

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

General University of Maine Publications

University of Maine Publications

5-7-2021

UMaine 2021 Virtual Commencement Will Honor Two Years of Graduates

University of Maine, Division of Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

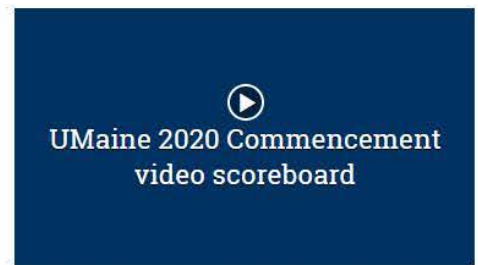
Repository Citation

University of Maine, Division of Marketing and Communications, "UMaine 2021 Virtual Commencement Will Honor Two Years of Graduates" (2021). *General University of Maine Publications*. 1216.
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications/1216

This Webpage is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.



[Letter from UMaine President Ferrini-Mundy](#)



Commencement 2021 will be virtual

The health and safety of our University of Maine community is our top priority. As President Ferrini-Mundy wrote in an email to the University of Maine community on February 10, due to continuing public health concerns related to COVID-19, 2021 Commencement ceremonies will be conducted virtually. The virtual ceremonies outlined below are designed to honor and recognize the hard work, dedication, achievements and perseverance of our UMaine undergraduate and graduate students during this particularly challenging time. Our sincere hope is that someday in the future, we will be able to invite both 2020 and 2021 graduates back for in-person celebrations.

For questions, please email umaine.alerts@maine.edu.

• Stage walks

- Students have the opportunity to participate in socially distanced commencement stage walks. These are scheduled for April 23, April 26-29 and May 3 and will be livestreamed and recorded for later viewing. Tickets have been emailed.
- The stage walk events are only for graduates; there will be no guests on-site in accordance with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.
- Students have received emails from um.commencement@maine.edu with a personalized link for submitting their photos online.

• Virtual commencement presentation

- A recorded virtual commencement presentation will be available for viewing in late May. It will feature elements of our traditional in-person commencement ceremony, such as messages from campus leadership, speakers and music, as well as photos of all graduates who opt to submit images.
 - There is no commencement event planned for May 8.
- For questions, please email umaine.alerts@maine.edu.

Stage walk livestream schedule

The UMaine 2021 commencement stage walks of UMaine 2021 and 2020 graduates who have opted to participate will be livestreamed and videotaped for inclusion in our virtual commencement presentation available in May:

UMaine 2021 Commencement Stage Walk April 23 — Graduate School

UMaine 2021 Commencement Stage Walk April 26 — College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

UMaine 2021 Commencement Stage Walk April 27 — Maine Business School, College of Education and Human Development, Division of Lifelong Learning

UMaine 2021 Commencement Stage Walk April 28 — College of Engineering

UMaine 2021 Commencement Stage Walk April 29 — College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

UMaine 2021 Commencement Stage Walk May 3 — Class of 2020

College Commencement events

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences virtual Student Awards Ceremony and Celebration, 3:30 p.m., April 19.

Celebrating departmental award winners and outstanding undergraduate and graduate student award winners, and graduate students who will be recognized for their achievements in research, teaching, and interdisciplinary work. Contact Brian Jansen for more information, brian.jansen@maine.edu.

Maine Business School and the **Graduate School of Business** will have an [induction ceremony for Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society](#) at 2 p.m., April 23, followed by an [Honors and Awards Ceremony](#) for student and faculty awards at 3:30 p.m. [This congratulations video was shown.](#)

Graduate School [Virtual Hooding Ceremonies](#) will be the week of April 26.

Honors College [virtual celebration of December 2020, and May and August 2021 graduates](#), 9 a.m., May 7.

A **College of Education and Human Development** [recognition webpage](#) will include a video of faculty and staff congratulations and profiles of the outstanding graduating students for the different majors/programs within the college.

College of Engineering Francis Crowe Society induction ceremony celebration will be posted on YouTube.

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture schools, departments and programs have virtual events planned. Check websites for details.

The **Division of Lifelong Learning** will host a virtual celebration for 2020/2021 Bachelor of University Studies graduates on April 29, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

CLASS OF 2021



Class of 2021 and 2020 virtual well-wishes



Stage walk information

Other student recognition ceremonies

- [College of Education and Human Development announces annual student, faculty-staff awards \(April 27\)](#)
- [Maine Business School 2021 honors and awards recipients \(April 26\)](#)

2021 Commencement Stories

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement will honor two years of graduates

Khoa Kieu: Outstanding Graduating International Student

Hana Davis: Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Vilgot Larsson: Outstanding Graduating International Student

Blanca Millan-Modia: Outstanding Graduating International Student

More

Commencement updates

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement update – April 16

UMaine Commencement update – online survey deadline extended

UMaine Commencement update – March 25

Virtual Town Hall on Commencement – March 3

UMaine Commencement Update –



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)



UMaine News

Want weekly UMaine news updates in your inbox?

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Recent Posts

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement will honor two years of graduates

Published: May 07, 2021

Ranco, Gill speak with Maine Public about Indigenous stewardship of biodiversity

Published: May 06, 2021

Press Herald cites Low in story about transparency in billing, tuition increase

Published: May 06, 2021

Advertiser Democrat advances June 'Essentials of College Planning' sessions

Published: May 06, 2021

Wilson, Clark honored as outstanding UMaine employees for 2021

Published: May 05, 2021

UMaine Today



UMaine 2021 virtual commencement will honor two years of graduates

May 7, 2021

The University of Maine will honor the achievements of the more than 2,000 UMaine students receiving degrees in 2021 with a virtual 218th Commencement presentation, highlighted by video of students' in-person stage walks, congratulatory remarks by valedictorian Bailey West and a keynote by Dr. Edison Liu, president and CEO of The Jackson Laboratory.

Alumna Melissa Smith, chair and CEO of WEX in Portland, and Wayne Newell of Indian Township, a Passamaquoddy scholar and educator, will be awarded honorary degrees.

UMaine has 412 graduate students and 1,639 undergraduates receiving degrees in 2021. Following COVID-19 health and safety guidance, nearly 1,000 members of the Class of 2021 and Class of 2020 participated in commencement stage walks April 23–May 3. Recordings of the livestreamed events over six days, which received a total of more than 12,400 views, will be part of the virtual presentation that will feature elements of UMaine's traditional in-person commencement ceremony.

All graduates, including those unable to attend or who did not feel comfortable participating in the in-person stage walks, had the opportunity to submit images and photos to be included in the virtual presentation.

Music for the virtual commencement presentation has been provided by University of Maine Symphonic Band and Maine Steiners.

The virtual 218th Commencement presentation will be available in late May to ensure time for all video and photos to be submitted from the Classes of 2021 and 2020. Graduates will be notified of the time and date of the presentation, which will be available on the [commencement website](#). The 218th Commencement program and a link to the Graduate School's virtual hooding ceremonies also will be available on the website.

"We are incredibly proud of the perseverance, tenacity and hard work that our seniors and graduate students demonstrated, particularly amid the challenges of the past three semesters, to successfully

reach this point in their academic careers,” says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. “This is a time to celebrate our graduates and the many people who have provided them support and encouragement.”

Keynoting this year’s UMaine Commencement is Dr. Liu, who for nine years has led The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, an independent research institute focused on complex genetics and functional genomics with campuses in Maine, Connecticut and California. He also directs the National Cancer Institute-designated JAX Cancer Center. Dr. Liu is an international expert in cancer biology, systems genomics, human genetics, molecular epidemiology and translational medicine. His own scientific research has focused on the functional genomics of human cancers, particularly breast cancer, uncovering new oncogenes, and deciphering on a genomic scale the dynamics of gene regulation that modulate cancer biology.



Edison Liu

Previously, he was the founding executive director of the Genome Institute of Singapore and the president of the Human Genome Organization and the scientific director of the National Cancer Institute’s Division of Clinical Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Earlier in his career, Dr. Liu was a faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was the director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Specialized Program of Research Excellence in Breast Cancer; director of the Laboratory of Molecular Epidemiology at UNC’s School of Public Health; and chief of medical genetics.

In addition to addresses from Dr. Liu and President Ferrini-Mundy, the virtual commencement presentation will feature congratulatory messages from other University of Maine System, UMaine and University of Maine Alumni Association leaders.

Among those being honored is 2021 [Distinguished Maine Professor Hemant Pendse](#) and this year’s Presidential Award winners.

UMaine valedictorian [West](#) of Stockton Springs, a biochemistry major and honors student, also is the Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture. [Drew Bennett](#) of Brewer is the 2021 salutatorian. This year, UMaine named [13 Outstanding Graduating Students](#).

The honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters will be awarded to Smith, who received a UMaine bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in accounting in 1991. As chair and CEO of WEX, a financial technology solutions provider that serves millions of companies worldwide, she leads the creation and execution of global strategy and development of talent and culture. Smith began her career at WEX as a senior financial analyst, and is the former CFO and president of the Americas.



Melissa Smith

Smith was the 2017 MaineBiz Business Leader of the Year and the 2012 MaineBiz Woman to Watch. In 2015, the Maine Women’s Fund presented her with a Tribute to Women in Industry Award and, in 2013, the Girl Scouts of Maine presented her with a Women of Distinction Award. She is the co-founder of the Executive Women’s Forum.

Newell, a member of the Passamaquoddy Nation, also will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters for his significant contributions to the Passamaquoddy people, the University of Maine, the state and the nation. Newell was the first Wabanki member of the UMS Board of Trustees and served on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. The Department of the Interior designated him a national living treasure for his lifelong dedication of his talents to the preservation of the Passamaquoddy language and culture.



Wayne Newell

Newell, who has been legally blind since childhood, earned a master’s degree from Harvard University, focused on linguistics. He worked in bilingual education in the Passamaquoddy Nation schools and authored “The Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Dictionary: Peskotomuhkati-Wolastoqewi,” a 1,200-page volume published by the University of Maine Press.

Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Share this:



Division of Marketing and Communications
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5703

Tel: 207.581.3743
Fax: 207.581.3776

[Home](#)
[Submit news](#)
[Podcast](#)

[UMaine Today Magazine](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Contact](#)



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865



Maine Business School

MBS News



Alumni Profile: Ben Smith
Published: May 05, 2021



New Challenges Make Way for New Traditions
Published: May 05, 2021



MaineMBA Ranked Top 100 by Fortune Magazine
Published: May 03, 2021



2021 Honors and Awards Recipients
Published: April 26, 2021



Inspired Innovators: Sally Helgesen and How Women Rise
Published: April 06, 2021

News Archives

SEE MORE STORIES



2021 Honors and Awards Recipients

April 26, 2021 | [Awards](#)

Each year the Maine Business School and Graduate School of Business honors students and faculty for their achievements. Each honoree receives a certificate, blue cords to wear at graduation, and a locally-crafted paddle to commemorate their award. We're elated to announce the honorees of our 2021 awards:

Student Awards

Academic Achievement

This award is given to one student in each of our four majors and our MBA program for having the highest GPA.

- Emma Olmstead, Accounting
- Cameron Spicer, Finance
- Vincent Russo, Management
- Hannah Nugent, Marketing
- Robert Harvey, MaineMBA

Faculty Award

This award is chosen by the faculty in our majors, concentrations, and our MBA program based on criteria determined by each faculty group.

- Melissa Reichel, Accounting
- Grace Graham, Finance
- Fanny Wadling, Management
- Anna Peterson, Marketing
- Chandler Perkins, Entrepreneurship
- Cassidy Tibbetts, Business Information Systems

Katelynn McFadden, International Business
Nargiz Ali Zada, MaineMBA

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

This award is given to the Maine Business School undergraduate student with the highest GPA. This award is recognized by the Office of the President.

Cameron Spicer, Finance

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Athlete

This award is given to the Maine Business School undergraduate student athlete with the highest GPA.

Kelly Fogarty, Management

Outstanding International Undergraduate Student

This award is given to the Maine Business School international undergraduate student athlete with the highest GPA. This award is recognized by the Office of the President.

Fanny Wadling, Management

Spirit of Maine Award

This award is intended to honor a student who consistently lifts our spirits and makes us think of a more positive future.

Joyce Benton, Finance
Connor Donahue, Accounting and Finance

Citizen Scholar Award

This award is given to a student who exemplifies a spirit of outreach and uses what they're learning in the classroom to improve the world around them.

Nicole Pelletier, Accounting and Finance
Jonathan Libby, Finance

Faculty & Staff Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award

This award is given to a faculty member in the Maine Business School who demonstrates excellence in teaching. A faculty committee of recent award recipients makes a recommendation to the Dean based on nominations by students.

David Barrett, Lecturer in Accounting

Excellence in Research Award

This award is given to a faculty member in the Maine Business School who demonstrates excellence in research and scholarship. A faculty committee of recent award recipients makes a recommendation to the Dean based on self-nominations and nominations from Discipline Area Coordinators.

Dmitri Markovitch, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marketing

Dr. Carol B. Gilmore Memorial Service Award

The Dr. Carol B. Gilmore Memorial Service Award was established in 2015 by an anonymous donor. This fund was established in honor of Dr. Gilmore, to reward a Maine Business School faculty member for outstanding service to the community, the University, and the School. Dr. Gilmore taught at UMaine and the Maine Business School from 1977 until the end of the Fall 2011 semester. In 2006, she received the university's prestigious Presidential Public Service Achievement Award, recognizing a lifetime of service to the university and the communities of Maine.

Patti Miles, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Management

Professional Staff Award for Outstanding Service

New this year, this award is honoring two of our hard working staff members who have gone above and beyond this academic year.

Cynthia D'Angelo, Director of Undergraduate Academic Advising Center

Corey Watson, Administrative and Financial Officer

Share this:



Maine Business School
5723 DP Corbett Business Building
Orono, ME 04469

Tel: 207.581.1968
Fax: 207.581.1930
mbs@maine.edu



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865





College of Education and Human Development

UMaine News

Bus schedule changes through next week

Published: April 23, 2021

Tijerina authors new book

Published: April 23, 2021

Ippolito presents at international conference

Published: April 23, 2021

MacAulay lab publishes findings in Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology

Published: April 21, 2021

Brewer, Fried talk with Centralmaine.com about town meeting tradition in Maine

Published: April 21, 2021



College of Education and Human Development announces annual student, faculty-staff awards

April 27, 2021 | [News](#), [School of Educational Leadership, Higher Education and Human Development](#), [School of Kinesiology, Physical Education and Athletic Training](#), [School of Learning and Teaching](#)

Miranda Snyder of Brimfield, Massachusetts, a secondary education major with a concentration in English, is the 2021 Outstanding Graduating Student in the College of Education and Human Development. The college also honored Blanca Millán-Modia of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, a kinesiology and physical education major with a concentration in exercise science, as this year's Outstanding Graduating International Student, and Jamie Jones of Bangor, Maine, a child development and family relations major with a concentration in early childhood education, with the Dean's Award.

The outstanding graduating students for each undergraduate program are:

- [Courtney Pearson](#), Elementary Education
- [Miranda Snyder](#), Secondary Education
- [Jamie Jones](#), Child Development and Family Relations (Early Childhood Education)
- [Jessie Anderson](#), Child Development and Family Relations (Individual and Family Studies)
- [Josh Palmeter](#), Kinesiology and Physical Education (Exercise Science)
- [Walker Thomas](#), Kinesiology and Physical Education (Teaching and Coaching)
- [Mitchell Jameson](#), Athletic Training

- [Mitchell Jameson](#), Athletic Training

The college also announced graduate student awards:

- [Kittiya Reeves](#), Outstanding Student in Human Development
- [Sydni Cosgrove](#), Student Development in Higher Education Excellence Award
- [Hillary-Lynn McCabe](#), Social Justice in Higher Education Award
- [Jillian Baker](#) and [Emily Boutin](#), Outstanding MAT Students
- [Danielle Gabrielli](#), Outstanding Literacy Graduate Student
- [Nick Scott](#), Outstanding Achievement in Instructional Technology
- [Finn Ducker](#), Outstanding Graduate Student/Graduate Assistant in Kinesiology and Physical Education
- [Angela E. Domina](#), Krissy Miner Memorial Award for Outstanding M.Ed. Student in Educational Leadership
- [Katie Truesdale](#) and [Mia Morrision](#), Outstanding Scholarly-Practitioner in Educational Leadership Ed.D. Student Award

And three faculty/staff awards:

- Sherrie Weeks, instructor and program coordinator for athletic training, Teaching Excellence Award
- William Dee Nichols, professor of literacy, Faculty Service Award
- Amy Cates, fiscal coordinator, Staff Service Award

Profiles of the outstanding graduating students and more celebrations Class of 2021 are available on our graduate recognition [page](#).

Share this:



**College of Education and Human
Development**
5766 Shibbes Hall
Orono, ME 04469

Tel: 207.581.2441



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865





Office of the President

President's Biography

FY22 Budget Materials – Downloads and Feedback

Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

C.C. Little Hall Task Force

UMS Science Advisory Board

Cultural Affairs Committee

Board of Visitors

Speaking Request Form

Office hours appointments

University of Maine Presidential Fellows

2022 Honorary Degree Nomination Form

Resources

News

News Center Maine shares reaction from UMS chancellors to state economic recovery plan

Published: May 5, 2021

Media talk with staff, students about Maine Day traditions

Published: April 29, 2021

UMaine Foundation announces \$100,000 Maine Day of Giving gift

Published: April 28, 2021

Press Herald, BDN report UMS Trustees to consider renaming building after Bangor native

Published: April 27, 2021

Ferrini-Mundy, Bumpus talk with media about quarantine announcement

Published: April 20, 2021

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement update – April 16

April 16, 2021 | [Commencement](#), [President's Messages](#)

Dear UMaine students, families and other community members,

Thank you for all your great ideas, your patience and understanding as plans for the UMaine 2021 virtual commencement presentation have advanced. We are a week away from the in-person stage walks of UMaine 2021 and 2020 graduates who have opted to participate.

Nearly 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students in the Classes of 2021 and 2020 will be on campus to take part in the stage walk events in the Collins Center for the Arts, scheduled for April 23, April 26–29, and May 3. Students are being scheduled for their stage walks in small groups in accordance with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. There will be no guests in the audience. We have arranged to have the events livestreamed and recorded for formal presentation in May. The links are on the [commencement website](#), as are all our updates, including information on college-specific activities and my video message.

We fully understand and respect the decisions of graduates in the two classes who have chosen not to participate in the stage walks out of ongoing concerns about gatherings during the pandemic. This spring in Maine, the highest incidence of positive COVID cases has been in adults in their 20s, and UMaine's positivity rate at times has been higher than the state's.

The virtual commencement presentation will celebrate and recognize the achievements of all our graduates successfully completing their academic careers during these two years of the pandemic, whether opting for an in-person component of the commencement experience or choosing to be part of graduation fully remotely. It will feature elements of our traditional in-person commencement ceremony, such as messages from campus leadership, speakers and music, as well as photos of all graduates who opt to submit images. I am pleased to announce that our commencement speaker is Dr. Edison Liu, president and CEO of Jackson Laboratory.

May 8 would have been the date for the in-person commencement if we had been able to hold a traditional commencement with 12,000 people attending our two ceremonies. The virtual presentation is being released later in May to ensure adequate time for all video and photos to be submitted from the Class of 2021 and 2020 and to complete the editing process.

We remain optimistic that UMaine's in-person, on-campus experiences this fall will allow us to have group gatherings, and the commencement committee will continue to monitor health and safety guidance to determine what will be possible for further recognition of our graduates in the Class of 2021 and 2020. We thank all our students, parents and other UMaine community members for their perspectives, patience and understanding. We also share your disappointment and frustration that the pandemic continues to affect our plans and fervent desire to be together for the fully in-person commencement ceremony they deserve. We will continue to explore opportunities to honor these two



classes this fall.

Until we can all be together again on campus, be well. And congratulations to our graduates!

Sincerely,

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

Share this:



Office of the President
5703 Alumni Hall, Suite 200
Orono, ME 04469

Tel: 207.581.1512
Fax: 207.581.1517
umpresident@maine.edu

Home
UMaine history
Office of the President Staff

President's Cabinet
Past UMaine Presidents
Committees



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865



UMaine News

Want weekly UMaine news updates in your inbox?

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Recent Posts

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement will honor two years of graduates

Published: May 07, 2021

Ranco, Gill speak with Maine Public about Indigenous stewardship of biodiversity

Published: May 06, 2021

Press Herald cites Low in story about transparency in billing, tuition increase

Published: May 06, 2021

Advertiser Democrat advances June 'Essentials of College Planning' sessions

Published: May 06, 2021

Wilson, Clark honored as outstanding UMaine employees for 2021

Published: May 05, 2021

UMaine Today



CONIFER CLASSROOM What are the roles of Maine's University Forests?



Photo taken in adherence with health and safety guidelines

Khoa Kieu: Outstanding Graduating International Student

April 14, 2021

Khoa Kieu of Da Nang City, Vietnam is an Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Engineering. The chemical engineering major received multiple scholarships during his years at UMaine, including the Roger B. Hill Engineering Scholarship. He participated in a chemical engineering co-op at Verso Paper in Jay in 2019. On campus, he has worked in Dining Services, and as a teaching assistant and peer tutor. He plans to pursue a career in chemical engineering as a process or production engineer.

What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?

Living by myself in a country far away from my hometown taught me many things like cooking, taking care of myself or how I can manage my time well. I have also improved several important skills like teamwork, presentation, problem-solving, which are all necessary to achieve a good academic result and help me with my future job.

Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?

At UMaine, meeting many people from different regions and different countries help me learn a lot about other cultures, which broaden my knowledge about the vast world that I'm living in. It also changed my way of seeing people around me and how to respect and acknowledge different opinions. The most important thing that UMaine has taught me is how to think like an engineer. This engineer's mindset shaped how I should approach a problem, how would I correctly analyze it and how I can figure out the best solution.

Why UMaine?

UMaine has a great College of Engineering. The Chemical Engineering Department is well-known in the industry. They have good resources to support the students and they have many opportunities for co-op, internships with great companies and corporations. In addition, when I was first admitted to UMaine, the Office of International Program was very friendly and willing to answer any of my questions and concerns.

How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine?

The Career Center is a good place to look for co-op and internship opportunities. It's also a good place to



expand your social network. All of my professors are very friendly and always willing to help. Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better? Professor John Hwalek is one of the best professors I have worked with. I had four classes with him at UMaine. He taught the very first chemical engineering class that I took. His friendliness and enthusiasm helped me to adapt into a new type of academic and new culture quickly and comfortably. He is always willing to help me with homework or giving me advice about both academic and extracurricular activities. Thanks to him, I gained much more confidence in communication with other professors.

What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?

Don't be afraid to ask questions or hesitate to reach out for help if you don't understand class material. Classes in college move quickly and you don't want to fall behind.

Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Share this:     

Division of Marketing and Communications
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5703

Tel: 207.581.3743
Fax: 207.581.3776

[Home](#)
[Submit news](#)
[Podcast](#)

[UMaine Today Magazine](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Contact](#)



[Apply](#) [Student Resources](#) [Nondiscrimination notice](#) [Clery Safety and Security Report](#) [COVID-19 Risk Statement](#) [Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865

UMaine News

Want weekly UMaine news updates in your inbox?

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Recent Posts

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement will honor two years of graduates

Published: May 07, 2021

Ranco, Gill speak with Maine Public about Indigenous stewardship of biodiversity

Published: May 06, 2021

Press Herald cites Low in story about transparency in billing, tuition increase

Published: May 06, 2021

Advertiser Democrat advances June 'Essentials of College Planning' sessions

Published: May 06, 2021

Wilson, Clark honored as outstanding UMaine employees for 2021

Published: May 05, 2021

UMaine Today



CONIFER CLASSROOM What are the roles of Maine's University Forests?



Photo taken in adherence with health and safety guidelines

Hana Davis: Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

April 14, 2021

Hana Davis of Tsawwassen, British Columbia is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She will receive a bachelor's degree in communication with a double major in marketing. The scholar-athlete is captain of the field hockey team and a four-time NFCA National Academic Squad honoree. Davis served as Spread Respect chair on the UMaine Student Athlete Advisory Committee and represented the university on the America East Conference Student-Athlete of Color Leadership Group. She also is a Mind Spa volunteer. Davis plans to pursue an MBA at UMaine while playing her last year of eligibility.

What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?

UMaine has made a major impact on my life and I believe that I would not be the same person I am today without taking the risk to attend. My classes, professors, athletic career and connections have helped me grow into the independent person I am today. Being a UMaine student as also taught me resilience, work ethic, confidence, and the skills needed to succeed in the future.

Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?

I have loved every minute of my time at UMaine. It has provided a space for me to grow into the best version of myself. It is the place where I have made lifelong connections and opened my mind up to new perspectives. I have obviously struggled with being homesick, but I would not change any of my experiences one bit.

Why UMaine?

The campus culture and environment. The first day I visited UMaine it reminded me of home, even though I was across the continent and in a different country. The atmosphere of being a supportive and welcoming environment that would allow me to thrive and make lifelong connections was present in my first few minutes. I knew right away that UMaine was the school for me.

How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine?

Professor office hours! Take the time to get to know your professors and take advantage of the



opportunities they are offering to further your understanding. There have been multiple times where I have struggled in my classes and was able to turn my grades around with extra effort on my part. Also, to take advantage of the library and its amazing resources. I used to plan weekly trips to bunker down and grind out my assignments. It allowed an environment that persuaded me to work harder and allowed me to access resources to be successful.

Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?

Professor Liliana Herakova has been a professor that I have had for multiple classes throughout my college career and has become a mentor, role model and friend. She has taught me kindness, compassion and a drive for education and equality that I will cherish with me forever.

What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?

To learn how to fall in love with learning. We are given such an amazing opportunity with amazing resources and professors. Take pride in your academics as I have learned throughout my time at UMaine on how much those individual classes have impacted my life and have taught me little things I will take away with me forever. Also, to enjoy our beautiful campus and surrounding areas. Be brave to challenge yourself with hikes in Acadia or go ice fishing on Pushaw lake. We are blessed with this beautiful campus and I sadly failed to take advantage of it.

Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Share this:



Division of Marketing and Communications
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5703

Tel: 207.581.3743
Fax: 207.581.3776

Home
Submit news
Podcast

UMaine Today Magazine
Subscribe
Contact



[Apply](#) [Student Resources](#) [Nondiscrimination notice](#) [Clery Safety and Security Report](#) [COVID-19 Risk Statement](#) [Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865

UMaine News

Want weekly UMaine news updates in your inbox?

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Recent Posts

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement will honor two years of graduates

Published: May 07, 2021

Ranco, Gill speak with Maine Public about Indigenous stewardship of biodiversity

Published: May 06, 2021

Press Herald cites Low in story about transparency in billing, tuition increase

Published: May 06, 2021

Advertiser Democrat advances June 'Essentials of College Planning' sessions

Published: May 06, 2021

Wilson, Clark honored as outstanding UMaine employees for 2021

Published: May 05, 2021

UMaine Today



CONIFER CLASSROOM What are the roles of Maine's University Forests?



Photo taken in adherence with health and safety guidelines

Vilgot Larsson: Outstanding Graduating International Student

April 14, 2021

Vilgot Larsson of Stockholm, Sweden is an Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Engineering. The civil engineering major has a concentration in environmental engineering. The scholar-athlete is a member of the men's basketball team. He was a member of the Swedish National Team in the summers through 2019 and at UMaine was involved in community volunteering initiatives. Larsson plans to pursue a career in environmental engineering.

What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?

UMaine has helped me achieve both my academic and athletic dreams simultaneously. I attended a junior college in Texas for one year that only provided me with a few elective credits, so coming to UMaine I was unsure if I would be able to take all my engineering classes within the three year that my scholarship covered. It was only with the help of my advisers, coaches, teammates, professors and through hard work that I managed to achieve my goals, so I am forever grateful to those who helped me fulfill some of my dreams.

Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?

Through athletics I have had the opportunity to partake in many volunteering opportunities. Before coming to Maine, I had limited experience working within my community, but I have seen the positive impact that it has on people as well allowing me to better understand and connect with others. It is certainly something that I would like to continue going forward.

Why UMaine?

On my recruitment visit I quickly fell in love with Maine and the people here. Everyone seemed so genuine and willing to help each other out, making it an easy decision for me. I have certainly benefited from this experience and I hope that I have helped others feel the same way about UMaine.

How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine?

In the words of Albus Dumbledore, "help will always be given at Hogwarts to those who ask for it," the same goes for UMaine. Professors, other students, and many tutoring programs are there to help you along the way if you ask. It is crucial that you stay on top of your work and ask questions early so that



your work does not start to snowball. For me, the math lab in Neville Hall was extremely helpful, as there is a lot of math in the engineering courses.

Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?

Throughout my experience as not only an engineering major, but a student-athlete, Ann Maxim, my athletic academic counselor has been particularly helpful to me. She was available almost always, helping me with last minute changes and making sure I was set up for success. My experience has shown me that if you are respectful with your professor's or mentor's time, they will be willing to give you more help than you asked for.

What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?

Stay on top of your work and ask if there is something you do not understand, chances are someone else is thinking about the same thing. Also, don't be afraid to try some new activities in college, it might end up being one of your passions in life.

Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu

Share this:     

Division of Marketing and Communications
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5703

Tel: 207.581.3743
Fax: 207.581.3776

[Home](#)
[Submit news](#)
[Podcast](#)

[UMaine Today Magazine](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Contact](#)



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)

UMaine News

Want weekly UMaine news updates in your inbox?

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Recent Posts

UMaine 2021 virtual commencement will honor two years of graduates

Published: May 07, 2021

Ranco, Gill speak with Maine Public about Indigenous stewardship of biodiversity

Published: May 06, 2021

Press Herald cites Low in story about transparency in billing, tuition increase

Published: May 06, 2021

Advertiser Democrat advances June 'Essentials of College Planning' sessions

Published: May 06, 2021

Wilson, Clark honored as outstanding UMaine employees for 2021

Published: May 05, 2021

UMaine Today



CONIFER CLASSROOM What are the roles of Maine's University Forests?



Photo taken in adherence with health and safety guidelines

Blanca Millan-Modia: Outstanding Graduating International Student

April 14, 2021

Blanca Millan-Modia of Santiago de Compostela, Spain is the Outstanding Graduating International Student in the College of Education and Human Development. She is a kinesiology and physical education major with a concentration in exercise science, and minors in child development and family relations, and in human nutrition. The scholar-athlete and member of the women's basketball team is a two-time America East Player of the Year and America East Defensive Player of the Year — the only woman in America East history to win both honors twice. Millan-Modia did her kinesiology internship in Latti Fitness Center — UMaine's strength and conditioning facility, where she worked with other student-athletes on other UMaine teams. She has entered the 2021 WNBA draft and also plans to play in Europe. Following her professional basketball career, Millan-Modia plans to use her academic training to assist athletes and teams perform at the highest level.

What difference has UMaine made in your life and in helping you reach your goals?

First and foremost it gave me an opportunity to explore many different facets of my interest in the past five years, allowing me to get my degree and two minors. It also gave me the opportunity to play basketball at a high level and continue pursuing my career path of being a professional athlete. It has helped me grow as a person and as a player. Coming from Spain to a community like UMaine was a difficult decision but the family environment we have here made it so much easier. It gave the opportunity to meet some incredible people that became family.

Have you had an experience at UMaine that has changed or shaped the way you see the world?

I can't choose one particular experience. I will say that coming from Spain when I was only 18 years old, impacted me in many different ways. The cultural differences are many, I had to learn how to adjust and fit in, but it helped me to be aware of how many ways of understanding life there are and know that they are all valid. The same thing happened with food, people and sports, everything is so different and I am lucky enough to have more than one perspective and have an open mind, to still learn and take in new things five years later. Being in such a multicultural community, where I met people from all over the world, from the dorms to my team and other athletes and friends was also something that I got to



experience and shaped the way I see the world.

Why UMaine?

There were multiple reasons why I chose UMaine. Even though at the beginning of my five years here I was undeclared, I always knew I wanted to do something related to sports. When I learned that UMaine had a Kinesiology and Physical Education program it made a difference. Since the beginning of my recruiting process, education was a priority for me and my parents and we knew that UMaine had a great reputation as well as a great basketball program. The family environment also played a big role in my decision.

How would you define the opportunities for student success at UMaine?

The University of Maine has so many amazing resources that it is hard not to be successful as a student. There are so many offered opportunities, such as internships or jobs around the area, and the faculty always makes sure that we get them and we are successful. On top of all the extra hours, and labs there are also resources like the Writing Center, which I found very useful. Something that helped me succeed was the Tutor Program. There were some times where I wouldn't understand some topics in lecture or it was too fast, specially at the beginning, and to have a tutor was very helpful since they could go over the material again, make clarifications and slow it down.

Have you worked closely with a professor or mentor who made your UMaine experience better?

The Kinesiology and Physical Education program has excellent professors. I would say all the professors I had in the past four years were very helpful and enabled me to be successful in this program. I would like to thank them for everything they have done for me and for understanding how hard it can be to be a student athlete at times. Here is a special mention to all of them: Sherrie Weeks, Shannan Fotter, Jennifer McNulty, Lauren Jacobs, Robert Lehnhard, Christopher Nightingale and my adviser Jesse Kaye-Schiess. Thank you so much.

What advice do you have for incoming students to help them get off to the best start academically?

One of the things that I learned was to ask for help, ask for tutors, mentors, professors or whoever else you may need. Take advantage of all the facilities and resources the university offers. It is the first time you are in college and there are going to be things that you don't know, and that's OK. There is always someone in your program that is willing to guide you if you have any academic struggles. It might be hard at the beginning, but as long as you put in the work every day, you will be fine. I will also make sure that you are as organized as possible and you are able to manage time.

Contact: Margaret Nagle, nagle@maine.edu



Division of Marketing and Communications
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04469-5703

Tel: 207.581.3743
Fax: 207.581.3776

Home
Submit news
Podcast

UMaine Today Magazine
Subscribe
Contact





College Commencement events

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences virtual Student Awards Ceremony and Celebration, 3:30 p.m., April 19. Celebrating departmental award winners and outstanding undergraduate and graduate student award winners, and graduate students who will be recognized for their achievements in research, teaching, and interdisciplinary work. Contact Brian Jansen for more information, brian.jansen@maine.edu.

Maine Business School and the **Graduate School of Business** will have an [induction ceremony for Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society](#) at 2 p.m., April 23, followed by an [Honors and Awards Ceremony](#) for student and faculty awards at 3:30 p.m.

Graduate School [Virtual Hooding Ceremonies](#) will be the week of April 26.

Honors College [virtual celebration of December 2020, and May and August 2021 graduates](#), 9 a.m., May 7.

A **College of Education and Human Development** [recognition webpage](#) will include a video of faculty and staff congratulations and profiles of the outstanding graduating students for the different majors/programs within the college.

College of Engineering Francis Crowe Society induction ceremony celebration will be posted on YouTube.

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture schools, departments and programs have virtual events planned. Check websites for details.

The **Division of Lifelong Learning** will host a virtual celebration for 2020/2021 Bachelor of University Studies graduates on April 29, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.





Commencement

[Home](#)[Regalia and grad gift online ordering](#)[ADA Accessibility](#)[Graduate School Commencement](#)

Commencement stage walk information

Commencement Stage Walks livestreams

Parents: Check with your graduate for his/her/their specific date and time

Graduates: check your tickets for your date and time (tickets issued April 13)

Virtual Commencement Presentation

Featuring congratulatory messages, stage walk recordings and photos of graduates
Available late May (date and time of release coming soon)

For questions, please email umaine.alerts@maine.edu

If you need an accommodation or have questions about accessibility for the stage walk event and have not yet connected with Student Accessibility Services, please email Amy Sturgeon at amy.m.sturgeon@maine.edu or call 207.581.2325.

2021 Commencement stage walk instructions

Please remember, there will be no guests or spectators either participating in the ceremony or present in the Collins Center for the Arts. The number of graduates and commencement staff in attendance to assist with the event is in accordance with COVID-19 health and safety requirements.

If you are feeling ill the day of your scheduled stage walk or are isolating or quarantining, please do not come to campus for this event.

The video recorded stage walks will be part of UMaine's virtual commencement presentation, available in late May. Digital photos taken in the CCA after the stage walk will be available to graduates at no cost.

Here's what you need to know to participate:

In preparation for your scheduled stage walk:

- Purchase your cap and gown at University Bookstore **prior to the day of your stage walk**. [The bookstore hours and information about online ordering are here](#).
- If you are traveling to campus from out of state, please bring documentation of a negative COVID-19 test administered within 72 hours prior to arrival. [Here is the latest pandemic-related travel guidance](#).
- Print out this email or have it readily available on your cell phone the day of your stage walk.

On the day of your stage walk:

- Wear your face covering at all times and maintain 6 feet of social distance when on campus.
- Park in the Collins Center for the Arts lot.
- Come to the Memorial Union via the front entrance facing Fogler Library.
- At the check-in table located in front of the Memorial Union information booth, please show this email, your MaineCard and documentation of a negative COVID test if you have arrived from out of state.
- Bring your cap and gown.
- Wear comfortable shoes for walking.
- Do not bring personal belongings; there will be no place to leave them during the stage walk.

What to expect after check-in:

- Go to your staging area as directed from check-in — either Hauck Auditorium lobby or Bangor Lounge.
- In the staging area, put your regalia on. Mirrors will be available in each location.
- Receive a number for your stage walk that will be the order in which you will process across the CCA stage.
- Form a line, remaining 6 feet apart from the person in front of you, and proceed from your staging area to the Collins Center; ushers will direct you along the way. The line will move quickly, just as it does in our in-person commencement stage walks.
- Please do not leave any belongings in the staging area; participants will not be allowed to retrieve items after their stage walks.

In the Collins Center:

- Keep your face covering on at all times.
- Stay in line according to the number you received in the staging area.
- Upon entering the backstage area, deposit your line number, pick up a diploma cover and move to the off-stage computer microphone where you will pronounce your name for the announcer.
- An usher will cue you to march across the CCA stage.
- Follow the markings on the stage floor and progress to center stage.
- At the X, pause, turn toward the concert hall seats and then continue to walk off stage.
- Once off stage, pause to have your portrait taken. Keep your face covering on.
- Continue to proceed out the CCA door. Your stage walk is complete at this point. Please return to your room or vehicle and refrain from gathering with others for COVID safety. Please do not return to the Memorial Union.



[Apply](#)

[Student Resources](#)

[Nondiscrimination notice](#)

[Clery Safety and Security Report](#)

[COVID-19 Risk Statement](#)

[Emergency](#)

University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865

[TOP](#)