

Spring 2011

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

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# COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

VOLUME 1, SPRING 2011

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Newsletter

Introduction to the  
New College of Arts,  
Humanities, and  
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Cover image by Art and Political  
Science student Johnathan Cook.  
Produced as part of the inUNDATION  
project 2010.



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UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MAINE



The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Southern Maine is comprised of 117 faculty, 36 staff, 143 graduate students, and 1,650 declared undergraduate students. We have 15 departments that offer organized major fields of study. In addition there are 8 self-designed majors, and 3 graduate level degree programs.

Photo on Left: Associate Professor Adam Tuchinsky, History, and senior mentors lead a wilderness experience with freshmen.

Photo on bottom: Actors in the Theatre Department's spring student production, *Triumph of Love*.



## Welcome to the Newly Formed College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHS) is the public liberal arts college of Maine's cultural and professional center. We offer our diverse community of learners a high quality, affordable education with opportunities for engaged research, scholarship, and creative activity under the mentorship of a distinguished faculty. Our strong liberal and fine arts programs provide the heart and soul of the undergraduate experience at the University of Southern Maine.

The College is dedicated to providing the best comprehensive education possible to our students while providing a learning environment that cultivates independent thought. We offer a transformative curriculum that ranges from the theoretical frameworks that shape the social sciences to music

performance, creative expression and media strategy. Our location in Maine's population center provides unique opportunities for internships and service learning that complement our strong liberal arts and professional degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Students in our programs are given the opportunity to build skills and portfolios that capture these diverse experiences.

We teach students to reason effectively, write clearly, speak persuasively, think critically and ethically, and appreciate cultural diversity in order to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing and increasingly global community. Our goal is to educate our students to be global citizens with the capability to lead through understanding and compassion.

You can keep up with faculty, staff, and alumni events and information on our Facebook page. "Like" us to add our newsfeed to your wall: [www.facebook.com/USMCAHS](http://www.facebook.com/USMCAHS). You can also visit us online at [www.usm.maine.edu/cas](http://www.usm.maine.edu/cas).

Top Right: Marginal Way in Portland Maine routinely floods during astronomical high tides.

Bottom Right: Students in Professor Piribeck's class participate in a poetry workshop.



## USM Students Mark inUNDATION Affecting Environmental Awareness Through Art

For the last 10 years Professor Piribeck of the USM Art Department has been interested in the connection between art, science, and technology and has gradually introduced this connection in her courses. This fall she launched her biggest project yet: inUNDATION, a study of how we view land and our community both as artists and scientists.

The idea behind inUNDATION emerged from Professor Piribeck's study of the tide line in Portland. As with most coastal communities, there is concern in Portland surrounding the rising tide line and the resulting loss of land along the shore. In the Back Cove neighborhood of Portland, this issue has moved to the forefront of many residents' minds as every new storm, or astronomical high tide, floods a section of Cove Street at Marginal Way.

Many assume that this water is the result of overwhelmed drainage systems. In actuality, this water is coming *up* through the drains from the cove as the irrigation system gets overloaded with the rising tide, a process known as inundation.

Professor Piribeck and her students joined Vinton Valentine, Director of Graphic Information Systems (GIS) at USM, in plotting the data for Back Cove

to mark the line where inundation will occur at the end of the century. She and her students then walked the line they drew in the lab to observe the landscape that will be lost when the water takes over. This line happens to fall along the Bayside Trail project that was completed last year. The work she and her students completed in the GIS lab allowed them to study the methodology behind determining the line of inundation, with the desired goal being an ability to understand the science behind community planning and how, as artists, they interpret the landscape.

In an effort to allow her students to better understand the landscape and their interaction with it, Professor Piribeck brought her students to the site of the future inUNDATION line so they could experience walking on land that would one day be underwater and reflect on their feelings about the space. To help her students put their emotions into words, she held a poetry workshop with Zero Station, a local art gallery and meeting space, and 350.org, an international citizen movement dedicated to finding solutions to the climate crisis. The workshop, lead by Marty Pottenger, Director of *Art at Work* for the City of Portland, resulted in slogans, much like the Burma Shave

slogans of the 1950s. Students then embedded their work into QR code to create a digital representation of the slogan. QR code is a visual representation of an image or data in the form of a digital code that can be read by cell phones.

The final product was an installation of art, poetry, and code along the inundation line. The event coincided with the 10/10/10 events planned by 350.org to raise awareness of the climate crisis and the immediate impact it has on our communities. This project was included in the Art in the Park "Student Public Art" Program sponsored by the Portland Public Art Committee. Participating students include: Rafaela Breitenberger; Frederick Clark; Ansell Hague; Casey Massman; David Atherton; Leigh Churchill; Kathleen Daniels; Milo Moyer-Battick; Johnathan Cook, cover art; and Laura Wurst.



# Communication and Media Studies Students Learn Through Giving Back

## Service Learning in the Curriculum

Every semester since 2006, Professor Dennis Gilbert has led a group of approximately 40 Communication and Media Studies students in their Service Learning Practicum. The idea behind service learning is to allow students to directly and meaningfully apply what they are learning in the classroom to the real world while creating a community partnership. There are a great number of nonprofit organizations that contact Professor Gilbert every semester looking for a team of students to help with media-related projects. The benefits are many for both the students and the community organizations involved. The students find themselves meeting with project coordinators and board members to help educate them about what is possible for their organizations. In return, they learn what it is like to work in the professional world and be treated with respect, as experts in their field. As Professor Gilbert puts it, these projects “expand students’ breadth of knowledge about what’s going on in the community, people helping people.” He routinely hears from students that are, as a result of this experience, looking to work in the nonprofit sector after graduation.

This semester, Professor Gilbert had an alumnae of the program bring him a project. Deb Dunlap and Andrea Paul, who work for Community Partnership for Protecting Students, are launching a project called Parents as Partners. This mentor program aims to match parents that have successfully gotten their children back from the Child Protective Services Agency (CPS) in Maine with parents that have currently lost custody to CPS and want to get their children back. The students involved in the project will meet with the project leaders to develop a promotional media presentation for Parents as Partners.

Other community organizations he currently has students assigned to are: the Friends of Casco Bay, the Environmental Health Strategy Center, the Morris Center, Portland Water District, Rippling Waters, Portland Housing Authority, and Learning Works. He also has a number of students working with USM organizations such as Strive U, the USM School of Music, and the USM Mentor Program re-launch, which will include print and digital materials.



These students are not randomly assigned to projects. At the beginning of each semester, Professor Gilbert has students review the proposals and rank their top picks. He then shows students’ projects from prior years while assessing each current student’s strengths and weaknesses to create the best teams possible. The result is a team of students ready to help their community partner. To introduce students to service learning, Gilbert shows a film the department created about Kathryn Lasky, the USM professor responsible for starting this service learning program. Though Professor Lasky passed away in 2006, her legacy still lives strong in Professor Gilbert and his students. Every semester his students understand that they are a part of something larger and have their eyes opened to the possibilities available to them after graduation as well as the importance of work done in the nonprofit sector. They come away from their projects with experience in their profession, amazing final products for their portfolios, and, most importantly, a strong connection to the community of which they are a part.



**Top Photo:** USM Comm/Media Studies majors work with Portland Public Schools students on a movie shoot for the Boys to Men project in Portland.

**Bottom Photo:** USM and Portland Public School students pose for a photo before they begin work on a movie project.

# Libby Bischof is Co-curating Spring Exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art

Libby Bischof, assistant professor of history, is co-curator for the "Maine Moderns: Art in Seguinland, 1900-1940" exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art. This project, which takes a look at the history of Seguinland, a small but vibrant island artists' community in southern Maine, focuses on a passion of Dr. Bischof's: the community and friendships built around art.

Professor Bischof's interest in the island started with her dissertation on F. Holland Day, who summered on the island. Following a lecture she gave on Holland Day in 2004, Professor Bischof was approached by the Portland Museum of Art to put together an exhibit that shared the stories of the inhabitants of the island. Day, along with artists from around the country, was drawn to the intimate feel of this small island off the Maine coast, which in turn inspired a community that became pivotal in the history of American art. The project appealed to her because, in her words, "this is very much about the friendship of these men and women" and a focus of her scholarship is about the formation of varying types of artistic communities.

The exhibit will feature more than 65 paintings, sculptures, drawings, and photographs by artists such as Marsden Hartley, Max Weber, Marguerite and William Zorach, Gaston Lachaise,



**"The exhibition will examine the close personal and professional relationships of this group and the distinctive landscape that bound them together."**

Photo on Left: Professor Elizabeth Bischof, History.

Gertrude Kasebier, and more. The show will not only examine the close personal and professional relationships that forged Maine's artistic island communities, but also the distinctive landscape that bound them together.

The exhibit will run from June 4 through September 11, 2011. The exhibition will be accompanied by a 160-page fully illustrated catalogue published by Yale University Press. It will include essays by Susan Danly, curator of photography at the Portland Museum of Art, and Professor Bischof, along with additional entries by Verna Curtis, curator of photography, Library of Congress; Gail Scott, independent Hartley scholar; and Virginia Budny, author of the Lachaise

catalogue raisonne. The exhibition catalogue will be available in the Museum Store in June.



William Zorach  
*Five Islands Ice Cream Parlor*, 1940  
watercolor on paper  
Portland Museum of Art. Bequest of Elizabeth B. Noyce, 1996.38.64.



**Photo from Reception on Dec 2, 2010**  
(L-R) Art Department Chair Jan Piribeck, Vice President of University Advancement Meg Weston, President Selma Botman, and Kate Cheney Chappell. Photo by Leigh Raposo.

## The Art Department and the Book Arts Receive Generous Gifts

Thanks to the generosity of Kate Cheney Chappell ('83), the ceramics studio in Gorham has been given new life. The renovations made possible by her gift include a new entrance and a renovation of the sculpture and woodworking studios. Funds were also given to create the Elizabeth Pope and Mary Pope Cheney Studio in the Wishcamper Center on the Portland campus to honor her mother and aunt.

In 2008, the Kate Cheney Chappell ('83) Center for Book Arts was established, which has provided valuable programming to the USM community

under the leadership of Rebecca Goodale, Program Coordinator. Kate Cheney Chappell is a 1983 alumnae of the USM Communication and Media Studies Department and is, with her husband, co-founder of Tom's of Maine. She works as a professional artist and wanted to share her love of book arts with the community.

For more information on the Kate Cheney Chappell ('83) Center for Book Arts and on Kate Cheney Chappell herself, visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/cas/bookarts.html>

# Abbigail Shirk Wins Department of State's Benjamin Gilman Scholarship

## International Studies and Political Science Major



Imagine spending the spring semester in Jordan, studying Arabic and international relations, all while experiencing new cultures and broadening your world view. USM senior Abbigail Shirk of South Portland no longer has to imagine.

Shirk, a political science major at USM, was awarded the Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship for Study Abroad, which will help pay for her spring 2011 semester in Amman, Jordan.

While overseas, Shirk is learning Arabic and studying political science through the Council on International Educational Exchange's (CIEE) Language and Culture Program. Before she left, Shirk said she'd never learned a language before, but wasn't worried. "I'll be doing a 'home stay' with a family over there, so I will be completely immersed in the language. I think it will help me learn faster." She is taking her classes at the University of Jordan in Amman.

Shirk decided to go to Jordan because she sees it as a place she might not get the chance to visit in her professional life. "Places like Jordan and Egypt are really at the forefront of what's happening in the world. I'm excited to see what's really going on over there. I want to look beyond the American newspapers and media, and make my own opinions."

**"Places like Jordan and Egypt are really at the forefront of what's happening in the world. I'm excited to see what's really going on over there. I want to look beyond the American newspapers and media, and make my own opinions."**

She plans on going into politics after graduation in May 2011, and is currently applying to law schools. "I ultimately see myself in politics. It's so current and exciting. I like new projects and new developments."

The Gilman Scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The scholarship was established in 2000 and is named after Congressman Benjamin Gilman, who served in the House of Representatives for 30 years. Since its establishment, the scholarship has helped 6,500 students nationwide to study abroad.

For more information on travel abroad programs at the USM, contact the Office of International Programs at (207) 780-4959 or visit them online at: <http://usm.maine.edu/international/>.

If you would like to support other students' academic experiences abroad please contact Susan Palmer in University Advancement at [spalmer@usm.maine.edu](mailto:spalmer@usm.maine.edu) or by phone at (207) 780-4804.

### Scholarships at the CAHS

On average, the CAHS gives out 31 scholarships per year worth \$24,000.

## The College's Advisory Board Establishes Four Dean's Scholarships

This year, the College's spring Annual Giving Appeal will focus on student scholarships. Last year, our Advisory Board had 100% participation and raised enough money to fund three Dean Scholarships. A private donor funded an additional one. We would like to congratulate the 2010-2011 recipients of the Dean's Scholarships: Jordan Maroon (English); Siri Norman (Linguistics); Janson O'Neill (Physics); and Jacob White (Theatre).

We are hoping to continue this effort and expand the number of scholarships we can offer. Please consider supporting our students with your generosity. For information on how to give to the CAHS Scholarship Fund, contact Susan Palmer in University Advancement through email at [spalmer@usm.maine.edu](mailto:spalmer@usm.maine.edu) or by phone at (207) 780-4804.

# Sam Shupe to Present Paper at 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Cycling History Conference

## History Major

*In his own words*

My name is Sam Shupe and I am a senior history major at USM. I will be graduating in May 2011. During the fall semester of 2010, I completed an independent senior thesis research project under the direction of Professor Libby Bischof, entitled: "I am an Old Wheelman: John Calvin Stevens Art of Bicycling 1880-1900." My paper discusses lesser-known aspects of the prominent nineteenth-century Portland architect's life: his love of the bicycle as well as a fifty-day architectural bicycle tour of France he organized and rode in the summer of 1892.

This past February, my paper was accepted at the 22nd Annual International Cycling History Conference (ICHHC), held this May at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Matiers in Paris, France. I will be presenting my paper to an international audience of senior scholars and it will be published in a conference proceedings. This is a truly unique opportunity and a great way to end my undergraduate experience at USM.

*Continued on next page*

## CAHS Spring 2011 Calendar of Events

### **The Orb and the Octopus: Amy Ray and John Jennison**

**March 3 - April 28, 2011, Area Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland**

Two USM Art alumni present individual and collaborative black & white drawings.

For more information, contact the Art Gallery at (207) 780-5008



### **A Celebration of the Music of Liszt 200 Years After His Birth - April 1, 2011**

Anastasia Antonacos, solo piano

Corthell Concert Hall, USM Gorham. Sponsored by H. M. Payson & Co.

For more information, call the USM Music Box Office at 780-5555.

### **USM Professor and Art Alumnus Accepted for the 2011 Portland Museum of Art Biennial - April 7, 2011 - June 5, 2011**

The University of Southern Maine is pleased to congratulate Professor of Art Michael Shaughnessy and USM Alumnus Tyson Jacques ('07), who were accepted into the Portland Museum of Art (PMA) 2011 Biennial, which will open on April 7.



### **English Department Alumni Social Event - April 8, 2011, 5:00 - 7:00 PM**

This event brings English alumni, current majors, and faculty for a get-together.

Contact the English Department for more information (207) 780-4117

### **Matters of Perception - April 8, 2011 - May 24, 2011**

Reception, Friday, April 8, 2011, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, LAC Art Gallery

Juried exhibition by artists with disabilities, organized by VSA Arts of Maine.

For more information, contact the Art Gallery at (207) 780-5008



### **Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition - April 15 - May 6, 2011**

Opening: Friday, April 15, 2011, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

USM Art Gallery, Gorham Campus

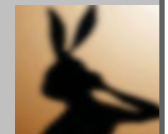
For more information, contact the Art Gallery at (207) 780-5008

### **Harvey - April 22, 2011 - May 1, 2011**

#### ***A comedy with whiskers***

Play by Mary Chase, Directed by William Steele

Opening performance will be followed by a reception.



### **Maine Model United Nations Conference - May 17-19, 2011**

Under the mentorship of USM undergraduates, 400 high school students from around New England gather to debate international issues through simulating United Nations deliberations on the Gorham Campus of USM. Contact Julia Edwards in the Department of Political Science for more information or to volunteer

(207) 780-4194.



**Sam Shupe***Continued from pg 7*

Maine bicycle history and culture has been a topic of research and interest for me for several years and USM has supported me from the start. I began researching the topic during a History Department internship with the Maine State Historian, Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Over the last year, I have also worked at the Osher Map Library. USM and the wider Portland community have been places where I have been able to apply my academic training, to connect my class work to the "real world." Professor Libby Bischof was the coordinator of my internship and has continued to be indispensable in my academic development.

She has given me endless support inside and outside of class. Professor Bischof has tirelessly edited, critiqued, and strengthened my work and without her and the support of USM I would not have been able to do field work or independent research. USM has provided me with a solid educational foundation that I will carry with me to graduate school. I have recently been accepted into the American and New England Studies PhD program at Boston University. Throughout my four years, USM has supported my academic goals and ambitions, and I am truly excited to represent USM in Paris.

Those that would like to support students like Sam in their efforts to travel abroad through scholarships should contact Sue Palmer in Advancement (207) 780-4804.



John Calvin Stevens  
with his bicycle, age  
27.