

# Department of English

## Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

Husna Ahmed  
 Timothy Nolan Aliviado \*\*  
 Anneke Lee Barnard \*\*  
 Ciera Jaye Berthiaume  
 Landyn Barto Bowers  
 Clyde Jordan Carey  
 Lily Rain Doris Carter  
 Marissa Bertha Clifford  
 Kelsey Anne Deck \*\*  
 Kelsey Ann Donohue  
 Samantha Nadine Dunnigan  
 Taylor Hope Dyer \*\*  
 Hannah Susan Edwards  
 Kacey Elizabeth Foerster  
 Kayla Anne Goodwin \*  
 Joni Gordon \*  
 Caelan Lee Gray  
 Meghan Elizabeth Griffin  
 Kailee Elizabeth Jellison  
 Rebekka Joensen  
 Kathleen Ryan King  
 Paige Madison Marcello \*  
 Joshua Alexander Medrano \*  
 Abir Mohamed  
 Samuel Lucien Pawlowski  
 Katie Laura Prior \*\*  
 Isabella R. Rieger  
 Sarah Christine Rouleau \*\*\*  
 Annalyse Olivia Sarvinas \*\*  
 Elizabeth Diane Schepis \*  
 Jennifer Lee Stevens \*  
 Madeline Kate Sullivan \*\*  
 Lucy Whitney Tabb \*\*  
 Haley Lynn Tardif \*\*\*  
 Danielle Marie Teacutter \*  
 Jessica Eryn Toomey \*\*\*  
 Anna Claire Turner \*  
 Whitney Blair Vincent \*\*\*  
 Alexis Margaret Wells  
 Maggie Lee Whelan  
 William Henry Workman

\* Cum Laude \*\* Magna Cum Laude  
 \*\*\* Summa Cum Laude



## Professor Lorraine Carroll Retires

After 32 years as a dedicated and award-winning teacher/scholar, Associate Professor Lorraine Carroll retired from USM. Dr. Carroll's areas of teaching and publishing focus on Early American literature and culture broadly, with a specialty in captivity narratives and indigenous studies. More recently, her work took an international turn in publications on Chinese labor relations, specifically in relation to migrant workers in post-reform China. In addition to numerous articles, Dr. Carroll published *Rhetorical Drag: Gender Impersonation, Captivity and the Writing of History*, which argues that male editors and composers impersonated the women presumed to be authors of these works. This "gender impersonation," according to one reviewer, "significantly shaped the authorial voice and complicated the use of these texts as examples of historical writing and as women's literature." Dr. Carroll is a past recipient of the Richard Beale Davis Award for best essay in Early American Literature. Her Literacy Studies students benefitted from her steadfast efforts to engage them in activism in the wider Portland community. For this work, she was awarded the Donald Harward Faculty Award for Service-Learning Excellence from the Maine Campus Compact. She is also the recipient of several faculty senate and women and gender studies awards for both service and teaching. Additionally, since 2013 she has served on the editorial board of *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*. She is also an organizer and a chief architect of the burgeoning Social Justice minor. As well, Dr. Carroll served as president of the USM chapter of the American Association of University Professors, a role that reflects her abiding advocacy on behalf of organized labor rights and shared faculty governance. In this regard, her colleagues owe her a profound debt of gratitude.



~ Eve Raimon, Professor  
 Department of English

## Professor Emerita Nancy Gish receives T.S. Eliot Society "Distinguished Service Award"



Jayne Stayer, president of the T.S. Eliot Society, has announced that Professor Emerita Nancy Gish has been granted the Distinguished Service Award as a recognition bestowed on "members who have rendered the Society notable service of long duration or distinction. In addition to her outstanding scholarship, her mentoring of students, and her invaluable presence at our meetings—the riveting presentations and thoughtful interventions she has made—this award acknowledges the contributions she has made as a board member and in guiding the Society for many years."

## Professor Shelton Waldrep Appointed Distinguished Professor

From President Cummings' May 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Missive...*Dr. Shelton Waldrep, Professor of English and Chair of the Department of English has been recognized as USM's latest Distinguished Professor. Reserved for USM faculty members who have already achieved the rank of Professor, the title of Distinguished Professor is awarded to USM faculty who have demonstrated exceptional scholarly or creative work and instructional leadership across a broad disciplinary or interdisciplinary range. Dr. Waldrep teaches classes on Victorian literature, popular culture, film, and critical theory at USM. He is the author of "The Dissolution of Place: Architecture, Identity, and the Body" and "The Aesthetics of Self-Invention: Oscar Wilde to David Bowie"; the co-author of "Inside the Mouse: Work and Play at Disney World"; and the editor of "The Seventies: The Age of Glitter in Popular Culture." His latest book is titled "Future Nostalgia: Performing David Bowie," and his current book project is on images of the body in 21st-century film and television. He has published articles, interviews, and poetry in numerous journals, magazines, and newspapers worldwide and has been awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher-Scholar Award, the Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Scholarship, and the Trustee Professorship. Dr. Waldrep stands out among professors who can successfully achieve notable success in scholarship and use it directly to the advantage of his students. I have had a member of my immediate family, once a student of Dr. Waldrep's, offer significant praise for his insights, knowledge, and commitment to student success.*



## Faculty Highlights

**Mr. Mike Bendzela's** memoir, "Mitchell's Dissolution," an account of the AIDS death of poet Mitchell Toney, has been accepted by Quillkeepers Press for their Pride Month Anthology, due out in October. A reading and visual presentation of his poem "010621," which concerns the Washington riot, was chosen as a weekly winner of Poet's Choice "Video Record Yourself Reading a Poem" and posted to their YouTube website. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxSZ230zj4> His book, *Metazoan Variations: Evolutionary Fables and Other Emblematic Tales*, a work of environmental literature at the nexus of science and art, has been published by The Raw Art Review/UnCollected Press of Ellicott City, MD. Exploring, as one reader put it, "the intimate lives of fauna (and flora), wild and domestic," Mike's book is the natural outcome of his work as a writer, teacher, and farmer and was in part informed by courses he has taken with USM science faculty. Learn more about his book at <https://therawartreview.com/2020/12/03/book-published-metazoan-variations-by-mike-bendzela/>

**Mr. Alexander Champoux-Crowley**, along with four other coauthors, has an article, "The Laborious Reality vs. the Imagined Ideal of Graduate Student Instructors of Writing," forthcoming from *WPA: Writing Program Administration*.

**Mr. John (Jack) Chebowicz** retired in May 2020, after teaching at USM since 1984. In his 35+ years with USM, he taught 179 classes, including 74 ENG 100 College Writing classes and 74 ENG 120 Introduction to Literature classes. Thousands of students have passed through his courses!



**Mr. Gibson Fay-LeBlanc's** second book of poems, *Deke Dangle Dive*, was just released by CavanKerry Press. The book explores illness, fatherhood, brotherhood, and masculinity through ice hockey, contemporary culture, domestic life, and the natural world and considers how poems can speak to us and through us when all seems (or is) lost. In May, PRINT: A Bookstore, and SPACE co-hosted a book launch for *Deke Dangle Dive*, and Gibson was joined by poet Samaa Abdurraqib, nonfiction writer Jaed Coffin, and fiction writer Lewis Robinson. <https://www.gibsonfayleblanc.com/>

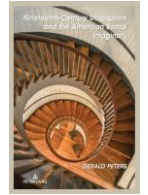
**Professor Emerita Nancy K. Gish** was interviewed by USM student, Paige Marcello '21, for the March 2021 issue of *Maine Women Magazine* about the origin and development of the Women and Gender Studies program at USM. <https://www.mainewomenmagazine.com/from-committee-to-program/>; In June 2021, the International T.S. Eliot Society held a mini-conference, organized by Professor Gish, for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Literature Association.

**Professor John Muthyala's** article, "Digital Innovation in the Liberal Arts," was the lead cover story in the July 2020 *EDUCAUSEreview* journal. *EDUCAUSEreview* is a journal for Higher Ed IT professionals, academic technologists,

librarians, and administrators.

**Professors Jessica Ouellette, Carrie Kancilia, and Alexander Champoux-Crowley** will be presenting at the North East Conference on College Composition and Communication this summer. Their presentation is titled “Technology Mediated Community Building in Literacy Learning Contexts: Critical Reflections from an Instructor, a Writing Center Director, and a WPA.”

The following faculty received Faculty Senate Awards for 2021: **Professor Jessica Ouellette** for Service, **Professor Gerald Peters** for Scholarship, **Professor Eve Raimon** for Teaching



**Professor Gerry Peters'** book, *Nineteenth-Century Utopianism and the American Social Imaginary*, has been published by Peter Lang. <https://www.peterlang.com/view/title/73599>

**Professor Eve Raimon** delivered a conference paper in October 2020 titled “The Underground Railroad Literalized in New England” to *C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*; Students in her ENG 476 seminar, “Slavery and Public History,” got experience as citizen historians in their participation in the Atlantic Black Box Project. As part of this crowd-sourced initiative, students recorded items in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century “Ship News” column of the *Eastern Argus*, the precursor to *The Portland Press Herald*. Directed by Dr. Meadow Dibble and Dr. Kate McMahon-Ruddick, this project was designed to investigate the involvement of New England merchant vessels in the Atlantic slave trade.

**Professor Erin Spampinato** has received an ACLS fellowship for next year which will allow her to turn her dissertation into a book.

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## An Education in Anti-Racism

*In the past the English Newsletter has published occasional pieces of creative writing by members of our community. Please find a reflection by adjunct faculty member Linda Trombley. If you are interested in having your original work published by us, please contact the chair.*

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Recently I reconnected with a former English Department Chair from Fort Pierce Florida/St. Lucie County, where I worked at Lincoln Park Academy as a new teacher in the 1980s. When I mentioned USM’s anti-racism initiative, she asked if I had ever told anyone here about my background there. I studied African-American Literature at Smith College, including individual work on Zora Neale Hurston. That’s what attracted me to Lincoln Park, a magnet school designed to avoid forced bussing and increase academic rigor. It had been called “The Black School” for decades, and Zora Neale Hurston worked there as a substitute teacher late in her life. She was poor, and died of malnourishment nearby. I

walked to her grave one day, in the steps Alice Walker took before writing about Hurston in a piece called “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens.” The grave was still just a sunken spot in an empty lot in a rough neighborhood. Later that year, I was interviewed for local TV as a Hurston expert, along with a janitor I found who had known her. More importantly, I had the privilege to direct the school’s first musical, *The Sound of Music*, with an interracial Von Trapp family, in a town where the KKK was/is still active. There was some backlash, and press, good and bad, but eventually community support grew, donations were made, and shows sold out.

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## 2021 Scholarship Winners

Willow Beavis – Jordan Maroon Memorial Scholarship

Julia Gay – C. Elizabeth Sawyer Scholarship

Ashley King – USM Classics Scholarship

Alexandria Lecrone – USM Classics Scholarship

*Congratulations to this year’s winners!!*

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## Current Students

**Kacey Foerster '22** is researching the positive effects of reading to people with Alzheimer's disease. As an English major pursuing K-8 teacher certification, reading aloud is second nature to USM student Kacey Foerster '22. But these days, the people she's sharing books with aren't just school kids. They're residents of a local memory care facility, living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Foerster's regular reading sessions at a local memory care facility started with a familial connection. When her grandfather had to forgo independent living due to Alzheimer's, Foerster wanted to honor his love of books by reading short stories and picture books to him during visits.

"When I would read, he would become very interested in the book and we were able to share some moments," she says. "With other activities, such as eating and watching TV, it almost seemed like he was daydreaming. But when we would participate in reading or art or music together, he was always more engaged."

When her grandfather passed away, Foerster didn't want the interpersonal connection to end. To read more about Foerster's story, visit <https://usm.maine.edu/publicaffairs/foerster-22-researches-effects-reading-people-alzheimers-disease> and <https://usm.maine.edu/undergraduate-teacher-education/usm-student-helps-seniors-alzheimers>

### FALL 2020 Dean's List

Tim Aliviado  
Nicole Araujo  
Anneke Barnard  
C Berthiaume

Cammie Breuer  
Ann Casavant  
Jordan Colbert  
Maddy Cropley  
Melissa Deatrich  
Kelsey Donohue  
Maddie Ellingsworth  
Alyssa English  
Abby Foss  
Sydney Franks

Casey Gahagan  
Julia Gay  
Kayla Goodwin  
Meghan Griffin  
Samantha Halmos  
Kevin Hill  
Josie Libby  
Sam Libby  
Ashley Lord  
Maverick Lynes

Maddie McNutt  
Charley Merryman  
Ryzen Mickeriz  
Grace Nason  
Jade Oakes  
Sam Pawlowski  
Katie Prior  
Gwen Randall  
Natalie Rogers  
Elizabeth Schepis

Megan Smith  
Alex Strout  
Madeline Sullivan  
Lucy Tabb  
Haley Tardif  
Jessica Toomey  
Leon Vadala  
Cree West  
Lily Wilson  
Courtney Yount

## Alumni Corner

**Paige Marcello '21** had two articles published in *Maine Women Magazine*. "From Committee to Program" in the March 2021 issue <https://www.mainewomenmagazine.com/from-committee-to-program/> and "Malaga Island" in the May 2021 issue. <https://www.mainewomenmagazine.com/malaga-island/>

**Julia Rhineland '14**, Anna Faherty, and Maureen Perry have started a monthly podcast dedicated to celebrating the history and culture of the Franco-Americans of Maine. Using the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College, they will work from written and audiovisual documents housed at the collection to explore Franco-American culture, history, and identity. <https://francopathwayspod.wordpress.com/>

**Lucy Tabb '21** In May, Lucy Tabb started a position as a Middle School Teaching Fellow at the Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester, MA. She will be continuing in that position for the 2021-2022 school year.

Contact Information: Professor Shelton Waldrep, Department Chair, 780-4086, [waldrep@maine.edu](mailto:waldrep@maine.edu)  
[usm.maine.edu/eng](http://usm.maine.edu/eng)

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If you have tips or updates about your career or personal milestones, please send them to Pam LaRiviere at [harjula@maine.edu](mailto:harjula@maine.edu).