

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER



Molded by the Flow

A Libra sponsored multi-media performance with students from the Art Department, Theatre Department and the School of Music.

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- Libra Professorship: *Molded by the Flow*
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Dean Adam Tuchinsky

From the Dean

Students, faculty, friends, and alumni of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Southern Maine, we would like to invite you to explore the college through our spring newsletter. Highlighted within, particularly, are the many public events organized by our faculty and academic programs. The cover photo, for example, features a still from *Molded by the Flow*, a collaboration between students and faculty from Art, Theatre, and Music, and internationally renowned performing artists, writers, and composers Paul Drescher and Rinde Eckert. Performed in Lewiston and Gorham, the show was a tribute to Maine, its environment and its people.

Those of you who remain in Maine likely realize what a challenging semester it was. After a mild start to the winter, Maine's climate delivered a concentrated version of its usual punch. Nonetheless, it was an incredible spring. The School of Music's Professor Sonenberg debuted his opera *The Summer King* in Pittsburgh. Senator Angus King delivered the closing remarks at our Political Science program's Model United Nations Conference, convened by Professor Ruback and his students. We also welcomed back alumni Neil Genzlinger '77 for a provocative conversation on the state of the media with Communication and Media Studies Professor David Pierson, and Admiral Michael Dumont '84 who honored our graduating veterans with an address at their commencement celebration. Speaking of our alumni, we are so pleased with the number of students who have sent us updates for the newsletter. Updates large and small can be sent to: cahsdean@maine.edu. Please keep them coming!

If you would like to help students like our Art, Music and Theatre Scholars above, please consider a donation to the CAHS Scholarship Fund. Checks can be made payable to the University of Southern Maine, CAHS Scholarship Fund, Advancement, P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300. Gifts may also be made by contacting us at cahsdean@maine.edu or visiting our giving page at: <http://usm.maine.edu/giving>. Thanks for your support!

Senator King Addresses Students at the Maine Model UN Conference

The 2017 [Maine Model U.N. Conference](#), a 3-day gathering of 550 high schoolers at USM's Gorham Campus, was held in May. The USM effort was led by Political Science Professor Timothy Ruback who also serves as the conference's director. Compromise and cooperation are key pieces to this annual event. Students took on the roles of United Nations delegates and were divided into 10 committees, each led by a pair of USM students. USM student Lee Parsons served as secretary general. Students' work included drafting resolutions and even faced a middle-of-the-night crises. Professor Ruback welcomed Independent Senator King who described his frustration with the strict partisanship of Congress saying "Our government is the



Senator Angus King

result of compromise." When describing the historical formation of the House of Representatives and the Senate, King stated that "they were meant to please both rural states and those with large populations. Nobody in Congress should ever say they're not going to compromise because they wouldn't be there if it wasn't for a compromise."



2017 CAHS Scholarship Awards

On April 20th at Corthell Hall on the Gorham campus, Deans Tuchinsky and Murphy and CAHS faculty presented \$63,000 in awards and scholarships to 77 CAHS students in our annual CAHS Recognition Award Ceremony. Professor Andrew Harris, Chair of the Theatre department was the faculty speaker. A reception followed the ceremony at the President's house.



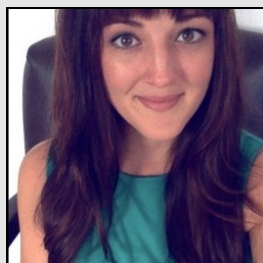
From the English Department



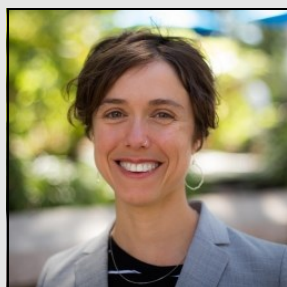
Professor Karen Raber
University of
Mississippi



Professor Siobhan Senior
University of New
Hampshire



Professor and Director
of Writing Programs,
Jessica Ouellette



Visiting Faculty Professor
Kristen Reynolds

Equeer: Human-Equine Erotics in Shakespeare's 1 Henry IV

On March 7, Professor Karen Raber, from the University of Mississippi presented her work on Shakespeare. Taking as its starting point the relationship between two celebrated horsemen, Hotspur and Prince Hal in Shakespeare's second tetralogy, this talk investigated how the conjunction of cognitive theories of embodied mind, the insights of animal studies, and queer theory can illuminate Shakespeare's depiction of the human-equine partnership's erotic content.

Dawnland Voices: Reading & Archiving Writing by Indigenous People

On April 11th, Professor Siobhan Senior, from the University of New Hampshire, presented the 2014 anthology, *Dawnland Voices: An Anthology of Indigenous Writing from New England*. This work is the result of a multi-year collaboration with eleven tribal community editors. The book and the website, dawnlandvoices.org, archive literature from ten northeastern Native American nations. Professor Senior's lecture discussed the intersections of "recovery" work and community collaboration that continue to shape this project.

Rhetorics on the Move: Feminist Action in Digital Spaces

On April 26th, English Professor Jessica Ouellette presented her research on digital feminist rhetorics. During this event, she shared how transformations in digital media have profoundly altered the ways in which we engage in writing and rhetorical practices, and how we might leverage this new rhetorical landscape in service of social action.



From the Economics Program

USM Celebrates New Food Studies Program

The Food Studies Program was officially launched on Tuesday, March 21st with an event at the Glickman Library. Economics Professor, Michael Hillard and the programs Executive Director, Kristin Reynolds, a visiting scholar to USM from Yale and The New School. The new program will give students an under

standing of the social, economic and environmental issues affecting local, national and global food systems. It will also develop students' abilities to apply their knowledge of food systems to professional challenges in business and entrepreneurship, policy work that promotes social and environmental justice, hospitality, and other food-related settings.

In addition to the new Food Studies minor, undergraduate and graduate internships will begin in the Fall of 2017. In the Spring of 2018, the university will unveil a graduate certificate program and graduate-level coursework in support of multiple Master's programs, including Social Work and Business Administration.

From the History Program



New Exhibition in USM Special Collections

Professor Libby Bischof's HTY 200: Research Methods class held their opening of a new exhibition in USM Special Collections at the Osher Library, "Letters Home: Harriet Sweetser and the Gorham Normal School at the Turn-Of-The-Century." The class spent the semester transcribing 100 letters by Harriet Sweetser, a student at the Gorham Normal School from 1898-1900. This exhibit featured letters, photographs, and fascinating memorabilia from USM's predecessor institution. The exhibit was on display from April through May.



African History and Politics
Professor Leroy Rowe

Professor Rowe launches a new LET'S TALK ABOUT IT series sponsored by The Maine Humanities Council

Professor Leroy Rowe is project scholar for a new series of talks, **Race and Justice in America**. Part of The 14th Amendment in American Life and Imagination, a program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which explores concepts of equality, citizenship, and liberty statewide. It was offered at the Portland Public Library from January through April. The program explored the complex, and often uneasy, relationship between black Americans and the American justice system. Participants explored the questions of race and justice through books that provide an historical analyses of selected events, court rulings, and public policies that help to explain the black American struggle for citizenship, civil rights, and equal treatment under the laws. Also explored were the changing boundaries and content of state and national citizenship. Questions considered included: how was membership in the social and political community defined for African Americans and whites in the United States? How have those definitions changed over time? And in what ways did individuals and communities exercise rights as citizens and experience those rights differently?



History Students Travel to New York City

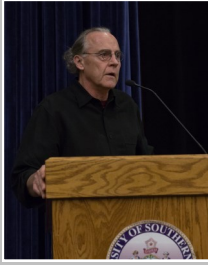


Thanks to a generous USM Title III program grant for high impact teaching and learning experiences, 40 History students and four history professors traveled to New York City on April 5th and 6th. Students from Professor Adam Tuchinsky's Civil War course, Professor Leroy Rowe's Race and the Politics of Mass Incarceration course, Professor Eileen Eagan's Women's History course, and Professor Libby Bischof's WWI: Culture, Politics, Memory course. While in the city, the group visited the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Stonewall National Monument, the WWI Poster exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, the Statue of Liberty and took the ferry to Ellis Island. This incredible experience used the city as a classroom and, for many students, marked the first time they had visited New York. The visit to Ellis Island was particularly meaningful to many students who were able to trace the journeys of their grandparents and great-grandparents.



From the Criminology Program

Presentation of the film DO NOT RESIST



Criminology Professor
James W. Messerschmidt



Portland Police Chief
Michael Sauschuck

On January 30th, the Criminology program hosted a screened presentation of the 2016 film, *Do Not Resist*. This documentary shows the rapid militarization of police forces in the United States. Starting on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri, as the community grapples with the death of Michael Brown. [DO NO RESIST](#), the directorial debut of Detropia cinematographer Craig Atkinson, offers a stunning look at the current state of policing in America and a glimpse into the future. The Tribeca Film Festival winner for Best Documentary put viewers in the center of the action—from a ride-along with a South Carolina SWAT team, to inside a police training seminar that teaches the importance of “righteous violence,” to the floor of a congressional hearing on the proliferation of military equipment in small-town police departments. This film also explored where controversial new technologies, including predictive policing algorithms might lead next. The film presentation was followed by a discussion with: Portland Police Chief Michael Sauschuck, Erin Hennessey, Portland Racial Justice Congress, Professor James Messerschmidt (Criminology), and Professor Dušan Bjelić (Criminology).



From the Philosophy Department



On March 21, Edward Mooney spoke at Professor Loudén's History of Nineteenth-Century European Philosophy class. His topic was Søren Kierkegaard's philosophy. Mooney is Professor Emeritus of the Departments of Religion and Philosophy, Syracuse University and Visiting Professor Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has written on Kierkegaard, Cavell, and Thoreau.

On April 4th, USM Alum Harris Mattson of Mailloux & Marden spoke in Professor Loudén's Philosophy of Law class. He discussed Ronald Dworkin's legal theory. Mattson, a Philosophy and Political Science double major, graduated from USM in 2008. Harris grew up in Freedom, Maine, and received dual B.A. degrees in Philosophy and Political Science from the University of Southern Maine in 2008. While an undergraduate, he was inducted into the National Political Science Honor Society, *Pi Sigma Alpha*, and received Honors in Philosophy for defense of a thesis on competing theories of truth.



Katie Nokes Minervino, an attorney and partner, at Pierce Atwood in Portland, spoke on current issues in immigration law to Professor Loudén's Philosophy of Law class on April 25. She advises clients on current developments in the ever-evolving field of immigration law, and in addition to her broad employment-based immigration practice, has experience in family-based immigration. Her work also includes pro bono representation of clients in asylum processes and post-asylum grant applications for permanent residence.

Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing

Stonecoast MFA Celebrating 15 Years of Nurturing Top Writers



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

Until Justin Tussing met his first Stonecoasters -- the graduate students enrolled in USM's Stonecoast Master's in Fine Arts program -- the Iowa author thought writers best learned their craft in dog-eat-dog competitions. "I thought people were soft here," Tussing said. "But I learned the truth." He got to know the faculty and students, witnessed the breakthroughs that were made as mentors and friends collaborated and sharpened their storytelling. "It's not competitive," said Tussing, who now serves as the program's director. "It's nurturing and rigorous."

Majors are divided between fiction, popular fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry. New students often enroll because they want to complete a novel or memoir. At the end of two years—and five residencies—they emerge with carefully forged skills and a community that carries them for years longer. "I had a particularly good experience there and it paid off professionally," said John Florio, a 2007 graduate from Brooklyn, NY. "I was a writer of advertising and I had done some scripts for television, but I had always wanted to write creatively." As with so many students, enrolling meant a leap of faith. "It was the idea of going to Maine and working with people who are really good, and then putting in a lot of time on my own reading and writing and working with mentors," said Florio, now 56. He learned to focus his stories and discover the key moments that would steer his narratives and resonate with readers, he said. In the 10 years since he graduated, he has written two novels, two nonfiction books and become a regular contributor to both "The Atlantic" and "The New Yorker" magazines. "All of those things go back to the writing chops I learned at Stonecoast," said Florio.

It's become a common story at the program. More than 500 students have graduated from the program and gone on to create a long list of published works and awards. They have signed book contracts with Da Capo Press, Pocket Books, Random House and many others. Awards include the Pushcart Prize, a Golden Heart finalist, and National Book Award finalist. Currently, there are about 70 students in the program, said Robin Talbot, Stonecoast's associate director. "We don't always know how they find us," she said. "They take this huge leap to come here from all over the country." They represent all corners of the U.S. Past students have also come from Canada, the U.K., Greece and Israel. Some have taken the opportunity to attend Ireland's own version of Stonecoast. Each semester, ten current students are selected to meet in Ireland with Stonecoast faculty and prominent Irish writers for an intense, weeklong residency.

No matter where they are, Stonecoasters say the greatest strength of the program is its nurturing atmosphere. Current student Peter Behravesch, a 32-year-old writer from San Diego, enrolled to guide him towards the completion of a novel he describes as "a Persian space fantasy." "I have really enjoyed all the faculty I have worked with," Behravesch said. "I really think they are all fantastic." In the residencies, he discovered instant rapport. "On the first day, I made like 40 new best friends," he said. "They're all like-minded people. It's like finding a tribe."

It's a closeness that Stonecoast pursues. After all, for many of the writers, their work is intimate and almost too personal to share. "They go into a room by themselves, and they create these things in a safe space," said Tussing. "Then they send them to us, and we judge their souls." This July, the program will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a three-day reunion. There will be dinners and seminars, panels and readings. There may be a few minutes to discuss the future of the program and how it grows even further. Neither Tussing nor Talbot would predict what the next fifteen years might look like. "I hope the program continues to evolve and in ways I can't anticipate," Talbot said.

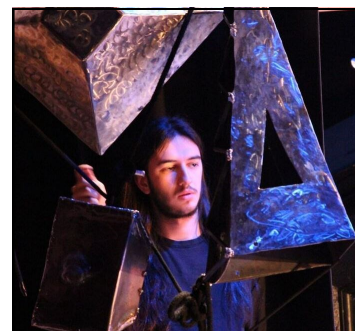
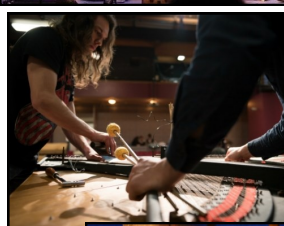


From the Departments of Theatre, Art and the School of Music

Molded by the Flow: A poetic, visual and musical narrative

Molded by the Flow, a poetic, visual and musical narrative inspired by Southern Maine's rich natural and human history, was a multi-media interdisciplinary performance collaboration delivered to audiences on our Lewiston and Gorham campuses from April 14th through the 29th. The performance explored how the state's rivers, ocean, weather, plants and animals have inspired diverse groups of people to inhabit the area and shape the landscape and history of Maine.

Under the guidance of Visiting Professor and nationally recognized American Composer, Paul Dresher and Performance Artist, Rinde Eckert, students in music, theatre and art collaborated on this semester long project which was dedicated to the creation of this work. About the show's concept, Eckert said "my governing image is both abstract and worldly. From the watershed, the multiplicity of streams. As the streams move down the side of the mountain, some of them converge and the many streams become a few rivers, increasing in speed and power. The power of the river attracts a community, water becoming the shared resource at the center of a culture. Our communities are thereby molded by the flow."



Molded by the Flow: made possible by the Libra Professorship at USM, with additional support of the USM Gorham Cultural Affairs Committee.

From the Art Department



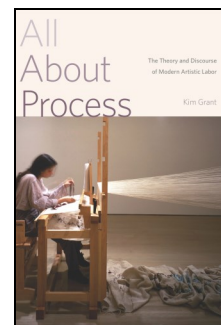
Associate Professor of Art History, Kim Grant

Art History Professor and Department Chair, Kim Grant, has a new book out: *All About Process: The Theory and Discourse of Modern Artistic Labor*, Penn State University Press, March 14, 2017.

"In recent years, many prominent and successful artists have claimed that their primary concern is not the artwork they produce but the artistic process itself. In this volume, Kim Grant analyzes this idea and traces its historical roots, showing how changing concepts of artistic process have played a dominant role in the development of modern and contemporary art.

This astute account of the ways in which process has been understood and addressed examines canonical artists such as Monet, Cézanne, Matisse, and De Kooning, as well as philosophers and art theorists such as Henri Focillon, R. G. Collingwood, and John Dewey. Placing "process art" within a larger historical context, Grant looks at the changing relations of the artist's labor to traditional craftsmanship and industrial production, the status of art as a commodity, the increasing importance of the body and materiality in art making, and the nature and significance of the artist's role in modern society. In doing so, she shows how process is an intrinsic part of aesthetic theory that connects to important contemporary debates about work, craft, and labor.

Comprehensive and insightful, this synthetic study of process in modern and contemporary art reveals how artists' explicit engagement with the concept fits into a broader narrative of the significance of art in the industrial and postindustrial world."



All About Process The Theory and Discourse of Modern Artistic Labor.
University Park, PA:
The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2017.

USM Art Department and galleries presented USM Student Juried Exhibition

On Thursday, March 16, the [USM Art Department and galleries](#) presented the USM Student Juried Exhibition and opening awards reception at the USM Art Gallery in Gorham. The exhibition featured the artwork of USM students, whether or not they have chosen to pursue a degree in art. Each year, three jurors review the student submissions and select roughly 40 pieces for display. This year's jurors were George Longfish, nationally-recognized painter and Native American elder; Clint Fulkerson, a young, up and coming artist who creates drawings and public art based on organic forms and processes; and Jocelyn Lee, photographer and founder of the new Portland artist-run space, Speedwell Projects. Carolyn Eyler, Director of Exhibitions and Programs, describes the Juried Student Exhibition, which is open to all USM "as an opportunity for them to have art reviewed by recognized professionals in the field, prepare selected work for professional display and be congratulated in an opening reception and award ceremony."



Lisa Stratton, *Freedom*



Nicole Downing,
Container #1, Ceramic



K. Scott Davis,
Perpetual Motion



Ryan Jordan, *Untitled*



Jes Lynch, *Transformation*,
Ceramic 2017

From the Art Department

Professor Donna Cassidy collaborates on art exhibit at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art

The exhibition, **Marsden Hartley's Maine**, on view at The Met Breuer from March 15 through June 18, 2017, showcases the American artist's lifelong artistic engagement with his home state of Maine. Approximately 90 paintings and drawings will illuminate his extraordinarily expressive range—from Post-Impressionist interpretations of seasonal change in inland Maine in the early 1900s to folk-inspired depictions, beginning in the late 1930s, of the state's hearty inhabitants, majestic coastline, and great geological icon, Mount Katahdin.

Born in Lewiston, Maine, in 1877, Hartley became known for his peripatetic nature, especially his time spent in Paris and Berlin, where he participated in the European avant-garde. Over the course of his career, however, he returned to his home state repeatedly, painted Maine subjects while living abroad, and proclaimed himself the "painter from Maine" in the final chapter of his life. With the artist's place of origin as its focus, the exhibition will trace the powerful threads of continuity that run through Hartley's work and underlie many of his greatest contributions to American modernism. To Hartley, Maine was a springboard to imagination and creative inspiration, a locus of memory and longing, a refuge, and a place for communion with previous artists who painted there, especially Winslow Homer, the most famous American artist associated with the state. Hartley died in Ellsworth, Maine, in 1943.

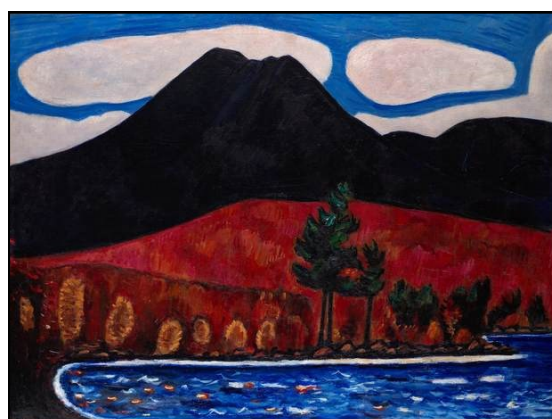
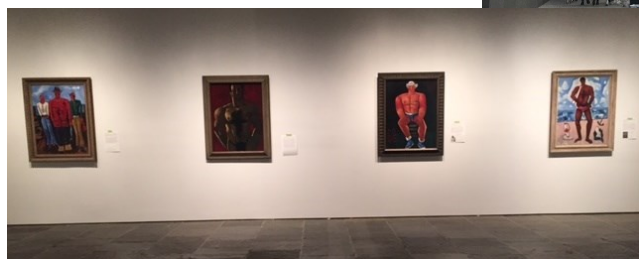
Professor Cassidy, the exhibition's co-curator and author of a critically praised biography of the painter and writer entitled *Marsden Hartley's Maine* in 2005 said, "It's also about his representation of this place which he said he carried with him wherever he went." In the early 20th century, Hartley was part of the avant-garde. He lived in Paris and Berlin, hobnobbed with famous artists and explored abstraction and expressionism in his works with growing acclaim. He was also a Mainer, raised in a hardscrabble Lewiston home. To him, Maine could appear bleak and foreboding, bright and whimsical or awe-inspiringly majestic. The feuding images will all be part of **Marsden Hartley's Maine**, Cassidy said.

The art history professor joined co-curators Randall Griffey, curator in the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Elizabeth Finch, Lunder curator of American Art at the Colby College Museum of Art. The chance to work with Griffey, Finch and the MET has been extraordinary, Cassidy said. The project began with Finch, who invited Cassidy to join the project because of her familiarity with Hartley. "These things don't happen all the time," Cassidy said. "As with a lot of things in our lives, it's been a perfect confluence of activities that came together." Part of that is the venue. The exhibition will be held at the Met Breuer, which was formerly the Whitney Museum of American Art on Madison Avenue in Manhattan's Upper East Side. It was there that Hartley's legacy was jump-started in 1980, Cassidy said.

Marsden Hartley's Maine is organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Colby College Museum of Art. Following its presentation at The Met, the exhibition will be on view at the Colby College Museum, in Waterville, Maine, from July 8 through November 12, 2017. Information on the exhibition can be found here: <http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2017/marsden-hartley>.



Donna Cassidy,
Professor of Art History



Hartley's "Mount Katahdin,
Autumn #2"

From the School of Music



Faculty Concert Series

The Faculty Concert Series: *Cookin' in the Kitchen: The Jazz Tradition of Our Forefathers Blended with Popular Music of Our Day* was held on April 28th at Corthell Hall featuring: Chris Klaxton, trumpet and piano with the USM Faculty Jazz Ensemble of Taylor O'Donnell, vocals, Barry Saunders, Saxophones, Professor Chris Oberholtzer, trombone, Gary Wittner, guitar, Bronek Suchanek, bass and Less Harris, Jr., on the drums.

Music faculty member, Chris Klaxton, the organizer of the event explained, "We aim to illustrate traditional elements of improvisation and swing (groove) throughout the performance, particularly as we delve into our favorite pop/radio hits and original compositions. Working with new music does not mean one must forsake the Jazz Tradition." The program included several compositions from the jazz canon: Clark Terry, Thelonious Monk, Ellington, among others. Several arrangements of popular music: David Bowie, The Police, Beach Boys, Beatles, and several of Klaxton's original compositions, which lean heavily on elements of rock-n-roll/hip hop, performed within a jazz ensemble allowing various forms of improvisation.

The University Chorale Presents Cinco de Mayo Celebration!

The University Chorale under the direction of Professor Nicolás Alberto Dosman, presented their spring concert at First Parish Church in Portland on Friday, May 5th. The theme of this Cinco de Mayo concert celebrated the work *Misa Criolla* by Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez. And what Cinco de Mayo Celebration would be complete without featuring music from Mexico? The chorale also performed a baroque work by Mexican composer, Manuel Sumaya.

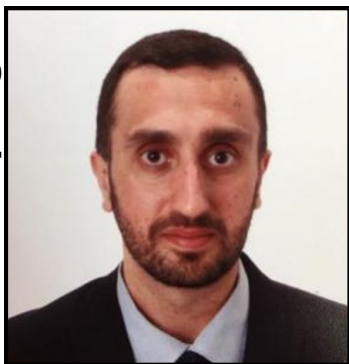


USM Youth Ensembles Choral Concert



The USM Youth Ensembles choral ensembles presented their spring concert on Thursday, May 4th at Corthell Concert Hall. The Southern Maine Youth Chorale, comprised of singers in grades seven-12, is conducted by Rebecca DeWan, and the Southern Maine Children's Choir, comprised of singers in grades four and up, is conducted by Professor Nicolás Alberto Dosman.

Each week the approximately 200 high and middle school students in the youth ensembles program travel from as far away as central Maine and eastern New Hampshire to rehearse at the USM School of Music in Gorham in preparation for their instrumental and vocal concerts. It's a commitment that these students and their parents make because of the high quality of musicianship that is expected of them and which they achieve. School of Music Director, Alan Kaschub, says of the program, "The energy of these performances comes from a dedicated group of students and fantastic conductors who love working with young musicians. Add into that an audience of parents, teachers and other supporters of youth music and something magical really happens!"



Professor Younus Alfayyadh

CAHS launches Arabic Classes

In a first-ever collaboration between The University of Southern Maine and Deering High School, high school and college students unite to learn beginning Arabic together in a class taught at Deering by Younus Alfayyadh.

The Arabic pilot project began this past fall and was so successful, with 19 students enrolled, that USM offered two dual-enrollment courses in the language during the spring semester on both its Portland and Gorham campuses. The goal is to offer the course to even more students, both at USM and at other area high schools.

Alfayyadh is originally from Iraq and came to Maine from Jordan in 2012. He lived in Jordan for six years after his family fled the violence in Iraq; it was in Jordan that he earned both his master's degree and his Ph.D. in Islamic law. Before being hired to teach Arabic at Deering, Alfayyadh taught classes in the language at the Riverton Study Center operated by the Portland Housing Authority, as well as for the Islamic Society of Portland. Arabic is Alfayyadh's native language, and he said it's relatively easy to learn because it is phonetic, "as you hear the word, that's how it's written," he said. In addition to teaching the basics of Arabic, Alfayyadh also introduces his students to many aspects of Middle Eastern culture.

USM Opens Recovery Oriented Campus Center (ROCC)



Anna Gardner, Collegiate Recovery Program Coordinator/Clinical Counselor and Julien Murphy, Associate Dean CAHS

Associate Dean, Julien Murphy, visited USM's Recovery Oriented Campus Center to celebrate its opening. It is the first collegiate recovery center offered in Maine and USM is one of only seven universities to receive a federal grant for startup funds to address the needs of college students in recovery. The common goal of collegiate recovery programs is to promote student success through the integration of recovery with personal and academics goals. The ROCC is a peer driven community that provides a safe and supportive place for students to redefine their college experience through connection with new people and finding a home in the community. ROCC offers programs that include Students and Recovery, Yoga, Game Night, and Supporting Loved One with Addiction.

The ROCC is located on the 3rd floor of the Sullivan Gym in Portland and is open Monday through Friday (see hours here: <http://usm.maine.edu/recovery-oriented-campus-center/office-hours>).



From the Theatre Department

Theatre and Music presents comic opera, 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'



The [USM Department of Theatre](#) and [School of Music](#) presented their quadrennial opera, Otto Nicolai's "The Merry Wives of Windsor," on Friday, March 3. Nicolai's version of the Shakespeare classic is a fully-staged comic opera, where the merry (meaning naughty) wives take control of Falstaff's unwanted advances. The show included some of Shakespeare's most immortal comic characters, played by USM students studying classical voice, opera and musical theatre.

The show was directed by nationally and internationally recognized director and USM Theatre Professor Cary Libkin, with musical direction by USM Voice Faculty Scott Wheatley. Fully staged with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra conducted by Professor of Music Robert Lehmann, this production featured choreography by Dance Professor Maria A. Tzianabos, costume design by Costume Director Anna Grywalski, technical direction by Technical Director Perry Fertig, lighting design by Jamie Grant '97 and set design by Set Designer Christopher Price.

'Falstaff,' Verdi did that. This opera is not about Falstaff but rather the 'merry' wives, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Page and Anne. The entire piece focuses on the women, and it is they who solve problems, establish justice and have a whole lot of fun in the process."

Conductor Robert Lehmann said, "Nicolai's wonderful music has it all; light, patter music in the Gilbert and Sullivan mold, elegant and charming Viennese style, and stately, ethereal chorus numbers. Orchestra members always look forward to the quadrennial collaboration with our opera and theatre colleagues, as it affords the musicians the unusual opportunity to play some of the amazing operatic literature."

Director Cary Libkin said, "Nicolai's take on the Shakespeare tale begins with the title. Note that it's not titled



From the Department of Communication and Media Studies



Professor Dave Pierson (CMS) with History alumn Neil Genzlinger, *New York Times* TV Critic

From USM to *The New York Times*: Television Critic Neil Genzlinger '77

Neil Genzlinger, a 1977 History graduate and critic for *The New York Times*, has worked in the newspaper industry for 40 years. On April 13th, Mr. Genzlinger joined Professor David Pierson for an alumni event to discuss his career and the shifts that have occurred in the newspaper business and in how news is consumed, particularly in the last few years.

While here, Genzlinger sat down with editors at the student-run *Free Press*, which he edited in his junior and senior years at USM. The skills he learned at the *Free Press* helped prepare him for a long career in journalism. "You got a tiny little sampling of all aspects of the business," Genzlinger said of his *Free Press* experience. "By the time I graduated, I had a rough idea of how a newspaper was put together. That served me well all the way through." He counseled students looking for a job in today's journalism market to not only write well, but learn to take photos, shoot video and post to social media. They must also be ready to learn skills unimagined today. "The jobs available to you in 10 years haven't even been invented yet," Genzlinger said.

After graduating with a master's degree in journalism from Penn State University, Genzlinger went to the *Hartford Courant* and the *Washington Post* before moving to the *New York Times* in 1994. He has been there ever since. After a variety of jobs working as an editor on the National Desk, the Op-Ed Page and the Culture Desk, he transitioned to become a critic. He is the only critic on the staff of the *New York Times* who reviews TV, movies and theater, though he is best known for his many TV reviews. He has accumulated more than 3,000 bylines at the newspaper. "My niche at the *Times* is to explore the outer fringes of television," he said. This event was attended by alumni representing many decades at USM.

Student Notes

Philosophy and Sociology Double Major, Dan Del Gallo, Wins National Wrestling Championship!

Senior Dan Del Gallo (Gardiner, Maine) capped an historic weekend and an outstanding career as a member of the University of Southern Maine Huskies wrestling team. Rising to the peak of his sport, Dan took home the 2017 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championships for the 149-pounds weight class. A two-time (2015, 2016) NCAA Elite 90 award winner, presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals for each of the NCAA's 90 championships, Del Gallo entered the 2017 National Championship tournament seeded fourth in his class. Del Gallo finished the 2017 National Championship with a 4-0 record and completes his outstanding four-year career with the Huskies with a remarkable record of 137-19. Dan completed his senior season with a near-perfect record of 45-1.



Criminology major, Katie Muriel, published in *Nasty Women*



President Donald Trump has probably never heard of 404 Ink, but they have of course heard of him. Run by Heather McDaid and Laura Jones, the new Scottish indie publisher kicked up a firestorm back in January when they lifted an insult from the campaign and turned it into their first book: *Nasty Women*. A collection of essays and accounts on what it is to be a woman in the 21st century, the book features more than twenty women and covers topics from Brexit to birth control, immigration to being fat, unlikely female role models to blogging while Black.

Katie Muriel's essay is about living in Trump's America as a young mixed Latinx woman and struggling to understand her own identity in the middle of devastating rifts in her family that re-emerged post-election. For interested readers, the link to the publisher: <http://www.404ink.com/nasty-women>.

History Major, Molly Gibeault, Collects All-American Honor

At March's NCAA Division III competition, Molly Gibeault became the third woman in USM women's indoor track & field history to collect an All-American honor. Molly tied for eighth place in the pole vault. Gibeault was one of four competitors to clear 3.60 meters (11-9 ³/₄) on their first attempt, but were unable to make the next height of 3.75 meters (12-3 ¹/₂). The four would wind up in a four-way tie for the final scoring position earning a quarter point for their schools and All-American honors.



Student Notes



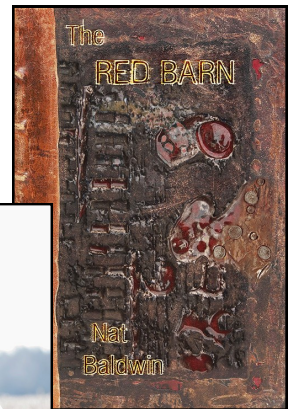
Student leader Hamdia Ahmed's journey featured in the *Portland Press Herald*

Political Science major, Hamdia Ahmed, is finding her voice, both as a student leader and as a leader in her community. Her story was featured recently on the front page of the *Portland Press Herald's Maine Sunday Telegram*: <http://www.pressherald.com/2017/02/12/college-student-inspires-others-to-rally-behind-american-dream/>. Ahmed's story began during the brutal

civil war in Somalia, the country where she was born in 1997. Her family fled to a refugee camp in nearby Kenya, where they spent the next several years, finally being allowed to immigrate to the US in 2005 after completing the arduous application process. She and her family are now U.S. citizens. Her family's experiences led to an interest in studying political science at USM. She's the first of her family to attend college and she has strong ambitions, hoping to attend law school with a dream of someday getting a job at the United Nations.

English major, Nat Baldwin, has published *The Red Barn*

The Red Barn is a loosely-connected collection of short fictions that Nat composed over the last two summers while a student at USM. The stories are dark, non-linear sonic lattices that prioritize style over plot. They have been described as "ambient literary horror" or "experimental lyric." Blake Butler, author of *300,000,000* said of *The Red Barn*: "The blades, the rust, the dirt, the mouth, the meat, the blood, the sun, the glass, the skin, the word, the lake, the graves; it's a pristine and elemental form of fiction that Nat Baldwin renders, distilling language and image to its most primal animation. Like seeing slides of color pass before your face in darkness. Like remembering how to read." For additional information visit the publisher page at: <http://www.calamaripress.com/>



History Major, Katie Gallup, wins Lunder Family Fellowship

Katie Gallup, a Junior History major, was awarded a prestigious Lunder Family Fellowship at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston for summer 2017. Katie will spend the summer interning for the Visitor Studies and the Community Engagement departments at the museum.

2017 COMMENCEMENT

GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Alumni Notes

Bonnie Speed '79

Art

Bonnie took a few years off after graduation to work and save for graduate school, which she began in 1984 at San Diego State University in Asian Art History. Bonnie spent three years in San Diego, followed by almost two years in Taiwan to improve her Mandarin, then finished graduate school at the University of Kansas in 1991. Bonnie's first job was as a curator in Illinois, then a museum director in Dallas and in 2002, Bonnie accepted a job at Emory University as Director of the Carlos Museum. "My work has taken me around the world, and yes, I feel very fortunate that I pursued my love of art early on at USM."

Pamela Scharmann Stewart '85

Music Performance

Pamela performed *Il bacio* (the Kiss) by Luigi Arditi (1822-1903) on February 29, 1992 in honor of the birthday of Giacomo Rossini with songs and instrumental pieces celebrating his music and that of other composers. It was sponsored by the Rossini Club of Portland, Maine and featured members of the club as performers. A lyric soprano, specializing in songs of the period, she studied with Ellen Chickering and had an active vocal studio in Maine, Rhode Island and North Carolina. Semi-retired, she now directs an early music group called the "Pollyfonix" and specializes in working with senior voices. She also plays banjo, fiddle, and rock and roll drums.

Ray Putnam '85

History

Ray is the head Track and Field/Cross-Country Coach at Garden City Community College in Garden City Kansas. The program competes in the powerful Jayhawk conference. The Jayhawk's have finished as high as 19th in the country and have had performances of 10.3 in the 100, 21.6 in the 200, 47.3 in the 400, 24'3 in the long jump, 49'7 in the triple jump, and 40.86 in the 4x100.

Michael Hayes '86

Communication

After graduating, Michael worked in Human Resources for L.L. Bean. Then in 1993, he began graduate school and completed his Masters in Education from Colorado State University. Since then Michael has traveled extensively to such places as Kuwait, Oman, Doha, Turkey, Burma, China, Germany, the UK, and Norway. Now Michael is a University Counselor in Singapore at the Singapore International School of Bangkok.

Jonathan Donahue '88

Communication

In 1994 Jonathan went on to receive his M.A. in Expressive Therapy from Lesley University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Jonathan is now a private practice psychotherapist in Newton, Massachusetts as well as an exhibiting artist and writer. He has just published a memoir, *The Last Audition*, which is available on Amazon.com.

David Hanna '91

History

David went on to earned his Masters Degree in Social Studies Education from NYU in 1996 and teaches history at Stuyvesant High School in lower Manhattan. David has also taught as an adjunct instructor at NYU and has had two books published: *Knights of the Sea* in 2012 and *Rendezvous with Death* in 2016.

Alumni Notes

Piper Major '99 Theatre

Since graduating from USM, Piper has lived in Idaho, Nevada, and California. She is currently pursuing an acting career in Los Angeles. Piper has appeared on *New Girl*, *Parks and Recreation*, and *Jimmy Kimmel*, with her biggest success thus far being: *Nocturnal Animal*, where she carried the underlying theme of the movie. The film has won multiple awards and Michael Shannon received an Oscar nomination for the film. Piper's part sparked a lot of controversy and was mentioned in many of the reviews and articles and was quoted in *Variety*, "I learned so much from my professors at USM, and I would not be where I am with out their guidance. I still use the tools they taught me."

Shauna (Roubo) Johnston '08 History

Shauna is working at Thornton Academy in Saco, where she has taught both British and American Literature as well as a class on the History of Genocide. She is currently working in the library where she teaches research methods as well as being the class advisor for the class of 2020. "When my busy schedule allows me to carve out time, I enjoy reading and writing historical fiction."

Kate Cone '08 MFA Stonecoast Writers Program

Kate has had her second book published: *What's Brewing in New England* which came out in October of 2016, and is a guide to brewpubs and craft breweries in the six-state region. Kate worked for Shipyard Brewing Company when it opened in 1994 and her first edition of *What's Brewing* was published in 1997. Both are available at local bookstores. Kate now resides in Waterville.

Mark Lockman '12 History major

Not long after finishing the last few requirements for his BA in History at USM, Mark acquired his MBA in Sports Management from Southern New Hampshire University and currently works as a Program Representative at the Greater Portland YMCA. From 2008 to 2016, Mark coached middle school and high school soccer, basketball, and track at Mahoney in South Portland and Waynflete in Portland.

Colleen Clark '12 English major, Music minor

Colleen is currently in her second semester of graduate school at USM working on her masters degree in counseling in the clinical mental health track.

Kelsey Earle '13 Arts and Humanities

After graduating, Kelsey worked as an Operations Manager of a hotel for 6 years. She recently changed careers and is now working as a Business License Specialist for the City of Auburn, Maine. Kelsey's job includes being a Deputy Registrar and Deputy City Clerk.

Alumni Notes

Tegan Talbot '14 History

Immediately after graduating, Tegan moved to Dallas, Texas and landed a job with a private equity firm, “Not a typical job for a history major, but I have enjoyed working in the finance industry and am delighted to work for a company that continually gives back to the city of Dallas.” She spends her free time traveling and has made it a life goal to visit every national park and was able to visit five this past year, including Yellowstone. Tegan also traveled to Cuba on a People to People trip this April along with two other fellow Mainers and stayed in the homes of local Cubans.

Melinda Irving '14 Philosophy

After graduating, Melinda began the Master's program in Social Work in the Fall 2014. She has completed her first internship at the Center for Grieving Children and will begin her final internship this fall at Gibson Pavillion. She has been developing an individual research project that was presented at the USM Thinking Matters Conference this spring. Melinda's goals after graduation include finding a clinical counseling position, continuing researching, and working to develop policy that better the lives of those in need.

Melinda Brooks '15 MFA Stonecoast Writers Program

Melinda published her first book, *Writing Hard Stories: Celebrated Memoirists Who Shaped Art from Trauma* this past February. Here's a brief description: “In her attempt to write a memoir about living with the secret of her father's HIV disease, after he was infected by tainted blood in 1985, and the grief following his death in 1995, Melanie was left with some painful questions: What does it take to write an honest memoir? And what happens to us when we embark on that journey? Would she manage it? Brooks sought guidance from the memoirists who most moved her—including Andre Dubus III, Joan Wickersham, Mark Doty, Marianne Leone, Richard Hoffman, Edwidge Danticat, Michael Patrick MacDonald, Richard Blanco, Abigail Thomas, Sue Silverman, Kate Bornstein, Jerald Walker, and Kyoko Mori—to answer these questions. This book encourages all writers as they work through their challenging stories.

Darien Brahms '16 History

Darien is currently finishing up her first year as a Ph.D. student in U.S. History at the University of Maryland, College Park. In her spring semester, Darien was presented with the very rewarding privilege of TAing for sixty undergraduate students in a fascinating course called *Pocketbook Politics: The History of American Consumerism*. In other firsts, her comparative photo essay entitled “*In Search of Jack Delano's Puerto Rico: Change and Continuity Revisited, 1941-2015*” will be published in the May 2017 issue of the academic journal, *Radical History Review* (Issue 128, May 2017). She is also currently at work writing and recording her sixth solo album of original roots-based rock and roll songs.

Colin Mader '16 Media Studies and Marketing

Since graduating, Colin has landed a job with Apple for business development. He is also pursuing one of his passions, filmmaking.

Alumni, please submit information about your activities for our newsletter to the
Dean's office at: cahsdean@maine.edu

Upcoming Fall 2017

Why We Fought: American WWI Posters and the Art of Persuasion

AREA Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland campus

Aug 28-December 8

Opening Reception: September 7, 4-6 pm

Opening remarks at 5 pm

Thirteen World War I posters provide a diverse historical context for the many ways in which graphic propaganda was used by the US government and various community groups to bolster support for an unpopular war and convince Americans to do their part to ensure an Allied victory. Rotating displays of USM student responses provide a wide range of contemporary perspectives. The posters are a recent gift to USM Special Collections by retired Tufts History professor Howard Solomon. *Co-organized by USM Special Collections and USM Art Galleries.*



USM Art Gallery

Oct 5-December 8

Opening reception Oct 5, 5-7 pm

Gallery talk at 6:15 pm by art critic Dominique Nahas

Each of the eight artists in this traveling group exhibition commemorates the profoundly mysterious, elusive, and imaginary qualities of landscape. Below is an excerpt from a review in *New York Art Beat* by Mary Hrbacek of the exhibition's debut at the Elga Wimmer, PCC in New York City.

Resonance and Memory: The Essence of Landscape, curated by Robert Curcio and organized through Katharine T. Carter & Associates, displays eight distinctive artists whose fresh perspective on landscape reinvigorates the genre by infusing it with issues that span time, real space, digital intervention, and altered observed reality. This diverse show includes paintings, sculpture, digital drawings, photography and glass works by Kathleen Elliott, Sandra Gottlieb, J.J. L'Heureux, John Lyon Paul, Rebeca Calderón Pittman, Gerry Tuten, Gail Watkins and Martin Weinstein.

Each artist on view has formulated a complex oeuvre that is attuned to his or her overriding vision of post-modern landscape work in an era of ecological degradation. All the works embody a sense of hopeful commitment to manifesting their intentions to make their distinctive voices heard. These artists forge their art in a joyful attitude of engaging enquiry; despite the global environmental crisis the works show no trace of morbidity or despair.



Kathleen Elliott, *Dora's Tumbleweed*, 2014 glass, 17" x 10" x 10"

**Visiting Critic Dominique Nahas**

Friday, Oct 6, 1-2 pm, Art Gallery, Gorham

Doing and Undergoing—The Artist's Creed

Hear how one can learn to fully engage, not control, the imagination. A former museum director based in Brooklyn, New York, Nahas is an independent critic and curator who has organized hundreds of art exhibitions.

Visiting Artist Martin Weinstein

Friday, November 17, 1-2 pm, Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall, Gorham

Weinstein paints disparate elements of the same composition on separate sheets of acrylic and layers them to create a scene. His principle subject is the woods, gardens and river vistas of his family home, a landscape he has known since youth. Weinstein shows his work in New York City and across the nation.

Dogwoods, River, Sky



Sun Dogs, 3X