Division of Student Life Annual Report 2019-2020

Division of Student Life, Diversity, and Inclusive Excellence

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DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE
DEANS STAFF

Robert Q. Dana  Vice President for Student Life, Diversity and Inclusive Excellence & Dean of Students
Kenda K. Scheele  Associate Vice President & Senior Associate Dean of Students
Andrea L. Gifford  Associate Dean of Students & Director of Student Support Services
Lauri A. Sidelko  Assistant Dean & Director of Community Life

MISSION

The Division of Student Life actively joins with students, faculty and staff to provide programs, services and co-curricular experiences that foster an inclusive and supportive community which not only enhances students’ academic and personal growth but also positively contribute to the globally conscious and productive graduates they become.

VISION

Our vision is to actively and enthusiastically support the University of Maine as it aspires to be the most distinctively student centered and community engaged of the American Research Universities. We will accomplish this through the development of fully engaged students in a vibrant and purposeful community life that nurtures, guides and motivates them to realize their fullest academic and personal potential.
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The Division of Student Life at the University of Maine works to be creative and compassionate to ensure all our students feel safe, connected, involved, respected, and welcomed on campus. The Division of Student Life offers innovative programs and services that encourage student retention, student success, and co-curricular learning.

During the 2019-2020 academic year Student Life focused on five objectives:

- Maintaining appropriate supportive structures for all student groups.
- Developing student policies that comport with compliance and legislative efforts while protecting individual rights and freedoms.
- Maintaining a safe and secure campus, physically and intellectually.
- Creating a campus that encourages civic engagement, personal discovery, and academic excellence.
- Increasing student retention and academic completion.

I am thrilled to provide this 2019-2020 Annual Report highlighting the many Student Life accomplishments. For more information on any department, visit the website located on each department’s page.

Sincerely,

Robert Q. Dana
Vice President for Student Life, Diversity and Inclusive Excellence
Dean of Students
Executive Summary

Presented here is the Student Life Annual Report but more accurately it is the Student Life Impact Report. This report outlines the ways our collective energy and creativity are transforming the lives of UMaine students, revolutionizing the student experience and maximizing student success. Herein are examples of how our diverse staff have helped students navigate critical elements of their college experience (ex. identity development, career exploration, civic engagement, leadership growth, work experience, interpersonal communication and much more). The Division of Student Life fosters student success by partnering with others to provide exceptional service, support, and learning opportunities for our students. This shared mission helps us, through all programs and initiatives, contribute to improving the quality of life for the people of Maine and around the world. We promote student success, access, and inclusion by cultivating and leveraging partnerships with faculty, staff, and families as well as local, state, national, and global organizations. We challenge and enable our students to become compassionate and responsible citizens and leaders.

Student Life is committed to supporting and enhancing any programs and activities—both our own and those carried out by other units on campus— that provide students with an engaging atmosphere in which they can live and learn successfully. This year was exceptionally challenging as we faced a pandemic that shook the heart and soul of our university. On a campus known for and proud of the level of activity and engagement of our students, we were forced to send our students home in March. As a team we quickly stepped up to answer the call and created ways to continue to provide services from all of our areas and became the information center for students, parents, faculty, staff and community members. An information line was opened and staffed by highly competent Student Life members to provide the most up-to-date information. We continued to seek new and creative ways to serve students and help them learn and develop critical skills for a lifetime of success from afar. If there was ever a time our motto of “being kind, caring and compassionate” came into play, it was now!
A Year of Transitions

While this has been a year full of transition, our dedicated staff have maintained and created exceptional programs and services for current and prospective students. Collaboration with academic programs and providing transformational opportunities for students in the areas of student life, health and wellness, leadership, service and diversity in a completely remote world, became our new mission. Together, we became even more responsive to the wide collection of student needs and challenges by offering comprehensive programs and services that support our students’ academic and personal goals. Each department in our division leapt into action. Campus Recreation partnered with NIRSA to offer an unending array of free fitness classes both live and pre-recorded from institutions across the country. The Career Center quickly adjusted their day-to-day services to remote programs including the coordination of contact between students and employers. Center for Student Involvement used their creative passion to provide weekly newsletters filled with information and opportunities for engagement as well as online programming in which students could participate from home. The Office for Diversity and Inclusion offered virtual office hours and hosted opportunities for students to pop in for group chats.

Veterans’ Services hosted happy hours so our veteran students could continue to support one another from afar. The Bodwell Center transformed the food pantry from a store to a drive-through, pick-up and delivery service. Their new partnership with Good Shephard Food Bank helped provide thousands of tons of food to students in need. Residence Life quickly helped transition the on-campus population to commuters, and continued to support each one with phone calls and check-ins. Crucial collaborations on and off campus are, and continue to be foundational to the effectiveness and accomplishments of the Division of Student Life and continue to impact students every day. These relationships define and solidify the kind, caring and compassionate approach that is at the core of what we do.
Program Highlights

University of Maine won the Most Outdoorsy Campus in the Northeast and placed second nationally through the AORE Campus Challenge.

Maine Bound partnered with 10 organizations to offer 14 different events with over 600 participants.

Offered monthly CPR, AED, and First Aid certification classes.

Launched a successful lifeguard instructor certification course

Offered women's only swim once a month to meet the needs of campus and community members.

Facility closures due to COVID-19 required we establish a virtual group fitness schedule. We joined the NIRSA recreation movement program offering virtual fitness classes with over 60 universities.

"I’d have to say my favorite thing about Campus Rec was the culture and learning environment that the administrative staff maintained... Having the opportunity to work and learn at Campus Rec significantly impacted my attitude and my ability to succeed overall. The staff was always incredibly kind and patient. The professional staff fully acknowledged the incredibly impactful role they play in helping all student employees learn and grow as individuals."

– C. K. – Graduating Senior, Class of 2020
"Maine Bound is an escape. It gives us an outlet that nowhere else around here can provide. It gives us a community, one better than we’ve ever experienced before. It allows unlimited opportunities to learn, grow, and share valuable knowledge and experience with others. It gives everyone who encounters this place a chance to find themselves in a way that is frankly, unparalleled to any other. Without Maine Bound and its programming, my community would be lost living here in Orono, it truly fills in the gaps in our hearts left from leaving family to come to school." -Mackenzie Connor, Maine Bound Staff
Career Center
https://umaine.edu/career/

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<th>170 employers at Engineering Job Fair</th>
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<td>175 employers at Job Fair</td>
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<td>17,671 registered students on Career Link</td>
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<td>6,937 registered employers on Career Link</td>
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<td>382 interviews as a result of job fairs</td>
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<td>$50,000 in health professions scholarships</td>
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<td>71 percent of law applicants accepted</td>
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<td>4,664 students participated in Career presentations</td>
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Program Highlights
Expanded usage of interactive technology in Career Center Library to enhance in-person and online programing to students.

Hosted Maine Career Development Conference.

Collaborated with Explorations Program with an assigned Career Center staff for 1:1 meetings to explore career development.

Expanded Career Link services to include UMaine Presque Isle, UMaine Fort Kent, and UMaine Machias.
OCSSR worked with Fraternity and Sorority Life and the Assistant Dean/Director of Community Life to develop a standardized Hazing Investigation Procedure.

Presented to Student Organization Advisors on conflict and risk management.

Collaborated on a week-long celebration of student organizations and involvement with a focus on hazing prevention and education.

Managed online adjudication process to respond to the campus closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hosted a Maxient training for UMS System and provided Maxient resources.

Participated in an update of the System-wide academic integrity policy.
Center for Student Involvement
https://umaine.edu/studentinvolvement

Program Highlights

Successfully combined Campus Activities, Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, Leadership Development, and Student Organizations into one unit called Center for Student Involvement.

Transitioned to online program delivery for remote access in March, including new programs such as pet contest, mug treat recipes and provided a list of 100 things to do while in quarantine, and Living's Got Talent.

In a collaborative effort between the Center for Student Involvement and University of Maine Student Government, Inc., a unified student organization application process was created to streamline the management and support of our student organizations.

Evaluated all Greek house. Several chapter leases were renewed or updated.

Hosted a Greek leadership summit for new leaders in fraternities and sororities.

Office of Leadership Development established the Dirigo Leadership Society to provide a platform for student leaders to learn, engage, and develop skills.

Launched the Emerging Leaders program in the spring with a successful transition to Zoom sessions due to pandemic.
Counseling Center

https://umaine.edu/counseling/

- 928 students received counseling
- 4,198 hours of face-to-face counseling
- 199 students attended crisis appointments
- 359 students visited the Mind Spa
- 1,487 students participated in Mind Spa events

Program Highlights

Established a successful collaboration with the doctoral program in Clinical Psychology to share a 3rd year doctoral student.

Secured funding for a new graduate assistantship for the year 2021 to be filled by 3rd year doctoral student.

Transferred Mind Spa to the Student Wellness Resource Center to streamline wellness program efforts and increase efficiency.

Successfully completed the transition to providing tele-heath counseling from remote locations.

Two members of the Counseling Center staff were given 2020 recognition award as LGBTQ allies.

Counseling Center staff provided post suicide meeting/training for Resident Life Staff.

Counseling Center is part of a research partnership with the Center for College Mental Health out of Penn State with over 550 colleges and universities participating.
Program Highlights
Offered UMaine's first silent disco program during Fall Welcome Weekend which was our best attended event.

Created Union Fest to highlight offices and services in the Memorial Union.

Assisted with the Making the Grade initiative by the Provost's office to support first year students who failed one class.

Hosted two Commuter and Non-Traditional student weeks with multiple programs each week.

Hosted lunches for students who are parents to create a support network.

Coordinated the traditional Maine Hello move in day event.

CANS, our student organization, organized free monthly pancake breakfasts for commuters.
Intersectional Feminist Resource Center
https://umaine.edu/ifrc

Program Highlights

Successfully transitioned from Women's Resource Center to Intersectional Feminist Resource Center.

Launched a new website filled with valuable resources for students.

The following programs were designed by IFRC student workers to help students develop an understanding of feminism:

- Partners for Peace Presentation
- Fidget Making
- Feminist Mentors in Your Life?
- What does being an activist look like?
- Discussions around birth control
- Sex Education: was it helpful or hurtful?
- Valentine's Day: Make a love letter filled with affirmations to yourself or a pal

Provided a safe and welcoming environment for students to build relationships, to discuss feminist issues, and to collaborate with other student organizations.

Developed Intersectional Brunch Bunch to engage students in meaningful conversation, which was modified to be able to continue to support students during the pandemic.
Multicultural Student Center
https://umaine.edu/multicultural

Program Highlights

Planned and organized Lunch and Learn Series to educate the campus.

Redesigned and trained students and staff with new materials in the Diversity & Inclusion training.

Created strong relationships with the Student Heritage Alliance Council (S.H.A.C) and the student organizations they represent.

Merged with the Rainbow Resource Center and Intersectional Feminist Resource Center to become the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Increased interdepartmental collaborations within and beyond the Division of Student Life, such as Athletics, Career Center, the Mind Spa, Enrollment Management, and the Center for Student Involvement.
Rainbow Resource Center

https://umaine.edu/lgbtq

500 people Safe Zone trained
350 "Gay Thanksgiving" attendees
$1078 in donations for "Gay Thanksgiving"
50 attendees at virtual flag raising

Program Highlights

Strengthened connections with state and local non-profit organizations: EqualityMaine (affirmed yearly conference partnership) and Health Equity Alliance (connected through Rainbow Resource Center and Bangor Pride events).

Continued and grew the LGBTQ Student Support Group, organized through the Rainbow Resource Center in collaboration with the Counseling Center.

Hosted the annual Q Conference, an annual conference that partners with EqualityMaine that focuses on raising up LGBTQ youth, educators, and families. More than 130 people attended.

Collaborated with the Counseling Center to provide a support group with weekly attendance of approximately a dozen students.

Offered Crossfit Fitness, Netflix watch party and the new Drag Queen story hour for children.
Program Highlights

Established campus-wide committee for development and implementation of curriculum for residential students.

Included University of Maine Machias staff in fall training to align policies, protocols, documents, and philosophies.

Developed of new living learning housing communities to enhance quality of student experience.

New for Fall 2020, Prism+ (Living Learning Community) was created to support LGBTQ community and allies.

Conducted survey of programatic interest, expectations, and availability to meet student needs.

Hosted the Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) regional conference.
Program Highlights

“Student Accessibility Services (SAS) provides students who need accommodations access to the vast array of opportunities at the University of Maine and ensures that the opportunity to obtain a world-class education is available to the entire campus community. Students are able to engage not only with class material but also with their colleagues, faculty, and staff to further their academic pursuits, all while developing the skills necessary to be successful beyond the institution. SAS supports the campus community and assures that UMaine remains the College of Our Hearts, Always.”

- Sara Henry

Student Accessibility Services collaborated with the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies Step Up Program. This program hosts a group of approximately 5 students who have Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder. The high school-age students live on campus for 5 weeks and take a 3-credit course. They learned social skills, worked on campus, and practiced self-determination.

Implemented a new interactive Accessibility Scavenger Hunt training program with Residence Life’s RA/CA staff.

Planned and implemented a successful podcast series after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic with the goal of assisting students from home who were struggling with online coursework.

Expanded support network to all Penobscot County high schools, offering to make connections to graduating high school students who were intending to come to UMaine and need SAS accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services awarded over $7,000 in scholarships to qualifying students who attend the University of Maine.
The Bodwell Center
For Service and Volunteerism
https://umaine.edu/volunteer/

Program Highlights

A new cooperative agreement was initiated with Good Shepherd Food Bank to substantially decrease the cost of food and increase the ability to receive fresh produce.

The Black Bear Exchange successfully transitioned the food pantry from a store environment to a drive thru, pickup, and delivery service.

The relationship with University Credit Union continues to be very strong and through it two new refrigerator/freezer units were secured.

The partnership with Dining Services remains solid and although it was cut short in March, positively impacts students and the local community.

89
percent more people served
8,000
pounds of food recovered/distributed
1,050
hours provided by Black Bear Tutors
$15,000
in support to surrounding towns
44
children served by Black Bear Mentors
3,052
hours of service on Maine Hello
339
units of blood collected
707
students participating in service

"The partnership with Good Shepherd has allowed the BBE to add thousands of pounds of available food, allowing us to extend our reach within our community."
Title IX Student Services

https://umaine.edu/titleix

90 trainings offered
3,200 students attended trainings
6TH annual March Against Domestic Violence
27 One Love trained students
675 students responded to climate survey

Program Highlights

Provided Title IX training for the entire the UMS System: “Day in the Life” (of a Title IX Coordinator). Role playing of an intake, pregnancy and parenting, as well as, an informative session on interpersonal violence and strangulation; and Clery compliance were part of this innovative training.

Provided on-call Title IX support to Residence Life staff, UMPD, and campus throughout the academic year.

Provided resources and information through consistent passive programming in union bulletin boards, as well as wall-clings posted throughout the residence halls on campus.

Participated in the National Bystander Survey

“The March Against Domestic violence is a key collaboration between different groups across campus including the MBS Corps, Title IX Student Services, Athletics, Army ROTC, and many more, representing diversity in perspectives. The mission is to try to raise awareness about this problem and change attitudes. The march was inspired by the civil rights marches of the 1960s; again to increase awareness and change attitudes about racial injustice. In this case, we want to educate people about domestic violence, which includes dating violence, and stalking, so that people understand and respond when they see it.

- Nory Jones
The University of Maine Police Department is a full-service police department staffed by state-certified police officers and support personnel 24hrs a day, 365 days a year. The training and professional standards met by UMaine’s officers are the same as those required in any municipality across the state.

Program Highlights

Introduced the free Black Bear Safe app which includes these features:

- Use Friend Walk or Virtual Walkhome to send their location and destination to a friend or UMaine PD dispatcher respectively to track their progress on a map
- Quickly dial 9-1-1 or call local police departments
- Access support resources for Title IX, Health Counseling, and Mental Health Counseling
- Activate a “Mobile BlueLight” to send their location and a call to UMaine PD dispatchers

Offered “Coffee with the Chief” programs where students can sit, talk and ask questions from Chief of Police.
Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS)
https://umaine.edu/veterans

402 students using GI Bill benefits
$4,600 raised for Bullets to Book Fund
$1.5 MILLION in tuition paid for by GI Bill
70 supported by Federal Army Tuition Assistance

Program Highlights

Launched Green Zone training fall 2019 conducted by student veterans.

Received grant from the Hamm Campus Activity Fund to launch the first Bullets to Books Program.

Sponsored a pub crawl K-9s for Warriors which provide service animals to disabled veterans.

Viewing of documentary film Project 22 which is a movie following two combat wounded veterans.

UMVA student organization held homecoming tailgate BBQ at the football game celebrating current and alumni student veterans.

Hosted weekly happy hour virtual events after COVID-19 campus shutdown.

"Student veterans are the kind of role models we need on our campus. They are goal-oriented, mission-driven, experienced leaders and they work tirelessly to achieve their objectives and look for ways to make meaningful contributions. With our support, their academic success can allow them to become some of America’s strongest, most insightful leaders."

- Tony Llerena
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.