News, Events, Announcements & Highlights, December 15, 2023-January 5, 2024

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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As a lifelong baseball fan, Delaney Colson landed her dream internship at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York last summer after earning her undergraduate degree in
history and secondary education.

“It was really the perfect intersection between both of my majors, combining teaching and education with history and my love of baseball,” says Colson, who is from Rutland, Massachusetts and grew up cheering for the Boston Red Sox.

She was one of just 19 interns out of more than 500 applicants to be selected for the Hall’s summer 2023 Frank and Peggy Steele Internship Program for Youth Leadership Development, which provides opportunities for college students and recent graduates to work in various positions at the museum. Her internship was in the education department, where she helped coordinate in-person and virtual field trips, created exhibits and programs for general museum visitors, and developed free lesson plans for classroom teachers.

“I helped create or update lessons for all grade levels on topics like science, economics, labor history, geography and multicultural diversity, pretty much any subject you could think of, we were able to tie it to baseball, which was really cool to see,” Colson says.

Read more here.

EVENTS & EXPERIENCES

Marketing and Communications has recently released their list of the top UMaine social media content for 2023. Some great stuff here, but the one of most interest to CLAS is this LinkedIn piece spotlighting a student from the School of Policy and International Affairs.

With help from the University of Maine, Vita Tomakhiv of Kyiv left her home country — something she never planned to do — in 2022 during the ongoing war with Russia to continue her education. One year later, she returned to capture the experiences of Ukrainian soldiers in a documentary she published on Youtube.

LinkedIn users enjoyed learning about Tomakhiv’s film and story, as our post about it received 17,400 views.

“For me, it was important to show that these people could have continued their lives as usual and their careers if not for this war,” Tomakhiv said at the time. “But they chose to...
go to the war, not because they hate Russia, but because they love Ukraine, and they want to protect what they love."

Read the whole story here.

CLAS was represented in the list of the year's most popular stories on UMaine News as well.

The story was titled "UMaine study illuminates grief of parents of children with serious mental illness."

Many readers, 3,601 on UMaine News, to be exact, were eager to learn more about how parents raising children with serious mental illness and violent tendencies experience and express grief similar to those of children who have died, according to research led by associate professor of sociology Karyn Sporer.

Raising a child with a serious mental illness, one which substantially impairs or limits a person's major life activity, can be challenging and lead to a range of emotions for parents and caregivers, from anxiety and shame to guilt and grief. The study from Sporer and her colleagues informs how practitioners can help these caregivers cope with the stress.

Read the full story here. Learn more about the other top stories of 2023 here.

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VERSANT POWER ASTRONOMY CENTER
and the Hayden Planetarium

December 2023 Planetarium Schedule

The Arctic: Our Last Great Wilderness
Fridays – Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 7:00 pm

The Christmas Star
Sundays – Dec. 3, 10 & 17 at 2:00 pm

Tickets at astro.umaine.edu or call 207.581.1341
It's another great month of programming from the Versant Power Astronomy Center here in December.

The weekly shows are:

Public program: *The Arctic: Our Last Great Wilderness* - December 1, 8, 15 & 22 at 7 PM.
Family program: *The Christmas Star* - December 3, 10 & 17 at 2 PM.
Music program: *Let It Snow* - December 3, 10 & 17 at 4 PM.

In addition, the Center will be hosting a special program titled Meditations on Perihelion on December 16 at 7 PM. The show will feature live electronic music as well as full dome video.

(Note: The Center will be closed from December 23 to January 2.)

For tickets or more information on these or other programs at the Versant Center, visit their website here.

Lord Hall Gallery and the Department of Art present *Personal Threshold: 2023 Senior Art Exhibition*. The exhibition opened on November 10 and will be up until January 19, 2024.

This exhibition serves as a culmination of their studies in the Department of Art. Participating students include: Kayla Sickler (Milford, NH), Declan Riordan (Bangor, ME), Nicole Sheehan (Newbury, MA), Mariette Waterhouse (Acton, ME), Kae Northway (Baltimore, MD), Freya Drew (Vernon, NJ), Alyssa Paquin (Waterboro, ME), Brooke Soctomah (Waddell, AZ), Cassidy Climo (Bradley, ME), Zoey DeAngelis (Waterboro, ME), Charlie Marks (Orono, ME), Haley Rodriguez (New Bedford, MA), Will Brewster (Portland, ME), and Nella Maynard (Lincoln, NE).
Students participated in all aspects of the exhibition including creating artwork, promoting the exhibition, coordinating the reception, community outreach, installation/de-installation, lighting, labeling, curating, and more.

This event are free, accessible and open to the public. Lord Hall Gallery is open Monday-Friday from 9 AM - 4 PM.

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**PUBLICATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**David Bradley**, professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, recently delivered a talk hosted by the India Institute of Technology in Gandhinagar in tandem with Ashoka University and Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Bradley gave the talk - titled *On Fractal Subsets of Pascal's "Pyramid" and the Number of Multinomial Coefficients Congruent to a Given Residue Modulo a Prime* - on December 7 via Zoom.

A recording of the talk can be found [here](#).

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**Tilia Baratta**, a history major and Honors student, was recently named the winner of the Neal Davis Scholarship contest.

This year's prompt was “The Ethics of Defending the Guilty,” and Baratta's essay won out over more than 400 other entries.

You can read the essay [here](#).

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**Morgan Talty**, assistant professor of English, recently entered into a three-book deal with UK-based publisher And Other Stories. The deal includes UK, Europe and Commonwealth rights (excluding Canada) and will include Talty's already-published *Night of the Living Rez*, his forthcoming debut novel *Fire Exit* and a memoir.

And Other Stories came out on top of what appears to be a rather fierce four-way bidding war.
A CLAS alumna has recently published a new book offering a visual history of a very specific period in the history of the Queen City.

Emily Stoddard Burnham, longtime reporter for the Bangor Daily News and graduate of the University of Maine's English Department (Class of 2005), has written a book titled “Downtown, Up River: Bangor in the 1970s.” The book – published by Islandport Press and initially released in November – tells the tale of the city during that particularly tumultuous time, both through Burnham’s prose and via scores of photographs of the era pulled from the BDN archives and elsewhere.

Bangor in the 1970s was shifting, changing from the city it once was to the city it hoped to become. The twin blows of urban renewal and the Bangor Mall led to a seismic shift in the city's once-bustling downtown and left residents with the real challenge of balancing tradition and progress … a challenge not easily met.

Read more here.
Professor of geography and Canadian Studies and former director of the Canadian-American Center Dr. Stephen Hornsby recently received the prestigious Donner medal for distinguished achievement, scholarship, and program innovation in the area of Canadian Studies in the United States.

The award was presented to Dr. Hornsby on November 17, 2023 in Washington, D.C., during the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States Conference (ACSUS). Colleagues from the University of Maine - Drs. Anne Knowles, Mark McLaughlin, Frédéric Rondeau, Emma Schroeder, Stefano Tijerina and Daniel Troup - were present to see Professor Hornsby receive the award.

The Donner Medal in Canadian Studies is presented biennially by The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) for distinguished achievement, scholarship and program innovation in the area of Canadian Studies in the United States. More information about the Donner Medal and other awards presented by ACSUS can be found on their website.

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**NOMINATIONS, APPLICATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES**

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) is gearing up to once again offer its Course Design Institute (CDI). This three-day intensive - scheduled for January 8-10 - is an educational development opportunity for faculty preparing to design a new course or re-design a current course. It is a combination of content, work-time, consultations and discussions all aimed at getting you ready for the semester!

Applications are now being accepted. Additionally, participants who complete the CDI are eligible for a stipend. Space is limited. To register or to find out more, click here.
The 2024 Presidential Outstanding Teaching Award, the new Presidential Innovation Award, the Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award, the Presidential Research and Creative Achievement Award, and the Black Bear Award for Extraordinary Impact nomination window is now open.

These awards are open to both faculty and staff (see the guidelines for each award).

Nomination forms and guidelines are available at umaine.edu/provost/awards-recognitions or by contacting Sharry Woodside in the President’s Office at 207.581.1512 or sharry.woodside@maine.edu.

The deadline for nominations is 4:30 PM on Friday, February 16, 2024.

UMAINE IN THE NEWS

The Bangor Daily News published an op-ed by Ben Potter, a fourth-year political science student, titled “A bold experiment in Canada can inform Maine’s response to the fentanyl epidemic.” Potter wrote the piece at the invitation of the Maine chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network, which brings together scholars across the country to address public challenges and their policy implications.

Potter submitted the op-ed for publication after being encouraged to do so by associate professor of political science & honors Rob Glover.

Nicholas Micinski, an assistant professor with the Department of Political Science and School of Policy and International Affairs, co-authored an article published in Naharnet titled “Israel uses mass displacement of Gazans as tool of war.”

CLAS PET OF THE WEEK
With the end of the fall semester upon us and the holiday season in full swing, there's no doubt that many of us are pretty worn out.

The rewards have been undeniably great, but folks are tired. REALLY tired.

And yet, not one of us are as tired as the pooch pictured above.

This adorable napper is Fiona, a seven-year-old Irish setter who comes to us courtesy of Elizabeth Payne from the Department of English. I can honestly say that this picture is the most perfect visual representation of "tired" that has ever graced this space.

(Heck, it might be the most perfect one that I have ever seen.)
The pure relaxation on display here is something to which we all should aspire. That is a dog who has ventured off to Dreamland with an open-ended return ticket. A dog who sleeps the sleep of the pure of heart.

In short, this is one sweet-faced girl.

This will be the last Pet of the Week of 2023. Save up your holiday pics and send them my way - can't wait to put together a collection of your best and brightest furry friends when we kick things off in 2024.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Send your CLAS events, announcements, and faculty or student highlights (and pet photos!) to allen.adams@maine.edu or complete the CLAS news submission form at https://umaine.edu/las/news-submission/.

Any questions? Contact allen.adams@maine.edu.