



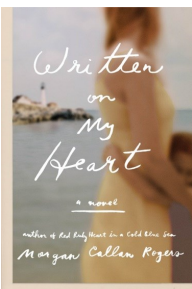
English Department Newsletter

University of Southern Maine



From the Alumni Front...

Morgan Callan Rogers (1988)



morgancallanrogers.com, published her second novel, *Written on my Heart*, a sequel to her first novel, *Red Ruby Heart in a Cold Blue Sea*.

Martin Conte (2015) published his short story, "Suddenly a Bright Cloud Overshadowed Them," in the Fiction Winter 2015 edition of *Sixfold*. <http://www.sixfold.org/FicWinter15/Conte.html> Martin credits this story as "originating from a workshop at USM with Prof. Justin Tussing."

Nicole Densmore (2015) was selected to participate in the 2015 Maine NEW Leadership Summer Institute at the University of Maine in Orono. As noted by the selection committee, "We received an impressive group of applications, so you should be proud to have been one of the few who were selected."

Ryan Gato (2010) was accepted to CUNY's Graduate Center.

Lainie Anne Pomerleau (2011)

My time at USM was invaluable to my career. I received my MA from the University of Tennessee and am currently a PhD candidate in medieval and renaissance literature at the University of Georgia, none of which would have been possible without my English BA from USM. How I was taught at USM has directly impacted how I teach my own writing and literature courses and, because of the depth of courses offered and the support of my professors, I was able to easily transition into graduate work. The education offered by the English department laid the groundwork for my current research and I return to what I learned, and how I learned it, for inspiration and direction on an almost daily basis. I have now worked inside and outside of the university, and I can unreservedly say reading and writing are some of the most important keys to understanding what is happening around us, and USM's English department is what will help open that door, no matter your professional goals.

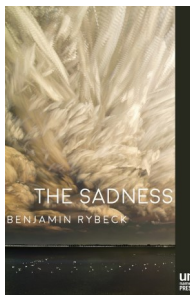
Danielle Porcello (2007) has been hired by the St. Francis House of Boston, MA as an Instructor with the Moving Ahead Program (MAP). She will teach a holistic, 14 week curriculum in job readiness and life skills to those who



USM's Portland Campus

have experienced homelessness, incarceration and mental illnesses.

Benjamin Rybeck's (2009) debut novel, *The Sadness*, was published by Unnamed Press in June 2016. The



novel is set in Portland, ME, and evolved from a project he began while taking creative writing workshops with Dianne Benedict and Justin Tussing at USM. Rybeck is the market-

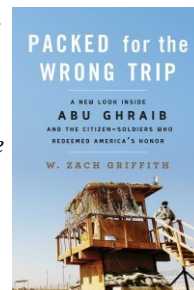
ing director at Brazos Bookstore in Houston, where he runs store programming and edits the website (brazosbookstore.com). His reviews and features appear regularly in *Kirkus Reviews*.

Nick Wilson (2003) was named one of eight semifinalists for 2016 Maine's Teacher of the Year. He currently teaches English at Biddeford High School and coaches Biddeford High's junior varsity baseball team. He is also pursuing a certificate of advanced study in Educational Leadership at USM.

Current Student News

English major, **Margo Arruda**, has been awarded an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Fellowship. The UROP at USM awards funding to undergraduate projects in any discipline. UROP is a scholarly fellowship that brings together diverse areas of undergraduate student research and creative activities. It is a program for student-faculty collaboration with tremendous mutual intellectual and professional development benefits. She will be working with Professor Bertram.

USM English Major and veteran, **Zach Griffith**, has just published a book, *Packed for the Wrong Trip: A New Look inside Abu Ghraib and the Citizen-Soldiers Who Redeemed America's Honor* (<http://arcadepub.com/titles/1202-9781628726459> -packed-for-the-wrong-trip).

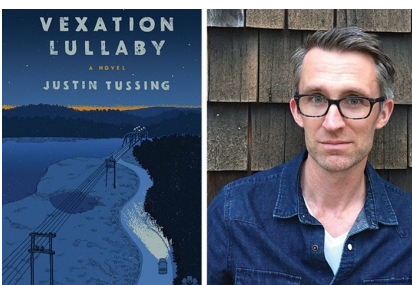


Faculty Lecture Series



In November, **Professor Gerry Peters'** lecture "Planting the Seed: 19th Century Utopianism" and the American Social Imaginary" explored the early formation of a uniquely heterogeneous model of social identity based on discursive developments that both shaped these early utopian communities and created the dominant figural network that linked them together.

In February, **Professor Ben Bertram's** lecture "War and Resilience: Marlowe's *Tamburlaine the Great* and the Anglo-Spanish War" argued that the boasting over ecological destruction in Marlowe's *Tamburlaine the Great* resonates with—and to some extent even derives from—the English desire to transform the physical environment both abroad and at home as a response to the exigencies of the Anglo-Spanish War.



In March, **Professor Justin Tussing** read from his new novel *Vexation Lullaby*.

In April, **Professor John Muthyala's** lecture "Drones: Weapons of War or Tools for Entertainment?" asked two questions: how do digital tools, systems, and networks extend, justify, or contain America's role in the world, and what impact do they have on society, culture, and liberal democracy?



O'Brien Poetry Event



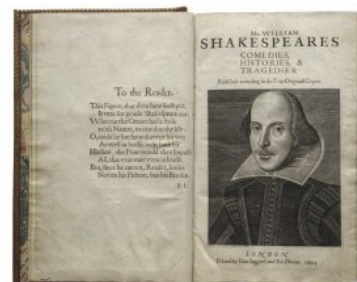
The Department of English hosted the annual O'Brien Poetry Event on October 2, 2015 featuring poet Lee Upton. Upton's latest book, *Bottle the Bottle the Bottle the Bottle* is the winner of the 2014 Cleveland State University Poetry Center Open Book Competition. Professor Upton teaches at Lafayette College where she is currently the Francis A. March Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence.

First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare

2016 marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. To celebrate more than 400 years of Shakespearean influence on our language and our collective imaginations, the Folger Shakespeare Library has mounted a national tour of the First Folio. During 2016, *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare* will tour all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. The Portland Public Library, in partnership with USM Libraries and Maine Humanities Council, was selected as the host site for the State of Maine.

On Wednesday, March 9, **Professor Ben Bertram** gave a lecture followed by discussion on Shakespeare's *First Folio* at the Portland Public Library.

Many of Shakespeare's plays, which were written to be performed, were not published during his lifetime. The *First Folio* is the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays and was published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. Compiled by two of Shakespeare's fellow actors, it preserves 36 of Shakespeare's plays. Without it, we would not have 18 of those plays, including *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*.



First Folio title page

Scholarship Winners

CAHS Annual Scholarship 2016 - Nathaniel Baldwin I came to USM under unusual circumstances. I'd been working as a musician for many years but the grind on the road became hard to sustain. I soon found myself less interested in slamming post-show brews and more interested in retreating to my bunk on the bus with a book. I became obsessed with literature, gravitating toward contemporary small presses and experimental fiction. As my aesthetic preferences grew increasingly narrow and specific, I decided to step out of my comfort zone. At USM, I've now developed a love for the history of literature and cultural studies, as well as theory and criticism, all of which I may not have found on my own. I'm in awe of the faculty, not only by their expertise, but by their passion and dedication to the students. I feel very lucky to have landed here in the USM community. It's truly an honor to be recognized for this award.



Carboneau Scholarship 2015 - Shawn Chapla Winning the Carboneau Scholarship and getting to attend the 2015 Stonecoast Writers' Conference was an absolutely wonderful experience. Having the opportunity to work with writers like Betsy Sholl, Elizabeth Peavey, and Peter Behrens was rewarding in many ways. To be able to spend an entire week focused on nothing but creative writing was a rare treat and I believe that my writing has improved considerably as a result of it. If you are at all considering applying for the Carboneau Scholarship or otherwise attending the Stonecoast Writers' Conference, I would highly recommend it. If nothing else, you'll get to spend time with a group of people who are more or less guaranteed to care about writing. That in and of itself can be liberating; it most certainly was for me.

Sawyer Scholarship 2016 - Danella Demary Education is essential. After ten years out of school, I decided to come back because I realized that education is vital to my growth. It is not only indispensable academically, but my experience at USM also contributes a crucial element to my own personal development. In the classroom I not only learn about literature, which I will likely teach to high school (and eventually) college students, but I also learn how to apply theory and to approach criticism from different lenses. Through learning different approaches to studying English, I am also learning about different ways in which people, including myself, learn and interact outside of the classroom. Many of the courses I have taken, and am currently taking include several life lessons that I have applied beyond my academia. I intend on absorbing as much as I can while at USM and then plan on continuing on to the Extended Teachers Education Program (ETEP) through USM in hopes of becoming a high school English teacher. This career only furthers my belief that education is fundamental in my evolution and my passion is to share that belief with students. My goal is to support them in identifying their own passion and igniting their interest through different genres of literature and lenses in which they can look at their chosen field of study.



USM Classics Scholarship for a Student in the Humanities 2016 - Victoria Simoneau Upon entering the University of Southern Maine, pursuing a degree in English was perhaps one of the furthest things from my mind; after all, I had always focused my efforts on the visual arts, and I was interested in becoming an art teacher after graduation. Before long, however, I had a change of heart: I wanted to write. Without much thought, I quickly changed majors and signed up for some creative writing classes in hopes of awakening my inner writer, who had been jilted for years in favor of my outer artist. Although I had some doubts about pursuing writing instead of illustrating, I soon found that I had nothing to fear: the English professors welcomed me with open arms, and the English program itself had much to offer in the ways of writing courses for example, one course encouraged me to develop several fiction stories, while another led me to create an argumentative essay on the educational value of video games. Overall, being a student in the English department at USM has given me the golden opportunity to polish my writing skills through both creative and analytical writing, and the English program at



USM has introduced me to a plethora of great novels, poems, and memoirs, all of which played a role in strengthening my ability as a reader.

CAHS Annual Scholarship 2016 - Jacob Fink

Treworgy Scholarship 2016 - Isabella Rieger

Faculty Publications and News

Professor Kathy Ashley, professor emeritus, has been busy in her retirement...

Completed essays:

- Invited chapter (8000 words) – “Social Functions” in the *Cultural History of Theatre: The Middle Ages*, ed. Jody Enders. This is volume 2 in a six-volume series. (Forthcoming from Bloomsbury/Methuen in 2017)
- “Psalm-Singing at Home: The Case of Etienne Mathieu, a Burgundian Protestant” to appear in *Domestic Devotions in the Early Modern World* (Forthcoming from Brill in 2017). This essay was developed from a paper given at a Domestic Devotions conference in Cambridge, England, July 2015.
- “Wolf Cubs, the Butchers and the Beaune Town Council,” to appear in *Our Dogs, Our Selves: Dogs in Medieval and Early Modern Society* (Forthcoming from Brill in 2017).

Book review:

- Review of Linda E. Mitchell, *Joan de Valence: The Life and Influence of a Thirteenth Century Noblewoman* (Palgrave/Macmillan, 2016) – for *Journal of British Studies* (Forthcoming)

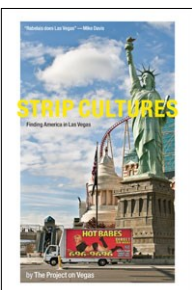
Conference papers:

- Invited paper, “Provocative Processions” for session on The Art of Assembly – Urban Space and Crowd Control in the Middle Ages at College Art Association, Washington DC, February 3, 2016
- “Bourgeois Families Under Stress” at the Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI – May 2016
- Invited respondent for Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society session “Appropriation” at Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI – May 2016
- Paper, “Conversion During the French Religious Wars: The Challenge of Documenting Subjectivity” at Sixteenth-Century Conference, Bruges, Belgium – August 2016

Research at Duke: Visiting Scholar for research at Duke University Libraries, January – March 2016

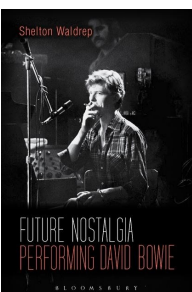
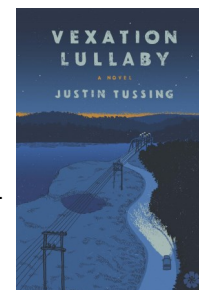
Professor Ben Bertram received a Faculty Senate Research Grant.

Professor Lisa Giles received a \$1000 CTCL grant to improve writing instruction in ENG 101 online. In August, she will be teaching “The Portrait Poem,” a workshop for the USM Summer Book Arts Program headed up by Professor Rebecca Goodale.



Professor Jane Kuenz co-authored the book *Strip Cultures: Finding America in Las Vegas*. This book examines “the politics of food and water, art and spectacle, entertainment and branding, body and sensory experience.”

Professor Justin Tussing’s new novel, *Vexation Lullaby*, was published by Catalyst Press. For a review of his book, visit: <http://publishersweekly.com/pw/reviews/single/978-1-936787-38-8>



Professor Shelton Waldrep’s book, *Future Nostalgia: Performing David Bowie*, was published by Bloomsbury Publishing. His book looks at Bowie’s career and the influence he had on the genre. For a review of his book, visit: <http://www.slugmag.com/book-reviews/future-nostalgia-performing-david-bowie/> He also gave a lecture to the USM community on David Bowie in January shortly after the announcement of Bowie’s death. This talk addressed the notion of ‘performance’ as central for understanding how David Bowie’s art functions.

The Center for Collaboration and Development at USM has awarded a Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) Grant to **Professors Kuenz, Waldrep, and Walker**.

