

UMM Review



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

The Secret to Student Success

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS ENJOY A SMOOTH TRANSITION

The transition from high school to college can be extremely difficult for some students. A new sense of freedom, pressure from parents, and the challenge of academics are all factors which can have a negative effect on the early success of a college student. At UMM, ensuring student success starts early, well before a student enters their first class.

From the moment a student is confirmed to be attending UMM, they are on Matthew Holsapple's radar. Holsapple is the new student success coordinator at UMM and his job is to ensure that first-year students have a smooth transition from high school to college. Connecting with guidance counselors in area high schools, providing first-year academic advising, and working with faculty to identify problems are just some of his tools of the trade. "It's all about early intervention and identifying problems before a situation gets out of control," says Holsapple.

Keeping students involved over the summer, between high school graduation and their first semester, is another important component to student success. June Welcome Weekend, with an extensive new student orientation, and Fall Welcome Week keep students connected with their new academic life. These events provide students with an opportunity to get on campus and really explore what UMM is all about. Students find themselves on daylong excursions and taking part in community service activities, an essential part of the educational experience at UMM.



familiar with the resources and opportunities available. The seminars give students a chance to immerse themselves in experiential learning. Atlantic Salmon Conservation, Personal Growth, Recreation/Leisure Explorations, and Personal Wellness are just some of the seminars available. All of the courses require students to participate outside the classroom—in on-campus workshops, at sports events or club meetings, or community service projects.

The feedback from students is encouraging. Students said that the first-year seminars allowed them to make connections with other students and with professors, become more informed about campus life, ease anxiety by increasing comfort levels, enhance study and time-management skills, and improve public speaking skills. All of these are extremely important to the success of each individual student.

Thanks to these efforts, the percentage of students who return after their first year at UMM is currently 75%, up 10% in just five years. This increase is a direct result of the University's continued focus on the success of each individual student and the ability to provide a personalized education like no other.

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To help make the transition even smoother, UMM has implemented first-year seminars, which require first-time, full-time students to take mini-courses designed to help them understand the college experience and become

DON'T MISS THESE DATES!

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Monday, January 19th

Join **Gene Nichols**, UMM associate professor of music, for songs of peace and justice in a casual sing-along from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in Powers Hall, room 201. This event will be the 28th annual MLK Jr. sing-along at UMM.

PREVIEW DAYS March 13th–April 24th

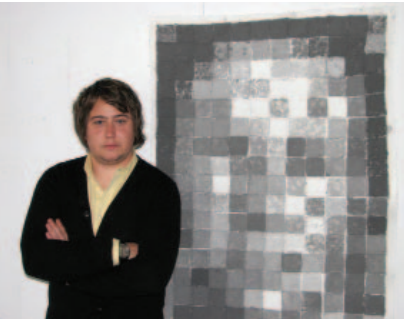
Know a young relative or a prospective student who may be interested in UMM? Put these dates on the calendar, when dozens of high school students gather at UMM to see what life is really like on campus. Register with the Admissions Office by calling 255-1318.

COMING SOON! MESSY CAMP

Machias Environmental Summer Session for Youth. For rising 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. Two sessions available:

July 19th–24th • July 26th–31st





IFA STUDENT INVITED TO TONY WILSON EXPERIENCE

Josey Cary (Machias, Maine), an Interdisciplinary Fine Arts student, was selected over the summer to attend the “Reification—The Tony Wilson Experience” Project in

Manchester, England. Josey was selected as one of 200 young creative talents from around the world whose visual and written work was chosen by a panel of judges. The Tony Wilson Experience brought together big names in design, music, media and the visual arts to engage and stimulate thought and to bring forth the “next generation” of cultural innovators. Josey submitted work that he did in Bernie Vinzani’s Book Arts class.

COMMUNITY TRAIL

The community trail located behind the University of Maine at Machias received some much needed maintenance this fall. Members of the UMM campus community hit the trails to spread woodchips, which were donated by local resident Gene Larrabee. The trail, developed a few years ago by the UMM Wellness Committee, was intended to offer the campus and community a place that could be easily accessed during the day to promote fitness through walking. The trail was cleared and developed thanks to a grant obtained by the Wellness Committee from the Maine Cardiovascular Fitness Program. Benches were also donated by the Machias Rotary Club.



The group that helped spread the wood chips included members of the Kappa Delta Phi fraternity, Kappa Eta sorority, and members of the Student Life staff.

UMM THEATRE TACKLES SOCIAL ISSUES

In mid-October 11 UMM students and one community actor put on 8 short plays by Pulitzer Prize nominated playwright Theresa Rebeck. Directed by Arthur Hill, the plays covered a wide range of social issues that confront our society today and provided the audience with a new perspective and insight. The cast included Adam Brown, Melanie Colbeth, Crystal Czaja, Matt Ganong, Dan Rolfe, Jackie Rushley, Hannah Siebenhaur, Dorian Knight, Megan Lanpher, Melissa O’Brien, Joshua Luman, and Sam Tananbaum.

NEW STUDENT LOUNGE RECEIVES DEDICATION

As part of the Homecoming festivities at the University of Maine at Machias on September 27th, members of the community gathered to remember and honor the life of a local student. More than



(L-R) Clifford, Sharon, and Emery Strout in front of the newly dedicated Douglas Strout Student Lounge

30 people were on hand for the dedication of the Douglas Strout Student Lounge, located on the first floor of Torrey Hall.

A plaque commemorating Dougie’s life now appears next to the entrance of the recently renovated lounge. The plaque reads:

“Dedicated to the memory of “Dougie” Strout who used this lounge often. A UMM student and friend to everyone on campus, he is remembered for his kindness and positive attitude. This plaque is a gift from the UMM Class of 2008.”

STUDENTS ATTEND RECREATION AND TOURISM CONFERENCE



Above and below: Students in the recreation and tourism management program take in the sights while visiting Baltimore, MD.

Five students in UMM’s recreation and tourism management program spent a week in October at the National Park and Recreation Association Annual Congress and Exposition in Baltimore, Maryland. The students traveled with the program’s three faculty, Andrea Ednie, Rick Scribner and Bill Eckart.

The UMM students were among 8,300 delegates at the conference from throughout the US, Canada and Australia. The students were Jake Kenyon, Charity Peavey, Allison Kavin, Sam Tanenbaum, and Ryan Meader.



UMM Faculty and Staff

FACULTY NAMES AND NOTES



Meghan Duff, assistant professor of psychology, presented at the 2008 Schweitzer Fellows for Life conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts in early October. Her talk was titled “Rolling Stone Out of Your Way: Strategies for Self Care While Working for Systems Change.” Duff was named as a 2003–2004 New Hampshire/Vermont Schweitzer Fellow for community service work.

Robert Hauhart, assistant professor of sociology, published an article in the *Journal for Cultural Research* recently. His article in October was called “The Blue Collar Comedy Tour: Southern Fried Humor in the Context of American Class Society”. The *Bangor Daily News* also published two of Hauhart’s op ed pieces on crime issues over the summer.



Marcus Librizzi, associate professor of English, sat down with the *Ellsworth American* recently to answer questions about an old ghost tale in Sullivan. The article, titled “Fabled Ghost Nelly Butler Investigated,” appeared in the October 30th issue just in time for Halloween. Librizzi’s research, which includes letters, depositions, and testimony about the ghost, suggests that Butler spent much of her time in Sullivan and not in Machiasport, where she was thought to have haunted. He first wrote about Nelly Butler in his book, *Dark Woods, Chill Waters: Ghost Tales from Downeast Maine*.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DINNER



From left to right: Jim Sawyer, Linda Willey, and Alan Lewis

Three employees of the University of Maine at Machias were honored on September 18, at UMM’s fourth annual Employee Recognition Dinner at Kilburn Commons. The three employees, who received certificates and applause for their dedication, were:

30 YEARS: Alan Lewis (professor of ecology) and Linda Willey (administrative assistant).

15 YEARS: Jim Sawyer (buildings and grounds maintenance worker)

WHO’S NEW ON CAMPUS

Nine new employees were welcomed at the annual Employee Recognition Dinner in September. Among them:

Faculty:

Noah Dean (assistant professor of mathematics), Daniel Qualls (assistant professor of education), Michael Urban (assistant professor of education), and Ingrid Asmundsson (visiting professor of biology).

Physical Plant:

Darlene Preston as a building and grounds maintenance worker.

Athletics staff:

John Duncan as the head coach of both volleyball and women’s basketball.



Student Support Center:

Matthew Holsapple as the new student success coordinator, responsible for first-year advising and student success programs.



Marketing & Public Relations Office:

Erik Smith as the new director of marketing and public relations. He is a native of the Machias area and is married to Ericka, a UMM alum.



Merrill Library:

Angelynn King as the new Director of Merrill Library.

Join the UMM Advocacy Network!

Connect with UMM through regular e-mail updates. As a member of our network, you will receive regular updates regarding UMM—and University of Maine System-related news, legislation, and key events. Membership is free, so join now by going to www.universityadvocacy.org/umm.

EDUCATION COMMISSIONER GIVES TALK

Maine State Education Commissioner **Susan Gendron** was on campus in October. She was one of several education policy speakers this fall at UMM. Gendron spoke to the crowd of community members, faculty, staff, and students about education policy initiatives in the state and answered questions concerning school consolidation and reorganization.



Susan Gendron

Gendron was invited to the campus by President Cynthia Huggins as part of UMM's efforts to mark a century of teacher education. In 1909 the Washington State Normal School began training teachers for Washington County and Maine.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS GET A PREVIEW



Sarah Kauppinen, UMM Admissions Counselor, talks with prospective students at Preview Day.

Anyone will tell you that the best way to find out if UMM is the right fit, is to visit our campus. Preview Days, which are held throughout the year, give prospective students a firsthand look at what life is like at UMM. Students have the opportunity to tour the campus, meet with faculty, have lunch in the dining commons, and take in our natural environment.

In early November the Admissions team hosted a national preview day, with students attending from throughout the United States, including Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and New York. More than 100 students and their parents took advantage of this opportunity to visit our campus. The event was a great success!

Preview Days scheduled for the spring are:
March 13th and April 24th.

CAMPUS CLEAN-UP A SUCCESS

In late November, members of the Green Council and the **Epsilon Sigma Alpha** sorority led a trash clean-up around the UMM campus and Machias community. 14 people turned out on the damp morning to lend a helping hand. The group collected an estimated 15 bags of trash from within a 1.5 mile radius of campus. Great job!



Members of Epsilon Sigma Alpha clean-up trash on the UMM campus.

A TASTE OF LOCAL LOBSTER

On November 20th, students received a special feast, while UMM helped support a local industry. When **Matthew Cormier**, UMM's Food Service Director, began planning "Lobster Night," the decision was made to buy the lobsters locally. Increasing costs for fisherman and a decrease in demand for lobsters, leading to rock bottom prices, have hit the local fisherman hard. UMM had an opportunity to help the local fishermen, while providing students with an enjoyable meal. "We purchased 154 lobsters from the Jonesport-Beals Co-Op, right here in Washington County," said Cormier. Many students expressed their gratitude that the University purchased the lobsters locally.



Matthew Cormier, Food Service Director at UMM



Students enjoy "Lobster Night" at UMM.

UMM Celebrations

September 26–28 was Homecoming weekend on the UMM campus. Despite rain, fog, and chilly temperatures, many alumni, parents, students, faculty and staff turned out for the annual weekend of events. Many of the festivities went on as planned including Chemistry Magic with professors **Shallee Page** and **William Otto**, the Alumni Wine and Cheese Reception with President **Huggins**, the “picnic” in Kilburn Commons, and the Alumni Soccer games.

On the field, the men’s and women’s soccer teams lost their battles with the University of Maine at Fort Kent Bengals. On the court, the volleyball team lost a tough match against Unity College. Students **Mike Oram** and **Jess Reed** were crowned this year’s Homecoming King and Queen.



THE MAC WAS BACK!



The Mac Sennett Lobster Feed and Alumni Reunion held Saturday, August 16, was a great success. UMM staff members, emeriti professors, and other friends and family joined thirty-one alums, representing classes ranging from 1937 through 2006, for the reunion. Congratulations go to the Class of 1968, the class with the most representation and special mention goes to John Buck for his behind-the-scenes work to personally invite his classmates.

Following the Alumni Association’s annual meeting, everyone gathered for a wine and cheese reception to honor the fifty-year class. President Cynthia Huggins presented Ethelyn (Sprague) DeSandre ’58 with a lovely UMM afghan to commemorate her fifty-year graduation status. Conversation at the reception was lively, but Elizabeth (DeShon) Tibbetts ’37 and Anna (Foss) Wareing ’38 brought down the house when Anna sat down at the piano and together they belted out a spirited rendition of the WSNS school song. Festivities continued at Kilburn Commons where the UMM Ukulele Club performed while the Aramark staff served a delicious feast of lobster, steamed clams, and all the traditional fixings.

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s reunion, August 15, 2009. A “Save the Date” postcard will be mailed in late winter and an invitation/registration form will follow in early summer. The reunion is always held during the Machias Wild Blueberry Festival, so there will be lots to do and, of course, so many good friends to reconnect with! We hope to see you there!



VOLLEYBALL, MEN'S & WOMEN'S SOCCER

UMM's Volleyball team finished the regular season 10-17 overall, and 3-3 in the Conference. National rankings for NAIA-Division 1 statistics:

- 4th, service aces per game (2.770)
- 19th, blocks per game (2.620)
- **Stephanie Payton**, 1st, service aces per game (0.830)
- **Megan Knowles**, 6th, service aces per game (0.720)
- **Mirissa Huntley**, 20th, blocks per game (1.320)

UMM Men's Soccer finished the season 10-8-0 overall, and 7-4-0 in conference play. National rankings for NAIA-Division 1 statistics:

- 4th, shots per game (24.110)
- 10th, shots on goal per game (10.780)
- **Greg Dawson**, 12th, shots per game (4.720)
- **Adam Mauro**, 16th, saves per game (7.140)

UMM Women's Soccer finished 9-9-0 overall, and 8-4-0 in conference play. National rankings for NAIA-Division 1 statistics:

- 17th, saves per game (9.890)
- 21st, goals per game (3.220)
- 25th, shots per game (20.170)
- **Stephanie Wunderley**, 9th, saves per game (9.440)
- **Sara Rushforth**, 10th, game winning goals per game (0.330)
- **Erin O'Connor**, 14th, goals per game (1.170)

CLIPPERS SOCCER TEAMS RACK UP CONFERENCE HONORS

At the annual Sunrise Conference awards banquet in November, members of the Clippers soccer teams picked up awards. Three players from the men's squad earned all-conference recognition: **Greg Dawson** (12 goals, 7 assists, 31 points), **Pat Corliss** (10 goals, 3 assists, 23 points), and **Adam Mauro** (2.13 goals-against average and a .775 save percentage with four shutouts). Head coach **Tony Turini** earned the honor of men's coach of the year.

Earning spots on the women's all-conference team, were: **Sara Rushforth** (16 goals, 7 assists, 39 points), **Erin O'Connor** (21 goals, 5 assists, 47 points), **Sarah Schmidt**, and **Stephanie Wunderley** (2.30 goals-against average and a .819 save percentage with five shutouts).



Greg Dawson, left, and Erin O'Connor.

ATHLETICS WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK!



Check out the new UMM CLIPPERS Athletics site at www.ummlippers.com for complete schedules, results, and scores!

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Class Notes

1997 Kim Dana Kupperman is the founder of Welcome Table Press, dedicated to publishing and celebrating the essay, in all its forms. Her work has appeared in numerous journals, including Agni online, where you can read “See Me Slant: Poetry Considers Her Mother” (www.bu.edu/agni/essays/online/2008/kupperman.html). She works as managing editor of *The Gettysburg Review*.

1964 Sandra Sylvester furthered her education at Fairfield University in Connecticut with an M.A. in Corporate and Political Communication with a professional certificate in writing. She retired from the printing and publishing business two years ago. Her novel, *The South End*, will be published this spring. TheKit007@aol.com

2008 Innocent Ndzana is currently working as a research assistant in the craniofacial sciences at the University of Connecticut Health Center. ndzana_99@yahoo.fr

1995 Jason Kokosinski is living on Cape Cod and is married to Dasha. They have a beautiful son, Nicholas Thomas, who is 15 months old.

1994 Keith Williams recently took a job as an Environmental Conservation Police Officer for the State of Connecticut where he is attending the Police Academy. His wife, **Kendra Williams** ('94), works for Cape Cod Clinical Trials as a coordinator. Keith and Kendra plan to relocate from Cape Cod to Connecticut. keithkendra@comcast.net

1997 Kimberly Wescott moved to Texas, received her master's in education, and is working for the family firm while earning her doctorate in education. Kjw0622@aol.com

2005 Mike Kennedy is working for an IT company in Massachusetts managing their online training program and websites. mkenedy1981@yahoo.com

1985 Kevin Reynolds is “still living and working for the Navy on the Mississippi gulf coast.” reygun@bellsouth.net

1999 Melissa Lothrop is Program Director for the Town of Norwood Recreation Department. She completed her master's degree in Recreation Management at Springfield College and was recently married. missito34@hotmail.com.

REMEMBRANCES

Virginia Lambson '30, '37, '59 of Alexandria, Virginia died on June 2, 2008. She graduated from UMM, formerly the Washington State Teachers College, in 1930, 1937, and 1959 with degrees in education. She retired as a third grade teacher from Plimpton School in Walpole, Mass. She was a longtime member of the Walpole United Church, Order of the Eastern Star, and Delta Kappa Gamma. She is survived by her grandson, Jeremy Lambson, and her dear friend, Sheryl Lambson, both of Alexandria, Virginia.

Dennis Herbert Allen '75 of Dover-Foxcroft died on September 30, 2008 at the age of 54. He received his bachelors degree in business administration from UMM in 1975, and his master's degree in business administration from the University of Maine in 1986. Dennis was employed as the Chief Financial Officer at Mayo Regional Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft since 1978. He received many awards during his career: the Follmer Bronze Merit Award, 1989; the Reeves Silver Merit Award, 1995; and the Muncie Gold Merit Award, 1999.

Gary Lee Watry '98 of Tallahassee, Florida died on September 18, 2008 at the age of 55. After retiring from the U.S. Navy with 26 years of service, Gary began his second career working for the State of Florida, in the GIS field, and was employed as computer support with Florida State University.

Martha (Alley) Fagonde '71 of Beals died on June 29, 2008, after a brief illness. She graduated from UMM in 1971 with a degree in education. Martha taught for 13 years at Beals Elementary School and was a member of the Maine Teachers Association. She was a lifelong member of Beals Advent Christian Church, where she taught Sunday school and the Women's Class for many years.

Carolyn Ann McConnell '73 of Lubec died on August 12, 2008. She graduated from Lubec High School in 1956, graduated from UMM with a bachelor's degree in education in 1973, and received her master's degree in special education from the University of Maine at Orono. She was employed as a teacher and special education administrator at various schools in Washington County until 1998.

1965 Theresa “Terry” Serio attended the Alumni Wine & Cheese Reception at Homecoming in September. She hadn't been on campus for years and was very excited to see all of the positive changes to campus. According to Terry,

“seeing the changes at the University makes me very proud to be an alum.” Terry is now retired, having worked for 40 years in schools in the Gloucester, Massachusetts area as a 5th grade teacher.

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 bkelly@maine.edu.

Alumni wishing just to update their records may do so by calling (207) 255-1325 and leaving a message, or via umm.maine.edu.

UMM *President's Corner*



One of the perks of my job is that I receive lots of thank you notes. Community members, alumni, parents of students, campus visitors—I hear from them all. When they're not quite sure whom to thank, they address their card to the President's Office. (The President's Office gets another kind of mail too, but that's another story . . .)

Sometimes I'm thanked for participating—in my role as president—in campus activities. “Dr. Huggins, thank you for being a part of Divas and Desserts.” I've been thanked for participating in the senior banquet, being a judge for the 100% Society's annual drag show, and attending a voter registration booth.

“Dear Dr. Huggins, thank you for making the foggy trek down to South Portland to watch the soccer playoff games. It really does mean a lot to the players.” (If you're not a Clipper Athletics fan, you don't know what you're missing.) Here's one of my all time favorites: “President Huggins, thank you for being a pumpkin judge. Great job!” That one's a keeper.

My office often receives thank you notes for the cards, flowers, and gift baskets that Penny Foss, my assistant, faithfully sends to members of our campus family who have been sick or perhaps lost family members. And we're thanked for opening up the campus facilities to Leadership Maine, the Margaretta Days Festival, the Blackfly Breeders Association, and a host of other events and organizations. The Machias Rotary Club held a fundraiser in our Performing Arts Center last year and wrote, “Your support enabled us to continue supporting community programs and groups in the greater Machias Valley area.”

Sometimes I receive thank you notes from community members who are simply glad that UMM is here. From a member of the Sunrise Senior College, “Enclosed is a donation for the college. I appreciate having it in our midst.” A member of our Board of Visitors thanked me last May for “Yet another stellar graduation!”

I share these notes with the staff and faculty, and then tuck them away in a file. Sometimes I imagine future UMM presidents stumbling across my “thank you note file” and enjoying the history contained in these handwritten cards and letters.

The notes that mean the most to me, however, are the ones that recognize the positive impact that UMM has on the lives of our students. Last year I received a letter from a school guidance counselor who works with Native American children. She wanted me to be aware that three of our faculty members had visited her school and provided “invaluable aid in helping my students see themselves as future college students.” Invaluable, indeed.

Just last month I received a card from parents whose daughter is interested in attending UMM and majoring in marine biology. They had visited campus, taken a campus tour with one of our student ambassadors, eaten lunch in Kilburn Commons, and met with one of UMM's most valuable assets—Dr. Gayle Kraus. “Dear Dr. Huggins,” wrote the parents, “you have amazing staff and a wonderful program.” Another keeper.

Finally, from a 1956 UMM graduate who attended a recent Mac Sennett Lobster Feed: “For so many of us, the Machias campus gave us opportunities for lifetime success that we may not have had otherwise.” What an honor and privilege, to serve as president for this wonderful little university that means so much to so many.

These notes may be addressed to the President's Office, but they're really directed at UMM's dedicated staff, faculty, and students who go the extra mile each and every day on behalf of this university.

Now it's my turn. Thank you all for your faithful support of UMM. Have a wonderful holiday season!

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



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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 207.255.1284 of the new mailing address. Thank you.

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