Writer hits the Maine woods (top left). Creature students participate in a construction design project (top right). Pulp + Paper Foundation graduate Eliza Hosford '20, now at P&G, celebrates her graduation day (bottom).
CONSIDER ENGINEERING

Still a Success

Program changed from 4-day event to one day to comply with CDC recommendations for health and safety.

For 49 years, the Consider Engineering program has been offered by the UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation. Despite the unusual circumstances of this year, we were determined to continue to make this program available to as many students as possible. Unable to bring students to campus in July, we ended up hosting two separate one-day sessions of Consider Engineering on the UMaine campus this fall. The nearly 70 high school students who participated had just begun their senior year of high school.

The Consider Engineering program is an introductory look at all the different disciplines offered by UMaine’s College of Engineering, including the School of Engineering Technology.

Consider Engineering is designed to challenge participants, answer questions, and show what engineering majors and programs are available to study at UMaine. This fall we offered the students many of the same opportunities we offer in a typical four-day summer program. They met UMaine engineering professors, current engineering students, completed a construction design project, and competed in the “I AM an Engineer” competition. In addition, they had the opportunity to participate in an interactive Zoom session with engineers from Sappi. Participants also got to hear from our current engineering students about some of the unique projects they worked on during their co-op experiences. The day concluded with a design competition, a Zoom visit from Dean of the College of Engineering Dana Humphrey, and the awarding of prizes.

Participants were blown away hearing about the incredible impact they can have as an engineer!

We would like to thank some of our seniors for spending their weekend and holiday with our students: Grace Farrington, Austin Gilboe, Andrew Arsenault, Zach Nash, Emma Smith, and Spenser Steeves are always willing to go above and beyond, and we will miss them next year! We are also grateful to Dr. David Neivandt and Andy Sheaff of UMaine who once again helped to make sure our Consider Engineering students had the best experience possible. They participated in advance planning sessions with us, and also volunteered their days off to help introduce engineering and UMaine to a fantastic group of high school students!

Program information as well as the application for Consider Engineering 2021 can be found at UMainePPF.org. You may also call the Foundation office at 207-581-2297. The deadline to apply for admission to Consider Engineering is April 15, 2021.
When 2020 began, we could not have anticipated what would come our way. As the world has changed around us, we have stayed true to our purpose and those things which we can control. Last year, our Executive Committee approved the continued expansion of our student body from 80 students in the fall of 2017 to over 150 students within the next five years. Now, in 2020, we are well on our way, offering scholarships, networking opportunities, and mentoring to over 120 students this past fall!

Now, more than ever, our students need our support—mentally, emotionally, and with our scholarship dollars. We are grateful that even as our companies and alumni are facing an extraordinary year, the UMPPF continues to be a place they wish to support.

As we can see the end of 2020 on the horizon (thank goodness!), we thank you for considering a donation to the UMPPF. Donations can take the form of an annual contribution (which helps us put on programs like Consider Engineering free of charge to students), or an addition to an existing scholarship, or the start of a new scholarship (as little as a $500 donation will become a scholarship once it reaches the $10,000 level). We welcome checks mailed to our office or electronic donations via our website at UMainePPF.org.

One of our seniors expressed his gratitude this spring, which we pass on to you since your donations are what make this all possible:

“I cannot thank you enough for everything you have done for me over the past 4 years. Becoming a part of the UMPPF has been the best thing that has happened to me. Not only have I received great schooling and financial aid, I have gotten the chance to accept a full-time position at the mill of my dreams. Additionally, I have gained great professional traits and skills, all while having so much fun and meeting great people along the way.”

This note accompanied his very first donation to the UMPPF, all before he graduated!

Thank you all for your continued support. We are thinking of you and your families during such challenging times. Here's to looking forward!

CARRIE ENOS, President

Recruitment Goes Virtual

Recruiting season, like so many other things, looks quite different this year. Information sessions are happening virtually the night before interviews, and the interviews are now being conducted online.

There are 38 sophomores looking for co-ops/internships, 23 first-year students seeking summer internships, and 25 seniors seeking full-time employment. That means we are coordinating a total of 86 students! All of these UMPPF students' resumes have been polished, photos have been taken and posted on our website, and info sessions and interview schedules have been set up—which include 27 different locations across the U.S.! Although the interviews aren’t happening in person, it’s still so much fun to feel the buzz in the air as students stop by to talk about how their interviews went and discuss their options.
In this year of adapting to change, we couldn’t wait to take on the challenge of hosting our Fall Scholarship Banquet. This banquet is our opportunity to recognize students for all their hard work, to welcome the new Class of 2024 to campus, and to make introductions between people who will become lifelong colleagues and friends.

Since the student body grew so quickly, we knew we couldn’t safely bring them all together at the same time as we’ve done in the past, so we hosted THREE scholarship banquets in one day! The event was held at Wells Conference Center, an event space that normally holds 350 at Paper Days but was now limited to less than 50 people at a time. Between the three different sessions we took hour-long breaks for cleaning, and we even awarded points for the coolest face masks!

At the first banquet, a luncheon for our seniors, members of our Scholarship and Educational Relations Committee and some of our corporate supporters joined us to welcome our seniors back from their co-op jobs or summer classes. We then played a slideshow with photos dating back to 2017 when we first met many of our seniors at Consider Engineering. The banquet concluded with our industry friends announcing the students’ names as they came forward to pick up their last UMPPF fall scholarship checks.

In mid-afternoon we welcomed back our sophomore and junior classes. Part of this group is away on their fall semester co-op, but those who were able to attend got to enjoy a Maine classic—baked potato with toppings! Everyone looked professional as we took their photos for the student profiles on our website, and again our industry representatives assisted with the scholarship check presentation.

In the evening we hosted our largest first-year class of 36 students—about 30% bigger than our typical first-year classes! We were all smiles underneath our face masks as we watched the students meet each other. There were many familiar faces we recognized from Consider Engineering, along with new faces we can’t wait to get to know better as they begin their journey here at UMaine. The nearly 70 corporate members of the UMPPF once again sent in items for gift bags that were given to welcome the first-year students to the program.

**This year, the UMPPF will award nearly $800,000 in full and partial tuition scholarships to students currently enrolled in the College of Engineering. Students enrolled in Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil Engineering as well as Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology or Forestry are eligible for these scholarships.**

Recipients are required to complete at least two semesters of co-op or internship experience in the Pulp and Paper Industry, and will graduate in four years with the significant advantage of nearly a year’s worth of experience (or more) in their field. The UMPPF student body will continue to grow to meet the demands of the industry, which has come to appreciate the knowledge, experience, and strong work ethic of our UMPPF engineers.

To learn more, visit our brand new website at UMainePPF.org.
Q: How did you discover the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation and what attracted you to it?
A: Both of my parents work in the paper industry, and coming from a mill town, I had heard of students from my high school that had gone to Consider Engineering and loved it. I applied to Consider Engineering and was hooked before I even graduated high school. The UMaine students that were our chaperones were awesome—they answered questions and they seemed like they genuinely enjoyed the program and what it had to offer.

How did you know the program was the right fit for you?

When I started as a freshman at UMaine, I was very nervous that it was going to be too much. The classes were very hard and there were lots of students who were extremely smart. The moment I knew this was the right program for me was the co-op program. When on co-op, you learn so much more than any textbook can teach you. The communication skills and the hands-on projects were what hooked me into a career in paper and I know I will be satisfied and challenged every day.

What was top of mind when considering the program?

I would say just about everything was pointing to the direction of UMaine. I liked how the campus was laid out and that it was not all pavement and concrete. I love the mall, and the gardens by the Emera Astronomy Center. The most attractive thing about the program was the job placement. It is extremely hard to beat the 95%+ job placement. This was the point of going to college, to better myself for the future. I knew I was going to be employed with all the resources I had by attending the University of Maine.

What is your favorite thing about UMPPF?

My favorite thing about the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation is their commitment to the students. Jen and Carrie are there to help through anything in life. There have been countless times where I have sat in their office concerned about a test or a week that just drags by. They listen and they also offer to arrange free tutoring which pairs you up with upper class students. The connections you make in the UMPPF office are forever.

If one of your friends were considering UMPPF, what would you tell them?

I would tell them you would be crazy not to apply for the scholarship.

If you don't get the scholarship, you can still go to the info sessions for each individual company and interview for positions. The connections you make through the pulp and paper industry last a lifetime.
Q: How did you discover the University of Maine Pulp and Paper Foundation and what attracted you to it?

A: I discovered UMPPF through my high school guidance counselor. I knew that I wanted to do some sort of engineering after high school but was not sure what type. She suggested that I apply to the Considering Engineering program that is offered for high school juniors. I was attracted to the Foundation first because of the financial assistance that they provide (I am the third member of my family to go to college). Once I realized how much they impact students outside of scholarships, I knew that it was more than just a foundation handing out money, but a foundation dedicated to helping build the next generation of engineers.

How did you know the program was the right fit for you?

I knew that I would like the program when I went to Considering Engineering and participated in all of the hands-on activities.

I have always been a problem solver and enjoyed finding new and innovative solutions, and that is exactly what engineering is.

Also, being able to talk with students that were in the program at the time gave me an insight to what the engineering program and being a Pulp and Paper scholarship recipient was actually like. I 100% knew that the program was right for me when I started taking classes and was able to work with my fellow classmates to solve real life engineering problems.

What was top of mind when considering the program?

I knew that the University of Maine’s engineering program has a great reputation for providing students with real life experiences. The program offers chances to help professors with research, internship opportunities, hands on classes and chances to work in the Pulp and Paper Pilot Plant.

I knew that with UMaine’s 200+ clubs and organizations, I would find a place where I fit in and would be able to continue doing the things that I enjoy. Among some of the clubs that I am in now are the Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) as well as the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). Both of these clubs are student-led and provide even more opportunities to meet industry members at different conferences and to tour the pulp and paper mills around the country.

How do you feel about your future in the industry?

I am very excited to see where my career in the industry is going to take me, whether it is working for a chemical supplier like Solenis or working for a manufacturer like Verso. The need right now in the industry is for new engineers as many are beginning to retire. I know that there is always going to be a place for me when I graduate.

In the meantime, I am happy to be at the University of Maine and a Pulp and Paper Foundation scholarship recipient because I know that I am going to continue to receive the best education possible. I also know that I will have the chance to participate in another co-op next summer to continue to learn and grow as an engineer.

NAME: Jordon Gregory
GRADUATION YEAR: 2022

Read the full interview with Jordon at UMainePPF.org/blog
WELCOME
THE CLASS OF
2024!

This is our biggest first-year class ever, with 36 scholarship recipients in Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering as well as Mechanical Engineering Technology. Our students come from as far away as New York and New Jersey. We’ve got Maine covered too: from Gorham in the south to Madawaska in the north and from Paris in the west to Alexander in the east. Many of these students are already busy interviewing for a number of first-year internships being offered by companies during our co-op and full-time recruiting season, which started in late September and will run through the end of October.

Welcome to campus, Class of 2024!