Students evacuated after fire in Robie-Andrews

in the Residence Hall, everyone was able to get out quickly and efficiently, leading to no known injuries. The cause of the fire was determined to have started in a dorm room on the second floor of the building, where senior visual arts major Katie Hubbard’s fan caught fire and left charred black soot covering her room.

“We don’t really know what happened, but I do know I woke up to the sound of an electrical crack,” said Hubbard. “I looked around my room and nothing seemed wrong, but a second later I heard another crack and saw flames engulfing the back of my fan. It was simply a random fire that could happen to anyone.”

According to Hubbard, a firefighter said the fire was caused when something failed mechanically within the fan, but didn’t investigate further because it was melted beyond repair.

“Initially the fire seemed small enough that I could handle the situation and then tell someone,” said Hubbard. “After I picked it up and moved it away from anything flammable, I grabbed a towel and tried to smother the flames. When I realized the fire wasn’t going to go out, I ran and got an RA and tried to alert people.”

Once notified, an alarm went off in Hubbard’s unit of the building and two minutes later the entire building was echoing an alarm. Students rushed outside seeking safety, curious to know what was going on.

Matthew Macdonald, a senior art major at USM, had woken up earlier than normal that morning. As he laid in his bed thinking he had more time to sleep, the building alarm began screeching. After the chaos of evacuating, he realized his friend, Hubbard, had been in the dorm room that caught fire.

“When we were outside, I saw her standing there with worried expression on her face. She told me what happened and how random the event was,” said Macdonald. “I was surprised that it was something that would happen to someone I know, but I’m glad to hear everyone is okay.”
New changes to take place in advising

**Students should be more prepared before meeting advisor**

**Thomas Fitzgerald**
**News Intern**

Advising is something that is crucial to the experience of every student’s education, but is every student informed about changes that have been made to the advising process? Students who are currently enrolled are being assigned a multitude of advisors as they make progress toward graduation. It is important to be able to distinguish the differences they have in order to help you succeed.

Dr. Dan Panici, an associate professor of the communication and media department, outlined the distinct difference that advisors play within a student’s academic career. Under his role as an Academic advisor, he focuses on both the scheduling of students and other inquiries that students may have within a semester.

“Advising is a component of teaching,” stressed Panici. “Faculty advisors need to focus on being more consistent in order to generate a more transparent advising process. Teaching, scholarships, and services are the three main components of employment for professors, and advising falls into the service component.”

Although not all staff members may specialize in advising, it is still part of their employment that should be fulfilled as passionately as their teaching.

To improve the quality of advising among different departments, there has been an advising committee established at USM where an appointed advisor from each department will meet in order to discuss opinions and changes that have been put in place.

“When we move student services to the first floor of Luther Bonney, it will become sort of a one stop shop for students, where they can get all the help and support they may need in one place,” said USM President Glen Cummings, who believes providing proper advising for students it an important goal to reach.

“Come in with questions, and actively listen during meetings,” says Panici. “If a student looks through the pre-assigned option of clusters, and does not see something that is of interest, they can instead complete three courses of the two-hundred level that are not related to their field of study,” said Panici. “If that is still not satisfactory, any student in pursuit of a minor or a second major can qualify with that.”

All of these alternatives to the thematic cluster offer students a variety of choices on how to pursue the future of their academic career based on what their standing is.

“If a student looks through the pre-assigned option of clusters, and does not see something that is of interest, they can instead complete three courses of the two-hundred level that are not related to their field of study,” said Panici. “If that is still not satisfactory, any student in pursuit of a minor or a second major can qualify with that.”

“Building a personal relationship with students is very important to the process,” continued Panici “because if they meet with me and are uncertain about what they want to gain from our meeting, it can be difficult.”

Students who feel uninformed about the process of advising are highly recommended to make an appointment with their faculty advisor, and to discuss the options that are best fit for their academic career.

If students are finding that they are struggling with the advising process, there are many different tips offered from surveyed academic advisors that USM has made available through their website.

**Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky / Multimedia Editor**

**Dr. Gunther von Hagens, anatomical artisan**

within a semester.

“Advising is a component of teaching,” stressed Panici. “Faculty advisors need to focus on being more consistent in order to generate a more transparent advising process. Teaching, scholarships, and services it an important goal to reach.

“Come in with questions, and actively listen during meetings,” says Panici. “I have to know what students need when they schedule an appointment with me, so students should also ask themselves ‘What do I need to know?’ before coming in.”

One of the more important aspects of advisors is to keep students on track with adding classes that are relative to their degree. With what seems to be strict options for classes that complete what is needed for a particular degree, students may feel obligated to take what they can in order to obtain their degree. Panici stated that many students may not realize there are alternative options that can be taken just in case the cluster is not formidable to their academic needs.

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An anatomical exhibit described as a mix of "art, science, and circus freak show" will inspire and educate audiences here in Portland starting Friday, September fourth. The exhibit features real live human corpses, which have been voluntarily donated to the cause by the deceased—in most cases. These corpses are preserved by a process called plastination, developed by the anatomical artisan himself, Dr. Gunther von Hagens, to display the complexity of the human body, frozen in perfect composure to allow for a deep and appreciable look into the clockwork of the human anatomy.

In fact, the artificiality of the experience makes it much more approachable. Human legs are referred to as "lower extremity with knee-joint prosthesis." The blood and gore expected with the display of disembodied human flesh is absent, bearing no resemblance to the gruesome-like appearance of traditionally preserved cadavers. In fact, the plastinated cadavers have become so popular that multiple European universities have purchased them for the study of human anatomy. Hagans presents his exhibit as "a living anatomy," in contrast with the traditionally preserved "anatomy of the dead," and his fascination with the study of living anatomy has been compared to the zealous study of physicians in the Renaissance period. The nature of Hagans' pursuits, however, carry with them a series of criticisms. The primary material in the process of making plastinated cadavers, of course, is dead people. The obvious criticism is that the exhibit is discomforting and nauseating; many complaints were made about the exhibit during the first several years of its debut, and it was protested in both Europe and Asia. These claims are quickly quelled by emphasizing the overwhelming educational benefit that the experience provides especially for University students studying medicine.

Some claims, however, are not so easily overruled. Within the first two years of the exhibit's debut in 2004, many questions were raised about the source of the bodies. In fact, the artistry of the exhibit is discomforting to some, and the idea that the corpses belonged to executed prisoners is particularly perplexing by the notion that anybody would put their hands on the discomfort exhibited by the exhibit in Boston and really enjoyed it," said Ben Stone, a junior pre-med major. "I believe there was a piece portraying the development of a fetus, which was really cool." When asked about his opinions on the discomfort exhibited by the corpses, some attendees, he seemed perplexed by the notion that anybody should be grossed out by it, adding, "it’s what’s inside of us."
Student enrollment down -6.7 percent from last Fall

What is being done to combat the low number of undergraduate, graduate and law students at USM

Zachary Searles
Title

Enrollment has been down at USM over the past few years with a 13 percent drop since 2010. Last fall, there were 8,428 students that enrolled at USM, which is a 5.5 percent drop from the year before, according to the Office of Institutional Research.

This past July, it looked like USM would be following the same trend with enrollment being down around 13 percent from what was anticipated when creating the budget for the upcoming school year.

USM isn’t the only university that has been hurt by enrollment numbers. According to the Education Advisory Board, 59 percent of public universities in the nation missed their enrollment target for the 2013-2014 school year.

Christopher Quint, Executive director of Public Affairs, and President Glenn Cummings, explained that enrollment has been seeing an uptick since July. The numbers are still down, but now they are only down 6.5 percent from the original projections.

Quint did point out that those numbers are based on snapshots in time and no final numbers will be in until the middle of October, so he does expect them to change.

Since enrollment is still down though, USM is looking at a $2.5 million dollar shortfall in the budget that will have to be accounted for somehow.

Buster Neil, USM Chief Financial Officer, said in an interview with the Portland Press Herald that USM won’t have to cut any more programs in order to fill the gap.

Instead, USM will dip into some of its savings and delay facility upgrades to make up the shortfall.

According to the Portland Press Herald, President Cummings said that his first priority is to rebuild trust with students and faculty following the cuts that had already been made.

Last year, USM launched an ad campaign to help combat these low enrollment numbers, but Quint said that they can’t know for sure if the campaign has any direct correlation between the rise in enrollment from down 13 percent to down just 6.5 percent.

But Quint believes that the campaign did achieve some other things, “What that ad campaign did is that hard to measure, but that we know, both on anecdotal and we know from metrics that we see from online marketing, is that it increased the awareness in to showcase that USM had $1 million dollars in scholarships to give out. The money was disbursed amongst transfer students, pointed out that there were many others that gave donations and some of them were around the same size as Flanagan’s.

Donors will give a lot to scholarships because that is the most impactful for students. If we can increase our scholarship money, then we’re going to reduce the cost for students,” Quint said.

Reducing the cost for students has been on USM’s radar the past few years, becoming the only school in the country to freeze their tuition for five straight years. This is especially critical now that we live in a time where student loan debt has eclipsed $1 trillion dollars and affects 40 million people in the United States alone, according to CNN.

“No other university system has done that,” Quint said, “That’s a distinction that we have. We can go out there and say with confidence that we, and USM specifically, are one of the most affordable and accessible universities in this region.”

USM has also focused on making it affordable for not just in-state students, but out-of-state students as well. According to Quint, an out-of-state student could come to USM, live on campus and see a bill that’s under $20 thousand before financial aid is factored in.

“It’s important that we, as a public university, remain affordable and accessible to students,” said Quint.

It is still too early to tell if tuition will be frozen for a sixth straight year. Some of the factors that could force USM to raise tuition is the cost of goods and services, enrollment numbers, and staff and faculty contracts, which are still in negotiation as of now.

According to the Portland Press Herald, a survey showed that students at USM felt “lost” and President Cummings’s wants to add services to make it possible for students, but particularly freshman and sophomores, to feel more engaged in the USM community.

On August 31, the first day classes resumed, the dining services in Gorham served over 2,000 meals, which is the most that USM has ever done in one day. Quint believes that this shows that students are more engaged, so maybe things are looking up for USM.

Quint also anticipates that by the time the final enrollment numbers are in on October 15, capacity for the dorms should be close to 100 percent full, if not completely filled.

“We still have a lot more work to do and a long way to go, but it’s a good indication early on that changes are happening and they’re positive for the overall university,” said Quint.

The data in this graph is provided by the Registrar’s office and may vary from data taken from the Office of Institutional Research.

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Christopher Quint, Executive director of Public Affairs

25% OFF
A single item
One per customer. With coupon only, expires 9/30/15. Does not include purchase of gift cards or existing promotions.

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Maine universities committed to increasing local food on campus

The University of Maine System announced last Monday that it has committed to purchasing 15 percent of the food it buys from local producers on its campuses from local producers within the next five years.

The system has released a request for company proposals notes that the provider is seeking a company to supply dining hall and other food services at six of the system’s seven campuses.

The request for company proposals notes that the provider should be able to ensure at least 15 percent of the food be locally purchased in the first year of the contract, increasing by 1 percentage point annually to reach 20 percent by 2020.

That 20 percent equates to about $1.7 million in local food purchases, according to the system, which spends about $8.6 million per year feeding students and staff.

Food is considered local if it is harvested or produced within 175 miles of the campus at which it is served.

However, a food provider that does business with any campus may sell food to any of the other seven campuses, according to the system. That definition was developed through discussions with Maine farmers and could be even more important to our state’s future,” UMS board Chairman Sam Collins said to the Bangor Daily News on Monday.

“The farmers, fishermen, producers and processors who bring products locally — both to your table and to your campus — are a top priority for university research and spending.”

People gather for overdose victims as Maine death toll increases

People around the state are talking about drug abuse and the increasing number who have died from drug overdoses.

A vigil was organized last Monday, Aug. 31 in Monument Square. Organizers said that previous years had been focused on raising awareness, but that the tone had changed this time around.

“This year it’s much more of a somber mood,” said Brittny Dunham, an organizer with the volunteer-based group I AM HERE Outreach Team, which focuses on overdose prevention and community education.

Deaths from overdose in Maine increased during the first half of the year, according to officials in the office of the attorney general. First responders have attributed a spike in heroin-related overdoses to the dangerous addition of the pain medication fentanyl to drugs being sold here.

City officials announced that effort earlier this month. After a weekend when first responders in Portland handled 14 overdose calls in a 24-hour period.

Officials said that disposed needles in public parks and other public spaces have become a more frequent problem and urged residents to call the public dispatch service at 874-8493 rather than attempting to handle them.

Longtime L.L. Bean leader dies

Leon Gorman, grandson of L.L. Bean and longtime leader of the iconic outdoor stores, has died from cancer. He was 80.

Gorman, known among employees for his no-nonsense manner and for often bringing his hunting dogs into the office, helped to keep the family business running for a folksy $4.8 million catalog company to a $1.61 billion retailer with retail stores in Japan and across the United States.

After retiring as president in 2001, he became the company’s chairman and increasingly focused on social and philanthropic causes, giving his time and money to conservation groups as well as many charities in Maine, where he lived with his wife, Lisa.

Gorman died at his home in Yarmouth.

For the fourth time in company history, the 24-hour Freeport store — which has no locks on the doors — closed during his funeral service from 8 a.m. to noon on Sept. 13.

Portland bounces up minimum wage

A federal appeals court on Friday struck down a city law banning panhandling on median strips, delivering another in a series of recent victories for free speech groups.

U.S. First Circuit Court Judge David J. Barron wrote in a decision issued Friday that Portland’s ordinance violates the First Amendment right to free speech “because it indiscriminately bans virtually all expressive activity in all of the city’s median strips and thus is not narrowly tailored to serve the city’s interest in protecting public safety.

The ordinance was successfully challenged by the Maine chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in U.S. District Court, prohibiting enforcement of the law. The city appealed the ruling to the First Circuit, where it lost Friday.

“This is a really important victory for all of our clients who are in Portland but for activists around the country,” Zach Hesiden, legal director of the Maine ACLU chapter, said.

“We’ve seen more and more cities and towns using ordinances like this to try to keep people out of downtown areas, and this decision is a reminder that those people have First Amendment rights, too.”

Politics

Election day - September 14, 2015

Make every day your best day ever

College students and graduates

Two thirds of volunteers say Girl Scouts has helped them professionally - build to your resume and gain real life experiences by volunteering with us.

Be the role model she’ll always remember.

The Hastings Hulk


The Harpswell Krab

911 call, Glickman Library. False call. No report.

Phone is malfunctioning. Email sent to notify of condition.

Give me my bike back!

Theft complaint, Wish Camper Center. Student reports a bike stolen. Report taken. Bicycle was found and returned to Owner.

Too fast, now furious


You’re outta there!


Creepy, but compliant


The great escape


Thought it was a light switch

Security alarm, alarm activation in error. No report.

Ain’t no party like a parking lot party

Liquor law violation. Possible drinking in public, G16 parking lot. No report.

Is this the Krusty Krab?

911 call, Glickman Library. False call. No report.

Most popular door, apparently


Sunday, August 30

Grandparents day


Monday, August 31

The Harpswell Krab


Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log August 13 to August 31

Thursday, August 13

Late Night Reads
Criminal Trespass, Glickman Library. Staff called in regards to a known subject back at the Library. Officer removed subject from the area. Report Taken.

Saturday, August 15

Criminal in the Law Building
Suspicious Person, Law Building. Officer advised of an intoxicated Male bothering pedestrians, looking for money. Person was last seen heading to Law Building. Officer checked area. Gone on arrival. Officer was advised person seen area via Brighton Ave. 911 call, E-Phone G20. Phone is malfunctioning. Email sent to notify of condition.

Monday, August 17

Don’t waive health insurance just yet


Friday, August 21

Too fast, now furious


You’re outta there!


Creepy, but compliant

Suspicious person and activity, Glickman Library. Moved along. No report.

The great escape


Tuesday, August 25

Thought it was a light switch

Security alarm, alarm activation in error. No report.

Thursday, August 27

Ain’t no party like a parking lot party

Liquor law violation. Possible drinking in public, G16 parking lot. No report.

Saturday, August 29

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Students explore local eats at Taste of Portland

From local restaurants to big name businesses, the variety was endless

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Nothing draws more student crowds than the promise of free food, and that is exactly what occurs at the Annual Taste of Portland last Wednesday. Food trucks and booths gathered to show off their stuff while students milled about to sample foods of several different vendors. A success in the past, this year was no different. The Wishcamper lawn outside the Glickman library never smelled so delicious.

Portland’s food community is more alive than ever, sizzling its way into 8th place in The Huffington Post’s “Best Restaurant Cities in the Nation” by the Huffington Post. These tasty hidden gems often hide around busy streets in the Old Port. Taste of Portland helps to change that, offering students accessibility to foods and businesses they might otherwise not have known about.

“Most of our business is students,” he explained. “We deliver fast too, people are always surprised. We’re the best pizza in Portland!”

Navid Rohani, a junior Human Biology major, disagreed. “I think Otto’s Pizza was scrumdellyumptious,” he exclaimed. Rohani believes Portland has one of the best food communities in the U.S. Every year, USM hosts a welcome week for students with several events. The Taste of Portland event was part of this series. At the first Taste of Portland in September 2013, Chris O’Connor, the director of Portland Student Life, talked about the events formation.

“One of the things we think about when we plan USM events is that students love free food, and Portland is known for this food truck phenomenon. Student love these food trucks so this year we thought ‘why not try something different?’ and it’s been widely more popular than we could’ve imagined.”

Lily Denmeade, an undeclared freshman from Vermont but heard about the quality of Portland’s restaurants, which didn’t hurt her decision to go to USM. Denmeade said she’ll continue exploring the cities food options after The Taste of Portland.

“Most of Leonardo’s business is students. We’re the best pizza in Portland!”

Curtis Scott, Leonardo’s Pizza Employee

This year, students sampled food and drinks from Leonardo’s Pizza, Coffee by Design, Kamasouptra, The Marshmallow Cart, and many more. Curtis Scott, an employee of Leonardo’s Pizza, said the event will definitely bring more business to the shop.

“Most of our business is students,” he explained. “We deliver fast too, people are always surprised. We’re the best pizza in Portland!”

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“Most of Leonardo’s business is students. We’re the best pizza in Portland!”

Curtis Scott, Leonardo’s Pizza Employee

Top: Students mill around the different food trucks and booths hoping to taste what Portland has to offer. Bottom: Leonardo’s Pizza serves free slices to hungry passerbys each year at the Taste of Portland

press and have made it to the second round of the entrepreneurial game show, Shark Tank. The episode is set to air in a few weeks, so look for them! The duo has operated out of New York City, where they did very well, but they wanted to get back to Portland.

“The food scene here right now is awesome because it’s still growing,” said Gouzie. “I run into other carts all the time. If you go downtown, you see so many carts, all with so many different options.”

Some of Portland’s most famous food trucks what weren’t in attendance on Wednesday are El Corazón, a trendy Mexican truck, famous for their hot dogs and fish tacos. You can scout them out on Temple or Strong Street. The more nomadic The Muthah Truckah sells an impressive array of sandwiches. Love Kupcakes is extremely popular, vending organic, local cupcakes out of a 1960’s travel trailer. Check out their twitter to see where they’ll be selling their sweets next!

FoodTrucksIn.com is also a great website to help track your favorite trucks throughout the streets of Portland. Maggie Collin, an undeclared freshman,partakes in Portland’s food culture all time. “I support it because it’s just really different from anything else. It’s so welcoming, different, and ecclectic,” she explained. “There are so many choices. In central Maine, you just have Texas Roadhouse.”

So if you’re a USM student, do not hesitate to support Portland’s vivacious and growing food scene. Whether you choose a sit down restaurant or a food truck, you’re sure to have a quality meal. Try some authentic Asian cuisine, test your spicy tolerance with some Mexican, or grab from a large variety of good-old American hamburgers. Portland’s food culture is waiting for you.
Monday, September 14
Pugwash
One Longfellow Sq.
181 State St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15
Eggs & Issues Meeting
Holiday Inn by the Bay
88 Spring St.
Starts: 7:00 a.m. / Ends: 9:00 a.m.

Book Talk: The Painters Panorama
Maine Historical Society
489 Congress St.
Starts: 11:59 a.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16
Half-day Kayak Trip
Portland Paddle
East End Beach
Starts: 9:00 a.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17
Second Annual Art of Giving Gala
O’Maine Studios
54 Danforth St.
Starts: 5:30 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

American Tribal-Style Belly Dancing Classes
Bright Star World Dance
108 High St.
Starts: 6:15 p.m. / Ends: 7:15 p.m.

Artist Talk and Book Signing: Thomas Moser
Maine College of Art
522 Congress St.
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

All Time Low
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Friday, September 18
Free Admission to “Rose Marasco: Index” Exhibit
Portland Museum of Art
7 Congress St.
Starts: 5:00 p.m. / Ends: 7:00 p.m.

Chris Smithere
One Longfellow Square
181 State Street
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 19
Grand Opening of MAMM Celebration
Maine Academy of Modern Music
125 Presumpscot St.
Starts: 10:00 a.m. / Ends: 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20
16th Annual Trail to Ale 10K Race/Walk
Eastern Promenade
Starts: 9:00 a.m.

Portland BBQ & Blues Festival
Maine State Pier
56 Commercial St.
Starts: 4:00 p.m. / Ends: 10:00 p.m.

USA’s television series Mr. Robot has received a 98 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes, leaving viewers lacking negative feedback for a psychologically mind-bending series that uses clever plot pacing and secret layers of the main character that are sure to leave the viewer impressed.

The plot of this series is simple: a computer programmer who worked for a cyber-security firm ends up being recruited by a sketchy underground organization that spends all it’s waking hours dedicated to the destruction of corporate America and greed.

The main character, Elliot, is played by Rami Malek, who you may remember from Night at the Museum or Need For Speed. Malek’s acting performance was so well done, I had a hard time figuring out what Malek may act like in the real world.

Intelligently shy, Elliot deals with problems that most others face at least once in their lifetime – drug abuse, mental health issues, loss. This television series doesn’t have many humorous moments, but you do feel the awkward tension of what it must be like to be Elliot, the philosophical and mentally unstable drug addict who can solve problems faster than the Evil Corp Hacking Company portrayed in the series.

This isn’t a series that you can just play in the background while you do homework for an online class: this show deserves all of your attention. Elliot’s character is relatable and likeable simply because he is a scattered human being dealing with realistic life problems while facing a hacking industry that wants to change the world. He’s a modern superhero, if you will. He hides behind computer monitors and keeps his thoughts enclosed within emotional internal monologues that only you, as the viewer, have the ability to hear.

Clever plot pacing allows this USA television series to take a difficult subject of interest and make it relatable and easy-to-follow. Not only does it have great acting and plot, but it was also very visually striking.

Elliot becomes an important character for the viewer but is often filmed amongst crowds, looking average to the passerby but known to be secretly smart to the viewers. This is worth a watch for anyone that likes complex, mind-bending psychological thrillers that provide you with a desire to create more change in a world where society has the most say.

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

USA Network

The Appalachian Trail runs from Springer Mountain in Georgia, 2,200 miles North to Maine’s Mount Katahdin. This trek of a hike is very popular with young people, but A Walk in the Woods follows two seniors, Bill Bryson (Robert Redford) and his long estranged friend Stephen Katz (Nick Nolte), on their adventure up the Appalachian trail.

Bill Bryson, a retired travel writer, is bored with being old. A Walk in the Woods stresses the fact, spending a sizable amount of time brooding over old age and its setbacks with a funeral scene.

A Walk in the Woods is perfect for when your are at the end of a long day, with an exhausted brain from school and work all day, but still ready for an adventure.

Dr. Eliza Kibbe
Contributor

Anora Morton
Contributor

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MELA
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Can students really afford textbooks in this day and age?

Zachary Abbotoni
Contributor

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, new textbook prices are staggering 104% higher than they were in 1977. This is an astronomical amount which has nearly tripled the rate of inflation within the United States during this time period. This trend of increasing textbook prices is detrimental to students as many are already dependent on student loans and financial aid to pay for schooling. Unfortunately, book companies do not show any signs of lowering their book prices any time soon.

Much like the Pharmaceutical industry, major textbook companies invest in researching professors and schools rather than in the end consumer, the students, who are the ones ultimately using these books.

Unfortunately many universities and the professors within these universities are not price sensitive, and do not consider a books cost when assigning it to students. This can make buying books a nightmare for students each semester.

The biggest bane done by the advocacy group U.S. PIRG stated that the average full time student paid $1,200 yearly on books and other school supplies. This is a massive expense that many students at USM and other college campuses through through student financial struggle with paying for every semester.

Fortunately, there are ways that we as students can combat this rising expense. Students can qualify for a textbook and course material tax credit of up to $2,500 annually. Renting books is one solution that has increased in popularity in recent years, but with renting comes the absence of selling books back at the end of a semester. Some college students have turned to e-books, as they tend to be a bit cheaper than physical books. Other students have turned to torrenting their books online, although it is illegal, it is completely free.

James Suleiman, a business professor at USM, claims that USM should attempt to move towards being a more consumer-friendly university in the issuance of their textbooks. Schools such as Purdue and MIT have a multitude of online educational resources that are available for both students and professors to use outside of their universities. Professor Suleiman has been an integral part in changing the standard way of buying books for classes in previous semesters. Professor Suleiman has solely used online articles for his classes, completely negating the cost of buying a textbook. Professor Suleiman’s MBA 674 class still does not use a textbook.

Although he is required to use text books for his classes, he makes it a point to never use shrink wrapped books, books that have an online access code bundled, so that students will buy them. He uses the books sold and use them back at the end of a semester.

Professor Suleiman is not the only professor at the University of Southern Maine who is striving to diminish what students are spending on textbooks.

Professor Robert Sanford has co-written books that are used within the university, and is currently working on another book which he will use for his ESP 101 class. His goal with these books is to create a product that is both superior in quality and price than the books that are currently in use.

According to students and professors, the textbook market is far from perfect. Fortunately, awareness amongst professors at USM is growing, then professors seem to actively search for books that are affordable for their students. Some, such as Professor Suleiman, seek alternative methods such as using online articles, negating book costs altogether whenever possible.
Semester at Sea

“I’m a 43 years old college student and I’ve never done anything like this before.”

Joie Grandbois-Gallup

In just a couple of weeks I’ll be leaving the country for the first time. My semester aboard the MV World Odyssey of Semester at Sea. I’ve spent the past 10 months raising funds, applying for visas, getting the necessary vaccinations, filling the three months worth of prescriptions, finding someone to care for my cat, organizing a bon voyage party and just to make sure that I had everything I needed for the day that I need to figure out and do for my course work.

I’ve also realized that I don’t own any appropriate rain gear, my hiking shoes have holes in them and all of my underwear has chosen to disintegrate into fabric shreds.

When I was accepted to the program in January of 2015 I could not have imagined that two years later I would still be in the same place. This time period is going so far away and the amount of funds I would need to finance my experience. This time period is going to be so far away from what I’ve experienced in the past.

The adventure is not measured in days and my needs are down to the details (how much shampoo do I buy for my one week of hair wash?)

Of course all of this organizing, sorting and packing as stressful as it may be, is the easy part. What is proving far more difficult are my mental and emotional preparations.

At 43 years old I have never done anything like this before. Okay, 20 years ago I did a few of the “let’s see how far $250 get’s us” road trips which led to living for a time in Colorado and California. I was young with few ties to anything and even though California is 3,000 miles away from Maine there was still so much to be found there. That was easy.

These next weeks and months will require a job, a performance career, my apartment, my home and stepping away from my life to study abroad for three months.

There are definitely moments that I ask myself in the world what is my purpose and how do I do this? What moment of brilliance did I think this was a good idea? Then I remember that I’ll be visiting ten countries which I have never been to before. I’ll be meeting people from all over the world and learning from professors I’d never otherwise have the opportunity to study with. I’ll experience a trans-Atlantic crossing across the equator twice and travel through the Panama Canal. All of these things I will never have the opportunity to do.

And so I pace, and I breathe, and I tell myself that this is going to be the experience of a lifetime and that life changing experiences are often frightening. I know I will be okay and that this is going to be a good experience.

I’ve had various reasons that I decided to study abroad. Some were academic; I am a sustainable business major with an environmental sustainability minor. I know that many of the issues we face when it comes to sustainability are global ones.

While I had certainly studied global issues while at USM I wanted to have a more direct experience of the global view than just that which can be taught in a textbook. Other reasons were personal ones; though I am partially into my fourth decade I’d had little experience with traveling abroad.

I realized that while my life was quite full with school, at the end of it all I was also in need of the most flexible time of my life.

If I was going to step out of my life for a semester now was the time to do it.

What I didn’t know is where I should study. Other than a sattering of French, I do not speak the language. I didn’t even want to be able to attend a school where my studies would be conducted in a language I don’t speak. But I wanted to be able to experience cultures very different than mine. I wanted to see as much of it as possible; especially things that I would not experience of the global view than just that which can be taught in a textbook. Other reasons were personal ones; though I am partially into my fourth decade I’d had little experience with traveling abroad.

I recalled that when I first started at USM my advisor had just returned from teaching in a program during which she spent three months travelling the Pacific Ocean and visiting a variety of countries. When I looked into the program, an International student, intensive study in classes with a global perspective, and the fall 2015 voyage, the one I’d be applying for, visited ten different countries in three months.

I approached my advisor about the program, which she said would be very interesting. I explained that I was thinking about it, and that I’d be interested in potentially attending the program. My advisor endorsed and recommended it as a good program.

Two months later I finally decided to apply for the program. I realized that I had not made up my mind to do this until the last possible minute. I applied for the program, completing the application and submitting it.

Three months later I was accepted into the program and I applied for my visa.

I packed up my life in the city and moved back to my parents’ house in the country. The only things I needed to take care of were making sure my mail was going to my parents and that my cat was being fed. My home is about an hour away from my parents’ house.

I am very excited about my trip but also nervous. I am nervous about the unknown and want to be prepared for the unknown.

I have packed for my trip and am ready to go. I am excited to meet new people and see new places.

I am looking forward to the adventure that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the excitement that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the challenge that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the learning that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the growth that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the experiences that await me.

I am looking forward to the memories that await me.

I am looking forward to the friendships that await me.

I am looking forward to the relationships that await me.

I am looking forward to the evolution that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the possibilities that await me.

I am looking forward to the adventures that await me.

I am looking forward to the discoveries that await me.

I am looking forward to the surprises that await me.

I am looking forward to the wonders that await me.

I am looking forward to the magic that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the enchantment that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the beauty that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the joy that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the happiness that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the peace that awaits me.

I am looking forward to the love that awaits me.
**Weekday Horoscope**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Star Sign</strong></th>
<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ruler</strong></th>
<th><strong>Suggestion</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aries</strong></td>
<td>March 21-April 19</td>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>Be alert for a business opportunity or a chance to show your worth on the job. You gain respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taurus</strong></td>
<td>April 20-May 20</td>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>Enduring excitement is a possibility, but a critical eye could set up roadblocks. Focus on what you love in a partner for best results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gemini</strong></td>
<td>May 21-June 20</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>Fun and games time! Today’s the day to play with the kids (or your inner child) in whatever ways you can all enjoy. Be frivolous!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cancer</strong></td>
<td>June 23-July 22</td>
<td>Moon</td>
<td>Express yourself verbally today. Your mind, tongue and general coordination are keener. Use your mental alertness wisely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leo</strong></td>
<td>July 23-August 22</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>You have much vitality for success today, but strife is possible if you let others “bug” you. Tune out unimportant distractions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Virgo</strong></td>
<td>August 23-September 22</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>Enduring excitement is a possibility, but a critical eye could set up roadblocks. Focus on what you love in a partner for best results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Libra</strong></td>
<td>September 23-October 22</td>
<td>Venus</td>
<td>A friend tries to tell you what to do and how to behave. You're an adult; assert your independence!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scorpio</strong></td>
<td>October 23-November 21</td>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>Today you need to take at least one concrete, definite step toward creating the ideal working situation you have in your mind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sagittarius</strong></td>
<td>November 22-December 21</td>
<td>Jupiter</td>
<td>Someone close to you is dealing with issues of addiction. Encourage a 12-step approach.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capricorn</strong></td>
<td>December 22-January 19</td>
<td>Saturn</td>
<td>Sales people don’t want to hear “No” today. Stand firm and don’t purchase items you don’t need.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aquarius</strong></td>
<td>January 20-February 18</td>
<td>Uranus</td>
<td>You feel critical of people or situations that do not measure up to your expectations. Take one small step to improve your sharing times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pisces</strong></td>
<td>February 19-March 20</td>
<td>Neptune</td>
<td>You have much vitality for success today, but strife is possible if you let others “bug” you. Tune out unimportant distractions.</td>
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**Puzzle**

**Sudoku**

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

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**Cryptogram**

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

PA’G MFAP-JH MEK DEFE AE CKP SY QHK CKHRV MRGA PS CIH. GQH TES’ A ARVH PA JDP SY IETS. And here is your hint: K = R

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**Crossword**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Across</strong></th>
<th><strong>Down</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ornamental vases</td>
<td>1. Cephalopod Sea feeder</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Not suitable</td>
<td>2. Baseball, e.g.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Blake or “Dracula” fame</td>
<td>3. Who played the character of Aragorn?</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Early 19th century English hat</td>
<td>5. Personalization of America</td>
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<td>16. “Suee”</td>
<td>6. An absence of musical skill</td>
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<td>17. Farmland parcel</td>
<td>7. Suffix with robot suffix</td>
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<td>20. Son of Jacob</td>
<td>10. Jewish ritual</td>
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<td>22. Droopy-ears found</td>
<td>12. Composition wise</td>
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<td>23. ___ the better part of</td>
<td>13. The better part of</td>
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<td>24. ___ Small Indian drum</td>
<td>19. ___ the judue</td>
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<td>25. ___ osprey</td>
<td>26. ___ man’s name that means “grand”</td>
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<td>27. ___ Peak, Klimanovich’s highest point</td>
<td>28. ___ the baby, ___ the interior</td>
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<td>29. ___ mont</td>
<td>30. ___ victory</td>
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<td>31. Scout’s rider</td>
<td>32. ___ Scout’s tool</td>
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Students connect at 15th Annual Husky Fest

Last Wednesday, the lawn between Payson Smith and Luther Bonney was filled with students eager to learn more about USM through student information tables, great food and upbeat music at the 15th annual Husky Fest.

For students, the Husky Fest is a way to meet and connect with faculty members and student groups. According to Dean of Students Joy Pufhal, the event is aimed at making connections between student resources in the surrounding community.

“We want them to connect to USM and find ways to be involved that will enhance their skill,” said Pufhal. “What’s important is the experience they gain and the networks they build.”

Over thirty clubs and organizations could benefit from what the Husky Fest has to offer.

“Students will benefit by getting to know all the resources available to USM students, and learn about all the opportunities USM offers,” said Loeurng-Ho, “this event was definitely aimed at making students feel welcomed and I had a fun-filled day.”

Reza Jalali, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs said that this festival offers students a helping hand in the club recruitment process. He explained that most student activity groups are in need of new members all the time. The Husky Fest becomes a platform for active veteran members of groups to find new members to replace them.

“Meeting the new University President and witnessing the excitement that our need students had upon arrival to the campus really proves just how much life this University still has,” he said.

For Pufhal, the ultimate goal of the festival each year is to bring positive energy to incoming students by associating the beginning of a new academic year with the free food, friendly people and the ability to create a community feel amongst students.

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

Students of USM

Hans Nielsen,
Junior Photography major

Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky
Multimedia Editor

Hans is a third year Studio Art major with a concentration in photography. He spends most of his free time taking photos, and hopes to get a job as a full-time photographer after graduation.

He likes to take photos of the ocean, found objects and document interesting things that are happening around Portland. You can see more of his photos on his Instagram at Hans1207.

Do you know any interesting students? Email us:
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