

Fall 2014

# College Connections The USM College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Newsletter

Jeanne Curran-Sarto (ed)

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# COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

THE USM COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Fall 2014

*Higgins Beach  
Sketchbook, 2008*

Rebecca Goodale,  
Faculty Director  
of Book Arts at the  
Stone House and  
Program  
Coordinator, Kate  
Cheney Chappell  
'83 Center for  
Book Arts



## In This Issue:

- Professor Celebrates 25 Years at USM
- CAHS Takes Part in Cyber Lab
- Explore the Digital Commons

## From the Dean's Office:

As this latest edition of our college newsletter comes out, I now have been here at our college for a grand total of three months. It's been a very busy period. I have explored Portland and the region, and I also have become familiar with USM, our college, my fellow administrators and many of our faculty.

It has been a very challenging time, and we face many difficult issues, but it has been made easier by the warm welcome I have received.

There are two specific reasons why I chose to come to USM and CAHS; one was the depth of the scholarship, creative and teaching activities I saw here, and the other was the level of community engagement and service going on throughout the college. It is very apparent to me that our faculty



*Portland Mayor Michael Brennan and Dean Avalos during a recent visit to City Hall.*

members care about this university, and even more so, that they care about our students and giving them the best educational opportunities they can.

This newsletter gives but a sample of the kind of work that goes on here.

I am convinced that not many among our community stakeholders know what we do and how far our reach is.

We must continue to do what we're doing and more. Most importantly, we must let our constituents – our students and our public – know what we're doing. Our activities must be documented regularly and shared broadly. That is one of my goals as dean.

Our mission as “Maine’s Metropolitan University” also includes that goal, and I fully support this concept. We are one of the most important public resources in the state of Maine, and we have to let everyone know about us.

With warm regards,

Manny Avalos  
CAHS Dean



*Manny Avalos, CAHS Dean*

## Give to CAHS

Personal philanthropy to USM plays a key role in providing resources needed to offer CAHS students extraordinary opportunities and sustains USM as a center of academic excellence. Last year, donations to CAHS provided enhanced educational access and student success, with much-needed scholarship assistance, as well as allowed students to experience life beyond the classroom with travel, conference attendance and research projects.

Your contribution is critical and will have a positive impact on the education and lives of our students, and it will strengthen our College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science. Please send your check, made payable to USM, with a note on the check or an enclosure that you wish your contribution to be *designated to CAHS*, and mail to:

- USM Advancement and Donor Services, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300

Or give online at [usm.maine.edu/giving](http://usm.maine.edu/giving) If you have any questions on giving to CAHS and USM, feel free to contact Sue Palmer, Advancement Liaison to CAHS, 780-4804 or [spalmer@usm.maine.edu](mailto:spalmer@usm.maine.edu).

# Music Professor Celebrates 25 years at USM



*Professor Laura Kargul celebrates 25 years of teaching and playing at USM.*

As she approaches her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of teaching at USM, Laura Kargul, one of CAHS's outstanding professors and a noted concert pianist, has created a strong legacy at the School of Music.

There was no established piano program when Kargul began teaching at USM in 1989. Now there is a program that emphasizes holistic excellence and turns out remarkable performers and teachers, some of whom go on to the nation's top graduate programs and develop successful, fulfilling careers in Maine and throughout the U.S.

"My idea when I came to USM was to build a strong piano program that encompassed performance -- solo, chamber and accompaniment -- and teaching or pedagogy, with a great emphasis on helping all students achieve their playing potential, whatever that may be," Kargul said during a recent interview. "... I've tried to create a safe place for artists of any age where they can

learn to play to the best of their ability in a very warm and nurturing environment."

"Laura's work at USM has been a fantastic example of what can happen when excellence is a guiding principle," commented Alan Kaschub, USM School of Music interim director. "Laura's excellent performing and teaching attracts excellent students. Her high standards and strong mentorship allow her students to grow tremendously during their time here. As a 25-year veteran of our faculty, her pursuit of excellence has helped to define this School of Music."

Kargul will celebrate 25 years at USM with a special concert performance featuring some of her favorite works by Schubert, Brahms and Liszt at 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, at Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus, USM.

Originally from Michigan, Kargul began her piano studies at the age of six and made her solo concerto debut with orchestra when she was 13. The talented musician quickly gained international attention after her debut in the Netherlands and was particularly recognized for her interpretations of Liszt, one of her favorite composers. Kargul also earned her doctorate in piano performance from the University of Michigan.

Kargul has taught and continues to teach local, regional and even international students. They have come from many corners of the world to study with her – Europe, Asia, South America and the Caribbean.

The professor holds regular, one-on-one lessons with her numerous students, but all of the individual lessons are open to her other students to sit in on and learn from.

"It's like free classes for them," she said. "They bring their lunch or dinner and hang out."

*continued ...*

## **On the Cover:**

*Rebecca Goodale, Faculty Director of Book Arts at Stone House and Program Coordinator of the Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts, made her first book, a tome called "My Chicken," when she was five years old, but it wasn't until years later that she decided to move from her work in textile design, which she studied in college, to making artist's books. In January 2000, she focused on Maine's threatened and endangered fauna and flora, and since then, she has completed more 80 titles on the theme. Most of her books are produced as limited editions; some of her books are unique, one of a kind. "Higgins Beach Sketchbook" is such a book, a 14-foot-tall volume, with pages cascading out of a case. It depicts a ring-billed gull landing. "I work big," Goodale said recently. "I often let the content determine the form." The artist, who has taught at USM for 34 years, now is working on a book called "Coyote." She also has a solo show, "Threatened and Endangered," at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, that recognizes the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the last passenger pigeon.*



## Music Professor *continued* ...

It is the studio class that she has held weekly since the first semester of her teaching at the School of Music that is the cornerstone of her teaching achievements. The class is held for four to five hours, or however long is needed, every Wednesday during the academic year at the USM concert hall. The informal workshop is open to the public, and her piano students come and play whatever pieces they've prepared in front of their peers.

"I run it like a master class, working individually with each student," Kargul described. "The students get my attention and the attention of everyone else in the room. It's very informal, and the students love it. I give them time play through their whole program if necessary."

Although Kargul has enjoyed great success as a performer, it hasn't always been smooth sailing. An attack of tendonitis when she was 20 almost ended her performing career and led to a long period of rehabilitation. Several years ago, she also fell and severely injured the ligaments in her left hand.

Those incidents challenged Kargul to add a new and innovative dimension to her piano teaching, an intense focus on healthy technique.

"I myself had to find a way to do this safely, holistically and efficiently," she said. "I simply teach my students to play the way I do, at least in a physical sense. Basically, it's an overhaul of their technique. ... It's a whole science, and from the beginning I've made that a priority in my teaching."

Kargul began working with USM faculty member and occupational therapist Craig Williamson in 1993 in an on-going professional relationship to help teach music students how to avoid injury. The School of Music now offers a basic course for music students, as well as other university performers and creative artists, athletes, and computer users, called "Dynamic Posture and Alignment" where Williamson teaches helpful bio-mechanical techniques for performing.

Kargul's main goal is to help her students reach their potential, and she always emphasizes that "they should strive to become the best performers they can be."

Many of her students are reluctant to leave her studio. Some even choose to stay at USM to continue working with her in the graduate program.

Kargul has helped to enhance the reputation of the USM School of Music and guaranteed that her students are as prepared for their futures as they can be.

Asked what she wanted for her own future, Kargul laughed and simply said, "I just want to continue what I'm doing and be able to do it in the way that's proven to be successful."

"USM's piano graduates have had a very positive impact in the region as teachers and performers – we have a long history of contributing something vital and exciting to the cultural landscape," she said. "I will be happy if I am simply able to continue on this path."



*Professor Laura Kargul works on a Ravel piece with student Nell Britton, a junior from Cape Elizabeth, during the weekly studio workshop,*

## CAHS Faculty Projects Selected for New Connections Scholarship Grants For Students

Four CAHS faculty members have been selected to take part in the pilot Connections Scholarship, administered by the USM Provost and Dean of Students. Each will receive \$1,000 to award a new USM student to work with them. The CAHS faculty and their projects include:

- **"What Do Historians Do?"** Mentor: Libby Bischof, Associate Professor of History and Chair, Department of History & Political Science; Two History majors will get a behind-the-scenes look at what historians do by visiting people working in various Maine organizations who chose history as their major and ended up in a wide variety of fields.
- **Developing A USM-Community Cinema;** Mentors: Matthew Killmeier, Associate Professor and Chair, and David Pierson, Associate Professor, Department of Communication and Media Studies; The recipient will research student interest in an on-campus cinema for weekly films and develop a semester-long program of 15 to 16 films, plus develop a program guide/calendar.
- **Developing GráKakes;** Mentor: Professor Michael Shaughnessy, Art Department; The student selected for this project will work with Shaughnessy in a small, artisanal startup for a vegetarian /vegan food business developing GráKakes, small, pressed oat and flax cakes that are hearty, healthy and savory. The business model is based on micro-franchising and local sourcing.



*Nathan Broaddus, a USM graduate student, monitors the street flooding from an observation platform at Marginal Way and Cove Street, Portland (Liz Bieber photo).*

## Summer King Tide Marked by Midnight Party

As part of her continuing art project titled “Envisioning Change: Sea Level Rise in Casco Bay,” Jan Piribeck, CAHS Professor of Art, this summer organized a second “King Tide Party” to highlight the rising water levels in the Portland area. A king tide is an extraordinarily high tide.

The midnight event, open to the community, took place on July 14, also Bastille Day, at the same vulnerable location as the first event held December 2013, at the corner of Marginal Way and Cove Street in Portland.

This time, however, the water bubbling out of the run-off sewer connected to the Back Cove spread much further than before, filling the area.

Participants marked the high tide with street theatre, giant puppets and by lighting sparklers at the tide’s peak. A makeshift observation platform made from recycled materials also was constructed in the middle of the street, allowing observers to watch the water rise around them.

### CAHS Faculty Awarded High Impact Grants

USM is one of 33 institutions nationally, and the only one in Maine, to be the recipient of a \$1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for strengthening higher-education institutions.

Part of the grant program is to develop “high-impact educational practices” to enhance student engagement and achievement.

Four CAHS faculty members have been awarded mini-grants for fall 2014 to benefit their students.

Our college recipients and their projects include:

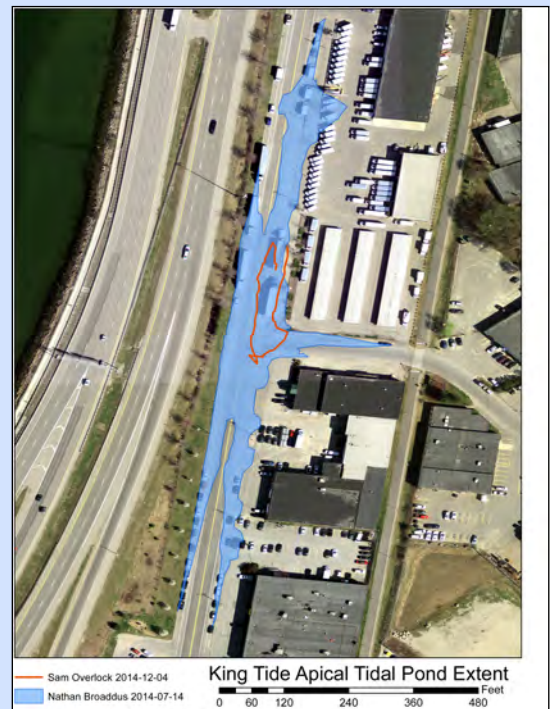
During the flooding, Nathan Broaddus, a USM graduate student, monitored the flooding with a GPS unit to trace the outline of the inundation.

The map created from both events shows how the water from Back Cove is gradually spreading during the king tides.

Piribeck plans another “King Tide Party” in collaboration with Portland artists and the Gulf of Maine King Tides Project on Thursday, Oct. 9.

Another layer will be added to the water-level map at that time, and students in Piribeck’s fall special-topics course, “Shaping the Terrain,” will create an outdoor installation in Portland to mark a 3-foot rise in sea level.

Watch for the coming announcement about the event!



*King Tide Flooding Map*

- Professor Michele Kaschub, Music; funding for student participation in National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference.
- Associate Professor Jeannine Uzzi, Classics; funding for student teaching in area high schools and adult education centers.
- Linda Pffafinger, Lecturer, Criminology; funding for supplies for painting a domestic-violence shelter.
- Associate Professor Francesca Vassallo, Political Science; funding for a presentation on Scotland’s recent independence vote.





*English major Christina Blair is one of the first participants in the new Unum Scholars program at USM.*

### **English Major Joins Unum Scholars Program**

CAHS English major Christina Blair of Portland is one of the first 12 USM students to be part of the Unum Scholars program.

The scholars are hired as employees at Unum, working in a specially created team supported by mentors. They work as part-time client data specialists, while also being allowed to job shadow throughout the company in their areas of interest.

The program is an example of USM’s commitment to private-public partnerships and to being “Maine’s Metropolitan University.

Unum launched the program in Maine this past May after creating it last year at their Chattanooga, Tenn., headquarters. The students are regular, paid, part-time employees, working anywhere from 15-19 hours per week and are able to work flexible hours so they can maintain their class schedule.

“These students bring their learning from class right into Unum,” said Dora Clements, Portland Unum Scholars manager, “and our managers and other employees have really enjoyed working and learning from them as well -- in fact, the USM students have been so successful, we’re working on recruiting another 20 this fall.”

The program, while run through USM’s School of Business, is not just for the benefit of business students

“The amount of networking, real-world experience and knowledge I have gained from this position is nothing I could have gotten anywhere else,” Blair said. “There are so many areas in which you can grow and develop here at Unum.

“Through job shadowing, I have been presented with opportunities to work with many different departments, which has led me towards choosing a potential career path,” she said. “So, no matter what your major is, this is a great program to be a part of.”

Students must have completed 60 credit hours and have a 3.0 GPA to apply. The program is designed for students who are typically juniors or heading in to graduate school, so that they can take full advantage of the two-year Unum Scholars program.

Unum is a Fortune 500 insurance company, employing nearly 10,000 people in locations nationally and worldwide, including Portland.

### **Students Build Ancient Boats for Celtic Festival**

What’s round and floats like a boat? An Irish coracle, which, in fact, is a very small, oval-shaped, lightweight vessel still used today by Celts in Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

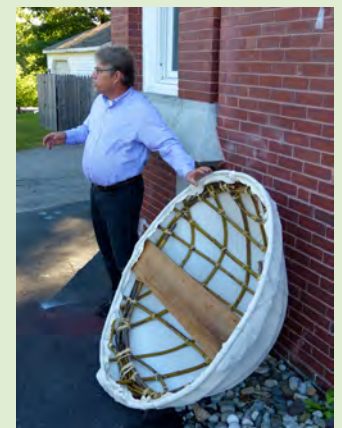
Sculpture Professor Michael Shaughnessy’s 3D design art class, “Surface, Space, Design” is embarking on the process of making coracles for the upcoming Saltwater Celtic Music Festival, scheduled for Oct. 3-5 in Portland.

The student teams will build the coracles from willow, canvas and tar on Oct. 4 in front of the Portland Museum of Art. First, they will analyze the rugged, little boats and then harvest the willow themselves before building the coracles.

The coracle, says Shaughnessy, is “incredibly sturdy” and has “a great kind of history to it and a developed kind of craft.”

The USM art professor displayed a coracle of his own making during a recent Monday morning class at Robie Andrews Hall.

The word is that the students will have the chance to test the floatation of their own coracles sometime soon in the first-ever Presumpscot River Coracle Regatta.



*Michael Shaughnessy, Art Professor, displays the coracle he made.*

# CAHS Community Socko in Summer Productions



resource for these organizations,” commented Alan Kaschub, School of Music interim director. “This is, in essence, the USM advantage.”

“Not only does the USM community exchange vision and skills with

professionals in longstanding Maine artistic institutions, but we also are key to starting and maintaining new traditions, such as the wildly popular PortFringe, New England’s only theatre fringe festival, which expanded to five venues over six days this summer,” said Assunta Kent, USM Associate Professor of theatre and summer department chair.

PORTopera, Portland’s premiere opera company under the direction of Dona D. Vaughn, artistic director, this summer presented Verdi’s *Rigoletto* for several performances. The classic production was staged as a 1920s tragedy. A total of 38 USM community members took part in the presentation.

USM was represented by six alumni and current students as chorus members and rehearsal pianist, plus School of Music Professor Robert Russell, chorus master; two alumni and one student in feature roles; and 12 faculty and alumni playing in the orchestra, including Associate Professor Robert Lehman, concert master, and Professor Thomas Parchman, orchestra contractor and clarinet.

The artistic and technical crew included two Department of Theatre faculty, Assistant Professor Shannon Zura, production manager, and Perry Fertig, technical director, as well as nine alumni and four students.

At the Maine State Music Theatre (MSMT) in Brunswick, USM community members were part of three summer productions. In June, MSMT performed *Chamberlain: A Civil War Romance*, about the Maine Civil War hero, and later governor, Joshua Chamberlain. Three alumni and two students were included in the ensemble and one alumni performed on the drums.

In July’s rousing production of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, newly retired Department of Theatre Professor Charles Kading created the set, placed in the giant forests of the Northwest. Playing in the feature roles of town musicians were a USM alumni and a student. Musicians included USM lecturer and vocal coach Edward Reichert, conductor, and two alumni and two students.

The MSMT intern show, entirely performed and produced by the organization’s summer interns, was a concert production of *Godspell*. Two USM students and three alumni performed key roles in the production, while two alumni and one student were musicians for the show.

Local residents and tourists may want sunshine and lobsters when summer comes to Maine, but they also want music and theater to round out their Pine Tree State experience.

CAHS students, faculty and alumni once again this summer made sure there were plenty of both by contributing their time and talent to several key musical and theatrical productions.

More than 80 USM community members affiliated with CAHS’s School of Music and Department of Theatre took part in highly successful PORTopera and Maine State Music Theatre summer productions, plus other notable music and theater companies in the region.

In a significant example of the “metropolitan university” concept of contributing to community endeavors, USM provided actors, singers, chorus members, musicians and technical staff to a broad spectrum of local organizations.

While the USM relationship provides an important resource to these regional art organizations, the annual, high-quality productions also give both USM students an exceptional training experience and USM faculty and alumni the opportunity to showcase and hone their skills.

“The robust arts culture of Southern Maine is a tremendous resource for our students, and our students and faculty are an excellent





## CAHS Professors Participate at New USM Cyber Security Lab

When the Maine Cyber Security Cluster (MCSC) cut the ribbon on Aug. 26 at its new Cyber Security Lab at USM's Science Building, two CAHS professors were at the forefront of the project.

Professor Julien Murphy, Philosophy, and Dr. Maureen Ebben, Communication and Media Studies, will bring the humanities aspect to the lab's mission of teaching USM students about cyber security, working with private enterprises and government agencies to protect important information, and educating the public.

The private-public partnership is expected to have a significant role in Maine business and community relations.

The lab was inaugurated with a formal ribbon-cutting event by Dr. Glenn Wilson, USM Associate Professor of Technology and head of the MCSC, and USM President David Flanagan. An enthusiastic crowd of about 50 guests and participants were present for the event.

Murphy will provide the ethics component to the lab's work, looking at issues of security and confidentiality, while Ebben will help examine how we communicate about cyber-security issues, such as crisis communications.

During the event, Murphy noted the importance of philosophy and ethics as part of cyber security research, stating that we are "securing the very fabric of society."



CAHS Dean Avalos joined Professor Murphy (center) and Dr. Ebben at the August ribbon-cutting event for the opening of the new USM Cyber Security Lab on the Portland campus.

If we can't secure this information, "we can't function as a civil society," she said.

Ebben commented that not only do security breaches do harm, but also how people communicate about them can cause harm. She noted that communication is an important aspect of cyber security, from crisis communications dealing with breaches to interpersonal communications among employees.

The event was well covered by local media. Here's [a news clip from WCSH6](#):

### Media Studies Students Win Public-Service Award

A team of four Media Studies majors has been selected as recipients of a significant public service award determined by CAHS faculty.

The team, including Ayrie Calhoun-Lang of Portland, Derek Goodrich, Gorham, Heather Guaciaro, Portland, and Michael Maurice, Oxford, has been selected as the 2014 recipients of the Kathryn Lasky Award for Public Service for a video project created on behalf of the Center for Grieving Children (CGC) in Portland.

The award is given in memory of USM Professor Kathryn Lasky, co-founder of the USM Media Studies Program who died in 2006. It recognizes the Media Studies student whose performance in the major exemplifies the highest achievement and whose work demonstrates the best uses of media in service to the community.

The team of four seniors was honored for their collaboration with CGC to produce a documentary video titled, "Swimming in a Culture without Water." It will be used by the center's Multicultural Peer Support

Program as a teaching tool to help increase understanding of loss and grief within populations of families of new Americans. The program serves children and teens who have resettled in Portland from countries experiencing war and are grieving both personal and collective loss.

The team was selected for the award based on the consensus of faculty in the Department of Communication and Media Studies. They were chosen based on the entire video project, which included the video creation and other course requirements.

To complete the film project, the students worked closely with CGC staff and its volunteer Intercultural Advisory Council, a group of local leaders from diverse communities who have direct knowledge of the Multicultural Peer Support Program and the needs of the children and families it serves.

This is the third time in recent years that Media Studies students have collaborated with CGC to create a training film.



Art ed student Jacklyn Peters (center) reads a storybook to youngsters at the Children's Odyssey pre-school in Portland, with help from art ed student David Herter (left).

### CAHS Art Ed Students Work with Special-Needs Pre-Schoolers

Four CAHS Art Education students under the direction of Kelly Hrenko, USM Art Education Assistant Professor, teamed up in June with three speech-language pathologists from Northeast Hearing & Speech Center (NHSC) and early-childhood educators from Children's Odyssey, a developmental pre-school, to offer an exciting art-language project for pre-schoolers.

The students included Nathan Fogg of Cumberland, Jacklyn Peters, Portland, David Herter, Portland, and Heidi Killion, Scarborough, all seniors or 2014 USM graduates. Both organizations are located in Portland.

The weeklong collaborative project, sponsored generously by the Maine Arts Commission, involved the students learning about language acquisition in children and how to promote development through art, while the speech pathologists and educators found new ways to use art to interact with the children.

The collaboration team designed the program for the youngsters, which included reading and a variety of creative activities.

In a burst of inventiveness, Fogg found one child unable to use her hands to create an art print, so he designed a press on the ground that allowed her to use her wheelchair to make her print.

The little girl loved the result! Watch [the video here](#)

"The USM students in this art project were very engaged and had some brilliant ideas about working with children with disabilities," Maureen Goudreau, NHSC director of business development, later stated.

"... I can honestly say that we feel that we got the best of the best by working with students and professors from USM," she said.

CAHS art ed student Nathan Fogg helps his pre-school student with making her art print by wheelchair. (Maureen Goudreau photo)



### CAHS Professor Named to Maine Film Center Board

Shelton Waldrep, CAHS Professor of English and University of Maine System Trustee Professor, has been elected to the Maine Film Center Board of Directors.

The Maine Film Center, headquartered in Waterville, is a non-profit organization with the mission to enrich, educate and entertain the community through film and art.

The center is the premier showcase for independent film in Maine and sponsor of the 10-day annual Maine International Film Festival.

Waldrep is the first USM professor to be appointed to the distinguished film organization. The professor has been appointed for a three-year term.

"I am delighted to have been appointed as a board

member to the Maine Film Center," Waldrep said. "I've always been really interested in what they do, and I'm a big admirer of what they have accomplished. I've wanted to be a part of it for some time."

Waldrep has a strong affinity for film. He has taught a course on the renowned American film director, Stanley Kubrick, for a number of years at USM. He devoted a chapter in his most recent book, "The Dissolution of Place: Architecture, Identity, and the Body," to Kubrick's work.



Professor Shelton Waldrep

"I want to try to build connections between Southern Maine and the festival and to help with fundraising," Waldrep said of his goals as a Maine Film Center board member.



## Notable Guests Visit CAHS

*Three distinguished visitors came to USM this past month through the efforts of CAHS faculty.*

Maurice Fitzpatrick, a well-known Irish documentary filmmaker, gave a presentation on his filmmaking craft during a recent session of Professor Bud McGrath's Irish Film class. Fitzpatrick, creator of the documentary, "The Boys of St. Columb's," spoke about his filmmaking experience and his groundbreaking documentary about Irish education.



*Maurice Fitzpatrick*

About 30 people attended the session, which included a showing of Fitzpatrick's film, originally made for the BBC. Fitzpatrick discussed a bit of the history of Northern Ireland, the groundbreaking 1947 Education Act, and the conditions of Northern Ireland during the 1950s and '60s.

Noted American philosopher Todd May, Ph.D., Clemson University, spoke to a full house earlier this month during a lecture sponsored by the CAHS Philosophy Department. May discussed "what makes life meaningful" and read from an upcoming book. He also answered numerous questions from the enthusiastic audience.

A very dynamic and personable speaker, May has produced 13 books, including one on friendship. He thanked the CAHS Philosophy Department for inviting him, saying, "Though it is small, it's quite impressive."



*Jason Read, Associate Professor; Todd May, and Julien Murphy, Professor and Department Chair, Philosophy*

Earle Shettleworth, Maine State Historian, spoke to Professor Libby Bischof's History class on Maine's involvement in World War I. He showed slides of photos and postcards of Maine's memorials and actual military scenes, such as parades, troop trains and recruiting events all over the state, from 1917 to 1918.



*Earle Shettleworth and Libby Bischof, Associate Professor and Department Chair, History*

About 30,000 Maine men and women went to war, with 1,000 casualties, compared to 70,000 in the Civil War, with 10,000 casualties. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I.

## Can't Beat This Gift -- Well, Yes, You Really Can!

Anybody who knows bands and drums knows that SJC Drums of Massachusetts makes some of the best custom drum sets in the business. And one of the co-owners of SJC Drum just happens to be Scott Ciprari, School of Music alumnus.

Ciprari has been the co-owner for the last 13 years with his brother, Mike Ciprari, who founded the company in 2000. After making drums for some of the biggest names in popular music today, such as Aerosmith, Snoop Dog and Miley Cyrus, Scott Ciprari decided to make a transition and recently sold his half of the company.

As a special gift to his alma mater, the talented and skilled alumnus made his very last drum kit for the USM School of Music!

Ciprari presented the beautiful drum kit to the School of Music earlier this month and was joined by faculty and staff, including Nancy Smith, artist faculty in percussion, for the informal get-together in Gorham.

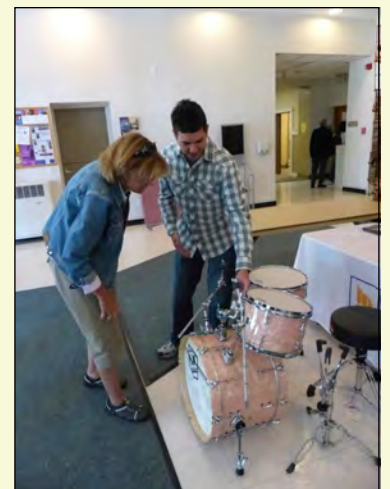
"This drum set is not only beautiful to look at, it also has been custom-made by a master craftsman with our own

Corthell Concert Hall in mind," Alan Kaschub, School of Music interim director, said. "This drum set will be the set that our patrons will hear when they come to our jazz concerts, music theatre productions and any other ensemble that requires a drum set.

"All of us who know Scott and had him as a student will think of him every time we see and hear these drums," Kaschub commented.

Scott Ciprari has the thanks of everyone at the School of Music and our college for his wonderful gift.

It will be well used!



*Nancy Smith, Artist Faculty in Percussion, examines the new drum kit given by alumnus Scott Ciprari to his alma mater.*





## USM's Digital Commons Opens Exciting New World of Information

*Cassandra Fitzherbert, MLIS, is Head of Access Services for the University Libraries and has been with USM for 30-plus years. In her position, she is responsible for circulation, e-reserves and interlibrary loan. Fitzherbert also is the coordinator for the Digital Commons@USM.*

*We asked Fitzherbert some questions about the Digital Commons and how CAHS can use it to our advantage.*

### **What is the Digital Commons?**

The Digital Commons@USM is an online digital archive of the scholarship and creative activity of the faculty, staff and students at USM. It provides a centralized place to preserve the research, but more importantly, the Digital Commons shares our community's research and scholarship and makes it discoverable and accessible to the local community and to the world.

### **What will I find in the Digital Commons?**

With Digital Commons, we can collect, preserve and make available preprints, working papers, journal articles, dissertations theses, conference proceedings, presentations, data sets, images, audio and video files and many more items.

The Digital Commons@USM currently contains faculty profiles, including mention of areas of expertise, courses taught, scholarship and creative works. In addition, there is a book gallery featuring the books published by faculty.

At the institutional level, there are pages containing works by faculty from English, Social Work, History and many others disciplines. More are added as permissions allow.

Materials from special collections, including the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine and the Franco- American Collection, also have a presence. We are also working on developing sites for centers and institutes at USM and grant projects, such as Digital Maine.

In addition, we have a place for student scholarship such as capstones, theses and dissertations.

This is a growing, developing site, and we are eager to explore our options to archive new and different content.

### **How does the average person find information and why would they want to?**

This is a very exciting and key feature to the Digital Commons. The goal of the Digital Commons is to get links to content to the top of search engine search results. Scholarly material and special collections in Digital Commons repositories are highly discoverable in Google, Google Scholar and other search engines.

Additionally, articles in Digital Commons repositories are indexed in the Digital Commons Network, a free discovery tool for full-text scholarly articles used by researchers worldwide.

There also is an option to receive RSS feeds whenever anything new is added to a specific site you might be interested in. For example, if you were interested in following the work of a specific faculty member, you could set up the feed and be notified any time something new was added.

For faculty it is also a way to stay informed on the current research others might be doing and to provide opportunities for collaboration.

In addition to faculty using the Digital Commons, researchers might access

*continued ...*



*Cassandra Fitzherbert, MLIS*

## Digital Commons *continued*

Special Collections to determine if the collections are applicable to their research; organizations looking for subject experts might review a faculty profile for a presentation or interview; potential students may review programs and research to determine if it meets their needs.

Other uses include reviewing the institution's yearbooks, which have been digitized back to 1919, or looking up course requirements in old course catalogs which have been digitized back to 1885.

### What is the process for adding content to the Digital Commons?

The University Library is managing content on behalf of faculty and students. Every academic department has a library liaison. The faculty should contact their

liaison to begin the process of developing content. To develop a site for a specific academic department, center or institute or to inquire about adding projects, events, productions or publishing a journal, contact me.

The Digital Commons is an exciting new initiative for the University Library in support of USM's programs and scholarships and unique features. The opportunities are endless, and I look forward to hearing ideas to grow the site.

*To contact Casandra Fitzherbert, email her at [Casandra@usm.maine.edu](mailto:Casandra@usm.maine.edu)*

## CAHS to Hold Presentation on Scottish Independence Vote

The Scottish vote on independence from the United Kingdom has ended, and the results are clear. The people of Scotland voted firmly to reject separation by a vote of 55 to 44 percent. What happens next, however, has yet to be determined, and the larger issue of how a group of people achieves self-determination in a chaotic and dangerous world remains.

A group of expert panelists will discuss the vote in Scotland and what it means during a special presentation next month.

Organized by the USM Political Science program, the free, public presentation will focus on the legal and diplomatic implications of the vote and what it means for other native people around the world.



"I hope those who attend gain an understanding about how complicated self-determination issues are," said Francesca Vassallo, USM Associate Professor of Political Science, said. "... This is a major change; this is how self-determination should be done nowadays," "It affects the rights of nations and international laws."

The public presentation is an example of the community outreach envisioned in USM's mission of being "Maine's Metropolitan University."

Vassallo said she wanted to organize the presentation because "I wanted the students in my European politics course to move away from the textbook and into the real world. I want them to understand how we got here and what the options are and to connect the real doers with the students and the citizens of Maine."

Peter Pitegoff, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Maine Law School, will introduce the event and comment on the legal implications of the vote.

Donnie Jack, Scottish affairs counsellor for the Americas, British Embassy, Washington, D.C., will give the Scottish view of the vote outcome. Owen Traylor, consultant and former British diplomat, now living in Saco, will discuss the consequences for the United Kingdom.

Nancy K. Gish, USM Professor of English and Scottish literature scholar, recently returned from Scotland, will share her first-hand observations of the vote process.

The event is sponsored by USM Department of History and Political Science, University of Maine School of Law, World Affairs Council of Maine and USM Title III High Impact Practices Grant.

The details of the event are:

**Scotland's Vote: A Referendum for Independence 5:30-6 p.m., reception, 6-8 p.m., presentation, Thursday, Oct. 2, 7th Floor, University Events Room, Glickman Library, USM, Portland campus; Free and open to the public. RSVP by calling 780-4283.**

**OPPOSING GESTURES:  
JOSEPH FARBROOK AND SAMA ALSHIABI**

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*Sept. 23-Dec. 10*

*Opening Reception: 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 9*

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Free and open to the public.

For more information, go to

[usm.maine.edu/gallery/](http://usm.maine.edu/gallery/)



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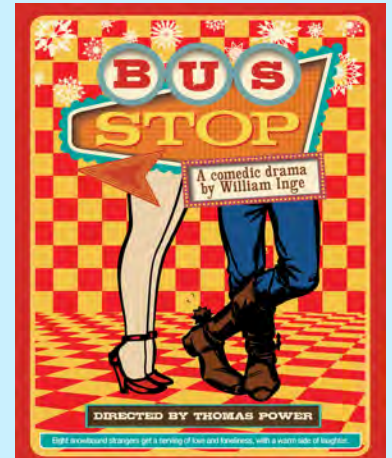
*Oct. 31-Nov. 9, show times vary*

Russell Hall, USM, Gorham campus,

Tickets: \$15, general public; \$11, seniors,  
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