

March 28, 2022

SFA NewsBites

News items are compiled by the SFA Director.

Please send submissions to rcausey@maine.edu. Include the word success in the subject line.

February 28, 2022 - March 28, 2022

- The Caribou Russet, developed by Greg Porter, was highlighted in a remarkable news story recently, about the beneficial economic impact to Maine's economy, and Maine's potato industry out-performing other states.
<https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/money/economy/2021-maine-potato-harvest-highly-successful-opening-new-business-opportunities/97-cd5c1b0e-af0b-422a-a18e-a15a13ea87d7>
- Sue Ishaq added two new grad students to her lab, bringing her to 3 masters and 1 PhD student (who is through GSBSE)
- Dr. Dorothy Klimis-Zacas received the Inaugural Foster Innovation Award, for faculty that develop unique solutions that have resulted in social, cultural or economic impact in Maine and beyond. Her abstract *Phenolic Extracts from Wild Blueberries promote(s) Wound Healing via Vascularization* will be presented at the Experimental Biology Meetings in Philadelphia, April 2022. She will be the Co-PI of a clinical study entitled *Effect of Wild Blueberries on Metabolic Syndrome clusters: a new focus on endothelial permeability and functionality* from 2022-2024 in collaboration with the University of Milan. She is also an Invited Panel Speaker for the Spring 2022 Conference of the Maine Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on "The Health Benefits of Wild Blueberries".

December 2021 - February 27, 2022

- Pauline Kamath received a Converge Maine seed grant (\$30K) to support a One

Health NRT convergent project focused on wild and domestic canid parasites. It will also involve a veterinary needs assessment, and support the development of a rural veterinary outreach program (Maine inclusive animal care services - "MAINEIACS"). Others involved include Sue Ishaq and Darren Ranco, and Michele Walsh (state veterinarian), as well as several grad students that are part of the One Health NRT program.

<https://pressinews.com/umaine-portland-gateway-announces-converge-maine-seed-grant-winners-umaine-news/>

Pauline also had a paper accepted in *Frontiers in Immunology*: *Immunological evidence of host variation in exposure and immune response to Bacillus anthracis in herbivores of Kruger and Etosha National Parks*. The paper is led by a Masters student in her anthrax research group and describes exposure to *B. anthracis* in two main wild hosts in low versus high incidence areas of southern Africa; it also shows there may be a tradeoff between exposure and the ability to neutralize the anthrax toxin in a natural system.

November 23, 2021 - December 20, 2021

- Greg Porter was awarded a USDA-NIFA Potato Breeding Grant. SFA faculty on the grant are Porter, Hao, Camire, and Perkins. The grant included three other UM faculty. Greg was also interviewed by BDN, ME Public, and NBC recently about potatoes and climate change. Here is the NBC news piece:

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/umainedevelops-climate-change-resistant-potatoes/2575514/>

- Anne Lichtenwalner's grad student, Rachel White will be presenting her work on gastropod-borne diseases at CRWAD in Chicago. Also, our visiting pathologist, Nanny Wenzlow, received her pathology board certification last month. She has given several talks on veterinary forensic pathology, including an all-day workshop at the New England Veterinary Conference, since arriving here in September.
- Rachel Schattman was quoted in the BDN in an article (Pandemic prompts rise in Mainers' food self-sufficiency) on food insecurity during the pandemic:
<https://edition.bangordailynews.com/olive/odn/bangordailynews/default.aspx>

October 19, 2021 - November 22, 2021

- Jade McNamara receives a USDA NIFA Farm to School Service Learning Program grant
- The Alumni Association runs a promotional piece on Robert Dumas.

<https://www.umainealumni.com/social-impact/rob-dumas-a-focus-on-food-innovation/>

- Rachel Schattman Kate Yerxa with collaborators at UMaine, UMPI, and UVM:
 - released 3 research briefs relevant to Mainers' experience with food insecurity since the onset of the COVID pandemic (attached);
 - 1 research brief speaking to the same topics with an emphasis on home food production (gardening, preserving food, fishing, hunting, etc.) with a focus on Maine and Vermont;
 - Co-authored on a paper that looks at food insecurity and COVID across 18 research sites in the U.S. The author accepted, open-access proof is now published in Current Developments in Nutrition;
- Rachel Schattman Gave an interview 11/20/2021 to Maine Public Radio about our work and our participation in the National Food Access and COVID research team (NFACT).
- Pauline Kamath
 - Had a News & Views manuscript accepted this past week in Nature Ecology & Evolution (featuring a new paper on how hunting influences wildlife disease transmission).
 - Was interviewed for the podcast, The Maine Question: "How are ticks threatening Maine moose?"
<https://umaine.edu/podcasts/2021/11/11/s5e8-how-are-ticks-threatening-maines-moose/>
 - Had two students defend: Carly Dickson (Masters) at the end of October, and Steph Shea (PhD) on 11/20/2021.

September 20, 2021 - October 18, 2021

- Dr. Glenda Pereira, has been appointed Assistant Extension Professor, Dairy Specialist with a partial appointment in the School of Food and Agriculture.
- Sue Ishaq will be presenting at the inVIVO Planetary Health virtual conference, Dec 1-7, 2021 (title TBA); the 2nd Rhode Island Microbiome Symposium, University of Rhode Island Kingston, RI, January 14, 2022 "Microbes at the nexus of environmental, biological, and social research"; American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Microbe 2022, Washington, DC (USA), June 9-13, 2022. "Field Work & DEI Part 1: Fostering Equitable Partnerships with the Communities in Your Field Work Location", and a special session on Microbes and Social Equity.

- Mary Ellen Camire, Avinash Patel, Suriya Lakshmi Balasubramaniam, and Balu Nayak publish paper online in Food Hydrocolloids.
- Samuel Akomea-Frempong published a paper with Denise Skonberg (co-author), Jen Perry (corresponding author), and Mary Ellen Camire (co-author) in a special issue of Foods.
- Jim Weber and Anne Lichtenwalner are part of a surgical implant research group at UMaine, and have learned that a Maine orthopedic implant manufacturing company, ALM Ortho, has submitted a proposal to license UMaine's patent on our intellectual property. They are also partnering with this company to co-submit a NIH SBIR proposal that would identify sub-licensees for the technology and fund additional R and D.
- Jade McNamara received an USDA NIFA Farm to School Service Learning Program grant.
- Robert Causey is piloting a research learning experience (RLE) class titled Greener Pastures. Practice, Policy, and Perception in Animal Agriculture.

Summer 2021 - September 19, 2021

- Yanyan Li joins SFA as Assistant Professor in Nutritional Biochemistry (August 30, 2021).
- Karen Cliff promoted to Administrative Specialist CL3 in School of Forest Resources (August 14, 2021).
- Susan Sullivan promoted to Associate Dean of Instruction (August 1, 2021).
- Mona Therrien promoted to Associate Director of SFA (August 1, 2021).
- Dorothy Klimis-Zacas re-appointed Section editor of "Genes and cell metabolism" in Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care
- Dorothy Klimis-Zacas and her team, past doctoral students Pangiotis Tsakiroglou and Natalie VandenAkker, have received a Maine Technology Institute Grant, Investment Level II "Wild Blueberry extract(s) promote wound healing: Innovation and development of non-fidelity prototypes".
- Pauline Kamath published 4 papers in the past year.