We’re now over halfway through our second semester of the 2022-23 academic year, and are now...
concentrating on finalizing fellowship awards for the coming fall. Our faculty advisors recently reviewed proposals from UMaine humanities faculty, which you will see more about in the Newsletter below. This month we review applications for next year’s student cohort of four undergraduate fellows, and we have many projects to consider from a diverse range of disciplines: this cycle was the most competitive in the history of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellowship program! We thank the faculty mentors for leading their students to the MHC for this application cycle, and we should have more news on this front in our May Newsletter.

This message is being written during an especially busy week for the Center, with two visiting performer-scholars in addition to meetings in the funding application process. During April we’ll have more documentation of these late-March events on our YouTube channel, including presentations by our fellows; those presentations will continue through May and June, with exhibits and sessions at the Undergraduate Research Symposium this month. We hope that you can attend some of these events in person, or catch up with the Center on social media for news about our events. We’re on Twitter at @UMaineMHC and Instagram at @mcgillicuddyhumanitiescenter.

Spring is starting, and that brings some renewed energy – best wishes for the changes.

Sincerely,

Beth Wiemann

/MCGILLCUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER

NEWS

MHC Names Spring 2023 Faculty Award Winners

This week, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center notified faculty recipients of its funding decisions for the Spring 2023 Faculty Research Awards cycle. MHC Faculty Grants provide up to $5,000 to UMaine faculty (including lecturers and adjunct instructors) for financial support of research, community engagement, or innovative teaching proposals. This year’s recipients were:

Robert Ballingall, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, will receive funding for a book project titled Plato’s Reverent City: The Laws and the Politics of Authority. An MHC faculty grant will help defray costs related to publishing Ballingall’s forthcoming monograph in an open access format. Books published open access have much higher citation rates and impact in their fields and with the broader public. Ballingall’s book, Plato’s Reverent City brings out the enduring
relevance of one of Plato’s least-studied dialogues for understanding the contempt of lawful civility that appears endemic to modern societies. The book shows how Plato’s Laws anticipates this worrying trend with remarkable foresight yet locates its germ in a novel cause. Contemporary observers point to economic disruption, persistent racism, and communication technology to explain the so-called new populism, but the Laws dwells on the disruptive consequences of neglecting a certain virtue—reverence, the capacity for showing due respect for what exceeds and circumscribes the human condition.

Carla Billitteri, associate professor in the Department of English, was awarded an MHC faculty grant for a project titled "Magnetic Surrealism: Laura (Riding) Jackson 1930s Poetics." This project continues and expands the examination of the philosophical dimensions of Laura (Riding) Jackson’s poetics that Billitteri began in her book Language and the Renewal of Society (2009). MHC support will help support Billitteri’s plan to visit Laura (Riding) Jackson’s archive at Cornell University and examine her unpublished letters and notes, and to present her findings at a conference on Logic and Modern Literature, held by the Department of English, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in September.

Ryan LaRochelle, lecturer in Leadership Studies and the Department of Political Science, received a McGillicuddy Humanities Center grant for work on his biography of Maine lawyer and politician William S. Cohen, tentatively titled "Getting to the Truth: William S. Cohen’s Life in Leadership." The MHC grant will provide funding to cover travel and lodging to conduct archival research at both the Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan Presidential Libraries, as well as oral history interviews with individuals familiar with Cohen’s leadership, including Cohen himself.

Margo Lukens, professor in the Department of English and former MHC director, was awarded a faculty grant to support conference travel for her work on Indigenous literature and drama. Lukens will travel to Pomona College in Claremont, CA for a panel that assembles actors, directors, playwrights and scholars who knew and worked with William S. Yellow Robe, Jr.,. She will also be traveling to Toronto for the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association’s annual conference to present on Still They Remember Me, the bilingual book of Penobscot stories published in 2021.
Finally, Jennifer Moxley, professor in the Department of English and former MHC director, will receive MHC funding to support a campus visit and public screening of two films based on Stephen King novels, chosen and presented by Millie De Chirico and Danielle Henderson, hosts of the film podcast I Saw What You Did, followed by a discussion and Q & A. This visit, supported also by the Stephen E. King Chair in Literature, aims to support film culture and teach students ways to approach film watching. In addition, they will be able to discuss with these working professionals approaches to using one's humanities education (such as writing for TV, podcasting, or film programming).

UPCOMING EVENTS
On Monday, April 3 at 4:30 pm in the Lynch Room of Fogler Library, the MHC, the Department of Communication and Journalism, and Raymond H. Fogler Library will co-present a workshop on "Breaking the Bubble" of news literacy.

In recent years, claims of "fake news," bias and misinformation have become rampant, with many of us wanting to stay informed but feeling overwhelmed, and even saturated, by the 24-hour news cycle. How do we move beyond charges of "fake news" to determine the reliability of news content? How do we ethically consume and share information? Being an informed 21st-century citizen requires a thoughtful, nuanced approach to the media.

Join Sanne Tamboer, Postdoc in Communication and Media at Radboud University; Judith Rosenbaum, Associate Professor in Communication and Journalism at UMaine; and Jen Bonnet, Social Sciences and Humanities Librarian at UMaine, for an interactive workshop where we will critically evaluate news production and consumption.

Snacks and food options will be served.

Monday, April 3
4:30 pm
Lynch Room,
Fogler Library, 2nd floor
humanities librarian at UMaine, for an interactive workshop where we will critically evaluate news production and consumption.

In a rescheduled event, on Monday, April 24 at 2:00 pm in the UMaine Writing Center (Neville Hall 402), outgoing MHC Fellow and Honors College student 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 Wednesday, April 12 at 4:35 pm in Boudreau Hall 235, outgoing MHC Undergraduate Fellow Brenna Jones will present on her MHC project, titled "Like we are not the same level of human they are": The Experiences of Precariously Housed and Unhoused Individuals.

Jones's project explores the socioeconomic barriers facing precariously housed and unhoused individuals. This project considers the importance of collaborative, community engaged research in the formation of meaningful solution strategizing. Through in-depth interviews, Jones engages with the life histories of people in the Greater Bangor area experiencing housing precarity and shares participants' experiences, reflections, and solutions on the housing crisis in Bangor.
On Wednesday, April 19 at 4:30 pm in the IMRC, outgoing MHC Undergraduate Fellow Paige McHatten will present the results of her Fellowship project with a talk and creative writing titled "The Rule." McHatten's project has spent two semesters researching and composing creative works that ask how media both contributes to and dismantles ideas of heteronormativity, with particular interest in how depictions of female friendships describe and shape reality.

Outgoing MHC Undergraduate Fellow Donald Patten will be presenting the results of his McGillicuddy project at the MiNOR Gallery in Old Town, Maine from June 2nd to 30th, with an opening reception on June 2 at 4:00 pm. Patten's project involves humorous adaptations of the works of past masters of the
visual arts to contemporary life during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Past Trauma in Modernity: Impressions of COVID-19
AN EXHIBITION OF ART BY DONALD L. PATTON
THE MINOR GALLERY JUNE 2ND - 30TH
OPENING RECEPTION:
FRIDAY JUNE 2ND
4PM - 6PM
The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
The Division of Theatre in the School of Performing Arts is mounting its final mainstage production of the season. Everybody, adapted by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins from the classic 15th century morality play Everyman, will be performed April 1-2 and 7-9, at the Cyrus Pavilion Theatre.

Directed by assistant professor of theatre D. Granke, the piece explores many of the same themes of the original, only through a contemporary lens. Find out more at the SPA events page. Tickets can be purchased here.

The School of Performing Arts Division of Music will present the University Orchestra’s annual spring concert on April 2 at 2:00 PM in Minsky Recital Hall. The program will be conducted by professor of music Anatole Wieck and will include works by Beethoven, Mozart and more.

Tickets are available here.

Lord Hall Gallery is pleased to host the Department of Art’s 2023 Student Exhibition beginning on April 3. This show is a celebration of the creative endeavors of students taking Art classes at UMaine. The exhibition includes a range of media representing the variety of course students can take at UMaine. The exhibition runs April 3-28, with a public reception scheduled for April 7 from 5-7 pm. All are welcome to attend the reception and refreshments will be served. The gallery is free, accessible, and open to the public Monday-Friday from 9 am - 4 pm.

The next Philosophy Department Colloquium will take place on April 6 from 4:00 -5:30 pm in Deering Hall 113.

Dr. Richard Atkins, associate professor at Boston College, will speak on “Pragmatism as a Theory of Ideas,” focusing on how the philosophical tradition of American Pragmatism views ideas as social products and tools used to attain our aims and, in turn, what such accounts can tell us about the pragmatist theory of truth.

For more information on the event, contact Robby Finley.
The Honors College is proud to announce a public lecture by Professor Stephen Gardiner, the **2023 John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics**. A renowned climate ethicist from the University of Washington, Gardiner will deliver a talk entitled *Climate Change as an Ethical and Institutional Crisis*. The talk will be held on April 13, 3:30–5:00 pm in Buchanan Alumni House. A dessert reception will follow. All are welcome.

This event is co-sponsored by the Honors College, the School of Earth and Climate Sciences, the Climate Change Institute, and the **Department of Philosophy**.

On Thursday, April 13 at 5:30 pm, the University of Maine’s literary journal *The Open Field* will host its 2023 launch party in the **IMRC**.

Coedited this year by MHC Undergraduate Fellow **Paige McHatten**, *The Open Field* is a literary magazine devoted to publishing poetry, prose, mixed-genre writing, and visual art by the undergraduate community at the University of Maine. *The Open Field* is run by a rotating group of English students in the creative writing concentration, who make all of the aesthetic and editorial decisions.

On April 17 at 7:00 pm in the Wells Conference Center, **UMaine Judaic Studies** marks Yom HaShoah with a public lecture by Professor **Anne Knowles** on "Landscapes of Remembrance." There are now thousands of Holocaust memorials around the world, from the vast grounds of former concentration camps to the palm-size “stumbling stones” that mark where individuals last lived before they were deported or killed. Knowles's presentation will reflect on the meanings memorials convey, asking how the Holocaust is remembered — and forgotten — in the landscapes where it took place.
An opera composed by MHC director Beth Wiemann is getting the silver screen treatment, courtesy of a Massachusetts-based opera company.

Wiemann wrote the music and libretto for “I Give You My Home,” a work inspired by the life and work of Rose Standish Nichols. The piece has been translated to film by the nontraditional company Guerilla Opera; the film’s director is Cara Consilvio.

Following some individual events last week, the film continues screening at the Portland Museum of Art through April 2. In addition, “I Give You My Home” will receive a virtual premiere via livestream on April 6 at 7:00 pm.

The 45-minute film brings Wiemann’s composition to life via on-location shooting in iconic New England spots. Written for soprano, saxophone and percussion, “I Give You My Home” delves into the world of Rose Standish Nichols, who persisted against the social mores of her time in an effort to be taken seriously by the powers that be.

Read more here.

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.

Sunday,
April 2 at
6:00 p.m.

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

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://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=6098647e0e&view=pt&search=).
Michael Socolow, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism and former MHC Director, is the author of a piece in The Conversation titled "Don't Trust the News Media? That's Good." Socolow writes that "An enduring democracy will encourage rather than discourage media criticism. Attacks by politicians and exposure of unethical acts clearly lower public trust in journalism. But measured skepticism can be healthy and media criticism comprises an essential component of media literacy – and a vibrant democracy."

Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English, has received yet another accolade for his book Night of the Living Rez. The book has been named the winner of the John Leonard Prize by the National Book Critics Circle. The honor - given to the best first book in any genre - was awarded on March 23. Talty recently also wrote an essay for The Guardian about how dimples connect him, his deceased mother and unborn child.

Assistant professor of sociology Brian Pitman and MHC Undergraduate Fellow Breanna Jones have co-authored a piece for Shelterforce where they discuss how the City of Bangor's new affordable housing policies may inadvertently do more harm than good with regard to the area's unhoused population.

On March 24, associate professor of media studies and chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism Judith Rosenbaum delivered the keynote address for the annual convention of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education. The title of Rosenbaum's talk is Community-Building and Dialogue on Social Media: Examining Democracy in the 21st Century. For more information about the address, click here.

Mary Freeman, assistant professor in the Department of History, is the author of a new peer-reviewed article in the Journal of the Early Republic. Titled "Seeking Abolition: Black Letter Writers and the Pennsylvania Abolition Society in the Era of Gradual Emancipation," Freeman's article draws upon the correspondence files of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society to reveal a pattern of antislavery activism in which enslaved and free Black correspondents communicated their views directly to white abolitionists, seeing themselves as participants in a cooperative activist partnership.
Kathryn Swacha's article, "The Coping with COVID Project: Participatory public health communication," was recently published in Communication Design Quarterly. The article reports on the results of a qualitative study undertaken at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes research-based recommendations for public health communication that takes into account the various contexts—e.g., physical, material, affective, structural—which impact how such communication is interpreted and acted upon by people in their daily lives. This research was supported by a McGillicuddy Humanities Center faculty grant.

At the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias, 31 faculty members have received tenure and/or promotion this spring. The annual announcement recognizes outstanding achievement in teaching, scholarship and research, and community engagement. Faculty in the arts, humanities, and social sciences receiving tenure and/or promotion include:

- Cynthia Isenhour, Anthropology and Climate Change, promoted to professor
- Michael Socolow, Communication and Journalism and former MHC director, promoted to professor
- Ellen Weinauer, English and Honors College, promoted to professor
- Joel Anderson, History, promoted to associate professor with tenure
- Liliana Herakova, Communication and Journalism, promoted to associate professor with tenure
- Mark McLaughlin, History and Canadian Studies, promoted to associate professor with tenure
- Bonnie Newsom, Anthropology, promoted to associate professor with tenure

UMAINE HUMANITIES IN THE NEWS

John Bear Mitchell, lecturer of Wabanaki Studies and outreach and student development coordinator at the University of Maine Wabanaki Center, was featured on Indian Country Today discussing new initiatives aimed at better preparing teachers to teach Wabanaki studies. Red Lake Nation News shared the ICT report.

Maine Public, the Los Angeles Times, the Portland Press Herald, Publishers Weekly, Book Riot and the AP reported that Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English at the University of Maine, was awarded the John Leonard Prize for the best first book in any genre from the National Book Critics Circle. Yahoo News shared the PPH report. The Washington Post and the Globe and Mail shared the AP report. High Plains Reader also noted that Talty will present at the 54th Annual University of North Dakota Writers Conference.

The Bangor Daily News reviewed True North Theatre's production of the play “Silent Sky” at the Versant Power Astronomy Center. “The true star of True North Theatre’s ‘Silent Sky’ is the Maynard
Jordan Planetarium at the University of Maine. The dome where the constellations and photographs are projected essentially act as the set backdrop even though they are overhead. Seeing the night sky while the characters talk about charting the stars is fascinating and gives theatergoers a greater understanding of how important the work done by women in the early 20th century was and still is," the review read.

The *Ellsworth American* noted that students from the University of Maine School of Performing Arts will join the Downeast Chamber Orchestra, Down East Maine’s newest classical music ensemble, for a concert of notable classical works led by violinist and conductor Anatole Wieck on Friday, April 7, at 6 p.m. at Hammond Hall. For more information and to get tickets, visit the Winter Harbor Music Festival website.

Jon Ippolito, professor of new media, spoke to *WFVX-TV* (Fox 23/ABC 7 in Bangor) about educators dealing with students using AI for assignments. According to Ippolito, the best solution for educators to prevent their students from abusing AI on assignments is to change the assignments themselves. “There’s a lot of ways you change your syllabi to adapt to these new applications. One would be to make sure you do things that only students can do, only humans can do. So for example, reacting to something that just happened in class or something that’s local to your own community,” Ippolito says.

Elizabeth Neiman professor of English and chair of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, was cited in an article in *The Ellsworth American* by Jennifer Osborn on the critical reception of early 20th century Maine novelist Emilie Loring.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES

**Boston Athenaeum Fellowships**
[https://bostonathenaeum.org/explore-learn/education/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.

**National Endowment for the Humanities**
[https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships](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 Endowment for the Humanities Digital Projects for the Public**
Deadline: June 14
The Digital Projects for the Public program supports projects that interpret and analyze humanities content in primarily digital platforms and formats, such as websites, mobile applications and tours, interactive touch screens and kiosks, games, and virtual environments.

**National Library of Australia Fellowships**
Deadline: April 26
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.

**Whiting Foundation Creative Non-fiction Grant**
https://www.whiting.org/writers/creative-nonfiction-grant/about
Deadline: April 25
The 2023 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant of $40,000 will be awarded to as many as ten writers in the process of completing a book-length work of deeply researched and imaginatively composed nonfiction for a general readership.

**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/umaine.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](#).

Help Support the Center's Mission

[Visit our Website](#)

Any questions? Contact [brian.jansen@maine.edu](mailto:brian.jansen@maine.edu) or [mhc@maine.edu](mailto:mhc@maine.edu).