McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter_February 2021

University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center

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Happy New Year!

2022 promises to be an important year for the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. This April marks the 10th anniversary of when a pilot humanities initiative was transformed into our funded research center. Ten years later, we remain committed to supporting and promoting excellence in humanities scholarship and artistic creativity at the University of Maine. Over the years, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center blossomed into an endeavor that fosters undergraduate excellence
its diverse array of audiences. We'll be celebrating throughout this year, with our first official celebration scheduled for April 10 in the Fernald Adaptive Presentation and Performance Environment (the "Black Box" theater) in the IMRC here on campus as part of "Maine Impact Week." We hope to see you at that reception, and at our other events. As always, we want to receive your ideas, proposals, and feedback, and we're grateful for your participation in our community. We could not have produced a decade of such excellence without you, and we look forward to a bright future and enriching years ahead.

[Image: Fogler Library. Credit: University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications]

**McGillicuddy Humanities Center News**

**New McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellows Named**

In January, 2022, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) welcomed four new undergraduate research fellows for the next two semesters: Benjamin Allen, April Messier, Tom Pinette and Sheralynn Robbins. This new cohort will join existing fellows Luke Miller, Sabrina Paetow, Stephanie Tillotson, and Heather Webb, who are finalizing their research in spring, 2022.

Incoming fellow **Benjamin Allen**, an English and Philosophy major from Johnston, Rhode Island, will spend the next academic year exploring, “The Embodied Performance of Tourette’s Syndrome in Communication and the Academic Environment.” Allen will draw on his own lived experience, as well as contemporary scholarly research in the fields of disability studies, communication theory, intersectional theory, and performance theory, to examine how tic disorders, and specifically Tourette’s Syndrome (TS), are predominantly performative, and can irreversibly impact the phenomenal experience of those afflicted, especially as it relates to stressful situations in academia and the classroom experience. Allen will be advised by **Dr. Carla Billitteri** from the Department of English.

**April Messier**, an English major minoring in creative writing from Old Town, Maine, will spend her fellowship analyzing “The Power of Words: Tracing Poetry’s Roots in Magic.” Messier became interested in researching poetry’s roots in religious ritual and magical practice after
learning about practices used during the Medieval period in a class with Dr. Sarah Harlan-Haughey. While Messier plans to gain insight from many disciplines and time periods, she will be doing a deep dive on the poet H.D.’s works. Her end product will be a prosimetrum piece (a poetic piece of writing combining prose and verse) that explores the common threads that surface in her research. She will be advised by Dr. Jennifer Moxley.

The MHC’s inaugural Wiggin fellow is Tom Pinette from Limestone, Maine. A history major minoring in religious studies. Pinette will be researching, “This Land is Your Land and This Land is My Land’: Conflict between the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations and the Portland Diocese of Maine over Land-use as a Remnant of Colonial Attitudes.” His project seeks to compile and analyze instances of conflict between the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations and the Portland Diocese of Maine, with a specific focus on disputes from 1900 to the present day. At the culmination of his research, he hopes to coordinate a roundtable discussion between tribal citizens, faculty members at UMaine, the Portland Diocese, and himself, to create a better dialogue about the legacy of the Catholic Church’s infringement upon Wabanaki tribes’ rights. John Bear Mitchell from the Native American studies program will be advising Pinette’s research fellowship.

The final member of the 2022 fellows cohort will be Sherralyn Robbins, an English major minoring in legal studies from Brewer, Maine. Robbins’ research proposal title, “You Write Like a Girl,” was inspired by a statement her own middle school teacher made after reviewing her writing. Throughout her time at UMaine, she has become increasingly interested in the gendered and linguistically biased structure of academia. For her fellowship, she hopes to examine the historical perspectives that brought about these standards, do a case study focusing on her own writing, and create dialogues between herself and female scholars of writing and gender studies. Paige Mitchell, lecturer in English and Director of the University of Maine Writing Center, will be advising Sher’s research.

The MHC funds a rotating cohort of undergraduate fellows who are granted awards to complete research or creative projects of their choosing in collaboration with a faculty mentor. In addition to honing their research skills and building their academic networks, fellows serve as humanities ambassadors to their peers, the campus, and beyond. For students interested in becoming a McGillicuddy Humanities Center undergraduate fellow, and faculty who might like to nominate a fellow, the deadline for Fall, 2022 fellowships is March 17, 2022. Research and creative work of all types across the humanities will be considered, from academic papers and art gallery shows, to community workshops or films. More information, including application
New Faculty Grant Awards Announced

Five University of Maine faculty members were awarded grants in the fall, 2021 cycle for research, events, performances, or projects in 2022.

**Hollie Adams**, assistant professor of English, was awarded a research grant in support of a project titled, "**Morley Callaghan and Canadian Literary Modernism**." Adams's research on Callaghan, one of Canada’s best-known modernist fiction writers, will comprise part of her larger study of Canadian literary modernism. Adams will travel to York University in Toronto, to research in the **Morley Callaghan archive**, and while in Toronto she will also conduct research at the **Modern Literature & Culture Research Centre** at Ryerson University.

**Joseph Arel**, assistant professor of Philosophy, was awarded a grant in support of his "**Philosophy in Maine**" project. "Philosophy in Maine" will produce an online magazine of philosophical writing aimed at a general (public) readership. This project is "devoted to developing and sharing philosophical ideas that are applied specifically to the state of Maine." Arel, who previously directed a public philosophy program at Northern Arizona University, is the founder and General Editor of **localphilosophy.org**, a nonprofit public philosophy organization that focuses on engaging philosophers and philosophical thinking within particular communities.

**Margaret (Mimi) Killinger**, associate professor of Honors and Rezendes Preceptor for the Arts, will apply her McGillicuddy Humanities Center Faculty award towards travel and research for her "**Joanna Paul: The Otago Years, 1977-1983**" project. Killinger's immediate research will focus on the years Joanna Margaret Paul (1945-2003) spent as artist and poet in Dunedin, New Zealand, from 1977 to 1983. Paul is remembered in New Zealand as "one of our most original (and most unsung) poets, a painter who’d never really received her due, an artist in the fullest sense of the term," and Killinger's work will investigate Paul's coming of age as a public artist and an intriguing figure within the New Zealand women's art movement.

**Brian Pitman**, assistant professor of Sociology, was awarded a grant for his "**Addressing Homelessness and Building Community in the Greater Bangor Area**" project. The grant will be used to "initiate community conversations - both inside and outside the classroom and university, based on shared reading experiences - that raise awareness amongst different stakeholders in the Greater Bangor area about how to care for each other during this worsening housing crisis. The project includes a community reading group to develop more comprehensive understandings of homelessness and the housing crisis, and community and university forums on homelessness that amplify the experiences of those directly impacted by this crisis." Pitman is collaborating with several community partners, including the Greater Bangor Housing Coalition, on the reading groups and events.

Professor **Beth Wiemann** of the School of Performing Arts was granted an award **to support**
**McGillicuddy Humanities Center February Newsletter**

[Image 480x137 to 536x211]

**Museum** in Boston on a site-specific chamber opera for premiere in 2022. The new work is based on the life of **Rose Standish Nichols**, a suffragette and WWI-era Peace activist, with a libretto by Wiemann based on materials in the Museum collection and its publications. As part of the development process for this work, Wiemann and Guerilla Opera have planned a residency for the company at UMaine in March 2022, both to present scenes of the new piece in workshop form, and to record parts of the score for use in the multimedia performances later in the year. Events and performances are currently scheduled for March 4 - 6, 2022 - you can read more about the event(s) in our March, 2022 newsletter.

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**Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund Awards**

The **Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund** was established at the University of Maine Foundation in 2018 and has been made possible by alumni and friends of the New England Universities in Salzburg – Study Abroad Program in honor of the program founder, Dr. Josef Roggenbauer, Professor Emeritus of German, Department of Modern Languages and Classics. The fund was launched by Tracey Graffam-Dickson '93 and Jessica Canatsey '92, two friends who met at UMaine and shared a "life changing experience" when they participated in a travel abroad program in Salzburg. They believed experiencing a foreign culture was transformative in their lives, and so the women teamed up to initiate a fund providing opportunities for today's undergraduates to live their own cultural adventure. Other donors have since joined in this initiative as well, and the funds invested will generate awards and life-changing memories far into the future.

The Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund provides scholarships for study-abroad opportunities, but, unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic suspended the granting of study abroad awards in 2020 and 2021. However, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, in conjunction with the Department of Modern Languages, Office of Major Scholarships, and Office of International Programs, was able to resume the award program for this year (2022). This year's awardees include:

Erica Desjardins, an International Affairs major in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences from Bangor, Maine, is spending spring, 2022 studying at **The American University in Bulgaria**, in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

Ruth Lewandowski, an English major in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences from Portland, Maine, will be studying at **the University of East Anglia** in Norwich, England, United Kingdom.
Neily Raymond, an English and Philosophy double major in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences from Hermon, Maine, will be studying at the University of Oxford, in the United Kingdom.

Lauren Worrick, a Marine Sciences major in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture from Aurora, Colorado, will be studying at the University of Costa Rica, in San Ramón, Costa Rica.

Fellows Program Alumni Updates

Harvard’s Graduate School of Education featured McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellow Nolan Altavater on its website. In a profile titled, "For Future Generations: Centering Indigenous voices, one master's student works to deliver on the promise of an unfulfilled education policy," Emily Boudreau writes, "While an undergraduate at the University of Maine, Altavater began cultivating relationships with educators and young people in schools, designing virtual learning experiences for science classes that emphasized the relationship between the Penobscot and their ancestral rivers. He also conducted community-based action research projects that helped him better understand the impact of Maine’s LD 291." Altavater's work at Harvard builds upon scholarship supported by his McGillicuddy Humanities Center fellowship. Altavater started his graduate studies in fall, 2021, and the profile was published in November.

Sarah Penney, a 2021 University of Maine graduate and McGillicuddy Center Fellow, has accepted an invitation to join the McGillicuddy Humanities Center's Board of Advisors. Penny, who lives in Washington D.C. and works as a Communications Associate for the Sabin Vaccine Institute, will be the first alumna Fellow to join the Board.

The Center would love to hear updates from our Fellows - please e-mail us at mhc@maine.edu with your news!

University of Maine Humanities Events
On Tuesday, **February 8** at 7:00 p.m. in Wells Conference Center, **Judaic Studies** hosts **Stuart Kestenbaum** for an event titled **“From Generation to Generation.”** The author of six collections of poems, Kestenbaum also frequently writes and speaks on the arts and creativity. On February 8th he will read a selection of his poetry directly influenced by Judaism and will speak on his writing process and the connections to Jewish liturgy and Biblical texts. Admission is free and open to the public. To join remotely, contact Derek Michaud, derek.a.michaud@maine.edu for Zoom link. Reception to follow generously provided by Jewish Community Endowment Association.

"**Pain at the Root: Le Grand Dérangement and Our Family History**"

On Wednesday, **February 9** at 7:00 pm, **Franco-American Programs** presents a talk by Ray Lambert and Megan St. Marie titled **"Pain at the Root: Le Grand Dérangement and Our Family History."** Although most of their ancestors came to the United States from Québec, father and daughter Raymond A. Lambert and Megan D. Lambert St. Marie also trace their family tree to Acadians who were impacted by Le Grand Dérangement. In this presentation, Ray and Megan will provide insights into the history of the expulsion of the Acadians by highlighting some of their ancestors’ and relatives’ stories, while also commenting on how learning this history has enriched and informed their lives today. Register in advance for this meeting here.
The **UMaine School of Performing Arts Division of Theatre** presents Ted Tally's *Terra Nova*, adapted from Robert Scott's Antarctic expedition journals and directed by Julie Lisnet, opening **February 11**. Terra Nova tells the story of an ill-fated 1911-12 journey to the South Pole. [Tickets are available at ShowTix4U](https://mailchi.mp/1ac37289bdf7/mcgillicuddy-humanities-center-february-newsletter-8975901).
Gregory Jones-Katz is an American historian based at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. He earned his MA from the University of Maine and his PhD from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. Greg works in the fields of American intellectual and cultural history, the history of higher education, and the global history of the humanities. His first book *Deconstruction: An American Institution* was published in 2021 with the University of Chicago Press. Greg’s scholarly work has also appeared in *History and Theory*, *Analyse & Kritik*, and *Modern Intellectual History*. He is committed to public-facing scholarship and has written for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Merkur*, *Schweizer Monat*, and the *Boston Review*.

**Part of the University of Maine History Symposium Series**

**Spring 2022**

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**UMaine Humanities Scholars in the News**

In a story about how two Maine homesteaders gained fame on TikTok, the *Bangor Daily News* interviewed Jon Ippolito, Professor of New Media and Director of the Digital Curation program about how the popular social media platform works and how it has become a tool for sharing information. “That format encourages a direct conversation with a standing or moving or dancing figure rather than a posed figure,” said Ippolito, professor in the New Media program, adding that other platforms lack that intimacy. Ippolito was also interviewed about NFTs by *Built In* in an article titled, "*Stoner Cats, KBots and CRYPTOSQUIDS: How Artists Are Adapting in the NFT Era.*" “The first time I heard of NFTs was not using the word NFT,” he explained. “The earliest NFTs … come from this kind of collector mentality. They’re basically like Pokémon cards.”

The *Lowell Sun* noted that Susan Pinette, director of Franco American Programs, is participating in a virtual bilingual panel during the Jack Kerouac Centennial celebration in
March. The event, "Tribute to Jack Kerouac: 100 Years, Still Alive," will also feature Hermenegilde Chiasson, director of the file "Le Grand Jack," and Jean-Christophe Cloutier, author of "La vie est d'hommage" and associate professor of English and comparative literature at the University of Pennsylvania; with cultural journalist Tanya Beaumont serving as moderator.

Publishers Weekly highlighted Morgan Talty, Department of English faculty member, as a "writer to watch" in Spring 2022. They write of his forthcoming story collection, Night of the Living Rez (Tin House, 2022) that "the stories triangulate between the characters' relationships to one another in their community and to the outside world" and compare his work to that of Denis Johnson.

Michael Socolow, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism and director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, spoke with Women's Wear Daily (WWD) for an article titled “New Media Ventures Are Gunning for Legacy Media.”

**Funding Opportunities in the Humanities**

The Canadian-American Center is now accepting applications and nominations for Foreign Language and Areas studies (FLAS) Awards, Canadian-American Center Fellowships, and New England-Atlantic Provinces-Québec Fellowships. Academic Year FLAS Awards support students who wish to improve proficiency in French or Maliseet, Mi’kmaq/Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Abenaki/Penobscot. Full-time students who are US citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply. The deadline is February 15, 2022. For more information, visit the Can-Am Center website.

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

Deadlines are quickly approaching to attend Summer 2022 or direct
What are these programs?

· **Seminars and Institutes**: One- to four-week professional development programs that convene K-12 educators or higher education faculty from across the nation to deepen and enrich their understanding of significant topics in the humanities and enrich their capacity for effective teaching and scholarship.

· **Landmarks of American History and Culture**: One-week professional development programs that situate the study of topics and themes in K-12 humanities within sites, areas, or regions of historic and cultural significance. Projects aim to expand participants' knowledge of and approaches to teaching about diverse histories, cultures, traditions, languages, and perspectives in the United States and its jurisdictions.

· **New Formats**: Now offering residential, virtual, and combined format projects.

Attend a program in Summer 2022 NEH offers tuition-free opportunities for K-12 educators and higher education faculty to study a variety of humanities topics. Stipends of $1,300-$3,450 for residential programs and $650-$1,725 for virtual programs help cover expenses for these one- to four-week programs. **Applications close on March 1, 2022.** [Click here to learn more and explore next summer's offerings.](https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs)

**Direct a program in Summer 2023**

- Directors help advance scholarship and knowledge in their fields.
- Directors strengthen teaching and scholarship at the undergraduate and K-12 levels.
- Directors join a distinguished roster of NEH Landmarks and Institutes leaders and bring distinction to their home institutions.

Directors work with, and impact, participants from across the country.

**How do I apply to direct?**

Learn more about these programs, view sample narratives, and watch recorded webinars at:

- [Institutes for K-12 Educators](institutes@neh.gov)
- [Institutes for Higher Education Faculty](institutes@neh.gov)
- [Landmarks of American History and Culture](landmarks@neh.gov)

**Application Deadline: February 22, 2022**

For more information on these opportunities, visit: [https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs](https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs)
The Bangor Savings Bank Faculty Development Fund and The Lyndon Paul LoRusso Memorial Faculty Development Fund

Ten awards will be made biannually (in spring and fall) to faculty members to support faculty development—specifically, conference travel. Seven awards of up to $2000 each will support domestic travel, and three awards of up to $2500 each will support international travel. In light of ongoing pandemic-related circumstances, eligible individuals may request support for attending either a virtual or an in-person conference in FY22. There are no prerequisites attached to the awards: i.e., faculty are not required to present competitively selected papers, disseminate formal research findings, or otherwise be “in the program” of the conference they wish to attend to be eligible for funding.

Full-time tenure-track and full-time non-tenure-track faculty are eligible to apply for this support. Part-time faculty, post-docs, and graduate students are ineligible.

Applications containing the following information should be sent to Dianne Avery at diannea@maine.edu:

1. A brief description of the conference itself and its relevance to the research agenda, teaching, service, and/or general professional development of the applicant or applicants (2 pages maximum).

2. A detailed budget a) specifying the amount requested and itemizing estimated costs (airfare, conference fees, hotel, ground transportation, meals, etc.); and b) identifying a departmental or programmatic support person who will serve as the award administrator and liaise with Dianne Avery. Please also identify, by type and dollar amount, any other sources of funding you have secured, or are seeking, to support your travel to this conference (in combination with this application): e.g. departmental grant, other grant, etc.

3. The name(s), title(s), and contact information of the applicant(s) and of the administrative support person.

Please note: For the Spring 2022 cycle, priority will be given to proposals received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022. Awards made in the Spring cycle are intended to fund travel undertaken between April 1, 2022, and October 31, 2022.

Please direct questions about the application process or the review committee’s timetable to Jessica Miller (jessica.miller@maine.edu) and questions about budgeting and reimbursement to Dianne Avery (diannea@maine.edu).