May concludes the academic year, and brings with it the commencement ceremonies for our undergraduate and graduate students. This moment of transition is both an ending and a new beginning — the "commencement" of our graduates' next stage in life. We're proud of their accomplishments, and we know that as they go forth and apply the wisdom, knowledge, sensitivity, and humanity they learned at the University of Maine, we will continue to take great pride in their development. And that development will continue subsequently, for the essence of a humanities education is the skill, curiosity, and dedication necessary to continually learn how to learn.

For us at the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, this is also a transitional moment. Our new Humanities Specialist started last month, our new Director starts in July (see below), and our new Board Chair, Tim Garrity, begins this summer as well. With our first decade now in the books, this is the perfect time to consider new ideas, new practices, and new roles for the Center in campus and community life for the next ten years. If you'd like to see our current priorities (identified in a strategic planning process) for the next few years, we have them posted on our website here. Our future success, like our past achievements, will always be
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Spring 2022 Faculty Grants Announced

Robert A. Ballingall, Assistant Professor of Political Science, was awarded a grant to present his paper “The (Utopian) City in Greek Political Thought.” at the upcoming meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA) in Montreal in September, 2022. Ballingall’s project, of which this conference presentation comprises one part, involves research for a chapter that he will be contributing to The Blackwell Companion to Cities in the Greco-Roman World, edited by Andries Zuiderhoek and Miko Flohr.

Hao Hong, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Honors, was awarded a grant to purchase materials and support research for his “Things and What is Beyond All Things in Neo-Daoism,” project. Professor Hong’s paper is currently planned to be published in The Routledge Companion to Chinese Philosophy edited by Brook Ziporyn and Stephen Walker.

Lisa K. Neuman, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies, was awarded a grant to support co-sponsorship and other costs related to hosting the RIVAS 2022 (Raising Indigenous Voices in Academia and Society) Conference at Wells Conference Center on the University of Maine campus in Orono on October 23-24, 2022.

Kara A. Peruccio, Assistant Professor of History and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, was awarded a grant to complete necessary archival research for a book manuscript project tentatively titled, Suffrage Mediterranean Style. The project comparatively analyzes woman suffrage campaigns in Egypt, Italy, Spain, and Turkey and their affiliation with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance during the interwar period.

Gregory Zaro, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Climate
Change, was awarded a grant for the technological equipment required to produce videos as a component of his “Building Interactive 360 Experiences to Enhance Student Learning and Community Engagement” project. This summer Zaro will travel to Zadar, Croatia, where he will record interactive 360-degree content related to his Croatian research that will facilitate student/community engagement via desktop and VR [Virtual Reality] tools of interaction.

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center Welcomes Incoming Director Beth Wiemann

Beginning in July, 2022, Professor of Composition, Clarinet, and Music Theory Beth Wiemann will become the director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. Wiemann has served on the Faculty Advisory Board of the Center throughout the Center’s first decade, and has been dedicated to elevating the national profile of the University of Maine’s arts and humanities community since her arrival on campus in 1997.

Professor Wiemann was raised in Burlington, Vermont, studied composition and clarinet at Oberlin
Professor Wiemann’s current project, "I Give You My Home: The Rose Standish Nichols Story" will debut on Friday, June 3, 2022 at the Nichols House Museum in Boston. A site specific chamber opera inspired by Rose Standish Nichols, this world premiere opera paints a portrait of a professional woman and highlights her efforts to effect change through the Women’s Peace Movement, women’s suffrage, and in her professional work as a landscape designer.

Professor Wiemann will begin her directorship of the Center on July 1, 2022.

Celebrating the First Decade of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center

On Sunday, April 10, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center hosted a reception to celebrate the culmination of its first decade. Supporters of the Center, Fellows, Board Members, Faculty, and community members enjoyed a program that began with Professor Jeff.
initiation and development of the Center's Fellows Program, and two current fellow — Delaney Burns ('22) and Haley Santerre ('22) — spoke about their displayed artwork. Dean Emily Haddad concluded the program by thanking everyone for their support of the humanities and announcing that the Center's next director will be Professor of Music Beth Wiemann. The reception allowed Board members and supporters to meet the Fellows and discuss their projects. The inaugural David and Allison Wiggin Humanities Fellow, Tom Pinette, met David Wiggin ('64 and '67 Grad), who was in attendance. The Wiggin Fellowship supports an undergraduate fellow from Aroostook County.

True North: Finding the Essence of Aroostook Webinar
May 5, 2022 - 12:00 - 1:00 pm

The UMaine Alumni Association presents a talk by Kathryn Olmstead, professor emerita, former CLAS associate dean, member of the UMaine Board of Visitors, and past co-chair of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center Advisory Board, on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 12 noon. She will deliver a webinar presentation based on her book: True North: Finding the Essence of Aroostook. Register for the webinar here.

Published in 2020, True North features a selection of personal essays Olmstead wrote over the years.
2017 about the life and culture of Maine's northernmost county. The online presentation, sponsored by United Insurance, is free of charge and open to the public.

UMaine alumni and McGillicuddy Humanities Center Board of Advisors members Allen and Sally Fernald were guests on the latest episode of the University of Maine podcast, “The Maine Question,” discussing their lifelong relationship with their alma mater, and how the state and UMaine have evolved over time, including the university's development into a top-tier, nationally recognized research institution.

**A Note of Thanks:**

As the outgoing Director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, I wanted to take a moment and thank this community for the support and encouragement you've given the Center, and me, over the past two years. It's truly been an honor to direct the Center, and my life has been enriched and enlivened by everyone I've had the pleasure to collaborate with in that time. The arts and humanities community at the University of Maine remains remarkably vibrant, and I'm confident in its future. I'd also like to thank Dean Emily Haddad for giving me this opportunity, and Humanities Specialist Karen Sieber for much of the success the Center achieved over the past two years. I'll now rejoin the Faculty Advisory Board, and I look forward to seeing you at events and programs in the future.

Thank you again,

Michael Socolow

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE HUMANITIES NEWS

**Newsom awarded $50,000 grant from Telling the Full History**
Bonnie Newsom, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, was awarded a $50,000 grant from the Telling the Full History Preservation Fund through the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Endowment for the Humanities for a project researching the history of marginalized peoples in Acadia National Park.

Telling the Full History grant program funds projects that interpret and preserve historic places of importance to underrepresented communities across states and territories of the United States using funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan of 2021. Newsom was awarded $50,000 for a project entitled “A Million Sunrises at Schoodic: Training and Research on the Muted Histories at Frazer Point, ME.” The project includes an analysis of Native American archaeological materials from Frazer Point using Indigenous archaeologists and fluent speakers, and will integrate research on Thomas Frazer, an African American freed slave who lived at Frazer Point with his family.

The research will help reframe the science narrative surrounding the archaeology and history of Acadia National Park, and will be shared through multiple community engagement and outreach activities, which include a four-day workshop giving Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and Indigenous speakers an overview of Frazer Point.

Dr. JoAnn Fritsche, the first OEO Officer at the University of Maine (1972-1986) and founder of the Women in the Curriculum Program and the University of Maine's Children Center, To Be Awarded Honorary Degree at 2022 Commencement

The University of Maine will award an honorary doctorate to Dr. JoAnn Fritsche, UMaine's first director of equal opportunity and also director of the Women's Development Program, whose vision and leadership transformed the university's curricula to be more inclusive, and led to the creation of a women's studies program.

Fritsche, of University Place, Washington, a longtime educator and advocate for persons with
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Fritsche understood that advancing equity and diversity required important changes in practice, such as equal salary, more diverse job candidates, accessible buildings and classrooms, and equitable treatment of and facilities for women student-athletes, as well as a change in culture.

Her initiatives were catalysts for cultural changes that still benefit UMaine, including a curriculum that incorporates the knowledge and experience of underrepresented people into courses and in all fields, noted the inaugural Nine Pillars of Diversity Lectures Series on “A Legacy of Advocacy: A Reflection on the History of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the University of Maine.” The 2021 lecture, which focused on Fritsche’s advocacy and paralegal work at the university, was sponsored by the President’s Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

“JoAnn Fritsche envisioned a curriculum that would, as she noted, help prepare all students for a world in which ‘the needs, contributions and ethical claims of women, people of color and developing nations must be acknowledged, not merely to ensure equity, but also to ensure peace and human survival,’ Her leadership and vision are as important today as they were decades ago,” says UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy.

UMAINE HUMANITIES SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS

Harvard Gazette Profiles MHC Fellow Nolan Altvater (‘21)

On April 19, as part of a series of graduate profiles ahead of Harvard’s Commencement ceremonies in May, the Harvard Gazette profiled Nolan Altvater (‘21), a McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellow in 2020-2021. “Altvater thought they could improve life opportunities for young Native Americans as a teacher. But they began to consider the possibility that they might be able to do even more good by working in Indigenous education policy, an insight that emerged during an internship at Wabanaki Youth in Science, a program to foster interest in science among Indigenous youth,” the piece by Liz Mineo explains.

"Darren J. Ranco, Ph. D., associate professor of anthropology at the University of Maine, co-founded the program with a multicultural approach that resonated with Altvater. “It has been proven in the scholarship that one of the key factors of Indigenous students' success in sciences is to see their culture and themselves in the curriculum,” said Ranco, who is also chair of Native American Programs at the University of Maine. “For someone like Nolan who’s interested in spaces for cross-cultural educational opportunities, it really opened this possibility to see education not as merely a middle-class strategy or a way to assimilate.”

"After Harvard, Altvater plans to return to Maine to continue their work with Indigenous youth through Wabanaki REACH, a nonprofit that supports the self-determination of the Wabanaki people. Their journey has come full circle, said Altvater, and it is a testament to the resilience and strength of their Indigenous culture.”
and because of my community, I am here,” said Altvater. “We are still here and will always still be here.”

[Photograph of Nolan Altvater by Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard Staff Photographer]

Darren Ranco, Associate Professor of Anthropology, coordinator of Native American research at UMaine, and member of the MHC faculty advisor group, was quoted by the Portland Press Herald in an article about the slow implementation of a 2001 law requiring schools to teach the history, government and culture of the state’s Indigenous people. The law was passed without money or enforcement. “A lot of us that have been involved have been frustrated by the pace of implementation. Many of us had great hope for this law in the broad educational context in the state of Maine, but it has been frustrating to see it stall until the last couple of years when Portland Public Schools’ work started,” said Ranco, who is also a citizen of the Penobscot Nation and has worked on the Portland curriculum. The Sun Journal shared the PPH report.

Kathleen Dunn, a graduating senior double majoring in History and Sociology at UMaine, has an op-ed in the Bangor Daily News arguing that LD 1626, which remains before the Maine Legislature, would be an important step towards Wabanaki self-governance and a fair relationship between tribes and the state.

Josephine Donovan, professor emerita in the Department of English, was featured in a CBC article about the treatment of dogs in American literature. Donovan is one of the founding figures in animal standpoint theory, which aspires to analyze literature from the animals’ perspective. “Animals should not just be used as literary devices,” said Donovan. “So often, they’re just used as symbols or metaphors, or in some way to comment on the state of mind of the human character, and the animal herself is discarded and then basically ignored.” Donovan is the author of The Aesthetics of Care: On the Literary Treatment of Animals and the forthcoming book Animals, Mind and Matter.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Fulbright Scholars Program Opportunity Portal Open for 2023-2024

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program offers over 400 awards in more than 130 countries for U.S. citizens to teach, conduct research and carry out professional projects around the world. College and university faculty, as well as artists and professionals from a wide range of fields can join over 400,000 Fulbrighters who have come away with enhanced skills, new connections and greater mutual understanding.

We are now accepting applications for 2023-24. The application deadline is September 15, 2022.

Interested faculty and professionals are encouraged to consider the awards and opportunities listed at the CIEE - Fulbright website here: https://cies.org/us-scholar-awards

University of Maine Office of Research Development Funding Opportunities Website

The University of Maine Office of Research Development maintains a regularly-updated grant funding opportunity website:

https://sites.google.com/a/maine.edu/funding-opportunities/?pli=1

Please note: this website is internal to the UMaine research community, and updated weekly with a curated list of grant solicitations. The site also contains instructions on how individuals can access PIVOT, UMaine's subscription grant-seeking database, to customize searches based on individual research and scholarship interests.

*Bookmark the page so that you can easily check each week for new relevant opportunities!*
Any questions? Contact brian.jansen@maine.edu or mhc@maine.edu.