

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

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

Volume 6, Spring 2016



A View from the Bridge

Maine Island

Oil on canvas paintings
By Professor of Theatre
William Steele

These paintings appeared in
“Simplicity,” a juried international
online show with the Still Point Art
Gallery.

 UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

PORTLAND • GORHAM • LEWISTON • ONLINE



Dean Adam Tuchinsky

Students, faculty, alumni and friends, welcome to the second number of our sixth annual newsletter of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Southern Maine. You will notice on our cover two paintings by Bill Steele, Professor of Theatre, who is retiring after almost fifty years of service to USM. They capture, I think, his deep love and appreciation for the state. What the paintings do not depict is the rich impact that he has had upon students at our university. His career culminated with this spring's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf* in May, an intimate and courageous production of the classic Edward Albee play that impressed audiences and critics alike.

As this academic year draws to a close, this newsletter gives us all an opportunity to reflect upon the achievements of the year. As Dean, I am in the privileged position to bear witness to the work. I hope that the newsletter does it justice. I, in particular, want to call attention to the Alumni Concert hosted by the School of Music at Merrill

auditorium. There, more than 200 School of Music alumni returned to perform in honor of their esteemed mentors, Professors Martin and Russell. There were very few dry eyes on the stage. But what the event embodied was the closely-knit relationships that have developed in this prestigious program. That is the kind of culture that all of our programs are working toward.

In that spirit, I would like to encourage all of our alumni to reconnect with USM, and to support the university, your college, and your programs to the best of your ability. USM's ability to recruit and graduate high caliber students increases the value of everyone's degree. Gifts to the University of Southern Maine may be directed to areas you wish to support. We in the college focus primarily upon scholarships for students and community programming. Gifts can be made in two ways: Checks can be made payable to the **University of Southern Maine**. Be sure to reference the area you wish to support on your check (e.g., CAHS or a particular academic program in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences) and mail it to USM, Advancement, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300. Gifts may also be made on-line at www.usm.maine.edu/giving.

I would also like to encourage all current students and alumni to share their successes with us so that we can share them with the world. Any updates you wish to share, please send to: cahsdean@maine.edu.

If you would permit me, I would like to close on a personal note of sorts. In the spring of 2010, my father was diagnosed with kidney cancer. In the space of a single semester, his health rapidly declined, and he passed away on the day my students in the History of American Popular Culture class were due to give their semester-end presentations. One of the students in that class was Marilyn Childress, whose husband was simultaneously struggling against cancer. Marnie was an extraordinary student, and the kind of student who makes all of us who work at USM love the institution. She was also a great source of support for me as I agonized over my father's health; Marnie had been through it for years.

This spring, Marnie is graduating after a 17-year intellectual journey at USM. She auditioned to be the USM graduation speaker, but one of our other great students, Melissa Bell from Economics was ultimately chosen. Melissa's speech will be given before ten thousand festive graduates this May, but all of us in the office believed that Marnie's story deserved to be heard as well. Enjoy!

This June, Sharmon Toner, the long-time Administrative Manager of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences will retire from USM. Sharmon is a talented painter who completed her degree in Art at USM in 2013. The primary focus of her work has been college personnel, but in practice, she has kept the machinery of the college moving through a series of Deans and Associate Deans. Every organization has a heart; Sharmon is ours. She will be greatly missed.



Sharmon Toner

I was one of the 4 finalists chosen to present a speech before the graduation committee. I was not the winner, but I want you to read what I had plan to say if I was fortunate enough to do so. Thank you all so much for helping to get me here and for helping me to make history! Love, Marnie

Good morning!

It has taken me 17 years of part time study to arrive at this my degree ceremony. I am 63 years old and while most of you are probably a bit younger, 40 years give or take, as your peer, I'd like to share a few thoughts. First, Congratulations and let's pat ourselves on the back!

Second, let's take a moment to remember how our time at USM has helped to shape us into who we are at this moment. Our experiences while here, the friendships we've made, the mistakes that happened, the clubs, the study groups, the classes that we breezed through and the classes that challenged us are all now, forever, part of the fabric of our life. We will carry them wherever we go.

I have tended to call my time at USM a fringe experience. I learned in math class that I would be called an outlier, separated from the majority under the bell curve. I was unable to participate in any extracurricular activities because I worked full time and was married to a wonderful man who battled cancer throughout most of my time here. I went to class and I went home or I went to work. Year after year. So what could I possibly have to say about my own personal experience here? Can an outlier like me still have an amazing college experience? Absolutely.

My maiden name is Darling and I am a direct descendant of a free man of color Benjamin Darling. I have spent most of my adult life researching this man, my 6th grandfather and his mixed race descendants who settled a small island at the mouth of the New Meadows River called Malaga. In 1912, the state evicted the entire community. Some of my required classes became part of my research. In my Reference, Research and Writing course with Dr. Howard Solomon I wrote of the Jacob Mark's family who were forcibly taken from their home on Malaga in 1911 and were incarcerated at the Maine School for the Feeble Minded. Dr. Solomon encouraged me to share this paper at USM's Thinking Matters Symposium and in the spring of 2010 I did. In the fall of 2011, I used my independent study class with Dr. Libby Bischof to have a gathering of descendants near Malaga Island. For the first time ever, black and white Darling descendants gathered to celebrate their heritage. But the greatest experience for me came while I worked in the Financial Aid Office in Gorham. Professor Rob Sanford came in one day and asked me if I was a real Darling. There was a USM dig going on Malaga at the time led by him and Prof. Nathan Hamilton and after I answered yes, he asked me to go with him to the Archeology lab in Baily Hall. There were hundreds of glassed top boxes and as he showed me box after box of recovered artifacts, the remnants of a lost community, I burst into tears, knowing that at long last, through USM, the truth of their lives lived again. I take away so much good from my time here. My life has been changed for the better.

As I close, I want to pay tribute to my husband Delmar Voter, a 1969 graduate of the University of Maine – Gorham. As he was dying, he kept telling me not to quit and reminded me of the time after 37 rounds of radiation, he committed to climb Mt Blue with our son and grandson. He knew twenty minutes into the hike that he did not have the physical strength for the task. As he rested, he realized that even though he did not have the ability to climb, he did have the choice to not quit and that is what he did. He said don't quit to himself until he reached the top.

So I say to you, fellow graduates, no matter what comes your way after today, don't quit. There will be times in your life that you will struggle. You'll want to curl up in a ball and hide. There will be times when your life circumstances overwhelm you. Don't Quit. Learn from everything that comes your way. If you don't quit, one day you will see that you achieved your goal, whatever that goal may be, even if it takes 17 years.

Marilyn Childress
History Major
Class of 2016

2016 CAHS Graduates

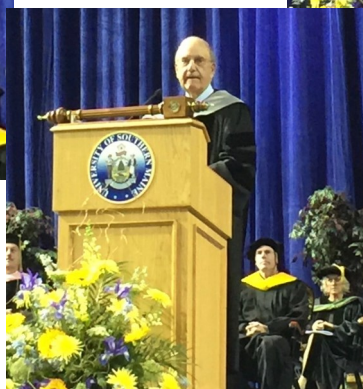
On Saturday, May 14th at the Cross Insurance Arena USM held its 136th Commencement. President Cummings, Deans Tuchinsky and Murphy and CAHS faculty congratulated 369 students of our 2016 graduating class .



Melissa Bell, B.A. Economics
Student Commencement Speaker 2016



Thomas Parchman,
Professor School of Music
Chair, Faculty Senate



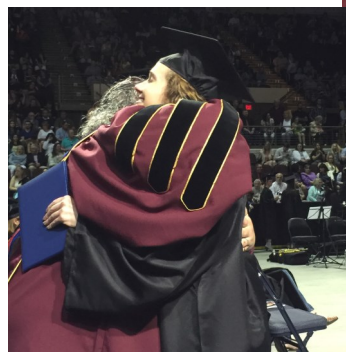
The Honorable George Mitchell
Commencement Address



Dean Adam Tuchinsky
Presenting diploma to graduate



History Professors
Congratulating History
graduates



School of Music
Professors
Congratulating
Music graduates



Communication and Media
Studies Professors
Congratulating CMS
graduates



New Faculty

Welcome Alan Kaschub who has been appointed Music Director in the School of Music



Director Alan Kaschub teaches Music Theory, Ear Training and Music Technology at the USM School of Music. He has a Bachelor of Music Degree from USM and a Master of Music from New England Conservatory and has recently served as Interim Director. As a trumpet player, he is a member of the Norumbega Ensemble, the Maine Chamber Orchestra and has appeared with the Portland and Bangor Symphonies.

“I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to lead a school that has given me so much,” said Director Kaschub. “I arrived here as an undergraduate music major almost 30 year ago and found a faculty and staff that was absolutely dedicated to my success. I am very happy to be a part of the continuation of that tradition.”

Welcome Nicolas Dosman, Assistant Professor of Music and Choral Conducting

“Choral music and music education have been very near and dear to me throughout my career, said Professor Dosman. “As Director of Choral Studies at the University of Southern Maine, School of Music, I have the opportunity to work in both worlds. I began my career as a music teacher in Miami, Florida where I taught middle and high school music. Subsequently, I relocated to New York for graduate school and continued working as a choral director. While completing my graduate degree, I began my career in academia and eventually found myself in an institution that I had truly fallen in love with: the University of Southern Maine, School of Music. The USM, School of Music and its choral program has had a long legacy of excellence and is one of the most respected musical institutions in the state of Maine. As the director of choral studies, I have had the privilege of working with talented and dedicated students and colleagues. I am inspired by what I have experienced thus far at USM and look forward to the future. Over the next few years, I envision the choral program becoming a leader in choral music in New England and eventually achieving national recognition.”



2016 CAHS Recognition Award Ceremony

On April 21st at Corthell Hall on the Gorham campus, President Cummings, Deans Tuchinsky and Murphy and the faculty presented \$53,000 of awards and scholarships to 74 CAHS students in our annual CAHS Recognition Award Ceremony. Professor Daniel Sonenberg, Associate Professor of Music and Resident Composer was the faculty speaker. A reception followed the ceremony at the President's house.



From the Philosophy Department

What is Enlightenment? Reflections on Kant's Answer

A panel and discussion on Immanuel Kant's 1784 Essay "What is Enlightenment?" was held on Wednesday, February 3. Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher considered to be a central figure in modern philosophy, is one of the most influential philosophers in the history of western philosophy. His 1784 essay, "An Answer to The Question: What is Enlightenment?" is widely considered to be the most famous definition of the Enlightenment.



Philosophy Professor Robert

Panelists included Professor Robert Loudon and Professor Sarah Marquardt from the USM Philosophy Department and Professor David Cummiskey, Chair and Professor of Philosophy at Bates College.

From the Art Department

Natasha Mayers of Whitefield, Maine is this semester's Artist-in-Residence in the Art Department. Under Ms. Mayers leadership, community members and students worked together on this project to welcome New Mainers to Portland. As a team, they painted lobster buoys with the flags of the more than 70 countries represented by Portland's newest residents.



Plans are underway to install more buoys in other public spaces in Portland, including the Portland Jetport and to temporarily float them in Casco Bay. Ms. Mayers hopes this display will increase public awareness of the rich diversity being woven into Maine and to help open our hearts to the contributions and struggles of our new neighbors.

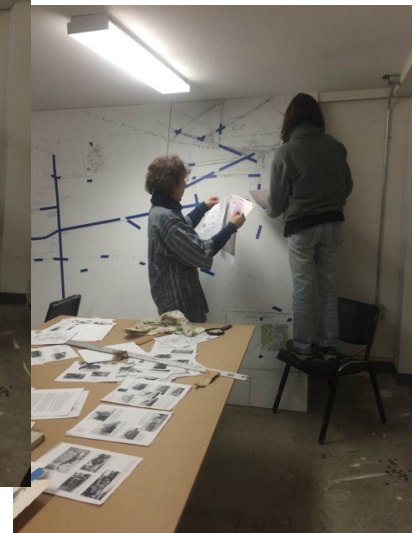
Special thanks to: ARRT! (Artists' Rapid Response Team), Maine Historical Society, Carolyn Eyer, Reza Jalali, Jess Lauren Lipton, Caitlin Warner, Kylie Keune, Grace Valenzuela, Lin Lisberger, USM student volunteers (Mackenzie, Sara, Farrin, Angel), and

especially to the "Make It Happen!" students.

The idea originated from a banner painted by Ms. Mayers and her Artists' Rapid Response Team (ARRT!) and members of the Union of Maine Visual Artists (UMVA). This project was born at the start of her residency at USM when a suggestion was made to paint buoys to float in Casco Bay.



Ms. Mayers, Artist in Residence, with art major student, Patricia Kaczmarek

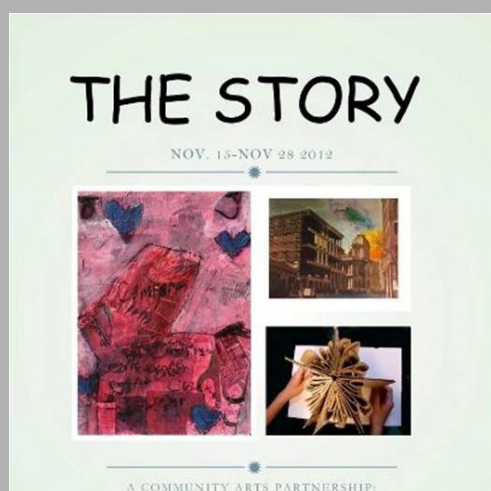


The Susan Curtis Foundation Community Partnership Award



Photo-left to right: Louanne Schoninger, Mary LeDue-Bell and Professor Jan Piribeck accepting award.

On Friday, March 18th, the ART Department was presented with the Susan Curtis Foundation [SCF] Community Partnership Award. Art Professor Jan Piribeck was there to help accept the award on behalf of the Art Department and Art Education Professor Kelly Hrenko, who was away at a conference. Professor Hrenko was instrumental in formalizing the partnership with Camp Susan Curtis and engaging her students in developing the curriculum for the STArt Success Through Art summer program. Art Education alumna Louanne Schoninger was at the award ceremony with her husband, who shared the ongoing success of the summer art program she helped pilot in 2012! Art Education faculty Mary LeDue-Bell was also present with her husband Jeff Bell, who teaches art at Windham High School and is an adjunct Art Professor at USM and Southern Maine Community College. School of Music alumni Timothy Even presented the commemorative plaque after receiving his own leadership award for exemplary work as Assistant Camp Director.



Art Professor Piribeck commented that we live in a state that has a rich artistic and cultural heritage. For close to four decades, the Art Department has been committed to assuring that students from all social and economic backgrounds have the opportunity to share in and contribute to this heritage. SCF Director Melissa Cilley shares this vision and reached out to partner with USM. An earlier collaboration was a special gallery show, The Story, on display from November 13 through November 28, 2012 at the Galleria on USM's Gorham campus. The show represented work from an arts education program for teens at Camp Susan Curtis that included USM intern-instructor, Louanne Schoninger.

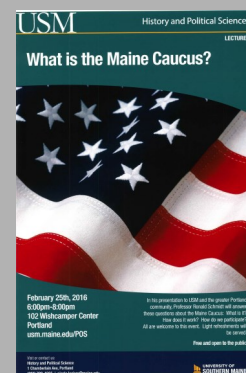
From the Political Science Department

On February 25th, Political Science Professor Ronald Schmidt presented to USM and the greater Portland community questions about the Maine Caucus such as: What is it? How does it work? And How do we participate?

"What is the Maine Caucus" focused on educating the community about the caucus process as a whole. Professor Schmidt provided information on what a caucus actually is, how it works and how Mainers can participate across the state.



Professor Ronald Schmidt



From the Theatre Department

Theatre welcomes Dana Legawiec as a Visiting Artist-in-Residence

For Spring semester, Dana Legawiec instructed students in THE 299: Topics in Theater: Mask Acting Intensive, a rare opportunity to train in, create and perform original works of Mask Theatre involving physical exploration, application of mask acting technique, improvisation, creation of original material and performance. Dana's residency is being made possible by a grant from the Warren Memorial Foundation.

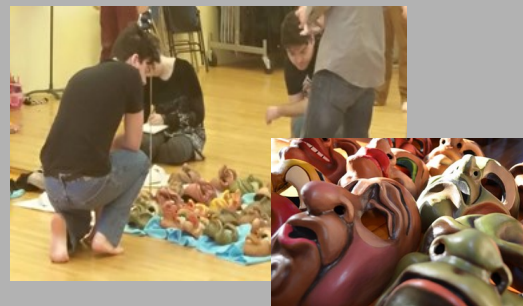
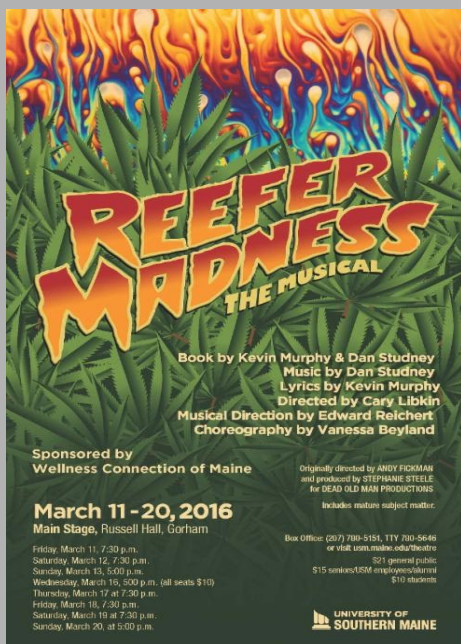


Table saw instruction in Technical Director Perry Fertig's THE 105: Practicum in Stagecraft class.

Theatre Chair and Lighting/Sound Design Faculty Shannon Zura and her class, Theatre 491: Independent Project Theatre Drafting class.



Lust! Paranoia! Murder! Marijuana!



Reefer Madness hit the stage in March at Russell Hall on the Gorham Campus. Inspired by the original 1936 film of the same name, this musical comedy takes a look at the hysteria caused when clean-cut kids fall victim to marijuana, leading them on a downward spiral filled with evil jazz music, sex and violence. The addictive and clever musical numbers ranged from big Broadway-style show-stoppers to swing tunes like "Down at the Ol' Five and Dime" and the Vegas-style "Listen to Jesus, Jimmy."



Jimmy Harper (Eric Berry-Sandelin) and Mary Lane (Ali Sarnacchiaro).



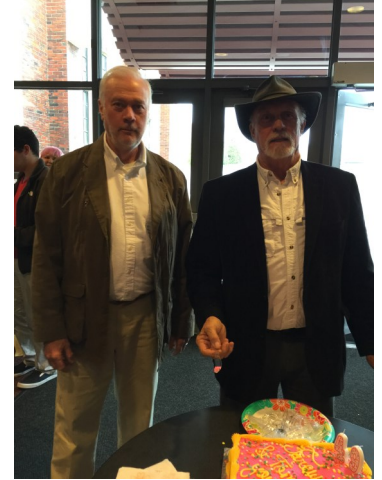
From the Theatre Department

Retirement Party for Professors Tom Power and Bill Steele

Professors Thomas Power and William Steele are two of the founding members of the University of Southern Maine's Department of Theatre. They have each taught, directed and served the Department and the University for over 49 years!

Professor Power has taught acting and directing at the USM Theatre Department for over 49 years and has directed our students in countless plays on the USM Russell Hall main stage. His professional acting career spans 50 years as well, and includes hundreds of venues in film, television and commercials. Bill has worked directly with such well-known actors as Cher, Richard Jordan, Azura Skye, Blythe Danner, Roy Scheider, Richard Benjamin and Clayne Crawford, among others. He has written four books on theater and film, and has written two plays, which have been fully produced. Bill served as a Drama Critic for the Maine Times from 1967 - 1969, and Drama Critic and columnist for the Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram from 1970 - 1999. He appeared on *Power and Steele on Theatre*, a bi-weekly television series that ran from 1989 through 1999, earning a "Best Program Series" award. Other awards include 2 Moss Hart awards, a Drama Criticism Award, a Vermont Playwright's Award, a national "Communicators Crystal Award for Excellence", and a Director's Slate Award. Bill served on the Maine Arts Commission, The New England Foundation for the Arts, and the Governor's Advisory Committee for Public Broadcasting. He is currently President of the Yarmouth Artisans Collective. An accomplished painter himself, Bill has had his visual art juried into several regional shows and an international show.

Professor Steele has accomplished a great deal over the last half century as a highly valued teacher and colleague of the USM Department of Theatre, and as a performer in professional commercial video and audio productions with many award-winning local campaigns. Beginning in 1970 the Department of Theatre merged the Children's Theatre of Maine with our on-campus program and Tom served for 10 years as the Managing and Artistic Director of the then professional touring company. In 1975 Tom co-authored the Portland, Maine Bicentennial play *The Burning of Falmouth* with Dr. Stephen Romanoff. That production toured for two years and over 150 performances, and was featured on ABC's Good Morning America. During the early 1980s, Tom collaborated with Kurt Vonnegut Jr. in a re-write of the ending of Vonnegut's *Happy Birthday Wanda June*, and produced and directed Vonnegut's new work, *Make Up Your Mind*, starring Tom's long-time friend and former student, actor Tony Shalhoub. In 1989 Tom wrote the book and lyrics for his original musical, *Grannia*, which premiered at USM and won the Moss Hart Award. *Grannia* has been performed from NY to Chicago, and three times here in Maine. During the 1990's Tom co-hosted the television show, *Power and Steele on Theatre*, with friend and colleague Bill Steele. Resplendent in tuxedos, they reviewed plays around the state of Maine and nearby New Hampshire and broadcast their reviews on *Power and Steele*. Tom's impact as a teacher was promoted nationally and recognized in the campaign, *Teachers Count*, with USM alumnus, international film and television celebrity Tony Shalhoub.



From the English Department

David Bowie The Art of Performance, the Performance of Art

Professor Shelton Waldrep, author of *Future Nostalgia Performing David Bowie*, gave a lecture on David Bowie in January shortly after the announcement of Bowie's sudden death. This talk addressed the notion of 'performance' as central for understanding how David Bowie's art functions. Professor Waldrep was especially interested in how Bowie's own work draws from the history of visual and performance art generally and yet always recasts it in terms of 'low-brow' or 'street' art. In this sense, Bowie remains faithful to rock and roll as an essentially vernacular form. But he greatly expands its vocabulary by integrating avant-garde techniques with the three-minute structure of the pop song and, especially, by refracting those songs via other performances of them in concerts and music videos, where he offers alternative visual interpretations of his own sonic



David Bowie



Professor Shelton Waldrep speaking with a student after his lecture.

Shakespeare's First Folio on Exhibit



Professor Benjamin Bertram

On Wednesday, March 9th, Professor Benjamin Bertram gave a lecture followed by discussion on Shakespeare's *First Folio* at the Portland Public Library.

The Portland Public Library in partnership with USM Libraries and Maine Humanities Council was selected as the host site for the State of Maine for *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*, a national traveling exhibition of the Shakespeare First Folio, one of the world's most treasured books. The Folger Shakespeare Library, in partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, will be touring the First Folio of Shakespeare in 2016 to all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

Many of Shakespeare's plays, which were written to be performed, were not published during his lifetime. The First Folio is the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays. It was published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare's death. Two of Shakespeare's fellow actors compiled 36 of his plays, hoping to preserve them for future generations. Without it, we would not have 18 of Shakespeare's plays, including *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *As You Like It*. All 18 appear for the first time in print in the First Folio, and would otherwise have been lost.



From the Ci2 Lab

Students join creative forces in the Ci2 tech lab

"[Sloth Action](#)", a relatively simple game is designed to manipulate the thirsty hero with little more than a computer mouse. This homegrown video game, made by students in the Ci2 tech studio, is a rarity in Maine and has now reached the marketplace.

"The novelty is that this really isn't happening anywhere else in Maine," said Sam Capotosto, a USM computer science major who co-founded the group inside USM's [Ci2 Studio](#).



Students in the Ci2 studio have made movies, researched software for augmented reality gear. By the end of the Spring semester, the "Sloth Action" team will incorporate, creating a business structure that will be recognized by the state of Maine, said Professor of Art, [Raphael Diluzio](#), who directs the studio. "It's a major move for a group of

hydroponics and developed



students who began forming their team, [Timeshock Games](#), only a year and a half ago." Diluzio added, "They're proving that they can produce video games here at USM that can compare to anything coming out of the Boston area or beyond. People are going to be blown away by what they're doing."

From our Alumni

Justin Levesque '10 explores Maine's growing partnership with Iceland through photography, podcast



USM Alumnus, Justin Levesque

Class of 2010 graduate Justin Levesque's obsession with Iceland can be traced back to his youth, when his love for the arctic nation's most recognizable pop star helped to spurn his passion. "I'll be very candid about it. I'm a huge Björk fan," said Levesque.

Besides Björk's unique and unmistakable voice, there's something else about Iceland that's piqued the interest of the Photography alumnus -- the growing connection between the arctic nation and the State of Maine.

Curious about Iceland's involvement on the Portland, Maine waterfront, Levesque set out to tell the story of what exactly was going on. The project? Documenting the nine day journey from Portland, Maine to Reykjavik, Iceland on Icelandic shipping company Eimskip's container ship, the MV Selfoss, taking the route known as the "Green Line." Normally, passage aboard one of Eimskip's vessels is not open to the public.

The multimedia project, [ICELANDx207](#), aims to document Iceland's recent entry into the Maine waterfront and the economy. His mediums? Photography and podcast. Levesque's goals on the ship were two-fold. Through photography, Levesque focused on creating portraits of Icelanders in Maine, capturing the activity inside the revitalized International Marine Terminal in Portland, Maine and chronicling his travels on the ship as it makes its way to Reykjavik harbor.

Levesque's "Green Line" podcast strived to provide residents of Maine and Iceland with unprecedented access aboard the container ship to show just how the two cities, countries, cultures and economies are connected. The nine-day journey was made possible after Levesque was awarded an Individual Artist Project Grant from the Maine Arts Commission. But that grant would not have been possible if he didn't first reach out to the Maine North Atlantic Development Office (MENADO) and the office's director, Dana Eidsness.

"I don't think I would have been as comfortable calling (MENADO), which is a business entity, if I were so immersed in an art-only world," said Levesque. "I think I was sort of used to this combination of different sectors and different disciplines being in the same place ... which is sort of like the experience at USM."

The end result of Levesque's work will be exhibited in conjunction with the 2016 Arctic Council meetings hosted by MENADO in Portland, Maine Oct. 4-6.



From the School of Music

On Friday, January 22nd, Pianist Anastasia Antonacos (class of '97 & faculty member) kicked off the spring semester in the USM School of Music with a solo recital featuring works by Schubert, Ravel, and Elena Ruehr.

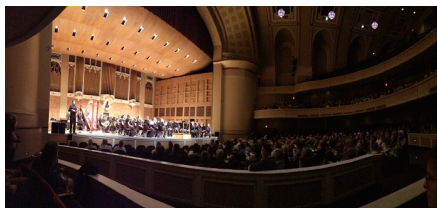
The program included the beautiful and poignant last four Schubert Impromptus, written shortly before his death at age 31; *Le Tombeau de Couperin* by Ravel, an elegant set of pieces written in homage to Francois Couperin, which (unlike the orchestral version) ends with the flashy *Toccata*; and *Preludes* by Elena Ruehr, an award-winning faculty member at MIT. Ruehr says of her music, "The idea is that the surface be simple, the structure complex."

An alumna of the USM School of Music, Anastasia Antonacos has given notable performances around the world as a solo recitalist and chamber musician. She has played at venues such as the Salle Cortot, Casa Orfeo, Holland's Alkmaar Conservatory, and Alice Tully Hall. She has also played in Greece, Russia, France, and Belgium, as well as various places in the U.S., including Washington D.C., where she testified for funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.



Anastasia Antonacos

Over 200 alumni return to honor music professors in a gala concert



More than 200 School of Music alumni gathered to perform together in the Alumni Celebration Concert, honoring long-time University of Southern Maine (USM) director of bands Peter Martin and veteran choral director Robert Russell.



Robert Russell, Alumni
Choir and Orchestral
Conductor

After 35 years of transformative service to USM and the people of Maine, conductors Peter Martin and Robert Russell have retired from USM. This occasion was celebrated with an historic Alumni Celebration Concert on Sunday, April 17th at Merrill Auditorium in Portland. Professors Martin and Russell were joined for special performances by more than 200 grateful alumni from across the country, School of Music faculty and students, members of the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra, USM Chamber Singers, USM Chorale, and the Choral Art Society.

The program opened with the Alumni Concert Band directed by Peter Martin performing some of their all-time favorites, *Gavorkna Fanfare* by Jack Stamp, *Four Scottish Dances* by Malcolm Arnold, and *Galop* by Dmitri Shostakovich. The first half closed with the magnificent *Angels in the Architecture* by Frank Ticheli, featuring alumna Elisabeth Marshall '02, soprano, and the Mighty Kotschmar Organ. Following intermission, the Alumni Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Robert Russell closed the program with the glorious last movement of Beethoven's *9th Symphony*.



Peter Martin, Alumni Concert
Band Conductor

From the School of Music

Volume 6, Spring 2016



In March, Professor Michele Kaschub, from the School of Music, served as Guest Editor for a Special Issue of the *Music Educators Journal* focusing on creativity and music composition. The *MEJ* is the field's preeminent practitioner journal and is the most widely distributed music education publication in the world. The issue is expected to draw significant readership as composition is prominently featured in the 2014 Core Music Standards.

Contributors to the issue include USM Alum Peter Webster ('67), Professor Emeritus, Northwestern University, and Scholar in Residence, University of Southern California-Los Angeles, who contributed "Creative Thinking in Music, Twenty-Five Years On." Kaschub, along with frequent collaborator Janice Smith of the Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, CUNY, wrote "The Big Picture: Developing Musical Capacities". Other contributors to the issue include award winning composer and New York State School Music Association Composition Chair, Robert Deemer of SUNY Fredonia; National Association for Music Education Composition Council Chair, David Stringham of James Madison University; Daniel Deutsch, NAFME Composition Councilor and former composition and theory educator for the Three Village Central School

District in Stony Brook, NY; John Kratus, Independent scholar and Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University-East Lansing; Katherine Strand, Associate Professor of Music and Chair of Music Education in the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University-Bloomington; and Estelle Jorgensen, cofounder of the International Society for the Philosophy of Music Education and Professor Emerita, Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University.

Pittsburgh Opera to present world premiere "The Summer King" by Composer Daniel Sonenberg



USM's own resident composer and music professor Daniel Sonenberg's opera "The Summer King" will make its debut on a national stage and its staged world premiere with the Pittsburgh Opera in their upcoming 2016-17 season.

The opera's world premiere also marks the Pittsburgh Opera's very first world premiere in its 78-year history, something Sonenberg is extremely proud to be a part of, stating in a Press Herald article, "I couldn't have scripted it better."

"The Summer King" was premiered in concert format in a joint presentation by Portland Ovations and the University of Southern Maine at Portland's Merrill Auditorium in May 2014.

The opera tells the story of baseball legend Josh Gibson, who went from the sandlots of Pittsburgh's North Side to the pinnacle of greatness in the Negro Leagues, playing for the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords, and who was ultimately honored at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. The tragedy of the story is that Gibson never got to play in the major leagues, as he died of a stroke at age 35, only months before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers and baseball was integrated.

Since the opera premiered in Portland in 2014, Sonenberg has been hard at work rewriting and making extensive changes to be included in the revised piano/vocal score, due in June. As noted by the Pittsburgh Opera's general director Christopher Hahn, the opera's score is rich in textures and styles, including scenes that jazz and mariachi.

For the first time in its history, Pittsburgh Opera will feature a cast primarily comprising black performers. The cast thus far includes Kenneth Kellogg, Norman Shankle, Denyce Graves and former resident artists Phillip Gay and Jasmine Muhammad. At the unveiling of the Pittsburgh Opera's upcoming season, Sean Gibson, the great grandson of Josh Gibson, mentioned that his family is frequently approached for projects featuring the famous baseball star.

"I remember talking to Daniel years ago about his project... I think for us, and our family, it was a great exposure for us to reach a different audience to learn about Josh Gibson... about the great man he was, off the field as well as on the field."

View an aria from the opera, introduced by composer Sonenberg. [Sam Bankhead's aria](#) is sung by Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Matthew Scollin (at the Pittsburgh Opera's season preview event on February 11, 2016).

Ethiopian-born USM student chosen to be one of Portland's 'Global Shapers'

First year CAHS student Muna Adan details her pursuits the way a hungry person might write a shopping list.

"I am really passionate about poetry, religion, race, gender. That kind of stuff," said Adan, who just turned 19. Add sexual orientation and immigration policy, economics, education and entrepreneurship.

You start to get the idea. As a student at a Deering High School, Adan worked on a project to fight hunger in Portland's public schools. Before graduation, she turned a poem into a [TEDxDirigo presentation](#) describing her frustrations as a young, black Muslim woman. And this year, she hopes to change the world.

Adan was selected to be among 20 people under 30 to launch Maine's first Global Shapers' Hub in Portland. With support from the World Economic Forum, the group is cur-

working to decide upon a hub project. Other hubs have built solar-powered community gardens, erected libraries, taught people about their finances and created WiFi hotspots in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

"I can't really say that there's one thing we really want to focus on," Adan said. "Not yet."

Portland's Global Shapers include brokers and scientists, pastors and paralegals. Adan is the only student.

Originally from Ethiopia, she immigrated to America when she was a young girl. After a short time in Nashville, her family settled in Portland.

She has had her discouraging moments, detailed in the TEDxDirigo piece titled "Forgive Me."

"Forgive me for having the audacity to believe that I was a valuable asset to



my community," she said. "Being a black, Muslim woman was never a walk in the park, never knowing if someone was staring at me because I covered my hair or my skin was dark."

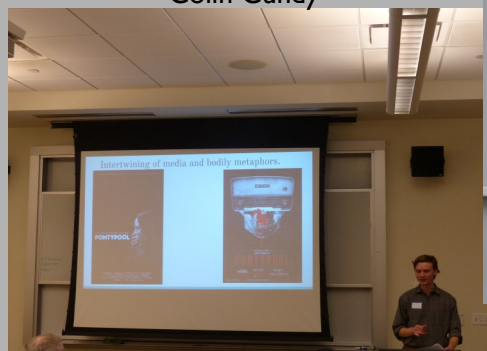
To Adan, the discouraging times are outweighed by optimism, something she learned on the hunger project.

"It taught me that I can make a difference if I set out to do it," she said.

Thinking Matters 2016

On Friday, April 22nd, 2016 the University of Southern Maine saw the manifestation of collegiate collaboration between students and faculty in the day long Thinking Matters conference. Innovative teaching and creative work – whether in a classroom, in a lab or in a studio – are the heart of any dynamic university culture. At the University of Southern Maine, Thinking Matters, showcased high quality student-faculty research collaborations and opportunities available to both graduate and undergraduate students. Its an event that allows students and faculty to share their work with each other, their colleagues, and the general public. CAHS participants included: Colin Cundy, Media Studies major presenting *Pontypool: Zombies, Contagion, and Language*, Devon Colella, History major presenting *The Cylinder Phonograph and its Legacy: Turn-of-the Century Edison Cylinder Recordings, Popular Culture, Science, and the Importance of Sound Preservation*, and Timothy Sprague, Communication major who presented on *The Deep Structure of Bullshit*.

Colin Cundy



Devon Colella



Timothy Sprague



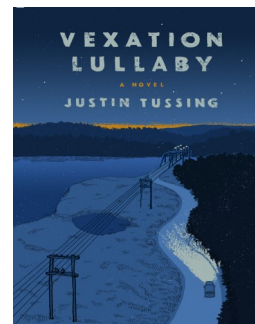
CAHS BOOKSHELF



Justin Tussing,
Associate Professor
of English/Director of
Stonecoast MFA

In Professor Tussing's new novel, *Vexation Lullaby*, Peter Silver is a young doctor treading water in the wake of a breakup—a man whose girlfriend called him a "mama's boy" and whose best friend considers him a "homebody," a squanderer of adventure. But when he receives an unexpected request for a house call, he obliges, only to discover that his new patient is aging, chameleonic rock star Jimmy Cross. Soon Peter is compelled to join the mysteriously ailing celebrity, his band, and his entourage, as they travel from state to state. On the road, the so-called "first physician embedded in a rock tour" is thrust into a way of life that embraces disorder and risk rather than order and discipline.

Trailing the band at every tour stop is Arthur Pennyman, Cross's number-one fan. Pennyman has not missed a performance in twenty years, sacrificing his family and job to chronicle every show on his website. Cross insists that "being a fan is how we teach ourselves to love," and, in the end, Pennyman does learn. And when he hears a mythic, as-yet-unperformed song he starts to piece together the puzzle of Peter's role in Cross's past.

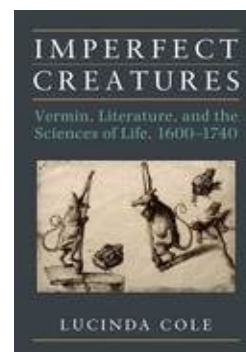


Vexation Lullaby. New
York, Catapult Press
2016.



Lucinda Cole,
Associate Professor
of English

Imperfect Creatures: Vermin, Literatures, and the Sciences of Life 1600-1740 is the first full-length study of the shifting and unstable but foundation status of "vermin" as creatures and category in the early modern literary, scientific, and political imagination. Human health and demographic problems—notably those of feeding populations periodically stricken by hunger and disease—were linked then, as they are now, to the animal world, and especially to species (rats, crows, frogs, wolves, and even dogs) thought to carry disease or to destroy human food supplies. In this book, Professor Cole demonstrates how real and imagined vermin populate religion, science, and literature in the period between 1600 and 1740, when empirical methods, modern agricultural practices, and political theory were being formed. Published by the University of Michigan Press, *Imperfect Creatures* is one of 72 books chosen to be released globally in digital form through the award-winning program, *Knowledge Unlatched*.



Imperfect Creatures: Vermin, Literatures, and the Sciences of Life 1600-1740. University of Michigan Press, 2016.

ARTS CALENDAR

USM Fall 2016

Its Honor is Here Pledged: Broken Treaty Quilts by Gina Adams

AREA Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus
Aug 29-Dec 9

Thursday, November 3, 5-7 pm

Conversation with Visiting Artist Gina Adams

Broken Treaty Quilts: an Activist Approach to Art

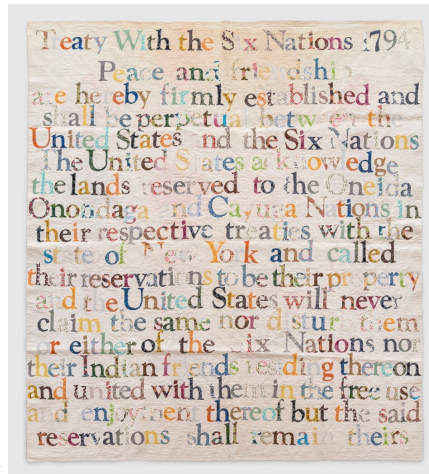
AREA Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus

5:15-6 pm followed by a reception

Friday, November 4, noon-1 pm

Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall, Gorham campus

Powerpoint presentation by Visiting Artist Gina Adams



Although she is half Euro-American, Gina Adams' art is primarily inspired by and deeply committed to the memory of her White Earth Ojibwa grandfather. The Native North American history of forced assimilation, along with the intimate process of making, drives her project of making quilts excerpting broken treaties from each of the US states. Seven quilts are featured here, including a Maine quilt referencing broken Wabanaki land claims treaties. Gina Adams' cross-media, hybrid artwork is exhibited extensively throughout the US and Europe and resides in many public and private collections. She is currently a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow, a resident at Santa Fe Artist Institute Residency, and Faculty in Visual Arts at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.

George Longfish: Indian on Indian

Art Gallery, Gorham campus

Oct 6-Dec 9, 2016

Opening Reception: Thursday, Oct 6, 5-7 pm, Artist Talk at 6 pm.

Artist, educator, writer, and curator George Longfish (Seneca/Tuscarora) has been instrumental in shaping the field of contemporary Native American art for over forty years. After receiving his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1972, Longfish served as Professor in the Department of Native American Studies at the University of California, Davis from 1973 to 2003. He was also Director of the Carl N. Gorman Museum from 1974 to 1996, where he helped to start the careers of Kay WalkingStick, James Luna, Edgar Heap of Birds, and others. He retired to South Berwick, Maine in 2004.

Community Building through Art in East Bayside

Powerpoint Presentation by Mushana Ali and Paula Gerstenblatt

Thursday, October 13, 5:30-7 pm

133 Wishcamper, USM Portland campus

Please join us for an engaging presentation by Muhsana Ali, USM Art Department Artist-in-Residence and Paula Gerstenblatt, USM School of Social Work professor on their community art project with students, residents, and community partners in East Bayside. The talk will be followed by a reception in the Wishcamper Forum.

TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE CAHS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We in CAHS focus primarily upon scholarships for students and community programming. Gifts to the school can be made in the following ways: Checks can be made payable to the **University of Southern Maine**. Be sure to reference the area you wish to support on your check and mail it to USM, Advancement, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300. Gifts may also be made by contacting us at CAHSDean@maine.edu or visiting our giving page at: <http://usm.maine.edu/giving>. Thanks for your support.