

**The Impacts of UMM Student Clubs and Organizations on the  
Machias Community**

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## **Table of Contents**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction and Statement of Purpose**

- A. Introduction and Background of Study**
- B. Statement of Purpose of the Study**
- C. Research question(s) guiding the study and (if applicable) hypothesis**
- D. Theoretical framework guiding the study**
- E. Scope of the Study**
- F. Outline of the paper with a timeline**

### **Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature Review**

- A. Overview**
- B. Purpose of the Review**
- C. Historical Background**
- D. Review of Literature**
- E. Summary**

### **Chapter 3: Methodology**

- A. Introduction**
- B. Description of Methodology**
- C. Timeline**
- D. Conclusion**
- E. Appendix A**

#### **Appendix B**

### **Chapter 4: Results**

- A. Results**

### **Chapter 5: Discussion (Analysis) & Conclusion**

### **Bibliography**

## **Chapter 1: Introduction and Statement of Purpose**

### **A. Introduction and Background of Study**

The University of Maine at Machias (UMM) is located in a small rural town in Down East Maine. UMM is located on the most eastern coast of Maine. The campus has a diverse student population that is made up of traditional students, non-traditional students, commuter students, out-of-state students, and international students. UMM also offers courses through the Sunrise Senior College, which allows elderly residents of the Machias area an opportunity to learn and experience new technology. UMM includes the communities' younger population as well by allowing high school students from the surrounding towns to take courses on campus. The University of Maine at Machias offers a large range of degrees and certifications such as: Marine Biology, Behavioral Science, Education, Recreation, Business Management, and Fine Arts.

Anyone visiting the UMM campus would see a wide array of student clubs and organizations and the interactions that these organizations have throughout the Machias area and surrounding communities. UMM has several clubs and organizations that have been here for as many as 80 years. UMM has many different clubs that range from Science Club, the Newman Club, the Outing Club, Student Senate, and eight Greek Organizations.

The current study examines the interactions and impacts UMM Student Clubs and Organizations have on Machias area communities. In addition the researchers would like to look into what future interactions they will have. Some of these student-run clubs and organizations sponsor events like Red Cross Blood Drives and Special Olympics, which have high involvement with the Machias area residents. Personal motivations sparked the idea for the researchers to make this knowledge known to the public through a research project. They hope to

socially improve and increase the interactions between the Machias area communities and the University of Maine at Machias.

### **B. Statement of Purpose of the Study**

Through this project the researchers plan to improve the interactions between the University of Maine at Machias and the Machias area communities. The researchers' personal opinion is that the Machias area community relies on the programs that the student clubs and organizations sponsor. The researchers believe that the UMM student organizations and the Machias area community are dependent on each other and that by researching this they may spark interest for new future projects. With Machias located in such a small rural area the amount and types of activities available to these residents are limited. This research could help better the communications between the Universities' student clubs and organizations and the Machias area community while also increasing the amount of participants from both groups.

The researchers intend to find in what ways the UMM student clubs and organizations impact the Machias area community. Some examples of how the UMM student organizations could impact the Machias area community are by raising money for local businesses, volunteering throughout the community or providing activities that the Machias community members would be able to attend. In fact, the researchers have not found any substantial research in this area. The research dealing with issues concerning a Universities' organizations and the interactions of those organizations with the area communities is limited and they hope to fill this gap.

### **C. Research question(s) guiding the study and (if applicable) hypothesis**

This research is part of a larger study that examines how the University of Maine at Machias impacts the Machias area and Washington County communities. Through this specific

project the researchers plan to look at how the UMM student clubs and organizations interact and affect the Machias area and Washington County communities. In addition to the overall project, when speaking with the individual UMM clubs and organizations the researchers hope to find what type of philanthropic activities the student organizations sponsor and how they involve the community. First, the researchers would like to see what these clubs and organizations do to try and involve the community. Secondly, the researchers would like to see how the groups feel they affect or impact the Machias community. Thirdly, the researchers would like to look into how the community supports student organizations. Fourthly, the researchers hope to see where the student organizations spend their money. And finally, the researchers would like to see what future activities the UMM student clubs and organizations would like to see take place.

#### **D. Theoretical framework guiding the study**

The researchers will use functionalism to guide the current analysis. Functionalism is based on the idea that parts of society work interdependently but all serve to maintain the social order (Schutt 33). The researchers in this study believe that they will see how the UMM student clubs and organizations work interdependently but all serve to help the ‘community’. Although the researchers believe that functionalism will play a key role in their research they are open to other theories and the possibilities that new theories may bring.

#### **E. Scope of the Study**

The researcher’s limitations are that they are only collecting data from the UMM student clubs and organizations about events they sponsor or attend within the Machias area community. The researchers will conduct four focus groups with a representative from each UMM student club or organization, and sports team. In the future the researchers hope that research can be done with the Machias area community, as it will help to create a much clearer picture of the

impacts of the UMM student clubs and organizations on the Machias area community and Washington County.

**F. Outline of the paper with a timeline**

- January 15, 2008 to February 12, 2008 – The researchers will develop the research question and introduction.
- February 13, 2008 to March 20, 2008 – The researchers will gather literature and information on past studies that may help or aid in their research. The researchers will also be contacting UMM clubs and organizations to schedule focus group sessions in March.
- March 21, 2008 to March 27, 2008 – The researchers will conduct three focus groups with the UMM clubs and organizations.
- March 28, 2008 to April 7, 2008 – Dictating notes from the first three focus groups and combining the data.
- April 8, 2008 to April 15, 2008 – The researchers will conduct their final focus group and continue combining data.
- April 16, 2008 to April 17, 2008 – The researchers will finalize their data to present in a paper concerning their Methodology with their research.
- April 18, 2008 to April 29, 2008 – The researchers will go through their research to determine their results and finalize their conclusions.
- May 1, 2008 to May 7, 2008 – The researchers will practice their presentation and present their research in an open forum with the combined projects of the Research Methods and Design class.

## **Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature Review**

### **A. Overview**

The researchers of this study are looking into the impacts the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations have on the Machias area and surrounding communities. Within this chapter of the study the researchers hope to show the background and history of topics that have to deal with their study. Furthermore, the researchers will show a gap in the literature that will be filled by their study of work.

This chapter of the study is divided into five parts; the overview, the purpose, the background information, the literature review, and the summary. The literature review (D) is broken up into three subtopics that all relate to the researchers' theme of the study. The subtopics are: community building/impacts, economic value of non-profit organizations, and volunteerism. By looking into these specific areas the researchers will have a much better understanding of what research is out there, and become more knowledgeable in their field while finding information to back up their hypotheses in question.

### **B. Purpose of the review**

Understanding how a community builds upon itself, what economic value non-profit organizations have, and what makes and keeps volunteers, are all important aspects of the researchers' study. A study of the student groups' impact on the community will give a basis for further studies done in the area. Later studies can be conducted to see if the impact has negatively or positively affected the community. By looking into the literature the researchers are able to see what studies have been done, and if there is a need for their research. The researchers intend to find a gap in this area's current research and to fill it with this study.

It is important to look at the basics of volunteering. Volunteers are the individuals that make up student clubs and organizations and are gracious enough to volunteer their time to a

club or organization. Understanding what builds a community shows what may be viewed as an impact on the community. Volunteers give their time and can help communities and organizations to fundraise. An Independent Sector Review (2006) in a study published by the Beyond Charity organization, tells us the “standard rate assigned to volunteer time is \$19.77 per hour. If a volunteer spends [two] hours every week mentoring youth, the dollar value of that time over one year is \$1952.00” (Beyond Charity PP???)

Whether the community organizations are given money through a grant or a fundraiser, that money still has an effect on the economy. The researchers will be looking at where the student clubs and organizations are spending their money in the community. No data will be collected on how much the student clubs and organizations spend at local businesses because the researchers are conducting a qualitative study. Some researchers feel that charities can save money due to the fact that: “... [n]onprofit groups may prevent and solve problems, work more efficiently than government, and increase the earning power of individuals and economic strengths of community” (Howard 1).

### **C. Historical Background**

The topic of research for this study is student organizations impacts on a rural community, specifically the impacts of the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations on the Machias community. Machias is located in the center of Washington County, and sits as the chair for Washington County. “Machias was incorporated June 23, 1784...” (history.rays-place). “Machias is an Indian name meaning ‘bad little falls’, ... [is] the site of the First Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War, ... [and is] [k]nown as the ‘Blueberry Capital of the World’” (machiaschamber.org). The University of Maine at Machias

was founded in 1909 as a teachers college and is now an Environmental Liberal Arts University with a wide array of majors.

The University of Maine at Machias currently has 35 active student clubs and organizations. These organizations include Ukulele clubs, Cheerleading clubs, Greek organizations and many more. Many of UMM's student organizations involve themselves with volunteering and fundraising efforts for the local community. Students can easily form a new club for any area of interest by attending a Student Senate meeting.

UMM and Machias are two separate communities, yet still one bigger community. The online Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines 'community' in several different ways. Throughout this study the researchers will base their definition of community from two parts of Merriam-Webster's definition. Community is defined as "... a unified body of individuals ... [and that community is also] the people with common interests living in a particular area" (Merriam-webster.com). The people of Machias and UMM are a community for all aspects of this study because they are living in the same general area, and all enjoy a similar way of life particular to the down east location of Maine. Both the citizens of Machias and those involved with UMM will also be seen as two separate communities for this research study.

This study is a qualitative study and will look at units of observation to analyze the impact of the UMM student clubs and organizations. The researchers will use 'social impacts' as their unit of observation. This research is going to study the impact analysis of the UMM student clubs and organizations using an ideographic explanation. The researchers hope to look at all aspects of impacts on the Machias community, and not one sole impact.

While researching into the impacts organizations have on communities, the researchers were able to find three key studies. One study, published from Northern Ireland in 1999, did not

relate to a college and the surrounding community, but did deal with land-use planning and the affects it would have on the community. This study talked about how the community discussed their views on the issues at hand and the “... in depth interviews with community groups, tenant associations and voluntary organizations” (Murtagh 1181). This study was focused on listening to the community and what the community members would like to see.

The second relevant study the researchers found was a study done on Australia’s Universities, and was published in 2006. “In recent years many universities have commissioned studies of the effects of their institutions on their local economies”, but this study discussed how the universities impacted the country’s economy (Giesecke and Madden 229). This research is a beginning step in what the researchers hope to find and study with the student clubs and organizations. The researchers want to see what direct economic and social impacts the clubs and organizations have on the town of Machias.

All three of these studies tie into parts of what the researchers of this study would like to accomplish, but none of them discuss the impacts of student clubs and organizations of a university on the immediate community. These studies show that there is a large gap in research, and that this research could begin to fill that gap.

#### **D. Review of Literature**

##### Community Building/Impacts

Through the researchers’ studies of how a community is built and impacted on, the researchers have not found any research on what impacts university student clubs and organizations have on their surrounding communities. Searching through the literature on this topic, the researchers found a pattern of colleges in rural areas having an impact on their community through student leadership. For example, Clark and Davis (2007) examined how

some southern universities and community colleges have been talking about creating team working retreats and leadership seminars that would help schools to form stronger college leaders. According to Shults (2001) (Quoted in Clark and Davis 2007) “[over] the last ten years, the challenge of building leadership capacity for America’s community, technical, and junior colleges has received heightened attention” (47).

Clark and Davis spoke about Mississippi’s community colleges hosting leadership conferences, but did not discuss how or if these colleges put their ideas for the community into action. In addition, the article did not discuss how these colleges impacted the Mississippi community. Anyon, Gardner, and Fernandez stated in an article they published in (2007) how “[c]olleges and universities that pursue ... collaborative opportunities for research and practice with local communities will continue to face challenges resulting from the checkered history of community-university partnerships” (45). This only further shows the gap in the literature as to how organizations impact their community. The researchers feel that their study will help to bridge this gap and improve communications between universities and their immediate communities.

Although the researchers have found articles discussing what things help to build a community, no articles have been found that show what impact an organization has had on the surrounding community. UMM’s student clubs and organizations involve themselves in the community, and “... community building strengthens the capacity of neighborhood residents, associations, and organizations to work individually and collectively to foster and sustain positive neighborhood change” ( Nitzberg 8). In Nitzberg’s article where he discusses youth development and community building, he further tells us that “[t]he outcomes of community building efforts are an improved capacity to accomplish tasks and goals and a heightened sense

of community...” (8). The literature in this topic discusses how community building can help communities accomplish goals to improve building our communities. No where in these articles is there discussion of interactions between universities and their communities, and the research done on this topic does not look into what impacts the local organizations have on community building .

Everything that occurs within a community impacts the community in some way. In 2007, Anyon, Gardner, and Fernandez published an article on the negative relationship between Stanford University and the surrounding community on the matter of Stanford starting a youth and community center. Stanford University began contemplating the idea of helping to create a community center for the youth. When the community heard talk of Stanford’s idea for a youth community center, the community felt obligated to converse with the university. The community harbored such negative feelings of those involved with the community center that problems arose within the organizations.

#### Economic Value of Non-Profit Organizations

Non-profit organizations can receive funding through many different forms such as grants or donations. These non-profit organizations provide a service to the community. Whether the non-profits are being given money through the government or through personal donations, both help to circulate money thus stimulating the economy. Wagner discussed the economic value of non-profit organizations, and stated that “[p]roviding critical human services in health and education accounts for an average of 60% of nonprofits’ economic contribution to GDP, though the amount varies widely by country” (Wagner 10). Student clubs and organizations are non-profit organizations and help to generate money for the community through various events.

One way to see how an organization is impacting the community is to see how they have helped fundraise for the community. The researchers are looking at how a universities student clubs and organizations have monetarily impacted the community, “[since] there has been little assessment of the supply-side effects of universities in a general equilibrium framework...” (Giesecke and Madden, 235). UMM’s student organizations volunteer time throughout Machias and Washington County. In an article written by Lee and Chang, they discussed the behaviors of volunteers and how it affects their donation behavior. Lee and Chang went on to say that “[giving] to charities takes two major forms: time and money” (1173).

In 2006, Giesecke and Madden published a study concerning the university’s effects on a regional economy. Giesecke and Madden looked at the impacts economically of a university. This study goes on to look at how much students spend, and where their itemized percents of spending occur. We hoped to find that Giesecke and Madden looked at all avenues of student life, but to the researchers dismay they had not. Although there is a small amount of research on similar studies, there has not been a study like this. There is no data looking at how a universities student clubs and organizations impact their immediate community.

### Volunteerism

Communities are impacted by volunteers that choose to help out at events and fundraise for community organizations. An Independent Sector (2001) as published in an article by Finkelstein found that “[i]n the United States, 44% of adults volunteer, providing the equivalent of more than 9 million full-time employees at a value of \$239 billion” (9). Many student clubs and organizations volunteer their time throughout the community. Volunteers not only prove to help the economy, but help to sustain and build the community by participating and supporting community programs and events.

A research project in Madrid, Spain found there to be a three-stage model of volunteers' duration of service (Chacon, Vecina, and Davila 627). This study looked at volunteering occurring within an organizational context, volunteerism as a long-term behavior, and volunteers' duration of service as a planned helping behavior. What Chacon, Vecina, and Davila found was that "... in the case of other planned behaviors, the best predictor of duration of volunteering is behavioral intention. ... it is to be expected ... that each type of intention is maximally related to service duration in the same period of time" (Chacon, Vecina, and Davila 638). Individuals are all personally motivated to perform volunteer work, whether they want to volunteer, or have fallen into some trouble and are made to perform volunteer work.

"Functional analysis holds that individuals begin volunteering in order to satisfy certain needs or goals" (Finkelstein and Brannick 102). This leads the researchers to believe that volunteers begin volunteering in order to fill a role that is needed, and if the individual is put into a position that makes them feel of importance that the duration of their service will be longer and more productive. In fact, Finkelstein and Brannick state that "[a] positive experience during the initial phase of volunteering leads to the development of a volunteer role identity. The more one volunteers, and the more involving the activity, the stronger the identity, and this self-concept becomes the proximal cause of future volunteering" (Finkelstein and Brannick 102). Finkelstein and Brannick base their study on functionalism just as the researchers. The way functionalism is discussed is a reason for volunteers donating their time directly applies to the researchers study and why the student clubs and organizations fulfill a need in the community. The researchers believe that communities work like a well oiled machine. Different organizations or student clubs volunteer their time to local businesses and organizations, which in turns help the community to run smoothly.

## **E. Summary**

In retrospect, the researchers have found that there is a gap in the literature. The literature brings forth several studies that have commonalities to the researchers' project. The studies that the researchers found have defined how some communities discuss events that may seriously impact their area. The researchers also found how an organization, like a college or university, can economically affect a small country. Finally the researchers found how several colleges are now trying to create workshops to train community leaders. The researchers hope to use the knowledge acquired from these past studies to help show how the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations impact the Machias community and the surrounding areas.

## **Chapter 3: Methodology**

### **A. Introduction**

The University of Maine at Machias (UMM) currently lists over 30 active student clubs and organizations. The researchers in this study looked at the impacts of the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations on the Machias area and surrounding communities. The researchers interviewed each organization by hosting focus groups and in-depth interviews. The researchers also passed out a short survey to each of the organizations to write down any of the information ahead of time, or if they were not able to make it to one of the focus groups or interviews.

This chapter of the study is broken up into several parts: introduction, description of methodology, timeline, conclusion and, appendix. By giving a detailed description of what the researchers did for this study, any other researcher who wishes to further explore this subject could duplicate it precisely.

### **B. Description of Methodology**

The methods being used for this study are focus groups, in-depth interviews, and surveys. A survey consisting of eight questions and an Informed Consent document will be given to each of the organizations representatives at least a day in advance of the scheduled focus group or in depth interview. The researchers will schedule each of the organizations representatives for what is most convenient to the said organization.

A focus group consists of a few members from a number of separate organizations in a neutral location at the same time. The moderator of the focus group will be one of the primary researchers. The researcher will ask the questions from the survey and moderate the discussion how they see fit. The focus groups and the in depth interviews may be recorded on video or tape

for later use. If any of the organizations can not attend a focus group or interview they are still welcome to fill out the survey and consent form to be used in the study.

The researchers are open to surveys, focus groups, and in-depth interviews because the students involved in the clubs/organizations are involved in more than one activity and are hard to get a hold of. By offering more than one method, the researchers hope to increase the number of clubs/organizations participating in the study.

The researchers would like to get the most out of the discussions with the organizations, so they have looked into how to run a focus group successfully. Focus groups and interviews can be difficult because “... the degree to which a particular method enables participants to contribute in ‘their own words’ varies depending on the approach used” (Serrant-Green, 3). “...[This] is particularly the case with young adults, who are more likely to give one-word answers, more susceptible to peer pressure, and prone to socially acceptable responding” (Peterson & Barron, 141). So looking into how to run a focus group successfully is of importance since this study will be conducted with young adults in college.

Peterson and Barron discussed some ways to overcome the challenges brought fourth in focus groups by using sticky notes. The facilitator(s) would write down the topics and ideas being discussed on the sticky notes during the focus group or interview and attach them to a white board or other similar object in the front of the room. “The benefits of this approach are that the facilitator(s) is able to control the pace of the session and use probing questions if the information provided is not clear enough” (Peterson & Barron, 141). Peterson and Barron go on to further explain how the members of the focus group could even play an active role in arranging the sticky notes in categories or groups depending on the type of discussion. In this study, this idea can be used to help the members of the organizations visually see what

community partners they have mentioned. By the members visually seeing these organizations it may help to jog their memories as to what events they have contributed to or other community partners that they may not have mentioned.

This study will also employ the use of in-depth interviews. Since the researchers do have a basic outline of what they would like discussed, the types of interviews that the researchers will utilize are called individual interviews. DiCicco-Bloom and Crabtree (2006) describe how in the individual interview, “[the] basic research question may well serve as the first interview question, but between 5 and 10 more specific questions are usually developed to delve more deeply into different aspects of the research issue” (316). Having a list of questions in hand for the facilitator(s) to use will help to run a smooth interview.

Surveys are a common way for researchers to get information quickly from a large population. In the book Real World Research, by Colin Robson (2002), he mentioned several items about surveys such as: keeping the language simple, avoiding double-barreled questions, and keeping the questions opened ended for use in a qualitative study. The survey being used in this study is eight questions long and will be asked in the focus groups or in-depth interviews.

This study is a qualitative study. The information being discussed in the focus groups and interviews are not involving how much money the organizations spend in town, or how many people have attended each of their events this past year. This study limits us to what the organizations tell us. If the member coming to a focus group or interview does not know the detailed information, we will not fully know the extent of how the organizations impact the Machias area and surrounding communities.

The researchers will call and e-mail each of the presidents and advisors for each organization at least one week in advance. The researchers will then discuss the study with the

organization and see if they are willing to participate in the study. Depending on the availability of the members in each organization, the researchers will place the organization in either a focus group or in depth interview. After the event has been scheduled, the organization will be given the survey and informed consent document to look over ahead of time.

If the organization is not able to spare time from their weekly meeting for the researchers to come and interview them, the researchers will schedule the organization to have one or two members attend a focus group. Focus groups will consist of no more than six organizations. Any more than six organizations could lead to some individuals feeling as if they can not fully discuss their organization, or lead to not enough time to hear all of their thoughts due to overcrowding.

When the focus group or in depth interview is concluded, the researcher will collect all of the surveys and informed consent documents from the members of the organizations. The researchers will use the survey answers for their data in chapter four of this study. One researcher videotaped the discussion, while the other ran the discussion and took notes. After interviews where both researchers were there, they would stay and debrief.

The survey consists of eight questions. The researchers are asking about how many active members the club/organization has currently, what events the club/organization puts on that involve both the community members and UMM students, what community organizations the club/organizations do events for or volunteer for, what businesses the clubs/organizations spend their money at, and how the club/organization feels they impact the community. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A. The informed consent form has several subtopics and can be found in Appendix B.

The researcher should make an attempt to contact every active student club/organization. The researcher should also write down a list of their biases before the study begins, so that they

may be able to look back and make sure that the study is not skewed to what they believe the study will find. The researcher's role is to strive to contact every organization and genuinely discuss with them what they feel the impacts of their organization are on the Machias area and surrounding communities. The researcher(s) should always try to find the truth and show the actual findings not the suspected conclusions.

### **C. Timeline**

- February 13, 2008 to April 7, 2008 – The researchers will contact the UMM student clubs and organizations by phone and e-mail to discuss the study and set up times for a focus group or an in depth interview.
- April 7, 2008 to April 22, 2008 – The researchers will conduct the appropriate number of focus groups and in depth interviews with the organizations that are willing to participate in the study.
- April 22, 2008 to April 29, 2008 – The researchers will go through their results and finalize their conclusion for Chapter Four of their study.

### **D. Conclusion**

The researchers hope to gather information from all of the UMM student clubs/organizations perceived impact on the Machias area and surrounding communities by conducting focus groups and in depth interviews. The researchers will use surveys to help collect the data and informed consent documents to make sure that the data can be used in the study.

Without the detailed information from the clubs/organizations the researchers can not fully understand how UMM impacts the Machias area. UMM's students are part of a small community, and the organizations at UMM help to bring the students and community together. The researchers hope to find positive impacts of these organizations on the community and to fill

the gap in the area of research with university student clubs and organizations impacts on the their community.

**E. Appendix**

***APPENDIX A***

**Focus Group Questionnaire**

**Name of Club/Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year Club/Organization formed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Any additional history that you feel necessary for us to know:**

**How many active members do you have this semester?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What events does your club/organization put on that involve both community members and UMM students? (Please explain)**

**What community organizations does your club/organization do events for or volunteer for? (Please explain)**

**What businesses does your club/organization spend their money at?**

**How do you feel your club/organization impacts the community?**

## ***APPENDIX B***

### **Informed Consent Document**

**Title of research study:** The Impacts of UMM Student Clubs and Organizations on the Machias Community

**Purpose of study:** The purpose of this study is to collect and analyze information from the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations to view their impact on the Machias area and surrounding communities.

**What you will be asked to do in the study:** You will be asked to participate in a personal interview/focus group, which will include questions about your organizations history, events that your hosts, as well as questions to help characterize your club or organization’s impact on the Machias area community. The interviewer will record your responses on a tape or video recorder. In addition, still photographs may be taken at your discretion.

**Time required:** The in-depth interview/focus group will take place at a neutral location and will take approximately one hour.

**Risks and benefits:** We do not anticipate any risks to you from participating in this study. Although the information collected and analyzed for this study will be made available to you as a research participant, we cannot assure you of any direct benefits from participation in this study.

**Confidentiality:** If you so wish, your identity will be kept confidential to the extent provided by law. It is anticipated that UMM could use some data in other research and outreach forums. In such cases, your name could be used. However, if you wish for your name to be kept confidential you must notify the primary investigator(s) in writing by May 1, 2008.

**Voluntary participation:** You must be 18 years of age to participate in the interview. Your participation is completely voluntary. There is no penalty for not participating.

**Right to withdraw:** You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without consequence.

**Whom to contact if you have any questions about the study:**

Lisa Athearn, Ph.D., UMM Faculty, 255-1361, [lathearn@maine.edu](mailto:lathearn@maine.edu)

Aurora Daviault, student, UMM, 255-5842, [aurora.daviault@maine.edu](mailto:aurora.daviault@maine.edu)

Julie Smith, student, UMM, [Julie.a.smith2@umaine.com](mailto:Julie.a.smith2@umaine.com)

If you have any questions about research participants’ rights, you may contact the Institutional Review Board Chair at UMM, Ron Mosley (207) 255-1265.

I have read the information provided above, and I have received a copy of this description. I voluntarily agree to participate in the in-depth interview/focus group as described. I have been told that the session will be recorded and that pictures may be taken.

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 4: Results

### A. Results

By interviewing student clubs and organizations at the University of Maine at Machias, the researchers found that almost all (48.5%) of the student organizations interviewed volunteer their time and money to help local Machias area organizations. Almost all (48.5%) of the organizations interviewed sponsor events for students and community members. The researchers interviewed 17 of the 35 student organizations, which makes up 48.5% of the UMM student clubs and organizations. Thirteen of the organizations interviewed sponsor events that are open to UMM students and the Machias community. Only one of the organizations did not participate in volunteer work for the Machias community, and all but one of the organizations spent their organizational money at Machias area businesses.

This chapter is laid out in the following sections: 1. the number of events held this past year for community members and students; 2. the amount of places that the organizations volunteered; and 3. the number of local businesses where clubs spent their money. This chapter then lists the yearly events each organization hosted, and also the businesses economically supported each year by UMM clubs and organizations.

Chart 1 contains all of the student clubs and organizations interviewed in this study and other pertinent information. First, the chart gives the number of events that the organization held this year that included community members and UMM students (# of events). Secondly, the chart gives us the number of places that the organization volunteered at within the Machias community and Washington County (# of places). Finally, Chart 1 gives the number of local area businesses the student clubs and organizations spent money at this year (# of businesses). Graph 1 shows a visual representation of the data in Chart 1.

Chart 1 – Number of Events, Places, and Businesses for each Organization

Organization	# of events	# of places	# of businesses
100% Society	1	2	5
Campus Crusade for Christ	2	2	4
Epsilon Sigma Alpha	5	5	3
Greek Council	0	4	3
Kappa Alpha Kappa	1	23	10
Kappa Delta Phi	4	5	6
Kappa Eta	1	4	4
Kappa Mu Alpha	0	0	0
MRPASS	2	4	5
Newman Club	3	4	5
Peak/Student Empowerment	0	3	4
Phi Tau Phi	1	3	3
S.E.A.M	0	3	4
Science Club	2	3	6
UMM Men's Soccer Team	1	5	1
Viking Klub	4	1	8
WUMM	1	1	4

Graph 1 – Visualization of Chart 1

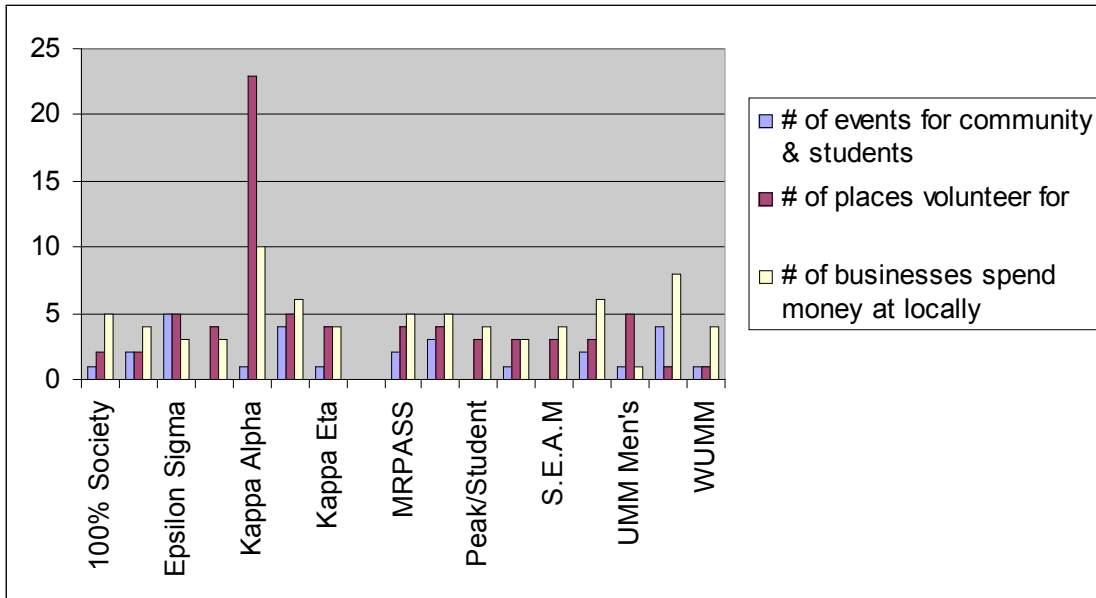


Chart 1 and Graph 1 both display the number of events, businesses, and places the UMM student clubs and organizations listed. Student organizations put on an average of 1.65 annual

events for community members and students. The number of events range from zero to five. The average number of places the student organizations volunteered for is 4.235 organizations yearly. The number of places the student organizations volunteered at ranges from 0 to 23. The average number of businesses the student organizations economically impacted is 4.411 businesses. The number of businesses the organizations spend their money at ranges from zero to ten.

Chart 2 shows the individual organizations and the specific events the UMM clubs and organizations hosted for both community members and students. The UMM student clubs and organizations sponsor many events such as: blood drives, community clean ups, Easter egg hunts for community children, and hosting a yearly Special Olympics for the communities mentally challenged. The 100% Society puts on an event known as ‘Gay Pride Week’ that has community members from as far away as Ellsworth travel to watch and participate in.

WUMM, the campus radio station, broadcasts online and on the public FM radio frequency. The music played at WUMM is open for students, community members, and people across the world to listen to at any time. WUMM has a mix of both student and community DJ’s. The researchers found that WUMM has applied to be a 100 watt station with the FCC, and that by increasing their wattage their station will broadcast over 45 miles in every direction over the FM frequency. The Machias area is limited as to what stations are available given its isolated location, and those that are able to pick up WUMM are introduced to the newest upcoming music. WUMM will allow community members and students to be able to participate in radio for free and gain valuable experience.

Greek Council and Kappa Eta work together to put on a yearly Special Olympics for the communities mentally challenged individuals. The Special Olympics is made up of different athletic events for special needs children and adults such as: the wheel chair race, softball throw,

25 meter walk, 50 meter run, and the 100 meter run. By these individuals participating at the Machias Special Olympics, they qualify to go on to the state games.

*Chart 2 – Events Hosted by the UMM Student Clubs/Organizations*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Events</b>
<b>100% Society</b>	Gay Pride Week	<b>Kappa Mu Alpha</b>	None
<b>Campus Crusade for Christ</b>	Unspoken concert	<b>MRPASS</b>	Casino Night
	Book Studies		Acadia National Park Cleanup
<b>Epsilon Sigma Alpha</b>	Basketball Magic	<b>Newman Club</b>	Easter Egg Hunt for Local Children
	Thanksgiving Food Drive		Bake for Fire Dept and Police Dept
	Beach Clean Up	<b>PEAK</b>	None
	Clothing Drives	<b>Phi Tau Phi</b>	Easter Tea
	Toy Drives	<b>S.E.A.M</b>	None
<b>Greek Council</b>	None	<b>Science Club</b>	Guest Speaker
<b>Kappa Alpha Kappa</b>	Red Cross Blood Drive		Earthfest
<b>Kappa Delta Phi</b>	Barbeques	<b>UMM Men's Soccer Team</b>	Down East Soccer Club
	Highway clean up	<b>Viking Klub</b>	Pig Roast
	Beach Clean Up		Renaissance Fair
	Fundraisers		Native-Nerse Initiative
<b>Kappa Eta</b>	Special Olympics		Longship Project
		<b>WUMM</b>	Run for Fun

The researchers found that the UMM student clubs and organizations have impacted the Machias community through volunteer work. The student clubs each listed Machias organizations they volunteered their time for this past year. A list of these organizations can be found below in Chart 3.

The researchers found that the UMM student clubs and organizations participate in a large amount of volunteer work throughout the Machias community and Washington County. These organizations not only volunteer their time, but help to fundraise money for these organizations. For example, the service sorority of Kappa Alpha Kappa (KAK) has each pledge classes pick an organization to volunteer at least 20 hours of their time and help fundraise. In

recent years KAK pledge classes have pledged for: the troops in Iraq, the American Cancer Association, the Machias Food Pantry, the Washington County Children’s Program, the ARK Animal Shelter, and the American Cancer Society.

Another organization on campus that works to promote volunteer work is The Newman Club. The Newman Club was formed about 20 years ago, and was created for students to participate in community service. The Newman Club has most recently put on bake sales to help raise money for the Cabana family, who tragically lost a loved one to domestic violence in 2007. The Newman Club also helps to support Oxfam, an organization to end world hunger, through campus fasts and bake sales.

*Chart 3- Local Organizations that UMM Student Clubs Volunteered*

<b>Where Organizations Volunteered</b>	
American Cancer Society	Machias Library
American Diabetes Association	Machias Women's Shelter
American Heart Association	Maine Breast Cancer Association
ARK, The	Malmute Rescue
Avon Walk for Breast Cancer	March of Dimes
Bags O Rags	Masons Child Fingerprinting
Big Brothers, Big Sisters	MEA/NEA
Cabana Family	Next Step, The
Community Members in Need	Oxfam
Cookies for Trash for UMM Dorm Students	Paws Animal Shelter
Disabilities Awareness Night	Red Cross Blood Drive
Down East AIDS Network	S.E.A.M
Downeast Salmon Federation	Special Olympics
Downeast Sexual Assault Service	St.Jude's Children's Hospital
Downeast Watershed Councils(5)	Town of Milbridge - Milbridge Days
East River Challenge Canoe Race	Trick or Treat for UNICEF
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition	<a href="http://Motomail.us">Motomail.us</a> (Troops In Iraq)
UMM Athletics – Hot Cocoa for students	UMM- Aramark
Giving Tree, The	UMM- Physical Plant
Haunted Forest	UMM- Student Activities
Local Schools	Veterans Home
Machias Food Pantry	

As the researchers have stated previously, this study is a part of a much larger study examining how the University of Maine at Machias impacts the Machias community and Washington County. Some Economics professor’s and businesses students from UMM are looking at how UMM impacts the Machias community financially. The researchers felt that to better understand how the student clubs and organizations economically impact the community, that the researchers should find out where the clubs spend their money in town. A list of the businesses that the student clubs/organizations financially impacted this year can be found below on *Chart 4*. The student organizations mentioned the larger chain stores in the community as well as many of the smaller businesses such as *Jordan’s* and *Sandy Sales*. The student organizations not only mentioned businesses, but restaurants where they hold events.

*Chart 4 – Businesses Economically Impacted by Student Clubs/Organizations*

<b>Businesses Organizations Used</b>	
Amazon.com	Machias Hardware
Bag's O Rags	Main Street Discount
Bangor Steel	Mobile
Bean & Sons	Office, The
Berry Vines	Parlin's
Bookstore, UMM	Party Store
Brettun's Village Leather	Radio Shack
EBS	Rite Aid
Family Dollar	Sam's Club
Galley, UMM	Sandy Sales
Gingham's	True Value
Hannaford	University of Maine at Machias
Helen's	Walmart (Calais and Ellsworth)
Irving	Whole Life Food Market
Jordan's	

For further discussion on how the researchers feel the UMM student clubs and organizations have impacted the Machias community and Washington County, please read

Chapter 5: Discussion (Analysis) & Conclusion. In Chapter 5 the researchers discuss how they feel the student clubs have impacted Machias and if the impact has been positive or negative.

## **Chapter 5: Discussion (Analysis) & Conclusion**

The researchers in this study examined how the University of Maine at Machias (UMM) student clubs and organizations impact the Machias area and surrounding communities. This study is a part of a larger study looking at how UMM impacts the Machias area and Washington County communities. There is a gap in the research looking at how an organization affects and impacts the community it belongs to, and this study will help to fill this gap. This study was guided by several research questions, they are as follows:

RQ1: How does the University of Maine at Machias impact the Machias area and Washington County communities?

RQ2: How do the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations interact and affect the Machias area and Washington County communities?

RQ3: What do the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations do to involve the community?

RQ4: How do the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations feel they impact the Machias area and Washington County communities?

RQ5: How does the Machias area and Washington County communities support the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations?

RQ6: Where do the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations spend their money?

RQ7: What future activities would the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations like to see take place in the future?

Through this study, the researchers have found some surprising answers to their research questions. The researchers found that the UMM student clubs and organizations significantly

impact the Machias area and surrounding communities. The student clubs and organizations account for a vast number of the volunteer labor force in Machias, and help to support the local area organizations by fundraising for them. The UMM student clubs and organizations impact the Machias area economy by spending money at local businesses, instead of traveling to buy their supplies or buying them online.

The researchers also looked into where the UMM student clubs and organizations spent their money. The researchers found that all but one of the organizations spent their club money in the town of Machias at local businesses. Machias is slow to change economically due to its rural location, but is economically affected by the UMM student clubs and organizations choosing to spend their funds in town rather than online or driving a distance to Bangor. Many of the student clubs and organizations mentioned spending money at Hannaford, Rite Aid, Family Dollar, The Office, Main Street Discount, and Ginghams. The researchers feel that this positively impacts the Machias community. Machias is stricken with high unemployment rates and many businesses have closed due to the lack of funds in this area. The researchers feel that even if the amount of money the UMM student clubs and organizations was small, that there is still money spent locally by these organizations. The student clubs are still positively impacting the community socially and economically.

Many of the UMM student clubs and organizations felt that they positively impacted the Machias community and Washington County. The organizations felt that through their volunteer work and fundraising they were helping to better promote the University and connect the community to the school. The Newman club felt that they inspired the community to give more of their time and money to those less fortunate.

Some of the student organizations felt that they did not impact the Machias community at all, but did positively impact UMM students. The Campus Crusade for Christ (CCFC) organization mentioned in their interview that they felt as if they impacted the student population more. CCFC was formed to promote religion and good will on campus. MRPASS (Maine Recreation Park Association Student Section) spoke of how they did not feel that they directly impacted the Machias community. The representatives from MRPASS discussed how individual members volunteered throughout the community, but that as an organization they impacted the UMM students.

The researchers did find that it was difficult to get in touch with some of UMM's student clubs and organizations. Although many of the organizations are there to serve the community, not being able to contact the organizations could impede how the Machias community sees these organizations and whether they may call on them again in the future. The researchers were given a brochure made by the school that listed every active student organization, along with contact information, and meeting time. Despite calling and e-mailing the presidents of the student organizations, some were hard to get to call back. The researchers found phone numbers and e-mails that were no longer current. The researchers tried attending many organization's weekly meetings only to find that their meeting time had been moved. This kept the researchers from fully speaking with every UMM student club/organization.

The researchers feel that the work done in this study will help to further study how small organizations impact and affect their community. Many grade school and university student organizations serve to volunteer in the community, but no research has been done to see how this impacts the community. This study is a small stepping stone in the endless possibilities dealing with this topic. Since no other studies have been done like this research, this study opens doors

for others to study and evaluate how organizations impact rural communities. The researchers will connect this study to the community by holding an open presentation to students, faculty, staff, and community members.

This study was limited by time and resources. The researchers would have liked to have more time to interview all of the student clubs and organizations. The researchers set up several focus groups, but no organizations sent representatives to the focus groups. This forced the researchers to reevaluate how to gather their data and attend the student clubs and organizations weekly meetings. If UMM's student clubs and organizations were able to attend the focus groups the researchers feel that more data could have been collected. If focus groups had been utilized the researchers would have liked to use sticky notes as was discussed in Peterson and Barron's study that can be found in Chapter 3: Methodology.

The researchers would also like to mention that one of researchers is a current member of two of the student clubs/organizations. Ms. Daviault is a member of Kappa Alpha Kappa, and the manager of the campus radio station WUMM. The researchers feel they separated their positions as students and positions as a researcher. Though the researchers tried to keep the study free of any biases, they felt that this knowledge may be useful to individuals wishing to recreate the study.

The main researcher when putting together the data was not able to obtain the data from two interviews that had taken place during the study, namely, the Ukulele Club and the Student Center. The researchers also feel that if given the opportunity to interview all of the student clubs and organizations that they would have been able to show the full impacts of the student clubs and organizations. If the researchers had more time they would also have liked to interview the organizations that were mentioned by the student organizations. Finally, the researchers feel that

an annual or biannual impact analysis could benefit UMM community because it would demonstrate impact trends of the organizations by campus benefits.

The researchers would like to thank several people and organizations that helped make this study possible. Thank you to Dr. Lisa Athearn for supporting this project and helping this research to be the best that it could be. Thank you to Peder Moe for providing the researchers with the most up to date contact information for the UMM student clubs and organizations. Thank you to Naida Pennell for helping the researchers to sign out locations on campus to conduct focus groups. Thank you to the Information Technology Office for giving the materials to record their in depth interviews. Thank you to the University of Maine at Machias student clubs and organizations that gave up their time to participate in this study.

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