

Maine Business School

Business & Sustainability Newsletter

Dear Maine Business School alumni and friends,

We are delighted to send you this first newsletter of the **MBS Business and Sustainability** program, and to invite your participation in our developing program. Now in its third year, the Business and Sustainability program at UMaine offers an MBA degree with a dedicated specialization in sustainability. Sustainability is an exciting growth area across the business spectrum, and our program aims to be ahead of the curve by educating and preparing students for employment in this emerging field. To this end we have made great progress in several areas of the program: most important, we've increased our participation from 3 to 6 to now 10 MBA students, and also increased our course selection options from many departments across campus. This spring we joined a national and international organization of university based sustainability groups, called Net Impact; made strides in faculty development for integrating sustainability into their classes; and opened up new opportunities for undergraduate participation. This inaugural newsletter describes some of our doings in more detail.



We are also eager to let you know about our two upcoming spring events. First, you are welcome to join us at our **Maine Day Brunch and Career Workshop**, which will take place on April 27 from 11-1 in room 215 DPC Hall, the Business School. Please consider joining us as an honored guest at this event and help us enjoy the good food, networking, and presentation on career opportunities in business and sustainability. Secondly, on April 22, a group of students will travel to the Boston area to take part in the **Sustainability Summit Workshop** hosted by the Massachusetts Institution of Technology student-led sustainability group.

Most important of all for alumni, we want you to join us! Are you interested in learning and networking around sustainability in business? Do you have special experience, skills or expertise to share with our students? There are several ways to take part. Join us for our Maine Day brunch; consider being a guest speaker in a class or workshop; think about using our student resources for an internship or research project in your business. To discuss these opportunities further please just send me an email or give me a call (terry.porter@maine.edu 207-581-1990). I'd be delighted to hear from you. Please read on to learn more about the growing Business and Sustainability program here at the Maine Business School.

Sincerely Yours, Dr. Terry Porter, MBS Business and Sustainability Coordinator

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Maine Business School Forms Net Impact Chapter to Promote Sustainability (by Ruth-Ellen Cohen)

The Maine Business School has formed a chapter of the international business organization, Net Impact, for students interested in using business skills to further social and environmental goals.

Founded in 1993, Net Impact is based in San Francisco and sponsors programs and events centered on topics such as corporate social responsibility, social entrepreneurship, non-profit management, and environmental sustainability. Net Impact has 240 chapters throughout the world and a membership base of more than 15,000 including MBAs, graduate students, and professionals who are transforming their ideals into measurable results.

Maine Business School student members will have the opportunity to learn more about issues at the intersection of business, society, and the environment through workshops and conferences; build a professional network that includes current and emerging leaders who are actively improving the world; gain hands-on experience applying business principles to help solve social and environmental issues; and utilize Net Impact's career resources.

The student-run organization will design its own activities based on members' interests. For example, they could invite local businesspeople to speak about their sustainability efforts in the communities, set up a green project on campus, and work to improve recycling efforts in the community.

"The new group will provide a wonderful way to grow the MBS sustainability program and provide opportunities to show both undergraduate and graduate students that sustainability is a viable concept for businesses and that they should think about exploring it as a career choice," notes Dr. Terry Porter who directs the MBA program's Business and Sustainability Track and who led the effort to form the Net Impact chapter.

Cassie Vaillancourt '12, graduate assistant for Professor Porter who is helping to organize events for the group, said she is excited about having a Net Impact chapter at the Maine Business School. "It's a great organization that gives students an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about ways to make business more sustainable by connecting with other students and business leaders around the country and around the world who share similar interests," she said. "Having a chapter of Net Impact at UMaine will allow students who are interested in sustainability to become more involved in the field and to learn about ways in which they can make a difference."

Maine Day Brunch & Career Workshop to be Hosted by Net Impact

The Net Impact chapter will be hosting a **Brunch and Career Workshop** on Maine Day, April 27 from 11am-1pm in DPC Hall room 215. The workshop will give Net Impact members and Business School students the opportunity to learn about various career resources available to them. Members have expressed an interest in learning more about career opportunities, and this workshop will help give them a good start. Attendees will learn about career opportunities in the high growth sector of sustainability, learn about Net Impact and how to navigate the Net Impact job and internship search engine available online to dues paying members, and find out about other career resources the Net Impact website has to offer. As alumni, if you know of career opportunities that you would like to share with our students, please contact Dr. Terry Porter at terry.porter@maine.edu or 581-1990.

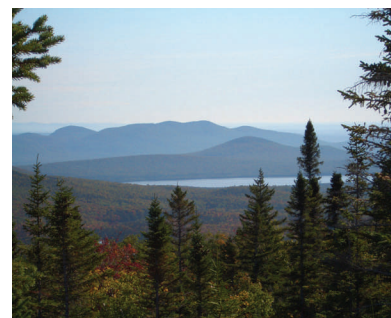


"Having a chapter of Net Impact at UMaine will allow students who are interested in sustainability to become more involved in the field and to learn about ways in which they can make a difference."



Net Impact Members to Attend MIT Sustainability Summit 2011

Net Impact members from the Maine Business School will travel to MIT on Friday, April 22nd to attend the 3rd annual Sustainability Summit. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and network with Boston area Net Impact students, share ideas with others interested in sustainability, and learn more about designing and executing sustainable strategies within organizations. The topic of this year's summit is *Bridging Thought and Action: Creating a Sustainable Organization*, which will involve discussions ranging from sustainable supply chains, to waste and water efficiency and sustainable investing.



Maine Business School Net Impact to Create Facebook Page

The Maine Business School Chapter of Net Impact is in the process of creating a Facebook page to be launched in Fall 2011. The page will help the chapter publicize events to members and other business students interested in becoming involved, and will keep students, faculty, and alumni who “like” the page informed about what the chapter is up to. Stay tuned for the launch of our Facebook page in the Fall and be sure to become a fan!

MBS Business & Sustainability Program Forms Learning Circle Committee to Enhance Sustainability within the Business School

The Maine Business School's Business and Sustainability Program formed a Learning Circle Committee at the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester with the main purpose of exploring and developing a plan to enhance sustainability within the business school. The Learning Circle Committee consists of faculty members Terry Porter, Scott Anchors, and Nancy Forster-Holt, and graduate student Cassie Vaillancourt '12. As part of the initiative to promote sustainability, the Committee has recently supported the creation of a Net Impact chapter at UMaine, an international student-run organization that educates and inspires individuals to incorporate sustainability into business (see article on pg 2). The Learning Circle Committee will work with the chapter to provide opportunities for students to travel to sustainability-related events and conferences, invite guest speakers to campus, and network with other departments, student groups, and colleges and universities. The committee also plans to increase interest and participation among undergraduate students (currently the Sustainability track is exclusively for MBA students), develop a possible certificate program in Business and Sustainability for non-degree students, and encourage voluntary faculty development. The Committee was awarded a Learning Circle Grant from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Assessment (CETA) back in November of 2010 which will go towards supporting these sustainability initiatives and the newly formed chapter of Net Impact.

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Sustainability Internships Available for Students

The Maine Business School believes it is important to make career resources available to its students, and the Business & Sustainability program has been working to keep students informed about potential sustainability related internships and jobs. Our website (see page 4) offers a listing of current sustainability internships and jobs available to students. We are always looking to update these sources to keep our students informed, and as alumni, we welcome any postings you may know about within your careers.





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Visit the MBS Business & Sustainability website at <http://www.umaine.edu/business/sustainability>. Find information regarding:

- Sustainability Track Courses
- News & Announcements
- Networking & Events
- Job & Internship Postings
- Net Impact and Maine Businesses for Sustainability info