

1:30

(Captioner On stand by) (Captioner on stand by)

2:18

(Captioner on stand by)

5:20

>>: Good morning, everyone . Thank you for joining for the state of the University address.

5:29

My name is Dan, director of marketing communication for University of Maine

5:34

. I want to introduce Dean Nichols, Professor of literary education and president of the University of main faculty Senate. (Applause)

5:47

>>: That was nice. Good morning. I am William Nichols, president

5:55

of University of Maine faculty Senate literacy Professor in the College of education and human development. I would like to extend warm welcome to all of

6:01

you.

6:12

As we begin today, I would like to recognize the education major Caitlin , who will lead us in the national anthem.

6:18

Please join me in standing while Caitlin leads us through the anthem.

7:09

(Singing)

7:39

(Singing)

7:51

Testing testing 123.

7:59

(Singing)

8:20

(Applause)

8:41

>>: Thank you, Caitlin, that was beautiful.

8:46

We open today's event with our land acknowledgment. It recognizes University of Maine is located on Marsh

8:51

Island. (Land Acknowledgement)

9:07

Both of our universities recognize these homelands

9:13

, issues of water, and territorial rights and encouragement upon sacred rights are ongoing.

9:21

The homelands are connected with tribal nations

9:28

through kinship and alliances and diplomacy.

9:36

UMaine in the regional campus also recognize the (Indiscernible) and tribal nations are distinct

9:45

, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.

9:54

We invite all of you to consider how we live and we work on this land

10:00

, and to attend carefully to the roles each of us please as members of University of Maine, and

10:08

University of Maine at Machias communities in shaping the future relationships with the land and among the people.

10:21

Today, as we get ready to listen to the state of the University address, I bring you greetings from the faculty Senate and from my colleague, Eric Jones, the president of University of Maine at Machias

10:28

faculty. It's a pleasure to see everybody here today

10:35

to be together and celebrate the state of the University and reflect on all we have accomplished individually and collectively.

10:44

To be here

10:51

, great deal has occurred this past academic year including many accomplishments to be proud of. Reflection on this year has to be

10:59

in the past two years of the pandemic.

11:07

University of Maine in University of Maine at Machias communities have demonstrated incredible resilience

11:12

, sense of responsibility and care for the greater good which is in keeping with our 150+ years of land-grant heritage.

11:21

Extension and engagement activities, service which we all provide

11:30

, along with education and research core to the mission of the University of Maine. The faculty Senate will continue to work in collaboration with

11:39

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy's administration to shine brighter light on our collective outreach

11:47

activities, and incredible significance, importance and impact these services provided to the people and to the state of Maine.

11:55

It is story of selfless acts, inspiration, and action that needs to be told .

12:00

Together, in the year to come, we will do just that.

12:07

I now want to introduce Professor Alecia Cruz , the Edward Sturgis associate Professor of

12:15

mineralogy and petrology , in the school of Earth and climate scientists.

12:22

She's back from research trip from the national laboratory and will provide further introductions for

12:29

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy. Thank you. (Applause)

12:45

>>: Thank you , Dean, for that kind introduction and good morning to everyone.

12:52

Today, March 8, marks international women's day when we celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

13:03

First observed in 1911, this day is the chance for women to work together for the rights to work, vote

13:10

, and hold public office. For all to support the causes of peace, equality, and world without gender bias.

13:21

Each of us has roles to play in forging the world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. It is far too big of job or just one day.

13:29

Although the war in Ukraine and the impact on women dominates the headlines and deservedly so,

13:38

atrocities and alarming injustices against women occur regularly around the globe.

13:44

Sadly, far too often in the communities we call home. I am pleased to be part of

13:53

the community here at UMaine where we are not yet perfect, but where we still strive for inclusive excellence and gender parity.

14:00

I am grateful for the many opportunities afforded to me at University of Maine.

14:05

We have further to go, and much to learn , but we are pointed in the right direction by

14:16

the president who challenges herself and allows us to place diversity, equity, and inclusion at the core of our work.

14:22

Before joining us in Maine, President J oan Ferrini-Mundy was the chief operating officer of the

14:28

National Science Foundation. She was named president of the University of main and the regional campus,

14:38

University of Maine at Machias in 2013. In addition to these duties, she accepted an appointment as the Vice Chancellor for research and innovation of University of Maine system 2021.

14:51

Formalizing the work she does to make the resources and expertise of Maine's R1 top-tier research university available to all faculty, staff,

14:57

and students.

15:02

In addition to these duties, President Joan Ferrini-Mundy has chaired the University

15:08

's science advisory board from the start of the pandemic and coprinci pal investigator of the

15:15

initiative overseeing implementation of the Harold health on foundation \$240 million grant to the University of Maine system.

15:28

She also contributes to the leadership of number of Maine based international economic development research and educational enterprises.

15:34

Please, join me in welcoming President Joan Ferrini-Mundy for her 2022 State of the University address. (Applause)

15:50

>>: Today is CC birthday. (Applause)

16:04

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the 2022 address on the state of the University of Maine in the University of at Machias.

16:12

Thank you for the warm introduction. Welcome to all participating today both in person and via the live stream.

16:20

Just worried about recognizing the place we are gathered today, the Leonard and Minsky music recital Hall in the alumnus who made it possible

16:29

. With the passing last month of Leonard Minsky,

16:34

you lost passionate visionary with who with his wife, touched the lives of generations of UMaine students

16:41

and people with advocacy with the arts. Lifelong commitment to inclusiveness and community and dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all. We have special guests with us here today.

16:48

I believe I see state representative Maureen Terry

16:57

, welcome AND THANK YOU FOR COMING> I'm not sure if state representative James Thorne

17:05

has made it. He might be watching. In any case, thank you to everyone for being here and I see familiar faces and what I would like to do is have conversation with you and find out how things are going for those I've not seen.

17:11

Member

17:17

of the president cabinet are here and I will ask them to stand so we can recognize their incredible work and commitment to this University. Stand briefly, please. (Applause)

17:30

You will hear from several students today. They include Zach,

17:42

the president of UMaine student government will share observations about the student in person experience. Zach is senior political science major from old town, Maine and you will hear him from one minute. Identify yourself so folks can see you.

17:52

Also, with us today is

17:57

malaria, native of Ukraine and now from North Carolina who is UMaine cadet and student in the school of Marine sciences. I have asked

18:04

to share stories with us at this time.

18:11

Are university communities and the world stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine all affected

18:16

by the senseless violence and dangerous crises resulting from Russia's invasion of their peaceful country. Valeria, I

18:21

invite you to the podium. (Applause)

18:28

>>:

18:40

Good morning, everyone. It's an honor to be sharing this with President Joan Ferrini-Mundy speaking to you today.

18:47

My name is malaria and have been going to University of Maine for about two years.

18:56

Prior to going to University of Maine, used to visit Maine to see my adoptive grandparents.

19:02

I have lived in North Carolina with my biological brother since 2014.

19:09

We were adopted from an orphanage in Ukraine where we lived for about seven years . When we came to the United States, we did not speak any English.

19:20

We didn't know the unconditional love and support of parents and family that we have now.

19:29

We missed the homeland and all friends we grew up with and especially extended family who is still in Ukraine.

19:39

Throughout adoption we found amazing adoptive parents who love us unconditionally and we became U.S.

19:48

When it was time to go to college I found UMaine's pathway to the program. I am now the second year student on the five

19:55

year program scholarship.

20:01

I enjoy being part of the University community where there is diversity and teachers I have enjoyed.

20:10

While I have lived in this country for eight years,

20:17

I have fond memories of Ukraine. I appreciate the beauty of the country and its people and since the Russia

20:23

n invasion on February 24, heart lives with Ukraine and its people.

20:33

I worry about my biological father and uncle who both have been drafted to the war, and who are forced to take up arms. I also

20:40

worry about my aunt and cousins who are in Ukraine and last I spoke, my aunt said

20:47

they cannot have the light in the house because it makes them target for bombing.

20:54

I worry about the kids I grew up in the orphanage , especially when my dear friend Sasha and his family stuck in the city.

21:03

Ukraine is no longer safe and for them to stay there is very dangerous

21:12

. For them to leave, it's also just as dangerous. Sasha and his family are in danger no matter what they do.

21:19

Made the human Terrien crisis in my homeland, there is hope in the humanity.

21:25

Countries are opening borders and strangers are opening hearts to those who are forced to flee their country.

21:32

Many nations are providing aid in various forms.

21:39

There is a lot of people fighting for it Ukraine behind the scenes . Many selfless people who are helping everyone in need.

21:45

That gives me hope. It shows Ukraine is not alone.

21:51

For the people of Ukraine, my hope is they will come

21:56

to feel safe again and they won't have to worry about kids or loved ones, or whether tonight is the night.

22:06

For the community of UMaine I hope you can do more to help millions of others like me across the world who look at the United States and colleges

22:16

. The University in this amazing school is part of me now and can be for many other people who deserve the same chance I have

22:21

been given. My message to you today is if you know of anyone impacted by the crisis. Please check in.

22:30

Please stay updated on what's going on in the news and if you have financial means, please donate.

22:40

I think it's important for people to be aware and stay informed

22:45

because while it might not affect you directly , it affects people around you every day and I think it's

22:50

important to help where you can. I want to thank you for all your help in anything you could do

22:55

for the people of Ukraine. Thank you. (Applause)

23:23

>>: Thank you. It's hard to go on.

23:31

The state of the University address falls on international women's day as you have heard which began in 1911

23:38

based in the suffrage of labor movements in Europe. This year's theme established by the United Nations is gender equality today or sustainable tomorrow

23:53

. It is time to celebrate women's achievement and strife for the world free of bias, gender stereotyping, all stereotyping and discrimination. You have heard from the lariat and we will see accomplished women throughout the talk.

24:04

The presentation today will convey the state of the University in the context of the state , region, nation and world.

24:12

Over the past year we have observed more and the devastating effects in Ukraine, Afghanistan and many others countries.

24:19

We have witnessed continued racial and social injustice and endured the relentless challenges of the

24:26

COVID pandemic. Higher education leaders around the world are discussing the place of our institutions in defining tomorrow.

24:31

We have UMaine commission looking right now as such questions such as

24:38

what should our students education and college experience be like in turbulent world and changing climate?

24:45

How should students expect higher education to transform them and more importantly, how will they transform it?

24:52

How can we draw on the assets and experiences that each student brings?

25:01

Are we doing our best to educate the problem solvers, innovators and leaders for the future? Leaders who stand up for inclusion, strife for peaceful solutions and save the planet.

25:11

I am pleased and proud to say University of Maine is already positioned for that future. The values we agreed upon in the 2019 strategic

25:18

framework, fostering learner success in discovering and innovating and growing and advancing partnerships guide what we do.

25:29

Today, in 2022, the defining features of the state of the University, commitment to making the difference, and culture of caring.

25:36

For example, University of Maine at Machias developed

25:44

relationship with healthcare that will be setting up weekly booster clinics on campus that will serve the Machias area. This fall University of

25:50

Maine at Machias will admit its first group of nursing students in the new 2+2 program to bring nursing

26:02

professionals to Washington County and beyond. All involved are committed to making the difference.

26:07

In addition to the work to expand access to nursing education at Machias, the UMaine School of Nursing is working with Northern light help in historically black university to build

26:14

stronger and more diverse nursing workforce. This project is funded by one \$0.7 million grant from the health resources administration.

26:23

In the new and inclusive practice being developed will be national models and make the difference in Maine and beyond.

26:35

Director Kelly Strout, student success coordinator Dylan Walsh, and School of Nursing are both here today, along with Barbara, first year nursing student and Camilla

26:41

, senior nursing student. Please, stand and wave to the audience, folks. (Applause) Great work.

26:54

Thank you for what you do to promote the health of communities and greater belonging

27:02

in the nursing workforce this is country of care in the past year we have learned to do twice as much

27:11

at times we face mental and physical health challenges, family needs and unexpected problems.

An already healthy hard-working took on more

27:25

wearing masks, teaching with the mass, playing the flute with the mask

27:30

searching for at home test kits and taking care of family friends affected for members have committed advisory board led by doctor Melissa McGinnis who I saw here.

27:39

And other members of standing wave to the audience. (Applause) Thank you.

27:51

The team worked every day to study the emerging science as they sustain their own product teaching and research. They collected samples.

27:59

We are ready to pivot when the childcare was unavailable. Watching the briefing and feeling relieved when the trends

28:05

move in the right direction.

28:14

Remembering to do weekly testing and marveling at how much testing technology has progressed to the new self-monitoring options. You don't need to look far to see the caring and commitment

28:20

everywhere. From custodian Megan who I met at the fair last

28:27

summer and committed to helping students feel at home in Maine.

28:32

To the head of the children's center, who is fighting every way to protect the children in her care. I don't seek him.

28:42

To faculty member, Dave recording his lecture

28:48

. Just in case students with COVID cannot come to class

28:53

, and so many other examples of committed and caring people in the community. I'm very grateful. All of this was added into the demanding lives.

29:00

Learning

29:05

, research and public engagement, the work of universities and values continue. Black mayors and Clippers care. We see it in so many places.

29:13

The UMaine has expanded mental health services and support more than 1000 people.

29:20

The center on the blackberry exchange provide record amounts of food and critical supply to students

29:26

in the office of veterans education and transition services to support more than 400 veterans.

29:34

The UMaine extension is making the difference statewide including through the thousands of hours donated by the hunger volunteers.

29:40

Educating and helping overcome food insecurity. Students throughout the very tough year have made the difference. Zach will tell us more about this now.

29:46

(Applause)

29:55

>>:

30:01

Good morning. I would like to begin by thinking the University

30:08

and President Joan Ferrini-Mundy for allowing me to speak on behalf of the student body. My name is Zach and I am president of

30:17

UMaine incorporated and also fourth-year political science major and graduating this May. It goes without saying that the past to eat

30:24

-- two years has been it's ordinary. Not just for education but all facets of life.

30:31

Never in our lifetimes

30:41

nothing as readily as the coronavirus pandemic. Almost 2 years ago, the University was forced by circumstance to send students home for the year

30:47

and many graduating seniors were forced to say goodbye to friends early. That is if they had the chance to do so. When we returned to campus the next year life look different to

30:55

both students and staff incoming freshmen or test building community despite restrictions and returning students

31:03

to just what would be

31:08

the new normal. Student stayed in dorms from sunrise to sundown and mental health issues ran rampant and still do to some extent.

31:17

Loneliness and isolation changed how students perceived education. Despite these significant changes to their lives,

31:24

student centered all challenges and mandates and schedule changes and isolation.

31:33

I want to thank students at University of Maine for resilience, commitment to public health,

31:42

to UMaine and one another. It's not just students who these changes. I also like to thank staff and faculty for sticking by the students throughout these times.

31:52

Whether you all want to congratulate yourselves or not, everyone to her in recovering from this pandemic. Today, we stand together as community and stronger.

32:00

As we approach commencement in May , I want to extend thanks to the University for putting trust in the student body and undertaking returned to in person learning

32:07

successfully. We took the risk and did the right thing

32:15

and because of that, students have been able to experience for the first time in

32:23

a long while, sense of normalcy. Every undergraduate student I have spoken with has expressed sentiments similar to this.

32:29

Being able to attend hockey games, walked down the mall during the organization fair, study in the library, attend in

32:35

person events , and grabbing drinks with buddies at the end of the day is significant piece of the college experience.

32:43

It has been a privileged to see that UMaine spirit return to campus. To show you what I mean, I have been

32:53

working with the marketing and communication department over the past couple weeks to produce this short video for you today.

32:58

In the video, we interviewed students on campus and

33:03

how they feel about COVID-19 this semester and what's next for UMaine. Please, look. (Video Playing)

35:35

>>: It's nice to see people picking each other up. >>: People have made this year awesome.

35:49

>>: Quite a few people are going to Florida and they are not doing great with COVID. There are concerns with coming back with masks.

35:57

I'm graduating in May . I want to have an in person graduation is much as possible.

36:08

>>: Needs to be student resources and especially mental health resources and accommodating academics.

36:14

>>: I know the world right now is in peril and it might be hard to find the normal that was present before COVID.

36:22

>>: There are restrictions out there people have to follow them .

36:29

>>: To me, it's important to walk across the stage and take pictures with family because I spent four years of trying times so it's nice to commemorate that.

36:43

(Applause)

36:49

>>: Thank you so much to Zach in the team. Today, maybe help us believe spring is actually coming sort

36:55

of. The pandemic seems to be waning at least for now and becoming

37:01

endemic, and ongoing part of life. We begin to cut back cautiously on the number of regular

37:14

COVID related meetings that consumed hours of each week for the COVID group incident commander, University and system leadership and testing and vaccination planners.

37:21

We owe thank you to all who have taken the time to make the difference and they really have . Today, 96% of the in person population at UMaine in 90.

37:28

7% or recall that 91 percent of the and purpose at University of Maine at Machias are fully vaccinated or boosted.

37:36

Encourage you to be boosted if you have not done so and boost and test before you head off or break.

37:43

Lester introduced the new presidential

37:50

Black Bears for impact which went to the highly deserving UMaine operations center.

37:57

This is group of more than 40 people who went on duty in February 2020 and despite name change, have not stopped since. Commitment to making the difference for our he

38:04

alth and safety has been unwavering and we need to think and recognize them.

38:10

I would like to single out Roland, in section leader Bob, Jeremy, Dick and will.

38:19

Please stand and be recognized. (Applause)

38:30

Thank you. At UMaine

38:41

and Machias we manage through the pandemic and other challenges while at the same time persisting with all it means to be public

38:46

, state land-grant University. We have prevailed and succeeded. The state of the University includes cause for celebration.

38:51

After many years of moving towards the goal , University of Maine achieved the research one very high research activity Carnegie classification. We can clap for

38:59

that. (Applause)

39:08

What does R1 University look like? Let's see with this video. (Video Playing)

39:18

>>: The R1 recognized standard of excellence for research universities.

39:25

It raises the national and international profile of University of Maine

39:33

while providing students from Maine and beyond access to top education from premier

39:40

nationally recognized research university. As part of this, students have opportunity to get educated by world-class faculty researchers. And, receive highly valued degree from R1 institution.

39:52

>>: Are being recognized for the innovative work happening for many years at the University.

40:00

It reflects strategic leadership and many people have set

40:06

goals and got us to where we are at today

40:12

. To productive faculty and researchers that have been working for many years and leading in areas of research and arts

40:21

, and great collaboration we have with partners outside University that provide ideas

40:28

, resources and help us make sure our research makes the difference in the lives of people in Maine and beyond.

40:36

>>: Faculty members they will gain prestige through association in the R1 institution

40:44

leading to career enhancement and other benefits. This includes great funding opportunities for the research programs.

40:53

Moreover, recruitment of faculty will be strengthened due to the knowledge that the University of Maine is among the top tiered research university in the nation.

41:03

Strong values of creativity.

41:11

>>: The research we do is coupled with opportunities for students to have that research

41:16

recognized at the R1 level and recognizes the work of everybody and not just very NationsBank but the University.

41:22

I've always been motivated to bring those opportunities to Maine and make them available.

41:27

When I graduated, there were no t tremendous opportunities

41:35

. Had to leave the state to get jobs and it's very important to me to invest in opportunities . People are dreaming what's possible and investing and figuring out the unknown.

41:44

Because people have been doing that at University of Maine and being supported in doing the research, that is where you grow these solutions.

41:53

>>: It elevates the stature as being among the top national research universities. It enhances global recognition

42:01

as modern 21st century research university.

42:08

With national and international recognize programs of global impact

42:13

. It addresses the workforce needs and advances the social and economic development of Maine and beyond.

42:21

>>: This recognizes the investment that UMaine has put into supporting research at high level.

42:27

We should boost recruitment

42:32

of top-notch students and particularly interested in the graduate for biomedical sciences and engineering program. Clearly, we already have excellent faculty here

42:42

like Rob Wheeler and Melissa McGinnis, who have done tremendous effort and wonderful job at helping scientific guide the response to

42:48

COVID at the University. Being able to recruit

42:55

excellent faculty will benefit Maine.

43:03

>>: This is vital for development in the state of Maine.

43:09

The R1 designation of the University indeed will attract more talent, investment and business to the state of Maine.

43:27

(Applause)

43:37

>>: I want to thank Vice President in the entire research team will be

43:45

publicizing successes and providing more opportunities to get to know the researchers in the coming weeks and months. Special thanks to remarkable staff committed to making the

43:50

difference in this area.

43:57

They are doing just that and that is the main reason we are recognized with this designation that applies to fewer than 4% of the University.

44:06

Thank you to the faculty five who led advocacy in the state many years ago introduce R&D appropriation.

44:11

Thank you to state legislators who have sustained the funding over decades.

44:18

Governor Mills and congressional delegation all of whom are part of this great success story.

Cusick.

44:27

Our University is successful because we are in inclusive student centered community committed to making the difference and caring. We have much to be proud of over the past year

44:34

fostering learner success. Our retention to first-year students from fall 2021 to the spring 2022 was

44:41

88% which is similar to the average over the past few years. This is during the pandemic.

44:48

I know faculty went above and beyond to meet students where they were to accommodate all of the uncertainties and challenges of COVID and more.

44:57

Students were caring and understanding when faculty had to put families or health challenges first. Special thank you to all and resident life

45:07

, deans, and all faculty and staff working directly in classrooms, studios, laboratories, research sites, and playing fields.

45:14

Speaking of playing field and on international women's day, I want to recognize the competitive success of

45:23

Trinity women sports with conference championships in field hockey and women's basketball . Tonight, women's baseball plays New Jersey Institute of technology at 7 PM in the pit.

45:33

In the America East semi finals and you can still purchase tickets. I want to congratulate Bill Dixon named diver of the year at

45:39

the American diver championship. Eight

45:47

Black Bears competed in the Olympic games including two current women's ice hockey players here with us today. Join me in recognizing

45:55

Emily, Junior from Denmark and Rachel, sophomore from Switzerland. (Applause)

46:12

Congratulations. We are proud of you and all of the outstanding student athletes. Students want to come to our R1 University.

46:22

UMaine achieve 30% increase in graduate enrollment since 2017.

46:29

During the pandemic went across the nation University enrollment has been down 6% since all of 2019, UMaine undergraduate enrollment has held steady at

46:37

9447 students in the 2021 and 2022 academic year.

46:43

UMaine currently has the second largest applicant pool in history.

46:51

University of Maine at Machias to 664 largest applicant pool here today in the last five years. (Applause)

47:06

The commitment to making the difference in being caring community is exemplified at

47:14

University of Maine at Machias. Hard-working task force and assisted working groups spanning all facets of university operations, academics, and stakeholders under leadership of UMaine

Dean of College of Liberal arts , Emily delivered

47:21

recommendations late in 2021. I will be in Machias later today to discuss the report

47:30

with all interested in discuss how to move forward on the highest priority recommendations. One example of the kind of activity possible

47:37

under the partnership is the coastal year at

47:42

Machias made available to interested first-year students admitted to UMaine is the option for starting the college career in small communities

47:52

where they would have access to hands-on learning experiences. There are six students in the program and we hear great reports. We have number of guests

47:59

from University of Maine at Machias if you can wave or stand, we would like to welcome you to Orono today. (Applause)

48:14

A student who exemplifies white our commitment to learner success matters is Yanni

48:21

, business and entrepreneurship major and music minor at University of Maine at Machias.

48:28

Yanni is international student and refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

48:33

. She fled atrocities in her birth country to live with family in South Africa and begin college at University of Johannesburg.

48:39

Yanni along with her twin sister, Janie, came to the campus at Machias in the fall of 2019. Both are here today. (Applause)

48:53

We will watch this video to learn more about Yanni and how education transforms lives and how our students transform our universities.

48:58

(Video Playing)

49:10

>>: Yanni is kind, dedicated, hard worker.

49:15

She knew she wanted to help students be as successful as she has been. This campus has been great for her.

49:24

It is small enough so that she has been able to make lots of friends and has found her place.

49:33

>>: She's an amazing giving young woman. She has made friends quickly and the fact that she cares for people so much and people gravitate to her.

49:40

She's been able to mash all of those pieces together and thrive. I think Yanni will be successful

49:48

in any endeavor she chooses to take on. The community does a lot.

49:54

The Machias at large or camp us community

50:02

, there is a lot of people that want to see student succeed and Yanni is one of those that is easy to help succeed. >>: The community here is very friendly and helpful.

50:10

Everybody has enjoyed it so I've had friends here who have helped me throughout this  
50:17

having to adapt to the lives in the states.

50:25

>>: Business allows you to think out-of-the-box and come up with something of your own especially something you are passionate about

50:33

. Being able to help others, it's always good to return favors.

50:39

It might not be the same standard, but help another person

50:45

and that person help the other person. It's like a pyramid. My experience has helped me grow. There are challenges I face that have helped me grow.

50:53

I find Machias beautiful. The trees, the beach. Sometimes I will go alone.

51:01

Just for that breeze and peace . I'm learning because we start small in order to be big.

51:09

(Applause)

51:21

>>: Thank you to Yanni and all who are part of that video. I will also share exciting news

51:28

. Because of her outstanding accomplishments, the University of Maine at Machias commencement committee has named Yanni the 2022 valedictorian. (Applause)

51:51

UMaine and Machias

51:58

are becoming known to making difference by engaging learners and authentic experiences of discovering and innovating. Enacting strategic values. This past fall semester almost 10%

52:06

of first-year class participated in amber research learning experience initiative.

52:14

Weaving research and scholarship into the classroom starting in the first semester. I would like to recognize Isabel, Isaac, and Kai,

52:21

or -- all RLE students. Are you here? Stand and say hello. (Applause) Great.

52:37

This fall we will have enough sections of the research learning experience to support 40% of the incoming class. UMaine is taking the lead in working with campuses across the system to make this program widely available.

52:46

Faculty mentor opportunity to create knowledge and search for original solutions through RLE will give every new

52:55

Black Bears and clipper opportunity to know something first.

53:01

Next week we launch campaign urging every student admitted to the University to join us in the fall and start the college journey with the chance to unravel the unknown

53:12

and create new contribution. Let's look at what knowing at first looks like at the top-tier research university committed to fostering learner success.

53:18

>>: Cherish this moment.

53:25

The moment when you dare to dream to be the first to know something profound. Something humbling

53:32

. To push the boundaries of possibility and unravel the mystery of the unknown

53:39

. Remember this; the moment you set forth on the grand journey.

53:45

The journey of self-discovery. The research learning experience at

53:55

University of Maine was created to provide you with moments at the start of your college venture. Thanks to the generosity of the foundation and other

54:01

donors, you will have the chance to be new UMaine Black Bears with faculty mentor experiences

54:08

that create new knowledge, design new art, and discover original solutions.

54:15

The only question is what will you be the first to know? (Applause)

54:23

>>: Generous funding from the foundation makes this

54:30

possible and we owe special thanks to Provost John,

54:38

(Indiscernible), associate Provost Ryan, and 30 faculty and staff members who made this happen as well as the 250 students who

54:45

brought creativity and great ideas to the table . Anybody involved in the RLE should stand so we can thank you. (Applause)

54:52

That's great.

55:02

There is so much more that aided in defining who we are over the past several months.

55:10

We are developing new and clear commitment as a University to playing our part in climate action. We have

55:16

instituted more transparent processes for budget development. We are planning for the much needed improvement of the University eating capital plan

55:25

. We partner with the state to develop the main workforce through the recovery plan and more.  
55:30

We are restructuring marketing and communication operation under the leadership of Executive Director Dan and others to tell phenomenal

55:36

stories more widely. Our UMaine foundation has had record

55:46

breaking year for fundraising and looking forward to new and expanded efforts. Indeed, today, we are happy to announce the establishment by

55:52

the foundation of higher education relief fund. This provides relief for anyone in the world where there

55:58

is crisis to pursue at the University of Maine so thank you to the foundation that

56:03

is opening this morning. Very grateful for your contributions there.

56:14

We welcome four new deans and I see some of them in the audience but will miss someone so how about they waive or stand? (Applause)

56:24

Two new head coaches and I didn't see them here

56:30

in dozens of faculty and staff members all of whom shape the community and enrich and change it. What is next?

56:42

This is the beginning of the end of the talk so you will be glad to hear that. In the coming months we celebrate the commencement of the class of 2022 and recognition of the alumni the class of 2020 and 2021.

56:51

We will release finding of the UMaine 2025 commission on excellence and equity.

56:57

We will hold dedications for the Williams Hall and Karen Boudreau Hall.

57:03

We will open the James and Eileen engineering and education design center.

57:19

We will work with the community to prioritize and implement recommendations from the UMaine Machias regional campus task force and president diversity equity and inclusion counsel. Speech will be open searches for new administrators, faculty, and staff. The class of 2026 will join in a few months.

57:29

This happens as we strive for the renewal intervention that characterizes public education and excellence and inclusion at

57:35

UMaine and Machias. Everyone

57:43

in the UMaine and Machias community has experienced disruption and challenges in educational pathways or work or personal lives in the past year. The pandemic has touched all of

57:50

us.

57:58

Work, crises, discrimination and global challenges have touched all of us too because we are in inclusive community and share collectively in what individuals throughout

58:04

our community experience.

58:14

This year has changed us and our institutions yet culture of caring and commitment is stronger than ever . Our circles of supporters and collaborators beyond the University continue to expand and deepen.

58:20

We are making the difference by caring.

58:27

I know that together we can flourish with the support and care of one another. Thank you very much. (Applause)

58:47

I'm not sure we have a formal closing. With this, we conclude the state of the University 2022.

Thank

58:52

you for coming. Goodbye.