important that the Hudson carry on this tradition and we hope that you join us for this year's virtual Wabanaki Winter Market." Presenters and performers scheduled for the livestream event include: Barry Dana, Penobscot, birchbark artist; Gabriel Frey, Passamaquoddy, basketmaker; Jennifer Neptune, Penobscot, basketmaker and beadworker; Geo Neptune, Passamaquoddy, basketmaker; Carol Dana, Penobscot, storyteller; James Francis, Penobscot, multimedia artist; and Firefly (stage name of Jason Brown of Decontie & Brown), Penobscot, singer. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers forage, crop insurance webinar for livestock owners Dec. 9

02 Dec 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer two opportunities for livestock owners to get updates on forage resources and crop insurance starting at 10 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. Dec. 9. "Got Livestock, Need Hay?" features UMaine Extension professor Rick Kersbergen sharing information for livestock owners on assessing how much feed is needed and if enough is on hand, and strategies if a shortage seems likely. Extension crop insurance education program manager Chris Howard will share information specific to livestock producers. This webinar is free; registration is required. Register on the event webpage. The session will be recorded for later viewing. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu.

Media advance Extension beekeeping classes

02 Dec 2020

The Franklin Journal, the Bangor Daily News, the Sun Journal, Penobscot Bay Pilot, Boothbay Register, Daily Bulldog, Wiscasset Newspaper and Morning Ag Clips promoted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's online beekeeping courses, which begin Jan. 14. More information about the classes, which will be offered for novice and experienced beekeepers, is online.

Wahle talks with Ellsworth American about report on lobster stocks in Maine, New England

02 Dec 2020

The Ellsworth American interviewed Rick Wahle, director of the University of Maine's Lobster Institute, about the 2020 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment. The report, which is based on research conducted by several organizations including the Lobster Institute and UMaine's Sea Grant program, reveals positive and negative trends in the industry, but indicates that the fishery is being managed sustainably. The Mount Desert Islander shared the article.

Public News Service cites Fernandez in reporting on Maine's Climate Action Plan

02 Dec 2020

Public News Service cited Ivan Fernandez, professor of soil science and forest resources, in a story about the state's new climate action plan. Fernandez, a cooperating professor with UMaine's Climate Change Institute, co-chairs the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council.

WABI reports arts award to UMaine Foundation, Hudson Museum

03 Dec 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported that the University of Maine Foundation received a $5,000 award from the Maine Community Foundation's Maine Arts Expansion Fund to support the development and promotion of a virtual Wabanaki Winter Market and Wabanaki Artist Directory. The Hudson Museum will host the virtual event on Dec. 12. The Wabanaki Artist Directory is online.

Glover, Sporer opinion in BDN

03 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News featured a guest column by Rob Glover, a University of Maine associate professor of political science and honors, and Karyn Sporer, an assistant professor of sociology, highlighting the need for drug policy reform and flexibility in treating addiction in Maine. The pair, who are part of the Scholars Strategy Network, highlighted the opportunities for sensible policy reform presented by the pandemic.

Center Square, Examiner report on UMaine Aqua Ventus floating wind project

03 Dec 2020

The Center Square and The Washington Examiner published a story about Governor Janet Mills' efforts to advance the University of Maine and New England Aqua Ventus' experimental floating offshore wind project.

Defense Logistics Agency cites Pendse in announcing funding for wood waste to liquid fuel research

03 Dec 2020

The Defense Logistics Agency cited Hemant Pendse, director of the University of Maine's Forest Bioproducts Research Institute (FBRI), in a news release announcing an award of $4.8 million to FBRI to continue developing jet fuel from woody biomass. "UMaine's wood-to-liquid fuels project takes a holistic view of harnessing Maine's readily available woody biomass resources to create new revenue streams and new options for these resources," Pendse said. "The project not only helps forest communities but also provides novel technologies for meeting military and civilian renewable liquid fuel needs."

Porter, Tan working to develop genomic tools for potato breeders

03 Dec 2020

Two University of Maine researchers are part of a team of plant geneticists and breeders working to develop tools that will help Maine scientists and farmers become more efficient in breeding new cultivars and bringing novel, improved potato varieties to market. Greg Porter, professor of crop ecology and management in the School of Food and Agriculture, and E. Han Tan, assistant professor of plant genetics with the School of Biology and Ecology, have partnered with a team of national and international researchers to develop and test genomics-assisted tools intended to advance the breeding of economically important polyploid food crops such as potatoes and sweet potatoes, ornamentals such as roses, and aesthetic grasses, including turfgrass. Faculty at Texas A&M University (TAMU) are leading the project, which is funded with a $4.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Porter and Tan are part of the research group from TAMU, Cornell University, North Carolina State University, the University of Minnesota and Oregon State University working to develop applications for potato breeding. Genomic-assisted tools for hybridizing diploid crops have recently become available and are now widely used to improve a variety of economically important crops. But adapting these tools for polyploid crops, such as potatoes, has proven difficult, requiring plant geneticists and growers to employ traditional crossing and selection methods that can take more than a decade to produce improved cultivars. A key goal of this project is to develop faster, more reliable polyploid breeding methods to speed introduction of new potato varieties. Investigators estimate that successful development of genomic and computational tools for polyploid breeding could accelerate the rate of genetic gain in a wide range of plant breeding programs while producing higher quality, and more productive and resilient varieties. If effective, these tools could reduce the timeline from hybridization to cultivar evaluation by 50%. "Our potato improvement program is very effective at delivering improved potato varieties to Maine growers and beyond. The exciting new DNA-based tools that will be developed in this research project have the potential to speed up the delivery of new, higher quality, high yielding, pest resistant potato varieties to Maine growers and the U.S. potato industry," says Porter. Porter and Tan will work to integrate these newly developed software and computational tools in the University of Maine's conventional potato breeding program to identify desirable traits in locally adapted cultivars, and to map those characteristics to the potato genome. Genomic and phenotypic data from several hundred of UMaine's potato breeding selections will be analyzed each year using the new tools to validate the processes and model applications for other researchers and plant breeding programs. In addition, the tools developed as part of this project will be available on a community resource website managed by Washington State University, including software and manuals, training datasets and tutorials. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

UMaine Extension offers wreath-making resources

04 Dec 2020

Wreath-making is a traditional skill in Maine, one that can help generate income during what can be a time of slower cash flow for farmers. University of Maine Cooperative Extension has a variety of publications developed for wreath, garland and centerpiece makers. The bulletins include:

- "Balsam Fir Tip Harvesting," which provides information on identification, harvesting and selling balsam fir tips. The online version includes video on harvesting techniques.
- "Making Balsam Fir Wreaths," which includes information on materials needed and detailed instructions for making single- and double-faced wreaths.

- "Farmer Skill and Knowledge Checklist: Wreath, Garland, and Centerpiece-Makers," which is a comprehensive list of skills and information relevant for hobbyists and entrepreneurs.

UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog or by contacting 207.581.3792 or extension.orders@maine.edu. Wreath making involves repetitive motions such as cutting boughs and wrapping wire, as well as standing or working in awkward positions for long periods of time, all of which can contribute to muscle and joint pain and possible injury. Recommendations from Maine AgrAbility include varying tasks to prevent overuse of one set of muscles, alternating between seated and standing tasks, taking breaks and stretching, using ergonomically designed or lighter weight tools, and considering universal design recommendations at workstations. For more information contact 207.944.1533 or maine.agrability@maine.edu.

Media advance UMaine Extension's wreath-making bulletins

04 Dec 2020

The Portland Press Herald, the Bangor Daily News, the Daily Bulldog, Centralmaine.com, Seacoastonline and The Piscataquis Observer advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's bulletins for wreath-making. The three publications include "Balsam Fir Tip Harvesting," "Making Balsam Fir Wreaths," and "Farmer Skill and Knowledge Checklist: Wreath, Garland, and Centerpiece-Makers." UMaine Extension bulletins may be ordered or downloaded from the publications catalog or by contacting 207.581.3792 or extension.orders@maine.edu.

McCarty speaks to WAGM about edible gifts webinar

04 Dec 2020

Kathy McCarty, a food systems professional with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, spoke with WAGM in Presque Isle about a webinar exploring how to prepare edible holiday gifts from 2–3 p.m. Dec. 8. Topics include cost-effective ways to make edible holiday gifts, food safety tips to consider, and Maine foods to use in soup and baking mixes and preserved products. "I'm thinking also of preserved products," McCarty said. Register for the webinar on the program webpage to receive the link and resources.

BDN, Centralmaine.com highlight virtual Wabanaki Winter Market

04 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Centralmaine.com shared a media release about the virtual Wabanaki Winter Market. After last year's 25th annual Maine Indian Basketmakers Holiday Market, organizers renamed the event to better represent participants and the wide range of artforms. Despite it's virtual nature, this year's popular collaboration between the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and the University of Maine Hudson Museum will still include demonstrations and performances. John Bear Mitchell, Penobscot, will emcee the livestreamed event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Shoppers and browsers can find names of participating basketmakers and other artists in the Hudson Museum's Wabanaki Artist Directory.

News Center reports membrane to capture COVID-19 air droplets

04 Dec 2020

News Center Maine reported on a bioengineered membrane to detect and analyze coronavirus air droplets being developed by scientists at the University of Maine and University of Massachusetts Amherst. Testing for the membrane, which can be used as an insert in air filtration systems to capture virus-containing droplets for analysis, will begin next week in labs at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. According to the report, "researchers will use a less-lethal virus first." "So if we can catch this virus and pull it off the membrane for testing, we are confident we can do the same thing with SARS-CoV-2," said Caitlin Howell, a biomedical engineer at UMaine and one of the project's lead researchers.

Buoy Maine pitch competition announces winners

07 Dec 2020

Buoy Maine, a pitch competition launched by Maine Sea Grant to foster innovation and entrepreneurship that supports the state's working waterfront and coastal communities, will fund 10 innovative projects and ideas that help better address the challenges of operating a business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for the awards comes from the NOAA-National Sea Grant College Program as part of a 2020 COVID Rapid Response effort, Maine Technology Institute, Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, Maine Community Foundation, and Bangor Savings Bank. "We are particularly thrilled about the 10 funded projects," said Brian Whitney, president of Maine Technology Institute. "The investments will undoubtedly help bolster and support entrepreneurs in Maine's coastal and working waterfront communities during these most challenging times." A panel of independent judges selected the winning projects:

- Exploring Rope-Grown Kelp as a Fertilizer Input, led by Casey Ballin of Atlantic Sea Farms
- Value-Added Skincare Active Ingredient from Lobster Processors, led by Patrick Breeding of Marin Skincare
- #EatMaineSeafood Campaign, led by Monique Coombs from the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
- Lady Shuckers, led by Libby Davis of Lady Shuckers
- Can it, Maine! Adding Value and Resilience to Maine's Shellfish Seafood Sector, led by Meggan Dwyer from the University of Maine Aquaculture Research Institute
- Maine Oyster Trail, led by Afton Hupper from the Maine Aquaculture Association
- Promoting Small/Family Oyster Farms Through Shared Marketing of Growing-Regions, led by Jordan Kramer, Winnegance Oyster Farm
- Maine Seafood Discovery Tours, led by Greg Latimer of Red Cloak Tours
- Marketing Downeast Gold Mussels, a Unique Maine Brand, led by Kyle Pepperman from the Downeast Institute
- Damariscotta River Oysters: Maine Fresh Brand Development, led by Meredith White of Mook Sea Farm

For descriptions of the projects and a complete list of the judges and partners, visit the Maine Sea Grant website. Buoy Maine winners will work on their projects over the winter, and share their accomplishments and lessons learned at a public celebration in summer 2021. "Maine Sea Grant is so happy to direct COVID Rapid Response funds from NOAA into Maine," said Maine Sea Grant Director Gayle Zydlewski. "When the National Sea Grant Office announced this initiative, we worked closely with our partners to design and create a way to directly support the pressing needs of coastal communities while lifting all boats. "We are excited to support Buoy Maine winners and look forward to seeing these projects develop over the next six months to realize products and processes that support and bolster our coastal communities and businesses as we redefine normal operations," Zydlewski said. Contact: Hannah Robbins, 207.581.1442, hannah.robbins@maine.edu

Maura Philippone: Recent grad wants to help people find their true voices

07 Dec 2020

Maura Philippone has been awarded a 2020 National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Scholarship. The competitive merit-based scholarship is awarded to up to three undergraduate senior students nationwide who are active in NSSLHA and will begin their graduate studies in fall following graduation. Philippone graduated summa cum laude in May 2020 from the University of Maine's communication sciences and disorders program and Honors College. She also completed minors in French and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. The scholarship will help Philippone as she pursues a master's degree in speech-language pathology at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. After graduation, Philippone plans to provide voice therapy for people with disorders and differences. She is interested in specializing in transgender voice and communication therapy. **What inspired you to pursue a career in communication sciences and disorders?** A person's voice is how they share the thoughts in their mind with the people around them. The voice is one of the most intimate parts of our daily functioning, yet those who are fortunate enough to have a speaking voice that correlates with who they are rarely think twice about it. In high school, my friend told me, "I can change my hair. I can change my clothes. I can change my face with makeup. But without the money for therapy, I can't change my voice. Because of that, some people will only ever hear that my voice is deep, and they won't actually hear what I have to say." I was inspired to pursue a career in communication sciences and disorders because I want to help other people find their true voice and, in doing so, improve their quality of life. **How has your time at UMaine helped you on that path?** Without a doubt, my experiences both inside and outside of the classroom at UMaine shaped me into the clinician I am today. I am thankful for all of the professors who shared their wisdom with me throughout the past four years. One experience in particular that continues to influence my clinical practice is something Dr. Nancy Hall taught us. She said, "If you've seen one case, you've seen *one* case." This perspective reminds me to look beyond my own assumptions about a client, and to analyze the whole person sitting in front of me. On more than one occasion, it has even helped me catch things I would have likely missed had I stayed within my tunnel vision perspective. **What does this scholarship mean to you?** Earning this scholarship has been a bright light in a year filled with uncertainty. While the money is certainly a nice perk, I think the best part about earning the award is the people I have connected with during my membership in National NSSLHA. The people I have met in NSSLHA make our national organization feel like one big small town. I would highly encourage not only CSD students, but students in other majors as well, to become members of their respective national organizations. You never know who you might meet, and you will never know the possible rewards membership will bring unless you give it a try. Contact: Erin Miller, erin.miller@maine.edu

Virtual Wabanaki Winter Market set for Dec. 12

07 Dec 2020

The University of Maine Hudson Museum and the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance (MIBA) will host the annual Wabanaki Winter Market online from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Dec. 12. This year's virtual format will include artist demonstrations of traditional birch bark, brown ash and sweetgrass basketry and beadworking, along with singing and storytelling by MIBA members. Winter Market activities will be streamed live on the museum's YouTube channel. Featured artists representing the Penobscot Nation include Barry Dana, birch bark artist; storyteller Carol Dana; multimedia artist James Francis; singer Firefly; and basketmaker and beadworker Jennifer Neptune. Passamaquoddy basketmakers Gabriel Frey and Geo Neptune will offer demonstrations, as will Micmac basket artist Eldon Hanning. A Wabanaki Artist directory, available now, provides artist bios and contact information to connect shoppers and collectors with musicians, performers and demonstrators, and traditional artisans selling one-of-a-kind creations. More information about the event, which is presented with support from Bangor Savings Bank and the Maine Expansion Arts Fund of the Maine Community Foundation, is online. Reasonable accommodations may be requested by calling the Hudson Museum at 207.581.1904.

Witter Center's herd ranked among best in the nation

07 Dec 2020

The Holstein Association USA announced this month that the dairy herd at the University of Maine's J.F. Witter Teaching and Research Center will receive the 2020 Progressive Breeders Registry Award and the 2020 Progressive Genetics Herd Award. The Breeders Registry award is granted to approximately 10% of eligible herds, and the Genetics award is given to the top 500 eligible herds in the nation. The Witter Center is the only farm in Maine to receive both awards this year. To assess the herd, the Holstein Association USA evaluates each animal in the herd on 18 physical traits relative to their age, milk production history and stage of lactation. The Witter Center at UMaine is part of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, and includes Witter Farm and Rogers Farm. In addition to housing research that supports Maine's livestock industries, Witter Farm serves as a training facility for UMaine's animal and veterinary science students.

Online 'Entangled' film screening and panel discussion presented by UMaine

07 Dec 2020

The University of Maine Hutchinson Center will host a free online screening of the award-winning documentary, "Entangled," at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11. The film, which will be shown online, will be introduced by filmmaker David Abel and followed by a Zoom discussion featuring a panel of researchers and industry experts. "Entangled" is an award-winning, feature-length film about how climate change has accelerated a collision between one of the world's most endangered species, North America's most valuable fishery, and a federal agency mandated to protect both. The film chronicles the efforts to protect North Atlantic right whales from extinction, the impacts of those efforts on the lobster industry, and how regulators have struggled to balance competing interests. Directed by Abel and Andy Laub — makers of "Lobster War" and "Sacred Cod" — "Entangled" won a 2020 Jackson Wild Media Award, nature films' equivalent to the Oscars, and Best Conservation Film at the Mystic Film Festival. "Entangled" was made with support from the Pulitzer Center, the LEF Foundation, the Society of Environmental Journalists' Fund for Environmental Journalism, and the Boston Globe. Following the screening, a panel of industry experts and researchers will participate in a Q&A moderated by Rick Wahle of UMaine's Lobster Institute. Additional panelists are Kristan Porter from the Maine Lobstermen's Association, Steve Train from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and UMaine researchers Chris Tremblay and Nathan Willse. This virtual film screening is offered through a partnership with the UMaine Conferences and Institutes, Division of Lifelong Learning, Hutchinson Center, the Lobster Institute and the Office of Sustainability. There is no cost to participate. To register, visit the Hutchinson Center website. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact the Hutchinson Center, hutchinsoncenter@maine.edu; 207.338.8000.

Media promote weed management, potato storage update Dec. 16

07 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips and the Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced a University of Maine Cooperative Extension update for the agricultural industry at 7 p.m. Dec. 16. More information about the virtual event is online.

Media advance screening of 'Entangled'

07 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Village Soup, Penobscot Bay Pilot and the Mount Desert Islander advanced an online screening of the film "Entangled" on Dec. 11. The film, which chronicles regulators' efforts to balance commercial fishing interests and protections for endangered right whales, is hosted by the University of Maine Hutchinson Center. More information about the event is online.

Armstrong, Kirby talk spiders with Sun Journal

07 Dec 2020

Charles Armstrong, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professional and cranberry specialist, and Clay Kirby, a UMaine Extension associate scientist, were interviewed by the Sun Journal for a story identifying the cutest, the largest and the most common Maine spiders among other categories.

Media report on development of genomic tools for potato breeding

07 Dec 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot, Morning Ag Clips and Potato News Today featured a University of Maine news release highlighting the development of genomic tools for breeding economically important polyploid crops. Greg Porter, a University of Maine professor of crop ecology and management, and E. Han Tan, an assistant professor of plant genetics, will focus on reducing the timeline for development of novel potato cultivars using new genomic tools.

The Conversation features Socolow piece

07 Dec 2020

In a column in The Conversation, University of Maine associate professor of communications and journalism Michael Socolow noted that proliferation of subscription news distribution platforms such as Substack could sustain elite readership rather than democratizing information.

The grand challenge – Remote chemistry labs for 1,000 students

07 Dec 2020

Chemistry is an experimental science, which is best taught by doing. Chemical hazards and specialized equipment tether chemistry lab courses taught at the University of Maine to sophisticated teaching labs in highly supervised, well-ventilated environments. When COVID-19 hit last spring, it prompted a grand challenge: could the introductory general and organic chemistry lab courses be shifted online, in a cost effective, safe manner, while preserving an active, hands-on, experimental approach? As planning began for a remote fall semester, Alice Bruce, chair of the Chemistry Department, met with Mitchell Bruce and Natalie Machamer, the faculty in charge of the general chemistry (CHY 123 and CHY 133) and organic chemistry (CHY 253) labs, respectively, to discuss the possibility of assembling take-home lab kits to provide hands-on activities, opportunities to build skills, and exposure to simple instrumentation and the scientific process. The logistics of delivering a remote hands-on lab experience to 1,000 students sited as far away as Alaska and Canada were overwhelming at first. "We faced a number of challenges," says Mitchell Bruce. "Identifying less expensive equipment that could be substituted for standard laboratory glassware and instruments, minimizing the hazards associated with chemical experiments, promoting student engagement and facilitating supervision in a remote setting all loomed as large problems." The team quickly realized to have any chance at success, they would need to bring more people on board. Eventually the remote chemistry lab team grew to include over 20 UMaine faculty, staff and graduate students who worked throughout the summer to develop and test experiments, order equipment, and pack lab kits. Key members of the team included Andrew Bergeron, chemical safety officer and chemical stores manager; Lee Bickerstaff, organic chemistry lab manager; and Sarah Bernard, general chemistry lab manager, who joined the department in August. The department even looked across campus for assistance: Tim Bruce, a graduate student in the School of Computing and Information Science, developed a visible spectrometer, consisting of an Arduino, a printed circuit board, and a 3D-printed cuvette holder that went into kits. One of the primary challenges for both lab programs was to identify experiments that could be completed by using less hazardous chemicals and relatively inexpensive equipment. With financial support from the Davis Foundation (through the Division of Lifelong Learning), along with the resources of the chemistry department and InterChemNet, the department began ordering large quantities of equipment needed for each kit: small electronic balances, plasticware beakers, graduated cylinders, funnels and pipettes. At the same time, chemistry teaching assistants and faculty began developing at-home lab experiments that would meet learning objectives while making use of less hazardous chemicals. An additional goal was keeping costs low. "Commercial lab kits for students do exist, but they cost several hundred dollars each," says Alice Bruce. "It was important to us to keep the cost to the students low." Preparing their own kits in-house also protected students from commercial kit shortages nationwide as other institutions scooped up supplies in anticipation of their own remote learning needs. The cost of each kit prepared by the chemistry team comes in under $100; the kits, distributed through a system organized by Dean Graham, associate director of the University of Maine Bookstore along with bookstore staff, are also assembled with an eye toward reusability. At the end of the semester, students will return their lab kits and the chemistry team will clean equipment and repack about 200 kits for students in CHY 123, which will be offered remotely again in the spring semester. For both general chemistry and organic chemistry, students who have obtained the lab kits meet synchronously on Zoom with their teaching assistant instructor during the regularly assigned lab time. Students prepare by completing activities prior to the start of lab. Teaching assistants present important information at the beginning of the lab session and provide opportunities for questions. Students are then encouraged to conduct experiments while they are on Zoom in case they encounter any problems, and they can ask questions of their TA. Madeline Peyton, a first-year marine science major, says the lab kits provided this semester for CHY 123 made the lab "the most fun I took this fall." "Being able to have the hands-on experience of performing the labs with peers, even through Zoom, made the material more memorable," Peyton says. "My lab TA was always ready to answer any of my questions inside and out of our lab period, and tried her best to make the labs as engaging and fun as possible. The Chemistry Department did a great job of making this difficult time much less stressful and more enjoyable." The at-home lab kits in general chemistry are supplemented by opportunities for students to earn "badges" by demonstrating their skills in measurement (mass and volume) and standard laboratory techniques (filtration, solution preparation). To earn badges, students create short videos demonstrating their skill and upload them for evaluation by their TA. At the end of the semester, students will have earned three badges in fundamental chemistry skills. The kits also include a simple home-built device that is programmed to operate in two different modes, a visible spectrometer or an oximeter. "When the device is in the oximeter mode, students can explore the chemistry behind measuring the percent oxygen in the blood, which gives them a real world connection to the COVID-19 health crises," explains Mitchell Bruce. For the organic chemistry lab, some of the experiments conducted at home had students extracting caffeine from coffee, polymerizing superglue, and using red cabbage to test the pH of household liquids — an additional logistical challenge, says Machamer. "In addition to the original limitations on chemicals we could ship through the mail, we also found ourselves dealing with perishable goods that went out by 'curbside pickup,'" she says. Aldous Hofmann, a junior studying botany who is enrolled in Machamer's organic chemistry lab, says that the contents "allowed some semblance of normalcy in these very unusual times, and getting to work with concepts like polarimetry (light bending) and extracting caffeine from coffee was really cool." The organic chemistry kits are augmented by videos developed by Machamer in 2019, with the support of CITL, to help students learn certain techniques that are not possible remotely — due to either specialized equipment or glassware requirements, or because of the more hazardous nature of chemicals involved. "They were professionally edited and complete with graphical layovers and intro music," Hofmann says. "Machamer's passion for teaching and care for her students' academic experience really shined through. The entire experience really reiterated for me that the faculty are what make UMaine special." The Department of Chemistry is in the process of surveying students to gather feedback about the use of the kits, but initial response has been positive. Mitchell Bruce says. "Graduate teaching assistants report very high levels of engagement with their students during lab sessions conducted over Zoom." Machamer says. "The students wish they could be in the lab, though they completely understand why that wasn't possible, so they appreciate being able to do something hands on."

For UMaine Opera Workshop, the show goes on

08 Dec 2020

Opera as an art form has been around for more than 400 years, and students and faculty in the UMaine School of Performing Arts were not going to let a pandemic stop their performance from going ahead. That's why, for the first time ever, the University of Maine Opera Workshop has chosen to present its fall 2020 scene performance in video format. The video, available on YouTube and via the UMaine Opera Workshop Facebook page, collects student performances of a variety of opera scenes across the form's history, the sum of a semester of hard work by students enrolled in voice instructor and Opera Workshop director Isaac Bray's MUE 132 ensemble. "In those 400 years, the world has seen countless wars, plagues and other hardships," Bray says. "Nevertheless, opera has endured." For Bray and the students, the decision was not whether the performance would go on, but how. Given restrictions on audience sizes and potential challenges with livestream video and audio quality, the workshop decided to assemble a video performance of a semester's highlights. Students in the UMaine Opera Workshop learn the nuts and bolts of operatic music, a genre that differs from the kind of performances that many students and contemporary audiences are used to. There are no microphones in opera, and the music is often in a different language. Students are tasked not only with projecting their voices and pronouncing in unfamiliar languages, but with communicating the text and story of the piece to an audience: challenges magnified by masking and social distancing. The University of Maine's

comprehensive COVID-19 health and safety protocols made it possible for the workshop to meet in person as they rehearsed and fine-tuned. Nevertheless, public health guidance presented challenges for Bray, accompanist Clayton W. Smith and the student performers. Selecting scenes required Bray to choose only from those featuring three or few performers on stage at a time; rehearsals were limited to 30 minutes per CDC guidelines, and students also remained masked and distanced on-stage. To maximize aerosol dispersal, workshop members even alternated classrooms. "We actually walked back and forth between room 100 and Minsky Recital Hall in Class of 1944 Hall. With rehearsals limited to 30-minute segments, we did a lot of walking during our 2.5 hour classes each Monday and Wednesday," Bray says. Still, says workshop member Sabrina Sudol, a junior from Ramsey, New Jersey who is double majoring in studio art and music, it all came to seem fairly natural. "I feel so lucky that with a few adjustments we were able to have opera this semester and stay safe while creating something so unique," Sudol says. Erin Farrell, a music education major from Saco, Maine, agreed that the precautions came to feel like second-nature: "Everyone was dedicated to following the rules." For Sudol, Farrell and Juno Buendia, a senior music education major from Waldoboro, the workshop being able to proceed meant an enriching experience. "It's an opportunity to explore a different type of music I didn't have much experience in and that our generation should acknowledge more," says Buendia. For Sudol, the opera workshop was important for expanding her knowledge and repertoire as a classical musician. And for Farrell, Bray's opera instruction was a chance to leave her comfort zone, noting that "it's given me a great community of friends and teachers." The video is not only a document of student performances, it's a glimpse as well of a moment in time that Bray thinks is worth documenting and remembering. "Regardless of where all of these students end up and where their musical careers take them," he says. "I wanted them to have a memento of this very challenging and unique time that we are living through. I hope that this music provides entertainment and comfort for everyone stuck at home right now." Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu

Leahy study of rural youth aspirations featured in the The World

08 Dec 2020

The World reported on a study of rural youth in Maine and Oregon by University of Maine professor of human dimensions of natural resources Jessica Leahy. Leahy and her colleagues in Oregon surveyed youth about their aspirations and their perceptions of their communities. The findings, formatted as fact sheets, can be used by schools to better meet rural students' needs.

Press Herald talks with Kaczor about support for shellfish cooperative

08 Dec 2020

The Portland Press Herald spoke with Keri Kaczor, a University of Maine Sea Grant professional with the Buoy Maine project, about promoting oysters from the New Meadows Shellfish Cooperative as a regional brand. The cooperative received a grant of $12,000 from Buoy Maine to develop and implement a marketing plan.

UMaine student appears in Today show segment about college and coronavirus

08 Dec 2020

University of Maine student Rachel Harell appeared in a Today show segment featuring college students from across the U.S. talking about how the pandemic has affected their lives. Harell is a journalism major minoring in psychology and marketing.

Centralmaine.com reports on Calhoun's award

08 Dec 2020

Centralmaine.com reported that Aram Calhoun, a University of Maine professor of wetlands ecology, received a 2020 Conservation Leadership Award from the Natural Resources Council of Maine for her work protecting vernal pools.

New Media program hosts digital skills webinar series

08 Dec 2020

The University of Maine New Media program is teaching digital skills to high school and community college students and staff in a free webinar series. "Knowledge Bites" will explore various technological topics, including how to code an HTML game, create memes with Photoshop, craft 2D animations and more, through hands-on learning activates. New Media program faculty will teach the online workshops via Zoom. For the first week of the series, participants can learn how to code a simple mobile app from 11 a.m.-noon Thursday. Register on the event webpage. More information about the series is available online. For further information, contact new media professor Jon Ippolito, jippolito@maine.edu.

UMaine Extension 4-H offers new birding club for Maine youth

09 Dec 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H is offering a new statewide birding club for youth ages 9–18, with online monthly meetings 3–4 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Dec. 16. The "4-H Bird Chats" club is for youth interested in citizen science, learning more about birds and sharing observations with others. Participants will learn how to contribute data to Project FeederWatch, a winter survey of birds in locations across North America, and share learning experiences with peers. The club is free to join; registration is required. Register and find the Zoom meeting schedule on the 4-H Bird Chats webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Zabet NeuCollins, 207.667.8212; zabet.neucollins@maine.edu.

Socolow cited in Columbia Journalism Review piece 'Ideal Filler'

09 Dec 2020

The Columbia Journalism Review interviewed Michael J. Socolow, director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, in an article titled "Ideal Filler," which explores the history and recent dialogue surrounding the New York Times op-ed section. Socolow, an associate professor of communication and journalism, said when it was created in 1970, the aim of the publication's op-ed page was "not to tell people what to think, but to tell them what to think about." The piece also cited comments Socolow made in the Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, in which he noted that page earned notoriety by sparking controversy, making it "remarkably cost-effective." According to Socolow, "the first six months of op-ed operation produced a net profit of $112,000 on $264,900 of revenues."

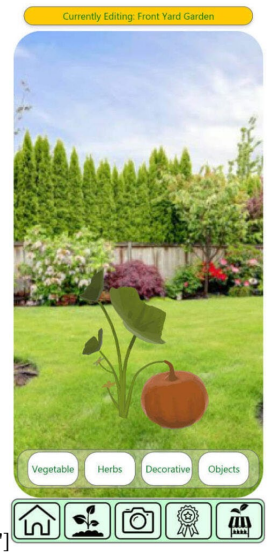
MIRTA teams forging ahead with commercialization plans

09 Dec 2020

Four faculty-led teams pursuing commercialization of research projects are ready for next steps, having completed the University of Maine's 2020 MIRTA accelerator program. The teams presented their projects at a virtual event Dec. 8 marking the conclusion of this year's program. "While 2020 has brought a unique set of challenges to the MIRTA program, this year's cohort has persevered," says UMaine director of business incubation Veena Dinesh. "They pivoted to an online model and got creative in their approach to customer discovery and development. We're proud to showcase their hard work and look forward to continuing to support their commercialization goals." All four teams have made notable progress in advancing their diverse projects despite delays related to COVID-19. The group represents the third cohort of the MIRTA program, which is designed to move university research projects along the path from discovery to becoming commercial products with public benefit. MIRTA is administered by the Office of Innovation and Economic Development (OIED) with support from the University of Maine System Research Reinvestment Fund and the Maine Technology Institute. Over the course of the program, guided by OIED staff and external advisers, teams engaged in customer discovery, market analysis, prototyping, partnership development and technology evaluation to map strategies for bringing their research to market. Daniel Puhlman, assistant professor of family studies at the University of Maine, and first-year master's student Emma Richardson have developed The Co-Parent Co-op, a mobile app-based intervention program designed to help high-conflict co-parents successfully resolve disputes and build a productive coparental relationship. "Through MIRTA, our team has identified three channels to market: The legal system, mental health professionals, and co-parents themselves," says Puhlman. "We have seen our project move forward quickly and made incredible strides toward realizing the potential of AI and gaming, understanding our market, and learning about our customers. Our first prototype is under development and expected to be ready for testing by January 2021." Joseph Staples, assistant professor of environmental science at the University of Southern Maine, and senior undergraduate student Elizabeth Davis, have worked on the Gorham Lamp, a novel microscope and benchtop light that combines multiple lighting techniques (brightfield, darkfield, transmitted illumination, etc.) in a single cost-saving and space-saving device. "One of the major stumbling blocks for innovation is what to do with the idea after you have brought it to life," says Staples. "Through the MIRTA program, we have developed a much better marketing plan for getting the Gorham Lamp into the hands of customers. Moving forward, we are working with the UMaine Advanced Manufacturing Center to assemble a few working devices for direct sale. From there, we will continue to seek licensees and/or explore options for manufacturing this device here in Maine. This is a very exciting stage in the development of the Gorham Lamp." Dorothy Klimis-Zacas, professor of clinical nutrition at the University of Maine and graduate student Natalie VandenAkker have advanced RegenBlu, a product that employs an anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and cost-effective Maine wild blueberry extract to promote wound healing and tissue regeneration. Klimis-Zacas' research has long focused on the beneficial health effects of wild blueberries, and this product draws on her recent work related to two classes of compounds extracted from wild blueberries — anthocyanins and phenolic acids — that have documented benefits in the treatment of chronic diseases. "The MIRTA program was crucial in helping us determine the path to follow for commercializing our biomedical product," says Klimis-Zacas. "We plan to form a startup company in the future, and the professionals and entrepreneurs we worked with through MIRTA have guided us to develop a business model and understand the regulatory pathways to bring our product to market. With their input and the skills and strategies we learned, we're prepared to take our idea from bench to bedside." Nimesha Ranasinghe, assistant professor of spatial informatics at the University of Maine, along with graduate students Chamath Amarasinghe and Meetha James, have developed Salty Spoon, a "smart spoon" that can enhance food flavor to improve quality of life for those on restricted diets. "MIRTA, as well as the National I-Corps program, guided us to think about our research from the consumer's perspective and identify ways we could customize our product to solve real-world problems," says Ranasinghe. "We are moving forward to produce a one-of-a-kind digital therapeutic device to reduce salt consumption while keeping the same great flavors of food and beverages." The Salty Spoon team has formed a startup, FlaVR Labs, filed a provisional patent application for their technology and is working on a prototype that can be used in clinical trials next year. The students working on these projects say that MIRTA has broadened the ways they think about their research. "Prior to embarking on our MIRTA journey, I saw myself as a research assistant who was excited to start working on a socially conscious project," says Co-Parent Co-Op team member and human development master's student Richardson. "One year on, I've gained a deep respect for dedicated co-parents and counseling professionals while simultaneously learning valuable information about the commercialization process." In reflecting on his MIRTA experience, Salty Spoon team member and spatial information science and engineering master's student Amarasinghe notes "how customer discovery can lead to new research opportunities," and the particular value of "talking to the people who make purchasing decisions." For Salty Spoon team member and spatial information science and engineering master's student James, "learning to market your product/science/technology in one-liners, three-minute presentations, elevator pitches, and cold calls was the adventurous part of my MIRTA journey." MIRTA is among several commercialization programs offered by the Office of Innovation and Economic Development. Researchers are encouraged to participate in the Commercialization Training Series, a webinar series providing topical overviews on subjects ranging from idea validation to intellectual property. UMaine's I-Corps site program is the next step, helping research teams explore commercialization potential with grant funding available through the National Science Foundation. The MIRTA accelerator helps I-Corps participants build on their knowledge and move their ideas even closer to market. From the nine teams who participated in the first two MIRTA cohorts, three teams have gone on to the National I-Corps program, five startups have been incorporated, four patents have been filed or are in process, and more than $2 million has been raised in external funding and prototype sales. The next MIRTA cohort is scheduled to begin in February. For more information about the program, contact Veena Dinesh, veena.dinesh@maine.edu. Contact: Ashley Forbes, ashley.forbes@maine.edu

New media seniors develop novel tools tackling stress, COVID-19 lifestyle

09 Dec 2020



[caption id="attachment_81201" align="alignright" width="200"] AR Gardens[/caption] The stress of COVID-19 and other obstacles of everyday life prompted seven seniors from the University of Maine New Media program to develop novel apps and activities to cope and adapt. Using a variety of modern audiovisual and interactive technologies these students crafted tools that can help users de-stress, learn new hobbies, entertain themselves and perform tasks made more difficult by the pandemic. Projects include augmented reality apps for self-guided campus tours and gardening, a therapeutic video game for players with obsessive-compulsive disorder, a popup oasis with audio and visual recordings to provide soothing ambiance, an app to improve professor and student interactivity, and more. "These projects are compelling examples of the potential for new media to make a clear positive impact on our society" says Penny Rheingans, director of the School of Computing and Information Science at UMaine. As a result of their work, the new media seniors earned two Center for Undergraduate and

Graduate Research (CUGR) fellowships, three research fellowships from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and two special awards from the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. They will present their creations at the 2021 Student Symposium on Friday, April 16. "These accolades are a testament to the creativity of our majors, and more broadly to the inventiveness shown by young people armed with digital tools when confronting a global crisis," says new media professor Jon Ippolito. Read the full story on the New Media program's website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Daniel Regan: Innovation earns the Dr. Susan J. Hunter Presidential Research Impact Award

10 Dec 2020

Daniel Regan, a Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering (GSBSE), is conducting research focused on the development of platforms for the detection and deterrence of biological threats. A year into his work in assistant professor Caitlin Howell's Biointerface and Biomimetics Lab, Regan had an idea for a new type of catch-and-release filter for use in medevacs. The original concept combined his passion for military biodefense and biomedical engineering. His goal was to monitor biological threats while improving patient care and overall cleanliness. Little did he know that his project would be highly applicable to a rapidly emerging COVID-19 pandemic. "Bio threats are only going to become more problematic as time goes on, but it doesn't stop at manmade threats. For decades, scientists have been suggesting that a major pandemic may be imminent," Regan says. With COVID-19, those hypotheses were proven correct. It quickly became clear that the catch-and-release filter originally planned for military use could be useful in other environments, such as nursing homes, emergency rooms, schools and more. Everyone is pretty familiar with HEPA filters, which catch allergens, Regan says. They were designed to keep airborne particulates trapped for an extended period and then disposed, presenting challenges to monitoring the status of biological threats. "We engineered a filter that addressed the need for easily transferring the trapped pathogens while maintaining viability." The result is a liquid-infused membrane filter. "The pathogens get caught in the liquid, which makes it easier to manipulate and take samples for further analysis." According to Regan, this will help scientists to rapidly identify potential exposure to infectious diseases, progressing toward early-warning systems. Regan has been working to get this design patented, while testing the efficacy of the filter. The idea of not only being able to block dangerous pathogens, but also utilize them to create assays and better understand what is present in the environment is a potential game changer. This potential was recognized during the 2020 UMaine Student Symposium, which was held virtually Oct. 2. Regan received the Dr. Susan J. Hunter Presidential Research Impact Award for the top Graduate Presentation and was selected as the top graduate presenter in the category of Engineering and Information Sciences for his presentation titled "Optimizing Liquid-Gated Membranes for Bioaerosol Capture and Release." "Maine has some really great researchers and I was fortunate enough to have them pick me for this award," Regan says. "When you're working on a Ph.D., you don't necessarily get that recognition until the work is done, so it's exciting to be recognized for the impact my research has made and will make." Contact: Marcella Silver, marcella.silver@maine.edu

UMaine Extension, MOFGA host webinar about selecting seeds for vegetable gardens

10 Dec 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association will offer a webinar about selecting suitable seeds for Maine vegetable gardens from noon–1 p.m. Dec. 16. "Planning Your Vegetable Garden: Selecting the Right Seeds" explores variety selection, disease resistance, quantities to order and more. MOFGA crop and conservation specialist Caleb Goossen will lead the workshop. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the final session in a six-part fall gardening webinar series. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Pamela Hargest, 207.781.6099; pamela.hargest@maine.edu

WABI interviews Jones about students' efforts to promote tourism

10 Dec 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Nory Jones, a University of Maine professor of management information systems, about a student project intended to promote attractions and businesses in less frequently visited areas of Maine.

BDN editorial cites Fernandez on Maine's climate action plan

10 Dec 2020

Ivan Fernandez, a University of Maine professor of soil science and forest resources and a member of Maine's Climate Council, was quoted in a Bangor Daily News editorial praising the state's actions to mitigate climate change.

Maine Edge covers students 'Light Bright' project

10 Dec 2020

The Maine Edge reported on University of Maine intermedia students creating a multimedia installation in downtown Bangor. "Light Bright" will be unveiled at 5 p.m. Dec. 12 on Central Street in fulfillment of a class challenge to match the spirit of Bangor's holiday parade while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Socolow cited in WGBH opinion on Substack

10 Dec 2020

University of Maine associate professor of communications and journalism Michael Socolow was cited in a column about Substack published by WGBH (Boston).

Morning Ag reports on dairy herd awards for Witter Center

10 Dec 2020

Morning Ag Clips reported that the University of Maine J. F. Witter Teaching and Research Center has received a 2020 Progressive Breeders Registry Award and a 2020 Progressive Genetics Herd Award from the Holstein Association USA.

Media mention UMM data in coverage of earthquakes

10 Dec 2020

The Boston Globe reported that seismic data from the University of Maine at Machias indicates that the Dec. 9 earthquakes centered in Robbinston may have been two separate events, or one quake and an aftershock. The Associated Press also reported on the earthquakes and advanced the Boston Globe story noting the use of UMM data to analyze them. Fox News, U.S. News & World Report, the New York Post, WABI (Channel 5), WVII (Channel 7) WMTW

(Channel 8 in Portland), WHDH in Boston, Centralmaine.com, The Washington Times, The Clay Center Dispatch and the Caledonian Record shared the Globe story.

Isenhour speaks with BDN about recycling gift wrap

10 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with Cindy Isenhour, a University of Maine associate professor of anthropology, about recycling wrapping paper and repurposing other materials to wrap gifts.

UMaine Extension offers weed management, potato updates Dec. 16

11 Dec 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer agricultural industry updates on weed management and potato storage 7–8 p.m. Dec. 16. Weed management will be discussed by UMaine Extension professor John Jemison, followed by potato storage management by Extension crops specialist Steve Johnson. The cost is $5; registration is required to receive the link. Register and find details on the event webpage. Participants can earn one pesticide recertification credit and one CCA credit. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.554.4374 or stevenj@maine.edu.

Savoie talks with BDN about shelf life, 'best by' dates for food

11 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Kathy Savoie, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor and educator, about the safety and shelf life of foods and food ingredients.

Stoll speaks at National Fisherman direct marketing webinar

11 Dec 2020

National Fisherman noted that Joshua Stoll, assistant professor of marine policy, will serve on a panel for its webinar about how independent fishermen and small-scale fisheries can directly market their products. Register online to participate.

Maine Public notes UMaine offshore wind collaborative in Maine, UK renewable energy partnership story

11 Dec 2020

When reporting about a new offshore wind and renewable energy partnership between Maine and the United Kingdom, Maine Public noted the University of Maine and New England Aqua Ventus assisting Gov. Janet Mills in her effort to build the first floating offshore wind research array in the U.S. OffshoreWIND.biz also noted the state initiative involving UMaine in its article about the new Maine-U.K. partnership. Mainebiz also reported on Maine's clean energy partnership with the UK.

UMaine graduate students help tourism-dependent communities prepare for climate change

14 Dec 2020

Four University of Maine graduate students will help communities that rely on natural resources for recreation and tourism prepare for the ramifications of climate change. The team will provide stakeholder municipalities data to help them adapt to the changing climate and assist them with developing climate adaptation frameworks using 'scenario planning'— a method of forecasting potential future conditions that can inform decision-making. The effort will also involve students hosting workshops that will help participants learn what climate challenges and opportunities they may face, what resources they have and what potential solutions could be. Graduate students participating in the project include Lydia Horne, a Ph.D. student of ecology and environmental sciences; Gabriela Wolf-Gonzalez, a master's student of ecology and environmental sciences; Valeria Briones and Asha DiMatteo-LePape, both master's students of forest resources. Sandra De Urioste-Stone, an associate professor of nature-based tourism and faculty fellow with the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, advises the group in collaboration with other UMaine faculty. Read more about the initiative on the Mitchell Center website. Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Media advance livestock nutrition series

14 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News, Centralmaine.com and Morning Ag Clips promoted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar series about livestock nutrition from noon–1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays from Jan. 13 to Feb. 10. More information about the series is online.

Hargest, Cooperative Extension mentioned in Press Herald gardening column

14 Dec 2020

The Portland Press Herald mentioned University of Maine Cooperative Extension educator Pamela Hargest in a column about growing fresh foods inside in winter. Centralmaine.com shared the Press Herald column.

WABI covers virtual Wabanaki Winter Market

14 Dec 2020

WABI (Channel 5) reported on the 2020 Wabanaki Winter Market, which was offered virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the annual event, which is co-sponsored by the University of Maine's Hudson Museum, included virtual demonstrations featured on the museum's YouTube channel, and an online Wabanaki Artist Directory.

WVII reports UMaine opera workshop 'show goes on'

14 Dec 2020

WVII (Channel 7) reported that student members of the University of Maine Opera Workshop, under the direction of music faculty Isaac Bray, were able to safely practice and record their performances of scenes from several popular operas. The video is available on YouTube.

BDN, WABI interview Ippolito, students about virtual technology products

14 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News and WABI (Channel 5) talked with Jon Ippolito, a University of Maine professor of new media, about students using modern technology to develop games, phone apps and interactive programs to help people cope with the stresses induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. “Students respond to what is in their lives,” Ippolito said. “And right now, their lives are incredibly impacted by COVID-19.”

UMaine scientists find that trees are out of equilibrium with climate, posing new challenges in a warming world

14 Dec 2020

Forecasts predicting where plants and animals will inhabit over time rely primarily on information about their current climate associations, but that only plays a partial role. Under climate change, there’s a growing interest in assessing whether trees and other species can keep pace with changing temperatures and rainfall, shifting where they are found, also known as their ranges, to track their suitable climates. To test this, a University of Maine-led research team studied the current ranges of hundreds of North American trees and shrubs, assessing the degree to which species are growing in all of the places that are climatically suitable. Researchers found evidence of widespread “underfilling” of these potential climatic habitats — only 50% on average — which could mean that trees already have disadvantage as the world continues to warm. Benjamin Seliger, a then UMaine Ph.D. student with the Climate Change Institute, spearheaded the study with his doctoral adviser, Jacquelyn Gill, a UMaine associate professor of paleoecology and plant ecology. Brain McGill, a UMaine professor of biological sciences, and Jens-Christian Svenning, a macroecologist and biogeographer from Aarhus University in Denmark also contributed. The team used species distribution models to assess the degree to which 447 North American trees’ and shrubs’ “fill” their potential climatic ranges by comparing regions that are climatically suitable, known as potential ranges, against where trees are actually found, or their realized ranges. The Journal of Biogeography published the team’s research paper for the study. Seliger, now a postdoctoral researcher at the Center of Geospatial Analytics at North Carolina State University, and co-authors discovered a significant difference between where the trees they studied could grow, and where they actually grow, also known as range filling. The average range filling value across all 447 species equalled 48.6%, indicating that on average, trees are not found in about half of the areas that are climatically suitable for them, according to researchers. “We found tree ranges are more limited by non-climatic factors than expected, suggesting trees may not simply track warming climates.” Seliger says. Species distribution models (SDMs) are a common tool to predict how climate change will affect biodiversity and the future ranges of plants and animals. Various studies, including the one from the UMaine-led group, however, caution that because this tool assumes that species live in all areas that are climatically suitable, known as experiencing climatic equilibrium, it may not provide an accurate prediction of where species will be found in the future. An SDM relies on what has been considered a foundational principle, “that geographic ranges generally appear to be in equilibrium with contemporary climate,” according to researchers. Growing evidence suggests otherwise for many species, which experience climatic disequilibrium. Seliger and his team found that North American trees and shrubs with large ranges tended to show much stronger evidence of climatic equilibrium, meaning they had high range filling. Small-ranged species, however, had much lower range filling overall, performing worse than predicted by a null model. According to researchers, that means small-ranged tree species, including many rare trees and species the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists as vulnerable, will face additional challenges as they try to track their climates into the future. The group also found that small-rage species may be more limited by nonclimatic influences, such as soils or pathogens. Conservation efforts for these plants and animals, therefore, should “account for a complex interplay of factors in addition to climate when preparing for the next century of global change,” according to researchers. Their findings support a growing body of evidence that for a climatic disequilibrium among various flora. As to what causes the disequilibrium could be due to two factors, according to researchers: dispersal lags that date back to the time when glaciers covered large portions of North American 21,000 years ago, or by non-climatic factors that may influence ranges more than previously appreciated, such as soil, competition with other plants, or symbiosis. “It’s been thought that if you zoom out to the scale of North America, climate was the most important factor in determining where species would be found. This study reveals some striking gaps in our knowledge; even at the scale of an entire continent, soils or other plants and animals may be playing an important role too. We used to think those were more important at the more local scale — think of how the trees might change across two areas of your favorite park,” Gill says. “All of this means that when it comes to plants, our predictive tools need to get a lot more sophisticated, if they’re going to be useful for conservation.” Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Flexibility from classroom to clinic

14 Dec 2020

Nursing is a profession of action that is best taught through hands-on experience. Every student enrolled in the University of Maine’s nursing program completes 200 hours of laboratories and simulations, and 740 hours of direct care clinical experience. This resource-intensive approach pays dividends to UMaine’s nursing students, 97 percent of whom pass their National Council Licensure Examination for the Registered Nurse on the first attempt — compared to a 2020 national average of 90.96 percent. Once licensed, all of the school’s alumni attain employment in their field. When the COVID-19 hit this spring, safety measures upended how faculty could deliver these experiences. To adapt, the School of Nursing completely transformed how it engaged with students. “We decided that our priority would be our students. Our overall approach was to demonstrate compassion and support for our students’ progression while maintaining the rigor and quality of our programs,” said Kelley Strout, director and associate professor at the School of Nursing. “We connected with every student within the first week of remote learning.” As soon as the transition to remote learning was announced, faculty immediately started working to adopt virtual modalities for classes and clinical. Maine’s Nursing Board allowed up to half a student’s clinical experience for each course to be virtual. Faculty evaluated each student’s clinical hours to determine who would be eligible to complete those courses remotely. Faculty also assembled and distributed laboratory kits for each student within 24 hours of the directive to transition to remote learning. Students then demonstrated their skills with the equipment in individual virtual meetings with the faculty. As final grades were filed in May, faculty were already thinking about the fall. They planned for a worst-case scenario — outbreaks on campus that would require another transition to remote learning. They evaluated each course week-by-week to identify the competencies and skills each student needed to demonstrate in-person. “Throughout our spring experience, we learned that students need face-to-face laboratory and simulation experiences to meet our program outcomes. For example, we cannot send every student home with an IV pump or needles, so practicing and assessing those skills through Zoom is not a safe or practical option,” Strout said. All face-to-face laboratory and simulation courses were then condensed into the first three weeks of the semester. Students spent as many as 12 hours a week in laboratories during that time, working to master these critical skills before a possible outbreak had a chance to emerge. The nature of the skills students develop in these laboratories often requires close contact with others — making staying 6 feet apart impossible. As a precaution, students were required to wear surgical masks and face shields that were printed on 3D printers at UMaine’s College of Engineering. The School of Nursing also found creative ways to spread out and hold smaller classes without reducing enrollment. The school’s main administrative office was converted into laboratory space. Simulation equipment was spread out and even moved outdoors. Didactic courses, which typically enroll 45 to 55 students, were split into halves or thirds. Faculty developed online content that students reviewed prior to abbreviated class meetings. Time together was dedicated to active learning where students applied the content from virtual lectures to case studies, National Council Licensure Examination Registered Nurse questions, and skills stations. These laboratories, simulations, and didactic courses are, even under normal circumstances, resource and time-intensive — both of which are in short supply in the pandemic. But these practical opportunities to apply theory are critical to skills for future nurses to develop. “The public's lives depend on students knowing important information and applying knowledge to complex cases through critical thinking,” Strout said. *The School of Nursing is seeking support for enhancements to learning facilities in response to the pandemic. More information is available on the University of Maine Foundation’s website.* Contact: Erin Miller, erin.miller@maine.edu

Miller, McGill study supports need for enhanced invasive plant management in national parks

14 Dec 2020

Maintaining National Park infrastructure and built environments, such as roads, information kiosks and visitor centers, is a known and persistent challenge. But a new study led by Kathryn Miller, University of Maine alumna and

quantitative ecologist for the National Park Services' Northeast Temperate Network, suggests that undeveloped areas within national parks also require capital investments to protect their natural flora. Since 2006 the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring Program (NPS I&M) has been gathering forest health data from randomly located plots in more than 50 eastern national parks. The data collected in these plots are used to inform park management decisions. Miller, who earned her graduate degrees at UMaine, and Brian McGill, UMaine professor of ecological modeling, partnered with colleagues from the NPS in Maine, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia and Washington, D.C. to characterize long-term invasive plant trends in 39 eastern national parks. The team analyzed data gathered over 12 years from 1,479 permanent NPS I&M sites to document the spread of invasive herbs, shrubs, vines and trees. Data from Maine's only national park, Acadia (ANP), was included in this study. Analysis of the data revealed that invasive species are widespread and increasing in the eastern national parks. The most common invasives, Japanese stiltgrass *(Microstegium vimineum)*, multiflora rose *(Rosa multiflora)* and Japanese honeysuckle *(Lonicera japonica)*, were found in 75% of the parks sampled. Garlic mustard *(Alliaria petiolata)* was identified in nearly all study sites. The researchers identified stiltgrass and invasive shrubs as the most urgent threats in eastern National Parks. While the number of plots sampled in each park varied widely from four (Sagamore Hill National Historic Site) to 176 (ANP), invasive plants were found in 50% of plots in 39 parks. Ten parks had at least one invasive species in every plot. Parks with the highest invasive abundance are generally located in densely populated areas in and around Washington, D.C., Maryland, New York and Massachusetts. One or more invasive species were observed in only 5% of plots in ANP, making it the least invaded park in the study. Invasion theory suggests that unmanaged invasive outbreaks reach a natural saturation point, and subsequently experience a decline. But findings from this study contradict that theory, predicting that untreated invasive outbreaks do not reach saturation and can serve as a source for continued propagation and spread to new areas. The findings of this temporal study, conducted within a broad area of the U.S., suggest that allocating resources and committing to managing invasive plant communities in our national parks must be a priority. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

BDN, VillageSoup advance Hutchinson Center's 'Teaching from the Heart'

15 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News and VillageSoup promoted "Teaching from the Heart" at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center 3:30-5:30 p.m. Jan. 25-27. Participants will learn to use practical systems to maintain the heart-to-heart connections that support children's ability to self-regulate and improve their emotional intelligence. More information about the course is online.

Media report on UMaine findings of climatic disequilibrium among flora

15 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Daily Bulldog, Village Soup and Phys.org picked up a University of Maine news release about a collaborative study which concluded that 447 species of trees and shrubs are growing in less than 50% of their suitable North American ranges. The study, which was published in the Journal of Biogeography, suggests that soils, other plants and animals may be exacerbating the effects of climate change across the continent. "All of this means that when it comes to plants, our predictive tools need to get a lot more sophisticated, if they're going to be useful for conservation," said co-investigator and associate professor of paleoecology Jacquelyn Gill.

UMaine students pen BDN op-ed in support of Baker Shultz carbon dividends plan

15 Dec 2020

University of Maine students Patrick White and Abigail Despres co-authored an opinion column in the Bangor Daily News touting the Baker Shultz carbon dividends plan as a viable bipartisan roadmap to addressing climate change, and a way for Maine to take the lead on the issue nationally. White is the regional director of Students for Carbon Dividends.

BEVNET reports on Nestlé Waters sustainable packaging initiatives

15 Dec 2020

BEVNET reported on the partnership between Nestlé Waters North America and the University of Maine's Forest Bioproducts Research Institute to explore development of packaging materials produced from sustainably harvested Maine wood.

Fuller talks with WABI about holiday wreath making

16 Dec 2020

WABI (Channel 5) interviewed Dave Fuller, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension agricultural professional, about crafting wreaths to decorate for the holidays.

BDN interviews Dumas about preparing, cooking hazelnuts

16 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with Rob Dumas, University of Maine food science innovation coordinator, about preparing hazelnuts for roasting and for use as an ingredient.

Jacobs cited in BDN story about outdoor exercise in winter

16 Dec 2020

Lauren Jacobs, a University of Maine lecturer of outdoor leadership, was interviewed in a Bangor Daily News story about cold-weather outdoor activities and the benefits of simply being outside and enjoying nature. The Piscataquis Observer shared the BDN story.

Daily Bulldog, Morning Ag Clips advance business workshop series for farmers

16 Dec 2020

The Daily Bulldog and Morning Ag Clips promoted a University of Maine Cooperative Extension workshop, "Making Money Moves: A Decision-Making Workshop for Farmers," scheduled for 9:30–11:30 a.m. Jan. 12, 19 and 26. This discussion-based series is designed to help farmers with five or more years of experience running their own farm operation identify strengths and opportunities for improvement, clarify planning and decision-making processes to maximize the return on investment, and to work toward identified farm goals. More information about the series is online.

Media report Ferrini-Mundy to chair vaccine planning task force

16 Dec 2020

Maine Public and WVII (Channel 7) reported that University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy has been tapped to chair the University of Maine System Vaccine Planning and Partnership Task Force. The task force is charged with advancing public awareness about the safety and efficacy of FDA-approved vaccines, and will assist with vaccine distribution and recommending changes to the system's immunization requirements. The Associated Press and USA Today also reported on the formation of the vaccine task force. The Houston Chronicle, U.S. News and World Report and WABI (Channel 5) shared the AP story.

Mayewski, Potocki talk with Eos about Everest ice core

16 Dec 2020

Paul Mayewski and Mariusz Potocki are included in the Eos story "An Ice Core from the Roof of the World" about the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition. Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute, was the expedition leader and lead scientist. Potocki, a Ph.D. candidate, collected the highest ice core in the world at 8,020 meters on South Col. "I really felt so lucky I was able to collect such a good-quality ice [core] at 8,000-meter elevation," said Potocki. "Mission accomplished." He and Mayewski have begun analyzing the sample using a nondestructive and high-resolution technique called laser ablation, according to the article. "We've found the things we hoped to so far," Mayewski said. "The ice is well-preserved in terms of a climate and environmental record." ZME Science shared the Eos article.

Yoo joins Maine Calling program on facial recognition

16 Dec 2020

Terry Yoo, a University of Maine associate professor of computer science, was a panelist on a Maine Calling episode discussing how facial recognition works and how it can be used for good.

Guanyu Jiang: UMaine's 'vitality' enriches international student experience

17 Dec 2020

Harbin, China is a world away from Orono. In spite of the distance and the obvious differences between his Northern China birthplace and his current home at the University of Maine, Guanyu Jiang appreciates the similarities. "The dimensions of my hometown are almost the same as Maine. The climate, vegetation, and scenery are all similar," says Guanyu, who enjoys Maine's rural character. "Compared to the city, I prefer to live in nature." But before enrolling at the University of Maine, Guanyu also considered first-hand reports about the campus, the culture and the academic atmosphere. A high school teacher in China recommended UMaine to him after spending a year as a Black Bear through an international exchange program. Guanyu took his mentor's advice to heart, and couldn't be happier with his choice. "Every time I walk on campus I see many passersby smiling. Professors, students and staff all love what they do, and are full of motivation," he says. "Sometimes I think the University of Maine is more like a vibrant amusement park than an academic research institution." Guanyu enrolled in the Intensive English Institute (IEI) when he arrived on campus in summer 2016, focusing exclusively on enhancing his English skills. A little more than a year later, he joined IEI's Maine Bridge Program and began accumulating credits toward a degree while continuing to develop proficiencies in English. In spring 2018, he matriculated in the International Affairs program with a minor in philosophy. During his time at UMaine, Guanyu has excelled academically, receiving the merit-based International Flagship and Roger D. Cooper Scholarships from the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the School of Economics, respectively, and was a Dean's List student. In addition, Guanyu was invited to join Phi Sigma Tau, the international honor society for philosophers. "The academic atmosphere (at UMaine) is great, especially the time professors spend with undergraduates" he says, citing faculty patience and willingness to help, along with other critical resources such as the writing center, tutors, student recitation sessions, and even his fellow students. "Many classes require group work, and classmates share opinions with each other and are willing to help each other with the work." But Guanyu reserves the highest praise for OIP. "OIP is the best. UMaine OIP is always open to international students. The staff in OIP are very patient and willing to help," he says. "Moreover, there are many international student organizations and many activities which enrich international students' lives." After completing his undergraduate degree this month, Guanyu will pursue a master's degree in applied economics at Johns Hopkins University, confident that his time at UMaine has prepared him well for graduate studies. "The theoretical knowledge I have gained at UMaine gives me a solid foundation for my master's classes, and I have also developed a good learning style and studying abilities." Thinking beyond his academic accomplishments, Guanyu is certain that his undergraduate experience has prepared him to integrate into American society. "The University of Maine made me become an independent person. I know more clearly what I want, and what things are important to me." Contact: Joan Perkins; joan.perkins@maine.edu

Miner finds outdoor gear 'forever chemicals' in snow near Everest summit

17 Dec 2020

"Forever chemicals" used in water-repellant outdoor gear have been found in snow from the top of Mount Everest. Kimberley Miner says these human-made per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — which have been linked to birth defects, high cholesterol and increased risk of kidney and testicular cancer — could eventually pose a risk for trekkers, climbers and residents who drink the meltwater. Miner, a research assistant professor at the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, is lead author of the paper "Deposition of PFAS 'forever chemicals' on Mt. Everest," published Dec. 17 in the online journal Science of the Total Environment. Other recent studies suggest that exposure to high levels of PFAS may suppress peoples' immune systems and increase their risk of getting COVID-19, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The PFAS pollution identified on Everest shows that humans are shedding these chemicals wherever they go. Companies that make outdoor gear have indicated they have, or soon will be, phasing out use of these

chemicals. [caption id="attachment_81325" align="aligncenter" width="750"] 

View of the climbers' tents, made from waterproof acrylic material, at Camp IV/South Col. In the background, climbers make their way to the summit wearing plastic-based waterproof outdoor gear. The National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition was the most comprehensive single scientific expedition to the mountain in history. A diverse team of scientists, storytellers, and expert climbers and guides surveyed the mountain's geography, geology and biodiversity; installed a network of weather stations, including the world's highest; and collected ice and lake cores, all in order to better understand the impacts of climate change on the world's tallest mountain.[/caption] Everest is one of the most coveted mountains to climb. In 2019, more than 800 people attempted to summit the 29,032-foot mountain. The chemicals were found in snow and meltwater collected from the Khumbu Glacier at Base Camp, Camp I, Camp II, and the Everest Balcony during the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition. This marks the first time that Everest snow and meltwater has been analyzed for PFAS, Miner says. The highest concentrations — which were found at Base Camp and Camp II — are two to three times higher than concentrations found in any other alpine environment. While these samples are from Nepal, Miner says PFAS are everywhere. "I think this shows that any community that has a mountain or outdoors presence may have residual side effects of PFAS pollution, and that includes Maine," she says. "Both my work on PFAS and Imogen's (Napper, National Geographic Explorer who is lead author of "Reaching New Heights in Plastic Pollution — Preliminary Findings of Microplastics on Mount Everest") work on microplastics show that humans leave a legacy that's visible or microscopic everywhere they go. We need to think about that when deciding how to interact with the environment, what products we're going to use … and how we're going to remediate some of this chemical pollution." UMaine co-authors, all of whom took part in the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, are: Heather Clifford, doctoral student; Mariusz Potocki, doctoral candidate; and Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute. Additional co-authors are Todd Taruscio and Gene Solomon of Anatek Labs in Moscow, Idaho; Napper of the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom; and Ananta Gajurel of Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Miner also is lead author of the primer "An Overview of Physical Risks in the Mt. Everest Region" recently published in the special issue on Himalayan climate change in the interdisciplinary scientific journal One Earth. She says risks inherent to climbing Everest are likely to increase in coming years with growing glacier melt, precipitation changes, geologic shifts, and chemical pollution. "The impacts the climbing and tourism industry have in the region should be characterized and understood to protect the residents in the watershed below," she says. Clifford, Potocki and Mayewski are among the 20 co-authors of that study, which also resulted from the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition. Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Updated resources for planning accessible events available online

17 Dec 2020

"Planning Accessible Meetings and Conferences: A Suggested Checklist and Guide" is a free resource developed by the University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies in partnership with Speaking Up for Us, a Maine organization run by and for adults who live with developmental disabilities. The checklist is designed to help people, groups or organizations plan a meeting or conference that is inclusive and welcoming by providing practical suggestions that promote meaningful participation for everyone. Originally published in 2014, the checklist was updated in November 2020 to include information on the following topics:

- Online meetings and conferences
- Conflicting accommodations
- Cultural competence
- Plain language
- Service animals, emotional support animals and the ADA
- Exceptions to person-first language
- Ethical photography and vulnerable populations
- LGBTQ inclusion
- Gender identity and personal pronouns

The updated checklist also includes a new resource section, an expanded glossary and a fresh design. It is a fully accessible PDF that can be printed or completed as an electronic document using free Adobe Acrobat Reader DC software. The checklist is available online.

WAGM talks with Lilley about beekeeping workshops

17 Dec 2020

WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) spoke with Jason Lilley, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension sustainable agriculture professional, about a beekeeping webinar series beginning in January. “This winter we’re really expecting a big amount of interest, with a lot of new beekeepers jumping into it this year,” said Lilley. “And we’re really excited to be able to offer this virtually, which will be the first time we’ve done that.” More information about the series is online.

News Center Maine report of trash spill in Penobscot Bay mentions UMaine studies

17 Dec 2020

A News Center Maine report about an incident that occurred while offloading trash destined for the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) mentioned studies of the currents in Penobscot Bay by University of Maine faculty.

WVII covers Ferrini-Mundy statement on vaccine distribution

17 Dec 2020

WVII (Channel 7) reported on the role of the University of Maine System in planning for and distributing COVID-19 vaccines, sharing a statement from University of Maine president Joan Ferrini-Mundy. “In the new year, Maine’s research university will be working with UMS institutions and public educators across the state to create awareness about the efficacy and safety of FDA-approved vaccines, and support an efficient and statewide distribution of the vaccine,” Ferrini-Mundy said.

Kreutz consults on ‘Arctic Adventure’ exhibit at Boston Museum of Science

17 Dec 2020

[caption id="attachment_81345" align="alignright" width="400"]  Karl Kreutz[/caption] Growing up alongside the Niagara River in New York, Karl Kreutz loved the winter storms that dumped feet of snow and he enjoyed watching ice from Lake Erie flow past his house en route to Niagara Falls. “I didn’t know it at the time, but it really was like an Arctic landscape right in my front yard,” he says. When he learned in a college glacial geology course that a two-mile-thick ice sheet had covered a large swath of the continent until about 15,000 years ago, things clicked. “I realized I could have a career that combined my interest in science and my love of the outdoors,” he says. Today, the professor in the Climate Change Institute and the School of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine seeks to better understand Earth’s dynamic climate history. And he does that in spectacular ice-covered landscapes, including in Alaska, Antarctica, Asia, Canada, Greenland, Iceland and South America. A little over two years ago, the Museum of Science (MOS) in Boston asked Kreutz for his scientific expertise as it planned and developed a permanent exhibit “Arctic Adventure: Exploring with Technology.” Kreutz welcomed the opportunity to work on the project that seeks to spark people’s excitement for the Arctic, technology, science and exploration. “In my 20-plus years of working in polar regions, there have been incredible advances in communication, GPS, remote sensing, and other technology, including the laboratory resources we have at UMaine, that allow for more and exciting discoveries,” he says. Kreutz served with colleagues from NASA and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others, on the panel of consultants for the exhibit, which opened earlier in December. The Moment Factory also teamed with the MOS to expand “the boundaries of exhibition design with augmented learning.” Museumgoers, Kreutz says, can feel, hear, see and experience what it’s like to be a polar explorer. The exhibit’s four distinct zones have “real-time content fine-tuned to change everything from sunlight hues and animal behaviour to the hour and season,” according to the Moment Factory. Throughout the visit, museumgoers encounter a variety of sounds, including seal and whale calls. In an ice cave surrounded by real, touchable ice walls, they’ll feel the temperature plummet. Guests also can experience what it’s like to drill, and analyze, an ice core, as well as use ground-penetrating radar to safely cross a virtual glacier. And they can utilize GPS to track migrations of polar bears and whales. After two years of offering insights about science, ice-coring and Arctic landscapes, Kreutz says he’s eager to experience the exhibit firsthand. Perhaps there, he’ll encounter a youth being inspired to pursue a career like his. Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

UMaine students’ curriculum design projects highlight past, present of the ‘Everglades of the North’

17 Dec 2020

Two University of Maine undergraduates are designing place-based education materials and K–12 curricula about the Grand Kankakee Marsh in Northern Indiana as part of a National Geographic Society grant. Mo Weitman and Bell Gellis Morais are working with Katherine Glover, research associate at the Climate Change Institute (CCI) and recipient of a National Geographic Society Early Career Grant, to develop materials that will educate students and teachers about the past and present of an area once referred to as the Everglades of the North. Weitman and Morais’s curriculum design forms part of the outreach component of Glover’s project, “Biogeography of the Grand Kankakee Marsh, Northern Indiana, U.S. over the past 5,000 years,” which seeks to reconstruct the history of the region and contribute to restoration efforts. The Grand Kankanee Marsh once spanned over 1,000 square miles and was famous for its rich biodiversity before it was irreversibly disturbed by settler resource exploitation, drainage and channelizing in the late 19th century. Today, only about 5% of the original marsh remains. Weitman, an education and Earth and climate sciences major from Bangor, focused her educational module for high schoolers on glaciers, drawing attention to why they matter and their influence on the land. Indiana has been covered by multiple glaciers in the past; the Last Glacial Maximum led to conditions that eventually formed the Grand Kankakee Marsh. These conditions concluded in a drainage shift, rerouting water from Lake Michigan into the marsh area. Once the drainage shift occurred, the Grand Kankakee Marsh began to retain water faster than the land could remove it. In Weitman’s lesson plan, students track glaciers’ movements through the land formations left behind; her module invites students to use software like ArcGIS and the CCI’s Climate Reanalyzer to identify landscape features caused by receding glaciers and to make predictions based on climate projections. Through storytelling, the module also illustrates the significance of glacial movement in other senses. As Weitman explains, they leave behind resources for construction. Morais, a sophomore in psychology and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies, has been working on the region’s more recent history: their module, designed for 6th-7th grade social studies, focuses on how the marsh has changed due to human intervention. Through gallery walks, graphs, maps and the interpretation of historical

documents, Morais' lesson guides students through Native cultures' stewardship of the land prior to the mid-19th century, when westward expansion under the aegis of Manifest Destiny, and the Indian Removal Act, drove the Miami and Potawatomi from the land. The Civil War, too, played a role, as the frontier was settled. Land given to speculators was clearcut, and the Kankakee River itself straightened, which had devastating effects on flora and fauna, including the eradication of bison locally. An emphasis of Morais' lesson plan is the efforts today to restore the Kankakee watershed and mitigate the historical damage that has been done, emphasizing, for example, consultation with local Native American groups. Morais and Weitman's teaching modules are being developed to align with Indiana standards for Earth science and environmental studies, National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, and Next Generation Science Standards. They have been optimized, too, for possible distanced or remote learning. Weitman's work is accessible via the Science Education Resource Center as part of the "Teach the Earth" portal, managed by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers for the benefit of educators. Bell Morais created theirs using the C3 Teachers inquiry design model, or the College, Career, and Civic Life Framework for Social Studies State Standards. A version of Morais' lesson can be found here. Beyond its immediate applicability to local conservation and restoration efforts, Glover sees these educational efforts as important nationally and internationally. "It's important to bring awareness to this area," she says, "but it also points to the complexity of systems. This includes the effects of glacial movement, the impacts of colonization and westward expansion. There's also work that needs to be done to educate people about the function and benefit of marshes and wetlands more broadly." Contact: Brian Jansen, brian.jansen@maine.edu

Emily Carbonetti: Four-decade career in the classroom started at UMaine

17 Dec 2020

As a third generation Black Bear, Emily Carbonetti's connections to the University of Maine run deep. Her mom's family was from Augusta, and her grandfather and both of her parents graduated from UMaine. "My mother had no choice. She was going to the University of Maine — that was it," says Carbonetti, half joking. Her mom's sister also went to UMaine, and ended up marrying John Fogler, Raymond H. Fogler's son. Yes, that Raymond H. Fogler. "We often would go up for Homecoming, we'd get together with cousins, grandparents. We just would have a ball," she recalls. One of Carbonetti's two sons is also a graduate, making four generations of her family to earn degrees from UMaine. Carbonetti, who earned her bachelor's in education in 1976, transferred to UMaine from Green Mountain College, a small private school in Poultney, Vermont where she earned an associate's degree in education. She applied to a number of different 4-year colleges, but says Maine "was like going home." UMaine is also where she met her husband of 43 years, Richard "Carbo" Carbonetti, who earned his degree in forestry. "It's always been a big part of our lives," she says. After graduating, Emily and Richard moved to Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, where he pursued a career as a forester and she began her career as a teacher at a small community school in Glover, about 20 minutes from where they settled in Albany, Vermont. She taught in a combined fourth and fifth grade classroom, and says UMaine prepared her for what to expect as a small-town educator. "I did my student teaching in Hampden in a fourth grade classroom," she says. "And then when my husband was finishing his degree, I took a long-term substitute job in Glenburn, in a combined fourth and fifth grade class, in a school very similar to the one that I started at in Glover." She also had jobs at a day care in Bangor and as a tutor at Asa Adams School in Orono. Those experiences, she says, proved invaluable when she accepted her first full-time teaching job. "It's very hard to tell teachers what it's going to be like without getting them into classrooms," she says. "I was fortunate. My student teaching and the jobs I held in Maine were fabulous." Carbonetti is retired now, having spent a total of 39 years teaching in Glover. She saw a lot of changes in education over the years as technology advanced and trends came and went. Her advice to new and aspiring teachers is simple: Get to know your students and have them get to know you. "Develop mutual respect," she says. "Don't try to be their buddy or friend — that's not your job. But do your best to lead them, show them that you have confidence in what you're doing, and that you're human." **Describe the school and community where you taught.** We live in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. It's in the northeast corner of the state. When we first moved here in 1977, there were a lot of farms. There aren't as many today, because a lot of the smaller, family farms are disappearing. But it's still very rural. Glover, where I taught, is probably between 800 and 900 people even now. It's a small school, K–8, and we all taught combined classrooms. So I taught fourth and fifth grade, and it would change every year depending on the enrollment numbers. We also had a principal who taught middle school math and science. **What did you enjoy about teaching at a rural school?** I loved it. Especially in the early years, I thought we had a lot of freedom to meet the standards the way we felt they needed to be met. We also had a lot of family support and the principal was wonderful in that he was a teacher too, so he was supportive. **What were some of the changes you saw in education over the years?** In the beginning, we taught the basic competencies — different skills that we wanted the students to master in the different subject areas. As I said, we had a lot of freedom to teach as we saw fit, as long as the children were mastering these competencies. Over the years, that changed as everything became more standards-based, and we had to teach to these standards. Everything was driven more top-down, and we were told, "This is how you're going to do it." And the programs that they implemented would change every few years, and you had to be trained how to use them, and some of them were not user friendly. I also got to experience some positive changes. We got our first computer at Glover in 1983, and every year we built up our technology. The computers became easier to use, and eventually we taught the kids how to use them. By the time I left, every kid and every teacher had a laptop. The internet, of course, created a whole new ballgame. The technology resources were just enormous, and I was one of those teachers who liked to use whatever resources were available. **Do you have any advice for new teachers just starting their careers?** This is such a difficult question. There's so much they need to know. First, remain calm and don't get overwhelmed by all the research thrown at you in college. Don't expect one program to be the answer. I find a lot of new teachers want it all in a loose-leaf notebook that they can just present to the class and everything's great. But you have to take the time to get to know the students as people and let them get to know you. Explain your reasoning as to what you are trying to do and why. At the same time, don't be afraid to let them know that you don't know everything, but you have the confidence to figure it out. Kids can smell vulnerability a million miles away and will play on it. They need to know who is in charge. They want to feel safe in the classroom with you as their leader. Classroom management is extremely important. A teacher's job is to guide students in the learning process through caring and mutual respect. I have often told my students that I care about them, I want them to succeed, but I'm not your friend. In my 39 years, I rarely raised my voice. I practiced discipline through explanation. I had two rules: do not stop me from teaching, and do not stop others from learning. We would have discussions as to what that means and they understood. My final piece of advice is: don't think you know it all, because you don't. Ask questions and learn from your colleagues. I've seen many teachers fail because they were afraid to ask others for help. We've all been there and know what it's like to be a new teacher. You are not showing weakness if you need help. **What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?** I met my husband there, and Maine has always been an integral part of our family. As far as the education, I learned so much during my student teaching in Hampden. I was in a fourth grade classroom with Mr. Jenkins, and they used to give him the hardest students. That really helped me tremendously, watching him interact with them. He used a lot of the techniques that I would use — the mutual respect, explaining why you're asking students to do something. **How does UMaine continue to influence your life?** Fill the Steins! I'm a Maine girl at heart, and UMaine is just very dear to our whole family. Contact: Casey Kelly, casey.kelly@maine.edu

The Mayer-Rothschild Foundation awards Center on Aging, The Cedars funding to seek best practices for person-centered care

18 Dec 2020

The Mayer-Rothschild Foundation has awarded funding to the University of Maine Center on Aging and The Cedars, a nonprofit retirement community in South Portland, to identify and promote the best practices for person-centered care in nursing homes, independent and assisted living facilities and dementia and memory care residences. The foundation's first Designation of Excellence in Person-Centered Long-Term Care Award allows both organizations to develop a national standard for person-centered care and optimal strategies for facilities to implement it. The designation of excellence they create will serve as a promotional tool for institutions that adopt best practices for this model of care. Person-centered care promotes policies that allow residents of long-term care facilities to advocate for services that best meet their individual needs and preferences. While a shift toward person-centered care has taken place over the last few decades in long-term care, there is no definition or standard guidelines for person-centered care. This award seeks to move care from a model that is medically or task-driven, to care that is driven largely by resident preferences, which are often not considered. "Our team is excited to undertake this much-needed research," says Lenard Kaye, director at the University of Maine Center on Aging. "We know the provision of person-centered long-term care has yet to incorporate a common set of widely accepted operating principles. Our efforts will be dedicated to arriving at a universal model of care that can be implemented nationally in a diverse network of nursing homes and assisted living communities." Read the full release on The Mayer-Rothschild Foundation website. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

FAME honors Pulp and Paper Foundation with 2020 Education at Work Award

18 Dec 2020

The University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation has received the 2020 Education at Work for Maine Award from the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) in recognition of their role in revitalizing Maine's forest products industry. The mission of the foundation is to sustain a critical pipeline of talented engineers by recruiting, training and providing financial support for future leaders in the pulp and paper industry. Foundation initiatives such as Consider Engineering, an immersive residential program designed to introduce high school juniors to UMaine and to varied engineering disciplines, and the annual Paper Days networking event, which draws more than 350 national and international guests, strategically connect students with the university, the foundation, and engineering professionals from academia, government and private industry to build the engineering workforce. The foundation's

scholarship program currently provides over 120 scholarships annually to students seeking a career in the pulp and paper industry. With support from corporate donors, individual sponsors and alumni, that number will increase to 150 over the next four years. Pulp and Paper Foundation President Carrie Enos is thrilled with this acknowledgment of the foundation's work. "We are grateful to our partners at the University of Maine, to our corporate and individual donors, to our students, and to our volunteers," said Enos. "It is an honor to make it possible for our students to receive a world-class engineering education and graduate in just four years with two semesters of co-op work experience and highly rewarding careers. Many of our students graduate with little to zero student loan debt, and they remain members of our family for a lifetime." The Pulp and Paper Foundation was nominated for the FAME award by Blue Keim, Operations Manager at ND Paper in Rumford. Keim also serves on the foundation's board of directors. In a press release, FAME's Chief Executive Officer Bruce Wagner expressed regret that the annual awards celebration, Showcase Maine, was cancelled due to the pandemic. But he stressed the need to share good news, particularly now. "We are pleased to honor our partners who help to make Maine's economic and educational futures brighter, especially during these challenging times." High school seniors interested in applying for a University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation scholarship for the 2021-22 academic year can find more information and an application form online; the application deadline is Dec. 31, 2020. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

Pen Bay Pilot notes UMaine, Extension help with drought survey

18 Dec 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot noted that the University of Maine School of Food and Agriculture, in collaboration with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will help the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry administer the Maine Drought and Agriculture Survey. The survey will help them research how drought has affected farming operations over the past five years. Anyone willing to participate can access the survey online.

Ellsworth American highlights CCAR aid to aquaculture farm

18 Dec 2020

The Ellsworth American noted that the University of Maine Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research will assist Sarah Redmond, owner of Springtime Seaweed LLC in South Goldsboro, in her efforts to expand her business. Redmond plans to cultivate green sea urchins year-round. The Mount Desert Islander shared the article.

BDN, Centralmaine.com advance Extension's business transition workshop for farmers

18 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News and Centralmaine.com advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's three-part series for farmers considering transitions in their business models. The series will be held from 9:30–11:30 a.m. on Jan. 12, Jan. 19 and Jan 26. Register on the program webpage to receive the link.

Guinness World Records notes Everest Expedition finds highest-altitude microplastic

18 Dec 2020

Guinness World Records determined that the 2019 National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition, which included scientists from the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, revealed the highest altitude where microplastics were found. The highest-ever recorded sample of microplastics was pinpointed on the "Balcony" of Mount Everest at 8,440 meters, one of the last resting spots before reaching the summit. This microplastic is likely from climbers' clothing and equipment, highlighting the impacts of humans on even the highest reaches of our planet.

Research Reveals Diverse Community Benefits of Small-scale Fisheries

18 Dec 2020

University of Maine researchers Heather Leslie and Kara Pellowe are studying the diverse benefits provided by fisheries in partnership with harvesters and other local experts in multiple regions, including Maine and Mexico. Pellowe, a former UMaine postdoctoral scholar now at the Stockholm Resilience Centre in Sweden, and Leslie, director of the UMaine Darling Marine Center in Walpole, contend that the benefits provided by fisheries are more diverse than is often accounted for in fisheries management. In a recent study of the diverse benefits that small-scale fisheries provide to coastal communities, Pellowe and Leslie found that non-fishing families recognize the diverse benefits associated with coastal fisheries. The study specifically investigated how these benefits were recognized in the community of Loreto in the northwest region of Mexico, where both fisheries and tourism play important roles in the local economy, much like the Maine coast. Their findings were published in the scientific journal Ambio. The study is based on data that Pellowe collected in Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico. She used a standard social science approach, household surveys, to gather information on the benefits that the Mexican chocolate clam fishery provides to community members. The data revealed that the values of most importance to the community were the economic, cultural and tourism values generated by the clam fishery. The clams also contribute to a shared sense of local community identity, particularly for participants who had lived in the region longest. The high cultural and historical significance of the fishery highlights chocolate clams as a cultural keystone species in the Loreto region.

A full news release about the research is online.

Contact: Kara Pellowe kara.pellowe@maine.edu or Heather Leslie heather.leslie@maine.edu

Mayewski takes part in ScienceWhys podcast

18 Dec 2020

Paul Mayewski, director of the Climate Change Institute, took part in a ScienceWhys podcast with host Lisa Heldke, director of the Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College. The podcast poses questions at the confluence of science and ethics. Mayewski says that everybody wants to be healthy. If we had clean air and clean water, he says we "would be healthier, we would lower our health costs, we would be less stressed, we would be less frustrated, and we would have more sustainable jobs."

Boss' lab participates in the new Tara ocean expedition studying microbiomes across the South Atlantic and South Pacific

18 Dec 2020

[caption id="attachment_81381" align="alignright" width="400"] Copyright: fondationtaraocean.org/studioV2[/caption] A French research schooner known for its scientific expeditions in the world's oceans set sail on another voyage last week, equipped with sensors from the University of Maine's School of Marine Sciences. Emmanuel Boss, a professor of oceanography, and Lee Karp-Boss, a professor with the School of Marine Sciences, have been serving as coordinators for the Tara Ocean Expeditions since 2012 and Boss has had instruments on board since 2009. The current expedition will span almost two-years to study marine microbiomes, the assembly of microorganisms in a given marine environment. The research voyage will explore how microbiomes function, particularly in the context of climate change and plastic pollution. UMaine provided equipment for the expedition, and Boss's lab trained the technicians aboard the schooner on how to use it, as he has for previous journeys. Intriguingly, two past Tara science technicians have come to UMaine to pursue Ph.D.s in oceanography. The foundation's titular vessel left its home port in Lorient, France, on Saturday, Dec. 12, for a 70,000-kilometer, more than 40,000-mile, journey across the South Atlantic Ocean along the African, South American and Antarctic coasts, according to the organization. Forty-two research institutions worldwide, including UMaine, are participating in the mission. Almost 200 scientists will take part in different legs of the voyage. Boss says the crew consists of 14 people at a time, including five scientists, engineers, photographers and a journalist. From UMaine, Boss, Karp-Boss and several current and former graduate students are scheduled to join different legs. While COVID-19 initially delayed the journey, previously planned to begin in late spring, Boss says the foundation devised methods to safely execute it, demonstrating the organization's resilience and commitment to the expedition. "That shows continuity. The climate is changing despite us staying at home because of COVID." Similar to previous expeditions, UMaine provided Tara a variety of sensors, which Boss and Karp-Boss deploy in their research. The optical technology installed by UMaine includes an underwater spectral absorption and attenuation meter, a spectral backscattering sensor and spectrofluorometer all manufactured by SeaBird Electronics. An automated microscope will be added to the suite of sensors later in the expedition. The methodology employed to get high quality data has been developed and improved at UMaine by a series of graduate students beginning with Wayne Slade, currently vice president for science and technology at the sensor manufacturer Sequoia Scientific Inc."We're getting data at a very high rate, which means we can use statistics to reduce our uncertainties," Boss says. According to the foundation, scientists will collect samples "for a major DNA sequencing and imaging effort, while measuring a large number of environmental parameters, including temperature, oxygen level, presence of nutrients, and plastic pollution." Data will become available to the public, and could help enhance climate forecasting models. Boss says Tara's approach is unique because it uses the same methodology throughout the globe so one can compare across oceans. This is different from typical oceanographic data which is often collected using different methods by different sea-going labs on significantly shorter expeditions. Once the data collected during Tara's voyages enters the public domain, Boss says it helps propel a variety of water quality research. Besides providing environmental context to the genomics and imaging data collected on board, the focus of Boss and Karp-Boss's lab is to create the link between ocean color measured from satellite to in-water optical properties and from those to the water constituents, whether they are living plankton or inorganic sediments brought to the ocean by rivers. UMaine has thus far collected the largest publicly available database of seawater optical properties used for remote-sensing algorithm validation and development. In addition to collecting data, scientists aboard Tara will conduct outreach activities with various communities and school classes focusing on the world's oceans and efforts to protect them, as well as provide tours of the schooner, during its 23 planned stopovers. Local researchers will also meet with the crew to discuss various ocean study practices, according to the foundation. Tara expeditions do not only provide a platform for collecting valuable scientific data, but also foster a community where trans-disciplinary topics are explored and where the human experience is valued. Boss says he "spoils" the students he recruits because they witness vistas they have never seen and enjoy the company of fellow researchers from around the globe in an atmosphere very different than on traditional oceanographic vessels. The Tara Ocean Foundation, formed in 2003, aims "to predict, anticipate and better manage tomorrow's climate risks," to the world's oceans, according to its website. Its titular schooner has embarked on 12 expeditions spanning 400,000 kilometers, or almost 250,000 miles, with stopovers in more than 60 countries. The research conducted onboard propelled more than 100 scientific publications and revealed "100,000 new marine species and more than 150 million genes." NASA's Ocean Biology and Biochemistry program has funded the UMaine Tara efforts since 2009. Karp-Boss recently secured a National Science Foundation grant to study the effect of islands in the Pacific Ocean in altering the surrounding environment using the data from the recent Tara Pacific expedition. Two UMaine graduate students, Guillaume Bourdin and Jason Morrill, are participating in that study with Bourdin supported by a Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology (FINESST) fellowship. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

'Teaching from the Heart' offered by Hutchinson Center

21 Dec 2020

Registration is open for an online program, "Teaching from the Heart: Nonviolent Communication in the Classroom," presented by the University of Maine Hutchinson Center. The three-day professional development program for educators, teachers and those working with children from preschool to third grade is scheduled for 3:30–5:30 p.m. Jan 25–27. Instructor Gina Simm has taught early childhood education for more than 30 years, and has worked closely with Miki Kashtan, a co-founder of Bay Area Nonviolent Communication. Simm's knowledge of nonviolent communication has transformed her classroom into a place where systems of the heart create a child-centered environment for moving through conflict. Participants will learn to manage classrooms and learning environments with a practical, simple curriculum based on Simm's book, "Heart to Heart: Three Systems for Staying Connected (A Manual for Parents and Teachers)." Skills that help maintain the heart-to-heart connections that support children's ability to self-regulate and improve their emotional intelligence are core principles in this course. Participants will

also learn to use children's literature to teach principles of nonviolent communication and to provide empathetic training to help children transition back into the classroom after the pandemic. Participants will receive a certificate of completion, and 0.6 CEUs/6 contact hours are available. More information about the course and a registration link is available online. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available for people who live or work in Knox or Waldo County. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002; um.fhc.pd@maine.edu.

Media advance volunteer master gardener training, registration

21 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Ellsworth American, Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips, the Penobscot Bay Pilot, the MD Islander, The Franklin Journal, the Livermore Falls Advertiser, the Daily Bulldog, the Advertiser Democrat and Morning Ag Clips promoted the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's master gardener volunteer training program for 2021. Registration begins Jan. 4 for self-paced learning modules and virtual course sessions designed to train volunteers in horticulture and food system-related community service. More information about the program is online.

Dumas speaks with BDN about cooking with fennel

21 Dec 2020

Rob Dumas, a University of Maine food science innovation coordinator, talked with the Bangor Daily News about using fennel to elevate home cooking.

Hechinger Report interviews Leahy about impact of pandemic on rural student aspirations

21 Dec 2020

The Hechinger Report talked with Jessica Leahy, a University of Maine professor of the human dimensions of natural resources, about a recently released study of rural high school student aspirations and the impact of the pandemic on school performance.

BDN talks with Birkel about climate change in Maine

21 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Sean Birkel, University of Maine research assistant professor and Maine's state climatologist, about signs of a warming climate in Maine. "The warming climate brings changes in atmospheric circulation that make extreme events — such as intense short-term drought and wind storms with heavy rainfall — more likely," said Birkel.

Stoll receives fellowship to support Maine's lobster industry

22 Dec 2020

The Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region (CINAR) has awarded Joshua Stoll, assistant professor of marine policy in the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine, a two-year fellowship in quantitative fisheries and ecosystem science. Funding from the fellowship will be used to support a post-doctoral researcher who will work with Stoll and collaborators Lisa Colburn and Michael Jepson, researchers at the National Marine Fisheries Service, to develop quantitative social and economic indicators for the American lobster fishery. A novel component of the project is that Stoll and his colleagues will use datasets that are spatially and temporally sensitive to capture socioeconomic changes in near real-time. This research will ultimately help policy makers and the industry monitor the resilience of this important fishery to longstanding and emerging challenges. Social and economic indicators are tools of growing importance in fisheries management, but do not currently exist for the American lobster fishery. Lobster is the single most valuable species harvested in the United States, supporting thousands of jobs in Maine. The fishery is particularly important in rural areas of coastal Maine where few alternative employment opportunities exist. Stoll is one of three recipients of the fellowship, which is open to early-career scientists with appointments at CINAR-partner institutions. The award supports scientists researching how to improve and enhance the assessment and management of living marine resources in the Northeast region. A goal of the fellowship is to also foster collaboration between faculty at CINAR institutions and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Center of Coastal Fisheries and Maine Lobstermen's Association are all active partners on the project. This research is also supported by National Sea Grant's American Lobster Initiative and the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. Contact: Erin Miller, erin.miller@maine.edu

Sociology journal article earns 2020 Outstanding Contribution Award

22 Dec 2020

The Division of Biopsychosocial Criminology of the American Society of Criminology awarded Steve Barkan, a University of Maine professor emeritus of sociology, and alumnus Michael Rocque, associate professor of sociology at Bates College, the 2020 Outstanding Contribution Award for their article titled "Socioeconomic Status and Racism as Fundamental Causes of Street Criminality," which was published in Critical Criminology.

Registration open for UMaine Extension Master Gardener Volunteers 2021 online training on Jan. 4

22 Dec 2020

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Volunteers program will begin accepting applications for the virtual 2021 training on Jan. 4. The program spans March 1–May 23, and resumes Sept. 7–Oct. 31. The UMaine Extension Master Gardener Volunteers program, designed to train volunteers in horticulture and food system-related community service, includes self-paced learning modules and live virtual sessions with horticultural experts. Topics include vegetable and fruit production, plants for the Maine landscape, soil health, composting, pesticide safety and food security. Participants will be expected to volunteer at least 40 hours to complete the certification in the first year. Volunteer opportunities and expectations will be adjusted based on public health safety guidelines. The $250 course fee includes all materials; limited financial assistance is available. Applications are due Jan. 24. Apply and find more information on the program webpage. For additional details or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact 207.581.3188; extension.mastergardeners@maine.edu. Sign up online to be notified when applications are open.

Dumas promotes use of eggnog in cooking in BDN story

22 Dec 2020

Rob Dumas, University of Maine food science innovation coordinator, talked with the Bangor Daily News about adding eggnog in recipes that call for dairy, eggs and spices.

Dill talks with BDN about keeping mice out of parked vehicles

22 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News talked with Griffin Dill, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension pest management professional, about preventing mice from taking up residence in cars and other vehicles in the winter.

BDN interviews Lichtenwalner about keeping chicken coops clean in winter

22 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Anne Lichtenwalner, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor and director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, about using deep litter chicken bedding to help keep coops clean and flocks healthy in winter.

Phys.org reports on Leslie, Pellowe study of small-scale fisheries

22 Dec 2020

Phys.org picked up a University of Maine news release documenting the diverse community benefits from small, local fisheries. The study by Heather Leslie, director of the Darling Marine Center, and Kara Pellowe, a former UMaine postdoctoral scholar, found that non-fishing families recognized the broader community benefits of the fishing industry in a small town in Mexico where fishing and tourism are key to the local economy.

BDN cites UMaine study that concludes forests offset much of state's transportation emissions

22 Dec 2020

In a story about regional efforts to curb vehicle emissions, the Bangor Daily News cited a University of Maine study by the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests that shows that forests offset 75% of the state's emissions.

Trostel speaks with WGME about latest COVID-19 aid package

22 Dec 2020

WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) interviewed Philip Trostel, University of Maine professor economics and public policy, about the impact of the most recently approved federal coronavirus relief package. WPFO (Channel 23 in Portland) shared the WGME story.

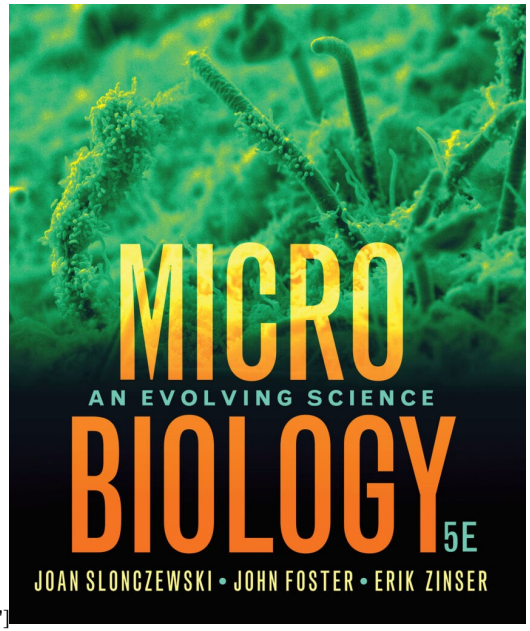
Press Herald talks with Kryszak about creating holiday score for silent film compilation

22 Dec 2020

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Alan Kryszak, a University of Maine at Machias creative arts faculty member, about composing the score for a compilation of nine silent holiday short films. Kryszak's score features violin, harp and handbells as musical accompaniment to the film. "These aren't your father's handbells," Kryszak said, adding that he views his creation as Christmas music "with a little Frank Zappa and Gentle Giant on the side."

SEM taken by UMaine grad student on cover of microbiology textbook

22 Dec 2020



[caption id="attachment_81429" align="alignright" width="400"] Scanning electron micrograph of bacterial colonization on the blade margins of the marine macroalga Porphyra umbilicalis. Image by Charlotte Royer, published with permission from W.W. Norton and Company.[/caption] A scanning electron micrograph taken by University of Maine alumna Charlotte Royer is featured on the cover of the textbook, "Microbiology: An Evolving Science, Fifth Edition," published in 2020 by W.W. Norton and Company. Royer took the image in 2018 when she was a master's student in marine sciences advised by UMaine professor of plant biology and marine sciences Susan Brawley. Brawley credits Kelly Edwards with training Royer on the use of the scanning electron microscope. Edwards, electron microscopy lab manager in the School of Biology and Ecology, is now retired from UMaine. The textbook authors discovered the image when it was included as a figure in a publication by Royer, Brawley and Nicolas Blouin in "Botanica Marina" in 2018. Blouin earned his doctorate at UMaine with Brawley, and is now a senior research scientist and CORE associate director in the department of molecular biology at the University of Wyoming. Royer is a research assistant in the department of neurosciences at The Ohio State University. The cover image, which was colorized by Norton, shows microbial colonization on the blade margins of the marine macroalga *Porphyra umbilicalis*, collected from the cultured descendant of a wild sample originally harvested in Lubec, Maine. Contact: Joan Perkins, joan.perkins@maine.edu

Online Career Transformation Series offered through Hutchinson Center

23 Dec 2020

The University of Maine Hutchinson Center will offer a three-part Career Transformation Series from 11 a.m.-noon Jan. 15, 22 and 29 via Zoom. This professional development series will benefit participants of all experience levels, regardless of employment status. Topics to be covered include building professional networks, creating a compelling resume, and enhancing interviewing skills. Presenter Tom Dowd, who received a communication degree from the University of Delaware, is a prize-winning speaker, award-winning author and trainer. A member of Toastmasters International, the National Speakers Association, the Maine Career Development Association, and the Maine Adult Education Association, Dowd has enjoyed extensive professional success through application of a growth mindset. The cost is $60 per session, or $144 for the series. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available for participants who live or work in Knox or Waldo counties. More information, including a registration link, is available online. To request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8002, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu.

Dumas promotes cooking with rutabagas in BDN story

23 Dec 2020

Rob Dumas, University of Maine food science innovation coordinator, talked with the Bangor Daily News about preparing and cooking with rutabagas.

Bangor Daily news reports most students finished their classes this fall

23 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News reported that fall 2020 class completion statistics for the University of Maine System are just slightly less than the numbers from last fall. University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy noted that in fall 2020, students were given more time to withdraw from classes or to choose pass-fail instead of a numerical grade.

Media highlight UMS 'Make the Grade' student retention program

23 Dec 2020

News Center Maine and WVII (Channel 7) reported that the University of Maine System will offer the "Make the Grade" program again at all campuses to retain promising full-time, first-year students who failed one class this fall. WCNC (Channel 24 in Charlotte, North Carolina) shared the News Center story.

Media promote online class 'Selling Meat in Maine'

23 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News, The Irregular, Centralmaine.com, Morning Ag Clips and the Daily Bulldog advanced a University of Maine Cooperative Extension webinar series Jan. 20–21 for producers seeking to package and sell meat and poultry products directly to consumers. More information about the series, which is co-sponsored by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, is online. Spot On Maine shared the Bangor Daily News story.

BDN interviews Flint about poultry first aid

23 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News interviewed Donna Flint, University of Maine Cooperative Extension poultry health technician, about gathering items for a poultry first aid kit to treat minor issues among backyard flocks.

Strout talks with Insight Into Diversity about changes to nursing program during the pandemic

23 Dec 2020

Insight Into Diversity interviewed Kelley Strout, University of Maine associate professor and director of the School of Nursing, about supporting students during the pandemic, and how COVID-19 has prompted changes in UMaine's nursing programs.

Media report on vaccine planning task force, UMS plans to welcome students back with increased testing in January

23 Dec 2020

News Center Maine and Centralmaine.com reported on the University of Maine System plans to increase testing for COVID-19 and to encourage students to return to all campuses in January. Also reported was the membership and charge of the recently announced UMS Vaccine Planning and Partnership Task Force. UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy leads the task force, which is expected to report to the Board of Trustees on Jan. 25. WABI (Channel 5), WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) and WAGM (Channel 8 in Presque Isle) also reported on the planned return of students in January.

Stoll talks with BDN about 'boat to fork' seafood marketing program

23 Dec 2020

Joshua Stoll, University of Maine assistant professor of marine policy, spoke with the Bangor Daily News about a $500,000 grant to the Local Catch Network, based in the School of Marine Sciences. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) award is intended to enhance integration of seafood into local food systems, and to fund a nationwide training and technical assistance program in support of sustainable, direct-to-consumer seafood operations.

Claudia Desjardins: Hands-on lab experience benefits human health in pandemic

28 Dec 2020

University of Maine senior Claudia Desjardins of Bangor pursued a major in animal and veterinary sciences and a minor in mathematics to make a difference in the lives of animals and humans through disease research and prevention. As an undergraduate, she collaborated with UMaine researcher mentors for a study of Maine's wild turkey population and helped test ticks for pathogens, including Lyme disease. Ultimately, she discovered her passion for laboratory diagnostic testing — skills that proved particularly important in the midst of the pandemic. For fall 2020, she joined UMaine's COVID-19 wastewater monitoring team, a part of the UMS Scientific Advisory Board focused on providing timely health and safety guidance for Maine's public universities. The wastewater monitoring team is led by Robert Wheeler, UMaine associate professor of microbiology. In the Wheeler lab, Desjardins is involved in the initial processing of wastewater samples taken at UMaine, the University of Southern Maine and University of Maine at Fort Kent. Once the samples are purified, the wastewater monitoring team runs a qPCR test that amplifies the nucleic acid of interest, allowing the researchers with the help of special software to detect how many copies of the virus are in the sample through the graph generated by the software. This is important in the health and safety needs of our community, Desjardins says, because people can shed the virus before they begin showing COVID-19 symptoms. "Asymptomatic transmission is a huge concern with COVID, and by regularly screening our wastewater, we can determine if there is a significant prevalence on campus before we get the chance to test individuals," Desjardins says. "That way, we'll know early on if the university needs to take action to prevent further spread on campus." It has been exciting to generate and witness this data firsthand, Desjardins says, "and incredibly fulfilling when your work is making a positive impact on the rest of the community." We asked Desjardins to tell us more about her UMaine experience: **Tell us more about your undergraduate research experiences:** My first research experience began with my senior capstone on reticuloendotheliosis virus (REV) in Maine's wild turkey population. I joined professor Pauline Kamath's lab, the Wildlife Disease Genetics Lab, to take on this project. This is where I discovered my passion for diagnostic techniques in a lab setting, especially when it comes to furthering our knowledge on disease — particularly animal diseases. I was able to expand on my skills after accepting a position this summer in the Tick Lab at the UMaine Diagnostic and Research Laboratory, where I do molecular lab testing on ticks for their associated pathogens, including the causative agent for Lyme disease. From there, I met professor Wheeler and joined his lab to conduct the COVID wastewater testing. With current events, I thought it would be exciting to apply my skills to help my school monitor the disease. Now, I work between all three labs this semester, where I am involved with a variety of projects. Additionally, I presented my capstone research on REV at the 2020 UMaine Student Symposium, and received the award for the highest scoring undergraduate presentation in the natural sciences category. **When did you start working in the Wheeler lab on efforts related to the pandemic? And can you give me a sense of your typical day or week this semester, balancing classes, work in the lab and other UMaine activities?** I started working in the Wheeler lab this August. This semester, I took the equine management class at the J.F. Witter Teaching and Research Center, so some days I am up at 5 a.m. to report to morning horse chores at 7 a.m. Afterward, I was either in the Wheeler Lab or the Tick Lab to begin my benchwork for the day. Once I got to a good stopping point, I attended my remote classes, and then I was back to work. Balancing classes between my three lab jobs has been a challenge, but it's a good feeling to be busy again after suddenly losing my routine last spring when we went remote. **Why UMaine for you?** I chose UMaine because the atmosphere was welcoming and familiar, since both of my brothers graduated from here. It was also close to home, so it was a great choice for me. **How would you describe the academic atmosphere and student experience at UMaine?** The atmosphere here is very supportive and motivating. I have met so many driven students and faculty who I look up to. The people here are always ready to cheer you on. **What other activities, hands-on experience or research opportunities have you been involved in outside of class?** I have studied REV in Maine's wild turkey population for my capstone, and I have also been involved with research on ticks in Maine and the prevalence of their associated pathogens. I had the opportunity to co-author a manuscript on deer ticks in Maine for the Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases journal. Aside from that, I have been an active member of the German Club since my freshman year, giving me leadership opportunities as the president. As an AVS major, I have been involved with the chores and animal care at the Witter Center, where I had the opportunity to work with the sheep, horses and cows for my hands-on classes. When I was involved in the dairy barn, my days would start as early as 2:45 a.m. for milking, followed by a full day of regular classes. One of the most rewarding experiences I had was assisting with the lambing season in spring 2019 through the Ewe-Maine Icelandics Sheep Club, where I welcomed my ewe's twins into the world — a ram named Shadow and a ewe named Meadow. **What have you learned from working with/being mentored by Dr. Wheeler, one of UMaine's leading researchers?** I learned so much from Dr. Wheeler, such as data analysis with qPCR and how to use the Bio-Rad software. I have also learned from his example about what it takes to be a great leader. Not only is he a highly knowledgeable researcher, but he also truly cares about the progress and success of every student that steps foot into his lab. **Describe UMaine in one word:** Inspiring **Explain:** At UMaine, there is a contagious "go-getter" attitude from my peers, advisers, and professors. I have met so many people that have inspired me to do better. The motivation from them helped me discover my passion for research and disease prevention in both humans and animals. **What difference has UMaine made in your life?** UMaine has taught me to embrace change and to have an open mind to new opportunities. I also learned that it's okay to take your time learning about yourself. When I graduated high school, it seemed like everyone expected me to have the rest of my life planned out, but that certainly wasn't the case. I didn't enjoy the major I was in, so after my first year I switched into AVS where all these opportunities started popping up. Over the course of four years, I got experience in leadership, event organizing, farming, animal care, lab benchwork and so much more. **What are your plans when you graduate? Where are you headed in your career?** I finished my coursework in December and am being hired full time to continue and enhance the

wastewater testing initiative. I hope that in my career I can continue to make a difference in the lives of animals and humans through disease research and prevention. Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

University Bookstore offers expanded textbook reservation program for spring semester shopping

28 Dec 2020

The University Bookstore is offering an expanded textbook reservation program to make the spring textbook buying experience simple and convenient for all University of Maine students. Students can reserve their textbooks by clicking on the "textbook reservation" button on the top of the bookstore website homepage and filling out the required form. The bookstore finds all spring textbooks for classes on each student's schedule, then processes and packs them either for on-campus pickup or free shipping to remote students. Customers need not know their schedules — the store will access their class lineup to pull the correct book and required materials. Every reservation is automatically entered into a drawing to win free textbooks. All reservation books are fully returnable for a full refund through the first week of the semester. For questions, contact the bookstore at 207.581.1728 or um.bookstore@maine.edu. Zoom chats available by appointment.

Camire speaks with Potato News Today about new, safer-to-eat Maine varieties

28 Dec 2020

Mary Ellen Camire, professor of food science and human nutrition at the University of Maine, spoke with Potato News Today about new Maine potato varieties that are safer to eat. The varieties Easton and AF4296-3 have less acrylamide, a probable carcinogen, than the Russet Burbank variety. "It took years to convince consumers to switch from whole milk to low-fat or skim milk. Hopefully changing consumer acceptance of these fries will not take as long," Camire said.

BDN's 'Corona-mencement" photos included in its 2020 highlights

28 Dec 2020

Bangor Daily News photographers included photos they captured of the unofficial early commencement ceremony in March at the University of Maine, dubbed "Corona-mencement" by student organizers, in a compilation of their favorite 2020 photos.

WAGM interviews Kersbergen about helping farmers obtain hay

28 Dec 2020

WAGM in Presque Isle interviewed Rick Kersbergen, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor of sustainable dairy and forage systems, about how UMaine Extension is helping farmers obtain hay during the supply shortage. "We do have a hay directory on our University of Maine website, and that hay directory does list hay for sale in the state of Maine. And if you're lucky enough to be able to find some resources locally, that would be great," he said.

Coffin speaks to BDN about preventing livestock water from freezing

28 Dec 2020

Donna Coffin, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor, spoke with the Bangor Daily News about how to prevent livestock water from freezing. "Animals, like people, have to have water," she said. "Sometimes if we have really deep snow, there are some animals that might be able to get enough moisture, but most animals can't."

Boston Globe notes UMaine research in piece about Maine's history, potential

28 Dec 2020

The Boston Globe united research conducted at the University of Maine in a commentary piece titled "Maine can finally get out of Massachusetts' shadow." UMaine investments toward developing bioplastics and advanced building composites from wood were mentioned while describing the state's ability to address a rising demand for sustainable products.

NYT highlights LeClair's migratory amphibian project in "Wildest Animal News" roundup

28 Dec 2020

The New York Times highlighted Greg LeClair, a graduate student of herpetology at the University of Maine, and his effort to rescue and collect data on migrating amphibians as they cross roads in its "The Wildest Animal News From 2020." LeClair founded Big Night Maine, a coalition of citizen scientists who help frogs, salamanders and other amphibians cross roads and count them during spring nights.

UMaine Honors College receives Maine Hunger Dialogue grant

29 Dec 2020

The Maine Hunger Dialogue has awarded a $500 grant to the University of Maine Honors College to fight food insecurity in the student population. UMaine Honors College students who attended the 2020 Maine Hunger Dialogue, held virtually Oct. 23, applied for this funding based on their research that found food insecurity, already on the rise in the UMaine student population in recent years, has increased this year during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Honors College student initiative, spearheaded by students Katie Tims and Bailey West, with support from Honors College associate dean Melissa Ladenheim, seeks to provide the Black Bear Exchange campus food pantry with a sustainable pipeline of nonfood personal care items that, while necessary, are harder to prioritize given the organization's limited food budget. Additional goals of this project are to create a campaign to reduce the stigma of student food insecurity and to raise awareness for the Black Bear Exchange. "The goal of the Maine Hunger Dialogue is to inspire students from the state's public and private universities and colleges, including community colleges, to learn, share ideas, network and work together to fight hunger across Maine," says Frank Wertheim, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor of agriculture and horticulture. "Thanks to generous funding from Sodexo, the Maine Hunger Dialogue has been able to fund limited participant mini-grants to students and staff who come together to learn, share their ideas, existing programs and projects, and then work together as a network to fight food insecurity." The recipients of this award will present the results of their work at the 2021 Maine Hunger Dialogue, scheduled for late fall at the University of Maine at Farmington. Sponsors include UMaine Extension, University of Maine at Presque Isle, University of Southern Maine, Husson University and Maine Compass Compact. For more information, contact Frank Wertheim, 207.324.2814; frank.wertheim@maine.edu.

Franklin Journal advances UMS release about free course initiative featuring UMM student

29 Dec 2020

The Franklin Journal shared a University of Maine System media release about its free course initiative that features a University of Maine at Machias student. UMS will offer a free college course to promising first-year students who failed a class during their first semester. Chancellor Dannel Malloy introduced the initiative, known as the Make the Grade Student Success Initiative, in December of 2019 as a pilot project to support students struggling to make the transition from high school to college. Kaylee Weston, a UMM sophomore from Machias, "made the grade" in college algebra and the Dean's List last spring after struggling with the course as a new college student in the fall 2019 semester. "The Make the Grade offer made a big difference for me," she said. "After falling short in my first semester of college algebra I was able to get extra help and worked with a tutor to pass the class and make the Dean's list in the spring."

Piscataquis Observer notes Extension Association meeting featuring Rural Youth Futures Project

29 Dec 2020

The Piscataquis Observer shared a media release about the Piscataquis County Extension Association's annual meeting, which will feature a presentation by Jessica Leahy, a professor in the University of Maine School of Forest Resources, focused on the Rural Youth Futures Project.

BDN, VillageSoup advance Hutchinson Center's Self-Care for Clinicians program

29 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News and VillageSoup advanced the University of Maine Hutchinson Center's online professional development program Self-Care for Clinicians offered Jan. 29–30. More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website.

Daily Bulldog, BDN highlight Extension's new vegetable varieties for home gardens webinar

29 Dec 2020

The Daily Bulldog and Bangor Daily News highlighted an online panel discussion about new vegetable varieties for Northern New England home gardens hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and University of New Hampshire Extension. The webinar will be held 6–7 p.m. Jan. 13. Register on the event webpage.

Media advance Hutchinson Center's online Career Transformation Series

29 Dec 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot, VillageSoup and the Bangor Daily News advanced the University of Maine Hutchinson Center's upcoming online Career Transformation Series. The three sessions, available a la carte or as a series, will run from 11 a.m.– noon on Jan. 15, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29 via Zoom. Visit the Hutchinson Center website for more information and the register.

Lichtenwalner, Kersbergan speak to BDN about not feeding poultry and livestock spoiled food

29 Dec 2020

Anne Lichtenwalner, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension associate professor and director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and Rick Kersbergen, a University of Maine Cooperative Extension professor of sustainable dairy and forage systems, spoke to the Bangor Daily News about why not to give poultry and livestock spoiled feed. "If you open up a bag of feed and it looks or smells weird, you know something is wrong," Lichtenwalner said. "But other times you can't tell if something is wrong, but if your animal turns up its nose, there is probably something going on with that food."

Media advance 4-H virtual passport club

29 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News, the Boothbay Register, the Sun Journal, Centralmaine.com and WABI (Channel 5) advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H's new virtual cultural exchange club for youth ages 12–18 years. The "4-H Virtual Passport Around the World" club is a UMaine Extension 4-H special interest club designed to introduce young people from different cultural backgrounds to their peers around the world through brief presentations, hands-on activities and discussions. Register and find more information on the program webpage.

BDN notes Zillman Art Museum expansion in building purchase story

29 Dec 2020

The Bangor Daily News noted expansion plans for the Zillman Art Museum in an article about a local developer purchasing the building that houses it. According to the report, Eastern Maine Development Corporation sold Norumbega Hall, which houses the museum, in downtown Bangor to Canuck Investments, owned by Philip and Stephanie Henry. Education leaders and arts supporters Donald and Linda Zillman pledged a $1.3 million naming gift that will help finance the construction and operation of five new galleries to showcase the museum's collection of over 4,000 works of modern and contemporary art.

Gosse caps decade of research into troublesome triclosan

30 Dec 2020

University of Maine toxicologist Julie Gosse spent a decade unearthing the medical harm posed by the germ-fighting agent triclosan (TCS). Manufacturers had included the synthetic chemical in soap, toothpaste, facial cleansers, sanitizer and other common products since the 1970s, when no research delved into its health and toxicological effects. Products containing the antimicrobial agent filled store shelves. By the time Gosse and her students began investigating it, 75% of Americans were exposed to it, according to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. Various studies in the past 10 years, however, have revealed problems with TCS, that it weakens disease

resistance and interferes with various bodily functions. Research led and overseen by Gosse, an associate professor of biochemistry, found TCS inhibits immune cells, particularly T and mast cells, and damages mitochondria. Investigations from other toxicologists and experts also uncovered that TCS can harm human fertility, development, intelligence and thyroid function. Growing scientific evidence from Gosse and other scientists inspired public outcry against TCS and government intervention. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned TCS from bar soaps, liquid soaps and body washes in 2016; hospital soaps in 2017 and hand-sanitizer in 2019 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The chemical has since been removed from almost all products. When Gosse wrapped up her TCS research with a final paper, she sent two graduate students to the grocery store to search for any goods with it. They found none. "I think the public became aware of triclosan's toxicity, so the decision was really made by consumers," says Gosse, who has published eight research papers on TCS, the most recent in October 2020. The now controversial antimicrobial agent had not entered the UMaine toxicologist's radar until she watched a presentation by Environmental Protection Agency scientist Susan Richardson, hosted at UMaine 10 years ago. Richardson noted that the antimicrobial agent resembled a dioxin, or toxic environmental pollutant. Despite experts producing virtually no toxicological literature for the chemical, it had become widespread, which Gosse says she and Richardson found troubling. "Here we have a chemical to which the vast majority of Americans are exposed, and we have no idea what it does to their health," Gosse says. Her then graduate student, Rachel Kennedy, sprinted to Gosse's lab to search for any medical literature about TCS. Kennedy found only a couple of studies about the chemical pertaining to its ability to disrupt cells in the endocrine system. Gosse and her students were studying endocrine disruptors at the time, so Kennedy delved deeper into TCS. The work conducted by Kennedy, her colleagues and Gosse resulted in the UMaine researchers' first study into the antimicrobial agent, which concluded that TCS suppresses mast cell function. The former UMaine graduate student was the first author of the paper. "She just dove right into the research," Gosse says about Kennedy, now a medical liaison for EMD Serono Inc. in Rockland, Massachusetts. "Ever since, we've been trying to figure out the exact biochemistry that causes that cellular disruption." The study launched a series of investigations into TCS from Gosse's lab. Research from the UMaine toxicologist and her partners found out how the antimicrobial agent suppresses mast and T cells, particularly mast cell signaling, and that it damages mitochondria in immune and nonimmune human, rodent and other cells, as well as in living zebrafish. Mitochondria provide energy that cells need to perform various tasks, including combating disease. The National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation, and UMaine provide vital funding for Gosse's research. Lisa Weatherly, a former Ph.D. student of biomedical sciences from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Engineering, led the first study from Gosse's lab that revealed how TCS as a toxicant harms mitochondria. The UMaine toxicologist says Weatherly was also the first to use "super resolution microscopy in the field of toxicology," in particular, the fluorescence photoactivation localization microscopy (FPALM) technique developed by professor of physics Sam Hess. Using FPALM, they watched TCS deform live mitochondria in real time. Gosse says without Weatherly's hard work, several papers may not have been produced. The former UMaine student now serves as a researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC/NIOSH) in Morgantown, West Virginia. "We wanted to continue studying this as long as people continued to be exposed," Gosse says. "If you know what a chemical does, the causes and effects, you might be able to predict what the next chemical with a similar structure will do." Widespread integration served as an undoing for TCS, which is intended to slow or stop bacteria and mildew growth. Incorporating it into numerous products for the majority of Americans to consume resulted in TCS becoming less effective, Gosse says. Bacteria had grown resistant to the chemical, making its implementation useless in many goods while still posing health risks. Rather than banning TCS outright, however, the FDA tasked companies with proving that its inclusion provided benefits. When companies declined to demonstrate the benefits of TCS in their goods, the FDA forced them to remove the chemical. One business, Colgate-Palmolive, however, was able to keep TCS in its Colgate Total toothpaste after demonstrating that the product can combat gingivitis better than products without the antimicrobial agent. Public pressure, however, eventually prompted Colgate-Palmolive to remove TCS from its product. Gosse says the benefits of Colgate Total for consumers with gingivitis outweighed the risks, but likely not so for other users. The toothpaste, she says, should have been marketed only to people with the disease. "The last triclosan product really standing was Colgate Total toothpaste," she said. Several companies still used TCS for their products up until Gosse published her last paper on the component, with a few products like cutting boards and baby products that are not regulated by the FDA still containing it. After years of investigation, Gosse and her fellow researchers determined why TCS inhibited immune cell function. They knew the antimicrobial agent stifled the inflow of calcium into the cell cytoplasm, a necessary function for immunity, but lacked the findings to define how it occurred. A team of scientists, led by former UMaine master's student Suraj Sangroula and former UMaine undergraduate student Alan Baez Vasquez found, to Gosse's surprise, that TCS is acidic. The chemical releases enough acid to deform the calcium channels leading into the cytoplasm in immune cells, preventing them from absorbing calcium and, therefore, from responding to various threats such as pathogens, allergens or inflammation. The finding serves as the culmination of 10 years of research from Gosse's lab, capping its investigations into TCS. The study also revealed new details about the biological pathway calcium follows throughout the cell. Gosse says by understanding how a chemical affects users, scientists can begin to predict how others with similar structures may act. Sangroula, Baez Vazquez, Gosse and their UMaine colleagues were joined by former student Juyoung Shim, now an assistant professor of biology at the University of Maine at Augusta. Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology published a paper describing their fundings in its October 2020 issue. "They really did the precision experiments to prove (their hypothesis)" Gosse says about Sangroula and Baez Vazquez. "Their experimental data replicated the exact conclusion drawn from their theoretical calculations." The several TCS studies from Gosse's lab involved 12 UMaine graduate students, 19 undergraduate students, two students from the University of Maine at Farmington and University of Maine at Presque Isle, six UMaine professors and four senior research collaborators from other institutions. Findings produced from Gosse's lab provided knowledge that informed everyday people, assisted in government decision making and trained a new generation of scientists and other professionals, all of which the UMaine toxicologist says are crucial services from a research institution. Many of Gosse's former and current students use the skills they learned in their lab to excel in later academic studies and careers in pharmacology, biotechnology, medicine, teaching and other fields. Senior Bailey West, for example, will receive the Society of Toxicology Undergraduate Student Research Award at the society's 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting in March. After leading the final TCS study from Gosse's lab, Sangroula graduated and now serves on the front lines of vaccine production for COVID-19. While working as a pharmaceutical validation engineer for Clarke Solutions, Bloomington, Indiana, Sangroula serves as a consultant for Catalent, which is mass producing vaccines for Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. The UMaine alumnus helps validate equipment to fill vials as part of Project Apollo. Baez Vasquez enrolled in Harvard University's molecules, cells and organisms program as a Ph.D. student after graduating from UMaine. Students who succeed in Gosse's lab prove to be naturally hard workers with the patience and dedication needed to complete challenging experiments that lead to answers to hard-hitting questions. The UMaine toxicologist says she considers her students research partners, some who unveil findings she may have overlooked while performing other duties. Watching her students achieve milestones in their research and academic careers, and create novel knowledge, is the "the best thing in the world," Gosse says. "I've been very lucky to have several awesome undergraduate and graduate students," Gosse says. With the mechanism behind triclosan's ability to weaken immunity uncovered, and the chemical effectively removed from store shelves, Gosse says there is no further need for her lab to research it. Many of the about 80,000 synthetic chemicals in circulation contain little toxicological data and need to be studied, Gosse says. The UMaine biochemistry professor has already begun exploring another chemical with current graduate student research partners Bright Obeng and Sasha Weller, exploring another chemical widely used among the general public via personal care products. "We are now moving on to study new chemicals of interest, to which people are widely exposed but for which there is little or no published toxicological or epidemiological data," Gosse says. "The overarching goal of toxicology research is to protect human and environmental health." Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

UMaine Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

28 Jan 2020

The Graduate School and Foster Center for Student Innovation are co-sponsoring the **UMaine Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition.**

- 1st prize is $500.00
- 2nd prize is $300.00
- 3rd prize is $200.00

All finalists will be invited to give their presentations at the University of Maine Student Symposium on April 17, 2020. The first prize winner will be the University of Maine's nominee to participate in the northeast regional 3MT competition in Quebec City, Canada. Not sure if you have the skills to compete? How-to-do a 3MT presentation coaching will be offered! Information sessions will take place in 48 Stodder Hall on the following dates:

- January 31 at 2:30 p.m.
- February 4 at 10 a.m.
- February 6 at 12 p.m.

Contact Katie Rossignol (kathryn.rossignol@maine.edu) by February 10, 2020, if you are interested in participating.

Graduate School announces 2020-20201 Waldron, Hunter, and Chase awardees

31 Jan 2020

Orono, Maine January 30, 2020 The Graduate School is proud to announce the recipients for three 2020-2021 academic year awards: the Janet Waldron Doctoral Research Fellowship, the Susan J. Hunter Teaching Assistantship, and the Chase Distinguished Research Assistantship. These awards will be supporting 10 doctoral candidates (listed below) in their research and professional development. **Janet Waldron Doctoral Research Fellowship**

Shelby Helwig, a doctoral candidate in Psychological Sciences Frankie St. Amand, a doctoral candidate in Interdisciplinary Studies

Susan J. Hunter Teaching Assistantship

Cory Johnson, a doctoral candidate in Biomedical Science David Smith, a doctoral candidate in Psychological Sciences

Chase Distinguished Research Assistantship

Sohaib Alahmed, a doctoral candidate in Civil Engineering Ming Tso Chien, a doctoral candidate in Literacy Education Hannah Mittelstaedt, a doctoral candidate in Ecology and Environmental Sciences An Nguyen, a doctoral candidate in History Peter Strand, a doctoral candidate in Earth and Climate Sciences Natalie VandenAkker, a doctoral candidate in Food and Nutrition Sciences

State of the University address to be live streamed

03 Feb 2020

President Ferrini-Mundy's State of the University address for the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias will be live streamed at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4. The free, public event will be held in Hauck Auditorium.

Penobscot Bay Pilot previews Hutchinson Center program on intimate partner violence

05 Feb 2020

The Penobscot Bay Pilot advanced a professional development program about intimate partner violence, to be held 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. March 12 and 13 at the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast in partnership with New Hope for Women of Rockland. The program is designed for social workers, substance abuse counselors and other mental health professionals, as well as clergy, police officers and first responders, the article states. The program fee is $150 per person or $60 for UMaine students, with need-based scholarships available, and includes continental breakfast and catered lunch. The program will provide 12 contact hours, and will cover topics including foundations of domestic abuse, addressing the lasting impact of domestic abuse, intervention strategies, and trauma-informed and culturally competent responses. For more information, to register or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, 207.338.8093; michelle.patten@maine.edu.

Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew of ME DHHS to visit campus as Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow

18 Feb 2020

On Thursday, February 20, 2020, Dr. Jeanne Lambrew the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services will visit campus as a Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow. Distinguished Maine Policy Fellows are individuals with past or current careers as policy makers in Maine – people of distinguished status and extensive experience. Each fellow comes to campus as the guest of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center for the day. While on campus they teach an undergraduate class, speak with faculty about the intersections of their research and public policy, and meet with UMaine administration and graduate students. While visiting the University of Maine, Commissioner Lambrew will address the undergraduate students of Rob Glover's Maine Government class regarding health policy in Maine. She will meet with Marci Sorg and Jamie Wren of the Grand Challenge Team to discuss the Injury Prevention Collaborative; Ben King of the Grand Challenge Team regarding metabolic disorders and infectious diseases in isolated populations in rural Maine; and Judy Walker, Kimberly Fox, and Yvonne Jonk addressing the expansion of telehealth training and use to support developmental and emotional needs of children in rural Maine schools. She will also tour the Virtual Environment and Multimodal Interaction Lab in Carnegie Hall. Commissioner Lambew's biography can be accessed on the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center website by clicking here.

3rd Annual Women of Power Reception a Huge Success

18 Feb 2020

The Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and its nonpartisan student program Maine NEW (National Education for Women) Leadership hosted the 3rd annual Women of Power Networking Reception at the Senator Inn in Augusta on Thursday, February 13.  Women of Power celebrates those individuals who serve the state of Maine in Augusta and beyond and those who will become Maine's future

leaders. Maine's women legislators served as the co-hosts for the event and Governor Janet Mills was our special guest. 

Each year at Women of Power, Maine NEW Leadership recognizes the recipient of the Minerva Award, which is given to a Maine woman leader who exemplifies the values of the program; leadership for the betterment of Maine; a commitment to civil dialogue; and a passion for civic engagement. President of the University of Maine, Joan Ferrini-Mundy presented the 2020 Minerva Award to the Honorable Joyce Maker. 

A complete photo gallery of the event can be accessed on the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center or Maine NEW Leadership Facebook pages. The proceeds from the Women of Power Networking Reception directly funds NEW Leadership's educational program designed to educate and empower young people by giving them the skills necessary to become the next generation of effective civic and political leaders. By participating in Maine NEW Leadership, students gain a greater awareness of their own abilities to lead, their expertise and qualifications to take on a leadership role, as well as the many opportunities for them in civic life and public office. With the skills they learn and the networks they develop, participants are empowered and energized to emerge as leaders. Each year in June, NEW Leadership hosts a six-day residential undergraduate student leadership training program free of charge for participants. The program includes presentations from politically active women throughout Maine, a visit with women legislators and policy advocates at the State House, and workshops for participants to actively develop leadership skills, such as public speaking, advocacy, and networking. Participants also benefit from the experience of faculty-in-residence, a group of women public leaders who serve as mentors for students throughout their stay. If you would like to donate to Maine NEW Leadership please click here or text NEWLEAD to 44-321.

Maine Government Summer Internship applications open through March 1.

19 Feb 2020

Apply for Summer Internships in Maine

Applications are open for the Maine Government Summer Internship Program for summer 2020. Positions are available in town and city governments as well as in agencies of the Maine state government. Full time, paid internships will run May 26 through August 14, for a total of 12 weeks. Job areas range from engineering to social media, conservation, transportation, land use planning, data analysis, education, and everything in between. **All majors may apply.** To be eligible, students must be completing their second year of college and be either a Maine resident or attending a college or university in Maine. Most interns will be placed in the Augusta area. A select number of internships will be available in other locations which in the past have included Bowdoinham, Caribou, Gray, Saco, Union, Sanford, Bethel, Presque Isle, Portland, Bangor, and others. The program accepts applications from students and applications from supervisors to request an intern. Find more information, including links to the online applications, on our website: https://mcspolicycenter.umaine.edu/for-students/maine-government-summer-internship-program The deadline for applications is **March 1**.

News Center talks with students attending CPAC

25 Feb 2020

News Center Maine reported that seven University of Maine students plan to attend the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland. Student Charlie Honkonen told News Center that it's a chance "to talk with and meet with conservatives from other states and even other countries." And student Jeremiah Childs said many of the attendees will be young people. "It's mostly college students, there are even high schoolers who go there, and we get to meet all of the conservative politicians and celebrities that we love to watch on YouTube and TV."

MCS Public Affairs Scholarship Provides $3,500 to support undergraduate research

25 Feb 2020

Apply now for the Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship

The MCS Public Affairs Scholarship is an academic-year scholarship awarded in the amount of $3500 to support an independent research project focused on a public policy topic. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is noon on Friday, April 10, 2020. Eligibility criteria: • a Maine resident, currently enrolled at UMaine for 12 credits or more, • an undergraduate student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, • completed

40 degree hours prior to the current semester. Previous recipients have come from such diverse disciplines as Geology, History, Political Science, Computer Science, International Affairs, Education, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Landscape Horticulture, Civil Engineering, Nursing, Mechanical Engineering, Natural Resources, Journalism and Mass Communication, Economics, Biochemistry and Microbiology.

Website and Application

In honor of Senator Margaret Chase Smith's many years of service to the citizens of Maine and the nation this scholarship provides assistance to undergraduates who have demonstrated an active interest in public affairs and who show promise for future leadership in, and contribution to, public affairs. Senator Smith's abiding belief was that real progress would be attained only through the education of young people.

We look forward to your application!

Internships with the Franco American Portal

04 Mar 2020

Franco American Portal Project Internship The Franco American Portal Project (FAPP) (https://francoamericanportal.org), a five-university collaboration to build a digital research tool for Franco American archives and special collections, is seeking motivated student interns to assist the project and its partner institutions with archival processing, digitization, metadata creation, and other tasks related to the stewardship of print and digitized archival materials. Student interns may participate in work either in-person or virtually, or in a hybrid environment. Some training may be required. Tasks may vary according to the needs of the project, student skill sets, and student location.
Term & Compensation

- Flexible weekdays/weekends over the course of the summer, with schedule to be determined with internship coordinator
- Internship begins on June 22, 2020 and ends July 31, 2020
- 100 hours @ $15/hr: $1500 total
- Possibility of extension

Duties

- Scan or photograph archival materials according to major preservation standards.
- Generate access copies of preservation media
- Create and enter item metadata according to established cataloging rules and metadata profiles.
- Create and enter collection metadata according to established cataloging rules and metadata profiles.
- Generate item and collection records within FAPP's Omeka beta portal.
- Other tasks as needed

Qualifications & Skills

- Current student in the areas of archives, library science, computer science, history, languages, or other compatible field
- Basic research skills
- Knowledge of archival theory and practice
- Familiarity with descriptive metadata schema, including Dublin Core, DACS
- Familiarity with Omeka, ArchivesSpace, and/or other content management systems
- Familiarity with basic HTML or willingness to learn HTML
- Familiarity with scanning hardware, software, and digital photography preferred
- Completion of UM Course "Primary Sources in Franco American Studies (FAS200/MES 298/FRE490) preferred
- French language competency preferred but not required

Location(s) Due to the nature of this project, interns can participate in-person, virtually, or both. For live internship participation, students may be able to complete work at one of the following locations:

- Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine
- Franco-American Collection, University of Southern Maine, Lewiston, Maine
- Franco American Centre, University of Maine, Orono, Maine
- Acadian Archives, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Review of applications begins on April 1, 2020. For more information contact Jacob Albert, FAPP Project Manager, jacob.albert@maine.edu; 207-242-7040

New McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellows Announced

06 Mar 2020

The Spring 2020-Fall 2020 McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellows are, from left to right, Ivy Flessen, Leela Stockley, Bria Lamonica.

The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center is proud to announce that UMaine students Ivy Flessen, Bria Lamonica, and Leela Stockley have been chosen as our Spring 2020-Fall 2020 MHC undergraduate fellows. Fellows receive $4000 each semester for two consecutive semesters, while they work on a humanities project of their own devising. They serve as humanities ambassadors to their peers, the campus, and beyond. Ivy Flessen is from Oswego, Illinois, and is a third-year political science major, with minors in legal studies, as well as ethics and political philosophy. She is involved with a number of honor societies and student organizations, including the UMaine Singers, the Pre-Law Society, and Phi Beta Kappa. Ivy's project, "The Morality of the Life of the Mind in Plato's Dialogues" will also serve as her honors thesis. Her research examines the perennial tension between self-interest and altruism in the dialogues of Plato. She is interested in determining whether Plato regarded a life dedicated to wisdom as the zenith of public service, or as a selfish enterprise. She was drawn to this research because she hopes to one day work in academia, and sees modern academics still facing charges of elitism and irrelevance. Bria Lamonica is a third-year English major with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in psychology. A native of Turnersville, New Jersey, Bria is particularly interested in the work of feminist poets like Gertrude Stein, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and Adrienne Rich, as well as contemporary poets. Her fellowship research, which will also inform her capstone and honors thesis, will involve creating a collection of poetry titled, "Out of Darkness: Contemporary Feminist Poetry." She is hoping to use poetry as a way to fight back against oppression and speak up for women who cannot speak for themselves. Bria also writes for the *Maine Campus*, is involved with the Phi Mu fraternity, and is a member of the Sigma Tau Delta National English Honors Society. Leela Stockley is a third-year journalism and anthropology double major from Chester, Maine. As news editor at *Maine Campus*, she thinks a lot about journalists' duty to provide unbiased media coverage. Her research, "Ethical Implications of the Protest Paradigm on Marginalized Communities: Examining the portrayal of social justice movements in mass media based on lines of class and race" hopes to further examine how language choice in news coverage often conflicts with this ethical duty. When the media coverage uses language that emphasizes deviant behavior, violence and confrontation, but ignores the core tenets and goals of a movement, Stockley believes it blurs the reader's understanding of the social justice movement and marginalized communities. Returning for their second semester as McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellows are Noah Loveless, doing research on Walter Benjamin's *Arcades Project*, Sarah Penney who is examining Icelandic sagas, and Matthew Ryckman who has been exploring the history of geometry textbooks through the lens of a 1732 edition of *Euclid's Elements*. All six of the current McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellows will be attending the National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium at Johns Hopkins University on April 3-4. For students interested in becoming a McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellowship, applications for the Fall 2020-Spring 2021 cycle are due March 27. More information, including application instructions, proposal guidelines, and a rubric, are all available at umaine.edu/mhc/grants-scholarships/ or by emailing mhc@maine.edu. For more information on this event, please contact Karen Sieber [karen.sieber@maine.edu] or Margo Lukens [lukens@maine.edu] at the McGillicuddy Humanities Center at UMaine (207) 581-1848.

UMaine PD advice for driving and parking on campus this weekend

11 Mar 2020

The University of Maine Police Department has issued guidance for driving and parking on campus Friday and Saturday, March 13–14, when several major events are occurring at UMaine. Those events include:

- Accepted Student Day, Collins Center for the Arts and other locations on campus — 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Friday
- Sportsman's Show, Memorial Gym and Field House — 4–8 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Sunday
- Men's Ice Hockey game, Alfond Arena — 7 p.m. Friday; 6 p.m. Saturday; 6 p.m. Sunday
- Martina McBride in concert, Collins Center for the Arts — 7 p.m. Saturday

A shuttle bus will be operating between Alfond Arena, Steam Plant and Collins Center for the Arts parking lots Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Ample parking will be available and no campus parking permits are required. Parking will not be allowed on roadways or in fire lanes. At this time, all events at UMaine are occurring as scheduled. In light of the coronavirus outbreak, UMaine follows United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to ensure the health and safety of all community members. The CDC offers recommendations for prevention, including staying home if you are sick. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at event venues.

Los Angeles Times talks with Oppenheim, touts LocalCatch.org

23 Mar 2020

UMaine Extension directory of COVID-19 resources available

24 Mar 2020

University of Maine Cooperative Extension created a user-friendly webpage featuring links to recently completed resources related to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. UMaine Extension: Connecting with Maine Communities During COVID-19 lists a relevant collection of diverse Extension resources, both well-known and new, available to the public. The resource includes guidelines for farmers, educational resources for parents and children, and established services that have been made accessible in new ways. For more information, call 207.581.3188, 800.287.0274 (in Maine); or email extension@maine.edu.

$3,500 scholarship opportunity for UM students

06 Apr 2020

Apply now for the Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship In honor of Senator Margaret Chase Smith's many years of service to the citizens of Maine and the nation this scholarship provides assistance to undergraduates who have demonstrated an active interest in public affairs and who show promise for future leadership in, and contribution to, public affairs. Senator Smith's abiding belief was that real progress would be attained only through the education of young people. The MCS Public Affairs Scholarship is an academic-year scholarship that is awarded in the amount of $3500 to support an independent research project focused on a public policy topic. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is noon on Friday, May 1, 2020. Previous recipients have come from such diverse disciplines as Geology, History, Political Science, Computer Science, International Affairs, Education, Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Landscape Horticulture, Civil Engineering, Nursing, Mechanical Engineering, Natural Resources, Journalism and Mass Communication, Economics, Biochemistry and Microbiology. Eligibility criteria: • a Maine resident, currently enrolled at UMaine for 12 credits or more, • an undergraduate student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, • completed 40 degree hours prior to the current semester.

Website and Application

Latest issue of Maine Policy Review published online

08 Apr 2020

Volume 29, Issue 1 of *Maine Policy Review* is now available online. Although the journal is not being printed due to COVID19 limitations, the entire issue is available to read through *MPR*'s Digital Commons website. The issue contains engaging policy content on a variety of topics including:

- Rural Nursing Homes
- Workforce Development
- Maine's Wine Industry
- OSHA Compliance in Maine's Boatyards
- Decreasing Economic Opportunity and Social Safety Net
- Maine and the Arctic
- Student Loan Tax Credits

Additionally, the Margaret Chase Smith Essay was written by University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias president Joan Ferrini-Mundy. Her essay titled "The University of Maine: Playing All Positions in the Policy Game," outlines how UM and UMM are positioned to help further the goals of the *2020-2029 Maine Economic Development Strategy.* The central strategies focused on talent and innovation (grow local talent, attract new talent, promote innovation) align well with the University's mission. For more information regarding *Maine Policy Review,* visit its website here.

New episode of Maine Policy Matters podcast discusses UBI, Covid-19, and Maine

18 Apr 2020

President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law on March 27, 2020. Contained within the bipartisan legislation was the establishment of direct cash payments for many Americans amounting to $1,200 with an additional $500 for each child. As Congress moves towards bipartisan agreement on a 'phase 4' relief package, more direct cash payments have been agreed upon. On the global political landscape, Spain has recently announced that it is moving towards a permanent basic income program to aid workers and families affected by Covid-19. Maine Policy Matters host, Daniel Soucier, virtually sat down with Michael Howard, coeditor of the journal *Basic Income Studies* and the national coordinator for the United States Basic Income Guarantee Network to find out what basic income is, what type of pilot programs exist in the US and across the globe, and the confluence of basic income policies with the novel coronavirus pandemic to discuss the policy matter of basic income and why basic income matters to Maine. Maine Policy Matters is the official podcast of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. Future episodes Maine Policy Matters will be discussing:

- Childless Elders and the Coronavirus Pandemic
- Dealing with Twin Pandemics: Opioid Use Disorder and Coronavirus
- Education Policy and Covid-19

The podcast can be found where podcasts are hosting including Apple Podcasts, iTunes, Soundcloud, Stitcher, Spotify, and Google Play, or by clicking the following link, Maine Policy Matters.

Honors College, local community members donate 10K meals to Good Shepherd Food Bank

21 Apr 2020

The Maine Day Meal Packout (MDMP), now in its fourth year, has contributed more than 250,000 meals to food pantries across Maine. Coordinated by the Honors College Student Advisory Board at the University of Maine, the MDMP team was planning on donating another 75,000 meals before the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the leadership of senior Honors biomedical engineering major, Lauren Ryan, the team raised close to $25,000 from fundraisers, grants, and campus and community donors to purchase the meals, which would have been packed on Maine Day. “COVID-19 is impacting many people in many different ways, and a large percentage of Mainers are now out of work and in need of assistance more now than ever,” says Ryan, who mobilized the MDMP team to adapt their outreach to suit current circumstances. When The Outreach Program, the Massachusetts-based organization that supplies the food and runs the packout, offered to pack meals for the MDMP, Ryan and other team members jumped at the chance to help food insecure Mainers. With the assistance of Blue Knights Maine Chapter 1 members Sherrie and Dave Wight, local supporters of the MDMP, the team delivered 10,000 meals to the Good Shepherd Food Bank’s Hampden warehouse for local distribution. The Wights, along with several volunteers from other New England states, met up with members of The Outreach Program in New Hampshire, where they picked up the meals destined for Maine. Sherrie Wight recalled the pickup process as one grounded in teamwork and mutual aid. “We all helped load each other’s vehicles one state at a time,” she said. Sherrie Wight acknowledged why she and her husband chose to take on the challenge of picking up and transporting the meals. “It wasn’t a hard choice. In fact, it wasn’t a choice at all,” she said. “It was the only thing to do because it had to be done. We feel so blessed and fortunate. We have a roof over our heads and food on our table. Others do not and, in this especially trying time, their struggle just to survive is magnified.” Sherrie Wight was equally inspired by the Honors College students. “It wasn’t the meal packout they had envisioned, but they figured out a way to get some meals here at this incredibly difficult time when they are needed more than ever,” she said. “They never gave up, never stopped dreaming of what was possible. When our young people show that kind of determination and perseverance in the face of extreme adversity, they have become our teachers.” The response of the MDMP team and local partners like the Wights demonstrates the flexibility, innovation and dedication to the common good that are characteristic of the UMaine community. MDMP food bank liaison and second-year Honors political science major Dominique DiSpirito noted that, despite the number of cancellations and the atmosphere of uncertainty that COVID-19 has produced, this experience reminded her that “compassion isn’t canceled.” Contact: Cleo Barker, cleo.barker@maine.edu

Second Century Stewardship reports three faculty members to conduct research in Acadia National Park

28 Apr 2020

Second Century Stewardship reported three University of Maine faculty members have been awarded fellowships to conduct research in Acadia National Park. The faculty members are Rachel Fowler, laboratory coordinator with the School of Biology and Ecology; Bonnie Newsom, assistant professor of anthropology; and Jay Wason, assistant professor of forest ecosystem physiology. Fowler aims to develop an early warning system for detecting blooms of cyanobacteria, a kind of algae that thrive in warm, nutrient-rich waters and can be toxic to people and animals, the article states. Newsom will analyze existing archaeological collections from shell midden sites in the park to chronicle past occupation and use, and generate a baseline data set for future studies of Indigenous peoples and their connections to the region. And Wason plans to study coastal spruce-fir forests in Acadia. The fellowships are part of Second Century Stewardship, an initiative of the National Park Service, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, and the National Park Foundation.

Sorg's 2019 drug death report released by Maine Office of the Attorney General

03 May 2020

AUGUSTA - In the wake of figures released by his office and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, which show that drug overdose deaths increased in 2019, Attorney General Aaron M. Frey says that the report is a reminder that the opioid epidemic remains a powerful public health challenge for Maine. "It is important as Maine, appropriately, focuses its energy on combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, that we also maintain and increase our efforts to fight the opioid epidemic," said Frey. "The data in this report confirms how significant this crisis remains. It also highlights the importance of elected officials, individuals, organizations, and communities across the state to dedicate time and resources towards strengthening our public health infrastructure, which is crucial to combatting both COVID-19 and the opioid epidemic. I strongly support the ongoing efforts of my office, Governor Mills's administration, legislators, and communities across Maine to help get us to the other side of this. The report compiled by Dr. Marcella Sorg of the University of Maine's Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, showed that 380 deaths were caused by drugs in 2019. This is a 7% increase over 2018, but lower than the peak of 417 in 2017. The vast majority of the overdoses (84%) were caused by at least one opioid. The report also notes an increase in the involvement of non-opioid drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines. Most deaths were caused by a combination of two or more drugs. Attorney General Frey noted that combatting drug deaths continues to be a priority of the Office of the Attorney General. He is a member of the Governor's Opioid Task Force.

Research-industry partnership creates novel low-cost environmental monitoring buoy

01 May 2020

When University of Maine alum Joshua Girgis graduated from University of Maine’s College of Engineering in 2018, he never imagined where he would end up next. This Madison, Maine native had enjoyed his four years in Orono and was looking to put his newly minted engineering skills to the test. “I was ready for a challenge, and to connect what I’d learned in classes to real-world problems,” Joshua recalls. Late spring 2018, he responded to an internship posting from Chris Davis, Director of the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center. Dr. Davis was seeking an engineering student to join him at MAIC, which is co-located at UMaine’s Darling Marine Center in Walpole. Joshua arrived at the University’s marine laboratory along with the other 30 interns in summer 2018, met Dr. Davis and got to work. The goal was clear but distant: build an affordable environmental monitoring buoy that oyster and seaweed farmers could use to track conditions on their farms. Such a buoy would enable these small business owners to have real-time water quality information about where to site their farms and when to put seed oysters and kelp in the water. This buoy, designed to gather information on ocean temperature, salinity, and productivity, also gives fishermen, resource managers and citizen scientists a new way of gathering fine-scale information about the coastal environment. Joshua labored away in the Marine Culture Laboratory at the Darling Marine Center all summer, prodding at circuit boards and poring over technical specifications written in 6-point font. He also enjoyed life on the coast. “The Darling Center in the summer is really special. People come from all over to conduct research and learn,” Girgis observed. When fall came, he wasn’t ready to leave, he’d made great progress developing the buoy prototype, but it wasn’t ready for the river yet. During a meeting of aquaculture-related researchers and students at the DMC, Davis shared an update on Joshua’s progress. “To get something in the water, that people will be able to purchase and use, we need more expertise and more time,” he reported. After several more brainstorms, a bigger team developed, including UMaine Marine Sciences and Engineering faculty, as well as Girgis and Davis. With support from UMaine’s commercialization program as well as a number of colleagues throughout the state, they were able to push ahead with the design and develop a watertight buoy, ready for field testing. [caption

id="attachment_7015" align="aligncenter" width="1024"] 

Testing of the buoys off the Darling Center dock at Lowes Cove in Walpole.[/caption] In the last 12 months, Girgis led the team's effort to reduce the cost of the buoy and make it easier to assemble it, using a mix of commercially available and custom-manufactured parts. He also developed the data interface between the buoy and a website that enables farmers to check to see conditions where the buoy is in the water. At this point, the price per buoy is just over $2000, with a monthly operating fee of $7. With the arrival of COVID-19, Girgis' work has shifted again. He's working remotely from his family home in Madison and doing what he can to improve the design of the sensors and further lower the price per buoy. "I'm looking forward to getting back to Walpole when we can safely work onsite again. I'm eager to field test these newest improvements," Girgis says. "In the meantime, I'm also thinking about where to go next with my education. This project has given me a solid baseline to continue learning," Girgis reflects. "I learned many mechanical and electronics engineering skills and now have the ability to design devices that not only survive but work in the marine environment. That feels good!" Contact: Joshua Girgis, joshua.girgis@maine.edu and Heather Leslie heather.leslie@maine.edu *This project was supported by the University of Maine System Research Reinvestment Fund, Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, Maine Technology Institute, Maine ESPCoR and the US National Science Foundation, and the University of Maine Darling Marine Center. Founded in 1965, the Darling Marine Center's mission is to connect people to the ocean. The center's researchers, staff and students work alongside fishermen, aquaculture entrepreneurs, marine industry professionals and other members of the community in Maine and around the world. More information is available at dmc.umaine.edu*

NAACP & Civil Rights in Maine Oral History Project Now Available

05 Jun 2020

Interviews with 13 individuals gathered 1990-1991 on the topic of the NAACP and Civil Rights in Maine are now accessible online. The collection is available in the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History section of our ArchivesSpace database, and links have been added to the library's URSUS Catalog. Each interview includes a complete transcript and audio files. These interviews were gathered by Charles Lumpkins, and those interested in this topic may also want to consult his 1992 thesis, Civil Rights Activism in Maine from the 1940s to 1971: Black Mainers, Black and White Activists, and the Resistance Against Racism, and his article in *Maine History*, "Civil-Rights in Maine, 1945-1971," Volume 36, nos. 3-4 (Winter-Spring, 1997): 70-86. For more information or assistance accessing these materials, contact Special Collections at 207.581.1686 or um.library.spc@maine.edu. We also regularly update our online Guide to the NAFOH Collection to provide a list of collections that are now available online.

Banner image: This NAACP logo was an illustration for Lumpkin's 1997 article in *Maine History*, page 81.

News Center advances Extension's tick webinar

10 Jun 2020

News Center Maine advanced University of Maine Cooperative Extension's "Ticks in Maine" webinar, which it will host at 1–2:30 p.m. June 25. Griffin Dill, an integrated pest management professional who manages the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab, and Beatrice Szanty, medical advisor for the nonprofit MaineLyme, will lead the webinar. Online registration is required. People who have registered will be sent a Zoom link and phone number to connect with the program. The webinar is accessible by computer and phone. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Extension professor Donna Coffin, 207.262.7726; donna.coffin@maine.edu. "[This class is] to inform people about where ticks are in Maine, how they are moving north, and why it's important to be on the lookout for ticks and the tickborne diseases," Coffin said.

Muscat fourth student in four years to be named prestigious NOAA scholar

22 Jun 2020

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has named Abigail Muscat a 2020 Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholar. Muscat, a rising third-year marine sciences major and international affairs minor at the University of Maine, will receive a two-year academic scholarship, a 10-week paid summer internship opportunity and funding to participate in two national science conferences. "It is an honor to be selected for this opportunity, and to represent my college in the program," says Muscat. "I look forward to expanding my knowledge and networking with the NOAA team and other scholars." The Bass Harbor, Maine resident is one of 123 Hollings Scholars nationwide this year. Muscat, who attended Ipswich High School in Massachusetts, is a research assistant with Maine Sea Grant and a lab assistant in the Klemmer and Jayasundara labs at UMaine. For Maine Sea Grant, Muscat creates summaries, blogs and social media posts for projects. "It's helped me with translating 'sciencey' language so it's understood by the general public," she says. In the Klemmer Lab, which examines food web interactions — often across ecosystem boundaries — Muscat identifies and sorts invertebrate species found in rockweed samples. And in the Jayasundara Lab, which investigates ecological and human health implications of chemical pollution and climate change, she analyzes impacts of mixed well water contamination on the behavior of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) embryos. For as long as Muscat can remember, she's been interested in marine sciences. Growing up, she interned at the New England Aquarium in Boston and with explore.org, the world's largest nature network. She chose her minor to understand how international policies are created. The Honors College student also facilitates the Honors course Currents & Contexts. Muscat says she's experienced considerable personal growth in this role, including understanding how courses are organized and how to communicate more effectively. Muscat recently earned her scuba diving certification. She enjoys hiking, skiing, and most outside activities, including horse riding as a member of the UMaine Equestrian Team. And the Marine Science Club vice president thoroughly enjoyed attending the release of a rehabilitated seal at Popham Beach. She's the fourth UMaine student in four years to receive the prestigious scholarship. Prior Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate scholars are Brynn Yarbrough (2019), a marine sciences major and Honors College student; Grace McDermott (2017), a marine sciences major; and Brianna DeGone (2016), a bioengineering major and salutatorian of the class of 2018. The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship was established in 2005 in honor of the U.S. senator from South Carolina who supported ocean policy and conservation. "NOAA welcomes the 2020 class of outstanding scholars," says Louisa Koch, director of NOAA Education. "These students bring new skills and abilities that will help us better understand our changing world." Muscat plans to attend graduate school and is looking forward to combining her interests in marine science and ornithology by examining the interactions of marine environments and birds. In Bass Harbor, Muscat and her parents, Stefanie and Tyrone share their home with a zebra finch, bearded dragon, fish, turtles, and West Highland white terrier. Muscat says she'd like to have a career at NOAA or a similar agency, conducting research that influences the creation of policies. William Ellis, School of Marine Sciences undergraduate coordinator, supported Muscat's application, as did the UMaine Office of Major Scholarships and faculty members who wrote recommendation letters. To learn more about this and other prestigious national merit-based scholarships, contact Nives Dal Bo-Wheeler, director of the Office of Major Scholarships. nives.dalbowheeler@maine.edu. Contact: Beth Staples, beth.staples@maine.edu

Socolow named director of McGillicuddy Humanities Center

07 Jul 2020

Michael Socolow, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, has been named director of the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center at the University of Maine, effective July 1. Since 2010, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center has demonstrated the immediacy, relevance and applicability of humanities scholarship by advancing teaching, research and public engagement in the humanities in Maine. Socolow is an award-winning author and former broadcast journalist. His scholarship on media history and media regulation has appeared in numerous academic journals, and his commentary has been published widely in mainstream media, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Slate, Politico and Columbia Journalism Review. In 2019, Socolow was a Senior Fulbright Research Scholar at the News and Media Research Centre at the University of Canberra. "I look forward to building upon the center's terrific record of establishing partnerships with arts and humanities institutions in Maine, and encouraging and supporting collaborations between the faculty at the University of Maine and the public throughout the state," Socolow says. "In this challenging and unprecedented era, the type of understanding, reflection and exchange promoted by humanistic inquiry and creative endeavor is needed more than ever." The McGillicuddy Humanities Center serves as a locus for humanities research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and meaningful conversations among scholars, artists, students and the public through the support of lectures, symposia, panels, performances and exhibitions, as well as individual and collaborative research of students and faculty. Under the guidance of outgoing director Margo Lukens, the center recently added a successful undergraduate Fellows program offering young scholars mentorship and support for their humanities research.

Dr. Marcella Sorg's Enhanced Drug Death Report released by Attorney General

17 Jul 2020

The Maine Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner have released figures from a report compiled by Dr. Marcella Sorg, a research professor at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. These figures demonstrate that drug overdose deaths significantly increased during the first quarter of 2020. Additionally, preliminary analysis of the second quarter, based on numbers from April and May, project a continuation of this trend. These data show a statistically significant increase in deaths attributed to drug overdoses compared to 2019. Attorney General Aaron M. Frey stated that "the opioid epidemic remains a crisis requiring our immediate and sustained attention." He further noted that "the data in [Dr. Sorg's] report confirms that the crisis has intensified nationally in the midst of the global pandemic." The Enhanced Q1 Drug Death Report showed that 127 deaths were caused by drugs in the first three months of 2020. This represents a 23% increase over the fourth quarter of 2019. 82% of drug deaths were caused by at least one opioid and 80% of deaths included two or more drugs. Preliminary estimates project a total of 235 drug overdose deaths for the first half of 2020. In total, there were 380 drug deaths in 2019. Dr. Sorg notes that these increases are comparable to increases being seen nationally, which are attributed to the effects of the pandemic including social isolation, economic difficulty, and and a reluctance to seek medical attention. Disruptions in drug supplies internationally have resulted in substitutions and combinations that may be contributing to additional vulnerabilities to overdose. Attorney General Frey noted that mitigating drug deaths continues to be a priority for the Office of the Attorney General. He is a member of the Governor's Prevention and Recovery Cabinet. The full report by Dr. Sorg is linked below. Enhanced Q1 Drug Death Report

Check out four fruit, vegetable preservation webinars in August

24 Jul 2020

August yields some favorite fruits and vegetables for preserving. Learn how to savor summer flavors all year with four new live University of Maine Cooperative Extension food preservation webinars. Freezing fruit is the topic 2–2:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4. Topics at the same time on subsequent Tuesdays in August include steam canning, freezing tomatoes and corn, and canning salsa and tomatoes. Registration is required; a $5 donation per session is optional. Register on the program webpage to receive the link and resources. Webinars are recorded. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Kate McCarty. 207.781.6099, kate.mccarty@maine.edu.

McGillicuddy Humanities Center to offer NEH grant writing workshop

27 Jul 2020

On Friday, September 25, 2020, the University of Maine's McGillicuddy Humanities Center will offer a virtual workshop on applying for NEH grants. It will be conducted by Mark Silver, Senior Program Officer in the Division of Research Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities. The workshop is open to the public. Anyone interested in learning about NEH funding opportunities and application strategies is invited to attend, although space is limited and priority will be given to those in the Mid-Coast, Downeast and Highlands regions of Maine. The workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Although the event is free, you must register in advance. Click here to register. During the first half of the workshop, Dr. Silver will provide an overview of a variety of NEH funding opportunities and offer guidance for writing competitive proposals. In the second half of the workshop, he will run a mock application review panel, where panelists will discuss and rank sample proposals using NEH guidelines to provide insight into how applications are evaluated and recommended for NEH funding. Dr. Silver will also be available during the afternoons of Thursday, September 24, and Friday, September 25, to meet virtually with prospective applicants to discuss their projects and offer advice about their proposals. Those interested in scheduling a twenty-minute appointment will be asked to submit a one-page single-spaced overview of their project in advance. For more information, email mhc@maine.edu or follow us on social media.

AP announces $3M grant for Arctic research

31 Aug 2020

The Associated Press reported that the University of Maine will receive nearly $3 million from the National Science Foundation to support 57 graduate students training in the interdisciplinary field of Arctic systems science. Maine Public and WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the AP story.

Evans talks with WABI about welcoming activities

31 Aug 2020

WABI reported on The AMainezing Race, a scavenger hunt at the University of Maine aimed at welcoming new students. "We're doing so many more diverse programs, so many more inclusive programs. Just getting students involved whether they're on campus, in Maine, or Alaska or anywhere in between," said Ben Evans, coordinator of campus activities. The scavenger hunt is part of an initiative to keep students safe while enjoying college life.

AP announces $3M grant to UMaine for Arctic research

31 Aug 2020

The Associated Press reported that the University of Maine will receive nearly $3 million from the National Science Foundation to support 57 graduate students training in the interdisciplinary field of Arctic systems science. Maine Public and WGME (Channel 13 in Portland) shared the AP story.

Sea Grant 'hot water' project featured in Mainebiz

09 Sep 2020

Mainebiz reported on a University of Maine Sea Grant study seeking to identify the variables that contribute to resilience and vulnerability in the state's lobster industry by analyzing data gathered over short intervals such as daily, weekly or monthly. Findings will be used to enhance the planning and management of the fishery. The project is funded by the National Sea Grant American Lobster Initiative.

WMTW reports COVID-19 numbers across UMS

14 Sep 2020

WMTW (Channel 8 in Portland) reported that there are currently 14 active cases of coronavirus across the University of Maine System, including 9 at UMaine.

et sale Sept. 30

18 Sep 2020

Free Press advances Extension's Virtual Coffee Break for Parents

15 Oct 2020

The Free Press advanced an online four-week series for parents and caregivers of young children offered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Maine Families. The virtual coffee break, which will be held from 9–10 a.m. every Thursday from Oct. 29 to Nov. 19, will be an informal way for participants to connect with other parents, ask questions and discuss relevant topics, including mindfulness for parents, diversifying a child's library, co-parenting during the pandemic, and preparing for the holiday season. Register for the free virtual series and find more details on the event webpage. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Alicia Greenlaw, 207.944.1843, alicia.greenlaw@maine.edu.

Wheatland Geospatial researchers join NASA initiative, receive funding for carbon mapping

19 Oct 2020

Two University of Maine researchers will join NASA's Global Ecosystems Dynamic Investigation (GEDI) science initiative with a $500,000 grant that will facilitate development and testing of carbon mapping methods using satellite data gathered on the International Space Station. Daniel Hayes, director of the University of Maine Wheatland Geospatial Laboratory and Aaron Weiskittel, director of the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests (CRSF) will collaborate with colleagues from Michigan State University and the University of Minnesota to design data applications that evaluate the health and function of northeastern forests to support Maine's carbon offset initiatives. Read more about the project, FORest Carbon Estimation, or FORCE, on the CRSF website.

UMaine to conduct annual emergency communications system test Nov. 2

22 Oct 2020

The University of Maine will conduct its annual emergency communications system test on Monday, Nov. 2, complete with three outdoor sirens sounding for several minutes. The sirens are part of UMaine's multifaceted emergency communications system established in 2007 that allows university safety and communications professionals to use several mechanisms to quickly communicate vital information to the community during emergency situations. When UMaine's emergency communication system is activated, several notifications occur: A text message is sent to subscribers of UMaine's umaine.alerts system; the UMaine Police Department sounds the sirens; information is posted on the university's homepage and the UMaine portal; and a recorded telephone message may be heard by dialing 207.581.INFO. Members of the University of Maine community are reminded to register to receive UMaine's emergency notifications. The emergency notification service alerts the UMaine community to public safety issues, including inclement weather conditions causing class cancellations. Those registered for UMaine alerts will receive a message about the emergency notification system on Nov. 2, as well as on the 15th of every month. Registration for texts and/or email alerts is online.

Sun Journal highlights Sorg's drug death report

22 Oct 2020

The Sun Journal noted a drug death compiled by Marcella Sorg, a research professor at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine, in an article about overdoses in Lewiston and Auburn during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report, which the Maine Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner released earlier this year, presents figures demonstrating that drug overdose deaths significantly increased during the first quarter of 2020. The Enhanced Q1 Drug Death Report, which was also shared by the center, showed that 127 deaths were caused by drugs in the first three months of 2020.

New McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellows Begin Research

25 Oct 2020

The Fall 2020-Spring 2021 McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellows are, from left to right, Hailey Cedor, Nola Prevost, Nolan Altvater, and Katherine Reardon.

Joining the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) as Fall 2020 through Spring 2021 Fellows are Nolan Altvater, Hailey Cedor, Nola Prevost and Katherine Reardon. The new cohort joins returning Fellows Ivy Flessen, Bria Lamonica, and Leela Stockley, who will be completing their research this semester. Fellows receive $4000 each semester for two consecutive semesters, to work on a humanities project of their own devising. They serve as humanities ambassadors to their peers, the campus, and beyond. The MHC currently supports seven undergraduate Fellows, and will be expanding to eight next semester. Nolan Altvater, of Sipayik and Island Falls, Maine, is a Wabanaki student majoring in Secondary Education with a concentration in English. He will be doing his fellowship research on "Decolonizing Maine Education: Creating an Educational Resource to Improve the Implementation of The Wabanaki Studies Law." As a future tribal educator, Altvater hopes to address the poor implementation and lack of resources related to LD-291, also known as the Wabanaki Studies Law. At the culmination of his MHC Fellowship he plans to create a writing camp centered around Maine's Native history, culture, and epistemologies. History major Hailey Cedor, of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, was selected as a MHC Fellow to complete research related to local involvement of Lithuanians in the Holocaust and how that currently informs national views and identity in relation to that event. Cedor, a History major minoring in Environmental Horticulture, became interested in the topic after working the past year on Professor Anne Knowles*' Holocaust Ghettos Project,* which involves GIS mapping. With Holocaust denial on the rise in Europe and here in the U.S., Cedor believes that bringing stories like this to light are as important now as ever. Fellow Nola Prevost of Brewer, Maine, is an English Major concentrating in Creative Writing and minoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is interested in the historic use of fairy tales to represent societal issues or moral messages, and is curious how this genre could be used to engage with current socio-political discourse. Her fellowship project, "Feminist Fairy Tales," will use modern fairy tale conventions and feminist scholarship to create her own collection of fables in hybrid prose poetry form. This collection will address feminist issues, writing especially for marginalized groups within American society. Katherine Reardon, an English major with a minor in political science, hails from Westwood, Massachusetts. Reardon will be spending her fellowship working on her project, "Family Stories, The Truth, and How It Shape Us." After a trip to Ireland where her ancestors are from, Reardon became curious about the validity of certain family stories, particularly those told by her late grandfather. Her research will combine oral history, historic documentation and nonfiction creative writing to examine the sometimes-fictional stories families pass down, and how they can shape us. Students interested in becoming a McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellowship have two deadlines to apply annually in October and March. The deadline to become a Spring 2021 through Fall 2021 Fellow has been extended until Wednesday, October 28. More information, including application instructions, proposal guidelines, and a rubric, are all available at umaine.edu/mhc/research/for-students/undergraduate-fellowship/ or by contacting the MHC's Humanities Specialist Karen Sieber at karen.sieber@maine.edu.

BDN advances backyard composting webinar

26 Oct 2020

The Bangor Daily News advanced an upcoming home composting webinar hosted by University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine Organic Farmers and the Gardeners Association. Topics for "Backyard Composting," which will be held noon–1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 4., include the basic principles of composting, what can safely be composted and when and how to use home compost. Registration is required; a $5 donation is optional. Register on the event webpage to attend live or receive a link to the recording. This is the third in a six-part fall gardening webinar series offered every other Wednesday through mid-December.

27 Oct 2020

The director of the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center co-authored a strategic plan to guide the U.S. toward a carbon-neutral economy by 2050 as a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN USA). University of Maine economist Jonathan Rubin and other members of SDSN, which was launched to implement the United Nations' sustainable development goals, released America's Zero Carbon Action plan today. The network will deliver its plan to the executive branch and Congress in November. The comprehensive policy report provides pathways for decarbonizing power systems, transportation, food and land use, industry, buildings and materials. Using the latest modeling and research, the plan also illustrates how achieving a net-zero carbon emission economy backed by renewable energy is possible and would only cost 0.4% more than the fossil-fuel support economy. It also details how initiatives will spur net employment gain with millions of new jobs each year. "The roadmap is a science-based, realistic assessment of how we can get to zero carbon emissions," says Rubin, also a professor of resource economics and policy at UMaine. "We kept our goals in mind: zero carbon emissions in transportation, fairness and enhancing economic opportunities. Something this complex and important will evolve, but we point to ways to help move the nation forward." The SDSN will host a free webinar focusing on the chapter of the report that details decarbonizing the transportation sector Thursday afternoon. Rubin will serve on the webinar panel and discuss how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and other transportation resources in rural areas. Anyone interested in attending the public webinar can register online. "We will briefly outline the roadmap and leave lots of time for people to ask questions and interact with the panel." Rubin says. America's Zero Carbon Action plan was drafted by the Zero Carbon Consortium, a coalition of about 100 experts in climate change policy, clean energy pathways

modeling, industrial policy, regulatory policy and other related fields. Co-authoring report appealed to Rubin's exportise in transportation, energy and the environment. The UMaine economist served six years as chair of the Environment and Energy Section of the U.S. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Humanities As Activism Panel To Feature Noted Poet and Artists

08 Nov 2020

On Thursday, November 12, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center will be sponsoring a panel on "The Humanities as Activism in Chicago." This session of the Socialist and Marxist Studies Series will feature three remarkable panelists whose work at the intersection of the humanities and activism has garnered national attention: Tonika Johnson, Kevin Coval, and Nicole Marroquin. Free and open to the public. Join at 12:30p.m. EST at: https://maine.zoom.us/j/94485327393. Karen Sieber, humanities specialist at the MHC, proposed the panel to series facilitators Professor Doug Allen and lecturer Michael Swacha, seeing the pivot to a virtual format this semester as the perfect opportunity to bring in voices from beyond Maine. Sieber, who will moderate the panel, is currently doing research on what she calls "tactical humanities," or using the humanities in strategic outside-of-the-box ways to draw attention to urgent issues. The three humanists she selected for the panel are individuals she knows from her time working as a public historian in Chicago that she feels embody this activist spirit. "There is an immediacy to their work. I wanted to highlight the way in which these artists use their craft to draw attention to issues that are at once local and universal. The outreach work that Tonika, Kevin and Nicole each do with youth in their community can serve as a model elsewhere about the power of the humanities to engage tomorrow's leaders. " Kevin Coval is an Emmy-nominated, award-winning poet & author of *Everything Must Go: The Life & Death of an American Neighborhood, A People's History of Chicago* & over ten other full-length collections, anthologies & chapbooks. He is a founding editor of The BreakBeat Poets imprint on Haymarket Books. Coval is Creative Director of the MacArthur Award-winning cultural organization, Young Chicago Authors, and a founder of Louder Than a Bomb, the world's largest youth poetry festival, now in more than 19 cities across North America. He's shared the stage with The Migos & Nelson Mandela & his work has been feature on *The Daily Show*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Chicago Tribune,* CNN.com, and four seasons of HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*. Coval was the recipient of the 2018 Studs Terkel Award. Tonika Johnson is a visual artist, photographer, and community activist from Chicago's South side Englewood neighborhood. Her *Folded Map* project examines the long history of redlining and segregation in the city. Johnson works to address inaccurate negative perceptions about the South and West sides of Chicago, and open a dialogue about institutional racism and segregation. She is co-founder of the Resident Association of Greater Englewood (R.A.G.E.) and lead co-founder of Englewood Arts Collective. In 2017, Johnson was named a Chicagoan of the Year, and in 2019, she was named one of Field Foundation's Leaders for a New Chicago. She was recently appointed as a member of the Cultural Advisory Council of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events by the Chicago City Council. Nicole Marroquin is an interdisciplinary artist who's practice includes art making, collaboration, research and cultural production with youth and in communities. She has exhibited locally and internationally, including the Museo Nacional de Culturas Populares in Mexico City and the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. She is a member of the feminist collective Multiuso, and a former Joan Mitchell Fellow at the Center for Racial Justice Innovation. Marroquin is the creator of Chicago Raza Research Consortium, a grassroots effort to map, gather, and present Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Latinx, and Raza history in Chicago. She is Associate Professor in the Department of Art Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. For more information on the Socialist and Marxist Studies Series click here.

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Special MPR issue celebrating Maine's bicentennial available online

18 Nov 2020

The fall 2020 issue of *Maine Policy Review* (Volume 29, No. 2), a special issue celebrating Maine's bicentennial, is now available on MPR's Digital Commons site. A brief look at this issue is available on MPR's website. The issue provides an overview of Maine's rich history with articles that focus on the state's economic development and demographics and articles that examine the impacts of state policies on Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and people of color. Other pieces recognize the state's enormous natural beauty and resource wealth and assess the role of people and policies in the stewardship and development of these natural resources. This *MPR* issue devoted to the bicentennial will serve as an important record of Maine's past and a guide for Maine's future. *Maine Policy Review* publishes independent, peer-reviewed analyses of public policy issues important to the state. Archival issues are available on MPR's Digital Commons.

UMaine Hutchinson Center announces 20% discount on online winter professional development programs Black Friday through Cyber Monday

19 Nov 2020

Nov. 19, 2020 News release Contact: Michele Christle, michele.christle@maine.edu; 207.338.8093 **UMaine Hutchinson Center announces 20% discount on online winter professional development programs Black Friday through Cyber Monday** Belfast, Maine — Registration is now open for all online winter professional development programs through the University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast. All winter 2021 professional development programs will be 20% off Black Friday (Nov. 27) through Cyber Monday (Nov. 30). More information is available on the Hutchinson Center website. The UMaine Hutchinson Center's professional development programs are designed to benefit professionals from a range of sectors, including health care workers, educators and members of nonprofit organizations, as well as people who are unemployed, underemployed or trying to make a

change in their careers. All programs are held synchronously via Zoom. Class sizes are small and the programs are engaging and highly interactive (programs are not prerecorded). Given their online nature, these professional development programs are accessible to professionals nationwide, offering an opportunity to further expand professional networks. To participate, stable internet connection is required. Two five-day sessions of Grant Writing Essentials, taught by Elizabeth Haffey, will be offered (Session 1: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 and Session 2: March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16). In this high-calibre program, participants will navigate grant proposals from inception to completion, and about finding and vetting funding sources. In Practical Project Management, taught by Angela Wheaton (offered March 12, 17, 19, 24, with a follow-up session April 9), participants will gain useful skills for implementing project management in the real world. Self-Care for Clinicians, taught by Wendy Rapaport (offered January 29–30) will teach strategies to prevent burnout and build resilience. Health care workers, social workers, therapists, birth workers and health care administrators are shouldering a heavy burden. This self-care program will provide space to process and reflect in order to support clinicians and, therefore, those who rely on them. Tom Dowd will be offering a three-part Career Transformation Series (Jan. 15, 22, 29). These sessions will focus on building professional networks, and strengthening resumes and interview skills, with the end result being increased career success during unprecedented times. Career Transformation Sessions are available à la carte or as a series. The Hutchinson Center is pleased to offer a new program this winter, thanks to a partnership with Racial Equity & Justice, founded by David Patrick and Desiree Vargas, both graduates of the University of Maine. A Racial Equity, Diversity and Implicit Bias training will be offered on March 5. This program is the first step for professionals looking for concrete steps to address racism, diversity, equity and inclusivity in their personal and professional lives. Additional programs are listed on the Hutchinson Center's website. Custom programs catered to the specific needs of a company, organization or school also are available. For information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Michelle Patten, um.fhc.pd@maine.edu; 207.338.8002. For more information about upcoming professional development programs or to register, go online. Early registration is recommended as spots are limited. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available to people who live or work in Knox or Waldo counties.
About the Hutchinson Center: The Hutchinson Center is an outreach center for the University of Maine in Orono, that serves as an educational and cultural center for the midcoast area. It is named for University of Maine President Emeritus Frederick E. Hutchinson. The mission of the Hutchinson Center is to broaden access to University of Maine academic and non-degree programs and services, lifelong learning opportunities, and professional and career development experiences using innovative approaches that increase synergy among University of Maine System entities, University of Maine departments and divisions, and that engage a wider Maine community.

New post

15 Dec 2020

This is a new post using the classic editor.

New post

15 Dec 2020

This is a new post using the Gutenberg editor.

UMaine researchers develop models to forecast lethal ASP toxin movement in waterways

22 Oct 2020

University of Maine researchers will develop a tool for predicting how biotoxins released by algal blooms that can cause public health issues travel through estuarine and coastal waters. The focus of the UMaine-led effort pertains to marine harmful algal blooms of the diatom Pseudo-nitzschia that causes medical problems through the production of the toxin domoic acid. The illness it causes is called Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP), which can lead to deadly neurological and gastrointestinal symptoms in people. When the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) finds signs of the toxin in shellfish, it closes the regional area where they were found, forbidding any harvesting. MEDMR reopens the area after conducting additional tests, which can last a couple of days or longer and, if extensive, adversely affect the livelihoods of fishermen and aquaculture farmers. Lauren Ross from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Sean Smith from the School of Earth and Climate Sciences, and Sean Birkel from the Climate Change Institute at UMaine will collaborate with scientists from the Maine Department of Marine Resources, U.S. Geological Survey and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to quantify and simulate conditions associated with Pseudo-nitzschia blooms. The study area includes eight connected estuaries and their watersheds flowing into Frenchman and Blue Hill bays surrounding Mount Desert Island. The research is designed with stakeholder input to provide better predictions for the blooms and management responses based on better knowledge of factors related to the watersheds and the estuaries they drain into. Science communication will be a major component of their three-year project, with the intention of adapting outcomes from their research into management decision tools to guide coastal monitoring activities, pinpoint public health risks pertaining to ASP, and prompt shorter closures to shellfish harvesting with smaller, more precise boundaries. Another prominent component of their research will be the development of a numerical model to evaluate conditions that influence ASP events. By the end of the project in 2023, the team plans to have publically accessible coastal pollution prediction and management decision support tools available on the internet. "The results of this project will provide a blueprint for other municipalities, states and regions to better understand bloom development in estuarine environments," says Ross, the principal investigator for the project. The team's project, funded by a $250,000 grant from the USGS, builds off of previous research by Ross and Smith in the Watershed Process and Estuary Sustainability (WPES) research group that they collaboratively lead to predict bacterial pollution problems affecting shellfishing industries along Maine's coast. The research project, called "Safe Beaches and Shellfish Project," was initiated by an EPSCOR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) grant led by the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions. It included extensive work to measure, model and map conditions related to coastal bacteria pollution in Maine. The current WPES research group includes graduate researchers Sohaib Alahmed, a Ph.D. student in civil and environmental engineering, and Bea Van Dam, a Ph.D. student in the School of Earth and Climate Sciences. Their research has focused on land-sea connections to advance the scientific basis for shellfish closures in response to coastal precipitation runoff with focused attention on Frenchman Bay, the Medomak River, and Wells Harbor areas. This new project will be an important next step in the work by WPES collaborators with expanded partnerships to build new sustainability solutions for Maine seafood industries and coastal communities, Smith said. The USGS allocated the funding for the project as part of the national Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) Grant Program. The Mitchell center houses Maine's congressionally-authorized water institute and receives the base funding from the national- and state-level WRRI grant funding programs. Contact: Marcus Wolf, 207.581.3721; marcus.wolf@maine.edu

Big horn sheep

06 Jan 2020

Shell midden

09 Jan 2020

Kelley at shell midden

09 Jan 2020

News images collage

10 Jan 2020

News images collage

10 Jan 2020

Maine Hello

10 Jan 2020

Recorders and sheet music

10 Jan 2020

Richard Powell

21 Jan 2020

Dairy travel course

22 Jan 2020

Blueberries

24 Jan 2020

Aerial panorama of Portland, ME

27 Jan 2020

Martina McBride

28 Jan 2020

spire-cover-contest-final-2

28 Jan 2020

the color purple 1

29 Jan 2020

French fries

30 Jan 2020

Smartphone

30 Jan 2020

Canoes on the water

04 Feb 2020

Fern

04 Feb 2020

Maine forest

06 Feb 2020

Tick lab research

12 Feb 2020

Ming-Tso Chien

12 Feb 2020

Maines-Climate-Future

13 Feb 2020

Maines-Climate-Future Baner

13 Feb 2020

Snowmobiling

18 Feb 2020

Artificial intelligence

19 Feb 2020

Wabanaki women

21 Feb 2020

Map

21 Feb 2020

AMSAT 3U CubeSat

24 Feb 2020

View of Earth from space

24 Feb 2020

Theater production

25 Feb 2020

A Wilder Night

28 Feb 2020

Women working in the forest

03 Mar 2020

Alessio Mortelliti

03 Mar 2020

Elizabeth Spiller

03 Mar 2020

Diving

06 Mar 2020

diagram

06 Mar 2020

Rebecca Traister

10 Mar 2020

Wanda Long

12 Mar 2020

Kenda Scheele

12 Mar 2020

McGillicuddy Humanities Center fellows

12 Mar 2020

Farm and forest

12 Mar 2020

Campus building in spring

19 Mar 2020

Red Gendron

19 Mar 2020

Michael Kienzler

20 Mar 2020

Carrots

20 Mar 2020

Fish on ice

25 Mar 2020

Crabs

25 Mar 2020

UMMA virtual tour

26 Mar 2020

Daigneault_illustration (1)

26 Mar 2020

Hal Borns

26 Mar 2020

Man using smartphone

26 Mar 2020

South America

30 Mar 2020

Bornean treeshrews

01 Apr 2020

Maine forest

01 Apr 2020

Glacier

01 Apr 2020

Computer generated image

03 Apr 2020

Finger touching screen

06 Apr 2020

Sierra Yost and Grace Smith

06 Apr 2020

Grace Smith

06 Apr 2020

Sierra Yost

06 Apr 2020

Amir Reza

07 Apr 2020

Fogler Library

13 Apr 2020

Masks for health care providers

14 Apr 2020

Museum art exhibit

15 Apr 2020

VEMI map news feature

15 Apr 2020

Artifacts

16 Apr 2020

Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie

16 Apr 2020

Nursing student

16 Apr 2020

Collins Center for the Arts

17 Apr 2020

Spire cover 2020

21 Apr 2020

Meal packout news feature

21 Apr 2020

Spruce budworm map

21 Apr 2020

Women

21 Apr 2020

Letter excerpt

21 Apr 2020

Emma Taccardi

22 Apr 2020

Jarod Webb

29 Apr 2020

Sally Clark

29 Apr 2020

Beate Naglestad

29 Apr 2020

Brittany Kucera

29 Apr 2020

Gabriel Karam

29 Apr 2020

Ines Khiyara

29 Apr 2020

Abram Karam

29 Apr 2020

Abram Karam

29 Apr 2020

Gabriel Karam

29 Apr 2020

Sally Clark

29 Apr 2020

Ines Khiyara

29 Apr 2020

Brittany Kucera

29 Apr 2020

Beate Naglestad

29 Apr 2020

Jarod Webb

29 Apr 2020

UMaine's Memorial Union

29 Apr 2020

Caleigh Charlebois

29 Apr 2020

Maren Granstrom and Laura Kenefic

29 Apr 2020

Photo by Scott A. Sell

Alumni Hall

30 Apr 2020

Woman taking a selfie while wearing a face mask

01 May 2020

study graphic

01 May 2020

Fanny Wadling

01 May 2020

Fanny Wadling

01 May 2020

Noah Falkner

05 May 2020

Juliana Tavora

05 May 2020

Blacklegged tick

05 May 2020

Research buoy

06 May 2020

Website launch graphic

08 May 2020

Samuel Varga

11 May 2020

Denali

11 May 2020

Fogler Library

11 May 2020

Sara Lindsay

11 May 2020

Bob Steneck

11 May 2020

Jean MacRae

11 May 2020

Doug Allen

12 May 2020

Food waste in a garbage can

13 May 2020

Labeling bottles

15 May 2020

Larry Mayer with student

18 May 2020

Portland, Maine

18 May 2020

Lin Wei

18 May 2020

Brandon Emerson

20 May 2020

Philip Edelman

21 May 2020

Betelhem Abay

26 May 2020

Tom Adams

01 Jun 2020

Coastal flooding

01 Jun 2020

Linh Phan

02 Jun 2020

UMaine landscape

04 Jun 2020

Newborn baby

05 Jun 2020

Craig Mason portrait

11 Jun 2020

Scientific illustration

11 Jun 2020

American Chestnut tree

12 Jun 2020

Telehealth therapy

17 Jun 2020

Earth on fire graphic

17 Jun 2020

Lettuce

17 Jun 2020

Lab work

22 Jun 2020

Lab work

22 Jun 2020

Abigail Muscat

22 Jun 2020

Stack of books

23 Jun 2020

John Volin

23 Jun 2020

Tom Adams

24 Jun 2020

Neuright members

24 Jun 2020

Memorial Union

25 Jun 2020

Kaylee Brann

25 Jun 2020

Katelyn Ellis

25 Jun 2020

Orientation

26 Jun 2020

Sadie Libby

29 Jun 2020

Fiddleheads

29 Jun 2020

Gabrielle Hillyer

29 Jun 2020

Melissa Flye

06 Jul 2020

Orono, Maine

07 Jul 2020

Bar Harbor, Maine

13 Jul 2020

Teacher training session

15 Jul 2020

Ballistic panel system

16 Jul 2020

UMaine landscape

17 Jul 2020

Ocean research

20 Jul 2020

Margaret Estapa

20 Jul 2020

Lab research

21 Jul 2020

Water stewardship

24 Jul 2020

DOE battery storage research

27 Jul 2020

CNF

27 Jul 2020

Optimized-yu-photo

27 Jul 2020

climate strategies

27 Jul 2020

Optimized-yu-photo

27 Jul 2020

Yingchao Yang

27 Jul 2020

Wild blueberries

28 Jul 2020

X-ray of hand

28 Jul 2020

Zebrafish

28 Jul 2020

Empty classroom

03 Aug 2020

Floating wind turbine

05 Aug 2020

Lobster research

05 Aug 2020

Chlorophylia

07 Aug 2020

Fancy basket

07 Aug 2020

Eight Bells

07 Aug 2020

Folio VI

07 Aug 2020

Child playing with a caregiver

11 Aug 2020

Plankton

11 Aug 2020

UNAR Labs

12 Aug 2020

Susan Brawley

14 Aug 2020

Stevens Hall

19 Aug 2020

Lindsey Lagerstrom

24 Aug 2020

Buoy Maine logo

26 Aug 2020

Algae

26 Aug 2020

Julia McGuire

26 Aug 2020

Timothy Boester

26 Aug 2020

Lobster fitness tracker

31 Aug 2020

John Cangelosi

01 Sep 2020

Lobster

01 Sep 2020

Ice core

01 Sep 2020

Mason Crocker

02 Sep 2020

Greenland

02 Sep 2020

Outdoor learning

03 Sep 2020

Sarah Marcotte

08 Sep 2020

Abigail Muscat

08 Sep 2020

Lobsters

08 Sep 2020

podcast-2-news-post-featured-image

11 Sep 2020

Maine coast

14 Sep 2020

Shoreline

14 Sep 2020

Jack Pine Project logo

15 Sep 2020

Moose

16 Sep 2020

Clam processing

17 Sep 2020

Dwayne Tomah

17 Sep 2020

Student portraits

17 Sep 2020

Student in a lab class

18 Sep 2020

Thrift store

21 Sep 2020

Blueberry field

21 Sep 2020

McGill_TrackII_MEVT_foregrounded

21 Sep 2020

Rural Maine community

22 Sep 2020

Dudu Meireles

23 Sep 2020

Temple in Bhutan

23 Sep 2020

vison-for-tomorrow-news-feature

24 Sep 2020

Spanish Flu victims

25 Sep 2020

Colle Gnifetti ice core in the drill, photo Nicole Spaulding

25 Sep 2020

Hazing workshop

29 Sep 2020

Maine forest

29 Sep 2020

Nick Slabyj

01 Oct 2020

Toddler communication

01 Oct 2020

Portland, Maine

01 Oct 2020

Coping with COVID

01 Oct 2020

Hannah Mittelstaedt

05 Oct 2020

Cormorants news feature

05 Oct 2020

Nick-Slabyj

05 Oct 2020

Maylinda Boynton

06 Oct 2020

Margaret Campbell

06 Oct 2020

UMaine athletics facilities

07 Oct 2020

Homecoming 2020 Logo

07 Oct 2020

Educational resources website

07 Oct 2020

Hand holding an oyster

14 Oct 2020

Biomimicry

14 Oct 2020

Biomimicry

14 Oct 2020

Jacquelyn Gill

15 Oct 2020

Darling Marine Center news feature

16 Oct 2020

Jocelyn Cooper

16 Oct 2020

Lydia Harris

16 Oct 2020

Madeline Williams

16 Oct 2020

Sydney Avena

16 Oct 2020

A couple walking a dog in a park

16 Oct 2020

Versant Power Astronomy Center

19 Oct 2020

Torsten Hahmann

19 Oct 2020

University of Maine at Machias campus

19 Oct 2020

Sabrina Sultana

21 Oct 2020

Lauren Ross

22 Oct 2020

Zoom class

23 Oct 2020

Phoebe Jekielek

23 Oct 2020

Black-browed albatross

23 Oct 2020

Sara Kelemen

26 Oct 2020

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

26 Oct 2020

Gloeotrichia

27 Oct 2020

Virtual math

27 Oct 2020

Eye of a hurricane

27 Oct 2020

Aerial image of Orono, Maine

29 Oct 2020

Senior Show 103020

30 Oct 2020

Churchills news feature

02 Nov 2020

Online music lesson

03 Nov 2020

Claudia Cummings

03 Nov 2020

Julia Van Steenberghe

03 Nov 2020

Chaofan Chen

03 Nov 2020

Catherine Fabel

04 Nov 2020

Samuel Tan

05 Nov 2020

Class in the woods

10 Nov 2020

Sydney Greenlee

12 Nov 2020

Bears Ears National Monument

12 Nov 2020

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy

12 Nov 2020

Trees outside Fogler Library

12 Nov 2020

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy

12 Nov 2020

NASA news feature

16 Nov 2020

Rene Francolini

17 Nov 2020

Cooperative extension circuit news feature

18 Nov 2020

Jordon Gregory

19 Nov 2020

Baker IMG_6383 web

20 Nov 2020

_PO_2550 web

20 Nov 2020

02_DirkCollinsNationalGeographic web

20 Nov 2020

_DSC3462 web

20 Nov 2020

Catherine Kaczorowski portrait

23 Nov 2020

Andrew Ouellette

23 Nov 2020

Economic Recovery Committee

25 Nov 2020

Economic Recovery Committee2

25 Nov 2020

Wabanaki Center

30 Nov 2020

Ruins of the Temple of the Amphitheatre

30 Nov 2020

Brian McGill

01 Dec 2020

climate-change-news-feature

02 Dec 2020

Basket news feature

02 Dec 2020

Potato blossoms

03 Dec 2020

Maine coastal town

07 Dec 2020

Maura Philippone

07 Dec 2020

Chemistry lab kits

07 Dec 2020

Opera Workshop

08 Dec 2020

Blueberry extract

09 Dec 2020

Shadow Box Theater

09 Dec 2020

AR Gardens

09 Dec 2020

Daniel Regan

10 Dec 2020

Trees

14 Dec 2020

Nursing lab class

14 Dec 2020

Japanese barberry

14 Dec 2020

Guanyu Jiang

17 Dec 2020

Tents on Mount Everest

17 Dec 2020

Perito Moreno Glacier

17 Dec 2020

Karl Kreutz

17 Dec 2020

Grand Kankakee Marsh

17 Dec 2020

Emily Carbonetti

17 Dec 2020

Kara Pellowe digging for softshell clams in June 2019 as part of her doctoral research in Newcastle, Maine.

18 Dec 2020

Tara Expedition Map

18 Dec 2020

Scanning electron micrograph of bacterial colonization on the blade margins of the marine macroalga Porphyra umbilicalis

22 Dec 2020

Claudia Desjardins

28 Dec 2020

Gosse Lab

30 Dec 2020

jeanne-lambrew-square

18 Feb 2020

Group

18 Feb 2020

Allie-and-Emma-Saco-interns

19 Feb 2020

Despres-photo-copy

25 Feb 2020

2019-2020 Map NO BUILDING TXT

11 Mar 2020

President

06 Apr 2020

MPR_Vol29_No1_News-1

08 Apr 2020

News-image-for-podcast

18 Apr 2020

Meal-packout-news-feature-1

23 Apr 2020

2019estHF

03 May 2020

JPG-1-UMaine-engineering-alum-Joshua-Girgis-scaled-1

04 May 2020

Abigail-Muscat-news-feature-1

23 Jun 2020

Screen-Shot-2020-07-17-at-11.37.15-AM

17 Jul 2020

kevin_coval_by_bryan_allen_lamb_1-e1604863809232

08 Nov 2020

kevin_coval_by_bryan_allen_lamb_1-e1604863809232-1

08 Nov 2020

29.2-bicentennial-art-trimmed

18 Nov 2020