

UMaine receives NSF award aimed at STEM

ORONO — The University of Maine is one of 37 colleges, universities and educational groups nationwide to receive first-ever awards for the National Science Foundation's INCLUDES program, a comprehensive initiative to enhance U.S. leadership in science and engineering by broadening participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering

and mathematics or STEM. UMaine will receive \$300,000 for a two-year pilot project that builds on its successful Stormwater Management Research Team, or SMART, program based in the college of engineering that has created a diverse STEM pathway with community water research. The pilot projects were selected for their potential to deliver prototypes for bold, new

models that broaden participation in STEM, according to an NSF news release. Near the end of the two-year pilot projects, UMaine and the other organizations now in the national INCLUDES Alliance will be eligible to be one of the five initiatives selected for up to \$12.5 million each in funding. NSF INCLUDES (Inclusion across the Nation of

Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science) aims to improve access to STEM education and career pathways at the national scale, making them more widely inclusive to underserved populations. Over the next decade, NSF will expand the program, with the goal of developing a science and engineering workforce that better reflects the

diversity of U.S. society. At UMaine, the NSF-EPS-CoR Track III funded SMART program is a hands-on, project-based education initiative to engage high school girls and minority students in engineering and sciences. In 2014-15, the initiative trained and engaged 150 high school students and 15 teacher mentors in researching the effects of stormwater pollution.

SMART student-mentor research groups are located around the state, including Kittery, Portland, Lewiston, Bangor and Eastport. The SMART program is "a bold approach to changing the face of the STEM workforce," says Mohamad Musavi, associate dean of the College of Education and SMART project director.

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Hilarity and harmony coming to Gracie Theatre

BANGOR — Nationally known comedian Caroline Rhea will kick off Homecoming Weekend at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 23, at the Gracie Theatre with her smart, spontaneous brand of comedy. She has been doing stand-up comedy since 1989 and recently was featured in the one-hour, stand-up special, "Rhea's Anatomy." The special was part of the "Funny Girls" series on Bravo. She also has appeared on "Comedy Central," "Comic Relief," "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "The Drew Carey Show" and was the host of "The Caroline Rhea Show." As an accomplished film and TV star, Rhea is best known for her role in the television show, "Sabrina the Teenage Witch." Other feature credits include "The Perfect Man" with Heather Locklear, "Man on the Moon" co-starring Jim Carrey and "Christmas with the Kranks" opposite Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis. She recently starred in the Lifetime movie "Fat Like Me" and was the host of NBC's "The Biggest Loser." Capping off Husson's Homecoming weekend will be pop music sensation The Company Men at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Gracie Theatre. The quartet, their all-star band and performers from Broadway and nationally touring Broadway companies, will bring their "Night of Hits" show to the stage with songs that span six decades. The Company

Men have shared stages with Mariah Carey, Natalie Cole, Colbie Caillat, Daughtry and others. Unlike any other four-man vocal groups, The Company Men uniquely interweave today's Top 40 hits with reimagined classics of the last six decades by blending songs from a diverse spectrum of artists including The Four Tops, Michael Jackson, The Temptations, Billy Joel, Prince Meghan Trainor, Bruno Mars and more. Tickets for Caroline Rhea are \$24-\$30, \$20 for Husson alumni. Tickets for The Company Men are \$29-\$38. A special \$40 package for Husson alumni includes the performance and a pre-show reception. To purchase tickets for either or both shows, contact the Gracie Theatre's box office at 941-7888 or GracieTheatre.com.

'Growing Maine' orchard video released for season

ORONO — University of Maine Cooperative Extension has released the latest installment of "Growing Maine," a series of short documentaries highlighting Maine food producers and farm families. The third video tells the story of Patty and Gary Treworgy and their children on their second-generation orchard and family farm. Treworgy Family Orchards in Levant had a rough start after the first planting of apples failed. But with perseverance and by starting small, the farm grew to be a destination for more than 35,000 visitors each year. The Growing Maine video series helps consumers get to know their food sources better,

as farmers and producers share their behind-the-scenes perspectives on how decisions are made. For those aspiring to farm, the videos are a way to hear directly from farmers and producers about what is most important to them. UMaine Extension helps support and grow the food-based economy statewide, and is the only entity that touches every aspect of the Maine food system, where policy, research, education, production, processing, commerce, nutrition and food security and safety are integral and interrelated. Videos in the Growing Maine series may be viewed at extension.umaine.edu/mainefood-system/growing-maine. Viewers also have the opportunity to suggest future story ideas for new videos that will be released throughout the year. For information contact Leslie Forstadt at 581-3487 or leslie.forstadt@umaine.edu.

Winterport community dinner set for Sept. 24

WINTERPORT — A community dinner will take place Saturday, Sept. 24, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Leroy H. Smith School, 319 South Main St. The menu will offer pulled barbecue chicken sandwiches with side dishes, drinks and dessert. Macaroni and cheese also will be offered. Admission is by a suggested donation of \$5, free to children 5 and under. Proceeds will help pay for the new floor at the Victoria Grant Civic Center. Socialize with old friends and make new ones. Organizers of the dinner said the goal is to bring the residents of the town together and strengthen

the community. For information, call 370-1815 or email gregd@winterportrec.org.

Join the Old Town-Orono YMCA Inflatable 5K Team

OLD TOWN — The Old Town-Orono YMCA is assembling a team to participate in the Insane Inflatable 5K on Oct. 1 at the University of Maine. YMCA Warrior Fitness instructors Josh and Ali O'Keefe are our team leaders, but we want YOU to register to be part of our team. Get "pumped up" for a course filled with the world's largest and most extreme inflatable obstacles ever produced. Here's your chance to be a kid at heart, and insane by choice! To register, visit <http://insaneinflatable5k.com/bangor-me>. Click register and scroll down to find a team name — ours is Old Town-Orono YMCA. Sign up for the 8:30 a.m. wave (if full, sign up for 9 a.m.). At the end, use promo code 10INSANE2016 to save 10 percent. Sign up NOW because the registration fee increases the closer to the race you get. You DO NOT have to be a Y member to participate as part of the team.

Paws on Parade to benefit Bangor Humane Society

BANGOR — The 23rd annual Paws on Parade will be held 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at Bangor Waterfront. Paws on Parade is Bangor Humane Society's largest annual fundraising event and features a variety of sponsors, vendors, and highlights such as a

pet costume contest and shelter dog runway show. Last year, hundreds of walkers gathered in celebration of their own pets to help raise instrumental funds to support the homeless pets who find refuge at the Bangor Humane Society, while they await their new forever homes. Register at www.pawsonparade.kintera.org

Spruce Run-Womancare Alliance gets new Director

Amanda Cost has been selected as the new Facilitative Director of Spruce Run-Womancare Alliance. Amanda has worked in the movement to end domestic violence for 17 years, demonstrating a deep commitment to and passion for the movement and the Alliance's mission. She has been a leader within the organization, the region, and the state, with a strong record of collaborating with community partners. In her current role as Community Relations Manager, she has been an effective spokesperson, external advocate, and program manager. In applying for the role, Amanda said, "My interest in this position stems from my passion to create a world for future generations where equality is the expectation and not the exception. The Alliance is a place where I believe I can make an impact in helping individuals and communities gain a greater understanding about the long lasting, destructive, and devastating impact abuse of power has on each of us and the work that needs to be done to change it."

As you may know, the FD position was recently affirmed

by staff and steering committee of the Alliance as part of a structural change. It marks an exciting new chapter for the Alliance. In 2013, Spruce Run and Womancare—the domestic violence resource centers serving Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties—completed a collaborative corporate merger to become the Alliance. It is our belief that a new leadership structure will allow us to more effectively provide the high quality services that individuals and communities have come to expect from us.

Climate Action Kick Off

350 Bangor, a local organization committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a clean energy economy, is teaming up with Sierra Club Maine to kick off a Climate Action Team for the greater Bangor area. There are at least twelve Climate Action Teams around the state (<http://www.sierraclub.org/maine/maine-climate-action-teams>) working on energy efficiency, plastic bag bans, collecting food waste for compost, recycling, public commitments to reduce greenhouse gases, and promotion of solar energy, among other initiatives. Bangor area residents are invited to a meeting to share their work addressing climate change and to join with others to brainstorm projects we can undertake locally under the auspices of a Climate Action Team. The meeting will be Monday September 26, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the Peace and Justice Center, 96 Harlow St #100, Bangor. For more information, contact: Karen Marysdaughter, 930-5440, karenmd@myfairpoint.net

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