

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

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

Volume 10, Fall 2017



Featured in the Art Gallery in Gorham as part of the Resonance and Memory Exhibition

Sun Dogs, 3x, 2012

Acrylic on multiple acrylic panels

Martin Weinstein, Visiting Artist

In this Edition:

- Thoreau Bicentennial Events
- Pop-Up Courses
- New Faculty
- Program Events
- Student and Alumni Notes



Dean Adam Tuchinsky

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 our college through our fall newsletter. Highlighted within are the many public events organized by our faculty and academic programs. The cover, for example, features a reproduction of Martin Weinstein's *Sun Dogs*, on display at the USM Art Gallery as part of their exhibit on landscape.

There have been so many things happening on campus this year, it's difficult to know where to begin. The galvanizing event has been convocation, which has hosted a series of events on the theme of "Race and Participatory Democracy." Leading the way has been Professor Leroy Rowe from History, Professor Rebecca Nisetich from Honors, and one of our newest faculty, Professor Lance Gibbs from Sociology.

We are so pleased with the number of students who have sent us updates for the newsletter. I want to point you to our Alumni Notes section. There you can read about classmates who have published books, performed piano recitals, made documentary films, and authored comic books. Updates large and small can be sent to: cahsdean@maine.edu. Please keep them coming!

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 have, please send to: cahsdean@maine.edu.

Donate to the CAHS Scholarship Fund. If you would like to donate 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!

Henry David Thoreau and Maine: A Bicentennial Series



Panelists: Richard W. Judd, Micah Pawling and James Francis

This fall, the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Maine Museum of Photographic Arts, offered a series of interdisciplinary events to honor the bicentennial of the birth of Henry David Thoreau.

Thoreau was a natural historian, a political philosopher, an environmentalist, a writer, and one of the founders of modern ecology. Known for his retreat to Walden Pond and the seminal text that emerged from his two-year experiment, most of Thoreau's "wilderness" adventures actually took place in the Maine woods, and his writings about the state's landscape provided some of the cultural justification for the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. As such, USM's celebration of his bicentennial began with a symposium on Thoreau and Maine. It featured a range of

prominent speakers such as Philip Gura, William S. Newman Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of North Carolina and author of the most important single volume work on Transcendentalism; Richard Judd, our most important chronicler of the state's history from the University of Maine; James Francis, Tribal Historian of the Penobscot Nation and student of Thoreau's interactions with Maine's native peoples; and Lucas St. Clair, President of the Elliottsville Plantation. The symposium brought together a wide assortment of writers, scholars, and activists to explore Thoreau's key legacies in the state: Maine's commitment to the natural world, the literary imagination, and the relationship of the northern part of the state to the forces of globalization that were emerging even when he visited the region in the 1840s and 1850s.

Following the symposium, USM screened a new documentary by Maine filmmaker Huey, "Henry David Thoreau: Surveyor of the Soul—A Film by Huey" at Talbot Auditorium. The film tells the story of his life and his time at Walden Pond as well as the impact his writings have had on environmental issues, civil rights and individual thinking in our time. Huey introduced the film and took follow up questions after the screening.

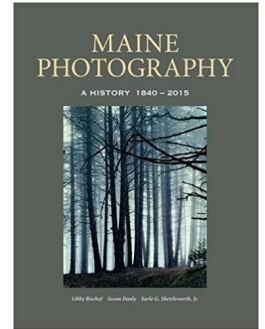
The bicentennial concluded with an photographic exhibition of artists who have been inspired by Thoreau and his interest in conservation and the transcendental movement in the Glickman Library gallery entitled: "We might climb a tree, at least": A Maine Museum of Photographic Arts Exhibition to Commemorate the Birth of Henry David Thoreau. Artists included Elizabeth Greenberg, Ethan Hayes-Chute, Gail Skudera, Gary Green, Johanna Moore, S.B. Walker, Sarah Szwajkos, Dan Mills, Keliy Anderson-Staley and D.M. Witman. The exhibit will be open to the public through January 27, 2018, so we encourage you to visit. You can find a *Portland Press Herald* review of the exhibit at: <http://www.pressherald.com/2017/11/12/art-review-exhibit-explores-thoreaus-relationship-with-maine/>

From the History Program



History Professor
Elizabeth Bischof

Libby Bischof, Associate Professor of History, and co-author of *Maine Photography: A History 1850-2015* (Rowman and Littlefield and Down East Books, 2016), recently traveled to the Lyman Estate in Waltham, Massachusetts, to receive a book award. *Maine Photography* was awarded a 2017 Honor Book prize from Historic New England, the oldest and largest regional heritage organization in America. These book prizes are awarded to works that "advance the understanding of the architecture, landscape, and material culture of New England and the United States from the seventeenth century to the present. This also includes works in the decorative arts, archaeology, historic preservation, and the history of photography."



Where Do Jews Fit in America's Culture of Race?

On October 19th Professor Eric L. Goldstein, the Judith London Evans Director of the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies at Emory University, presented on the topic of what it means to be Jewish in America. This lecture charted the complicated history that Jews encounter with American racial culture from the beginning of mass Jewish immigration in the 19th century to the recent events in Charlottesville. Professor Goldstein is the author of the prize-winning book, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race and American Identity* (Princeton University Press).



USM Professor of History,
Abraham Peck
Professor Eric L. Goldstein

USM's Second Annual W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture



Bowdoin Associate Professor
Brian Purnell

On November 6th, Brian Purnell, the Geoffrey Canada Associate Professor of Africana Studies and History at Bowdoin College delivered the keynote address, "The Strange Careers of the Jim Crow North: Race and Participatory Democracy North of the Mason Dixon Line." The annual lecture provides a platform for innovative, solution-oriented speakers to present major intellectual work on the intersection of race and participatory democracy.

"The social construction of race and how it impacts individuals and communities across America is something that is not only relevant today, but it also entails a larger narrative about the larger democratic experience. We still struggle with our understanding of race and discrimination as something that is a national phenomenon,"

Rowe said. Professor Purnell's lecture put into context how African Americans not only were subjected to discrimination, but also how they negotiated the constraints placed on their liberties. In his address, Purnell argued racism and racial segregation were not limited to the Southern United States, as many Americans are taught to think. Rather, he said, segregation was embraced nationally and many of its principles originated in the North. "The North largely frowned, but turned a blind eye," said Purnell, who is the author of "[Fighting Jim Crow in the County of Kings: The Congress of Racial Equality in Brooklyn.](#)"

The Annual W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture on Race and Democracy was developed, in part, to help students understand the ways that the politics of race work and how institutional racism impacts individuals and communities.

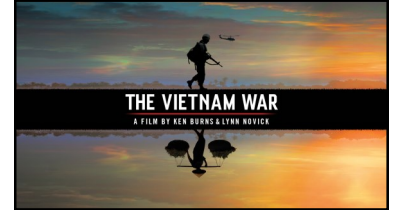
Pop-Up Courses



This fall the college introduced a new series of one credit pop-up courses that emphasize student engagement.

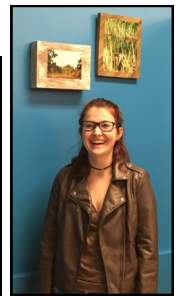
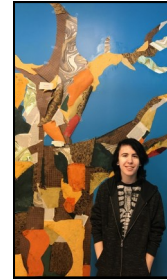
Professor Maureen Ebben (CMS) and Professor Julien Murphy (PHI/LSH) commenced the College's inaugural Pop-Up course with AHS 299 International Day of Peace. The dynamic short course offered students the opportunity to envision and carry out a campus peace event that put USM on the map as a participants in the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2017.

History Professors Libby Bischof, Chris Beam, and Adam Tuchinsky, along with 17 students, gathered to discuss the new Ken Burns and Lynn Novick PBS documentary series *The Vietnam War*. Among the course-takers were current students, veterans, USM Alumni, USM employees, and a Portland business owner. All three professors have long-standing interests in the conflict, and Professor Beam is a Vietnam veteran. In a series of lively class discussions and debates, students and professors alike reckoned with the ten-episode, 18-hour documentary and a war that spanned the terms of five American presidents and forever changed American society and politics. For many of the students, this pop up course marked their first engagement with the history of the Vietnam War and its continuing relevance.



"Thoreau at 200" met three times during the fall semester to discuss topics raised in the bicentennial symposium of October 21st and to consider the usefulness of a Thoreauvian ethic today. This pop-up course offered a contextual grounding for the famous experiment in the woods and gave

students an opportunity to explore dimensions of Thoreau's literary production beyond the monolith of *Walden*. Students planned the design of a permanent Thoreau Room in the USM Gorham Library. Look for an invitation to the opening in early spring!



From the Political Science Program

2017 German Election Panel Discussion

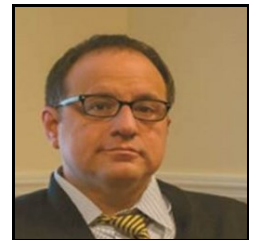


Professor Scott Erb, Professor Francesca Vassallo, Adrian Kendall, Esq. (R)

On October 3rd, in the University Events Room in the Glickman Library, Professor of Political Science Francesca Vassallo facilitated a panel discussion on the 2017 German election for Chancellor. The panelists were Adrian Kendall and Professor of Political Science at the University of Maine Farmington, Scott Erb.

Welcome to Leigh Film Screening & Discussion

On November 28th, Professor of Political Science Ronald Schmidt moderated a discussion to the screening of *Welcome to Leith*. This movie chronicles the attempted take over of a small town in North Dakota by notorious white supremacist Craig Cobb. As his behavior becomes more threatening, tensions soar and residents desperately look for ways to expel their unwanted neighbor. Students discussed what happens to democratic principles when they're pushed to the limit.



Professor of Political Science Ronald Schmidt

New Faculty



Yishai Cohen

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Liberal Studies-Humanities

Ph.D., Philosophy, Syracuse University 2016
B.A., Southern Methodist University 2010

Yishai Cohen has areas of interest in philosophy that include the philosophy of agency, the philosophy of religion, ethical theory, and metaphysics. His dissertation was entitled "Incompatibilist Alternative Possibilities."



Jamie Picardy

Assistant Professor of Economics

Ph.D., Agriculture, Food, and Environment, Tufts University 2015
M.S., Geography, Michigan State University 2001
B.S., Biosystems Agricultural Engineering, Michigan State University 1998

Jamie Picardy has established K-12 agricultural literacy curriculum and undergraduate geography degrees. Her interdisciplinary research in food systems addresses key issues of small and mid-sized farm viability, consumer food preference, animal welfare, food policy, and labeling



Lance L. O. Gibbs

Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, and Race and Ethnic Studies

Ph.D., American Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University 2015
M.A., Sociology, Bowling Green State University 2010
M.Sc., Sociology, University of West Indies 2004
B.Sc., Sociology, University of the West Indies 2000

Lance Gibbs has research interests that focus broadly on the family with particular interest in father involvement among West Indian immigrant fathers. A previous project focused on the meanings of father involvement among West Indian immigrant men across various sites in the United States. Another project examines issues that may hinder West Indian immigrant fathers from being involved and how social work practitioners and programs could help to assuage these issues.

New Faculty



Lacey Sparks
Assistant Professor of History

Ph.D., History, University of Kentucky 2017
M.A., History, Gender and Women's Studies, Rutgers University 2012
B.A., History, French, Murray State University 2010

Lacey Sparks earned her Ph.D. in European History at the University of Kentucky. Broadly, her work focuses on the modern history of Britain and the empire, particularly colonial Africa. Her scholarly interests include histories of women, gender, science medicine, and food.



David Everson
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Ph.D., Sociology University of Notre Dame 2017
M.A., Political Science University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2008
B.A., Political Science & History Southwest Minnesota State University 2003

David Everson supports community-based teaching and scholarship that focus on the intersections of social inequality and social movements, with a specific emphasis on American Indian rights and Indigenous activism. Born and raised in South Dakota, he is a research fellow with the Center for American Indian Rights and Native Studies (CAIRNS) on the Pine Ridge Reservation.



Jessica Ouellette
Assistant Professor
Director of Writing Programs

Ph.D., English, University of Massachusetts Amherst 2016
M.A., University of Massachusetts Amherst 2012
B.A., University of Massachusetts Amherst 2009

Jessica Ouellette is an Assistant Professor of English, a member of the Women and Gender Studies Council, and the Director of Writing Programs at the University of Southern Maine. She received her Ph.D. in English with specializations in Rhetoric and Composition and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

New Faculty

Vaishali Mamgain
Visiting Associate Professor of Economics



Ph.D. in Economics, University of North Carolina 1997

Vaishali Mamgain's research focuses on the contributions that (im)migrants and refugees make to the Maine economy. Her most recent work relates to the role of migrant workers in Maine's blueberry industry. She is also very engaged in the newly emerging field of Contemplative Pedagogy. By helping students cultivate an attitude of open inquiry, she invites them to study contentious topics using different modalities in order to evoke an intelligence that is grounded in a sense of ethics and personal responsibility as world citizens.

Matthew Hoffman
Assistant Professor of Food Studies



Ph.D., Development Sociology, Cornell University 2011
M.S., Rural Sociology/City and Regional Planning, Cornell University 2003
Certificate in Ecological Horticulture, University of California, Santa Cruz 1997
B.A., Human Ecology, School for International Training 1995

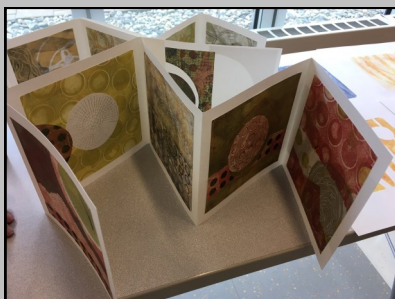
Matthew Hoffman has a focus on rural landscapes and livelihoods. His teaching places a heavy emphasis on connecting students to applied learning opportunities, and he welcomes contact from students and regional food systems organizations to discuss internship and research ideas.

Book Arts

Summer Book Arts class, ART 342, culminated in an exhibition of student-made art books with a Book Arts Exhibition. The Exhibition reception, held on September 11th was preceded by a lecture entitled, *Artists' Books as Teaching Tools* by Cathleen Miller, Curator of the Maine Women Writers Collection, University of New England. Student work was placed on exhibition from September 7 through October 8, 2017 at the Special Collections on the 6th floor, Glickman Family Library.



Orange by Rachel Church



From the English Department

On September 29, Professors Ball and Charles presented on "Multiliteracies and New Media Writing" for elementary and secondary education. This was part of the *21st Century Literacies: Multimodality and Writing Across the Curriculum* year-long initiative funded by a Title III grant. Cheryl Ball, Associate Professor of Digital Publishing Studies at West Virginia University, and Anita Charles, Director of Secondary Teacher Education at Bates College, participated in several events that focused on incorporating multimodal learning in writing courses and courses across the university curriculum. On September 28, Professor Ball led a discussion on "Writing is Designing for our Future." Her talk discussed the current research and pedagogical approaches of digital media composition in writing-intensive classrooms in higher education and addressed questions about why we are bothering in the first place.

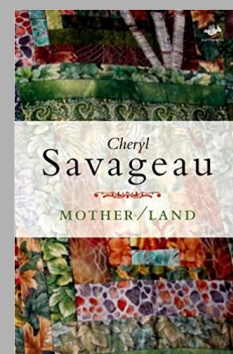


Professor Cheryl Ball (L),
Anita Charles, Director of Secondary
Teacher Education (R)



The English Department's 2017 O'Brien Poetry Event brought Ms. Cheryl Savageau to campus for an afternoon roundtable discussion and poetry reading. Ms. Savageau's most recent book is *Mother/Land*. She is also the author of *Dirt Road Home* which was a finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. She has won Fellowships in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Fellowship Program, and has been twice nominated for Pushcart Prizes. Ms. Savageau's children's book, *Muskrat Will Be Swimming*, was a Smithsonian Notable Book and won the Skipping Stones Award. She currently edits the online journal [Dawnland Voices 2.0](#) and teaches writing workshops. Her memoir, *Out of the Crazywoods*, is forthcoming in 2018. Katherine E. O'Brien, for whom the O'Brien award is named, was a Deering High School math teacher who bequeathed money to the University of Maine System, a part of which was designated for USM's Libraries to purchase

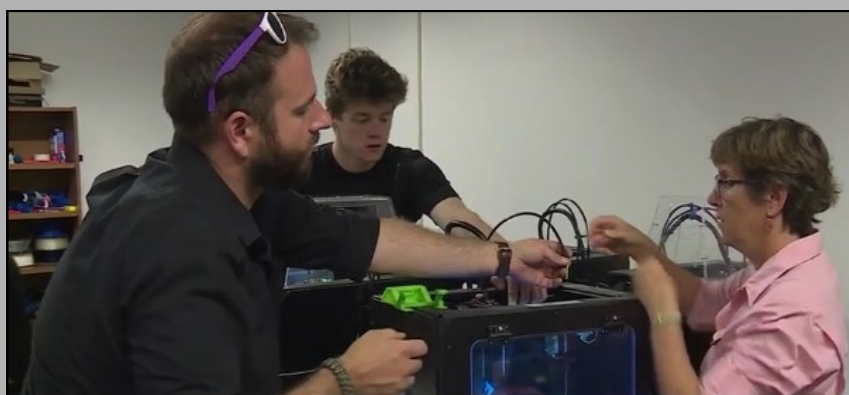
volumes of poetry and establish the annual reading series.



From the Ci2 Lab

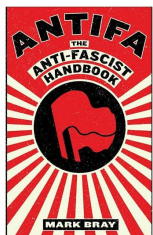
Students Teach Portland Teachers About the use of 3-D Printers in the Classroom

Ci2 students became the teachers training Portland Public School teachers about 3-D printing technology and their uses in the classroom as part of the Side x Side and the Summer Arts Institute. Teachers learned how to use 3-D technology and design skills to build their own 3-D objects. The program allows students to be in the driver's seat and decide what they want to build, print and physically hold in their hands at the end of the project. It continues in partnership with USM and the Portland Public School district and is supported by a \$2 million Department of Education, Arts in Education Model Development and Dissemination grant.



From the Criminology Department

How To Fight Fascism Today ?



On November 30th, Professor Mark Bray presented a lecture on the Portland campus entitled “How to Fight Fascism Today.” Professor Bray is an historian of human rights, terrorism, and political radicalism in Modern Europe, and was one of the organizers of Occupy Wall Street. He is the author of *Translating Anarchy: The Anarchism of Occupy Wall Street*, and the co-editor of *Anarchist Education and the Modern School: A Francisco Ferrer Reader*. He currently work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, *Critical Quarterly*, *ROAR Magazine*, and numerous edited volumes. He currently teaches at Dartmouth College.



Mark Bray

From the Food Studies Program

Closing Maine's Hunger Gap: Exploring Myths, Realities, Solutions



Hunger is on the rise, and threatens the development of our children, the vitality of our workforce, and the strength of our communities. This series examined the fundamental causes of poverty and hunger, debunking the myths, exposing the realities, and offering creative solutions to these challenges.

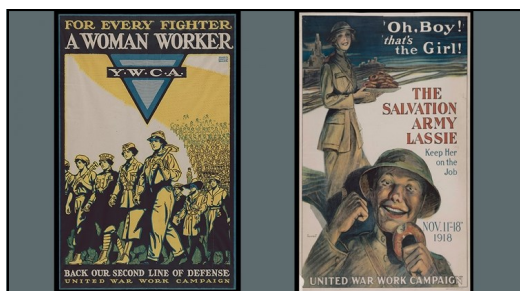
On October 18th, Donna Beegle, President of Communication Across Barriers, a nationally-acclaimed expert on understanding the causes of and solutions to poverty and hunger delivered a keynote address along with a panel of several local activists followed by a training entitled *Breaking the Iron Cage of Poverty and Hunger*. Donna works directly with children and adults living in poverty, as well as all professionals who want to make a difference for those living in the crisis of poverty.



And on November 15th, Mark Winne, co-founder of the Community Food Security Coalition where he also worked as the Food Policy Council Program Director from 2005 to 2012, delivering a talk on the role of public policy in addressing food insecurity at the Glickman Library.

Mark is most well-known for his book [*Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty*](#). His upcoming book, *Stand Together or Starve Alone: Unity and Chaos in the U.S. Food Movement*, will be released at the end of 2017. Through his own firm, Mark Winne Associates, Mark speaks, trains, and writes on topics related to community food systems, food policy, and food security. He also serves as Senior Advisor to the Center for a Livable Future at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

From the Art Department



for the exhibition that depicts the start of WWI, of which Solomon said "everything you need to know about outbreak of WWI is on that (mural)."

On September 7, the Art Department & Galleries held a reception for the exhibit "Why We Fought: American WWI Posters and the Art of Persuasion" at the AREA Gallery in Portland. The exhibition was comprised of a collection of 13 WWI posters that were



donated to USM Special Collections by retired Tufts University history professor, Howard Solomon, who came across the posters as they were being swept along the floor of an auction barn into a dustbin. Solomon purchased the posters for five dollars each. "These are documents as much about social change and gender, and the construction thereof, as they are about America's involvement in WWI," he said. USM student Shannon Sockalexis (L) created a black and white cartoon mural

Plein Air Painting on the Gorham Campus

In ART 261 Introduction to Painting, students were given instruction on traditional ways that artists create the illusion of space. The class took advantage of the beautiful fall weather and natural surroundings of the Gorham campus to create plein air paintings.



Reaghan Smith (foreground) and Bailey Malcolm



ART 261 Introduction to Painting

Students in the studio

Ashley Ricker (foreground)
Laure Tracy (background)



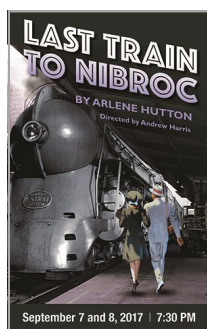
Alexander Lowe

3-D Students Show off their Imaginative Forms

ART 142 students Brittany Burke, Kelsey Valeriano, Bailey Malcolm, Kayla Sampson, with Professor Kaitlyn Hunter let their creative energy grow and take shape in three dimensions.



From the Theatre Department

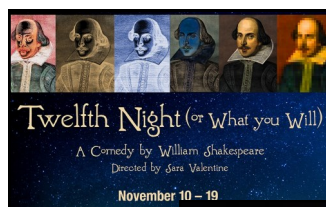


On September 7th and 8th, the Theatre Department brought Arlene Hutton's "Last Train to Nibroc" to the Main Stage at Russell Hall. "Last Train to Nibroc," set in December 1940, is about a chance encounter that brings together a charming young discharged flyer, Raleigh (played by Luis Del Valle) and shy May, (played by Emily Grotz) a young woman who has been jilted by her soldier fiancé, on an eastbound cross-country train that also carries the bodies of the great American writers Nathanael West and F. Scott Fitzgerald. As their paths continue to cross over the years, an unexpected bond develops.



Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

From September 29th through October 8th, the Theatre Department brought "Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom" to Russell Hall. This Jennifer Haley, directed by Dana Legweic play mixed elements of suspense, comedy, and virtual reality for a show that was both terrifying and funny!

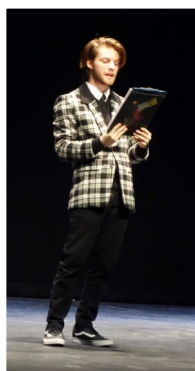


Twelfth Night (Or What You Will)

November 10th through the 19th brought Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night (or What you Will)" to the stage. Directed by Sara Valentine, this timeless comedic classic follows a determined Viola, the survivor of a shipwreck who disguises herself as her drowned twin brother, and who becomes the center of a comic series of events: suitors and sword fights, disguise and deception, pranks and predicaments. Filled with some of Shakespeare's most unforgettable characters, eloquent poetry and poignant songs, "Twelfth Night" showcased the comedy and consequences of mistaken identity, unrequited love and devilish mischief.



The student showcase was held on December 7th and 8th highlighting work on developing particular skills and creative ideas that were then shared with faculty and fellow students. In a relaxed format, each evening's performance differed in content as the audience joined theatre and dance students who shared their explorations in their creative works.



From the School of Music

The USM School of Music enjoyed a full lineup of performances and events for the fall semester, including the popular Faculty Concert Series, the Warren Memorial Visiting Artist Series, a collection of faculty-led student ensembles, the 9th annual student-led Music Education Symposium, the annual “Home for the Holidays” gala and more.



Adam Swanson

The fall season will begin with visiting artist [Adam Swanson's Ragtime Piano concert](#) on September 19 at Corthell Concert Hall. Swanson is one of the world's foremost performers of vintage American popular music, including ragtime, early jazz, the Great American Songbook and more.

On October 20 and 21, Dr. John Kratus, a leading voice in creativity studies and innovation in music education, was the keynote speaker at the 9th annual student-led [Music Education Symposium](#). Other visiting artist events included Dr. Arlene Shrut, faculty member of The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music, for her ["Successful Auditioning" and Voice Master Class](#) on October 23, and Mark Gibson, internationally acclaimed conductor/pianist and Director of Orchestral Studies at the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), for a [Piano and Conducting Residency](#) on November 28 and 29.

The popular Faculty Concert Series began on September 29 with [Kimberly Lehmann, viola and Chiharu Naruse, piano](#) which included works by Schubert, Bach, Bax and Prokofiev. Other faculty concerts included [Laura Kargul in Recital - A Night at the Opera](#) on October 13; Barry Saunders' ["Classically Sax"](#) concert on November 3; and the [Portland Jazz Orchestra](#) directed by music faculty Christopher Oberholtzer on November 17.

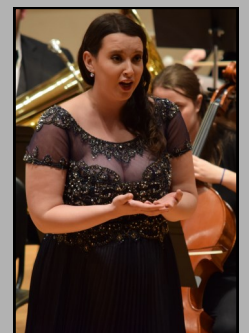
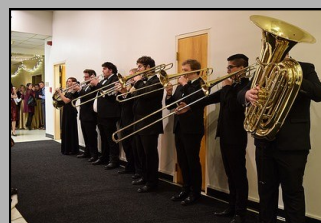


Barry Saunders



Faculty-led student ensemble productions this fall included the [15th Annual Old-Fashioned Outdoor Band Concert](#), which kicked-off the year-long celebration of Leonard Bernstein, conducted by Trae Blanco on the green at Corthell Hall on October 7; ["Of Thee I Sing"](#) October 27-29, an all-American political musical satire with music by George Gershwin and lyrics by Ira Gershwin, directed by Edward Reichart; and [Lennie and John at 100: USM Concert Band Conducted by Trae Blanco](#), celebrated the 100th birthdays of John F. Kennedy and Leonard Bernstein.

On December 1st, the [27th Annual "Home for the Holidays" Scholarship Gala](#) took place at the historic Corthell Hall, home of the concert hall that USM's many supporters helped to create and where generations of musicians have learned their craft.



From the School of Music

Volume 10, Fall 2017



Hamilton Broadway star Leslie Odom, Jr. performed at Merrill Auditorium and our School of Music students performed in the pre-concert performance.

Critically acclaimed performer Leslie Odom Jr. helped revolutionize the Great White Way with his starring role in the Broadway hit musical, *Hamilton*. "A theater-world rock star" (NPR), Odom is the winner of the 2016 Tony Award® for Best Leading Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Aaron Burr and a Grammy for the Original Broadway Cast Recording.

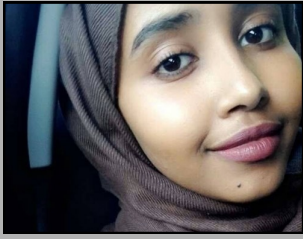
In the pre-concert performance, Ed Reichert, faculty member of the School of Music, took the audience on a journey through the nine musicals that have won the Pulitzer Prize for best Drama since 1932. Performed by musical theatre majors, highlights included selections from *Of Thee I Sing*, *Fiorello*, *South Pacific*, *Next to Normal*, and *Hamilton*.

Leslie surprised the USM School of Music musical theater majors who were rehearsing for last night's free O2 pre-performance lecture. Leslie told the students, "*You have the power to inspire. Not just when you get to Broadway, but here in this room. Be bold, be passionate, with fervor, and you will inspire.*"



On November 28th, USM's Chamber Singers filled Williston-Immanuel United Church in Portland with the merry sounds of the season when they presented their popular Fall concert, *Joyous Sounds for a Festive Season*. The evening's events were conducted by Nicolas Alberto Dosman, Assistant Professor and Director of Choral Studies.

STUDENT NOTES



USM political science student, **Nairus Abdullahi**, earned a prestigious 2017 Critical Language Scholarship enabling her to spend this past summer learning Arabic in Jordan. Abdullahi was one of nearly 550 students selected nationwide for the program, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to raise the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. Critical languages are those that are less commonly taught in U.S. schools, but are essential for America's engagement with the world.

Political Science student **Rob McCann's** life has been a long, long march. As a boots-on-the-ground Marine, he trekked across the Afghan city of Marjah, carrying rockets amid the war's single biggest offensive. As a veteran, he hiked the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail raising money in the memory of a fallen brother Marine. And he found his own peace. To view an in-depth account of Rob's story, please visit the full story at Office of Public Affairs link:

<https://usm.maine.edu/publicaffairs/afghanistan-veteran-and-former-congressional-staffer-enrolls-usm>



Saigelyn Green is a Junior Music Education Major studying composition and voice. She studies composition with Dr. Daniel Sonenberg and has been on the score-proofing team for his opera, *The Summer King*, for a year. Saigelyn has also been singing with the USM Chamber Singers for three years, and is currently the president of the group. They have performed two of her works, one of which was performed at the NAFME Eastern Division Conference in Atlantic City, NJ last spring. That piece, *O Ship that Travellest*, was also performed by the Choral Art Camerata in January, led by Dr. Robert Russell. Saigelyn also sings in the vocal jazz quartet lead by artist faculty Ms. Taylor O'Donnell, with whom she has studied for a year.

Aaron Verrill from Belgrade, Maine is truly a rising star in the Department of Theatre. This is only his first semester at USM as a transfer student and he is already proving to be an invaluable asset to the Department. He is always ready to help and step up when he sees a need, even literally stepping onto the stage to read a pivotal role when one of the actors in *Twelfth Night* became ill . . . the show must go on! Aaron made such a strong impression from the start that he became Theatre's student Box Office supervisor due to his previous theatre experience, people skills, confident professionalism, and warm, "take-charge" personality, as well as his enthusiastic support of those around him. All this, while excelling in his academic studies! He is a passionate ambassador for the Department and for theatre.



Liza Stratton is graduating this December, 2017, with a BFA, concentrating in Community Art Education, with a Studio concentration in Sculpture. Liza has gained extensive and valuable experience working with various community-based art education organizations around Maine including the Portland Museum of Art, Side x Side, Maine Center for Creativity, The Susan Curtis Foundation, and the YWCA of Portland. Liza's personal art work critiques and explores themes directly stemming from her strong community-based teaching philosophy, such as; social justice, civic and cultural understandings, and art as communication and change. We have no doubt that Liza, with her strong commitment to community based art, along with her solid teaching experience and creative talents, will continue to positively impact communities through the arts.

Alumni Notes

Stanley Howe '66 History

Stan recently published *WILLIAM BINGHAM 2ND: A LIFE* which covers Bingham's life: "Though he was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1879, Will Bingham later became a permanent resident of Bethel, Maine. His uncle, Oliver Hazard Payne, an associate of John D. Rockefeller, left each of his nieces and nephews 1/10 of a \$178 million estate in 1917 making Will Bingham the wealthiest person in Maine for much of his life. He spent his lifetime quietly giving away his wealth for all kinds of good causes and at the time of his death in 1955, he was Bates College's major donor. He built many of the buildings at Bethel's Gould Academy. He provided the funds for former Maine Governor and Senator Edmund Muskie's legal education at Cornell University. Today three foundations bearing his name and the Bingham Program carry on his legacy of philanthropy.

Ryan Wing '06 BFA Studio Arts / Concentration in Painting

Downeast Magazine featured Alumnus Ryan Wing and his comic book creation, *The October Ghost* in its November issue. "Wing's visual work is a throwback to the images of 1930s comics and the wacky stories of the 1960s," writer Joel Crabtree wrote in the magazine. Wing took years to create the comic which is being issued in a new, 96-page graphic novel, *The October Ghost vs. the League of Horror*. "Even after Wing, now 40, got a fine arts degree at the University of Southern Maine and took a job in IT, superhero geekdom and a creative impulse commingled in the back of his mind," Crabtree wrote. See the full Downeast story here: <https://downeast.com/hometown-hero/>

Mark Rossnagel '15 MM Piano

USM alumnus Mark Rossnagel drew critical praise for a recent piano recital in Portland with works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Chopin. *Portland Press Herald* reviewer Allan Kozinn lauded Rossnagel for his insights about the composers. "The most striking aspect of his Brahms performance was not so much the work's lyricism – though you could hear it in some of the variations – as its virtuosic heft, which Rossnagel negotiated deftly," Kozinn wrote. "His performance also pointed up an interesting link to the Beethoven: The set's chordal fourth variation mirrors the opening figure of the Beethoven sonata. Organizing programs around conceptual themes can be fun," Kozinn wrote. "But showing connections between works composed decades apart is even better."

Victoria Morgan '16 Communication

This past summer Victoria began filming moderated discussions for her gun control documentary in which she hopes to find new insight into the gun control debate. She directs groups of people from both sides of the divisive issue talking about their differences and with psychologist Dr. Kevin Polk. "What's so hard is that everyone has polar opposite opinions, but everyone also thinks they have the right opinion. People have these impressions of those on the other end of the spectrum. But I've found that most people are somewhere in the middle, that most are reasonable people." Victoria has also been producing a show for public access television for the past year called "Ounce of Prevention." The show is about mental health and child abuse prevention. Victoria is currently working on her master's degree in Adult Education at St. Joseph's College.

USM Spring 2018

CROSS POLLINATING THE GRASSROOTS

Works of the Beehive Design Collective

January 22 - March 29, 2018

AREA Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

For nearly 20 years, the Beehive Design Collective has crafted elaborate, illustrated, narrative graphics for use by social movements and communities in struggle. Derived from the ancient tradition of cantastoria, or sung-stories, these graphics are brought to life by dozens of cultural workers around the world. See the seeds and fruits of some of these collaborative labors, as well as rarely-shown, behind-the-scenes materials and documents from the making of the Beehive's epic works, and connect with visiting Bees and their comrades as they develop graphics alongside campaigns for justice in Southern Maine.



RECOLLECTIONS: Stolen Dreams, Plundered Memories

January 25 - February 25, 2018

USM Art Gallery, Gorham

Opening Reception: Thursday, Feb. 1, 6-8 pm

Gallery talk at 6:30 pm

Curated by Maine artist and USM alumnus Danny Evarts in collaboration with USM alumni and the local community, *Recollections* transforms the gallery into an immersive installation that leads one through various rooms and the intimate detritus of life.

Talk by Emily Simons of the Beehive Design Collective

Friday, February 16, 2018

1-2 pm, Burnham Lounge, Robie Andrews Hall, Gorham

Student Juried Exhibition

March 8 - April 1, 2018

USM Art Gallery, Gorham

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 8, 6-8 pm

Opening remarks at 6:15 pm

Come see approximately forty works that three local arts professionals have juried from a number of submissions by USM students. Selected student juried works will travel to the AREA Gallery April 5-May 1



2018 BA & BFA Exhibition

April 11 - 29, 2018

USM Art Gallery, Gorham

Opening reception Thursday, April 12, 6-8 pm

Opening remarks at 6:15 pm

Please join us in celebrating the diverse and highly engaging thesis exhibits by students in the Art 401 Senior Seminar class.

MAKE A GIFT TO THE CAHS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donate 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: <https://usm.maine.edu/give-to-usm>. Thanks for your support!