

SFA NewsBites

News items are compiled by the SFA Director. Please send submissions to rcausey@maine.edu

October 19, 2021 - November 22, 2021

- Jade McNamara received a USDA NIFA Farm to School Service Learning Program grant.
- The Alumni Association ran a promotional piece on Robert Dumas.
<https://www.umainealumni.com/social-impact/rob-dumas-a-focus-on-food-innovation/>
- Rachel Schattman and Kate Yerxa, with collaborators at UMaine, UMPI, and UVM, accomplished the following:
 - Released 3 research briefs relevant to Mainers’ experience with food insecurity since the onset of the COVID pandemic (attached).
 - Released 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 individually gave an interview 11/20/2021 to Maine Public Radio about her work and participation in the National Food Access and COVID research team (NFACT).
- Pauline Kamath accomplished the following:
 - 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 threat-

ening 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.