McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter, May 2023

Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Commencement! Celebrations! MHC Fellowship presentations! Preparing for four new MHC fellows!
We were very pleased with our applicant pool for this fall’s fellowships (a record number!), and are looking forward to having the four selected (a sneak preview on the new fellows later in this Newsletter!) join the cadre of continuing fellowship students from this spring. We hope you’ll note the wide range of projects proposed by the new fellows, and the outstanding faculty mentors that are working with them.

The MHC staff is already finalizing some of our guest artists and scholars for next year, when our Symposium theme will be focused on “rivers and culture.” A description of this topic follows this message, and we have plans for events based on this topic for both semesters next year, including a guest composer, a visiting cartographer, and several UMaine faculty presenting their research.

As the fiscal year ends, we’ll be publishing the MHC Annual Report (if you’d like a copy, email us with your physical address at mhc@maine.edu!) and beginning the promotions of our early fall events, which I hope you can put in your calendars as part of the start-of-school excitement. One of our events will have the MHC collaborating with the Collins Center of the Arts in September, and you’ll be hearing about this particular project very soon.

See you on the other side of summer.

Sincerely,

Beth Wiemann

[Image: “Campus Scenes” by Adam Küykendall for the University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications]
MHC Announces 2023-24 Symposium Theme

**RIVERS**

"River towns are winged towns."

"A river is superior to a lake in its liberating influence. It has motion and indefinite length. A river touching the back of a town is like a wing, it may be unused as yet, but ready to waft it over the world. With its rapid current it is a slightly fluttering wing. River towns are winged towns." (Henry David Thoreau, journal entry, dated July 2, 1858)

From the Mississippi to the Rhine to the Yangtze, to the Penobscot, the Earth’s rivers have made possible the transport of goods and people throughout history, and with those goods and people, culture has also been transported. Rivers make us, and we have in turn made them—through dams, diversion, reversals. The rivers give us a literal and symbolic map of human movement, development, and connection, and thus are an illuminating reference point in our work in the humanities.

With climate changes affecting those very waterways (see the current work preparing for the future of the Los Angeles River and the Rhine), we can see how the low water levels expose parts of our history, enlarging our sense of how the rivers affect the surrounding land and its people. The 2023-24 annual symposium theme will address many aspects of how rivers both large and small—and both literal and metaphorical—shape and are shaped by the stories we tell, the art we make, and the ways in which we live alongside them.

Meet Our Incoming Undergraduate Fellows

The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellowship is the flagship program of the MHC, offering a select group of talented juniors and seniors the opportunity to spend two
semesters working independently on a humanities-based project under the supervision of a UMaine faculty member. Fellows receive $8,000 and, while working on their projects, attend meetings, collaborate and build relationships with their cohort, participate in interdisciplinary humanities programs, and act as student representatives of the humanities on campus and in the community.

Meet the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 Fellows below!

Clockwise from the top left, our incoming Undergraduate Fellows:

1. Iris Loehr is an English major in the Honors College from Cincinnati, Ohio, whose project is titled "Mountain People: Essays on Place and Personhood in Appalachia." Iris will work with faculty mentor James Brophy of the UMaine Honors College.
2. **Chapman "Chappy" Hall** is a history major in the Honors College from Brunswick, Maine; his project, titled "Playing History: What Video Games Teach Us About the Past" will be completed under the supervisor of professor of history **Liam Riordan**.

3. **Sarah Renee Ozlanski** is a studio art/English double major from Belfast, Maine; working with associate professor of English **Carla Billitteri**, Ozlanski's project is titled "The Language of My Grandmother is a Language of Resistance: How the Matrilineal Transmission of Pisanki Express Cultural Identity."

4. Working with professor of history **Anne Knowles, Katherine Ritchie**, a history/secondary education double major from Northport, Maine will pursue a project titled "Mapping Education: Using Maps to Teach the Holocaust."

Stay tuned to learn more about the incoming Fellows and their projects in our first Fall newsletter!

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**McGillicuddy Humanities Center partnering with Minnesota Humanities Center to examine military service at the margins**

The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center is partnering with the Minnesota Humanities Center, which was announced this week as one of three recipients of a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities' (NEH) Dialogues on the Experiences of War Program, which supports the study and discussion of humanities sources that address the experiences of military service and war from a wide variety of perspectives, and encourages Veterans and civilians to reflect collectively on such topics as civic engagement, Veteran identity, the legacies of war, service, and homecoming.

The Minnesota Humanities Center was awarded $100,000 for their project, "Examining Military Service From the Margins" which encourages veterans and community members taking part in the discussion series to consider the experiences, and limitations placed upon, those who have served in the United States military that were women, immigrants, African American, LGBTQ, and American Indian, serving bravely from the margins despite discrimination and frequent erasure.
The McGillicuddy Humanities Center is one of two partner institutions that will test a national expansion of
the Minnesota Humanities Center’s program in 2025; the other is the African American Military History
Museum in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The goal is to build a flexible framework that could be replicated and
locally tailored anywhere in the U.S. in future years, from VFWs to college classrooms. Announcements
will be made in late 2023 to recruit participants and paid discussion leaders.

“We at the McGillicuddy Humanities Center anticipate that partnering with the Minnesota Humanities
Center, with its long history of work in the veterans community, will be a fruitful connection to our work with
communities in and around our campus in Orono, Maine, using the humanities to explore the human
condition,” says MHC director Beth Wiemann. “The ‘Examining Military Service from the Margins’ project
fits into our center’s mission very well given our location on the homeland of the Penobscot Nation, and
our work with that community, as well as our public outreach in the State of Maine more broadly, which
has among the highest percentage of veterans among its population in the United States.”

Read More . . .

MHC Undergraduate Fellow Willow Wind was named Outstanding Graduating Student in the
UMaine College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Honors College student is a communication
major with minors in media studies and Spanish. Her academic honors include the James S.
Stevens Outstanding Junior Award in 2022 and a 2021 Center for Undergraduate Research
Fellowship Award and first-place recognition the Communication and Journalism Showcase for her
research project: “Communication Goals and Practices of Trans- and Gender Non-conforming
(TGNC) Individuals and Their Impact on Mental Health.” Read more about Willow, including an
interview, here.

Several Fellows, past and present, were also honored at a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Award ceremony on April 24. April Messier received the Department of English award; Benjamin
Allen was outstanding senior in philosophy; and Bell Gellis Morais in Women’s, Gender and
Sexuality Studies. Fellow Paige Allen was named a James S. Stevens Outstanding Junior.
Liliana Herakova, assistant professor in the UMaine Department of Communication and Journalism, is the 2023 recipient of the Wickham Skinner “Making Things Better” Award, established to be awarded each year to recognize a faculty member whose recently scholarly accomplishments have contributed substantially to the humanities. The Wickham Skinner Award was named for and honors Harvard Business School professor and philanthropist, the late C. Wickham Skinner. Herakova's approach to pedagogy and mentorship includes an impressive dedication to sensitivity, reflection, inclusivity, and encouragement. Her success as a teacher, mentor, and researcher is evidenced by her popularity among undergraduate and graduate students and her colleagues in the Department of Communication and Journalism.

MHC Undergraduate Fellow Paige McHatten is the author of the new chapbook GOODNESS! (Bottlecap Press, 2023), a collection of poems that center around the written word’s capacity for spreading good. Acknowledging great poets, from Dickinson to Lorde, it attempts to recollect a definition of goodness, but not without adding its own twist. GOODNESS! is as much a poetry collection as it is a scrapbook manifesto. Exploring themes of sexuality, femininity, and the self, it attempts to make meaning in an age of overwhelm. At the same time, it pokes fun at said attempt.
To acknowledge the September 2022 passing of professor emeritus Josef Roggenbauer, the Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund, administered by the McGillicuddy Humanities Center and the UMaine Office of International Programs, is disbursing an additional award in 2023 to a UMaine student completing study abroad in the Fall semester. Roxana Lengyel, recipient of the award, will be studying in Mannheim, Germany. Lengyel is a second-year Honors College student from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, pursuing a major in history and a minor in Judaic Studies. Her academic interests include modern warfare and Slavic studies.

UPCOMING EVENTS
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 3rd to 30th, with an opening reception on Saturday, June 3 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.
Miss our MHC Undergraduate Fellows events? Many are available for viewing on our YouTube page! Above, you'll find a talk by Fellow Brenna Jones on the experiences of precariously housed and unhoused individuals, and below is Fellow Paige McHatten's exploration of female friendships in her talk "The Rule."
On Saturday, May 13 at 5:00 pm, the Versant Power Astronomy Center hosts BOOM. The Baroque Orchestra of Maine, also known as BOOM, was founded in 2010 with the mission to engage and educate a wide audience in rural Downeast Maine about baroque period instrument performance by presenting concerts in accessible, eclectic, non-traditional concert venues. This non profit ensemble has been bringing joy and education to the area ever since with their dynamic and engaging concerts.

Heidi Powell, baroque violin and Raffael Scheck, baroque cello of BOOM will present a program of music featuring works by Vivaldi, Handel, Torelli & di Lasso. The musicians will also share with the audience about their specialized instruments, music history, the composers and the beauty and depth of these masterpieces. To learn more about the group, musicians or the concert, visit: baroqueorchestraofmaine.org

The Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and the Department of English are co-hosting a talk by Qian Gang on May 4 from 1:30-2:45 PM in Room 404 of Neville Hall. The talk is titled Witching Time: Motherhood and Counter-colonial Narrative in The Witch (2016), and is described by Qian Gang thusly:

"Motherhood, when considered as a temporal concept, is often associated with repetition and timelessness. Maternal time in cinema—the temporal experience associated with motherhood represented in films—is usually understood, implicitly or explicitly, as heteronormative reproductive time. In the past decade, however, motherhood-themed films reveal a rising tension within the relationship between motherhood and heteronormative reproductive time.

"One exciting example, Robert Eggers' The Witch (2016), featuring what I call 'witching time' to subvert colonial myths that subordinate gendered bodies to the historical narrative. I ask: how does witching time challenge dominant ideological associations between reproductive futurity and settler colonial time and in ways that call attention to historical trauma among Native Americans?"

This presentation is free and open to the public.
A recent installment of the Maine Question podcast explores the rule of music ensembles on the University of Maine campus. UMaine is home to 18 formal vocal and instrumental ensembles and many informal musical groups, each one with a distinct sound that enriches the academic and cultural life on campus. Many of these groups welcome students of all majors and community members. These performers tour Maine, New England and beyond, promoting the artistic offerings of the university with their voices and instruments. In episode nine of season eight of The Maine Question, Francis Vogt, director of choral programs, discusses what the music scene is like at UMaine.

Listen to the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify, YouTube or "The Maine Question" website.

Jessica Miller, professor of philosophy at the University of Maine, was a guest featured in an episode of Maine Public's radio show "Maine Calling" about blood donation on Tuesday, April 18.

Millions of people need blood transfusions each year due to surgery, injury, disorders or disease. There is no substitute for human blood — all transfusions use blood from a donor. The show will focus on how blood donations are utilized, different ways to donate — such as plasma, platelet and power red donation — and Miller will discuss some of the ethical questions tied to blood donation.

Michael Socolow, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism and former MHC director, wrote an article for The Conversation about the importance of archiving media history. “Recognizing the need to preserve radio and TV’s past marks an essential first step, so that the future will be properly informed about how we lived and communicated for over a century of American history,” Socolow wrote. The piece is also part of Socolow’s involvement with the Library of Congress’s Radio Preservation Task Force project.

Hollie Adams, assistant professor of English at the University of Maine and member of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center Faculty Advisory Group, was longlisted for the 2023 CBC Short Story Prize, hosted by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. This year marks Adams's second appearance on the prize longlist. The CBC Short Story Prize has been awarded every year since 1979.
Brian Pitman, assistant professor of sociology and a member of the Maine Chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network, wrote an opinion piece for the Bangor Daily News about why Mainers should care about Georgia’s “Cop City,” a proposed $90 million training ground for police and firefighters that includes a mock city within 85 acres of the forest. “Organizations, such as the Atlanta Solidarity Fund and Community Movement Builders have been at the front of the resistance, raising alarm that the ramifications of ‘Cop City,’ if built, stretch far beyond Atlanta,” Pitman wrote.

UMaine senior Sam Ransley of New Harbor, Maine, is recipient of the Bert & Phyllis Lamb Prize in Political Science for an essay about the threat of totalitarianism. The award, for which Ransley was one of two recipients this year, also includes an online publication of his essay, a plaque, and $1,000. Ransley originally wrote the essay for a senior seminar taught by Robert Glover, associate professor of political science.

The Maine Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) hosted their annual Classical Festival at Bates College on April 1. Four music majors from the UMaine School of Performing Arts received awards at this event.

- Reagan Nedder received first place in Division IV (ages 18-20). Reagan studies with voice instructor Fran Vogt.
- Sofija Marija Kleinschmidt received third place in Division IV; she is a student of voice instructor Karen Pendleton.
- Katherine Fogg received first place in Division V (ages 21-22). Katherine is a student of voice instructor Isaac Bray.
- Katelyn Mooney received third place in Division V; she is a student of Pendleton.

In addition, Katherine Fogg received the Ellen Chickering award; Katelyn Mooney was a co-winner of the Linda Freeman award. Associate professor of music Laura Artesani served as collaborative pianist for these four students.

Darren Ranco, professor of anthropology and chair of Native American Programs, was recently named as a recipient of the 2023 Senior Ford Foundation Fellowship award for his proposal entitled Decolonizing Land Relations in the Dawnland: Landback and Rematriation Across Wabanakik. Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs have been administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine since 1979. These fellowship awards have made substantial contributions in bringing excellence and diversity to the academic community by supporting the career development of almost 5000 outstanding scholars.
The 2023 Alan Miller Fund Visiting Journalists attended University of Maine journalism classes on April 13–14, including CMJ 351 (Audio and Video Production), CMJ 330 (Copy Editing) and CMJ 489 (Seminar in Media Ethics), and had lunch with Maine Campus editors.

The visiting journalists this year were Nina Mahaleris, audience engagement editor of the Lewiston Sun Journal and a 2019 UMaine journalism graduate who double-majored in international affairs, and Vanessa Paolella, a staff writer at the Sun Journal primarily covering local education.

For Mahaleris, this was a homecoming of sorts — she was awarded the 2019 Brooks Hamilton Award by the faculty of the Department of Communication and Journalism for the graduating student who best exemplifies the spirit of journalism as embodied by Brooks Hamilton, a legendary Maine editor and journalism professor at UMaine.

The Alan Miller Visiting Journalist Program was established in 2007 in memory of Alan Miller, a long-time professor of journalism at the University of Maine. The program is designed to bring working journalists into the classroom to inspire and educate our journalism students.

Read more here.
In an article about friends of Patti and Roger Eger, the victims of a recent shooting in Bowdoin, processing their grief, the Bangor Daily News spoke to Derek Michaud, lecturer in philosophy and coordinator of Judaic Studies and Religious Studies. Michaud said that the Egers’ position as leaders in their community can deepen the sense of loss their loved ones feel because people in leadership positions, formal or informal, would be the first ones to comfort people in tragic situations. When they’re the ones who are lost, however, that only amplifies a community’s loss, Michaud said.

The Bangor Daily News reported that the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded $350,000 to the University of Maine Franco American Programs for a project to digitize historic materials and make them openly available online. All of the items will be hosted online at the Franco American Digital Archives/Portail franco-américain, which provides bilingual access to Franco American materials at institutions across North America.

WGME-TV (Channel 13 in Portland) interviewed Jon Ippolito, professor of new media at the University of Maine, about the potential ban on TikTok in the United States. “For one thing, there’s no way to go and pry TikTok off of everybody’s phone. You could prevent the Apple Store, for example, from letting users download the latest version but then they could just use the old version they had on their phone before,” Ippolito said.

Michael Socolow, associate professor in the University of Maine Department of Communication and Journalism, was a guest on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s show Triple J Hack discussing the settlement between Fox News and Dominion Voting.

Morgan Talty, assistant professor of English at the University of Maine, spoke to the Boston Globe about the shift in literary representation of Indigenous authors. “The literary critic Louis Owens said non-Native readers of Indigenous fiction come to the page expecting a comfortable tour of Indian country. I feel like we have at last moved away from that. Now there are Indigenous stories that aren’t about Indian country but are more about specific tribes, which is what we need considering there are more than 500 federally recognized tribes,” Talty said.

News Center Maine shared a profile of MHC Undergraduate Fellow Brenna Jones, junior and Honors College student at the University of Maine, who is researching trends and proposing solutions that could help reduce homelessness in Bangor and beyond after experiencing homelessness growing up. “There are more financial and emotional resources and community in college. Being able to have housing and do research has changed my entire life. It helps me not feel alone whereas high school was very lonely and...
isolating,” Jones said.

In an opinion piece about bringing back the debate show Crossfire, Politico spoke to Michael Socolow. Socolow argued that a revived version of a show like Crossfire is unlikely given larger cultural trends, though there is value to what he calls “venues of common disputation.” “The answer doesn’t have to be Crossfire and the answer doesn’t have to be Substack. We are going to need a venue of common disputation, and it’s not constructed yet. We don’t know what it will look like. But the point is, we’ve lost something, we don’t know how to get it back. Hopefully market forces and the culture will conspire to help us,” Socolow said.

The Times Record spoke to James Warhola, a University of Maine professor emeritus of political science, about Russia’s detention of Bowdoin College graduate and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich. The reporter was arrested and accused of spying, which, according to the publication, was “just six days after the U.S. Department of Justice accused 37-year-old Russian national Sergey Vladimirovich Cherkasov of spying for his home country.” Warhola says he suspects “that it was a tit-for-tat thing.” “I don’t think it was an accident,” he said.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES

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.](#)

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