

Fall 2013

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 3, Fall 2013



Top: *Toward
Drakes Island,
Winter*

Bottom: *Spring
Marsh Wells, Low
Tide*

George Burk,
USM Associate
Professor of
Painting and
Drawing

In This Issue

- Major Research Projects
- Faculty Team Wins Grant
- Shaping Public Policy



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

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From the Dean's Office

Dear CAHS Friends and Colleagues:

This newsletter offers a window into the rich and diverse research, scholarship, and creative activity (RSCA) taking place in our college.

Our faculty are crucial contributors, and in two cases, the principal investigators, in three of the four Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF) projects funded this year. Under the leadership of Raphael Diluzio, our CI2 Lab won a National Science Foundation award to pursue deep interdisciplinarity among the arts and sciences in the classroom.

In the last two years, our faculty members also have won awards from such prestigious institutions as the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, The Learning by Giving Foundation, and American Philosophical Society.

During our first CAHS faculty meeting, 10 of our colleagues dazzled us and our friends from the USM Office of Sponsored Programs with five-minute lightning talks about their RSCA. We will continue these presentations in the spring semester. Many of you may also have attended the English Department's lecture series. These will continue next semester with presentations by Nancy Gish and Ann Dean.

As Dean Lynn Kuzma, Associate Dean Adam Tuchinsky, and I review proposals for student centered projects, we are reminded of how deftly our faculty incorporate their own RSCA into their teaching and mentoring.

Remarkably, what you see in these pages is just a sampling of the exciting, innovative, and enriching RSCA happening in our college.

Our faculty have given USM much to be proud of and plenty for us to publicize. Keep up the fantastic work, and we will do our best to keep spreading the word and shining a bright light on the CAHS faculty-scholars and their many achievements.

Best wishes,

David Carey Jr.
CAHS Associate Dean
for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity



Chair Ben Bertram, Dean Lynn Kuzma, and
Professor Bud McGrath
at the English Department's
Research Lecture Series

On the Cover

George Burk, USM associate professor of painting and drawing, is well known for his small, exquisite, detailed landscape paintings done in acrylic on museum board. He also is known for using his truck as his studio, parking at intriguing natural locales along Maine's coastal and wetland areas and settling in to paint, regardless of the weather. He works on several paintings at a time, capturing the changing tidal patterns and lighting of his subject. Burk is highly appreciated by his students, who find him supportive and inspiring as both an artist and a teacher. He will retire this semester, after a teaching career of almost 30 years at USM. Thank you, George, for your commitment to USM and your students!

CAHS Faculty Undertake Major Research Projects

Public outreach has always been an important component of USM's educational mission, whether it's faculty members supporting local non-profits through directed student projects or researchers working with Maine businesses on specific enterprises.

Three CAHS faculty groups recently received major interdisciplinary research grants expected to have a significant impact on local communities. The grants, each amounting to \$150,000 for a two-year period, have been provided by the Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF) through USM's Office of Research Administration and Development.

Established by the Maine Legislature in 1997, MEIF supports projects related to areas of strategic economic importance to the state. As directed by Maine law, state policymakers appropriate MEIF funds to the University of Maine System to support university-based research, which then are allocated to USM and the University of Maine.

"What takes these new projects beyond the usual academic research is the blending of humanities and technology with outreach to Maine businesses and community groups," said Dean Lynn Kuzma. "These projects will result in innovative cross-uses of research and information, while supporting numerous business entities and community organizations and reaching out to a wider audience."

Digitizing Maine

The "Digitizing Maine" research cluster, led by John Muthyala, USM professor of English, brings together a large team of scholars, staff and students from CAHS with Maine computer scientists and information-technology experts in a unique collaboration to establish USM as a leader in the field of digital humanities.



Through this project, the team of scholars and experts will pursue their research of diverse topics – ranging from the effects of sea-level rise to the history of labor at Maine's paper mills -- and at the same time develop innovative software applications and technologies relating to geospatial technology and information management to encourage the public to access this material. The goal is to develop the richness of digital humanities and to position USM as an innovator in this new field.

Nineteen individual projects are included in this grant. Three examples of Digitizing Maine projects are:

- **"Envisioning Change: Sea Level Rise in Casco Bay,"** directed by Jan Piribeck, USM professor of art; teams of faculty members, students and community members will collect data and map tidal trajectories on the Portland peninsula and create images and visual narratives to illustrate gradual changes in sea level over time.
- **"Digitizing Stories of the Paper Plantation,"** directed by Michael Hillard, USM professor of economics; involves building a digital archive based on oral histories about the economic and labor history of Maine's paper industry and making the archive accessible to researchers, students and the public.
- **"A Model Historical Walking Trail,"** directed by Eileen Eagan, USM associate professor of history; will digitize information regarding the Portland Women's Walking Trail and create a data structure so the information is available through electronic devices, such as smartphones, tablets and laptops; develop an open platform for publishing mobile digital tours available to other researchers as well.

Securing Maine

The "Securing Maine" project focuses on the increasing threat of cyber-security breaches to Maine's small businesses. An interdisciplinary team led by Julien Murphy, USM professor of Philosophy, and composed of faculty from the School of Business, School of Law and the departments of Philosophy, Communication and Media Studies, Linguistics, and Technology will work on the project.



The team will analyze cyber security threats and develop a set of best practices to guide how businesses should respond to them. The research investigators will identify the workplace problems related to cyber security; provide research on policies, procedures and code-of-ethics documents; and provide research on the development of training. In addition, they will research and build software with student teams and local business partners and then work to develop assessment methods and evaluation tools.

(continued)

CAHS Faculty Undertake Major Research Projects *(continued)*

Web-based Systems to Support Disadvantaged Populations

Camp Susan Curtis, located in Stoneham, is a project of the Susan Curtis Charitable Foundation that supports economically disadvantaged Maine children.

Dennis Gilbert, USM lecturer in the Department of Communication and Media Studies, and Lenny Shedletsky, USM professor of Communication and Media Studies, are both CAHS co-principal investigators for this



project, which will provide specific opportunities for youth campers to stay connected all year with a critical, web-based support network. The project, however, will be expanded to support disadvantaged populations in general.

The project brings together USM's School of Social Work and the departments of Computer Science, Technology, and Communication and Media Studies with off-campus partners Maine College of Art, Maine Medical Center's Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, Maine's Office of Information Technology, and Poland Spring.

Shedletsky joined the Camp Susan Curtis Online team at its inception, roughly a year and a half ago and has been brainstorming with the team how to contribute to the campers' connection to the camp over the long Maine winter. He now is researching how campers use the site and how they interact with counselors and other campers.

"I am currently examining the camp's literacy curriculum, working on ideas to place literacy activities online, and I am speaking with USM students about working on the literacy curriculum," the professor said.

Warren Memorial Foundation Increases Scholarship Donation

There were plenty of smiles last April on Student Recognition Day when 10 USM students received scholarships from the Warren Memorial Foundation of Westbrook.

Recognizing the value of the opportunities offered by USM's visual and performing arts programs, the Warren trustees donated a sum of \$25,000 to be used solely to support the university's continuing art, music and theatre students through the Warren Memorial Foundation Scholarship for the Fine and Performing Arts.

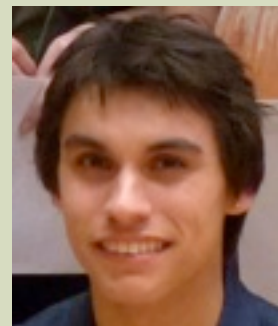
In an expression of continued support and generosity, the Warren trustees have again provided scholarship funds for USM's deserving students – this time providing a sum of \$30,000

"This scholarship funding means so much to our students and our college," said Lynn Kuzma, CAHS dean. "Our visual and performing arts programs are among the best in the state, and now we are able to help our talented and skilled students become the educated professionals they should be."

The scholarship funding will again be used to support continuing USM students in art, theatre, and music. The allocation will be determined by the arts departments.

Zachariah Stearn of Portland, a USM sophomore majoring in Theatre, was one of the grateful recipients of this year's Warren scholarships.

"It's a fantastic experience," said Stearn. "I was shocked and very surprised. It was very nice to have that kind of recognition in a field that doesn't always get recognition."



Zachariah Stearn

Stearn, who has a 3.7 GPA, is attending USM this year on all grants and scholarships. He said he used the Warren scholarship to pay for all his books for the year.

"Theatre is a very difficult major, and to maintain a rehearsal schedule, an academic schedule, and a personal social life is difficult because there are a lot of things involved," the student said.

"To be awarded with such a scholarship is a humbling experience. I'm very thankful," Stearn said.

USM Faculty Team Wins National Grant to Teach Creative Thinking to STEM Undergrads

Raphael DiLuzio, USM associate professor of digital art and design, and his academic team have been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to take creative-thinking processes from the art studio into undergraduate science and technology classrooms.

DiLuzio and his colleagues plan to research and develop teaching modules for creative thinking to be introduced to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) educators at the university.

The goal, said DiLuzio, is to evaluate the effects on STEM faculty and undergraduates, with the potential for teaching and reinforcing the creative-process across the curriculum at universities, much like writing is taught across disciplines.

“I’d like to teach people and help them understand that creativity is not just under the purview and ownership of artists alone, that we’re all creative,” DiLuzio said during a recent interview. “It’s about awakening the understanding of the process and getting people to be free to engage wholly in their own creativity, regardless of their training and background.”

“This is the perfect, and much needed, example of how the humanities can work together with the sciences to enhance and improve the academic experience,” said CAHS Dean Lynn Kuzma. “We are very pleased that the National Science Foundation has seen the value of this collaboration to



Raphael DiLuzio

support and fund it. The results could have a profound influence on STEM education across Maine and the U.S.”

DiLuzio, who is principal investigator, and his academic team have been awarded a grant for \$192,226 for two and a half years through the NSF’s Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (TUES) program.

Joining him as co-principal investigators are: Jan Piribeck, USM professor of digital art and foundations; Kelly Hrenko, USM assistant professor of art education, both from CAHS; Carl Blue, USM associate professor of technology; and Clare Congdon, USM associate professor of computer science, both from the USM School of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

DiLuzio also is director of USM’s CI2 (Collaboration for Creative Intelligence and Innovation) Special Research Studio, an innovative and experimental place that brings together faculty and students from different disciplines to explore creative-problem solving.

The teaching of creative-thinking techniques is not common in college and university undergraduate curricula, DiLuzio explained. The

techniques are taught primarily in fine arts and design courses and in some areas of the humanities, such as creative writing.

“This project is expanding the understanding of creative thinking as a dimension of undergraduate coursework in STEM,” the professor said. “If successful, I would like to see this filter down to K-12 classrooms and not be just for college students – I think this is crucial.”

The team will work with one cohort of faculty members from several of USM’s science and technology departments during a summer institute in which creative-thinking, strategies and processes will be examined and put into practice in STEM education. The faculty members are expected to design new teaching modules based on the techniques for incorporation into their current curricula for two academic years.

Some of the processes to be included in the STEM modules are: learning how to frame a question; examining how research relates to creativity; using detachment, distraction and disengagement to foster creativity; how to use and accept failure as part of the creative process; and “how to capture the ‘ah-has,’ the sudden flashes of insight,” the professor said.

Participating faculty members will be given a number of projects and challenges during the workshops, DiLuzio said. Student creativity will be evaluated before and after the implementation of the new learning modules in USM classrooms through standardized testing, he noted.

The project already is under way with the investigators developing a strategic plan for the project, DiLuzio concluded.

CAHS Students Benefit from Donation Funding

CAHS students are being given the opportunity to expand their academic experiences while at USM through annual fund donations made to the college and managed through the CAHS Dean's Office.

Dean Lynn Kuzma decided to make the total of \$14,000 available to enhance student research and education. She invited the college faculty to submit proposals that make creative use of the funding. So far, a number of proposals have been received. Dean Kuzma and Associate Deans Adam Tuchinsky and David Carey Jr. are determining which proposals to fund.

"We are very pleased to be able to grant these proposals and allow students to do academic activities that they might not normally be able to do," said Dean Kuzma. "We have seen some really exciting and interesting activities associated with student learning proposed by our faculty, and we know our CAHS students will benefit from them."

Faculty members are encouraged to continue submitting proposals for innovative opportunities, said Kuzma. The Dean's Office will distribute the funds on a rolling basis until they are depleted.

Among the proposals funded to date:

Libby Bischof, USM associate professor of history, and **Leroy Rowe**, USM assistant professor of history, both took their classes to a showing of the new movie, "12 Years a Slave." The movie is based on the book of the same name, telling the story of Solomon Northup, a free African-American man living with his family in New York state in 1841, who was kidnapped and forced into slavery.

Bischof's class read portions of the book in advance. "I've done a lot of research into the film," she wrote, "and it appears, at first glance, to tend toward historical accuracy and will be great fodder for discussion."

Jan Piribeck, USM associate professor of digital art and foundations, took an interdisciplinary group of seven USM art, media studies and GIS students to attend the Waterfront Visions Symposium 2050 that took place Nov. 7-8 at Ocean Gateway Terminal Space Gallery. The symposium, hosted by the Portland Society of Architecture, and a companion exhibition addressed the adaptation imposed by sea-level rise on the Portland waterfront and will offer design solutions for its future development.



The seven students are all members of a core group who are working in a project-based learning capacity on the "Envisioning Change" component of the "Digitizing Maine" research project initiated by a CAHS faculty team. The Digitizing Maine project, in general, is an effort to develop new humanities research and new software technology to make USM a center for digitized humanities. The students will be involved in doing research and in developing ways of visualizing sea-level change over a period of 200 years, Piribeck stated.

"The symposium will, no doubt, be an invaluable opportunity for the students to glean information about sea-level rise and to hear from experts on the topic," Piribeck wrote. She stated that she also hopes to collaborate with the Maine College of Art on the project.

Daniel Sonenberg, USM associate professor of music and resident composer, has proposed to use funding to support student composers with the hiring of professional performers to showcase new, original music in the community.

"Over the last decade, the [USM] School of Music has developed a thriving new music culture, featuring the ongoing success of the USM Composers Ensemble, numerous visiting composers and new music ensembles, and a successful graduate composition program," he wrote. "The quality of works being produced by our students is such that two ensembles with international reputations – The Da Capo Chamber Players and ETHEL string quartet – visited USM to read and record student works over the last year, and expressed amazement at the level of music being written."

CAHS Students Benefit from Annual Fund Monies *(continued)*



USM Composers Ensemble

Over the course of the academic year, opportunities for students to have their music performed on professional concerts in the community arise, but the students are often unable to participate because they do not have funding to hire players,” he continued.

“... Unfortunately, the students who lose out are the ones who are generally writing the most accomplished music,” the professor said. “This is because the level of commitment and skill necessary to perform these pieces in public just isn’t there in student performers playing for free, who must already balance a difficult workload.”

Sonenberg asked for funding to support performances at two Maine venues, the Frontiers of New Music concert series at the Frontier Restaurant, Brunswick, and the Back Cove Festival of Contemporary Music at the Portland Conservatory of Music.

“To have our students presenting works on these concerts does a wonderful job representing the fine composition coming out of USM,” Sonenberg stated.

“To be able to support these performances with a fund for performers, so that our students don’t have to pay out of pocket, or worse, pass up the chance, would be significant both for their education and our reputation in the community.”

Julia Edwards, International Studies lecturer in the CAHS Department of History and Political Science, asked to take up to eight students to visit the United Nations in New York City for a two-day trip next semester. She plans on working with her contacts to arrange meetings and special lectures, as well as procure guest badges for students to attend various sessions at the UN headquarters campus.

The trip would offer networking and professional opportunities to the students, Edwards wrote. “I wish to maximize the benefit of my connections for our students,” she stated.

This past summer, Edwards took a group of students to Geneva, Switzerland, where several of them had the opportunity to address the United Nations Human Rights Conference on human rights violations.



USM Students in Geneva, Switzerland

USM School of Music Participates in Portland Conservatory of Music’s “College Audition Preparation” Course

For the first time in its history, the Portland Conservatory is offering a four-week-long, intensive course on college auditions, ending with an actual audition for the USM School of Music. Students who take the course will prepare instrumental, guitar and/or vocal audition repertoire, which they will perform before a panel of USM faculty artists. The course is geared toward high-school sophomores to adults.

The School of Music outreach, an example of USM’s mission of community engagement, will have multiple

benefits for both it and the conservatory, which already share faculty and alumni.

“It gives them a chance to have the experience at the end of the class and makes it more real,” said Alan Kaschub, School of Music director. “They might get their game face on if they know they’re actually auditioning for USM. There is always a difference between a mock audition and a real audition. We are happy to work with the Portland Conservatory to make this audition real.”

The conservatory shares eight faculty members with the School of Music, and 13 Portland Conservatory faculty members are School of Music graduates.

Shaping Public Policy: CAHS Faculty Use Different Means to Reach Out

In addition to teaching, research and creative scholarship, one of the most profound ways that university faculty support their communities is by engaging in discussion on public policies and issues. This participation by scholars is not always as acknowledged as other academic activities, but it is critical to the well-being of all democratic institutions.

By bringing clear observation and factual knowledge to important issues, CAHS faculty members help shape public discourse and decision-making around crucial matters, both locally and throughout Maine. They also highlight the quality of scholarship at USM and bring prestige to the university.

Two USM scholars in particular have been playing significant roles in recent public discussions, each of them using different outreach methods.

Luisa Deprez, USM professor of Sociology, is co-director of the Maine Regional Network of the Scholars Strategy Network (SSN), a national organization of progressive-minded academics. SSN members address public challenges and point out policy implications in ways that are highly accessible to the general public.



Luisa Deprez

In that capacity, Deprez for a number of years has been writing and organizing op-ed pieces for statewide newspapers and speaking on radio shows, at conferences, before the state Legislature, and to media organizations on state and national issues.

Deprez has written and spoken on such topics as welfare reform, higher education for low-income women and families and health care and health insurance. She also has contributed to the *Maine Policy Review*, an independent twice-yearly journal published by the Margaret Chase Smith Center at the University of Maine.

Most recently, Deprez, along with Sandra Butler, University of Maine professor of social work, has undertaken to write a yearlong, once-a-month series of newspaper articles on struggling Maine residents. The series, which began in September, is titled, "The People Next Door," and appears in the *Maine Review* section of the weekend *Bangor Daily News*.

"We are trying to address issues that are timely in the state of Maine and issues in which we have expertise," Deprez said recently. "It's a way of extending the Scholars Strategy Network into the state and a way of exposing scholarship to the state of Maine in a way people can understand."

Ronald Schmidt Jr., USM associate professor of Political Science, is the "talking head" of USM, the media's go-to guy for immediate, expert response on all things political. Schmidt's academic specialty is American politics and political theory, but reporters regularly ask him about Maine goings-on. So often is he needed that a number of local reporters have his personal cell phone number to get his quick comment on breaking news.



Ron Schmidt

Schmidt usually is called upon for two types of responses: a fast response on developing news, which most often requires going before TV cameras; and background information, a different kind of interview usually used by newspaper and radio reporters that is more in depth and with broader questions on political processes.

In addition to the numerous interviews he has done, Schmidt worked with MPBN on two series regarding the fact checking and analysis of political election ads, once in 2010 and again in 2012. He also has provided election night coverage for MPBN and turn-around morning coverage for WMTW-Channel 8. He has helped prepare questions for TV political debates, and most recently, he was interviewed by the *Bangor Daily News* and WMTW about gubernatorial candidate Mike Michaud's announcement that he is gay.

Schmidt generally does not offer a specific political point of view, but rather will make knowledgeable observations or comparisons. The background he presents provides a context for reporters, and he often ends up educating them on legislative strategy, political processes, and how national political trends and issues affect the Maine Legislature.

"The reporters come to me as a political scientist, and that's how I respond," Schmidt said. "I try to answer a question on the terms in which it asked."



Justin Tussing

USM Associate Professor Named Interim Stonecoast Director

Justin Tussing, USM associate professor of English, has been appointed as interim director of the USM Stonecoast Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program, according to USM officials. He will serve in that capacity for two years.

Looking for Stonecoast to become a “magnet for writing,” Tussing said he hopes to promote “the fantastic faculty” and to help Stonecoast’s students be successful in the program. He said he also wants to maintain the great camaraderie and excitement generated by students and alumni across the country.

“My job as director is to work on behalf of these groups, alumni, students and faculty, so they can get as much as they can out of the experience,” he said.

“We are delighted that professor Tussing has agreed to take over this position,” said Lynn Kuzma, dean of USM’s College of Arts, Humanities,

and Social Sciences, which oversees the Stonecoast graduate program. “He is an accomplished writer and a dedicated faculty member who will bring a strong understanding of the writing and learning process to Stonecoast. We know that our students will benefit greatly from his leadership.”

Tussing replaces Annie Finch, former director who is a professor in the USM Department of English.

The Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing program offers a comprehensive, yet individualized, two-year graduate education in the art of creative writing. Students take part each semester in a 10-day residency at USM’s Stone House in Freeport on the coast of Maine’s Casco Bay.

The program’s award-winning faculty offer intensive one-on-one tutorials in creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry and popular fiction, with possible elective work in other areas, including scriptwriting, translation and cross-genre.

The program recently was named one of the best top 10 low-residency, creative-writing programs in the country by *Poets & Writers* magazine.

Tussing has taught English at USM for the past six years, specializing in fiction writing and contemporary fiction, and has been director of the Stonecoast Writers’ Conference, held each summer in Freeport. The seven-day conference offers workshops and tutorials with a professional writing faculty.

Tussing received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of New Hampshire and later his Master of Fine Arts in English degree

from the distinguished Iowa Writers’ Workshop. He also ran the Iowa Young Writers’ Studio offered by the University of Iowa and later worked at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA. Before arriving at USM, Tussing taught writing and literature at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR.

His first novel, *The Best People in the World*, was published in April 2006 by HarperCollins and received the 2006 Ken Kesey Award for the Novel, one of the Oregon Book Awards presented annually by Literary Arts Inc. A chapter from the book was published previously in the *New Yorker* magazine’s 2005 Debut Fiction issue.

Tussing said he has several goals for the Stonecoast program. The new director noted the program’s “very active alumni” and said he wanted to support and grow the alumni network, calling alums “people united by experience and invested in the wellbeing of the community.” The program has made recent efforts to schedule special alumni events, including a recent satellite reading in New York City, he said.

The new director said he also would like to see the program become even more academically rigorous and more obviously integrated with USM.

Stonecoast is still a relatively new program, he said, “and as such, we need to be reaching out to attract students, both nationally and internationally.”

For more information about the Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing program, go to: usm.maine.edu/stonecoastmfa

facebook

Our Facebook page is growing in popularity. It’s a great place to find out what’s going and who’s doing what. Take a look and make sure to “like” it. We welcome your submissions and appropriate comments! <http://www.facebook.com/USMCAHS>



Poets & Writers Again Names USM Stonecoast MFA Among Top 10 in Nation

USM's Stonecoast Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program once again has been listed among the nation's top 10 low-residency programs for creative writing by *Poets & Writers* magazine. The publication represents the nation's largest nonprofit organization serving creative writers.

The ranking, released in the September issue, was based on surveys of creative writing students nationwide. Low-residency, creative writing programs

were compared in five categories: popularity; selectivity; fellowship placement; job placement; and genres available for study.

When compared with other programs, Stonecoast was tied for fourth in the 2013 popularity survey and eighth in a six-year popularity study. Stonecoast also was listed as fourth in job placement.

"We are very proud of our program and being placed as one of the nation's top five low-residency programs," said Robin Talbot, Stonecoast MFA Program associate director. "This honor demonstrates the incredible literary and professional accomplishments of our students, alums and faculty members."

The Stonecoast program, under CAHS, offers a two-year graduate education in the art of writing through a low-residency format.

The full *Poets & Writers* ranking index is available in print only in the September edition. For more information about the rankings and how they were determined, please visit : pw.org/content/2014_mfa_index_further_reading

For more information about Stonecoast, go to: usm.maine.edu/stonecoastmfa

USM Graduate Student Wins National Award for Best New Sci-Fi/Fantasy Writer

Mur Lafferty of Durham, NC, a USM graduate student studying popular fiction with the Stonecoast Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program, has won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer.

The award, sponsored by Dell Magazines, publisher of *Analog Science Fiction & Fact* magazine, was presented earlier this month during the 2013 Hugo Awards to the best new professional science-fiction or fantasy writer of 2011 or 2012. It is given to the best new science fiction or fantasy writer whose first work was published in a professional publication in the previous two years.

It was the second nomination for Lafferty, who was selected this year out of more than 476 nominees. The Campbell award, named after an influential science fiction writer and editor, is administered along with the Hugo Awards and was presented during the World Science Fiction Convention (LoneStarCon3) in San Antonio, Texas.

"The Campbell is an award where it truly is an honor to be nominated, because it's amazing to be

in a group of five considered the most promising new writers to the field," Lafferty said. "I'm honored and humbled and thrilled and honestly a little gun-shy. It's intimidating thinking that people are watching me now, waiting to see if I produce Campbell-worthy work."

"Everyone at Stonecoast is thrilled that the science-fiction community is discovering what we've known for a while -- Mur is a real talent," said Justin Tussing, Stonecoast MFA director. "She epitomizes the highly talented, creative students we have in our program."

Lafferty is an author, podcaster and editor, whose first professionally published book, *The Shambling Guide to New York City*, is in bookstores. Lafferty's qualifying work for the award was a story, "1963: The Argument Against Louis Pasteur," included in the book, *The Thackery T. Lambshead Cabinet of Curiosities*, published by Harper Voyager, 2011.

Lafferty has her own web page at: murverse.com



Mur Lafferty
(Helen Pepe Photo)



USM Professor Publishes New Guatemalan History Book on Maya Women, Justice System

A new, sophisticated historiography by a USM professor reveals how Maya women and men living under two brutal dictatorships in the early 20th century used the criminal justice system in Guatemala to improve their lives and fight for their civil rights.

In his new book, *I Ask for Justice: Maya Women, Dictators, and Crime in Guatemala, 1898-1944*, David Carey Jr., USM professor of history and women and gender studies, uses extensive archival material to tell the stories of Maya people, particularly women, who sought justice in the face of being treated as lower-class citizens.

The first historical study of the Guatemalan judicial system, Carey's book demonstrates that although it

was not always just, the country's legal system enjoyed legitimacy among poor and working class peoples even during fascist rule.

What readers should get from the book, Carey said during a recent interview, is "a sense of the empowerment of Maya women despite the incredible disadvantages of racism, poverty and sexism that they faced."

"Against all those of odds, they were able to create fulfilling and self-sufficient lives for themselves and their families and make their communities and nation more just," the USM professor said.

It is a fourth book on Guatemala for Carey, who has been studying its indigenous people since 1994 and is a noted historian of Central America. One of his previous books includes a sixth-grade Guatemalan history book, written in Kaqchikel, the native language he speaks fluently. This past summer, Carey ran a Tulane-sponsored course in Guatemala on Maya culture and language for international graduate students.

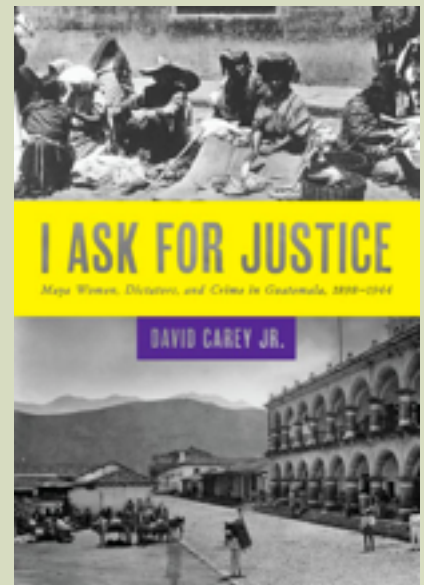
I Ask For Justice, Carey's latest book, gets its name from the phrase with which many Maya and other poor Guatemalan litigants concluded their judicial petitions. Several of Carey's previous books focus on oral histories; what makes this book different, he said, is the use of archival materials to survey

the criminal-justice system and history.

"What is surprising is the amount of information that is not showing up in oral histories," the professor noted, adding that the two sources complement each other well.

Carey wanted to get a sense of the way that the Guatemalan government of the period defined crime and social justice during a time of oppressive and abusive dictatorships.

"What I found is that the poor, illiterate, monolingual women stood up to dictators and carved out spaces of autonomy and created entrepreneurial opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of their children," he said.



New Classics Major Approved

The USM College Curriculum Review Committee has approved a new Classics major, under the Liberal Studies program, that will present traditional classes in modern formats. The new major will be offered as of fall 2014, according to Jeannine Diddle Uzzi, USM associate professor of Classics.

"This is a new, interdisciplinary major focusing on the ancient world

for students who want to study the foundations of modern institutions," said Uzzi. She noted the major would include the study of Latin and ancient Greek and Roman culture, including art, political science, philosophy and literature.

Program courses will be offered in a variety of formats: in person, online, and blended. A new Study Abroad course, "USM in Tuscany: Commemoration Ancient and Modern," also will be offered, providing the opportunity to study Etruscan and Roman culture.

Uzzi said the Classics major would prepare those students who wanted to go into such careers as law, politics, teaching and business. She predicted that the new major would be attractive.

"The interdisciplinary aspect tends to be very popular," the professor said. "Many students like the idea of studying in more than one field during their college career. This major will give them the chance to study from a broader perspective."



News About “Breaking Bad” Book Does Good

If “location, location, location” is everything to a real estate agent, then “timing, timing, timing” can be the crucial factor to an author, as one USM professor found out.

Just days before the phenomenally popular TV series, “Breaking Bad,” aired its final episode in September, Dave Pierson, USM Associate Professor of Media Studies and Chair of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, announced the anticipated publication of his new book, *Breaking Bad: Critical Essays on the Context, Politics, Style and Reception of the Television Series*, in November.

Pierson's new book will be the first publication to conduct a scholarly study of the series from a diverse range of critical perspectives, all in an effort to deeply probe into the

complex worlds of “Breaking Bad,” its characters and stories.

The AMC series follows the exploits of Walter White, a mild-mannered, put-upon high-school chemistry teacher in New Mexico, who, upon learning that he has terminal lung cancer, secretly decides to begin producing and selling crystal methamphetamine so he can earn enough money to secure his family's future. The series followed Walter as he transformed into a deadly drug kingpin.

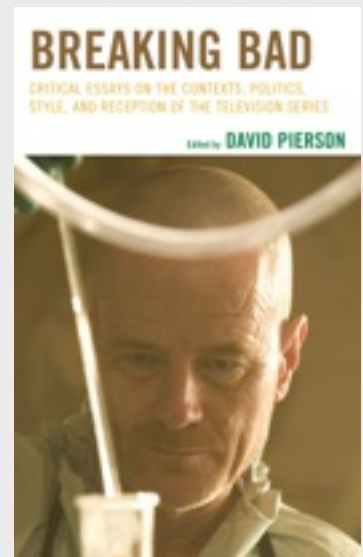
The media response to Pierson’s book rose like a tornado, and the professor suddenly found himself at its center. Facebook hits on the college site went up, and the professor fielded numerous calls from Maine television and radio stations, plus a slew of newspapers. When the Associated Press wrote a story about Pierson and the book, it ran in newspapers across the U.S., including publications in California, Wisconsin, Oklahoma and the heart of “Breaking Bad” country – New Mexico.

“I have to admit that I was surprised with the local and national media response to the *Breaking Bad* book,” Pierson said afterwards. “I do, however, remember that a popular TV series' final episode can sometimes be a ‘media event’ garnering attention across a wide range of media, including newspaper, radio, television, and the Internet.

“Nevertheless, the media response to the book did take me a little aback, but I was pleased to see so much interest in it and, of course, to ‘Breaking Bad,’ which I believe is more than worthy of serious study,” he said.

Pierson has done serious research on other popular TV shows, such as “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” and “The Fugitive.” He is keenly aware of the public’s interest in these programs.

“When a series as complex as ‘Breaking Bad’ comes to a conclusion, I think there is a strong interest and discussion of what the show and its characters mean as an expression of our times,” he said. “I hope, and indeed expect, the edited collection will be part of this ongoing conversation.”



CAHS to Offer Course in Chinese

CAHS is pleased to announce that in collaboration with the USM Confucius Institute, it will offer a course in Chinese, the first language course of its kind to be listed at the university.

The three-credit course, “Beginning Chinese I,” is open to USM students and the general public. It will start on Jan. 14, 2014 and be offered at 5:35 - 6:50 p.m., on Thursdays, at

113 Upperclass Hall, Gorham campus.

“We are delighted to be able to offer this course in conjunction with the Confucius Institute and anticipate a great deal of interest in the subject,” said Lynn Kuzma, CAHS dean.

“Knowledge of Chinese and Chinese culture is an important skill to have, whether one is obtaining a degree in the humanities or pursuing a career in science or business,” the dean said. “We know that our students and the public will benefit from this course offering.”

Inaugurated this past September, the USM Confucius Institute is the first of its kind in Maine. The USM Confucius Institute joins more than 400 institutes throughout the world and 90 institutes nationwide.

Instructor Cecilia Zhang, a Confucius Institute staff member, will teach the course. Zhang has both a master’s and bachelor’s degree in teaching Chinese as a second language from the Beijing Language and Culture University and is a certified teacher of Chinese Mandarin.



World Philosophy Day Celebrated

The USM Department of Philosophy held its first-ever recognition of World Philosophy Day on Thursday, Nov. 21. The department organized a panel discussion on the topic, "Why in the World is Philosophy Needed?" Later that evening, Professor Jason Read moderated the film, "Examined Life."

Celebrated every year on the third Thursday of November, World Philosophy Day is sponsored by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Now in its 11th year,

the theme for this year's celebration is: "Inclusive Societies, Sustainable Planet."

The Thursday afternoon discussion featured as panelists Julien Murphy, USM professor of philosophy and department chair; Jeremiah Conway, USM associate professor of philosophy; Judith Spross, USM professor of nursing, moderator; and Susan Stark, Bates College associate professor of philosophy. Two USM philosophy students, Jamie Barilone and Adam Hanson, also took part. Each panelist spoke for 10 minutes on the topic question, and then the discussion was opened to the audience.

"Whether the world has a future depends upon philosophy," said Murphy, who raised the need to focus more on environmental philosophy.

Hanson outlined his affiliation with the Philosophy Symposium, a student group dedicated to philosophy, philosophical thought and intellectual community. He stated that philosophy is "an integral part of human life, not just a career."

Referring to the new film, "Hannah Arendt," and that writer's coverage of the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, Conway emphasized that philosophy is "needed as a way to protect our humanity." He also called philosophy "obnoxious" and "a powerful pull to integrity."

Barilone, speaking extemporaneously, spoke on the "deeply unsettling" power and joy of using philosophy for personal reflection. She said it is "a great feat of courage to examine how you have come to be."

Stark spoke about philosophy in terms of methodology, which should be used regarding today's issues. She described philosophy as "a practice of skills," including clear thinking and writing. The Bates professor said philosophy is "indispensable in meeting these

USM Student Wins Media Award

Heath Bouffard of North Waterboro, a junior pursuing a degree in Media Studies, has been awarded the Maine Association of Broadcasters Award for the 2013-2014 academic year. Bouffard was chosen as recipient of the prestigious statewide scholarship after being nominated by the USM Department of Communication and Media Studies faculty.

"I'm pretty excited and proud," Bouffard said about receiving the award. "... For faculty in Media Studies to nominate me, that means a lot."

Bouffard has been in the Maine National Guard for 13 years, serving as an engineer and a unit public affairs officer. He tentatively will be deployed overseas next year and is working on a year-long documentary, "Second Mission," about deployment. He also has started his own photography business, Exposed Shutter Media.

"My angle is to get my company up and running," he said about his plans. "I'd like to get into any type of media outlet."

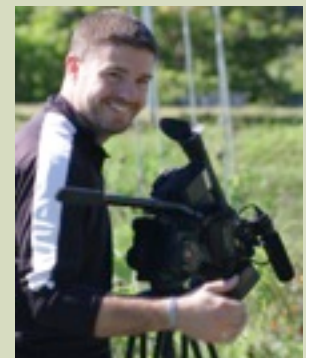
Bouffard has worked for Bath Iron Works and as a land surveyor. He first became interested in photography when he spent summers taking photos with his grandfather - "He got me my first

little camera kit," the student recalled.

What Bouffard likes best about USM are all the opportunities he has received and the close contact with the faculty.

"I can't say enough about the whole Media Studies faculty," he said.

Bouffard has his own website: heathbouffard.prosite.com



**PERSIAN VISIONS: CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY
FROM IRAN**

The exhibition continues through Dec. 8.

Art Gallery hours: Tuesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m.
Free admission.

A portion of the exhibit is on display
at the AREA Gallery,

Woodbury Campus Center; Portland campus.

AREA Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.



**JOYOUS SOUNDS FOR A FESTIVE SEASON
USM SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 3

Williston-Immanuel United Church,
156 High St., Portland

Sponsored by Norway Savings Bank

Conducted by Robert Russell, USM professor
of Music and Choral Studies.

\$12 suggested donation at the door; open seating.



**23rd ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA
LA STAGIONE DELLA LUCE VENEZIANA:
A VENETIAN SEASON OF LIGHT
USM SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

5:30-10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6

Abromson Community Education Center,
88 Bedford St.

USM Portland Campus

Sponsored by Portland Volvo

A glittering return to the warmth of the
holiday season! Reservations required.

For tickets and information,
call (207) 780-5003

or email brackett@usm.maine.edu.



**USM COMPOSERS SHOWCASE CONCERT
USM SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7

Corthell Concert Hall,

37 College Ave., Gorham Campus

The latest work from an innovative group!

Free and open to the public.



**USM YOUTH ENSEMBLES VOCAL CONCERT
USM SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 11

Corthell Concert Hall,

37 College Ave., Gorham Campus

Sponsored by Macy's

\$8/\$5 suggested donation at the door

