

Spring 2012

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

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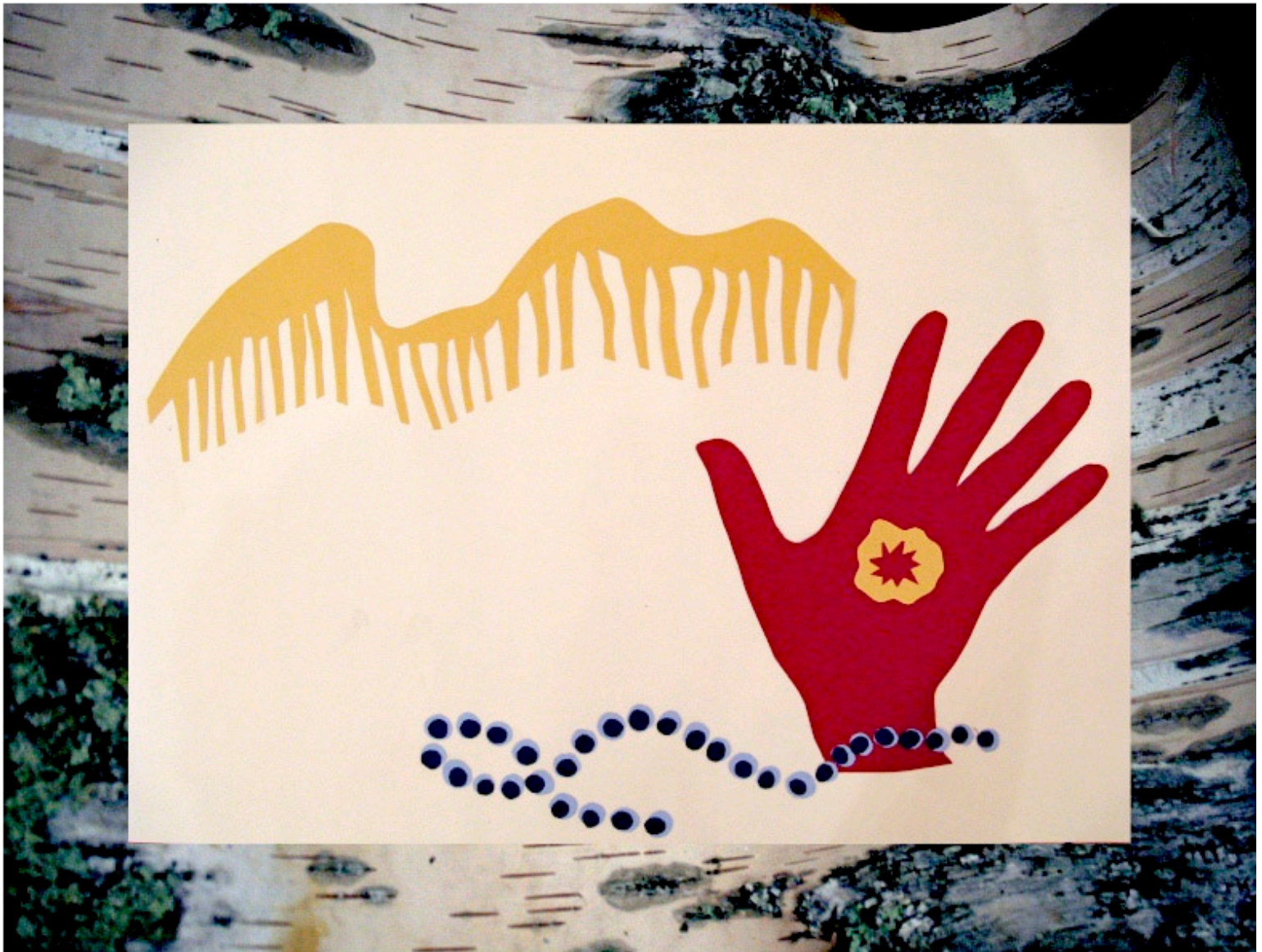
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COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

Volume 2, Spring 2012

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Newsletter



In This Issue

- Kelly Hrenko Pairs Art Education with Portland Middle and High School Students to Explore Other Cultures (image above)
- Deandra Guidi Wins Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation Scholarship
- Stonecoast MFA Alumna has First Book Published
- Brendan Morse, Political Science Student, Travels to Jordan
- The Distinguished Faculty of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- Michael Hillard Receives USM Trustee Professorship
- Spring 2012 Calendar of Events



Left: Kelly Hrenko, Art
Middle: Mandala design found
in Wabanaki Art
Right: Student mural at the
Many Hands exhibit



MANY HANDS: WABANAKI PATHS TO LEARNING

Kelly Hrenko, Assistant Professor of Art Education, spent the fall semester integrating American Indian Culture into her K-8 art education course. Kelly, who moved to Maine from Minnesota in 2010, had been teaching similar curriculum at her previous university. When she started teaching at USM, it was clear Maine schools could prosper from her expertise; the state has a law, LD 291, which requires the integration of American Indian culture into classrooms in Maine. Kelly and her students fill the niche of educating non-art teachers in how to teach to the desired learning outcomes outlined in LD 291. Thus, “Many Hands” was born.

The process of developing “Many Hands” started through Kelly’s partnerships with The Telling Room, Mikhu Paul, George Longfish, the USM Multicultural Affairs Office, Portland Public Schools, and Carolyn Eyler of the USM Art Gallery. Kelly wanted the show to reflect the work she and her students were doing combining Wabanaki images and text. The specialty of The Telling Room, a non-profit writing center in Portland, was essential in aiding the students to create meaningful pieces for the exhibit. Carolyn Eyler and the USM Gallery funded the majority of the project, supplying materials, workspace, and the Area Gallery in Portland for the exhibit. The end result was an amazing display of the program’s ability to educate Maine students about other cultures and their viewpoints.

While the program was not implemented throughout the district, there were 65 students in the Portland School System, 8th-10th grade, who participated in this curriculum. The warm reception of this program by the Portland School System, specifically the humanities director, allowed for an organic growth to the project. In addition, there were 12 students in Kelly’s introductory-level art education course dedicated to working in the classrooms of King Middle and Portland High School. Christina Williams, a graduate student acting as a graduate assistant at USM, worked closely with the students to facilitate their projects and was responsible for creating the packet used to train non-art teachers how to successfully include American Indian art and culture in the classroom.

While the show is over, the project is not. One outcome of the fall semester’s work is a resource packet for teachers, which, among other items, includes lesson plans. There is a professional development day planned to continue educating Maine teachers in American Indian culture. Another outcome of this experience is Kelly’s efforts in initiating an Arts and Community track in the Art Education program that would gain USM students experience interacting with non-art teachers to enrich curriculum.

Brendan Morse, Political Science, Shares His Time in Jordan

Jordan is a country characterized by its stark contrasts; the differences between the North's forested mountains and the South's deserts are just the beginning. There is a dichotomy around every corner. On the University of Jordan campus you will see women dressed in the latest provocative Western fashions and others who cover themselves entirely; even their hands are gloved. In East Amman, there is crippling poverty while in West Amman, Mercedes line the streets. The differentiation between Palestinian-Jordanians and native Jordanians, though denied by the government, is omnipresent.

And the question everyone asks me: are there stirrings of a "Spring" in Jordan? The short answer is no, but Jordanians are coming to realize that the talk of reform is

just that---talk. The government has reverted to the same tactics it used for decades to stymy both political and bureaucratic reform. I have come to see that King Abdullah is not the gentle, "reform-minded" monarch that the US State Department believes him to be, but rather relies on corruption, in its innumerable forms, and subtle coercion to maintain power.

Here in Jordan, I am taking courses relating to democracy, economic development, and intensive Arabic. Though I am not trying to minimize the immeasurable value of these courses, they are the least important of the experiences I am having in Jordan. Discussing regional politics and society with my University of Jordan peers and professors, along with the opportunity to live with a Jordanian family, have allowed me to feel the pulse of this small yet critical country. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will not easily be forgotten.



DEANDRA GUIDI, ECONOMICS MAJOR, WINS 2011 MAINE HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

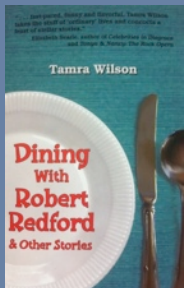


University of Southern Maine economics major Deandra Guidi was recently awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation (MeHEAF).

Deandra Guidi is a 2006 graduate of Gorham High School and currently resides in Portland with her husband, Garrett King, a 2011 USM economics alumnus. She is the daughter of Peter Guidi of Fort Myers, Florida and Dawne DiFrancesco-Guidi of Portland.

The Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation was established in the 1950s as a guarantee fund for student loans. The founders included a wide range of banks, businesses, community organizations and individuals. In 1990, the MeHEAF trustees, to continue the original intent of the founding members, initiated a scholarship program funded by the return on the original loan guarantee funds. The fund is now managed by the Maine Bankers Association, 489 Congress Street, Portland, Maine.

Stonecoast MFA Student Publishes First Book



Tamra "Tammy" Wilson, a 2011 graduate of the University of Southern Maine Stonecoast MFA program, has published her first book, *Dining with Robert Redford & Other Stories*. The book is a compilation of short stories originally published in numerous magazines and anthologies. The stories are brief glimpses into life in a small, southern town, filled with bizarre anecdotes she has collected throughout her life. The book is available online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

WE'RE DISTINGUISHED

Three of our professors have been awarded the title of Distinguished Professor, including this year's recipient, Dr. Kathy Ashley. Distinguished Professor is among the highest titles awarded full professors at USM; there are only four on campus at one time. Individuals selected to serve as Distinguished Professors have demonstrated exceptional scholarly or creative work and instructional leadership across a broad disciplinary or interdisciplinary range.



Kathy Ashley, English, named 2011 Distinguished Professor

Professor of English Kathy Ashley's focus is on Medieval Studies. She has authored many books, including *The Cults of Sainte Foy and the Cultural Work of Saints* (2007) and *Being a Pilgrim: Art and Ritual on the Medieval Routes to Santiago* (2009). She is a prolific scholar – the author of two books, and the co-editor of another seven. She has written 57 articles and 35 book reviews. She is on the advisory board of two major scholarly journals and has been a reader for 22 major scholarly presses and 18 scholarly journals.

In addition to her publications, she has been a Fulbright Senior Lecturer and the recipient of four National Endowment for the Humanities grants, and was named an Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow. In 2000-2001 she was the USM Trustee Professor.

Professor Ashley has been awarded the title of Distinguished Professor for her exceptional scholarly work that has local, national, and international implications to her field.



Art Professor Rose Marasco 2010 Distinguished Professor

Professor Marasco's contributions to the fields of photography and art education, locally and nationally, earned her the title of 2010 Distinguished Professor.

Former Dean Sue Picinich described her work as “the standard to which other artists aspire.” For more than three decades, Marasco has been incredibly productive and prolific, exhibiting in group and solo shows. She has been a visiting artist, curator, and juror regionally and nationally, and internationally in Brest, France. She has been instrumental in maintaining high academic standards and guiding the program to a level of professional maturity that garners significant regional attention and maintains the accreditation of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). As the sole tenure-track faculty member in photography, Marasco is responsible for the concentration at all levels and takes responsibility for the BFA art majors' Senior

Seminar capstone course.

Her work is included in numerous museum collections such as: Walker Art Museum, Bowdoin College; Portland Museum of Art; Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University; and the Smithsonian. She has also been featured in the *New Yorker*, and has been reviewed by the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, and *Village Voice*.



Professor Emeritus Joseph Conforti 2007 Distinguished Professor

Joe Conforti, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of American and New England Studies, is well known in the humanities world for his books and publications. Professor Conforti has published seven books and 24 articles. He served on numerous professional and community boards as an expert in regional history and culture and has been a reader for seven scholarly journals and four presses.

He is the recipient of the Modern Language Association's Richard Beale Davis Prize and the Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Associations' annual Best Book Award. In 2003-04 he was named the USM Trustee Professor and was presented the Constance H. Carlson Public Humanities Award from the Maine Humanities Council in 2010.

Professor Conforti is the founding member of the American and New England Studies program at USM and served as director for 10 years. He retired in the summer of 2011.

Nine of ten University of Southern Maine Trustee Professorships have been awarded to our faculty. Every year, the Trustees of each campus in the University of Maine System select one faculty member who is already making noteworthy contributions to academic excellence on their campus to serve as the Trustee Professor. They are granted financial support to conduct research in their field.

Michael Hillard, Economics Faculty, Appointed 2011-2012 USM Trustee Professor

Professor Michael Hillard of Economics, whose passion is Maine labor history, has been awarded the 2011-12 USM Trustee Professorship. The Professorship is devoted exclusively to honoring and supporting University of Maine System faculty already making noteworthy contributions to academic excellence on their campus. Dr. Hillard is using the time awarded him by the position to turn his research into a book.

Maine is a state with a rich labor history; with many river towns hosting paper mills, there are many stories to be told. These stories are the focus of his work.

The majority of the book will be focused on the approximately 130 interviews he has conducted since 2000 with current and former workers from Aroostook to York County. They include women who counted sheets of paper by hand, men who ran million-dollar machinery, and 1960's radicals leading the 1975 paper strike. One such interview was with a man named Harley Lord, born in 1910, who in 1924 went to work for SD Warren in Westbrook. He lived three miles from the mill and would wake up early to snowshoe to work every morning. Once there, he would hitch the horses to a sled to pick up workers in Windham. Much of Dr. Hillard's research has been conducted as part of his teaching, giving his students an opportunity to explore Maine's labor history through the collection of oral histories.

Professor Hillard sees this as an opportunity to explore an often overlooked portion of Maine's history. There is little research or written material to be found about Maine labor history, providing him the opportunity to turn his prolifically published articles into a cohesive book.



CAHS recipients of USM Trustee Professorships

2000-2001

Kathleen Ashley
Professor of English

2001-2002

Robert Loudon
Professor of Philosophy

2002-2003

Richard Maiman
Professor of Political Science

2003-2004

Joseph Conforti
Professor of American & New
England Studies

2005-2006

Donna Cassidy
Professor of American & New
England Studies

2007-2008

Ardis Cameron
Professor of American & New
England Studies

2008-2009

Nancy Gish
Professor of English

2009-2010

David Carey
Associate Professor of
History

2011-2012

Michael Hillard
Professor of Economics

Spring 2012

CALENDAR

USM JURIED STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

JAN. 17 - FEB. 19, AREA GALLERY, PORTLAND

USM student work in all media juried by Joe Kievitt, Deborah Wing-Sproul, and Jane Bianco.
FMI: Carolyn Eyler, USM Art Galleries (207)780-5008

USM ART FACULTY EXHIBITION

JAN. 24 - FEB 17, USM ART GALLERY, GORHAM

USM Art Faculty works will be on display at the Art Gallery with an opening reception on Thursday January 26, 2012 from 4 - 6pm. Gallery Talks by participating faculty will take place from 4:15 - 5:15pm.
FMI: Carolyn Eyler, USM Art Galleries (207)780-5008

THE BEEHIVE DESIGN COLLECTIVE ARTTALK

FEB 10. 1:30P, BURNHAM LOUNGE, ROBIE ANDREWS HALL

This wildly-motivated, all-volunteer, art-activist collective is dedicated to tackling issues as diverse as biotechnology, globalization, agriculture, and colonialism. The group's mission is to "cross pollinate the grassroots" by creating collaborative, anti-copyright images for use as educational and organizing tools.
FMI: Carolyn Eyler, USM Art Galleries (207)780-5008

BANNERS BY THE BEEHIVE COLLECTIVE

FEB 10. 1:30P, BURNHAM LOUNGE, ROBIE ANDREWS HALL

FMI: Carolyn Eyler, USM Art Galleries (207)780-5008

SOUTHERN MAINE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FEB. 11, 8:00P, GORHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Conducted by Robert Lehmann, the SMSO will undertake the Sibelius Symphony No. 2, plus a special performance of the winners of the 2011-2012 USM School of Music Composition Competition.
FMI: School of Music (207)780-5555

CREATE MAINE

FEB. 13 7:00PM CORTHELL CONCERT HALL

An evening with Maine entrepreneurs discussing paths to success, and their personal journeys. Create Maine is presented as part of Maine Entrepreneurial week. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation and participate in a reception immediately after the event.
FMI: School of Music (207)780-5555

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

MAR. 9 - 18, RUSSELL HALL, GORHAM (A PRODUCTION OF THEATRE AND MUSIC)

A smash hit Tony award winner! When a die-hard fan plays his favorite cast album, the show miraculously comes to life! Silly situations abound in this hilarious valentine to the golden age of musicals. FMI: Lillian Campbell (207)780-5480

THINKING MATTERS

APR. 27, 8:00A, PORTLAND CAMPUS

Thinking Matters is a one-day, once-a-year symposium, that is the capstone presentation of what's going on all year long in departments across USM and SMCC. It promotes high quality student-faculty research collaborations available to both graduate and undergraduate students.
FMI: Libby Bischof (207)780-5219

HEDDA GABLER

APR. 20 - 29, RUSSELL HALL, GORHAM

One of the world's most harrowing plays, Hedda Gabler is a stick of dynamite underneath the mansion of domestic bliss. Would George have married Hedda if he had known what she was capable of? One of the greatest dramas ever written by a playwright who changed theatre forever.
FMI: Lillian Campbell (207)780-5480

2012 MAINE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

MAY 15 - 17, GORHAM CAMPUS

The students from POS 396 and the International Relations Association will host the annual Model UN Conference. They will bring 400 high school students from Maine, NH, VT, and NY to campus to participate in three days of debate and peacekeeping. FMI: Julia Edwards (207)780-4194