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Due to low enrollment this year, the amount of student activity fee funds expected to be dispersed this spring will be much less than expected, and in the past week, the Student Government Association has had to revise its budget and cut the budgets of its entities to adjust.

In the past, the student activity fee has added up to $250,000 dollars each semester, but this semester the check cut was only $200,000. Once that money is available, a lot of is immediately dispersed in certain areas automatically due to various contracts. 30 percent goes to the Student Communications Board, which funds WMPG Community Radio and the Free Press, and some is spent covering the costs of the SGA Business Office employees, Student Legal Services, the SGA graduate assistant and an annual audit. After those costs were covered, the student senate was left with $140,000 to cover a collective budget of $172,248.

The budget was balanced, but not without a lot deliberation between SGA and entity members. An emergency meeting was held last Wednesday to adjust the budget.

“The reason why we called everyone together is so everyone could have a fair shot and express why or why not they may or may not need their funding,” said student senator Tyler Boothby. “Boothby had been working closely with Student Body President Kelsey Dunham and coordinator of the SGA Business Office Ray Dumont to look over the budget and look at various funding scenarios to see where cost saving measures could be implemented.

“I know it’s not an ideal circumstance,” said Dumont. “Student Government is being hit with exactly the same conditions that the university has been hit with.”

Dumont went through the budget and helped to close the gap, using unallocated funds, uncommitted funding from the Board of Student Organizations and available discretionary funds. Money set aside for the student body president and student representative to the Board of Trustees traveling costs were also cut. These cuts brought the gap down to $20,561, which had to be taken from SGA entities including the Gorham Events Board, Portland Events Board, Leadership Development Board and Words & Images.

“This is something that we don’t want to do at all, but we have to,” said Boothby. “We understand that nobody is going to be happy, but we want to make sure everyone has a voice.”

Dumont presented proposed cuts to the entities and each group’s representative explained their plans for the semester and what cuts they could handle.

GEB, which has the highest budget of all the entities, has already spent $15,000 of their $25,000 budget, planning and paying for events as far into the future as April. Looking through their budget, GEB chair Delaney Kenny and financial chair Samantha Davol were able to cut costs by eliminating projects they had budgeted for, but decided not to complete, including a texting program.

See BUDGET on page 4

Direction Package data needs clarification

Sidney Dritz
Managing Editor

The Feb. 28 presentation of the Direction Package Advisory Board explored ways to think about the future of the university in an abstract sense, but as the president’s presentation of recommendations for the university’s next step grows nearer, the question of “what’s going to get cut?” is looming.

Early commentary on the Direction Package after the initial roll-out in October included criticism about a lack of specifics, especially in terms of cuts. The advisory board’s recommendations included more specific and numerical evaluations of different academic departments as well as other aspects of the university, but ultimately, the decisions are going to be made not by the advisory board but by University President Kalikow, with the advice of the President’s Council. “It still remains uncertain how this work is going to influence the final result,” said electrical engineering Professor Carlos Lück, a member of the Academic Review Committee.

“At the end of the day, we do expect that some people will be laid off,” Lück said.

The advisory board’s final presentation included a graph comprised of data gathered by the Academic Review Committee. The graph delineated between revenue producing degree departments, the departments that were breaking even and those that had lost money in the 2013 calendar year, as well as whether enrollment had increased or declined and to what degree.

The committee cautioned that the numbers in the graph did not comprise a complete picture of the financial health of the university’s academic programs. “There is no historical record of having broken even, but there are numbers in the graph that did not add up the numbers in the graph did not add up the numbers in the graph did not add up.”

See GRAPH on page 3

REVENUE POSITIVE DEPARTMENTS

- ENGINEERING
- COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA
- MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
- FOREIGN LANGUAGES
- STUDIES
- BIOLOGY
- ECONOMICS
- PHYSICS
- CHEMISTRY
- LINGUISTICS

DEPARTMENTS BREAKING EVEN

- EXERCISE, HEALTH AND SPORT
- RECREATION AND LEISURE STUDIES
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- SOCIAL WORK
- BUSINESS
- TECHNOLOGY
- CRIMINOLOGY
- HISTORY
- PSYCHOLOGY
- NURSING
- EDUCATION
- ENGLISH
- SOCIOLOGY
- PHILOSOPHY

REVENUE NEGATIVE DEPARTMENTS

- APPLIED MEDICAL SCIENCES
- AMERICAN AND NEW ENGLAND
- MUSKIE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE
- GEOGRAPHY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- STUDIES
- GEOSCIENCES
- THEATRE
- ACCOUNTING
- VOCATIONAL
- ART

“We have the most active student organization in our college.” – Julian Murphy, Philosophy Department Chair

Savannah Chitlou / Design Director

The information above is taken from the graph from the Academic Review Committee’s slides in the Direction Package Advisory Board’s recommendation presentation. The full graph can be found on slide 43 of the presentation on the Direction Package website.

Samantha Davidson, junior, of South Portland, said the way the university is presented in the graph did not add up the numbers in the graph did not add up the numbers in the graph did not add up. “We have the most active student organization in our college.” – Julian Murphy, Philosophy Department Chair

Savannah Chitlou / Design Director

The information above is taken from the graph from the Academic Review Committee’s slides in the Direction Package Advisory Board’s recommendation presentation. The full graph can be found on slide 43 of the presentation on the Direction Package website.
In the State of the University Address last Wednesday, Student Body President Kelsea Dunham encouraged students to learn more about the changes happening at USM and to get involved.

"Change is coming, kids. It is what it is," said Dunham. "If it doesn’t happen, I can’t confidently say that this institution will continue to exist."

Dunham said it has been her and Student Body Vice President Marpheen Chann’s goal from the beginning of the year to connect students and administrators in a way that has never happened at USM. She believes that they have begun to do so through events like the student leadership brunch, the Student Vision Conference and EDTalks, but that there is always room for more student voices.

"Administrators don’t know what you want and what you need unless you speak up and tell them,” said Dunham.

Encouraging students to voice their opinions on university matters was the main goal of the Student Vision Conference, where Dunham gathered students together to discuss what they wanted from the administration and problems they had with the university.

"I specifically asked administrators and faculty to stay away,” said Dunham. “I wanted a space where students could come to me and say what they needed and what they wanted from this institution. I really feel like the work of the Direction Package was largely shaped by the work that we, as students, did."

Since October, Dunham has been working with administrators as a member of the Direction Package Advisory Board. She worked on the vision sub-group, which was tasked with finding and defining a distinct identity for USM. One of the main focuses on the vision group was molding USM into an urban metropolitan university, an institution that is very involved with its urban community and prioritizes real-world application of skills gained in the classroom. Lynn Kuzma, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, introduced the idea of using the city of Portland as a lab for students.

“That statement has stuck with me in such a huge way through the entire work that we’ve done,” said Dunham. “I’m a dual degree in marketing and women and gender studies. There is no better place for me to do what I want to do than this city. I don’t know if you guys have looked around lately, but Portland is an awesome place to live, and USM isn’t utilizing that space the way it could.”

Dunham went on to praise the diversity of Portland in comparison to the rest of Maine and the diversity of the student body, saying that the diversity in USM’s students isn’t always reflected in the student leadership and that more work needs to be done to get more students involved.

Toward the end of her address, Dunham stressed to the audience that the administration had a plan for each and every student at USM.

“You are not going to be shipped off to another university,” said Dunham. “You will not have to leave your program. You will get through this. I promise.”

She also advocated students putting more effort into understanding system and university level problems.

"The best thing that we as students can do through this incredibly difficult time of change is to educate ourselves on what is actually happening," said Dunham. "Don’t feed into the big scary rumors. I know, it’s really easy, but educate yourself on what’s actually happening and work with USM to get through this."

A recording of the State of the University Address can be found at usmvotes.com.
...down the information in this way before, so we had to break new ground," Lück told the Free Press later.

While the mitigating factors concerning the timing of the presentation by reminding the board of the extremely limited timeline laid out for her recommendations, based on the advisory board's work, which is the two weeks between the Feb. 28 presentation and her own presentation of recommendations on March 15 to the Faculty Senate.

One of the most significant limitations of the data gathered by the Academic Review Committee, Lück said, was the lack of information included on outside funding, like grants and contracts, which have a significant impact on graduate programs. One program this affects is the Muskie School of Public Service, which falls in the revenue-negative quadrant of the graph, but which, Lück noted, receives significant funding through contracts for research.

Other factors to keep in mind, Lück said, include the dual importance and cost of external accreditation and the importance of different programs in maintaining the mission of the university.

As Lück noted, maintaining external accreditation can be included in the financial cost to a program, though the benefits of accreditation are tangible, if not easily quantifiable, as is partially illustrated by the net growth of students enrolled in the linguistics major in the 2012 and 2013 years.

"The growth trend in our depart- ment goes back several years," said Lück, professor and department chair Wayne Cowart.

Cowart attributed the departamental growth, despite an ongoing university-wide trend of declining enrollment, to several different factors. One factor, he said, was that the linguistics department's American Sign Language interpreter training program gained national accreditation two years ago. "We're seeing a lot of interest in the program from out of state," Cowart said.

Out-of-state tuition, according to the data limitations accompanying the Academic Review Committee's graph, is also not factored into the revenue presented on the graph, which is based on an average of $200 per credit. In fact, 56 percent of applicants to the linguistics program for the 2014 year are from out of state, from as far across the country as California.

Another factor that Cowart says has contributed to the linguistics department's success in recent years is the college reorganization that divided the former College of Arts and Sciences into the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science, Technology and Health.

"We look at linguistics as a scien- tific discipline," Cowart explained. He said that it is easier to explain to other scientific disciplines the need for up-to-date computers, programs and other pieces of the current infrastructure a scientific discipline requires.

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is exploring further reorganization at a departmental level, a process which includes the revuevaluation of where the major pro-grans from the former Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures fit best with other programs. When discussing the former organization with the Free Press in November, classics Professor Jeanne Uzzi explained that the dissolution of the MCLL made sense for her program, since the study of the classics, though it includes a lan- guage component, in many instances has as much in common with other programs, like history or literature, as the Faculty Senate and modern language ma- jors like French or Spanish.

The uncertainty of the former MCLL's departmental status, however, has not stopped the "foreign languages" bubble on the Academic Review graph from making its way into the revenue-positive section, despite a significant decline in enrollment.

"Philosophy, on the other hand, straddles the very edge of the graph section between breaking even and losing money," Murphy said, referring to the philosophy symposium, which meets once a week for philosophical discussions. Murphy also stressed the numerous interdisciplinary classes and classes taught by philosophy faculty for other programs, like EYE, the honors program and women and gender studies.

Lück's final note for viewers of the financial breakdown of the Aca- demic Review graph is to keep in mind that the graph doesn't take into account the importance of certain programs in terms of their centrality to the mission of the university.

What the mission of the univer- sity is, exactly, has been a source of contention since the initial roll-out of the first Direction Package pre- sentation in late October. After the formation of the advisory board in November, defining the university's mission was one of the three main goals assigned to a different working group, within the board.

Lück referred to the vision com- mittee's section of the advisory board presentation on Feb. 28 in discussing what a program's centrality to the university's mission might be. "The [university's] mission has been defined as 'a comprehensive metropolitan university in the state of Maine,'" Lück said. As such, the school has a commitment to serve the community, which includes offering a broad range of degree pro- grams that pave the way to a broad range of careers. "Those values will affect decisions about programs going forward," Lück said.

With the work of the advisory board completed and presented, the next step is President Kalikow's pres- entation of her own recommendations, based on the presentation of ideas from the board and consulta- tion from the President's Council.

The Faculty Senate will have time to respond to the president's recom- mendations before they are put into practice. "I'm going to give you my pick, and you're going to give me your advice," Kalikow said to the Faculty Senate last Friday. However, Kalikow said, she hoped the faculty's feedback could all be presented to her by May's senate meeting in order to move on to implementa- tion of the proposed changes by the year's end.

From GRAPH on page 1

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Majority of faculty declare provost “very ineffective”

Randy Hazelton / Multimedia Editor

The job performance of Provost Michael Stevenson (right) was a contentious topic of conversation last Friday at the March meeting of the faculty senate.

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

The immediate importance of the faculty senate evaluating the job performance of Provost Michael Stevenson is, as with so many things at USM lately, tied up in the Direction Package.

In mid-December, the Faculty Senate exercised its right and responsibility as detailed in the governance documents to evaluate the performance of top administrators, sending out a survey of 46 questions about the effectiveness of the provost’s performance according to his job description, 44 used ratings from one to five. The survey was out to 615 full- and part-time faculty members and received 196 responses. The scores were low across the board, with 57.82 percent of the respondents describing his overall performance as “very ineffective,” or a one out of five.

Stevenson responded in a statement to the Free Press. “I acknowledge and appreciate the role of the Faculty Senate in providing feedback to senior administrators. It is very important for those in such roles to take relevant feedback under consideration and to use it to help improve performance.”

Physics professor and Faculty Senate Chair Jerry LaSala noted that one of the main concerns associated with the lack of confidence in the provost’s job performance is that Provost Stevenson is the only representative from academics on the President’s Council, which is the group that will be advising President Kalikan on the recommendations for the university’s future she will be making on March 15.

The results of the survey were first presented to the Faculty Senate at their Feb. 7 meeting, and further discussed at last Friday’s meeting.

LaSala and the committee that administered the survey met with University of Maine System Chancellor James Page after the Direction Package Advisory Board presentation on Feb. 28 to discuss how the survey’s results will affect Stevenson’s participation in the President’s Council, which has now taken over for the advisory board in determining the university’s next steps in facing deficits and cuts.

LaSala reported back to the senate that Page had decided to adopt one of the ideas the committee set forward, which was to assign an advisory committee to the provost specifically for his work on the President’s Council, which would be comprised of two faculty members.

See PROVOST on page 5

Cut from Budget

Sokolovny Chihouk / Design Director

I’m going to ask [the SBO and the Student Senate] to do your best to make this a learning opportunity for your organizations... We need to start training students to be more fiscally conservative.

-Chris O’Connor
Director of Portland Student Life

“We need to start training our students to be more fiscally conservative,” said O’Connor at the emergency meeting earlier this month. O’Connor said his primary concern was the lack of funding for student groups under the board of Student Organizations, which are left with no spare funding after these cuts.

“Most students don’t get paid to do the things that we do,” said Dunham “The fairest way, in my opinion, is to do across the board’s 1 percent reduction.”

Dunham said that in a recent meeting with University President Theodora Kalikon said most universities don’t pay their student senators or events board chairs at all.

“Many of us, that’s not feasible,” said Dunham to the senate. “I’m not going to lie, I need that money to eat, and it’s a known problem."

Dunham said that cutting down on programming is not ideal, but that cutting stipends entirely would be problematic for a lot of students, as they personally budget to receive those stipends and that many do not have time for another job.

“I don’t think it’s fair to cut students off cold turkey,” said Dunham regarding the cuts. "It’s really easy to cut $3,070 from their budgets to blow through and to not scrutinize every proposal that comes through, but that’s not the case anymore.”

At the senate meeting on Friday, Boothby stressed the need to move on from this budget to begin working to adjust next year’s budgets.

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-ww.usmfreepress.org/job-opportunities
President Theo Kalikow, along with Provost Stevenson, attended last Friday’s Faculty Senate meeting in order to address the senate and provide input on the issues they were directly involved in.

Page selected electrical engineering associate Professor Carlos Lück and associate Professor of classics Jeanine Uzzi as the faculty members to be on the committee, both of whom accepted the posts. At the time of the Faculty Senate meeting, LaSala said, Page had asked his choice of community representative to join the committee, but had not yet received a reply or released the name.

“I should add that the president and the provost have both accepted this proposal,” LaSala said.

Beyond the Direction Package, President Kalikow told the senate that she intends to pursue the survey by conducting what she described as a “360 evaluation,” which, she said, would be comprised of evaluations of the provost done by each group he works with, including the faculty, the president herself and the deans of the colleges. Kalikow said she has not yet determined exactly which groups those will be and that she will discuss the question with the provost.

Associate history Professor Eileen Eagan raised the question of whether the committee that administered the survey and its respondents had a bias, but English Professor Nancy Gish noted that questioning the motives of members of the Faculty Senate during senate meetings was against rules laid out in the senate’s governance documents.

“The Faculty Senate has done its job,” Kalikow said. The next part of the job of evaluating the provost, she noted, is hers. The results of Kalikow’s 360 evaluation are due to be presented at the Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for May 2.

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PEACE CORPS AT USM
Tuesday, March 18
INFORMATION TABLE
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
OFFICE HOURS
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Career Center
INFORMATION SESSION
5:00 p.m.
For location details, contact USM Peace Corps recruiter Rob Orton rorton@peacecorps.gov

The Mystery of Edwin Drood
A musical by Rupert Holmes
Directed by Wil Kilroy
Musical Direction by Edward Reichert
Choreography by Vanessa Beyland
March 14-23
Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 16 at 5 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. (5 S. matinee)
Wednesday, March 19 at 5 p.m. (all seats $10)
Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 21 at 7:30
Saturday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 23 at 5 p.m.
Russell Hall
USM Gorham campus
Both sinister and hilarious, this Tony Award-winning musical is like no theatre you’ve ever seen!
Tickets: $21/$15 seniors, USM alumni & employees/$10 students Special $10 matinee: Wednesday, March 19 at 5 p.m.

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Student Nursing Organization has a ball
Matthew Graeff
Contributor

Last Saturday the Student Nurse Organization held the SNO Ball, a fun gathering for nursing students to come together, share their experiences and network with one another. “This event is all about building and strengthening the School of Nursing community,” said senior nursing student Kelsey O’Connell.

Prospective students will see the SNO Ball as a perk of choosing USM over other schools which in turn benefits the School of Nursing. O’Connell noted that future prospective students might see the SNO Ball as a perk of attendance at USM over other nursing programs. “We wanted to do something fun for everyone in the School of Nursing, not just for SNO members. We wanted an event that we could get lots of students to and maybe event have some faculty attend, thus the SNO Ball was born. Our whole team has been brainstorming for months on how to get this event going and make sure that it will be a night to remember.” O’Connell said.

SNO is an organization that seeks to foster community at the University and provide a support system for its members. “Nursing school is tough, and the whole point of SNO is to create a place where nursing students don’t have to do it alone. We are all a team and we are all in this together; that is what SNO is all about!” said O’Connell.

French immersion days hit USM
Matthew Graeff
Contributor

On Friday March 21 and Saturday March 22 The USM Department of Modern and Classical Languages and The Professional and Continuing Education will be hosting a French Immersion weekend featuring Claude Beauclair and Catherine Masson.

Participants in the program will improve their French by working with texts like stories from the 17th century collection Le Fontaine’s Fables and modern French Poetry and will feature a performance by Beauclair of a famous monologue from the play Cyrano de Bergerac.

The program is described by event organizer and USM Associate professor of French Nancy Meunier as “A rare opportunity to work on your French in a pleasant and enjoyable manner with two first-class professionals and also experience presentations of classic French texts.” Beauclair has held similar programs at USM before and established his own theater company. The program’s first day lasts from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the second day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. costs $350 for both days.

Nursing students hold book drive
Sidney Dritz
News Editor

Last Thursday, the Bayside Nursing Program sent out a call for book donations for their after school reading program where professors and students from the nursing program volunteer to read with children who live in family shelters and assisted living apartments. “This program allows the kids to have structured play time while still learning different shapes, colors, vocabulary, discipline, sharing and ways to get along with one another... Many of the families are immigrants so reading children’s books gives everyone the ability to learn the spoken and written English language,” said Britney Meunier, a pediatric nursing student.

Meunier currently runs the program, which works with children from ages five to 13 and meets once a week. Meunier says that one of her goals in running the program is that it continue to be run by nursing students in the future. “The kids really enjoy it and ask me if we can have it everyday. A daily reading group would be great and ideal but nursing student schedules are pretty hectic so once a week. Meunier says that as of a right now we are sticking to a weekly schedule. I need to work on your French in a pleasant and enjoyable manner with two first-class professionals and also experience presentations of classic French texts.” Beauclair has held similar programs at USM before and established his own theater company. The program’s first day lasts from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the second day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. costs $350 for both days.

News Beat
Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log Feb. 26 to March 5

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Time-lapse reporting
3:16 p.m. - Delayed personal injury report taken. - Brooks Student Center, 32 University Way

Calling on higher powers
3:49 p.m. - Suspicious incident, referred to other agency. Incident to be handled by Portland police. - 96 Falmouth St.

“We’ve taken your report and we’re not giving it back.”
8:00 p.m. - Reported marijuana odor. Report taken. - Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Field of dreams?
10:32 p.m. - Door open found. All set. - Baseball Field, University Way

Thursday, Feb. 27

Measured in MPH or grams?
10:04 p.m. - Warning to operator for speed. - Parking lot P2, 35 Bedford St.

Friday, Feb. 28

Brains of the operation
1:09 a.m. - Warning to operator for stop sign violation. - Key Bank, Main St.

Living off the grid
4:20 p.m. - Summons for stop sign violation to Stephen Costello Complex, 43 Campus Ave.

Saturday, March 1

“None shall (tres)pass.”
11:30 - Michael A. Alvarez, 18, of Bath, ME, arrested for criminal trespass. - Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Monday, March 3

‘Cause anges stole your red shoes?
9:33 a.m. - Verbal warning to operator for stop sign violation. - Costello Complex, 43 Campus Ave.

Hot and bothered
1:46 p.m. - An officer made contact with a person who was bothering people working in the computer lab. - Luther Bonney Hall, 85 Bedford St.

The 10th circle of hell
4:20 p.m. - Summons for stop sign violation to Stephen Vigilio, 32, of Portland. - Campus Ave.

Two-force job
5:29 p.m. - Assisted Gorham Police with paper service. - Philippi Hall, 19 Campus Ave.

Tuesday, March 4

Poetic justice
10:45 a.m. - Vehicle towed for unpaid parking fines. - G 13 C Parking Lot, 17 University Way

Wednesday, March 5

Stranger endanger
5:36 p.m. - Operator warned for driving to endanger. - Deering Ave.

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.
Campbell brothers shoot for big screens

Filmmakers take their short movie to New Orleans festival

Francis Flisiuk
Arts & Culture Editor

Siblings Thomas and Peter Campbell, emerging filmmakers and theatre and music majors at USM, are ready to see their work on national and international screens, after winning several awards, including “Best Film,” during Portland’s 48 Hour Film Project last year.

The brothers made their winning eight-minute film as part of the 48 Hour Film Project, a nationwide event that requires fledgling filmmakers to write, produce and shoot a short film in just two days. After winning several awards in Portland with their short film Crá Croí, they’ve moved on to the next phase of the competition, the Filmapalooza Film Festival in New Orleans, which is the final film for a chance to be featured at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France to an audience of film critics and industry professionals.

For Thomas and Peter Campbell, travelling to New Orleans first meant completing a successful Indiego.com campaign, a crowdfunding website which helped the brothers raise over $100,000 more than the goal of $3,000. They are both excited with the success of their campaign and the opportunity to network with film aficionados and see the reaction to their creative work.

“This is a big opportunity for us,” said Peter Campbell. “I’m curious to see how people will respond to our film,” said Thomas Campbell. “I’m curious to see how people will respond to our film nationally.”

According to both of the brothers, the internet is their biggest influence. Their YouTube channel has been a huge asset as they’ve been able to get exposure to hundreds of people who would otherwise not have heard of their work.

“We were dealt an odd hand at the film festival being a two-man sibling group and given the romance genre to work with,” said Thomas Campbell. “So we said, ‘Let’s just make it as strange as possible.’”

Other elements of the contest required them to use a trash can as a prop, create a scene featuring a motivational speaker and use the line: “Come on. You can tell me.” But bringing these elements together, they said, came relatively easy for them because they work so well as a team.

“We try to make our films funny without telling jokes,” said Thomas Campbell. “We try to make comedy arise purely on the plot and the situation itself.”

The brothers started filmmaking early. At the ages of 11 and 12, they dived their toes into the industry by experimenting with their mother’s camcorder, making what they now consider “silly videos” as a way to have fun and pass the time.

“Filmmaking started for me as just a hobby,” said Peter Campbell. “Then it just grew on its own—we didn’t plan on becoming filmmakers in advance.”

In progress in the film world included getting more involved with the community by participating in local film festivals like the 48 Hour Film Project. Tom and Peter Campbell’s short films have been featured three times in the festival since 2011. Positive reactions from YouTube viewers of their first film, “Ye Apprenteth” were what originally inspired and motivated the brothers to share their filmmaking talents with the community through the internet.

Commenting on YouTube, Cory Schnaible, a local Portlander, writes about the Campbell brothers’ first film submission, “Loved this when I first saw it, and even more now.”

Another YouTuber Phil Cormier writes, “Now this is my idea of a good 48 hour project. I love it.”

According to both of the brothers, skills gained from filmmaking through class-room experiences at USM have also helped in producing quality video content, and ensuring that their view count on YouTube continues to climb. Thomas Campbell is a senior theatre major at USM, who believes that his acting has seen an improvement because of some of the courses he’s taken in college. However, he stresses that there is a major difference between theatre acting and film acting.

They are completely different experiences,” said Thomas Campbell.

“In theatre it’s one continuous scene. You don’t stop until the scene is done. But when you’re working on films, you’re stopping all the time and taking the scene to different places. You’re forced to build up emotions as soon as you press record, as opposed to in theatre when you build up emotion gradually and naturally.”

For Peter Campbell, a sophomore now, the pursuit of his music major at USM has also led to some improvements in his personal vlogging skills.

“Classes at USM have helped immensely with the editing process,” said Peter Campbell. “With video editing it’s all about arranging and organizing the clips to create the perfect comedic timing. I think that studying music really helped me develop those skills.”

Music is all about timing, as well as developing an ear for what sounds good and has fluidity.

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Ceramist shares historical method

Elizabeth Friedman
Contributor

Last week USM hosted a special guest, alumnus and ceramist Shawn O’Connor. O’Connor teamed up with the USM Art Department to finish a project with students, the construction and lighting of a one time use paper kiln. The paper kiln was lit Thursday with Brandon Lutterman a professor of ceramics and several USM students in attendance. While at USM, he also acted as a guest lecturer, teaching students about the construction of the kiln and his philosophy of art.

Wood is a solid fuel, he explained, and all fuel needs oxygen to combust. That fuel source leaves behind carbon, which results in a unique surface. In ceramics, that’s called fly ash, that moves through the kiln and sticks to the pottery. Since the kiln is firing at such high temperatures, it creates a natural glaze, he said. That is why none of O’Connor’s pieces are identical.

The coloring and glazing predominantly relies on the motion of the fire and ash as it wafts through the kiln. O’Connor’s most recent trials have been a result of mapping and trying to understand how to manipulate a wood fire kiln.

According to O’Connor, a paper kiln is comprised mostly of slip (a thinner version of clay), chicken wire, combustibles and sticks.

“This is about gathering information and learning a process, more than anything else.”

-Shawn O’Connor
USM alumnus and ceramic artist

These materials create a precarious tepee structure that surrounds the pottery and is lit from the bottom. It’s a very sort of primitive way to make a kiln that can be done anywhere, he said.

O’Connor explained that kilns have been used as a method of making clay and pottery for thousands of years. Essentially a temporarily insulated oven, a kiln permanently alters the chemical and physical properties of the clay by treating it to very high temperatures.

However, this primitive mode of firing ceramics comes with drawbacks. “I told the students, they have very low expectations. This is about gathering information and learning a process, more than anything else. It’s very aggressive. You know, the temperature is going to climb really quickly and then fall quickly, and as stuff burns, things are going to fall down. So, it could be a total disaster, but it will be fun.”

In a modern world full of controlled heat sources, to better understand O’Connor’s choice to utilize a more involved process, such as a wood fire kiln, one must look to his roots. “I’m from a small town called Minot, in Maine. My childhood home was heated by a wood stove. The process of chopping wood and getting up early is natural to me. I’m a very physical person, and the wood fire kiln is physical, you’re there chopping the wood and loading the fire.”

He spoke of ceramics as a philosophy not just an art form.

“A work is not complete until it’s actually used,” he said. He explained that for his Master of Fine Arts thesis at Syracuse University, he made 600 cups, and then he invited people to pour through the cups, touch them and use one throughout the exposition. He qualified that this interaction between the guests and his work is what finished the project.

“It becomes a communal activity, taking the cup. And if the guest liked the cup, they could take it home as a gift. This created a special connection between me and the people attending,” he said.

What pleased him most was that the project still lives on. According to O’Connor, he found one of his pieces behind the bar of a Mexican restaurant. “One of the waitresses puts her tip money in it,” O’Connor said with a smile.

Aileen Andrews, a junior drawing major, attended one of several classes that O’Connor guest lectured last week. “He thinks of how something can function, then improves upon it and makes it aesthetically pleasing.” Andrews said.

A theme that seems to trend throughout O’Connor’s work is the utilitarian nature of pottery. “I think it’s my practical nature that makes me create functional work. I see all of my work as sculpture. I don’t see a divide between them.”

O’Connor often emphasizes the functionality of his work. “It’s a vehicle to provide the body with sustenance. The idea is to break down all social barriers, race, religion, age and gender.”

This need to connect art with purpose and rise above modern constructs may shed light on his evolving drive to use more primitive types of kilns. “I designed and built this train-style kiln. I knew nothing about kiln building to begin with, but from failure, you learn a lot.”

O’Connor will be heading back to North Dakota to finish several large urns that will be exhibited this summer in upstate New York. Paper kilns, basically an insulated oven, is an essential part of making ceramics. They dry and harden clay at temperatures greater than 900°C.

From left to right: Shawn O’Connor stands with Dylan Rohman, a senior ceramics major, Rachel Grover, a senior art education major, and Caitlyn Puchalski, a junior art major, around the kiln last Thursday.
Arts & Culture Recommends: The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Join the actors of the USM Theatre Department for an interactive night of murder, mystery and musical production.

Matthew Donovan, Contributor

The USM Theatre Department is letting the audience decide “whodunit” with the premiere of the Tony Award-winning murder mystery musical The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood is shaping up to be a musical that narrows the distance between audience and player interaction, where the ending of the story is entirely up to its participants.

Over the next two weeks, USM students will be taking to the stage in this interesting take on Charles Dickens’s unfinished, final novel, in an event that can only be described as metatheatrical in nature.

“It is shrouded in love, tragedy, murder, mystery and comedy, but how these are implemented in the show are up to you—the viewer,” said Wil Kilroy, professor of theater and director of the play.

The setting of The Mystery of Edwin Drood helps illustrate that the show is essentially a play within a play. The show is set in the Music Hall Royale, home of a quixotic acting troupe, that has decided to undertake their rendition of Dickens’s incomplete work. The rendition itself involves many flamboyant characters. For example, John Jasper, a somewhat bipolar choirmaster and uncle of Edwin Drood, is one of many to have fallen for Miss Bud, a music aficionado in the show. Miss Bud is engaged to Edwin Drood. In a surprising turn of events, Edwin disappears one cold Christmas Eve. What happened? Who is to blame? The ambiguity of it all makes for a spine-shivering melodrama, taking place within a stylized vision of the Victorian era.

USM musical theater major and senior Emily Davis takes her place in the cast as the title character. She actually plays Alice Nutting, a famous male impersonator, who portrays Edwin Drood. Davis is essential to the play, acting as an actor, playing a character.

“I have never had to portray a boy. It’s been very fun though. This show is the most unique show I have ever been a part of, and it is unlike anything I’ve ever done,” said Davis.

Carolyn Glaupe, senior and musical theater major, plays the role of the beautiful Miss Bud and is more then excited to be a part of this production.

“This is the most prepared I’ve ever been for a play, this is in my dream role,” said Glaupe. “Even the actors don’t know how the production ends each night, so it’s all up to the audience opinions, you’re the one’s that are going to decide.”

Caleb Lacy, a senior theater major at USM, plays the role of the chairman, the sort of mediator for the production which intervenes when the gap between the audience and the stage.

“This is the most prepared I’ve ever been for a play. This is my dream role.”

-Carolyn Glaupe
Senior musical theater major

Epidural fills simple pleasures

-Casey Ledoux
Free Press Staff

Epidural, released by Portland’s native The Metal Feathers, is a joke, but humor makes life enjoyable.

These sounds are lo-fi, with the production quality of a garage and a synthesizer. The songs are simple, but with harmonies and rhythms that work well with one another. Indian sounds mixed with heavy Beatles influence are delivered with a punk attitude — almost as if the Beastie Boys and the ’60s psychedelic music formed to make an offspring that grew up in the ’90s nerd-rock era. Whatever the Metal Feathers are the product of, they sound great and certainly don’t take their work too seriously.

“Such a Good Singer Only Need One Note,” for example, is exactly as the title suggests — no complicated melodies to worry about with only one note singing all the lyrics. A repeating progression of three chords and a loose groove come together to create a sound that is anything but tight. Sloppiness is the key here, and this track nails it. A relaxed feel lets you feel the same.

To say that Epidural is overly simplistic, however, “All I Do is Dream All Day,” for instance, is reminiscent of early Weezer, but with a spot of John Lennon. Falsetto backup vocals add a nice touch to the vintage influence, and a mixed-back synthesizer singing upper-level chord tones creates a drone-like feel. Finally, a slow tempo and a melodramatic production progression successfully conveys that American teen angst that can never quite be fully extinguished.

What makes Epidural a good album is that it cannot, and should not, be taken seriously. Pay attention to the value of humor. The Metal Feathers are able to make you laugh and enjoy yourself.

Without digging down, Epidural, on a surface level, delivers good tunes in an uncomplicated way. Below the surface, however, one should question the limited value that our culture affords to humor.

While most people enjoy a good joke, few professional settings place a central role on the value of laughing and fooling around. While this sounds intuitive — goofing around wastes time, right? It robs us of our potential. Enjoying ourselves leads to insight and creativity, which can lead to substantial progress and positive change.

While Epidural is not likely to become the subject of scholarly study, it deserves merit. The tracks on this album point to a world of a light-hearted disposition and remind us of one of the more enjoyable aspects of life.
Kevin Spacey’s back and better than ever

Not long into the first episode of Netflix’s latest installation of House of Cards, Vice President Frank Underwood is sitting in his favorite ribs joint in D.C. across from the chef and proprietor of the establishment, Freddy. Freddy is describing an illegal way of slaughtering pigs, a process of slow bleeding where “They can smell it coming. You stick that pipe in their throat, the next ten minutes is hell.” This gory image will haunt the rest of the season in a show already notorious for its viciousness and visceral cruelty. It is hard to imagine a Frank Underwood harder to empathize with than he has already been portrayed. But the blood spilled in the last season becomes blood Forty in this next virulent and utterly brilliant step in Underwood’s plot for domination. Season two picks up exactly where season one left off; the Underwoods run down a hill out of the dark into a political and personal landscape fraught with mines waiting to explode. Kevin Spacey is once again impeccable, delivering knavish speeches in that hearty Southern drawl that has become a haunting staple of American pop culture. But it is Robin Wright, playing Frank’s equally charming wife Claire Underwood, who continues to shine as the rough gem of the show. Given the success and popularity Claire Underwood has gained as a character in sea- son one (which garnered Wright a Golden Globe last year), this season offers her even more opportunity to develop as a complex individual with her own poisonous form of power. There is nothing but stark determination as she faces down a dissident pregnant woman, sneering, “I’d let your child wither and die inside you, if that’s what’s necessary.” Where Frank is conniving and cruel, Claire is silent and brood- ing. Frank is a lion stalking its prey, while Claire is a snake, sub- liminal and unnoticed until she chooses to lash out ferociously. One of the most entrancing and challenging aspects of Underwood’s character is how he reflects Shakespeare’s monumental villain Richard III. Through a complex of soliloquies delivered directly to the audience (in this case, the camera lens), we are of- fered particular insight into the plots and schemes Underwood is conjuring. A nod, a quick glance at the camera, a smirk, each un- seen by the other characters in the story, forces us as viewers into the positions of privileged con- fidante. At the close of the first episode, Underwood turns to stare at us through a bathroom mirror, asking “Did you think I’d forgotten you? Perhaps you hoped I had.” Unlike perhaps any other television show in history, House of Cards incites in the viewer a feeling of guilty complicity in its villainy: Underwood’s aides to us force us to take partial respon- sibility for his actions. We have a privileged view of the pain and suffering each character is about to undergo, but instead of watch- ing from the perspective of the hero who will save them, we be- come partners in crime with the very villain plaguing them. Frank and Claire Underwood may be the most terrifying mon- sters to ever cross our path in television, but in a real world political climate that screams corruption, crime and insatiable lusts for power, they’re not the monsters under the bed, but rather the monsters at our front door. They’re easy to hate, but hard to abandon; we watch in equal parts revulsion and seduction, always painfully aware of our complicity, as viewers, in the destruction they sowe. In Frank’s own words, “there is but one rule: be hy the or be hunted. Welcome back.”

A night of selfies, pizza and memories

Last Sunday, March 2nd, film royalty once again gathered to celebrate the 86th Annual Acad- emy Awards. Following the fiasco of Seth McFarlane’s sexist and enraging performance as last year’s host, Ellen DeGeneres returned for her second whirl, delighting the audience by dressing as Dorothy in Oz, distributing slices of pizza and taking a selfie surrounded by celebrities that became the most retweeted image of all time in less than half an hour. This year’s award show in- cluded few upsets, though most believe the real scandal came in the nominations.

Critics were amazed to see that Tom Hanks was not offered a nod for his gripping role in Captain Phillips and J.C. Chandor’s sec- ond film All Is Lost was all but ignored in the major categories. Still, Gravity was awarded its due in all categories of technical awards, including editing, sound mixing and visual effects. Gravity’s Alfonso Cuaron received a well-earned oscar for directing, quipping about how the monu- mental project transformed him by turning his hair gray. Steve McQueen and the producers of 12 Years a Slave went home with the Best Picture win, a win McQueen celebrated exu- bervantly as the first Black director to garner this highest of accolades. But it was Lupita Nyong’o’s ac- ceptance speech for her supporting role in McQueen’s film that stands as the true highlight of the evening. Meditating on the suffering her character endured as a plantation slave, Nyong’o expressed how, “It doesn’t escape me for one moment that so much joy in my life is thanks to so much pain in someone else’s.”

Where Jennifer Lawrence is the darling of Hollywood for her quirkiness and her refusal to conform to celebrity norms, Nyong’o is the new face of elegance, class and intelligence. Ellen’s campy attitude, the heart wrenching memorial to those in the industry who died this past year, and especially McQueen’s epic fist-pumping celebration changed the night from its usual color of frilly self-indulgence into a reminder that, beneath the hype and scan- dal stirred by paparazzi and pulp journalism lies a community of actors, writers and artists striving to create films that are honest, challenging and beautiful.
Student elections are right around the corner, and you may be thinking to yourself, “So what?”

The majority of senate seats are going to be uncontested, voting on the referendum questions doesn’t necessarily mean anything that will come of them and with only a week until polls open, we’re not entirely sure who specific is the majority candidates want to make priorities.

But many of the candidates are running on the same platform, the lack of a tight-knit community atmosphere at USM that welcomes everyone. It’s often attributed to funding, the split campuses or how busy everyone is, but what we think the university needs is a little more effort from all sides—that is, from the voters and the candidates.

Data from last year’s election shows that a total of 580 students voted for a student body president and the most who voted for any referendum question was 479. That’s out of a total student population of more than 6,000. Compared to the figures from 2009, this is an improvement, with only 409 voting for president, and in 2008 only 345 voted.

Despite steadily dropping enrollment numbers, more students are pushing to become part of the community. We see this reflected in a rise in the number of student groups and in the number of students who voted, but we can do better.

Last year’s number of votes is not that high when we’re talking about the people in charge of the funding of student activity that comes out the pockets of every USM student. Last week we tried to encourage students to speak up and get involved. We don’t want USM students to be labeled as apathetic. While it’s easy to focus on the lack of bodies showing up at the polls and write a call to action to the average student, we’d also like to ask students who are already involved to make it their responsibility to increase student activism and general knowledge about how the university operates.

Students might ask themselves whether it even matters if they vote. And the answer is that it might not — unless we all decide to make it matter. Students should be more involved, but this also means that student leaders should be an asset to the student body.

What does this mean? What do we expect from the incoming candidates?

Student leaders should be a resource for the rest of the student body. This year, for instance, they have acted as liaisons between the student body and the administration to communicate what students want and expect during the Direction Package Advisory Board meetings while it determined the future direction of the university. This type of work and a commitment to understanding of the intricacies of university politics is essential for student leaders to make informed decisions.

Creating a community at USM is not a one-way street, and it’s difficult. We can’t only ask that students come out to more meetings, vote more in elections, or get involved. We should also expect that student leaders reach out to them and make themselves available publicly whether this means visiting classes, tables or walking around the campus center introducing yourself. We can’t expect miraculous election turnout and involvement at USM without little more effort from all sides.

The university will achieve climate neutrality by cutting at least 80 percent of greenhouse gases while offsetting the remaining emissions. Offsetting means cancelling out difficult-to-avoid pollution by taking actions to reduce or capture emissions that would otherwise occur at a different location. It will be difficult to transition all of our heating and energy infrastructure to carbon-neutral technologies by 2040, but with offsets, USM can pay to support green power generation elsewhere where offsetting traditional heat and electrical generation on campus.

Since the plan was enacted, the university has taken steps to achieve carbon neutrality. A gradual shift from oil to natural gas, a lower carbon fuel, in the Portland campus’s central heating plants and other buildings has prevented over one thousand tons of carbon emissions from this winter—reduced and has saved USM over $300,000 yearly since 2011. Facilities Management has implemented a “Vehicle Management Plan” to replace old university fleet vehicles with the most efficient option, and this winter, facilities completed a major upgrade.

You Are Wrong

Thaddeus Moriarty
Staff Writer

I’m Thaddeus Moriarty, and you are wrong. Why?

Because you’re not studying history. You’re here at USM studying business, or physical therapy, or nutrition, or underwater basket-weaving — but you’re not studying history. And why not? It’s common knowledge that history majors and professors are the most clever, interesting and beautiful people in academia. Secondly, just go ask any history professor. Go ahead. I’ll wait.

Everyone knows the adage: “Those who don’t learn history are doomed to repeat it.” Well, it’s not untrue, but it is a little misleading. History is always repeating itself, like a record, baby. It has nothing to do with learning it or not (although, you’re wrong because you don’t), but rather because the world simply goes through cycles that can be easily observed. The recorded centuries can be studied and boiled down to an interconnected series of events that shape the future so they happen all over again. Think The Butterfly Effect, only less than Connor Kutcher and Ashton Kutcher.

Alright, alright. I know what you’re thinking. This study of history doesn’t sound very glamorous, does it? It’s a lot of dates and names and memorization of things that are very, very dead, right? Wrong again. History is very much alive, and it gives us insight into the present and the future in ways that are easily taken for granted. Just think about how far we’ve come to get to where we are today? If you went back to the earliest days of the United States

See MORE on page 12
From CLIMATE on page 11
date to the Gorham Central Heat
Plant that will result in an esti-
ated seven percent greenhouse
gas reduction.

Why does climate neutrality matter? It matters because climate
change is a harsh reality that will
indiscriminately affect us all. Re-
ports like the International Energy
Agency’s World Energy Outlook predict an 11 degrees Fahrenheit
increase in temperature by 2100
if there are not drastic cuts in the
world’s global emission output.

especially in developed countries.

Like the United States and Canada.

Steven LeBlanc of Harvard Uni-
versity and author of Population
Growth, Carrying Capacity and Con-
flict argues that our current rate
of emissions will result in a
drastic cut in the planet’s carrying
capacity, severely reduce resour-
ces vital to life such as freshwater,
and spark global conflicts and
wars over dwindling resources.

Climate change threatens the
very existence of the Portland
campus and everyone who goes
to school and works here. “Effects
of Sea-level Rise on Maine,” a report
released by the Natural Resource
Council of Maine, predicts that
the body of water in Back Cove
may reach and wash out portions
of the USM Portland campus by
2100, and within 50 to 100 years,
nearby neighborhoods such as Oakdale,
Baxter Boulevard, East Deering.

We’ve done all this before.

United States and — guess what?
contest between Russia and the
leader has exploded into a staring
grandstands against a pro-Moscow
ries of politi-
2013 as a se-
November
Ukraine.

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ing further American allowance-
Freedom, perhaps?) while ignor-
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still convinced you shouldn’t
most of our campuses.

Now we have Putin sending
 troops into Ukraine to place the
ousted pro-Russia leader back
in office under the guise of na-
tional security (Operation Ukraini-
fi
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tical
out

9th


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Crossword

Across
1. Mole in hole-in-one
2. Make ‘Y’ again, in a game
3. Take place
10. Human rubbish
14. Former Martian money
15. Greek epic poem written in early thirteenth century
16. French magazine
17. Temperamental person
18. Fashion name
20. Take place
21. Notifications for Art Carney
22. Journalist Jacob
23. Trunks
27. Course of an out
32. Siren star Charlotte
33. Ship navigation aid
34. Tending to ease
38. Blithe wife
40. Frock and Simpatico
42. Ballpark near home stadium
43. S.U.L.K. “dimetraet
46. Send’s home
47. Grammar school basics, briefly
48. Breakfast food
49. Dime
54. Test of “footie”
55. Take lightly
58. 2000-22 archive by Ashley Simpson
62. Month after Shravan
63. Indication of no flavor, briefly
66. ...”quaint, the Mamba
67. Odd’s shades
68. “Abie was ...” saw Elba
69. Put on cargo
70. Work on, as a stubborn squeak

Down
1. Dog food brand endorsed by Terence Greer
2. Round Able
3. Football Hall of Famer Dickerson
4. Decamor
5. Dusky dark
7. Erosian
8. Birthplace of Solidarity
9. American Beautees
10. O’Connor’s Supreme Court replacement
11. Elevator operator’s query
12. Acre brent plant
13. Durant who co-wrote “The Story of Civilization”
14. Atlantic, a propery
15. “The Wh...” (Richard Feynman)
16. Work stoppage
17. “...y, the sillier race”
18. “Mary...” little lamb”
19. Golfer Stein
20. Talked my stupid
21. Where a leg is snug
22. Honor, Sir
23. Section of town
24. Word with arm or neck
25. Living “Texas”
26. High standard
27. Good last name for a veterinarian
28. Month after marco, in Mexico
29. Ball of the thumb
30. For adults, as film
31. Rare amplifier’s stumble, briefly
32. Bring to a close
33. Peachy keen
34. Top-rater
35. Half a setnet
36. A _ alliance—very little
37. Sine, in Latin
38. Like some struggles
39. 1053 in monuments
40. Gallaudet Col.
41. Communication method

Sudoku

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 x 9-square grid subdivided into nine 3 x 3 boxes. 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.

And here is your hint:

G = S

Weekly Horoscope

Libra

September 23-October 22

Safety needs are in focus. Avoid being stodgy, possessive or stuck in the past. Share warmth, affection, and security with loved ones.

Scorpio

October 23-November 21

Teamwork comes naturally today. The urge to cooperate with others is strong and your diplomacy makes the atmosphere pleasant.

Sagittarius

November 22-December 21

Loved ones make demands on your pocketbook. Toe the line between over indulgence and too much denial.

Capricorn

December 22-January 19

Control emerges as an issue with household members today. Balance your power with love and a happy result can occur.

Aquarius

January 20-February 18

Don’t be afraid to reach toward your dreams. Fear stops you only if you let it. Plan carefully for that first, essential move—and then make it.

Pisces

February 19-March 20

Put something away (no matter how small) as a start toward a private fantasy. Begin saving for your dreamyear now.

Aries

March 21-April 19

Your natural stage presence, love of fun, and talent for amusing or entertaining others is in focus. Have a good time!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

If you ask, you can get reassurance about a family matter. Blood remains thicker than water.

Gemin

May 21-June 20

Small problems in the home can be solved by a practical focus. Be willing to help those you love.

Cancer

June 21-July 22

A friend needs some extra support today. Your warmth and assistance will be very important.

Leo

July 23-August 22

Today you have a stronger need than usual to have your work under your own, personal control.

Virgo

August 23-September 22

Illusions come crashing to earth, but you’re prepared to face reality. You do what must be done to cope.

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Sports

From small town life to the international games

USM athletic trainer Ben Towne shares his Olympic experience

Justicia Barreiros
Sports Editor

The opportunity of a lifetime was years in the making for Ben Towne, lecturer and clinic coordinator of athletic training at USM, who returned to Maine just last week after traveling with the U.S. Olympic teams to Sochi, Russia.

Towne was chosen to be one of 17 athletic trainers to travel to the 2014 Winter Olympics with team USA. The application and selection process takes years, to ensure that they have the best medical staff possible to travel with Olympic athletes.

For Towne, the process actually began eight years ago when he applied for the U.S. Olympic Committee’s volunteer sports medicine program—the very same program which provided him with a chance to travel with Olympic athletes.

Towne was assigned specifically as a sports trainer for the U.S. skeleton and bobsled teams, which provided him with a challenging and learning experience.

“I realized that experience is important and getting to know the athletes for the last few years, getting to know the sport and the physical demands of it was something that I didn’t have when I first started, especially with bobsled and skeleton because it’s not like I’m covering bobsled and skeleton events throughout the year,” said Towne.

Although he spent the majority of his time with his assigned teams, Towne was also able to work with other athletes.

“You end up treating various athletes as they come through the sports medicine clinic, so I ended up working with some ski and snowboarding athletes who came through,” he said.

“What watching the opening ceremonies was one of the most surreal experiences I’ve ever been through.”

Ben Towne
Lecturer and Clinic Coordinator of Athletic Training

The Huskies’ week in review

Women’s Lacrosse

Huskies fall in season opener against Bates

The USM Huskies fell 14-4 to the UNE Nor’easters. With this loss, the Huskies fall to 0-2, while the win was the first of the season for the Nor’easters after they opened with a pair of losses. For the Huskies, the leading scorer of the game was sophomore Austin Watts with two goals while freshman Seth Wing and Tyler Jamison contributed one goal each. Senior captain Dylan Kenney had an assist and scooped up a game-high 10 ground balls, while sophomore goalie Ryan Jurgelevich finished the game with a career-high 17 saves. The Huskies’ next game is Thursday against St. Joseph’s College.

Wrestling

Deupree wins 184-pound title

Ten USM wrestlers traveled to Wesleyan University in Connecticut to compete in the NCAA Division III Northeast Regional Championships on Sunday March 1. Overall the team scored 30.5 points, placing 13th of the 18 teams present.

Huskies’ freshman Khalil Newbill and Daniel Del Gallo each narrowly missed All-Region honors performing 2-2 in the 125 and 149 pound brackets respectively.

Junior Jonathan Deupree dominated the 184-pound bracket, winning the regional title and also won his third school record. Deupree’s vs. Colby last Tuesday increased his record to 2-1, while the Huskies fell to 0-1. The leading scorer for the Huskies was senior Jack Kelly with two goals, while freshman Lauren Lessard and juniors Laura Fay and Nicole LaPlante each added one goal. USM’s next game is Tuesday against Colby College.

Men’s Lacrosse

UNE defeats USM 14-4

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Men’s Indoor Track

Collins wins 500 meter, breaks his fourth school record

The Huskies attended the ECAC Division III Championships held in Boston on Friday and Saturday March 7-8. Sophomore Jeremy Collins placed 11th for the title when he won the men’s 500 meter event, also setting his fourth school record. Collins has now broken the 200, 400, 500 and 600 meter events during this season. The additional points for the Huskies were scored by the 4-by-200 meter relay team. Altogether the team scored a total of 18 points during the two-day meet.

While waiting for the NCAA to announce the official list of athletes that qualified for the Division III Championships, the Huskies’ 4-by-400 meter relay team was ranked first in the nation, and Collins and Ruginski are ranked within the top 15 cutline for individual events.

Women’s Indoor Track

Four Huskies earn All-ECAC honors

Also in attendance at the ECAC Division III Championships, the lady Huskies scored a total of 25 points during the two-day meet. Sophomores Nicole Kirk, who placed fifth in the 400 meter dash, and Hannah Darron, who placed third in the 800 meter dash, both earned All-ECAC honors.

In field events, junior Peyton Bostic earned the All-ECAC title with her seventh place finish in the long jump, while freshman Ashley Belanger earned the title by placing fifth in shot put on Friday. The Huskies also received points for the fourth place finish of their 4-by-400 meter relay team.

Men’s Lacrosse

Huskies play strong, fall in 6-7 against Curry

After a well fought game, the tied score in the final quarter was broken by Curry College’s Harrison Foster scoring an unassisted goal with just a minute remaining. Sophomore Austin Watts scored two of USM’s goals, and junior Ryan Jurgelevich rebroke his personal record with a career high 18 saves. USM will play again on Thursday against St. Joseph’s College at Deering’s Memorial Stadium in Portland.
This wasn’t Towne’s first time traveling with the team outside of the United States, having also traveled to France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. “Those were all two-week stints so I’d just leave for two weeks, work with them and then come back,” said Towne. “It was different this time—and much longer—but it was kind of nice because you get to work with the athletes for an entire two months so you really get to know their bodies and they get continuity of care.”

Towne explained that while the athletes are on tour, they typically have a new athletic trainer every two weeks. “So they have to start the process over again, or if one trainer was handling an injury you have to hand it over to the next person cycling through,” he said.

This was Towne’s first Olympic experience. Although his work schedule didn’t allow him to watch many of the events other than bobsled and skeleton racing, he was given the opportunity to march with Team U.S.A. in the opening and closing ceremonies. “I was really fortunate that the team voted for me to march with them and that was really cool because I got a chance to meet a lot of other people from other countries whether they’re medical staff or athletes, and to chat with them and sort of have a front row seat for all that,” said Towne. “Watching the ceremonies was one of the most surreal experiences I’ve ever been through—it was incredible.”

Originally from the small town of Denmark, Maine, and having attended public universities for his bachelor and post-graduate studies, Towne explained that it doesn’t matter whether you went to a public or private university or whether you’re from a small town, you can still reach high levels of professionalism in a given field.

“I remember when I was in college I really wanted to work with elite level athletes—that was a goal of mine—to be able to that is incredibly satisfying.” And he did just that.

Towne expressed that he is very grateful for all of the support he has received from his mentors, colleagues and students within the USM sports sciences community. “Without them being supportive of me traveling over the last several years, I wouldn’t be talking to you about my experience at the Olympics,” said Towne. “But because they were so supportive and understood—converting classes to online for a week or two at a time—I just feel really blessed to be a part of something like that.”

“If I feel like I get to have my cake and eat it too,” he said. “I get to teach, and I still get to practice as an athletic trainer,” said Towne. “It’s always good when you have a faculty member that still has to go out there to manage concussions and make difficult return-to-play decisions.”

Towne proudly mentioned that both of the U.S. teams he was with medaled in every event. “Men’s and women’s skeleton and men’s and women’s bobsled all took home at least bronze, so it was a really, really successful Olympics,” he said. “It’s been awesome—really the coolest experience I’ve had so far in this profession, so I’m really fired up.”

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This Week

March 11
Women’s Lacrosse
Colby @ USM
4:00 p.m.

March 13
Men’s Lacrosse
St. Joseph’s College vs USM
@ Deering Stadium
4:30 p.m.

Women’s Lacrosse
USM @ UNE
5:00 p.m.

March 14
Men’s Indoor Track
ECAC DIII Championship @ Nebraska Wesleyan

Women’s Indoor Track
ECAC DIII Championship @ Nebraska Wesleyan

Wrestling
NCAA DIII Championship @ Cedar Rapids, Iowa

March 15
Men’s Tennis
USM @ Colby
12:00 p.m.

Baseball & Softball
Florida Invitational
The Mindfulness Group offers students a way to unwind and reflect through meditation. Each Tuesday, the Mindfulness Group assembles from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Complex in the Multipurpose Room.

The group was started by the USM Health and Counseling Services' suicide prevention initiative USM CARES with the meditation and spiritual guidance of John Baugher, associate professor of sociology and Buddhist community advisor for the Interfaith Chaplaincy. USM CARES, founded in fall 2011, was developed by Robert Small, clinical director of Health and Counseling Services.

Psychologist Micheline Hagan, coordinator of the USM CARES initiative, reached out to Baugher to head the project. “She discovered an interest among students involved in the USM CARES Student Support Network for a mindfulness group on campus,” said Baugher. The whole experience is intended to be very positive and welcoming, Baugher said, but with serious intentions to practice and understand meditation.

The session is broken up into a series of “sits” in which participants sit silently trying to empty their minds. “So much of our lives we spend habitually driven by thoughts and emotions, attachments and aversions, hopes and fears, and with this practice, we invite ourselves to rest in non-conceptual awareness, allowing our thoughts and emotions to come and go as they please,” said Baugher. Participants are then invited to share their reflection on the experience of meditation, and they are encouraged to ask questions.

Newcomers have the opportunity to learn the basics from Baugher as well. He explained that though many generally know what meditation is, few are aware of what they actually need to do when meditating. Also, a common misconception is that meditation is a method of self-help or self-improvement, he said.

“Yet meditation is not about trying to change who we are, but instead involves practicing seeing who we are with clarity and loving kindness,” said Baugher.

Baugher explained that much of the energy behind the group comes largely from student Andrew Donovan, a psychology major, and Doug Cowan, a clinical counselor and multicultural coordinator for University Health and Counseling Services.

Donovan talked with his fellow academic intern, Dri Huber, about starting the group last year, and he returned to counseling services for another internship this year.

“One of my goals was to create a mindfulness group,” he said. “And here we are.”

The grant that funds the USM CARES initiative ends this year, but according to Baugher the Mindfulness Meditation group has built community and an atmosphere of support and connection among students, staff and faculty at USM and aims to continue doing so.