



Office of the President

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### President's Message to the Community: April 11

April 11, 2016 [President's Messages](#)

April is an incredibly busy month in UMaine's academic year. The countdown to our 214th Commencement has begun. Capstone projects are wrapping up. Faculty advisors are leading their doctoral, master's and honors students in the successful culmination of their research, scholarship and creative achievement. A record number of prospective students are exploring UMaine. Our top awards to faculty, staff and students are being announced, right behind this year's [tenure and/or promotion](#) for 15 faculty members.

As busy as it is this time of year, this apex of excellence is particularly exciting and reminds us of the quality of Maine's flagship university in fulfilling its mission.

I want to extend a personal invitation to members of the UMaine community to take time to come together in some of the many events scheduled to celebrate achievement. Last Friday at the Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony, we recognized anniversary-year employees and honored [Robin Avery](#), this year's Outstanding Professional Employee; Outstanding Classified Employee [Laurie Fullerton](#); and Steve Gould Award winners [Mindy Pelletier and Wayne Maines](#).

Later this month, in addition to the recognition events of the colleges and the Maine Business School, the ADVANCE Rising Tide Center will present Career Recognition Awards to two outstanding UMaine educators and researchers — Rebecca Van Beneden and Adrienne White. The ADVANCE Career Recognition Awards Celebration on April 22 begins at 11 a.m. in Wells Conference Center.

This year, Graduate Student Government and the Center for Undergraduate Research have organized a joint research symposium on April 27 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor. This daylong Student Research Symposium will showcase the excellence of our undergraduate and graduate student researchers, and the faculty who make it possible. More information is [online](#).

The President's Faculty Recognition Luncheon is at noon, May 14 in Wells Conference Center. This event occurs between the 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Commencement ceremonies and is the opportunity to honor this year's Distinguished Maine Professor Paul "Jim" Roscoe and the recipients of our Presidential Awards — Howard "Mac" Gray, professor of construction engineering technology, the 2016 Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award; Neal Pettigrew, professor of oceanography, the 2016 Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award; and Amy Fried, professor of political science, the 2016 Presidential Public Service Achievement Award.

Stories about these outstanding faculty members will be on the [UMaine news website](#) this week. More information about Commencement, including the May 13 Graduate Student and Faculty Recognition Ceremony, is [online](#).

We are honored this year to have Ambassador Pamela White delivering our Commencement address at both ceremonies. She and another UMaine alum, community leader Leonard Minsky, will receive [honorary degrees](#) from UMaine this year.

Our valedictorian is Nicholas Fried of Millerstown, Pennsylvania, an honors student majoring in animal and veterinary sciences, with a minor in chemistry. This year's salutatorian is Connor Smart of Lincoln, Maine, an honors student double majoring in accounting and finance. The incredible stories of their academic excellence and their student experience, including the faculty and programs that contributed to their success, are featured on the UMaine news [website](#). Watch, also, for the profiles of all the Outstanding Graduating Students from the colleges on the UMaine news website.

This month, Enrollment Management continues to monitor the prospective student [waitlist](#) — the first in UMaine's recent history. This record-setting interest in UMaine by prospective students reflects UMaine's commitment to affordability, strategic investments in signature strengths and aggressive marketing. After May 6, those wait-listed students UMaine is unable to admit for the fall will be guaranteed admission at five other University of Maine System campuses.

This collaboration across UMS is an example of the potential of the One University initiative. Another is the primary partnership between UMaine and the University of Maine at Machias that we talked about at last month's budget forum. An exploration of a formal partnership model is now underway, focused on administrative integration, and curriculum and programmatic collaborations. Several work teams will be involved in these areas, helping to identify opportunities, and then report back to the Board of Trustees later this year.

The partnership with the University of Maine at Machias will not affect our FY16 or FY17 budgets. UMaine has a balanced budget, the result of being proactive and strategic in our planning and marketing, and in meeting our projected goals. We also are making strategic investments in key areas, including our Signature and Emerging Areas of Excellence — an approach that helps us meet our institutional goals.

We are meeting our enrollment goals by growing out-of-state enrollment. While we remain committed to serving Maine, the reality is a declining high school population. We continue to serve students from every county in Maine, and they continue to make up the majority of our student population — 71 percent in-state and 29 percent out-of-state students.

A recording of the March 23 budget forum is [online](#) and, as always, we welcome feedback.

All the best as we continue our good work in April. I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events celebrating UMaine and your contributions that help us define tomorrow at Maine's flagship university.

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