

AROUND CAMPUS

NEWS AROUND CENTRAL MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE COMMUNITY • FEBRUARY 2021

WE BID ADIEU, AND SAY HELLO!

From long-time employees retiring, to new positions, CMCC has people on the move. Explore and read about old friends and new hires!

ENDOWMENTS, EVENTS, AND ENGAGEMENT

The latest from the CM Education Foundation.

ESPORTS MANAGEMENT AND HARRISBURG UNIVERSITY

CMCC signs first Esports Management articulation agreement.



FEATURED STORY

POPPELL BRINGING TUFTS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE TO CMCC

The student-led research group will submit the first Maine-based data for a nationwide study.



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Interim President Betsy Libby hands out CMCC lamps to new retirees. From top to bottom: Ray Masse, Roger Philippon, Lester Ordway, Don Varney. Read more on page four.

POPPELL BRINGING TUFTS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE TO CMCC

MOST COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCIENCE STUDENTS DON'T EXPERIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, LET ALONE HIGH-LEVEL RESEARCH ON A NATIONAL PROJECT. ERICKA POPPELL, AN ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR IN LIFE SCIENCES, IS CHANGING THIS.

Last February, Ericka Poppell and her students were at the start of a collaboration with Tufts University's Center for Science Education, part of Tufts School of Medicine. Those 20 students were the first group in Maine to participate in the P-A-R-E (Prevalence of Antibiotic-Resistance in the Environment) project, overseen by Tufts principal investigator Dr. Carol Bascom-Slack.

In spring 2020, the students were to take part in an embedded course undergraduate research experience (URE), collecting soil samples for a database to determine and monitor nation-wide antibiotic-resistant hot-spots. Despite being delayed due to COVID-19, Poppell was determined to make the undergraduate research experience happen for her students.

In the Fall 2020 semester, Poppell's students took the next steps by focusing on P-A-R-E Sequencing focused on bioinformatics research. Tufts University student project leads Scarlet Bliss and Eva Abraha virtually lectured CMCC students on antimicrobial resistance, resistance in public health, and resistance genes at a genetic level. CMCC students then analyzed Tufts collected data on water samples from Kenya, and soil samples from India. Running data, students were able to identify where antibiotic resistance existed in genetic markers.



This year, the week of March 29th, students will finally get to partake in an embedded course undergraduate research experience on the CMCC campus. Students will be collecting soil samples, using GPS markers for tracking, and following the same scientific and analytical methods as students at Tufts University. The data collected by CMCC's student researchers will be collated and used as part of the Tufts group, and the data will also go to the School of Medicine at Harvard.

Says Ericka, "It can be life changing for a student to realize they are capable of high-level research through participation in an undergraduate research experience. I already have students who had no idea about bioinformatics - they're now enamored with the field and asked to pursue more data sets outside the scope of classroom work."

Ericka is passionate about a few things professionally - science in higher education, the life-changing experience hands-on research can have, and promoting science to women as a fulfilling and intellectually stimulating career. Ericka is getting a chance to tackle all of these at CMCC. "I've done some pretty cool things in my life as a scientist," says Ericka, "...and getting to give these students an experience that could change the trajectory of their lives? That's right up there."



CMCC AND HARRISBURG SIGN FIRST ESPORTS MANAGEMENT DEGREE ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

Central Maine Community College (CMCC) and Harrisburg University of Science and Technology (HU) have signed the first articulation agreement for CMCC's Esports Management program. Graduates are

granted acceptance into HU's Bachelor of Science in Esports Management, Production, and Performance Degree Program at junior-level standing. This marks the first articulation agreement for the Esports Management program.

"We are pleased to partner with Central Maine Community College to provide a pathway for graduates to continue their education in our Esports Management, Production, and Performance Bachelor of Science Degree program," said Dr. Eric Darr, Harrisburg University President. "Our program allows students to follow their passions to lucrative careers in a \$1 billion industry that continues to grow. Students who graduate from this program will have the skills and know-how to succeed in this exciting industry."

CMCC students who transfer to HU will enjoy the same benefits as current HU

students and will be provided equal opportunities in applying for financial aid and in the award and distribution of funds. CMCC students transferring to HU also will receive consideration for campus housing on the same basis as native HU students.

"Our new partnership with Harrisburg University allows CMCC's Esports Management graduates the option to earn their baccalaureate degree while gaining hands-on industry experience in the Esports field. Students who have been part of the CMCC Esports athletics program will also have the potential to extend their Esports athletic interests," says CMCC Interim President Betsy Libby.

Learn more about CMCC's Esports Management Program at **www.cmcc.edu/esportsmanagement**.

Learn more about HU's Esports, Management, Production and Performance Program at **www.harrisburgu.edu/programs/bs-esports-management-production-and-performance/**



The Center for Workforce & Professional Development at Central Maine Community College, in partnership with the Maine Quality Center, is offering a no-cost, 100% online, Precision Machining Training Fundamentals program to qualified candidates. Participants who successfully complete the program will have the opportunity to apply to the CMCC Precision Machining Technology Associate Degree program. The program's anticipated training schedule is February 2021 through July 2021. **The deadline to register is February 5, 2021.**

This four-course program is designed to provide participants with the basic fundamentals and knowledge needed to be considered for entry-level precision machining employment opportunities. Students will take courses in Shop Math, Blueprint Reading and Sketching, CNC Milling Programming, and CNC Lathe Programming, utilizing SIM software.

Qualified candidates must be:

- 18 years or older and possess a high school diploma/GED/HiSET;
- eligible to work in the U.S. by the completion of the training program;
- work ready prior to taking the training program, and;
- able to access a computer with a camera and high-speed internet capability (Zoom classes and simulation labs) and have access to email.

Prior to registration, students must take a Shop Math assessment. For more information or to register or about qualifications, please contact Central Maine Community College's Center for Workforce & Professional Development at workforcedevelopment@cmcc.edu or 207-755-5280.

COVID-TRAINING THE MAINE WORKFORCE

In December of 2020, the Center for Workforce and Professional Development (CWPD) partnered with two large Maine organizations to provide COVID training to employees.

GOODWILL NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND (Goodwill NNE)

Focused on 1,200 employees of Goodwill NNE, the Covid-19 Readiness training course — administered through CMCC's new learning management system Brightspace — focused on reducing risk to employees, team members, and customers while conducting business at Goodwill NNE's employment, donation, and shopping centers. Employees who successfully completed this training had their registration count toward an application for admission at CMCC, and they each earned a digital badge in COVID-19 Readiness Retail Foundations, which they can use to promote their skills on LinkedIn or Facebook.

SKI MAINE ASSOCIATION OF MAINE

Last month Maine's robust ski industry was about to get underway. CWPD collaborated with the Ski Maine Association of Maine to proactively ensure 2,500 employees from ski sites across the state would be educated on how to work as safely as possible in a COVID-19 environment. Participants earned a digital badge they can utilize to show employers they are trained and prepared for the season.

"We feel confident that with the information ski area employees will learn from the course they developed for us, that the ski experience in Maine will be enjoyable for guests and will reduce risk of transmission for employees and communities across Maine," said Ski Maine Association of Maine's Executive Director Dick Gowens. "We encourage all business sectors to reach out to [CMCC] for help developing similar programs," Gowens said.



WE BID ADIEU

At the end of 2020, four long-time employees of CMCC retired.

RAY MASSE



For 38 years, starting as a groundskeeper, Ray Masse oversaw and helped create the beautiful lakeside campus CMCC is today. When he became the head of facilities, Masse

wanted his employees to succeed - so he first focused on better equipment to do the job safely and more efficiently. Says Dan Graham, Masse's successor, "Because of things like that, we can get by with a smaller crew and still maintain a beautiful campus."

Ray was part of every small job, renovation, and new building project for nearly 40 years - overseeing the modernization of the campus. Whether fixing a desk or spending hours "...writing bids, contacting vendors, and ordering supplies... no job was ever too big or too small for Ray to help with," says Dan. His institutional knowledge went deep. "He has forgotten more than most people will ever know about our campus."

Throughout all of this, he maintained a friendly, open, and humble attitude. With an outgoing and friendly personality, Masse knew everybody by name and everybody knew him - both on and off-campus. "His crew respected him greatly and would do anything he asked," says Dan. "There have been countless vendors that have already mentioned how much they will miss him."

ROGER PHILIPPON



Philippon came to CMCC in 2006 after working at St. Joseph's College in Standish and USM's Lewiston-Auburn College. As dean of planning and public affairs, Philippon directed institutional assessment and research

efforts; led the development and implementation of the college's strategic plans; managed federal grants and served as accreditation liaison officer; directed community, legislative, and media relations and college marketing efforts; and served as executive director of the CM Education Foundation. Long active in his community, Philippon is a former member of the Lewiston City Council and currently serves on the Lewiston Finance Committee. He is also a member of the L-A Metro Chamber of Commerce, the L-A Rotary Club, and the Maine Public Relations Council. Philippon holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Maine and a master's degree in adult education from the University of Southern Maine. He and his wife Celeste live in Lewiston and devote much time and energy to the L-A Community Little Theater. They have a son Joseph, a detective with the Lewiston Police Department, and two grandsons.

Heather Seymour, director of marketing and communications, says of Roger, "For over eight years we worked hand-in-hand. He was a mentor and a sounding board. His institutional knowledge; compassion; and humor will be missed."

LESTER ORDWAY



Lester Ordway started in the Automotive Program at CMCC in 1997 as part of the Ford ASSET program. As a primary recruiter for the program, Lester spent many days meeting students and visiting high schools, many of who

came to CMCC. Matt Walsh, chair of the Automotive Program, says Ordway was responsible for growing the program to what it is now, doubling the program in 2003. "We used to start a cohort of Asset students every other year," said Walsh. "After that we began starting each fall."

"Lester's biggest contribution was often his interactions with students. He had sort of a fatherly relationship with a lot of the students," commented Matt. "They would listen to him even when they didn't want to, and he was a good ear when they needed it. Whether they were overwhelmed with classes, having too much fun outside of class, or homesick he was really good at helping them through it."

Not only did Ordway have a significant role in running the Ford/AAA auto skills competition - awarding high school automotive students with scholarships to attend college - he also ran the ME/NH/VT contests and contributed to the finals for the past ten years.

In 2015, Ordway became a Representative for House District 23. He was re-elected in 2020. In his capacity as Representative, Ordway serves on the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, and the Leaves of Absence Committee. Ordway lives in Standish and has four children and four grandchildren he looks forward to spending time with.

DON VARNEY



Don Varney spent a decade at CMCC creating a thriving Building Construction Technology department. A creative and energetic leader, and inspiring teacher,

Varney turned the lab into a modern learning center with redesigned curriculum to focus on student-first learning. In 2013, he was presented with the Faculty Member of the Year award.

A graduate of CMCC, Varney earned a baccalaureate degree in applied technical education at USM and is certified as a Building Analyst Professional. With over 30 years of experience in the construction field, and working closely with his program advisory board, he created class content changes to enhance work-ready knowledge and skills, including adding building science and international residential code to the curriculum. Don also created a vibrant concurrent course, collaborating with instructors at secondary regional technical centers and strengthening ties through shared values.

Finally, he spearheaded the creation of the Building Construction Jobsite Program. A joint effort of CMCC and residential and commercial companies, this two-year program provides students with alternating classroom and laboratory training with paid, on-the-job experience. Varney's expertise and changes in the Building Construction Technology department will be fostered and continued through the College; his successor as program chair, Curry Caputo; and other program instructors.

NEW FACES AT CM



Tatiana Pullen

TRIO Retention and Transfer Advisor

With over fourteen years in higher education, Tatiana comes from St. Thomas University in Miami, FL with experience in coordinating tutoring & testing services, dual enrollment program, and as an academic advisor. She is also an alumnus of St. Thomas University, having earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from there. Originally from Brazil, she lives in Turner with her husband and two young children. She is excited to learn more about our area and to experience all that Maine has to offer.



Suzanne Hamilton

TRIO Retention and Transfer Advisor

From Salt Lake City, Suzanne was previously at the University of Utah, as an academic student support advisor for their football program. Suzanne has also provided academic support for the athletics programs at Old Dominion University. She holds a bachelor's in psychology from Pennsylvania State University, and a master's in education from the University of Pennsylvania. Suzanne enjoys cooking and getting together with friends and is looking forward to enjoying Maine's fine food and beverage scene.



Chris Thoma

TRIO Tutor Coordinator

A well-loved current adjunct math instructor at CMCC since 2017, Chris was presented with the 2019 Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year award. He has tutored in both the Math Science Center and TRIO since 2017. Previously, Chris was an assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served in the United States Army. Chris brings a strong sense of organization, high energy, and a caring attitude to our students.



Tim Sardano

Workforce Program Specialist

Previously a deputy communications director with the State of Maine Department of Labor and a communications consultant/contractor in the private sector, Tim has held various marketing and project management roles since 2003, including communications, special projects, and an analyst. He holds a BA in Communications and Journalism from Saint John Fisher College. Originally from Nyack, NY, Tim now resides in Topsham.



Allie Johnson

Associate Dean of Finance and General Services

Allie comes to CMCC after seven years at CIEE in senior operations and five years at Norway Savings Bank in financial services. Allie holds two bachelor degrees from the University of Southern Maine and an M.B.A. from Southern New Hampshire University. She also holds all Maine insurance licenses and a Maine Producer license. Currently residing in Lisbon Falls, Allie and her husband enjoy buying and renovating homes in their spare time.



Peter Coffin

**Instructor,
Building
Construction
Technology**

With over 20 years of experience, Peter Coffin joins the Building Construction Technology program as a full-time instructor. Peter was previously the property manager at Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead. Peter holds an A.A. in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Wentworth Institute of Technology, and a B.S. in Physical Science from Northern Arizona University. Originally from West Gardiner, Peter stayed close to home and now lives in Richmond.

ON THE MOVE AT CMCC

Dan Graham has been promoted to head of facilities for the College. **Curry Caputo** takes over as chair in the Building Construction Technology program. **Amanda York** has been promoted to associate director of TRIO. **Heather Seymour** has been promoted to the director of marketing and communications. **Alyson Daniels** is now the executive assistant to Interim President Betsy Libby. **Matt Tifft** is now leading the Public Service and Social Sciences department. **Kate Dionne** has moved into the chair position for Humanities. **Mike Henry** has taken over as chair for the Business department.

PETER MILLER RE-CERTIFIED AS A NURSING EDUCATOR

Peter Miller, a long-time instructor in the Nursing Program, has successfully re-certified as a Nursing Educator. The National League for Nursing lists the mission of the Academic Nurse Educator Certification Program as promoting "...excellence in the advanced specialty role of the academic nurse educator." This certification helps distinguish Miller as an educator in "...a specialty area of practice [with] an advanced practice role within professional nursing". It also certifies Miller has specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities as a nurse educator, and that he "...communicates to students, peers and the academic and health care communities that the highest standards of excellence are being met."

In addition to his certification, Miller is on the Academic Programs Committee at Central Maine Community College and the IRB for Southern Maine Community College.



Peter Miller, instructor in CMCC's Nursing Program.

NEWSBITES

Quick and interesting news from around CMCC and our community.



POPPELL AND MORENO CHOSEN FOR NASA-FUNDED CONSORTIUM

Ericka Poppell, Life Sciences; and Dan Moreno, Architectural and Civil Engineering; have been chosen as new affiliate members of the Maine Space Grant Consortium (MSGC). This consortium furthers NASA in Maine by "...investing NASA Space Grant and NASA Epscor funds in Maine faculty, students, and educators." The goal of the MSGC for researchers is to "strengthen the Affiliate's STEM research capacity in areas mutually beneficial to NASA and Maine," and "increase participation of Maine undergraduate and graduate students in STEM... research conducted by the Affiliates and NASA field centers."

In late January, Poppell and Moreno will take part in the first day of collaborations, and will have the potential to later apply for grant funding. Learn more about the MSGC at www.msgc.org.

CASCO BAY BLUEFIN BONANZA CHECK PRESENTATION

Officials from the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza (CBBB) presented a check for \$24,000, to go toward scholarships for students in the Maine Community College System. Each of the seven colleges in the System will receive \$2,000, with the remainder in a fund for future scholarships. Sue Frigon, associate director of financial aid at Central Maine Community College, is on a CBBB committee.

CMCC PARTICIPATES IN STUFF THE BUS

This past December, CMCC once again took part in the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce's Stuff the Bus campaign. Donated items helped to provide holiday gifts to children in need in our community.

JMG HOSTS FIRST ROUNDTABLE EVENT, FOCUSED IN HEALTHCARE



As the first in a series of roundtable events, JMG hosted a virtual healthcare networking event with three professionals working in the medical field in Maine. Over Zoom, Erin O'Donnell Clinical Medical Instructor, CCMA, EMT from NTI; Molly Aube RN, BSN from the

Barbara Bush Children's Hospital/Maine Medical Center; and Danielle Knight, Assistant Director of Case Management at the Morrison Center spoke to students and answered questions. Through events like this, JMG helps students see their potential and find passion in pathways they are considering for careers.



Top to Bottom: Maine Space Grant Consortium logo; Bob Humphrey, president of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza presents a check to SMCC President Joe Cassidy; Nick Hamel, dean of student services; Interim President Betsy Libby; Jean Blais, student services coordinator; Roger Philippon, former dean of planning and public affairs; and Bob Daigle, food services manager; pose with gifts for Stuff the Bus in December of 2020.



ENDOWMENTS, EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

News from the CM Education Foundation

For more information about the Foundation, contact Alyson Daniels, Foundation coordinator and executive assistant to the president
CMFoundation@cmcc.edu • (207) 755-5233

SCOTT E. KNAPP ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

In 2020, the CM Education Foundation Board of Directors announced the creation of an endowed scholarship in the name of CMCC's recently retired president, Dr. Scott E. Knapp. This fund honors Dr. Knapp by awarding a student showing perseverance and success, despite being faced with adversity. The student selected for this \$1,000 award will have demonstrated academic excellence, financial need, and transformative leadership potential through spirit, determination, and courage.

Thanks to the efforts of our board and the communities in which we serve - including our own CMCC faculty and staff - the initial goal of raising \$50,000 was surpassed before the new year. Of this goal, the faculty and staff at CMCC raised more than \$5,000. Their gracious contributions were matched with \$5,000 from an anonymous donor.

ANNUAL DINNER

In 2020, the 13th Annual CM Education Foundation Dinner was unable to be held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are deeply thankful

to our many supporters that graciously sponsored regardless, allowing the College to continue raising funds for students in need.

The 14th Annual CM Education Foundation Dinner will be held in late spring 2021.

For 2021, we are excited to announce the addition of a Silent Auction to showcase some of the best products and experiences our communities have to offer! We will be communicating details about this exciting redesigned event soon, and look forward to continued community support.

A NOTE FROM CHRISTINE BOSSE, FOUNDATION CHAIR

"I welcome you to join the CM Foundation in supporting incoming CMCC students. The CM Foundation provides scholarships to students in need by supporting their dreams to impact the community. Together we can provide opportunities for the next generation of leaders. When you support the CM Foundation, you will influence a student's career opportunity to reach the field they aspire to join, whether an electrician, nurse, or non-profit leader. The impact of a gift will create a ripple effect of immeasurable opportunities for generations to come."



FESTIVITIES SWEATER DAY



Photos: Main image, Nick Hamel, dean of student services; Top to Bottom: Jean Blais, student services coordinator; Linda Hlnckley, food services; Walter Morris, information support specialist III; Bob Daigle, senior food service manager; Dr. Betsy Libby, interim president; Tatiana Pullen, TRIO retention and transfer advisor.