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## Olsen Appointed Associate Provost for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives

John Violin

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## Brian Olsen Appointed as Associate Provost for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives

1 message

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**UMaine Provost** <umprovost@maine.edu>  
Reply-To: UMaine Provost <umprovost@maine.edu>  
To: UM-EMPLOYEES@lists.maine.edu

Fri, Mar 26, 2021 at 8:27 AM

Dear Colleagues:

I am happy to share that Dr. Brian Olsen will be joining the Provost's Office as the new Associate Provost for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives. I want to thank the search committee, chaired by Dr. Monique LaRocque, for their thoughtful review and successful search. In his new position, Dr. Olsen will work to strategically advance our student success efforts across the university and to align them to the UMS TRANSFORMS Research Learning Experiences, Gateways to Success, and Pathways to Careers initiatives.

Since 2018 Professor Olsen has served as the chair of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology, and was interim director of the trans-college Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program. In these roles he has been a strong advocate for student research experiences and career preparation for growing job markets. He has helped steward and develop external partnerships that both provide students with hands-on training and inform our curricula to better reflect the needs of multiple job sectors.

Professor Olsen received his Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and his B.S. from Juniata College. In 2008 he began his tenure at the University of Maine as an instructor for the large, first-year biology gateway courses and transitioned into a tenure track position in 2011. His teaching and scholarship focus on the evolution and ecology of birds, and he has received more than \$11 million in funding. In all of his work, he has kept an integrated and crucial focus on undergraduate and graduate students. He is the past recipient of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture's Outstanding Teaching Award and the Graduate School's Mentor of the Year award.

Professor Olsen, a native Mainer, is committed to supporting Maine students, to recruiting new talent to the state, and to helping grow a sustainable economy for Maine that benefits its people, industries, and natural resources. Professor Olsen notes that "the accelerating changes in our society and in higher education strongly encourage us to rethink how we can best serve students, our state, and society at large." He says that he is "incredibly excited to help all corners of campus work together to maximize student success at UMaine and beyond."

Professor Olsen will be joining the Provost's Office on April 30, 2021.

Please join me in welcoming Professor Olsen into this new role.

Sincerely,

John