McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter, December 2022

Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center

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McGillicuddy Humanities Center December Newsletter

1 message

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

McGillicuddy Humanities Center December Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

While the semester is still at peak activity in the rush before final exams, at the MHC we are finishing our awards process for spring semester funding. Our subcommittees have met to
adjudicate and award both faculty and student grant applications; you can more read about Fall 2022 faculty grant recipients below, and we’ll be formally introducing our incoming class of MHC Undergraduate Fellows in the first newsletter of Spring 2023.

The MHC is also finalizing its support, through the Global Perspectives for Humanities Exploration Fund at the University of Maine Foundation, of two students studying abroad this coming spring semester. We had a large number of applicants for the Global Perspectives award this year, now that COVID is less of a consideration in students’ international travel plans. We also want to acknowledge the donors that have supported this fund, and other important scholarship funds administered through the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. This is important, ongoing work that helps us encourage students here at UMaine and abroad.

There’s been an excellent response to our renewed partnership with the Collins Center for the Arts, with our pre-event lectures in the Bodwell Lounge. Both Sarah Harlan-Haughey and Scott Cleveland had great audiences for their talks before the CCA’s hosting of Theatre at Monmouth’s performance of As You Like It, and before the Blind Boys of Alabama with Charlie Musselwhite concert. Next semester we will offer talks by performers Marisa Solomon (before the Dreamers’ Circus performance in Minsky Recital Hall, February 26) and Dan Barrett (before the Lincoln Center Jazz “Songs We Love” concert in the CCA, April 2).

Danish Historian Therkel Straede visited UMaine as part of this year’s Symposium, with a lecture on the “October 1943 Rescue of Jews from Denmark: Networks and Motives of the Rescuers.” Prof. Straede also spoke to current history students on Holocaust research, and he worked with students in the digital humanities. This is one of several guest residencies under the Symposium umbrella of “Recovery, Rediscovery, and Resilience,” and we’re looking forward to further offerings in history and music in the coming months.

We hope to see some of you at events, both in the flurry of end of the semester concerts, and after the semester break as we start our programming for the spring—or “spring,” as the weather might remind us.

Have an excellent holiday season.

Beth Wiemann

[Image: “Fall Campus Scenes” by Adam Küykendall for the University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications]
initiatives through grant programs open to UMaine faculty, lecturers and adjuncts. Recipients of Fall 2022 Faculty Grants came from departments across campus and represent scholars across their careers. Grants this semester will support travel for research, visiting speakers, and humanities programming for students, faculty, and the community.

**Laura Artesani**, associate professor in the School of Performing Arts Division of Music will use an MHC Grant to welcome **Melissa Bragdon Caron**, a UMaine music alum, back to campus to present workshops on bluegrass music and an evening concert with her bluegrass band. These workshops will be open to UMaine students and community members, including local middle and high school students. The evening concert will be a performance by Melissa and her 5-piece bluegrass band, which will be open to the public.

**Louise Bourne**, adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Art, received an MHC Faculty Grant for her proposal to visit and study, via drawing, sculpture, and painting, a number of specific sites with mosaics and Greek ruins in Sicily. Bourne plans to use the opportunity to enrich her studio practice and enhance her knowledge base as an artist and educator. In addition to her teaching, Bourne is an award-winning artist whose work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions in cultural centers and galleries, including Colby College Museum of Art in Waterville Maine; Gallery 61 in New York City; Anne Irwin Fine Art in Atlanta; the Greenhut Gallery in Portland, Maine; Alpers Fine Art in Andover, Massachusetts; and more.

**Rebecca DeWan**, assistant professor of music education in the School of Performing Arts received an MHC Grant to present two projects at the 2023 Eastern National Music Education Conference in Rochester, New York. DeWan's first session, a collaboration with Nate Menifield, Freeport (ME) High School choral director, draws on an inquiry she conducted into students' experiences with difficult conversations in a high school chorus classroom. The second session is an exploration of the effects of stress and burnout on musicianship.

**Rosalie Purvis**, Libra Assistant Professor in the Department of English and School of Performing Arts Division of Theatre, will use an MHC Faculty Grant to adapt Nobel Prize-winning poet Rabindranath Tagore's play *The Post Office* for a University of Maine mainstage production in 2023, as well a developing an interdisciplinary course for students to accompany the production. The play's rich history of global interpretation epitomizes how theatre can respond to political unrest and bring communities together.

**Judith Rosenbaum-Andre**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism, is recipient of a grant to support a campus visit by Sanne Tanboer, a media and news literacy expert at Radboud University (Nijmegen, the Netherlands). Funding will support three events: a research presentation for faculty and graduate students at the CMJ Colloquium; a presentation for undergraduate and graduate students in the Media Studies capstone course; and a campus-wide workshop utilizing the Bubble intervention organized in conjunction
MHC Faculty Grant recipient **Susan L. Smith**, Associate Research Professor of **Art** and Graduate Coordinator, **Intermedia Program**, has been invited to conduct art based research as part of an ongoing project of site based soil and water sampling of PFAS contamination. Smith’s project (which was recently featured in the *Bangor Daily News*) involves travel to Atlanta, GA to work within the community, where PFAS contaminants have reached new levels, collecting narrative, samples, and video documentation as part of current work with UMaine PFAS researchers in environmental engineering.

**Karyn Sporer**, associate professor in the **Department of Sociology**, will use her MHC Faculty Grant to develop a faculty-led Study Abroad program in partnership with the Global Education Office at Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) in Lisbon, Portugal. Students in this immersive, experiential program will study Portugal’s innovative and path-defining approach to their 1990s opioid and overdose crisis in contrast to the path followed in the United States. The program will be created and coordinated in collaboration with UMaine faculty member **Rob Glover** (Political Science), in close consultation with partners at UCP.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
On Wednesday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the UMaine Writing Center (Neville 403), outgoing McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellow Sherrarlyn Robbins will present the culmination of her Fellowship in the form of a talk and open discussion titled “Confronting Gender Binaries: Women’s Agency in Academia and Beyond.”

Robbins will lead a conversation based on the results of her fellowship project, “You Write Like a Girl,” which explores the gendered and linguistically biased structure of academia. For her project, Robbins examined the historical perspectives that brought about these standards, considered the nature of her own writing, and initiated dialogues between herself and female scholars of writing and gender studies.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact mhc@maine.edu.
The UMaine Department of Art’s Senior Capstone Exhibition, titled “Énouement”, at Lord Hall Gallery, runs through January 20, 2023. Lord Hall Gallery is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year, the Studio Art Senior Capstone exhibit is called “Énouement.” The students in the class chose the name, which is French for the bittersweetness of having arrived here in the future without being able to tell your past self how everything turned out. The pieces are at once hopeful, introspective and ethereal, with whimsical sculptures of mushrooms, glass trout adorned with feathers and realistic landscapes punctuated by colorful shapes.

For this cohort of sixteen UMaine senior studio art majors, the capstone exhibit experience has been about more than just learning about the behind-the-scenes work that makes art shows happen. It’s about displaying the art they created and the community they have built, despite the fact that for many of these students, this is their first full semester on campus since the pandemic started.

Upcoming events in the School of Performing Arts Division of Music include performances by the Symphonic Band featuring the Bangor Band (December 1) and the annual UMaine Yuletide Concert (December 4). For more info, including performance times, venue, and ticketing, visit the School of Performing Arts events page.
On December 4 at 7:00 p.m. UMaine Judaic Studies and UMaine Hillel present a performance of *Bella, An Immigrant's Tale* by actress and playwright, Vicki Summers, in Minsky Recital Hall. *Bella* is a one-woman play that chronicles the remarkable life journey of Vicki’s beloved grandmother from the pogroms of Russia (modern day Ukraine), to a new life in America as a Jewish immigrant—filled with courage, humor and love. Following the performance, there will be a slideshow of photos of the actual people portrayed, as well as a Q&A with Vicki.

On Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m., the Versant Power Astronomy Center and Jordan Planetarium will present "Meditations on Perihelion", a live performance of original electronic music and immersive visuals on the planetarium’s dome screen. The “Meditations” are a multi-sensory experience that invites audience members to contemplate and reflect on the dark quietude of the Winter Solstice, the darkest time of the year and the moment when the Earth is closest to the Sun.

The University of Maine Bookstore, the UMaine Department of English, and the Honors College invite you to the 16th Annual Emily Dickinson Birthday Reading at the Bookstore, on Wednesday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. Enjoy UMaine faculty, students, staff, poets, and friends reading an Emily Dickinson poem or an original poem of their own. If you’d like to read a poem, contact organizer and UMaine faculty member Kathleen Ellis at kathleen.ellis@maine.edu.

On Wednesday, December 7 at 12:00 p.m. in Chadbourne 422, UMaine Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies will host a holiday party featuring a discussion of how WGS-related topics arise in everyday activities like gardening, cross-stitching, and tattoos. Refreshments—including cookies and hot cocoa—will be served.
Join UMaine’s Opera Workshop on December 2 and 3 as they present scenes from legendary works! Expect selections from Menotti’s 'The Old Maid and The Thief,' Britten’s 'Peter Grimes,' Cimarosa’s 'Il matrimonio segreto,' Humperdinck’s ‘Hansel and Gretel,’ as well as Mozart’s ‘Le nozze di Figaro’ and ‘Don
Giovanni.

Two nights only in Minsky Recital Hall. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

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2022 Wabanaki Winter Market

Saturday, December 10, 2022
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Collins Center for the Arts,
University of Maine

Free and open to the public

Largest Holiday gathering of Wabanaki artists in New England featuring members of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance who have received national awards and new artists representing the next generation of weavers.

Join us for a day showcasing one-of-a-kind art forms, demonstrations, storytelling, traditional music, drumming and dancing.

Something for everyone!

For more information please call 581-1904

Hosted by: Supported in part by:

Hudson Museum

ONION Foundation

www.umaine.edu/hudsonmuseum

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, please call 207.581.1904.

Schedule of Events

9:30 Welcome

10:00 Penobscot Songs with Kelly Demmons

11:00 Brown Ash Pounding Demonstration with Eldon Honning, MI'kmaq

12:00 Children's Brown Ash Bookmark Workshop with Pam Cunningham, Penobscot

1:00 Book Signing for "Still They Remember Me" with authors Carol A. Dana, Penobscot and Margo Lukens, Professor of English, University of Maine

2:00 Rumurwajsek Singers

Featured in the Minsky Gallery:
2022 Art from the Indian Island School. Student art from grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 is featured, with each grade creating works which use a different printmaking technique.

Featured in the Merritt Gallery:
Explore the Leo and Florence Shay Collection of Wabanaki brown ash and sweetgrass baskets and basketmaking tools. These extraordinary holdings, collected by Robert Anderson, a Penobscot tribal member, document basketmaking from the 1800s to the present.

The 2022 Annual Wabanaki Winter Market hosted by the Hudson Museum in the Collins Center for the Arts will take place Saturday, December 10th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Market makes a full-scale, in-person return this year with demonstrations, performances, book signings, and tables full of Wabanaki art.
Assistant Professor of English Morgan Talty's short story collection Night of the Living Rez (Tin House, 2022) has been nominated for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. The winner will be selected on January 29, with a celebratory event, including presentations by the winners and a featured speaker, to take place at the ALA Annual Conference in June 2023 in Chicago.

Among other accolades, Night of the Living Rez was also named one of TIME Magazine's Must-Read Books of 2022.

Hollie Adams, assistant professor in the Department of English, is fiction editor of the Windsor Review, whose newest issue was recently published. Established in 1965, the Windsor Review is among Canada's oldest active literary journals, having featured the work of writers like Marshall McLuhan, Joyce Carol Oates, and W.P. Kinsella.

Emily Albee ('06, '09G, '12G) graduated from the University of Maine with degrees in both education and history. "We all want our kids to have successful academic and social-emotional learning experiences," she says. "If there's one thing I learned at UMaine, it's that talking to people about these issues — at the local, state and national level — and using your personal and professional network to solve problems can make a huge difference."
Kara Peruccio, assistant professor of history and WGS presented at the Society for Italian Historical Studies (SIHS) conference, titled "Marching on Rome: Contesting the Eternal City through the Centuries." This event marked the centennial of the March on Rome, the Fascist seizure of power in Italy in 1922. Peruccio's talk was entitled "'Awake, Arise, Take Courage': Mediterranean Women and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in Rome, 1923." The conference took place at the Italian Academy at Columbia University and was covered in La voce di New York, an Italian-language American newspaper.

Many English students read Geoffrey Chaucer’s “Canterbury Tales” at some point in their education, but few have the opportunity to explore the lesser-known works of the medieval poet. Sarah Harlan-Haughey, associate professor and interim chair of the Department of English, and MHC Faculty Advisory Group member is not only shining new light on one of Chaucer’s lesser-known, controversial works — she is bringing that keen insight to the UMaine classroom.

Harlan-Haughey says that Chaucer is an interesting poet to study even in modern times because his work is "super complex," weaving in contextual references to other works as far back as ancient Greece, but funny and ironic enough to resonate with modern readers.

Read More . . .
The University of Maine’s Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) has announced the 2022-23 CUGR academic year fellowship winners.

CUGR Research and Creative Activities fellowships were developed to enhance and increase undergraduate student involvement in faculty-supervised research and are supported through the office of the Vice President for Research. Each fellowship provides $1,500 per student for costs associated with the project.

Awardees in the humanities include:

- Kacie Bond, New Media, “Disruption of the Artist: AI Generated art in the Art World,” advised by Michael Scott
- Laura Curioli, History, “A Study in The Evolution of Educational Philosophies Across Three Centuries,” advised by Joel Anderson

UMAINE HUMANITIES IN THE NEWS

The Bangor Daily News wrote a feature about Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English at the University of Maine, whose debut book “Night of the Living Rez” has received an avalanche of accolades since its release in July. The book was named one of the New York Times’ 100 best books of 2022. “I hear from people all the time about how much they love the book or how the book has affected them, and it reminds me, constantly, how powerful and important storytelling is. So many people — Native and non-Native — have been cheering me and the book on, and that support has meant so much to me,” Talty said.
ended up in downtown Bangor. The museum was founded in 1946 by longtime UMaine art professor Vincent Hartgen, but by the late 1990s, it had already well outgrown its on-campus location at Carnegie Hall with the nearly 6,000 works of art then in the museum's collection. The nonprofit Couri Foundation purchased 40 Harlow in 2000 and over the course of two years, the lower floor of the building was transformed into art galleries. The University of Maine Museum of Art opened its doors in 2002.

The Chicago Tribune interviewed Anne Knowles, professor of history at the University of Maine, about the Welsh community in Chicago cheering on Wales in the 2022 World Cup. "If the Welsh ever beat the English in any sporting contest, it is a huge national victory. It is one of the biggest things that can happen," said Knowles, who has previously written about Welsh migration to Chicago. Yahoo News shared the Chicago Tribune report.

The Times Record reported that Elizabeth Downing, instructor of flute at the University of Maine, will perform with Grammy-winning composer and pianist Paul Sullivan at the Boothbay Harbor Opera House on Dec. 3 for the first in a series of holiday concerts at the historic venue.

News Center Maine interviewed Darren Ranco, associate professor of anthropology and coordinator of Native American research at the University of Maine, about the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. While the act was written in a way that allowed the tribes to go back and make amendments as needed, they said that process didn't work as they expected. "I think people had been promised, maybe incorrectly, that even if things were a little bit off that it was fixable, that it could be the first draft or something," Ranco said.

Turner Publishing Inc. noted that the First Concert of Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival's 50th season, which was broadcast on Maine Public Radio's Maine Stage, at 8 p.m. Nov. 23 included "The Lake Guide," a piece commissioned by the festival to commemorate its 50th anniversary written by Beth Wiemann, MHC Director and music professor at UMaine.

Rob Glover, professor of political science, spoke to Education Next about gubernatorial candidate Paul LePage’s “Parents Bill of Rights," which would increase state control over curricular content. Glover said that the proposal attempts to “capitalize on people’s passionate sentiments that something is going fundamentally wrong in their local schools.” Glover also noted that, “the reason that this has filtered up … in the state and around the country is because there is this sense, for some folks, that the curriculum is out of control and parents need to exert more control over those decisions … and that the state needs to step up.”

Broadway World promoted the premiere broadcast of the opera "I Give You My Home," with music
and libretto composed by MHC Director Beth Wiemann, at the Guerilla Emergence Festival, a virtual festival of ground-breaking works commissioned by Guerilla Opera that runs through December 2, streaming online and to all devices through Stellar Tickets. “I Give You My Home” is supported in part by the University of Maine Arts Initiative.

In an article speculating whether artist Andy Warhol would have embraced or abhorred NFTs if he were still alive, Magazine by Coin Telegraph quoted a blog post by Jon Ippolito, professor of new media at UMaine. “‘Good business is the best art,’ Warhol claimed. He once insisted that he wanted to sell shares of his company on Wall Street. While Warhol pushed the boundaries of what art is, he also said: ‘Don’t think about making art, just get it done,’” Ippolito wrote. Still, Ippolito asserted that NFTs might now be too mainstream for Warhol’s provocations; “I think most NFTs serve a dual purpose: overtly to support those who make art, and covertly to validate cryptocurrencies,” he argued.

Daniel Sandweiss, professor in the Department of Anthropology, was featured in the November-December 2022 issue of American Scientist, discussing a Grant in Aid of Research (GIAR) that he received almost 40 years ago as a graduate student at Cornell. “The GIAR award allowed me to hire a professional topographer to work with me to create a precision profile across the ridges. The results showed that the ridges did not rise sequentially from shore to interior. This, in turn, helped support my El Niño origin hypothesis. …The GIAR-supported work led to a paper in the inaugural issue of the journal Geoarchaeology and helped launch one of my main streams of research on the prehistory of El Niño,” Sandweiss said.

The Atlantic featured a conversation with Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English, about his debut novel Night of the Living Rez. “I find that mentoring and editing and working with other writers is rejuvenating for me. I have to do it. It charges my batteries for the creative work. I’m very reclusive when it comes to my own writing — I don’t have a writing group — but I need editing and teaching and that literary community,” Talty said.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES**

American Philosophical Society Franklin Grants
http://www.amphilsoc.org/grants
2022 Deadline: December 1

The Franklin grants program helps meet the costs of travel to libraries and archives for research purposes; the purchase of some research materials; the costs associated with fieldwork; or laboratory research expenses.
Folger Shakespeare Library
www.folger.edu/fellowships
Deadline: January 15
The Folger Institute awards research fellowships to create a high-powered, multidisciplinary community of inquiry. This community of researchers may come from different fields, and their projects may find different kinds of expression. But our researchers share cognate interests in the history and literature, art and performance, philosophy, religion, and politics of the early modern world.

Ford Foundation/National Academies Fellowships
https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm
Deadline: December 8
Through its program of fellowships, the Ford Foundation seeks to increase the diversity of the nation’s college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

John Carter Brown Fellowship Program
https://www.brown.edu/academics/libraries/john-carterbrown/fellowshipsdescription-fellowship-program
Deadline: January 9
The John Carter Brown Library for advanced research in history and the humanities, houses a renowned collection of primary historical sources on the Americas, both North and South, before ca. 1825.

National Endowment for the Humanities
https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships
Deadline: April 12
NEH Fellowships are competitive awards granted to individual scholars pursuing projects that embody exceptional research, rigorous analysis, and clear writing. Applications must clearly articulate a project’s value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.

New York Public Library – Schomburg Center Fellowships
Deadline: December 1
Long and short-term fellowships for scholars and writers working on projects that would benefit from access to the Center's resources for the study of African diasporic history, politics, literature, and culture.

Tulane University - The Murphy Institute/Center for Ethics & Public Affairs
http://murphy.tulane.edu/programs/center/faculty-fellowships
Deadline: December 15
Fellowships support faculty whose teaching and research focus on ethics, political philosophy, political theory, or questions of moral choices in such areas as (but not limited to), business, government, law, economics, and medicine.

University of Rochester, School of Arts and Sciences, Humanities Center
https://www.sas.rochester.edu/humanities/fellowships/index.html
Deadline: January 13
External fellowships are awarded to scholars who hold tenure-track positions at other institutions. Faculty at the rank of Assistant, Associate or Professor may apply.

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!

Fogler Library presents the Finding Funding Challenge (online and asynchronous)
December 12 - December 16

Join Fogler Library and the Office of Research Development for the Finding Funding Challenge! Each day, for five days, you will receive an email with tasks designed to build your grantseeking skills. You will learn how to effectively and efficiently find funding opportunities tailored to your creative and scholarly interests, strategically read a request for proposals, and make your grant proposal a standout. RSVP to join us and take your grantseeking skills to the next level! This online, asynchronous program may be especially resonant for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

RSVP here.

Check out the MHC Speakers Bureau

The Faculty Advisory Group of the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center represents 16 departments and units at UMaine with expertise in the humanities and the humanistically oriented social sciences.
In order to make our work better known to the general public, advisory group members welcome media inquiries on topics relevant to their expertise, and are excited to share their work in public lectures with organizations throughout the State of Maine without a fee.

For more information about the MHC Speakers Bureau program and for a list of speakers and their areas of expertise, visit our Speakers Bureau page.

Help Support the Center's Mission

Visit our Website

Any questions? Contact brian.jansen@maine.edu or mhc@maine.edu.