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## McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter\_February 2021

University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center

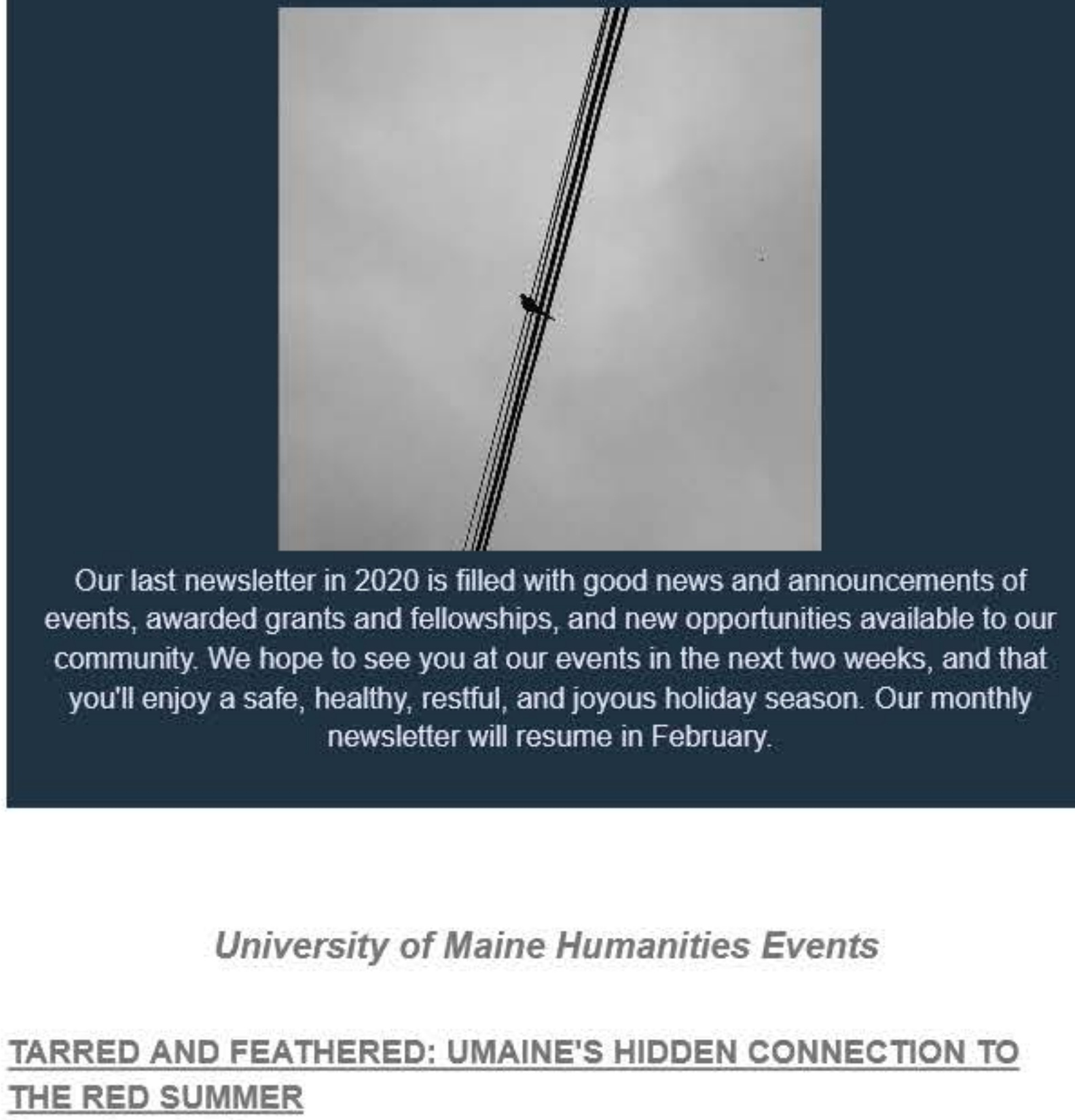
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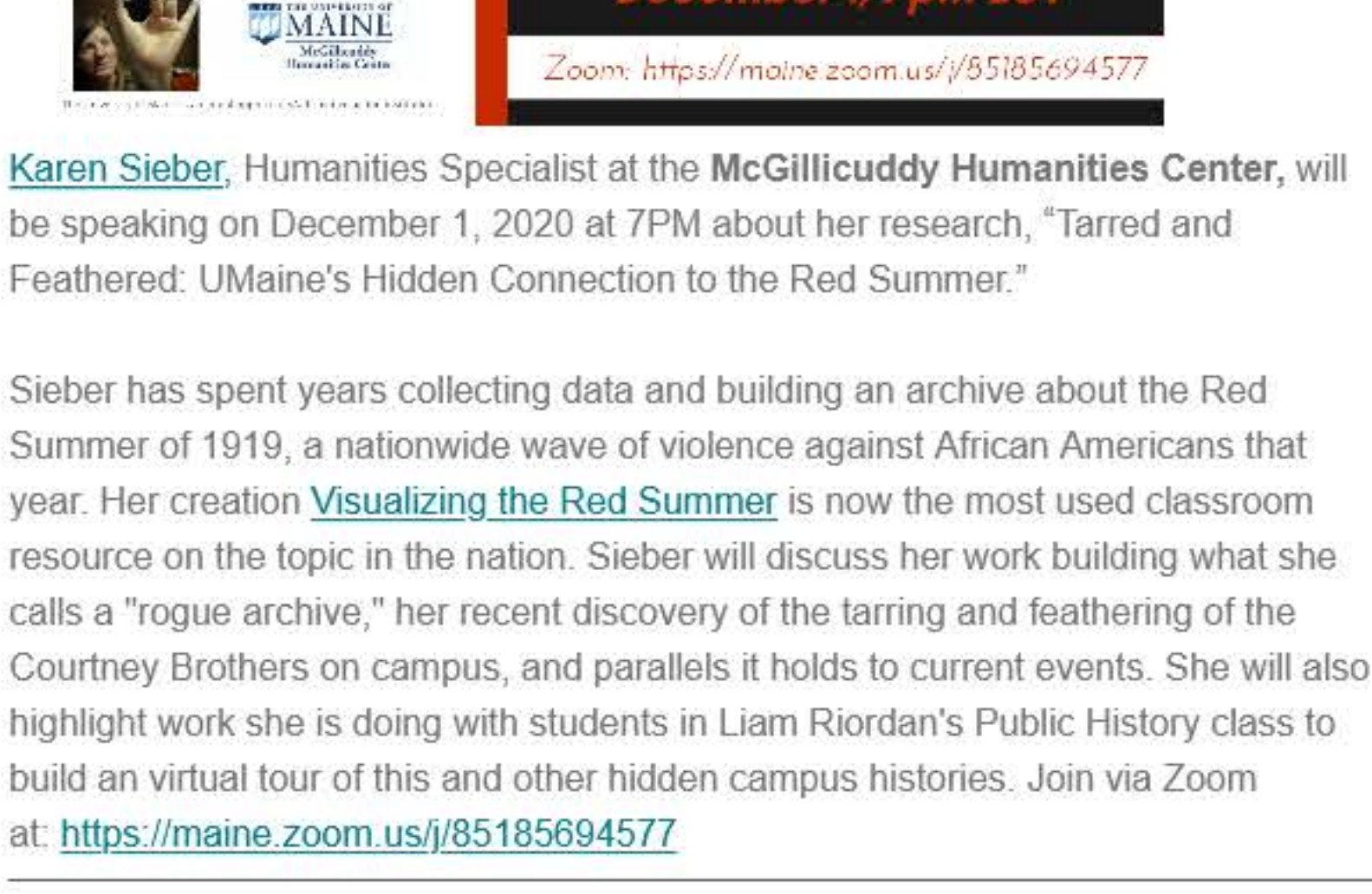


Our last newsletter in 2020 is filled with good news and announcements of events, awarded grants and fellowships, and new opportunities available to our community. We hope to see you at our events in the next two weeks, and that you'll enjoy a safe, healthy, restful, and joyous holiday season. Our monthly newsletter will resume in February.

University of Maine Humanities Events

**TARRED AND FEATHERED: UMAINE'S HIDDEN CONNECTION TO THE RED SUMMER**

December 1, 7-8 p.m.  
Virtually via Zoom



**Karen Sieber**, Humanities Specialist at the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, will be speaking on December 1, 2020 at 7PM about her research, "Tarred and Feathered: UMaine's Hidden Connection to the Red Summer."

Sieber has spent years collecting data and building an archive about the Red Summer of 1919, a nationwide wave of violence against African Americans that year. Her creation [Visualizing the Red Summer](#) is now the most used classroom resource on the topic in the nation. Sieber will discuss her work building what she calls a "rogue archive," her recent discovery of the tarring and feathering of the Courtney Brothers on campus, and parallels it holds to current events. She will also highlight work she is doing with students in Liam Riordan's Public History class to build a virtual tour of this and other hidden campus histories. Join via Zoom at: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/85185694577>

**CONTEMPLATIVE FOREST WALKS**

December 4 and 11 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Trailhead by New Balance Recreation Center (RSVP only; space limited)

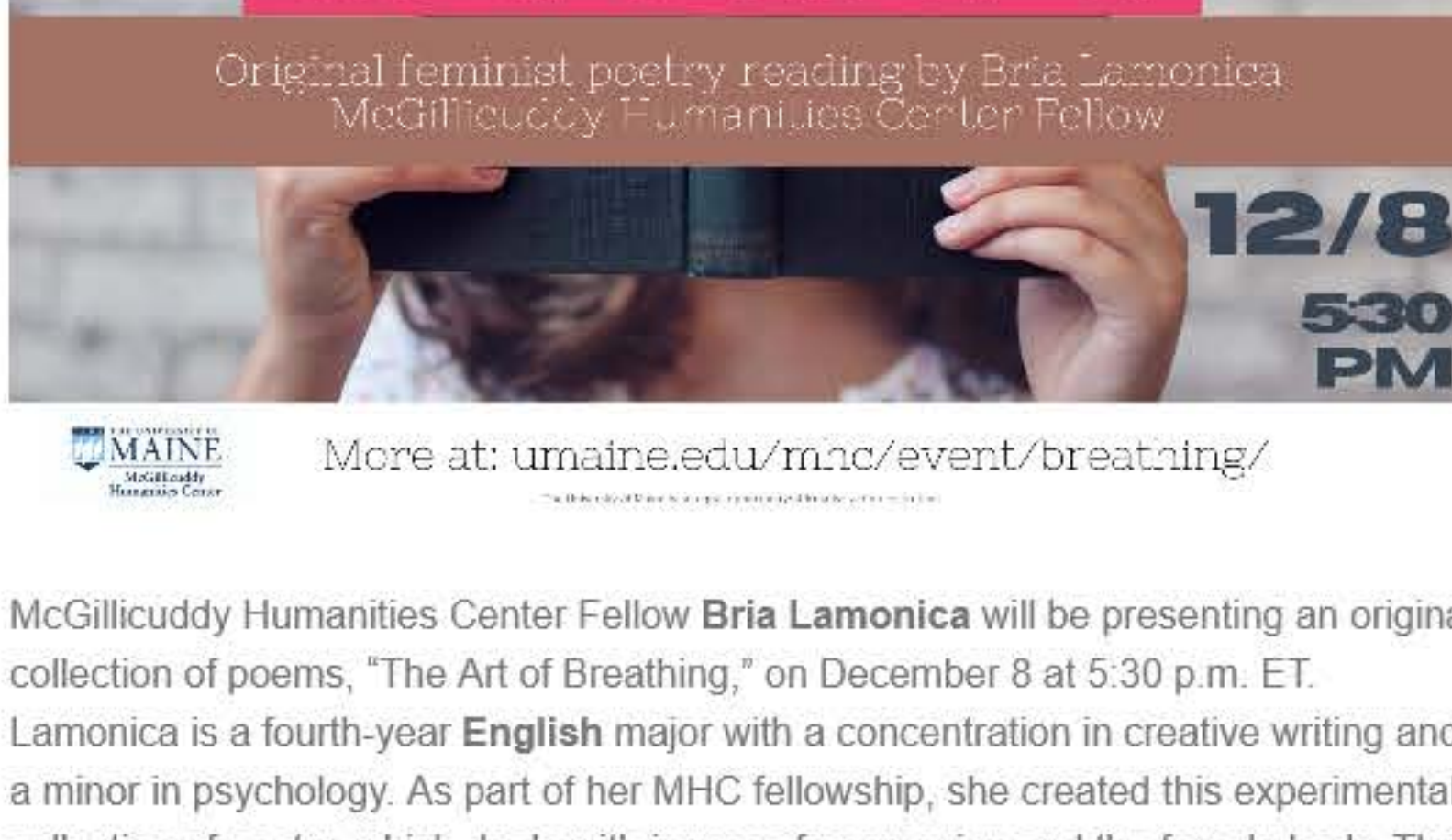


**Don Beith**, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy, will be leading contemplative forest walks on the university trails every Friday through the end of semester (weather permitting). Participants will gather at the trailhead near the New Balance Rec Center at noon for a 12:15 p.m. departure and a 1:15-1:30 p.m. return. Social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines will be in effect, with walks limited to 20 participants.

For more information, contact [donald.beith@maine.edu](mailto:donald.beith@maine.edu)

**THE ART OF BREATHING: ORIGINAL FEMINIST POETRY**

December 8, 5:30 p.m., virtual



McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellow **Bria Lamonica** will be presenting an original collection of poems, "The Art of Breathing," on December 8 at 5:30 p.m. ET. Lamonica is a fourth-year English major with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in psychology. As part of her MHC fellowship, she created this experimental collection of poetry, which deals with issues of oppression and the female body. The reading will mark the completion of her fellowship, as well as a celebration and appreciation for feminism and the ongoing work women are doing for equality. She selected four influential women from her academic and personal life to act as readers: **Kathleen Ellis**, lecturer in English; UMaine students **Sarah Penney** and **Autumn Rogers**; and **Linette Hice**, her mother.

**Jennifer Moxley**, Professor of English and former MHC Director, will introduce the event. Free and open to the public. [Join the Zoom reading here.](#)

**McGillicuddy Humanities Center Updates**

**NEW MHC FELLOWS SELECTED:**

The MHC funds a rotating cohort of eight undergraduate Fellows, providing \$4,000 per semester for two semesters to complete the research or creative projects of their choosing. Four UMaine students have been chosen by a subcommittee of faculty members to join the MHC as Fellows in the spring and fall of 2021.

**Delaney Burns** is a fourth year student from Gorham, Maine, double-majoring in **Studio Art and Marketing** with minors in **Art History** and **Graphic Design**. For her fellowship, Burns will create a series of large scale wood block prints titled, "**Pinus longæva: Discovering Form and Value through Ancient Bristlecone Pine Trees**." She hopes to gain and share new printmaking techniques, learn more about the species and their importance to the ecosystem, and explore their personal connection to her father, a UMaine Forestry graduate. She is interested in bridging the gap between art and science.

New fellow **Elizabeth Dalton** will work on her research project, "**Analyzing the Harmful Effects of Historical Inaccuracies in Medieval History as Seen in Popular Culture**." Dalton is a third year **History** major from Limestone, Maine, minoring in **Medieval and Renaissance Studies**. She is interested in the potential that binge watching and streaming services have to engage the public with history, but recognizes the problematic ways in which accuracy is overlooked for the sake of entertainment. Her fellowship research will focus on depictions of the Medieval Age, like Netflix's *The King*.

**Grace Royle** is a third year **Communication** major and **Legal Studies** minor from Minot, Maine. Royle plans to spend her fellowship creating a scholarly paper on, "**From Self-Help to Self-Harm: An Analysis of the Dangers that Fester in the Self-Help Industry**." She is particularly interested in exploring the hidden dangers of the industry, with self-proclaimed gurus practicing without certification, sufficient qualifications, or regulation. Her research will also look into the complicated psychology that comes into play, where people are being promised self-help but instead partaking in dangerous, self-harming activities.

Incoming fellow **Haley Santerre** asks, "**Are the Gods to Blame?**" Santerre is a third year **Studio Art** major and **Art History** minor from Portland, Maine. She plans to spend her fellowship creating a series of six paintings that examine recent catastrophic events, such as the Coronavirus pandemic or Australian wildfires, through a historical, and theological lens. By examining how ancient cultures, particularly those in Greece, would have responded, she hopes in turn to learn more about people's beliefs today. Haley will be the inaugural Richard and Karin Anderson Undergraduate Fellow.

**FALL 2020 FACULTY AWARDS:**

The following University of Maine faculty members received support in this semester's cycle of research funding from the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. Each of these projects aligns well with the Center's mission to demonstrate the immediacy and applicability of humanities studies, and support programs and projects that foster intellectual curiosity, critical reflection, and creative innovation. We remain grateful to our donors who make supporting these projects and programs possible.

**Dr. Katherine Glover**, a Research Associate at the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute, was awarded funding for the "**Women and Climate Change Public Speakers Series**" she will arrange in conjunction with her Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS) course in spring, 2021. A series of invited guest speakers will discuss gender-climate change intersections, and/or feminist solutions to the climate crisis in events open to the public.

**Professor of Art History Justin Wolff** received research funding support for his book manuscript project titled, "**Terrible Things: American Art and Catastrophe**." Wolff's books promises to make a significant contribution to scholarship at the intersection of Art History and American Studies by analyzing iconic American artworks in the context of "catastrophe" broadly construed.

**Cooping with COVID: A Public Story-Telling Project**, is led by **Assistant Professor of English Kathryn Swacha, Ph.D.** The project examines how people are negotiating public health guidelines and incorporating COVID-related public health recommendations into their daily lives, and will leverage these stories to help shape and develop public health resources that are attuned to lived experiences.

In conjunction with this year's McGillicuddy Humanities Center Symposium ("The Story of Climate Change") Associate Professor of English, and **Director of the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program, Dr. Laura Cowan**, will lead group discussions of **Entangled: People and Ecological Change in Alaska's Kachemak Bay (2018)**, by field biologist and wildlife manager Marjani Sigman. More information about spring book discussion dates will be announced soon.

The Center also supported the "**Black Bear Analytics**" Project proposed by **Dr. Judith Rosenbaum**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism. Working with advanced undergraduate students in a computer science capstone course, Dr. Rosenbaum will design and implement a robust data collection tool that can be used across social media platforms to gain insight on how users communicate about specific social issues, marketing or political campaigns, or other themes, and track how conversations evolve and change.

Funding was also provided to support the **place-based research on Holocaust survivor testimony** that **McBride Professor of History Anne Kelly Knowles** continues to research. The topological mapping of transcripts from such collections as the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive (VHA) and the Oral History Collection at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) identifies and maps place-based experiences and locations large and small, named and unnamed, in Holocaust victims' testimonies. The "ultimate goal" of Knowles's project "is to map Holocaust victims' experiences in the larger context of the Nazis' genocidal policies and actions as they were implemented across Eastern Europe."

**UMaine Humanities Scholars in the News**

**Philip Edelman**, assistant professor of music education in the UMaine **Division of Music**, spoke to the *Bangor Daily News* about a program that pairs music education majors in the UMaine School of Performing Arts with budding musicians from Leonard Middle School in Old Town for free, private online lessons during the COVID pandemic. "The growth that I've seen in my students far surpasses what I thought would have happened," Edelman said.

The *Portland Press Herald* interviewed **Darren Ranco**, associate professor in the **Department of Anthropology** and chair of **Native American Programs**, and **Lauren Jacobs**, University of Maine lecturer in outdoor leadership, about efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion in UMaine's outdoor leadership programs, and about the need to acknowledge Indigenous lands.

On November 16, **Don Beith**, assistant professor of environmental philosophy, gave a talk titled "**Cultivating Ecological Virtues**," that was designed to help participants go beyond simply applying human values to environmental problems, with strategies for making ethical thinking itself more ecological. Beith's talk was sponsored by the **Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions**.

**Robert Glover**, an associate professor in the **Department of Political Science** and **Honors**, was cited in an **article from the Pulitzer Center** about immigration and race in America. Author Francesca Bentley references Glover's observation that Maine's foreign-born resident population has expanded by 21.8 percent over the span of 13 years. Glover further explained that most refugees/asylum seekers commonly originate from Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, the DRC, and Djibouti, Africa.

**Michael Socolow**, Director of the **McGillicuddy Humanities Center**, was quoted in the *Washington Post's* media column on November 22. Titled, "**The disinformation system that Trump unleashed will outlast him. Here's what reality-based journalists must do about it.**" the column recommended the adoption of new methods of reporting in the post-Donald Trump era. Socolow was also quoted in the French magazine *L'Express* on the future of Fox News in a post-Trump world. The article was titled "**Entre Donald Trump et Rupert Murdoch, une histoire d'amour qui finit mal.**"

**Mark Brewer**, a professor in the **Department of Political Science**, was interviewed by the **Associated Press** for a story about Mainers sending U.S. Sen. Susan Collins to Washington for a fifth term, and **Brewer** also spoke with the *Portland Press Herald* about Maine's ranked-choice voting in local and national elections. He noted that other states are looking to follow Maine's lead.

**CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS**

**Connecticut Digital Humanities Conference 2021**

[Call For Proposals](#)  
CTDH endeavors to bring together a network of DH practitioners committed to advancing collaborative scholarship in digital humanities research and pedagogy across the New England region. We welcome proposals that address digital humanities & teaching, perhaps especially with undergraduates.

We invite contributions from faculty researchers, unaffiliated scholars, librarians, technologists, and undergraduate and graduate students. We encourage those proposing sessions to consider formats beyond the traditional 20-minute paper panel, such as roundtables, multi-speaker panels, lightning talks, and digital demonstrations. Proposals should be less than 300 words in length and should describe the 1) proposed topic; 2) session format; 3) requested time length; 4) names and affiliations of participants; and 5) anticipated audience for the session.

Proposals are due **December 15, 2020**. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by early January. [More information here.](#)

**American Association for State and Local History Conference**

[Call for Proposals](#)  
Little Rock, AR  
September 22-25, 2021  
The American Association for State and Local History is now accepting proposals for session and workshops for its **2021 Annual Meeting**, to be held in Little Rock, AR, September 22-25, 2021. The theme of the Annual Meeting is "Doing History/Doing Justice." **Submission Deadline: December 18, 2020.**

**International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities**

[Call for Papers and Panels](#)  
Complutense University of Madrid, Spain  
June 30 - July 2, 2021  
Founded in 2003, the **Series Theoretical in the Humanities Research Network** is brought together by a common interest in established traditions in the humanities while at the same time developing innovative practices and setting a renewed agenda for their future.

The Nineteenth **International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities** calls for research addressing the following annual themes and special focus:

- THEME 1: Critical Cultural Studies
- THEME 2: Communications and Linguistic Studies
- THEME 3: Literary Humanities
- THEME 4: Civic, Political, and Community Studies
- THEME 5: Past and Present in Humanistic Education
- 2021 Special Focus: Critical Thinking, Soft Skills, and Technology

**Reading Southern Art**

[Call for Readers](#)  
The editors seek proposals for short, critical readings about art in and of the American South (defined broadly), which will be combined into a collected peer-reviewed volume pitched at the undergraduate classroom and published by an academic press.

Deadline: **March 12, 2021**

**EXPLORE MORE OPPORTUNITIES:**

**H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online**  
The latest Call for Papers and announcements of Humanities-related conferences and events can always be found at [H-Announce at this link.](#)

[Find Out More](#)

