McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter, March 2023

Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

March at UMaine brings us our Spring Break, but it also begins the push to the end of our academic
year, and for some of our fellows, planning for graduation. On the day you receive this newsletter, we begin this semester’s set of public presentations by MHC fellowship students, starting today (in Class of 1944 Hall, Room 102) with Wiggin Fellow Tom Pinette, who will outline his research on conflicts between the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations and the Portland Diocese of Maine, and past fellow Benjamin Allen presenting on tics, Tourette Syndrome, and disability in academic settings on March 6 (more on that below!). Several other presentations will follow, including gallery showings, creative writing readings, and appearances at the UMaine Symposium on April 14th at the Collins Center for the Arts (https://umaine.edu/umss/).

Our Symposium presentations also continue, with March 28-30 being especially busy. Maine bluegrass performer Melissa Bragdon Caron and her band will give a public performance on March 28 at 7:30 pm in Minsky Recital Hall after leading a masterclass that morning in the School of Performing Arts. The following evening, renowned conductor Murry Sidlin will host a showing of the film The Defiant Requiem (https://www.defiantrequiem.org) in Minsky, followed by a lecture on the film’s topic on March 30 at 3:00 pm in the same hall, also featuring a performance by the Silver Duo. We will offer the March 30th event as a live stream on the School of Performing Arts’s YouTube channel, and will also be able to offer video-on-demand viewing of the film, a work honoring the prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp during World War II, for a limited time.

Please make sure to follow our MHC announcements on social media to find links to these events, and information on our fellows’ presentations.

With wishes for warmer temperatures, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Beth Wiemann

[Image: “Campus Winter Sunset” by Ron Lisnet for the University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications]

MCGILLICUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER NEWS
March 17 marks the Spring deadline for undergraduate and faculty funding opportunities through the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center. The MHC supports year-long fellowships for undergraduates and grants of up to $5,000 for faculty to support research, community-oriented work, and classroom engagement:

- **MHC Faculty Grant** award applications are being accepted for maximum awards of $5,000 to support faculty at all levels (including lecturers and adjunct instructors), for their research, community engagement, or innovative teaching proposals. For more information, visit [https://umaine.edu/mhc/research/for-faculty/](https://umaine.edu/mhc/research/for-faculty/). Email completed grant applications and budget forms to Director Beth Wiemann by March 17 for the Spring 2023 deadline.

- The **MHC Undergraduate Fellows** program offers juniors and seniors the opportunity to work on independent research or creative projects in the humanities under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Fellows receive $4,000 each per semester, or $8,000 in total, and present the outcome of their work to a public audience upon culmination of their fellowship term. For more information and application instructions, visit [https://umaine.edu/mhc/research/for-students/undergraduate-fellowship/](https://umaine.edu/mhc/research/for-students/undergraduate-fellowship/).

**Global Perspectives for Humanities Exploration**

In honor of the late Dr. Josef Roggenbauer, who passed away in September 2022, the MHC and Office of International Programs will offer a Spring award from the Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund for a student studying abroad in the Fall 2023 semester. That competition is now open, with an application deadline of March 31.

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 Josef Roggenbauer, longtime professor of German in the 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, and the funds invested will generate awards and life-changing memories far into the future. **For more information about this program, please click here.**

If you have memories of Professor Roggenbauer you would like to share or have your own study-abroad experiences, we would love to hear from you. You can contact the Friends of the Global Perspective Fund by contacting Tracey Graffam-Dickson at tgraffam@gmail.com and Jessica Canatsey at jessica.canatsey@gmail.com.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
Today, Wednesday, March 1 at 12:00 pm in Class of 1944 Hall Room 102, outgoing MHC Undergraduate Fellow Tom Pinette will present the results of his MHC project, titled "'This Land is Your Land and This Land Is My Land': The Role of the Roman Catholic Church in the Political and Cultural Lives of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations in the twentieth century.

Wednesday
March 1 at 12:00 pm
Class of 1944 Hall
Room 102

Over the course of his Fellowship, Tom has worked with faculty mentors John Bear Mitchell and Paige Mitchell to explore an area of Wabanaki history virtually ignored by Western academic institutions — the presence of the Church on Penobscot and Passamaquoddy reservations in the twentieth century.

This free, open-to-the-public discussion will be a culmination of a year’s worth of archival and ethnographic research. In addition to addressing the Wabanaki context of Christian missions, a presentation of Tom’s research findings will engage with larger questions of Catholic theology, Indigenous
worldviews, and the ongoing campaign of colonisation.

On March 6 at 2:00 pm in the UMaine Writing Center (Neville Hall 402), outgoing MHC Fellow **Benjamin Allen** will present the results of his MHC project on disability and performance in higher education. Allen’s work draws on his own lived experience, as well as contemporary scholarly research in disability studies, communication theory, performance theory, and intersectional theory, to examine how tic disorders are performative and can irreversibly impact the experiences of those afflicted—especially as it relates to stressful situations in academia and the classroom.
On March 29-30, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center and the School of Performing Arts welcome renowned conductor Murry Sidlin for a film screening and lecture as part of the 2022-23 MHC symposium on Recovery, Rediscovery, and Resilience.

On Wednesday, March 29 at 7:30 pm in Minsky Recital Hall, Sidlin will host a screening of the film Defiant Requiem. On Thursday, March 30 at 3:00 pm in Minsky, he will deliver a lecture, which will include a performance by Silver Duo (Phillip and Noreen Silver)

Defiant Requiem, a feature-length documentary film, highlights the most dramatic example of intellectual and artistic courage in the Theresienstadt (Terezín) Concentration Camp during World War II: the remarkable story of Rafael Schächter, a brilliant, young Czech conductor who was arrested and sent to Terezín in 1941. He demonstrated moral leadership under the most brutal circumstances, determined to sustain courage and hope for his fellow prisoners by enriching their souls through great music. His most extraordinary act was to recruit 150 prisoners and teach them Verdi’s Requiem by rote in a dank cellar using a single score, over multiple rehearsals, and after grueling days of forced labor. The Requiem was performed on 16 occasions for fellow prisoners. The last, most infamous performance occurred on June 23, 1944 before high-ranking SS officers from Berlin and the International Red Cross to support the charade that the prisoners were treated well and flourishing.

Murry Sidlin, a conductor with a unique gift for engaging audiences, continues a diverse and distinctive musical career. He is the president and creative director of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, an organization that sponsors live concert performances of Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín and Hours of Freedom: The Story of the Terezín Composer. He lectures extensively on the arts and humanities as practiced by the prisoners in the Theresienstadt (Terezín) Concentration Camp.
Lord Hall Gallery on the University of Maine campus presents the 2023 Faculty Exhibition, running through March 17, 2023. The exhibition includes faculty from UMaine’s Department of Art: N.B. Aldrich, Diana Baumbach, Susan Camp, Tim Conte, Sam Jones, Robert Pollien, Susan L. Smith, Matt Smolinsky, and Giles Timms. A diverse range of artwork will be on view including painting, site-specific installation, social practice, animation, and more.

If you are interested in a class visit, outreach activities or have any questions please contact Diana Baumbach, Gallery Director (diana.baumbach@maine.edu).

The Gallery is located in Lord Hall and is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Events are free, accessible and open to the public. All are welcome.
Two memorial events will be held this spring to honor the life and scholarship of Professor Ngo Vinh Long, who died this past October after a brief illness. On March 17th, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, friends and colleagues of Ngo Vinh Long will have a celebration of his life, work, and legacy during the Asian Studies Association Conference at Harvard-Yenching Library, 2 Divinity Ave., Boston, MA 02138. The University of Maine History Department is helping to sponsor this event. Among those speaking at this event will be three members of the UMaine community.

Then, on April 20, from 12-3, the Socialist-Marxist Luncheon Series at UMaine will host a program on Ngo Vinh Long, followed by a reception sponsored by the History Department (more details to follow). Both events will also be offered via Zoom.

If you wish to attend the event at Harvard-Yenching Library either in person or via Zoom, please register by using the QR code in the announcement above, by clicking here, or sending an email to ngovinhlong.celebration@gmail.com.

On Thursday, March 30 at 4:30 pm, the UMaine Department of English New Writing Series presents a reading and Q&A by novelist Suzette Mayr. Mayr is the author of six novels, including her most recent, The Sleeping Car Porter, winner of the 2022 Scotiabank Giller Award. Mayr’s other novels have won the ReLit Award and W.O. Mitchell Book Prize. Mayr teaches Creative Writing at the University of Calgary. Mayr will be introduced by assistant professor of English Hollie Adams.
On Monday, April 3, the MHC and the Department of Communication and Journalism welcome Sanne Tamboer (MSc, Behavioural Science and Communication Science) for a talk and library workshop. Tamboer is a postdoctoral researcher in the Communication and Media group at the Behavioural Science Institute at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. During her visit, Tamboer will present her research on early adolescents' engagement with news and on developing an intervention to stimulate early adolescents’ everyday application of news literacy.

Upcoming events in the UMaine School of Performing Arts include the annual Concert for a Cure (March 7), Jazz Night (March 23), and the UMaine Singers & Alumni Concert honoring longtime conductor Dennis Cox (March 25). Beginning March 31, the Division of Theatre presents Everybody by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins. For more information and ticketing, visit the SPA Events page at https://umaine.edu/spa/events/.

On Thursday, March 2 at 5:00 pm in Hill Auditorium, Barrows Hall, Luis Millones Figueroa (Allen Family Professor of Latin American Literature, Colby College) will give a talk titled "Enacting a New Past in the Andes." In recent years, several communities in the Andean region are carrying out folk theater productions that revisit their relationship to their pre-colonial or colonial past. This talk will use the examples of the "tallanes" and the "chancas" in Peru, whose theater productions are massive events, to explore why drama has been chosen for this historical revisionism and what significance these events may have for the cultural identities of these communities.
On Monday, March 20 at 3:00 pm in the Soderberg Lecture Hall, the UMaine History Symposium presents Jamie Kreiner, professor of history at the University of Georgia, who will deliver a lecture on medieval monks’ diets, based on her forthcoming book, The Wandering Mind: What Medieval Monks Tell Us about Distraction (W.M. Norton, 2023).

On Tuesday, March 28 at 7:30 pm in Minsky Recital Hall, the MHC and the School of Performing Arts present UMaine alumna and fiddler Melissa Bragdon Caron, who returns to campus to perform a free concert with her bluegrass band. As part of her visit, Caron will also host a masterclass with UMaine music students. Bragdon is Associate Director of the New Hampshire Fiddle Ensemble, a non-profit organization that supports community by bringing together a large group of musicians of all ages to learn and perform different styles of music.

Join us in the Bodwell Lounge of the Collins Center for the Arts as UMaine Jazz Studies faculty member Dan Barrett introduces the Jazz at Lincoln Center.

PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURE

Sunday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m.
On Sunday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m., join the Collins Center for the Arts for a pre-performance lecture delivered by UMaine jazz professor Dan Barrett, presented with the support of the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center.

Dan Barrett teaches low brass instruments, music theory, and jazz courses at the University of Maine, and plays and performs around the state. He also leads the Maine Trombone Collective and the Maine Brass Guild. Barrett’s career has included performances with the Utah Symphony, the Bangor Symphony, the Boston Brass and many other ensembles, as well as solo performances with the Carson City Symphony, the University of Maine Symphonic Band, the University of Maine Farmington Concert Band, the Brigham Young University Philharmonic Orchestra, the Utah Premiere Brass Band, and as a guest artist at the Eastern Trombone Workshop in Washington D.C.

*Songs We Love* is a journey through the first 50 years of jazz song. Under the musical direction of Riley Mulherkar, 3 guest vocalists will join an all-star band made up of New York’s rising stars. Combining their distinct talents, the group will sing their way through four decades of music, beginning with the early blues and jazz of the 1920s and ending in the early 1950s. Iconic singers to be explored include Ma Rainey, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland.

Dan Barrett’s pre-performance lecture is free and open to the public. Tickets for Jazz at Lincoln Center’s “Songs We Love” begin at $30 and are available from the [Collins Center for the Arts box office](https://collinsartscenter.com/).

On March 7 at 11:30 am in the Digital & Spatial History Lab (Center Stevens Hall 305), the Department of History and the McGillicuddy Humanities Center will present an informal workshop titled “*The Humanities and ChatGPT: Should we worry?*”

ChatGPT is a large language model trained by OpenAI, which has recently gained popularity due to its ability to generate human-like text. This workshop will explore the capabilities and limitations of ChatGPT and generative AI in general and discuss their implications for the humanities.

This talk is open to faculty and graduate students with teaching appointments in a humanities department at the University of Maine. As space is limited, please RSVP by today, March 1st to gregory.gaines@maine.edu to secure a spot.
The UMaine College of Education and Human Development has launched a pair of initiatives to help education graduates be better prepared to teach Wabanaki studies when they get jobs in Maine schools. Starting this school year, all pre-service teachers in the college are required to complete the University of Maine System’s Dawnland micro-credential, a self-directed online course exploring the history of the original people of Maine. Starting next year, the college will require teacher education students to take a semester-long class called Teaching Wabanaki Studies, which is being offered for the first time this spring through the Native American Studies program at UMaine.

The micro-credential and the class were both developed by John Bear Mitchell, a citizen of the Penobscot Nation from Indian Island and a lecturer in Wabanaki Studies, among other roles at UMaine.

“We have an opportunity at UMaine to be a model for how this is done in other places,” says Mitchell. “We’re taking an Indigenous knowledge approach. In other words, we’re going to be doing and creating.”

Read more . . .

Hollie Adams, assistant professor of English, has been selected as one of 13 artists selected for Acadia National Park’s Artist-in-Residence Program in 2023. Adams, the author of the novel Things You’ve Inherited from Your Mother, will spend the year making frequent trips to Mount Desert Island to work on a collection of poems on the topic of Acadia in the Anthropocene that will investigate the effects of climate change and the human impact on the park’s landscape. Read more on the National Park Service website.
Michael Socolow, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism and former MHC Director, won an essay contest sponsored by the academic journal Journalism History on the topic of the history and importance of television over the last 60 years, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of TV news coverage of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Socolow’s essay, which will be published this fall in Journalism History, is titled, “Commercial Television’s Secret Goldmine: The Hidden Riches Generated by U.S. Network TV News, 1960–1970.” Read more on the Journalism History website.

The University of Maine Native American Programs, in partnership with the Penobscot Nation, has launched a website to accompany bilingual English and Penobscot signage on campus. The new website includes audio recordings of the Penobscot language translations by language master Gabe Paul, a Penobscot pronunciation guide, and maps of the signs across campus.

The Stephen E. King Chair Internship Fellowships were recently announced. Eight English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality majors, including two past and present MHC Fellows, have been awarded the fellowships, which offer recipients financial support so that they can pursue an internship related to both their field of study and their career goals. Recipients are all interning with non-profit organizations or small businesses in Maine. Here are the Stephen E. King Chair Internship Fellows for spring 2023:

- Bell Gellis Morais, who is doing communications work at True North Theater Company
- Bailey Lewis, who is assisting with the Sexual Health and Wellness Blog and Syringe Exchange at Health Equity Alliance
- Patrick Malia, who is creating web content for the Bridge Academy
- April Messier, who is doing web design and cataloguing for the Center for Poetry and Poetics
- Charlie Reed, who is providing communication and research support for the Mabel Wadsworth Center
- Eddie Seeley, who is creating content for the MaineTransNetwork
- Mick Swanson, who is writing articles for Portland Monthly Magazine
- Ruth Lewandowski, who is creating content and writing grants for VOGM Support Network

UMAINE HUMANITIES IN THE NEWS

WGME-TV (Channel 13 in Portland) interviewed Jon Ippolito, professor of new media, about artificial intelligence essay writing softwares like ChatGPT. Ippolito says ChatGPT is already used as a springboard for ideas in his class. “It does scare me to some extent…I think that banning the tools is not the right approach. Whatever happens, we’re likely going to need these tools in the workplace going forward,” Ippolito said. WPPO-TV (Fox 23 in Portland) shared the WGME report. Ippolito also recently served as a guest co-host for an online conversation on generative art,
Karyn Sporer, associate professor of sociology and recipient of a Fall 2022 MHC faculty grant, was interviewed by WMTW about mental illness and grief in connection with her most recent publication. Sporer says her research shows that as a way of coping, parents reconstruct their child’s identity in one of two ways. The first is described as “my child is absent,” with parents perceiving their child changed into a completely different person or stranger, describing them as “dead” or “gone.” “There’s also real sadness and mourning and a sense of loss that the child that they raised and the dream and aspirations that they had not just for their children but their family lives has sort of fallen apart,” she said.

Amy Blackstone, professor of sociology, spoke to WGME-TV (Channel 13 in Portland) about the choice some Maine couples are making to be child-free by choice. Blackstone published a book in 2019 called Child Free by Choice, sharing some of her story, her research, myths and history about not having children. “The idea of opting out of parenthood is not new, but one thing that is very new is that we’re talking about it. … We’ve had women we’ve called spinsters for many decades, and those folks have opted out of parenthood. We’ve had men that we call bachelors that have never had kids, so we’ve had different names for them, but we’ve always had people who never became parents because they didn’t want to become parents,” Blackstone said.

The Penobscot Bay Pilot and Republican Journal reported that the Waldo Reads Together committee announced this year’s featured title for its One Book, One Community program is Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English.

Jessica Miller, professor of philosophy, made an appearance on Maine Public Radio’s Maine Calling program recently. Miller appeared on the February 6 episode, speaking to the ethical issues surrounding recent proposals to expand abortion access in Maine.

Michael Socolow, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, recently appeared on the CNN podcast The Assignment with Audie Cornish. Socolow spoke about violence in sports through the context of the history of boxing and the future of the NFL. “What do you do when the population might have issues with the violence you’re providing to them through their television sets? And what the NFL did is they created new rules about the violence. They created penalties for hitting the quarterback in certain ways, and now we see if you’re concussed, you have to leave the field. You have to take a test. They brought the doctors in. They’ve … done all kinds of things and they’ve been helped by television. Television doesn’t show the most horrible injuries,” Socolow said.
The Portland Press Herald and Literary Hub reported that Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English, was named one of three finalists for The Story Prize, which honors American short story collections. Yahoo News shared the PPH report.


FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES

ACLS Leading Edge Fellowships
https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/
Deadline: March 15
Leading Edge Fellowships place recent humanities PhDs with nonprofit organizations committed to promoting social justice in their communities.

American Philosophical Society Digital Humanities Fellowship
https://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/digital-humanities-fellowships
Deadline: March 3
The Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) at the American Philosophical Society invites applications for Digital Humanities Fellowships at the American Philosophical Society's Library & Museum. These fellowships, for up to 2 months, are open to scholars at all stages of their careers.

Bogliasco Fellowship Program
https://www.bfny.org/
Deadline: March 1
Approximately 60 Fellowships are awarded to artists and scholars in the various disciplines of the Arts and Humanities who are doing creative or scholarly work. Fellows are provided with living quarters, separate private studios and full board for a month at the Study Center in Bogliasco, Italy.

Boston Athenæum Fellowships
https://bostonathenaeum.org/explore-learn/education/fellowships/
Deadline: April 15
The Boston Athenæum offers short-term fellowships to support the use of Athenæum collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects. Each fellowship pays a stipend for a residency of twenty days (four weeks) and includes a year’s membership to the Boston Athenæum. Scholars, graduate students, independent scholars, teaching faculty, and professionals in the humanities as well as teachers and librarians in secondary public, private, and parochial schools are eligible.

Maine Humanities Council Mini Grants
https://www.mainehumanities.org/programs-grants/grants/mini-grant/
Deadline: March 21
Up to $2,000 for humanities programs and projects undertaken by nonprofit organizations across Maine. Funding match or cost-share is required. Organizations serving and/or led by members of communities traditionally under-resourced in the humanities are encouraged to apply.

**National Endowment for the Arts Research Awards**
https://www.arts.gov/grants/research-awards
Deadline: March 27
Research Grants in the Arts funds research studies that investigate the value and/or impact of the arts, either as individual components of the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life. Matching/cost share grants of $20,000 to $100,000 will be awarded.

**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.

**National Library of Australia Fellowships**
Deadline: TBA (usually April)
The National Library of Australia offers researchers an opportunity to undertake a twelve-week residency at the library to work in any field or discipline where the Library’s collections have appropriate depth and breadth to support the desired outcomes. Fellowships are available to researchers who require onsite access to the Library’s collections to advance research at any stage towards publication or other public outcomes. Funded fellowships include a weekly stipend, accommodation support, and reimbursement of travel expenses.

**Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study Individual Fellowships**
https://nias.knaw.nl/fellowships/nias-individual-fellowship/
Deadline: March 15
NIAS offers individual fellowships to scholars who wish to carry out independent research in the humanities and the social sciences. For five or ten months, scholars are offered time and space to work on their own research project as part of an interdisciplinary community.
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!

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.