

# COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

THE USM COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Winter 2015

*Top photo: Lubec Map (painted in 2009 by community members, summer visitors, and artists for Lubec's Bicentennial.*



*Bottom photo: "Maine Welcomes Our New Residents," (2015) painted by ARRT!, the Artists' Rapid Response Team, a project of the Union of Maine Visual Artists, for use by the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition and other groups.*



## In This Issue:

- 2015-2016 Trustee Professorship
- CAHS Student Scholarship and Awards Ceremony
- New Minors





Students, faculty, friends, and alumni, welcome to our fifth annual newsletter of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Southern Maine. Last year was one of the most difficult in the history of the college and the university, but there are signs that things are turning around.

The university has a new president, Glenn Cummings, who was once a part-time member of our Economics faculty. President Cummings has a deep respect for the mission of public education and the students it serves. He has long-standing Maine roots and believes this university should and will be a fountain of civic leadership, an agent of social mobility, and a conduit of creativity and ideas that shapes the cultural vibrancy of the region. Since his appointment, there has been new enthusiasm on campus.

The University of Southern Maine and our college are underappreciated gems. The faculty of our college have published more than 70 books in their careers. Faculty in our arts programs exhibit and perform all over the world, and without our students and alums, key cultural institutions around the region and state simply would not function. Too often, the public confuses quality with selectivity or cost. The university's mission is to make education available to the region and the graduates of this college, in particular, are equal to those from institutions around the country.

The disciplines of this college are foundational. Critical thinking, persuasion, analysis, communication, creativity,

and collaboration, all fostered by the humanities, social sciences, and the arts, are central to "worldly" success, but they are also basic parts of an examined and thoughtful life. Students and faculty in this college together study *Breaking Bad* and social networks, but they also immerse themselves in Early Republican "Sea Chests" and nineteenth-century photography. Altogether, the diverse mixture of people and ideas makes this college a place where students have the opportunity to realize their full intellectual and creative potential.

The newsletter, we hope, offers just a small sample of the wonderful work being done in the college by faculty, staff, and most importantly, students. Join with us in celebrating the many achievements represented here.

Adam Tuchinsky, Ph.D.  
CAHS Dean

### CAHS Deans Office Staff

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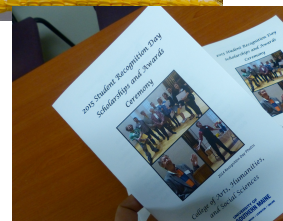
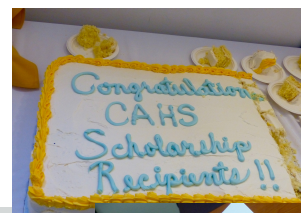
**Penny Glover**  
Administrative Specialist  
780-4221



### 2015 CAHS Recognition Award Recipients

On October 1 at Corthell Hall on the Gorham campus, the President, Provost and Deans presented over \$50,000 of awards and scholarships to fifty-five CAHS students in our annual CAHS Recognition Award Ceremony. Professor Lisa Walker, Director of Women and Gender Studies an Associate Professor of English was our faculty speaker. A reception followed the ceremony at the Art Gallery.

**Congratulations!**



## From the Economics Program

In November, Professor Margaret Gray, from the Political Science Department at Adelphi University visited USM and gave a talk entitled, "Labor and the Locavore: Do Food Ethics Include Workers?"

Margaret Gray's award-winning book, *Labor and the Locavore: The Making of a Comprehensive Food Ethic*, is among the first books to ask the question: Does sustainable food stop



at environmental sustainability and ethical treatment of animals, or do we need a revolution in how we think about the workers who bring us our daily bread? In her study of New York City's farm-to-table agricultural system, she exposes the subtle, invisible, but also widespread reliance on poorly paid and treated immigrant farmworkers. Her research busts wide open the formerly hidden issue of how farmworkers are treated in local food systems. She calls for the inclusion of farmworkers in our conception of "sustainable food"—making it the third pillar—along with environmental sustainability and ethical treatment of animals—of an ethical food culture.

Mark Bittman of the *New York Times* wrote: "As Margaret Gray discusses in her excellent book, *Labor and the Locavore*, we cannot achieve ethical consistency in producing food without paying attention to labor... For food to be affordable, people—all people—must earn living wages."



*Labor and the Locavore* is the winner of the Best Book Award from the Association for the Study of Food and Society and the Best Book Award from the Labor Project of the American Political

Science Association.



Congratulations go out to Economics student, **Melissa Bell**, receiving a \$1,000 scholarship from Kathleen M. Keneborus, Director of Government Relations and Compliance, Maine Bankers Association.

## USM Artist in Residence

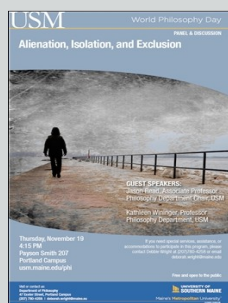
The Art Department has named Natasha Mayers as Artist in Residence Jan 20-March 16, 2016. While in residence, she will work on a painted mural with students and professors from a variety of disciplines, and the local community on a painted mural. This public art project will be a composite historical and contemporary map of the town of Gorham up to 24' long and 8' high on wood panels. Gorham, one at Amato's on the downtown corner of Route 114, another at the nearby Laundromat facing Route 25, and one at Gorham High School. Mayers will also engage students in a downtown Portland installation of welcoming buoys painted with international flag designs. USM student groups will paint a banner and find a display site. In the spring, Natasha's USM class and intern(s) as well as the USM history department will help to gather and translate geographical and historical information into painted panels, which will be made in the USM Art Department. We are seeking the participation of 4<sup>th</sup> grade school art students and plan to publicize a few open community nights for all ages including adults. If funds are left over, booklets will be published featuring the research for the mural.



AIR: Natasha Mayers  
Healthcare Rally, Augusta State House

# From the Philosophy Department

# Book Arts



## World Philosophy Day 2015

### "Alienation, Isolation, and Exclusion"

Two professors from the Philosophy Department, Professor Jason Read, Department Chair, and Professor Kathleen Wininger, presented a panel discussion for World Philosophy Day in Luther Bonney on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Why a Philosophy Day? As Mika Shino, Philosopher and former [UNESCO](#) Program Specialist put it, "Philosophy helps consolidate these authentic foundations of peaceful coexistence."*



Professors Jason Read and Kate Wininger

## Philosophy of Law Guest Lecturer

Professor of Philosophy Robert Loudon welcomed guest lecturer Robert Ruffner, Esq. to speak in his Philosophy of Law (PHI 260) class on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ruffner, a trial attorney specializing in criminal defense, is a 1996 graduate of Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. Mr. Ruffner began practicing in Maine in 1999 as a Domestic Violence prosecutor with the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office. He then joined the litigation firm of Friedman, Babcock & Gaythwaite where he practiced insurance and criminal defense. Ruffner formed his own practice in 2001 to focus on Criminal Defense.

During the upcoming spring semester the Kate Cheney Chappell '83 Center for Book Arts at USM will present an invitational exhibition of artists' books inspired by food and nourishment.

## Sustenance in Artists' Books

January 25-April 30-2016

UNUM Great Reading Room

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Glickman Family Library



Lise Melhorn-Boe  
*Dinner for Three*  
Pop-up book

## Presenting Artists will be:

Sissy Buck  
Stephen Burt  
Larry Hayden  
Lin Lisberger  
Emily Martin  
Lise Melhorn Boe  
Bessie Smith Moulton  
Alice Simpson  
skúta  
Scott J. Vile  
Sue Walker

Food/Books/Arts by Don Lindgren, Rabelais: Fine Books will be visiting us on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 from 4-6:30 p.m. Presenting Food/Books/Arts

Sue Walker '07  
**A Metaphor Waiting to Happen**  
35mm slides, pistachio nuts, scraps from other projects, encaustic



Sissy Buck  
*Delicious Leftovers*



# From the Department of History and Political Science



This spring more than 600 high school students from all over New England will participate in the USM student organized Maine Model United Nations Conference (MeMUNC). USM students research international issues, produce a background guide for the conference, organize the conference, and train in parliamentary procedure. Our university students lead a program that serves the local, state, and regional community by exposing high school students to the complexities of international relations. The conference is fun, challenging, and provides hands-on experience in the workings of world diplomacy. This year marks the 18th year of the MeMUNC annual event.

Timothy Ruback, Professor of Political Science is the newest member of our department and will be the director of MeMUNC. He has previously taught at Dartmouth College, Smith College, and Arizona State University (where he earned his Ph.D.) Tim is teaching intro courses in international relations as well as a topics class titled US Border Politics and Policy. Welcome Tim!



Professor, Timothy Ruback

The **Department of History and Political Science** is co-sponsoring "Visualizing Uncle Tom's Cabin," a new exhibit of visual primary source materials related to the novel at USM's Special Collections (6<sup>th</sup> floor, Glickman Library). The exhibit will be up through March.

## History Student Named UNUM Scholar

Congratulations to Senior History Major (Business Minor) Matthew Beatrice, who has recently been named a UNUM Scholar— a competitive program where USM undergraduates are placed in a well-paid internship at UNUM while still an undergrad, with the goal of employing the students after graduation.



Project Leader,  
Professor  
Eileen Eagen

The **Portland Women's Walking Trail** is a collaborative effort, involving a variety of individuals and institutions, including the University of Southern Maine (USM), Maine College of Art (MECA), Maine Humanities

Council, and Maine Historical Society. Polly Welts Kaufman, former Project Director at the Maine Humanities Council, brought her experience with the Boston Women's Heritage Trail to Portland and to USM's History Department, where she joined Professor Eileen Eagan, Patricia Finn, and others to further develop the trail project.

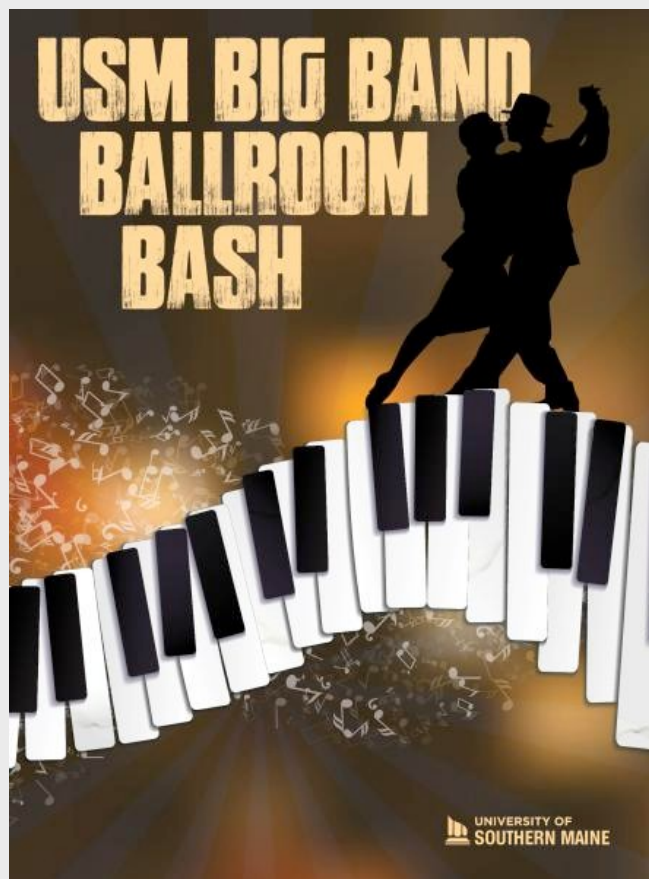
This project's has created an online and revised version of the Portland Women's History Trail, which until recently had only existed as two booklets and an actual walking trail through part of Portland. This project will make the trail, and the history it represents, more accessible and more complex, adding images, new narrative, documents, maps and eventually audio and video. The research and data produced and archived and the prototype developed will allow further research and the creation of other kinds of trails, in Portland and across the state. The aim is also to create applications for mobile devices that can use various types of digital data about specific sites on the trail. This information will relate the Portland experience to regional, national and international history.

## "Picturing Maine" Curated by Professor Bischof

Professor Libby Bischof recently co-curated the exhibition "Picturing Maine: The Way Life Was?" at the Art Gallery on the Gorham campus. The exhibition is part of the Maine Photo Project, and was on display until December 11<sup>th</sup>.



## From the School of Music



### USM Big Band Ballroom Bash – A Community Dance!

A unique sampling of Gorham campus collaboration happened on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> when artists and athletes came together to kick their heels up and dance the night away. An eclectic celebration of jazz and dance, featuring the USM Jazz Ensemble, Portland Jazz Orchestra, and Maria Tzianabos's USM dance students where dances included the foxtrot, the salsa, the cha cha were learned and celebrated.

Al Bean, Director of Athletics at USM led the charge in a collaboration he named "Artists and Athletes." Al said he was "very excited about the potential of the USM Big Band Ballroom Bash. The collaboration among the leadership of the various departments has been truly outstanding and a pleasure to be involved with. In most

cases, it's unusual to see these diverse groups working together to plan and implement action, however, I think we are developing a model that will serve our students, the University and the community in very positive ways."

USM dance instructor, Maria Tzianabos stated that "this event" brought "students from vastly different majors together to learn a variety of ballroom styles. Working toward the Ballroom Bash has given them the opportunity to learn and perform the choreography of professionals from the Portland ballroom community. The worlds of sports, dance and music have come together to create a truly interdisciplinary approach to education. It's truly exciting to see our vision of collaboration between departments come to fruition."





## 25th Anniversary Scholarship Gala Raffle

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the USM School of Music's Annual Scholarship Gala. A signature event and kick-off to the holiday season, this evening highlighted talent of USM School of Music students, entertained hundreds of guests and most importantly, raised more than \$50,000 to help talented young musicians' dreams come true by providing them the opportunity to study under world-class teachers in one of the most respected music schools in the Northeast.

The evening included gourmet hors d'oeuvres and dinner with a backdrop of music performed by USM music students, as well as a live auction and raffle drawing followed by a very special concert featuring our talented music students.

### Scholarships at the USM School of Music



Over the past twenty-four years, this event has raised over three-quarters of a million dollars for scholarships for talented, passionate and worthy USM music majors, who in turn enrich our lives and the lives of younger generations throughout Maine, the country and beyond.

Our Music Education students work with over 16,000 K-12 students in the state of Maine each year and our teaching alums reach hundreds of thousands across the state, the country and even as far as Korea, the Philippines and Bahrain. Our students go on to do amazing things like singing at the Met (currently 3 of our alums perform at the Met), performing with philharmonic orchestras, touring and recording around the world with some of today's most famous entertainers, composing music for film scores and television commercials, and some have even won Grammy awards. Many of these students wouldn't have had the opportunity to study at the School of Music without a scholarship. This night is really about helping turn dreams into realities.

## CAHS Professor Ed Collom Awarded 2015-2016 Trustee Professorship

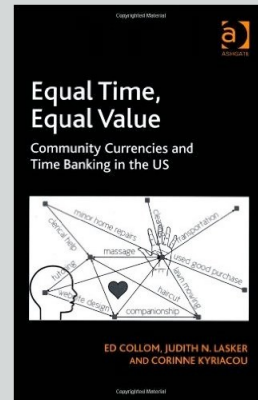
Dr. Ed Collom, Professor of Sociology, is the recipient of the 2015-2016 Trustee Professorship. The award was established by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees to reward excellence and support a research project. Professor Collom's project is entitled "Getting a Job as a Barista: Adjudicating the Impact of Human Capital, Social Capital, Age and Gender." This scholarship will test major theories on job acquisition, comparing the salience of human capital versus social capital and the influence of age and gender in these processes.

Dr. Collom will analyze and code records and job applications from a coffeehouse chain to construct a dataset for multivariate statistical modeling. Ultimately, the results will indicate who is most likely to be hired and retained in this entry-level, service work.



Professor Collom was hired at USM after earning his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside in 2001. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2007 and to Professor in 2013. He was the recipient of the 2006 CAS Emerging Teacher-Scholar Award and the 2010-2011 Provost's Research Fellowship. His earlier scholarship concentrates on the study of alternative forms of social organization with a focus on three areas in particular: community currencies, home schooling, and workplace democracy.

Preview of his 2012 book, *Equal Time, Equal Value: Community Currencies and Time Banking in the US*, refers to it as the “most exhaustive, systematic investigation of the most popular type of localized exchange system in the United States . . . arguably one of the best-researched studies of community currencies published anywhere to date.”



## Research Interests

Of his research, Professor Collom says, “The broad areas of specialization that I work in are social movements, social networks, the sociology of work, the sociology of education, political sociology, and social inequality. I am primarily a quantitative survey researcher, but also employ other methods (most notably social network analysis) regularly. My research tends to surround the study of alternative social forms and focuses on three areas in particular: community currency (an alternative to the mainstream economy, home schooling (an alternative to the public education system), and workplace democracy (an alternative to bureaucratic control structures). All three of these are ‘bottom-up’ initiatives to empower the marginalized. Community currencies and home schooling are forms of what I call ‘alternative social movements’.”

## Professor Collom's Recent Publications

"Microfinance, Cooperatives, and Time Banks: Community-Provided Welfare." In S. Harper and K. Hamblin, eds., *International Handbook on Ageing and Public Policy* (2014), pp. 433-444. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Ed Collom, Judith N. Lasker, and Corinne Kyriacou. *Equal Time, Equal Value: Community Currencies and Time Banking in the US*. Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing (August 2012).

"Motivations and Differential Participation in a Community Currency System: The Dynamics within a Local Social Movement Organization," *Sociological Forum*, 26, No. 1 (2011), pp. 144-168.



## Faculty Authors



Although they were not written by Kant himself, the transcripts of his lectures constitute an important source for philosophical research today. Some of the contributions presented in this volume discuss the authenticity and significance of these transcripts, for example,

the status of Kant's lectures on logic and anthropology, while others shed light on the historical formation of specific writings, for instance, the texts on the philosophy of religion. The contributions provide new insights into Kant's philosophy, that, if looking at Kant's published writings alone, we would not be able to gain. In a number of cases, a critical analysis of Kant's lectures gives us a better understanding of his published works. Thus, his lectures on metaphysics shed new light on his *Critique of Pure Reason*, while the lecture on natural law is a valuable source for the understanding of his published legal writings.

Bernd Dörflinger, Claudio La Roca, Robert Louden, and Ubirajara Rancan de Azevedo Marques (eds.), *Kant's Lectures/Kants Vorlesungen* (Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2015).



Robert Louden  
Professor of Philosophy

What reasons do we have to be moral, and are these reasons more compelling than the reasons we have to pursue non-moral projects? Ever since the Sophists first raised this question, it has been a focal point of debate. *Why Be Moral?* Is a collection of new essays on this fundamental philosophical problem, written by an international team of leading scholars in the field.



Beatrix Himmelfmann and Robert B. Louden (eds.), *Why Be Moral?* (Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2015.)



Jane Kuenz, Associate  
Professor of English

The Project on Vegas (Stacy M. Jameson, Karen Klugman, Jane Kuenz, Susan Willis). *Strip Cultures: Finding America in Las Vegas*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015.

*Strip Culture* analyzes sites and social practices on the Las Vegas Strip, arguing that a close look at Las Vegas allows us to critically apprehend daily life more broadly in a contemporary, consumer-driven, surveillance society. Chapters address the system of shopper and players rewards that bind us to future consumptions; the global system for producing, branding, and tracking, urban surveillance, and their normalization as entertainment and play; the instrumentalization and privatization of natural resources, especially water as entertainment commodity the ease with which we manipulate or wholly dispense with nature in general; and the rise of new modes of work, identity, and community modeled on social medial and "connectivity" in a global economy.



*Future Nostalgia: Performing David Bowie*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2015.



Shelton Waldrep  
Professor of English

Although David Bowie has famously characterized himself as a "leper messiah," a more appropriate moniker might be "rock god": someone whose influence has crossed numerous sub-genres of popular and classical music and can at times seem ubiquitous. By looking at key moments in his career (1972, 1977-79, 1980-83, and 1995-7) through several lenses-theories of sub-culture, gender/sexuality studies, theories of sound, post- colonial theory, and performance studies Waldrep examines Bowie's work in terms not only of his auditory output but his many reinterpretations of it via music videos, concert tours, television appearances, and occasional movie roles. *Future Nostalgia* looks at all aspects of Bowie's career in an attempt to trace Bowie's contribution to the performative paradigms that constitute contemporary rock music.

# CAHS BOOKSHELF

Volume 5, Winter 2015

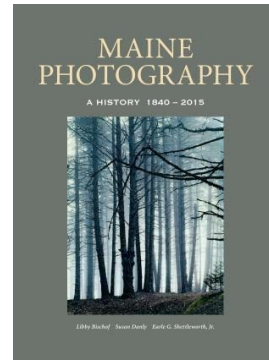


*The Politics of Transindividuality.*  
Published by Brill Academic Press,  
2015.

*The Politics of Transindividuality* re-examines social relations and subjectivity through the concept of transindividuality. Transindividuality is understood as the mutual constitution of individuality and collectivity, and as such it intersects with politics and economics, philosophical speculation and political practice. While the term transindividuality is drawn from the work of Gilbert Simondon, this book views it broadly, examining such canonical figures as Spinoza, Hegel, and Marx, as well as contemporary debates involving Etienne Balibar, Bernard Stiegler, and Paolo Virno. Through these intersecting aspects and interpretations of transindividuality the book proposes to examine anew the intersection of politics and economics through their mutual constitution of affects, imagination, and subjectivity.



Jason Read  
Associate Professor of Philosophy



Libby Bischof, Susan Danly, and Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. *Maine Photography: A History, 1840-2015.* Published by Down East Books and the Maine Historical Society, 2015/2016.

Maine has always played a rich and varied role in the art of photography. For more than a century, photographers, like other artists, have made their way to Maine to capture the natural beauty and human culture of the state. Many contributions by Mainers have also been made to the medium. *Maine Photography* is the first comprehensive overview of the history of photography in the state. Providing basic knowledge of the most important people and institutions to have promoted photography, this volume also studies the ways in which photography has informed the understanding of the social and cultural history of Maine. Beginning with the earliest daguerreotype portraits of the 1840s, this history traces the growth of the medium—emphasizing key contributions, such as the Stanley brothers' invention of the dry plate process—through to the present. Key topics addressed throughout the book include the importance of photography in documenting labor and economic life, the close relationship between photography and the growth of tourism, and the role of Maine photographers in advancing the medium as a fine art form. Published in conjunction with the Maine Photo Project, this is a unique and timely addition to the body of work on the importance of Maine to American art.

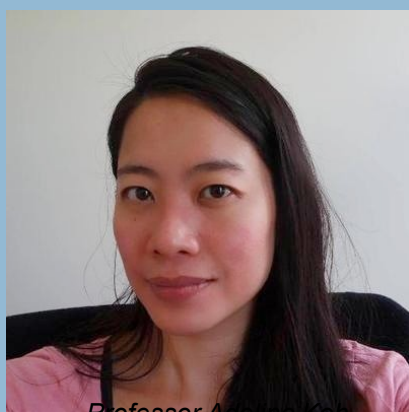


Libby Bischof  
Associate Professor of History



# The CAHS Digital Humanities

On November 5, noted digital humanities scholar, Adeline Koh gave a public lecture titled "Social Media and Revolutions: Imagined Communities and Postcolonial Studies." In this lecture, Professor Koh focused on the formation and concept of political communities created by social media tools and platforms. Drawing on Benedict Anderson's [Imagined Communities](#), she argued that social media and the networked public sphere have created new discourses for imagining community. These new imagined communities are radically different from their print predecessors as they focus on participants being active producers rather than passive recipients, and cut across boundaries of space and time. They have significant political potential but also have their limitations. Koh maintained that digital humanities critics need to turn their attention to these new imagined communities and engage with their unique social and political dynamics.



Professor Adeline Koh

Professor [Adeline Koh](#) directs the Center for Digital Humanities at Stockton University, and is a member of the Literature Program. Besides publishing regularly on the intersections of race, gender, technology, and postcoloniality, she writes software code, creates educational games, produces a comic strip, offers webinars, blogs for [Profhacker](#) at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and runs a consultancy business. During her visit to USM, she gave a public lecture, met with faculty, staff, and business partners to discuss the intersection of computer science and the humanities, conducted a session on educational games for students at [Ci2 Lab](#), and met with faculty members involved in [Digital Maine](#), a digital humanities project.



Photo Credit: Hans Nielsen

Last year, nationally renowned digital humanities scholar [Matthew Jockers](#) visited [USM](#). With this year's visit by Adeline Koh, it is clear that USM's digital humanities initiative is drawing the attention of respectable practitioners in the field, and is set to grow at USM and in the University of Maine System.

Videos links for Professor Koh's lecture:

Part I:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5p0ZJXjnGs>

Part II:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZFv39asdvI>



Photo Credit: Hans Nielsen

# NEW CAHS MINORS

## Public Relations Minor

The Department of Communication and Media Studies has developed a new interdisciplinary minor in public relations that will be available beginning in Fall 2016. It is tailored toward students interested in PR and related fields, such as integrated marketing communications, strategic communication, and political communication. The minor covers PR fundamentals coupled with complementary electives. Students will take a core PR course and a media writing course offered by the department and choose three elective courses from a number of programs, including Philosophy, Political Science, Marketing, Sports Management, and Tourism and Hospitality. The department anticipates that the minor will not only serve Communication and Media Studies majors, but USM students in a variety of different programs who are interested in learning about persuasive communication theories, principles, and practices.

## The Department of Theatre introduces a Dance Minor!

The Department of Theatre has recently introduced a Dance Minor! Complementing traditional studies with ongoing creative activity such as dance can support a healthy mind and a healthy body. If you love to dance and move consider making dance a part of your education. Whether you choose to be teacher, performer, choreographer, or tax attorney, dance can provide creative challenges that can help promote outside-of-the-box thinking, preparing students for any career they choose to pursue.

Keep an eye out for special topics courses that can count toward your minor like *"Steppin' Out With My Baby": Basic Ballroom and Contemporary Dance* and *Intro to Choreography*, taught by Maria Tzianabos, M.F.A., USM's longtime dance instructor. The USM Theatre Department produces *Dance USM!*, our regular dance concert, and co-produces the *Big Band Ballroom Bash*. So put your Dance Minor to use and consider participating in these popular dance events.

## Social Media Activism Minor

The Political Science Program introduced a new minor in Social Media Activism this Fall. As a collaboration among four programs in CAHS, the minor is designed for students looking to combine their interest for engagement and activism in different environments through online media communication. The minimum number of credits required for the minor is 15, with a combination of classes from Communication and Media Studies, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology. Courses in this minor will allow students to learn and understand political action in its multiple forms as well as new types of interactive social and political engagement opportunities. Students with diverse interests in social causes will learn to apply their passion to action, while learning about the theories behind a successful online presence for different types of communities. Some classes will also include a focus on practical aspects related to specific case studies, with opportunities to prepare an online social media activism campaign.



## Minor in Public and Professional Writing

Students will be able to develop their professional writing skills with a 15-credit minor in Public and Professional Writing. Launched in fall 2015 by the Department of English, this new program prepares students to become confident and adept writers in a range of fields, including business, sports management, health sciences, engineering, technology, legal practice and jurisprudence, print and broadcast journalism, academic and trade publishing, and technical and grant writing. With an interdisciplinary curriculum that includes internships and guest lectures, students from any major will develop the speaking, writing, and social media skills to communicate effectively and responsibly in diverse public and professional environments. Designed to give students valuable training in grammar, syntax, and style, while introducing them to a range of forms and contexts for professional writing, the minor offers advanced electives for more specialized training in specific fields. By providing valuable practice speaking and writing in business and non-profit sectors, this program significantly expands career and vocational opportunities for students.

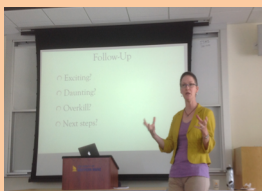


# CAHS DEANS OFFICE

## CMS Engaged Faculty Fellow Awards:

The Department of Communications and Media Studies received two Engaged Faculty Fellows awards to foster community-engaged courses and an Engaged Department award to integrate community engagement throughout its curriculum. Professors Russ Kivatisky and Maureen Ebben are redesigning the Business and Professional Communication course to include team projects related to the needs of community organizations (e.g. the Cancer Community Center), exploring social media such as LinkedIn and digital portfolios, and career exploration via informational interviewing with community professionals. They will work closely with the Office of Community Engagement and Career Development in this effort. Professor Matt Killmeier is developing service learning component in which USM students partner with new Mainers through the Portland Mentoring Alliance. This course also advances the department's goal of scaffolding community engagement throughout our curriculum and provides students with an opportunity to engage in service learning early in their academic tenure.

On June 24 and 25, the English Department conducted a seminar at the Abromson Center with Professor Nedra Reynolds, Chair of Writing and Rhetoric in the Harrington School of Communication and Media at the University of Rhode Island. The sessions focused on course and faculty development for the writing initiative, and internships community relations, and program administration. English faculty – Professors Jane Kuenz, Ben Bertram, Eve Raimon, Elizabeth Dodge, Jane Martin, and John Muthyala—were joined by Pat Hager, Writing Center Coordinator, Lewiston Auburn campus, and Professor Dennis Gilbert, Lecturer in Media Studies.



Professor Nedra Reynolds



Professors Eve Raimon and Dennis Gilbert

## [Francesca Vassallo](#), Featured in WIRED magazine

Political Science Professor Francesca Vassallo was interviewed in the September issue of *Wired* magazine on the power of online activism. The piece in the tech-centric publication investigates how activism and aid during times of humanitarian crisis have changed thanks to the advances of social media, online giving and other technologies. The story goes on to mention that individuals are now turning to the web to take international aid into their own hands by creating awareness on various social media platforms and being able to donate directly to families in need, among other efforts. "Online, everyone's able to contribute equally to the discussion, and individuals who might not have strong backgrounds in political activism are able to participate forcefully," said Vassallo when commenting on technology's increased role during a humanitarian crisis.

The article appeared during the massive humanitarian crisis surrounding Syrian refugees. Because of the power of the internet, crises, such as the one in Syria, have become much more visible, compelling people from all over the world to donate and do what they can to help their neighbors across the globe.

"Geographically, it's allowed citizens of the entire planet to get together," Vassallo, [who runs USM's social media activism minor](#), added.

It's these advances in technology that have taken the concept of one neighbor helping another to a global scale, the article mentions, adding that humanitarian aid has gone "peer-to-peer."

While Vassallo touts the positives of its power, she does go on to mention that online activism only provides a temporary solution and does not take care of the larger issue.

"It's short-term solutions to the real problems, which is the fact that these individuals have to leave their homes to feel safer somewhere else in the first place," mentioned Vassallo.



Associate Professor Francesca Vassallo

## USM ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES AND EVENTS SPRING 2016

### **USM | UMVA: Forging Affinities**

**Jan 28-March 6**

**Art Gallery, Gorham**

**Opening January 28, 5-7 pm snow date March 4, 5-7 pm**

**The University of Southern Maine Art Faculty and the Union of Maine Visual Artists have teamed up to dialogue, inspire, and collaborate with each other:** James Flahaven/David Estey; Damir Porobic/Rachael Eastman; David Schneider/Stephen Walsh; Michael Shaughnessy/Nora Tryon/Anita Clearfield/Geoffrey Leighton; Lin Lisberger/Grace Degennaro; Rebecca Goodale/Bessie Smith Moulton/Bonnie Faulkner; Rich Wilson/Tracy Ginn; Raphael Diluzio/George Burk; Jen McDermott/Justin Levesque; Jan Piribeck/Jim Kelly; and Susan Colburn-Motta/Anne Bernard. Come view the resulting work in a variety of media.

### **Pay Attention! It's Independence Day**

**Jan 18- March 24**

**Area Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Campus**

**Closing reception and Artist talk: Tuesday, March 22, 5-7 pm**

Parade props, costumes, photos, videos, and written documentation from 30 years of Whitefield resident Natasha Mayers' organizing "floats" for her town's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades. The town's fire trucks and typical floats trailed by wildly imaginative depictions about global warming, clear cutting, drones, tax cuts for the wealthy, and much more have created noisily messy and truly democratic expressions of patriotism. Mayers, an Artist-in-Residence this spring, is facilitating a public art mural of the town of Gorham with college students, school groups, and the local community. Sponsored in part by the Warren Memorial Fund.

### **Visiting Artist Elke Morris**

**Visiting Artist Talk: noon-1 pm, Friday in Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall**

**Feb 12 or March 4 snow day**

Elke Morris makes photographic inquiries into the use of land as real estate and what the organization of these spaces conveys about contemporary culture. Widely exhibited throughout United States and Germany, she teaches photography at Bates College. Sponsored by the Warren Memorial Fund.

### **USM Juried Student Exhibition**

**March 17-April 3**

**Opening reception: Thursday, March 17, 5-7 p.m.**

**Art Gallery, Gorham campus**

### **USM BFA & BA Exhibition**

**April 14- May 1**

**Opening reception: Thursday, April 14, 6-8 p.m.**

**Art Gallery, Gorham campus**

### **USM Juried Student Selected Works**

**April 11-29**

**Area Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus**

### **Visiting Artist Talk: Kaersten Colvin-Woodruff**

**Friday, April 21, noon-1 pm Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall, Gorham**

Steeped in African/Euro/Native American folk practices and using materials such as human hair and bees' wax, Colvin-Woodruff creates three-dimensional works invoking the sacred and magical. She is Associate Professor (Sculpture) at Clarion University in Pennsylvania.