In This Issue:

- Annual Scholarship Celebration
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- Alumni Notes
As those of you who remain in Maine know, spring came late this year, and in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, we publish our newsletter based upon the cycle of the seasons! I hope you take a few moments to peruse the entire newsletter, but I wanted to point out a number of items.

The theme of this newsletter is the “liberal arts for their own sake.” In the college, we are not immune to the basic trend in our culture that the purpose of a college education is to “find a job.” “Workforce development, as politicians like to refer to it, is certainly central to our mission, and in the next newsletter we hope to have some updates to that effect. But we also hold to the notion that education can be an end in and of itself. Our college’s scholarship and awards celebration took place in the direct aftermath of the burning of Notre Dame Cathedral. To close the ceremony, the college’s Associate Dean, Professor Julien Murphy, read a few words in tribute to the landmark, making connections to our own college’s mission. Professor Murphy is taking a well-earned sabbatical next year, and I thought this short essay embodied her commitment to academic excellence.

I would also like to point you a short piece by Cody Mower, a graduating senior in our English Department and soon to be graduate student in our own Stonecoast MFA Program in Creative Writing. Cody is one of a growing number of veteran students at USM. After seven years of service, he medically retired from the Marine Corps. This spring, he was encouraged to give a presentation at Thinking Matters, our student research symposium by Professor Vaishali Mamgain, Professor of Economics and Director of our Center for Compassion. At Thinking Matters, Cody shared his personal narrative, and what held it together was a story of physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth. Like many veterans of this generations, Cody has lived many lives and undergone a series of transformations; and like some, when he finally arrived at university, he was able to capitalize upon the opportunities here to find new wisdom. We are very proud of the college’s internship programs, but students like Cody remind us that we also have a higher purpose.

If you have a story to tell, please don’t hesitate to contact us. I hope you all enjoy our Alumni Notes sections as much as we do. We want to add a new feature to this section.

We hope that you continue to send us updates on your professional achievements, but please also don’t hesitate to send us short reminiscences of your time here. **What was your most profound experience at USM? Who was your favorite professor? What was your favorite class?** If you have any questions about the college or the university, please send it along and we will answer it in the next issue.

And most importantly, if you are still in Maine, enjoy our glorious summer, and when you venture outside, bring a book with you!

If you would like to help students like those contained in our Newsletter, please consider a donation to the CAHS Scholarship Fund. Checks can be made payable to the University of Southern Maine, CAHS Scholarship Fund, Advancement, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300. Gifts may also be made by contacting us at cahsdean@maine.edu or visiting our giving page at: https://usm.maine.edu/give-to-usm. Thanks for your support!
On March 12th, Colleen Kinsella, from Bowdoin College and Carrie Scanga, from MECA, presented a lecture on their work at the Glickman Library on the Portland Campus.

**Colleen Kinsella** is an intersectional futurist printmaker and performing artist. Using printmaking as a vehicle for communicating, repetition and democratic distribution, Kinsella merges drawing, photography, and text to make one of a kind prints, editions, books and installations. She works within a chaos of intuitive ideas & motifs inspired and troubled by the world, exploring themes of science fiction, futurism, beauty, justice and nature. Kinsella prints, books and photographs have been exhibited throughout the world in solo and group exhibitions.

**Carrie Scanga** has a printmaking-based practice that includes installation, book arts, and works on paper. She first experimented with the material of tracing paper while a graduate student in printmaking at the University of Washington in 2000, delighted by its potential to express a sense of time and embodiment. Since then, her projects have explored these themes and materials and have been exhibited throughout the world in solo and group exhibitions and received critical recognition in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, the Printeresting blog, and *New American Paintings*. Some recent exhibition sites include the Portland Museum of Art, the Lawndale Art Center in Houston, the Islip Art Museum in New York, Paper Gallery Shanghai in Guangzhou, China, and the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art in South Korea.
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS EVENT

On April 18th at Corthell Hall on the Gorham campus, Deans Tuchinsky and Murphy and CAHS faculty presented $46,000 in awards and scholarships to 54 CAHS students in our annual CAHS Recognition Award Ceremony. English Professor Jessica Ouellette was the faculty speaker. A reception followed the ceremony at the President’s house.

Audway Stuart & Phyllis Lord Treworgy Scholarship
Kevin Paradis-Theatre

Beta of Maine Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society
Ysanne Bethel-Sociology
Kate Brezak-Sociology
Benjamin Cornwall-Sociology
Bianca Sturchio-Sociology/Social Work

Betty Atterbury Scholarship
Aya Wakita-Music Education Pathway K-12

George Burke Memorial Scholarship
Bailey Malcolm-Art

Bronwyn Millard Memorial Scholarship
Kevin Paradis-Theatre

Frank F. Brown Music Scholarship
Hannah Miller-Music Education Pathway K-12

C. Elizabeth Sawyer Scholarship
Reilly Johnson-English

Rick W. Carboneau Scholarship
Stephen Fasulo-English

Gerard G. Chamberland Memorial Scholarship
Eric Yim-Music Education Pathway K-12

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Science Dean’s Annual Scholarships
Jordan Jasper-Political Science
Paige Marcello-English/Women & Gender Studies
Jacob Simard-English

Classical Voice Scholarships
Sarah Campbell-Music Performance
Angela Garcelon-Music Education Pathway K-12
Rachel Warren-Music Education Pathway K-12

Bob Crewe Foundation Scholarships
Stellan Campbell-Music Performance
Hunter Lefebvre-Music Education
Brianna Hull-Music Education
Christopher Pettersen-Music Performance
Jacob Cooper-Music Performance
Eric Yim-Music Education Pathway K-12

Department of Theatre Scholarship
Mikayla Holmes-Theatre

Dorothy “Dee Dee” Schwartz Memorial Scholarships
Mikayla Holmes-Theatre
Kristen Cates-History/Women & Gender Studies

Eileen Eagan Book Award
Jordan Jewett-History

Esther Wood Scholarship Fund
Haylee Dahlborg-History Teacher Education Pathway K-12
Ian Fyfe-History Teacher Education Pathway K-12

David Fullam Social Justice Award
Maisarah Miskoon-Sociology/Women & Gender Studies

Gateway Mastering Studios Scholarship
Nicole Ponte-Music Performance
Jett Tachibana-Music Performance
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS EVENT
(continued)

Outstanding Communication Scholar Award
Grace Jandro

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Communication
Beatrice Talmage

Outstanding Graduating Senior in Media Studies
Griffin Germond

Richard S. Petereit Scholarship
Blake Wright-Theatre

Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award
Lynnea Harding-Music

Sharmon Toner Scholarship
Samantha Costello-Art Education Pathway K-12

Sociological Imagination Award
Ysanne Bethel-Sociology

The Maine Association of Broadcasters Award
Cherline Ouch-Media Studies

USM Classics Scholarships
Jacob Forbes-Art
Mychaela Harton-History/Political Science

Virginia Weaver Scholarship
Sarah Rouleau-English Teacher Pathway K-8

Grannia Theatre Scholarship
Campbell Gibson-Theatre

H. Lorraine Williams ’69 Scholarship
Natasha Shacklett-Art Education Pathway K-12

Jordan Maroon Memorial Scholarship
Julian Baker

Kathryn Lasky Award for Public Service
Julie Pike-Communication

Mackensen Fellowship in Philosophy
Evelyn Waugh-Philosophy

Minor R. Rootes Memorial Scholarship
Cassandra Thompson-Theatre

Music Honors Recitalists (Performance)
Devin Adams-Mathematics
Samuel Allen-Musical Theatre
Josie DiFilipippo
Aaron Emerson
Annah Gauthier
Bailey Giles-Jazz Studies
Tyler Knight-Education Pathway K-12
Christie Paul
Nicole Ponte
Will Silvers

Music Theatre Scholarships
Megan Mayfield
Victoria Stackpole
Benjamin Walker-Dubay

Communication and Media Studies Faculty
and Student Awardees

Communication and Media Studies Faculty
and Student Awardees

Theatre Faculty, Dean Adam Tuchinsky, and Student Awardees
Graduation 2019

Communication and Media Studies Professors Russell Kivatisky, Daniel Panici, Maureen Ebben, David Pierson, and Christian Vukasovich and CMS Student Graduates

Yanina Nickless, Student Speaker for 2019 Commencement
Major: Political Science, Minor in Economics
Honors: Magna Cum Laude
From: Old Orchard Beach, ME

What are your future plans? Yanina credits USM with expanding her understanding of the world and its endless variety in culture and politics. She plans to pursue a career in international relations.

Saigelyn Green
2019 Featured Graduate
Major: Music Education
Honors: Magna Cum Laude
From: Derby, VT

What are your future plans? I am currently looking for jobs in New England to be a music educator. I would love to teach composition in schools and share the love that I have for composing with others. I plan on going to graduate school in 3-4 years for composition, and then eventually get my doctorate and teach composition at a university level.

Ezra Merriman Briggs
2019 Featured Graduate
Major: Political Science
Honors: Magna Cum Laude
From: Lubec, ME

What are your future plans? I want to be an elementary school teacher and fight against inequality. I am currently researching ways to get a certification to teach English. I would also like to travel the world, spreading a curriculum of love and peace to my English students around the world.

Lexi Bartlett
2019 Featured Graduate
Major: Political Science
Honors: Cum Laude
From: Houlton, ME

What are your future plans? I will be leaving for Morocco in September with the Peace Corps! My title will be Youth Development Specialist, so I'll be working with children and young adults. I'll be there for two years, after which I plan on attending grad school. My dream job is to be a Foreign Service Officer.

Yanina Nickless, Student Speaker for 2019 Commencement
Major: Political Science, Minor in Economics
Honors: Magna Cum Laude
From: Old Orchard Beach, ME

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CAHS Celebrates with Maine’s First Female Governor, Janet Mills

On December 30th, Rosalyne Spindel Bernstein, scion of a prominent Jewish family, and a leader in Portland’s and Maine’s art and education communities, died at the age of 90. A few days later, Janet Mills, a member of one of Maine’s notable political families, was sworn in as the first female governor in the state’s history. Read the Maine Voices article by Professor of History Abraham Peck and how these two events intersect with a 50 year historic moment in the state’s history.

Maine’s new governor Janet Mills, the first woman governor in the state's almost 200-year history, celebrated her inauguration at the Augusta Civic Center on January 4 with featured performances including students, faculty and alumni from the University of Southern Maine School of Music.

Among the performers were members of the USM Chamber Singers, led by Director of Choral Studies Nicolás Dosman. The group sang several numbers a cappella, including America the Beautiful.

The Bob Charest Band featuring alumna Cindy Charest ’77, played a selection of pop favorites that got the crowd dancing. Also playing trumpet with the Band’s horn section was Max Richardson, a current School of Music senior. SOM faculty member Annie Antonacos performed with the Portland Piano Trio and their students from the “240 Strings” project.

"The University’s School of Music was thrilled to have the opportunity to perform at this event celebrating our state’s new governor, and I was proud to see our students, faculty and alumni represent the School so well," said Alan Kaschub, SOM Director, who attended the event.
From the Food Studies Program

Celebrating Earth Day with the Food Studies Program

Professor Jamie Picardy's FSP 210 Food and the Environment class hosted Pollinator Home Garden Planting, an Earth Day-inspired event on Tuesday, April 23, on the Portland campus. This event was funded by a generous grant from the CAHS Title III funds.

Upper Left (L-R): Ina Guzja, Annie Denbow; and Tim Lynch.
Upper Right (L-R): Cara Boisvert, Maeve Blanchette, and Adrian Corbo.

Fighting Hunger in a World of Plenty: Shifting Power and Taking Action

The 2019 UFHW Summit, held March 14-16th, brought over 500 students, faculty, and activists together for two days of action-oriented workshops and inspiring presentations from leaders and activists at the front lines of fighting hunger. This is the first time this Summit has been held in the northeastern U.S.
From the Sociology Department

Each week since October 2018, student volunteers with Campus Kitchen at USM recover and cook surplus food from Dining Services (thus reducing food waste) and deliver nutritious meals to the Boys and Girls Club in Portland, freeing up B&G Club staff to focus on programming for their members. Since October, CK-USM has recovered more than 1000 pounds of food and delivered over 3500 meals. In March Professor Cheryl Laz (Sociology and Food Studies) and social work student Delia Demers organized and led three panels related to Campus Kitchen at the Universities Fighting World Hunger conference. Building on new ideas from the conference, CK-USM will be expanding its activities in the fall semester and invite faculty, staff, and students to contact us [ckusm@campuskitchens.org] about opportunities to participate. Follow Campus Kitchen on Instagram: ck_usm.

From the Philosophy Department

Screening and Discussion: What is Democracy?

On Tuesday, March 12th, the Philosophy Department hosted a screening of What is Democracy. Director Astra Taylor’s idiosyncratic, philosophical journey spans millennia and continents: from ancient Athen’s groundbreaking experiment in self-government to capitalism’s roots in medieval Italy; from modern-day Greece grappling with financial collapse and a mounting refugee crisis to the United States reckoning with its racist past and the growing gap between rich and poor. Featuring a diverse cast—including celebrated theorists, trauma surgeons, activists, factory workers, asylum seekers, and former prime ministers—this urgent film connects the past and the present, the emotional and the intellectual, the personal and the political, in order to provoke and inspire. If we want to live in democracy, we must first ask what the word even means. A discussion followed the screening with Professors Kim Simmons (Women & Gender Studies) and Jason Read (Philosophy).
Olivia Mayo grew up watching the Miss America pageant. Now, in September, she’ll be competing for the title. Mayo, a fourth-year Communication and Media Studies student was crowned Miss Maine in June and will head for Atlantic City, New Jersey to take part in the Miss America 2019 competition on Sept. 9. “It’s my dream come true,” said Mayo, 21, of Minot. “I’m happy to represent Maine. I’m happy to do my very best.”

From the English Department

The Aesthetic Afterlives of Slavery: Racial Surveillance and American Visual Culture

Professor Sue Shon, Intercultural and Diversity Advisory Council Postdoctoral Fellow, presented at the Faculty Lecture Series on April 11 at Wishcamper on the Portland campus. Thousands of runaway slave advertisements circulated every day in colonial and antebellum America. While these “portraits” were created to reclaim human property, they also contained rare information about self-emancipated people. This archive of early American black portraiture raises questions about the visual surveillance of black people and visual experience in general. This talk explored these questions as a fundamentally aesthetic problem regarding modern human sensation—that is, as violence that lives on today to justify racial profiling and the policing of people who appear black, Latino, or Muslim.

From the Communication and Media Studies Department

On Wednesday, May 8th, a special, free screening of the work of USM media production students, the 2019 Academic Film Showcase, was held at the Talbot Lecture Hall on the Portland Campus. The showcase featured students’ film work from the Narrative Filmmaking class, Documentary Production class, and many more.

English Professor John Muthyala’s “Maine Voices” column from the Portland Press Herald speaks to the four pillars of USM’s academic vision and demonstrates a productive way of thinking about and enacting those pillars. To read the full article visit: https://www.pressherald.com/2019/01/19/main-voices-the-arts-and-humanities-are-pivotal-for-maines-economic-future/.
Before trying for Broadway, Sam Carner tested the tweaks to his show *Unlock’d* on stage at Russell Hall in Gorham, a process that is intended to land the show on Broadway. On March 1st, Theatre opened with this delightful “modern-ish musical romance” about the roles we are born into and the people we secretly wish to become. *Unlock’d*, a whimsical coming-of-age story, fused baroque and classical with contemporary pop musical theatre. Recipient of the 2014 Richard Rogers Award, this original musical from the American musical theatre songwriting duo, Carner & Gregor, premiered Off-Broadway in 2013. *Unlock’d* was a musical collaboration between the Departments of Theatre and the School of Music.

April 19th brought *The Foreigner* to Russell Hall. *Foreigner* is the story of a depressed, painfully shy, socially petrified and introverted young man named Charlie who arrives at a fishing lodge in rural Georgia seeking solitude, a quiet rest and peaceful weekend, but chaos ensues. Inspired and hilarious, this wildly comic depiction of our own absurdities proved a cathartic reminder of the better aspects of our humanity.

The Department of Theatre’s Showcase was held on Thursday, May 2nd. The Showcase highlights theatre students who have worked on developing particular skills or creative ideas with the help of faculty and fellow students in this end-of-year event.
From the School of Music

Master Class with the Atlantic Brass Quintet

On February 9th, the School of Music presented visiting artists, the Atlantic Brass Quintet, in a master class. The class featured USM student soloists and ensembles performing for critical review and advice by members of the Quintet, sitting in with the student musicians for side-by-side demonstrations.

Widely acclaimed as one of the world's finest and most versatile brass chamber ensembles, the Atlantic Brass Quintet has performed in 48 of the United States and dozens of countries across four continents.

Atlantic specializes in masterful and vibrant presentations of repertoire spanning five centuries and a broad spectrum of styles, from Bach and Brahms to Mehldau and Monk to Brazil and the Balkans. Winner of six international chamber music competitions, the Quintet's distinctive sound, impeccable ensemble, stunning virtuosity, and warm, inviting stage presence have won praise from scores of critics. The master class was sponsored by the Warren Memorial Foundation.

Valentine's Day with Lantz and Kargul

Valentine's Day brought violinist Ronald Lantz and Professor of Piano, Laura Kargul in concert at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland. The performance traced the thread of romantic sentiment in music through the ages, from the Baroque to the twentieth century. Their passionate playing, combined with lively and insightful commentary, makes their annual Valentine’s Day concert a destination event for all music lovers. Program to include works by Albinoni, Vitali, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Piazzolla.

Music Education Workshop with Ellen Rowe, Jazz Educator

Ellen Rowe, jazz pianist, composer, and professor of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation at the University of Michigan shared her expertise with faculty and students on March 1-2. She is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with Rayburn Wright and Bill Dobbins. Prior to her appointment in Michigan, she served as director of Jazz Studies at the University of Connecticut.

FACULTY CONCERT SERIES

Anastasia Antonacos, piano

On March 2nd the School of Music’s Faculty Concert Series, featuring Professor Anastasia Antonacos on piano, joined with resident musicians from Portland’s 240 Strings, New Haven's Music Haven and 2000 alumna flutist Nicole Rabata for an intimate evening of chamber music. From the soaring sounds of Bach’s 5th Brandenburg Concerto to the contemporary Portraits of award-winning composer Elisenda Fabregas, the program also included Dvorák’s masterpiece Piano Quintet.
From the School of Music

Concert Band: Applause for Paws

On March 31st, Conductor Jackie Townsend and the USM Concert Band performed works inspired by our animal companions. From Gershwin’s classic *Walking the Dog* (featuring faculty soloist Tom Parchman on clarinet), to Julie Giroux’s newly released *Our Castaways* (dedicated to rescued pets), this performance will showcase how nature has inspired composers to create wonderful works of art. Donations to local animal shelters will also be accepted at this event! The University Concert Band is a wind and percussion ensemble which is open to all University students through audition. The ensemble focuses on the fundamentals of ensemble performance dealing with a variety of literature.

Chamber Singers

The widely acclaimed USM Chamber Singers under the direction of Director Nicolás Alberto Dosman performed their annual spring concert at Williston-Immanuel United Church in Portland on March 26th. An annual favorite with all proceeds supporting the Chamber Singers on their Spring 2019 tour to Vietnam.

Chamber Singers Head to Competition in Vietnam

The Chamber Singers, under the direction of Professor Nicolás Dosman, headed to Vietnam on Sunday, May 12th for a week to compete in the International Choral Competition in the city of Hoi An. To read the Portland Press Herald’s full story on the event, please visit: [https://www.pressherald.com/2019/05/13/usm-chorus-is-headed-to-vietnam/](https://www.pressherald.com/2019/05/13/usm-chorus-is-headed-to-vietnam/)

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From the Art Department

Student Juried Exhibition

March 14th through the 31st brought the annual Student Juried Exhibition to the USM Art Gallery, with approximately 40 dynamic student works juried by three local arts professionals: Duncan Hewitt, sculptor and former USM professor, Adam Lampton, photographer and professor at Stonehill College, and Catherine LaBarre, a teaching artist in Portland who works in painting and other mediums. The exhibition is designed to provide students with an introduction to a professional type of exhibition as emerging artists. As part of the process, they obtain feedback from art professionals in the community, learn to prepare art for a professional setting, and have their work exposed to a wide range of viewers perhaps for the first time.

Key to Artwork on page 15:

Smith Galtney’s photographic artwork *Smith Galtney: My Primary Ghost*, ran from January 22nd through March 29th with an opening reception and artist talk on Thursday, February 21st.

Visiting Artist, Smith Galtney is a photographer with central themes of family, aging, and love, with Maine and New York City as the primary backdrops. The pictures for this show were taken between 2014 and 2018, “a period when the chaos of my early adulthood somehow evolved into a calm, content midlife,” said Galtney. “I’d just finished photography school. My partner and I got married. My transition from New Yorker to Mainer felt complete. I also said goodbye to a dear old friend, who died suddenly - and rather unsurprisingly-in early 2016. This work is an attempt to show the continuance of the past by photographing its imprint on the present.”

Smith is a graduate of the General Studies program at the International Center of Photography. He also studied photography at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine. An entertainment journalist for more than 20 years, Smith has written for *The New York Times*, *GQ, Rolling Stone, Time Out New York, The Village Voice, Out*, and *O: The Oprah Magazine*, as well as NPR, VH1 and Fuse. Smith lives in Raymond with his husband, John.

On Thursday, January 31st, full and part-time art faculty presented their work in a dizzying array of media: Kimberly Bentley, Susan Colburn-Motta, Chris Cooper, Raphael DiLuzio, James Flahaven, Rebecca Goodale, Mary Hart, Kaitlyn Hunter, Lars Jerlach, Lin Lisberger, Mary Ledue-Bell, Jen McDermott, Ashley Norman, Damir Porobic, Jan Piribeck, David Schneider, Alex Sax, Michael Shaughnessy, Rachel Somerville, Nathan Stevens, and Andrea Sulzer. The exhibition included photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, installation, and digital art.

L: Stay by Rachel Somerville
R: Catching Chaos by Mary Hart
Below: Osteoporosis Sandwich by Lin Lisberger
From the Stonecoast MFA Program

Author-Activists to Explore The Task Before Us: Writing Truth to Power

The Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing Program invited Pulitzer Prize finalist Martín Espada and award-winning writer Cheryl Clarke to lead an interactive discussion interrogating the intersection of creative writing and participatory democracy at the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport on January 18th.

The symposium examined The First Amendment and what was viewed as a call-to-arms: the founders saw Free Speech as a crucial way to protect our democracy (especially one in crisis). Martín Espada and Cheryl Clarke discussed the structures that threaten and challenge our freedom of expression. The audience was encouraged to listen, to question, and to consider art-making as an essential act of citizenship. How, as writers and teachers, can we subvert systems of oppression? Conversation was moderated by Stonecoast faculty member Elizabeth Hand.

Martín Espada once served as a tenants’ rights lawyer in the Greater Boston Latino community, where, inspired by these experiences, he began to write poetry. Today Espada is widely celebrated for his personal, political, and prophetic poetry. He is the author of over twenty books, most recently the poetry collection *Vivas to Those Who Have Failed* (2016). His book *The Republic of Poetry* (2007) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. A translator, editor, and critic as well as a poet, Espada’s numerous prose publications include the banned-by-Arizona *Zapata’s Disciple* (reissued in 2016) and *The Lover of a Subversive is Also a Subversive* (2010). He teaches in the Stonecoast MFA Program and at UMASS/Amherst.


Poet Diane Seuss, Stonecoast Faculty Member, Nominated for National Book Critics Circle Award

Stonecoast MFA faculty member Diane Seuss has been nominated for a 2018 National Book Critics Circle Award. Seuss’s book, *Still Life with Two Dead Peacocks and a Girl* (Graywolf Press), was among six finalists in the poetry category announced on January 22. Her previous book, *Four-Legged Girl: Poems*, was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2016. Widely published in the nation’s top literary magazines, Seuss is also a Pushcart Prize winner.

At the 2019 MFA Winter Residency in Freeport, Maine, her first at Stonecoast, Seuss engaged student poets in a series of master classes and offered a seminar entitled “Writing the Rural: The Gothic Pastoral, and Elevating the Twang.” She also read from her latest work at a public reading event.

MFA student Jennifer Brooke, also a poet, noted that the master class with Seuss left her “shaken up, like the snow in a snow globe, but in a good way . . . trusting and valuing the essence and motivation of the hand shaking the globe.”
From the Stonecoast MFA Program

Stonecoast MFA: Supporting writers and gaining national acclaim

It's been a big year for the University of Southern Maine's (USM) Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing, and the renowned program continues to grow. In its 17-year history, the Stonecoast MFA has become one of the nation's most diverse, rigorous, and influential low-residency MFA programs, in which students come from across the country and around the world to join a community of established and emerging writers. Each semester begins with a 10-day residency on the Maine coast. During the semester, the award-winning faculty guide Stonecoast students in intensive one-on-one tutorials in creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and popular fiction, with possibilities for elective work in other areas including scriptwriting, translation, and cross-genre.

“When students are coming in, they begin to build their writing life where they live already,” Stonecoast MFA Director Justin Tussing recently told USM President Glenn Cummings on the university's monthly television show, “The USM Update. “Unlike a residential program where you sort of disconnect from your life to go do your study program, here you're living your life and writing at the same place.” Every student personalizes their education based on their interests and goals and some go on to win national acclaim. Here are a few examples:

In May, Stonecoast faculty Martín Espada won the $100,000 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, one of nation's most prestigious and financially rewarding literary prizes.

In March, Stonecoast alumna Christine Mangan '06 published her debut novel, “Tangerine” and signed a Hollywood deal — the book was reportedly optioned for $1 million by George Clooney's Smokehouse Pictures. Last February, Patricia Smith, an alumna and former faculty member in Stonecoast won the prestigious $100,000 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award.

And in January, Susan Conley, author and Stonecoast faculty, released her new novel, “Elsey Come Home,” dealing with “the importance of place and the challenges of modern motherhood.” These are but a few examples of Stonecoast MFA success.

Author and Stonecoast MFA alumna Catharine Murray joined Professor Tussing on “The USM Update” to discuss her memoir, “Now You See the Sky,” which was released in November. The book, as Murray describes, details her travel to Thailand in her twenties, her falling in love while she was there, and the loss of one of her sons. It’s a story she said she wanted to tell for a long time, but found the Stonecoast MFA program gave her the boost she needed to put it down on paper. “I had wanted to write the book for a long time and just had a hard time getting it done on my own. I came to a USM graduate school fair and met Justin and he said … ‘some people have a book in them.'”

“Now You See the Sky” can also be purchased on Amazon, and at Portland bookstores Print in the city's East End, and Longfellow Books in Monument Square.

From the Office of Public Affairs, February 7, 2019.
Student Athletes
CAHS Student-athletes recognized by the Little East Conference
for their Outstanding Academic Achievements

Students from the men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, women's tennis, field hockey and volleyball teams have earned the distinguished Outstanding Academic Achievement award. To earn the designation, a student-athlete must be at least in sophomore standing both academically and athletically; have a cumulative grade point average of 3.30 or higher through the previous semester; and have been at their current institution for at least one full academic year.

Men's Cross Country and NCAA Division III Track and Field National Championship All-American Honoree
Zach Hoyle
Sophomore
History
Sidney, Maine

Women's Cross Country
Angela Dubois
Sophomore
Communication
Minot, Maine

Women's Cross Country
Haley Bantz
Senior
English
E. Waterboro, Maine

Women's Volleyball
Kacey Foerster
Sophomore
English
Scarborough, ME

Men's Soccer
Dalton Cassidy
Junior
Economics
Fort Fairfield, Maine

Field Hockey
Maggie Redman
Junior
Criminology
Alfred, Maine

Women’s Soccer
Mychaela Harton
Junior
History
Georgia, VT

Women’s Soccer
Sarah Michaud
Junior
English
Candia, NH

Kacey Foerster
Zach Hoyle
Dalton Cassidy
Angela Dubois
Haley Bantz
Maggie Redman
Mychaela Harton
Sarah Michaud
A SAMPLING OF RECENT ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS


**Featured Alumni**

**Tony Shalhoub ’77**  
**Theatre**

Tony Shalhoub has again received critical acclaim for his television work, taking home two Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards on January 27th. Shalhoub won for Male Actor in a Comedy Series for "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," which earned him an Emmy Award nomination last year as well as an award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series for the same show, which airs on Amazon Video.

**Megan Marino ’05**  
**Music Performance**

Mezzo-soprano Megan Marino’s journey has taken her far and wide, from her initial studies in jazz and musical theater, then classical music at the University of Southern Maine’s School of Music (graduating in 2005), to a Master’s of Music at University of Colorado, to an apprenticeship at Santa Fe Opera, to national and international stages, including the Metropolitan Opera.

Her story, “Adventures in Marino-Land,” shared here courtesy of Classical Singer Magazine, was the featured cover story for their December 2018 issue. The article explores Marino’s artistic journey through the field of opera, including how she manages her daily practice schedule, and it even features her favorite recipe for making bagels! Marino will be appearing at the Metropolitan Opera the end of January as "Laura" in Tchaikovsky’s Iolanta and has upcoming roles with the Atlanta and Dallas Opera companies, among others.

**Pender Makin ’91, ’08**  
**English / School Leadership**

Pender Makin was picked by Governor Janet Mills to lead the Maine Department of Education. Makin, 54, earned both her bachelor’s degree in English Literature and her master’s in School Leadership from USM. Makin was named the 2013-14 Maine Principal of the Year by the Maine Principal’s Association and also received the Milken Educator Award, a national distinction bestowed upon exceptional educators.

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Thanks for your support!
My name is Cody Mower. I am senior studying English here at USM and a medically retired Veteran after 7 years in the United States Marine Corps.

Believe it or not, most human beings are hardwired for care, love, empathy, and great acts of compassion. A part of the double-edged sword of social media is a loss of this truth. We see far too much of the angry, the ugly, and the doubt that breeds skepticism, fear, and fosters misunderstanding. It makes us believe that the world is a terrible place and goodness is somehow a rarity, that everyone is out for themselves, and that it is us alone against the world.

I used to be one of those people, who carried that fear with them. I trusted no one. I feared that everyone around me was there to do me harm; and, indeed, I feared it with fists clenched, ready to make war on anything or anybody that felt like a threat. Fear swallowed me whole. When I left the military in July 2016, I was approaching two years on a cane, medically discharged, my wife had left me for her own mental health, took our son with her, and made her way to Pennsylvania. With nowhere to go, I went to live with my grandma in rural Maine. There is a story there. That story involved alcohol, guilt, shame, and a seemingly endless pit of depression. The long and short of it was that my grandmother sat me down one night and made me see the error in wasting the short lives we are given. It was my first lesson in self-compassion and that it’s OK to forgive yourself. In fact, it is necessary, if you want the opportunity to become someone better.

Even though I had hit this milestone of self-forgiveness, something was still missing. I moved in with my brother and started school at USM, started practicing basic yoga in my spare time, which helped me off my cane; but even with so much going right, the feeling of isolation never left. I was still angry and scared if I’m honest. Luckily for me, another step towards self-improvement would open the gateways to a life-changing experience – I joined a gym.

Optimal Self was the first community experience I have had since leaving the Marine Corps. Instead of being one built off discipline and combat effectiveness, this community was centered around harmony between the inner and outer self. Optimal Self was built by Eric Hilton, a fellow veteran who had constructed the whole gym from scratch as a testament to self-healing and love. It was a gentle place that taught hard lessons. Optimal Self was full of people who, at the end of the day, just wanted to see you reach that next level. When I arrived, I focused only on weight, but it took only one moment to change my perspective.

At first, I fought against the weights, no holds barred. My body angrily cranking and twisting against the iron. Only to exhaust myself early, become demoralized and slip back into self-doubt. This would have been the end of my attempts at self-improvement under normal circumstances. I would have slipped right back to a bar and the whiskey, but this time, the environment was different. I had a group of people behind me, pulling me back up every time I would fall down.

Eric, with his sage advice, came to me after my inability to bench more than the bar had left me in angry tears. He said, “It's okay to get frustrated, but the gym is no place for ego because those weights will beat you every time. Learn to be humble, my friend, and with perseverance, you will be moving them, they won't be moving you.” It was a moment of awakening. When tackling my problems, I had always given 100 percent, beating against the door, alone and unafraid. Not once had I given myself permission to be humble and realize some things must be chipped away at, one step at a time, and it’s okay to have support from others.

Without guidance and support from this fantastic group of people, I never would have understood this one nugget of enlightenment. It was the constancy of a smiling face, a pat on the back, and the chance to return the favor. And it’s important to remember, community is a group that gives and takes reciprocal effort. We are not alone. There seems to be a mounting pressure to tackle the world as an individual, but in a sense, that is a myth. Human beings are social creatures. It is in the elevation of others, we find ourselves lifted up, that in helping others on their journey, we find answers for ourselves.

(Continued top of page 23)
The community for me was Optimal Self. It was love and iron, but it was also a garden. A garden can be planted anywhere that the soil is fertile. Here at the University in clubs and societies, in groups of friends playing D&D on the weekend, or even in a classroom where the environment is just right, you too, can find your garden. When you leave this classroom, I hope you will take a moment to experience gratitude and take a minute to reflect on the people in your life who make up your community.

Whether it was my grandmother, my brother, or Eric Hilton, there was always someone to help me reach that next step. We are never truly alone, even if we believe being alone makes the issues we are dealing with easier. To quote Charlie Chapman, “We want to live by each other's happiness, not each other’s misery.” Before I go, I’d like to share Optimal Self’s 5 Rules, which work just as well in achieving your own goals, as it does for weight training.

The Five Rules:

1. Respect Others. It goes a long way, treating everyone with the same baseline of respect.
2. Clean Up After Yourself. There is something to be said about cleaning up your own mess. It is one of the few times where we have power and control over our own environment to make it a healthier and happier place.
3. Watch Your Language. This is something we all struggle with, but omitting negative language can help make a more positive day.
5. Be Able to Ask for Help for Yourself. We are not alone in the world, we are social beings that need connection, especially when we are at our worst. Ask for help when you need it, don’t waste hours suffering in silence.

Alumni
Silvia (Sam) Moore-Young ’76.
Music Education.

Sam reports her recent retirement after 32 years of teaching music to Pre K-12 students 21 of those years with Union 44/RSU4, which includes Sabattus, Litchfield, and Wales. She also served as State President of the Maine Music Educators Association (MMEA), including serving on the board of the Eastern Division of National Association for Music Education NAfME. In May 2018, Sam was inducted into the MMEA Hall of Fame.

Danielle Letourneau ’13, ’15
English / Stonecoast MFA

Danielle is currently working at USM at LAC. She presented a paper at the annual conference of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts in March 2019. The paper, entitled "Pejorative and Polarizing Perceptions: The Fight for the Abolition of Genre Prejudice" was written during her third semester at Stonecoast MFA.

Clara Moore ‘17
Liberal Studies

Clara has worked as a chef, food writer and food educator before deciding to change careers and study anti-poverty policy. She is pursuing a master’s degree at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Check out her CNN opinion piece: https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/18/opinions/chef-author-mom-snap-recipient-clara-moore/
RECOGNITION DAY
April 18, 2019

To Our Students,

The week began with the rise of flames and the collapse of the spire atop the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. You may have been surprised to learn how very old the Cathedral is (12th century) or its importance to France and the world. Like other iconic pieces of civilization, this tribute to French Gothic architecture was begun in 1160. It took a hundred years to build. (We have no 100-year building project here in America.) Built on the site of a temple to Jupiter, the god of thunder, it stretches upward, 114 feet toward the sky, every bit imbued with meaning, from its paintings, including one of Thomas Aquinas, to its rose windows, the largest in the world, its massive 8,000 pipe organ, to the Grand Bell, tuned to F sharp that rung not only for the end of World War I and World War II, but after 9/11, to the burning spire, stuffed with the bones, teeth and hair of the two patron saints of Paris. And now, already, efforts to rebuild the destroyed parts of Notre Dame are being planned. The significance of the Cathedral, the imperative to rebuild it, (“In five years!” says, President Macron) is part of maintaining human culture. That a single building can mean so much to so many (13 million visitors per year!), that amidst the thickening gray smoke surrounding the cathedral on Monday, crowds of people filled the street singing Ave Maria, is to say that its restoration is not just about repairing a building, but repairing a culture, at a time when France has been grappling with cultural diversity, strikes, (the “yellow vest” protesters in Paris), and acts of terrorism (let’s not forget the 2015 attacks at the Charlie Hebdo offices or the massacre, 130 deaths, at Stade de France in Saint-Denis and the Bataclan theatre).

USM, and universities throughout the world, contribute to the making of culture, we understand it, we write its history, we philosophize about its roots and directions. We take up this task that spans generations, pushing the curriculum forward decade by decade, bringing knowledge and art to the world. As you excel here at USM and pursue your degree in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, you become the next builders and restorers of human culture, preserving the past and inventing the future. Your awards today recognize you as leaders in this effort! For Notre Dame to move so many for so long, hundreds of years!, it takes not just the masons, and the welders, the engineers, and the architects, not just the four-hundred brave firefighters dousing the fire with water pumped from the River Seine, calibrating the pressure to not shatter the 13th century stained glass windows; it takes the painters, the poets, the playwrights, and the philosophers among many others. It takes an approach to your education that sees your class work as more than certification for a job, but rather, as part of the imperative to enrich civilization. Let us not forget the words of the Roman Stoic, Seneca, words familiar to my students in LSH 440: “While we live, while we are among human beings, let us cultivate our humanity.” That is what I hope you continue to do! Thank you for your hard work and congratulations on your achievements that we honor here this afternoon!

Julien Murphy
CAHS Associate Dean—2015-2019