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Commencement
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Letter from The Editor

A time for celebration

Cullen McIntyre
Editor-in-Chief

The time for celebration and reflection for senior students is approaching, and though the commencement at USM will be held virtually, there is still much for seniors to celebrate. We are living in a time where last year there were many uncertainties in life. Many of us left unsure on whether we will be able to attend school at all for the 2020-21 academic year.

When the time came, there were some in-person opportunities but most of the year has been on a computer screen via Zoom and Brightspace. A stark contrast to the years past of in-person classes and over capacity dorms. For seniors, the year may have not lived up to their hopes for the final year of their undergraduate degree.

This year was full of adversity and challenges, from quarantines to a whole new learning experience. But even in the midst of a global pandemic there is much to celebrate as we near the commencement of the class of 2021. One of the biggest challenges

that was overcome was simply making it through an entire year of online schooling that many dub “Zoom University.”

As a junior myself, it is enjoyable to watch my friends that are about to graduate show an incredible amount of optimism for the future. Seeing those around you that have had the typical in-person graduation that is a staple of the college experience taken away from them still look forward to the future, the opportunities they are able to have gives me hope for the future.

The end of the 2020-21 academic year also marks a unique period in the world. As vaccinations roll out across the country the idea of normalcy follows suit. The potential for a commencement ceremony for future graduates is a strong possibility, as well as the chance for the current graduating class to have in-person celebrations in the future.

Normalcy also offers the opportunity for a normal year of classes, one that graduating seniors may take advantage of by attending graduate programs. From having a full in-person

schedule to living on campus again, the idea of a regular year of school is something that every student would love to celebrate.

For now, the Senior Week held by the university is a commendable effort to give the seniors the celebration and time they deserve. For all of the hard work they have put in the last four years, including the hardest year of them all being this year. To all of the seniors in this graduating class, The Free Press wishes you the best of luck in the future.

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Commencement Ceremony Goes Virtual for Second Consecutive Year

Author Ibram X. Kendi and student Grace Muheto amongst others to speak.

Haley Hersey
Staff Writer

Saturday May 8, 2021 at 9 a.m. is the 141st Commencement ceremony for the University of Southern Maine. Finals week quickly approaching signifies the end of the semester and the end of a uniquely trying school year. Graduates have managed to complete another academic year through a pandemic.

Dean of Students, Rodney Mondor, explained that commencement this year would be similar to last year, however, the program schedule will be the same as years past: Welcome, Anthems, Honorary Degree Recipients, Student Commencement Speaker, Commencement Speaker, Distinguished Professor, Scrolling of Names and Closing.

"We have potentially over 1300 graduates and the virtual Commencement is the best way to ensure all our graduates are recognized equally," commented Dean Mondor in respect to mandated guidelines.

Furthermore, USM plans on recognizing both the class of 2020 and 2021 during Homecoming 2021. More information on that event is to come.

In regards to crossing the stage and having professional photos taken, Dean Mondor shared seniors can sign up for a slot on May 4 or 5 to do so. "This event will be streaming live so family members will be able to watch from home."

Ibram X. Kendi, best-selling author, and national anti-racism thought leader, will deliver the keynote address. Graduating human biology major, Grace Muheto, will deliver the student commencement address. The University's newest Distinguished Professor award is being presented to Professor of English and Chair of USM's Department of English, Dr. Shelton Waldrep. Multiple noteworthy individuals will be recognized with an honorary doctor of humane letters.

After reflecting on her four years at USM, Muheto realized she "was not really involved in many activities or took on any leadership role or else at USM. When the pandemic hit, I came to regret my decision. It hit me that I was going to graduate without leaving my mark at USM."

Prompted by her longing to make an impact, she responded to the email offering students to apply to be the student speaker at graduation.

Muheto was expecting a rejection when she got the call due to the tone of the woman on the line's voice but was wrong. "I literally jumped out and started screaming thank yous. It was so unbelievable. I couldn't believe that I went for something and got it. It was one of the most joyous days of my life."

"I hope that people hear and take to heart what I have to say," Muheto continued, "I hope to inspire others to get out of their comfort zone and make sure their voices are heard. Life is too short to let fear get in the way of what one can accomplish."

As for the future, Muheto is considering medicine, psychology, humanitarian work, or a combination of all three for a career. She is taking a year off to "reflect, pray as well as expand my connections in all those fields listed. I believe that God will tell me exactly what I am supposed to do with my life."

Graduating senior, Caroyln Graves, who double majored in communication and media studies, thought the format of a virtual commencement was smart. Graves thoughtfully shared, "We do not have enough people vaccinated at this point to be able to have an in-person commencement safely. While I am a little disappointed that we can't have an in-person ceremony, I wouldn't have participated in one at this time anyway. My parents are a little older and I wouldn't want to risk having them come to commencement and get sick."

Raúl D. Gierbolini, another graduating senior who is pursuing his Masters in Public Health (MPH), is saddened by the lack of an in-person celebration. He elaborated, "It would have been good to have my family at my graduation but at least we will [be] able to celebrate when I'm home in Puerto Rico."

Gierbolini also wished more could have been done because "we are at a different time than last year when COVID-19 started. I think we deserve more especially having



Photo by Stephen Voss

Commencement Speaker and author Ibram X. Kendi

been succeeding at school even through COVID-19 times. To be completely honest if they are not going to spend as much money for graduation as they normally would I would love a sort of monetary return at least."

The public is able to watch the virtual commencement ceremony by visiting usm.maine.edu/commencement on May 8. The link to watch will be available starting at 8:50 a.m. on the website, the event starts at 9 a.m. **FP**

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Nearly a Quarter-Million Dollars in Merit Scholarships Extended at Maine State Science Fair.

University to offer ten scholarships to Maine high school students

Amelia Bodge
News Editor

The 75th annual Maine State Science Fair was held recently on Saturday, April 3rd. At the event the University announced they would be extending \$230,000 in merit-based scholarships.

These scholarships will be offered to 10 Maine high school juniors to aid in their pursuit of science-based answers to some of the very real problems being faced in their local communities.

The Maine State Science Fair (MSSF) is designed to give Maine high school students an opportunity to pursue their interest in engineering and science while presenting the results of their projects to STEM professionals and fellow students.

MSSF is a collaboration between the Reach Project at the Maine Mathematics & Science alliance and the Jackson Laboratory. The fair is open to all students Grades 9-12, including public, private, parochial, and home schools.

Students participating in MSSF are encouraged to select a project topic that analyzes and tries to solve problems in their own lives or communities. Students do background research and look at any existing research that has been already done on their topic. They will form a hypothesis as well as design and conduct their research in accordance with safety guidelines. When finished the participants present their find-

ings to the judges and their peers.

Students have a variety of different categories to work in including, Animal science, Behavioral and social science, Biomedical and health science, Computer science, Engineering mechanics, Plant sciences, and more.

At MSSF USM extended full-tuition scholarships to two students. The first was Quinn D'Alessio of Bangor High School for "A Multi-Point Correlation to Lake Analytics in Developing a Method of Monitoring Eutrophication". The second was Emerson Harris of Boothbay Region High School for "Custom Pointe Shoe Padding: Distributed Pressure and Proper Alignment to Reduce Long-Term Deformities."

Along with USM six other colleges are scholarship sponsors for the Fair. Including both the University of Maine and the University of Maine Augusta.

According to the U.S Department of Labor, nationally 6.2% of workers have either an occupations as technical workers, scientists, or engineers. In Maine that number falls a little bit with about 5% of Maine citizens having occupations in those fields.

Jeremy Qualls, Ph.D., Professor of Physics and Dean of the College of Science, Technology and Health at USM, and Jared Cash, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing at USM, mutually stated at the event



Graphic Courtesy of Maine State Science Fair

"We were very impressed by this year's scholarship candidates, some of whom demonstrated a level of scientific understanding closer to that of juniors in college than high school. What is more, the students all shared strong interest in refining their skills and furthering their research in college and contributing to real advancements in critical fields, from environmental science and biology to material and computer sciences. By partnering with the Maine State Science Fair, USM can provide life changing opportunities for Maine students to pursue their passions with USM's world-class faculty and facilities, on the cutting edge of science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics. Congratulations to all of our future Huskies!"

Also according to Jared Cash, enrollment at the University has been up. The University has received a record number of applications. First year applications are up 13% and out of state applicants are up 29%.

These extended merits scholarships could work towards increasing those numbers in the future as many students who receive them will be incentivized to enroll.

For more information about the Maine State Science Fair visit the Jackson Laboratory at www.jax.org and click on the tab titled Education & Learning. **FP**

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Alleged Incident Near Portland Campus

Recent Email Informs Students of Campus Safety Alert

Haley Hersey
Staff Writer

On April 13, Ronald Saindon, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police sent out an email regarding a “campus safety alert.” The email notified the community of an alleged attack on a woman of color close to the Portland campus that occurred “on or about April 1st.”

The email also stated that the female student wished to remain anonymous. The alleged incident occurred as she left the Portland campus and was walking toward Hannaford Supermarket. According to the account, a man grabbed her and used a racial slur.

As of now, the man’s description, exact location, and date are unknown. According to the email, “Portland Police have been notified and they report no similar incidents in that area.” Campus Police and Portland PD are providing special attention and surveillance to the area.

When asked for further comment on the situation, Chief Saindon stated, “Unfortunately we have no further details to provide at this time. The information we received was reported to us anonymously via a third party.” The reporting party did not know the exact location of the incident.

“USM values and strives for the safety of our community,” Chief Saindon said. “We encourage anyone who feels unsafe or sees suspicious activity to contact us; in addition, the Department of Public Safety offers a safety escort service to our community while on campus.”

In the initial email about the safety alert, a list of safety

tips were shared:

- Always try to walk with someone when possible. Especially at night
- If being followed, go directly to a populated place
- Report any suspicious persons or vehicles immediately to police.

USM President, Glenn Cummings, sent out an email on April 16 regarding a public safety survey. In the email, President Cummings explained, “In the fall of 2020, I convened a Public Safety Task Force to review and reimagine USM’s approach to public safety and security across its three campuses.

Last Friday, the Task Force launched a confidential survey for University students, faculty, and staff to share perceptions of USM’s current public safety model, capture values and opinions around public safety, and gather feedback on potential changes.” The survey, sent out to current students via email, is designed to take 10-15 minutes to complete and asks a variety of questions. Some questions pertain to how safe people feel on campus, personal experiences with public safety and campus police, and expectations for the role of public safety on USM’s campuses.

Those who witness questionable or uncomfortable behavior on campus are encouraged by public safety to be active bystanders by “say[ing] something, offer[ing] to help the individual, or call[ing] for help.”

Campus Police are open 24 hours a day and are accessible by phone for non-emergencies at (207) 780-5211. **FP**



Cullen McIntyre / Editor-in-Chief

University of Southern Maine Public Safety located in Sullivan Gym on the Portland Campus.

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Arts & Culture

Why not me?

Grace Muheto overcomes her fear to give commencement speech

Abigail Nelson

Arts and Culture Editor

“Why not?” is the phrase that echoed through Grace Muheto’s head after she received the email asking for students to submit a speech for the students address that will be given at commencement. Over the next few hours, the Muheto was unable to shake the thought. Throughout her college career, she never got involved in any sort of group or pursued any type of leadership role. “I’ll get involved my senior year,” she thought. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the world as we knew it was turned upside down. Muheto said she saw this email as an opportunity and didn’t hesitate to take it.

That very day Muheto wrote her speech. After sending it to a friend for review and editing, Muheto submitted it. Then she waited. When the call came, Muheto said she was already feeling discouraged. “When Alex called me she had a tone that was very low, so I was already expecting a ‘Well unfortunately we decided to go

with someone else,’ but instead I got, ‘We would love for you to be this year’s commencement speaker!’ I jumped up and was screaming thank you, I was so happy,” Muheto said.

Not long ago, Muheto would have shuddered at the thought of the limelight. She would panic before giving presentations in class and even quit her high school swimming team in fear of people watching her. “I was so scared of embarrassing myself. That is one thing I have come to regret,” she said. Moving forward, Muheto has decided to not let her fear get in the way of her accomplishing something great. Being accepted to give the speech was a great first experience in stepping out of her shell. Due to the commencement taking place virtually this year, Muheto needed to have her speech pre recorded. This gave her the space to present without being nervous in front of a small group of people who managed the production. “It was better than I expected. I just let it flow,” she said.

Muheto was overwhelmed with



Photo courtesy of USM

Commencement speaker Grace Muheto

accomplishment. She went after something and got it, despite her fear. “Seven years ago I didn’t speak English. There was no way I thought I would be giving the commencement speech at my college graduation,” she said. At the age of 14, Muheto moved to Maine with two of her older brothers and her mother from the Congo. Faced with the bitter cold winter of February in New England and surrounded by a new language, Muheto begged her mother to return home. Today, she is grateful that they stayed. Her determination and growth during those years has shaped her to who she is today.

Muheto hopes to spread this message of overcoming obstacles in her speech, especially to those whose first language is not English. “I hope they don’t let it stop them, I hope they don’t let it define who they have to be... or let it stop them from accomplishing whatever they want to accomplish,” Muheto said.

The next time she presents, Muheto

hopes to be in front of a live audience with the same confidence she had when recording. “I’m trying to be a motivational speaker. I picture myself on a stage talking to a lot of people,” she said. “I have a lot to say to them.” Similar to her student address, Muheto wants to encourage young adults and teens with a message of hope, faith, and to never give up, three aspects that have heavily influenced her life. “My message is about hope. With this current climate of our world, I really just maintain hope and I hope people are maintaining hope,” she said. “My message is also about my faith, how being in my faith has opened up a lot of opportunities and built up my confidence.”

Whether it is in her community, around the world, or wherever God will take her, Muheto says her goal is to impact people and to encourage them to not take life for granted. Come commencement day, Muheto will do just that. **FP**



Photo courtesy of USM

Grace Muheto as she gives her commencement speech.

A night at the opera

Spring production becomes a beacon of hope for performing arts

Lydia Simmons
Staff Writer

Living in the time of a pandemic has affected people's lives in so many different ways and forced people to adapt to a new way of living. Whether it be mask wearing, social distancing, or cancelling events everyone has had to change something. When it came to the opera program at USM they made do with the situation bestowed upon them. Making the necessary adjustments they pushed through the uncertainty to put together an opera performance of Mozart's "The Magic Flute" which is set to take place at the end of April. The process of preparing for the performance is the definition of the phrase 'it takes a village.' With people performing, designing costumes, managing the technical side of things, as well as creating the set and props, even someone working on translations, there is

no shortage of moving parts when it comes to the production.

Due to the magnitude of the auditorium where the performance is taking place, the production was seen live but by a limited number of people. Family members had first priority and then tickets were opened to members of the USM community.

Being cautious of rules set in place to ensure everyone's safety in the time of COVID-19, a transition had to be made to accommodate the current state of the world. When weighing in on how the transition from a pre to post covid performing space has been affected USM music major Olivia Christopher said, "It really makes you conscious about how much you rely on your facial expressions to interact with people. We have to use a lot more of our body language to interact with each other on stage."

Another aspect of the transition is



Photo courtesy of USM

Theatre crew creates special masks for spring performance, "The Magic Flute".

"Everybody has sort of an understanding where they're willing to lift people up and help them and work with them."

-Aaron Kircheis

how the rehearsal process plays out. For safety purposes not everyone is present at rehearsals at once and according to musical theater major Aaron Kircheis, "For rehearsals you're not necessarily seeing what comes before your scene or what comes after, or how the whole show gets put together. And you also don't get to bond with your cast mates like you used to." An unfortunate result of socially distancing is that the closeness once experienced by cast mates must be felt from a distance but in these tough times the cast and crew have worked to keep the environment positive. "Everybody has sort of an understanding where they're willing to go the extra mile to lift people up and help them and work with them," Kircheis said, "It more

or less has brought to the attention of the performers that they really just need to be there for each other right now."

Getting to have a live performance was something to look forward to, a beacon in these seemingly distanced and dimmer times. When asked about what they looked forward to the most in the upcoming performance Christopher and Kircheis both had performing to a live audience come to mind. Christopher's answer was, "Singing in front of people again, which is really nice. It's a totally different energy. It's really awkward to sing in front of the camera when there's no one there," Christopher continued, "It helps give you energy and something to interact with." Kircheis had a similar sentiment when answering the question, "I think it will be fun to have a live audience. Feeding off a live audience is so much easier than not having any audience there." Having the opportunity to find some normality in the process of performing and live events was special for this performance. This gives gravity to the hope that the distance between people will eventually come to a close and things will return to normal. **FP**

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MOVIE TALK

Alpha

An unlikely pair share the meaning of survival

Isiah Leach
Staff Writer

Alpha is a 2018 adventure film directed by Albert Hughes about the survival of a young hunter who befriends a hurt wolf. This unlikely friendship during prehistoric times shows you how life was during that time with all of the hardships and struggles. The pair end up helping each other survive during the last ice age.

Featuring Kodi Smit-McPhee as the star, Keda, you see how he evolves throughout the film. The beginning of the film showed that he was still innocent, not wanting to harm any animals or be a hunter like the rest of his tribe. But, after being hurt during a hunt and presumed dead, he tries to adapt in order to survive. This is when he is able to befriend an injured wolf. The duo go from being in fear of each other to becoming basically family at the end.

This was a good film, and

had many good parts to it. The cinematography was mesmerizing to see, with all of the shots of the landscape coming out great. Seeing a pack of wolves standing on top of a mountain, with the night sky illuminating behind them, is just one of many examples of how this film was shot beautifully. One interesting thing the filmmakers did, which a lot of films today don't do, was use natural lighting instead of artificial lighting. This was an experiment in a way that ended up paying off. It made the film almost realistic, as if we were watching it live, not through a screen. The use of the natural lighting made the experience better, and gave the audience a better visual of that prehistoric world.

While there wasn't much dialogue, Kodi still gave a great performance and it was filmed beautifully.

After falling off a cliff



Photo courtesy of MovieGuide.org

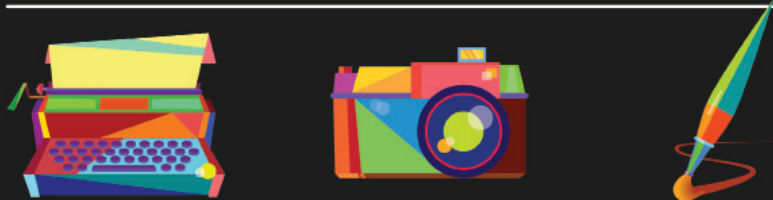
and being presumed dead by his tribe, Kodi gives us a character that must completely change his way of life to survive. In the beginning, he struggles to

kill a wild boar because he doesn't want to harm animals. After he is injured, he still see him struggle to kill animals, but is forced to do it in order to keep himself alive.

Personally, I believe this film is great, and that it is one of a few films that shows that you don't need a lot of dialogue to be a good film. This film showed some similarities to Leonardo DiCaprio's The Revenant, which was an amazing film. Alpha is a film that shows you the struggles and hardships people had to go through in order to survive during the ice age. **FP**

Alpha 7/10

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We're looking for talented writers, photographers, and graphic designers at The Free Press. If you want to apply, email editor@usmfreepress.org or visit usmfreepress.com/job-opportunities

What caught your eyes and ears this week? Let us know! arts@usmfreepress.org



A&C Listings

Monday, May 3

8:00AM-4:00PM

Cap and Gown Decorating

Portland - Abromson Hall - 2nd Floor

Mezzanie

Gorham - Brooks Student Center - 1st Floor

Lobby

Tuesday, May 4

9:00AM-4:00PM

Crossing the Stage: Commencement Photo

Sign up online

Wednesday, May 5

8:00PM-10:00PM

Pub Trivia Night

Location: TBD

Sign up online

Thursday, May 6

7:00PM-10:00PM

Bayside Bowling Party

Alder St. Portland, ME 040101

Sign up online

Friday, May 7

8:00PM-11:00PM

Class of 2021 Block Party

Location: TBD

Sign up online

Saturday, May 8

9:00AM-12:00PM

Commencement Ceremony

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org

USM Community Page

Reflecting on the best classes of past semesters

Class of 2021 takes a glance back

Zoe Bernardi
Community Editor

As we creep up to the last moments of this 2020-2021 school year, we push as we finish up the last of our assignments, click “join zoom” for the final times and begin to cross off the projects, tests and finals we have listed on our planners.

The burnout feeling has been lingering for just a tad too long. We all yearn for the summer that is slowly peeking around, hopefully we won’t get anymore April snow flurries and we can stop having grey cloudy days. The summer playlist is waiting for us to click play, and many of us are beginning to pack up the dorm rooms and common spaces for the year.

Class of 2021 is getting ready for their online commencement ceremony, picking out the perfect outfit to wear while they send out the zoom link to fellow classmates, family and friends. Maybe the bottle of champagne has already been purchased and the graduation dinner reservation has been set.

While no senior has the same path, or the same degree progress, and everyone has a different amount of semesters taken and course enrollment. Everyone has a list of the best classes they have taken. Just reading that line probably sparked up your own answer when it comes to the question:

“What was your favorite class you’ve taken at the University of Southern Maine?”

Danielle Nadeau, from St. Francis, Maine is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in communication with a minor in leadership studies. “The name of the course that I really enjoyed was course CMS 423 The First Amendment with Daniel Panici and I am currently taking it now Spring 2021.”

Nadeau explains that in this class the topic surrounds the history and theories on the First Amendment in the US constitution. She goes on to say “I have really enjoyed this class because the professor honestly makes it fun and engaging. We are able to talk about our own opinions without getting judged and we have in depth conversations with all of our classmates.” Through being in this course she says it helped her learn more about the First Amendment and recommends that is either in the media studies or communication major to take the course, and those with the interest in government or the First Amendment to consider taking it.

While the question for post graduation plans was optional, Nadeau gleams as she explains after graduation “will be working with Tyler Technologies in Yarmouth as a receptionist and I am really excited for this new opportunity.”

Hunter Mahon, from Manchester, New Hampshire, will be graduating with a bachelors in media studies, and a double minor in marketing and audio + video production. She ponders on her favorite class since, “it’s hard to choose from with all of the fun media classes offered, has got to be Narrative Filmmaking with Nat Ives and David Pierson.”

Mahon explains that the class was: “essentially through-

out the class we were put into divided groups, where we would work on projects together. I remember one project being an Interview that we needed to shoot and edit and the other being a much more broader project, choosing either a documentary or a short film.”

She shares that this class gave her the opportunity to learn new skills and avenues within the video production and film industry. As well as building a community that shares similar goals, interest and could push each other on their own individual projects.

“It’s great being able to learn more about yourself and develop your skills, but it’s another to make long lasting relationships and meet those who chase similar dreams”

- Hunter Mahon

“It’s great being able to learn more about yourself and develop your skills, but it’s another to make long lasting relationships and meet those who chase similar dreams,” Mahon shares.

Mahon is still navigating her after graduation plans, but she explains that she is, “not the type of person to lose sight of them. I’m planning on letting life take me wherever it goes, knowing that with whatever is thrown my way will allow me to grow as an individual.”

She thanks USM for being able to be a great narrator for this chapter and cannot wait to see what happens next and turn the page.

Connor Blake, from Westbrook, also getting his bachelor in media studies. He shared his favorite course taken in his USM career was EYE 129: The Chicken Course, Taught by Professors Cheryl Laz and Robert Sanford, he took the class fall semester freshman year.

“The Chicken Course was a course offered under the Entry Year Experience course list. I liked this class the best because I got to learn about chickens. You can probably imagine the conversation with my parents was quite interesting when they asked me what my very first college courses were going to be and I told them I was going to learn about chickens.” he shares.

The EYE courses, or “entry year experience” are created in mind that they help high school students, or newly freshman college students ease into college level courses, by offering more fun and less stressful courses.

Blake shares that, “once I got into the course the professors made learning so much fun and we even got a chance to go to the Cumberland County Fair to look at chickens (as well as have fun) in real life.”

He shares now that he didn’t realize that the course was slowing teaching him to be a successful USM student.

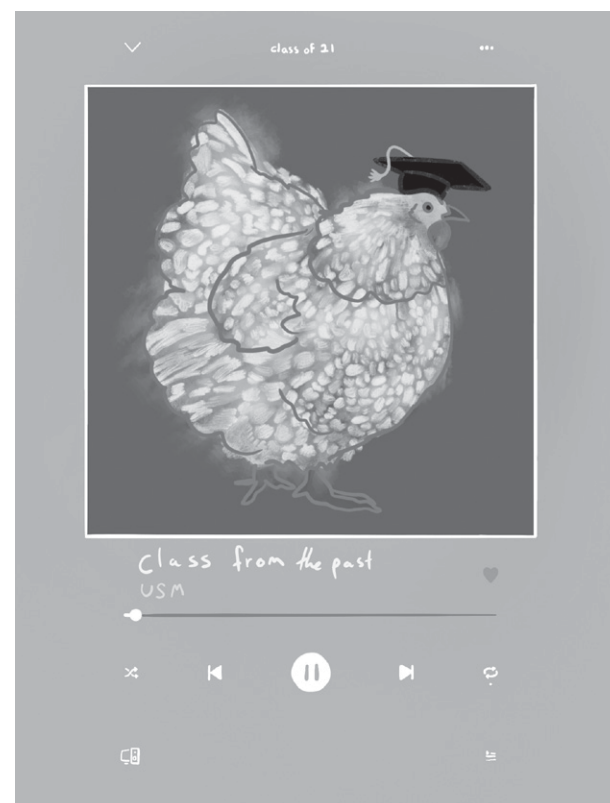
“The multitude of assignments required to set me up for success at USM and I always think back to this course as being one of the most valuable courses I have taken at USM.” Plus, if you were to quiz him he would know a little too much about chickens.

Luckily for Blake, he will not have to work that closely with chickens after he graduates, as he will be “going to continue my education at the University of Maine as I pursue a Masters in business administration.”

It’s quite an accomplishment to graduate in general, but to have withstood two years of a pandemic school year is the cherry on top. 2021 is the year of the Ox. According to the Chinese zodiac, Oxes are known for “diligence, dependability, strength and determination.” If that doesn’t sum up the senior class then what does?

Resilience to continue to push on, take another 24-30 credits and continue to be asked “what the plan after graduation?” That’s a lot of strength.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 and for all and any future plans you all have once you get to click “leave meeting” one last time. Cheers to you huskies, we wish you luck on all of your future endeavors! **FP**



Kelly Ledsworth / Design Director

People of USM: Morgan Day & Teri Honeycutt

Mapping COVID-19 through travel

Asher Close
Staff Writer

Morgan Day and Teri Honeycutt are senior interns at the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, located on the Portland campus within the Glickman Library. The purpose of the map library is to preserve and share history, heritage, and information with students and the general public through its archives. They facilitate public engagement by hosting two gallery exhibits a year, curated either by staff members or partnerships with other institutions. Honeycutt and Day have received the wonderful opportunity of creating a student-run exhibit called *Where Will We Go From Here; Mapping Travel in the Age of Covid-19*.

Honeycutt grew up in Detroit, a little town in central Maine. “I was going to attend Orono, but they’re actively defunding their history program. I liked the idea of being around the Portland area and USM was just the natural choice for me,” she states. Honeycutt began attending the uni-

versity in the fall of 2016. “I was going to be an English major, because it was my best subject in high school, but once I got to USM I found I really enjoyed learning about history,” she said. “I think knowing about history is important for knowing how to live our lives in the present and in the future.” Honeycutt chose to pursue a BA in History because of this fascination.

Morgan Day’s journey to her interests and to her major took a few more turns. Day moved from the historic district of Middle Haddam, Connecticut to Maine to attend the university. “I did not want to stay in Connecticut, and I felt like there wasn’t a place to grow outside of my comfort zone.” She attended the University of New England for two years for marine science before switching to a major in art, but found the university did not “facilitate the program” in a way that would allow Day to grow as an artist. She decided to transfer to USM in 2018 to pursue her BA in art history.

Day’s love for objects and aesthetics, Honeycutt’s passion for history, and both

of their interests in time made them the perfect pair for their blossoming exhibit. The gallery exhibit’s purpose is to document the experiences of those affected by the global pandemic. The idea came from the Executive Director of the Osher Map Library, Libby Bischof. The goal of the exhibit is to create a physical representation, using maps, of where people didn’t get to

“What we are doing is compiling maps that represent the trip not taken,”

- Libby Bischof

travel to because of Covid-19 restrictions. “What we are doing is compiling maps that represent the trip not taken,” she describes. “For example, I was supposed to go to Germany that summer and I wasn’t able to go, so for my entry we have gathered a map of Germany and it represents the trip I wasn’t able to take.”

The stories behind the maps were crowdsourced via survey that received over 100 responses. Day reveals “40 maps will be in the gallery space, but all entries will be on the Osher website for the public to view.” The maps are gathered from the Osher Map library’s digital archive. “We chose a diverse selection of maps to represent a large range of travel documentation” says Honeycutt. “Some maps are topographical information of the area, we have satellite imagery maps, we even have maps that display locations of lighthouses which is thematically different from our other maps”. In order to find the kind of unique and niche maps they wanted, they had to adapt to new techniques. “I was looking for St. Petersburg, Russia,” Honeycutt explains, “but couldn’t find much, so I searched un-

der its old name--Petrigrad and Stalingrad--and suddenly there were dozens more available.” Day added that for a project like this, getting creative with the parameters is necessary.

Another thing they have had to adapt to with this exhibit is its short timeframe; “A normal exhibit would take well over a semester just for curating, and would stay up at least one academic year. We’ve had less time to curate, and our exhibit will only be displayed until next fall,” Day stated. However, they both agree the short timeframe is beneficial in the long run. “I know in the future I will be prepared because of this. I’ll be able to say ‘Oh you need this in a week? I’ll get it to you tomorrow,’” says Day.

The exhibit release date is to be announced early May, but the public will be able to view it in person by appointment at the Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education, as well as view the larger exhibit online. Both curators are currently working on the labels for the maps that will display all the information about the maps such as what it is, where it’s from, and what it’s made out of. If you’re interested in learning more about the exhibits at the Osher Map Library please visit their website, and make sure to check back for the release of *Where Will We Go From Here: Travel in the Age of Covid-19* in May.

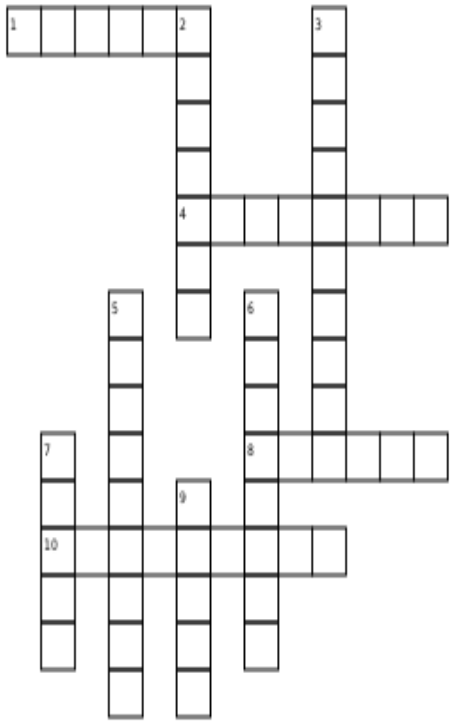
Both Honeycutt and Day will be graduating this May with a history and art history degree respectively, and both have plans to attend graduate school. Day will be attending Boston University beginning this fall and she hopes to fulfil her tattoo apprenticeship some day. Honeycutt plans to take time off before attending American University in Washington DC for graduate school to study museum studies and public history. **FP**



Photo courtesy of Morgan Day and Teri Honeycutt

Crossword

Summer



- Down:
- Across:
2. an overnight activity in the woods

3. A fruit made mostly of water

5. A sun protectant

6. blinding sun rays

7. Unpleasant humidity

9. a narrow strip of land separating a body of water from inland areas
1. An outdoor lunch gathering

4. A frozen treat

8. Summer footwear of choice

10. The act of putting greenery in the ground

Sudoku

Level of difficulty: Medium

The object of a sudoku 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.

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

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

Word Search

Theme: Graduation

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

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

- Air horn
- Balloons
- Cap
- Cake
- Celebration
- Cookout
- Gown
- Party
- Senior
- Tassel
- Vibes

Horoscopes

 <div>Aries (March 21 - April 19) It's OK to cry today, Aries. Releasing is critical to receiving.</div>	 <div>Leo (July 23 - August 22) Seize today, Leo. This is the day you've been waiting for. Don't back down from the intensity. yourself.</div>	 <div>Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) This is no ordinary day for you, Sagittarius, certainly not one in which you should sleep late. Get up and get moving.</div>
 <div>Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Do something that inspires the passion within you, Taurus. Don't be discouraged by setbacks - be motivated.</div>	 <div>Virgo (August 23 - September 22) Your quest for the new and unconventional, the latest gadgets, and the best technology may come into conflict with a sobering force today, Virgo.</div>	 <div>Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) Ground yourself today, Capricorn. Lay a solid foundation for the future. This is a very critical time in which you must think realistically about your future.</div>
 <div>Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Take control of your power today, Gemini. Strip any excess baggage out of your life. Things are coming to a critical climax now.</div>	 <div>Libra (September 23 - October 22) For dreams to be actualized, they must have a vehicle through which they can manifest, Libra. Today is a day to help bring those dreams to life.</div>	 <div>Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) Make sure you're operating from a solid base before you extend yourself outward. Be careful of the rip tides.</div>
 <div>Cancer (June 21 - July 22) There's a powerful force moving through your life that can't be ignored any longer, Cancer.</div>	 <div>Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) Combine your discipline and expansiveness today and see what manifests. Concentrate on your investments and home.</div>	 <div>Pisces (February 19 - March 20) Respect your superiors today, Pisces. There's great wisdom to be learned, so keep your eyes and ears open. Hasty actions are bound to get you in trouble.</div>

Sports

Tuesday 4/27

Baseball

v. UMass Boston
3:30 p.m.

Tuesday 4/27

Softball

@ UMass Boston
3:30 p.m.

Thursday 4/29

Women's Tennis

@ Plymouth State
3:00 p.m.

Friday 4/30

Men's Lacrosse

v. Castleton
4:00 p.m.

Saturday 5/1

Men's Tennis

@ Rhode Island
College
1:00 p.m.

Senior athletes reflect on extra year of eligibility

Gage Feeney and Megan Violette share their fifth year experiences

Cullen McIntyre
Editor-in-Chief

When the world shut down in March of 2020, Spring sport athletes lost a chance to participate in their sport. For the seniors, it was a loss of their final season. A season that is typically marked in celebration and farewells to the four years of commitment given to their university and their sport.

Thankfully for them, the NCAA announced an extra year of eligibility for athletes who had their seasons cancelled by the COVID-19 pandemic. For seniors, that meant another opportunity to have the closure of their final season.

Senior mechanical engineering major Gage Feeney knew he had to grab the opportunity to continue to play baseball. He has pitched for the Huskies since 2017, and the relationships he built over the years was what drew him back. "The players, the coaches and athletic staff are great. We have a really tight knit group here who all want to win," he said. "On and off the field we get along and spend most of our time together. All of us love the winning culture and mentality around here."

Winning is something that Feeney has grown accustomed to in his time on the USM Baseball team. The team has been ranked nationally in Division III over the past several years, and as a starting pitcher Feeney has found himself at the core of the team. His love for the sport made the choice easy for him, and he's glad to have returned. "This is what I love

to do. The baseball field is a place where I've always been myself and had fun. Any chance to play I'm in," he said.

The passion for one's sport is exactly what drew senior social and behavioral science major Megan Violette back to the Women's Lacrosse team for her fifth year. But even with the love for her sport, there were some initial doubts about returning. "I definitely had doubts coming back to USM for a fifth year, you know everyone wants to move on after college and start something new," she said. "But the pros out-weighed the cons and lacrosse in my biggest passion so I knew in my gut that the only right decision was coming back, for myself and my teammates." The choice to come back came after the hard news of the season being cancelled.

For both Feeney and Violette, they struggled with the announcement of their senior seasons being cancelled. "The immediate reaction is shock for sure but it takes a few days for the worst of it to set in," said Feeney. "Makes you realize how much you take each season for granted." Violette learned of the cancellation alongside her fellow senior Taylor Colangelo, "I remember the day it happened, Taylor and I had an awful gut feeling when coach Durepo pulled us aside. Both Taylor and I knew what she was going to tell us, but we didn't want to believe it," she said. "Working so hard for four years to have my senior season cancelled was one of the hardest things I've had to come to terms with." The challenging moment of



Cullen McIntyre / Editor-in-Chief

Senior Gage Feeney throws a pitch for the Huskies at Ed Flaherty Field in Gorham.

realizing their collegiate athletic careers were about to end early was something they both grappled with until the opportunity came to return.

The return is something that many athletes across the country took advantage of, and for obvious reasons. Violette knew that she would have regretted not making the return and is grateful for the opportunity. "I know that so many of us felt like we were unfinished and it's awesome that so many athletes chose to use their extra year of eligibility. I knew that if I came back for a fifth year that I would have to work harder than any other year before," she said. She has cherished the season that she's had and attributes that to the group she gets to play and practice with daily. Getting to be around the current team has made the decision to come back worth it for her.

Returning for the fifth season is something that both Feeney and Violette saw as fantastic opportunities to not only better themselves but those around them. Feeney knew that he was given the chance to further his baseball career, but also have a lasting impact on those around him. "The biggest impact is probably my ability to teach some of the guys around me. As you get older and mature you can understand how much sharing information can be super helpful," he said. For himself and Violette, they have been around the college athletics program for longer than most of their teammates which allows them to give unique insight to their teammates.

This season of course has not come with-

out its own challenges, with the COVID-19 pandemic still affecting their seasons. Games being cancelled during Spring sports is not uncommon with poor weather conditions, but adding on a pandemic has seen games be postponed and cancelled at a rate never seen before. The athletes have had to be able to adapt on the fly to games coming on and off their schedules at random. "This year has been different from any other year because we've had to work through all the adversities COVID-19 has thrown our way. But, I have seen the resilience of this team time after time and that's why it's so special," said Violette.

Though the season has presented these challenges, both Feeney and Violette have enjoyed the process and see unique moments with their team. For Violette, beating Plymouth State for the first time since 2011 and earning her 100th career point will be something that she'll always remember. Feeney noted just getting to play with like-minded people that care so much about the same passion you have has made it all special.

He hopes to play baseball for as long as he possibly can and aspires to have a job within a baseball organization in the future. Violette will be attending graduate school in the Fall, and hopes to have a graduate assistant position around the lacrosse team at USM. She noted that she can see herself coaching lacrosse as a potential career path. Both will continue their successful careers here at USM through the rest of the Spring sports season with their extra year of eligibility. **FP**



Cullen McIntyre / Editor-in-Chief

Senior Megan Violette springs up the field against New England College at Hannaford Field