

UMM Review



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

An Engaged Campus

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES UMM FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The educational experience at the University of Maine at Machias has changed quite a bit over the past 100 years. Gone are the days when students would spend all of their time in a classroom listening to a professor teach and then demonstrating their understanding of concepts with a quiz.

Today, UMM students are learning by doing. More importantly, they are stepping off campus to make a real and meaningful impact here in Machias and beyond.

Examples of service learning are evident all over Washington County and throughout every degree program. Here are some highlights: During Maine Recycles Week, psychology professor **Meghan Duff** takes students to the Bay Area Transfer Station in Machias to educate community members about recycling. In the spring, accounting students team up with the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program to provide tax preparation help to low-to-moderate-income individuals. Students in the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Lab create new tax maps for area municipalities. Students in **Alan Lewis’** Organic Food Production course harvest vegetables for the area food pantry. Environmental Recreation and Tourism Management students spend the fall winterizing homes for the elderly.

(Continued on pg. 5)



Students take part in a community service project during Fall Orientation.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Students	2
Faculty, Staff	4
Campus	6
Community	7
Celebrations	8
Athletics	9
Alumni	10
President’s Corner	12



DON'T MISS THESE DATES!

JUNE WELCOME

**Thursday–Friday
June 23 and 24**

The Class of 2015 gathers on campus for the first time during the June Welcome orientation for first-year students. Students meet and greet each other, and staff who will help students through their first year away will make the weekend memorable.

MAC SENNETT LOBSTER FEED

Saturday, August 20

Save the date for this annual alumni event that’s been a UMM tradition since 1977. Reunite with alums, learn about what’s new at UMM, and enjoy a good ol’ lobster feed!

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

September 23, 24, and 25

Join us for this annual gathering of alumni, students, family, and friends! We’ll have a wine and cheese reception, activities for kids, canoe jousting, athletics events, and more.

CATCH IT WHILE IT'S RUNNING!



Members of the Science Club were busy tapping the maple trees on campus this spring. With the help of **Bob Hanscom** from Physical Plant and local maple syrup producer **Walt Getchell**, the students will boil the sap into syrup to be used at Kilburn Commons.

UMM STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM GENOMICS RESEARCH COURSE

First-year students will soon have the opportunity to search for undiscovered organisms in the dirt, thanks to an innovative genomics course funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI).

UMM has been selected to participate in the prestigious National Genomics Research Initiative, a year-long course that enables students 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.

In the first semester, the students will isolate phage from locally collected soil. Given the diversity of phage, each one is almost certain to be unique, and the students will get to name their newly identified life form. They spend the rest of the term purifying and characterizing their phage and extracting its DNA.

Between semesters, the complete genome of their phage will be sequenced at one of several research centers across the country. In the second half of the course, the students receive digital files



containing their phage's DNA sequence. The students then learn to use bioinformatics tools to analyze and annotate the genomes.

Ellen Hostert, associate professor of biology, called the program a tremendous opportunity for UMM students. "We are getting students excited and into science from the moment they step foot on campus. Their research will have a far-reaching and global impact."

UMM's participation in the program will be guided by Hostert; **Shallee Page**, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry; **Sherrie Sprangers**, associate professor of biology; and **Gerry Zegers**, assistant professor of biology.

UMM is among just 26 schools, chosen through a competitive application process, joining the SEA this year as either full or associate members.

As an associate member, UMM will receive partial funding for the initiative from HHMI and access to online resources. For full members, the project is fully funded by HHMI.

A GREENHOUSE GOES UP



Pictured above, from left to right, are Gini King of the Washington County Food and Fuel Alliance, student Penny Fox, Jamie Moreira, professor of community studies and the greenhouse project lead, UMM President Cynthia Huggins, and student Acadia Tripp.

UMM's four-season greenhouse is taking shape behind the O'Brien House. Jamie Moreira and Chad Everett, along with countless student, faculty, and staff volunteers, chipped away at the construction work throughout the winter and into the spring.

The project has been made possible through the generous donations of materials and funds by the following organizations: Aramark, Dave's Electric, Grand Rental Station, Hanscom Construction, J.L. Huntley Plumbing and Heating, Reversing Falls Sanctuary and Brooksville United Methodist Church, Rhoades Building Products, UMM Board of Visitors, UMM Alumni Association, and the Washington County Food and Fuel Alliance.



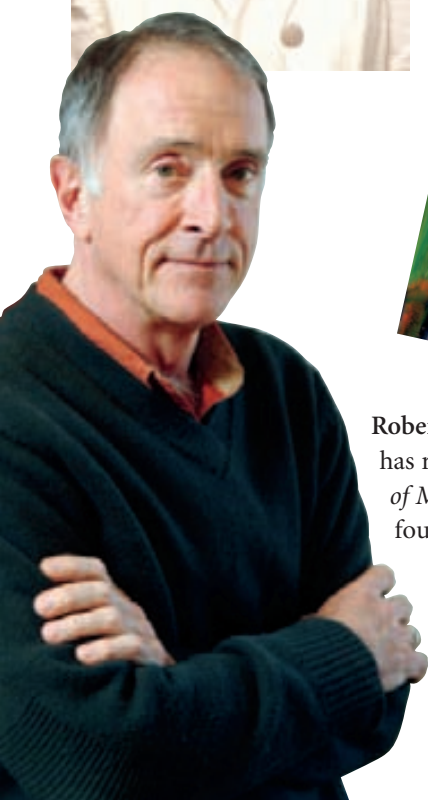
*Top left: Jamie Moreira and Acadia Tripp roll up grass sod.
Top right: An excavator digs out a trench for the frost wall.
Middle left: Chad Everett, Penny Fox, and Ryan Martin prepare the sill plate.
Middle right: Students shovel snow so that work on the greenhouse can continue.
Bottom left: Chad Everett works on framing up the greenhouse.
Bottom right: Student in the Organic Food Production course work on the exterior.
Left: Students lay dirt and sod around the perimeter.*

UMM Faculty and Staff

NAMES & NOTES



Heather Ball, coordinator of the Special Education program, successfully defended her dissertation in March to earn her doctorate. Her dissertation was titled “Caucasian Teachers and Native American Students: The Interplay of Ideology and Professional Practice.”



Robert Froese, professor of English, has released a new novel, *The Origins of Misgivings*. The novel is Froese’s fourth.

To read more about his work, visit flatbaycollective.org.

SENIOR BANQUET SONG AN ANNUAL TRADITION



Each year at the Senior Dinner on the eve of Commencement, music professor Gene Nichols takes out his ukulele and leads everyone in a performance of the UMM Senior Banquet Song. The piece is sung to the tune of “By the Beautiful Sea,” which was featured in the 1942 musical “For Me and My Gal.”

*By the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea,
UMM, UMM—what a great place to be!
When each course comes a-rollin’ in, we will sink or swim,
and now BOOM!—tomorrow’s graduation!
Where did time go? We’ve had so much fun,
and we learned! Now we’ve earned our own place in the sun.
I’m glad to be a grad of University of Maine-Machias
by the beautiful sea!*



IN MEMORY OF JOAN GETCHELL: 1948–2011

Turn to page 11 of this issue for an obituary.

Donations can be made in Joan’s memory to the Joan M. Getchell Scholarship, care of the Development Office, University of Maine at Machias, 116 O’Brien Avenue, Machias, Maine 04654.

WELCOME ABOARD



Lynne Witham of Sullivan is the new coordinator of online programs. She is primarily responsible for recruiting and supporting students in UMM’s online degree programs.



Shelbie Ross '08 of Machias has joined the Admissions Office as an admissions counselor/transfer officer. She graduated from UMM in 2008 with her B.A. in Behavioral Science.

Nate Picard is the new food service director for Aramark. Prior to his arrival on the UMM campus, he was the assistant food service director at UMaine Farmington.



Tora Johnson has been hired as an instructor of GIS and director of the GIS Service Center. She has been teaching at UMM on a part-time basis since 2004, and most recently served as director of the GIS Service Center in a grant-supported capacity.

An Engaged Campus

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES UMM FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

(Continued from cover)

This approach to learning and commitment to community does not go unnoticed by those outside UMM's 43-acre campus. In January, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (founded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie) selected UMM as a recipient of its prestigious 2010 Community Engagement Classification. The classification recognizes the University for its extraordinary service-learning and community service activities.

UMM is one of just 311 out of more than 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide that now hold the Community Engagement Classification.

"We are very honored to receive this designation from the Carnegie Foundation," said Stuart Swain, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "The classification recognizes the many collaborations and partnerships between UMM and our community. Service learning is part of our culture and has long been an important piece of the academic experience for our students and faculty."

The Community Engagement Classification helps highlight the reciprocal relationship between campus and community. Without the many community partners who open their doors and serve as mentors, UMM students would graduate without the real-life experiences that help provide a sense of purpose and shape future careers. And without the work performed by UMM students, many community organizations and agencies would simply have to go without. It's a win-win and provides a layer of meaning and relevance that cannot be achieved in the classroom alone.



Above and below: Students in the Environmental Recreation and Tourism Management program help winterize homes for the elderly through the Keep ME Warm project.



NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY

Mallory Ward, a member of the Newman Club, poses with some of the eyeglasses collected for New Eyes for the Needy, a non-profit organization that recycles glasses for distribution to poor children and adults overseas. The Newman Club collected a total of 47 pairs of glasses within several weeks.



A GATHERING OF THE GREEKS



Members of UMM's Greek organizations gathered for a photo this spring. They represent nine sororities and fraternities on campus.

NEW LOOK FOR ADMISSIONS



The Admissions Office has a fresh look thanks to some new furniture, paint, and a hard-to-miss wall decal of the UMM logo. The update gives prospective students and their families a more relaxed environment in which to meet with admissions counselors and learn about UMM.

SHOP AT MURDOCK BOOKSTORE ONLINE



Did you know that you can shop at the Murdock Bookstore online? Visit www.bookstore.umm.maine.edu to browse their virtual catalog!

9 YOUTH CAMPS ON TAP FOR SUMMER



This summer UMM has a great lineup of fun and educational activities for kids grade school age through high school. Whether your child is into sports, arts, or the environment, we've got something for everyone.

SUMMER CAMPS

Clipper Kids Day Camp
JUNE 20–AUGUST 26
Day Camp, Grades Pre-K–8

Girls Basketball Camp
JULY 18–22
Day Camp, Grades 1–12

Co-ed Soccer Camp
JUNE 27–JULY 1
Day Camp, Grades 1–12

Boys Basketball Camp
JULY 25–29
Day Camp, Grades 1–12

Co-ed Golf Camp
JULY 5–8
Day Camp, Grades 1–12

MESSY Camp
JULY 24–29
Overnight Camp,
Grades 7–9

Girls Volleyball Camp
JULY 11–15
Day Camp, Grades 1–12

Recreation Camp
AUGUST 1–5
Day Camp, Grades 4–6

Art Camp
JULY 5–8
Day Camp, Grades 1–7

For more information or to register for UMM Summer Camps, visit www.machias.edu/summer, call Michael May at (207) 255-1210, or e-mail michael.j.may@maine.edu.



LEGISLATORS MAKE A STOP AT UMM



A large group of newly elected state legislators made a stop in Machias on their weeklong bus tour of Maine in January. The tour was intended to give them a firsthand look at what is taking place in different parts of the state.

Members of the 125th Legislature heard from UMM President **Cynthia Huggins**, UMS Chancellor **Richard Pattenau**, **Harold Closs** of the Sunrise County Economic Council, and **Lisa Sockabasin** from the Maine Centers for Disease Control Office of Minority Health.

Other stops on the tour included the Verso Paper mill in Jay, Jasper Wyman & Son in Cherryfield, an agricultural operation in Eastport, Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture fish hatchery in Franklin, and the University of Maine in Orono.

FIRST COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR A SUCCESS



The UMM Wellness Committee held its first community health fair in March. Open to the public, the event was aimed at educating the campus and local community on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

More than 22 vendors, businesses, and service providers were on hand to provide information and demonstrations covering a wide range of personal wellness topics.

The UMM Wellness Committee is made up of students, faculty, and staff members committed to enhancing wellness opportunities and education to the campus community. Coordinator of Health Services **Suzanne Mace** reports that students **Jennifer Hare** and **Katryn Bailey** were instrumental in organizing the fair.

7th ANNUAL MACHIAS JOB FAIR HELD AT UMM



Employers and prospective employees got a chance to meet at the Annual Machias Area Job Fair in March. The event was sponsored by UMM, the Machias Career Center, and the Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

32 businesses and organizations had a presence at the fair, which drew more than 200 attendees from campus and the community. Representatives from graduate programs at Husson University and the University of Maine were also on hand to speak with students.

SPRING 2012 TRIP TO AMSTERDAM AND PARIS

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

Highlights of the visit to Amsterdam will include a boat tour of the canals, Anne Frank's house, Rijksmuseum, the Ten Boom House, and more. A train ride will take travelers to Paris, where they'll enjoy the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Garden of Versailles, the Latin Quarter, and more.

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



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



UMM Celebrations

95 RECEIVE DEGREES AT 100TH COMMENCEMENT

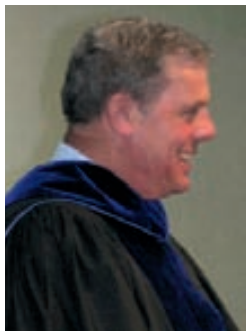
A total of 95 graduates received degrees at UMM's 100th Commencement, held Saturday, May 14, at the Frederic A. Reynolds Center.

UMM President Dr. Cynthia Huggins presided over the ceremony at which three students were presented Associate of Science degrees, 92 received Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of College Studies degrees, and two Master's of Science in Education degrees were awarded through the University of Southern Maine. Two students, Aaron Whitman and Ranae McHugh, received both a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology.

In her charge to the graduates, Huggins urged the Class of 2011 to go on and make a difference, just as the 23 members of the Class of 1912 did 100 years ago.

"The students in that first graduating class 100 years ago, with the help of the staff and faculty, gathered their own sticks and kindled a fire," she said. "One hundred years later, you are the recipients of that fire that they left burning. So how will you express your gratitude by paying it forward?"

"Don't be afraid to express your gratitude for the good things that come your way in life, and welcome every opportunity to do something in return," Huggins said. "Pay it back in a way that makes sense for you, given your unique talents and gifts."



Dr. Bill Eckart, retiring professor of recreation management who has taught at UMM for 31 years, delivered a commencement address that focused on change.

"This institution is here to create change—to take students from where they are and to orchestrate their development to take them to a new place," said Eckart, as he highlighted several key changes in UMM's history.

He also spoke about how the pendulum of change often brings things back, like a campus garden, a class in bookbinding, and the Ukulele Club, which were all part of the UMM experience decades ago, then disappeared, and have now returned.



Eckart, who retired at the end of May, was conferred emeritus rank at the ceremony.

The Distinguished Alumna Award was presented posthumously to Joan Getchell, a 1983 graduate and longtime employee of UMM, who passed away on March 8, 2011.

Dr. Gayle Kraus, professor of marine ecology, was presented the Arthur S. and Frances A. Buswell Academic Enhancement Award, which is awarded annually to a member of the faculty to help provide for equipment, field trips, library materials, or other items that directly benefit students in a class.

The UMM Ukulele Club, under the direction of music professor Gene Nichols, closed the ceremony by performing Dale Evans' "Happy Trails," a tribute to former University President John Joseph.



UMM COMMENCEMENT

100 YEARS

Written by Bill Eckart for UMM's 100th Commencement

From start to now
So much has passed
And memories
Are all that last

And what we do
While we are here
Will last forever
I have no fear

The sights the sounds
But the people best
Are what we recall
Above all the rest

So UMM
Charge forward go
And lift us all
So we may grow



President Cynthia Huggins and Laurel Robinson show off their Clipper pride at the women's basketball pep rally.

UMM BIDS FAREWELL TO SENIORS

Before the start of the final home games of the season, UMM honored its senior athletes on the Men's and Women's Basketball teams. The following student-athletes were recognized for their hard work and dedication, both on the court and off:

Women's Basketball

Jennie Hare (New Limerick, Maine)

Men's Basketball

Nathaniel Case (Campobello, New Brunswick, Canada)

Hillary Hopkins (Machias, Maine)

SABREE RODRIGUEZ NAMED NAIA ALL-AMERICAN HONORABLE MENTION



Sophomore Sabree Rodriguez (Brockton, Mass.) was named an Honorable Mention to the 2011 NAIA Division II Women's Basketball All-America team.

Rodriguez helped lead the Clippers to their first-ever national tournament appearance when they defeated SUNY Canton to capture the Sunrise Conference Championship.

Rodriguez led the Clippers in scoring during the 2010–11 season, averaging 18 points per game.

RECYCLED UNIFORMS FOR THE MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Showing their commitment to sustainability, the men's soccer team sported new uniforms during the 2010 season that are made out of 100% recycled bottles.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM SUNRISE CONFERENCE CHAMPS



The UMM Clippers captured the Sunrise Conference women's basketball championship in a stunning victory over SUNY Canton at Windham High School on February 27. The win earned the Clippers their first-ever berth in the NAIA national tournament.

SUNY Canton led for most of the game, including a 33–25 advantage at halftime. The Clippers kept battling but each time they pulled closer, SUNY Canton answered with a key run.

Both teams cooled off over the remaining seven minutes of the game before UMM pulled out a spirited comeback in the waning minutes of the contest. The Clippers trailed 52–49 with 1:25 on the clock but then forced two Roos' turnovers that led to back-to-back layups from the Clippers' Dana Houghton and UMM took the lead. SUNY Canton had one more turnover down the stretch and Sabree Rodriguez converted one of two free throw attempts with 1.8 seconds on the clock to secure their second upset win of the weekend. UMM beat top-seeded University of Maine at Fort Kent 67–52 in the opening round.

Kayla Wood led the Clippers with 17 points and five assists. Jamyriah McPherson added 11 points and six rebounds and Rodriguez finished with nine points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

At the national tournament in Sioux City, Iowa, the Clippers lost their opening round matchup against top-ranked Davenport University. The Clippers ended their impressive post-season run with a 15–12 record.

ZACH ARMSTRONG REACHES 1,000 POINT MILESTONE



Junior Zach Armstrong (Waldoboro, Maine) scored his 1,000th career point during the men's basketball game vs. College of Saint Joseph in Vermont on January 13. The fourth Sunrise Conference player to reach the 1,000-point mark this season, Armstrong was also recognized as a conference co-player of the week.

UMM Alumni

REP. KEN FREDETTE '87 NAMED TO APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

First-term Republican State Representative Ken Fredette '87 was named to the Maine State Legislature's Appropriations Committee, the group tasked with reviewing Governor Paul LePage's Biennial Budget proposal.



After graduating from UMM in 1987, Fredette went on to earn a master's degree in public policy and management from the University of Southern Maine, a law degree from the University of Maine School of Law, and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. In addition to his own law practice in Newport, Ken also serves as a Major in the Maine National Guard as a Judge Advocate General.

Ken is married to Cyndi (Frost) '90, who is an elementary school teacher in Newport. They have two children, Morgan and Colby.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Mac Sennett Lobster Feed Saturday, August 20, 2011



The Mac Sennett Lobster Feed has been a UMM tradition since 1977. Be sure to join us for lobster (or other delicious entrees), reunite with alums, and learn all that's new at UMM. For more information call Michael May at (207) 255-1210. *We hope to see you there!*

ALUMNI RECONNECT IN PORTLAND



UMM hosted an alumni reunion in Portland on Saturday, March 5. There was a great turnout of alumni from southern Maine and beyond. After appetizers and dinner at Binga's Stadium Smokehouse & Sports Bar, the group attended a Portland Pirates game.

Class Notes

1994

Michael Emery received Hannaford Supermarkets' 2010 John J. Russell Award for Excellence. He is district manager of District 20.



the University of Maine and her poems have appeared in several prominent poetry journals. She will use her fellowship to attend the Juniper Writing Institute this summer.

2004

Anthony Roy and Caitlyn Koch '07 were married on April 16, 2011. Anthony is a special education teacher at Machias Memorial High School and Caitlyn teaches 5th grade at Rose M. Gaffney School in Machias.

2005

Derek Sanborn has launched a new business, Wicked Good Tours, in York. His business

provides narrated tours of historical York, Kittery Point, and Kittery, Maine. Derek writes: "I'd like to see any of my classmates who come to the Seacoast for a summer vacation. You can't miss me in my van as I travel through Southern Maine." www.wickedgoodtours.com

2010

Tyson Facto has accepted a position as an aquarist at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Fla.

Andrew Hayes was recently hired as an educator at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla.

Crystal Cjaza and Matthew Ganong '10 were married on December 18, 2010.

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



Joan Getchell '83 alumna and longtime employee of UMM, passed away on March 8, 2011, at a local healthcare facility. She was 62.

Joan was hired as a secretary in the Business Office in 1969 at what was then the Washington State Normal School. She would spend her entire 42-year career in that same office.

“There is no way to fully convey what Joan Getchell meant to this university over the past four decades,” said UMM President Cynthia Huggins. “Her service and dedication to UMM—our students, employees, retirees, and alumni—were amazing. We will all remember Joan for everything that she did for UMM, but also just for being the warm, funny, endearing person that she always was.”

Joan is survived by her mother, Abbie; two sisters, Barbara McKinley and husband, James, of Acton and Alison Savard and husband, Jean, of East Machias; two nieces, Jennifer Savard-Johnson and husband, John, of Monmouth and Marie Savard of East Machias; and two nephews, Richard and Tyler Johnson. She was predeceased by her father, Raymond.

Donations in Joan’s memory can be made to the Joan M. Getchell Scholarship, care of the Development Office, University of Maine at Machias, 116 O’Brien Avenue, Machias, Maine 04654. Donations can also be made online at www.machias.edu/donate.

Francis J. “Frank” Westrack '71 of Winthrop and Zephyrhills, Fla., passed away on December 5, 2010, at the age of 69. After graduating from UMM with his bachelor’s degree in elementary education, Frank served as a teaching principal at Fort O’Brien School in Machiasport for 15 years. In 1985 he began a new career with the Department of Corrections and retired in 2004 as the director of classifications in Augusta.

Jeffrey L. Small '77 of Sidney passed away on December 23, 2010, at the age of 59. He graduated with a degree in business education from UMM, and went on to graduate school at Indiana University. He served as media specialist at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, vocational instructor at Capital Area Technical Center in Augusta, and library/media specialist at Cony High School. In 1982 he received the Media Specialist of the Year Award from the Maine Educational Media Association.

Kenneth S. Oliver '89 of Columbia Falls passed away on December 23, 2010, at the age of 82. He attended schools in Columbia Falls and served in the U.S. Army during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. He worked for many years as a farmer and mechanic. He received his degree in park and recreation management from UMM in 1989.

June E. Snow '40 of Howland and Lakeville passed away on January 8, 2011, at the age of 91. She graduated from Washington State Teachers College at the age of 40 and went on to teach school in Jacksonville, Springfield, and Augusta.

Claranne Pitt '44 of Winter Harbor passed away on January 22, 2011, at the age of 86. After graduating from the Washington State Normal School, she was a teacher for more than 25 years.

Leighton E. Perry '61 of Bucksport passed away on March 12, 2011, at the age of 72. He taught driver education at Bucksport High School for 15 years and middle school math for 25 years in Florida. He also owned State Street Grocery in Ellsworth for five years.

UMM Review

SUMMER 2011

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HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

September
23–25, 2011





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A member of the University of Maine System

Visit us on the Web at www.umm.maine.edu.

Notice to parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer resides at your home, please notify the UMM Development Office at (207) 255-1210 of the new mailing address. Thank you.

UMM President's Corner



Have you ever played dominos? We had a set of dominos when I was a kid, but we never played by the rules. It was always more fun to carefully line them up on end, tip the first domino, and watch them all fall over one by one.

There's a lot of activity taking place on the UMM campus this summer, and much of it has been tightly choreographed and scheduled. It's like one great big game of

dominos. For starters, our entire Admissions Office will move into the O'Brien House in a few weeks. So there is painting and wiring to be done, new sidewalks and signage to install, and furniture to be ordered. (When I asked David, our Admissions Director, what he was working on last week, he told me he was selecting his colors. I love it.)

When Admissions vacates their office suite on the second floor of Powers Hall, that space will become the new, highly anticipated Student Advising Center. Matthew (Student Success) and Brenda (Career Development) will be housed in the Advising Center, so they'll move to Powers from Torrey Hall. We're hiring two new Student Success Advisors (Matthew 2 and Matthew 3) and a new Assistant Director of Financial Aid. Jo-Ellen and the First Stop will be folded into the Advising Center, moving upstairs from their current Business Office location.

When the Torrey Hall offices are vacated, Student Life will move there from Dorward. (See what I mean? Dominos!) And while all this is going on, we're also renovating Kilburn Commons with a new boiler, windows, and front entrance, and replacing the old heating system in the Reynolds Center. Both Kilburn and Reynolds will have new energy management systems, which has Bob, our Facilities Director, grinning from ear to ear.

Why bother? It's all about student recruitment, student retention, and student success. In the O'Brien House, the Admissions staff will be able to offer a greatly enhanced campus visit experience to prospective students. It's a beautiful house with lots of great history and atmosphere, and the new four-season greenhouse is right there in the backyard.

In Powers Hall, the Student Advising Center will integrate, in a single, well-designed location, the various aspects of advising that students routinely seek out—with financial aid, the registrar, and the business office just down the hall.

In Torrey Hall, the Student Life Office will have the visibility that they lack in their current residence hall location. Student Life will become far more accessible to UMM's many part-time, commuter, and adult students. And every dollar that we save on energy helps us hold down the cost of education for all UMM students, besides simply being the right thing to do.

During fall semester, we'll engage students in a discussion about transforming the Reynolds Center. The UMM campus lacks a traditional freestanding student center, so we want to find ways to give students more of a sense of ownership for the Reynolds Center. There is no shortage of creative ideas floating around—office space for the Campus Activities Director, a student lounge and game room, dedicated space for student organizations, a snack bar, a climbing wall, etc. But this work should be driven by the students themselves, so we'll tackle that initiative in earnest when they return to campus in September.

UMM is an amazing little community. We have the most gifted faculty, the most dedicated staff, and the greatest students in the world. Okay, I might be just a bit biased. So don't take my word for it—visit us and see for yourselves. We'll be here all summer.

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