

**University of Maine at Farmington Media Release  
R090-055  
For Immediate Release**

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**Fifth Annual UMF Michael D. Wilson Symposium Spotlights Academic Excellence**

**FARMINGTON, ME (May 3, 2010)**--University of Maine at Farmington will hold its fifth annual Michael D. Wilson Symposium, a University-wide day of celebration of outstanding student scholarship and creative achievements across academic disciplines, from 8:30 a.m.-5:25 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, on the UMF campus. 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 Symposium events will be presented at various venues on campus and are free and open to the public.

Theodora J. Kalikow, UMF president, sees Symposium as an opportunity to spotlight the original research and scholarly work of UMF students and share it with the campus and local community. "It's inspiring to see the wealth of student learning, hard work and faculty mentoring that is part of the daily routine all over campus," said Kalikow. "This academic gala shows how empowering students and helping them reach their potential is the foundation of student success at UMF."

First held in 1999, UMF's Symposium has grown into a wonderful spring tradition where the campus is alive with the results of engaged learning, academic rigor, student-faculty collaboration and creative expression. Throughout the academic year, students are focused on the process of project creation and development and in-depth academic research of their work, which is then exhibited at Symposium in the form of papers, oral and poster presentations, original student readings, art gallery exhibits and performances.

Students at this year's Symposium will present studies across the curriculum, including the original research findings of the 2009-2010 Michael D. Wilson Research Scholars and Fellows, also generously supported by the Angelides. These will include timely topics such as: how the Bracero Agreement set the stage for Mexico-U.S. immigration; the New Balance Shoe Co.'s success in the global market; music's effect on consumer behavior; impact of the declining New England dairy industry; and saving the planet one room at a time. Additionally, David Gibson, UMF Professor of Geology and UMF Trustee Professor for 2009-10, will be presenting his study on enhancing the analytical capabilities of XRF technology to source volcanic deposits in Antarctic glacial ice and Paleo-Indian artifacts.

In anticipation of Symposium's day of scholarly works, UMF will also offer an arts fortnight of visual and performing arts, film, video and animation events from Thursday, April 29 to Saturday, May 8. This showcase of arts events will include Arts Night events, from 5-10 p.m., Tuesday, May 4, held in the UMF Art Gallery, The Landing in the Olsen Student Center, Alumni Theatre, Merrill Hall and Nordica Auditorium. These events are organized by the UMF Division of the Arts and Ministry of Experimental Arts.

The Michael D. Wilson Symposium is organized by the UMF Culture Committee. A full schedule of Michael D. Wilson Symposium and Arts Fortnight events can be found at <http://symposium.umf.maine.edu/symposium-2010/>.

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