University of Southern Maine Student Newspaper

The street was blocked off throughout Wednesday night’s standoff, which was called in at 8 p.m. At 9:55 p.m., SWAT vehicles surrounded the Sigma Nu house, and stayed until 11:41 when the standoff was resolved with no reported injuries sustained.

Sam Hill
Managing Editor

Last Wednesday’s Gorham standoff between local police and an armed USM student, Alan-Michael Santos, has raised a lot of questions about the university’s policies and procedures during emergency situations.

Santos, 23, of Winchester, Mass., a junior business marketing major, surrendered to authorities after a four-hour standoff with police, in which he barricaded himself in the Sigma Nu fraternity house on School Street in Gorham. Members of the fraternity called police after they evacuated the building when Santos, who was intoxicated, became belligerent while carrying a firearm. Authorities report that he will be charged with terrorizing and criminal threatening with a firearm.

No injuries were reported, but the university is taking a look at the situation and how prepared it was for it.

The Gorham incident has not only prompted community members to ask about emergency procedures, but also about the university’s control and administration of off-campus fraternities. Further investigation into the university policy for its fraternities shows that the university does not prohibit students from carrying firearms or weapons in its fraternity houses.

According to the Dean of Students office, any dangerous weapons, from firearms to slingshots, “are not permitted on property owned by or under the control of the University of Southern Maine.” But this does not apply to the residents of the Sigma Nu house, according to Executive Director of Student Life Joy Pufhal. “We don’t own or control that property,” said Pufhal. “The current university policy does not prohibit the possession of weapons in off-campus housing. The way the weapons policy is written, they are not permitted.”

The Sigma Nu and Delta Chi fraternity houses are not owned by USM, but by a housing corporation that takes care of the property specifically for use by Greek life, so USM does not have complete control over these properties. The only point at which the university intervenes in activities at these locations is when the fraternities plan events at the houses.

When fraternities are planning any event at the residence that will be attended by more than 15 guests, they are required to register the event with Coordinator of Student Activities & Greek Life Dan Welter. Welter then visits the house to go over risk management and underage drinking policies with the house residents.

“I go down, usually in an hour or so before their event is scheduled, and speak with designated brothers about the event,” said Welter. “We check in to make sure they’re checking IDs and that that person is certified to do so. Guests need to be signed in. There need to be designated sober brothers to help escort students back to campus. Things like that.”

Other than these meetings, the houses are only ever checked on for an annual security and fire safety inspection, which mainly deals with town of Gorham ordinances and building codes, or if there are criminal situations on the premises. While these are off-campus residences, they are recognized in USM’s “Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report” as living facilities of student organizations. The report states that, “through an interagency agreement between the Gorham Police Department and Public Safety, information related to crime associated with these student organizations, off-campus facilities is reported to USM Public Safety.” According to authorities, during a search of the fraternity on Thursday morning, investigators found two handguns.

Since the fraternity houses are officially recognized in the annual safety report as student organization facilities, one would think that they would fall under the USM weapons policy that covers “off-campus activities sponsored by the University of Southern Maine.” However, this is not the case.

When asked to explain the confusion in semantics between the safety report and the USM weapon policy, Welter explained that there is, according to the University of Maine System’s interpretation, an ambiguity of phrasing that means that fraternity houses cannot be held to on-campus policies.

“That [the weapons policy] was one of the first pieces of policy that we looked through, and went, ‘Yeah, that’s a violation,’ said Welter. But, he said, according to the system, what students do primarily in frat houses, that is “Living,” is not a student activity. Therefore, they’re not covered under the umbrella of “off-campus student activities” that are controlled by the university.

When asked if the off-campus fraternities were controlled by the university and if they should be, Welter said no, he didn’t think the university should be in control because of amount of responsibility...
Students stand in solidarity against pipeline

TransCanada’s Keystone XL Pipeline is drawing objections from a range of USM students, staff and faculty, perhaps most dramatically when a handful of students were involved in a protest recently that culminated in two arrests.

Last Wednesday, a group of between 12 and 24 people, at different points in time, stood at the entrance to the 481 Congress St. branch of TD Bank to protest the bank’s investment in the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which is intended to carry tar sands oil between Canada and Texas. A press release was sent out 40 minutes after the protest began by the Maine Trans and/or Women’s Action Team, the group that organized the event. The group, according to member Meaghan LaSala, a junior women and gender studies major, is organized around a shared political vision on a range of issues including decolonization, environmental justice and gender equality. LaSala said the group’s intention was to stand in solidarity with communities living along the southern section of the KXL Pipeline, which runs through the southwestern United States.

A second press release sent out by the Maine Trans and/or Women’s Action Team at 2:47 p.m. reported the arrest of two protesters who had chained themselves to the doors of the bank. LaSala later identified the protesters as Betsey Catlin and Sylvia Stormwalker, both of whom, she said, were from Maine but had strong ties to the areas affected by the pipeline’s southern section. Catlin and Stormwalker were both later released.

“We support everyone’s right to safely and respectfully protest. TD is committed to providing a safe environment for our employees and customers,” TD Bank Media Relations Associate Lauren Moyer said when the Free Press approached TD for comment. When emailed a question about Catlin and Stormwalker’s arrest, Moyer did not respond.

The group targeted TD Bank as one of the top two investors in the pipeline through investment in TransCanada, the company that owns the pipeline. “TD Bank supports responsible energy development. We employ rigorous due diligence in our financing and investing activities relating to energy production.” Moyer said. “At TD, we carry out environmental initiatives where we can drive the greatest results -- they are energy efficiency, and growing and protecting forests,” she said.

“Many people know and are talking about the northern leg of the pipeline,” said LaSala. She went on to explain that while objections to the northern section of the pipeline have stayed its opening for now, that delay was contingent on the opening of the southern part, which was set to begin operation on Wednesday. The northern section of the pipeline would stretch from Alberta, Canada through Nebraska before merging with the existing Keystone pipeline.

The Maine Trans and/or Women’s Action Team, LaSala explained, organized the protest in a show of solidarity with the Oklahoma and Texas communities, which have called for a range of USM students, staff and faculty to explain that while objections to the pipeline, “TD Bank supports responsible energy development. We employ rigorous due diligence in our financing and investing activities relating to energy production.” Moyer said. “At TD, we carry out environmental initiatives where we can drive the greatest results -- they are energy efficiency, and growing and protecting forests,” she said.

“The call for solidarity by NacStop, an East Texas group, cited safety risks as a main concern. “A toxic product will flow through our communities in a pipeline which has been identified as having major flaws,” she said.

The protest, which LaSala attended with USM freshman Iris SantGiovanni, is just one of several actions against the pipeline taken by the USM community. “We’re going to be stronger if we remember that we’re part of a larger community,” LaSala said. The sentiment was echoed by junior math and computer science major Shaun Carland, who has been active in the USM branch of Divestment movement, and who said he was sorry to have missed Wednesday’s protest because he was in class.

Carland described the opening of the southern leg of the pipeline as a wakeup call and alluded to further national action to be taken against the pipeline which would involve USM students.

More immediately, USM will host a presentation called “Tar Sands Explo-ned” in Hannaford Hall on Jan. 31, which will feature Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation activist Eriel Deranger and National Geographic photographer Garth Lenz.

news@usmfreepress.org @USMfreePress

Welcome USM Huskies!

Enjoy on and near campus convenience with University Credit Union!

• Full-Service Electronic Kiosk located in the Brooks Student Center
• Cash & Check Deposits & Withdrawals | Loan payments | Transfers & More!
• Fee-free* ATMs in the Portland and Gorham student centers
• Two full service branches in Portland

Become a member today at ucu.maine.edu!

Federally Insured by NCUC | *Fee-free ATMs for UCU Members and SURF network ATM/debit cards 800.696.8628 | 391 Forest Avenue, Portland | 1071 Brighton Avenue, Portland
Lab supplies combust, igniting in an empty room

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

Even with the multitude of students coming in and out of the Science building during the school week, the most explosive thing to happen in the building last Friday took place in an empty classroom.

A little after 1:00 on Friday, in the bottom corner of a shelving unit in the unused combination lab and classroom 303, something caught on fire. By Saturday, the Portland Fire Department had determined the cause of the fire. "There was container with some potting soil," said USM Executive Director of Public Affairs Bob Caswell, "And mixed in with it was some fertilizer, and it was covered, and for whatever reason, it resulted in some spontaneous combustion and caught fire."

Caswell said it was so far unknown what the covered soil and fertilizer was being used for. "I guess we’ll find out Monday," Caswell said.

Another thing which is expected to be clearer Monday is what the cost of the cleanup from the water damage will be. The sprinkler system was triggered by the smoke before any significant fire damage could be done, but the sprinklers ran for ten minutes, soaking from the third floor and overflowing down to the basement.

According to an email sent by Executive Director of Facilities Management Robert Bertram Friday at 2:50 p.m., informing faculty and students that the fire had happened, but was over, cleanup had already begun, less than two hours after the alarm sounded, and fans were in place to dry out the most significant water damage.

There were no classes in progress in that area of the building at the time of the fire, and according to Executive Director of Student Life Joy Puhal, laboratory classes taking place shortly afterwards were relocated.

Friday evening, staff from the IT department checked the affected rooms for technological damage. "It doesn’t appear that there will be any permanent damage to the floor," Caswell said. The ceiling tiles, on the other hand, will need to be replaced.

Caswell expects an estimate on costs and how long repairs will take by the end of the day Monday, as well as the reason for the sealed container of soil and fertilizer.

news@usmfreepress.org @USMFreePress

USM hires new associate provost

Shaun Nigro
Contributor

Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh, who is no stranger to USM, has recently been appointed as the associate provost for graduate studies and research, scholarship and creative activity.

Her role in this position entails overseeing research for the university as well as graduate admissions and programs, with a special emphasis on connections to and within the local community.

Langley-Turnbaugh, who has been with USM since 1996, began as a faculty member in environmental science. With a University of Maine bachelor’s degree in forest engineering, a University of New Hampshire master’s in soil science and a Ph.D. in forest soils from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she brings with her a keen eye for environmental issues and sustainability, though the scope of her position as provost will certainly reach further.

On the faculty side, she will be involved in connecting like-minded professors for research or related projects. On the graduate side, she will be overseeing programs of interest or relation to acquired degrees. Most importantly, she said her aim is in “trying to find a way to connect with the community,” essentially, and pushing to understand how those who come to university and use its resources give back to the Maine community at large.

“Robust graduate programs relevant to the needs of our students and their communities are absolutely critical,” said USM Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Stevenson in a university press release regarding the hiring of Langley-Turnbaugh.

“The same holds true for research, broadly defined, that allows our faculty to stay current in their fields and enrich the learning experiences of our students. Dr. Langley-Turnbaugh has the skills and experiences to promote and advance both.”

“USM’s research and our graduate programs share a special relationship in that both further strengthen competencies, expand perspectives and, ultimately, improve lives,” said Langley-Turnbaugh in the same press release.

Currently, Langley-Turnbaugh has been attending what she calls "listening tours" at all of the University campuses, in an attempt to gather information about aspirations and gain a general idea of the directions in which faculty and graduates alike may be leaning.

Having grown up in Kittery, Langley-Turnbaugh’s connection to the community of Maine and its unique attachment to the environment runs deep, and her understanding of both environmental sciences and the community at large is a welcome thread in the fabric of the University of Maine system.

news@usmfreepress.org
A report released January 9th by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute at USM about the impact of poverty on student achievement in Maine shows a clear correlation between poverty rates and how well students perform in the classroom. One key finding was that as poverty levels increase, student performance decreases. Although this research didn’t include student performance in college, Amy Johnson, the assistant director for the University of Maine, believes that data also applies to the University of Maine System. In another study to which Johnson contributed from September of 2013, poverty was also shown to affect the performance of college students. Of the students who were economically disadvantaged, 53 percent were characterized as “not persisting or not successful,” as opposed to the 40 percent who were not economically disadvantaged. According to the report, a student qualifying as “persisting or successful” was defined as one who earned 24 credit hours in the first year of college with at least a 2.0 grade point average and who also returned full-time for the first semester of the second year. There are plenty of exceptions to the findings of the report. “The fact that students were economically disadvantaged was by no means deterministic. It’s not one deciding factor that overshadows everything else in a student’s life. Poverty alone does not determine whether any student will be successful,” Johnson said. “This was a numerical measure that does not provide much direction for next steps. While it is clear that students who are economically disadvantaged are not as successful as their peers, it does not provide a clear roadmap for solutions,” Johnson said. Johnson believes that more research needs to be done to determine what it is about poverty that leads some students to fail. Without such research she believes it is difficult to determine how best to help these students. “USM is trying to really increase its role in making college more affordable,” said Keith DuBois, director of financial aid at USM. He acknowledged that poverty is an issue in Maine and that USM is trying to really increase its role in making college more affordable.”

See POVERTY on page 5

From GORHAM on page 1

The street was full of police cars surrounding the Sigma Nu fraternity house on Wednesday night, blocking off the road. The street was full of police cars surrounding the Sigma Nu fraternity house on Wednesday night, blocking off the road. The street was full of police cars surrounding the Sigma Nu fraternity house on Wednesday night, blocking off the road.

it would put on the university. “I’d be tough,” said Welter. “With on-campus students, we have the resources to handle those responsibilities. We have a great team of resident assistants and staff to supervise all sorts of issues that come up.”

There are approximately 109 students involved with Greek life at USM. According to residency reports, there are 12 members of Sigma Nu living in their fraternity house and eight Delta Chi members in another. Currently, residents of the fraternity houses are required to follow a set of rules outlined in a document titled “Behavioral Guidelines for Recognized Student Organizations Living in Off Campus Houses.” This document primarily focuses on noise, property and alcohol violations. “The issues covered are those we have experienced before,” said Welter. “We’ve dealt with noise and alcohol before, so we know how to handle it. The institution has never had to deal with a situation like this before.”

Welter also said that he feels good policies are drafted in response to events like the standoff incident. The national chapter of Sigma Nu informed Welter that, in their investigation so far, they believe this is an isolated incident.

The morning of the standoff, Executive Director of Public Affairs at USM Bob Caswell spoke with Portland-based news source WMTW 8 regarding active shooters on campus. He assured the station that USM had a plan in place, but he hadn’t expected to have to see it in action later that day. “Given what happened at Purdue University yesterday and other recent shootings, they wanted to just ask me about our basic communication [structures] and procedures that we have in place,” he said in an interview with the Free Press. “They [WMTW reporters] were asking me, ‘Have you ever had a situation with an active shooter?’ and I said, ‘No, thank God. Let’s hope it stays that way.’” He commented that it was a strange coincidence. “Just goes to show that nobody’s immune from this kind of thing.”

While the campus didn’t go into complete lockdown, residential life staff was dispersed around campus to keep students in their residence halls and inform anyone in public buildings, like Bailey Hall and the Costello Sports Complex, about the ongoing standoff. “The scene was contained [by local authorities]. Students were encouraged to stay on campus, but give those circumstances we didn’t see a need to lock down,” said Caswell. He went on to say that if the situation had been different and the event had occurred on campus, there would’ve been an entirely different response. “As a student we all received a notice to stay safe and inside, and RedLife worked really well, effectively communicating with everyone to make sure all the residents were doing okay,” said junior elementary education major and resident assistant of Robbie Andrews Hall Stephanie Brown. “Everyone was a little stressed, but there were no problems or anything.”

The university sent out emergency messages through the USM Alert Emergency Warning System, which sends out text messages and emails, and through university mailing lists. Resident students and members of the Greek Life mailing list were contacted, as they were recognized as students who would be directly affected by the stand-off. To receive messages through USM Alert, which is provided by a third-party company called e2Campus, students must sign-up with their contact information beforehand. “We’re currently looking into our mailing lists and how we can make them more efficient,” said Welter. “One of the things we’re really focusing on is how we can communicate with other off-campus students in the immediate area during situations like this.”

Identifying who needs to be informed about emergency situations on campus is up to the USM Critical Incident Response Team, a group of USM staff members whose goal is to “generate accurate and timely information that helps ensure the safety of the campus community.” CIRT has the same communication plan in place for essentially all possible campus emergencies, including natural disaster, fire, active shooter and other violent crimes in progress, as well as some non-emergency situations such as notice of a deceased student, faculty members and off-campus crime that might be relevant to students.

CIRT is responsible for the communication aspect of emergency situations though. According to Executive Director of Student Life Puthal, the protocol for dealing with the situations when and if they occur is the responsibility of USM Public Safety. When the Free Press attempted to speak to Public Safety regarding the protocol for situations involving active shooters on campus, there was no one available who was able to discuss it at any length.

Award-winning pizza
Free delivery
10% off with college id
Order online

Leonardo’s Pizza 415 Forest Avenue, Portland (207) 775-4444 www.leonardosonline.com

$3.00 OFF any large pizza

www.leonardosonline.com
Free delivery or carry out One coupon per pizza Expires 5/31/14
Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log Jan. 8 to Jan. 15

Wednesday, Jan. 8
Close, but no cigar
12:18 p.m. – Odor of marijuana, unable to locate source. – 52 University Way

Thursday, Jan. 9
An electric sheep in wolf’s clothing
8:37 p.m. – Odor of marijuana reported, found to be electronic cigarettes. – Dickey Wood Hall, 17 University Way

The devil’s lettuce
10:46 p.m. – Summons issued to Mandy Nina L Emery, 18, of Gorham for a useable amount of marijuana. – Anderson Hall, 40 Campus Ave.

Friday, Jan. 10
All fingers at ten and two
3:46 p.m. – Warning for texting while driving. – Brighton Ave. by Rosemont

Reduce, re-register, recycle
4:12 p.m. – Warning for expired registration. – 92 Bedford St.

Do not pass go, do not collect $200
4:23 p.m. – Warning for illegal passing. – Route 25 and Alden Lane

Saturday, Jan. 11
Phantom of the roadside
12:53 p.m. – Report of motor vehicle on the side of the road missing a tire. The vehicle was broken down and operator had the tire. – 37 College Ave.

Girl’s got issues[ed]
5:30 p.m. – Summons for not producing a driver’s license issued to Jade Gillilan, 18, of Portland, and a warning issued for failure to use a turn signal. – 118 Bedford St.

Sunday, Jan. 12
Case of mistaken identity
12:38 p.m. – Reported incident called in to another agency. It was determined that the incident occurred at the University of New England.

Any (re)port in a storm
8:59 p.m. – Report taken for marijuana odor. – Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Monday, Jan. 13
By royal decree
6:07 p.m. – Subjects removed from parking garage. – Parking garage, 88 Bedford St.

Tuesday, Jan. 14
Like a thief in the night
10:38 a.m. – Theft of university property. – 30 University Way, exterior

Epidemic thievery
10:59 a.m. – Theft of university property. – Costello Complex, 43 Campus Ave.

Was there any left?
11:00 a.m. – Report of damage to university property. – Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Wednesday, Jan. 15
Crime-lapse delay
11:48 a.m. – After the fact report of criminal trespass. – Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.

Welcome back! Use this coupon for 25% OFF A Hooded Sweatshirt!
Expires: 2/28/14  (Not to be combined with any other discount offer)
Faculty artists lead students by example

Gorham art gallery opens with new exhibition, featuring the varied collections of current and retired art professors.

The Gorham Art Gallery is now featuring the works of USM art faculty, giving them the opportunity to put aside their Powerpoint clickers and pull out a sketch pad to show their students, coworkers and the community their accomplishments and give students the opportunity to learn through appreciation.

This annual event offers USM students a chance to peruse the halls and walls of a gallery filled with art crafted by the very people who mentor them. The gallery in Gorham, which opened last Thursday, will feature the works of part-time, full-time and retired faculty, with pieces in many different mediums, including sculpture, printmaking, painting and even digital art until mid-February.

"The art on display shows a cohesive view of the professional Art Department," said Director of Exhibitions and Programs Carolyn Eyler.

Freshman art education major and Gorham Art Gallery work study student, Kayla Frost, enjoys seeing her professor’s works on display. "You can look at a piece and you can tell who made it," said Frost.

The exhibit features nearly two walls of landscape art from over 40 years of work created by retiring associate professor of paint drawing, George Burk. The intent was to show the transition of different art works during Burk’s career at USM.

The faculty art displayed in the Gorham Gallery this semester differs in content mediums from the previous display featured during the fall 2013 semester. "Persian Visions," which opened at the Gorham Art Gallery mid-October of last year, was purely photographic, while the faculty contributions vary greatly in style and methods.

One interesting contribution uses the arrangement of light and adjustment of wall paint in a separate room of the gallery for the full presentation of a photographic display transformed into a digital piece by Raphael DiLuzio, associate professor of digital art and design. "Each piece is representative of the professors themselves," said sophomore biology major and Gorham Art Gallery work study student, Nathan Cronauer. "There are so many different vibes from each piece on display. "The art show is also useful for the faculty because it provides a supportive environment for innovation of new artistic pieces," said Eyler.

The art faculty exhibit will be on display until Feb. 14. The gallery is open from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and is free and open to the public. The next art exhibit at the Gorham Art Gallery will be the student show featuring works from any USM students. That exhibit is scheduled for early March. Submission forms and information will be available at the Gorham Art Gallery.

The final exhibit at the Gorham Art Gallery this semester will be the 2014 BFA and BA Exhibition. Works in this show will be from graduating students.

"The spring semester at the Gorham Art Gallery works from the inside out," Eyler said.

Arts & Culture Recommends: the Portland Comedy Showcase

A Wednesday night at Bull Feeney’s on Fore Street helps you realize that Portland has more to offer than just its restaurants, breweries and music events. It also has a thriving comedy scene.

Some of the most successful comedians from all over New England gather at the Irish pub every Wednesday for the Portland Comedy Showcase, a night filled with delicious food, craft beer and of course, big laughs.

Upstairs at the historic and picturesque Bull Feeney’s fills with a slightly-buzzed audience for a 90-minute show that easily satisfies the need for a comedic fix. According to Mike Levinsky, comedian, founder and organizer of the showcase, comedy night features four to six different comics as well as some welcome regulars. Apart from sharpening his own stand-up routine he also makes sure to book the best talent around.

"Stage time is valuable, so I make sure to always find somebody experienced and always working on their craft," said Levinsky.

Every stand-up comedian brings a distinctive comedic style, which adds a level of excitement whenever the host introduces the next comic. Some comedians are dry and sarcastic, while others are crude and crass, but fortunately, all of them are genuinely funny.

Will Green is a regular at the showcase and crowds love his sets for his relatable anecdotal stories that sometime border on self-deprecating.

“When things happen to me in my real life, at my job, working with kids especially, I can turn that into a story that makes people laugh,” said Green.

Green says that he’s just one of many talented comics who live and work around Portland, a city he believes is a hub for funny people. “If I had to guess, I would say Maine is near the top ten in quality comedians per capita,” said Green. “In a city this small, that’s impressive.”

“Portland is the perfect city for comedy,” said comedian Jerri Stone, a regular at the showcase.

See COMEDY on page 7
Mark Turcotte, the host of the 90 minute show, greets the guests while opening with a few jokes of his own.

Stone started in the comedy scene in the late ’80s and after 30 years, performing has become just another part of her life. According to Stone, comedy is a chance to kick bigger things in the shins, and it shows in her style in her playful attacks on controversial issues.

“As I age, life just keeps getting more and more hilarious,” said Stone. “Comedy is kind of like a sore tooth. You notice it, and then you just can’t leave it alone.”

For many performers, comedy is a chance to share experiences, address social problems and according to Levinsky even boost their own confidence. For Levinsky the vibes and laughter from the crowd are the only motivation he needs to keep doing comedy. “The laughs are intoxicating. The great feeling you get from instant positive feedback on your work can last for days,” said Levinsky.

With the type of amicable talent Levinsky constantly has in the show, the Portland Comedy Showcase is like listening to a group of witty storytellers, who also happen to make your sides hurt from laughing. The comedians all seem very comfortable on stage and show a mastery of their own jokes. It’s this familiarity with their material that gives the comedians room to play with their delivery, which often results in laughter even before they reach the punch line.

“You’ll probably catch these guys on Comedy Central in five years, but for now, see them at Bull Feeney’s in Portland,” said Levinsky.

 Francis Fliisuk / Arts & Culture Editor

Come join the crew!

Following positions available:
Perspectives Editor, Staff Writers, Photographers, Ad Sales Staff, Copy Editors and Social Media Coordinator.
Apply online:
 www.usmfreepress.org/job-opportunities

4 weeks 3 shows 1 stage
Studio Rep returns! This year Portland Stage will host three new productions by MTWTSS Theatre Company, The Improvised Puppet Project, and Lanyakard Theatre Company in repertory in our Studio Theater this January.

The Brown Clouds of Courage: The Musical
by philip hobby, johnny speckman, and nate speckman
Three couples each wrestle with unique and absurd challenges in their relationships.

Act One, Scene Two
play by askart, britt, gage, gufre, kimball, pearson, and sanders
We start with the first scene of a brand-new play, then throw the script out the window and improvise the rest.

Theater doesn’t get any more live than this.

Temporary Living Arrangements
by elizabeth tardie
Death is no laughing matter… Unless it’s the only thing left to do.

The Brown Clouds of Courage: The Musical

Temporary Living Arrangements

Follow us on Twitter: ghopme
Like us on Facebook

Biography

February 23 – March 2, 2014
by Jordan R. Toby and John Parnell

This week we celebrate the very first show in our new stage space. The Brown Clouds of Courage: The Musical by Philip Hobby, Johnny Speckman, and Nate Speckman. Three couples each wrestle with unique and absurd challenges in their relationships. Temporary Living Arrangements by Elizabeth Tardie. Death is no laughing matter… Unless it’s the only thing left to do.

Generously Supported by: The Portland Phoenix | Follow us on Twitter @StudioRep

www.usmfreepress.org/job-opportunities

View our site online: www.ghop.me

Gorham House of Pizza

839-2504

"Serving Gorham Since 1981."

We serve pizza, pasta, salads, calzones, wraps & more!

GHOP loves USM Students! 💙
USM Students get 10% off their purchase* with a valid USM ID.
Drinks are excluded from 10% off discount.

Restaurant Hours

Sun-Thurs: 11 am to 11 pm
Fri & Sat: 11 am to 12 am

2 State Street • Gorham, ME 04038
Ensuring Student Safety

USM has seen more than its fair share of breaking news this week. From the arrest of a former USM student body president for arson on Monday and a Gorham standoff between police and an armed student Wednesday, “the current university policy that states “weapons are not permitted on property owned by or under the control of the University of Southern Maine” apparently not, because “living” is not considered to be a student activity. This lack of clarity in administrative jurisdiction could lead, as we have seen this week, to a situation in which the university will be forced to make student-departmental decisions to ensure the safety of its students. The question is should fraternities be included in any university policy? Currently, there’s not much more to control them? Can we afford not to?

We saw how situations can easily escalate, not just on our own campus, but in campuses across the country and at Purdue University in Indiana just last week. What can we do as a community to ensure safety? It’s clear that emergency procedures are essential, like some of the methods we saw USM officials use this week in Gorham. However, a larger question needs to be confronted at USM, what can USM do to better ensure the safety of its students in the so-called recognized “off-campus” (but affiliated) residences? The answer may be that the university should do more to regulate these recognized off-campus living spaces that are designated for students to ensure student safety during security procedures.

Perspectives

Our Opinion

Easing the national security debate

President Obama spoke on Jan. 17 to quell the country’s fears of domestic spying and internet surveillance brought on by Edward Snowden and his National Security Agency revelations, but in the end, he inspired little faith that he would take precedents from the top-heavy, national security state.

His remarks were broad, and his policy suggestions were vague, laden with loopholes, and they included language so vague that it could be twisted to mean anything. To regain the trust of the American people, lost since the Snowden leaks began, Obama will need to make big, bold moves in his final few years as president to curb the reach of the NSA.

According to the Pew Research Center, confidence in Obama is so low on the subject that 73 percent of Americans believe his security reforms will make no difference in the current situation. Obama even shows he either lacks confidence in himself on the issue or the will to do anything about it. His speech on NSA reforms was relatively low-key compared to those he has given in the past, and the choice to give it on a Friday night, going into the weekend when many tune out of what’s going on in the world, shows that perhaps he was hoping fewer people were listening.

Obama simply is doing just enough to pacify the American people? Giving a speech where he calls the national security debate an important one, offering up some half-hearted reforms works when when the public discourse needs to be changed, a tactic that seems almost as Orwellian as the current secret security practices themselves. Obama doesn’t want to change anything about the NSA. He doesn’t want to have this debate. If he did, Snowden wouldn’t be hiding out in Russia, and the U.S. government wouldn’t find it necessary to track him down in order to jail him forever in an attempt to silence him and keep what he knows from making it to American ears.

Maybe Obama is simply so preoccupied with the American people that he let organizations like the NSA, FBI and CIA run wild, doing whatever they please while the American people will remember this, and it will tarnish his presidency for years to come. Dylan Lajoie, a Pickles Writer, is a senior political science major with a concentration in international relations.

Letters & Comments:

USM news calls for compassion and support

The student body has been inundated by a series of news and events which have given rise to feelings of shock and, in some cases, utter disappointment. With our university already in a state of uncertainty prior to the events of the past week, I urge my fellow students stay strong and carry on—together.

It is in times like these that we have opportunity to show compassion and a sense of community. With negative news involving one of our students, it is easy to pass judgment, to be vindictive and even disappointed. I ask my peers to do the right thing and to reach out, to be supportive, to care and not to condemn. It is in times like these that we can show that we are reasonable, level-headed individuals.

With regard to the news involving a standoff with police in Gorham, it is easy to rush to judgment, to make assumptions and to play the blame game. The whole should not be judged on the actions of the one. So I ask students to refrain from any rush to judgments or hasty assumptions and to understand that we do not know what led that individual to be in such a state, but that he needs our help and support and that there are resources available for those who are struggling with emotional and mental distress (USM provides free health and counseling services).

It is in times like these that we as a student body, as a university, can show solidarity and strength. We can resolve to make this university a stronger, safer, more diverse and caring community. So let us, as a university, come together and show the surrounding community, our families and our friends that we are the best darn university because we care–about our school, each other and the community.

So I urge my fellow students again to stay strong and carry on—together.

Marchepn Chann

Vice Student Body President

The Pickle Jar

Obama speech fails to inspire

President Obama spoke on Jan. 17 to quell the country’s fears of domestic spying and internet surveillance brought on by Edward Snowden and his National Security Agency revelations, but in the end, he inspired little faith that he would take precedents from the top-heavy, national security state.

His remarks were broad, and his policy suggestions were vague, laden with loopholes, and they included language so vague that it could be twisted to mean anything. To regain the trust of the American people, lost since the Snowden leaks began, Obama will need to make big, bold moves in his final few years as president to curb the reach of the NSA.

According to the Pew Research Center, confidence in Obama is so low on the subject that 73 percent of Americans believe his security reforms will make no difference in the current situation. Obama even shows he either lacks confidence in himself on the issue or the will to do anything about it. His speech on NSA reforms was relatively low-key compared to those he has given in the past, and the choice to give it on a Friday night, going into the weekend when many tune out of what’s going on in the world, shows that perhaps he was hoping fewer people were listening.

Obama simply is doing just enough to pacify the American people? Giving a speech where he calls the national security debate an important one, offering up some half-hearted reforms works when when the public discourse needs to be changed, a tactic that seems almost as Orwellian as the current secret security practices themselves. Obama doesn’t want to change anything about the NSA. He doesn’t want to have this debate. If he did, Snowden wouldn’t be hiding out in Russia, and the U.S. government wouldn’t find it necessary to track him down in order to jail him forever in an attempt to silence him and keep what he knows from making it to American ears.

Maybe Obama is simply so preoccupied with the American people that he let organizations like the NSA, FBI and CIA run wild, doing whatever they please while the American people will remember this, and it will tarnish his presidency for years to come. Dylan Lajoie, a Pickles Writer, is a senior political science major with a concentration in international relations.

Corrections:

From the Jan. 20 issue on page one in the story “USM bids spring students welcome” a by-line was omitted. The story was written by staff writer Skyra Gordon.

Ellen Spahn (Design Editor)
November 2013: Dog-Pound Inductees

Bethany Towne
Major: Tourism and Hospitality
Volunteer and Hospitality team leader: Husky Harvest
Quote from nominator:
“Bethany served as the volunteer and hospitality team leader for the Hospitality and Tourism class that created the first ever Husky Harvest. The event was a tremendous success, largely due to the extra efforts she put into her team.”

Sharmarke Hussain Ali
Major: Accounting
Portland Mentoring Alliance Mentor
Quote from nominator:
“Sharmarke has taken upon himself to meet with school personnel, figure out the goals and logistics for a program he initiated, and will be entirely responsible for recruitment and coordination of the program. This initiative and his humble attitude makes him an exemplary leader.”

Hana S. Hassan
Major: Political Science/International Studies
Work Study Student at the Multicultural Students Center
Quote from nominator:
“Hana worked tremendously hard this month participating in various fundraising events, for the Muslim Student Association, to make them successful. She also completed the staffing of a CARE chapter at USM. Hana displays exemplary leadership qualities, friendliness and is attentive to details.”

Jenna Rossnagel
Major: Tourism and Hospitality
Marketing and Promotions team leader: Husky Harvest
Quote from nominator:
“Jenna served as the volunteer and hospitality team leader for the Hospitality and Tourism class that created the first ever Husky Harvest. The event was a tremendous success, largely due to the extra efforts she put into her team.”

Trevor Kendall
Major: Tourism and Hospitality
Logistics Team Leader: Husky Harvest
Quote from nominator:
“Trevor served as the logistics team leader for the Hospitality and Tourism class that created the first ever Husky Harvest. The event was a tremendous success, largely due to the extra efforts he put into his team.”

Liz Bilodeau
Major: Social Work
Work Study Student at Portland Wellness Center
Quote from nominator:
“Liz has shown great initiative and a deep commitment to her social work training in her role as a student supervisor of the Portland Wellness. She is quick to notice when a peer is struggling, and does not hesitate to connect students with resources.”

Paul Schauer
Major: Tourism and Hospitality Management
Finance team leader: Husky Harvest
Quote from nominator:
“Paul served as the finance team leader for the Hospitality and Tourism class that created the first ever Husky Harvest. The event was a tremendous success, largely due to the extra efforts he put into his team.”

Kirsten Sylvain
Major: English
Editor-in-Chief of The Free Press
Quote from nominator:
“Kirsten worked with me (Sharmarke Chann, Student Body VP) in organizing and structuring the USM EdTalks forum, adding insight that led to the success of the event. She also threw in the Free Press support behind the project and aided the events advertisement.”

Stephen Rabida-Smith
Gorham Events Board’s Events Chair
Quote from nominator:
“Stephen exemplified what it means to be an effective leader - making decisions that were not only necessary but also helped make the events more cohesive and enjoyable for everyone who participated.”

Kirsten Sylvain
Major: English
Editor-in-Chief of The Free Press
Quote from nominator:
“Kirsten worked with me (Sharmarke Chann, Student Body VP) in organizing and structuring the USM EdTalks forum, adding insight that led to the success of the event. She also threw in the Free Press support behind the project and aided the events advertisement.”

December 2013: Dog-Pound Inductees

Casey Mae Nichols
Work Study Student at USM Health and Counseling
Quote from nominator:
“Casey served as a consultant for Learning Initiative activities that took place during the Wellness block. She also assisted with the smoke process for our campus flu clinics and was the primary creator/designer of our flu promotion campaign. Casey demonstrates a well-rounded wisdom and leadership skill that makes her a perfect candidate for this recognition.”

Kyle Robinson
Major: Economics
President of Honors Student Organization
Quote from nominator:
“Kyle shows great leadership and involvement for Honors Students and has helped build the organization and raise money for a spring trip.”

Bryn Gallagher
Major: Sociology
President of Student Sociology Association (SSA)
Quote from nominator:
“This month, thanks to Ryon’s Initiative and follow-through, the SSA is co-sponsoring its second blood drive this semester with the American Red Cross. And SSA President Bryn is proud to know that the leadership of the SSA is in such capable, compassionate hands.”

Rochelle Sooloy
Major: Political Science and International Studies
Vice President International Relations Association (IRA)
Quote from nominator:
“As VP, Rochelle really stands as a pillar for the IRA through her dedication and excitement for the group. This month in particular, she presented a documentary night for the end of finals to bring together more students and allow them to de-stress.”
**Crossword**

Across
1. Forever, ___, day (12)  
5. In 6. ___, euphony (8)  
10. Tulip planting (5)  
14. Hip Hop site often (7)  
16. Sounding plural: Abd. (5)  
17. Mode like now (5)  
20. "Hey, Yellow Wolf!" (14)  
21. Like many Reader’s Digest articles (9)  
22. Yeller, British-looking lady (9)  
23. Stone, in an art (5)  
27. Free Forms musician (9)  
30. He replaced fus as baseo’s youngest player when he debuted at age 17 in 1959 (9)  
33. Distance without limit (5)  
34. Aristotle’s wife (9)  
36. Yards in pacing, e.g. (9)  
42. "CS" samples (5)  
43. Ani, neighbor (5)  
46. Lake whose penultimate note is G (5)  
47. Its. I is the "Red Hunting" actress (9)  
51. Singer Cassius (5)  
54. Pop salty cheer (5)  
55. Instrument that controls bleeding (5)  
56. Name grove (5)  
62. Baseball’s folklore or Jesus (9)  
67. Lover’s in the bird (5)  
68. Very nervous (5)  
69. Play as a prosecutor as Senate majority leader (9)  
70. On ___ (counting calories) (9)  
71. Took in theGrant scenario (9)  
73. Summers, in Haiti (9)  
74. U.S. Mexico Canal commences pact (9)  

Down  
1. ___ title's best for winter? (6)  
2. ___ (from the door) (6)  
3. One who commits a crime, in police slang (6)  
4. From the top (6)  
5. Government eng. since 2370 (6)  
6. Big Apple school: Abd. (6)  
7. Put in the case (6)  
8. The and ___ (5, 17. 100% sure murder case) (6)  
9. Tarot Book (6)  
10. Seeder fill (6)  
11. Fed, at soup bars (6)  
12. Brand name (6)  
13. "I think it" gag (6)  
14. "___, by times, ___" (6)  
15. The "Y" of MA: Abd. (6)  
16. A. L., etc., harmones (6)  
17. Navy ensign (6)  
18. Bender-Redi pear (6)  
19. Rock and roll idol of Fanne James (6)  
20. Etc., relative (6)  
21. "Mac-Hookee" chest (6)  
22. Too brand (6)  
23. Like members, when working (6)  
24. Pulemate (6)  
25. Study of his stars: Abd. (6)  
26. Modern day hits to HH! (6)  
27. "Mary, ___ lamb!" (6)  
28. Bugane auto "fall" ornament (6)  
29. Secret meeting (6)  
30. Patriot rule (6)  
31. A. D., etc., parent (6)  
32. Ancient self (6)  
33. Melonmother (6)  
34. Word's purpose (6)  
35. Pro-weekend cry of relief (6)  
36. Stocking flaws (6)  
37. Awareness of the screen (6)  
38. Melon, as wine (6)  
39. All ___ exalted (6)  
40. Grand Central, for one: Abd. (6)  

**Sudoku**

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 × 9–square grid subdivided into nine 3 × 3 boxes. Some of the squares contain numbers. The object is to fill in the remaining squares so that every row, every column, and every 3 × 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.

```
5 2 9 8 1 7 4 6 3
7 3 8 4 6 9 5 2 1
8 1 3 7 2 5 6 9 4
9 4 6 2 3 1 7 8 5
4 6 2 1 5 8 3 7 9
3 5 1 7 4 6 2 8 9
1 7 4 8 9 3 5 2 6
6 8 7 5 2 4 9 3 1
2 9 5 6 7 3 8 1 4
```

**Cryptogram**

HXGI DXG MLIDGNDTID  
JTFG T QGSOA TPLYD  
LOE QGMLQEN, QGJCN  
SXCOPCI NTCE, "CN  
DXTD ALYQ FCIAO TIN-  
HGQ?"

And here is your hint:  
D = T

**Weekly Horoscope**

Aries March 21-April 19
As long as you remember no hu- man being is Prince or Princess, charm you, and your beloved can create a satisfying romantic encounter today.

Taurus April 20-May 20
You may have to decide how much to be a friend and equal versus a person wielding power and authority.

Gemini May 21-June 20
Temptations are strong today. You may overeat or overindulge in other pleasures. Don’t feel guilty about minor excesses.

Cancer June 21-July 22
Responsibilities and obligations keep you from spending time with a loved one. Find a way to combine duty and pleasure.

Leo July 23-August 22
You may shock people a bit with what you say. Asserting your freedom of thought is especially important. Originality is highlighted.

Virgo August 23-September 22
Safety first! Put a little more money in those portions of the budget assigned to basic necessities and to emergencies. Be prepared.

Libra September 23-October 22
Today you can be extra practical and generally, Nurture that growth with positive attention.

Scorpio October 23-November 21
Feelings of love build slowly and gradually. Nurture that growth with positive attention.

Sagittarius November 22-December 21
You’re conscious of the rules at work. Don’t inhibit yourself, but do take advantage of knowing exactly how far to push in achieving your aims.

Capricorn December 22-January 19
An opportunity for advancement lies before you. Grasp it before the window closes!

Aquarius January 20-February 18
A little research by you can pinpoint an investment gem. Get the facts and then make your move.

Pisces February 19-March 20
You are asked to donate to a political or charitable cause. Check out the company doing the asking; they may keep the lion’s share of the money.

**Puzzles**

**Word Search**

Search for the list of words in the grid of letters. Grab a pen and circle each word as you find them.

```
M S C A R R O T S  S B U T T E R  
U T S C I E J E Y S N O M E L  
S R E P S A R G B R O C C I L I  
T A B A C O N B S M G B A S R  
A W M B S A R K S A E P U E E B  
R B A C R E N S P P D V B R P L  
D E G O A I V L R I U V T U  
R N R D K R E L A E C N O L N B  
A R E D C S E W E E V A I O T  
N I T U Y T E S C H U L C E H  
A E S R T E I S C S K T O H G  
N S U U S E M S E L P P A F C I  
A P C G H A A P U H C T E K E L  
B E G C J Y R L U D P M U C L  
F E S S I A N N O Y A M W A T E R  
```

APPLES  
BACON  
BANANAS  
BREAD  
BROCCOLI  
BUTTER  
CAKE  
CARROTS  
CHEESE  
COLA  
DRAWERS  
EGGS  
GRAPES  
ICE CUBES  
JAM  
JUICES  
KETCHUP  
LEFTOVERS  
LETTUCE  
LIGHTBULB  
MAGNETS  

**Theme:** Refrigerator

The solution to last issue's crossword

---

**Weekly Finance Tips**

The Gold Company

Since 1995 ~

I can help with.....

- Rolling over your retirement accounts to IRAs
- Developing an investment portfolio flow in retirement
- Family money issues

- INVESTMENTS & FINANCIAL PLANNING -
Call 207-650-7844 or 207-934-3698

thegoldcompanyfinancialplanning.com

---

**The Gold Company**

Joel Gold, CFP®, Ph.D.
USM Finance Professor since 1973

---

---
The Athletics Department has been engaging with the town of Gorham to improve relations and build community as a whole. The Second Annual ‘Town of Gorham Night’ took place at the men and women’s basketball games on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at the Warren Hill Gymnasium. Cheered on by the crowd, third and fourth grade students had the opportunity to play short basketball games during both of the halftime. According to Alan Grady, youth coordinator at Gorham Recreation Department, there were eight boy’s teams and six girl’s teams for a total of approximately 140 kids from recreation programs at Great Falls, Village and Narragansett Elementary Schools.

Grady was pleased with how the event turned out. “This is our second time running it so we’ve adjusted a few rules to make for maximum participation for our kids,” he said. “The kids had a great time meeting and high-fiving the mascot too.”

Town of Gorham Night provided a great opportunity for the kids and parents to check out the facilities and resources that USM has to offer the community. “This past fall, USM was able to host the Division III NCAA Regional Cross Country Meet for both men and women on our cross country course in Gorham, behind Narragansett School. Over 500 runners competed,” said Grady about the mutual sharing of athletic resources.

“Gorham High School athletes and USM athletes have been sharing fields and courts and tracks for many years now, and that has afforded both of our programs the opportunity for improved training and game play that neither of us otherwise could have accomplished,” said Grady.

This event is just one of many community outreach initiatives organized by the Athletics Department. “Annually we put on the community Halloween party and that brings about 500 community kids in,” said Meredith Bickford, assistant director of the Athletics Department. “Prior to that, last year, the student athletes started a pen pal program with Great Falls Elementary School.”

According to Bickford, many student athletes also participated with the student ambassador program at Great Falls Elementary translating the school’s codes of conduct and bullying programs into daily life lessons. She also mentioned that they were incorporating USM’s CARE initiative (Courtesy, Attitude, Respect, Everywhere) into Great Falls’ code of conduct.

“And this year, I developed a mentoring program where I had about 16 or 17 student athletes in the fall serve as mentors to children K thru 5 at Great Falls,” said Bickford. The students mentored 25 hours for the semester, about once or twice a week, according to Bickford. “However, I have had a couple of students that have wanted to continue the program this spring,” she said.

The Athletics Department also hosts youth clinics and camps throughout the year. There have also been skating and sledding events in which children from the community can come and skate or sled with the student athletes and the USM mascot “Champ” for free. These community events allow the kids to connect more on a personal level with the student athletes than they did while at a USM youth camp or clinic, according to Bickford. This amount of community outreach serves a way to build relationships between the kids of the community and USM student athletes.

“In Gorham, we’re really lucky. I don’t feel like a lot of colleges get that experience. Even just being out at GHOP, seeing the kids and their parents. We’re really fortunate to be such well-known people to the community,” said Abby Hasson, junior elementary education major and forward on the women’s basketball team. “With my major it’s a very beneficial experience and great to have those connections.”

“I think that it’s important that both USM and Gorham realize the uniqueness of having a college campus here [in Gorham] and how beneficial it can be to both parties involved,” said Bickford. “The benefit to a child having a mentor at the college level. The way the kids look up to them and admire them—not every kid gets to have that.”
Involvement spotlight:
USM student Gallagher does it all

Bryn Gallagher, junior sociology major, wore her USM scarf and pin the first two weeks of school as a “welcome ambassador” to help new students. She is involved in several campus organizations and in a number of off-campus activities.

Bryn Gallagher, junior sociology major, and a junior criminology minor at USM and in fall 2013 Gallagher became the new president of the Sociology Club. “It has been a transitional semester,” Gallagher said. “It’s been hard to figure out what to do, but next semester will have weekly meetings and more events.”

Gallagher helped plan two blood drives for the Sociology club in the fall, one on Sept. 11 and the other on Dec. 9. Gallagher hopes to have more events on and off campus for the club to draw in more interest. “I would like to have a couple events in downtown Portland. Maybe have a silent auction or a local musicians night at Local Sprouts,” Gallagher said of her hopes for the spring semester.

Gallagher is also the co-chair for the Day of Service planning committee at USM for the annual event that will take place this spring. Gallagher said that last year there were seven spots around the Portland area that USM students went to, such as going to Back Bay to clean. “I live off campus, and I realized how easy it is to lose involvement with USM because of it. I think the Day of Service is important to do something through USM and to help the community,” Gallagher said. Gallagher stated that this year will be the fifth annual Day of Service.

Gallagher remains active outside of USM as well by canvassing for recently elected Pious Ali, who became the first African born Muslim on the Portland school board. Working with Ali had a personal impact on Gallagher. “Before helping with Ali’s campaign, I had never had an interest in education. I’ve never taken any education courses, but after working with Ali I realized my interest in it,” Gallagher said. Gallagher says that she still doesn’t know exactly what she plans on doing after college, but plans on graduate school at some point and cited UMass Boston’s new Sociology program and Chicago schools as points of interest.

Gallagher works at USM’s office of internships and career placements which has helped her think of some options for the future, even if it is still indefinite. “I’ve made some great connections with faculty and staff through my job. I get to see all the options there are available and that has been an awesome resource,” Gallagher said.

Gallagher still has many interests she plans to pursue but she is still at USM such as education, political science and international relations. Gallagher plans on keeping herself busy both in and out of USM to help better the community.

Bryn Gallagher, senior sociology major, and a junior criminology minor at USM and in fall 2013 Gallagher became the new president of the Sociology Club. “It has been a transitional semester,” Gallagher said. “It’s been hard to figure out what to do, but next semester will have weekly meetings and more events.”

Gallagher helped plan two blood drives for the Sociology club in the fall, one on Sept. 11 and the other on Dec. 9. Gallagher hopes to have more events on and off campus for the club to draw in more interest. “I would like to have a couple events in downtown Portland. Maybe have a silent auction or a local musicians night at Local Sprouts,” Gallagher said of her hopes for the spring semester.

Gallagher is also the co-chair for the Day of Service planning committee at USM for the annual event that will take place this spring. Gallagher said that last year there were seven spots around the Portland area that USM students went to, such as going to Back Bay to clean. “I live off campus, and I realized how easy it is to lose involvement with USM because of it. I think the Day of Service is important to do something through USM and to help the community,” Gallagher said. Gallagher stated that this year will be the fifth annual Day of Service.

Gallagher remains active outside of USM as well by canvassing for recently elected Pious Ali, who became the first African born Muslim on the Portland school board. Working with Ali had a personal impact on Gallagher. “Before helping with Ali’s campaign, I had never had an interest in education. I’ve never taken any education courses, but after working with Ali I realized my interest in it,” Gallagher said. Gallagher says that she still doesn’t know exactly what she plans on doing after college, but plans on graduate school at some point and cited UMass Boston’s new Sociology program and Chicago schools as points of interest.

Gallagher works at USM’s office of internships and career placements which has helped her think of some options for the future, even if it is still indefinite. “I’ve made some great connections with faculty and staff through my job. I get to see all the options there are available and that has been an awesome resource,” Gallagher said.

Gallagher still has many interests she plans to pursue but she is still at USM such as education, political science and international relations. Gallagher plans on keeping herself busy both in and out of USM to help better the community.