News, Events, Announcements & Highlights, January 26-February 2, 2024

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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On a bench inside a high-tech workshop lay a life-sized sculpture of a medieval knight. Crafted by University of Maine artists with 3D scanning and layered Computer Numerical Control (CNC)
machining, coupled with traditional sculpture methods, the five-and-a-half foot warrior wore plate and mail armor and bore a sword and shield.

Though it appeared as if made from stone, the knight, which will soon galavant across Maine to teach children about life in medieval times, was made of a material one might not guess at first glance: poplar wood from Kings Mountain Hardwood in Orrington, Maine.

Read more here.

EVENTS & EXPERIENCES

The Climate Change Institute's monthly Climate on Tap series is returning to Nocturnem Draft Haus in Bangor on January 31 at 5:30 PM.

This latest installment is titled The UN Climate Negotiations: Headlines, Headwinds, and Headscratchers and features professor of anthropology and climate change Cindy Isenhour and assistant professor of political science and international affairs Nick Micinski.
The Department of Physics and Astronomy is teaming up with Penobscot Theatre Company to help audiences gain a bit of insight regarding the science in the theatre's latest production, *Constellations*.

Following the performance on February 1, Andrew Teller, a physics doctoral candidate studying astrophysics, will be at the Stage Door next to the Bangor Opera House, where he will give a brief overview of and take questions about some of the physics and astronomy ideas in the show. In particular, he'll delve into the concept of the “multiverse.”

(Note: This is also PTC’s College Night, offering discounts on tickets for students.)

Additionally, on February 4 at 2 PM – before the 3 PM matinee performance – Professor Neil Comins, an astrophysicist who has authored multiple textbooks and popular science books, will join Andrew Teller to once again tackle some of the scientific concepts at play in the show, giving interested audience members a bit of a primer on the multiversal concept before they see the performance. This event is also at the Stage Door.

For tickets or more info about *Constellations*, click [here](#).

The Minor Gallery, 282 Main St. in Old Town, will feature a mushroom-themed art exhibit from adjunct associate professors of art Susan Camp and Matt Smolinsky, undergraduate student Donald Patten and others starting Feb. 3.

The exhibition, named “2024: The Year of the Mushroom,” will display various mediums for sale, including oil paintings, drawings, digital prints and ceramics. It will be available throughout the remainder of 2024 or until all artwork is purchased.

An opening reception is scheduled for 2-8 PM. on Saturday, Feb. 3, at The Minor Gallery. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.
Judaic Studies is hosting a free screening of the documentary film *A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting*, followed by a live panel discussion with subjects from the documentary, Audrey Glickman, Diane Rosenthal, & Andrea Wedner. The event is set for February 4 at 2 PM in Donald P. Corbett Hall, Room 100.

*A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting* is a deeply personal portrait of the survivors, victims and family members, who share their harrowing first-hand accounts of the impact of the shooting on the community. The film is rooted in a community in the aftermath of a violent attack, as they work to rebuild and heal. Despite core differences, they come together to determine what justice looks like and how to best move forward while honoring and learning from the past. The film sheds light on the collective trauma suffered by a tight-knit group and brings into sharp focus the hate-based rhetoric that surrounds many of the mass shootings today, threatening the fabric of our society.

Admission to this event is free.

The Department of Communication and Journalism is hosting a screening and panel discussion of the documentary "Eroding History" on February 6 at 5 PM in 140 Williams Hall.

"*Eroding History*" tells the story of two Black communities on Deal Island, on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, that are finding themselves at the intersection of sea level rise, historic racism, and the disappearance of Black communities. It is a climate justice story, made by two Black filmmakers and a Jewish grandchild of refugees. A deeply personal and moving story of a community striving to hold on to its culture, "Eroding History" is anything but dry.

The thirty-minute documentary film will be followed by a panel featuring the film’s director (*André Chung*) and its co-writer & producer (*Rona Kobell*), along with climate scientist and associate professor of paleoecology & plant ecology *Jacqueline Gill, Ph.D.* The panel will be moderated by...
assistant professor Haley Schneider, Ph.D. of the Department of Communication and Journalism. The film screening and panel events are open to the public.

This event is supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund and a grant from the McGillicuddy Humanities Center.

In 2020, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center presented its first Visions event, highlighting current work in the arts and humanities. Four years later, they are set to present the sequel: Visions 2024.

A showcase of current research and creative projects in the arts and humanities, Visions 2024 will be held on Thursday, February 8 at 5:30 PM in the Collins Center for the Arts. Presentations and/or displays from faculty representing the departments of anthropology, art, English, history, music, Native American Studies, theatre and WGS are all on the docket.

This event, highlighting faculty research supported by the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center, is free and open to the public and will feature light refreshments, poster presentations, art installations, and talks from the CCA mainstage.
Lord Hall Gallery is playing host to the 2024 Faculty Exhibition, running from February 5-March 15. A public reception will take place on February 9 from 5:00-7:00 PM; this event is free and open to the public.

The exhibition includes faculty from the Department of Art and the IMFA program: Sheridan Adams, Constant Albertson, Tim Babulski, Edward Nadeau, Louise Bourne, Arturo Camacho, Bethany Engstrom, Susan Groce, Andy Maury, and Gregory Ondo. A diverse range of artwork will be on view including painting, ceramics, installation, mixed media sculpture, and more.

If you are interested in a class visit, outreach activities, or have any questions please contact Diana Baumbach, Director of Galleries. The Lord Hall Gallery is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

The Versant Power Astronomy Center is back in action with some great programming for January.

The weekly shows are:

Public program: Expedition Reef - January 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 7 PM.
Family program: Magic Tree House: Space Mission - January 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 2 PM.
Music program: U2: A Digital Dome Experience - January 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 4 PM.

For tickets or more information on these or other programs at the Versant Center, visit their website here.
Associate professor of Spanish Zachary Ludington wrote a chapbook of poetry that has recently been published.

The book is titled *Whether Drupe or Pome* and is published by Bottlecap Press. A link to learn more about and/or purchase the book can be found [here](#).

Professor Nathan Stormer and associate professor Bridie McCreavy of the Department of Communication and Journalism, along with colleagues Chris Ingraham, Jennifer LeMesurier, Candice Rai and John Ackerman, recently published a multi-graph book entitled *Rhetorical Climatology* through Michigan State University Press.

This book emerges from a reading group in which co-authors read interdisciplinary texts that consider how rhetorics and climates are intimately connected. Across a set of diverse chapters and a concluding dialogue, the authors engage with the mutual influences of rhetoric and climates of determinism, racism, ableism, environmentalism, institutionalism, and violence.

This is an endeavor to notice the worldbuilding ambience of rhetoricity and how to become otherwise, for climates changing and the possibilities made from collaboration.

Assistant professor of history and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Kara Peruccio recently published an article - titled "Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman: Suat Derviş, Nezihe Muhiddin, and Generational Conflict in Turkey, 1923-35" - in the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*. 
In addition, at the recently-held meeting of the American Historical Association, Peruccio organized a panel titled “’Under the Same Flag’: Transnational Feminist Activism in the Interwar Era, 1919-1939” and presented the paper “Unflattering Portraits: Mediterranean Women and the International Alliance of Women, Berlin 1929.”

Following the AHA meeting, Peruccio delivered a talk at Seattle University titled “Mrs. Catt Goes East: Anti-Mediterranean Biases and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, 1910-1930.”

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**NOMINATIONS, APPLICATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES**

The Honors College is pleased to announce this year’s Rezendes Ethics Essay Competition. The theme of this year’s competition is “Disability Ethics” and all UMaine undergraduate students are eligible to enter. The top essay in the competition will win a $3200 prize; second- and third-place essays will win $500 each. The deadline for completed essays is February 16.

For more information, please see the attached flyer or click [this link](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=al...). Questions about the competition can be directed to Professor Hao Hong. Professor Hong will also be hosting a help session for essay writers on Friday, February 2 at 2 PM in Colvin Hall 107.

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The Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Committee is accepting grant applications from the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Machias to enhance the artistic, cultural, and intellectual life of UMaine and UMM campuses.

Grants support up to 50% of expenses associated with cultural events and speaking engagements and lectures, with a maximum grant award of up to $3000.

The CA/DLS committee accepts applications four times a year. The next application deadline is January 29, 2024. Grant applications submitted by the above deadline are for projects starting on or after February 26, 2024.
Proposals must be submitted online using the CA/DLS Grant Application Form at umaine.edu/president/culturalaffairs/application.

Past awards have supported lectures and lecture series; Culturefest, the International Dance Festival; exhibits, performances and guest artists. Guidelines for applications are found here.

All departments are being asked to encourage students to apply for a Summer CUGR Research and Creative Activities Fellowship or MSGC Undergraduate Research Experience.

These fellowships support $4,000 for an undergraduate student to conduct faculty-mentored research. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to submit a proposal. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2024, at 4:00 PM.

Undergraduate students should apply here.

More information about the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) and these fellowships can be found on the CUGR website, or by emailing your questions to cugr@maine.edu.

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-recognition 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 Wall Street Journal interviewed professor of anthropology and climate studies Daniel Sandweiss on the legitimacy of an advanced ancient civilization discussed in a documentary. Sandweiss and other researchers have said evidence doesn't exist for the civilization in “Ancient Apocalypse” and have rebutted its claim as a factual documentary.
Maine Public featured Karyn Sporer, associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, on a recent segment of the show Maine Calling about hate groups in the state.

CLAS PET OF THE WEEK
Our latest Pet of the Week is someone that I've been eager to share with you all for a while. I'd never gotten a look at this young man, but I'd heard a little bit about him and knew that he'd eventually be gracing this space.

People - the time has come.

This is Darrowby, a three-legged hound who comes to us by way of Philip Edelman from the School of Performing Arts. I cannot say for certain that he is the sweetest-faced tripod pooch in the entire world, for I have not yet met them all, but I have to assume he is at least in the
conversation.

For real - look at that FACE!

Rescue pets come in all shapes and sizes. What we have here is a devastatingly handsome fellow who just happens to have one fewer paw than most of his pals. And what of it? Try and deny how good-looking this guy is with a straight face.

Can't do it, can you?

Thanks to Philip for sharing. And thanks to all of you who continue sending pics my way. In addition, it is worth mentioning that our video content in this space last week proved to be VERY popular. So if you've got cute critter clips that you'd like to show off, please share them!

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.