



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

Academic Affairs

Annual Report

2015





Academic Affairs Annual Report



In January 2015 we began a year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the creation of the University of Maine. As Maine's land grant university, UMaine was founded on the belief that access to a liberal education should be available to all capable citizens regardless of social class. Furthermore, the institution should serve Maine by advancing its economy through research and development. It is wonderfully fitting that the UMaine's sesquicentennial year coincided with the publication of the *Historical Atlas of Maine*. This remarkable book, the product of a multidisciplinary team of UMaine faculty and students, along with other Maine scholars, tells the story of Maine from its geologic formation to the end of the 20th century. Another significant accomplishment coinciding with the university's 150th birthday is the renewal of UMaine's Community Engagement Classification of the Carnegie Foundation, one of only 361 colleges and universities in the country to receive the designation. The Carnegie Classification is testimony to the commitment to serve the state that is central to UMaine's mission.

The 2015 *Academic Affairs Annual Report* provides strong evidence of UMaine's successes in education, research, economic development and service to the state. The report summarizes and samples highlights of the past year, and concludes with some thoughts about challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Invariably, creating a report of this type involves hard choices about what to include. My apology to any member of the Academic Affairs community who does not see some aspect of his or her work represented in the report. Please know that your contributions are appreciated.

The Division of Academic Affairs is made up of a diverse faculty and staff who share a dedication to student success, advancement of knowledge and betterment of communities. The accomplishments summarized in this report provide ample evidence of this dedication. It is with pride that I present the report to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey E. Hecker', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey E. Hecker
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

2015

Academic Affairs Annual Report

Overview

The 2014–15 academic year saw a four-year high in enrollment, with 11,286 undergraduate and graduate students. In fall 2014, we welcomed the third-largest first-year class in UMaine’s history, including a growing percentage of out-of-state students. Fully 26 percent of students enrolled are “from away.” Over 260,000 student credit hours were taught and 2,120 degrees were conferred this past academic year. UMaine’s faculty and students were remarkably productive researchers and scholars, securing 370 externally funded grants totaling over \$50 million. The success rate for proposals submitted last year was a remarkable 76 percent. Faculty and students produced nearly 1,000 scholarly publications and made well over 2,000 presentations.

We continue to make progress on implementation of the university’s strategic plan. Seven centrally funded faculty lines were created to support Signature and Emerging Areas of Excellence. Five of those positions have been filled and active searches continue for the remaining two. An additional 17 replacement lines were filled with promising new faculty members who will help to advance UMaine’s areas of excellence. In addition to faculty positions, six graduate research assistantships were funded and assigned to Signature and Emerging Areas. Over the past year, we have developed and implemented an integrated communication strategy to educate UMaine stakeholders about our strategic vision and areas of distinctive strength through presentations, and Web-based and traditional publications, as well as formal and informal gatherings.

Student success continues to be the driving focus in Academic Affairs. With the ambitious goal of improving first-year retention and four-year graduation rates by 5 percent and 10 percent, respectively, we have executed the Year 1 action plan included in the *Provost’s Action Plan for Retention and Graduation*. While Year 1’s strategies focused on early intervention and revamping of the Foundations and Explorations programs, in Year 2 the focus will be on moving students to graduation in a timely fashion.

Last fall, 36 new faculty members joined our ranks. The infusion of energy and new ideas that these new colleagues brought with them has been felt throughout campus.

II. Serving Maine

The people and programs in the Division of Academic Affairs served the state and region through community engagement, economic development and workforce development. Highlights include:

Community Engagement:

- The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and the Office of Sustainability applied for and received a Maine Campus Compact Davis Educational Foundation grant (Campuses for Environmental Stewardship) to embed service-learning pedagogy into courses on environmental stewardship.
- The ADVANCE Rising Tide Center hosted the Annual Women in Academia Networking conference involving multiple institutions in conference planning, presentations and workshops. This event provided professional development and networking opportunities with colleagues from institutions across the state.
- Since opening in October, the Emera Astronomy Center presented planetarium shows to over 5,500 visitors, including more than 3,250 children.
- CLAS partnered with the nonprofit Centro Hispano to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of lectures, bringing community members to campus.
- The Maine Folklife Center received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create a traveling exhibit about Maine's fiber artists.
- Members of the Political Science Department (POS) shared their expertise on elections and other topics in a total of 105 media interviews.
- Work by Darren Ranco, anthropology/Native American studies (ANT, NAS) on the emerald ash borer led to the creation of an archive of harvester knowledge, coordinated with the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and the Hudson Museum.
- Aria Amirbahman, civil engineering (CIE) is leading a committee of citizens and scientists to assess the potential for water quality degradation in Maine's lakes.
- Faculty in electrical and computer engineering (ECE) and the Foster Center for Student Innovation organized the Maine Invention Convention at the New Balance Student Recreation Center. Over 100 students participated in the state competition, chosen from more than 1,000 who competed locally.
- Engineering faculty and students were key partners in putting on programs at the March 22 Maine Engineering Expo promoting engineering as a career choice. This year, the expo had record attendance of 1,600.
- College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) faculty participated in delivering reading instruction and interventions through the Reading Recovery and the Maine Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy, reaching over 26,000 students across 30 school districts.
- Cooperative Extension's Maine Hunger Dialogues mobilized national and international students, professionals, and many organizations to develop local and regional projects to actively address the issue of hunger.
- Samuel Hanes, working with the Faculty Development Center and supported by a Mitchell Center Sustainability Research Grant, developed a one-of-a-kind agriculture-focused Web-mapping tool, "Bee Mapper," that provides Maine farmers with critical information impacting the health of their crops.
- The Hudson Museum hosted multiple events supporting classes and showcasing museum-related laboratories, engaging more than 175 students. Examples include a Day of the Dead celebration and Archaeology Day.
- The Office of Innovation and Economic Development (OIED), working with the Maine Development Foundation's Policy Leaders Academy, brought more than 80 legislators to visit UMaine and tour Signature Areas.



The Advanced Manufacturing Center worked with 27 companies on 37 individual industry projects last year.

- Maine Business School (MBS) faculty and administrators engaged with the community by participating on boards of companies and nonprofit organizations; consulting and lending their expertise in various areas of business; and mentoring students' projects and service learning at the graduate and undergraduate levels.
- The Division of Marketing and Communications worked closely with the OIED on legislative communication efforts and a monthly e-news alert to business leaders.
- Several College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture (NSFA) faculty members coordinated citizen science networks to tackle important issues. For example, Sarah Nelson's School of Forest Resources (SFR) work on a citizen science effort includes 1,200 participants in over 50 national parks.
- Wildlife, fisheries, and conservation biology (WFCB), School of Marine Sciences (SMS), and School of Biology and Ecology (SBE) faculty members worked with federal and state agencies on anadromous fish restoration in the Penobscot and other major rivers in Maine.
- The UMaine Museum of Art (UMMA) executed a new long-term lease, securing its presence in downtown Bangor through June 2031. In 2014, there were over 14,000 visits to the UMMA.
- Cooperative Extension, with support from the Climate Change Institute (CCI) and the Maine 4-H Foundation, connected elementary and middle school students in the state and across the country with graduate student researchers. Students received a glimpse into the scientists' world by participating in live expedition updates and communicating directly.
- The Cohen Institute facilitated half-day class visits to Bangor High School by former U.S. Representatives Mike Kopetski and Gil Gutknecht.
- The town reports collection on the Fogler Library Digital Commons is a collaboration with local town offices and historical societies that provided scanned records.
- The University Press collaborates with researchers around the state and produces books that impact local communities. The press staff interacts with local bookstores, researchers and authors — activity that adds to the cultural resources of the state.

Economic Development:

- Kristin Vekasi (POS) presented a symposium, "East Asian Giants: An Overview of Japan and China's Changing Markets," for the Maine International Trade Conference to help recruit and prepare Maine companies for a fall 2015 trade mission to Japan and China, headed by Gov. Paul LePage.
- The Innovative Media Research and Commercialization Center (IMRC) established a new business membership program for access to IMRC facilities.
- Bruce Segee (ECE) collaborated with O'Brien Medical in the development of the ETF (Electronic Tuning Fork) diagnostic tool. The device allows early-stage diagnosis of diabetic peripheral neuropathy.
- A startup company founded by faculty members Ali Abedi (ECE) and Marie Hayes, psychology (PSY) was awarded a patent on a sleep monitoring device by U.S. Patent Office and received a NASA grant to expand the application of wireless sensors to crew health monitoring.
- The Advanced Manufacturing Center worked with 27 companies on 37 individual industry projects.
- College of Engineering (COE) faculty and graduate students are working with Iberdrola-Central Maine Power and RLC Engineering in developing Smart Grid technologies for the Maine electric network and on training industry workforce.
- Cooperative Extension has been working with Cape Seafood in Saco since March 2012 on facility design, sanitation guidance, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point plan development and review, and cooking/cooling validation studies. With this support, Cape Seafood now has over 50 employees.

- The Hudson Museum hosted the 20th Maine Indian Basketmakers Sale and Demonstration.
- OIED staff are leaders in the Blackstone Accelerates Growth initiative to grow a statewide culture of innovation, commercialize technologies, and connect resources to aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs.
- UMaine's Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR) is the only hatchery in the Northeast able to produce yellowtail tuna, a highly valued aquaculture species with worldwide demand.
- Several of the businesses in Target Technology Incubator, CCAR and the Foster Center for Student Innovation were successful in advancing their business and product development, and raising funds through grants and equity financing.
- The entrepreneurship concentration in the MBS undergraduate program is in its third year and enrollment continues to climb.
- NSFA faculty partnered with more than 36 companies and organizations on research projects, not including individual forest and agricultural landowners.
- SFR Ph.D. student Nadir Yildirim and business partner Alex Chasse, Research Revolution Inc., received a \$225,000 small business grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help with the start of a lab to refine the process of making foam insulation using word fibers and organic polymers.
- Faculty and staff in the School of Economics (SOE) conducted over 20 economic impact studies, including potential economic impact of expanding marine port operations in Washington County, analysis of the financial stability of Maine dairy farms, estimating the economic loses of closing clam flats, valuing of Maine rural forest communities, analysis of production costs for wild blueberries and maple syrup production, evaluation of solar energy adaption, and economic impact of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Camden Conference.
- UMaine is a lead partner in the NSF EPSCoR \$20M SEANET project, which includes 15 other institutions, approximately 55 faculty members, 23 graduate students and 38 undergraduate students.
- Fogler Library staff engaged with communities and libraries statewide, providing resources and services to Maine, and contributing to community engagement and economic development.



Yellowtail tuna at UMaine's Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research.

Workforce Development:

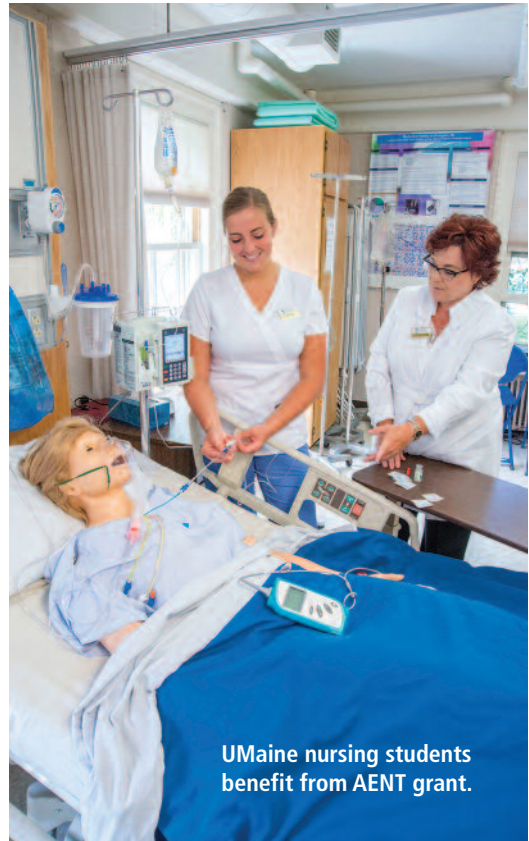
- The Maine Physical Sciences Partnership and Maine Elementary Sciences Partnership continued to promote research-guided science instruction for Maine students from early childhood through ninth grade, affecting the science learning experience of more than 20,000 children in Maine in the past year alone.



The Maine Physical Sciences Partnership and Maine Elementary Sciences Partnership affected science learning for more than 20,000 Maine children annually.

Photo by Edwin Remsberg

- The Franco-American Centre cofunded and organized a unique summer teachers' institute in Québec for U.S. teachers of French, geography and history. Twenty-two teachers from 11 states enrolled.
- Graduate students in the School of Policy and International Affairs (SPIA) had internships with the U.N. in South Korea; a human rights group in Galway, Ireland; CARICOM in Haiti; and The Cohen Group and the International Republican Institute in Washington, D.C.
- Students in the Art Department participated in museum internships, including the DeCordova, the Farnsworth, the WestLight Schaubplatz für Fotografie, the Peabody Essex Museum and the Clark Institute.
- More than 70 percent of 2015 civil and environmental engineering graduates had an internship, co-op or engineering research assistantship while undergraduates.
- All COEHD graduate programs are offered online, and in the evenings and weekends to accommodate working professionals.
- In the past year, the Hutchinson Center partnered with ONProcess to provide information sessions, interviews and training to more than 100 people seeking employment.
- The Bureau of Labor Education (BLE) provided outreach to more than 700 Maine students through in-person presentations and continuing education unit trainings.
- The Honors College (HON) promotes engagement students with statewide partners in research, community engagement, and social welfare through the College's Idea Network of Biomedical Research (INBRE) program, Citizen Scholar Initiative, and the newly formed Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative (SFSRC) and other initiatives.
- The Foster Center provided counseling to 90 students and business workspace for five companies/innovation projects, and the Innovation Engineering program graduated its largest number of undergraduate minors and graduate certificates.



UMaine nursing students benefit from AENT grant.

- The School of Nursing (SON) recently received notice of approval for Year 2 of the two-year Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT) grant, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions. Funding will cover tuition, fees, books and stipends for nurses enrolled in the MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner program.
- As reported in the Office of Institutional Research's Life After UMaine, 83.6 percent of business graduates found full-time employment within 6 months of graduation.
- SFR worked with the Maine Forest Service to provide a workshop on professional forester training for forest licensing law overview. Jeff Benjamin presented research findings for a hearing on a bill to fund the "Put ME to Work and Mechanical Harvesting Operator Program."

III. Culture of Excellence

Faculty Achievements

College of Education and Human Development

- Jim Artesani and Courtney Pacholski received the 2015 President's Research Impact Award.
- Susan Bennett-Armistead was named as the first-ever recipient of the Champion of Literacy Award from Literacy Volunteers of Bangor.
- Dan Tillapaugh was the recipient of the Maine Association of Student Affairs Professionals Collaboration in Student Affairs Award.

College of Engineering

- Rosemary Smith (ECE) received a 2015 ADVANCE Career Recognition Award.
- Michael Peterson, mechanical engineering (MEE) was selected as the 2015 University of Maine System Trustee Professor.
- Jean MacRae (CIE) received the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors Distinguished Service Award.
- Bill Davids (CIE) was named the 2015 Distinguished Maine Professor, and also earned Outstanding Reviewer Status for the journal *Engineering Structures*.

Honors College

Honors faculty hold joint appointments and may be listed under specific colleges

- Melissa Ladenheim and Jordon Labouff were honored with the Distinguished Mentor Award, All Maine Women.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Marie Hayes (PSY) received a 2015 ADVANCE Career Recognition Award.
- Charlsye Diaz, English (ENG) won the IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication's Rudolph J. Joenk, Jr. Award for Best Paper.
- CLAS faculty were honored with all three of the 2015 Presidential Outstanding Faculty Awards: Kirsten Jacobson, philosophy (PHI) — Teaching, Laura Lindenfeld, communications and journalism (CMJ) —

Public Service, and Richard Judd, history (HTY) — Research.

- Daniel Sandweiss (ANT) was elected an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow for his distinguished contributions to archaeology.
- Jay Rasaiah, chemistry (CHY) was honored for his lifetime work with a named symposium at the national meeting of American Chemical Society, which also inducted Mitchell Bruce (CHY) as a fellow.
- An article by Joshua Roiland (CMJ, HON) was selected as Article of the Year by Literary Journalism Studies.
- Jennifer Moxley's (ENG) most recent book received the Poetry Society of America's William Carlos Williams Prize.
- Jon Ippolito, new media (NMD) was named the inaugural winner of the Thoma Arts Writing Award for an established writer.
- Robert Glover (POS, HON) was named a finalist for the Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty by the New England Resource Center for Higher Education and the Center for Engaged Democracy. Glover was also named to the "Top 40 under 40" by the Irish Echo newspaper.
- Douglas Allen (PHI) was invited to become Honorary Visiting Scholar by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras for 2015–16.

Maine Business School

- Nory Jones received the 2014 Steve Gould Award for outstanding service to the university and its ideals.
- John Mahon was one of five finalists for the Aspen Institute's Faculty Innovator award.

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

- Sandy Butler, School of Social Work (SSWK) received a 2015 ADVANCE Career Recognition Award.
- Rebecca Van Beneden (SMS) received the RISE Center Mentor award.



Gwen Beacham is UMaine's 2015 valedictorian and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship recipient.

Faculty Achievements *continued*

- Paul Mayewski, Earth sciences (CCI, ERS) was highlighted by Maine Magazine as “Top 50 Mainers Making a Real Difference.” He was also featured in two award-winning films — *Thin Ice* and *Years of Living Dangerously*
- Mary Ellen Camire, School of Food and Agriculture (SFA) received the 2015 General Mills Institute of Health and Nutrition Innovation Award.
- Brian McGill’s (SBE) blog, “Dynamic Ecology,” was ranked one of the most influential science blogs by a University of Michigan survey.
- Ivan Fernandez (SFR, CCI) was appointed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Science Advisory Board’s Clear Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) in Washington, D.C.

- Edward Grew (ERS) received the prestigious Collins Medal by the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.
- Robert Seymour (SFR) received the Cliff Foster “Tell It Like It Is” Award from Maine SAF.

Division of Lifelong Learning

- Carol Toner, director of Maine Studies published an article for the humanities-themed issue of the *Maine Policy Review* (June, 2015 issue) entitled: “What Kind of Place Do we Want to Live In?” Place, the Humanities, and Public Policy in Maine.
- Toner was invited by CLAS to give the 2015 Maine Heritage Lecture, “Making Sense of Place in Maine.” She was subsequently asked to give the talk as the Mitchell Center Lecture for the Mitchell Center for Sustainable Solutions.

Student Achievements

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

- Abigail Bradford's (ERS, faculty supervisor Karl Kreutz, CCI) work on ice and snow sampling documenting recent changes in climate was featured on the front page of Science Nation, the National Science Foundation's online magazine, and on the PBS NewsHour.
- Tyler Carrier (SMS) had a peer-reviewed publication accepted as a first-author before he graduated.
- Torey Bowser presented her honors thesis results at an international meeting in Norway
- Marissa Giroux (SMS) presented her honors thesis results at an international meeting in Vancouver, Canada.
- Elizabeth Wood, biology (BIO, HON) was named America East Scholar-Athlete of the Year and the America East Women's Basketball Fan's Choice Player of the Year.
- Kelsey Rosebeary was ranked the top nurse cadet in the nation with the 2015 U.S. Army Nurse Cadet Excellence Award. She also received an Eastern Maine Medical Center Medical Staff Scholarship.
- Gwen Beacham, biochemistry (BMB, HON) was the 2015 UMaine valedictorian. She was awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.
- Seven animal and veterinary sciences students out of eight applicants were admitted into veterinary school.
- He (Helen) Jiang, a Ph.D. student in ecology and environmental sciences, received a Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation Award from the American Phytopathological Society.
- Julia Mackin-Mclaughlin and Melissa Hoffman received summer research awards to conduct marine sciences research projects at Xiamen University in China during summer and fall 2015.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- CHY graduate student John Ahern was awarded funding from USGS to support his research.
- The UMaine Cyber Defense Team passed through the qualifying round and competed at the Northeast Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.
- Graduate students Patrick Callaway and Daniel Soucier (HTY) both won scholarships at the David Library.
- Michael Bailey (HTY) won the George Mitchell Peace Scholarship to study at University College in Cork, Ireland.
- Nathan Dunn, mathematics (MAT) placed in the top 850 in the famously difficult annual William Lowell Putnam mathematics problem solving competition.
- Julia Sell (PHY) received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
- Katelyn Massey (PSY) was named the 2015 salutatorian.
- Mikaela Gustafsson and Autumn Murtagh, sociology (SOC) were nominated and selected for the American Sociological Association's prestigious summer Honors Program.

College of Engineering

- Kelsey Bolduc, chemical and biological engineering (CBE) was the TAPPI recipient of the 2015 Engineering Division Scholarship.
- The BioECar team was selected at the regional AIChE conference to go to the national competition.
- Taylor Merk-Wynne (MEE) received a Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) award to investigate the micromechanical modeling of woven fiber-reinforced composites.
- William Yori (MEE) received an NSF EPSCoR project undergraduate internship.
- ECE students in the Instrumentation and Research Laboratory designed and constructed a 3-D printer.



UMaine's Carnegie Classification remains in the High Research Activity category.

Student Achievements *continued*

Maine Business School

- Management student Brady Davis received a fellowship to do research on food hubs.
- Student Portfolio Investment Fund (SPIFFY, faculty adviser Robert Strong) manages a \$2.3 million investment portfolio. Their investment return surpassed industry benchmarks again this year. SPIFFY students make presentations on finance concepts in schools statewide.

College of Education and Human Development

- Graduate students co-authored 22 different journal articles and co-presented 25 times in 2014–15.

Honors College

- Michele Girard and Aoife Ryle were awarded the Davis Foundation Project for Peace Award (summer 2015) for their project in Haiti “L'eau, le bloc de construction de la paix — Water, the Building Block of Peace.”

Division of Lifelong Learning

- Students in the Peace and Reconciliation Program promoted and co-sponsored the 11th annual ESTIA Conference on “Building Sustainable Communities: International, National and Local Perspectives.”

Research and Scholarship

The 2014–15 academic year marked the first year since 1998–99 that research and graduate studies were administratively organized into one office. The reorganization brings synergy and focus to these two vital and strongly linked components of the University of Maine's land grant mission. During FY15, a total of \$51,134,092 was received from extramural sponsors, comprising 370 awards. This closely mirrors FY14, when 363 awards and \$51,169,551 were received. The FY15 proposal success rate was 76 percent — up from 63

percent in FY14. UMaine is consistently ranked among the top 125 public universities for research through the NSF Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey. The most recent HERD survey reflects a steep increase in research expenditures at UMaine, from \$77.6 million in FY13 to \$101.2 million in FY14. UMaine's Carnegie Classification remains in the High Research Activity category.

College of Education and Human Development

- Faculty and staff were awarded \$3.3 million in external funding out of a total of \$12.4 million submitted.
- Faculty members produced 101 scholarly publications and 86 scholarly presentations.

College of Engineering

- The college attracted about \$8.1 million through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and \$1.1 million through the Department of Industrial Cooperation.
- The Advanced Manufacturing Center and Process Development Center continued to build strong partnerships with Maine companies, including Ecoshel, Ashland, Maine; Blue Ox Malt House, Lisbon Falls, Maine; Blue Current Brewery, Kennebunk, Maine; and many others.
- This is the second year of the NSF-supported SMART program to assist in the implementation of STEM education in Maine high schools, as well as to attract students, emphasizing female and under-represented minorities, to UMaine STEM fields.
- Faculty produced 70 refereed journal articles, were awarded seven patents, wrote 10 books or book chapters, presented 42 conference papers, attended 84 conferences, and submitted 23 abstracts or reports.

Honors College

- The INBRE consortium grant has been renewed for five years, with \$105,035 in annual funding.



UMaine is consistently ranked among the top 125 public universities for research through the NSF Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey.

Research and Scholarship *continued*

- Honors and molecular and biomedical sciences (MBMS) were awarded \$50,000 by Howard Hughes Medical Institute to support the Phage Genomics program for the coming year.
- Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative created with Sustainability Solutions Initiative (SSI/NSF) seed funding in early 2014 received an additional \$10,000 in funding from the Mitchell Center for spring 2015.

- Twelve Honors students and nine faculty members presented papers at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Denver, November 2014.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Fourteen books were published by faculty; 118 professors published 200 book chapters and journal articles.

- Almost 60 percent of the 43 grant proposals submitted were funded.
- *The Historical Atlas of Maine*, edited by geographer Stephen Hornsby and historian Richard Judd with cartographer Michael Hermann (University of Maine Press, 2015), sold out its first edition of 3,000 copies in just one week.
- Anthropologist Gregory Zaro and colleagues at the University of Zadar established an archaeology field school in Zadar, Croatia.
- UMaine was designated as an NGA/USGA Center of Academic Excellence in Geospatial Sciences.

Maine Business School

- Faculty published 28 journal articles and four book chapters, and made 27 presentations at research conferences and five presentations at other venues.
- Associate Dean Stephanie Welcomer was a co-PI for the Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative.

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

- Faculty secured more than \$29.4 million in external grants — or approximately 58 percent of the UMaine total. This included \$4.5 million in indirect cost, which accounted for 57 percent of the UMaine total.
- Faculty, staff and students published 353 refereed publications and 152 other publications, and gave over 800 professional presentations.
- Industrial support of \$2 million was provided by 36 businesses and related organizations, financial institutions, manufacturers, industry associations, laboratories and pharmaceutical companies.
- The many significant grants awarded with NSF faculty as investigators included the \$20 million NSF EPSCoR grant, Nexus of coastal marine social-environmental systems; \$4.8 million USDA grant, enhancing the safety and quality of fresh produce and low

moisture foods; U.S. Department of Interior grant, Resilience of the tidal marsh bird community to Hurricane Sandy; \$3 million EPSCoR Track II project (NEST).

- Michelle Smith (SBE) was co-author of a paper recognized by Science Insider as one of the top 10 most-read stories in science. Her work was also featured on the National Science Foundation website.

Fogler Library

- Collections: 1.4 million print volumes, 557,000 e-books, 1.6 million microform pieces (excluding government publications), 2.39 million U.S. federal, Canadian and Maine state government publications; more than 98,000 online periodicals accessible; more than 400 online licensed indexes and databases available.

Hudson Museum

- A Northwest Coast mask from the William P. Palmer III Collection inspired the logo for the Seattle Seahawks, resulting in national press for the Hudson Museum and the University of Maine.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension

- UMaine Extension faculty and staff worked to support Maine's world-famous wild blueberry industry by addressing pollination issues and the spotted wing drosophila infestation, among other areas. A successful educational effort was made in support of a state bond that will provide \$8 million to finance the new UMaine Cooperative Extension Plant, Animal and Insect Laboratory.
- Grants were received in the amount of \$2,719,681. Of special note was a four-year Children, Youth, and Families at Risk award of \$663,000, and a second four-year AgriAbility award of \$701,000, both from USDA/NIFA.

IV. Student Engagement and Success

Retention and Student Success Initiatives

Guided by the Provost's Action Plan for Retention and Graduation, and with the support of Academic Affairs, colleges have made significant progress in creating or strengthening practices, policies and resources leading to improved retention and student success. Below is a sample of outcomes reflecting that progress.

Major Accomplishments

- Academic Affairs and Marketing and Communications developed the Think 30 initiative, an information campaign encouraging students to complete 30 credits per academic year in order to graduate on time in four years. In partnership with Enrollment Management, Think 30 information will be shared with current and prospective students and their families, faculty and staff campuswide through print, Web and other channels, and outcomes will be tracked and assessed by the Office of Institutional Research. UMaine's new Winter Term, developed by the Division of Lifelong Learning and aimed at giving students an additional opportunity to earn 30 credits per year, is a central element of the Think 30 initiative.
- CLAS designed an innovative first-year student success course, LAS 150. Intended to "foster the skill set every college student must acquire to complete a bachelor's degree," LAS 150 will be made available to every incoming CLAS student in 2015–16.
- In partnership the Division of Lifelong Learning (DLL), CLAS launched a Bachelor of University Studies CLAS Pathway for second- and third-year students with 45 or more credits who have not succeeded in entering another program, as well as a CLAS Undeclared Pathway for first-year students with interests in one or more programs in the college.
- CLAS has merged two student support offices to create the Advising and Student Services Center under the leadership of John Mascetta. This move will improve students' access to information and advising/support services.
- Beginning in fall 2015, COEHD will offer a new student seminar, EHD 100, to all of its first-year students. The course will involve regular contact with peers and with an adviser/instructor who will continue to meet with the students throughout the academic year.
- COE requires all second-year students to join department-based LinkedIn groups to help students and faculty track student progress and give students a means of developing professional networks in their fields.
- DLL established its Adult Learner Advising Center, while also hiring the inaugural Director of Innovation in Teaching and Learning. Advising Center staff will ensure that each student is contacted a minimum of eight times during the first academic year.
- The Hutchinson Center has created a new orientation program to ensure that all its students have full access to technology, career/advising resources and library resources before the first day of class.
- Students from NSFA accounted for 43 percent of all participants in the 2015 Center for Under-graduate Research Showcase, and 45 percent of all participants were Honors students.
- NSFA continues to offer multiple high-impact first-year seminars for students across the college.
- The Associate Provost for Academic Affairs led the new Provost's Committee for Retention and Student Success, a group of faculty and staff who advise Academic Affairs on best practices and emerging opportunities for improving outcomes for undergraduate and graduate students campuswide.

Student Credit Hour Production

	Undergraduate	Graduate	Total
Education and Human Development	16,762	5,656	22,418
Engineering	26,104	1,254	27,358
Honors College	4,668	NA	4,668
Liberal Arts and Sciences	117,241	4,051	121,292
Maine Business School	14,768	553	15,321
Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture	56,572	6,666	63,238
Division of Lifelong Learning	1,500	24	1,524
Other programs	4,447	211	4,658
	=====	=====	=====
University of Maine totals:	242,062	18,415	260,477



UMaine has made significant progress in creating or strengthening practices, policies and resources leading to improved retention and student success.

Collaborations with Enrollment Management

- Every college, department and school that communicated by letter, email or social media with prospective or accepted students in the 2014–15 enrollment cycle shared those communications with the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Marketing and Communications, and Admissions to ensure consistency of messaging and branding.
- Over the past three years, nearly 70 percent of pre-Business Explorations students have successfully matriculated into MBS, COEHD, NSFA or CLAS.
- Academic Affairs has partnered with Admissions and Recruitment to disseminate Think 30 information at New Student Orientation events, and these units will continue to share Think 30 materials at on-campus events throughout the 2015–16 enrollment cycle.

Student Performance on National Boards and Exams

- COEHD students achieved a 100 percent pass rate on PRAXIS II, the primary exam used

across its elementary and secondary education programs. More than half of these students exceeded the passing score by 20 points or more, and another 20 percent passed by a score at least 10 points above the cutoff. In addition, every graduate student in the college’s special education program earned a passing score on his or her relevant PRAXIS exam. Graduate students in English, science and mathematics education also achieved a 100 percent pass rate, while the rate for athletic training students was 87.5 percent — 17 percent higher than the national average.

- In NSFA, 97 percent of MSW graduates passed the Licensed Master’s Social Work Exam; all 12 food science and human nutrition students passed the national registration exam for dietitians; 100 percent of Speech-Language Pathology students passed the PRAXIS II exam (compared to a national average pass rate of 86 percent); the first-attempt pass rate on the RN national licensure exam for BSN graduates was 92 percent; and May 2014 graduates of the MSN family nurse practitioner program achieved a 100 percent first-attempt pass rate on the national certification exam.

Degrees Granted (Excluding post-baccalaureate certificates)

	Bachelor’s	Master’s	Doctoral	Total
Education and Human Development	187	117 *	4	308
Engineering	299	23	13	335
Honors College <i>(86 Bachelor’s degrees with Honors)</i>				
Liberal Arts and Sciences	484	72	18	574
Maine Business School	208	9		217
Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture	463	133	34	630
Division of Lifelong Learning <i>(Bachelor of University Studies)</i>	11			11
Other programs		4		4
	=====	=====	=====	=====
University of Maine totals:	1,652	358	69	2,079

*Includes 32 certificates of advanced studies

Athletics and Academics

- For the 11th consecutive year, over 50 percent of UMaine’s student-athletes were recognized for their success in the classroom. An impressive 187 students achieved or maintained a 3.0 GPA, and 81 first-year students were named “Rising Stars” for earning a 3.0 or higher in their first semester of study.
- Eight students were named inaugural “America East Presidential Scholar-Athletes” recognizing graduating student-athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.
- 77 percent of UMaine’s fall student-athletes were named to the America East Academic Fall Honor Roll, the highest percentage in the conference, for achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher. UMaine has achieved the highest percentage of fall student-athletes on the fall honor roll in the conference for eight of the last nine years.
- For the 12th consecutive year, UMaine’s America East “All Sport” GPA exceeded a 3.0 average, posting a cumulative student-athlete 3.21 for the 2014–15 year. UMaine placed third among conference schools, missing first place by just 0.02.

- In 2014–15, 76 student-athletes graduated from UMaine.

Other Indicators of Student Success — Life After UMaine

- Almost two-thirds of 2013 UMaine baccalaureate degree earners who responded to Institutional Research’s 2015 Life After UMaine survey and are working full time are doing so in Maine. Another 15 percent of those respondents are working part-time. Of this respondent pool, 86 percent of engineering graduates and 84 percent of Maine Business School graduates are employed full time.
- Of the respondents employed full time in a job related to their UMaine degree, 93 percent believe their UMaine experience prepared them “very well” or “moderately well” for their job, and only 7 percent report being “minimally prepared” or “uncertain” in this regard.

V. Challenges and Opportunities

While much was accomplished in 2014–15, there were significant challenges, none greater than the ongoing need to develop a balanced budget. President Susan J. Hunter led the campus through an open and iterative process to develop the FY16 budget. Academic Affairs, which accounts for almost 75 percent of UMaine’s overall budget, was assigned 33 percent of the overall budget cut, for a net reduction of about \$2 million. Working closely with the deans and unit directors, we sought to minimize the impact of the budget reduction on our core mission, and at the same time take advantage of vacant positions so as to minimize

the impact of the cut on employees. Fifty-seven faculty members retired or left UMaine for other reasons this past year and 50 new hires will join the faculty in fall 2015.

UMaine’s fiscal challenges are the products of decreased state appropriation and frozen tuition rates in the face of rising operational costs. The state appropriation is managed by the University of Maine System and tuition rates are set by the Board of Trustees. Thus, UMaine’s fiscal health is inextricably tied to the system’s fiscal health and strategic directions. In January 2015, Chancellor James Page announced the “One University for all of Maine” plan, which outlined his vision for

creating a financially sustainable university system that serves Maine. At the core of the One University vision is the idea that the seven system universities will align their missions, integrate operations and collaborate to function as one — “Seven mission-differentiated, mutually dependent campuses operating as one fully integrated university singularly focused on student success and responsive service to the state of Maine.” How this vision comes together will have significant implications for the future of UMaine. It is important, therefore, that the UMaine community engages in every opportunity available to participate in the process of shaping One University. This past year, over 30 UMaine faculty, staff, administrators and students participated in the Academic Portfolio Review and Integration Process (APRIP). Most served on one of the nine area teams: nursing, engineering, business, education, criminal justice, history, marine sciences, languages, and recreation and tourism. These teams were asked to explore ways to improve access to, and raise the quality of, academic programs in these areas through collaboration and sharing of resources. The nine teams delivered their reports at the end of May and the reports were reviewed over the summer. Plans are currently underway to explore implementation of some of the recommendations emanating from the reports. New area teams will be formed this fall and the work of aligning academic programs across the seven universities will continue.

In the coming academic year, we will continue to move forward on key aspects of the UMaine strategic plan, including advancing Signature and Emerging Areas, growing enrollment, implementing the retention and graduation plan, and creating new opportunities to engage with the communities of Maine. There are three areas that will be priorities for the Provost’s Office in the coming academic year:

Advancement of Women

For the past five years, UMaine has benefited from an NSF ADVANCE grant for recruiting, retaining and advancing women in the STEM, and social and behavioral sciences fields. The Rising Tide Center was created with ADVANCE funding and many positive steps have been taken to support women in these disciplines. As the Rising Tide name implies, the guiding assumption is that improvements in institutional policies, procedures and practices that facilitate advancement of women in the STEM disciplines will support advancement of all faculty, regardless of their gender or discipline. NSF has granted a one-year no-cost extension that will fund the Rising Tide Center through 2015–16. In the coming year, the Provost’s Office will finalize plans to sustain the center and continue the work to transform the culture of our institution so that women have every opportunity to succeed.

Faculty Development

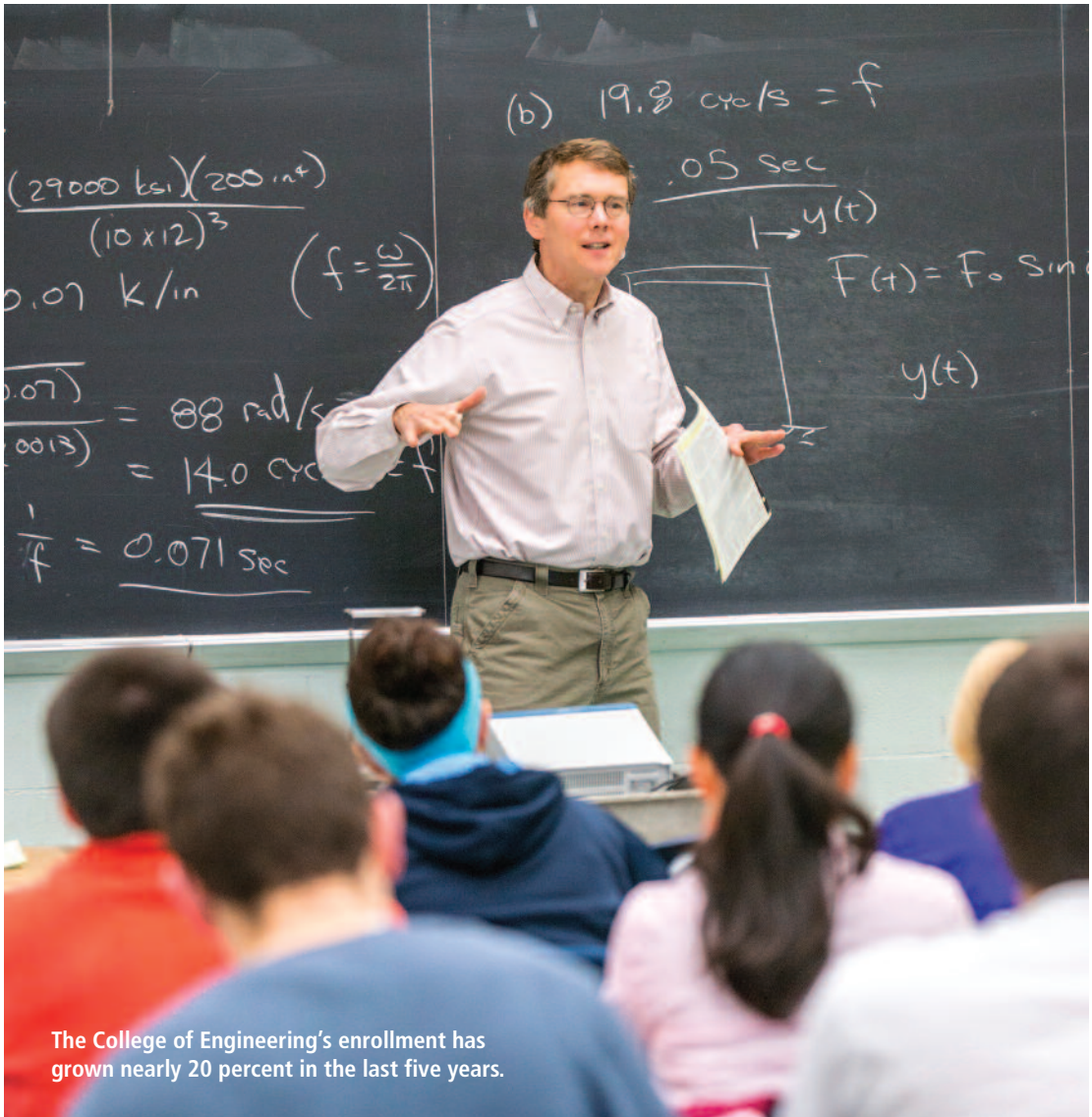
Campuswide, there are a variety of resources at UMaine to support faculty in their work and provide opportunities for professional development. This fall, we will bring together a group of faculty, staff and administrators to explore the idea of a “one-stop” faculty development center to facilitate access to these resources and explore additional professional development opportunities for the faculty.

Internships

Over the past two years, a dedicated group of faculty and staff exploring best practices for student internships have developed a set of recommendation for UMaine to develop a Flagship Internship Program. The program will provide guidance and support for developing high-quality internships that create meaningful learning experiences for students and meet the needs of employers. The program will be launched in the fall semester with the expectation that the first Flagship Internships will be designated in the spring 2016.

For 150 years the University of Maine has fulfilled the land grant mission — providing affordable education to Maine citizens, advancing the state’s economy, and serving its communities. The activities and accomplishments of the 2014–15 year illustrate

UMaine’s ongoing commitment to this mission. The 2015–16 year will undoubtedly present challenges and opportunities. I look forward to working with UMaine’s outstanding faculty, staff, students and stakeholders to meet the challenges and realize the opportunities.



The College of Engineering’s enrollment has grown nearly 20 percent in the last five years.

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