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USM students, who attended the Study Abroad Fair last week, had many options for travel destinations.

**Students gather to weigh options abroad**

**Scott Thistle**

Sun Journal

LEWISTON, Maine — Maine Gov. Paul LePage made a full-on sales pitch for consolidating Lewiston and Auburn into one city during a lunchtime meeting with the mayors of both cities Wednesday.

LePage met with Auburn Mayor Jonathan LaBonte and Lewiston Mayor Robert Macdonald during a visit to downtown Lewiston's iconic hot dog stand, Simones'.

"Man, I would be so pleased to see Lewiston and Auburn become one," LePage told LaBonte and Macdonald as he encouraged them to go to their respective city councils and offer support for an ongoing effort to design a new charter for a combined city.

LePage also agreed both city councils should have some representation in that process and suggested the current six-member charter commission should be expanded to at least 12 people.

"No is not an option," LePage told the mayors.

"I think these two cities would be the strongest city in Maine," LePage said. "They would be the next Portland and you would see 150,000 people around this city in five years."

LePage also offered to come back to Lewiston and Auburn to meet with city councilors on both sides of the Androscoggin River to discuss the issue.

LePage later told reporters the process to merge Lewiston and Auburn should be one that is carefully vetted with public hearings and it should be based on facts and not political rhetoric.

While Macdonald said he fully supports creating a single government for Lewiston-Auburn, LaBonte, who also works for LePage as his director of policy management, is more skeptical.

"I think we would really prosper — we would become a political powerhouse up there [in Augusta]," LePage said.

"I'm 100 percent for it," Macdonald said. "I think this would be the strongest city in Maine."
Professor’s showcase vast knowledge in their field by publishing books

Jimmy MacDonald
Contributor

When we are young, our parents and teachers seem like machines. It seems that the sole purpose of these magical beings is to tend to our various wants and needs. Of course, the reality is that these are people – fellow human beings with ambitions and faults.

Yes, our professors’ goals are to educate us, their students, but much more work and dedication goes into that process than many students are aware of. Here at the University of Southern Maine, we have been lucky enough to have had several professors release books in recent months. Indeed, the writing process for these professors is considered by them to be an invaluable part of who they are as people and who they are as educators.

Professor Shelton Waldrep, a professor of English at USM, recently released a book entitled Future Nostalgia: Performing David Bowie. Professor Waldrep’s book is not a “fan book” or “biography,” but rather an “academic study of influences made on and by David Bowie.”

With his book, Professor Waldrep gives his readers some sense of Bowie’s persona by expounding on the various “masks” David Bowie wore throughout his celebrated career. Professor Waldrep spent two years working on the book, mostly doing so during the university’s breaks. Included in this work were various trips to Toronto in order to see the David Bowie Is exhibition, which similarily discusses the various influences David Bowie had on artists as well as who Bowie’s own idols were. “The students deserve to have new research available to them,” said Waldrep. “Luckily I’ve always had an opportunity to teach things that interest me.”

Having an opportunity to teach things that interest them is a sentiment echoed by the other professors interviewed, including Professor Daniel Martinez, a professor of environmental science at USM, who released his own book, titled Valuing Energy for Global Needs: A Systems Approach, in December 2015.

The book discusses an unbiased method for evaluating the pros and cons of current energy solutions, or fossil fuels, as well as renewable energy methods that have been developed in recent years, such as solar or wind power. As he goes on to explain, this was a project that consumed his “every waking and sleeping moment over the last four years.”

When asked how he managed his time while concurrently writing the book and teaching courses, Professor Martinez gave credit to his colleagues in the environmental science department, stating that they really helped him manage the various responsibilities he had, such as teaching, advising, research, and service.

Professor Jane Kuenz, who is the head of the English department here at USM, is equally well aware of the work associated with being a professor. Professor Kuenz not only teaches courses and works on research, but is simultaneously active in the process of hiring new faculty. Additionally, as she went on to explain, there are almost always requests to “review service work such as manuscripts for journals or press.”

With her co-authors, Professor Kuenz released Strip Cultures in 2015, a book that investigates subjects that have always interested Professor Kuenz, such as surveillance in Las Vegas and how that applies generally to our culture at large. When describing her typical work day, Professor Kuenz remarked, “A professor’s work time includes both the routine and predictable and the occasional and unexpected.”

In addition to her scholarly work, Professor Kuenz spends much of her time on the weekends – when she isn’t grading papers – attending meetings that deal with system-level issues across the University of Maine campuses statewide.

Although a professor’s schedule is hectic and time consuming, whether it is grading papers, doing research and using that research to develop compelling, new scholarly material, one fact is abundantly clear: Our professors are dedicated to being on the cutting edge of their respective fields. They do this for the satisfaction of knowing that they are bringing the absolute best and latest information to the classroom, which their students will benefit from.

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If you walk into Glickman Library, on the first floor, you will see a wall that showcases many of the books that have been published by professors of the university, displaying that their job stretches beyond the classroom, many of whom are constantly doing research and working on their next project.
Potential changes coming to USM after Board of Trustees meeting

Trustees shows their support for International Early College, plans can now move forward

Zachary Searles
News Editor

The Board of Trustees for the University of Maine System held their first meeting of the year, and of the semester, last Sunday and Monday, Jan. 24 and 25, at the University of Maine in Orono. During the meeting, the board voted on matters that will potentially impact the future of USM.

The board gave unanimous support for the plan of a two-year International Early College at USM. With their support, the plan for the early college can now move forward.

The goal of the early college program is to attract international students who are interested in studying at United States colleges. As of now the plan is to get 50 students to enroll, and these students would be housed in Anderson Hall on the Gorham campus.

"We have fantastic opportuni-
ties to grow our university and our state's economy by strengthening our global ties," Glenn Cum-
mings, President of USM, said in an article in the Bangor Daily News. "Our International Early College program leverages our excess capacity and ingenuity to create a new perspective and new resources to Maine."

Students who enroll in the pro-
gram will take 100 and 200 level courses at the university, and the end of their two years, they would graduate with a high school diploma and 2 years of college credit that could then be used to transfer to another college somewhere else.

In his Monday Missive, a week-
ly email blast that goes out to all students, President Cummings thanked all who were a part of making this happen, and men-
tioned that the next step was to get visa destination approvals from the Department of Homeland Security, a process that could take a few months.

In his email, the president also noted that Provost Jeannine Uzzi took a trip to Thailand, Vietnam and Korea to recruit students for the new school and for USM.

"USM’s International Early College program is a creative ap-
proach to bringing new students, new perspective and new resourc-
es to Maine," Gregory Johnson, UMS Academic and Student Af-
fairs Committee Chairman, said in a press release last Tuesday.

The first class of students could be looking to come to USM as soon as the Fall 2016 semester. Any student accepted would be looking at a bill of $36,000, which includes tuition, room and board and other fees.

At the meeting, the Board of Trustees also liked the idea of adding the Muskie School of Public Service at USM to the graduate center that is in the works from Eliot Cutter. Although as of now a specific location has not yet been decided for the graduate center, it will likely be built somewhere in Portland, although as of now the location has not yet been decided.

In the past, Cutter has said there is support for having it on the USM campus, but noted that there is also support for it being somewhere in Portland. According to the Portland Press Herald, Cutter is more focused on finishing the plan, which he will be giving to Chancellor of the University of Maine System James Page in late summer early fall, than on decid-
ing where the center will actually be located.

President Cummings said that Muskie faculty are interested in being a part of the new center, but he also believes that right now the Muskie school is fragile after all the cuts last fall and is still getting back on its feet.

According to President Cum-
mings, the Muskie research center brings in between $20 and $25 million every year.

"We think it strengthens the at-
tractiveness of the (graduate cen-
ter) program if Muskie is united," President Cummings said in a Portland Press Herald article. "They believe they will be better off as part of this graduate center as well."

Chancellor Page also gave his support for adding the Muskie school to the graduate center, claiming that it would be a meaning-
ful addition to the center.

Even though there is no final decision as to where the graduate center will go, President Cum-
mings would like to see it stay on campus.

He noted in his Monday Missive that he will be attending board meetings for the Alfond Founda-
tion, which will provide most of the financial backing for the new graduate center, to answer any questions the foundation’s mem-
ers might have about the center.

“If appropriate, I will reflect the strong feelings of faculty and USM’s student BOT representa-
tives to keep the Center on cam-
pus and include all of our graduate programs,” President Cummings said in his weekly email to all stu-
dents.

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The Board of Trustees showed signs of interest last week at their meeting of potentially adding the Muskie School of Public Service to the proposed graduate center being spearheaded by Eliot Cutter.

COME SEE WHAT’S IN YOUR FUTURE!

Thursday February 11th, 2016
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sullivan Recreation Center
Portland Campus

100 Employers! To see a list of participants go to: usm.maine.edu/job-fair

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Inquire about job opportunities FREE LinkedIn Professional photo! Begin developing professional relationships Networking, Networking, Networking!

Questions? usmcareers@maine.edu

 Campus

February 1, 2016

The University of Southern Maine: Find yourself here.
Could cost of books lead to more theft in campus store?

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-Chief

Going to college is seen as an investment in oneself and in one’s future. Knowledge is power, and with that comes an educated consciousness that forms the foundation of a well-informed democratic society.

However, with a commitment to any major, comes the implied obligation of increasing expensive textbook and other bookstore materials. NBC News reviewed the Bureau of Labor Statistics data that shows that since 1977, textbook prices have increased by 1,041 percent. This trend is three times greater than what natural market inflation normally would allow.

The College Board published its own findings that, on average, a student attending a four-year university will pay $1,250 a year for textbooks and materials alone.

This cost has been mitigated in recent years with the advent of online retailers like Amazon, renting services Chegg.com and Textbookrush, and with clever Google Chrome extensions, such as Occupu the Bookstore, which is an extension that will automatically display six to seven alternative marketplaces for books based on a student’s university’s own bookstore.

Regardless of how accessible responsible price comparison tools are, the reality is that textbooks have now become an inordinate expense because students fall into the special category of captive consumers. This means that little marketplace competition exists because these textbooks are widely adopted by hundreds of universities and colleges, and one book is not the same as another.

Student consumers are then placed in the difficult position of being stuck between a rock and a hard place. Compounding this economic struggle is the uncertainty of whether or not this current trend will continue. All that is clear is that book prices will certainly not drop anytime soon.

With the implementation of a newly revamped security policy, the inescapable reality of increasing textbook prices has been on full display at the USM bookstore for the past several weeks. Officially uniformed USM police guard the entrance of the store with an intimidating authority that seems excessive for a place that sells stuffed animals.

These police officers ask each and every student to leave their backpacks in a series of small, black cubbies before the student can go off to locate his/her $200 McGraw Hill biology book.

Catherine Johnson, bookstore manager, has been part of the USM land campus, has been involved with the university in some capacity for nearly 16 years. She was the one who decided to have a security presence in the store in order to, as she said, “cut down on theft.” Johnson also stated that “most theft is done by non-students,” citing an alleged textbook theft ring operating along the coast.

The bookstore does not necessarily have a way to track these “book lifting” crimes because, according to Johnson, “It is not an obvious thing, it is not something entered into the computer. Seeing people lift books, happens more often than I’d like.”

As far as what kind of profit margin is seen on these high-priced commodities, Johnson said, “We have to have a profit to pay our staff, I’d rather not comment on the profit. But it is probably not as much as most people think.”

The bookstore is not an independent company in the respect that it does not have any affiliation with big-box stores like Borders or Barnes & Noble. However, in her closing statement, Johnson remarked, “We are directly an extension of the school, because we work for the school and for the students.”

If you have gone into the bookstore since the start of the spring semester you may have noticed the new, in uniform, security guard, who will politely tell you to remove your backpack, in hopes that it will cut down on the thefts from the bookstore.
Academic horizons expanding for interested students

USM trying to make it easier for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers to get an education

On Jan. 28, a collection of students and prospective individuals who are interested in attending school at a college level gathered together on the seventh floor of the Glickman library to discuss their options with many different representatives. This event was organized with the association of the Martin Luther King Jr. day of service, and is aimed to assist the diverse changes that USM is seeking in order to further pursue this school as a metropolitan university.

There are some challenges that are more difficult to overcome when entering the United States from a foreign country and Reza Jalali, the coordinator of multicultural student affairs, outlined many of these challenges when asked.

“The greatest challenges seem to reflect the workshops we are offering: Language, cost of education and paying for it, and transfer of degrees from other countries.” Said Jalali, who was present throughout the workshop to answer student questions and emphasize the programs that are being offered. “Others include cultural adjustment and navigating the complex American educational system.”

It is still crucial that although USM is also finding solutions to these problems as well as recognizing them, and Jalali clearly stated with confidence that USM will do their part to assist cultural adjustment for all students who are adapting to a new lifestyle among the community.

“The best ways include changing USM’s culture to be more welcoming to newcomers is by offering courses on issues they seem to be familiar with,” continued Jalali. “For example, classes in Arabic, World religion, international politics, immigration, hiring staff and faculty members, who resemble them, creating scholarships to attract them and retain them, creating a one-stop-shop where immigrants can get their degrees from abroad looked at, evaluated and easily transferred, and so on.”

One example of financial assistance that was present at the workshop was the finance authority of Maine. FAME, as it is abbrevi-ated, did a thorough job at explaining the important steps toward applying for financial aid, what kind of financial aid is available, and how to reduce college costs overall while spending time at USM.

From a national perspective, the amount of diversity in the college classroom is making great levels of progress. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, students that are Hispanic have risen by more than twenty percent since statistics were reported in 2010. This growth has mainly been accountable of students who are attending public four year colleges or universities, such as USM.

The workshop also took time to examine the possibilities of education from a broader perspective: college for families who have young children, and are thinking in advance about how they can afford education once their child reaches the appropriate age. This program is called the NextGen College Investing Plan, and it outlines how parents can open an account with a small start-up fee, and collect financial assistance as years pass with grants that match the money being saved within the account.

Whether you are an immigrant, a refugee, asylum seeker, or just an individual who is concerned about their ability to financially afford college and culturally adapt to the change in surroundings of a new area, this workshop was incredibly beneficial.

Thomas Fitzgerald
Community Editor

Thomas Fitzgerald / Community Editor

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USM Free Press

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Over the weekend, USM’s basketball and track teams played their “Think Pink” game in order to raise money for cancer research. Both teams were encouraged to wear pink to the game, and all proceeds went to the American Cancer Society.

“Our Think Pink events are the athletic department’s opportunity to give back in a small way,” said Assistant Director of Athletics, said. “It’s a small way that we can make a far-reaching effect. Like any university, many of student-athletes have lost a loved one or watched a loved one battle cancer.” The annual events mean a great deal to our student-athletes, and they take great pride in being able to show their solidarity through raising funds and awareness,” Mercedick Bickford, associate director of athletics, said.

The USM women’s ice hockey teams also played games for the Wounded Warriors Foundation over the weekend, selling t-shirts and collecting donations to make care packages that would be sent to soldiers who are currently deployed overseas.

Gov. Paul LePage says Maine should have death penalty for drug dealers

Last Tuesday, Gov. Paul LePage came out saying that he was in support of reinstating the death penalty. This was said just one day after he made comments about bringing back the guillotine, but he clarified that it was only a joke. LePage said that the death penalty should be used in cases of drug trafficking, home invaders who sexually assault the residents and people convicted of murder.

“I talk about people dying (from drug overdoses) every day, but no one wants to hear that,” LePage said during a town hall meeting at Husson University in Bangor. “When I talk about the death penalty even a death penalty for drug traffickers. I want to protect the people of Maine.”

This statement comes just a few days after Gov. LePage said he wouldn’t be giving a State of the Address this year, opting to “stay out of the State’s way” in this year, opting to “stay out of the State’s way” in the State’s way to the state’s law-makers instead.

In the state of Maine, the death penalty has been abolished since 1887.

A new report shows that veterans’ agencies are underfunded

Maine has an estimated 140,000 veterans, and in a new report released last Friday, the report recommended to expand Maine’s Bureau of Veterans Services to better serve those who need it.

The bureau last updated its policy to better serve those who need it. A result of a committee that met five times during this past summer and fall, and its focus was to show how the bureau could be enhanced, not to criticize the work that the bureau was doing.

“We have to increase coordination and communication,” said Rep. Jared Golden, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. “One of the biggest findings was that young veterans were feeling ignored.”

According to Sen. Ron Collins, one of the biggest problems is that young veterans have very little information on the types of services that are available to them.

National

Seventh Republican debate takes place just days before caucus votes

During the most recent Republican debate, which took place on Jan. 28 in Iowa, just days before republican caucus voters will cast their votes, the candidates competing to be the nominee in their party. The debate featured all the remaining candidates except for front runner, Donald Trump, who decided not to participate in the debate.

During the debate Senator Marco Rubio of Florida said that Hill- ary Clinton wanted to put Barack Obama on the Supreme Court, noting that when she was asked about it, she claimed that she would consider it.

Senator Ted Cruz claimed during the debate that millions of people had lost their jobs and, in turn, had been forced into doing part-time work because of the Affordable Care Act. This article put out the next day by USA Today, however, showed that the econ- omy has added millions of jobs since the Affordable Care Act was instated, and that now fewer people were working part-time jobs.

One Oregon protester killed, others arrested

Protests at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon have been going on for weeks, but last week’s group suffered through losses, as one of their members, LaVoy Finicum, was shot and killed and their leader, Ammon Bundy, was arrested. Bundy and others were pulled over by police last Tuesday. Everyone obeyed orders to surrender except for Finicum and Bundy’s brother, Ryan Bundy. At this time it is unclear who shot first, but everyone was killed by Ryan Bundy wounded.

Bundy’s father, Cliven Bundy, said that Finicum died supporting his beliefs. “He was a wonderful man,” he said. “He was a student of the Constitution. He was interested in freedom, and I think he gave his life where he felt it was best.”

State Department holding 22 Clinton emails

Last Friday, the Department of State said that it would not release 22 emails that were sent by Hill- ary Clinton because they contain “top secret” information. The emails total 37 pages in length and were never marked as classified at the time they were sent, but are now being up- graded at the request of the United States Intelligence Community because they likely do contain sensitive information.

The news of the emails not being released comes just three days before the Iowa caucus, and many believe that the news can only hurt Clinton and her chances of getting the necessary votes in Iowa to defeat opponents Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley.

International

NSA documents show that US and UK have been spying on military drones in Israel

A recent report put out by The Intercept shows that American and British spics have been secretly monitoring military drones in Israel. Until now, Israel had refused to even say that they use drones in war, and many say the tracking program completely secret.

Classified documents exposed by Edward Snowden show actual images of Israeli drones in action. The NSA has refused to comment on the authenticity of the files, and the Israeli Embassy has yet to comment on the photos released.

The documents also show that American spies were able to tap into the camera of an Israeli fighter jet and to spy on an Iranian drone.

A town in Northern Italy welcomes its first baby in nearly 30 years

Ostana, a small town in north- ern Italy, has welcomed the first baby born there in 28 years. The baby, Pablo, is the youngest resi- dent of Ostana, and when he was brought home from the hospital, neighbors gathered to celebrate his birth. He is the town’s 85th resident.

“At first I couldn’t believe it was true,” Giacomo Lombardo, the town’s mayor, said. “The news almost shocked me. It’s a dream come true.”

Since about half of the town’s population is seasonal and don’t live there year round, Pablo, his parents and two sisters make up 10 percent of the town’s permanent residents. Ostana residents said they hoped that with the birth of Pablo, more families will decide to have babies there.

Chinese miners rescued after being stuck for 36 days

On Dec. 25, a mine in Eastern China, where 29 people were known to be working, collapsed, trapping the miners 700 feet un- derground. After 36 days, four miners who survived the collapse were pulled to safety last Thursday.

For those 36 days, the miners were relying on food and water that was lowered down to them while rescue workers figured out a plan to get them out.

At least one miner was killed, 11 were able to escape the col- lapse, leaving 17 miners trapped underground. After infrared cam- eras were lowered into the mine, they found four survivors, while the other 13 are considered missing.

All information for this was taken from CNN, Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald and the BBC.

Have any news tips?

Email:
editor@usmfreepress.org

Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log January 18 to January 24

01/18/2016 I Love You Mary Jane

Drug Complaint, Upper Class Hall. Report of the smell of Marijuana coming from dorm room on second floor.

Blood On The Ice

Medical Call, Ice Arena. Gorham Rescue called. Officer and Rescue responded, No transport.

01/19/2016 Kicking Concrete is a No No

Vandalism, Report of damage in the Parking Garage.

Kicking Poo-Box Also No No


Dissecting Frogs Ain’t For The Faint Medical Emergency, Science building. Portland Meducado dispatched for female that passed out.

01/22/2016 Hope You Lived


“He May Have Touched My Bum” Harassment complaint, Student reporting possible harassment, investigated by the officer.

Taking Hits From The Bong


Cypress Hill on Campus

Drug complaint, GS1 parking lot. Officer investigating report of people using marijuana.

01/23/2016 “What? Is this Not a Reasonable Place to Park?”

Motor Vehicle stop, Parking lot P8. Verbal warning issued for operating on sidewalk.

Bogarting: “He Didn’t Puff-Puff-Pass”


01/24/2016 Leave the Funnelling Whiskey to the Seniors


Meth Lab in Anderson

Not pretty enough for Whole Foods: Wayside to the rescue

Food Programs uses multiple methods to eliminate food waste, hunger and loneliness in Portland

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Last Thursday night in Portland, restaurants were about as usual. Oysters were slurred by candlelight, steaks washed down with red wine, and baked stuffed lobsters sat proudly on well-garnished plates. Down in the Deering Community Church basement, amidst a clutter of foldable tables, a feast was also being served.

“Spaghetti with meat sauce, soup, salad. For dessert; blueberry cake,” The menu read, written up on a whiteboard. The night was chilly and guests filed in, stamping the snow off their boots.

“How’s your granddaughter, Carolyn?” someone in a hairnet and apron yells from inside the kitchen. A group of older women huddled around the tea and coffee station discuss the warm winter days we’ve been having.

The meal was put on by Wayside Food Programs, an organization that works to provide food for those in need in the Portland area. They take several creative approaches to offer an alternative to the traditional soup kitchen model. Thursday’s dinner was one of their thirteen weekly community meals, which are scattered throughout the city. Wayside, which operates in a large building off of Walton Street, used to own the Preble Street soup kitchen.

“The soup kitchen was no longer a safe place to bring your children,” said Mary Zvolinski, Wayside’s Executive Director. “This is a way to decentralize that model.”

The community meals offer free meals to people all over the area, with no lines and more food. They also give children, senior citizens and women a friendlier space to congregate.

The community meal at the Deering Community Church was mostly elderly people, with an occasional grandkid running around the tables. Prayer requests were taken at the beginning of the meal, and several guests raised their hands with problems they’d like the group to pray for.

“It’s the same crowd every week,” observed Julie Harrison, the Community Meals manager. “So over time the guests make friends, support each other, have conversations about things that are bothering them.”

Community is a big factor at the meals. People don’t just show up because they are hungry. Some are looking for a sense of belonging. As of 2013, 41% of Wayside’s Food Programs’ guests were seniors. Many of the guests were those who lived alone.

One guest who chose to not disclose her name, “for some of these people, this is the only human contact that they have all day. And that can make the difference between a life and no life at all.” If some of the seniors don’t come to a few meals in a row, the volunteers know to check on them.

After the kitchen volunteers serve the meal, the basement comes abuzz with talk.

“That’s really family oriented,” muses another guest who chose not to disclose his name. “Last week we had Italian fish stew. I’ve never heard of that.”

Portland makes claims to be a “Foodie” city, but can it really be when so many of its residents are starving? The irony seems to be rich when Huffington Post declares Portland to be one of “The 13 Greatest Food Towns in America,” while many people in the city don’t even have consistent access to meals.

Luckily, the Wayside Food Programs is expanding everyday. In 2013, Wayside had provided over 26,000 free community meals. Still, many stereotypes are perpetuated about people who go to these free meals. Zvolinski assures that these beliefs are not true. She explained that some people who go and eat the free meals have a house and sometimes even a car.

“Some people just can’t spare the extra money that week,” she said. “A lot of them have kids. It’s important to ask yourself if you really know what’s going on in their lives. I think there’s a lot more we can do.”

Photo courtesy of waysidemaine.org

Volunteers at the Wayside Food Program cook up a community meal.

See Wayside on page 5
that might not have transportation. The bags are numbered, to help with the frequent language barrier between the truck drivers and the recipients. The packages provide enough food for the individual families for a week at a time.

"I know which ones like their milk," laughed Peggy Drake, whose husband is the pastor of the church upstairs. She volunteers at the Deering Community Church, where the volunteers and guests clearly had known each other for a while.

For some of these people, this is the only human contact that they have all day. And that can make the difference between a life and no life at all."

A Wayside community dinner guest who chose not to be named

The Sundance Film Festival has been off to a great start this past week. The program runs from Jan. 21 to Jan. 31, 2016. This is the 31st year for the festival, after it was renamed when the Sundance Institute took it over in 1985. It grew into a large event over a ten-day-period, featuring international films as well as American films. The number of films and theaters that held screenings in subsequent years has steadily grown as well.

Previous winners include hits such as last year’s Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Dope, and Slow West. In 2014, Whiplash was the big winner of the ten-day-long festival; the year before, it was Fruitvale Station and before that Beasts of the Southern Wild, directed by Benh Zeitlin. Another famous film - directed by Danny Boyle - to make Sundance history is Slumdog Millionaire. This year, it looks like The Birth of a Nation, a film that centers around slave rebellion, could become the next in a long line of Sundance successes. With the festival still in full swing, it might still be early to determine a clear winner to be added to the ranks.

Competition for Birth of a Nation includes: As You Are, Christine, Equity, The Free World, Goat, The Intervention, Joshy, Lovesong, Morris from America, Other People, Southside With You, Spa Night, Swiss Army Man, Tallulah, and White Girl, for the Drama Premiers Category.

This year there are well over 100 films presenting at the festival that make up the lineup of Narrative, Documentary, and Drama titles. With so many diverse titles, some have drummed up both ex-citement, controversy, and divisive reactions in the media. Swiss Army Man - starring Daniel Radcliffe, best known for his Harry Potter fame - had an en- tire theater walk out of the screen- ing for the fact that the movie took itself so lightly, with Radcliffe staring as a literal farting corpse.

The second controversial piece showing at Sundance this year was As You Are, Christine a true events story about a reporter who committed suicide on television that has received a lot of criticism. Christine Chubbuck’s is a cautionary tale of why it is important to understand and treat mental ill- ness before films are marketed in the films. Films like it call to attention why it is important not to overlook indie films.

You are also popular to sit in a theater and enjoy mainstream cinema with its loud action scenes and theatrical love stories, indie films tend to be under appreciated because of their lack of draw to mainstream viewers. It becomes difficult to become a large name actor, director, or other film position when the audience with ac- cess to the films is so small. In a culture built upon sensationalism in the news and in films that are often a dramatic re-telling of past or recent events, indie films become important when they tell the real and honest truth of a story to the viewer.

Lesser known filmmakers don’t stand a chance if their vision isn’t as exposed to the masses as they would like it. That is where so- cial media comes in, when view- ers spread the word at the click of a mouse or the tap of a touch screen. That is where creativity can flourish. Sundance has been the central hub for this creative mindset for many years and is often the first festival any filmmaker might think of when it comes to the best of what to expect. Thirty-one years is a long time to build a reputation.

For the curious film lover or filmmaker who unfortunately could not make it to the festival this year, the Sundance Institute’s website gives more in-depth back- ground information for the 2016 showing, along with a full synopsis. You can also read about the history of Sundance. Whether you are a film buff or like to stay in the know about festivals going on throughout the year, Sundance is an event worth attending.
Rocker reviews: Must see or wait until DVD?

John Rocker
Free Press Staff

13 Hours

13 Hours is a biopic of the events that occurred in Benghazi, Libya in September of 2012 and is directed by Michael Bay. For those that didn’t know what happened in Benghazi, a United States diplomatic compound and avert, at the time CIA annexes were attacked. The story focuses on the CIA contractors (all formerly involved in the Armed Forces) as they do what it takes to survive the horror scenario they were in.

Considering what Michael Bay did with Pearl Harbor, in which he created a fake love triangle story and scattered the events around the story and that’s understandable. However, this ‘Michael Bay-isms’ such as some things were tamer than others, like the explosions were used to show the explosions were used to show the horrors of war, but it does have some flaws. This is definitely one of Michael Bay’s better films in recent years. The main point was to respect the story and those that were involved, and in that case it was a success. If you’re into war movies or have any interest in this film, then you’ll enjoy this film. Otherwise, it can wait. Recommendation: Wait Until DVD/Netflix.

Brooklyn

Brooklyn follows a young Irishwoman named Eilis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan) as she makes the journey from Ireland to the United States in the 1950s. While adjusting to her new life in Brooklyn, Eilis meets a young Italian man named Tony (Emory Cohen), and they develop a close relationship. As this relationship blossoms, Eilis goes back to Ireland, and she realizes that she may have missed her old life in Ireland more than her new life in Brooklyn. This movie can simply be defined as a love story, but it certainly is an effective one. After all, this film did get nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture, and there are plenty of reasons why.

As mentioned, the story is well made and well written. Early on in the film, Eilis is strucken with homesickness, which is conveyed well so that you can feel the emotion that she’s feeling. Perhaps homesickness just a feeling that most people can understand, but there are plenty of other emotions at play here that most people have experienced at some point in their lives, which allows the film to hit relatable emotional notes that makes the story so engaging. What further enhances the story is the fantastic performance of Saoirse Ronan, who makes Eilis’s sincerity feel believable. Really, all the characters feel genuine. Even if certain actors are only in the film for a few short scenes, they commit to their roles and that’s something that can be appreciated. The film also has some humorous moments, which is helpful by the writing. One thing that this film shows is how difficult adapting to a new lifestyle is. Living in Ireland and living in the United States in the 1950s were two different things, and the differences are shown well in this movie. One example is when Eilis and Tony plan on going to the beach and Eilis’s boarding house roommates suggest that she get sunglasses because if she doesn’t, it would look weird. That’s just one of the many examples.

The pacing for this film is also good. The runtime is under two hours, and each scene felt like it mattered to the story and weren’t plodding.

If there’s anything negative to say about this film—and there really isn’t much—it’s the lackluster direction. With how the camera shakes sometimes, it seems like the film was recorded on a handheld camera at points. This is more of a personal gripe than it is legitimate criticism, and it’s a very minor thing. This really didn’t ruin the experience of watching the film, but it is noticeable if you start to pay attention to it very carefully.

Overall, Brooklyn is a charming film with great performances and a good story. If you’re looking for a heartfelt film, then this is the film for you. Recommendation: Go see it this weekend.

February 1, 2016

Arts & Culture

Graduate Studies

Graduate Studies Open House

Monday, February 8
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2nd Floor, Phoenix Center, Portland
(Snow Date: February 10)

Meet renowned faculty from USM’s master’s, doctoral and certificate programs, including Business, Education, Leadership, Fine Arts, Policy, Planning and Management – as well as Public Health, Social Work, Counseling, Biology, Nursing and Occupational Therapy and many others. Refreshments will be served.

Register at: usm.maine.edu/openhouse
Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis and H. Jon Benjamin: one of these men is unlike the others, mostly because this individual has never influenced generations of jazz musicians and hasn’t won the whole world over. The man in question is Jon Benjamin, whose main claim to fame is that fans will come up to him during his everyday life and yell “DANGER ZONE” or something about “phrasing”. Jon Benjamin is a distinctively noticeable voice actor, known for lending his talents to the womanizing and perpetually drunk secret agent Archer on the FX show of the same name, as well as the 40-something fry cook and father of three on the show Bob’s Burgers.

So when someone says that Benjamin made a jazz album, and that none other than Sub Pop Records has agreed to release it, you tend to pay attention. This is the same Seattle-based record label that discovered Nirvana, The Shins, Modest Mouse, Fleet Foxes and others, the list goes on and on. Sub Pop is positioned firmly in the annals of indie rock history, so naturally you would assume that they knew what they were doing with this project that seemed more like a publicity stunt than artistic expression.

Jazz music as a whole seems very esoteric compared to Katy Perry and One Direction (RIP Zayn). At one time, jazz was the music of an entire cultural movement. Jazz was something that came from deep within the musician. Even if you know nothing about jazz music, you can still appreciate the talent and musical merit of the genre. This is not the case with Jon Benjamin’s Well, I should have…* (learned how to play piano).

The album, which clocks in at exactly thirty minutes, opens with a skit called “Deal With the Devil” where Benjamin calls the devil’s hotline in order to sell his soul and become a great jazz pianist. Kristen Schaal answers the phone and transfers Benjamin to the soul-selling division. Schaal is another Bob’s Burgers veteran, also known for her role in the TV series Portlandia. Aziz Ansari as the voice of the antagonistic Devil who tells Benjamin that, “I don’t just buy any soul.”

The best song on the album, is “I Can’t Play Piano, Pt. 3” where Benjamin engages in this hilarious call and response with a genuinely talented saxophone player. Over the single notes and key playing, you can hear Benjamin in the background yelling things like “you can play better than that!”

The whole album is reminiscent of what happens when a five year old plays their grandmother’s piano and thinks that they are as talented as Billy Joel. Except in this case, that child is just a forty-nine year old man from Worcester, Mass. Jon Benjamin, don’t quit your day job, you’re much funnier when you’re nowhere near an instrument.

What caught your eyes and ears this week? Email arts@usmfreepress.org
Gov. LePage is racist, uneducated and needs to leave office

Editorial Team
USM Free Press Team

Gov. LePage needs to be leave office - no questions about it. How can a man who is making and ignorant have even been elected? In fact, why was he even re-elected in 2014?

His political positions are absurd. His decision for pro-life (and taking away a woman’s right to control her body), the criminalization of marijuana, his adamant opposition on accepting Syrian refugees, his uneducated opinion on the use of solar and wind power, his now unimportant opinion on opposing LGTBQ marriage and so many other things. LePage is receiving national attention - and not in a good way.

When a governor like LePage says that of Maine, who is supposed to be leading us - but who is instead inflicting great anxiety and causing the state to go around helping the white women. It’s an issue that needs more education and prevention and so much more than just an apathetic and ignorant attitude. There are many other statements LePage has made that make his constituents cringe, but his drug issues comments have rattled us heavily.

Even more disturbing is LePage’s most recent statement on drug dealers, in which he stated, “Everybody in Maine, we have constitutional carry. Load up your guns and get rid of drug dealers.”

Here stands a man who is supposed to represent our beautiful state of Maine, who is supposed to be leading us - but who is instead inflicting great anxiety and causing the state to go around helping the white women. It’s an issue that needs more education and prevention and so much more than just an apathetic and ignorant attitude. There are many other statements LePage has made that make his constituents cringe, but his drug issues comments have rattled us heavily.

Anarchist Luddite

Enjoy the fruits of your labor when dumpster diving
Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

If you’re poor like me you eat out of garbage cans. Just last night, heading home from the bar a hunger out of garbage cans. Just last night, heading home from the bar a hunger

I wasn’t always this poor but I’ve always been cheap. The fragility of the social structure is like a mirror to the way Yankees alike and with it, a distaste

I remember the priest walking into my room in the dark and starting to construct a book about me. He opened it to the first page and said, “I know what you have done.”

You can choose to stick your whole arm into the bin, but I usually like to keep my upper-arms gunk free.

The American consumer is so huge that he eats billions of perfect food every year. Each time I dump

die or leave meat and sausages but usually like to heat it up a bit first. Someone there’s too much to take for yourself before it will spoil. Some of the vegetables freeze good, but what you are doing to do with 20

You just have to know where to look for it. brian.gordon@maine.edu

Where has the Muse gone? Poets that seek to discover

What I believe most poets are

“Enjoy the fruits of your labor when dumpster diving,” Brian Gordon

I remember the priest walking into my darkened church while my father sung in unison “stay with me, main here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray,” Priest lies face down on the floor before the sanctuary, altar stripped of cloth, candles extinguished, a somber tone to the words. Everything kneels. I stand on the kneeler in order to watch. A minute to myself, a moment to contemplate. A minute to myself, a moment to contemplate.

I have understood immediately the innate specificity of particular poems, poems built with language, but with an attraction that steps above itself other structure, like a shooting star leaving a tail of light behind it. To speak at all of poetry, one should always turn first to Homer. Quite like his contemporaries, Homer’s Odyssey begins with the invocation of the Muse. I sometimes

Sometimes in all words of poetry would begin when it is a recognition that, regardless of the poet’s spiritual perspective, he or she is partaking in a ritual spiritual rite. Poetry is a language, faith in the movement of words, faith in the powers of rhythm and song. The Muse informs Homer not just of this story, from which we might learn and be entertained, but also the manner in which that story must be told. This is not a depiction of the world, and of reality, Homer is offering us. The story is words, and the words find themselves in a different space in the brain, that muscle of the imagination, so close and involved with the brain’s experience of divinity.

Of course, we do not worship the Greek gods any longer (at least, it is not a widespread belief). But the stories exist. She’s right there in the opening line of the Odyssey. She’s right there, any time her name crops up. Why? Because, as T. S. Eliot puts it, “the words makes it so.”

Martin Conte
USM Graduate

I remember the priest walking into my darkened church while my father sung in unison “stay with me, main here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray,” Priest lies face down on the floor before the sanctuary, altar stripped of cloth, candles extinguished, a somber tone to the words. Everything kneels. I stand on the kneeler in order to watch. A minute to myself, a moment to contemplate. A minute to myself, a moment to contemplate.

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Martin Conte, a USM Graduate, writes in a weekly blog as, “an attempt to broaden conversation on, about and through literature.”

To read the rest of this blog post, visit www.burnthewooks.com

i.martinconte@gmail.com

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The Free Press is a weekly student-run newspaper in part with the Student Activity Fee. One copy of The Free Press is available free of charge. Up to 10 additional copies are available for $1 each with all sales at the Free Press, 92 Bedford St., Portland, Maine.
In this week’s Advising Advice column we delve into some common scenarios involving academic placement and help students navigate them.

Scenario One: Dora is a first year student who has not declared a major. She is interested in studying abroad but has not had a chance to only do that later on in college, so she hasn’t brought it up with her Advisor. She thinks she’ll just wait until she’s declared a major and a little further in to start her research on it. What would the advisors say about this?

Blaise: I want my advisees to tell me their whole plan, right from the start. Even if it’s tentative, or they think it’s a silly thing in the future, it’s still important for me to know so I can assist. We can discuss the pros and cons of what they do at this stage.

Scenario Two: Daniel’s friends have told him about their study abroad experiences. The programs they went on are very interesting and unique to them, and Daniel is interested to study abroad. However, he doesn’t know how to start.

Paul: I always advise my advisees to do homework on programs they are interested in. They should discuss with their Academic Advisor before making a decision. This will help them to make an informed decision.

For some students, knowing in advance that they will spend a semester abroad helps steer the course choices they make now. I often recommend that students wait to take Core classes, such as cultural interpretation and international studies, until they are abroad. That way you’ll have greater flexibility in choosing your study abroad program and be able to adapt to a different lifestyle to satisfy this requirement, such as British Heroes: From King Arthur to Superheroes.

So, if you’re interested in studying abroad, here are some tips to consider.

1. Start planning early!
2. Do your homework.
3. Meet with your academic advisor.

You missing a great opportunity. Don’t be missing a great opportunity. Don’t be

Environmental Issues: Give Stormwater some credit

Sustainability and ME

The state of Maine is full of promise in the world of environmental sustainability. We take on many challenges and continuously improve our renewable energy and water use here in our state. This is why sustainability is such an important topic.

We cover various campus student accomplishments and local art and theatre events. We write about USM campus events and highlight the importance of relevant topics happening throughout our campus and the world. Our students, staff, my colleagues, and I all work towards a greener campus. Together, we’re working to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our goal is to reduce our impact on the environment. We do this by reducing our carbon footprint.

We are committed to being constructive or not, only push our staff further in our at-

tempt to provide journalism that is thorough and professional.

In the end, all we can do is ac-
cept these statements and make choices where needed - but it can’t be different from the voices of USM.

Know of any interesting vocabulary words? Email us at editor@usmfreepress.org

Editorial: “I want to continue writing for reasons I wasn’t sure of. ‘We don’t have many copy editors, and the people who do look at content are some of the most hardworking people I know, and they already juggle so many other responsibilities. We just need more copy editors.”

In regards to highlighting mi-
norities on campus, I thought back and tried to recollect the times we had covered such topics. Didn’t we recently write about those topics and highlight these issues? I felt we had, but could think of no example.

“We don’t hide it inside the newspaper,” I stated. “It just simply more felt appropriate to placed in Arts & Culture, or Community’s had insight where you’re coming from. I see your point of view, I understand your frustra-
tion.

For the first time in my life, I felt empowered by the kindness of my own words. In no way was I rude, in no way did I make make me furious, but I such hateful statements without.. to hear someone say such hurtful things about us?”

As the editor, I was hurt by it. So our table felt hurt by this unnec-
essary and malicious comment. As the editor, I was hurt by it. So for us, something, where we feel as if our table and hastily grab an is-
sue, muttering under their breath profanities about how our writing wasn’t weighted on whether we work made me furious, but I such hateful statements without.. to hear someone say such hurtful things about us?”

I was frustrated, unsure as to why I was frustrated, unsure as to why I was frustrated, unsure as to why my words were hurtful. This is a low through with better practices. The new fee was implemented as a more equitable solution that the way to go! However, this fund model which paid for all the costs for stormwater on the sewer bill of business and resi-
dences in Portland. This meant that a large water user, like a hospital, might pay a lot for their sewer debt. The new fee is beneficial, but it will allow Portland to appropri-
ately treat stormwater, and sewer water, reducing the likelihood of over flow, and allowing us to fol-
low through with better practices.

Students are encouraged to look into study abroad programs. There are a great way to have a meaningful international experience with-out delaying graduation.

Want to know more? Go to: https://usm.maine.edu/interna
tional/study-abroad

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Students are encouraged to look into study abroad programs. There are a great way to have a meaningful international experience with-
**Puzzles**

**Crossword**

Across
1. Lip application
5. Flip call
10. Get buzzy
14. "Now me down..."
15. Roy Rogers rival
16. _____ fever (was ill)
17. "Star Wars" drug
19. Annual racing classic
20. Certain whimsical Dutch lithographs
21. Frozen waffles
22. Type of pie
24. Cheese are ______
29. Publisher's department
31. Great Phytohematologist's son-in-law
35. We, in Irish Gaelic
36. "I tell me I _____ a pudding tub"
37. Ferdinand Marcos's wife
39. Honda on the Hill
42. Actress Baraberter
43. Ladies hoops gp
47. Snub _____ type of gun
48. Aragnameter
51. Get out of
52. Signs of danger
54. Muslim's faith
56. vise's placement
62. Cogitate, with "be"
63. Sea science (var.)
66. Canadian revolutionary Louis
67. Show a show again
68. City on the Rhone
69. Is a chatterbox
70. Thursday night future on early NBC
71. Aromatic herb

Down
1. Stick around
2. Statement of resignation
3. _____ in: Threesome
4. Unhumbled belief
5. L.a. _____ channel pt.
6. Period features
7. Abbr. in King Edward VIII's bio
8. Coke's product
9. Old map letters
10. Not muted
11. Fritz or i.d.
12. Ruiz
13. Starfish arms
18. Played in a role
21. Night-school auto
23. Luxo side dish
24. "______-o-meter"
25. McKellen, and Ziring
26. Baby holders
27. Cozy, as a restaurant
28. Fat-substitute brand
29. His 2010 season begins September
31. Take _____ sign
32. "I made you a cookie but I _____.
33. LOO flat line
39. Bjorn Borg, for one
40. Romanian composer Georges
41. Autumn mo.
42. Research fund-er
43. Thousandth of a lit.
44. Thin:
45. Strong-flying nets
50. Garment line
51. Rap or grunge
54. Surf Boarding term "______-a-rama"
55. Led Belch of "Teddybears"
56. Cucumber vegetable
57. Miserly
59. Michael's sister: La__________
60. Awestruck
61. "Flashdance" director Adrian
63. Celestial sphere
64. Molding grade
65. Place for a canal

**Weekly Horoscope**

- **Aries**
  - March 21-April 19
  - You hone in on areas needing improvement. Do keep the critical eye on things or tasks rather than on people.

- **Taurus**
  - April 20-May 20
  - You’re more sensitive to “vibes” at work today and could pick up real (and imagined) feelings from others. Use your perceptions wisely.

- **Gemini**
  - May 21-June 20
  - Focusing only on performance leads to anxiety and feeling inadequate. Relax with the one you love, and good times are likely.

- **Cancer**
  - June 21-July 22
  - Both work and home demand attention today. You find yourself giving support and assistance to other people’s ideas.

- **Leo**
  - July 23-August 22
  - Pleasure, beauty and the desire for a smooth flow in relationships are highlighted. You can’t avoid all conflict.

- **Virgo**
  - August 23-September 22
  - Enduring excitement is a possibility, but a critical eye could set up roadblocks. Focus on what you love in a partner for best results.

- **Libra**
  - September 23-October 22
  - Today you are more aware of your strength, determination, and willpower. A bit of self-indulgence is OK.

- **Scorpio**
  - October 23-November 21
  - Give yourself some quiet time to contemplate. A pet can bring great comfort and help you regroup.

- **Sagittarius**
  - November 22-December 21
  - Your skills at diplomacy or peacemaking may be used today. A feeling for ease and harmony contributes to your effectiveness.

- **Capricorn**
  - December 22-January 19
  - A loved one demonstrates caring and commitment. Your bonds of attachment are strengthened.

- **Aquarius**
  - January 20-February 18
  - Solitude refreshes you. Private sharing will be more rewarding than public interactions or loud entertainment.

- **Pisces**
  - February 19-March 20
  - Pleasure, beauty and the desire for a smooth flow in relationships are highlighted. You can’t avoid all conflict.

**Sudoku**

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 × 9–square grid subdivided into nine 3 × 3 boxes. 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.

**Cryptogram**

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

LCZ RCZYW EBSOEOK JMSJ YZBVXXFSITH ICZYW FCETOQOL VK TQCRQ SH JXXKJCJSYXXH.

And here is your hint:

H = S

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On Tuesday, Jan. 26, tables of study abroad representatives lined the Brooks Center dining hall for a study abroad fair. As you walked farther into the dining hall, pamphlet filled tables with welcoming faces of representatives appeared.

Leading the line of tables was USM’s Office of International Programs where Assistant Director, Kaoru Phillips and coordinator Laura Blanton welcomed students. The Office of International Programs is located in Payson Smith on the Portland campus, but students on the Gorham campus can visit Blanton during her occasional Tuesday availability or make an appointment with the office for more information.

Phillips, originally from Japan, was an exchange student herself when she was in college and cited her experience as a way to broaden horizons, build resumes, enrich cultural experiences.

If she could advise a student who is thinking about studying abroad, she would say to “take advantage of this opportunity the university provides.” There are unlimited resources in the international program’s office and USM currently has exchange programs with universities in five countries including South Korea, Netherlands, Japan and Canada.

Students who participate in these programs will pay USM’s in-state-tuition even if they are an out-of-state student. This allows students to utilize not only financial aid, but the scholarships they have received as well. Financial aid is always a resource for students who are eligible.

In the Presidential Dining Hall on Tuesday night was Dilara Isik, a Senior from Radboud University in the Netherlands. She is abroad in an exchange program with USM, and led a talk that aimed to encourage students to participate in the exchange program. Part of Isik’s requirement for her major in American studies was to come to the United States and found that doing so was very accessible possibility.

Isik pointed out that there are some distinct cultural differences compared to the Netherlands. The way people speak is more “direct” and although people are incredibly polite, those who visit the Netherlands, or any foreign country, should be prepared for the differences in speech, behavior and mannerisms.

It is common for students to experience culture shock while abroad, but USM and providers of study abroad programs have a team of people who help with pre-departure and many have residential staff on location for emergencies and concerns.

A representative for CAPA the global education network specializes in study abroad programs in large, was present at the event, and described that urban environments like Sydney, London, Shanghai and Buenos Aires, ensures that studying abroad helps students “understand who are as a person in a global world.”

Many representatives of study abroad at each table on Tuesday night had studied abroad themselves when they were in college. This firsthand knowledge and experience better provided students with useful information.

A representative for American Institute for Foreign Study found her experience abroad to be none like any experience before.

“Personally, my experience was one of the most enriching experiences of my life,” she said. “Experiencing a new culture opens up a new world allowing you to possess a new perspective. It is very holistic.”

Businesses are often looking for students with international experience and studying abroad is a perfect resume builder. Professionally and academically, studying abroad can enhance and open up possibilities while also enriching every aspect of your life.

Students of USM: Matthew Raymond, junior history major

Meaghan Gonsior
Free Press Staff

Matthew Raymond is driven by a passion for prison reform and for him, it’s personal. During a class taught by USM Professor Leroy Rowe, Ray mond, a third year history major in political science minor, came to a pivotal crossroad.

“A course on mass incarceration has opened doors within my heart that I thought would remain locked forever,” said Raymond. “My newfound ability to empathize with inmates of Maine has even extended to my own father, whom I have been estranged from for ten years.”

Professor Rowe encouraged Raymond to reach out to his father who is currently incarcerated at the Bolduc Correctional Facility where he earns less than a dollar per hour doing manual labor.

Raymond says initiating communication with his father has been “an emotional rollercoaster,” but he’s gained a better understanding of the man. Raymond plans to complete a law degree and go on to become a Criminal Defense Attorney. His goals include working with impoverished individuals as a court-appointed defense, abolishing the use of solitary confinement as punishment, and raising the prisoners’ minimum wage to one dollar per hour.

“Students at USM are often not as confident about their abilities, but with a little perseverance, we can change the way society works,” said Raymond.

Solitary confinement punishment stands out as a critical issue for Raymond. Prisoners may be sentenced to months or years in solitary, even without a clear reason.

“The U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture condemned solitary confinement as inhumane, and degrading treatment. The APA has also found that solitary confinement exacerbates mental illness, which leads to an increase in violent behavior and self harm. These are the many reasons why Mainers must call for the abolition of solitary confinement.”

Want to list your event? editor@usmfreepress.org
Nouchanthavong buzzer-beater secures third straight win

The USM men’s basketball team defeated Plymouth State Wednesday night 75-73, in a contest that saw senior Jose Nouchanthavong (Westbrook) score 31 points, including a pull-up jumper as the clock expired. With the win, the Huskies improve to 5 and 3 in conference play. USM will host Colby College on Tuesday night.

USM “Think Pink” event held Saturday, Jan. 30

USM hosted its annual event this past Saturday, collecting donations and raising awareness for cancer research. The men and women indoor track and field teams, as well as both basketball teams, wore pink during their home competitions. All proceeds from the events went to the American Cancer Society.

Gibeault sets PR for second time in seven days

Junior Molly Gibeault (Brooklyn, Connecticut/Woodstock Academy) vaulted 11 feet-9 3/4 inches (3.60 meters) Friday night to set a new personal best for the second time in the past week. Her vault was good for ninth place out of 36 competitors at the Boston University John Thomas Terrier Classic.

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Photo courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons

USM united in response to Gordon discrimination

By: Nick Beauschesne
Sports Editor

Last year was the first in decades that the University of Southern Maine did not face Gordon College in some form of athletic competition. This year and for years to come will be the same, so long as Gordon maintains its position on religious grounds concerning membership of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) community.

Gordon’s stance on this issue was diametrically opposed to that of the USM community, an institution that identifies certain “practices governed by Scripture.” Outlined in its conduct code are prohibitions with no form of protection for those members of the LGBTQ community, particularly those within the LGBTQ community, that, it says, “will not be tolerated in the lives of Gordon employees based on their sexual orientation.”

While Gordon’s leadership has not been known to hide their position, the situation was not recognized until well after Gordon College in some form of athletic competition. This year, the USM men’s basketball team defeated Plymouth State Wednesday night 75-73, in a contest that saw senior Jose Nouchanthavong (Westbrook) score 31 points, including a pull-up jumper as the clock expired. With the win, the Huskies improve to 5 and 3 in conference play. USM will host Colby College on Tuesday night.

In a letter addressed to Gordon College President Lindsay, and later shared to the USM student-body and faculty, Cummings articulated the findings of the task force, as well as the official position of USM:

“The (the task force’s) strong recommendation is that we continue the decision of last year to suspend our participation with Gordon College in regular season sporting events,” Cummings said in the letter. This decision, now made, will not be one that is redressed on a year to year basis, though it has been for the past two years since Lindsay first signed the letter to President Obama requesting the religious exemption. When asked about whether USM’s decision is one that will continue beyond this school year, Cummings was unequivocal:

“Our position will remain intact and hold for so long as Gordon College maintains its position in terms of discrimination against any minority groups on its campus.”

The group consensus, according to Beane, was overwhelming in its support for those members of the USM community that identify as LGBTQ. The task force, having compiled its collective decision, then reported back to President Cummings with its findings.

In the letter, Gordon College Col-lege for the 2015-2016 year. “We had discussed the matter in depth when the announcement by Gordon College first took place in the summer of 2014. It was, administratively, not without its challenges,” said University of Southern Maine athletic director Al Beane. “We had regular season contests scheduled against Gordon for that fall, and cancelling competition on such short notice has its own issues. In the end, though, we knew that we were making the right decision.”

Since then, Gordon College’s position has remained the same. President Lindsay has since spoken out about initiatives at his college to prevent harassment of students, particularly those within the LGBTQ community, there is a feeling that, without taking the stance that we have, we would be implicitly accepting the position of Gordon College,” President Cummings said.

That sentiment influenced the decision made by Cummings to seek input from the USM athletic department, under the leadership of Beane. The athletic department organized a collection of administrators, coaches, and student athletes to form a “task force,” whose job it was to convene on the matter and report back to the president.

“The task force was composed of twelve individuals that came together and shared their thoughts and concerns on the matter,” said Beane.

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