New student president pushes to dissolve BSO

Sam Hill
Managing Editor

After 23 years of controlling student activity fee funding for student groups, the Board of Student Organizations may be stripped of its financial responsibilities, putting that power back into the hands of the Student Senate exclusively.

According to Student Senate Chair Joshua Dodge, the BSO was originally developed so that the senate wouldn’t be overwhelmed by financial proposals and funding requests from student groups, but that it no longer functions properly.

“I think we can all agree that the BSO is a broken system,” said Dodge during a BSO advisory group last Tuesday.

A senate resolution was brought before the BSO on Friday, April 11 titled “Dissolving the Board of Student Organizations” so that senators sponsoring the resolution could get feedback. After the Friday meeting, Dodge said that while he supported the resolution initially, there was an overwhelming opposition from BSO members when the resolution was announced, and he didn’t feel comfortable going forward with it as it stood on Friday.

“I’m student-elected, so I don’t feel comfortable supporting something that the students don’t,” said Dodge.

Student Body President Kyle Frazier openly disagreed with Dodge, saying that there were a few students who spoke out, but the majority of the BSO didn’t say anything at all.

“I don’t think we should let this go just because a few people don’t agree with it,” said Frazier.

The resolution, drafted by the senate’s constitutional review committee, called on other senators to recognize the “ineffective and inefficient nature” of the BSO, citing low attendance, meetings that were not “a pleasure” to attend and a lack of fiscal scrutiny as reasons why the BSO should be dissolved.

“The BSO hardly looks at proposals,” said Frazier. “BSO spends and spends and spends and then they come back to the senate for more money at the end of the year. It’s irresponsible. When I spend my money, I run out of money and that’s that.”

The recommendation to dissolve the BSO and the four-student executive board positions are introduced in the resolution as “the groundbreaking ideas of Kyle Frazier.”

According to Director of Student Life Christopher O’Connor, the Student Government Association had a healthy unallocated fund at the end of the semester in the past four years or so, so the

Stonecoast MFA may soon be out of a house

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

One of USM’s most prestigious pieces of architecture may have reached the point where it’s more trouble than it’s worth to the university, according to a recent University of Maine System maintenance report.

When President Kalikow announced her first round of proposed cuts in February, one of the considered cuts was the Stone House, home of the Stonecoast MFA program for creative writing, the Stonecoast Writers’ Conference and a Book Arts Conference directed by Rebecca Goodale each summer.

According to Chief Financial Officer Dick Campbell, the Stonehouse costs significantly more money than it brings in.

“The Stone House and the MFA program are two different things,” said Campbell in an interview with the Free Press last week. “You could have those at another location.”

English Professor Nancy Gish, who directed the Provost’s Writing Seminar at the Stone House for thirteen of the program’s fourteen years, has a different perspective that relates to the importance of the Stone House for the programs it houses. “In my judgement, it was one of the most important parts of the [Provost’s Writing Seminar] program,” Gish said of the house.

2013 Stone Coast MFA graduate Karla Fossett agreed. “I think that the program relies on the house — the house is where everything happens,” Fossett said.

The Stone House, which was designed by John Calvin Stevens in 1819, is one of the oldest buildings owned by USM, and was, at the time that the UMaine system commissioned a report on building conditions from Sightline, which was delivered in January, 2014, one of three buildings with the highest deferred maintenance and renovation costs per square foot.

The report, said Campbell, was presented before last summer...
Residential Life says goodbye to Dickey-Wood

The Dickey-Wood towers have been USM dorms since the '70s. They were under enrolled when they were first used and have stayed unpopular.

The University Neighborhood Organization co-hosted a cleanup of Longfellow Park with a block party to follow in the hope that the events will bring USM and its neighbors in Portland together.

The closure of Dickey-Wood was one of the most common cost-saving recommendations to come out of the Direction Package Advisory Board work, but both Puthal and Campbell said that it wasn’t entirely a cost-based decision. They both said student experience will be changed for the better with this decision. The community will benefit from consolidating students,” said Puthal. “We want to help create a more vibrant community in a more modern space.”

This past year each floor in Wood tower was occupied, but only the second floor of Dickey tower was used. There are 368 beds available in Dickey-Wood. During the 2012-13 school year only 229 of those were occupied and that number has dropped to 138 in the past year.

“We don’t usually see returning students go for the towers,” said Director of Gotham student life Jason Sancer. “More often they go for singles.”

Puthal said that the empty rooms throughout the towers were not building any sort of community among the residents and that she felt there were a lot of students isolated because of it.

“I think of the students who stay there during breaks and have their few floormates leave,” said Puthal. “We don’t want any student to have to feel that way. We want them to know they’re in a community where they’ll always have someone.”

Because of the way the towers are designed there are less rooms on each floor in comparison to other dorms on campus. Puthal also said that the towers, which were built in the ‘70s, are run down and that she would want students to be in some of the campus’ newer buildings.

“That’s not one of the great construction eras, to put it mildly,” said Campbell about when the towers were built.

The towers are currently home to three living-learning communities including The Rainbow floor, which is dedicated to an LGBTQ community, a quiet floor and the Southern Main Outdoor Recreation floor group. According to Sancer, the Rainbow floor will be moved to Philippe Hall, the quiet floor to Anderson Hall and the location of the S MOR is currently up for suggestions.

“I think this will, in the end, given students a stronger sense of community on campus,” said Puthal.

Sidney Dritz, contributed to this article.

USM’s own “two towers” shut down

The Dickey-Wood towers have been USM dorms since the ‘70s. They were under enrolled when they were first used and have stayed unpopular.

The USM New Sorority International is advocating that Portland dub the area between Stevens avenue and Bedford street the education district. “This would be a big boost to USM andUNE’s ability to brand and market their institutions and this area,” said Schiller.

With the cleanups done on Friday, the volunteers are already preparing for the next event. “The May 3rd Block Party is a time for everyone to come outside and celebrate spring, have a slice of Leonardo’s pizza, try Capt’n Eli’s hand crafted sodas, listen to Thingamajig music, watch the USM dancers, join the bike parade, play games, explore the PPL Bookmobile, pick up a free Key Coloring book, meet your neighbors and enjoy the day,” said Schiller.

Tom Higgins / Free Press Staff

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Phi Mu Delta strengthens community partnership

Matthew Graeff
Free Press Staff

The Phi Mu Delta fraternity and University Neighborhood Organization co-hosted a cleanup of Longfellow Park with a block party to follow in the hope that the events will bring USM and its neighbors in Portland together.

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Phi Mu Delta has been taking the Day of Service but for this year, Phi Mu Delta member and junior Matthew Graeff was because we did this work. "It was really fun," said Puthal. "But we need to keep up on this. Last year the neighbor kids came out and started helping the University Neighborhood Organization with every aspect of the event from marketing and artwork to their social media presence.

"We love working with Phi Mu Delta Fraternity. They are a dynamic group of hard working young men," said University Neighborhood Organization president Carol Schiller. "We’re very impressed with their initiative and drive to get involved and make good things happen." Portland, USM and university neighbors are lucky to have such talented, professional and thoughtful young people that care and want to make a difference," said Schiller.

USM performers at the block party include the USM Dance team and the band Thingamajig featuring Phi Mu Delta brother Brendan Butler.

The USM New Sorority Inter-group and Circle K volunteers are also helping to organize this year’s events, and several community partners are sponsoring it, including the Shipyard Brewing Company (which will donate Capt’n Eli’s sodas), Leonardo’s Pizza, Key Bank and Minuteman Press.

The University Neighborhood Organization is also advocating that Portland dub the area between Stevens avenue and Bedford street the education district. “This would be a big boost to USM and UNE’s ability to brand and market their institutions and this area,” said Schiller. With the cleanups done on Friday, the volunteers are already preparing for the next event. “The May 3rd Block Party is a time for everyone to come outside and celebrate spring, have a slice of Leonardo’s pizza, try Capt’n Eli’s hand crafted sodas, listen to Thingamajig music, watch the USM dancers, join the bike parade, play games, explore the PPL Bookmobile, pick up a free coloring book, meet your neighbors and enjoy the day,” said Schiller.

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Tom Higgins / Free Press Staff

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**Student profile: A commuter for community**

As a USM freshman, Brendan Butler is a brother in the Phi Mu Delta fraternity, a member of two active bands and organizing a dance marathon that will take place in Gorham next November.

**Dakota Wing**

Brendan Butler is first year student who has a lot going on. He has not yet declared a major, but is already a member of the Phi Mu Delta fraternity, is a part of two bands, and has participated in many shows and community service activities. He has aspirations to make changes at USM and wants to create a place where all students, commuters or residential, can enjoy their college experience.

Since Butler is a commuter student himself, he says he feels as though everyone should be able to have an equally enjoyable experience at USM. He believes that since USM is such a large commuter school, it is harder to meet people and make friends. Butler was introduced to Phi Mu Delta at orientation and got to know some of the leaders and was able to join the fraternity. When asked why he decided to join a fraternity, he said, "I wanted something that connected me a little."

Butler is also in two bands, Pinebrook and Thingamajig, in which he has performed more times than he was able to recall and has volunteered to play for free at various events. He will be involved in many shows over the summer and is extremely dedicated to the bands.

Butler is the head of the committee in charge of the Dance Marathon, a first time Phi Mu Delta event. It’s scheduled to take place at the Costello Fitness Center in Gorham next semester the night of Nov. 8. "I am focused on making the dance marathon successful and hopefully make it a hallmark for USM," said Butler. He plans on making it a big event, bringing in more than the students in the dorms.

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**“I want to make an impact on USM, to make it a more comprehensive community. I want it so even if you commute to the school, it’s going to feel homey.”**

- Brendan Butler

Freshman, undeclared major

**From MFA on page 1**

A series of renovations, making the Stone House the property with the most outstanding costs required to maintain it.

The Maine system has an aging campus [sic] with more space in high risk categories than peers. This means that life cycles of many building components are past or past their useful life, read the Sightlines report, compiled by Jim Kadamus and Emily Morton.

Fossett cited the house’s historical nature and atmosphere as assets to the program. “I always felt really lucky to be able to work in this place that has such historical significance,” she said.

Fossett also described the Stone House as the heart of the MFA program, and explained that students taking part in the program live and do most of their work in various locations, often from a distance, and that the natural beauty and isolation of the location creates an important atmosphere during the workshop periods where the students are together.

Amanda Pleau, another recent Stone Coast graduate, said something similar. “It’s a little bit lonely,” she said of the scattered nature of the students between campuses, “but then we get to the residency and it’s like summer camp.”

According to Campbell, discussions are underway about what to do with the property. “It could be on a historical register,” it’s not now,” said Campbell. He said the building might be sold, or converted to a different use by a new owner.

“There are times you might not sell it for a profit as much as for eliminating the cost of using it,” said Campbell. According to Campbell, the cost of operating the Stone House comes to $45,000 per year on top of the money the university receives from the programs which use it. This is the minimum needed for limited use, and does not include deferred maintenance costs, including repairs to the sewage system, well and water system, slate roofs, boilers and heating, and the hazardous abatement material necessary to make those repairs. There are also costs associated with meeting various codes the Stone House currently does not meet, like electric codes and ADA compliance.

“We’re fighting it,” said current Stone Coast MFA program director Justin Tussing. Tussing told the Free Press he has attended meetings with the president, the provost and Dean Kuzma of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

When asked about the maintenance costs, Tussing said, “From where I’m standing I don’t think it’s necessary to do that all at once, but I don’t think administration see the numbers in the same way I do.”

Tussing suggested that one way to bridge the gap between the money brought in by the Stone House and the costs required to maintain it would be to reach out to other groups in the area to share the space and form creative partnerships.

“We’re really problem solving right now, but I’m encouraged, frankly, with how responsive Theo and Michael have been,” Tussing said.

When asked when a conclusion about the fate of the Stone House might be reached, Campbell said, “I would hope we would make some decisions in the next few months.”
Honors morale high as funding drops and program reviews

Kirsten Sylvain
Editor-in-Chief

The time has come again, after more than a decade, for the USM honors program to be reviewed. According to program director Nancy Artz, the timing is right.

“It would be fair to say that USM’s fiscal reality in recent years and future budget projections affected the timing of the review,” she said. The honors program would have been affected during the recent reenrollment of the faculty cuts, Briggs would have been affected by the last review, “she said. The honors program would have been affected if it was not for the last review in 2001. The honors program would have been affected if it was not for the last review in 2001.

Arts explained that another goal of the study is to try to better understand how much money the program brings in at USM and how much it costs. As Arts explained, the honors program is actually structured, making it difficult to quantify its success.

Reviewers will use student surveys to understand how many students cite honors as a reason to come to USM and stay at USM. They will also talk about how honors faculty are funded, as the honors faculty are all within other departments.

Program review is required periodically by USM’s accrediting body, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and by the University of Maine System, Arts explained.

Bragg’s position was added to the program in the first year when USM wanted to expand the faculty, but that expansion, Arts explained, never happened, so it has been relatively well-staffed compared to other similar honors programs.

“Nan has been wonderful at fostering a sense of community and supporting individual students in myriad ways, so the elimination of the position is clearly a loss for the program,” Arts said.

“Nan was an amazing program, and the program would continue to provide an active learning community for students,” Artz added.

“Because we are not a degree-granting program and because we encourage students to ‘sample a course’… the concept of ‘completing the program’ isn’t as meaningful as ‘completing a degree program,’” Artz said.

Students at Thursday’s meeting highly praised the program as a unique and enriching experience and said that the program would succeed despite its loss this semester. “I think the biggest thing will be losing the presence in the office,” said honors students and senior economics major Kyle Robinson.

Freshman honors student and health science major Collin Skillings added that he was confident that despite the loss of Bragg, the program would continue to provide an active learning community for students. “It’s a strong program,” he said.

“We’ve already told students that they need to take greater responsibility for maintaining our learning community,” Artz said, and a number of the students at Thursday’s meeting seemed ready to help out. They have already started work on creating a peer mentorship program to help incoming honors students.

“In the dozen years since our last review in 2001, the honors program has changed considerably, as has the institution’s fiscal reality,” Artz said. “The time is ripe to reflect on the current state of the program and consider new models of honors education.”

news@usmfreepress.org
USMFreePress
Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log April 13 to 17

Sunday, April 13
Aquatic list of charges requested
1:24 p.m. Wellbeing check requested. Unable to locate. - Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

One man’s “oddly” is another man’s “invisible” 10:13 p.m. - Report of a person acting oddly. Unable to locate - Wishcamper Center

Monday, April 14
There is such a thing as being TOO early
6:30 a.m. - Security alarm activated. All set - Glickman Library

Poorly portal
11:37 a.m. - Damage to a door. - Upton Hastings Hall

Does no one look at the university calendar?
8:56 p.m. - Report of loud music. Scheduled event - Woodbury Campus Center

Tuesday, April 15
Freedom of speech, people
6:36 p.m. - Verbal altercation. Report taken - Brooks Student Center

Wednesday, April 16
Professor says he’ll have it back by next week
8:32 a.m. - Personal injury report taken - Bailey Hall

When will it stop?! 10:44 a.m. Phone - Reporting an on going incident - 21 Falmouth St.

Report as you are able
12:41 p.m. - Two vehicle reportable accident. - 52 University Way

Dear out of headlights
9:11 p.m. - Warning to operator for operating without headlights. - Husky Drive

Suspected ambulation
9:26 p.m. - Summons issued for operating after suspension issued to Ashley Blanchard, 25 of Raymond, ME. - Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Cloaked in darkness
11:19 p.m. - Checking for a suspicious person. Report taken. - 37 College Ave.

Thursday, April 17
Disturbance deja vu
2:29 p.m. - Person who caused a disturbance in March back on campus. - Subject located and issued trespass paperwork. - 314 Forest Ave.

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

Retrenchment retrospective

Sidney Dritz
News Editor

Though the retrenchments and position discontinuances that were announced last March have since been rescinded, the process by which faculty members were selected for layoffs is still seen as unclear.

One of the reasons that understanding the process is important, according to Dean Lynn Kuzma of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, is that, as President Kuhlow has said is possible, the university enacts another series of faculty cuts in the fall, those cuts will have to follow the same criteria as the last, since those criteria are outlined in the faculty union contract.

Last week, Kuzma explained to the Free Press what those criteria are. “I had to get a crash course in it because the retrenchments were mostly in my college,” she said.

At the time of the retrenchments, the term that the most often was “last hired, first fired,” which Kuzma said was true after a certain point, although certain other considerations complicated the absoluteness of that rule. The Provost’s office identified departments with a high faculty-student ratio, and within those departments they looked at faculty reductions proportional to the faculty-student ratio.

Faculty were then divided into categories listed in Article 17 of the faculty union contract, determined by how many years faculty members had been employed at USM, divided by three years increments.

There were, however, a series of other considerations detailed in the faculty union contract, including faculty members’ individual qualifications, the departmental needs for those faculty members’ areas of specialization, and a priority toward minimizing any effects detracting from affirmative action.

These considerations, rather than rumored “deals” alluded to in a short series of Free Press live tweets, are the reason “last hired, first fired,” was not the only rule determining faculty cuts.

The Free Press reached out to Provost Michael Stevenson, who Kuzma credited with the retrenchment and discontinuance decisions, and from whom she said she had received her information on the process. When asked about the criteria for faculty cuts, the timeline for that process, the source of his information about what constituted “departmental need,” and what’s next now that the retrenchments have been rescinded, Stevenson responded to the Free Press in an email, “Having given your questions some serious thought, I think there may be other discussions that might be more beneficial.” He then suggested that next week would be a good time for these discussions.

“The idea was that, ‘are people taking deals to save their jobs?’ And the answer to that was ‘absolutely not,’” Kuzma said.

According to Kuzma, in only one degree program did the provost need to make a judgement call between two faculty members who began working at USM at the same time. In that case, both faculty members teach the same category of classes, constituting the same departmental need.

Those two faculty members were English Professor John Muthyala and Associate English Professor Deepika Marya. The Free Press approached both Marya and Muthyala for comment, and neither replied by press time.

According to Kuzma, since the two both teach postcolonial studies in the English department, the two remaining considerations were individual qualifications and the effects on affirmative action.

“They’re both Indian, from India. John is a full professor, and Deepika is not,” Kuzma said. “Because of this, she said, qualifications rather than affirmative action were the relevant consideration, and Muthyala was selected not to be retrenched. “The explanation given to me [by Provost Stevenson] was that he was a full professor, and he out-ranked her,” Kuzma said.

She acknowledged that another consideration related to affirmative action could be gender, and that there has been criticism that a disproportionate number of women were selected for retrenchment were women. However, she said, unlike in many other departments, more than half of the English department faculty members are women.

“In this case, her status as a woman, if more than 50 percent of the faculty are women, does not override the issue of qualification,” she said.

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Coping with mortality through photography
How one artist understands

Francis Fisliuk
Arts & Culture Editor

The photography that junior foreign language major Kelly Donaldson brought to submit for the President’s Art Show deals with a topic that, according to her, is constantly ignored: death.

On display on the 7th floor of the law building is a series of four photographs that depict macabre images that are meant to evoke some uneasy feelings. But ultimately it aims for the goal of conquering and reaching a deeper understanding of the various uncertainties that life and our own mortality creates.

According to Donaldson, as we all go through our daily routines, we often find ourselves shocked when forced to reconcile with our own mortality. Donaldson begins her questions: how does our view of a subject change once we remove the life from it?

“My photographs are trying to advise you to be comfortable with being uncomfortable,” explained Donaldson. “People shouldn’t ignore the fact that we’re all going to die one day.”

According to Donaldson, many people find entertaining these kinds of thoughts can be depressing, when in fact it should help lead to happier life choices. She said that if you embrace uncertainty and reflect on your mortality through art or meditation, it can have a hugely positive impact on your existence.

“It’s because I don’t fully understand life, that I try to live it to its fullest,” said Donaldson. “My photography helps me get into that right accepting mindset.”

However Donaldson stated that this is still difficult and overwhelming for most people to achieve, because people don’t like to think about death. At the opening of the President’s Art Show last week on April 15, Donaldson said that she observed this restrictive way of thinking when she saw people viewing her photographs for the first time.

“A lot of people got really shocked when they turned the corner and saw my photos,” said Donaldson. “They looked really creeped out and uncomfortable.”

Donaldson’s four photos are meant to display something that was once common and normal to us and now is gone. According to Donaldson, objects take on new meaning once their “soul” is removed.

One photo depicts dead fish lying in the snow. The others depict the fact that Arcadia may be taking the place of another bar. Some controversy may have also been sparked because Arcadia will be licensed by the city, said Aceto. “The bobcat was once full of life and now it looks like a scientific specimen.”

For Donaldson, who has been snapping photographs since the 8th grade and who also plans to take her unique artistic perspective to Iceland for a month long workshop this summer, the idea for this existential exhibition came from her own independent research into Buddhism, specifically the idea of impermanence.

In Buddhism, impermanence means that all things in life are in a constant state of flux and time and life goes on, no matter what happens. It’s one of the three Buddhist marks of existence, and it states that nothing in life is ever fixed or permanent. Donaldson firmly believes that recognizing and accepting this undeniable truth is actually a great way to eliminate the stress from life.

“My photographs are just a medium to facilitate that way of thinking,” said Donaldson. “As humans we must find peace with impermanence.”

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Arcadia will offer games and beer

Matthew Donovan
Free Press Staff

Coming in June there may be a place where games and beer come together for the people of Portland.

Arcadia National Bar is looking to light up 24 Preble St. with its pixelated colors and angry brews. With the assistance of the crowd-funding platform, Kickstarter.com, the bar’s owners Dave Aceto and Ben Culver hope to get this nostalgia inducing bar up and running soon.

“There isn’t a whole lot to do in Portland that isn’t just focused on drinking or eating,” said Aislinn Murphy, an incoming education and history major. “A fun game place for adults and it has yummy New England beer? Count me in.”

According to Arcadia’s owners, they aim to satisfy the city’s niche culture. “We embrace nerd culture because, like us, so many people in Portland do too,” said Aceto. “Between classic arcades, pinball, board games, tournaments and special events, you’re guaranteed to find a good time along side a great local beer or gaming themed cocktail.” There are also plans to sell food, with a focus on grilled cheese, again catering to our inner child.

Aceto said that they plan to have at least a dozen pinball games and another dozen old school arcade titles. Visitors can expect to play classics like Q-Bert, Arkanoid, Street Fighter II, Simpsons, X-Men, NBA Jam and Pole Position. A playthrough will cost you 50 cents, and scores will reset each month after a tournament style competition among the participants with the highest points.

“Having all of those features change the mood and the atmosphere immensely,” said Sarah Kennedy a junior theater major. “Instead of having a dark and dingy bar to go to, there is a fun, light and happy place. It markets to our inner child.”

According to Kennedy, many of the bars in the city offer few alternative forms of entertainment to those who don’t want to drink, but still want to hit the town at night.

“It takes out the pressure of drinking, and allows the friends who may not want to drink to also have a fun time,” said Kennedy.

There has been some skepticism about the owners’ ability to actually follow through with the creation of the bar because they initially hadn’t acquired a liquor license. However according to Aceto, this obstacle has been overcome.

“This bar is happening. We’ve got leases signed, and we just got approved for a liquor license by the city,” said Aceto.

Some controversy may have also been sparked because Arcadia will be taking the place of another bar and local favorite: Slainte. Many are sad to see this local wine bar, quesadilla spot and host for local music go, despite the fact that Arcadia may be taking its place.

“I have fuzzy memories of many good times there,” said Jacob Waidler, a Portland resident. “Truly a loss.”

So far Arcadia’s owners have raised $7,847 out of their $25,000 goal, which is set to help with some of the start up costs.

“The way we see it, we’re the only game in town,” said Aceto.

WHO:
USM student artists and photographers
Blue Smoke, released by legendary country music heroine Dolly Parton, is what you would expect—a few good hearted tunes that you should never tell your friends you listen to.

First off, the title track pulls out all the country-western cliches—a train drumbeat, picked banjo, quick fiddle riffs, slide dobro and a particular breakup vocalist with pipes that sound like they’d have to be genetically modified to be so low.

Blue Smoke isn’t a tune to take seriously, it’s something to mindlessly play while you cruise through the midwest in your American-made pickup truck. As Parton sings, “Rollin’ down the track...I ain’t never comin’ back.”

But Blue Smoke presents more than just cheap pleasure. “Don’t Think Twice,” the Bob Dylan classic, is covered with respect and originality. Finger picked guitar and cowgirl vocals open the tune quickly surrounded with drums, dobro and fiddle. This song sounds pure Dolly, but you can tell it’s a Dylan tune. The tragic sarcasm of the great folk singer comes through with “I wish there was something you would do or say, to try and make me want to change my mind and stay/We never did too much:/you would do or say, to try and make me want to change my mind...”

Even with all its sincerity, Blue Smoke still has its unfortunate moments. “Lay Your Hands On Me,” is a duet with Kenny Rogers, reflects this commitment in a chorus that plainly sings “You Can’t Make Old Friends,” while not ground breaking, represents a country genre and hopefully won’t be repeated several times, but hey, it’s that good.

Parton is a simple minded artist with an undeniably righteous philosophy. Her music is predictable and not terribly exciting, but it’s dependable. She’s a time-tested staple in a world that has been quick to dismiss the old ways. Parton’s response is assertive and stay honest about her art. She’s a time-tested staple in a world that has been quick to dismiss the old ways.

Blue Smoke sounds familiar, the master’s table,” are a salient, albeit graphic example. And similar to other country artists, “Home” falls victim to the overproduced sound prevalent on popular radio today. A processed Nashville production, with too much tele twang and litigious, organic value penetrates deep. How ever, sentimental lyrics like, “Home / On the front porch swingin’ and fern pots hangin’,” can’t help but inspire a reluctant chuckle of familiar comfort.

Parton’s values are clear: “Lay Your Hands On Me,” and “I’m not ready, I’m willing, and the end of the tune, the chorus has been repeated several times, but hey, it’s that good.

Even with all its sincerity, Blue Smoke still has its unfortunate moments. “Lay Your Hands On Me,” is a duet with Kenny Rogers, reflects this commitment in a chorus that plainly sings “You Can’t Make Old Friends,” while not ground breaking, represents a country genre and hopefully won’t be repeated several times, but hey, it’s that good.

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Blue Smoke, while not groundbreaking, represents a country veteran doing what she does best. Although Parton is not trending in college music circles, and probably won’t be in the foreseeable future, this album deserves an objective listen.

Nymphomaniac Vol. I and Vol. II, in many ways, is so not different from other blockbuster Hollywood films today. There is sex, there is the glorious reveal of private body parts, the fetishization and the objectification by the protagonist of the opposite sex. Yet, unlike most of these films, the private body parts being revealed belong to men, and the protagonist doing the fetishizing and objectifying is a woman. The film even fails the famous Bechdel test for equal female representation, not because there aren’t numerous conversations between two women, but because all these women talk about is their desire for men and how many they can possibly sleep with. Nymphomaniac capitulates on the misogyny, inverses it, and offers a radical new vision of women, men and sexuality.

The film begins in the grime of a back alley, in the bare, emotion less home of Seligman (Stellan Skarsgard), an older bachelor whose life is bereft of color, energy or really life of any kind. He finds Joe, played brutally and brilliantly by Charlotte Gainsbourg, beaten and left unconscious in the street. The former describes himself as an asexual; the latter is a clinically diagnosed nymphomaniac. The former obsesses over books, the latter over penises. As Joe begins to tell her story, the two weave their binary perspectives into a convoluted, often twisted, perspective on the world. For every coarse sexual innuendo Joe confesses to, Seligman finds an equivalent in the beauty of literature and history. For every man Joe sleeps with, Seligman has a book ready, or a quote from a character. Joe’s story is harsh, bawdy, philosophical and gruesome. She is simultaneously self-effacing and unapologetic. Seligman’s home is so utterly bereft of sex, indeed of any passion of any sort, that Joe’s story is muted, it is past, it is stylized and retold and fabricated. But the harshness of its reality, and the mirror it holds to our own humanity, as audience members, at times had the audience visibly cringing.

One of the most visually stunning scenes in the film is when Seligman turns on an organ prelude by Bach, Joe describes how three of her lovers play the same roles in her life as each of the three voices in the piece. In a downright sacrilegious montage, Joe describes each lover, how they made love, and how they form the bass, the chords and the flourishes of her sex life. This, more than any scene, contained the questions and the critical perspective of the film, transforming Joe’s bawdy sexual relationships into the same sort of beautiful rendering that a piece of sacred music can have. It elevated to that point that had been portrayed as largely a base form of human interaction to the godlike. It made sex high art.

We will dare to make sex a part of our art culture, in a real, blatant way? Can we actually take the step between Ginsberg and the Virgin Mary? These are the questions Lars Von Trier asks us. The meta-levels of the film allow Seligman’s inter actions into Joe’s story shape the narrative itself.

This film takes a step away from traditional filmmaking, while taking a step towards the “art” film, while in many ways reverting through time to the traditional formulas of the 20th century novel. The film asks us if we are prepared to give up all the archaic notions of sexuality that still dominate our gender norms and our cultural structure, and allow ourselves to learn about life from the nymphomaniac. Can the worlds of base, bawdy sex and of ‘high’ art seem together by making this film, Von Trier makes it so.
Dear UM President Kevin Kpor, 

I am writing to you today in light of the recent President’s Forum held on March 16th and the culmination of the students’ petition to connect to the dots regarding cuts. We were overjoyed when we heard President Kpor announce that he was reversing his previous decision to “re-engineer” a portion of the courses in the CAHS dean. We want to thank you for your leadership and good work!

As we gather outside the Provost’s office during our Forum, we want to share our thoughts and feelings with all who seek to understand the University’s mission, to provide all people with the right to work with dignity, security and respect.

The ghost in the machine at USM doesn’t feel compelled to answer our queries, and this is what we mean. If an indeterminate number of the folk who keep this university running may or may not be fired every day, and we do not ask the questions about it, the answers should be somewhere for us to find. We're not asking for a forum (though, you know, we wouldn't exactly mind that, either), but we would dearly love it if university administration would take the time to answer any questions for them. We spent last week using this particular section of newspaper to implore this university for a bit more transparency, and this is what we mean. It isn’t difficult, you know, and yet we do not frequently receive the achievement of our number one state goal from the day we opened to connect the dots regarding the cuts, and we’d really like to know how the people who keep this university running may or may not be fired every day, and we do not ask the questions about it, the answers should be somewhere for us to find. We're not asking for a forum (though, you know, we wouldn’t exactly mind that, either), but we would dearly love it if university administration would take the time to answer any questions for them. We spent last week using this particular section of newspaper to implore this university for a bit more transparency, and this is what we mean.

Austerity and the Privatization-Oriented Education Reform: This coalition, Solidarity for #USMFuture, includes off-campus allies such as the Maine AFL-CIO, and the Southern and Central Maine Labor Councils.

Jonathan Simpson
Contributor

For over a decade we have tried to increase the competitiveness of our nation in science and mathematics. John Holdren, former U.S. Science and Technology director, has stated that “to play an integral role in our nation’s economy in the future. Both public and private schools have an obligation to enhance our economic competitiveness through the promotion and protection of STEM programs. Although this civil obligation is not shared equally between the public and private institutions. Public schools that receive a significant portion of their operating costs through state and federal funds have an increased obligation to the public to grow their STEM programs. Universities that accept funding through bonds or other sources in order to enhance their existing STEM programs are accountable for the resulting science in mathematics and sciences. Geosciences are a federally recognized program, and the designated degree program. The USM is a public school that offers a significant portion of their operating costs through state and federal funds. We hope to hear exactly what discussions the Provost Stevenson thinks we’re playing. We’re not asking for it to be easy, we're asking for it to be transparent, and this is what we mean. If an indeterminate number of the folk who keep this university running may or may not be fired every day, and we do not ask the questions about it, the answers should be somewhere for us to find. We're not asking for a forum (though, you know, we wouldn’t exactly mind that, either), but we would dearly love it if university administration would take the time to answer any questions for them.

2. Support of Alternate Budget Plans: We will continue to work towards elevating education as a pivotal political issue during the next election cycle. To this end, we are building a coalition of students, faculty, staff and allies from around the state to demand a state budget that ensures our human right to education. This coalition, Solidarity for #USMFuture, includes off-campus allies such as the Maine AFL-CIO, and the Southern and Central Maine Labor Councils.

6. Contextualize Our Fight Within Wider Struggles Against Austerity and the Privatization-Oriented Education Reform Movement: We defend tenure and the availability of a comprehensive liberal arts-based education because these institutions are irreplaceable repositories of information and values not institutionalized anywhere else in our society. We recognize that the income gap is the widest it’s been since before the great depression. We reject logic that would pit working class people against each other for supposedly scarce resources. We are here when we work together to demand our human rights be met.

The administration may believe this student movement will die after the retrenchments; but this is contrary to the needs of the people of Maine and the state. Geosciences is an important field of study with a high and growing demand in both the national and international job markets. USM’s department of geosciences has proved its ability to guide their programs in science and mathematics.

Jonathan Simpson
Contributor

Simpson: Geosciences needs protection

The free press

Dear Provost Simpson, 

I wanted to give you my thoughts on the importance of geosciences. Geosciences is an important field of study with a high and growing demand in both the national and international job markets. USM’s department of geosciences has proved its ability to guide their programs in science and mathematics.

I am writing to request additional funding for the geosciences program. Geosciences is an important field of study with a high and growing demand in both the national and international job markets. USM’s department of geosciences has proved its ability to guide their programs in science and mathematics.

The free press
Isn’t laughing awesome? You’re welcome

Thaddeus Moriarty
Free Press Staff

I’m Thaddeus Moriarty, and you are wrong. Why? Because you think I’m funny. Or you think I’m not funny. Either way, that’s why you’re wrong this time. Because someone, somewhere, disagrees with you no matter what you think. I’ve heard it both ways: a woman on the Free Press website said I was witty (and now she’s getting married), while on the other hand I’ve heard that some people find my writing persona to be “arrogant” and “self-centered,” to which I say “phhht.” It’s not my fault I know everything about stuff and junk. You’re wrong about. Slow your roll, Starfox.

“Funny” is an awfully relative doodad, which makes being funny a less-than-paltry task. This isn’t meant to be a fishing expedition for Moby Pity, but rather a simple fact: trying to write something that people will find “funny” is harder than Donald Trump’s hairgel. I find what humorous could be, and likely is, spectacularly different from what you do. It makes for a more-difficult-than-you-probably-expect adventure to scribe something that most people will crack a grin at, but I do what I can for you, dear reader. (Okay, now you can pity me a little.)

So what is funny? The chapter of my autobiography entitled ‘You Can Call Me Ferrets’ wherever ‘The Hell You Want To Do’, (Covering the last few months writing for the paper would be something more than me going over every joke in my columns that was supposed to be funny but failedboat. (The chapter would be called “Humor: A Retrospective.”)

…”

But that sounds an awful lot like a Shia LeBouf film, and I hate that dude.) And it’s all because my funny is different than yours or his or hers. Thus, here we are in the most meta thing that I’ve written in “You Are Wrong” to date, (which is an awfully meta column in itself): what Thaddeus Moriarty laughs at. Other than you, you incorrect twit.

What is funny? Joe Biden jokes are funny. If you follow me on Twitter (which you totally should if you don’t,) you’ll find that my typical sense of humor is only exacerbate and amplified by the jokes of the untold masses that you find on Twotwlr Twie. Among these jokes are a series of tweets assuming that Vice President Joe Biden is a hapless, ne’er-do-well and describe his daily life. My favorite (for the moment) is “Joe Biden’s Search History: ‘what is a vice president;’ ‘who lives in a pineapple under the sea;’ ‘what is the economy;’ ‘how to clean off glitter.’” In my head, I picture VP Joe sitting around at home and reading these while he sweaters and watches TiVo’d DRAGNET.

What is funny? Schadenfreude is funny. For those of you who haven’t seen Avenue Q, allow me to sum up: schadenfreude is a German word describing the feeling of pleasure at the expense of someone else. When you laugh at your friend because she collapsed during a conversation with a cute guy, those warm fuzzies you feel are called schadenfreude. And it’s hilariously funny. Some of you might think it’s mean to get genuine pleasure out of someone else’s mistake, but you’re guilty of it every time you laughed because it wasn’t you in someone else’s bad situation. So get off your high horse, Starfox.

What is funny? Funny is telling the Free Press graphic designer three weeks ago you that you were going to mention Natalie Portman in a green bikini riding a winged polar bear through the Taj Mahal in a column so she would draw her. But what’s really funny? Actually doing it. (Sorry, Effie. God-speed.)

What is funny? Realizing that I’ve now called Obama a lizard-man and Biden a ne’er-do-well in consecutive weeks is funny. I may never be allowed to fly commercial air again. Although now I have a new title, Thaddeus Moriarty, Supremely Correct Mocket Of Men.

What is funny? The word mocker is funny. So are the words grok, skullduggery, linoleum, balderdash, and brouhaha. So is the number 27, just ask Weird Al Yankovic.

What is funny? Try “phtbhbt.” It’s not my fault I can for you, dear reader. (Okay, now you can pity me a little.)

But honestly, if you don’t think “You Are Wrong” to date, that’s why you’re wrong this time. And that all means that the whole world, at one moment or another of every single day, has its laughs. (Which is a pretty awesome thing. But honestly, if you don’t think “You are wrong.”)

Thaddeus Moriarty is a senior history major.

Corrections:

Letter from Editor: Inaccurate tweet leads to changes in Free Press social media policy

As many of you may have noticed, we were live-tweeting on March 21 from two different locations while faculty were being retrenched. In one of the tweets from that day, I inaccurately stated that English Professor John Muthyala had taken a deal in order to save his job.

That Muthyala was not retrenched was the result of a decision made by College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Lynn Kuzma. The decision was made within the faculty union contract. For more details on this process read “Retrenchment retrospective” on page 5.

The events leading up to March Sustainability & ME:

From the April 14 issue on page 11, the Sustainability & ME column titled “Spring is here: Gear up to garden” was written by Jocelyn Egan, not Iris SanGiovanni.

Jocelyn Egan is a non-traditional student pursuing her bachelor’s in Nursing. She is minoring in biology and holistic and integrative health.

21 and following protest were the first time that the Free Press used social media to live tweet news events. One of our policies has been that our reporting on social media be treated with the same care and objectivity as our reporting in print, but I want to apologize for any harm this tweet have caused and assure that we are taking this as an opportunity to review our social media policy so that you can stay informed about USM events in print and online.

Best,

Ellen Spahn / Design Assistant

Perspectives

April 21, 2014

Sustainability & ME:

From the April 14 issue on page 11, the Sustainability & ME column titled “Spring is here: Gear up to garden” was written by Jocelyn Egan, not Iris SanGiovanni.

Jocelyn Egan is a non-traditional student pursuing her bachelor’s in Nursing. She is minoring in biology and holistic and integrative health.
**Weekly Horoscope**

**Aries**
March 21-April 19

You are pushing yourself too hard. Ease up a little and take better care of yourself. Tomorrow’s another day!

**Taurus**
April 20-May 20

Literature or media may offer ideas or spark an interest. Be open to the new and different in discovering paths to pleasure.

**GEMINI**
May 21-June 20

Don’t fight over money with a partner. Do find a way to protect your need for security, while still reaching out for more gain.

**Cancer**
June 21-July 22

Today you can be more patient and practical than usual at work. Common sense and stability are watchwords.

**Leo**
July 23-August 22

Cuddling is important. Get some hugs today and share some physical contact with those you love. Nurture your body.

**Virgo**
August 23-September 22

You and those around you need to be appreciated! Express your love for your family today. Show how much you care.

**Libra**
September 23-October 22

You know more than you tell. Protect your own security and that of other people. Keep everything looking smooth and easy.

**Scorpio**
October 23-November 21

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. You could be counting into the wee hours of this evening.

**Sagittarius**
November 22-December 21

Your sensual needs are in focus; seek mutual gratification with a loved one. Foot rubs, massage, caresses, good food etc.

**Capricorn**
December 22-January 19

A meal is made more enjoyable by the company you keep. The food is good, but the people are better.

**Aquarius**
January 20-February 18

Your dependability is noticed today. You take responsibilities seriously and do what is necessary, steadily and thoroughly.

**Pisces**
February 19-March 20

You’re a dynamo today and run through tasks rapidly. High energy keeps you on a roll.

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**Puzzles**
April 21, 2014

**Crossword**

**Across**
1. Cap’s top
2. Pertinent
3. Ski’s leader
4. Page sent by computer
5. White prefix
6. Having one’s markables
7. Comedian who played Gertrude
8. Meta’s and today’s sister in Chekhov’s “Three Sisters”
9. Page Pogo’s island
10. Swamped
11. Capital of Latvia
12. Critters with eyespots
13. 7th-9th
14. Kitten
15. Dishes
16. Terminal
17. Comforter
18. Recipe which sauce is made
19. Big Apple Bell
20. Come to mind again
21. Vietnamese festival
22. 1000+ B.C., scientifically
23. Novelist Tolle
24. Aspen, Colorado
25. Dry, dry way
26. Brilliantly colored fish
27. ____, instant (quickly)
28. Bakery order
29. Gossamer (judging Amy)
30. Keep one’s ____, the ground
31. Health-food store staple
32. Op. opposed to underage owning
33. Church Connecticut
34. The “A” in A.M.

**Down**
1. Diet info
2. Man ____, Munch
3. Wound seriously
4. Send goods overseas
5. Eastern name
6. Donor’s st.
7. Hex
8. Run course
9. Surrounded by, poetically
10. Quarantine
11. “The Duchess of ____, Webster
12. Extremely well-behaved child
13. Honey drinks
14. Homeless children
15. Wily used operating system
16. Spot on
17. Contractor Toczarzewicz
18. Enuff
19. ____, “easy”
20. Brittle unit
21. Chairman’s need
22. Pain’s bother
23. “I’m a ____, of it”
24. ____, and terminus: criminal court
25. Defense grp. since 1949
26. Allied space to
27. Buxy shirt
28. GameCube competitor
29. Hood up again
30. Impulsive criticisms
31. 1952 Brando role
32. Mine openings
33. Wolf’s wife
34. “Try ____, one”
35. Give a tongue-bashing to
36. A knitter might have a ball with it
37. Conflict in Greek drama
38. Weight by lifting
39. Hooded (dumpy)
40. Judge Lance of the D. J. Simpson case
41. Wordsless greeting

**Sudoku**

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

**Cryptogram**

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

*The solution to last issue’s crossword*

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*The solution to last issue’s crossword*
Brandon Sodergren (carrying the American flag) high fives a marathon official while crossing the finish line in the Army Marathon exactly a year ago on April 21, 2013 in Killeen, Texas. This was his second marathon.

“arlands are working to state, we’re not going to live in fear because of terrorism and I think that’s the important thing. We’re going to have a great marathon and they’re not going to scare us.”

-Brandon Sodergren

Senior criminology major

Brandon Sodergren is a senior criminology major, member of the wrestling team and a student senator. Before attending USM, Sodergren served in the Marine Corps for six years beginning in 2006, including two tours—one in Iraq and one in Afghanistan—as an infantry machine gunner. Now he spends his free time running marathons and fundraising in honor of fallen service members and their families.

Sodergren began running marathons in 2012 when he participated in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. “It ends in Arlington at the National Cemetery—it was very emotional,” he said. In 2013 Sodergren ran in two more marathons, the Marine Corp Marathon again and the Army Marathon for the second year in a row.

He also participated in the half-marathon and multiple five and ten kilometer road races since 2012, but the 2014 Boston Marathon will be his fourth marathon. Sodergren also intends to run the full Maine Marathon later this year. “Every time I’ve run, I’ve run in honor of a fallen comrade,” he said.

Today Sodergren is in Boston, running in the 118th Boston Marathon in honor of Lance Corporal Alexander Arredondo, a fallen marine. Sodergren is one of the 12 members of the Run for the Fallen team honoring Maine’s fallen service members and fund-raising for families that had a loved one killed in action.

Although Sodergren never met Arredondo personally, he’s known Arredondo’s father Carlos Arredondo for two years. “I met his father in the annual Run for the Fallen—it was a long run then—we ran from Ogunquit to Portland that year, but since 2013 it’s been 26.2,” said Sodergren.

There are two ways to enter the Boston Marathon as an official entrant. Runners must either run a qualifying time (which ranges between three to five hours dependent on age and gender), or attain by completing in a 5k, said Sodergren. “I’d rather raise the money and awareness of a good charity and Run for the Fallen is one of the best charities you can run for,” said Sodergren. Although he does intend to train for a qualifying marathon, Carlos Arredondo future years.

Carlos Arredondo and John Mixon—the founder of Run for the Fallen—were at the finish line.

We’re going to have a great feeling, crossing the finish and seeing him there,” said Sodergren.

Run for the Fallen has already raised $47,620 of their $50,000 goal to be dispersed among the families of 14 fallen Maine service men. Sodergren has raised $935 in honor of Alexander Arredondo. You can make a donation to Run for the Fallen Maine on their Crowdrise Boston 2014 webpage.

A press release from the Boston Athletic Association on April 11 outlined the changes to this year’s Boston Marathon including the 33 percent increase of the field size allowing 36,000 entrants versus the previously established 27,000 limit of entrants in recent years.

The increase of participants makes this the second largest Boston Marathon in the 118 years of the marathon’s history. The largest amount of participants was during The Centennial Boston Marathon in 1996 with a starting field of 37,808 entrants. Included in this year’s registered entrants are 5,330 international runners representing 70 countries.

From the ‘By The Numbers’ section of the marathon’s official website there are 36,000 official entrants, 80,000 people attending the expo, and 10,000 volunteers. In addition to these numbers there are over 10,000 first responders standing by—comprised of medical and police personnel and police officers.

“We are making a statement, we’re not going to live in fear because of terrorism and I think that’s the important thing,” said Sodergren. “We’re going to have a great marathon and they’re not going to scare us.”

Justice Barreiros
Sports Editor
Involvement Spotlight: Frazee explores the world

Krysteana Scribner
Contributor

USM student Nik Frazee might be from a small town, but he’s international at heart. “I love to travel,” said Frazee, a double major in anthropology and tourism. “When I was younger, I was always so interested in the idea of traveling. Our world is just so beautiful.”

Participating in a study abroad program, Frazee began his travel experience by spending a gap year as a cultural exchange student with Rotary International in Bosnia. Last year, he spent his first full year here at USM, but missing his travels, Frazee decided to spend the fall semester of 2013 studying abroad in the Netherlands.

Frazee has travelled across the ocean, but has said that one of his favorite places is right here in Maine. “I love to go hiking. Growing up, I lived about an hour away [from] Acadia National Park, and I would always go hiking there – and after the climb, I loved seeing the scenery from the top. It is always such a rewarding experience.”

While he loves his time in other countries, he is also very fond of USM. Frazee spends his days working in The Well in Upton Hall, where his main job is to promote campus wellness by hanging The News Flush and making posters about healthy habits. He has learned to speak Serbian, made local cuisines with families in Bosnia, hiked a volcano, and rode a camel. “If I stay in a country long enough, I usually learn a little bit about their culture, and learning about the little things that make them unique.”

Frazee wants other students to know that the great deal of experience from his travels. He has learned to speak Serbian, made local cuisines with families in Bosnia, hiked a volcano, and rode a camel. “If I stay in a place awhile, I look forward to learning about the culture, and learning about the little things that make them unique.”

Frazee said that traveling will always be a big part of his life. “There are so many amazing places out there that people just don’t know about,” he said. “I am extremely grateful for each experience I have had.”

Frazee decided to spend the fall semester of 2013 studying abroad in the Netherlands. Frazee has travelled to a total of 29 different countries, including France, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, Germany, and Italy.

Over the years, Frazee has gained a great deal of experience from his travels. He has learned to speak Serbian, made local cuisines with families in Bosnia, hiked a volcano, and rode a camel. “If I stay in a place awhile, I look forward to learning about the culture, and learning about the little things that make them unique.”

Frazee wants other students to know how wonderful the study abroad program at USM really is. “Traveling gives you a whole new perspective in life. Get involved. Try new things. Be open to what’s out there. Every dollar I’ve spent on travelling, I have never regretted.” He wants students to know that the financial aspect is nothing to worry about either. “If you are interested in studying abroad, go to the International Office in Payson Smith [Hall], and you can talk with someone that will give you a lot of helpful information on the program and ways you can apply for scholarships and financial aid.”

Frazee said that he hopes to do more traveling in the future. He also hopes to outreach to the community to educate people how they can study abroad and ways to go about doing so. Frazee said that traveling will always be a big part of his life. “There are so many amazing places out there that people just don’t know about,” he said. “I am extremely grateful for each experience I have had.”

Photo courtesy of Nik Frazee

Nik Frazee posed for a photo during a trip to Istanbul he took this past January.