

## ***UMF Press Release for Immediate Release***

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### ***University of Maine at Farmington Celebrates Students' Scholarly and Creative Work with Michael D. Wilson Symposium Day and Opening Night Arts Celebration—April 10 and 11***

**FARMINGTON, MAINE (April 6, 2007)**—Eight years ago, the University of Maine at Farmington held its first Symposium Day dedicated to the sharing of students' research, scholarship and creative activities. Since then, one day each spring, UMF students from all disciplines have come together to showcase their accomplishments through a day of oral and poster presentations, performances, readings and art gallery exhibitions. This year, UMF is proud to present the first-ever Michael D. Wilson Symposium Day—supported by a generous gift from Michael and Susan Angelides, in memory of the late Michael D. Wilson, UMF class of 1976. The event is free and open to the public and will be held between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, at various campus venues.

Michael D. Wilson Symposium Day showcases a diversity of subject matter from across UMF's broad liberal arts spectrum and features over 400 students presenting on topics such as "The Rising Economies of India and China," "Multiculturalism in the Classroom," "African-American Literature in the 1930s," and "The Suitability of the Massachusetts Health Care Plan for the State of Maine." Audience members will also have the opportunity to see the ten inaugural Michael D. Wilson scholars showcase the results of their undergraduate research. The scholars, also funded by a generous gift from the Angelides, represent some of UMF's best students from across all disciplines and were chosen last fall by the UMF Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research Development Team after a competitive selection process.

"The UMF Symposium has grown into a wonderful tradition. In showcasing our students' scholarly and creative projects, we are honoring our most 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," said Allen Berger, UMF provost and vice president for academic affairs. "I find it exciting that newly-named Michael D. Wilson Symposium Day continues the tradition of providing an opportunity for everyone—from beginning students to seniors who are completing an impressive capstone project—to share their work in a public venue. I congratulate all the presenters along with their teachers and mentors."

To kick-off Michael D. Wilson Symposium Day, the UMF Ministry of Experimental Arts, a newly-formed group consisting of arts-minded students, faculty and staff, have created Arts Night, an opening celebration featuring a unique compilation of visual and performing arts presentations, scheduled between 5 and 9:30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 10, at UMF's Nordica Auditorium, Art Gallery, and Alumni Theater. The events are free and open to the public.

Arts Night begins with the much anticipated musical performance of "Car Life: A Traffic Jam Session for Automobile Orchestra," a new composition written and conducted by Philip Carlsen, UMF professor of music, and performed by an orchestra of fifty automobiles. The subtle harmony, antiphony, and cacophony of horns, radios, warning beepers, and revving engines will be coordinated by a signal corps of five conductors spread across various campus parking lots. The automobile orchestra includes UMF President Theodora J. Kalikow's Toyota Prius; a 1985 Classic Mercedes Benz 300 SD owned by Rob Lively, UMF dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and a 1968 Shelby Cobra GT 500 KR owned by Peter Simmel, UMF associate professor of theater. The piece will be performed twice, at approximately 5:10 and 5:35 p.m. in the parking lot behind UMF's psychology building. Following the automobile orchestra, patrons can enjoy an art show, original plays, experimental music, electro-acoustic music, and rock bands, all performed by UMF students, faculty and staff.

Michael D. Wilson Symposium Day is organized by the UMF Culture Committee. For a complete schedule of the day's events, including Arts Night, please visit <http://www.umf.maine.edu/campus/docs/2007SymposiumDay-ArtsNight.pdf>.

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For more information on Michael D. Wilson Symposium Day, contact UMF Assistant Professor David Heroux at 207-778-7368, or [david.heroux@maine.edu](mailto:david.heroux@maine.edu). For more information on Arts Night contact UMF Lecturer of Music Lily Funahashi at 207-778-7072, or [lily.funahashi@maine.edu](mailto:lily.funahashi@maine.edu).

EDITOR'S NOTE: You will find Arts Night publicity photo, courtesy of UMF Ministry of Experimental Arts, at <http://www.umf.maine.edu/campus/docs/RP067-039.jpg>.

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