

UMF Media Release for Immediate Release

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University of Maine at Farmington Celebrates Student Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievements with Michael D. Wilson Symposium, April 15 and 16

FARMINGTON, MAINE (April 8, 2008)—Spring on the University of Maine at Farmington campus brings a welcome change in the weather and an air of excitement as it celebrates Michael D. Wilson Symposium, a two-day, University-wide event dedicated to undergraduate research and creative achievements. Symposium provides an opportunity for students of all ages and disciplines to come together to showcase their original and independent research and scholarly works and to share them with the campus and local community. Supported by a generous gift by Michael and Susan Angelides, in honor of their good friend Michael D. Wilson, UMF class of 1976, this year’s Michael D. Wilson Symposium has been enhanced to include both Arts Night, a gathering of visual and performing arts, from 5–10 p.m., Tuesday, April 15; and Symposium day scholarly presentations from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Wednesday, April 16. All events are held on the UMF campus and are free and open to the public.

Symposium, in its tenth year, showcases the research, creativity and mentoring that takes place at UMF across the liberal arts. This year’s artistic and academic exhibition brings together over 400 students working in collaboration with faculty mentors to display their scholarly work through papers, oral and poster presentations, readings, art gallery exhibits and performances, with topics including, “Climate Change and ME,” “Superdelegates. What do the Facts Say?” “Making Mathematics Accessible for the Blind” and “Supporting Adoptive Children and the Families Who Adopt them.”

Featured among Wednesday’s exhibits will be presentations by the 2007-08 Michael D. Wilson Scholars and Fellows, who were recognized this academic year as some of UMF’s best students across all disciplines by the University’s Undergraduate Research Council. The results of the scholars' undergraduate research projects, also generously funded by the Angelides, will appear in Thomas Auditorium in UMF Preble Hall and throughout campus and will consider subjects such as, “Distinguishing Hybrid Milfoil in Maine Lakes,” “The Poetics of Birds in the Poetry of John Clare,” “Love, Faith, and Treating Drug Abuse” and “Can Economic Theories Explain the Current Health Situation in America and at UMF?”

“UMF’s deeply felt values as a public liberal arts college—specifically, active and engaged learning, academic rigor, student-faculty collaboration, and service to promote the common good—have provided the foundation for the wonderful tradition of Symposium,” said Allen Berger, UMF provost and vice

president for academic affairs. “It is renewing to share in the exciting work of faculty and students as they showcase their scholarly and creative projects. I congratulate all the presenters—from first year students to seniors culminating their UMF experience with their capstone project—along with their teachers and mentors, on their wonderful achievements. Additionally, I would like to add a special thank you to the donors and organizers who have made this exciting day possible.”

As a prelude to Symposium’s day of scholarly works, Arts Night will present a gala of visual and performing arts from 5–10 p.m., Tuesday, April 15. Organized by the UMF Ministry of Experimental Arts, a group of arts-minded students, faculty and staff, the presentations will take place at various sites on campus, including UMF’s Nordica Auditorium, Art Gallery and Alumni Theater.

“Car Afterlife,” an original composition written and conducted by Philip Carlsen, UMF professor of music, will kick-off Arts Night in the tradition of “Car Life,” last year’s auto symphony, with a traffic jam session of 50 cars. The performance, a “contrapuntally sublime car-cophony” of horns, doors, radios, revving engines and warning bells, will be coordinated by a signal corps of three conductors and will again include UMF President Theodora J. Kalikow’s Toyota Prius. “What an innovative way to open the Michael D. Wilson Symposium, UMF’s two-day showcase of academic and creative excellence,” Kalikow said. “I had so much fun at the auto symphony last year; I just had to be a part of it again this year.” The piece will be performed twice at approximately 5:10 and 5:40 p.m. in the parking lots behind Merrill, Psychology, and Franklin halls. Following the auto symphony, patrons can enjoy the many Michael D. Wilson Symposium Arts Night events including: student art and the senior art show, original plays, experimental music, a cappella voices, and electro-acoustic and classical music, all performed by UMF students, faculty and staff.

Michael D. Wilson Symposium is organized by the UMF Culture Committee. For a complete schedule of events please visit <http://symposium.umf.maine.edu>.

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For more information on Wednesday's Michael D. Wilson Symposium events, please contact David Heroux, UMF assistant professor of chemistry, at 207-778-7368, or david.heroux@maine.edu. For more information on Tuesday's Michael D. Wilson Symposium Arts Night events, please contact Lily Funahashi, UMF lecturer, at 207-778-7072, or lily.funahashi@maine.edu.