

UMM Review



A Publication for Alumni and Friends of the University of Maine at Machias

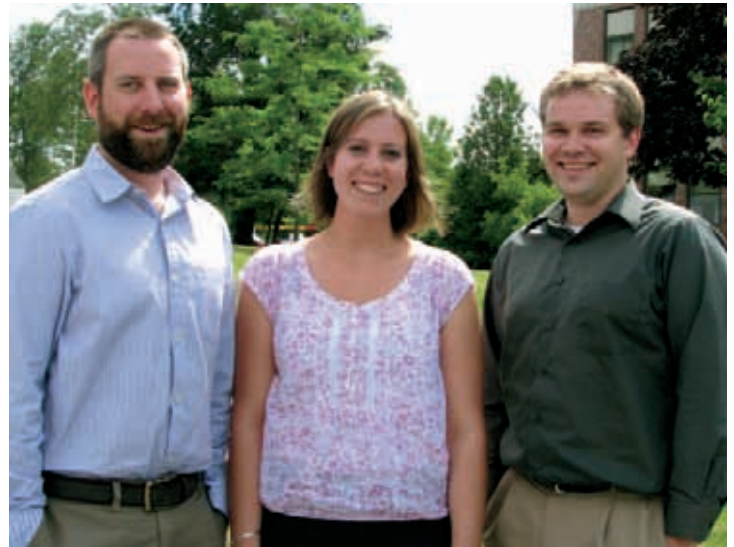
Charting the Path to Success

NEW ADVISING CENTER IS ALL ABOUT THE STUDENTS

On the second floor of Powers Hall, in the space the Admissions Office long called its home, the University of Maine at Machias has a small army of student success advisors working to ensure the success of every student who enrolls at UMM. They are part of the new Advising Center and have made it their mission to provide students with the resources and support they need from day one until the day they graduate.

At first glance, the center looks like any other academic advising operation. An administrative assistant greets students as they walk in the door, plush couches and chairs create a warm and inviting space, and a variety of forms sit waiting to be plucked and filled out. But it's what takes place behind the scenes that is making all the difference to UMM students and is truly setting this advising operation apart from the rest.

UMM's Advising Center utilizes a proactive and personal approach known as "intrusive advising." Rather than waiting for a student to come in and ask for help, when an issue has often gone too far, the student success advisors receive indicators or alerts from faculty, staff, and others that a student may need help or assistance. The student success advisors then take it upon themselves to make the first contact with that student.



UMM's student success advisors, left to right, Garret Lee, Kelsey Kurz, and Matthew Holsapple.

"The new Advising Center is a very good step toward a much more student-centered approach to education," says Matthew Holsapple, director of the Advising Center. "And this advising model works well because our school is so small."

Every student is assigned a student success advisor and a separate faculty mentor. The advisors work closely with students during their first semesters at UMM, assisting with class registration and help with any unexpected difficulties that arise. Faculty mentors on the other hand serve as expert advisors in their particular field of study. They provide guidance and mentoring in the later portion of a student's academic career and assist with exploration, ranging from research interests to graduate school options. This division of advising responsibilities allows faculty to spend more time getting to know their students and their individual pursuits.

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DON'T MISS THESE DATES!

HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday, December 19

Join us for this family-friendly community celebration at Kilburn Commons. We'll have food, music, and cookie decorating for the kids. 4 to 6 p.m.

SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Do you know someone who is thinking about attending college? Tell them about UMM! In addition to our traditional programs, we offer several online degree programs that can be completed entirely at a distance. Visit www.machias.edu for more info!

PREVIEW DAYS

Friday, March 2, 2012

Friday, April 20, 2012

Know any prospective students? Encourage them to visit on one of our spring Preview Days. Call 1-888-468-6866 for more information.

WELCOME TO UMM, CLASS OF 2015



Inset: Another Orientation trip took students on a canoeing expedition around Cobscook Bay State Park.



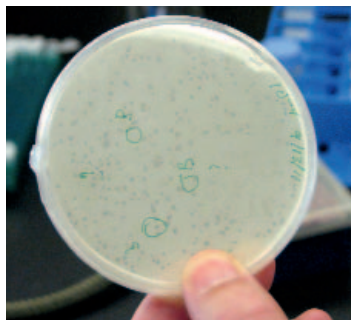
These members of the class of 2015 took part in a weekend excursion to West Quoddy Head Lighthouse in Lubec. The trip was part of Fall Orientation for new students.

UMM STUDENT ATTENDS TRAINING AT HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE



Katie Bordonaro (Tonawanda, New York) took part in a weeklong training at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) this summer. Katie is serving as a teaching assistant in UMM's new genomics research course, "Phage Hunters," which is funded by HHMI.

The year-long course will give first-year students the opportunity to conduct genomic research on soil-dwelling bacterial viruses called phage. The initiative is part of the Science Education Alliance (SEA), a national program of HHMI that seeks to develop resources for undergraduate science educators to present innovative courses and programs.



STEPHANIE WILSON RECEIVES HEART AND SOUL AWARD



Stephanie Wilson (Hooksett, New Hampshire), a junior majoring in marine biology, was one of four students across Maine who received the Maine Campus Compact's Heart and Soul Award for 2011. Each year, the organization recognizes up to six college students for exemplary civic engagement.

Stephanie began her volunteer work at UMM when she joined Omicron Delta Pi, a co-ed human rights and advocacy fraternity, in the spring of 2009. She immediately began training faculty and staff members to create Safe Zones, places and people identified by a sticker as safe for people of all sexual orientations, thus creating a visible network of support on campus. This year, that training has been expanded to include residence life staff and resident assistants. Wilson also worked closely with the 100% Society, a GLBTQA support group, where she helped to organize and run the annual Rainbow Ball, a prom for Maine's high school students, as well as with the No on 1 campaign, where she trained peers to participate in phone drives.

Currently, she serves as the president of her fraternity, where she has created workshops for first-year students, promoted the prevention of domestic abuse, and helped to form a Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays group in the local community, one of only two in the state.

JOSHUA SPENCER PRESENTED WITH YOUTH WHO INSPIRE AWARD



Joshua Spencer, center, receives the 2011 Youth Who Inspire Award from First Lady Ann LePage, right.

Joshua Spencer (Machias, Maine), a senior and psychology and community studies major, was presented with the 2011 Youth Who Inspire Award in June at the Blaine House in Augusta. First Lady Ann LePage hosted the awards ceremony, which honors youth and young adults who have experienced disruption in their educational program and persevered. Joshua moved frequently growing up and had to adapt to different homes, neighborhoods, and schools. He was the featured youth speaker at the event and received a \$200 scholarship.



IT'S PICKIN' TIME

Students in professor Andrea Ednie's Recreation and Wellness seminar were spotted harvesting vegetables from the UMM gardens one morning in August. The group was supposed to be out on an ocean kayaking excursion, but choppy seas kept them on land. Instead, they spent their morning gathering produce for Kilburn Commons and the local Machias food pantry.

WASHING CARS FOR A CURE



Service sorority Kappa Alpha Kappa (KAK) held its third annual benefit car wash in September on the UMM campus. The event raised \$150 for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization to support breast cancer research. Way to go, girls!

KYLE MCCARTHY DISCUSSES EDUCATION REFORM WITH THE GOVERNOR

UMM senior Kyle McCarthy (Cumberland, Maine) was invited by Governor Paul LePage to the State House this spring to discuss ideas for reforming Maine's public education system.

McCarthy, an education major, shared his thoughts on standards-based learning with the governor and how it could improve education throughout the state. The two discussed the benefit of such a transition in Maine's education system, something that aligned with the governor's long-term goals for education reform.

"Having the opportunity to meet with the governor one-on-one and discuss the future of Maine's outstanding public education system was an honor," said McCarthy after his visit to the State House. "Governor LePage was extremely receptive to what I had to say and it's refreshing to know how much he cares about education in our state. I can only hope I'll be lucky enough to have the opportunity to continue helping reform Maine's public education system."

McCarthy is president of UMM's Student Education Association, a group aimed at enhancing students' awareness of past and future programs and goals of the teaching profession.



UMM Faculty and Staff

NAMES & NOTES



Robert Hauhart, adjunct professor of sociology, presented a paper —“Exporting the American Dream”—at the Ninth Annual Conference on New Directions in the Humanities in Granada, Spain (June 8–11, 2011). In May 2011, Hauhart taught Introduction to Sociology at Shanghai Maritime University, Shanghai, China, as part of SMU’s English language exchange program with the United States.

Jon Reisman, associate professor of economics and public policy, traveled to Wichita, Kan., in July for a conference on the Koch Industries management philosophy, “Market-Based Management.”



Leslie Bowman, adjunct assistant professor of art, was one of 34 photographers selected for the Photo National 2011: A Survey of Contemporary Photography at the University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor. Bowman’s work was selected from 150 submissions from throughout the U.S.



Meghan Duff, assistant professor of psychology, spoke at the 5th Annual Schweitzer Fellows for Life Conference in Cambridge, Mass., in October. She facilitated a session titled “Called to Serve: Moments of Challenge, Contemplation, and Connection.”

MARCUS LIBRIZZI PUBLISHES NEW BOOK OF GHOST TALES

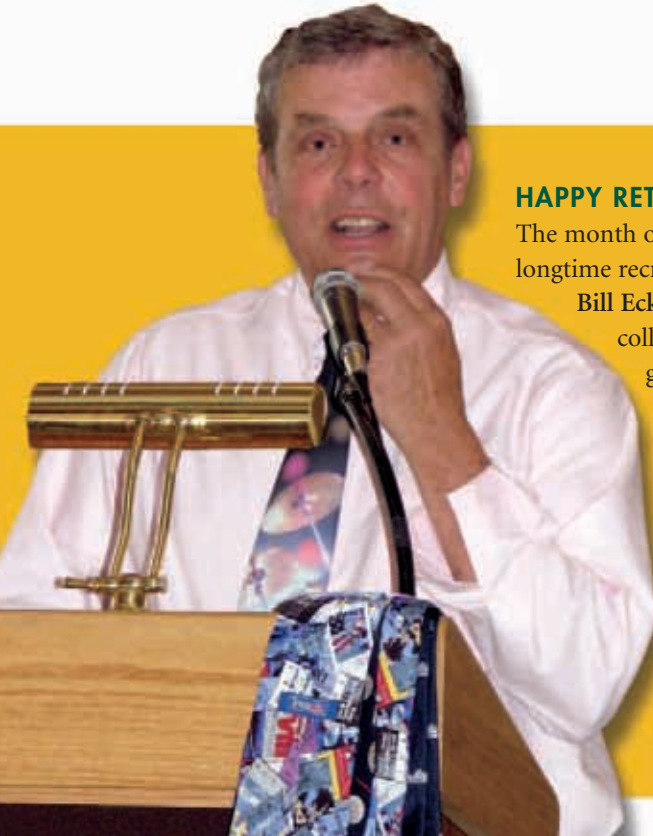
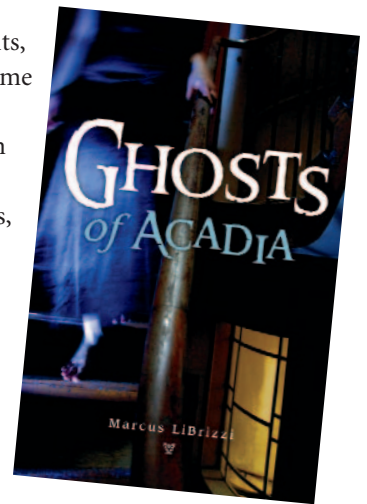


Marcus LiBrizzi, professor of English, has released a new book of ghost tales. *Ghosts of Acadia* explores 21 ghost stories notable for their terrifying elements and legendary qualities. Fifteen of the tales come from Mount Desert Island, and six stories come from other parts of the Acadia region.

The collection is the first of its kind to collect ghost stories from Mount Desert Island. The book is also notable in that it provides a gothic tour, recounting stories in settings and places that readers can visit and experience themselves.

“In writing this book, I drew on history, folklore, eye-witness accounts, and photographs,” said LiBrizzi. “Some of the interviews I included were conducted by my former students in my world literature courses. As part of their fieldwork collection projects, they collected ghost stories from local residents.”

Ghosts of Acadia is published by Down East Books and is available for purchase online, at booksellers everywhere, and at the Murdock Bookstore on the UMM campus.



HAPPY RETIREMENT, BILL!

The month of May marked the retirement of longtime recreation management professor Bill Eckart. Dozens of Bill’s friends, colleagues, and former students gathered for a farewell party and the opportunity to share a story or two about the guest of honor. Eckart, who delivered the keynote address during UMM’s 100th commencement earlier that month, has taught at the University for 31 years. We wish Bill all the best in retirement!



Left to right: Stuart Swain, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Bill Eckart, Deb Eckart, and President Cynthia Huggins.

UMM Faculty and Staff

Charting the Path to Success

NEW ADVISING CENTER IS ALL ABOUT THE STUDENTS

(Continued from cover)

Holsapple is joined by Kelsey Kurz '11 and Garret Lee as UMM's three-person student success advising team. Each of them is assigned to an academic division, a small set of related degree programs, providing a direct link for the students and faculty within each program.

To complement the services that the student success advisors provide, the First Stop and Career Development offices have also been integrated into the new Advising Center. The addition of the First Stop means that students can get ID cards, parking passes, a variety of forms and paperwork, and other general services in a single location. This makes the Advising Center the go-to place when a student has a question or need, regardless of whether or not it is related to academics.

The launch of the Advising Center provides a whole new level of service to UMM students, including immediate access to an advisor at all times and evening office hours several nights a week. With the fall semester under way, UMM hopes that these new initiatives and its personal approach to student success will further enhance the campus experience for each and every individual. Having to spend less time worrying about where to go and who to talk to means that students can spend more time enjoying their journey.

WELCOME ABOARD

Chad Everett has been hired as UMM's part-time sustainability coordinator. Everett previously served as the sustainability coordinator in a temporary capacity.



Garret Lee of Albuquerque, N.M., and Kelsey Kurz '11 of Machias have joined UMM as student success advisors for the University's new Advising Center. They will be responsible for providing advising services to students, specifically first-year students and those at academic risk.



Paul LaMantia of Marshall, Minn., has been hired as the new director of student life. LaMantia comes to UMM from Southwest Minnesota State University, where he served as the director of the student center and the director of residence life.



Katie Kurz '05 of Machias has joined UMM as the assistant director of financial aid. For nearly three years, Kurz served as an assistant director of financial aid at the University of Maine. Before UMaine, she held the temporary position of assistant director of financial aid at UMM.



A FRIENDLY SOFTBALL CHALLENGE Faculty and staff members went head to head with students in a friendly (yet competitive) softball game in May. The students managed to secure the win by a one-run margin.

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS FOR CURRENT EMPLOYEES

Bernie Vinzani has been named associate professor of art and book arts. He began teaching at UMM in 1988 and also serves as director of the UMM Art Galleries and the Book Arts Studio.

Heather Ball has been named assistant professor of special education for a two-year appointment. Ball recently completed her doctorate in special education from the University of Maine. She has taught at UMM since 2002.

Tora Johnson has been named instructor of geographic information systems and director of the GIS Service Center. Johnson began teaching at UMM in 2004 and has served as director of the GIS Laboratory and Service Center since 2008.

Karen Beeftink, a native of the Chicago area, has joined UMM as assistant professor of environmental recreation and tourism management. Beeftink recently completed her Ph.D. in recreation, park, and tourism management at Pennsylvania State University.



Michael Mattison of Sebring, Fla., has been hired as the dean of enrollment management. He comes to UMM from Webber International University, where he served as director of admissions.

Michael Fish, a native of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul region, has been hired as assistant professor of mathematics education. Fish is completing his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin in curriculum and instruction. He previously taught mathematics at public schools in Fairfax County, Virginia, and bilingual education at the K-12 and adult-learner levels in Japan.

Uriah Anderson, a native of Borden, Ind., has joined UMM as assistant professor of psychology. He will primarily be supporting the delivery of UMM's online Psychology and Community Studies program. Anderson recently completed his Ph.D. in social psychology at Arizona State University.

CARDBOARD COMPUTERS INSTALLED IN MERRILL LIBRARY

As students arrived back on campus for the fall semester, they probably noticed that some of the computers on campus were replaced with cardboard boxes. That's because the Information Technology department swapped out several outdated machines in Merrill Library with Recomputes, a desktop computer with a case that is made of recycled corrugated cardboard.



Developed by Brenden Macaluso as a student at the University of Houston, the Recompute addresses the entire life cycle and manufacturing process of a computer, something the company calls Full Life Cycle Design. Instead of being manufactured and shipped from overseas, consuming fossil fuels in the process, the computers are assembled by hand in Texas from locally sourced cardboard.

When it is time for the computer to be retired, the electronic components are removed and the cardboard case will be recycled with the rest of the institution's paper and cardboard at the local transfer station. The internal components can then go to an electronic-waste reclamation center at a significantly lower weight and cost to UMM, while also producing less waste material in the environment.

"We're trying out these computers to see how well they fit our needs," said IT director Michael Matis. "If the machines perform well and are popular with students, we plan to purchase more to deploy around campus."

The Recompute features a cardboard shell that is treated with a non-toxic flame retardant and is glued together with non-toxic white glue. With an ignition point higher than most of the plastics used in the construction of a traditional computer, the cardboard used in the case also has a natural fluting that provides more than adequate cooling for the internal computer components.

The recycled cardboard computer made its debut on campus during UMM's Earth Fest in April. The IT department displayed a demonstration model of the Recompute machine and generated quite a buzz among visitors to the booth. The University went on to purchase the six machines for Merrill Library over the summer.

"Our campus is focused on sustainability and environmental stewardship, and these machines are just one thing our department is doing to help reduce our impact on the environment and spread the message," Matis added.

SUMMER RENOVATIONS FOCUS ON ENERGY SAVINGS



The staff in UMM's Physical Plant used the summer months to make energy upgrades to several buildings on campus. Among the projects was a \$475,000 renovation to Kilburn Commons, the 46-year-old dining hall, that involved replacing the facility's old steam boiler with an energy-efficient hot water boiler, installing an energy management system to monitor and control the building's heating system, and replacing the building's aging roof. All of the single-pane windows in the dining hall were also replaced with smaller, energy-efficient ones.

The renovations to Kilburn Commons were made possible by a \$26.5 million bond approved by Maine voters in June 2010. The bond was aimed at providing energy independence, efficiency, and green jobs. Of that bond, \$15.5 million went on to fund energy improvements at Maine's public universities and colleges.

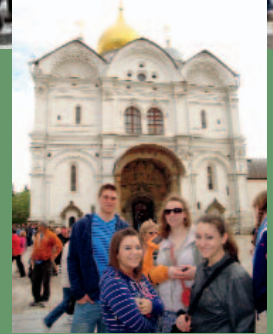
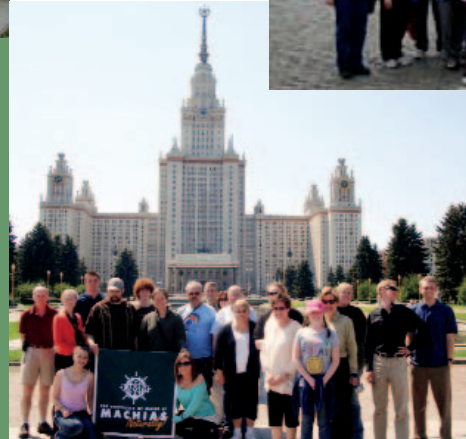
Also benefiting from summer upgrades was the O'Brien House, the traditional residence of the UMM president. The home, which was built in 1820, was recently transformed into the new Admissions Office after receiving a new boiler and insulation throughout. In the very near future, UMM plans to add a small, residential vertical-shaft wind turbine to the house.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE Contribute to the UMM Annual Fund

Give online at www.machias.edu/donate.

Please consider making a gift to the UMM Annual Fund today. Your support is more important now than ever before.

GREETINGS FROM RUSSIA



22 students, faculty, staff, and community members traveled to Russia, Estonia, and Finland in May, as part of UMM's annual international trip.

SCHWEITZER DONATES FUNDS FOR SERVICE LEARNING AT UMM

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, an organization whose mission is to develop leaders in service, recently made a donation to assist in developing service learning and community engagement opportunities for UMM students.

The gift from the Schweitzer Fellowship funded a Community Partners Luncheon last spring to recognize the many local agencies and organizations that provide UMM students with exceptional service learning opportunities. The remainder of the donation will be used to fund future opportunities in service learning at the campus.

Meghan Duff, assistant professor of psychology, is a Schweitzer Fellow and stressed the importance of the work they do. "When I was in graduate school the contradiction between the academic demands of a clinical psychology doctoral program and my desire to be in the community working to address community issues was intense. For me, the Schweitzer Fellowship gave me a chance to carve out time for community engagement and provided me with a community of fellows that similarly valued service."

STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR MARCH TRIP TO AMSTERDAM & PARIS

Are you interested in traveling to Amsterdam and Paris? UMM is coordinating an eight-day international trip for March 23–30, 2012.

For more information, contact Kay Kimball at (207) 255-1262 or kkimball@maine.edu.

LIKE, FRIEND, AND FOLLOW UMM!

Visit www.machias.edu/connect to find UMM in the social media world.



The UMM Alumni Association has launched a new Facebook page. "Like" their page to connect with old friends and learn about upcoming alumni events!

CLIPPERS JOIN NEW ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

With the fall sports season under way, the UMM Clippers are competing under a new athletic conference. The Clippers have joined the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) as a member of the Yankee Small College Conference (YSCC). Since 2002, UMM has competed as a member of the Sunrise Conference, part of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).



According to UMM Athletic Director Brac Brady, the move to the YSCC will be a good fit for the Clippers.

"We're excited to join the USCAA as a member of the Yankee Conference," said Brady, who has served as athletic director since 2007. "Our conference schedules will include more games with Maine schools, meaning our student-athletes will spend less time traveling and more time competing."

The closer-to-home schedules will also aid the Clippers' recruitment efforts.

"Our program stands to benefit from the increased exposure throughout Maine," said Brady. "Recruits from in state will have the opportunity to see us play more often in central, northern, and southern Maine. It certainly makes recruiting easier if they've heard of us or seen our teams compete."

A growing conference in the USCAA, the Yankee Small College Conference is made up of two- and four-year schools primarily from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

After an extensive review that included an on-site visit by YSCC representatives, UMM was voted into the conference by the organization's board of directors. Also making their debut in the YSCC this season are Paul Smith's College (Paul Smiths, N.Y.), College of St. Joseph (Rutland, Vt.), and Hampshire College (Amherst, Mass.), bringing the total number of conference members to 15.

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTS INAUGURAL CLASS

At Homecoming & Family Weekend in September, the Athletics Department launched the new Clipper Athletics Hall of Fame to honor the achievement of former student-athletes and coaches. Congratulations to the 2011 Hall of Fame class:

- Mike Bottalico '86
- Dana Colwill '83
- Tracy Kershner Cooley '91
- Frank McGrady '84
- Drew Meredith '93
- Todd Middleton '92
- Barbara Thompson Mills '86
- Nathan Turk

Photos from the ceremony are on page 9 of this issue.

CLIPPERS EARN ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

Congratulations to the following student athletes for being named to the 2011 Yankee Small College Conference All-Conference Teams:

MEN'S SOCCER

- Stefan Zalucky (Konstancin-Jeziorna, Poland)
- Kris Wignes (Vancouver, British Columbia)
- Luis Herrera (Rialto, Calif.)

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

- Paige Wiechman (Fremont, Ohio)
- Meagan Norman (Machias, Maine)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

- Cayla Thomas (Plymouth, Mass.)
- Kylynn Adams (Fleming, Ohio)
- Sarah Schmidt (Rocky Hill, Conn.)
- *Erin O'Connor (McPherson, Kan.)

**Also named the YSCC Player of the Year.*

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- Heather Leonard (Dowagiac, Mich.)

WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM WINS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



The UMM Clippers captured the Yankee Small College Conference women's soccer championship with a 1-0 victory over Unity College on October 23. The win earned the Clippers a berth in the USCAA national tournament held November 3-5 in Asheville, N.C.

The game-winning goal came in the 79th minute when Erin O'Connor played a through ball to Emma LeGallais, who put the ball past Unity's keeper for the win. The day before, the Clippers defeated Paul Smith's College 4-1 in the opening round.

Kayla Thomas was named tournament MVP and LeGallais was named outstanding offensive player of the tournament.

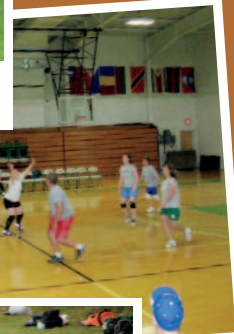
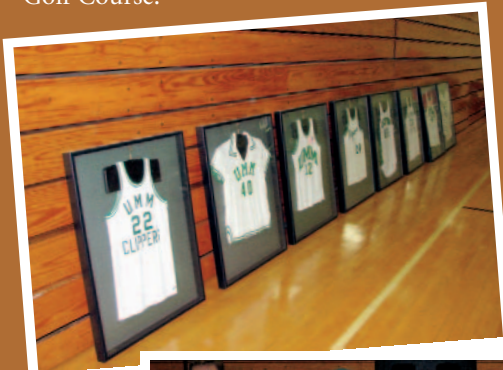
UMM Homecoming

HOMECOMING BRINGS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS TO CAMPUS

The threat of rain didn't stop alumni and friends from returning to campus for the annual Homecoming and Family Weekend, held September 23–25. From the wine and cheese reception with President Huggins to the inflatable activities that filled the Reynolds Center, there was something for everyone.

The Clippers soccer teams enjoyed a pair of victories over Eastern Maine Community College, the Alumni Association held its annual meeting, and tours were given of the new Advising Center, Admissions Office, and four-season greenhouse.

On Saturday evening, the Athletics Department inducted eight former student-athletes into the newly formed Clipper Athletics Hall of Fame in front of a large crowd. Other popular events during the weekend included the alumni sports games and a fund-raiser golf tournament at the nearby Barren View Golf Course.



UMM Alumni

PAINTINGS BY MARILYN CARR '77 ON DISPLAY AT UMM ART GALLERIES

A retrospective exhibit of paintings by the late Marilyn Carr is now on display at the UMM Art Galleries. The work will be on exhibit through November 30.

A graduate of UMM, Carr exhibited in numerous galleries both in Maine and on the Caribbean island of Nevis, where she and her husband spent their winters, before her death in 2009. Her work is also part of many private and corporate collections.

Carr studied at the Parsons School of Design in New York, the Philadelphia College of Art, and graduated from UMM in 1977. She worked as a fashion illustrator, interior designer, and art teacher.

She taught in the Cherryfield and Columbia Falls elementary schools in the mid-1970s, and then became the first full-time art teacher in the public school systems of Washington County when she was hired as a kindergarten through 12th-grade art teacher in Machias. Later, she taught art for 13 years at Massabesic Junior High School in Waterboro.

The UMM Art Galleries, located on the first floor of Powers Hall, are open weekday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. or by appointment.



Class Notes

1988

Mary Sargent has been named administrator of the Anderson Inn at Quarry Hill Retirement Community in Camden.

1992

Ken Vencile and Tiffany Willey Vencile '02 proudly announced the birth of their first daughter, Autumn Loria Vencile, in November 2010. Ken is a high school biology teacher at Camden Regional High School and Tiffany is a licensed massage therapist. The two reside in Waldoboro, Maine.



1993

Destiny Cook will be competing in the 2012 Mrs. Maine America

pageant. She has been a stay-at-home mom and volunteer for the past 12 years, and thought the pageant would be a fun way to showcase that work. Destiny writes, "UMM holds a very special place in my heart, and I am still connected to my Kappa Alpha Kappa sisters all these years later!"

Kevin Lemoi has been named the information technology director for the public school department in Vernon, Conn.

1994

Tim Heavrin is now assigned to the Coronado Unit at the Arizona State Prison Complex in Winslow, Ariz. For the past

six years, he was a correctional officer at the prison's Kaibab Unit.

1995

Larry Barker has been promoted to president of Machias Savings Bank. He began working for MSB in 1991 and has worked his way up through the Business Banking Department. Larry resides in East Machias with his wife and four children.

2000

Jimmy Kroon recently received his master's degree in geographic information systems (GIS) from Penn State. He works for the Delaware Department of Agriculture as the survey coordinator for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program. Jimmy is married to Lori Brown '00, who now works at Delaware State University as the manager of the Atlantic Coast Telemetry Network.

2005



Katie Kurz has joined UMM as the assistant director of financial aid. She is currently pursuing her master's degree from the University of Maine.

2007

Carl Keicher worked for the Maine Conservation Corps this summer as an assistant team leader and Ameri-Corps volunteer. The MCC conducts conservation projects throughout the state, including extensive recreational trail construction and rehabilitation.

2009

Molly Kurz is enrolled in the Masters in Counseling Education program at the University of Maine.

2010



Derik Lee is working for the Maine Department of Marine Resources out of their Bangor office. Derik wanted to share some advice with his fellow alumni: "Take the time to enjoy life, and do the things you enjoy. Life will go on but the opportunities to catch fish don't always get better." derik-lee@hotmail.com



2011

Kelsey Kurz has joined the UMM staff as a student success advisor in the new Advising Center.

Anthony Martiniano is working for Northwestern Mutual-Tronco Financial Group in Latham, N.Y., as a financial representative.

What's your news?

We want to hear from you! Have you recently moved, married, had a child, changed jobs, changed your life? Is a younger relative now attending UMM? We want to hear about it, and so do your classmates. Keep us informed by e-mail. Send your latest details to erik.smith@maine.edu. Alumni wishing just to update their records may do so by calling (207) 255-1210 or via www.machias.edu/alumni.

REMEMBRANCES

Mark Sanborn '83 of Brownville passed away on March 17, 2011, at the age of 51. After graduating from UMM, Mark earned his master's degree in education from the University of Maine in 1994. He was a proud member of the Penobscot Indian Nation, and a tribal employee for 25 years.

Laura Davis Maxwell '46 of Pittsfield passed away on May 29, 2011, at the age of 87. Laura attended Machias Memorial High School and received her diploma from Washington State Normal School. She later returned to the Washington State Teachers College and completed her bachelor's degree in education. Laura taught school in Belfast, Brunswick, Livermore, Livermore Falls, and Jay before retiring from teaching in 1979.

Jim Merrill, building and grounds maintenance worker at UMM, passed away on June 8, 2011, at the age of 64. Jim served on the Physical Plant staff for more than 11 years, most recently assigned to Kimball Hall while also serving as the union steward. Because of his ill health, Jim retired from UMM just before his passing.

In remembering him, UMM President Cynthia Huggins said, "Jim was, quite simply, one of the nicest guys that I have ever known. He will be dearly missed."

Jim was an avid sports fan, and along with his wife, Gloria, was a strong supporter of the UMM athletics program. In addition to his wife of 43 years, Jim is survived by a brother, Richard Merrill of Danville, N.H., and several other special relatives.



SAID BAAGHIL '90 RETURNS TO CAMPUS FOR BRANDING TALK

Internationally known marketer **Said Baaghil '90** was on campus in September to deliver a presentation on "The Power of Belonging—The Marketing Strategy for Branding." The author of two books on the subject, Baaghil is regarded as the lead strategic marketing consultant in the Middle East.

After graduating from UMM in 1990 with a degree in business administration/marketing, he went on to launch his career as a marketing strategy consultant in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Soon after, he started Logic, a company that rose to success through its radical marketing strategies that resulted in a series of exceptional consumer-centric brands in the food and beverage industry. Today, he operates Baaghil Marketing, a consulting firm offering strategic brand marketing services.

Following his talk, which was coordinated by the Career Development Office, Baaghil reflected on his time at UMM with the many faculty, staff, students, and fellow alumni who were in attendance.



UMM Review

FALL 2011

EDITOR

Erik Smith

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UMM President's Corner



I've spent quite a bit of time recently with my nose buried in *The Innovative University: Changing the DNA of Higher Education from the Inside Out*, by Christensen and Eyring. For me, this book follows close on the heels of some disconcerting summer reading—*Academically Adrift* by Arum and Roksa, and *Our Underachieving Colleges* by Derek Bok. Yes, I'm also enjoying a gleeful

romp through George R. R. Martin's *Song of Ice and Fire* series . . . but that's neither here nor there.

Higher education is having a hard go of it these days. Private colleges are accused of resting comfortably on their bazillion-dollar endowments and catering to students who can afford to pay for their lush amenities. Public universities are criticized for their overgrown, unwieldy curriculum and their resistance to change. Grade inflation, escalating tuition, overpaid administrators, underworked faculty, commercialized athletics, plummeting retention and graduation rates, and a general lack of accountability. It's enough to make me wish for a presidential election, just to give people something else to complain about.

What's at the root of the criticism? Let's be honest. Much of American higher education hasn't changed significantly in decades. Even our semester schedules, complete with leisurely three-month summer vacations, remain conveniently tailored for the agrarian lifestyle that very few of us still enjoy. We proudly don our robes and mortarboards, celebrate our centennials, and prefer our students to be 18 to 22 years old, attending classes between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and living on campus. In all honesty, that sounds like a really nice world to me. But it isn't the world that most college students live in these days.

The liberal arts are also taking a beating, which is hard for this novel-toting, poetry-slinging English major to accept. Here at UMM, we talk a lot about Environmental Liberal Arts—ELA—our unique curriculum that applies the traditional liberal arts to issues

of environmental and community sustainability. The environmental part is important, but ELA is and will remain most definitely a liberal arts education. That's because a liberal arts education is the best preparation for a healthy, satisfying, productive life. I'm sure you've heard the elevator speech—a liberal arts education teaches students to think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively. Believe it all, because it's all true.

Nonetheless, students and their parents want to see a clear connection between a major and a job, especially if they're borrowing money to pay for their education. That's understandable, since it appears that money no longer grows on trees, so let's talk about paychecks. A recent study by Georgetown University, titled "The College Payoff," concludes that we can expect median lifetime earnings of \$1.3 million for a high school diploma, \$1.7 million for an associate's degree, and \$2.3 million for a bachelor's degree. You can quibble about these dollar amounts or the credibility of the study itself, but the fact is that earning a bachelor's degree is probably going to be pretty good for your wallet.

The truth is that we want UMM graduates to have it all—healthy and productive lives, good jobs that they enjoy, and at least "enough" money. And we also recognize that higher education has to change if it is to continue to be accessible, affordable, and relevant. So this year we're going to work hard to hold down our costs, ensure that a UMM education is relevant to the local economy and workforce needs, and redouble our efforts to make not only degree programs, but also smaller certificate packages, readily available to part-time, working students in our region. The UMM faculty and staff are very proud to be the regional public university for Washington County and the Downeast coast of Maine. Put simply, it's who we are and what we do. Thanks for your support.

Dr. Cynthia E. Huggins
President, University of Maine at Machias