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January Highlights from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

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Highlights from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture January 19, 2022

Diane Rowland - College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture

- Diane Rowland, dean of the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture, faced frigid temperatures on January 11 when she toured the Dwight B. Demeritt Forest in Old Town. Staff from the University Forests at the University of Maine demonstrated white pine forest management practices and shared a look at winter harvest operations. The 2,700-acre forest is part of the college and managed for education, demonstrations, research, and public recreation.
- The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics featured a new project led by Jade McNamara, assistant professor of human nutrition, in its newsletter on Jan. 12. The project, which recently received a \$225,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will establish a Farm to School Institute to help Maine school districts set up farm-to-school programs. Maine ranks the highest in terms of childhood food insecurity among New England states. Farm to school programs have helped schools across the country combat food insecurity and improve nutritional health and education among students.
- Brian Olsen, professor of ornithology and associate provost for student success and strategic initiatives at the University of Maine, spoke with BBC Brazil (English translation) about the Steller's sea eagle that has taken up residence in Boothbay Harbor, Maine – approximately 8,000 kilometers from the bird's normal range. "Becoming a wanderer is usually a combination of the animal's own behavior and random external factors. So, we'll probably never know exactly what combination it was that brought the eagle here," Olsen said. "But once out of its usual range, the bird notices. Wandering birds tend to move more because they know they aren't exactly where they were trying to get to."

