**The Honors College**

**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE**

Charlie Slavin, Dean

**MINERVA**

**Editor**
Emily Ann Cain

**Contributing Writers**
Emily Ann Cain
Stephani Nola
Barbara Ouellette
Charlie Slavin
Rachel Snell

**Designers**
The Honors College Staff

**Printing**
UMaine Printing Services

Readers are invited to send comments to:
minerva.letters@umit.maine.edu

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Front Cover: The renovated fourth floor of Colvin Hall.

Opposite: A view of the Colorado Rocky Mountains at sunset from the top floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Denver.

Back cover: A collage of the Colvin Hall renovation.

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**FROM THE DEAN**

**Risks and rewards**

Recently I was invited to write an essay for the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council characterizing “the culture of Honors.” Even though I felt remarkably unqualified – what does a mathematician know about culture? – writing the piece challenged me to think about Honors and, in particular, the Honors College at the University of Maine in a new way. To save you from having to read the essay, I’m going to give away the ending. After about six months – okay, I’m not the quickest thinker – it became clear that the common denominators for both students and faculty involved in Honors are the challenges and rewards of taking intellectual risks.

In Honors, we all explore areas that stretch our experience and our expertise. Art students wrestle with the nature of quantum mechanics and engineers work their way through Plato’s Republic. Faculty members, who normally teach and research in their disciplines, engage in discussions with our students on topics intellectual light years removed from their scholarly expertise. I struggled to facilitate discussions of Chaucer, Maimonides, and Laurel Thatcher Ulrich’s _A Midwife’s Tale_. It was tough going for me. But for the students, as well as for my colleagues and me, it is precisely this challenge to go beyond our academic comfort zones that makes Honors exciting and commands our attention. I believe that is the point of the exercise.

Intellectual risk taking has long been part of Honors at UMaine. Later in this issue, Ruth Nadelhaft, my friend and predecessor, discusses the Risky Business seminar series she developed. It isn’t the least bit surprising that emanated from the Honors Program. For nearly seventy-five years, Honors faculty members have been challenging their students to broaden and deepen their understanding.

Bernard Lown graduated from the Honors Program at the University of Maine seven years after its founding. As you will read later, Dr. Lown, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and world-renowned cardiologist, was our Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics and Distinguished Honors Graduate last spring. Reflecting on his time in Honors, Dr. Lown articulated the rewards that stemmed from those risks…

_I can not praise the Honors Program enough. It provided a mental grid with which to organize the chaos of contradictory intellectual experience. I learned that true education does not consist of accretion of information but is a process of transformation – of breaking down barriers between disciplines and cultures. I eschewed the pagan rite sanctified in our society of worshipping the accumulation of inert facts. The Honors Program made me reveal in ideas. A truth that served me well is that the mind thinks with ideas not with information. As William Butler Yeats suggested “Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.” It enabled me to understand that the fruit of learning is not a book, but being able to chart the trajectory for a meaningful life._

Rewards? Enough said.

Charlie Slavin, Dean
Honors College students have successfully competed for prestigious scholarships at the national level every year since 2003. In 2003, 2004, 2006, and 2007, Honors students were awarded Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships. In 2005 and 2007, students were awarded the Morris K. Udall Scholarship, and in 2006, one of our students won a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship. In 2007, one of our seniors was honored with a Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarship. This year, we are adding two new national awards to the list of our students’ accomplishments.

**Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings scholarship program is designed to: increase undergraduate study in oceanic and atmospheric science; increase public support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy; recruit and prepare students for public service careers with NOAA and similar agencies at all levels of government; and recruit and prepare future teachers to improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.

Laura Wood ’10 is from Scarborough, ME and is majoring in Ecology and Environmental Sciences. The Hollings scholarship will enable Laura to study in Australia this spring to research tropical rainforest management. Laura will intern next summer at the Wells Estuarine Reserve where she will conduct climate change research and present her findings at a national conference in Maryland in July as part of the Hollings program. Laura sees her future opportunities as endless, but she will likely pursue work related to the types of agencies and research she is exposed to as part of this program.

**James Madison Memorial Fellowship**

The James Madison Fellowship funds graduate work that includes courses on the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution. Fellowship recipients have a unique opportunity to strengthen their research, writing, and analytical skills while forming professional ties that can significantly influence career aspirations. Fellows gain a deeper understanding of the principles of constitutional government. In this way the James Madison Fellowships ensure that the spirit and practical wisdom of the Constitution will guide the actions of future generations of American citizens.

Molly B. Feeney ’08 is from Knox, ME and majored in Political Science. Molly views the fellowship as “an opportunity to continue my education, when education is more important than ever.” As part of the Fellowship, Molly will attend Georgetown University this summer to study the U.S. Constitution with other Madison Fellows. After completing her master’s degree in education, Molly plans to teach social studies at the high school level, and ultimately will attend law school to further her passion for education policy.
In 2010, the Honors College turns 75!
“Save the Date” for our Birthday Celebration

Since 1935 Honors has been challenging students at UMaine to engage in a unique way in their undergraduate education. In 2010, you are invited to a year-long celebration of Honors at UMaine.

We are already preparing for our big birthday bash, brainstorming the many ways we can celebrate our graduates and their accomplishments, as well as our impact on the university over the past 75 years.

Possible events include alumni gatherings in Maine and beyond, public lectures, programs featuring our amazing students, and more. Stay tuned until then to learn about the many ways we plan to celebrate the contributions of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff members!

If you are interested in helping to plan our year-long 75th birthday celebration — on campus or in your area — please contact Emily Cain, Coordinator of Advancement, at 207.581.3308 or emily.cain@maine.edu.

Associating with the Associates
The latest addition to our staff is a dynamic new pair of associates...

Rachel Snell ’06 graduated from the University of Maine with a BA in History. She immediately entered a master’s program, also in history, at the University of New Hampshire, and completed her degree in May, 2008. Her research interests are in New England religious history during the Early Republic. She wrote her Honors thesis about a late eighteenth-century religious and political conspiracy called the Bavarian Illuminati. While in New Hampshire, Rachel worked at Strawbery Banke, an outdoor living history museum in Portsmouth, and learned how to knit a sweater. Currently, she is taking a much needed break from course work while applying to Ph.D. programs for the fall of 2009.

Stephani Nola Walton ’07 graduated from the University of Maine with a BA in English (Creative Writing) and a Women’s Studies minor. She spent two semesters studying at Hunter College in NYC, through the National Student Exchange. Her Honors thesis, Of Certain Rivers, is a hand-sewn chapbook of her poetry and linoleum print artwork. After graduation, Steph enjoyed “odd jobs” in New York City and Burlington, VT— publishing intern, writer for a women’s newspaper, wilderness therapy guide trainee, ESL poetry tutor for 3rd-5th grade girls who were Sudanese refugees. She is eager to study writing therapy after this adventure, preferably somewhere with mountains and room for a chocolate lab!
A True “Labor of Love”

The completion of Colvin Hall, home of the Honors College

A fter ten years of planning, patience, hard work and dedication, on Friday, November 21, 2008 the Honors College welcomed 70+ members of the UMaine Community — faculty, staff, students, administrators, and donors — to tour the newly renovated second, third, and fourth floors of Colvin Hall.

UMaine President Robert Kennedy was on hand to share in our celebration. President Kennedy first came to UMaine as the Provost, and he immediately assembled the Provost’s Commission on an Honors College which programmatically transformed Honors in 2002. As President, he provided the institutional support that enabled the renovations of Colvin to move forward this year. We are thankful for his consistent and strong support over the years.

The second and third floors include newly renovated student residence hall rooms. Each quad houses four students in three rooms — two bedrooms, one common room. A major portion of the work on these floors involved completely rebuilding the bathrooms for student residents and their guests.

Several of the spaces are named by donors, including: Class of 1951 Quad; John ’57 & Charlene Bridge Engineering Quad; Dr. Carolyn Reed ’71 Chemistry Quad; Rendle ’64 & Pat ’65 Jones Legal Quad; Class of 1957 Suite; Koeritz Quad (in memory of Nancy Pendleton Chase Koeritz ’47); and Frank ’53 & Clara Pickering RA Suite.

The fourth floor renovation dramatically extends the Robert B. Thomson Honors Center on the first floor of Colvin Hall. The expansive common space is the Oscar Remick Student Forum, named by the friends and family of Dr. Oscar Remick, a passionate advocate for Honors at UMaine until his passing in 2002. Also on the fourth floor is the Margaret Chase Smith Visiting Faculty Suite, a gift of Betsy ’55 and Bill Leitch. This space, the first of its kind on campus, will enable us to house visiting scholars, lecturers, and faculty for short stays. We hope that this space will take our living-learning mission to new heights! In addition to Honors College guests, we will open the space to departments across campus for a simple fee: the guest will spend time with our Honors students.

Students will occupy the residence space in January 2009, and we will report-back on the success of the space in next year’s Minerva. Stay tuned, and please come visit our newly renovated home soon!

At left: UMaine President Robert Kennedy addresses the crowd of more than 70 faculty, staff, students, and donors — praising the growth of Honors over the years and the quality of place that Colvin Hall brings to the Honors College.

At right: Dean Charlie Slavin shares his thoughts about the meaning of this project for the Honors College.
A Personal Note, 10 years later

Ten years ago, in the fall of 1998 I started college at UMaine in the Honors Program. Shortly after I joined the Honors Student Advisory Board, Charlie (who was Director of the Honors Program at the time) asked me to join the Colvin Hall Renovation Committee. Little did I know that what seemed like a simple short-term opportunity would turn into a journey, culminating in completion of the building ten years later.

While I have gone from student to graduate to employee, the vision for Colvin Hall has remained the same: to be the place that keeps the pulse of the Honors College going 24/7 and a place where students, faculty, and staff can come together in a true living-learning environment every single day.

I am so proud of this space, and grateful to have had the chance to work with Charlie and so many others to make this a reality for our students. I hope the architects, contractors, reunion classes and individual donors who shared our vision of what could be achieved with a little imagination feel the same sense of pride and happiness I do. — Emily Ann Cain ’02, Coordinator of Advancement

Percent for Art: Igniting a Passion for Learning

The college motto brought to life by one of our own

As an Honors graduate (1980, Wildlife Biology, High Honors), I was very excited to learn about the Colvin Hall Percent for Art competition. The Honors Program was a very important and enriching part of my college experience. While I changed professions (quite a few years ago now), I have always appreciated my education at UMaine and have many fond memories of my four years spent there. I have been creating mosaics since 2000 after eighteen years as a children’s book illustrator, and I now specialize in mosaic installations. Much of my work is nature-based and reflective of my earlier interests in wildlife and the natural world.

I chose the space over the fireplace in the library as the area for mosaic artwork in Colvin Hall. The theme of the mosaic is the motto for the Honors College, Studium Eruditionis Ardens or Igniting a Passion for Learning. Depicted is a Tree of Life, the leaves of which are also birds in flight. I have used a variety of mosaic materials, including vitreous glass; when uncut or “nipped” a tile or tessera measures ⅜” square. There is also stained glass, unglazed porcelain, smalti and mirror tile. It is difficult to tell from this image, but the trunk of the tree is mirror glass. — Cynthia Fisher ’80, Artist, Big Bang Mosaics

The Percent for Art Act (27 M.R.S., C16) was enacted in 1979 to provide funds for the acquisition of public artworks for newly constructed or renovated state-funded buildings. The renovation of Colvin Hall was supported by private and institutional funds. We are very pleased that the Honors Community will benefit from this artwork for years to come.
The Class of 2012 settled into Orono with a common book on their shelves: this year’s Honors Read, *The Survival of the Bark Canoe* by John McPhee. For the first time, we devoted two weeks to the Honors Read instead of one. The first HON 111 lecture featured students from the Honors Read tutorial that selected the book and a range of faculty members, all sharing their experience with the book.

Several first-year who students participated in the discussion theorized that those with canoeing experience were more likely to enjoy the book. The following week, we rented canoes from Campus Recreation and dozens of brave students paddled along the Stillwater in the University’s “front yard.” After a few minutes of bumper boats, they were under way—even shouting out memorable lines from the book and behaving like the main characters. Our second lecture was presented by Birch Bark Canoe Master, Patrick Almenas, from the Penobscot Indian Nation. He brought with him an impressive locally-made canoe for students to examine up close — many used their camera phones to snap photos of the intricate details.

Mimi Killinger, who is the Rezendes Preceptor for the Arts and nominated the book, said, “I suggested *The Survival of the Bark Canoe* because I thought that a story set in Maine’s waterways might prove alluring to prospective UM-aine Honors students, and I love canoes. The book exceeded my expectations as an Honors Read; it proved to be much more provocative, even controversial, than I had ever imagined.” Here’s hoping we have converted some landlubbers into river rats and inspired further exploration of all Maine has to offer!

Over thirty years ago, Phillip Zimbardo began his famous Stanford Prison Experiment. Designed to last two weeks, the SPE randomly divided student volunteers into prison guards and prisoners. Following several dramatic and disturbing events, Zimbardo shut down the experiment after six days. Until this book, Zimbardo felt unable to unpack the psychological implications of the study. In *The Lucifer Effect*, using examples from history, his own experiment and recent events, Zimbardo explains how situational forces and group dynamics “conspire to make us all susceptible to the lure of the ‘dark side.’”

According to the Honors students who selected *The Lucifer Effect* as the 2009 Honors Read, this book explores the question, “Why do we do what we do?” This is a recurring theme in the Honors Civilizations sequence, explored by Carson, Dante, Shakespeare, Nietzsche, and Woolf among many others.

In their letter to the Class of 2013, the students wrote: “Given how unspeakably important the questions in *The Lucifer Effect* truly are, we expect, nay, challenge, you to bring up Zimbardo’s text in each of your preceptorials over the next two years. We bet you will find it easy to relate this book to every text within the Honors College curriculum.”
Update — Honors 170: Currents & Contexts

Fall, 2008 was an exciting semester for students in Honors 170: Currents and Contexts, because of the backdrop of the presidential election. The course was divided into two-week segments where students presented on major policy issues, followed by a mock presidential debate on the topic the next week. Students presented on defense or foreign policy, energy and environmental policy, or economic and social policy, before responding to questions as candidates John McCain or Barack Obama. The presentations and debates were facilitated by Morgan Brunbauer, Elizabeth Damon, Lydia Dawson, and Aleksandr Masura — all members of the Class of 2009.

In addition to the election, students discussed the financial crisis, global warming, free trade and the global economy, U.S. involvement in international crisis, the role of the Electoral College, and stem cell research. Despite the controversial issues, students in the class found balance between defending their views and respecting other perspectives. Lydia refers to the course as “one of the few venues where students are given the opportunity to learn objective facts about the election and discuss the pros and cons of each side.” We hope this course provides an opportunity for students to develop greater understanding and appreciation of current events.

Centering on Undergraduate Research: CUGR

The Honors College, along with the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, is pleased to announce the new Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR). CUGR’s mission is to facilitate research and creative activity opportunities and experiences for undergraduate students from all disciplines at the University of Maine. Specifically, CUGR serves to raise the visibility of undergraduate research and creative activity through linking faculty mentors with interested undergraduate students, identifying and publicizing research/creative activity initiatives, and working with other groups and facilities, both on- and off-campus, to expand the research/creative activity opportunities for undergraduates.

Through these experiences, undergraduates develop strengths in problem-solving, organizing and communicating ideas, and using multiple methods for answering questions. Faculty benefit from the energy and enthusiasm brought to the endeavor by undergraduate students. For both students and faculty, engaging in research and creative activity allows an opportunity for a partnership, a mentor-mentee relationship that differs from that of a teacher-student. It is a win-win situation!

While CUGR is administered through the Honors College, its office, staff and services are open to all UMaine students and faculty. The office is located in 124 Alumni Hall, the staff includes Director Nancy E. Hall (581-3260, nhall@maine.edu) and Graduate Assistant Anya Rose (581-3271, anya.rose@umit.maine.edu).

Dr. Hall, an Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), has had a long-standing interest in fostering undergraduate research. She teaches the CSD senior capstone course which requires students to complete an independent library-based research paper. Hall’s active research program examines processes of language acquisition in typically developing children and those with language delay. She has presented and published numerous works with undergraduate co-authors, and currently has three undergraduate research assistants and is advising two undergraduate Honors theses. Anya Rose is a first-year graduate student in Ecology and Environmental Sciences. Her interests lie in the environment and film making, and she has taught natural history and animal tracking through Upward Bound. Her background includes participation in field-based research in Africa while an undergraduate student at Bard College.

Visit CUGR online at www.cugr.umaine.edu/
**Why I Teach in the Honors College**

**Edie Elwood, Sociology**

I teach at the college level to challenge students intellectually, validate important experiences, and keep myself open to new ideas. I teach in Honors because I can do this while having the challenge and opportunity to engage in difficult and important questions in a spirited and intellectual environment. I encounter vibrant and engaging students and faculty who are here because they want to be here. While we explore substantive text and are often discussing issues of deep importance, on my best days I feel like the supervisor on a wild but carefully delimited intellectual playground. And I hope the serious fun never stops.

I began teaching in Honors just over 5 years ago. The small classes, substantial texts and a stimulating weekly lecture embodied for me a near-perfect learning environment. Core to my teaching philosophy are vital course content and healthy classroom process. The invigorating curriculum and small group setting facilitate these ideals beautifully. I have found that content meets process most consistently and vigorously with my Honors students. I love challenging them because they rise to the challenge. I love asking difficult questions because they are not afraid to explore. And I love listening to them because I learn. A lot.

The Honors College is not perfect. There is disagreement about texts, inconsistency in student experiences, and student debate about the behavior of their peers. I have listened at length to disgruntled students, and the fact that they come to me about their experiences says something both ironic and hopeful: even students whose experiences were not what they had hoped for are willing and able to engage in critical, grounded, articulate dissent. This is the cornerstone of what we explore in the best of the texts, and here process meets content in a most powerful way.

**Francois Amar, Chemistry**

My first encounters with Honors came as a lecturer in HON 201: Science and Western Culture about a dozen years ago. I remember giving one presentation entitled, “Do As I Do, Not As I Say,” on the way the scientific article has been codified into an objective, discursive account of research and how it is designed to hide — from surface view at least — the human creativity and passion that is part of doing science. Another presentation, given with Charlie Slavin, explored C.P. Snow’s famous and controversial 1950s lecture/article, “The Two Cultures,” in which he argues there is a significant and dangerous divide between the West’s two major intellectual traditions: natural sciences and humanities. Must it be so? It is this search for the commonalities across disciplines that has driven my continued interest in Honors.

The history of ideas is the central subject in Honors. As a chemist, I am interested in exploring the early modern period in which science and philosophy emerged from their common ancestor, natural philosophy. One could argue that the economic and environmental crises we face now are consequences of using models of economics, science, and politics developed in the 18th century. These models began to relieve man’s estate, to paraphrase Bacon, in a time when the earth seemed to be an inexhaustible resource. We now can see how an ethic of continuous growth can lead to crisis and catastrophe. Only by studying these models and their interactions can our students understand their limits and inconsistencies in order to develop models to replace them.

The Honors College and its Civilizations sequence is where connections between different disciplines are exposed and explored by undergraduates in their first year. The answers to important questions that occur at the boundaries between disciplines will only be found by working in an interdisciplinary way. I hope that as a teacher in Honors, I can contribute to the process by which students incorporate these elements into their own work.
GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS: Casey goes to Peru

The Dennis ’57 and Beau Rezendes Global Volunteers Fund was established to encourage student volunteerism abroad in conjunction with Global Volunteers (Minneapolis, MN), an organization that sends people all over the world to “live and work with local people on life-affirming international service projects.” Casey Pola ’09 traveled to Peru this year - here she shares her story...

The time I spent in Lima, Peru at the Puercultorio Perez Araníbar was one of the best experiences of my life. For two weeks I volunteered at a children’s home housing over five hundred children who are orphans, have absent parents, or have families that cannot afford to take care of them. I was amazed to see how warm and affectionate these children are and how excited they were each day to see us, their visitas.

I spent mornings with five toddlers: Rosario, Angel, Delfin, Alvaro and Jose Luis. My duties involved playing with them, and assisting their caregiver during feeding and nap times. I became extremely close with Rosario (she’s the toddler in the top right photo). I never realized how close I could come to a child in two weeks, but she was so endearing. My favorite part was showing up and seeing how excited she was to see me. It was definitely a fun task to take care of five toddlers! They all had unique personalities – especially Angel, who despite his name was actually quite a little devil, enjoying anything mischievous, but it was okay because he was absolutely adorable! I spent afternoons alternating days between girls and boys kindergarten, working with another volunteer. Each afternoon we’d bring various crafts and games to the group we were visiting that day. These kids were extremely fun to interact with. The boys loved playing with balloons and bouncing balls, and the girls enjoyed coloring and Play-Doh. It was exciting for me because these children were older and I communicated better with them, while practicing my Spanish.

My Global Volunteers group participated in several activities at the Puercultorio – we held a movie and snack afternoon for them and took them on a field trip to see a nativity scene. My favorite experience was when our team leader took us to the village of Manchay so we could see where the children come from, in an effort to better understand their situations. It was heartbreaking to see the devastating circumstances they come from. It is amazing to consider how extremely happy and vibrant these children are despite their situations at home. You would never tell by their personalities that they come from such poverty, as they are so carefree.

In my free time, I did quite a bit of sight seeing (and eating!). I love South America, and the time I spent in Peru was amazing. The culture, foods, and sights are all interesting and beautiful. I am so thankful for this opportunity. Global Volunteers is an amazing organization, and I would like to participate in another program with them in the future. It is so important to travel and experience other cultures and ways of life and, for me, this trip was life changing. I will never forget the children — they have impacted my life in a great way. Their situations and experiences have opened my eyes, and I learned a lot from them. I can only hope that I was able to positively effect their lives in some way, as they did mine.

ENDOWING STUDY ABROAD

The Charles V. Stanhope ’71 Honors College Study Abroad Fellowship Endowment

The Charles V. Stanhope ’71 Honors College Study Abroad Fellowship has become the first endowed study abroad fellowship for the Honors College.

Charles Stanhope graduated with a BA in French and with Honors from UMaine. After attending language school and serving in the U.S. Army, Charles took a job opening mail at the Library of Congress. While working full-time, Charles attended The Catholic University of America, where he received his MLS. In 1979, Charles earned a competitive internship which exposed him to many different facets of the Library. Since then he has held several positions at the Library including Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Director of Development, Director of Communication, and Assistant Chief Operating Officer. Charles has dedicated his professional life to an institution that seeks to expand horizons through, among other things, exposure to different cultures. With this Fellowship, Charles is bringing that same passion for expanding horizons through the understanding of different cultures to Honors students at UMaine.
Where in the world

Each year, dozens of Honors students choose to “study away” in places all over the globe. This year was no exception! Check out some of their fantastic learning adventures...

Erica Berry ’09 - Mass Communications - Alicante, Spain
Ben Burpee ’09 - Studio Art, Biology - Norwich, England
Matt Ciampa ’10 - Financial Economics - Bad Honnef-Bonn, Germany
Abby Coulter ’09 - Psychology, Theatre - Salamanca, Spain
Tegan Colley ’09 - History, Political Science - Reading, England
Sarah Davee ’09 - Psychology, Mathematics - Florence, Italy
Zach Dionne ’09 - Journalism - Bangor, Wales
Stephanie Duy ’09 - Electrical and Computer Engineering - Pasadena, CA
Sarah Flynn ’09 - International Affairs, French - Angers, France
Sarah Gardner ’09 - Elementary Education - Queensland, Australia
Rebecca Gerber ’10 - Ecology and Environmental Science - Gold Coast, Australia
Kate Hasset ’09 - Economics, French, International Affairs - Grenoble, France
Ho-Jin Lee ’09 - International Business - Hirosaki, Japan
Nissa Marenius ’09 - History, Romance Languages - Angers, France & Norwich, England
Sasha Misan ’09 - Business Administration - Bad Honnef-Bonn, Germany
Phaelon O’Donnell ’09 - Theatre - Norwich, England
Matt Pepin ’09 - Civil Engineering, English - Ireland
Genevieve Poppe ’09 - Anthropology, French, International Affairs - Angers, France
Tom St. Pierre ’09 - English, History - Sunderland, England
Tom Sagona ’09 - Theatre - Tokyo, Japan
Jessica Sirois ’08 - International Affairs - Pau, France
are our Honors students?

NCHC - a mile high!

The National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting was held in Denver, CO last November. Twenty-five UMaine Honors students attended thanks to the generosity of Betsy ’55 and Bill Leitch, through their Honors Student Research and Travel Fund. Six faculty and staff members attended and presented as well.

A total of eighteen presentations featured UMaine participants, including (to name just a few) Demystifying the Thesis by Emma Wojtal ’08 and Chelsi Snow ’08, Culture & Cuisine: Expanding Culture Without Leaving the Table by Sasha Misan ’09, A Cultural Odyssey: UMaine Students Take the Journey by Victora Fortin ’10 and professors Kathleen Ellis and Mimi Killinger, It’s All Greek to Me: Honors Students Involved in Greek Life by Yin Chiu ’10, Rebecca Morton ’10, and Chelsea Tanguay ’10, and Honors For All Ages by Claire Jaquith ’11, Michelle Martin ’09, Hogan Marquis ’11, and Andy Baldacci ’11.

Honors Goes to Washington

In March, forty-one Honors students and four staff members headed to our nation’s capital to see the sights and spend time with University of Maine graduates Charles Stanhope ’71, Assistant Chief Operating Officer at the Library of Congress, and Brian Naler ’78, National Public Radio Correspondant, Capitol Hill. Brian spoke to our students and area alumni about his work covering Congress and reporting for NPR for more than twenty years at an event at the Minute Man Ballroom in Washington, DC.

Additional highlights of the trip included a tour of the Capitol Building, a photo opportunity with Maine Senator Susan Collins and tours of the National Archives and the Holocaust Museum. The students also enjoyed a special tour of the Library of Congress with Charles. The trip culminated with a performance by The Capitol Steps before everyone boarded the bus back to Orono.

This year’s trip was again made possible by Betsy ’55 & Bill Leitch, who continue to generously support opportunities for our students through travel and research.
Steve Fellows ’03: A Curious & Critical Thinker

After his graduation in 2003, financial economics major and Honors graduate Steve Fellows went with his future wife, Stephanie, to New Hampshire, unsure of where life would take him. He found a job with Liberty Mutual Insurance and has worked his way up in the organization, currently managing a unit in Liberty’s corporate treasury group and taking MBA classes part-time.

Coming to UMaine, Steve chose Honors because he wanted to see what sort of challenge it would offer him. He says that he quickly “developed an appreciation for the range of topics and the chance to discuss them in a collegial atmosphere with classmates and professors.”

Living for one year in Honors housing in Colvin Hall during his undergraduate years, Steve made a number of great connections and had a “shared experience” that created a support network of Honors students facing the everyday challenges of being students. In fact, most of the people Steve keeps in touch with today are friends from his year in Colvin Hall.

Steve believes that his Honors education is still relevant in his life today, working in the world of finance. “Unlike courses providing highly specific skills, Honors fosters a curiosity and a penchant for critical thinking that is harder to categorize, but far more valuable.”

Some might not think an Honors education is necessary in an area such as finance, but Steve disagrees. “Our current economic circumstances illustrate what happens when technically brilliant people don’t question the soundness of their assumptions or the virtue of their pursuits. I feel that a broad perspective and an open mind make me a better employee, citizen, and human being.”

When it comes to sharing funny stories about his time in Honors, Steve gets pretty quiet. However, he did share one story involving a reading from Ibsen’s A Doll’s House in a tutorial section taught by Professor Tony Brinkley. “I got a little caught up my role as Nora and stormed out of the old Honors building, much to the surprise of Tony and my classmates. Someone had to come out and get me once the scene was over!”

Despite his knack for the dramatic, Steve has some very practical advice for our students today. He urges anyone nearing the end of the Honors curriculum to finish successfully. “Completing my thesis was one of my proudest accomplishments and serves as a major source of confidence when I face challenges professionally and academically.”

Steve and Stephanie met at UMaine, were married in 2005, and now reside in New Hampshire.

What’s up with you?

We would like to include “Class Notes” and other updates from our Honors graduates in MINERVA 2009.

If you care to share what you have been up to, please contact Emily Cain ’02 by email or phone at: emily.cain@maine.edu or 207.581.3308.
Honors Recollections
By Ruth Nadelhaft

By the time I was selected as the first ever woman Director of the Honors Program at the University of Maine in the spring of 1990, I had been part of Honors for so long that I felt myself to be continuing a long and comfortable tradition. I was recommended to teach in the Program by the Dean of my college, Constance H. Carlson, a long-time faculty member of the Department of English. While she served as the Dean of the two-year college on the Bangor campus, now University College of the University of Maine at Augusta, Connie sent me off to be interviewed by Professor Robert Thomson, the person most responsible for the creation of what is now the Honors College. Professor Thomson was already a legend, and I had a certain sense of the laying on of hands when he invited me to teach in what was then the Second Year sequence of small seminars, Honors 46 and 47. In the years that followed, I taught at every level in the Honors Program and began to be invited to sit on Senior Honors exams as well.

One of the joys for me in teaching Honors was the chance to bring along some of the non-traditional students I regularly taught in my classes on the Bangor campus. Some completed the Honors Program and graduated with Honors in four-year degree programs. Even now I still receive emails from some of my prized Honors students for whom the seminars and tutorials were the high points of their University of Maine education.

I was part of a group of faculty charged with rethinking the first year of Honors work at the University, an experience that not only forged lasting friendships but transformed what had been a fairly loose series of experiences into a real curriculum which has since been expanded and developed further. Always an eclectic reader (I regularly taught Women’s Studies and Women in Literature in the Liberal Studies Department), I thrived in the inter-disciplinary world of Honors. And, being active in university governance, serving as the Chair of the Council of Colleges and as the Chief Negotiator for the statewide faculty union, I relished making connections with strong faculty across disciplines whose students became part of the Honors world as well.

Early in my tenure as Director, I began a series of faculty presentations called Risky Business, devoted to encouraging and illuminating some of the adventurous teaching being carried out in all the colleges of the University. In fact, it was through that program that I met and became captivated by Charlie Slavin who, with a colleague, had developed a way of teaching mathematics that involved students working collaboratively. Emphasizing the vitality and the delights of teaching brought new vitality to the Honors Program as well.

I always felt rewarded interacting with faculty members who served as thesis advisors, a sometimes arduous experience for them in addition to the labor of love that it has always been. I met regularly with the seniors as they worked their way through the sometimes difficult process of actually producing research and writing. I also met with the thesis advisors who gave so much of their time and energy to our students who were incredibly fortunate to have experiences not often available to undergraduates.

I loved working with Barbara Ouellette and Deborah Small, and I especially loved being in our unique plywood building which perfectly represented our situation within the complex institution. I thought then that being the Director of Honors was the best job in the University, and only a once-in-a-lifetime early retirement offer pried me loose. It was a joy to see Charlie Slavin take over. The demolition of the plywood Honors Center and the move to Colvin Hall were perfect markers for the transformation that continues with the growth of what is now the Honors College. I know Professor Thomson would be pleased.
Dear Friends at UMaine Honors:

It has been 10 years since I walked into my first Honors class in the Thomson Honors Center and I still remember the details of that seminar in living color. Looking back, I realize that those memories are so vivid because my experience in Honors was a series of “firsts.”

• My first seminar-style course (the first time I felt truly academically challenged)
• My first independent academic project (honors thesis)
• My first academic conference (NCHC)
• My first round of interviews and my first “real” job
• My first major job responsibilities (e.g. the Rezendes Ethics Lecture, the Honors thesis database, etc.)

And these are but a few of the items from my original list. The knowledge that I acquired from rising to meet the challenges of these “firsts” has enabled me to be successful in other arenas.

I am now Career Advisor at Bowdoin College to students who are in the early stages of career exploration. I truly enjoy my work being a new member of the Bowdoin community. Prior to this position, I earned my master’s degree in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and then served for two years as Academic Advisor at Purdue University.

My post-Honors experiences have led to new challenges and places, but I maintain that the time I spent as an Honors College Associate was the most fulfilling experience in my nascent professional career. It gave me the confidence I needed to succeed in a graduate-level environment, and the variety of roles I played helped me to land my positions at Purdue and Bowdoin. I am greatly indebted to many individuals who made my life at UMaine an enriching one.

If asked what I miss most about working at the Honors College, I must wholeheartedly reply that it is YOU, my extended Honors family! I hope to see you very soon!

Sarah

Dear Honors friends,

I’m happy to share some details with you of my life, post-Honors. After graduating with a degree in Philosophy, I worked for two years as an Honors Associate with Sarah Paul ’02 and Jenny Sauzier ’04 – two spectacularly talented individuals – during the early years of the College.

That experience has marked my career in the best way, allowing me to develop as a professional while taking part in many incredible opportunities. My respect for the importance of community deepened as the Honors community became family. Friendships and bonds made then remain some of the most important to me.

I spent the next year working in Environmental Sciences at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill where I was torn between remaining in a professional career or pursuing an advanced degree. In 2006, I began my Ph.D. in Philosophy at Purdue University and worked with the Graduate School’s Professional Development program in addition to the Departments of Philosophy and Anthropology. All three of these positions continually open new and exciting doors.

Currently, in addition to working on my dissertation and teaching, I run a seminar series in bioethics that brings together scientists and philosophers in dialogue. Last year, Eric Meslin visited Purdue and in his welcoming remarks, he recalled our meeting at the University of Maine in 2005 when he was invited to speak as a Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics. I remember a comment he made to me during that 2005 visit. He said: “I expect great things from you.”

I don’t know if I will live up to that expectation, but I know my experience with The Honors College has set me on the best possible path.

So many thanks to, and best wishes for the Honors College community – I think great things can be expected of us all!

Jonathan
Kristen Kuhns ’10: Why I Choose Honors

When I received the letter stating I had been accepted into the Honors College at the University of Maine, I turned to my mother and said, “I don’t even know what this is!” I took the time to investigate and soon knew the program fulfilled exactly what I was looking for—I was sold. Texts such as The Odyssey, The Origin of Species, and The Qur’an offer insight into a world I had never had the chance to explore but had always desired to discover. I also felt this opportunity was a great alternative to typical general education requirement courses.

My journey with the Honors College has been full of twists, turns, and one defining moment. I decided to transfer to a different school during my second semester for a variety of reasons, including my desire to be closer to home. I attended two days of classes in Vermont, and sat through what must have been the worst English literature course offered. As I left that class, I knew that I had made it at the Honors College at the University of Maine because the curriculum covered my general education requirements while introducing me to challenging works I could grow from. I transferred back to Maine that same week, took up residence again at the Honors College, and have stayed in the program ever since.

The Honors College continues to engage me for many reasons. Most importantly, the Civilizations sequence gave me the opportunity to explore topics and themes that complement my studies as an anthropology major. I also look forward to writing a thesis, although I do not know what I will write about yet. I expect the experience will be a transformative learning opportunity, one that is unique for a student to pursue as an undergraduate.

Honors also offers a variety of research and travel opportunities to complement your education while helping you expand your personal horizons. Every year the Honors College takes students to the National Collegiate Honors Council conference. I had the privilege of going this year, and I presented a proposal I had been working on about religious diversity in our Civilizations sequence. In addition to spending a few days in sunny San Antonio, Texas, I got to meet Honors students from across the country who were eager to discuss their experiences that echoed—and differed from—my own.

And now for the fun Honors College stuff, because there is a lot of that, too! For our final project, my third semester Honors class was assigned a creative project with few limitations. My group wrote a rap about texts read in 211 and also did a spoof of Who’s Line is it Anyway with characters from our books. Maybe that’s not your style, but what’s so great about the Honors College is that it is designed to meet the diverse learning styles of students willing to embrace it.

Overall, my Honors experience has been a product of my efforts to make the most of it. If I could give one piece of academic advice, it would be to venture beyond what you are given and taught in the classroom in order to take full advantage of your experience with the Honors College at the University of Maine.

Kristen and Charlie at the 2008 NCHC Conference in San Antonio, TX

Now luckily for us everything worked out to Prospero’s plan, Miranda here found herself a real man, Prospero got his dukedom returned and Caliban was no longer a creature spurned.

Now there is controversy over Shakespeare’s true intent, if it was political commentary or a fictional event, on these issues we cannot say, all we know is that it is one crazy play.

Excerpt from HON 211 final project on Shakespeare’s The Tempest by Kristen Kuhns, Spencer O’Neil, Liam McSweeney, and Kasey Spear.
Dr. Bernard Lown ’42: Ethical & Distinguished
UMaine’s Nobel Peace Prize Winner returns to Orono

Bernard Lown is 88 years old and nothing — especially not his age — is going to stop him. He has a new book, Prescription for Survival: A Doctor’s Journey to End Nuclear Madness, described as “a prescription for good deeds” by the Boston Globe. He still sees patients at the Lown Cardiovascular Clinic in Brighton, MA. And, not surprisingly, he is in high demand all over the world because his passion — global health through peace and decent treatment for humanity — is as relevant now in our current turbulent global world as it was more than twenty years ago when he won the Nobel Peace Prize for founding International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

In March, the Honors College hosted Conversations with Dr. Bernard Lown, a two-day celebration of the life and work of this 1942 Honors graduate. Conversations included small group meetings with Honors and health professions students, panel conversations with Dr. Lown related to particular aspects of his career, and a major public lecture. Each of the panels was hosted by one of our collaborators on campus: “Bernard Lown: Modern Peace Pioneer” by the Peace Studies Program, “Physicians and Social Responsibility” by the Philosophy Department, and “The Nuclear Threat after 9/11” by the Political Science Department. Each event was very well attended, and the exchanges were spirited. Dr. Lown did not disappoint; he challenged all of us to strive to make a difference in the world. We certainly have no better role model than Dr. Lown.

Dr. Lown’s public lecture was entitled “Global Activism in an Ailing World.” His inspiring words describing a lifelong struggle for world peace through global understanding and health resonated with the hundreds of students, members of the university community and the general public in attendance. The lengthy standing ovation at the end was a clear indication of the impact his message had on the crowd.

Dr. Lown spoke about his realization that the medical work he had committed his life to was not enough to save the world. “Suddenly there was a change,” he said. “I realized that what’s important and what needs to be addressed is not sudden cardiac death, but the threat of the sudden death of humanity.” Following the lecture, President Robert Kennedy hosted a celebratory dinner in honor of Dr. Lown at the President’s House.

Our students shared two meals with Dr. Lown and his beloved wife, Louise. Their combined life journey of love, family, and international impact was nothing short of inspirational for the students. Sixty-six years ago Dr. Lown was in the same place as the graduates featured in this edition of Minerva. It is incredible to think about where they will be in sixty-six years and the impact they will have on the world along the way.

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Dr. Lown’s visit combined two annual events for the Honors College: the Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Lecture and the TIAA-CREF Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecture. The annual Rezendes Ethics Lecture is made possible by the generosity of Dennis Rezendes ’57 through the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund, dedicated to providing our students and community access to important ethical issues. In collaboration with TIAA-CREF, we are pleased each spring to invite a distinguished Honors graduate to campus to speak with our students and the University community about his or her work. For more information on both initiatives, visit www.honors.umaine.edu/traditions.
Dr. Bernard Lown ’42 is the founder of the Lown Cardiovascular Center and the co-founder of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. He is widely regarded as one of the world's leading cardiologists and accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for his work against nuclear war.

www.honors.umaine.edu

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and in pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the Executive Director of Equal Opportunity, The University of Maine, Room 101, 5754 North Stevens Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5754, telephone (207) 581-1226 (voice and TDD).

The University of Maine is a member of the University of Maine System.

During his visit to Maine, Dr. Lown was honored at the State House by Governor John Baldacci and members of the State Legislature.
Burt Hatlen was a dedicated Honors College faculty member during the latter part of his distinguished career at UMaine. Burt contributed greatly to the reconceiving of the first- and second-year curriculum that coincided with the inauguration of the Honors College; his voice was one of collaboration and innovation. Burt’s advocacy and passion for the arts and global citizenship found expression in the College’s newest signature courses, Honors 180: A Cultural Odyssey, which he taught for the first few years after its creation, and Honors 170: Currents and Contexts. During his more than forty years as a UMaine professor, Burt was a frequent lecturer in Honors courses, presenting talks on Shakespeare, the Renaissance, and a memorable lecture on the last University of Maine Class Book, Stephen King’s Hearts in Atlantis. Beginning in 2000, he facilitated preceptorials in the Honors Civilizations sequence on a regular basis. Burt advised five Honors thesis students: David Lyon (1970: Twain and Cabell: The Dream and the Reality), John Daigle (1976: Poems 1972-1976), Randy Dorman (1992: An Oral Approach to Poetry), Michael King (2006: Exploring Perspectives in Writing: A Collection of Prose and Poetry), and Laura Latinski (2007: Disutopias), and he served on many thesis committees. In the Spring of 2005, Burt presented the inaugural Honors College Last Lecture, an opportunity for faculty members to discuss education in the broadest possible sense. His lecture was outstanding and set the bar high for future presenters – please contact the Honors College if you would like a copy of the lecture.

Nick Robertson ’03 graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in philosophy, minors in classical studies and French, and from the Honors College. His Honors thesis was entitled The Grammar of Illusion, and he was advised by Jennifer Anna Gosetti. Nick made a name for himself long before graduation. In 2001, based on his essay, “Wittgenstein, Education, and the Value of Literature,” he became the first winner of the John M. Rezendes Annual Ethics Essay Competition which awards a twenty-five hundred dollar prize to the UMaine student who writes the best essay on Ethics in the Public Domain. [Nick’s essay can be found at www.honors.umaine.edu/documents/rezendes/robertson-2001.pdf.] At the 2002 National Honors Conference in Salt Lake City, UT, Nick led a student roundtable discussing Wittgenstein’s Philosophical Investigations. We all knew that Nick was passionate about philosophy; around campus, he was rarely seen without a book – and a smile.
HONORS INDEX*
2008 Honors Graduates at a Glance

Number of graduates featured in this issue of MINERVA: 65
Number of Honors classes preceding the Class of 2008: 72
Number of graduates from Maine: 55
Number of graduates from states other than Maine: 8
Number of international students: 2
Percentage of graduates who lived in Honors housing for at least one year: 34
Average GPA of 2008 graduates: 3.752
Number of graduates who earned degrees from Natural Sciences, Forestry & Agriculture: 27
Number of graduates who earned degrees from Liberal Arts & Sciences: 29
Number of graduates who earned degrees from Business, Public Policy & Health: 6
Number of graduates who earned degrees from Engineering: 2
Number of graduates who earned degrees from Education & Human Development: 1
Percentage of Class of 2008 Valedictorians in the Honors College: 100
Percentage of Honors graduates in Phi Beta Kappa: 36
Number of graduates in Phi Kappa Phi: 6
Number of Resident Assistants: 4
Percentage of graduates who participated in Greek life: 11
Number of graduates with a family member who graduated from Honors: 5
Percentage of graduates who worked while in school: 54
Number of graduates who went on at least one Honors trip: 16
Percentage of UMaine Washington, D.C. interns: 75
Number of graduates who studied abroad: 16
Number of graduates who had the Dean of the Honors College on their thesis committee: 16
Percentage of graduates with at least one minor: 21.5
Number of student athletes: 4

* Inspired by Harper’s Index™
Special Recognition

The Honors College would like to recognize the following Honors College students for their outstanding achievements during the 2007-2008 academic year. Congratulations!

Valedictorian:

Marianne Schneider ’08 (International Affairs, Economics)

Outstanding Student, Natural Sciences, Forestry & Agriculture:

Emily Ann Kash ’08 (Food Science and Human Nutrition - Human Nutrition)

The Honors College annually recognizes Honors students with these special awards:

The John Ferdinand Steinmetz Memorial Award was established in 1962 by the parents and two sisters of the late John Ferdinand Steinmetz of the Class of 1943. The income of this fund is to be used annually as an award for first-year Honors students demonstrating outstanding characteristics and appropriate need.

Amanda Black ’11 (History) Rachel Hathaway ’11 (Financial Economics)

Aya Mares ’11 (Art History) Kasey Sousa ’11 (Political Science)

The Robert B. Thomson Memorial Awards were established in 1984 by family and friends. The income from the fund is awarded to outstanding Honors College juniors majoring in Political Science and in Art.

Jessica James ’09 (Political Science) Benjamin Burpee ’09 (Studio Art, Biology)

The Dr. Melaine Gershman-Tewksbury ’77 Scholarship Fund was established at the University of Maine in 1993 with gifts from family and friends. The income from the fund shall be used to provide scholarship assistance to meritorious pre-medical students enrolled at the University of Maine. Preference shall be given to students in the Honors College and/or those whose curriculum includes a strong emphasis in the humanities.

Kristen Kuhns ’10 (Anthropology, Pre-Medical Studies)

The Professor Melvin Gershman Scholarship Fund was established at the University of Maine in 1998 with gifts from family, friends, and associates. The income from the fund shall be used to provide scholarship assistance to meritorious science students enrolled at the University of Maine. Preference shall be given to students in the Honors College whose curriculum includes a strong emphasis in the humanities.

Alexandra Albert ’09 (Molecular & Cellular Biology, Biochemistry)

The Honors College Service Award is presented to one or more graduates of the Honors College recognizing outstanding commitment and contributions to the University of Maine Honors community. The award is supported by gifts from our graduates.

Marianne Schneider ’08 (International Affairs, Economics)

Meghan Simonds ’08 (Political Science)

Emma Wojtal ’08 (Psychology)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major/Field</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Thesis Title</th>
<th>Thesis Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tracy Patricia Allen</td>
<td>Political Science, Studio Art</td>
<td>Sharon Ashworth</td>
<td>Acute Renal Failure Induces Actin Cytoskeletal Alterations: An Investigation of Cofilin and Tropomyosin in Ischemic Renal Injury</td>
<td>This study provided a more in depth understanding of the mechanisms that lead to the cellular breakdown observed with renal ischemia. To better understand ischemia-induced actin cytoskeletal changes in the kidney, I utilized the porcine proximal tubule cell line (LLC-PKA.4.8) and ATP depletion model using Antimycin A. I showed that the expression of EYFP-TM1 affected the activity and expression of cofilin and tropomyosin in confluent cells and may affect biochemical pathways in LLC-PKA.4.8 cells, in particular the RhoA pathway.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loren Babirak</td>
<td>Biology (Pre-Med), Chemistry</td>
<td>Mark Haggerty</td>
<td>Shifts in Labor Organizing Strategy: A Case Study of Non-Professional Workers at Eastern Maine Medical Center</td>
<td>My thesis presents a case study of a modern day labor organizing campaign, the effort of the International Association Machinists (IAM) to organize support staff at Eastern Maine Medical Center (EMMC) in Bangor. I use the case study to examine if and how these recommendations are being implemented on the local organizing level and their impact. My research is based on an analysis of local newspaper articles, documents from EMMC and IAM, interviews of union and EMMC representatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Bartlett</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Janet Tebrake</td>
<td>The Black Death: An Exploration of Medieval Chroniclers’ Perceptions Regarding the Causes of the Fourteenth Century Pestilence</td>
<td>The Black Death erupted during the period known to historians as the Late Middle Ages, which spanned roughly 1300 to 1500 C.E. Also referred to as the Pestilence, or the Great Mortality, this devastating epidemic is a historical topic that never ceases to fascinate readers. My thesis seeks to probe accounts of fourteenth century chroniclers in an attempt to discern how Europeans across the continent explained the extraordinary death tolls and immense suffering that characterized the plague outbreak of 1348-1350.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Ruth Atchinson</td>
<td>Food Science &amp; Human Nutrition</td>
<td>Susan Sullivan</td>
<td>Dietary Adequacy of Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass Patients Six Months Post-Operatively</td>
<td>My thesis analyzed food records from gastric-bypass patients six months after surgery to assess dietary adequacy and potential nutrient deficiency. Gastric bypass surgically reduces the size of the stomach and bypasses a portion of the small intestine, limiting a person’s ability to take in large quantities of food and to digest food adequately. My research involved volunteering with the Surgical Weight Loss Program at Eastern Maine Medical Center, as well as doing data entry and analysis. Future Plans: I will be entering the University of Alaska Anchorage graduate school in August for their Dietetic Internship program with a focus on Alaskan native culture and healthcare delivery system, and until then I will be enjoying Maine as much as possible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Morgan Claire Bickford  
**Business Administration (Marketing) / International Affairs**  
Lebanon, ME  
Noble High School

*Promoting Soccer in the United States: A Cross Cultural Analysis and Recitation on Sports Marketing*

**Advisor:** Paul Myer  
**Thesis description:** I conducted interviews, secondary research, and a cultural analysis between England and the U.S. to determine why soccer has never been as successful as other national sports in the U.S. and what marketing strategies are best suited to promote and increase the success of professional soccer in the U.S. Although there are considerable differences between the cultural environments and professional sports business models, there are some English professional football “success factors” that can be identified and applied to the U.S. professional soccer marketing strategy.

**Future Plans:** I will be working as a business analyst at Liberty Mutual in Portsmouth, NH, and I am planning to attend graduate school in the next few years.

William M. Beaudoin  
**Political Science / Business Administration**  
Durham, ME  
Brunswick High School

*Private Security Contractors in Iraq and their Effect on U.S. Policy Making*

**Advisor:** Timothy Cole  
**Thesis description:** My thesis examines the effect on U.S. foreign policy arising from the outsourcing of military operations to private firms, and shows that the Bush Administration’s ideological decision to outsource the government’s monopoly of the use of force was a mistake that has hurt U.S. foreign policy objectives in Iraq.

**Future Plans:** I plan to take a couple of years leave from the “academic” realm and will work in the “real world” before attending graduate or law school. Ideally, I would like to return to work in Washington D.C. and become involved in the U.S. policy making process.

Caitlin Bergeron  
**Food Science & Human Nutrition**  
Falmouth, ME  
Falmouth High School

*Perceptions of Experiences of Older Adults Participating in the Maine Senior FarmShare Program*

**Advisor:** Richard Cook  
**Thesis description:** The Maine FarmShare program provides low-income seniors across Maine with fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season. Over four years, surveys were sent out to all of the participants at the end of the summer program and 10,481 were returned. This study analyzed the extra comments included on the returned surveys and identified issues and factors not covered by the original survey that were important to participants. In a revised survey, perceptions and opinions of Farm Share participants could be more clearly identified.

**Future Plans:** Upon graduation, I plan to work at WIC in Portland, Maine before returning to school to obtain my Registered Dietitian credential.

Michelle C. Brodeur  
**Marine Science**  
Auburn, ME  
Edward Little High School

*Optimizing Shipping Methods for Cultured Marine Ornamental Fish*

**Advisors:** David Townsend and Soren Hansen  
**Thesis description:** Millions of marine ornamental fish are shipped each year. Mortality rates are very high and the majority of fish do not survive shipment. I examined deteriorating water quality during shipping to provide an estimation of packing densities. Fish are starved 24-hours prior to shipment and I examined if this time allows for all food to be excreted. I determined the impact of water quality parameters, as well as a weight to length relationship for quick biomass calculations. Results from these experiments will allow us to formulate shipping methods based on science, without jeopardizing fish health.

**Future Plans:** I plan to intern at Dauphin Island Sea Lab, then attend graduate school for marine science.
Mary M. Cloutier

Biochemistry

Portland, ME
Cheverus Jesuit Prep High School

Expression Patterns of Protein Palmitoyl Transferases in Danio Rerio

Advisor: Robert Gundersen

Thesis description: I studied the expression patterns of a class of proteins involved in a process known as post-translational modification. This process aids the cell in regulating the localization of proteins to various target sites. The organism used in this study was Danio rerio, or zebrafish. The expression of these genes was detected with a technique known as In-Situ Hybridization.

Future Plans: I am beginning my PhD in Biological Sciences with a focus in Cellular and Physiological Dynamics at the University of Notre Dame, beginning in June 2008.

William S. Broussard

Biology

Bowdoinham, ME
Mt. Ararat High School

Clay Ingestion by Parrots of the Peruvian Amazon: Detoxification and Coevolution

Advisor: Bill Glanz

Thesis description: My thesis focused on one hypothesis for why parrots eat clay from banks (claylicks) along riversides in Peru. Using a brine shrimp bioassay, parrot dietary items, and claylick samples from Peru, I attempted to determine the toxicity of parrot food and if the chosen clays detoxify parrot foods better than rejected clays. I found that overall, parrot food was toxic; but more data is needed before an argument can be made that either accepts or rejects the idea that chosen clays detoxify parrot foods better than rejected clays.

Future Plans: I plan to develop as an educator, scientist, and communicator. Lab and field training, money saving, and independent living are top priorities. I will go to graduate school when I am ready, and not a moment sooner.

University of Maine Career Fair Participation Study

Advisor: Harold Daniel

Thesis description: The University of Maine Career Fair Participation Study was a market research project seeking to discover the benefits employers are seeking at a recruitment function. The study went on to analyze what benefits the career fair does or does not provide.

Future Plans: I plan to move to Boston and pursue a career in business.

Jennifer Michelle Couture

Marine Science

Litchfield, NH
Campbell High School

Competitive Interactions Between Alexandrium Fundyense and Ditylum Brightwellii and Their Potential Impact on Alexandrium Blooms in the Gulf of Maine

Advisor: Lee Karp-Boss

Thesis description: I researched the red tide dinoflagellate Alexandrium fundyense and studied how it interacts with co-occurring phytoplankton in the Gulf of Maine. I specifically looked at its relationship with the common diatom Ditylum brightwellii, and how interspecific competition combined with other factors could play a part in influencing harmful Alexandrium blooms in the Gulf of Maine.

Future Plans: I plan to take a year off and begin grad school in the fall of 2009.

Meaghan A. Cashman

Business Administration (Marketing & International Affairs)

Political Science

Marblehead, MA
Marblehead High School

University of Maine Career Fair Participation Study

Advisor: Harold Daniel

Thesis description: The University of Maine Career Fair Participation Study was a market research project seeking to discover the benefits employers are seeking at a recruitment function. The study went on to analyze what benefits the career fair does or does not provide.

Future Plans: I plan to move to Boston and pursue a career in business.
### Profiles

**Olivia Y. Cyr**  
**Studiod Art (Sculpture)**  
**Biology**  
Fort Kent, ME  
Fort Kent Community High School

**An Exploration of the Human Relationship to the Natural World**

*Advisor:* Owen Smith  
*Thesis description:* I created three sculptures in response to research on how other artists explore the natural world through their work, and on the history of western environmental policies and architecture. I created a 48” long microscope slide and allowed fungus and bacteria to grow on continent-shaped agar. I built an architectural model of a large New England-style home entirely out of garbage and waste materials. And I designed a composting process and ‘kit’ intended for urban residents, where composting is difficult and often banned.

*Future Plans:* I plan to work for a year as an artist assistant while applying to graduate school, where I hope to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture.

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**Molly Beth Feeney**  
**Political Science**  
Knox, ME  
Mount View High School


*Advisors:* Emily Ann Cain & Mark Haggerty  
*Thesis description:* In January, 2007 Governor Baldacci announced an extensive plan to reorganize Maine’s educational boundaries. This thesis includes a policy analysis and a look at the necessity of change for Maine schools. The school reorganization policy addresses the difficult demographic and financial conditions in Maine, and reveals the need for a more sustainable funding system. The analysis assesses the strengths and weaknesses of reorganization policy and makes thoughtful critiques and recommendations about the initial policy development and future implementation process.

*Future Plans:* I will be returning to UMaine to get a Masters in Education. I plan to teach in Maine for a few years while pursuing public education policy.

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**Michael Dabrieo**  
**Journalism (News Editing Sequence)**  
Sanford, ME  
Sanford High School

**The Polis**

*Advisor:* David Kress  
*Thesis description:* A creative interpretation of Socrates’ city in speech as presented in Plato’s Republic, the Polis is a tale of a dystopian society. Following the journeys of Jack, the book shows how Socrates’ city would have potentially fallen and poses the question of what a just city-state truly is.

*Future Plans:* Following graduation I am going to travel to South America to live and work.

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**James Anthony Foster, II**  
**Psychology**  
**Neuroscience, History**  
Livermore Falls, ME  
Livermore Falls High School

**Shift Lag and Circadian Disruption on Ethanol Preference in Genetically Inbred Lewis and Fischer Rats**

*Advisor:* Alan Rosenwasser  
*Thesis description:* Using two strains of rats, one bred to high stress/low alcohol preference and the other to low stress/high alcohol preference, I put them into light-dark cycle. The control group had a standard 6am to 6pm light cycle, while the experimental light-dark cycle was advanced over time, simulating jet lag and shift work. Recent experiments show that stress plays a part in alcohol consumption depending on your initial preference. Our experiment mirrored those results, as stressed low-preferring animals (Fischer) drank more ethanol, while stressed high-preferring animals (Lewis) drank less ethanol.

*Future Plans:* Within a few years, I hope to go to grad school for more cognitive work, likely dealing with either sleep research or drug use.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Thesis description</th>
<th>Future Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Kate Franzosa</td>
<td>Susan Ellis-Hermansen</td>
<td>Polypharmacy and the Role of the Nurse in Effective Medication Management for Older Adults</td>
<td>To be a registered nurse in the medical-surgical unit of a hospital in Maine or New Hampshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn M. Gould</td>
<td>Scott Anchors</td>
<td>Enhancing Meeting Effectiveness by Understanding Personality Differences</td>
<td>I will start the MBA program here at UMaine in the fall, and I will be working as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Human Resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie M. Goulet</td>
<td>Mark Brewer</td>
<td>From the Velvet Underground to Green Day: The Changing Politics of the Punk Movement</td>
<td>Future Plans: I will attend graduate school at UMaine in the Master of Arts in Teaching program (elementary option) beginning this summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan M. Grant</td>
<td>Carla Billiterri</td>
<td>Enhancing Meeting Effectiveness by Understanding Personality Differences</td>
<td>Future Plans: I will attend graduate study at Emerson College in the Master of Arts in Publishing and Writing program. After that I will travel the world...or, perhaps, get a job.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Alyssa Kate Franzosa**

*English*

Bangor, ME
Bangor High School

*We’re Getting Closer: Studying and Attempting Memory-Writing*

**Advisor:** Carla Billiterri  
**Thesis description:** My thesis combines literary theory and creative writing — both of which focus on personal narrative and memory-writing — to create a unique whole. The inspiration was a story that I wrote early in my college career about my father and myself. For the thesis, I polished the original story, wrote three others that focus on my father and his influence on my life, and wrote an analytical section about theories on memory-writing and my take on them. It has turned into a topic that I really love and it has inspired me to continue my study of personal narrative.  

**Future Plans:** I will attend graduate study at Emerson College in the Master of Arts in Publishing and Writing program. After that I will travel the world...or, perhaps, get a job.

**Laurie M. Goulet**

*Nursing*

North Berwick, ME  
Noble High School

*Polypharmacy and the Role of the Nurse in Effective Medication Management for Older Adults*

**Advisor:** Susan Ellis-Hermansen  
**Thesis description:** This theses assesses the prevalence of polypharmacy, the use of multiple medications, among community-dwelling older adults and the impact on health status. Results show that polypharmacy correlates with poorer health status, more often forgetting to take medication, experiencing more side effects, and a lower understanding of the purpose and correct administration of medication. Implications for health professionals include assessment for appropriate type/dose of medication, for side effects, and the efficacy of the prescribed therapy. Nurses play a key role in providing education for patients to empower them to be their own advocates in their care.  

**Future Plans:** To be a registered nurse in the medical-surgical unit of a hospital in Maine or New Hampshire.

Advisor: David Barrett
Thesis description: This thesis reflects both of my degrees. The first part is a business plan for starting a childcare center, including projected financial statements. The second part is a discussion of the three different philosophies of child development that inspired my personal philosophy. These are High/Scope, Montessori, and Reggio Emilia. I also explain how my proposed childcare center would meet National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation standards.

Future Plans: I plan to work in an NAEYC accredited childcare center to gain experience in the field and to open a center of my own in the near future.

Invasive Plants, What Should be Done About Them? Impacts, Public Opinion, and Alternatives Concerning Invasive Plants in Maine

Advisor: Douglin Zhang
Thesis description: The focus of this work is on terrestrial invasive plants. Not all states have policies regarding invasive species, including Maine. In order to discover if such a policy is desirable or even feasible for this state, a survey was conducted in the fall of 2006 aimed at the Green Industry and Master Gardeners with the purpose of identifying how each group stands on the issue of invasive species. This thesis explores the impacts, public opinion and the alternatives concerning invasive plants in Maine.

Future Plans: Upon graduation, I plan to attend graduate school and pursue studies that combine aspects of environmental science and landscape horticulture.

The Sweet Truth: Aspartame Unveiled

Advisor: Mary Tyler
Thesis description: I designed a survey about the consumption of aspartame that showed that many respondents have experienced adverse reactions attributed to aspartame and that several continue to ingest it despite symptoms. I found that participants have difficulty knowing what sources to trust for reliable information about aspartame. Based on my results and a review of scientific literature, I concluded that aspartame is unsafe for consumption. Due to the irregular approval of aspartame, I propose that the US FDA should ban the use of aspartame altogether, or ban it from children’s products and require that aspartame containing products be labeled revealing the safety issues.

Future Plans: I will take a year off to work in a medical setting in order to gain more experience in the field before applying to medical school.


Advisor: David Barrett
Thesis description: This thesis reflects both of my degrees. The first part is a business plan for starting a childcare center, including projected financial statements. The second part is a discussion of the three different philosophies of child development that inspired my personal philosophy. These are High/Scope, Montessori, and Reggio Emilia. I also explain how my proposed childcare center would meet National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation standards.

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Future Plans: I will take a year off to work in a medical setting in order to gain more experience in the field before applying to medical school.
**Methods to Reduce After-Cooking Darkening in Potatoes: A Comparison of Citric Acid, SAPP (sodium acid pyrophosphate), and SAS (sodium acid sulfate)**

**Advisor:** Beth Calder  
**Thesis description:** The objective of my research was to evaluate the effectiveness of dip treatments on the reduction of ACD in Maine grown Katahdin potatoes. Treatments included 3% solutions of citric acid (CA), sodium acid pyrophosphate (SAPP), sodium acid sulfate (SAS), and a distilled water control, with a dip time of 3 minutes prior to boiling. Results revealed both SAS and CA to be the most effective dip treatments at reducing ACD.

**Future Plans:** Next year I am doing a Dietetic Internship at the Cleveland Clinic.

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**The (Anti?) Metaphysical Subjectivism of Jorge Luis Borges**

**Advisor:** Tony Brinkley  
**Thesis description:** The Argentinean writer Jorge Luis Borges wrote short stories in which the central quandaries of metaphysics were brought to the forefront. Borges does not only utilize metaphysics as a topic of consideration, but also employs metaphysics as a paradigm of his storytelling technique. My thesis hopes to both expose Borges’s inheritance to Philosophy, but also reverse this analysis and apply philosophical themes upon his writing as a form of literary criticism.

**Future Plans:** I will be studying contemporary French political and theological philosophy at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA.

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**Sports Facilities Should Not Be Built with Public Funds**

**Advisor:** Robert Strong  
**Thesis description:** My thesis was based on research I did on the money that finances sports facilities, stadiums, arenas, and such. I started impartial about the subject but by the end made the decision that sports facilities need to have less public funds allocated to their construction. My decision was based on where my research led me with the most convincing evidence. It was a difficult but ultimately satisfying experience once it was all said and done.

**Future Plans:** Short-term I plan on getting a temporary job for a year or two to pay off my remaining college loans. Long-term I plan on attending law school.

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**The Aesthetics of Experience**

**Advisor:** Kirsten Jacobson  
**Thesis description:** Following John Dewey’s *Art As Experience*, I look at how the interactions of contemporary society influence the intensity of, and the meaning, value, and purpose derived from, how contemporary society views the role of work, entertainment/leisure, and art. I focus on the interaction involved in experience: why and how both determinate and indeterminate elements are at play in all experience, why and how experience involves both doing and undergoing on the part of the individual having an experience, and the range of roles emotion, imagination, expression, means and ends/forms and content may have in the course of a “life.”

**Future Plans:** I am working towards a Ph.D. at the University of Oregon in philosophy, hoping to publish and teach.
**Profiles**

**Mark Ethan Larsen**  
**Computer Science**  
**Mathematics**

Marshfield, ME  
Machias Memorial High School

**Advisor:** Roy Turner  
**Thesis description:** This thesis attempts to develop a computer simulation to represent the predatory relationship between T. adspersa (a species of nudibranchs, or sea slugs) and C. lacustris (a species of euryhaline hydroids). The simulation was designed in a modular fashion so as to improve the program’s maintainability and expendability. Additionally, significant efforts were made to design efficient algorithms to improve overall simulation performance.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend graduate school to study computer science at Stony Brook University in New York.

**Robert Martin Lawlis**  
**Mathematics**  
**Economics**

Hampden, ME  
Hampden Academy

**Advisor:** Robert Franzosa  
**Thesis description:** In my thesis I presented an accessible tutorial on game theory, motivated some economic applications of the theory, and ultimately proved an important theorem in the field relying almost exclusively on concepts developed in the thesis.

**Future Plans:** I will be attending graduate school at Cornell and pursuing a Masters of Engineering in Systems Engineering.

**Daniel Robb Lawson**  
**History**  
**Economics**

Hampden, ME  
Hampden Academy

**Advisor:** Liam Riordan  
**Thesis description:** I researched the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from their first settlement in Missouri to their flight from the U.S. in 1845. My thesis explains the internal dynamic of the Mormon community in their response to religious persecution, which they encountered throughout their experience in the U.S. My thesis shows that church members initially endured mob violence with patience, but after their peaceful disposition failed to win them recourse from God or government, they became less willing to turn their cheeks to persecution. Because of their past experiences, the Latter-day Saints resorted to ultimately counterproductive methods of retaliation and political secession.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, New Hampshire where I will earn my JD.

**Hendrik J. Lenferink**  
**Earth Sciences, Physics**

Little Deer Isle, ME  
Liberty School

**Advisor:** Scott E. Johnson  
**Thesis description:** Relict microstructures in monoclinic ductile shear zones preserve the kinematic vorticity number (Wk) of bulk flow. Two aspects preserving Wk, porphyroclast shape-preferred orientations (SPO) and dynamically-recrystallized quartz c-axis maxima, yield differing values. Using finite element modeling, I show how strain localization around porphyroclasts affects SPO making Wk seem low via the former method. I show how to quantify localization if Wk is determinable via the latter method. If the viscosity of porphyroclast ‘tails’ is known and the ratio of viscosities between the matrix and tails is at least an order of magnitude, one may estimate the viscosity of bulk flow.

**Future Plans:** I plan to earn my Ph.D. in Geophysics at MIT, become an astronaut, and save the planet from doom.
The University of Maine

**Danielle Letarte**  
Economics, Mathematics  
Windham, ME  
Windham High School  

**Advisor:** Michael Montgomery  
**Thesis description:** My project measured the impact of gender inequity on faculty salary within the University of Maine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I used two different mathematical methods of analysis in measuring gender inequity in order to statistically control for faculty characteristics that legitimately affect salary and to isolate the effect of gender on salary determination. I found that in the two years since a similar 2006 salary-equity study was conducted, which reported a decrease in the wage gap since 2000, the disparity in salary between comparable male and female faculty members has increased substantially.  
**Future Plans:** I will attend graduate school for a master’s degree in financial economics at UMaine.

**Brock D. Libby**  
Biology, Sociology  
Skowhegan, ME  
Skowhegan Area High School  

**Advisor:** Mary Tyler  
**Thesis description:** Many claim aspartame has adverse effects on consumers while others assure its safety. This thesis was restricted to the regulations and reactions of consumers in the U.S. to aspartame, but some pertinent data were used from Europe. Results showed that one of the metabolic breakdown products of aspartame, methanol, is harmful to all consumers while others are generally safe in low doses. However, some have a sensitivity to this product and it is harmful to them even in minute doses. I also found that the legislative process behind approval of this product is one that is mired in corruption and money, politics and power.  
**Future Plans:** I plan to attend the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

**Kendra Lynn Look**  
Chemistry, Mathematics  
Beals Island, ME  
Jonesport-Beals High School  

**Advisor:** Howard H. Patterson  
**Thesis description:** It is reported that La[AgxCu1-x(CN)2]3 (x=1, 0.67, 0.33, 0) shows tunability as the emission energies of the system vary as a function of the stoichiometric ratio when excited at 320 nm at 77K; higher silver loading gives higher emission energy. The tunability of the Ag/Cu system is not as good compared to the tunability of La[AgxAu1-x(CN)2]3 system previously published by Julie Colis, due to the Cu bent structure and lower emission energy. Vapochromic capabilities of a KAu(CN)2 are also reported in that emission energies of the crystals taken alone and in solution go unchanged, concluding that KAu(CN)2 is not an ideal candidate for a vapochromic system.

**Kristin M. Lumbert**  
Sociology, Psychology  
Jackman, ME  
Forest Hills Consolidated High School  

**Advisor:** Steve Cohn  
**Thesis description:** In recent years the US labor force has seen an increase in the number of women in the labor force, and also in the earning potential of those women. Randall Collins has made a hypothesis that these substantial transformations will in turn affect the dynamics of our mate selection. Specifically, he suggests that as working women continue to increase in number, and in earning potential, men will begin to increasingly value and desire women with higher incomes. In order to test this hypothesis we must first understand current theories of mate selection.
Development of Methods to Analyze the Zebrafish Pronephros

Advisor: Sharon Ashworth

Thesis description: Acute renal failure (ARF) is increasing, and ischemic ARF accounts for over 50% of documented ARF cases. To better understand the actin cytoskeletal changes seen in response to ischemia, I developed methods to analyze the actin cytoskeleton in the zebrafish pronephros. In wildtype zebrafish embryos I visualized the membrane of the pronephros with primary antibodies, anti-alpha-6F and anti-megalin, and noted the bundled actin filaments in the apical brush border with anti-actin and rhodamine phalloidin. This study lays the foundation for future work to characterize hypoxia and toxin-induced ARF in wildtype and cofilin null zebrafish.

Future Plans: I will pursue a career in medicine and science after graduate school in Zoology at UMaine.

Intentional Communities: The Psychological and Behavioral Effects of Communities on Members

Advisor: Timothy Cole

Thesis description: My thesis explored intentional communities, focusing on Hilltop Community in Washington State, which has had long-running success. The purpose of my thesis was to discover the aspects of a planned community that make it sustainable. I discovered that a level of flexibility as well as adherence to the original principles of the community are key for sustainability. My thesis also considered how the physical design of the community is reflective of the community’s founding principles.

Future Plans: I plan to pursue a master’s degree in Urban Planning to further my interest in community studies policy, sustainable development and urban revitalization. I hope to use the information gathered in my thesis to work for more equitable and accessible living in urban areas.

Ecology of the Strangler Fig (genus Ficus) in Tropical Ecosystems

Advisor: Christa Schwintzer

Thesis description: Members of the genus Ficus (figs) are an important resource in most land based tropical ecosystems. Figs contain approximately 750 different species with varying structures that include both trees and vines, as well as the semi-parasitic growth form called a strangler fig. Ficus has a close relationship with Agaonidae, a family of wasps that have evolved over the past 83 million years to be the unique pollinator of the fig flower. My thesis included a summary of fig biology research, and identified gaps in the information currently available.

Future Plans: After spending the summer working in the woods of mid-coast Maine, I will move to Boston, MA to pursue a career in dance.

The Emergence of Natural Right Theory in Medieval Europe

Advisor: James Warhola

Thesis description: My thesis was a research study to explore the emergence of Natural Rights Theory beginning as early as the twelfth century C.E. I worked to synthesize scholarship and explore medieval texts to see when and how exactly these rights began to impact thought in the Western World.

Future Plans: I plan on working as a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Organizations and Leader Development at the University of Maine while taking courses to earn a master’s degree in a related field.
The University of Maine

SONYA LYNN MORSE

Biology
Chemistry

Eddington, ME
John Bapst Memorial High School

A Review: The Importance of Mucociliary Clearance in the Reproductive Tract

Advisor: Robert Causey
Thesis description: My thesis discussed the role mucociliary clearance plays in the reproductive tract of both the human and the horse, basing my findings off research concerning the horse. In addition to reviewing mucociliary clearance and its importance, I documented original findings of changes the equine uterus undergoes in response to damage. This is a major concern for equine practitioners who commonly see infertile mares who pose a large economic loss to the horse industry.

Future Plans: I am attending veterinary school at Cornell University and plan to return to northern New England to practice, specializing in equine medicine.

SEAN S. O’MARA

Psychology

Easton, ME
Easton High School

Driving Them Wild: Rescuing Cacophony Lethal Alleles in Drosophila Melanogaster Using The Yeast UAS-GAL4 System and a Pan-Neuronal Driver

Advisor: Shannon McCoy
Thesis description: In this study, the individual’s reaction to threats to group identity was examined. Pro-life Christians were selected to interact with either pro-choice Christian or non-Christian lab assistants posing as participants. Participants engaged in a structured discussion with the fictional partner, and were given either a chance to exclude the threatening partner from the group “Christian” or not. Consistent with predictions, participants who were not given the opportunity to exclude showed higher stress levels (from heart rate data), were significantly more depressed, and derogated the partner more than participants who were given the opportunity to exclude.

Future Plans: I will be attending the Maine School of Law in Portland in the fall.

TEAGAN F. O’TOOLE

Microbiology

Waldoboro, ME / Averill Park, NY
Medomak Valley High School

Interaction of MDM2 from the Bay Mussel (Mytilus trossulus) With p53 from M. trossulus and the Softshell Clam (Mya arenaria)

Advisor: Rebecca J. Van Beneden
Thesis description: Mollusks are subject to a fatal haemocytoblastic neoplasia (leukemia) resembling Burkitt’s lymphoma. The tumor-suppressor gene p53, which plays a pivotal role in controlling cell proliferation, was cloned from both. A negative regulator of p53 activity, MDM2 (murine double minute 2) was also cloned from M. trossulus. I investigated the interaction of MDM2 from M. trossulus with p53 from M. trossulus and M. arenaria in a yeast two-hybrid assay. My results suggest that the function is similar to humans, and will be included in a larger publication.

Future Plans: I will attend the Physician Assistant program at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and plan a career as a PA in oncology.

RACHEL KENNEDY PALMER

English, Biochemistry
Chemistry

Orono, ME
Lauralton Hall

Black Sheep Effect: Target Exclusion and Devaluation with Physiological Reactivity

Advisor: Shannon McCoy
Thesis description: In this study, the individual’s reaction to threats to group identity was examined. Pro-life Christians were selected to interact with either pro-choice Christian or non-Christian lab assistants posing as participants. Participants engaged in a structured discussion with the fictional partner, and were given either a chance to exclude the threatening partner from the group “Christian” or not. Consistent with predictions, participants who were not given the opportunity to exclude showed higher stress levels (from heart rate data), were significantly more depressed, and derogated the partner more than participants who were given the opportunity to exclude.

Future Plans: I will be attending the Maine School of Law in Portland in the fall.

A Review: The Importance of Mucociliary Clearance in the Reproductive Tract

Advisor: Robert Causey
Thesis description: My thesis discussed the role mucociliary clearance plays in the reproductive tract of both the human and the horse, basing my findings off research concerning the horse. In addition to reviewing mucociliary clearance and its importance, I documented original findings of changes the equine uterus undergoes in response to damage. This is a major concern for equine practitioners who commonly see infertile mares who pose a large economic loss to the horse industry.

Future Plans: I am attending veterinary school at Cornell University and plan to return to northern New England to practice, specializing in equine medicine.

The University of Maine
Adolescent Language Development: A Comparison of Spoken and Written Personal Narratives

Advisor: Nancy Hall

Thesis description: Narrative production, or story-telling, is used to describe language development in children. Previous research has indicated that language continues to change within adolescence and beyond. This project analyzed the development of both spoken and written narrative language as it occurs from grade 9 to grade 12. The results show considerable growth in the language of written narratives, particularly in vocabulary diversity and elaboration and are evidence of the continued growth of narrative language during adolescence, mostly in the written modality.

Future Plans: I will return to UMaine to pursue an advanced degree in communication sciences and disorders.

Otaku and Camies: On the Maintenance of Geek Identity

Advisor: Stephen Marks

Thesis description: I explored geek identity and how group processes called interaction ritual chains can maintain, strengthen, or weaken geek identity. My strategy for investigating self-identified geeks on campus was to generate four focus groups consisting of members of Anime Club and members of the Live Action Role-Playing Society, as members these groups typically claim a geek identity. I generated discussions to uncover: what a geek identity is as a set of self-understandings; what the circumstances are through which the geek identity is strengthened by participation in scheduled events and how these strengthening mechanisms unfold; and how members perceive and manage the stigma of a geek identity.

Future Plans: I will be moving to Japan to be an English teacher as a participant of the JET program.

Chemotherapy Induced Cognitive Dysfunction: Developing an Animal Model

Advisor: Thane Fremouw

Thesis description: Evidence suggests that chemotherapy causes cognitive impairment in cancer survivors, but it remains unclear if the chemotherapy itself is causing the impairment. I examine this relationship in an animal model, specifically focusing on single agent versus combination agent chemotherapy regimens, confounds which cloud available data, and directions of future research. With a small number of animals this research shows a trend that chemotherapy may cause cognitive deficits in both the hippocampus and the amygdala. The mice exhibited less freezing on both a contextual memory test and a cue specific memory test.

Future Plans: I will return to UMaine in the fall to finish another degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

Investigating Health Risk Parameters of University of Maine Undergraduate Students

Advisor: Adrienne White

Thesis description: This research assessed the anthropometrics - height, weight, waist circumference, calculated body mass index - and estimated VO2max as an assessment of cardiorespiratory fitness to provide information on health risk status. Subjects were 225 (112 female, 113 male) young adult college students age 18-24. Weight was measured with a digital scale, height with a stadiometer and waist circumference with a Gulick measuring tape. Estimated VO2 max was calculated based on heart rate after completion of the Queens College Step Test.

Future Plans: I will return to UMaine for the combined MS in food science and human nutrition, and for the dietetic internship program.
Representations of Race and Gender in 1970s Horror Films and Their Contemporary Remakes

Advisor: Amy Blackstone
Thesis description: I looked at ten films originally released in the U.S. in the 1970s, all of which had been remade since the year 2000. I then used sociological methods to track representations of race and gender in these films to assess the differences between the films of the past and the films we see today. In addition, I took a qualitative approach for an in-depth discussion of two of the films in particular.
Future Plans: I will be attending graduate school in the near future, pursuing a Master’s in Library Science. I picture myself being a very content librarian for a long time.

The Peruvian Beach Ridges: Records of Human Activity and Climate Change

Advisor: Dan Sandweiss
Thesis description: I examined the interaction between prehistoric humans, their environments, and climate change events. My research included two archaeological field seasons studying beach ridge formations on the northern coast of Peru. The ridges are created by seismic and mega-El Niño events. The same severe events that helped create the ridges would have brought changes in ocean temperatures, and long-term rains that caused flooding and destruction on the otherwise desert coast. These archaeological sites provided a unique record to examine how climate change/disaster events, landscape alteration, changes in resources, and human culture intertwine.
Future Plans: My future plans include archaeology, travel, music, and crepes.
**Profiles**

**Marianne Schneider**  
International Affairs, Economics  
French, Canadian Studies  
Jena, Germany  
Ernst Abbe Gymnasium

*The Euro’s Impact on Trade: Evidence from Germany*

**Advisor:** Adrienne Kearney  
**Thesis description:** Germany was among the eleven countries of the European Union (EU) that adopted the euro in January 1999. In my thesis, I estimated the effect of adopting the euro on real bilateral trade flows between Germany and its five most important trading partners: France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. While the first three countries also adopted the euro, the latter two did not. Using quarterly data from 1991:1 until 2006:4, I found that the implementation of the single currency improved Germany’s trade with all selected countries except for the United States, in which case the impact of the euro was not statistically significant.  
**Future Plans:** After interning at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, I will study International Economics at Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

**Leah E. Shipps**  
Child Development & Family Relations, Women’s Studies  
Stillwater, ME  
Old Town High School

*Mothers as Sexual in Popular Magazines: An Analysis from Demi Moore’s Appearance on the Cover of Vanity Fair in 1991 to the Present*

**Advisor:** Sandra L. Caron  
**Thesis description:** I investigated the portrayal of mothers as sexual, examining popular parenting magazines to determine if article content dealt with mothers as sexual. While many studies have examined the image of young women and sexuality in popular media, there has been a lack of research focusing on the sexual image of mothers in magazines. Results revealed that few articles (2%) dealt with sexuality issues in these parenting magazines as they relate to mothers. The limitations, implications, and directions for further research are discussed.  
**Future Plans:** I plan to live in Maine, working with children and families. Ultimately, I plan to return to school either in the area of law or counseling.

**Benjamin Shepard**  
Civil Engineering  
Gorham, ME  
Gorham High School

*Transit Use at College Campuses and its Effect on Trip Generation*

**Advisor:** Per Gärdner  
**Thesis description:** There are currently established methods to calculate personal vehicle trips generated at many different land uses. These methods generally do not take into account the use of mass transit and its influence on vehicle usage. To further understand this relationship, the ridership on an interurban bus service at five colleges and universities in the Bangor area was studied. While the relationship between car and mass transit usage at these schools is unclear, being able to quantify mass transit usage and the factors behind it promises a better ability to optimize mass transit usage in order to have a more sustainable transportation system.  
**Future Plans:** I will work as an associate engineer at Central Maine Power in Augusta.

**Meghan S. Simonds**  
Political Science  
Brewer, ME  
John Bapst Memorial High School

*A Study of Congressional Reorganization: General Reform Trends Applied to a Discussion of Legislative Reorganization of Congress Under the Acts of 1946 and 1970*

**Advisor:** Richard Powell  
**Thesis description:** My study combines the trends and characteristics of major reform movements to explain what brought about the Legislative Reorganization of 1946 and 1970. This study argues that the several important theories and characteristics of reform can be directly applied to these Acts, namely, that it is Congress’s relationship with the executive influenced by specific national events that both drive reorganization and produce the outcomes that result from the achieved legislation.  
**Future Plans:** I will return to Washington, D.C. as Legislative Correspondent on the staff of U.S. Senator Susan Collins’ defense team; handling the mail portfolio for defense, military, veterans affairs, and foreign policy issues.
Jessica Sirois
International Affairs (French)
East Waterboro, ME
Preque Isle High School

Living Bombs: The Extent of Strategic Military Motivations in Palestinian Suicide Terrorism

Advisor: Henry Munson
Thesis description: My thesis addresses how Palestinian suicide bombers fit into Robert Pape’s model (Dying to Win). Pape’s assertions deal with suicide terrorism as a global phenomenon and overlook subtle variations in each affected population. Suicide terrorism occurs in diverse regions and is consequently influenced by diverse factors. There are individual motives, but also the cultural nuances associated with each attack. Strategic military motivations, public opinion changes, religious fanaticism / extreme nationalism, Israeli aggression, and the living conditions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip all play critical roles in Palestinian suicide terrorism.

Future Plans: After getting married I will study International Affairs at Old Dominion University.

Chelsi Jean Snow
Molecular Biology
Biochemistry, Chemistry
Enfield, ME
Penobscot Valley High School

Roles for Extracellular Matrix Proteins Fibronectin and Laminin During Muscle Morphogenesis in Danio Rerio

Advisor: Clarissa Henry
Thesis description: I focused on the molecular changes that occur as muscles develop in the zebrafish. Previous literature shows that fibronectin is necessary for the early developmental stages of muscle. I found that fibronectin is also required for healthy myotomes later in development, and that it may be required not only for formation, but also maintenance of muscles. Laminin’s central role in development is shown in that some types of muscular dystrophy are caused by mutations in laminin. I found that in mutants deficient for laminin, morphogenesis differs from controls very early on, suggesting laminin plays a central role throughout development.

Future Plans: I will attend the University of Virginia for graduate studies in biochemistry and molecular genetics.

Lindsay Susan Spain
Psychology
Bangor, ME
John Bapst Memorial High School

Gender Inequality and its Implications Within the Legal System

Advisor: Scott Eidelman
Thesis description: I created a psychological experiment in which fellow students from all concentrations participated. The students responded to questions about a fake crime scenario I gave them. The responses indicated any gender biases among the students. The results gave evidence that male students have stronger gender biases, in both directions, but that female students have little to no patterns of gender discrimination. These results cannot be generalized to a wide population of people due to University of Maine students being the only participants, but it does produce a need to do follow up experiments among a wider variety of people.

Future Plans: I will attend the University of Maine School of Law this fall.

Emily M. Stiles
Food Science & Human Nutrition (Human Nutrition)
Durham, ME
Brunswick High School

Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Previously Cooked Jonah Crab Meat Mince

Advisor: Denise Skonberg
Thesis description: Minced muscle from Jonah crab is a byproduct of normal crab processing. I used the food-grade enzyme, Alcalase, to break down the peptide bonds in the protein creating hydrolysates. These hydrolysates were then freeze dried into a powder which had greater functional characteristics than the original cooked minced muscle. This powder can be added to food products to increase functionality and increase protein content. These hydrolysates have the potential to improve the utilization of the undervalued crab mince.

Future Plans: I am participating in UMaine’s combined dietetic internship and graduate program. I also plan to go on my second cross country trip through the U.S. and Canada.
**Wyatt J. Traina**  
*Molecular & Cellular Biology*  
Waldoboro, ME  
Medomak Valley  

*The Control of Salmonella spp. on Poultry with Cranberry Chitosan Films*  

**Advisor:** Vivian Wu  
**Thesis description:** Chitosan films containing cranberry concentrate were tested for antibacterial activity on poultry drumsticks over a period of 5 days. The results show that addition of chitosan films both with or without cranberry concentrate significantly inhibit (P < 0.05) Salmonella Typhimurium inoculated on the surface of the drumsticks. Chicken treated with these films was found to visually resemble untreated chicken, while chicken treated with only cranberry concentrate and no chitosan film resulted in discoloration. Due to the antibacterial nature of these films they present themselves as an effective means of naturally treating poultry with cranberry in a manner that does not cause aesthetic detriment to the product.  
**Future Plans:** Moving to Boston for work.

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**Erin Barrett Wilkinson**  
*Marine Science*  
Saco, ME  
Thornton Academy  

*Reproductive Biology of the Spionid Polychaete Spio Setosa, A Common Species from the Gulf of Maine*  

**Advisor:** Kevin Eckelbarger  
**Thesis description:** This study expands the knowledge about the reproductive biology of Spio setosa. I researched gametogenesis, gonad structure, and location and structure of sperm receptacles on females of the Spionid polychaetes, Spio setosa. I found that both males and females have paired gonads, and the majority of egg development in females occurs while eggs are attached to blood vessels. The majority of spermatogenesis and sperm development occurs in the coelomic fluid. These organisms are important in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem as they are abundant and can be key players in the intertidal sediments.  
**Future Plans:** I will intern at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute in Portland and I plan to go on to graduate school in marine biology and marine ecology.

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**Meghan E. Whitney**  
*Botany*  
Chemistry  
Fayette, ME  
Mass. Academy of Math & Science  

*A Floral Inventory of the Banks of the Penobscot River Between the Veazie Dam and Ayer’s Island*  

**Advisor:** Chris Cronan  
**Thesis description:** My thesis looked at the four kilometers between Ayer’s Island in Orono and the Veazie Dam in an attempt to catalogue the plant species there. When the dam is removed as part of the Penobscot River Restoration Project, pre-dam surveys will be valuable to determine the magnitude of the ecological changes.  
**Future Plans:** I will complete my Master’s of Education in science education at UMaine.

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**Emma K. Wojtal**  
*Psychology*  
Zoology  
Gorham, ME  
Gorham High School  

*Pediatric Sleep Dysregulation in Children Diagnosed with Developmental or Neurological Disorders*  

**Advisor:** Marie J. Hayes  
**Thesis description:** I examined current sleep patterns in children being treated by the Developmental Pediatrics Clinic at Eastern Maine Medical Center. Parents reported current sleep problems including sleep onset difficulties, fearful cries, excessive sleep time and daytime fatigue. Those with behavioral disorders had strong positive correlations with sleep onset problems. Those with developmental disorders had a higher rate of nighttime stereotyped behaviors. Evidence for sleep loss and chronic sleep deprivation was common across the neurological, behavioral, anxiety, mood, and respiratory disorder grouping.  
**Future Plans:** I will attend an entry-to-practice nursing practitioner program at Columbia University to earn a second bachelor’s and a master’s degree in nursing.
Eric M. Young  
Chemical Engineering,  
Biological Engineering  
Brewer, ME  
Brewer High School

Novel Characterization of Mesoporous Silica Membranes

Advisors: William J. DeSisto & Michael D. Mason

Thesis description: I investigated new ways to analyze the properties of silica membranes because they have the potential to serve as a separation unit for aqueous solutions rich in biomolecules, but have not been extensively studied in these environments. I developed two techniques, termed liquid cutoff and lateral ion diffusion that can obtain the characteristics of a membrane in an aqueous environment. Progress was made, but there are still questions to answer and obstacles to overcome before these techniques become useful and easy to perform.

Future Plans: I am marrying my high school sweetheart and moving to TX where I will earn a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the UT-Austin, researching protein and metabolic engineering. I plan to continue to write music, read great books, play sports, and, of course, eat BBQ!

Married with Honors: Bethany Walls & Brigham McNaughton share their story of meeting through Honors

“So, how did you meet?”

Brigham: Remarkably, we both lived in Honors housing on the same floor in Balentine Hall during our first year. We only met in passing, even though we lived an entire year one hundred feet away from each other. The first time we really talked one-on-one was after the Honors 212 lecture on Duchamp sophomore year; we were walking out of Neville Hall with a group of mutual friends and somehow wound up in a broiling argument about the the classification of his toilet as art. As I recall, we continued the debate through dinner at the Union and we haven’t stopped debating since.

“Did Honors impact your relationship?”

Bethany: The Honors College provided a vast foundation for conversation. I have a very strong memory of Brigham as the witty kid who insisted on asking inappropriate questions at the end of every lecture. Later, it was the same wit that both drew me in and drove me crazy during our first talks. Some of my favorite college dates with Brigham were subsequent Honors lectures and trips to Fogler Library to read and talk about the texts. To this day, we still banter over Jared Diamond’s Guns, Germs, and Steel, our Class of 2007 Honors Read.

“What is your favorite Honors College memory?”

Brigham: The pinnacle of the Honors experience is, of course, the thesis. My thesis process was an incredibly important part of my undergraduate career. I remember pulling all night writing and review sessions with Bethany. We used to make midnight runs to Dunkin’ Donuts while she attempted to fix my chronic passive voice problem. Bethany is a remarkably talented writer and going through the thesis process really forged our partnership for later endeavors.

Bethany: My favorite photograph of Brigham depicts him sitting in his flannel shirt in front of the wood stove in his senior year apartment at 2:00 am, incorporating all of my blaring red marks into his paper. After watching him go through all of that, I asked him to use green pen on my paper.
Celebrating the success of our graduates with their families and advisors the day before commencement is an annual highlight for the Honors College and the entire University of Maine community. President Robert Kennedy, Provost Sue Hunter, and several academic deans were in attendance to congratulate the 75 Honors students on completion of their Honors theses.

The newly-renovated Wells Conference Center was brimming with more than 400 guests in attendance at this year’s event. In addition to recognizing our graduates, we honored students with the recognitions and awards featured on page 22 and paid tribute to Honors professor Burt Hatlen and Honors graduate Nick Robertson (p. 20).

We know that while our students are extraordinarily motivated, talented, and smart, their success is linked to their relationships with others. The annual Honors Celebration is an opportunity for us to recognize the work of our students, and to thank the many faculty members and family members who support them every day. We could not do what we do without their help.
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THANK YOU!

Rachel, with her thesis advisor, Dusty Dowse

Roo, with her thesis advisor, Susan Sullivan

Alyssa, with her thesis advisor, Carla Billitteri

Wyatt, with his thesis advisor, Vivian Wu

Marianne, with her thesis advisor, Adrienne Kearney

Meaghan smiles after receiving her diploma

Prof. Steve Cohn shares Molly’s excitement

Will thanks one of his committee members

The Honors medallion features the Honors College logo and motto. It is worn by all graduating Honors students at Commencement.

The Honors stein (aka the Honors “vase”) is a gift to students that combines the logo and motto of the Honors College with the UMaine tradition of steins, as popularized by The Stein Song, a UMaine favorite.
At all hours of the day, exciting thesis work is taking place all over campus—from the stacks in Fogler Library and the computer clusters in the Memorial Union to the stage of Hauck Auditorium and the lab for Forest Bioproducts Research. Some projects extend beyond Orono, to Darling Marine Center in Walpole, local K-12 classrooms, and area businesses. Other students go global in scope, using Study Abroad experiences as inspiration for researching Japanese fashion and French outdoor markets.

Jessica LaMunyon (Communications & Journalism) is hard at work on her thesis, *How and Why We Should Revitalize Downtown Bangor, From the People’s Perspective*, a study of the “rich culture and small businesses” just minutes away. She aims to “develop strategies to help promote the historic, business, and cultural aspects of the downtown area in hopes of successful revitalization for the future.” Sylvia Herbold (Art) hopes to liven up the Community Center at a women’s transitional housing community through painted murals and to explore the concept of pursuing social activism through art.

More than 80 students enrolled in HON 498 during the Fall 2008 semester, and we can’t wait to add their theses to our collection in Colvin Hall! Upcoming titles include, *An Ethnographic Study of Culture along the Appalachian Trail* by Anna Ridgel (Anthropology), *Fermentation of Pulpwood Extract by Pichia stipitis* by Ben Freedman (Chemical & Biological Engineering), *Women and Families and the Welfare System* by Aimee Poulin (Women’s Studies), *Spanish Language Presence and Application at the Hudson Museum* by Nissa Marenius (History/Romance Languages), and *Potential Viability of Beer Produced with pGLO Yeast* by Jonathan Thomas (Biology/Psychology).
Please tell us a little about yourself. I grew up in the greater Bangor area, and my love for politics began at John Bapst Memorial High School. During my sophomore year, I took my first trip to Washington, DC, followed the next year by a second trip through the National Young Leaders Conference. While attending the conference, I met Senator Collins for the first time. This experience convinced me I wanted to make my way to Washington, DC and begin a career on the Hill. While a political science major at UMaine, I completed an internship in the Bangor Office of Senator Collins and participated in the University of Maine Congressional Internship Program. I love Maine and DC dearly, and my job working for a Maine senator is the perfect marriage of my passions and the two places I call home.

How did you pick your thesis topic? I think each phase of the thesis process is challenging, and the first challenge is picking a topic. Interested in the intricacies of Congress, but already immersed in the legislative side, I decided to focus on the procedural and operational side. In my thesis, I sought to understand how the modern Congress evolved and the influence of world events, key players, and policy decisions in that evolution. By studying legislative reorganization, I hoped to explore the parallels and determine if we were nearing another shift in paradigm.

How did you balance working for Senator Collins and writing your thesis simultaneously? Balancing a thesis and a new, full-time position on the Senator’s personal staff was probably the most challenging experience of my collegiate career. I learned the hardest and greatest time-management lessons of my life during those months finding I had to prioritize my work and writing. I had late nights just like the rest of my fellow Honors students writing their theses. One of my fondest memories was the night before my completed draft was due. After I finished my congressional work responsibilities around 6:00 pm, I went into the Senator’s conference room, laid out my thesis, and went page by page for hours through the document. To do that at dusk, while I could see the lights on in the Capitol across the way, was the push I needed to get me through to the end.

How is your Honors education relevant to your current work? My Honors education is deeply valuable to my work and my ability to connect with diverse groups. Through Honors, I enhanced critical thinking skills and learned how to effectively “think outside the box.” A crucial skill when working on policy, it is also the cornerstone of being an effective and efficient communicator. Working in Washington and on Capitol Hill places you in a pool of high-achievers and go-getters who are well versed on a gamut of topics. My knowledge of great works of literature and art, for example, has made me a more well-rounded and cultured participant in a challenging and, at times, intimidating playing field. That’s really thanks to Honors.

For now, I plan on enjoying my current post; in time, I plan to pursue a graduate degree in international relations. I have enjoyed invaluable opportunities, and I know this is just the beginning of a rewarding career.

What are your work responsibilities and daily activities? Currently, I am a Legislative Correspondent (LC) for Senator Collins. As an LC, my job is all about constituent relations. I respond in writing and over the phone to constituents’ questions and concerns on defense, veterans and foreign affairs. As the defense LC, I am also a member of our defense team, which is responsible for Senate Armed Services Committee preparation for Senator Collins. It’s very busy and fast-paced. Every day I learn something new about world affairs, veterans’ benefits, and Department of Defense operations.