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McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter_October 2021

University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

McGillicuddy Humanities Center October Newsletter

1 message

MHC <mhc@maine.edu>
Reply-To: MHC <mhc@maine.edu>
To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 10:15 AM

McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter
[October 2021]



October is autumn's finest month. It reminds us why we're lucky to live here in Maine. The colorful foliage, the morning frosts, and the wafting scent of burning firewood, all indicate the turning of the season. This month we've already introduced students to the newly expanded Zillman Art Museum in Bangor, and we're looking forward to our pop-up poetry event in Orono where we'll enjoy the artistry of local poets while sipping hot apple cider. Our Fall Board of Advisors meeting will be convened during Homecoming weekend, and we're excited to receive and review the new round of Fellows and Faculty grant applications (Deadline: October 17).

Our new academic year is off to a wonderful start, and we look forward to seeing you soon. As always, we love to hear your ideas and feedback.

[Image: "October Pumpkin Patch | New Paltz NY" by KBI.Design Group is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0]

McGillicuddy Humanities Center Events and Updates



Fall Poetry Pop Up

Orono Village Green Amphitheater, Orono Public Library
October 23, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center is sponsoring a Fall Poetry Pop Up on Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. The open-mic poetry reading will be held outdoors at the Orono Village Green amphitheater, located behind the Orono Public Library at 39 Pine Street. The event, which is free and open to the public, welcomes poets of all ages to share their work. Hot apple cider and other fall refreshments will be served.

Poets are asked to keep their readings to five minutes in length maximum to make sure that everyone interested in reading has time to do so. If additional time is available at the end, poets will be allowed to read additional material.

While poets can sign up to read on the spot, advance confirmation is always appreciated at mhc@maine.edu. We ask that poets consider a public library audience when selecting which poems to read.

MCGILLICUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS + FACULTY GRANTS

STUDENTS

\$4000

per semester
to work on independent
projects in the humanities

*for two consecutive semesters
during your Junior or Senior year



FACULTY

Up to

\$5000

to support faculty
research, community and
classroom engagement



Deadlines March 17 and October 17 annually

Deadline for MHC student and faculty funding is October 17

FACULTY:

It's not too early to be thinking about planning a research project, classroom initiative, or community partnership that the MHC might help support. The deadline for the fall faculty funding cycle is October 17, 2021. Samples of past projects that have been funded, and instructions [can be found here](#).

STUDENTS:

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellows program offers juniors and seniors the opportunity to work on independent research or creative projects of their own devising in the humanities. Fellowships last two consecutive semesters (fall/spring or spring/fall) to create overlap, and fellows receive \$4000 each per semester, or \$8000 in total for their research work. Applications are due October 17 for fellowships running spring 2022 through fall 2022. Students must be in their junior or senior years during the length of the funding period.

More information [can be found here](#), including instructions for crafting a strong proposal, finding a faculty advisor, or learning more about what our current Fellows are researching for inspiration.

We're happy to answer any questions students or faculty members have about the process. Just drop us an e-mail at: mhc@maine.edu.



Zillman Art Museum Tour & Picnic Dinner
Friday, October 1, 2021

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center sponsored a bus from Orono to Bangor for students to take a tour of the [Zillman Art Museum](#) with Director and Curator George Kinghorn last Friday. Students toured the new exhibitions and galleries, then enjoyed participating in Downtown Bangor's "[First Friday](#)" events and performances. The McGillicuddy Humanities Center provided a pizza picnic dinner at the Luther H. Peirce Memorial Fountain in front of the Bangor Public Library.

University of Maine Humanities Events

2021 Geddes W. Simpson Memorial Lecture

Dr. [Banu Subramaniam](#), Professor and Chair of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst
October 14, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Buchanan Alumni House

Dr. Subramaniam, a leader in Feminist Science Studies, explores the intersections between biology, nationalism, gender, and race in her research. She will present the 2021 Geddes W. Simpson Memorial Lecture on October 14.





[Remote/Virtual access to this event will also be provided at the following website: <https://umainefoundation.org/live/>]

The Geddes W. Simpson Lecture Series features speakers of prominence who provide significant insight on the intersection of science and history. In 2001, Simpson's family established the Geddes W. Simpson Lecture Fund at the University of Maine Foundation. Simpson was a well-respected faculty member whose 55-year career in the College of Life Sciences and the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station began in 1931. He chaired the Entomology Department from 1954 until his retirement in 1974.

The event is a co-production of the University of Maine [Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program](#) and the [University of Maine Foundation](#).



A portrait of William R. Belcher, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a blue patterned shirt. The background is dark and textured.

 THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

William R. Belcher

Associate Professor Forensic Anthropology,
Department of Anthropology at the
University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lecture:

*CIS – MIA: Forensic
Archaeology of a World
War II Crash Site in
Washington State*

Thursday, October 21, 2021 at
4:00 p.m. in the Bodwell Area,
Collins Center for the Arts, University of Maine

Free and open to the public

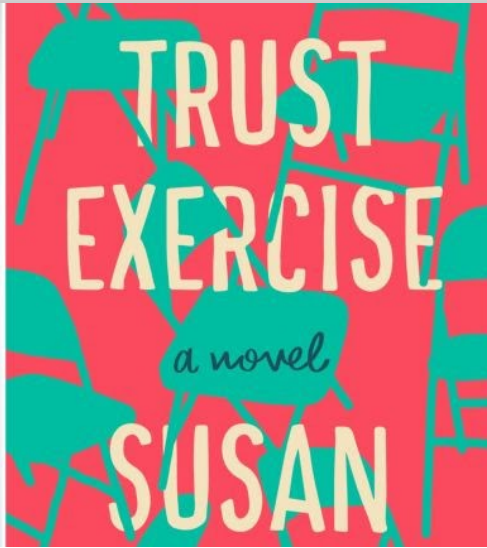
"CIS – MIA: Forensic Archaeology of a World War II Crash Site in Washington State"

William R. Belcher, Associate Professor Forensic Anthropology
Department of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.
Bodwell Lounge, Collins Center for the Arts, University of Maine

In August 2005, a military forensic archaeology team traveled to the Joker Mountain area of the Pasayten Wilderness in northern Washington State to excavate a P-38 Lightning aircraft lost in November 1942. The team recovered a series of personal effects and human remains from the aircraft after several weeks of work. These materials were returned to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (now the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) Laboratory on Hickam AFB for analysis and identification. The pilot was identified in March of 2006 and eventually interred in the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Pennsylvania.

Sponsored by the Anthropology Department, the Hudson Museum, and the McGillicuddy Humanities Center.



Trust Exercise: A Reading By Novelist Susan Choi

October 21st, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Minsky Recital Hall

National Book Award-winning novelist [Susan Choi](#) will be giving a talk and reading from her novel [Trust Exercise](#) as part of the Stephen E. King Chair Lecture Series. This event will take place in the Minsky Recital Hall, and is free and open to the public (masks required). Books will be available for purchase and signing following the event.

"Rules for Rebels: The Science of Victory in Militant History"

Max Abrahms (Northeastern University)

Monday, October 25, 2021, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
via Zoom

<https://maine.zoom.us/j/86837813003?pwd=eWxrNFITZ-VdZMTQrVGRCc1FmOGRqZz09>



Max Abrahms is a professor of public policy and political science at Northeastern University, where he specializes in security studies, particularly the study of terrorism. Abrahms has published extensively in leading academic and popular outlets such as *International Organization*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Security Studies*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Los Angeles Times*. His book, [Rules for Rebels: The Science of Victory in Militant History](#), explains why some groups such as the Taliban achieve their political demands whereas other groups such as the Islamic State have failed. Abrahms regularly fields



questions about the terror-ism landscape in the news and for government agencies.



Who's Your Daddy: A Dramatic Reading Under the Stars

Arisa White, Colby College

Saturday, October 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Versant Power Astronomy Center and the Maynard Jordan Planetarium

Published by Augury Books earlier this year, *Who's Your Daddy* is Arisa White's debut poetic memoir, which poet Patricia Smith says, "unreels like heart-wrenching fragments of film." It is a lyrical, genre-bending coming-of-age tale featuring a queer, Black, Guyanese American woman who, while seeking to define her own place in the world, negotiates an estranged relationship with her father. Incorporating poetry and prose, *Who's Your Daddy* employs the motif of stars and constellations to navigate and populate the distance that characterizes this father-daughter dynamic. Arisa will read excerpts from the book accompanied by original music by José G. Martinez and student vocalists from Colby College. Directorial consultancy provided by Ellen Sebastian Chang and funding provided by Colby College's Humanities Research.

Arisa White is an assistant professor of English and Creative Writing at Colby College. She is the author of *Who's Your Daddy*, co-editor of *Home Is Where You Queer Your Heart*, and co-author of *Biddy Mason Speaks Up*, the second book in the Fighting for Justice Series for young readers. Her poetry collections have won the Nautilus Book Award, Maine Literary Book Award, Per Diem Poetry Prize, Augury Book Prize, and have been nominated for an NAACP Image Award, Lambda Literary Award, California Book Award, and Wheatley Book Award. To learn more about her other publications and projects, visit arisawhite.com.

General admission tickets are \$10 per person and are available online at <http://astro.umaine.edu>, by calling 207.581.1341, or at the box office. Audience members receive a copy of *Who's Your Daddy* with ticket purchase. Book signing follows the reading.



VERSANT POWER ASTRONOMY CENTER

and the Maynard Jordan Planetarium

In Memorium: **William J. Baker** Emeritus Professor of History



The University of Maine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the History Department, were saddened to learn of the death of longtime faculty member **William J. Baker** on September 25, 2021. Bill was a distinguished British historian turned sport historian, and the author of several books, including *Beyond Port and Prejudice: Charles Lloyd of Oxford, 1784-1829* (1981), *Sports in the Western World* (1982), *Jesse Owens: An American Life* (1986), and *If Christ Came to the Olympics* (2000). He mentored and influenced generations of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Maine, and has been [fondly recalled across social media](#) in the last week. He retired as Emeritus Professor in 2008.

Baker's daughter, *New York Times* bestselling novelist Christina Baker Kline, [wrote about her father in the Washington Post](#). Baker's life, career, and death were described in the [Bangor Daily News](#) and [Portland Press Herald](#).

UMaine Humanities Scholars in the News

[Brian Jansen](#), of the University of Maine's **Department of English**, has been awarded this year's [Redekop Prize](#) for the best essay in volume 50 (2020) of the *Canadian Review of American Studies*. Jansen's prize-winning essay, "[It's Still Real to Me': Contemporary Professional Wrestling, Neo-Liberalism, and the Problems of Performed/Real Violence](#)" was published in volume 50, number 2 of the *Canadian Review of American Studies*. The committee noted that "Jansen's essay presents a valuable account of the nefarious logic of neo-liberalism via a persuasively crafted discussion of the individuals and practices associated with the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment). Drawing on an extraordinarily wide range of scholarly and popular discussions of the wrestling industry, Jansen succeeds in using the employment practices of the WWE to demonstrate some of the new and often elusive forms of exploitation that affect a wide swath of workers in the United States and beyond. At the

same time, Jansen's essay pursues a nuanced discussion of the WWE's (and its fans') complex relationship to the rhetoric of realism."

On September 21, The [Bangor Daily News](#) published an op-ed from **Karyn Sporer**, an assistant professor in the **Department of Sociology**, titled "Ignoring violence of far-right extremists has serious consequences for Maine and the nation." Sporer serves as a principal investigator for the Department of Homeland Security's [National Counterterrorism, Innovation, Technology and Education Center](#). Sporer, was also interviewed by [Maine Public about the rise of extremist rhetoric in Maine](#). "What's concerning is that our elected officials are giving these people a platform," she says. "You can say you don't support or agree with what they're saying, but you're still giving them the platform, which gives them social capital. If they get social capital and the support by an elected official whom you voted for, or you trust — or you're angry at society because you have to wear a mask to Hannaford — you're going to start to maybe see some holes in reality."

Mark Brewer, professor and chair of the **Department of Political Science**, was interviewed for [an article in the Portland Press Herald about Paul LePage's planned run for governor of Maine](#). He was also [interviewed by WABI 5](#) about the upcoming gubernatorial race. "If you believe as I do that elections are crucial to a well functioning representative democracy, and that really for elections to do their job best, voters have to be presented candidates who really have clear differences on important issues, I think, you know, Janet Mills and Paul LePage are going to give voters that in spades," he said.

Amy Fried, professor in the **Department of Political Science**, appeared on [Maine Calling](#) on September 14 to discuss the topic of distrust in government and contemporary partisanship in the US. **Fried** and **Kenneth Palmer**, professors of political science, spoke with [U.S. News and World Report](#) about former Maine governor Paul LePage's return to politics in Maine.

Funding Opportunities in the Humanities

Meet Saul Allen, Office of Research Development Humanities Faculty contact for Grant and Philanthropic Funding Opportunities



[Saul Allen](#) is the Associate Director of [Research Development](#), responsible for supporting the development, preparation, and submission of research grants identified as a priority for UMaine. He is available as a resource to faculty pursuing external funding: to individual faculty members as well as to larger team-based initiatives. He serves the Office of Research Development's broad efforts to enhance the research profile of the university, including through participation in faculty development workshops. Saul has worked in a variety of roles in university settings and has written and received federal grants for both non-profits and private-sector enterprises. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. In addition to his research development role, he is a sometime Honors College preceptor and a long-time arts and humanities advocate.

Dr. Allen invites University of Maine humanities scholars to set up meetings to discuss project ideas, research funding support and grant opportunities, and the process of collaborating with the Office of Research Development.

Connecting Communities Digital Initiative – Artist or Scholar in Residence Grant, Library of Congress

Applications due November 22, 2021

Artist or Scholar in Residence program: The Connecting Communities Digital Initiative (CCDI) Artist or Scholar in Residence program will fund an Artist in Residence or a Scholar in Residence in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Each Artist/Scholar in Residence will serve for 2 years, supported for \$50,000 in their first year and \$100,000 in their second year. Individuals selected will be either artists or scholars whose artistic or scholarly work connects with the intersections of technology and cultural heritage, and engages with the legacies of racial division in the United States. Proposed projects will help the Library and the American people imagine new ways of preserving, accessing, and sharing the stories of underserved communities, connecting the nation's past to its future.

During the first year of the residency, the artist or scholar in residence will be expected to visit the Library for at least 10 days in person during their first year, and to utilize Library of Congress resources in their first year, and to participate in occasional CCDI activities. During the second year, the artist or scholar in residence will be expected to visit the Library for at least 20 days in person to engage more deeply in the scholarly and artistic life of the Library. In addition, the technical, artistic, and/or scholarly product should be created and shared during this year, resulting in a public-facing research or artistic publication, project, exhibition, or event.

[Visit the Notice on grants.gov](#), for full details.

NEH Scholarly Editions/Scholarly Translations Grants

Proposals due December 1 2021

The Scholarly Editions and Scholarly Translations program provides grants to organizations to support collaborative teams who are editing, annotating, and translating foundational humanities texts that are vital to learning and research but are currently inaccessible or are available only in inadequate editions or translations.

Typically, the texts are significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials, but other types of work, such as musical notation, may also be the subject of an edition.

The program supports continuous full-time or part-time activities during the periods of performance of one to three years. Projects must be undertaken by at least two scholars working collaboratively.

[More information about this opportunity is available here.](#)

Find Out More

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mhc@maine.edu

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