MINERVA

a publication of

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

2003

The College’s First Graduates
The “Honors Campus”
The Inauguration!
The Honors College

Charlie Slavin, Director

MINERVA

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Annus Mirabilis

For the past six years, I have been fortunate in a number of ways. I have interacted with many incredible students and many dedicated faculty members while directing the University of Maine’s Honors Program and, as of 1 August 2002, The Honors College at The University of Maine. In addition to teaching, I have also had the opportunity to present several lectures each year in the Honors 201-202 sequence, The Sciences and Western Culture.

Two talks I presented several times were based upon the readings in the Newton and Einstein “weeks” of Honors 201 and 202, respectively. Both Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein are often described as having a so-called “annus mirabilis” or “miracle year” (you now know at least 50% of my Latin vocabulary). For Newton, the year was 1666 (or alternatively, the anni mirabili of 1665-67, though, in fact, probably neither ascription is entirely accurate), when he is said to have developed both the differential and integral calculus, created his theory of light and color, and provided a physical explanation based on universal gravitation for Kepler’s Laws of planetary motion. In Einstein’s case, in 1905, he indeed did publish three extraordinary papers, on Brownian motion, the photoelectric effect, and special relativity. Thus, Newton and Einstein each, in an annus mirabilis, provided the impetus to revolutionize the entirety of the physical understanding of our universe.

A common element in my theses for both of these talks was that the paradigm-shattering work was done, or at least crystallized, outside of the contemporary academic setting. Newton was sent home when Cambridge University was closed on several occasions because of the plague. From 1902 through 1908 Einstein was employed at the Swiss Patent Office. I argued that a certain distance from the “received view” was necessary to allow for the expression of the genius we now see in each annus mirabilis.

The analogy is not exact, but I think of this past academic year, 2002-03 as an annus mirabilis for Honors at The University of Maine. As you will read in the pages that follow, the nature of Honors significantly changed during this year; that change encompassed structural modifications, curriculum innovations, and enhanced academic and cultural opportunities. Truly, it has been a revolutionary time. And while not outside the academic milieu, I like to think that The Honors College provides opportunities for students and faculty to explore innovative and non-traditional approaches to education, ideas that often find their way into other academic settings across campus.

We are off to a tremendous start, and we are equally excited about the future. I hope we can share some of that enthusiasm with you in this first issue of Minerva, the annual publication highlighting the graduates and news of The Honors College at The University of Maine.
CONTENTS

The Honors College
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

4 Honors College Inauguration

6 Living and Learning
A Glimpse of our "Honors Campus"

10 Academics
New Curriculum, Newer Technologies, & The Honors Read

14 Traditions
TIAA-CREF Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecturer and the Rezendes Ethics Initiative.

16 Alumni & Friends
Mentoring, Thesis Project, & Giving Thanks

18 Travel
The Library of Congress & NCHC in Salt Lake City

20 Student Profiles
Meet the graduating Class of 2003!

www.honors.umaine.edu
Our honors college would offer UMaine students the best of both stellar academic worlds—the focus, intimacy, and challenges of the best liberal arts schools, as well as the breadth of academic diversity, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and exposure to graduate-level education and populations that are part of a land-grant university experience. Honors Students would hold “dual citizenship” in the college of their discipline and in the Honors College.

- President Peter Hoff 2000

Our society - and its security and prosperity - depend on citizens of peoples, cultures, and conditions, and who have the skills with others, use technology effectively, complete projects successfully.

One way we intend to provide that experience is through expansion, by the way—to create an Honors College. This college will draw students from across the disciplines. The curriculum and format will be that they could find anywhere. Honors will integrate academic program like this exists in Maine.

- President Peter Hoff 2001
The transformation of our venerable Honors Program into a full-fledged Honors College this year represents a cornerstone of our focus on quality. Along with the strong academic programs in each of our colleges, The Honors College sends a message to prospective students that they can have as challenging and productive an academic experience here as at any college or university in the country—and at a fraction of the cost.

- President Peter Hoff 2002
Every summer first-year college students across the country wait anxiously for the information about their roommate(s). They lose sleep worrying about what s/he will look like, act like, and even smell like! They wonder about study habits, social habits, and if they will become lifelong friends.

Honors students at UMaine have the same worries about their roommate(s)-to-be, but if they
choose to live in Honors Housing in Colvin Hall or Balentine Hall they know they have at least one thing in common with their roommate(s) and everyone else in the building: Honors.

Since the Fall of 1999, dedicated Honors Housing has been offered as an option to students in The Honors College (then the Honors Program). Starting with the 38 spots in Colvin Hall, overwhelming interest encouraged expansion to portions of Stodder Hall in Fall 2000, where another 75+ Honors students created another living-learning environment. With the Class of 2007 entering this year, Balentine Hall became an Honors residence, creating 80+ more spots of Honors Housing at UMaine. While many of our Honors students continue to live in Stodder Hall and all across campus, the proximity of Balentine Hall to Colvin Hall provides tremendous opportunities for synergy.

The students in Honors Housing represent all years and a cross-section of majors from every college on campus. Both of the Resident Assistants in Balentine Hall and also the Senior Resident Assistant in Colvin Hall are members of The Honors College; they are trained to deal with a variety of problems and issues facing our undergraduate students. The collaboration between The Honors College and Residence Life and Programs has strengthened the living-learning atmosphere of Honors Housing.

This atmosphere is conducive to socializing, studying, and building friendships while simultaneously offering these similarly-motivated students support, beginning with their first-year Honors preceptorials and progressing through the writing of their Honors theses. The same philosophy of multiple perspectives as a key part of life and learning that is grounded in the Honors experience is supported in the Honors residence environment.

It is not a requirement to live in Honors Housing while a member of The Honors College. The Thomson Honors Center in Colvin Hall and the Honors programmatic spaces in Balentine Hall are open to all Honors students twenty-four hours a day. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this “Honors Campus” as a place to study and socialize, bringing together all members of the Honors College community.
In 1998 the University of Maine and its Honors Program launched an exciting venture in designing, building, and populating a complete living-learning facility for the Honors community. The expansion of the Memorial Union and the age of the original Thomson Honors Center precipitated the decision to demolish the original Center (http://www.honors.umaine.edu/community/photoalbum/demolition.htm) and to renovate historic Colvin Hall as a new home for both the Thomson Honors Center and a residence for Honors students. Colvin Hall, named for Caroline Colvin, Ph.D., chair of the History Department from 1906 to 1932 and the first Dean of Women at the University of Maine, was built in 1930 and previously served as a residence hall for approximately 40 students.

Renovations began in Colvin Hall in the Spring of 2000. The work on the first floor, the Thomson Honors Center, was completed in April 2002. The Center is a true multipurpose facility that blends tradition with innovation. Classes are held each day in the Professor Mel Gershman Seminar Room, the Class of 1953 Studio-Classroom, and the Class of 1955 Thesis/Reading Room. The staff is housed in the Professor Ulrich Wicks Office Suite. Students and faculty interact informally in the Professor Cecil J. Reynolds Library, the Leitch Commons, and the Bodwell Cafe-Conference Room. Through a collaboration with the Department of Art, each year a student is awarded the opportunity to exhibit artwork in the Professor Ronald Levinson Gallery.

The Honors Center is the hub of our living-learning endeavors. All students in the Honors College have access to the Center on a twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week basis. Students can take advantage of the comfortable working spaces, the microwave and coffee maker in the cafe, and the computers and tv/vcr/dvd units scattered about. Additionally, wireless internet access is available everywhere in the Center. There is always something going on!

The Honors College continues to work toward completing the renovations of Colvin Hall, which will include restorations of student living spaces on the second and third floors. A makeover of the basement to include a common area, a kitchen, television lounge, and laundry facility will be completed in the Spring of 2004. Plans for a renovated fourth floor call for a visiting scholar's suite named for Senator Margaret Chase Smith and the Professor Oscar Remick Student Forum.
Balentine Hall, the oldest residence on campus, was built 15 years before Colvin Hall in 1915 and re-opened in the Fall of 2003 as a dedicated, co-educational Honors residence after almost 90 years as an all-women’s residence hall. Certainly one of the most elegant buildings on campus, the opportunity to partner Balentine with Colvin Hall as the second part of the "Honors Campus" is an exciting venture. With the first-phase of a three-phase restoration project complete, Balentine Hall now houses approximately 85 Honors students as the second in our family of Honors Living/Learning facilities.

Honors preceptorials are held in the beautiful sun-room on the south end of the building and the adjoining vintage common room maintains the grandeur of the original building style while providing comfortable space for meetings and studying. Echoing the model developed for Colvin Hall, Honors College students may use these common spaces along with the basement of Balentine on a 24/7 basis.

Students are busily planning ways to make use of the spacious basement areas. Ideas include a library/study space, an art studio, a music room, a dark room, and/or a recreation room. A subcommittee of the Honors Student Advisory Board is collaborating with the Hall Governing Board of Balentine to develop a working plan. The fourth floor of Balentine remains unfinished in the first restoration phase but will, in later phases, become office space and conference rooms.

With an eye on maintaining the beauty of the original Balentine Hall, ongoing Honors development efforts seek to support the Honors College portions of the second and third restoration phases and to continue the synergy developing between Colvin and Balentine Halls.
Since 1935, Honors at The University of Maine has developed and maintained a strong interdisciplinary curriculum taught in small and personal class settings. As we made the transition from program to college this past year, revisiting and improving the curriculum was a goal of utmost importance.

When The Honors College was conceptualized, the Director, along with other key administrators, felt that it was important to convey to the University community that we were not merely changing our name but also providing new challenges and opportunities for our students. In 2000, members of the Honors faculty convened to work on modifying the first- and second-year course curriculum. The result is a new four-semester sequence entitled Civilizations: Past, Present and Future.

The core material of the new course sequence involves a chronological trajectory of primary texts (both written and visual) beginning with the ancient Sumerian text Innana, and ending with Noam Chomsky’s On Power and Ideology: The Managua Lectures. The Civilizations sequence stretches over two years, and Honors students enroll in one course per semester, beginning with HON 111 and following up with HON 112, HON 211, and HON 212.

When constructing the new curriculum, the faculty incorporated several new ideas. To provide some time and academic space among the many primary texts included in each course, they instituted one or two interlude weeks in each course. During these interludes, faculty members could spend extra time covering a lengthy text or introduce new material of their own selection.

The faculty also advocated two other major additions. The first was a comprehensive reader on world history that would provide contextual support for the primary texts that are used in the course. The second was the requirement that each semester would include one or two weeks in which the texts would be visual, using either still images or video to explore architecture, art, and film.

The 2002-2003 academic year saw the initial implementation of HON 111 and 112. It was by all accounts a success. This first cohort of Honors College students received the course well, and we had a remarkable 73 percent carryover of first-year students into the second year. Throughout the year, the Honors faculty continued to meet to discuss further syllabus changes, to share what worked successfully in the classroom, and to finish the development of HON 211 and HON 212, the final two semesters of the sequence to be introduced in the 2003-2004 academic year.

Currently, several faculty members are working on a proposal for an Honors Science sequence. This new sequence would provide an opportunity for Honors students, particularly outside the fields of science and engineering, to explore an integrated approach to studying science in keeping with the Honors College philosophy of active learning in small class settings.

**GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND HONORS**

Perhaps the most significant change that accompanied the new Honors College curriculum, instituted in the 2002-2003 academic year, was the agreement that all Honors students, upon completion of the Honors core curriculum (the Civilizations sequence along with an Honors tutorial), will have met a very significant portion of the University's general education requirements. These include the Human Values and Social Contexts, Ethics, college composition, and writing-intensive outside-the-major requirements, but exclude the mathematics and science requirements.
The Honors College has been working to make use of current technologies to better serve our students. The fall of 2003 became the inaugural semester for our *Civilizations* CD-ROM a project which included the assembly and distribution of required and supplemental course material on disc.

The Honors College website also grew and developed along with the College. It now includes a virtual open house, online copies of all our sample curricula, and a searchable database of all the theses written in Honors since the first four were completed in 1937. A subsite is dedicated to the four courses that make up the *Civilizations* sequence. We have tried to provide as much information as we can to help our students, alumni, and visitors stay up-to-date and informed.

www.honors.umaine.edu/civilizations

Along with the six computers distributed throughout the Honors Center, students and faculty also have access to laptop computers, projectors, digital cameras, and printers. These resources have enabled members of the Honors community to work more efficiently, communicate more effectively, and have more fun. Future plans include developing an alumni email service, streaming lectures online, and expanding our electronic thesis database to provide full-text capabilities.

Recently, we have introduced wireless internet service throughout the Honors Center. This also benefits of some connectivity on the upper floors of Colvin Hall as well as the basement areas. The plan is to provide the same service in the classroom and Honors College common areas of Balentine Hall prior to the start of classes in Fall 2004. This connectivity provides students and faculty more flexibility for presentations and classes as well as greatly increasing the internet capacity of these areas.
For ten years, from 1992 through 2002, the University of Maine chose a Class Book. This initiative, beginning with Stephen Jay Gould’s *Hen’s Teeth and Horse’s Toes* and ending with Stephen King’s *Hearts in Atlantis*, provided first-year students with a common intellectual focus. In addition to its use in English 101, other faculty members were encouraged to use the Class Book in their courses, and administrators from academic affairs to student life were encouraged to incorporate the Class Book in programming and campus events. Since the impending passing of the Class Book initiative coincided with the inauguration of the Honors College, we chose to introduce the Honors Read to capture some of the energy and excitement of the Class Book and to provide a common intellectual experience for incoming Honors students.

Feeling strongly that the Honors Read should be chosen by Honors students, I instituted the Honors Read Tutorial in the Spring of 2002. Eight students enrolled; they agreed to develop criteria, read and analyze several of the eight books under consideration, and apply those criteria in deliberations leading to the selection of the Honors Read. The eight books that made the “final cut” were selected during the first meeting of the Tutorial from the fifteen nominated by members of the campus community responding to a call for nominations. These eight finalists formed the reading list for the major part of the tutorial.

Without question, this tutorial, first in Spring 2002 and each year thereafter, has been one of the most rewarding teaching experiences of my twenty-year academic career. The decision is left entirely in the hands of the students (the Class Book was chosen by a committee consisting primarily of faculty members), and they certainly rise to the occasion, knowing that over two hundred students and twenty-five faculty members will be reading the text they select. Their analyses are insightful, their decisions careful, and their discussions appropriate and thoughtful. The high level of respect and professional atmosphere in those classrooms made facilitating the deliberations a true pleasure.

The students in the first Honors Read tutorial chose two books – Alison Wearing’s *Honeymoon in Purdah* which was provided to the Class of ’06 and Jared Diamond’s *Guns, Germs, and Steel* for the Class of ’07. The second tutorial chose Sandra Steingraber’s *Living Downstream* which we will distribute to the Class of ’08 during this summer’s New Student Orientation. This year’s tutorial is currently considering eight nominations for the Class of ’09.

We have asked three of the students in the initial Honors Read Tutorial, Sarah Penley ’04, Isaac Record ’03, and Moira Reilly ’04, to share some of their experiences and reactions. In their words, here are some of the highlights of the experience:

**Selection Criteria**

Our criteria were 1) Universal appeal, 2) easy/ enjoyable read, 3) important message, 4) challenge beliefs, and 5) provide a segue-way into the Honors curriculum. We devoted one or one-and-a-half class periods to developing these criteria, which we settled on fairly easily. Everyone took an active role in class discussions, which resulted in a very positive and successful experience. (Moira)

[The Honors Read] should provide students with an introduction to what Honors is all about and relate to the various readings within the first-year curriculum. In order to spark interest and discussion, it should say something both important and controversial. Our criteria for evaluation were quite comprehensive in defining how a book might be an appropriate Honors Read. But to me, the most important factor in looking at each of the books was the capacity for the reader to develop a personal connection (a relationship, if you will) with the text. (Sarah)

**Meeting with the Nominators**

The books we read were nominated by professors, students, alumni, and other interested parties. All of these people had a deep attachment to the book they nominated. Perhaps the most interesting and most exciting part of the Honors Read is that we invited the nominators to join a portion of our class discussion. It is a rare occasion when such an interdisciplinary group of students and faculty can find anything to discuss, and here was just the solution. The usual power dynamic was shifted: now it was the faculty member who nominated the book who had to convince the class that the book was worthwhile. (Isaac)

**The Tutorial**

Everyone who participated in the Honors
We seldom had trouble enthusiasm about reading in my academic career, but generally left the structure up to us. This freedom resulted in our class being far more discerning in our eventual decisions; we understood not only the criteria we had chosen, but the reasoning behind those choices. We had the freedom to change our minds. (Isaac)

I have never experienced such a high level of freedom to change my reading list. I read and discussed in depth five excellent books and added three more to my reading list. I had the opportunity to develop my critical writing skills in a relaxed environment with positive feedback. I got to know my classmates better, and I now count many of them among my closest friends. (Sarah)

Deliberations
The eight of us debated for hours without resolution. Fortunately, we were able to turn to our “last resort.” We would choose both books for 2002 and for 2003—leaving the next year’s Honors Read tutorial to choose a book for 2004. (Sarah)

Overall impressions
The Honors Read was one of the most rewarding courses of my college career. (Isaac)

It was the best class I have taken at UMaine. (Moira)

I originally signed up for the Honors Read because I found myself slipping out of my habit of reading. I found that classes kept me too busy to do the reading I always meant to do, and so I determined that the solution was to take a class that required me to do some of that reading. Where else could I read great books, meet interesting new faces and perspectives, and wind up with a bunch of new friends? (Isaac)

I came out of the Honors Read with more than a few rewards. I read and discussed in depth five excellent books and added three more to my reading list. I had the opportunity to develop my critical writing skills in a relaxed environment with positive feedback. I got to know my classmates better, and I now count many of them among my closest friends. (Sarah)

A Final Word
As an orientation leader, I had the unique experience of giving incoming students a preview of last year’s Honors Read, Honeymoon in Purdah. Then in the fall, two other students from my tutorial and I gave a brief presentation to the class during their first Honors lecture. It was really rewarding for me to get their feedback about Honeymoon in Purdah, and listen to the discussion they generated. (Moira)

MCA Collaborations
For our first-year students, it is our pleasure to offer a performance event in the fall in collaboration with the Maine Center for the Arts. In the Fall of 2003, for instance, we offered a performance of Othello by the Aquila Theater of London followed by a reception in the Bodwell Lounge. We are proud to be able to offer this opportunity as a welcome for our first-year students and their preceptors to the beginning of their academic expedition. As our fourth-year students prepare to graduate, we celebrate their accomplishments with a spring event where they can interact with their advisors outside of the academic environment and enjoy a quality performance and a delicious reception in collaboration with the MCA. It is our distinct pleasure to support these celebrations for both our new students, just beginning, and also for our graduates, finishing their journey.

Visit the MCA at http://www.ume.maine.edu/~mca/

I believe that giving students the opportunity to experience these productions is very important in helping students to expand their horizons and appreciate a wider range of artistic expressions.

- Professor Steven Cohn, Honors Preceptor and Professor of Sociology

It’s essential for students studying written texts in the classroom to experience first hand how a text becomes a live performance. This year’s presentation of Shakespeare’s Othello is an especially good example… High School and UIM students watched a nationally renowned company of professional actors bring to life the work of the Western world’s best known dramatic writer, many for the very first time.

- Steven Wicks, MCA Education & Outreach Coordinator & Lecturer in English
“The intense supervision of my Honors thesis was the most important academic experience of my life. My advisor’s personal guidance and insistence that I couple precise research with creative and original thought has served as a benchmark for me for over thirty years.”

Jim Tierney

TIAA-CREF
Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecturer 2001-2002

Jim Tierney ’69 (Political Science)
Thesis: The Presidential Campaign of Eugene J. McCarthy
October 1967-July 1968 (Advisor: Robert Thomson)
Hometown: Lisbon Falls, Maine
Attorney General of Maine, 1980-90; Member and Majority Leader of the Maine House of Representatives; Consultant to state Attorneys General (tobacco, Microsoft, internet privacy); Special Assistant to the Attorney General of Florida for the presidential recount

TIAA-CREF Distinguished Honors Graduate Lectureship

TIAA-CREF
Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecturer 2002-2003

Carolyn Reed ’72 (Chemistry)
Hometown: Farmington, Maine
Director, Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina; Editorial Board of The Annals of Thoracic Surgery; Board of Directors of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery

“It was a wonderful experience! It gave me a chance to feel like I was going to a smaller college with more attention.”

Carolyn Reed

Thanks to

for their generous support
Rezendes Ethics Essay Competition

The Rezendes Ethics Essay competition invites undergraduate students to submit an 8-10 page essay focusing on any ethical issue or idea. A committee of several staff members reviews the essays and interviewed the candidates. The winner receives a $2500 award, along with an original sculpture. This year’s winner was John Bell, a New Media major from Gorin, Maine, who wrote an essay entitled “The Legalization of Physician Assisted Suicide.”

“I must say my positive ‘juices’ get activated when I get the opportunity to meet with some of the Honors College students. I say to myself ‘Yes, Dennis, there is hope.’”
— Dennis Rezendes

Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics 2003

Sut Jhally, Professor of Communication from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Peace, Propaganda and the Promised Land: New Bias in the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict.

Professor Jhally presented both sides of the controversy as well as offered several solutions to the issue itself, while illuminating bias in the media coverage. The lecture was well attended by students, faculty, and community members alike.

“Unless we look at the situations within our world objectively and intellectually, we will instead be driven by our prejudices, our passions, and our ignorance.”
— Sut Jhally

Our heartfelt thanks to Dennis and Beau Rezendes for their initiation and support of the John M. Rezendes Ethics Initiative and the Jacqueline and Dennis Rezendes Honors College Fund as well as their encouragement of all our endeavours.
HONORS MENTORING

One of the newest ventures for the Honors College is the inception of a mentoring program. Because Honors draws students from every college at UMaine, we have graduates in every possible field creating a goldmine when it comes to mentors. The program is flexible, with mentors contributing whatever time and energy they feel they can invest—through the wonders of email, even distance does not have to be a barrier. The University of Maine’s Career Center currently has a mentor program in place, and they have graciously allowed us to tap into their existing database. By flagging the alumni who are Honors graduates, they will enable our current Honors students to choose a match from that pool. Students will make an appointment with Barbara Ouellette, our Coordinator of Student Academic Services, who will contact the alumni/alumna with information on the student. Once permission is received, the student will be supplied with the graduate’s contact information. Some students are looking for only a little guidance, while others may be seeking advice on careers, further education, or internship opportunities. Mentors may be willing and able to provide some internship possibilities or some leads on career choices. This program will be available to all our students, so there is a possibility of mentoring a student from their first year or of mentoring a student later in their undergraduate career. Honors graduates who are interested in participating in the Mentor Program should contact Barbara Ouellette (207.581.3264, barbara.ouellette@umit.maine.edu).

HONORS THESIS ARCHIVES

One of the first initiatives undertaken by the Honors Associates was to build a database which would include the names, graduation dates, thesis titles, thesis advisors, and majors of everyone who graduated from Honors since its inception in 1937. We decided to locate copies of each of these nearly 800 theses, photocopy them on archival paper, and have them bound; thus creating a tangible archive of the work done by the Honors graduates of the University of Maine. With the help of two work study students, photocopying theses began in earnest. We quickly learned that this was an extensive project: not only did many of the theses require special handling due to their color, formatting, or age, (the photocopy repair person spent much time intimately getting to know our machine) but an accurate database of Honors theses required us to coordinate the list of theses housed in Fogler Library’s Special Collections, the list of Honors grads at the Office of Student Records, and our own records. Fogler Library became our portal for binding theses. The day we received our first shipment felt like a birthday! Presents!

As a thank you to the Class of 1958 who supported our project, each of the theses in our library includes a recognition bookplate. Graduates interested in copies of their theses for their own library are encouraged to contact us. We will also be sending out thesis copy request forms soon for your convenience.
We thank these friends who have made substantial contributions to the development and growth of the Honors College.
That’s pretty much the tone of this trip. The staff of the Honors College decided on a “field trip” to Washington, DC with only a few months to plan. The main purpose of the trip was to hold a reception to which Honors alums and UMaine alums would be invited, and to bring some of our current Honors students to Washington, DC to meet with the Alumni/ae, and also to tour the city of Washington, DC. What a time was had by all! The hotel we stayed at was a bit “bordello” like, but fun just the same. It had leopard carpeting and zebra striped robes in each room. It was the tiniest bit scary going into the hotel at first, but then it got better.

The reception was hosted by one of our 1971 Honors Program graduates, Charles Stanhope, who is currently the Director of Development at the Library of Congress. Charles and Emily Cain, a former Honors Associate, arranged all the details, and what a success it turned out to be! What better setting could we be in but the Madison Room in the Library of Congress overlooking the city and the Capital? The best part though, was the mingling of Alumni and current Honors students; it seemed that a good time was had by all. The other scheduled activities for our group included tours of the Pentagon and the Capitol, and a performance by The Capitol Steps. We were all quite surprised that the tour of the Pentagon was still on, because the day we traveled to DC, March 19, was the day that we were officially at war with Iraq. The tour was overwhelming and at times a bit nerve wracking, especially when a soldier boarded our bus with a loaded machine gun! The tour of the Capitol began at Senator Susan Collins’ office and was led by none other than one of our Honors students, Amy Van Der Wende, who was interning for the spring semester the Senators’ office. The performance of Capitol Steps was a great hit with all and a perfect way to end the scheduled activities. The rest of the time spent in DC was left open to each individual. One thing I didn’t hear coming from the group was, “I’m bored, I couldn’t find a thing to do.” It was quite the opposite. This trip was made possible by the funding of benefactors of the Honors College, Bill and Betsy Leitch ’55; a huge thank you to the Leitch’s from all!

- Barbara Ouellette, Coordinator of Student Academic Services and Budget
Twenty-one students joined Charlie, Barbara, Emily, and Sarah at the national conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council held in Salt Lake City for five days starting just before Halloween. Seventeen of the twenty-one students were involved in at least one presentation, some of them more.

Matie Little (Psychology), Alan Sherburne (Biological Sciences), Richard A. Becker (History and Geological Sciences), Isaac Record (Electrical Engineering), and Charlie Slavin, Director, of the Honors College presented Honor Codes and Honors Colleges: Tautology, Contradiction, or ... ? at the National Collegiate Honors Council annual conference in Salt Lake City, 30 October – 3 November. Slavin also was part of a panel on Taking Honors to the Next Level: From Program to College (with Patricia MacCorquodale, University of Arizona, and Steve Wainscott, Clemson University) as part of “Developing in Honors” where he described the history and process at the University of Maine. Also at the conference, Honors student Robin Arnold (Geological Sciences), presented The Honors Experience as a Non-Traditional Student.

Moira Reilly (Psychology) participated in a student fishbowl discussion on Teaching and Learning in Honors. Student bookshelf roundtables were led by Elizabeth Burnett (English) on Terry Tempest Williams’ Refuge and by Nicholas Robertson (Philosophy) on Ludwig Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations. At the Idea Exchange, Amaranta Ruiz-Nelson (New Media and Business) and Jonathan Beever (Philosophy) presented an Online Honors Program Theses Archive and Jonathan Dunn (Electrical Engineering) and Jennifer Merchant (Communication) presented Climbing a Mountain: Honors Reading. Anthony Antonition (Business) and Amy Van Der Wende (Political Science) presented as part of How to Learn Science at an Honors Conference organized by Martin Brock of Eastern Kentucky University.

Honors students presenting at the poster session included Heidi Crosby (Biochemistry): And You Thought Lima Beans Were Bad: Surviving on a Carbon Monoxide Diet; Matthew Jura (Mathematics): Unprovable Truth: A Study of Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorem; Dawn Madore (Sociology): Experiences of Uninsured College Students; and Richard A. Becker (History): The Johnson Dynasty and the Middle Ground.

In addition to attending numerous conference sessions, the students also took advantage of the opportunities that Salt Lake City has to offer and were treated to a wonderful dinner at the Merchants’ home -- Jenna’s family!
WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE:

Jessica Sheldon
2003 Valedictorian
Ecology and Environmental Sciences
Berwick, Maine

Heidi Crosby
2003 Salutatorian
Biochemistry
Orono, Maine

Steven Fellows
2003 Salutatorian
Financial Economics
Rockland, Maine

Adam Burgoyne, ‘04
Goldwater Scholarship
Biochemistry & Molecular and Cellular Biology
Enfield, Maine

Sarah Gamertsfelder, ’05
Glider Lehrman History Scholarship
History
Pembroke, Maine

Justin Bennett, ’03
Outstanding Student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Chemistry
Weld, Maine

Allison Kelly, ’05
Outstanding International Student,
College of Education and Human Development
Kinesiology and Physical Education
Cambridge, Ontario
Canada

LUCAS B. ALLEN
Blue Hill, Maine
George Stevens Academy

Major: Political Science

Thesis Title: Thrasymachean Virtue
Advisor: Michael Palmer

Thesis Description: My thesis consists of an analysis of
the dialogue between Thrasymachus and Socrates that
takes place in Book 1 of Plato’s Republic.

Future Plans: I will be attending Michigan State Univer-
sity, enrolled in the Ph.D. program in political philosophy.

RICHARD ALBERT BECKER
Union, Maine
Medomak Valley High School

Majors: History, Geological Sciences
Activities at UMaine: Alpha Phi Omega; Senior Skull
Society; Geology Club

Thesis Title: The Formation of the Waldoboro Moraine
Advisor: Brenda Hall

Thesis Description: I studied a series of moraines in
the mid-coast region of Maine to determine their inter-
nal architecture and gain a better idea of how they were
formed. A moraine is a linear ridge of sand and gravel
formed at the front of a glacier.

Future Plans: I will be attending UW-Madison and
studying for a MS in quaternary geology. I have not plans
beyond that other than returning to Philmont, doing some
sailing, and earning a PhD at some point.
**Jonathan Beever**  
Cornish, Maine  
Sacopee Valley High School

**Major:** Philosophy  
**Minor:** Latin  
**Activities at UMaine:** Honors College SAB; HGB (Oak Hall); “Ezzy Productions”

**Thesis Title:** Seduction as Postmodern Discourse: Notes from the Pineal Gland  
**Advisor:** Jennifer Anna Gosetti  
**Thesis Description:** What is postmodernism? This has been a question of much debate. My thesis explored the possibilities for philosophical discourse in a postmodern landscape. Studying the works of Soren Kierkegaard, the 19th century Danish philosopher, and Jean Baudrillard, the contemporary French philosopher, I analyzed seduction as the method of discourse in a “paradigm” wherein all referentials are destroyed. Seduction allows a play of aesthetics to characterize discourse and reassert meaning in a landscape devoid of it.

**Future Plans:** After spending part of the summer hiking the Maine section of the Appalachian Trail, I plan to work for a year in the area before heading off to graduate school in philosophy, hopefully in Australia at the ANU.

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**Justin Bradley Bennett**  
Oakland, Maine  
Messalonskee High School

**Major:** Chemistry  
**Activities at UMaine:** Alphi Phi Omega; Tennis Club

**Thesis Title:** Improvement to FT-ICR MS Detection  
**Advisor:** Touradj Solouki  
**Thesis Description:** The instrument that I have been working with, the Fourier Transform Ion Cyclotron Resonance Mass Spectrometer (FT-ICR MS), is capable of distinguishing and identifying a wide range of volatile organic compounds at very low concentrations (about 1 x 10^-18 moles). This capability can be extremely useful in a variety of applications. For example, it could be used in the analysis of breath samples by identifying biomarkers that could serve as early indicators for a variety of illnesses. One of my projects was to design a vacuum chamber heating jacket that would, in effect, further enhance the FT-ICR’s sensitivity. Another project I worked on examined using the FT-ICR MS for differentiation of isomers. Isomers are molecules of identical molecular weight - and, thus, they are very hard to distinguish analytically - but they often have very different reactivities. Both of these projects made the FT-ICR MS a more viable tool for volatile organic compound analysis.

**Future Plans:** Short-term: white water rafting guide, live in the Dominican Republic. Long-term: medical school, practice medicine in Maine.

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**Elizabeth Laurel Jerusha Burnett**  
Orland, ME  
MDI High School

**Major:** English

**Thesis Title:** Bangor Ecofeminism, Narrative, and Refuge: The Rewriting of Subjectivity and the Call to Political Action  
**Advisor:** Susan Cockrell

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**Scott David Carman**  
Medford, Massachusetts  
Medford High School

**Major:** Political Science  
**Minor:** Public Administration  
**Activities at UMaine:** Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science National Honor Society
**Crystal Rose Carr**  
China, Maine  
Erskine Academy

**Majors:** Engineering Physics, Computer Engineering  
**Minors:** Computer Science, Mathematics  
**Activities at UMaine:** Blade Society; Baha’i Club

**Thesis Title:** Design and Implementation of Wideband Amplifiers in SiGe and Discrete Components

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**Ian Michael Chittenden**  
Blue Hill Falls, ME  
Liberty School

**Major:** English

**Thesis Title:** Autumn

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**Advisor:** David E. Kotecki  
**Thesis Description:** This two-part project investigates the obstacles, limitations, and tradeoffs associated with wideband amplifiers. An amplifier is a device that outputs an amplified signal applied to the input. A wideband amplifier is an amplifier that works over a wide range of frequencies. The range of frequencies that the amplifier works over is called its bandwidth. The first part of the project consists of the design, assembly, and testing of a wideband amplifier using discrete components. Discrete components mean that the transistors used are prepackaged as individual transistors. The final discrete amplifier has a bandwidth of 28MHz at a gain of 6.9. The second part of the project dealt with an integrated amplifier utilizing SiGe bipolar junction transistors. SiGe is the material used for the integrated transistors. The final integrated design has a bandwidth of the amplifier is 8.5 GHz with a gain of 6.3.

**Future Plans:** I am going to get a masters degree here at UMaine in Electrical Engineering and then go on and get a doctorate in Electrical Engineering.

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**Advisor:** Timothy Cole  
**Thesis Description:** Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution declares Congress shall have the power “to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.” The meaning of the Commerce Clause is frequently revisited by the U.S. Supreme Court, remains very controversial, and has until recently undergone vast expansion. The study examines monumental Supreme Court cases that expanded the Clause’s jurisdiction at the expense of the states. The project also examines the current Court’s insistence that they are protecting federalism, to justify their nullification of particular federal legislation. Recent Supreme Court decisions have limited the Commerce Clauses reach, and a comprehensive account of the Court’s reasoning in these cases is included. Finally a recent Endangered Species Act case currently being litigated in the lower courts will be examined to determine its likely outcome, given the Court’s most recent **Major** precedents. Overall, the project portrays the current Court’s fundamental shift to protect a more equal federal/state balance, putting Congress back on its heels when passing legislation.

**Future Plans:** This summer I plan to pursue a job in a law firm or research firm. In the Fall of 2004 I shall be enrolled in Law School, preferably in the Boston area. Upon graduation I plan to practice Corporate Law.
**Gene Michael Connolly**  
South Berwick, Maine  
Marshwood High School

**Major:** Computer Science  
**Minor:** Mathematics  
**Activities at UMaine:** Swimming & Diving Team

**Thesis Title:** Distributed Traceroute Approach to Geographically Locating IP Devices  
**Advisor:** Anatoly Sachenko  
**Thesis Description:** My thesis was an investigation of geographically locating computers that are connected to the Internet. The result of this investigation was the proposal of a design that improves upon a commonly accepted method for geographical location of an Internet computer given its unique Internet protocol address. This method examines the host names of each computer that data passes through from an origin computer to its destination for location ‘clues’ (‘BOS’ and ‘LAX’ clues represent Boston and Los Angeles, respectively). This method is generally effective for determining the closest largest city to the target computer, but can fail because not all computer host names contain geographical clues. My method improves upon this by executing this method multiple times from geographically and network diverse computers. The additional information increases the accuracy and certainty of the solution.

**Future Plans:** I plan on pursuing a profession in the field of Computer Science, and possibly returning to school for a graduate education in the years to come.

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**Jennifer Ann Crittenden**  
Skowhegan, Maine  
Maine School of Science and Mathematics

**Majors:** Psychology, Child Development and Family Relations  
**Activities at UMaine:** Psi Chi; Golden Key; Phi Kappa Phi; Alternative Spring Break

**Thesis Title:** Assessing Myths Surrounding Teen Dating Violence  
**Advisor:** Renate Klein  
**Thesis Description:** My thesis project was an exploratory study that involved the creation and evaluation of a teen dating violence myths scale. The scale itself was designed to tap into different types of myths that teens hold about dating violence including myths that minimize the impact of dating violence, exonerate the perpetrator of dating violence and blame the victim. For my study, I administered the scale to teens from three different high schools in Maine. I then used the resulting data to assess the level of agreement with the different types of myths and how that was related to the gender, age, grade, and relationship status of the participants. In addition, I used the results to make suggestions for future versions of the scale as well as possible education efforts that should take place surrounding adolescent dating violence. The scale was created so that educators could have a tool that would measure what teens believe about dating violence and use that information to formulate intervention and education.

**Future Plans:** I plan on staying at the University of Maine to pursue a Masters in Social Work degree.

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**Heidi Ann Crosby**  
Orono, Maine  
Orono High School

**Major:** Biochemistry  
**Minor:** Chemistry  
**Activities at UMaine:** Resident Assistant; Pep Band

**Thesis Title:** A survey of carbon monoxide production by plant roots  
**Advisor:** Gary M. King  
**Thesis Description:** I dug up 14 kinds of plants from a field in Maine, washed them, and used gas chromatography to measure the amount of carbon monoxide (CO) produced by their roots. Legumes such as clover,
lupine, and vetch produced significantly more CO than other types of plants. The CO is probably a byproduct of degradation of organic molecules such as heme and aromatic amino acids. CO production by plant roots has not been recognized before and appears to be important in the global CO cycle. In addition, many soil bacteria are capable of using CO as an energy source and are responsible for taking up about 10% of the total CO in the atmosphere. These bacteria are readily isolated from plant roots, suggesting that the type and abundance of plants may play an important role in determining how much atmospheric CO is taken up by bacteria.

**Future Plans:** I hope to go to graduate school to study geomicrobiology (the overlap between geology and microbiology).

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**Rachel F. S. Dawson**  
Calais, ME  
Calais High School

**Major:** Psychology

**Thesis Title:** Physical Restraint in Child and Adolescent Residential Treatment: An Analysis of Correlates and Predictors  
**Advisor:** Douglas Nangle

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**Aimee Ligaya Dolloff**  
Rumford, Maine  
Mountain Valley High School

**Majors:** English, Journalism

**Activities at UMaine:** The Maine Campus

**Thesis Title:** Internet Use in the Newsroom: Sorting Fact from Fiction  
**Advisor:** Shannon Martin  
**Thesis Description:** By researching mistakes that reporters and editors have made when using the Internet as a source, I developed a pamphlet for reporters to help them determine if a Web site is credible, as well as provided them with a list of basic resources to get them surfing the Web. The Internet is not something to be afraid of, it’s something to have respect for. As long as you’re conscious that all the information out there is not true just because it’s part of a technologically advanced database of sorts and accept that in theory, ALL people have access to the Web, you can learn to use it as a valuable resource.

**Future Plans:** I will be staying in Orono for the summer and continuing to work at the Bangor Daily News where I have been an intern for the past two years. In the fall ... who knows! Ideally I’d like to get out of Maine for a while and write for a newspaper or magazine, preferably in a warmer climate. Eventually I’ll make it to grad school for a master’s degree in a subject yet to be determined.

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**Steven Scott Fellows**  
Rockland, Maine  
Rockland District High School

**Major:** Financial Economics  
**Activities at UMaine:** SPIFFY; ROC; SCAB; Colvin HGB; CSSA

**Thesis Title:** Music, Markets, and Mouse Clicks: Technology and Its Effects on the Recording Industry  
**Advisor:** Thomas Duchesneau  
**Thesis Description:** My thesis examines the economics of the recorded music industry: how it is produced, what affects consumers’ demand for it, and how that relates to the popularity of file-sharing software like Napster. Ultimately I hope to offer a workable business model for the future of the industry that will satisfy the changing preferences of consumers and preserve the integrity of a market based system.

**Future Plans:** I plan (hope) to find a job working as a financial analyst in Southern Maine/New Hampshire.
**JACOB ELLSWORTH FRICKER IV**  
Fairfield, Connecticut  
Fairfield High School

**Major:** Marine Sciences (Biological Emphasis)  
**Minor:** Zoology

**Thesis Title:** The effects of silicate and the exudates of the silicate dependent diatom, Skeletonema menzelli, on the growth rate of the dinoflagellate, Alexandrium tamarense.  
**Advisor:** David Townsend  
**Thesis Description:** I examined the effects of silicate and the exudates of the silicate dependent diatom, Skeletonema menzelli, on the growth rate of the dinoflagellate, Alexandrium tamarense.  
**Future Plans:** I plan on reading what I want, when I want. I am going to go home, spend some time with my friends, go diving, see San Francisco, Chicago, and Chapel Hill, NC. Then I will decide where I want to go and what I want to do. I plan on falling in love then spending however long I have left, in love.

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**JENNIFER LAURA GILES**  
Boothbay, Maine  
Boothbay Region High School

**Major:** Communication Sciences and Disorders  
**Minor:** Psychology  
**Activities at UMaine:** NSSLHA President; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Golden Key; Psi Chi; Tour Guide

**Thesis Title:** Stuttering, Phonology, and Their Possible Interaction in Children Who Stutter  
**Advisor:** Nancy E. Hall  
**Thesis Description:** There is an uncertainty as to whether there is an interaction between stuttering and phonology. My thesis attempts to shed light on the possible interaction between stuttering and phonology in children who stutter. The Covert Repair Hypothesis (CRH) and a case study of a ten year-old boy with no other known problems are the basis of my thesis. A spontaneous language task and three experimental tasks are conducted on the child. Results show a connection between stuttering and phonology and the study provides a new methodology for investigating this connection.  
**Future Plans:** I will be attending graduate school at UMaine studying for a Master’s in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

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**JOSHUA HALLSEY**  
Hudson, ME  
Central High School

**Major:** English

**Thesis Title:** Price  
**Advisor:** Jennifer Moxley

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**ESTHER DOROTHY HATCH**  
Palermo, Maine  
Kents Hill School

**Major:** Mathematics  
**Minor:** Music  
**Activities at UMaine:** Athletes in Action; Jazz Combo; Diving & Swimming Team; Tutoring Math

**Thesis Title:** Discovering Properties of Complex Numbers by Starting with Known Properties of Real Numbers  
**Advisor:** Andrew Wohlgemuth  
**Thesis Description:** I began by looking at what I knew about real numbers, which are the numbers most commonly used by everyone, and tried to find out properties about complex or imaginary numbers from what I already knew about real numbers. I looked at basic mathematical properties (properties of a field), arithmetic prop-
\(\text{PROFILES}\)

**ORSON ANDREW HORCHLER**
Camille St-Saens, Normandy, France

**Major:** Studio Art

**Thesis Title:** From Tragedy to Sensuality: A Narrative of the Artistic Point-of-View

**Advisor:** Michael H. Lewis

**Thesis Description:** My thesis was a multi-media exploration of what it meant to tell stories through art... an attempt to define the artist’s point of view in the world. The physical aspects of my thesis are: - a series of self-portraits, made with pen and charcoal - some illustrated stories, made on Photoshop - 5 songs I recorded with a multi-track recorder. I then worked on putting everything on a website: http://headtechpro.com/tommy2toes/orsonsite/homepage.html

Accompanying that I wrote an essay about the liberating process of storytelling. I also argue, among other things, that empathy, traditionally understood to be the ability which allows the artist, the writer or the singer to create and get inspired, is quite inadequate for the artist. Instead I argue that the ability that we have to find things, animals or people “cute” is a better description of the hierarchical relationship between the artist and the world. The artistic process is one which alienates the artist while also giving him an elevated, privileged view of humanity. I discuss how the artist’s heart needs to break before he can achieve that point-of-view. How he needs to learn to cohabitate with Death and Evil. And I conclude by saying that the artist’s only means of finding happiness is by living a hopeless life of pleasure.

**Future Plans:** Make art, cook, pass my Reiki certification, ride pedicabs (bicycle taxis) around Manhattan, live the good life.

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**KAREN KELLY HUTCHINS**
Salisbury, NH
Merrimack Valley High School

**Major:** Communication

**Activities at UMaine:** Alpha Zeta; Lambda Pi Eta

**Thesis Title:** The Evolution of Motherhood in the Ladies’ Home Journal

**Advisor:** Sandra Berkowitz


I chose to complete a rhetorical analysis because it allowed me to explore how the articles may construct or shape individual and social conceptions of personhood, womanhood, and motherhood. I applied a feminist perspective and Burkean concepts of identification and hierarchy in order to examine the social structure of the public and private spheres and of men and women’s roles within those spheres.

In my analysis, I found that the expectation that women should be mothers and that motherhood should be women’s top priority has persisted over the past 100+ years. The manner in which motherhood is discussed in the Ladies’ Home Journal has shifted since the late 19th century to the present from an explicit discussion of the roles of women to an implicit discussion. Additionally, I found that women and men are being presented with two competing sets of expectations. Today, women are expected to prioritize both work and home. Men are expected to place work as the top priority, while still becoming more involved in the family life. Work and home are unrealistically treated as mutually exclusive spheres.

This was an incredibly challenging, but an extremely rewarding process. I look forward to future research on the subjects of motherhood and fatherhood.

**Future Plans:** I hope to attend graduate school for communication in the fall of 2004. In the mean time, I am
looking for a job, saving money, and enjoying the break from school work!

Jennifer Lynn Jackson
Bangor, Maine
Bangor High School

Major: Marine Science
Activities at UMaine: PLTL; Wilde Stein

Thesis Title: A study of anterior regeneration in three spionid polychaete species
Advisor: Sara Lindsay

Thesis Description: I studied how three species of marine worms are able to regrow their heads and feeding appendages when they are cut off in a lab setting. I looked at rate of tissue regeneration using light microscope images and when the worms would be able to function normally again using scanning electron microscope images.

Future Plans: Applying to grad schools, not sure where yet, maybe Vermont, maybe California? Staying in school as long as I can, then ideally getting a job in indy media, or some kind of progressive publication.

Catherine Marie Joyce
Milo, Maine
Penquis Valley High School

Major: English
Activities at UMaine: The Maine Campus newspaper; creative writing groups, off and on

Thesis Title: Through the Window
Advisor: Jennifer Moxley

Thesis Description: I’m doing a creative writing manuscript - a collection of my poems throughout my college career, in three sections. The first section is sort of my beginning poems, figuring out what poetry is to me. In section two I’m still figuring it out in a more experimental sequence of a mixture of prose and poetry, influenced by William Carlos Williams’s “Spring and All.” Part three is my newer poems, in which I finally begin to realize what poetry is to me and come to terms with my writing process. This is a pretty personal work for me, where the experience and process is the project, I feel, rather than the product.

Future Plans: Applying to grad schools, not sure where yet, maybe Vermont, maybe California? Staying in school as long as I can, then ideally getting a job in indy media, or some kind of progressive publication.

Ryan Richard Joyce
Topsham, Maine
Mount Ararat High School

Major: Biological Sciences
Activities at UMaine: UMaine Pep Band; Health Professions Club; Golden Key Honor Society; Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Thesis Title: Xeroxing In A New Millennium: Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer
Advisor: Mary S. Tyler

Thesis Description: This 2-part project was meant to discover the current status of somatic cell nuclear transfer research (Cloning) and to utilize that information to create an educational multimedia presentation. I first did a thorough literary search that ultimately produced a paper describing the history, science, and ethics of modern cloning science. The second portion of my thesis was creating a multimedia presentation that described the scientific basics and Major ethical arguments for and against cloning. This presentation is targeted for a high school audience that can have little-to-no prior knowledge about the cloning issue. As part of the ethical presentation, I incorporated several interviews that I conducted with people from different professional backgrounds. I’m very proud of the final product and hope to keep improving it over time.
**MATTHEW ANTHONY JURA**
Union, Maine
Medomak Valley High School

**Major:** Mathematics  
**Minor:** German  
**Activities at UMaine:** Alpha Phi Omega; Residents on Campus; Hall Governing Board; German Club

**Thesis Title:** On the Role of Gödel Numbering in Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorem I and Computability Theory  
**Advisors:** James Page and Charlie Slavin  
**Thesis Description:** In 1931 Kurt Gödel proved that there are true statements in any consistent mathematical system such that neither the statement nor its negation can be proven in that system. The basic method employed by Gödel involves driving the metalanguage into the object language of the system to talk about the system itself. Gödel Numbering is the mapping schema developed by Gödel that enabled him to do this. My thesis studies the role of Gödel Numbering in the proof of Incompleteness Theorem I itself and the study of Computability Theory. In the discussion of Computability Theory, an emphasis is placed on Church’s Thesis and then the halting problem as an analogue to Incompleteness Theorem I.

**Future Plans:** For next year, I will be applying for one of the two Associate positions in the Honors College. If that doesn’t work out, I’ll look for a mathematics or language related job with the federal government or travel Europe – Germany and France in particular. I would then like to go on to get a PhD in the fields of mathematical logic and algebra.

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**ELIZABETH ANDREA JUTTON**
Red Hook, New York  
John A. Coleman Catholic High School

**Major:** Psychology  
**Activities at UMaine:** Club Volleyball; Psi Chi Secretary

**Thesis Title:** The Development of Prosocial Behavior in Preschoolers Related to Age, Gender, and Temperament  
**Advisor:** Cynthia Erdley  
**Thesis Description:** Basically I did an experiment with preschoolers at the Child Study Center and Child Development Learning Center on campus where I gave one child new crayons and one child broken crayons and observed their behavior. I then compared sharing behavior to temperament, age, and gender. I found that older children are more likely to share, and that children who are less afraid of strangers, by being rated as higher on approach (one of the temperament scales) are more likely to share.

**Future Plans:** Short-term: Work as a behavioral specialist with children with behavioral disorders. Long term: Gets a Master’s of Social Work and eventually do prenatal counseling with new or teen mothers.

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**SARAH K. KRAUTKREMER**
Bangor, Maine
Bangor High School

**Major:** Business Administration (Accounting)  
**Activities at UMaine:** Institute of Managerial Accountants; Beta Gamma Sigma; Golden Key Honor Society; National Society of Collegiate Scholars

**Thesis Title:** Writing a Successful Business Plan  
**Advisor:** Darlene Bay  
**Thesis Description:** My thesis included two parts. The first part examined elements of a successful business plan and how each business plan should be used as a planning and measurement device. The second part was a busi-
ness plan I wrote for an existing manufacturing company, and the goals and financial forecasts that I expected of the company.

**Future Plans:** Next year, I am attending graduate school here at the University of Maine to earn my Masters of Science in Accounting. After I grad school, I will become a Certified Public Accountant, and work for a CPA firm. Eventually, I would like to own a business.

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**Matie Buchanan Little**
Falmouth, Maine
Falmouth High School

**Major:** Psychology

**Activities at UM:** Psi Chi; Honor’s Code Committee

**Thesis Title:** Parental Marital Quality as a Predictor of Social Competence in Preschoolers

**Advisor:** Marie Hayes

**Thesis Description:** I investigated the effects of parental marital relationships as models for children’s behavior based on the premises of Bandura’s social learning theory. I worked with parents, children, and teachers of the University of Maine’s Child Study Center. My findings suggested that there is an association between marital satisfaction, cooperation, and affect, and children’s anger-aggression, anxiety-withdrawal, and distractibility.

**Future Plans:** This summer I will be taking Spanish classes at the University of Maine. At some point in the next year, I plan on traveling to Spain to explore the country. Upon my return in August of 2004, I will attend the University of Maine School of Law.

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**Dawn Marie Madore**
Medway, Maine
Schenck High School

**Major:** Sociology

**Minor:** Business Administration

**Activities at UM:** Sociology Students for Active Educations

**Thesis Title:** The State of Community Amidst Economic Uncertainty: A Case Study of Millinocket, Maine.

**Advisor:** Todd Gabe

**Thesis Description:** I examined the changes in group participation in Millinocket, Maine since 1990. Throughout Millinocket’s history it has been dependent upon Great Northern Paper for its tax base, and to employ the townspeople. Over the years the newsprint market has become increasingly competitive and GNP has fallen behind. Since 1990, GNP has been bought and sold four times and declared bankruptcy in January 2003. With this increasing economic uncertainty related to Great Northern Paper, I investigated how this uncertainty affected self-esteem, and how self-esteem affected group participation. I conducted this study using a survey instrument and following up with interviews. I found that people are less involved in both social and religious groups, and feel the future of Millinocket is bleak.

**Future Plans:** I plan on staying in the Bangor area for a year or so, and then hopefully moving to Toronto, and after a few years I plan on pursuing a Master’s degree in either Business Administration or Sociology.

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**Jason Higgins Morse**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
FSJ Washburn High School; graduated Findlay High School

**Major:** English

**Activities at UM:** Sigma Tau Delta VP; Maine Review Editor
**Thesis Title**: The Dialectical Images of William Carlos Williams  
**Advisor**: Carla Billitteri  
**Thesis Description**: I used the conceptual model of the dialectical image as defined by philosopher and literary critic Walter Benjamin to read the poetic images of William Carlos Williams’s long poem Paterson.

**Future Plans**: Graduate work at University at Buffalo or fall lobster fishing.

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**JONATHAN CHRISTIAN RABE MOYER**  
Machias, Maine  
Machias Memorial High School

**Major**: Physics  
**Activities at UMaine**: Gamers’ Guild; Karate Club; Animation Club

**Thesis Title**: Stochastic Analysis of the DNA Polymerase  
**Advisor**: R. Dean Astumian  
**Thesis Description**: Nanotechnology is a field of science focusing on creating machines the size of molecules. Such small machines could manipulate individual molecules and allow us to make amazing changes in our bodies and our environment. Nanomachines already exist - the cells, proteins, and enzymes in our bodies can all be thought of as tiny molecular motors. Understanding how biological nanomotors work can therefore be important to developing how artificial nanomotors work.  
One important biological motor is the DNA polymerase, the enzyme that weaves together DNA. The polymerase is interesting because it uses chemical energy (from a molecule called adenosine triphosphate) to make mechanical changes to its surroundings (binding two strands of DNA together). The DNA polymerase also has an intriguing error-checking feature, allowing it to correct mistakes it might make as it moves along.  
My thesis project was writing a program that modeled the weaving and unweaving activity of the polymerase as changes of state in a Markov system. In addition, recent experiments have shown that if you pull on DNA, it tends to unweave in a manner similar to the polymerase’s error checking mechanism. My program was written to help illuminate the nature of this tension induced unweaving.

**Future Plans**: I want to go to graduate school somewhere out west (Washington, Oregon, or California) to study biophysics. My career goal is to become a professor and/or make some important contribution to the young field of nanotechnology.

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**SHEVENELL MARIE MULLEN**  
Etna, Maine  
Nokomis Regional High School

**Major**: Wildlife Ecology  
**Activities at UMaine**: UMaine Pep Band; Marching Band; Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

**Thesis Title**: An analysis, review, and evaluation of methods to quantify snowshoe hare abundance  
**Advisor**: Fred Servello  
**Thesis Description**: Snowshoe hare-Canada lynx population dynamics are well understood in the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska; however, their interactions in the sub-boreal forest of the lower 48 have not been intensively studied. The recent listing of Canada Lynx as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act has prompted further research to understand relationships with their primary food source, the snowshoe hare, in the southern range of their distribution. It is important that snowshoe hare-habitat relationships be identified for particular regions of the United States before critical habitat is designated for Canada lynx because forest practices, structure, and composition differ within the U.S. and from the contiguous boreal forest. Understanding the implications of these habitat differences for hares is essential to lynx conservation. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) began a radio-telemetry study in 1999 to determine the status of lynx in the state of Maine. As part of this effort, information was collected...
about snowshoe hare abundance using winter track and fecal pellet counts to better understand the relationships between hares and lynx. I used the information collected from these surveys to determine habitat use by snowshoe hares and initial trends in hare abundance during the study period. I also reviewed hare density estimates across North America and compared population estimates for hares in Maine to other regions and discussed the accuracy and limitations of different methods that have been used to document snowshoe hare abundance.

I found that hare abundance from this study was greatest in softwood dominated, twenty-year old stands treated with herbicide. Winter hare density estimates ranged from 0.2-4.2 hares/ha and were comparable to studies across the sub-boreal forest. There were an overall increasing number of hare tracks from 2000-2002 in northern Maine. I concluded that fecal pellet counts (using circular plots) were the most accurate and cost efficient method to measure snowshoe hare abundance.

**Future Plans:** Short-term, I have a position working for the USDA Forest Service in California researching fishers. For the long-term, I hope to enroll into graduate school within a year and return back to Maine eventually to find a permanent position as a research biologist.

**Heather Kim Murray**
North Stonington, Connecticut
Wheeler High School

**Major:** Aquaculture
**Minor:** Biology
**Activities at UMaine:** Captain of UMaine Equestrian Team; Alpha Lambda Delta; Phi Beta Kappa; National Society of Collegiate Scholars

**Thesis Title:** Manipulation of the Green Crab (Carcinus maenas) Molt Cycle
**Advisor:** Bob Bayer
**Thesis Description:** My goal was to take a group of crabs and force them to molt by treating them with either saltwater or calcium carbonate solution injections every two or four days. If I could do this, then a consistent supply of soft-shell green crabs would be available for an alternative market to blue crabs. I had no success with the saltwater injections, but the calcium carbonate solution injections yielded significantly higher growth rates than the control, so there is potential that this type of treatment may be successful when repeated using lower concentration solutions and less frequent injections.

**Future Plans:** Work for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and paint houses on Islesboro until August, then move to Juneau, Alaska. Attend their 1-year certificate program for outdoor education and leadership skills, then work as a guide or do other experiential education work. If that doesn’t pan out, continue working for NOAA in Alaska.

**Andrea Marie Nicoletta**
Fryeburg, Maine
Fryeburg Academy

**Major:** French
**Minor:** Child Development/Family Relations
**Activities at UMaine:** Alpha Phi Fraternity; Student Women’s Association; Order of Omega; French Club; Phi Beta Kappa

**Thesis Title:** L’obstacle et le moyen de le surmonter : Le problème inhérent du langage dans La Grande Illusion et Qui Rapportera Ces Paroles? “The Barrier and the Means of Overcoming it: The Paradox of Language in the Grand Illusion and Who Will Carry the Word?”
**Advisor:** Cathleen Bauschatz
**Thesis Description:** My thesis deals with the paradox of language in a World War I film, the Grand Illusion by Jean Renoir, and a World War II play, Who Will Carry the Word by Charlotte Delbo. The central theme is how language is the biggest division between people, but it is also the only method of overcoming this barrier. Both the film and the play deal with this barrier between prisoners interned in camps. In the film, two French pilots are shot down, but the humanity of their captors is depicted on many occa-
sions. The men form friendships based on who they are able to speak with; most of the working-class French men can only speak with each other. Two aristocratic officers form a friendship because the German officer can speak French in addition to his native German, and they both are able to speak English fluently, a tie left over from their wealthy upbringing. Their friendships form and dissolve in very unique ways. In the play, women are interned in concentration camps; 250 are French in a camp of over 1500 women. These women unite through their common language, but also face the barrier of many survivors of the death camps’ horrors: the barrier of silence. They must choose whether or not to speak of the horrors they encountered or to remain silent. These women choose to be witnesses of the terrors they endured and overcome the almost impossible barrier of describing the indescribable. Both authors were survivors of the two wars and used their experiences to write fictionalized accounts at very different times in the world, one in between wars no one wanted to happen, another after the most tragic event in world history.

_FUTURE PLANS:_ After graduation, I am going on a French immersion trip to Quebec City as part of a May Term class. Later this summer, I am working as the assistant director of a children’s theatre camp. I am currently looking for a job either middle of high school as a French teacher. _FUTURE PLANS_ include grad school, possibly in French or Education.

**CAILEEN NUTTER**  
North Berwick, Maine  
Noble High School  

**MAJOR:** Political Science  
**MINOR:** History  
**ACTIVITIES AT UMAINE:** Chi Omega; Maine Outing Club; All Maine Women

**THESIS TITLE:** Raising a Democracy  
**ADVISOR:** Richard Powell  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** In my thesis, I examined what political socialization is. I examined agents of socialization and methods for augmentation. Having observed much political apathy and ignorance, I compiled data and theories to low political participation in the United States as well as levels of cynicism towards government. After addressing the issue, I proceeded to describe socialization’s impact on participation and the relevance to American Democracy and individual citizens. To conclude, I outlined some of my own proposals developed through the research to demonstrate the cumulative effect the project had on me.

**FUTURE PLANS:** My next step is to attend law school.

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**REBECCA LEIGH PALMER**  
Allentown, PA  
Salisbury High School  

**MAJOR:** Elementary Education  
**MINOR:** Natural Resources  
**ACTIVITIES AT UMAINE:** Woodsman Team; Resident Assistant; All Maine Women

**THESIS TITLE:** North Maine Woods Discussion: K-12 Curriculum  
**ADVISOR:** Mary Bird  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** Kindergarten through 12th grade spiraling curriculum based on the current discussion about land use in the North Maine Woods.

**FUTURE PLANS:** I will be moving to northern Maine and teaching.
**JASON ROBERT PARKER**
Belfast, Maine
Belfast Area High School

**MAJORS**: Secondary Education (French), International Affairs (French)

**ACTIVITIES AT UMAINE**: Resident Assistant

**THESIS TITLE**: Violence and Prejudice in International Schools

**ADVISOR**: Phyllis Brazee

**THESIS DESCRIPTION**: I did survey research on the incidence of violence and prejudice in international schools (private schools based on an American/British style education that are in foreign countries). I found that (as expected) these schools were significantly safer than US schools from physical violence, and that they had very low incidence of other violent and bias-related incidents.

**FUTURE PLANS**: I plan to teach French, either here in the US for two years or abroad if I can find a position. I intend to spend the **MAJORITY** of my career teaching in international schools.

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**SARAH ELIZABETH PENLEY**
Holden, Maine
John Bapst Memorial High School

**MAJORS**: Political Science, History

**MINOR**: Canadian Studies

**ACTIVITIES AT UMAINE**: Honors Student; Eta Kappa Nu & IEEE; Honors Council; Honors Student **ADVISORY** Board; The Daily Jolt; Pi Sigma Alpha; Dance Program

**THESIS TITLE**: “Alternative Bias: The Role of the Liberal Alternative Media During the 1991 Persian Gulf Conflict”

**ADVISOR**: Timothy Cole

**THESIS DESCRIPTION**: I propose a new model for evaluating bias in the media coverage of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, one that takes into account the opposite biases of the mainstream and alternative print media. It examines three liberal alternative publications between the dates of December 1990 and April 1991 (Rolling Stone, The Nation, and The New Yorker), as well as the existing literature on the mainstream media. While the mainstream media was biased in support of government policy, the leftist alternative media was biased against it. Therefore, in order to perceive an equilibrium of bias in newsgathering, consumers would have had to read a variety of publications with different political leanings, which is nearly impossible in the span of a normal human’s attention and free time. Still, the presence of the two biases in the media may contribute to the presence of diverse voices within society and thereby strengthen the public dialog.

**FUTURE PLANS**: To get a job/go to grad school/have a family (some combination of the three); and when I grow old, to become an eccentric academic and write papers on strange topics like “the significance of the foot in post-modern literature.”

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**ISAAC LAWRENCE RECORD**
Windsor, Maine
Cony High School

**MAJORS**: Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering

**MINOR**: Philosophy

**ACTIVITIES AT UMAINE**: Honors Student; Eta Kappa Nu & IEEE; Honors Council; Honors Student **ADVISORY** Board; Student Philosophical Society; Phi Sigma Tau

**THESIS TITLE**: Something to Talk About: Interaction as Descriptive Schema

**ADVISOR**: Jim Page, Philosophy

**THESIS DESCRIPTION**: A “conceptual schema” is a model or pattern of ideas imposed on reality or experience. A “descriptive schema” is a conceptual schema used to communicate. Because we use these schemas very frequently, a large amount of our knowledge comes to resemble the patterns implicit in them. Because the received descriptive schema is a linear reductionist model of the world, it is unreflective of the emergent features of interaction; it fatally ignores the class of interactions I term “dynamically stable.” I will introduce and develop a new descriptive schema based on the emergent properties of interaction.
of interaction rather than on the reductive properties of individual entities. I will show how this new schema fills in the descriptive gap left by the current schema. Finally, I will speculate about the implications this new schema has for understanding ourselves and the universe in which we live. In particular, the dynamically stable class implies a hierarchy wherein ecosystems emerge from interactions of biological entities, which in turn emerge from interactions of physical entities.

**Future Plans:** Job, grad school, write the Great American Novel. Not necessarily in that order.

### Nicholas Alan Robertson
Holden, ME
Brewer High School

**Major:** Philosophy  
**Minors:** French; German; Classical Studies

**Thesis Title:** The Grammar of Illusion  
**Thesis Advisor:** Jennifer Anna Gosetti  
**Thesis Description:** I wrote about illusion—the word, its etymology, its use in philosophy, its phenomenological instances, etc. I framed the thesis around Descartes’ *Meditations on First Philosophy*, where Descartes calls upon illusion to justify his radical doubt. Most of the research was informed by my readings of Wittgenstein and J.L. Austin, two 20th century ordinary language philosophers.

**Future Plans:** I’m off to Northwestern for their PhD program in Philosophy.

### Anthony W. Saucier
Bangor, ME
John Bapst Memorial High School

**Major:** Sociology  
**Activities at UMaine:** Senior Skulls; The Maine Campus; Intermural Golf

**Thesis Title:** Bangor and the Powers That Be: A Community Power Structure Analysis  
**Advisor:** Steve Cohn  
**Thesis Description:** My thesis analyzed the process of community policymaking within the city of Bangor. Through in-depth qualitative interviews with about 30 people, I inquired about the guiding issues surrounding the city’s two-century development and more specifically, recent economic growth in the downtown, along the waterfront, at the Bangor Auditorium and throughout the arts and cultural scenes. While analyzing these subjects, I identified pro-growth coalitions as the most effective unit for using economic and social power within Bangor. The remainder of the study focused on determining how individuals start and/or become a part of a pro-growth coalition as well as how these groups work together or against each other in shaping the direction of the city.

**Future Plans:** I’m planning on attending graduate school on the West Coast somewhere or spending the same number of years teaching myself how to surf. I haven’t settled on which yet.

### Jessica Frances Sheldon
Berwick, ME
Berwick Academy

**Major:** Ecology and Environmental Sciences

**Thesis Title:** Sensitivity Analysis of a Nitrogen Cycling Model for a Northern Hardwood Forest  
**Advisor:** Christopher Cronan
ALAN CHARLES SHERBURN
Cape Elizabeth, ME
Cape Elizabeth High School

Major: Biology
Minor: Mathematics
Activities at UMaine: Alpha Phi Omega; University Volunteer Ambulance Corps; UMaine Polar Bears Ice Rink; University of Maine Mentoring Program participant

Thesis Title: Examining Thresholds of Human Vision: The Design of a Biological Laboratory Experiment & Station
Advisor: Len Kass
Thesis Description: Through the use of light emitting-diodes (LEDs), an undergraduate experimental set-up has been designed and created to give students the ability to investigate various properties of their own eyes. By allowing the students the ability to control the intensity of a certain wavelength of light and creating a means for them to quickly switch between different wavelengths of light within the visible spectrum, students will be able to examine the human eye's threshold for light detection, color discrimination and quantitatively examine the phenomenon of dark adaptation.

Future Plans: I have been accepted as an M.D. student to the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry Class of 2007.

MATTHEW THOMAS SKAVES
Orrington, Maine
John Bapst Memorial High School

Major: English (Creative Writing)
Minor: Business
Activities at UMaine: WMEB radio DJ

Thesis Title: Semiotics, Communication, and the Internet
Advisor: Steven Evans
Thesis Description: The thesis compares written signs with non-written signs, such as visual images and music, using the internet as a playing field. When dealing with semiotics (the study of signs) in terms of literary theory, too much emphasis is oftentimes placed on the written word and not enough analysis is granted to non-word-based signs. Hence, this thesis strives in part to make the case that non-word-based signs follow the same semiotic rules as word-based signs, and that there really is little difference between the two with regard to conveyed meaning. A basic semiotic system consists of three parts: a signifier, a signified, and the resultant sign. These three components work together as in the following example. Consider that a man loves a woman and therefore presents to her a bouquet of flowers in order to represent his passion. In this case, the flowers are a signifier representing a signified (passion), and the resultant system, the meaning conveyed, is a sign. That is, you could say the act of communication itself is a sign. Hence, this type of sign, a communicative sign, follows semiotic rules as aptly as a word sign, where for example the signifier “tree” represents a signified (the physical tree) and the two in relation to one another create a sign.

Future Plans: Pursue an MBA...where is still undecided. Make a lot of music and start a record label. Enjoy life

KATHLEEN CARSON SPRAGUE
Bangor, Maine
Bangor High School

Major: Political Science
Minor: Economics
Activities at UMaine: Orientation Leader; ACE Peer Mentor; Tour Guide; Alternative Spring Break

Thesis Title: Visions of War: From Vietnam to the Persian Gulf - The Decline of Objective Television Media
Advisor: Richard Powell
Thesis Description: My thesis examines the role that American television plays in covering war, how this role first came to be during Vietnam and how it has evolved and changed in subsequent conflicts (particularly the Gulf...
War and the War with Iraq. My main focus is the decline of objective television reporting over the past 40 years and how it affects the American public’s ability to understand and formulate political opinions concerning American War.

**Future Plans:** I will be attending Villanova University in the fall to study for a MA in Political Science

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**Michael Joseph Tripp**

Standish, Maine
Bonny Eagle High School

**Major:** Physics  
**Minor:** Mathematics  
**Activities at UMaine:** Society for Physics Students

**Thesis Title:** A Field Study of Airborne and Waterborne Radon-222 in a Southern Maine Home  
**Advisor:** C.T. Hess  
**Thesis Description:** I measured airborne and waterborne radon-222 in a southern Maine home with the goals of determining how radon diffuses in a single room and analyzing radon transfer from water to air. I used two types of electronic detectors to measure airborne concentrations and the liquid scintillation method to determine waterborne concentrations. I collected my data in a second floor bathroom in one house with elevated concentrations of radon on four different days from November 2002 to February 2003. I found the diffusion of radon to depend heavily on the ventilation rate of the room, with concentrations varying with altitude and position in the room. I also found a discrepancy between predicted and measured results of radon transfer from water to air.

**Future Plans:** I plan on obtaining a job after graduation, hopefully in the southern Maine / New Hampshire area. I would like a job in the nuclear field, either in government or industry. I am also getting married in June, so I am quite excited about that. I would like to attend graduate school sometime in the near future as well, maybe get a masters degree in physics.

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**Amanda Ruth Walker**

Milo, Maine  
Penquis Valley High School

**Major:** Political Science  
**Minor:** Communication  
**Thesis Title:** Representing Maine-Women in the Maine State Legislature  
**Advisor:** Dr. Amy Fried  
**Thesis Description:** For my thesis, I studied the impact of gender on representation. Since there are so few women in elective office, there is a common theory in political science called surrogate representation, which means that the women who are serving in office feel a need to represent women as a whole, in addition to the citizens that elected the representative to office. Surrogate representation works not only for women and gender, but for other traditionally underrepresented groups as well. I interviewed the fifty women who are currently serving in the Maine State Legislature to find if they shared this view of representation as well as how gender has impacted their public lives.

**Future Plans:** Next year, I am taking a little break - taking some graduate courses and possibly work - getting ready to enter law school in the fall of 2004.

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**Tobias Nathaniel Ward**

Knox, Maine  
Mt. View High School

**Major:** Anthropology  
**Minors:** History, Geology  
**Activities at UMaine:** Anthropology Club; Student Advisory Board; Honors Council; Colvin HGB  

**Thesis Title:** The Effects of Environmental Disruption on the Moche Culture of Peru  
**Advisor:** Daniel Sandweiss  
**Thesis Description:** A series of devastating El Niño events that led to flooding and significant disruption in
maritime resources. Flash floods devastated the irrigation networks and homes. There were severe droughts in between many of the El Niño events were severe droughts that also frequently reduced agricultural production and disrupted to the lives of the Moche people. The combination of El Niño floods and periodic droughts led to massive deposits of sand sheets one agricultural fields and habitation areas. The Moche State attempted to stem the destruction by moving the position of their sites up the main valleys where the detrimental effects were less significant. The Iconography of the Moche changed during this time in response to the disruption experienced in the lives of the people. Human sacrifices increased dramatically during this time of hardship in vain attempts to appease the angry gods. Political leaders may well have scrambled to divine the source of displeasure/disruption as sacrifices to appease them increased and other symbolism and styles from neighboring areas began to show up in Moche sites. New emphasis was placed on trading in order to procure goods and sacrifices. The radical cultural, social, religious and political changes that took place during the fifth and final phase of the Moche State demonstrate how cultures can try to adapt to extreme environmental hardships.

**Future Plans:** Graduate school at Michigan State

**Nathan Frank Webb**
Manchester, Maine
Maranacook Community School

**Major:** Wildlife Ecology

**Activities at UMaine:** Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society; Xi Sigma Pi Honor Society

**Thesis Title:** Characteristics of Hardwood Stands Used by Black Bears in Maine

**Advisor:** Frederick A. Servello

**Thesis Description:** Long-term research by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggests that beechnuts are important to bear productivity in northern Maine. This research has indicated high use of hardwood stands by bears and it is suspected that this habitat use pattern is linked to the occurrence of American Beech. My objective was to investigate the relationships between forest structure and habitat use by bears. I measured overstory composition, the abundance and size of beech trees, and understory structure in 15 hardwood stands with high levels of documented use by bears and 15 hardwood stands with little documented use. I used a student’s t-test and nested ANOVA on ranks to test for differences between high and low use hardwood stands for 71 habitat variables. Variables with p<0.20 were included in stepwise forward logistic regression analysis to develop a predictive model describing bear selection of hardwood forest stands. Univariate testing identified differences (p<0.05) between high and low use stands in 3 understory variables (total understory food density, hazelnut density, and % total live groundcover), and a total of five variables were included in logistic regression procedures. A model with only % total live groundcover was selected as the best predictor of bear use, with a prediction success of 0.561. The selection of this variable as the best predictor of bear habitat use may be an indication that site-quality factors differed between high and low use stands. These results do not conform to widely accepted theories of bear use of hardwood stands in Maine, but they do provide information for improving future research efforts. Wildlife biologists should continue to investigate the relationships between bear habitat use and forest structure, and patterns of beechnut production should be monitored as forest management in the state continues to evolve.

**Future Plans:** Graduate School at the University of Alberta
Wenyu Zhu
Shanghai, China
Northridge High School, Utah

Major: Computer Science
Activities at UMaine: Association for Computing Machineries; Society of Simple Computers; International Student Association; Golden Key Honor Society; Phi Beta Kappa

Thesis Title: Bioinformatics Data Annotation
Advisor: Thomas Wheeler
Thesis Description: Multidisciplinary research is becoming increasingly popular because of rich insights derived from multidisciplinary collaborations. Through the development of computer systems in research areas, using complex systems for supporting multidisciplinary research is progressively becoming popular. By annotating explanations from biological research and then building conceptual models based on these annotations, one is able to understand the use of such a complex biological research support system. The conceptual model provides the natural graphical representations of notions in the research, which makes it easier for one to explain and explore the central concept of the domain. However, this annotation process is excessive and complex. The thesis, Bioinformatics Data Annotation, first resolves such an issue by building the annotation editor system, and then performs the bioinformatics analysis on a section of the COBRE project proposal by building a conceptual model based on annotations acquired from the annotation editor system.

Future Plans: I am going to work in a Neuroscience Development Lab in UCLA for a year to explore my interest in Bioinformatics, and then go to graduate school Fall 2004 in either Bioinformatics or computer simulation modeling.

Pizza & Jazz!
The Honors College does enjoy parties. A lot. Every fall we make sure to have at least one barbecue on the front lawn to help welcome our new class: cooking burgers (Boca burgers abound as well), playing frisbee, socializing on the grass, and enjoying the last few days of summer. Then we have our MCA collaborations (those are great parties too), our thesis-writing-during-spring-break parties, our end-of-the-semester parties, our annual Honors Celebration the day before commencement (now that's a party!), and the infamous and possibly gratuitous middle-of-the-week-for-no-good-reason-at-all parties. Besides all that, there's always food around, making every day a party.

We have found that, in fact, nothing makes a party good better than jazz. It has been an honor for us to have Professor of History Jay Bregman teaching in Honors, and bringing his jazz saxaphone to several of our parties. Drawing from his time in New York City, Yale, and Berkeley, and accompanied by different talented students, staff, and faculty members each time, "Dr. J" brings to us a sound and a history that is starting to be hard to find.

Pizza and Jazz! Jay Bregman has IT.
At 21 years of age, Jennifer Jackson graduated from the Marine Sciences Program and the Honors College after an impressive three year undergraduate career. Her undergraduate research experience, culminating in her Honors thesis, focused on the regeneration of mudworms, including a molecular hunt for the gene that makes it possible and its implications for human therapy. Jenn’s thesis, written under the tutelage of Assistant Research Professor of Marine Science Sara Lindsay, was entitled “A Study of Anterior Regeneration in Three Spionid Polychaete Species.” Amidst her many recent presentations and graduate coursework, Jenn gave us some of her valuable time to comment on her experience in Honors.

“Honors put me in a lot of situations where I was forced to come up with my own opinions on topics and assert my view points. From my research experiences with Honors I got a better idea of what I was ultimately looking for in a graduate program and that led me to GA Tech. I realized I wanted to work on some very interdisciplinary topics relating biology to both chemistry and physics and that, naturally, led me to the program at GA Tech. The defense of my Honors thesis was probably the most important part of Honors in terms of getting me ready for graduate school. I had to do all this research leading up to the defense, organize it in a logical manner into my actual thesis, and then I had to present it to a committee of scientists who were very supportive but constructively critical of my work. I had to analyze their questions quickly and answer them effectively to convey what I wanted to say. This also forced me to deal with being okay with answering “I don’t know” to a question but giving all the information I did know on the topic. Because my committee members did ask me a lot of questions that even they didn’t know the answer to it gave me a real opportunity to practice quickly trying to compile information I did know into a reasonable hypothesis. The example set by my committee at my defense showed me how to challenge people in an effective and non-threatening way to really make them (and myself) think about a topic. This will certainly help me in my oral examinations within the next year when I am required to defend my proposal for research and demonstrate my understanding of the topics that I want to base my proposal on.”

“Sara was a fantastic mentor and she really allowed room to grow with me from the time I came in as a high school student all the way through the defense of my honors thesis and even today. Having a project that was mine to work on like that really gave me a sense of ownership but I also was gradually able to see what really went into a research experiment and what it took to come up with a new idea that was both interesting to you and interesting to the scientific community at large. When I found a topic that I was interested in, Sara let me run with it and develop the idea enough to propose it to her as a research topic for me to start on. She made me critically think of all the pieces I was going to have to keep track of and added her own thoughts whenever I missed a critical element. She allowed me to make mistakes in my experiments but she never led me the wrong way. She was always understanding and lenient. She made me practice my defense for her, asked me questions to get me ready for the actual day, and was very supportive of me during the defense. What mattered most to me after all of the years working with Sara was that after my defense, when I was sitting in a room waiting for my committee, it was Sara who came and told me that I had passed with Highest Honors and that she was proud of me.”

Jenn is currently a graduate student at the Georgia Institute of Technology studying the chemistry, biology, and engineering of marine organism behavior. In particular, Jenn is conducting research on crab tracking behavior: investigating crabs’ ability to locate an odor source in turbulent water when the signal is being mixed up. She holds a Presidential Fellowship and the GAANN fellowship from GA Tech, and she is President of the Biology Graduate Student Association and a board member of the President’s Council. Jenn has recently presented her research at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography conference in Honolulu. When not in the lab or the field, Jenn finds time to tutor students at a local middle school and coach them in technology competitions.

Thanks Jenn! We are sure your oral exams will go extremely well.