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Maine Campus

The University of Maine's Student Newspaper Est. 1875

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Photo by David Jakacky.

Megan Ashe
Contributor

On Aug. 31, 2021, the University of Maine opened its classroom doors to welcome students and professors back to in-person learning. This year, a majority of classes are taking place in person, as opposed to the previous academic year, where most classes were held in an online format.

The university is offering more in-person experiences this semester per the requirement that every student must receive a COVID-19 vaccine to participate in in-person classes.

The atmosphere on campus is much more vibrant compared to last year. Students can be seen congregating on campus and UMaine is supporting a variety of in-person activities, including the Student Organization Fair.

Additionally, many

students are finding it easier to learn in the classroom, as it is the modality they are used to. Sara Gundermann, a fourth-year food science student, describes her first week back with in-person classes as a positive experience.

"I have really enjoyed in person classes this year thus far," shares Gundermann. "I find it is a lot easier to engage with the material when you are in person talking to your classmates and professors. As a Maine Learning Assistant, I find it a lot easier to help students and gage their understanding in person as opposed to through Zoom."

She feels that there has been a shift in the atmosphere at UMaine and that there is a stronger sense of community among students. This could be due to the fact that people are happier with their learning environments.

"Going back to in-person [classes] has definitely been an adjustment but it's going well. The biggest thing that I have noticed is the type of learning is much more active now instead of just listening to videos," says Gundermann.

Many students, including Gundermann, feel strongly about abiding by UMaine's vaccine requirements. Having a vaccinated student body promotes a safe learning environment for all to enjoy.

"I think that it is good that everyone is going to be vaccinated by October 15th. I believe that this is an important step to everyone feeling comfortable and safe in their learning environment," Gundermann states.

According to the Sept. 3 Friday Futurcast, which is a weekly newsletter sent out to all UMaine students from the desk of Pres-

ident Ferrini-Mundy, "as of Sept. 2, more than 77% of UMaine full-time employees and 93% of residential students ... have verified vaccinations recorded in PointnClick." There are no statistics available on commuter students, which makes up a significant portion of the student body, but seeing as though all students must be vaccinated by Oct. 15, one can imagine that most students are taking the vaccination requirement seriously.

In the most recent Black Bears Care update, sent out on Sept. 8, the administration thoroughly explained their policy regarding student vaccination. The email states that all students must be either fully vaccinated or have an exemption from getting the vaccine by Oct. 15, and that this information should be uploaded to the digital portal.

These policies apply to students learn-

ing in the live classroom setting as well as remote students who haven't submitted their exemption form. If a student does not take action to receive a vaccine or obtain an exemption, and the student does not withdraw themselves from classes, UMaine will automatically withdraw the students after Oct. 25.

The email also explains that there will be no special refunds for room and board, tuition or student fees if students fail to comply with this university policy. If students need to withdraw from classes, it is advised they speak with the financial aid office to discuss how withdrawal will impact their financial aid eligibility should they choose to continue their studies.

Thankfully, UMaine has made it very convenient to get the COVID-19 vaccine, as they are offering a clinic right here on cam-

pus. On Sept. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the COE room in the Memorial Union, students can opt to receive the two shot series of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines. Interested students need to bring their vaccination cards if they are seeking a second dose of the vaccine.

Although another unconventional semester lies ahead, the ability to be vaccinated has brought a refreshing wave of hope to the UMaine community and students are thrilled to be back in the classroom.

News

LGBTQ+ Community Reacts to Attack on Campus

Madeleine Gernhard
News Editor

On Thursday, Sept. 2, an incident of assault took place at the University of Maine and was reported to the UMPD. The event took place on the University Mall around 5 p.m. The campus issued an emergency alert to notify the student body of the incident and asked for assistance in locating the perpetrator.

The attacker was described as a tall brunette male. In a later email, the crime was revealed to be an act of violence perpetrated against an LGBTQ+ member of the UMaine student body.

"An unknown male subject grabbed a female from behind, briefly choked her, yelled a slur at her for wearing a pride shirt and ran off," read the UMPD crime alert. As

of now, the suspect has still not been located.

In the aftermath of this event, UMPD also reissued a number of crime prevention tips. They advised that students travel together if they are going out at night, as well as keeping an eye out for potential danger at all times.

This message was not entirely comforting to all UMaine students. Camryn Chick, a fifth-year animal and veterinary sciences student, spoke about her discomfort regarding UMPD's reaction to the situation.

"They shouldn't have told us not to walk alone when this attack happened at 5 p.m. on the busiest part of campus," Chick said in response to UMPD's safety tips. She then elaborated on what she felt was the

real root of the issue: "Don't accept these kinds of people into this school. Don't let the [violent] tall white men with brown hair described in this email walk free."

Chick was not the only one disheartened by the event, or the aftermath that followed the UMPD announcement.

Rob Jackson from the UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion also released a statement in response to the act. Jackson begins by addressing the larger question of how to move forward from an event like this, citing the usual increase in pride flags or Safe Zone training, as not being sufficient in combating the issue.

"They do not speak to the root issue. The reality is, acts like this happen because we as a community allow

them to. We say things like 'this is not who we are' or 'hate is not one of our values,' but those words ring hollow if they aren't combined with active, consistent efforts to create and maintain a culture that does not tolerate discrimination," Jackson wrote in a newsletter to the student body.

Later in the newsletter, Jackson makes suggestions on how to accomplish this active support of the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

"First, speak up when you see or hear people engaging in homophobic or transphobic behavior," Jackson suggests. "Check in with your LGBTQ+ friends and ask how you can support them... Donate your time and money to organizations that provide support and advocacy for LGBTQ+

folks here in Maine and elsewhere. "Most importantly," Jackson concludes, "do SOMETHING. Silence and inaction allow prejudice and hate to fester and grow, and we cannot afford to stay quiet."

Jordan Bessette, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student and a member of the LGBTQ+ community here on campus, shared her reaction to the situation a week after the event occurred.

"I definitely still feel that presenting as anything other than straight is dangerous for me," Bessette said. "I fear that, not just that man, but other people would be capable of carrying out something like that. You don't know who else on campus shares those ideals, and could have been emboldened by his actions."

Bessette went on to

describe what she felt about the safety tips provided by UMPD.

"I just want justice to be served," Bessette said about the campus safety issues. "It's disheartening, because it kind of places the blame on those who were attacked rather than the man who perpetrated a hate crime. The question shouldn't be 'what can we do to be safe?' it should be 'how do we prevent this from happening again?'"

As of now, UMPD has not found the perpetrator. Any tips can be submitted at the UMPD contact page, or through the UMPD non-emergency dispatch.

For other resources pertaining to LGBTQ+ services, visit the UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion.

University of Maine-led Research Project Awarded \$2.34 Million from the Department of Energy



Photo by David Jakacky.

Megan Ashe
Contributor

The Department of Energy (DOE) has granted two University of Maine researchers, Mauricio Pereira da Cunha and Robert Lad, \$2.34 million for their research regarding harsh environment materials and wireless sensors.

Over the last twenty years, these two professors have collaborated to work on similar endeavors. Currently, they are recognized for their research on this subject at the national level.

Lad has been teaching at UMaine since 1988 as a physics professor. Pereira da Cunha is a profes-

sor of computer engineering and electrical engineering who has been teaching at UMaine for over two decades.

According to a UMaine News article published on Sept. 1, the overarching goal of this project "is to address the pressing need for a new generation of sensor materials, devices and systems that can operate under extreme temperatures (up to 2000 F) and harsh environments that may consist of erosive particles and oxidizing, reducing or corrosive gases."

Although these environments appear intense and like something that would not be encountered in ev-

eryday life, these conditions are common across different energy areas. Some common locations include power plants and gas turbine generators.

One practical application of this research is that, by using materials better suited for harsh environments in the wireless sensors, companies will save money on repairing their equipment because they will not break as often.

The grant money will allow the pair to propel their research forward in new, innovative ways. Lad and Pereira de Cunha also aspire to make UMaine an epicenter of wireless sensor research in harsh conditions.

The projects that were awarded a grant were selected by a competitive peer review process, and only eight other projects were chosen, aside from UMaine's project. The other schools who were awarded include Boise State University, Montana State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Nevada Reno, the University of Rhode Island, the University of South Alabama and West Virginia University.

According to energy.gov, the decision to award these grants is to help slow the process of climate change.

"These projects are located in communities traditionally underserved by federal research and development (R&D) funding so that all parts of the country are central to efforts to solve the climate crisis and meet President Biden's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050."

When these projects obtain government funding, it ensures that even people in communities without money can make a difference in solving the climate crisis.

In total, the DOE gave out \$22 million in funds to the schools chosen for the competitive grant awards. Through research, many experts are

finding creative ways to combat climate change in their underfunded schools and surrounding communities. The DOE hopes this funding will help expedite and expand ongoing research projects around the country. The UMaine community is excited to see what new progress both Pereira da Cunha and Lad will make with their research this academic year.

Opinion

An Open Letter to the class of 2025

Emma Vannorsdall
Opinion Editor

Welcome back Black Bears!

On Aug. 27, the University of Maine welcomed the class of 2025 to its campus with a “hearty Maine hello.” An incredible effort has been made by the entire student body and staff to ensure a safe return to campus. UMaine’s new requirement mandating that all students receive the COVID-19 vaccine has served as an important milestone in allowing a safe return to campus, and the indoor mask mandates implemented until Sept. 30 provide additional safety in the transition to in-person classes.

While these measures account for the physical safety of everyone on campus, it’s also important to consistently acknowledge the mental and emotional challenges faced by students. If you’re apprehensive about this semester,

you’re not alone. The Maine Campus wants to share resources and advice to help you succeed academically, socially and mentally here at UMaine.

Students and teachers are returning to life in-person. This transition may prove challenging for the incoming class, who experienced their last year and a half of education remotely. Taking care of both your mental and physical health is critical throughout college, but is easily neglected in the world of academia. The university understands the hardships faced by incoming students and offers resources and accommodations to alleviate this transition.

UMaine has recently announced that they are offering the Pass/Fail option for classes again to alleviate stress for students. If students are interested in this option, they should discuss the process with their academic advisor.

Build relationships with your professors by attending their office hours, and get contact information from your peers to form study groups and stay on top of assignments. They may come in handy the night before an assignment is due. Tutoring is another amazing opportunity to stay ahead in classes and is available through the university’s College Success Program.

A great place to study at is the Fogler Library. It’s open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to midnight, Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to midnight.

Studying is important, but make sure you’re also prioritizing sleep and eating regularly. Wells, York and Hilltop dining halls are great places to eat. If you’re feeling more adventurous, grab a coffee or some stir-fry at the Bears Den in the Union.

The Counseling Center, located on campus, is a helpful free resource for students. They offer appointments via Zoom or phone, as well as in person. You can schedule an appointment through their office at (207) 581-1392.

There are over 100 student run clubs and organizations on campus. Visit the “Student Organizations List of Active Clubs” on UMaine’s website to explore groups that may interest you. There you’ll find contact information, so don’t hesitate to email club leaders for more information.

It’s important to remember that everyone on campus was in your shoes at one point. Don’t compare your first semester to someone else’s last. Everyone had to struggle to find their place and learn how to succeed, so don’t be too hard on yourselves.

Lastly, the members of the Maine Campus

editorial board have put together some of our own words of advice for you. We hope you carry these with you as you immerse yourself in this exciting, new environment.

“Nobody is gonna come talk to you, so you have to go talk to them. Even if you have to slip a note under their door. Which I have done!”

“Just put yourself out there. Even though it’s scary. Get out of your comfort zone.”

“Do your research. Go online and see what clubs there are.”

“The biggest thing that I’ve had to learn is to be patient with other people, but also to be patient with yourself.”

“Try and do something fun to do once a week, once a month, however often you want. Finding something fun on campus, and at your comfort level, gives you much-needed stress relief.”

“My first year here, in the beginning, I was

homesick. I didn’t have any friends for a while. One day I decided I’d leave my door open. I’d wait for someone to walk by. Someone walked by talking about video games. Now they’re my best friends.”

“Build relationships with your professors.”

Dear class of 2025, we want you to succeed. The Maine Campus staff, your professors, upperclassmen and everyone in between are rooting for you. We know you’ve been through a lot, and we’re here to help. There’s a unique bond that comes with being the first class to return in person after the pandemic, and we all appreciate the special value you bring to this university. We have just as much to learn from you as you do from us, so please say hello!

Opinion: You should write for the Maine Campus this year

Leah Savage
Contributor

I think that anyone who has been enrolled in college over these past few pandemic-ridden years can agree - it’s been a weird time. Whether it’s true or just a result of way too much reflection and sit-still anxiety, our education feels diluted, clouded by awkward Zoom calls and muffled masked lectures. There’s a universal sense of frustration, fatigue and irritability. I myself am entering my final year of college feeling wholly unprepared for the professional world that awaits me after graduation this May.

This begs the question, is there anything we can do to make things better? To keep ourselves submerged in the college culture while also keeping ourselves safe? To prepare ourselves for internships, jobs and the terrifying title of “adult” that is constantly hanging over our heads? The answer is yes, and it lies right here at the Maine Campus.

The Maine Campus is the student newspaper here at the University of Maine and we are hiring for the 2021-22 academic year. The Maine Campus is looking for students to fill contribution positions within the opinion, cul-

ture, sports and news sections. If writing for a section doesn’t seem like a good fit, you can also apply to be a Copy Editor or a Photographer for the paper.

There is something for everyone here at the Maine Campus, and there is a lot to gain by getting involved. First and foremost, it is the perfect environment for your writing skills to flourish in. Writing skills are an important quality when considering hireability, and yet, college grads over the recent years seem to be dropping the ball in this court. The Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) has published

data exploring college graduate readiness for professional settings where they found that hiring leaders say writing skills are one of the biggest gaps in professional readiness. An analysis of job advertisements has also found that writing and communication skills are among the most requested job requirements across every discipline.

In case you are wondering if it’s really important to be prepared for the workforce - it is. Another study found that 53% of college graduates are either unemployed or are working jobs that do not require bachelor degrees; ad-

ditionally, it takes college grads on average three to six months after graduation to secure employment.

This information is not intended to scare you, but rather to present you with an opportunity to grow your skill, to stick out among other applicants, advocate for your own goals and abilities and in the meantime, take back some of those missed opportunities over the recent years. At a college newspaper, especially one that is completely student-run like the Maine Campus, you are able to build these important skills among the companionship and leadership

of your peers.

We are all learning here at the Maine Campus; we’re all taking steps to improve ourselves and those around us through interacting with the greater UMaine community and each other. In the meantime, we get to interact with some really great people and produce something that we can all be proud of. So do yourself a favor and come join the team!

For more information on applying see the Maine Campus website or check out our Instagram at @themainecampus.

Horoscopes

Aries (March 21 – April 20)

Get ready for a rough patch, Aries, though it won’t be in vain. Your ruling planet Mars enters Libra this week, creating growing pains in the relationship sector of your chart. Purge the negativity and come out on the other side. By the end of the week, you should feel some release as the Sun trines Pluto.

Gemini (May 21 – June 22)

The support you need is right in front of you. Mercury and Mars come together

in your sign this week. Communicating and logically thinking flow easily into work. Your hard work is bringing you closer to important people.

Cancer (June 23 – July 21)

Venus brings your extroverted nature out starting Wednesday, April 14. Now is the time to start networking the connections you have. Working towards new goals will help you enter into a long-term relationship with happiness.

Leo (July 22 – Aug. 23)

Seek out the good

company of new friends to find yourself launching into an action-packed future. The best adventures are those right in front of you. Meet up with someone new and work on developing a deep, strong relationships.

Virgo (Aug. 24 – Sept. 23)

Be on the lookout for professional support from someone unexpected. Despite the competition surrounding you, there is an alliance to be made. Together the both of you will work together for a strong finish.

Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23)

Adopt an open-door policy within yourself.

Open your emotions up and be honest with yourself. Treating yourself this way will encourage other people to treat you the same. This attitude will bring your relationships to a new level.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22)

The signs around you scream to take better care of yourself. Constantly overworking yourself will run you into the ground. Make changes for the better now before it’s too late.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21)

Planets Mercury and Mars are working together in your relationship sector. The confidence you exude

will attract many potential new relationships. Enjoy developing them one-on-one by relating to each other’s similarities.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20)

Never underestimate the power of a helping hand, especially when it comes from family. People who have been with you, watching you grow into the person you are today will be valuable assistance in starting your new projects.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19)

Pushing yourself too hard will result in injury. Remember to take time to rest and recover. This period of

rest will coincide with a chance for new beginnings. Communicating your desire for rest will lead to a valuable learning experience.

Pisces (Feb. 20 – March 20)

This week is the time to get your hands dirty and cross projects off your list. When a job is done, remember to take a moment to revel in the pride of your accomplishments. However, there is a fine line between pride and gloating, stay on the right side of the line.

Culture

Versant Power Astronomy Center holds first “Science Lecture Series” of the semester



“The Versant Power Astronomy Center hosted the first of a series of science lectures that take place on the second Thursday of each month.”

Photos by David Jakacky.

Meaghan Bellavance Culture Editor

On Sept. 9, the lecture “Pushing Climate Change Research to the Roof of the World” by Dr. Paul A. Mayewski was held at the Versant Power Astronomy Center at the University of Maine. This presentation touched upon Mayewski’s participation in the National Geographic and Rolex Perpetual Planet Everest Expedition in April and May of 2019. “Pushing Climate Change Research to the Roof of the World” was the first of the “Science Lecture Series” at the Astronomy Center this semester.

Mayewski and his expedition team pushed the limits of science on the world’s highest peak: Mt. Everest. They set many scientific records, including having the highest automatic weather sta-

tions in the world and the highest drilled ice core.

Many areas of the trip were detailed in Mayewski’s PowerPoint, including the different locations he stopped at and what type of technologies were used throughout the trip. For example, the small kingdom of Kathmandu was one place they stayed in. Their timeline was no easy feat either, as this trip was lengthy and required lots of patience.

“Ultimately, it took us six weeks from the time that we left the east coast of the U.S. to the time that we actually got to the place where we started working,” Mayewski said. His group trekked on foot with the assistance of the local people, who were very kind to help guide them across mountains and glaciers despite lan-

guage and culture barriers.

The weather conditions were not always ideal while trekking during the day.

“It was so hot along the way that midday the temperatures were 110 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit,” Mayewski said. “That’s because when you have a lot of snow around it reflects the radiation. It’s not as effective at melting and the lighter color of the snow reflects it.”

Mayewski continued on to talk about glaciers, water towers and climate change. The team was able to conduct chemical fingerprinting of air masses, drill ice core samples and even study the jet stream. There were also measurements done related to meteorology, glaciology and biology mapping.

“Since about 2000, glaciers in the Hima-

layas have been retreating very rapidly,” Mayewski said. “Something big happened in 2000. That’s when greenhouse gases really begin to kick in and they have a very big effect.”

With this increase in melting glaciers, it is creating even more hazardous conditions for climbers on Mt. Everest.

“It’s extremely rocky, the slopes are extremely steep, and the more melting that goes on here, the more hazardous these slopes get,” Mayewski said. “Many of the villages are built right on the edge of very steep areas where the fall is a couple thousand feet. The edges of their towns are beginning to migrate into the valleys.”

This is not Mayewski’s first expedition by any means. Born and raised in Scotland, his

upbringing with hiking early on in life sparked his interest in this field. The UMaine website notes more than 60 expeditions he’s taken in his life, where he’s traveled to some of the most remote areas on the planet. He has also received many awards for these expeditions. His past well-known discoveries include abrupt climate change by atmospheric circulation, exploration into undiscovered areas in Antarctica and human impacts on both climate change and the planet’s ecosystems.

Mayewski’s titles include climate scientist, glaciologist and polar explorer. He is also the director of the Climate Change Institute at UMaine. He has published over 500 scientific papers, and has written two books: “The Ice Chronicles” and “Journey Into Climate.”

“Pushing Climate Change Research to the Roof of the World” is part of the Versant Power Astronomy Center’s ongoing “Science Lecture Series. The next one will be on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. and will feature Dr. Neil Comins. These lectures are held every second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. during the academic year, with new speakers each month. Visit <https://astro.umaine.edu/publicevents/science-lecture-series> for more details.

Additionally, the planetarium has ongoing regular public programs on Friday nights at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., plus music shows on Sundays at 4 p.m. Each month the offering changes. Visit <https://astro.umaine.edu/publicevents/> for more details.

Marvel’s new release ‘Black Widow’ leaves superhero fans with mixed emotions

Abigail Martin Contributor

The 2021 film “Black Widow,” based on the Marvel comics, is deserving of critical acclaim. Released in theaters on July 9, the film saw around an eighty-thousand dollar profit during its opening weekend. In movie theaters alone, the film has grossed more than three-hundred-million dollars so far.

“Black Widow” is a part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe and is considered by film critics to be an action and adventure movie. However, given

the nature of the plot, there are many sci-fi and mystery elements incorporated into the film as well.

The film was directed by Cate Shortland and produced by Kevin Feige. The music, done by Lorne Balfe, deserves critical acclaim on its own as it keeps impressively well with the tone of the film. The film stars a number of famous actors including Scarlett Johansson, Florence Pugh and David Harbour.

Although the film didn’t win any awards, it was nominated for two Women’s Image

Network Awards: the Outstanding Feature Film award and Scarlett Johansson for Outstanding Actress in a Feature Film award.

This film fleshes out the details of the character of Natasha Romanoff’s life prior to when she, also known as Black Widow, became an Avenger. In this movie, Black Widow confronts the darker parts of her upbringing, including her broken relationships and her history as a spy. Most of the action in the movie centered around having her face a dangerous conspiracy in relation to her

past. Unfortunately for Black Widow, the antagonistic force that was against her didn’t stop at anything in regard to bringing her down.

The highlight of the movie is the side conflict between Black Widow and her sister, Yelena Belova. The evident chemistry between the actors on-screen was impressive and realistic. In the end though, the audience is left focused on her sister more than Black Widow in her self-titled movie.

The hardship Black Widow and the other characters face

throughout, as well as the historical hardships seen in the beginning of the film, made for a compelling experience.

Additionally, the main filming location, Budapest, Hungary, made for a more all around compelling experience, as it allowed the set to be quite realistic. If the film had been shot somewhere else, in the United States for example, it would’ve been much less convincing.

At this point in time, audiences shouldn’t expect anything more or less from Marvel. Though there were a

number of disappointed viewers who did not enjoy how the intense and nuanced plot weaved in a dysfunctional, comedic family, “Black Widow” can be considered an audience success story.

#YouMaine: Computer science student continues to follow self-growth and success in transition to college

Abigail Martin
Contributor

Kion Tupper of Searsport, Maine brings a great sense of complexity to what being a student means. Tupper attended Searsport District High School in his hometown where he received a worthwhile and extensive high school education while participating in multiple extracurriculars. After taking the PSAT/SAT standardized tests that are often used by college admissions decision teams, he was “recognized as the first National Merit Scholar ever to attend Searsport District High School.”

It is often believed that high school teachers try to challenge their students, and students just do the school work they are assigned. In Tupper's world, it was much more than that. For example, he explained how his science and math teachers were astounded by his ability to comprehend these two subjects.

“I recount many times when I would have to speak up in class to tell the teacher that they answered their sample problems incorrectly,” Tupper said, flashing back on his times in high

school.

Tupper is just one example of how students can challenge the minds of their teachers, and that it's not always the other way around. People have also been impressed with Tupper's ability to essentially play devil's advocate, and with his ability to reason in conversations relating to important political, social and other societal issues.

From a young age, Tupper has been interested in robotics and technology. He was an active and influential leading member on his middle school's robotics team, and did the same on his high school's robotics team.

Tupper fell in love with the University of Maine campus, as well as the staff members he met during his time at the Consider Engineering program hosted by UMaine while he was in high school. Although he applied to a number of other select colleges and universities, after considering his financial situation, his career interest and which place had the most desirable location, he chose Maine for his undergraduate degree.

Tupper's interest in technology and com-

puter science hasn't wavered, leading him to declare his major in computer science. However, Tupper is also considering double majoring in political science, leaning on his early interest in politics.

Given his National Merit Scholar status, Tupper has had to pay a minimal amount to attend UMaine, and it granted him a place in the Honors College. Even though the Honors

College has their own specific housing, he wasn't initially placed in it during his freshman year as he was more interested in living on the engineering floor in Oxford Hall. However, he did end the year living in Penobscot Hall, an Honors College residence hall.

Through his second year, he stayed in his previous home in Penobscot Hall. This past summer, given his work and personal situations, he stayed on campus in Hancock Hall. He has now returned to Honors College housing for the current fall semester to surround himself with like-minded and focused individuals.

He has worked on a number of personal computer science re-



Photo provided by Abigail Martin.

lated projects throughout his time at UMaine, and this will likely remain the case. Tupper works for Network Maine on campus as a Student Network Technician. He has been doing this work for about a year.

Tupper has been trying to push himself out of his comfort zone in regard to being more

social on campus. He had entered the rush season for fraternities last academic year a bit late, but showed interest in SigEp and TKE. This fall, he plans to rush TKE officially. He hopes joining a fraternity will help him find a group of interesting and passionate people to call friends.

There is no doubt

the Tupper will continue to thrive and play an active role in the UMaine student body and community. His successes have taken him this far, and they will surely take him even farther.

National Holidays: Sept. 13 through Sept. 17



Photo via lereveries.com.

Meaghan Bellavance
Culture Editor

Monday: Positive Thinking Day

Has the pandemic dampened your positivity on day-to-day activities? Well, luckily today is Positive Thinking Day. With mask mandates and social distancing still in place, now is the perfect time to start thinking bright and clear your mind of all the negative thoughts. Carve out time in your day to do some yoga, start a new book or listen to your favorite artist or band. Remind your friends, family and yourself of all the good in life that can outweigh the bad. Always remember that emotional well-being is just as important as physical well-being. Positive thinking can

even increase a person's life span. Sept. 13 is also National Peanut Day, International Chocolate Day and National Boss/Employee Exchange Day.

Tuesday: National Coloring Day

Whether you're good at coloring in the lines or not, summon your inner artist today because it's National Coloring Day. Coloring has many calming properties, as it can relax the fear center of your brain. It can reduce stress and anxiety, help you to improve your motor skills and vision, improve your sleep and improve your focus. With that being said, take out your favorite coloring book and get started with your favorite coloring utensil. Use crayons, markers,

colored pencils or even pens. The creativity is endless! Sept. 14 is also Hug Your Hound Day, National Cream Filled Donut Day, National Ants on a Log Day and National Eat a Hoagie Day.

Wednesday: Greenpeace Day

Similar to Earth Day, Greenpeace Day is celebrated every year on Sept. 15 to create a discussion on how to treat the planet better. Several campaigns take place to spread awareness about ecological issues and concerns that need to be addressed. 55 countries are involved in Greenpeace Day, all working together to achieve environmental justice. Many peaceful protests are held on topics such as the following: reducing fossil

fuel emissions, improving air quality, avoiding the use of plastic and improving water quality. Take part in this spread of awareness, whether it be in-person or online. Find discussion forums, Facebook groups or even town meetings. Sept. 15 is also International Dot Day, Make a Hat Day, National Linguine Day and National Online Learning Day.

Thursday: National Guacamole Day

A fan-favorite food, guacamole has been a staple appetizer paired with tortilla chips at parties. National Guacamole Day is the perfect opportunity to indulge in the avocado-based dip. Guacamole goes back all the way to the 14th century, originally invented by the Aztec people.

This famous dip can be made in countless different ways at home. Many put ingredients from cumin to cilantro or even garlic in their 'guac.' If you feel guilty indulging, don't! Avocados are high in vitamins and have healthy fats that can lower your cholesterol. Sept. 16 is also Collect Rocks Day, National Play-Doh Day and National Choose Your Chocolate Day.

Friday: National Apple Dumpling Day

Is your sweet tooth calling to you? You're in luck because today is National Apple Dumpling Day. This savory pastry is made from cut and peeled apples and filling all wrapped into dough. With this dish, you have the option to either bake it or broil it.

Who is to say you have to feel guilty enjoying this dessert? You know what they say: an apple a day keeps the doctor away! Apple dumplings are most commonly eaten in the northeastern United States, especially around the state of Pennsylvania. Sept. 17 is also International Country Music Day, National Pet Bird Day and National Tradesmen Day.

All holidays were found on nationaltoday.com. Be sure to keep up to date with our regularly featured holidays featured both on our Instagram @themainecampus and website.

Sports

Maine football drops their first two games to start the season



Graphic By David Jakacky.

Patrick Silvia
Sports Editor

Opening night was bittersweet for the University of Maine Black Bears. UMaine welcomed fans back to the Alford Stadium for the first time since 2019. The energy was felt all throughout the venue, and it was comforting to see fans back in a loud stadium on campus.

Sadly, the University of Delaware would crash the party and jump out to a 17-0 lead by the beginning of the second quarter. UMaine would not go quietly, unlike last year when Delaware beat Maine 37-0. Third-year quarterback Joe Fagano would get the offense going in the second quarter, leading UMaine on a six play 75-

yard drive. The drive was capped off by a 28-yard touchdown pass to second-year receiver Michael Mornos, cutting the Delaware lead to 10.

A wild sequence would see UMaine score two touchdowns in 1:05 of gametime. On the first play of a drive, UMaine scored on a 59-yard touchdown pass from Joe Fagano to fourth-year receiver Xavier Scott. UMaine's defense felt the momentum and followed it with a three and out defensive stop. Delaware would elect to punt. Maine blocked the punt and second-year receiver Montigo Moss would return the blocked punt for a touchdown, putting UMaine up 21-17. A last-second field goal would make it 24

unanswered points for UMaine, and at half-time UMaine surprisingly had a 24-17 lead.

Delaware would prove why they were ranked fifth in the FCS rankings heading into the season. UMaine was kept off the score-sheet the entire second half. Meanwhile, Delaware's offense would help them gradually pull away with two touchdowns and a field goal in the second half. The final score would be 34-24 in favor of Delaware.

Joe Fagano passed for 305 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. Xavier Scott would lead UMaine with 73 receiving yards, with 59 of the yards coming on the touchdown in the second quarter. UMaine's leading rusher

was third-year running back Elijah Barnwell, who totaled 37 yards.

UMaine's opponent in the second game of the season would be another highly ranked opponent. James Madison University came into this past weekend's competition ranked third in FCS.

UMaine would never find their footing, and James Madison blew them out 55-7. The result felt like it was never in question. James Madison would enter halftime up 24-0 and never took their foot off the pedal, putting up 31 more points in the second half. They totaled 517 yards on the day compared to the 194 yards from UMaine.

Joe Fagano would leave the game

in the first half with an injury and never returned. Second-year quarterback Derek Robertson would take over running the offense in his first career game for UMaine. A tough test for a young quarterback against one of the best FCS teams in the nation. Robertson would throw his first college career touchdown on a 22-yard pass to fifth-year receiver Andre Miller. It was the single silver lining in an otherwise forgettable performance.

Derek Robertson would lead UMaine with 88 passing yards, one touchdown and one interception. Andre Miller would lead the team in receiving yards with 41. Elijah Barnwell again would lead the team in

rushing yards with 57 yards on 16 carries.

A rough 0-2 start for UMaine, but James Madison and Delaware are arguably the two best opponents Maine will face this regular season. UMaine's next game will be on Saturday, Sept. 11 at noon, where they will host Merrimack College at the Alford Stadium. Merrimack will be another tough test. Merrimack has started the season 2-0, with wins over Saint Anselm and Holy Cross. Both of their wins have been by double digits.



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