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**Dear Colleagues and Friends of CAHS:**

Though it seems like every year brings its own unique trials, I continue to take pride in the ability of our faculty and staff to endure what has become a challenging environment in higher education to provide our students with a high-quality liberal arts education.

I would like to congratulate several of our faculty members for their achievements, especially Dan Sonenberg, Associate Professor of Music, for receiving both the 2013-2014 Provost Research Fellowship Award and the 2013-14 Trustee Professorship and our faculty members who received the lion’s share of the 2013-2014 Faculty Senate Research Awards. We also are proceeding with some exciting research initiatives, which you will find described in this newsletter.

Our College’s pilot advising project is likely to become a model for the entire university. We have seen a 10 percent increase in our first to second year student retention rate. I am proud of this initiative and would like to thank the major advising coordinators (MACs) and Pam Edwards, Director of Student Academic Affairs and Advising, for all their hard work. A special thanks to Libby Bishof, newly minted Associate Professor of History, whose leadership and dedication led to the pilot’s success. I believe we have begun the process of establishing a campus-wide norm for effective advising.

You may have seen, heard, and read more stories about CAHS faculty and students in the local news. This is the result of a new, unified and centralized approach in our college communications. Jeanne Curran, the new special assistant, has a background in journalism and has been aggressively promoting the work of our faculty and students. Jeanne has also worked with the departments to produce new brochures that highlight our excellent programs. They will be available this fall.

This summer we also centralized the work of several part-time outreach positions into a new arts coordinator, Erin Bartoletti. She began work in July and is already publicizing the numerous and exciting activities in Music, Theatre and Art. To receive daily updates on faculty, staff, and student research and events, please “like” CAHS on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/USMCAHS).

Our collaboration with the Portland Children’s Film Festival resulted in more than 600 elementary students coming on campus in May to see the film, *World Peace and Other Fourth Grade Achievements*. Our Maine Model United Nations Conference celebrated its 15th year by bringing 500 high school students on campus to debate international issues, and three of our Political Science students actually made presentations this June before the UN Human Rights Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. We are very proud of them.

We have been able to make some strategic investments this year in college facilities and equipment. For Theatre, Russell Hall is getting a number of smaller improvements and a major renovation of the costume shop. In Portland, we have made significant upgrades to faculty and department offices. We also now have a staffed “College Pod” at 200 Bailey Hall to support faculty teaching in Gorham.

The coming months will bring still more challenges. If the past is any guide, we will face them with creativity and resilience, making our college, which is at the heart of USM’s liberal arts mission, the best that it can be.

Warmest regards,

Lynn M. Kuzma
Robert Louden, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy

Our Newest Distinguished Professor: Bitten by the Philosophy Bug

The philosophy bug first bit him in the late 1960s, when he repeatedly overheard his conservative Republican parents arguing about the Vietnam War with their liberal Democrat neighbors. Now Robert Louden of Portland, USM professor of philosophy, has been recognized by the university and his peers as a Distinguished Professor, and he travels all over the world sharing his scholarship and bringing distinction to USM.

Louden was acknowledged last August for his exemplary research, teaching, and service to USM. He is one of three Distinguished Professors from CAHS, including Rose Marasco, professor of Art, and Kathleen Ashley, professor of English.

“I’m very honored to receive this award,” Louden said recently. “I would like to thank my colleagues in the philosophy department for supporting my nomination, the USM staff – particularly the Library and Computing Services personnel – for helping me with my research, and last but not least, my students over the years, for helping me to grow as a philosopher.”

This spring, the philosophy professor also marked 30 years of service at USM. He arrived here in 1982, after getting his doctorate at the University of Chicago, became a full professor in 1996 and has served as department chair four times.

Louden, the author of four monographs published by Oxford University Press, has edited and translated five collections and has written more than 100 published articles, book chapters, and reviews. In addition, he is a recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Fulbright program, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the American Philosophical Society.

Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, Louden found himself in the midst of the turmoil of the Vietnam War. “I was a conscientious objector, and presenting my case before the local draft board during my freshman year of college was probably my first real-world exercise in philosophical argumentation,” he said. “But arguing with my parents beforehand was a good warm-up.”

In graduate school, Louden focused on ethical theory and the history of ethics, and he admits to becoming somewhat obsessed with a certain German philosopher named Immanuel Kant. After arriving at USM, he won a Humboldt Research Fellowship in 1991-92 and again in 1996-97, which let him fulfill a long-held dream to travel and do research in Germany in order to learn more about German scholarship on Kant.

Currently president of the North American Kant Society, Louden focuses his study on the intersection of the philosopher’s ethical theory and anthropology. “Kant’s moral philosophy strikes many people as extremely abstract and ultrarationalistic, but he was also one of the founders of anthropology, and his annual course on anthropology was his most popular class,” Louden said. “In my writing, I try to show how his conception of human nature affects his moral philosophy, often in unexpected ways.”

Louden’s current interests involve the similarities and differences among humans, animals, and machines, and this has led him into disciplines outside of traditional philosophy – including robotics, artificial intelligence, and animal studies. At the same time, he said he struggles to keep up with the growing literature in philosophy and is continually amazed at the quantity of philosophy books published each year. “There’s always something new in philosophy,” he said.

In August, Louden will travel to Brazil for the third time, where he will present papers at five universities about his favorite subject. In November, he will travel for the second time to Norway to present a paper on the question, “Why be moral?” He also has traveled to China, Israel, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Scotland and England to present his scholarship.

During last August’s Opening Breakfast, Provost Michael Stevenson described Louden as “a rock star” in the classroom. Louden said he was surprised at the description, but admitted that over the years, he has become more comfortable in the classroom. “I have come to enjoy the teaching side of being a professor much more than when I started,” he noted.

Calling himself “old-school, but with a dose of California informality,” Louden said that he has moved a bit from his initial goal of maintaining strict objectivity in class regarding controversial value issues. “I do a fair amount of ‘professing’ in class now,” he said, “but my main goal has always been to get students to think for themselves.”

“I like the challenge of trying to speak in plain English about complex philosophical issues and helping students to -- as Kant put it -- acquire the courage to use their own understanding,” Louden said. “It’s an incredible challenge, and I enjoy going out in the classroom each day to meet it.”
Music Professor Wins Two USM Awards

Dan Sonenberg, USM associate professor of music and resident composer, has been named the recipient of both the 2013-2014 Trustee Professorship and the 2013-2014 Provost Research Fellowship Award. It’s the first time in the history of the university that one person has received both awards, and Sonenberg plans to use them to develop his two-act opera, *The Summer King: An Opera on the Life of Josh Gibson*.

Sonenberg will orchestrate the opera, based on the life of Negro-League player Josh Gibson, in preparation for a May 2014 concert premiere sponsored by Portland Ovations at Portland’s Merrill Auditorium.

Not bad for the avid baseball fan and professed admirer of the Hated Yankees.

“I’m just thrilled,” Sonenberg said recently about receiving the awards. “It comes at a very important time for me … I think that it just makes me feel like the university has my back. I feel supported and grateful.”

As USM resident composer, Sonenberg coordinates composition studies and also is involved in having his own music performed at some regularity. “It’s a principal part of my scholarship,” similar to what is expected of other faculty, he said, adding that he is required to produce “a steady flow of continuous output.”

The associate professor also teaches composition and music theory, upper-level undergraduate music theory and composing for undergraduates and graduates. In addition, he has been teaching a graduate-level music theory seminar once a year since he started at USM in 2004.

Sonenberg also is founder of the USM Composer’s Ensemble, which started out as “a small rag-tag group” of students and has now grown into a small chamber orchestra and a class required for music-education majors.

The unique ensemble gives student composers a chance to have their pieces rehearsed, performed and recorded by the USM in-house mobile recording facility, which Sonenberg also established. He said he hopes some day to see USM have an undergraduate composition major to complement its current graduate major.

And if that’s not enough, Sonenberg, whose first instrument is drums, is a member and principal songwriter of a band, “Lovers of Fiction,” which has released a new extended-play.

“It’s always a very difficult question to answer,” he said when asked about his musical style. “I think my style is contemporary concert music. My goal for it is to be both challenging and accessible.”

Describing his style as “hyper-rhythmic and often syncopated,” Sonenberg pointed to his background in pop music as a singer/songwriter, “and I definitely embrace elements of pop music, whether rhythmic or melodic.”

With a biblical perspective on baseball, Sonenberg has been working on *The Summer King* for the past 10 years, creating an original story about this outstanding ball player who never made it to the major leagues and died only months before Jackie Robinson debuted with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Sonenberg compared Gibson, who helped to make Robinson’s career possible, to Moses, who saw but never reached the Promised Land.

The opera, while focusing on Gibson’s life, also celebrates the world of the Negro Leagues and the loss of that world with the acceptance of black players into the majors.

Sonenberg will orchestrate the opera for the concert performance in May and is hoping for funding through a National Endowment for the Arts grant for which the university has applied and supported. Jennifer Elowich, violinist and Portland Chamber Music Festival artistic director, will be the performance’s concertmaster. The chorus for the opera will be the Vox Nova Chamber Choir, based in Brunswick, and directed by USM alumnus Shannon Chase.

As to performers, “I can’t name them yet, but we are working on the cast, have an agreement with a music director, and look forward to announcements over the coming year,” Sonenberg said.

That’s not the end, however. Sonenberg some day would like to see the opera fully staged and “then become a staple of the opera repertory.”
A Student of Accomplishment

Chriss Sutherland, who graduated this past May, represents all the best that makes up the USM student – mature, intellectual, creative, compassionate and active.

Working with Dr. David Carey Jr., USM professor of history and CAHS associate dean, Sutherland recently completed a research project on The Guatemalan Collection, a rich trove of Guatemalan archival materials presented by Guatemalan scholar and activist Chris Lutz of Cambridge, Mass., to USM Special Collections.

Sutherland, along with another USM student, Lucas Desmond of Presque Isle, completely organized and catalogued the material, which represents government and church documents from 1587 to 1991. Sutherland also created a “finding guide” to aid researchers with the material.

A public reception held in April at the Glickman Library in Portland celebrated both the collection’s donation and the publication of a new book edited by Carey, “Distilling the Influence of Alcohol.” During the reception, Sutherland spoke about the opportunities he had received at USM to pursue such meaningful work. He and Desmond also sang and performed for the assembled guests.

Sutherland recently wrote some comments about his opportunities at USM:

My name is Chriss Sutherland, and I’m a 36-year-old returning student to USM. I re-matriculated in the winter of 2010 as a Hispanic Studies major, and I have recently added a minor in History. I’m a musician and founding member of these musical entities: Cerberus Shoal, Fire on Fire, and Snaex. My most current musical endeavor with Olas involves the writing and singing of original lyrics in the Spanish language.

Finally, and most importantly I’m a husband and a father.

My two and half years studying Spanish language and Latin American history at USM have been extremely challenging. My principle professors have given me the time and energy, which I appreciate greatly, to develop my individual interests and strengths into a specialized body of study that I have found really invigorating.

Through the Hispanic Studies and History departments, I have found the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic as a medical interpreter; to present at “Thinking Matters” [USM’s student research conference]; to receive an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant to study a Latino community in Milbridge, Maine; and to volunteer for the Maine Migrant Health Program, all of which required the study and practice of the Spanish language.

I’m planning to apply for the Extended Teacher Education Program in order to teach Spanish language and Latin American History at the high-school level, while maintaining my musical activities.

-- Christopher Sutherland, USM Class of 2013, Double Major-History

Digital Commons@USM

The Digital Commons Network brings together scholarship from hundreds of universities and colleges, providing open access to peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, working papers, conference proceedings, and other original scholarly work. This constantly growing body of publications is curated by university librarians and their supporting institutions, and represents thousands of disciplines and subject areas—from Architecture to Zoology.

Our CAHS faculty members are now contributing to the Digital Commons@USM. In fact, their articles are among the most popular downloads from the new online site. Take some time to explore this intriguing information source at: http://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/
An unusual, 16-foot-high metal sculpture constructed at a regional landfill is calling attention not only to the value of public art, but also to the value of recycled metal.

Three University of Southern Maine art students, under the direction of Michael Shaughnessy, USM professor of art, recently completed the rusty-looking sculpture on site at ecomaine of Westbrook, the 240-acre, non-profit landfill/ashfill owned by 21 municipalities in southern Maine.

“This is very successful as a found-art project,” Shaughnessy said, adding that the purpose was “to make something with this very communicative material that symbolized extracting it.”

Tom Raymond, ecomaine landfill engineer, came up with the idea and approached USM about creating a sculpture out the scrap metal being processed at the site. The metal is extracted from the waste-stream process and sold by the ton to producers in Canada and China, bringing in revenue to landfill operation.

Shaughnessy engaged three art students, Virginia Jarvi of Richmond, Dylan Rohman of Portland and Chris Perkins of Bowdoinham to build the sculpture. The students followed a public-art process, working as a team, looking at the site, creating a proposal and constructing the art piece.

The result is a tall structure composed of metal parts, including bed springs, lobster traps and odds and ends, such as chains, frames and even forks and spoons – all pieces that have been “compressed, burned, buried and pulled out,” the professor said.

Shaughnessy noted that the sculpture, which can be viewed from a distance or close up, makes good use of “the lushness of the material” and creates “a sense of pulling out from the earth” while emphasizing the idea of reclamation.

“I’m thinking it would be fun in the future to do more of this kind of work, perhaps on another site,” Shaughnessy said.

See more photos of the sculpture here: http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.654209464595866.1073741841.1792993354217&type=1

See the WCSH6 news coverage here: http://www.wcsh6.com/news/article/246585/2/USM-students-recycle-trash-from-the-past-into-

Pulled from the Earth: Art Students Create Sculpture from Scrap Metal

USM art students (l to r) Virginia Jarvi, Dylan Rohman and Chris Perkins stand in front of their 16-foot-tall recycled-metal sculpture at the ecomaine landfill in Westbrook. The sculpture incorporates found metal items from the landfill, including lobster traps, fire grate, chains and forks and spoons.
Thoughtful Giving Course Donates $10,000; Students Win Film Award

Students in the Thoughtful Giving: Philanthropy in American Culture course taught by Adam Tuchinsky, CAHS associate professor of history and associate dean, this past semester donated $10,000 to four Portland area organizations.

The course, also taught by Deedee Schwartz, a member of the CAHS Advisory Board and former executive director of Maine Humanities Council, was funded under a three-year grant from the Learning By Giving Foundation.

The four recipients were: The Center for Grieving Children, which used the funds to do training and community outreach to expand their programs into the public schools; Southern Maine Agency on Aging, to train Somali women community leaders to do health and wellness work; Cultivating Community, to publish a “Farmer’s Harvest Book” which includes profiles of refugee farmers and recipes for local produce; and the Maine Humanities Council, for its “New Books, New Readers” program.

A video created by two of the students, Franck Mujyanama of Portland, formerly from Rwanda, and Kyle Frazier of Lisbon, was chosen this spring as a national finalist by the foundation. The students were awarded an additional $500 to give to their non-profit organization, The Center for Grieving Children in Portland.

PYS Celebrates 70 Years with Mahler Performance

The Portland Youth Symphony celebrated its 70th year by performing Gustav Mahler’s “Third Symphony” in November 2012 in Merrill Auditorium, Portland.

Under the direction of conductor Robert Lehman, USM associate professor of Music and director of Strings and Orchestral Activities, the performance included more than 150 performers, including the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra, with 36 USM students, 31 community members and five USM music faculty members; the Women of the USM Chorale; and the Southern Maine Children’s Choir.

The featured soloist was Teresa Herold of Fort Fairfield, Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano and USM music alumna, Class of 2002.

The performance was very well received, getting “a well-deserved standing ovation,” according to reviewer Christopher Hyde in the Portland Press Herald. He later called it a “magnificent rendition” and the top performance of the season.

“Normally, one would be gratified by a largely student orchestra merely getting through this massive work, which lasts about 100 minutes without interruption,” Hyde wrote. “This performance, however, was not only professional but also moving emotionally ...”
CAHS Student Has EU Honors Thesis Published

Tim Stretton, a USM graduate from Lewiston, had the distinction last month of having his senior honors thesis published by one of the top U.S. academic centers focusing on the 27-member European Union (EU).

Stretton, who graduated in May with a B.A. in political science with a concentration in international studies, was one of eight undergraduates from around the country selected to have his thesis on the EU’s European External Action Service (EEAS) published by the European Union Center of California, located at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif.

Stretton attended the California center’s 11th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference last month, where he presented his thesis on the EEAS and learned that his original research was selected for publication. His trip was sponsored by the CAHS Dean’s Office.

“I didn’t expect to be published,” Stretton said, adding that he was elated about the honor. “It was a great opportunity to go to the conference and to be one of the few accepted. It’s not very often that an undergraduate gets to be published.”

Stretton did his thesis on the EU’s European External Action Service and its role in European integration. The EEAS was founded in July 2010 to act as the diplomatic arm of the European Union.

Stretton, who was secretary-general this year of USM’s 15th annual Model United Nations Organization, hopes to go to graduate school following his graduation and eventually enter the U.S. Foreign Service.

This summer, Stretton is traveling through a USM travel-abroad course, visiting, among other places, EU and NATO institutions in Belgium and the International Criminal Court and Court of Justice in the Netherlands. He was one of three USM students who, in June, addressed the UN Human Rights Conference in Switzerland. (see story below)

USM Students Address UN Human Rights Conference in Geneva

Three University of Southern Maine students on Thursday, June 6, addressed the 23rd regular session of the UN Human Rights Conference meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The students, representing the non-governmental agency, l’Ecole Instrument de Paix (EIP-School as an Instrument of Peace), addressed the conference briefly regarding three countries, France, Tonga and Botswana. They commented on what is called the “Universal Periodic Review” of the countries, presenting what are known as “interventions” on the progress and deficiencies made by the countries regarding human rights. The review is done every five years for each conference member country on a rotating basis.

The students were part of a 12-member USM Study Abroad program, “Human Rights in International Law With Study in The Hague and Geneva,” under the supervision of Julia Edwards, USM political science lecturer in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Six USM students were asked by EIP to participate and worked in teams to prepare the two-minute-long interventions.

“All three interventions brought up issues that no one else did and gave voice to people who would otherwise not have one at the UN,” Edwards stated by e-mail. Because of their poise and presentations, some of the students already have received job offers, she said.

The USM students had less than 24 hours notice that they would be making the presentations on behalf of EIP.

Taking part were Cailley Bonti, USM senior from Bath, and Tim Stretton, graduating senior from Lewiston, presenting on France; Bryan Noyes, USM senior from Portland, and Phoebe Borden, USM senior from Kittery presenting on Tonga; and Georgia Foss, graduating senior from Sanford, and Nicole Gabree, graduating senior from Kennebunk, presenting on Botswana.
CAHS Faculty Members Receive Research Awards

In addition to the USM Provost’s Award, the USM Provost’s Office also makes Faculty Senate Research grants, and this year, CAHS faculty were the recipients of 9 out of 11 awards.

The purpose of the grants program is to encourage and facilitate research and other scholarly and creative activities by tenured and tenure-track faculty.

The grants are awarded through a competitive proposal process overseen by a screening committee.

The CAHS recipients for the 2013-2014 Faculty Senate Research Awards are:

Lucinda Cole, English
Kelly Hrenko, Art
Francis McGrath, English
Gerald Peters, English
Jan Piribeck, Art
Eve Raimon, English
Ariel Rogers, Communication and Media Studies
Kent Ryden, American & New England Studies
Lisa Walker, English

Japanese Children’s Book Published

A Japanese publishing house is taking the watercolor paintings of Hiroko Fogarty, USM art student from Portland, and turning them into a bilingual children’s book about the Japanese princess, Aiko, published this July in Tokyo.

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Fogarty’s work uses traditional Japanese painting methods. “Color is the most important component in my art creation … ,” she writes. “Part of my conception of my artwork is to make it elegant and graceful. If a viewer feels soothed and relaxed when they see my artwork, I am satisfied.”

Princess Aiko
(ISBN978-4-86223-654-8) is available online for about $12 at:
http://www.kinokuniya.com

Ready For Her Close-Up

One of CAHS’s newest professors is also a very busy one. Ariel Rogers, assistant professor of Film Studies, has a new book coming out this October; she is writing her second book after receiving a Faculty Senate Research grant (see below); and she is helping to initiate the college’s new Cinema Studies minor.

Rogers says her scholarship involves “the intersection of two sub-fields” in Film Studies: spectatorship, which looks at how movies are experienced; and the history of cinematic technologies. Her new book, Cinematic Appeals: The Experience of New Movie Technologies, will be published in October by Columbia University Press. Its focus, she said, is “the way the experience of movies is conceptualized in conjunction with the emergence of new technologies.”

“Our experience of movies is bound up with our broader experience of daily life, and that changes,” the professor explained. “Even if the technology were to stay the same, our engagement with it changes.”

Rogers’ book specifically examines the coming of widescreen cinema in the 1950s and the emergence of digital cinema in the 1990s-2000s.

Her next book will examine how approaches to film style – particularly close framing – relate to exhibition practices at certain points in film history.

Rogers also has been helping to develop the new Cinema Studies minor at USM to be introduced this fall.

“The goal is to give students the opportunity to study in depth one of the most culturally significant media of the last century,” she said, adding that she thinks USM could become an important center for Film Studies. “Portland is an exciting place to be in the arts, and there is a lot of potential here.”

Arielle Bourassa, assistant professor of Film Studies
ARTS CALENDAR

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PERSIAN VISIONS:
CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN PHOTOGRAPHY
Sept. 17-Dec. 8, USM Art Gallery, Gorham campus, and AREA Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland.
Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 7
Gallery Talk by Robert Silberman, visiting scholar and exhibition catalog essayist, 5-5:45 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT CONCERT SERIES
MAINE-LY BRITISH BRASS: A TRIBUTE TO THE PHILIP JONES BRASS ENSEMBLE AND THE LONDON BRASS
8-9:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 13, Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus; USM trumpet faculty member Betty Rines, USM faculty and alumni perform in the opening Spotlight Concert Series presentation of the fall 2013 semester with the long-awaited concert postponed because of a winter 2013 snowstorm. Sponsored by the USM School of Music Advisory Board.
Tickets: $15, general public; $10, seniors, USM employees and alumni; $5, students. Make reservations online at www.usm.maine.edu/music/boxoffice, or call the USM Music Box Office, (207) 780-5555.

OLD-FASHIONED OUTDOOR BAND CONCERT
1-2 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28, on the green at Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus; free, the public is welcome; 12 p.m., barbecue lunch at “old-fashioned prices” served.
The USM Concert Band celebrates 11 years of this end-of-summer tradition in conjunction with USM’s Homecoming, featuring favorite concert-band selections.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE 2013-2014 SEASON
NIGHT SKY BY SUSAN YANKOWITZ
DIRECTED BY ASSUNTA KENT
Friday, Oct. 11-Sunday, Oct. 13, Russell Hall, Gorham campus; for more information, go to: usm.maine.edu/theatre

TEACH-IN IRAN
Noon-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6, AREA Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland; a discussion on the interrelation of politics, culture and art by panelists, moderated by Reza Jalali, Iranian-American educator and USM Office of Multicultural Student Affairs coordinator.

LECTURE SERIES IN THE VISUAL ARTS:
ANNA HELPER
12 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, Burnham Lounge, Robbie Andrews Hall, Gorham campus.
Maine artist Anna Helper will discuss her interest in transitions of states and convergence of opposites.
Free admission.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE 2013-2014 SEASON
THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN BY MARTIN MCDONOUGH
DIRECTED BY TOM POWER
Friday, Nov. 14-Sunday, Nov. 24, Russell Hall, Gorham campus;
for more information, go to: usm.maine.edu/theatre