

the free press

University of Southern Maine Student Newspaper

Vol. 45,
Issue No. 10
Dec. 2, 2013

usmfreepress.org

Budget estimates demand reaction

Kirsten Sylvain
Editor-in-Chief

In the face of a potential shortfall of \$11.9 million for fiscal year 2015, university officials stand behind the work of the Direction Package advisory board as the best way forward. Besides the \$5 million in cuts the university is making to meet budget in the current fiscal year, Chief Financial Office Dick Campbell also estimated last March that the university would be required to make a \$3.75 million reduction for fiscal year 2015. That estimate more than tripled after enrollment rates came in at 6.6 percent below budget. Low enrollment, Campbell explained, in combination with other factors, may result in an \$8.2 million drop in revenue for the fiscal year 2015, and costs could increase by \$3.7 million dollars on top of this, he added, bringing the total estimate to \$11.9. Part of those costs are from the university's recent four-year commitment to increase financial aid by \$1 million a year.

This, Campbell said, is "if we do nothing." He stressed that the projection is still a working number, and it will likely change with the incorporation of spring enrollment figures and other variables, like the result of the faculty contract negotiations, which may be resolved in early January.

The University of Maine System also recently released a four-year financial analysis that projects a potential system-wide shortfall of \$60 million from fiscal year 2015



Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff

President Theo Kalikow attended the first Direction Package Advisory Board meeting Nov. 8. President Kalikow is the co-chair of the Direction Package Advisory Board along with Faculty Senate Chair and physics Professor Jerry LaSala. The Direction Package Advisory Board was assembled after the Direction Package rollout event on Sept. 23 in order to find a way to put the principles of the Direction Package into practice. The purpose of the Direction Package is to address recent conflicts and budget shortfalls facing the university.

to fiscal year 2019. That will be the case if enrollment, state appropriation, tuition, capital investments and workforce remain at their current levels, according to system Chancellor James Page. In the analysis, which was presented at the November Board of Trustees meeting, it was reported that each of the seven

branches of the system could face a shortfall in the next fiscal year.

"There's a lot we can do to change those trend lines," said Page. "We've got to do something." Page explained that more collaborative academic work across the system could help ease the financial burdens of each campus.

Across the system, he said, classics, for instance, has been stripped down "so that they are almost extinct, and that's unacceptable." Funding classics at each campus, he said, is currently financially unrealistic, but classics could be offered virtually through USM's professor

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Languages and classics disband and reorganize

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

All of the classes and the three majors associated with the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures are still running after the department was effectively dissolved in late October. While 'dissolving a department' may sound like another cut, the move was largely organizational, and left the majors intact.

No courses and none of the three majors have been cut, nor, said Dean Lynn Kuzma of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, are there any plans in place to do so. However, Spanish Professor Charlene Suscavage argues that the loss of the departmental structure places her program, Hispanic studies, in a precarious position.

"We have no visibility," Suscavage said. Visibility is important for Hispanic studies, Suscavage explained, because it is listed as a contract major, which falls under the umbrella of the "self designed" major, though there is an established curriculum required for Hispanic Studies students. "One of the reasons we're a small major is that no one knows that we're there," Suscavage said.

Suscavage said she has tried to make Hispanic Studies a traditional major and that it has been voted in as one by the Faculty Senate three times, but it has never gone further than that. "Our provost would have to send it to the Board of Trustees, and he doesn't want to," Suscavage said.

When asked in an email why he has not explored this option, the Provost told the Free Press, "I am hopeful that the University of Maine System will find a way, much like Dr. Erickson is doing with French, to marshal resources from across the system to support a Spanish major." He noted that since USM's Hispanic Studies major is not listed as a system-approved major, the University of Maine at Orono is the only campus in the system that officially offers a Spanish major.

French Professor Nancy Erickson described the work Provost

See **LANGUAGE** on page 4

Ban conflicts with Gorham lifestyle



Alex Greenlee / Free Press Staff

Since the tobacco ban went into effect in the spring semester of 2013, the stairs outside Luther Bonney Hall on the Portland campus have become a popular smoking spot.

Sloane Ewell
Free Press Staff

Students are still taking issue with the implementation of USM's tobacco ban in Gorham since the university went tobacco-free last year.

Students at USM want to see administration work and listen to them to make the tobacco ban more suited to the needs of the Gorham campus.

In the second semester since USM put its campus-wide smoking ban into effect, some people still stand behind it as a good idea while others continue to argue that it is a violation of smokers' rights. However, both smokers and nonsmokers have said that its execution has been far from flawless.

Many students have said that the ban's implementation in Gorham

specifically needs change, whether that mean more lenience or more enforcement of the rules so that it will actually be obeyed. "When I lived in the dorms, before the ban went into effect, I found it difficult to deal with the change. [The] administration needs to make some improvements or compromises on the ban for the Gorham campus because people live there," said Jessica Rogalus, a junior history major.

The ban's aim was to stop all tobacco use on campus and even prohibits non-tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes. "The new Tobacco-free Policy states that e-cigarettes are not allowed to be used on campus. The state of Maine, along with the FDA, view e-cigarettes as a tobacco product as it contains nicotine and uses

See **TOBACCO** on page 5

Student profile: Paul Nelson strives to serve

In the Guard and the senate, Nelson aims to help others

Sloane Ewell
Free Press Staff

Paul Nelson, first year political science major, has already been working to make changes at USM and hear all student voices.

Nelson is originally from Old Town and is a 2012 graduate of Old Town High School. Right after high school Nelson enlisted in the National Guard where he worked in the United States to support operations overseas for a year and a half. Nelson still spends one weekend every month training with the National Guard, and the National Guard helps him pay for his education.

“I had friends who went into the political science major and loved it. I know that this was the best decision for me as a person and my future,” Nelson said of his choice to attend USM.

After USM, Nelson plans to continue his military career from what he’s learned as a political science major. “I plan on going into active duty. I plan on pursuing my military career for fourteen or more years so that I can give back on an even bigger scale,” he said. “I want to see things be different and be a part of something bigger than myself. I want to be able to say ‘I helped people, I saved lives,’” Nelson said.

Usually, student senate members campaign in the fall and are elected in the spring. Because this is Nelson’s first semester, the process went a little differently for

him. “I was asked what I could bring to the table. My goal was to give back and get to know and support other students.”

Nelson explained he had more than classroom experience in

“I want to see things be different and be a part of something bigger than myself. I want to be able to say ‘I helped people, I saved lives.’”

-Paul Nelson
Freshman political science major

leadership. “I also was in charge of 1,500 people when I was in Texas for the military, so I had experience leading. Then I was elected,” Nelson said.

As a senator, he said, he has already worked to make his goal of helping others a reality. Nelson works to gain students’ respect and trust by simply getting to know them. “I make it a point to meet one student every week. I go up to someone, give them a handshake and introduce myself,” he said. “I always ask what they would like to see change at USM



Patrick Higgins / Multimedia Editor

First year political science major Paul Nelson is a student senator in his first semester at USM. Before beginning attending USM, he served in the National Guard, and he intends to return to active duty after graduation.

and work to make it a better place. I want students to know that their voices are heard. USM is a large, diverse school, and it’s important to include everyone,” Nelson said.

Outside of working in the student senate, Nelson is also a part of the fraternity Phi Mu Delta, which helps him stay involved in the events of the university, like a Rock-a-thon that raised money for St. Joseph’s hospital. The fra-

ternity also acted as security for USM’s Royal Majesty Drag Competition, which took place on the Nov. 22. “Working with Phi Mu Delta is about promoting unity and philanthropy,” Nelson said.

At 19 years-old, Paul Nelson is one of the youngest senators at USM, and he feels that he already has made some accomplishments at USM. But Nelson also has a lot more that he plans to do to help

others. He said that he wants to continue listening to students so that he can improve USM, and he urges people to attend senate meetings on Fridays to be heard.

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University and faculty union near agreement

After years of negotiation, a faculty contract may be in sight

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

An agreement on faculty union contracts may be closer than it has been in two and a half years after a tentative agreement was reached in November.

The proposed contract covers a four year span, including the past two and a half years and a year and half into the future.

"I feel like we're finally turning the ship around," said Christy Hammer, associate professor of social and behavioral sciences and president of the USM branch of the Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine.

The agreement was reached on Nov. 15, and was the final addition to the November Board of Trustees meeting on November 17 and 18. On the second day of the meeting, the motion to allow the Chancellor to ratify the proposed contract passed unanimously.

"It's a tentative agreement until all parties agree," said psychology Associate Professor John Broida, who is the USM representative to the AFUM bargaining committee. The next step, Broida said, is the Dec. 7 meeting of the AFUM bargaining committee, who will vote on whether accept or reject the agreement. No matter how they vote, the contract will go on to be voted on by the union members. If the union members do not approve the agreement, the contract will go back into negotiations. "The idea of the council is that they have all the information and will be able to

help others," Broida said.

The contract, which has been stalled largely over questions of pay raises and health benefits, comes in the context of budget shortfalls across the UMS. In a press release sent out following the Board of Trustees meeting Nov. 18, Leonard said, "The settlement with AFUM occurs in the context of an overall Trustee stra-

"I feel like we're finally turning the ship around."

-Christy Hammer

Associate professor of social and behavioral sciences and president of the USM branch of AFUM

tegic change package designed to close a significant financial gap while meeting mission responsibilities ... Costs associated with this agreement will not be borne by students or their families, but by reductions and efficiencies."

One of the provisions in the contract which addresses the system's fiscal situation is a financial incentive for older faculty to retire, with a greater incentive for retirement at the end of the current year, and a lesser incentive for retiring at the end of the 2014 to 2015 year.

"One thing [in the contract]

many faculty think will help rebuild a stronger USM in the future is that there is an enhanced retirement incentive," Hammer said.

Broida also mentioned that the retirement incentive could have a significant effect on the UMS. "If the contract is ratified, we may see a significant turnover in faculty," Broida said

"Ultimately, that may free up some resources so that maybe we can hire more faculty," said Hammer, echoing a discussion at the Nov. 8 faculty senate meeting, where engineering Professor Carlos Luck expressed concern that it was becoming too late in the year to begin searching for new faculty members for the next year, and that no new faculty searches are currently under way.

Broida expanded on that concern, explaining the reason for the retirement incentives. "One of the concerns of the faculty and administration is how old the faculty are getting."

Broida said the tentative agreement follows the recommendations of the arbitration report which was released in September as the last step recommended by the Maine Labor Relations Board for the span of the first half of the tentative agreement, through June 2013. The period of the contract after June 2013 was not covered in the arbitration report, and required further negotiations.

"The last big obstacle was healthcare," Broida said. The question of where the burden of

payment for increasing healthcare costs would be assigned required a significant amount of negotiation and, said Broida, "It was interesting to watch people who know numbers get very confused by the final solution."

The final agreement, which, Broida said, may be used as a pattern for future health care agreements with other unions in the

"It was interesting to watch people who know numbers get very confused by the final solution."

-John Broida

Associate professor of psychology and USM representative to the AFUM bargaining committee

UMS, is based on the projection of a four percent increase in health care costs for each year covered by the contract. The contract says that for the first 4.5 percent increase per year, 90 percent of that increase will be paid by the administration and 10 percent will be paid by the faculty, assuming certain qualifying conditions are met. If the qualifying conditions are not met, 80 percent will be paid by the administration and 20 percent will be paid by the faculty. If the cost

of health care rises above 4.5 percent up to 13 percent, the cost will be split, paid half by the administration and half by the faculty. Any increase in healthcare costs higher than 13 percent will be paid by the faculty.

"It's wonderful that we got the contract tentatively settled," said Hammer. She went on to describe her surprise on seeing the results of a survey conducted by AFUM which showed that a number of faculty had needed to take on summer jobs over the course of the two and a half year contract negotiations without a pay increase. "Nobody goes into higher ed to get wealthy," Hammer said, mentioning that many younger faculty have their own student loans to pay off.

The agreement as it stands, if approved, will provide a retroactive pay raise of one percent for the 2011 through 2012 school year for any faculty who were employed by the UMS at that time, a two percent raise retroactively from Jan. 2013, and two more two percent raises to be implemented June of 2013 and Sept 2014 respectively.

The date of the union vote on the contract following the Dec. 7 bargaining committee vote has not yet been set, but Broida said he expects the vote will take place in early January.

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Stevenson mentioned. “I have been working with all the UMaine System campuses on a proposal to deliver the French major to campuses which do not have one and to share resources among the campuses that do but are strapped for resources. I met with the Provost and the Dean in mid-December to give my report and discuss this. My report is ready.”

When discussing this move toward inter-campus language programs across the UMS, Suscavage described the situation as “very dicey,” stressing the importance of in-person instruction for the first three semesters of a language class and the extremely small numbers of students who have opted to take the online version of her own blended class so far.

The three majors, French, Hispanic studies and classical languages and literatures, will each be taught by one full-time faculty member once Peter Aicher, the second remaining full-time classics professor at USM, reaches the end of a phased retirement next year. Each major is looking into different ways forward, following the decision that a department of three faculty members, all of whom teach different subjects, is not sustainable. “Essentially, we lost two-thirds of our faculty over the last 11 years,” said Associate Professor of Classical Languages and Literatures Jeannine Uzzi. “When people retire and aren’t replaced, you essentially kill the program.”

Uzzi added that classics, her own department, in some ways has more in common in terms of curriculum with history, philosophy and other liberal arts fields than with French or Spanish language classes. “There is no curricular

reason why we should be together as one unit,” Uzzi said.

Administration for the three majors is currently going through Dean Kuzma’s office. “The Dean and the faculty are now working together to determine next steps in finding appropriate academic homes for the relevant programs,” said Stevenson.

However, what those departmental homes might be is far from being decided. “Everything is speculative,” said Erickson, who was adamant that, despite the administrative changes the three programs have undergone since Oct. 23, the dissolution of the department is not certain.

“You can’t just dissolve a department, that’s not how things are done,” Erickson said. She went on to say that no further meetings had been scheduled to determine the future of the department, a fact that she confirmed again two weeks later. She said that that the department’s status would remain undefined until further steps were taken. “I don’t know what is likely to happen,” Erickson said.

Suscavage is similarly uncertain. “We’re all in limbo,” she said. “The next step is reorganization.”

One thing that is certain is that, as an administrative unit, the MCLL department is no longer functioning. Kuzma confirmed that administrative work for the three majors is being done through the dean’s office while further arrangements are explored. “The changes in MCLL are purely administrative. I cannot emphasize that enough,” said Kuzma in an email to the Free Press in November.

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Jeannine Uzzi.

“We have to look at everything,” Page said, when asked what other solutions there may be going forward. “I can’t think of any sacred cows,” he said. The solution will likely be a combination of efforts, from attempting to increase enrollment, making cuts and looking into state funding. The system has to increase revenue and cut expenses, he said.

USM is facing a similar process in the process ahead. “That’s a very tough number, 8.6 percent of our operating budget,” wrote President Theo Kalikow and advisory board co-chair Jerry LaSala in a release to faculty and staff. “We do not yet have the answers on how we will address USM’s challenges, but the Direction Package Advisory Board is meeting frequently through February,” they wrote.

The board is made up of 32 members of faculty, staff, students and community members who, LaSala said, are tasked with defining a long-

term direction for the university and helping to identify specific areas for budget reductions to meet the short-falls.

Campbell stressed that the Direction Package will be a vital part of the work successful move forward. “The purpose of the Directional Package work is to tell us how to be looking at what we’re going to be doing in that future,” he said. “We will have to do additional modeling once we have a better understanding of what that looks like.”

USM is not unique in its financial struggles or its efforts to come up with a solution with work like the Direction Package. Campbell added. He explained that there is also a push from the for more collaboration between campuses.

It’s also clear that the university’s financial struggles are far from new. “I don’t remember a time when I was here when we didn’t face a budget problem,” said Mark Lapping, distinguished professor from the Muskie School of Public Service. Lapping came to USM first in 1994 to act as provost and has since acted

in various capacities at the university. “I don’t that we were ever adequately funded,” he said. “We’re not cutting any fat. That went away years ago. We’re now cutting into the bone,” he said.

LaSala agrees with Lapping that funding for the university has always been inadequate. “Fundamentally, this is a problem that goes back decades,” LaSala said. The geographic nature of USM, with its three distinct campuses, he said, has made funding a challenge.

“When I came to USM ... there was a real sense of movement. This place would sing,” Lapping said.

With reorganizations and cuts a common theme at the university, “a lot of people are tired,” he said. “The process is nevertheless important,” Lapping said.

“People thirst for honest and open conversation.”

LaSala and Kalikow stressed that they want the Direction Package work to be as transparent as possible in the November release.

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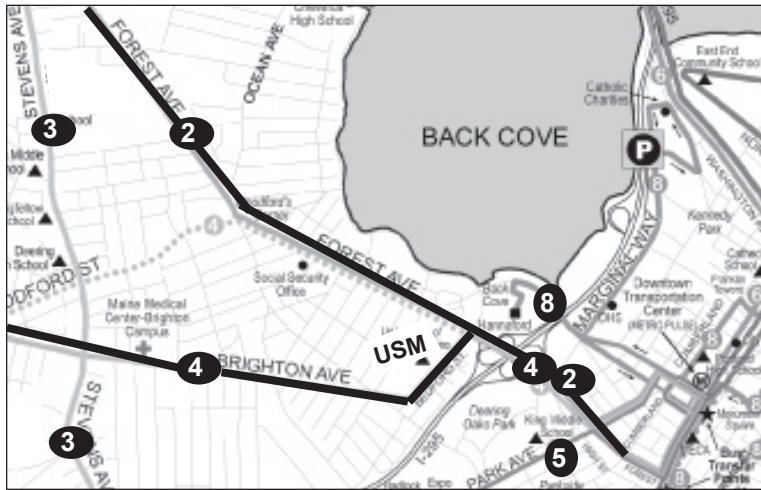
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From **TOBACCO** on page 1

a similar delivery device as a cigarette." Suzanne Roy, USM's health promotion manager, said shortly after the ban was put into action.

"Staff have told me they know students who, because of the ban, have taken the step to quit smoking. Those of us who don't use tobacco are relieved to see a cleaner, tobacco-free campus. Others, who have allergies to smoke, are very relieved as well," said Judie O'Malley, the assistant director at the USM office of Public Affairs.

The lack of compliance on the Gorham campus put stress on non-smoking students who lived in dorms. "No one used to smoke near buildings because you had to be 50 feet away. Now it's like the 50 foot rule doesn't exist. It took two months for Residential Life or even the police to do anything about it. Every night we would have to yell out the window for smokers to get out from under our window," said Stephanie Dodier, a senior communications major.

"The USM Dean of Students and USM Police Safety staff, continue to monitor areas where smoking violations are taking place on campus. They have spoken with persons who are using tobacco on campus grounds to remind them to refrain from using tobacco," Roy said of the process in dealing with continued smoking on campus.

For some students, the ban made them want to move off campus entirely. "The ban was a small factor in the reason I moved. It surprised me how it seems that the student body has little to no say in campus issues such as the smoking ban," said Rogalus, who is a smoker.

"We feel the tobacco ban has been a success on all three campuses. Occasionally, I ask my colleagues around USM how it is going and

I've heard that while there may be small pockets of non-compliance, for the most part, the tobacco ban is being observed," O'Malley said.

Though some see things they would like to change, other students are relieved that USM is now tobacco-free. "My dad has had lung cancer twice in his life; right now it's stage four, and he's never smoked a day in his life. Secondhand smoke is actually really damaging, and cigarette butts everywhere are gross. The world is not your trash can," Dodier said.

When the tobacco ban was first introduced, a group of students worked hard to try and prevent it from becoming a reality. "I am not trying to stop the tobacco ban anymore. It's pointless, and I can't do anything to change it. I feel almost defeated about it," said Ana Worthing, a senior psychology major who was one of the students who protested the ban. "The president has made up her mind," she said. "At this time it's a done deal and set in stone."

The ban is a group effort of everyone who attends USM. "One of the ways to succeed in creating a safe and healthy environment is for each of us to own our responsibility to respectfully approach persons who are ignoring the tobacco policy to remind them that this policy has been adopted to protect the health of everyone from exposure to secondhand smoke, a serious health hazard that is avoidable," said Roy.

Now that the ban has been put into action, both the pro-ban and anti-ban students agree that a lot remains to be done with the ban. Both sides have a lot of ideas for what they would like to see happen in the future and hope that the administration will eventually talk to them and consider their opinions.

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Alex Greenlee / Free Press Staff

In the spring 2013 student election, the student body passed a referendum question requesting the opportunity to vote on whether to keep the tobacco ban. The referendum passed, but the vote never happened.

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Arts & Culture

Students study with artist Anna Helper



Photo courtesy of Damir Porobic

Anna Helper spoke to multiple art classes after her lecture on Nov. 14 about exploring new ideas, the creative process, artistic community and her own work.

Courtney Aldrich
Free Press Staff

In an effort to describe and defy artistic comfort zones and exploring art forms, visiting artist Anna Helper dedicated her Thursday afternoon on Nov. 14, speaking to students and faculty at USM in Burnham Lounge of Robie-Andrews Hall.

Some of her pieces have been featured in exhibitions from Suyana Space in, Seattle, WA to the Portland Museum of Art. Her audience for the day, seeming more like distant relatives, sat back in the relaxed atmosphere enjoying lecture refreshments and snacks in residential hall furniture, observing ideas of artistic form unfolded through Hepler's presentation.

Hepler divided her talk into three sections of her artistic career that were dictated by projects she found herself working on. She began by describing her work with a class of Bowdoin art stu-

dents and an innovative printmaking project that took place within the decaying wooden floors of the former Brunswick High School. Through a collaboration of 12, the group carved designs into the

"She [Anna Hepler] is a mover and shaker in the community."

-Carolyn Eyler
Director of Exhibitions of the USM Art Galleries

floor, inked the surface and then made large prints of the work.

"It was very beautiful to turn these old floors into printmaking art," said Hepler.

Through the process of collaboration with other artists, Hepler explained how this joint effort can test one's boundaries.

"You no longer know which marks are yours," said Hepler. "The baggage of authorship and originality becomes a shared feeling of pride."

Hepler's lecture continued on the topic of questioning conventional form with her displaying of images of 3D inflatables she designed with 2D drawings of the same object.

"The print serves as an idealized version of the inflatable," said Hepler.

This innovative craft involves the inflation of the plastic creations every half hour. After the inflatables are filled with air they slowly decrease and viewers observe the artistic form changing and are capable of comparing the 3D presentation to its 2D counterpart print.

"I love the conversation between these parts," said Hepler. "One experience pushes for the

other. It never occurs to me to ask, 'where is this going?' It's always, 'what is the origin?'"

Carolyn Eyler, the Director of Exhibitions of the USM Art Galleries, explained the significance

"After hearing an artist's lecture, I feel inspired to create and explore new ideas."

-Bill Freeman
Junior Art Major

of inviting visiting artists to speak who are at the forefront of their field.

"She [Anna Hepler] is a mover and shaker in the community,"

said Eyler. "It is important to select artists who are grounded in their own discipline."

Students who attended the lecture gave positive feedback.

"These talks offer an opportunity for students to be exposed to art and art language," said USM junior art major and printmaking minor Bill Freeman. "After hearing an artist's lecture, I feel inspired to create and explore new ideas."

Junior art major Nicole Tombarelli had similar feelings: "These talks give me a broader range of possibilities in my work and through process."

Both Freeman and Tombarelli are art students enrolled in a printmaking course here at USM. After the lecture, Hepler attended the class meeting to work with students at the studio to offer intimate guidance in the medium.

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Arts & Culture Recommends: "Circus in the Streets" on First Friday

Francis Flisuk
Free Press Staff

First Friday Art Walk is going to be different this December, circus acts different. Plans for the monthly event include a debut performance by world renowned performers from the Circus Conservatory of America an organization founded to make Portland Maine the first city in the nation to host a dedicated circus arts college.

Portland's Holiday Edition Art Walk falls on December 6th this year and marks the first time in the Art Walk's history that Congress street will be closed off to traffic. This accommodation is being made for something much more than the usual crowds of over 3,000 people admiring local art displayed by shops and galleries. Portland is going to need the extra

space for a company of acrobats showcasing their talents in a street performance titled "Circus in the Streets."

"Getting permissions to close down Congress street wasn't easy," said the Executive Director of Creative Portland and one organizer of the First Friday event Jennifer Hutchins. "Congress street is the major artery for downtown Portland, and it took a lot of collaboration with local businesses and merchants to make it happen."

According to Hutchins, street performers and artists often venture into the street anyway but the shutdown of the street would do more than just address a safety concern. "We were looking for something to draw more traffic into the intersection of Congress and Park Street and that's when we decided to turn the Arts District into a circus," said Hutchins.

The circus artists, apart from performing at this event, are also hard at work, building America's first Circus College on Thompson's Point in Portland, Maine. The college's mission includes educating performers and people interested in the circus arts about business, production and creativity. They're also aiming to connect Maine's most unique artists in ways that complement the state's creative economy.

"The circus performing arts are gaining a lot of momentum right now. Its not just the painted clown with the big red nose anymore, it's much more dramatic and acrobatic then that," said Hutchins.

According to the Circus Conservatory's founder Peter Nielsen, Portland is the perfect city for a circus college because of its population's unique blend of creativity and entrepreneurship.

Hutchins agrees. "Portland is ideal. People are attracted by both the size of our city, the vibe, the youthful nature and the creative opportunities," she said.

"Circus in the Street" is an extension of the conservatory's mission and will be, according to a press release from Portland's Downtown District, a spectacular once-in-a-lifetime experience. December's First Friday marks the first time Portland will be able to enjoy these artist's talents, and the intersection of Congress Street and Park Street will be the stage.

"It's going to feel like a very spontaneous experience, with street performers popping out of the woodwork everywhere," said Hutchins.

The performance comes from an effort and collaboration of both Creative Portland and Portland's Downtown District as well as some

local sponsors. They have strived to bring together talent from the Circus Conservatory, local freelancers and area students for an event described by Portland's Downtown District's Executive Director Steve Hewins as a unique celebration of art in the city. The festivities take the form of two 45 minute showings starting at 6 p.m. Apart from "Circus in the Streets" there will also be a performance by the Portland Ballet in the windows of the Portland Public Library as well as a student art sale at the Maine College of Art.

"This is definitely the time to visit the Art Walk if you haven't been. There is a lot going on this month that will make you realize this isn't your average art walk," said Hutchins.

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National Review

Davis does a lot with a little



M.C. Records

Dan Kelly
Free Press Staff

Guy Davis, American bluesman and storyteller, shows the priceless value of acoustic blues on *Juba Dance*.

Although modern unamplified blues is not as prominent as it should be in the mainstream music scene, advances in the style are still being made on a regular basis. Guy Davis is at the forefront of the style. His storytelling capacity is similar to legends such as Son House; his instrumental proficiency is comparable to such guitar heroes as Elizabeth Cotten; also, his vocals are as deep and powerful as Howlin' Wolf's. With such skill, it is good to know that Davis is not simply doing what has proved successful for others in the past, but instead incorporating elements of old-time delta blues with feeling and style that is instantly recognizable as Guy Davis.

Davis' version of "Statesboro Blues," a standard of the style written by Blind Willie McTell, shows respect for the old-time blues

greats, while also adding a new contribution. Guitar is fingerpicked with a thumping rhythm played in the bass, while a series of riffs are simultaneously played in the instrument's upper register. This common technique is performed by Davis with metronome-like stability and immense forcefulness, making it unique. Deep and rough-edged vocals that drive this tune can make the hair stand up on your neck with their unmatched soulfulness.

"Love Looks Good on You" shows listeners a mellower side of Davis. Although relatively simple, this song breaks away from the standard 12-bar blues form heard on much of the album. A slow and intricate guitar part is matched tastefully with upper register harmonica work characterized by long, sustained notes. Though not a blues song according to the strictest of definitions, Davis is still able to portray the rugged soulfulness characteristic of blues that has never been sacrificed in any of his work.

Perhaps most inspiring thing about Davis' musicianship is how much music he is able to make with just an acoustic guitar, a banjo, a harmonica and his voice. This minimalist approach creates a sound that is anything but lacking. In fact, fewer instruments bring to light the intricacies, feeling and unique musical voice communicated by Davis. This non-convoluted approach that characterizes *Juba Dance* should be recognized as musically invaluable.

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Local Review

Spose tries role as Andre 3000



P. Dank Entertainment

Sam Hill
Arts & Culture Editor

For everyone who has had their fingers crossed, hoping for Andre 3000 and Big Boi to reunite and drop a classic Outkast album, we've got good news for you. No, Outkast isn't back, but Maine-native Spoke has resurrected some of the best beats from their vault giving the world another full album of backwoods rap with Dankonia.

Spoke is a wordsmith, plain and simple. His vocabulary may be broader than the syllabus for any intro English course at USM, and his flow is off-the-charts smooth. Not that Dankonia should be added as required material, but Spoke takes his brand seriously. "Up in Maine where it's two below and I don't rap 'bout no groupie hoes," he raps on "Coolio" and he sticks to it.

From rapping about his mom finding his weed in high school and giving him a lesson in keeping clean on "Hide Your Drugs," to his tremendous debt and bounced checks on "Broke as Me," there's no way you can't relate if you're a Mainer. "16 Counties" even includes a chopped up sample of a chorus singing the classic elemen-

tary school Maine counties song. He even gives our governor a shout-out on the track, rapping, "'F--k Paul LePage/There's no way he could be from where we've all been raised." While everyone jumps on the buy local trend, Spoke is just starting up the rap local campaign.

Lyrics aside, Spoke does Outkast justice on these tracks. The description of the album on Bandcamp (where you can download it for free) simply reads, "Vignettes and Tangents in the Key of Outkast." With beats from the well-known tracks, like "The Way You Move," "Bombs Over Bagdad" and "Ms. Jackson," mixed with some of the hidden gems like "Elevators" and "Aquemini," there's a good mix for the hardcore Outkast listeners and the fairweather Top-40 fan. Spoke imitates Andre's flow in the exact spots you'd want him to and switches it up as soon as it becomes too much.

"Hollywood Divorce" is an absolute must-listen on the album. With rappers Essence and Mike B on the track as well, the tremendous trio come together for the only song over 5-minutes long on the album. "Coolio" gives listeners another story of Spoke's journey to Hollywood and back, recounting his booking agent saying Spoke reminded him of arguably laughable rapper Coolio. Oh, and there are songs titled "Mountain Dew and Aerosmith" and "Twerking at a Funeral." Seriously.

People love Spoke. Whether you turn up his album for the witty lyrics, classic beats, silly stories or you just like hearing that there's still a rapper out there with less money in his pocket with you, it's going to be a good time. Major record deal or not, Spoke is the Mainer's champ.

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Perspectives

Our opinion: *USM's future trumps press access debate*

Since the start of the Direction Package Advisory Board meetings in November, the group has questioned the admittance of the press at those meetings, though they are open to the public. In short, the openness of these meetings is of the utmost importance for the community's involvement in decisions about the future of this university.

From the Nov. 11 issue of the Free Press, it was reported that nearly two hours of the first meeting were spent discussing whether or not the press should be allowed to attend. Members were concerned about the possibility of negative press and that some members might feel hesitant to express their ideas and opinions in front of the press.

From the notes on the Nov. 15 meeting (that can be found on the Direction Package website), it was stated that "[members of the board] spoke with UMS legal counsel about the question of open meetings and whether or not the press can be allowed at the meetings," and that a presentation on that material is ready when there's time. Many members of the board have maintained that transparency throughout this process is paramount and that in order to ensure that the process is transpar-

ent, press attendance should not be a question. In fact, according to Maine Public Meeting laws, there isn't even a legal question involved—the group has no authority or legitimate reason to hold these meetings privately (ch.13 §403 and §405).

We understand the sensitivity of the university community during this tumultuous time, and it is not in our best interest or anyone else's at this institution, that we shape any narrative for the benefit of any group or individual, but it's not time to argue about who gets through the doors. The bottom line is that press access at these meetings shouldn't distract us from the important business we're faced with—saving the university.

When we asked about what can be done to avoid making the \$11.9 million shortfall estimation a reality, Chief Financial Dick Campbell responded that the Directional Package work and the advisory board are the best answer.

This institution exists to serve students and to be a resource for the people of Maine. Behind closed doors, no one is going to be held accountable to the people they are appointed to represent in their task: the public of Maine.

Correction:

From the article "Students have mixed reactions to renovations" in the Nov. 11 issue, it was reported that over \$7 million was spent on projects at USM this calendar year and that the number would increase

to over \$12 million when the projects were finished. The \$7 million was spent on renovations projects for the calendar year, but not all of the money will be spent this year as some projects are ongoing. The \$12 million includes projects occurring over three-year period.

Americans like it hot, but turn that thermostat down

Alexander R. van Dintel
Perspectives Editor

America needs to turn the heat down, starting with USM.

Dorms are blazingly hot, and by about mid-October, classroom windows close, and it feels like the thermostats are set to progressively hotter, whatever the current temperature.

Moisture is sucked from the air while students dizzily try to concentrate on the professor during class. Sure, apparently it's hard to maintain an even temperature in a large building because, you know, heat rises. That excuse is satisfying until you realize that the lowest floors of campus buildings aren't occupied by bursting pipes and polar bears; the floors are at a more than high enough temperature.

We're all part of the problem. America is a land of extremes, and Americans demand them. Water is served at mind-numbing temperatures, boxing wasn't violent enough so we invented mixed martial arts, and have you ever seen a Taco Bell Doritos dos locos

taco? Ridiculous. Tasty, but ridiculous. Still, what's more American than straight-faced wandering about in December wearing only a t-shirt? We've created a slacker's utopia where you can leave your overheated house, jump in an overheated car, and spend the day at an overheated office, all while dressed like a teenager on the way to a water-park.

Ordinary Americans aren't the only ones enjoying the artificial luxury of a year-round summer. President Obama, upon moving into the White House famously broke protocol by going sans-jacket in the Oval Office. The reason? "He likes it warm", President Obama's senior advisor David Axelrod said to the New York Times in 2009, "You could grow orchids in there."

Building temperatures are high around the country because many of us refuse to dress for the season. Some of us don't dress for the season because if we do, we'll be unbearably hot indoors. Right now there is no need to dress appropriately because we burn oil like it's free.

Here's some context, the average temperature setting in the United Kingdom is 63.5 degrees Fahrenheit, while the United States' average is a whopping 72 degrees. That's a massive difference, a massively expensive difference. Heating is the single greatest expense in a building, outpacing even air conditioning, and unsurprisingly, it's not an eco-friendly expense.

Overheating can cost your health, as well as your wallet. The 2009 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Building Assessment Survey and Evaluation study found that overheated homes saw greater levels of sickness.

There's a two-part solution to this problem. First, people shouldn't expect to be accommodated when they refuse to pack a sweater. Second, colleges need to stop cooking their students alive. Do we have a deal?

Alexander R. van Dintel is a senior political science major.

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Legally Maine

Buffer zone protects patients and protesters

Bryan Bonin
Staff Writer

Portland’s new buffer zone ordinance is a lawful and efficient approach to protecting women’s rights to reproductive health care.

Accounts of harassment and intimidation required intervention by the City Council through an ordinance restricting the space where anti-abortion activists can protest. Congress street in downtown Portland has become a virtual war zone in which patients’ rights to safely access health care has been continually threatened.

According to the Portland help center, operated by Planned Parenthood of New England, anti-abortion protesters frequently meet outside the clinic, harassing and intimidating patients as they enter and leave the building. Approximately six months ago, Planned Parenthood supporters packed into City Hall, where a City Council committee considered passing an ordinance that would establish a “patient safety zone” in front of the clinic.

Following an hour of deposition from some 40 people Monday night Nov. 18, Portland City Council members unanimously passed an ordinance establishing a 39-foot protest-free buffer zone around the entrances to Planned Parenthood. This controversial decision was enacted as an emergency measure and went into effect immediately. The goal of the ordinance is to protect the privacy and safety of patients and staff, while protecting protesters’ freedom of speech. Though protesters will be required to move back, their rights

to freely speak and assemble will not be infringed upon.

Protest free buffer zones are commonplace for Planned Parenthood, with locations around the country instituting them. Three states and numerous cities nationwide have passed various buffer zone laws, each with different distance restrictions. Portland’s new ordinance was based on a similar ordinance enacted in Burlington, Vermont, which has survived several constitutional challenges. Beginning in January of next year, the U.S. Supreme Court will examine a similar buffer law in Massachusetts, which prohibits protests within 35 feet of abortion clinics statewide. This legal battle could have significant implications for buffer zone laws around the nation, including Portland’s new emergency ordinance.

Moral debates on the legality of abortion are irrelevant to the discussion of Portland’s buffer ordinance. Debates should focus on the constitutionality and effectiveness of an ordinance that restricts the space in which activists can protest. While the constitutionality of Portland’s ordinance is debatable until the Supreme Court rules on the buffer zone law in Massachusetts, numerous federal district courts already have ruled that it is not a violation of the First Amendment to simply move protesters back a bit. Protester voices will still be heard, yet protection from harassment and intimidation will be given to law abiding citizens looking for treatment.

Signed by President Bill Clinton in 1994, the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act makes it illegal to use intimidation or physical force

in an attempt to prevent individuals from entering a facility that provides

for even the most veteran law enforcement officer. Thanks to Port-

lawful according to FACE. The new buffer zone still allows



Sokvonny Chhouk / Design Director

reproductive health services. Since activists in Portland often used threats of violence and intimidation tactics to protest, they have been in direct violation of FACE; the new ordinance will force protesters to be more compliant.

Not only has the buffer zone ordinance made it easier for people seeking treatment, it has made it easier for Portland police to uphold FACE. A responsibility that has been considered controversial, as the exact meaning of harassment, or intimidation, is not defined in the act. One group’s peaceful protesting may look like intimidation to others, and hazy definitions of free speech or harassment can muddy the water

land’s new ordinance, police officers will no longer have to make difficult decisions about whether protesters have become too threatening for passers-by and what actions they should take.

Ample testimony from staffers at Planned Parenthood, patients and community members convinced Portland’s City Council that anti-abortion activists have gone too far with their actions outside the Congress street reproductive health clinic. Councilors recognized violent tactics from protesters to have intimidated patients seeking health care on Congress street, making it difficult to get into the facility at times. Protester intimidation is un-

peaceful protests to take place at a distance where their message can be heard outside Planned Parenthood, yet it protects the right of women to receive reproductive health care services like abortion, a service that has been guaranteed since the Supreme Court ruling of Roe v. Wade in 1973. Portland’s City Councilors should be commended for their just and courageous action.

Bryan Bonin is a senior political science major with a concentration in law

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USM Student Leaders of the Month:
October 2013

Hillary Turcotte



Major: Psychology
USM Extracurricular Involvement:
Treasurer of Psychology Club

Quote from nominator:
“Hilary devoted a lot of her time to the Psychology club on the month of October. She also spent numerous hours in setting up the first successful fundraiser of the semester.”

Maeve Wood



Major: Economics
USM Extracurricular Involvement:
Campus Involvement and Activities Work Study Manager

Quote from nominator:
“Maeve exemplifies what it means to be an excellent leader, connecting with those she wwho are struggling, and helping them to realize and actualize their potential.”

Maija Robbins



Major: Psychology
USM Extracurricular Involvement:
Secretary of the Psychology Club

Quote from nominator:
“Maija took the initiative to jump start a bake sale for the Psychology Club. She has helped the club raise over \$380 in four days.”

Christian Evans



Major: Linguistics
USM Extracurricular Involvement:
Expansion committee Chair for all Greek Council

Quote from nominator:
“Christian completed much of the leg work necessary to enact a plan for expansion of Greek Women’s organizations at USM. Christian has also developed standing rules that will help make the growth of Greek Organizations at USM happen in such a way that growth is sustainable, intentional, and healthy!”

Dri Huber



Major: Social Work
USM Extracurricular Involvement:
President of Social Work Student Organization

Quote from nominator:
“Dri has gone above and beyond to work hard and put together a letter that informs how the budget cuts are affecting the social work students in more ways than one. She is also part of a committee that will be meeting with the dean in November to speak on behalf of social work majors.”

Martin Conte

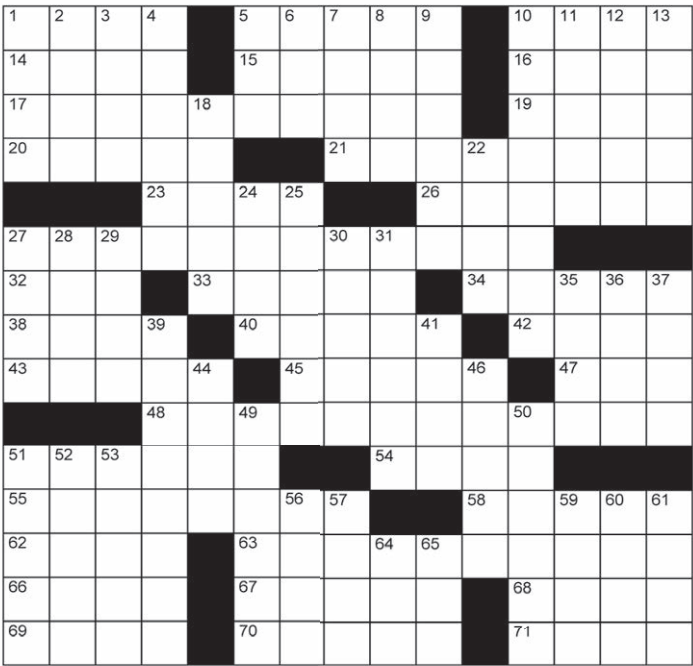


Major: English
USM Extracurricular Involvement:
Work-Study Student at the English Department

Quote from nominator:
“Martin is a superb work-study student in the English Department. His student involvement is also exceptional: he has organized the first Poetry Club (as far as I know) at USM and this has branched out into our ESA group (English Student Association).”

Crossword

- Across
1. Like Pringles Original chips
5. Fronts of ships
10. Low "Yo!"
14. "___ 'Clock Jump"
15. Alamo victim James
16. Theater chain founder Marcus
17. Strikes a response
19. 'Zip-___Doo-Dah'
20. One of five
21. Project Mercury rocket
23. Slippers' color in "The Wizard of Oz"
26. Alternative
27. The ___ Massacre of 1856
32. ET vehicle
33. Real-time alternative
34. Mine transports
38. Traipse
40. WWI battle site
42. Gush lava
43. Pre-Columbus Mexican
45. Singers Berger and Sack
47. "This ___ fine how-do-you-do!"
48. Singer born May 28, 1944
51. Reagan-era VIP
54. Org. overseeing fairness in hiring
55. Sword lily
58. Nursery supplies
62. iPod mini successor
63. 1980's fad
66. Popular pizza/grill chain, informally
67. 'à€" puss___ gentleman...': Cowper
68. Lawyers' degrees
69. Silk: Fr.
70. 'Shrek!' author William
71. In any other way



Down

1. Plant suffix
2. Have ___ (be connected)
3. ___, vidi, vici
4. Turkish delight
5. Cops' org.
6. Take unlawfully
7. One in the red
8. Cunningness
9. Not often
10. Deejaays spun them
11. "Me, too!"
12. "I ___ reason why..."
13. 12-year-old, say
18. "You don't know ___!"
22. Shish kebab holder
24. Times Sq. street
25. Talked noisily
27. Aqua ___: clean water
28. "The Wizard ___"
29. On the nose
30. Toweling
31. Andersen's birthplace
35. ___ in a poke
36. Net material
37. Try to ht, as a housefly
39. Extraordinarily large amount, as of a vitamin
41. "For Pete's ___!"
44. Half of CCCIV
46. Deceives
49. Classical markets
50. Frozen spike
51. ___ Dei
52. Grassy expanse
53. 2000 Clinton visit site
56. Singer-actress Lorna
57. Irish
59. Injure, as a muscle
60. Subsides, as the tide
61. Late ruler Mobotu ___ Seko
64. Zoology suffix
65. Beer bust purchase

Sudoku

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 x 9-square grid subdivided into nine 3 x 3 boxes. Some of the squares contain numbers. The object is to fill in the remaining squares so that every row, every column, and every 3 x 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.

The solution to last issue's crossword



Cryptogram

Every letter in a cryptogram stands for another letter. Use the hint to crack the code.

XPYUTDP BRSM VM Y
BMVAXPVA IWYHB: AW
SWE UVDI HIRTE.

And here is your hint:

U = Y



Weekly Horoscope

- ★★★★★ great
★★★★ good
★★★ average
★★ alright
★ difficult



Aries
March 21-April 19

★★★

Focus, concentration and follow through are important today, so don't start anything without plenty of time to finish.



Taurus
April 20-May 20

★★

Relationship and achievement needs seem at odds today. Keep a balance between love and work and remember you're not super-human.



Gemini
May 21-June 20

★★★★

You have to alter a past decision. Circumstances have changed; you need to do things differently now.



Cancer
June 21-July 22

★★★★★

Today you need tangible output such as projects can satisfy. Try pottery, drawing, carpentry, cooking, crocheting, or creative acts.



Leo
July 23-August 22

★★★★

Food arouses opposing feelings in you today. You want to indulge, but also desire a sense of self-control. Seek a middle ground.



Virgo
August 23-September 22

★★★★★

Power plays about leisure choices lurk. Channel any control needs into competitive activities rather than arguing about what to do.



Libra
September 23-October 22

★★★★

You and your beloved need to balance a lighthearted approach with a more intense commitment. Find a middle ground.



Scorpio
October 23-November 21

★★★★

Intimacy needs are strong. A sexual connection may help bonding, or you might prefer other forms of sharing. You need depth.



Sagittarius
November 22-December 21

★★★★★

Eat, drink, and be merry! Forget about labor; today's the day to feel good. Relax and indulge yourself: you deserve it!



Capricorn
December 22-January 19

★★★★

You and the family need to balance tasks with playtime today. A little compromise can allow some of both.



Aquarius
January 20-February 18

★★

Your mind is more disciplined than usual. You probably want everything in order before speaking. A good time to plan ahead.



Pisces
February 19-March 20

★★★★★

Other people spark ideas and conversation for you today. Learning comes through your relationships, discussion, or reading.

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Sports

Tuesday

Men’s Basketball
vs. Bowdoin
7:30 p.m.

Friday

Men’s Ice Hockey
vs. Babson
7 p.m.

Scoreboard

November 5

Women’s Soccer
USM 1
UMass Dartmouth 2

Field Hockey
USM 0
UMass Dartmouth 2

Women’s Volleyball
USM 2
Plymouth St. 3

Women’s Ice Hockey
USM 1
UNE 0

November 8

Women’s Ice Hockey
Plymouth St. 1
USM 4

Men’s Ice Hockey
Castleton 4
USM 2

November 9

Men’s Ice Hockey
USM 3
Skidmore 2

November 11

Women’s Basketball
UMaine 72
USM 42

November 15

Women’s Ice Hockey
NEC 0
USM 6

Women’s Basketball
Salve Regina 45
USM 67

Men’s Ice Hockey
Norwich 4
USM 1

Men’s Basketball
Westfield St. 68
USM 60

November 16

Wrestling
Roger Williams Invitational
8th out of 12

Women’s Cross Country
NCAA NE Championship
16th out of 53

Men’s Cross Country
NCAA NE Championship
14th out of 50

Women’s Ice Hockey
Castleton 1
USM 2

Men’s Basketball
St. Joseph’s 65
USM 82

Women’s Basketball
UMaine Farmington 57
USM 86

Men’s Ice Hockey
St. Michael’s 3
USM 4

Upcoming

December 3

Women’s Basketball
Bowdoin @ USM
5:30 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
Bowdoin @ USM
7:30 p.m.

December 6

Wrestling
A.I.C. @ USM
3 p.m.

Wrestling
Sullivan CC @ USM
7 p.m.

Women’s Ice Hockey
USM @ UMass Boston
4 p.m.

Men’s Ice Hockey
Babson @ USM
7 p.m.

December 7

Wrestling
Ted Reese Invitational
10 a.m.

Men’s Indoor Track & Field
@ Bowdoin Invitational
1 p.m.

Women’s Outdoor Track & Field
@ Bowdoin Invitational
1 p.m.

Women’s Ice Hockey
Colby @ USM
1 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
West Conn. St. @ USM
1 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
West Conn. St. @ USM
3 p.m.

Men’s Ice Hockey
UMass Boston @ USM
4 p.m.

December 10

Men’s Ice Hockey
Bowdoin @ USM
7 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
UMaine Farmington @ USM
7 p.m.

December 14

Men’s Basketball
USM @ Salem St.
3 p.m.

Top winter destinations

Connor Hamilton
Contributor

The days are getting colder and before you know it, winter will be here.

With the end of fall sports and the semester drawing to a close, wouldn’t now be the best time to just sleep the days away? Then again, why sleep when you can take advantage of winter and all the activities that come with it. So, if you thought it was time to hibernate, think again. Time to shrug off that blanket, put on your ski-pants and get outside.

Tubing



If ice skating isn’t quite your speed or you are looking for nostalgia, Maine offers a few dedicated tubing parks. Seacoast Snow Park opens Dec. 26. “It has some of the best tubing around,” said Nicole Hickey, a freshman computer science major. Automated lifts will drag you and your tube, back to the top of the mountain after each go. Oxford Plains, off Route 26 in Oxford, is also a much sought after choice for quality tubing hills. If you don’t mind sharing the road with skiers, the local lodges of Shawnee Peak and Cross-Country Ski Center in Oxford both have hills for tubing. Both have more affordable rates for tubing separate from ski rentals, so don’t worry about blowing too much pocket change.

Skiing



Finally, the one thing that every winter visitor to Maine must try at least once is downhill skiing. For those who don’t mind a bit of a drive, Sugarloaf Mountain and Sunday River

are Maine’s most famous skiing destinations. If you are willing to sacrifice a long drive and a chunk of change for an unbeatable mountain experience, those are the locations for you. In the immediate Portland-Gorham area, there are a number of excellent skiing mountains. Powderhouse Hill, near Dover and the New Hampshire border, is only about 45 minutes from Portland. “Shawnee Peak is an excellent ski destination” said Kayla Poor, an undeclared sophomore. A fair distance north, near Fryeburg, Shawnee is well worth the drive. If you’re more interested in cross-country, Cross-Country Ski Center, mentioned above, is not far from either campus—about an hour from Portland and Gorham—and would be well worth a look.

Ice Skating



A relaxing winter activity, great for groups of friends or for meeting new people, ice skating is a perfect lazy-day sport. Gorham has a full-sized ice rink with free admission for students. However, for those who want to get a little break from campus life, there are other options. Twenty minutes down I-95 from Portland you’ll find the Biddeford Ice Arena hosts open skates Friday and Sunday. If you are heading up north, the Oxford Ice Rink lies just 10 minutes outside Oxford town square. If you’re looking to skate in Portland, the indoor Portland Ice Arena and the outdoor Deering Oaks Park are popular locations. Portland Ice is currently open, see their online schedule for times. If you’d rather skate outdoors, Deering Oaks will be open for skating as soon as the pond freezes over, around December.

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USM COMMUNITY PAGE



Community Spotlight: Six ways for students to give back

Jeremy Holden
Free Press Staff

Craig DeForest, the program manager of service-learning at the Office of Community Based Learning, is a strong advocate for volunteer work, and his office helps to provide students with service-learning and internship opportunities in the Greater Portland area.

DeForest said that he thinks students should get involved in volunteer work because it can lead to future career connections and allow them to perform in multiple disciplines. He also said that USM wants students to come out of the university as active citizens within the community, and he stressed that there is a large amount of public need in Portland. Students that want to volunteer, he said, will get a better sense of what's happening in the community that they live in.

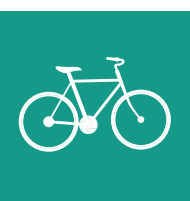
Volunteers work with youth from kindergarten to 12th grade, and much of the work is done in after school programs, where USM students can tutor and mentor the next generation of active learners, he said.

"Volunteering is an opportunity to give back to the community," said DeForest. "You can connect with people who, in most cases, come from different social and cultural backgrounds, and you can make great career connections."

DeForest went on to say that if students want to get involved in volunteering around the greater Portland area, they should visit the Office of Community Based Learning, located next to Payson-Smith Hall or visit the university website for more information. He said that there is a career fair planned for Feb. 12 at the Sullivan Gym on the Portland campus, and this is another place for students to go for more information about community work and job opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Maine Bicycle Coalition



wants volunteers to help with administrative tasks and cycling projects. If students are looking at careers in nonprofit organizations, tourism, outdoor recreation, event planning or education, this non-profit organization is a great place to give back to the community and find possible career paths.

The Portland Walking School Bus



is looking for volunteers that will help out for 30 minutes, at least one morning a week, to make sure students make it safely to school. There is a

designated mile long path that students and volunteers will walk, helping the children get their daily physical exercise and reduce the dangers of the hectic Portland traffic in the morning. Volunteers are required to have a background check and attend a one hour training program before they can begin walking with the children.

The Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad



is asking for volunteers that will dress up as elves for their Polar Express holiday event. While in costume, volunteers will deliver hot chocolate

and snacks on board the train and assist Santa Claus in distributing the "first" holiday gift of the holiday season.

The Environmental Health Strategy Center



, a local non-profit organization, works to protect children from toxic environmental hazards. They are in need of volunteers with energetic personalities to help out in their office.

The Ingraham House



, a residential center for developmentally disabled clients, is asking for a group students to volunteer once a week, for about two hours time, to teach and sing songs to

residents. Again, this is a great opportunity to give back to the community, and for those who plan on having a career in music or the medical field, the Ingraham house may be a way for you to find connections.

The Greater Portland Charitable Furniture Center



is a non-profit that redistributes donated household necessities to new refugees, immigrants and others that are in need, and

the Center is run entirely by volunteers. They are looking for volunteers, especially those that have large vehicles to help with picking up donations and delivering furniture. This is certainly a way for volunteers to get to know new Maine residents that are trying to establish themselves in the community.

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Campus Events

Monday, December 2

Portland Events Board Meeting
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Tuesday, December 3

Cooking in the State of Nature
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
102 Wishcamper Center, Portland

Husky Tunes on WMPG
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
WMPG Studio, 92 Bedford Street, Portland

Wednesday, December 4

The Meinersmann-Randall Transformed Model of Nursing Education
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Room 213, Abromson Community Education Center, Portland

Thursday, December 5

Meet Rear Admiral Bill Leigher, USM Alum & Director of Warfare Integration for Information Dominance
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Veterans Resource Center, Woodbury Campus Center, Portland

Politics Then and Now: "Future Prospects," a panel discussion featuring Cynthia Dill, Kenneth Fredette, and Amy Fried
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Lee Community Hall (Rm 133), Wishcamper Center, Portland

Theater of War
5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
John Ford Theater, Portland High School, 284 Cumberland Ave.

GEB Presents: Lazer Tag
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Lower Level, Brooks Student Center, Gorham

Friday, December 6

Cyber Security Conference - 2nd Annual State of IT In Maine
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Abromson Center, University of Southern Maine, Portland

Cultural Presentation: Study Abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Brooks Student Center, Presidential Dining Room, Gorham

Meeting of The Veterans Activity Group
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Portland VFW, 687 Forest Ave, Portland

Saturday, December 7

Osher Life Long Learning Book Sale
9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.
Wishcamper Center, Portland

For more events:
www.usm.maine.edu/events



Featured Photo:



Patrick Higgins / Multimedia Editor

Courtney Aldrich (left) and Alex Trangemontange (right) perform for a small crowd at the Community of Arts Coffee House's Open Mic, which periodically takes place in the Burnham Lounge at Robie Andrews.