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## **News, Events, Announcements & Highlights, February 16-February 23, 2024**

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

## Events, Announcements & Highlights for February 16 - February 23

1 message

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences <clas@maine.edu>  
Reply-To: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences <clas@maine.edu>  
To: Matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 4:00 PM

WEEKLY EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND HIGHLIGHTS

[View this email in your browser](#)



# College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



“Bring him back to me, please.’ That was my nightly request,” Frances Hartgen wrote. “The letters piled in my bureau drawer, eventually tied with ribbon and stacked away. For what or why I did not

know.”

Hartgen recounted in her 2003 memoir, “For Vincent: A Love Story,” her days away from the man who would later become her husband. Written after Vincent Hartgen’s death, her memoir reads like the love letters she curated during her time as the head of Special Collections at the University of Maine’s Fogler Library in the 1970s. After 50 years in storage, Fogler has recently made one of those collections available to the public.

A televised plea from Hartgen on “A Time to Live” asked the public to donate love letters to the library. It caught favor with one couple who sent in 485 letters on one condition: they be kept sealed until Sept. 18, 2023, the date of their would-be 80th wedding anniversary. Those 485 letters from The Lund Collection contain exchanges made between the two during the World War II era.

Read more [here](#).

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## EVENTS & EXPERIENCES

The **School of Performing Arts Division of Music** and the **McGillicuddy Humanities Center** are co-hosting the acclaimed composer Eve Beglarian for several days in February, culminating with a performance on February 22 in Minsky Recital Hall beginning at 7:30 PM.

Her residency is part of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center’s Symposium series this year, on rivers and culture. She will be performing and discussing some of the music written as the result of her 2009 trip kayaking and biking the Mississippi River (the “BRIM project”), along with other musical selections from her award-winning work.

The performance will feature Beglarian and some of her longtime musical collaborators.

More information about Eve Beglarian and her work can be found [here](#). This performance is free and open to the public.

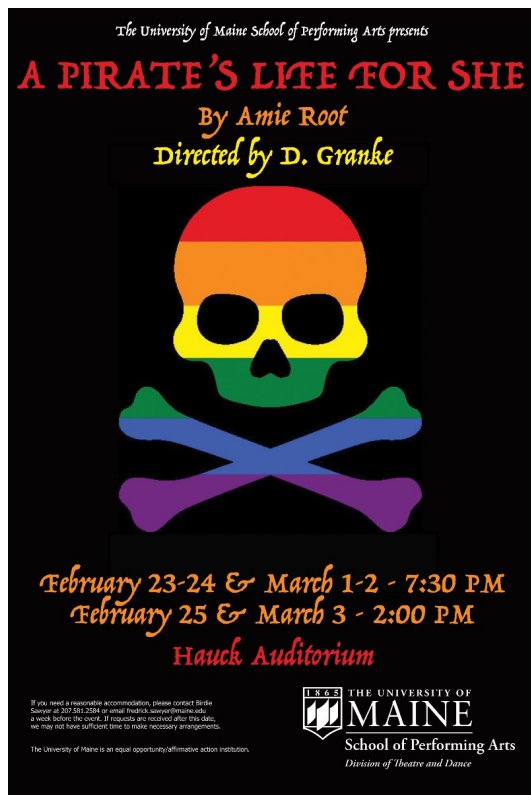
A guest recital with  
**Eve Beglarian**  
Thursday, February 22 - 7:30 PM  
Minsky Recital Hall

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
School of Performing Arts  
Division of Music

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
McGillicuddy  
Humanities Center

If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact Bridie Sawyer at 207.581.2299 or email bridie.sawyer@maine.edu a week before the event. If requests are received after this date, we may not have sufficient time to make necessary arrangements.

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The **School of Performing Arts Division of Theatre** is hitting the high seas for their next mainstage production.

*A Pirate's Life for She*, written by Amie Root and directed by **assistant professor of theatre D. Granke**, opens on February 23 and runs through March 3 in Hauck Auditorium. This madcap, queer-friendly romp is packed with swashbuckling and sea shanties - action and comedy abound!

Performances are at 7:30 PM on February 23-24 and March 1-2; Sunday matinees are at 2 PM on February 25 and March 3.

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased [here](#); admission is free with a student MaineCard.

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The International Dance Festival is returning to the University of Maine for its 20th year. Two shows, which are free and open to the public, will take place at 2 PM and 7 PM on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Collins Center for the Arts (CCA).

Organized by the Office of International Programs (OIP) and the International Student Association, the festival merges cultures of the people of UMaine and the extended community into a colorful display of dances.

To recognize 20 years of promoting diversity, UMaine alumni involved in former shows have been invited back to the CCA to participate and celebrate the festival's ongoing success. The OIP will also host virtual meetings for alumni to reconnect and share stories.

More information is available on the dance festival [web page](#). To request a reasonable accommodation, contact the OIP at 207.581.3437 or via email at [international@maine.edu](mailto:international@maine.edu).

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The **Department of History's** 2023-2024 Symposium Series continues with a Zoom talk set to take place on February 26.

The talk is titled *Taverns, Gardens, and Parties: A Journey through New England's Early Black History* and will be delivered by Kabria Baumgartner, Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies and Associate Director of Public History at Northeastern University. The talk is scheduled for 3:10 - 5:00 PM on February 26.

Registration is required; the link to do so can be found [here](#).

## Department of History Symposium Series 2023-2024



### Zoom Talk: "Taverns, Gardens, and Parties: A Journey through New England's Early Black History"



Speaker:  
Kabria Baumgartner  
Northeastern University  
February 26, 2024  
3:10-5:00pm



Zoom registration required:  
<https://maine.zoom.us/j/6845084444>

Kabria Baumgartner is Dean's Associate Professor of History and Africana Studies and Associate Director of Public History at Northeastern University. She writes about the hidden, forgotten, and erased lived experiences of African-descended people in New England and the Atlantic World. She has authored numerous articles published in leading academic journals, and her book, *In Pursuit of Knowledge: Black Women and Educational Activism in Antebellum America* (New York University Press, 2019), was recognized with several awards. Professor Baumgartner has also done extensive work in public history. For this talk, she will share compelling stories about Black history in Massachusetts to gain deeper appreciation of African American contributions as well as of the diversity among African-descended people who have called New England home for centuries.

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**WGS @ WORK SERIES PRESENTS**  
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

WGS is thrilled to host Cat Sebastian, author of queer romance novels! **Two events will be held on March 26th, both in Neville Hall, Rm 208.**

**12:30 pm to 1:30 pm: Q&A with Cat Sebastian**  
Come talk with Cat about her latest novel, *We Could Be So Good* (2023) and also more broadly, writing for the romance novel industry! Cat will discuss questions such as but not limited to: What draws her to the romance genre in particular? What limits and/or opportunities does the romance genre open up for queer romance narratives? What did she learn about the genre and romance industry when writing (and pitching) her first novel to agents? How has Cat's writing changed over time and in response to her success with earlier novels? What role/s do readers play in Cat's decisions as an author? What continues to excite Cat most about the romance genre? Has she ventured outside the romance genre, and if so, why? Tea/coffee and cookies will be served! **No advance registration necessary!**

**5:00 pm to 6:45 pm: Romance-writing workshop facilitated by Cat Sebastian**  
Do you enjoy reading romances? Could you envision writing a romance novel yourself? What does it take to find a literary agent and publish your work? Come prepared to ask questions, brainstorm ideas, and write! Writing prompts (designed and facilitated by Cat Sebastian) will draw participants into the work—and pleasures!—of writing romance novels and other popular genres. Tea and hot chocolate will be served!

**The workshop is open to all UMaine community members though limited to 40 participants. Advance registration is required. Please email [Elizabeth.Neiman@maine.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Neiman@maine.edu) to reserve a spot. The first 18 undergraduates to reserve a spot will receive a free copy of Sebastian's *We Could Be So Good!* (2023).**

Co-Sponsored by the Dr. Ann Margaret Johnstone Lecture Series, the WGS program and the Stephen E. King Chair in Literature

**Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** continues with their ongoing "WGS @ Work" series with two events featuring queer romance author Cat Sebastian on March 26, with both events to take place in Neville Hall, Room 208.

The first event, taking place from 12:30-1:30 PM, will be a Q&A with Sebastian about her latest novel *We Could Be So Good*, as well as a broader conversation about writing for the romance novel industry. The second, scheduled for 5-6:45 PM, will be a romance-writing workshop facilitated by Sebastian.

These events are open to the UMaine community, but space in the workshop will be limited. To reserve your spot, contact [Elizabeth Neiman](#).




**VERSANT POWER**  
 ASTRONOMY CENTER  
 and the Maynard Jordan Planetarium


 THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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 College of  
 Liberal Arts  
 and Sciences

## February 2024 Planetarium Schedule



**Á R Ó R A**

Fridays – February 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 7:00 pm



**LUCIA,**  
**THE SECRET OF SHOOTING STARS**

Sundays – February 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 2:00 pm

Tickets at [astro.umaine.edu](http://astro.umaine.edu) or call 207.581.1341




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**VERSANT POWER**  
 ASTRONOMY CENTER  
 and the Maynard Jordan Planetarium

### February 2024 Music Show



*Fleetwood Mac:*  
*Tango in the Dome*

Sundays – February 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 4 pm  
 Tickets at [astro.umaine.edu](http://astro.umaine.edu) or call 207.581.1341




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 and Sciences


**VERSANT POWER**  
 ASTRONOMY CENTER  
 and the Maynard Jordan Planetarium

### Special Programs in March and April 2024



**ECLIPSE**  
 THE MOMENTS OF WONDER



**TOTAL ECLIPSE**  
 CHASED BY THE  
 SUN'S SLEEP



**TOTALITY**

See website for show times and Eclipse Info!  
 Tickets at [astro.umaine.edu](http://astro.umaine.edu) or call 207.581.1341

The **Versant Power Astronomy Center** has plenty of out-of-this-world programming coming your way this February and beyond.

The weekly shows are:

Public program: *Arora* - February 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 7 PM.

Family program: *Lucia, the Secret of Shooting Stars* - February 4, 11, 18 & 26 at 2 PM.

Music program: *Fleetwood Mac: Tango in the Dome* - February 4, 11, 18 & 26 at 4 PM.

In eclipse-related news, **Versant Center Director Shawn Laatsch** was interviewed by WWII for a 25-minute special that will be airing multiple times in the coming weeks. Beginning this weekend, the piece will air Saturday mornings at 6 AM on FOX 22 and Sunday mornings at 6 AM and Wednesday afternoons at 12:30 PM on ABC 7, running up through the weekend of April 1.


(Note: If you don't feel like waiting for an official airdate, you can also watch the piece [here](#).)

For tickets or more information on these or other programs at the Versant Center, visit their website [here](#).

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 Mauery, 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.




2024  
Faculty  
Exhibition

Edward Nadeau, "The Yard, Summer in Maine," 2022-2023, oil on canvas

Sheridan Adams • Constant Albertson • Tim Babulski  
Edward Nadeau • Louise Bourne • Arturo Camacho  
Bethany Engstrom • Susan Groce • Andy Mauery  
Gregory Ondo

February 5 - March 15, 2024  
Reception February 9, 2024

 **Lord Hall Gallery**  
 @umaine\_lordhallgallery  
 Questions: [diana.baumbach@maine.edu](mailto:diana.baumbach@maine.edu)  
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## PUBLICATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS


**Olivia Britton**, a second-year civil engineering student minoring in **political science** who is also in the Honors College, has written an op-ed appearing at [CentralMaine.com](#). In it, she argues for expansion of availability and education around opioid reversal medication as a tool in confronting the opioid and overdose crisis.

**Assistant professor** in the **Department of Communication and Journalism Bridie McGreavy** published an invited article for a special issue on Care in *Environmental Communication*.

The article, "[Tides, touch and care in collaborative fieldwork](#)," describes how touch, tides, and poetic methodology shape an evolving digital media effort and collaborations with clamming communities.

McGreavy also recently joined the editorial board for this journal.

# NOMINATIONS, APPLICATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES




**Spring 2024**

**NAVIGATE360**

**Student Success**

**Information Series**



SCAN ME

All sessions held in-person in DPC 207 and also offered via Zoom.

Zoom link and password provided after registering.

Scan above or click here to register

Please register early to ensure proper access to Navigate

Dates & Times	Topics	Description
February 7 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	<b>NAVIGATE 101</b>	Join us for an introduction to NAVIGATE360 and an overview of its essential functions. If you are a first-time NAVIGATE360 user or would like a refresher, this session is for you.
February 14 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	<b>Ad Hoc Alerts</b>	What do you do if you identify a student that is struggling, outside of the Early Alert Campaign? This session will show you how to issue a NAVIGATE Ad Hoc Alert. These alerts can be raised at any time to express your concern directly with the student's Success Team, who can then reach out to them and offer the support needed to succeed.
February 21 <sup>st</sup> 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm <i>Co-Host Ariana Mangra</i>	<b>Black Bear Early Alerts</b>	The week 6 Mid-Term Black Bear Early Alert progress report requests have been sent out. This session will benefit faculty and Student Success Team members in responding to this progress report request and corresponding case management.
March 6 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	<b>Student Search and Creating Student Lists</b>	Join us as we cover how to utilize the search feature or a pre-existing student list to identify students that you would like to include in campaigns, analytics, and reporting.
March 20 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm <i>Co-Host Cindy D'Angelo</i>	<b>Enrollment Campaigns</b>	Join us to learn about enrollment campaigns. Enrollment in the next semester is an important part of a student's success. Many courses fill up quickly and this is a way for you to remind students to enroll in classes as soon as possible. These campaigns have analytics features that allow you to view how many have enrolled and automatically send additional reminders to those that have not.
April 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm <i>Co-Host Julie Eubanks</i>	<b>Student Success 101</b>	This session will demonstrate how NAVIGATE360 provides a valuable tool in providing a holistic, high-touch approach to student success.
April 17 <sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm	<b>Messaging and Appointment Campaigns</b>	Join us to learn about campaigns and how they can be utilized to effectively communicate with students. Messaging campaigns are a way for you to reach out to groups of students to pass along information that you wish to share. Appointment campaigns allow you to reach out to your students to let them know you would like to meet with them for a specific reason and provide a link to your schedule to make an appointment.

Faculty and staff are invited to participate in the NAVIGATE360 Student Success Information Series, an ongoing series of seven hour-long workshops intended to facilitate a better understanding of NAVIGATE and its capabilities.

These sessions start on February 7, with offerings running periodically up through the middle of April. Each session is scheduled to take place in DPC 207 from 1-2 PM, with options for both in-person and Zoom participation.

Registration is required and can be done [here](#).

The **Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** Program has established a new travel award, thanks to a generous bequest by a donor.

The Constance "Connie" Fournier Student Travel Award will be available to all UMaine undergraduate or graduate students whose research, scholarship, or creative/professional work incorporates feminist methods or perspectives or addresses issues of equity and justice. This award program is funded by a donation from the late Constance "Connie" Fournier, a world traveler and educator with a passion for Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

The award provides up to 600 dollars in travel expenses for conferences or other professional events to be attended this spring or summer.

You can find more information [here](#).



  
**INTRODUCING THE '23-'24 REZENDES  
ETHICS ESSAY COMPETITION**  
**THEME: DISABILITY ETHICS**  
 Enter for a chance to win  
**\$3,200**  
 Two finalist prizes of \$500 will also be awarded!  
**Essay deadline: February 16, 2024**  
 For more information visit <https://honors.umaine.edu/rezendes/>  
 or scan the QR code below




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 26.

For more information, please see the attached flyer or click [this link](#). Questions about the competition can be directed to Professor [Hao Hong](#).

The **Department of Political Science** is accepting entries for the 2024 Graton Prize in Constitutional Law.

Endowed by Claude Dewing Graton, Class of 1900, the Graton Prize is awarded annually to the best essay responding to a current question in constitutional law. This year's prize will award up to \$4,000.

Any regularly enrolled UMaine undergraduate may enter the contest. A qualifying essay must respond to only one of the set questions. Essays must have two cover sheets: one with the title only, the other with the student's name, class, and contact information.

Essays must be submitted via email to [Deborah Grant](#), the Political Science Administrative Specialist, no later than Thursday, 28 March, 2024.



#### THE 2024 GRATON PRIZE IN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Endowed by Claude Dewing Graton, Class of 1900, the Graton Prize is awarded annually to the best essay responding to a current question in constitutional law. This year's prize will award up to \$4,000 to the best response to each of three questions:

1. When interpreting an ambiguous law, should courts defer to the expertise of the government agency charged with administering it? Why has this question again come before the Supreme Court and why are the stakes so high? Should the Supreme Court overturn its earlier rulings?
2. Is a president of the United States immune from criminal prosecution for actions performed while in office?
3. Is a president of the United States disqualified from office by engaging in insurrection against the Constitution? If so, do President Trump's actions contesting the results of the 2020 presidential election meet this threshold?

#### Notes and directions:

Any regularly enrolled UMaine undergraduate may enter the contest. A qualifying essay must respond to only one of the set questions and should illustrate its answer by drawing (where appropriate) on the intent of the Framers, actions of Congress and/or the executive, and landmark decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. **Essays must have two cover sheets:** one with the title only, the other with the student's name, class, and contact information. Essays must be submitted via email to Deborah Grant, the Political Science Administrative Specialist ([dgrant@umaine.edu](mailto:dgrant@umaine.edu)), no later than **Thursday, 28 March, 2024**.

#### Judging criteria include:

1. Clarity of issue identification and thesis
2. Strength of argument and analysis
3. Quality of research
4. Coherence of organization and grammar
5. At least eight (8) direct quotations from relevant U.S. Supreme Court decisions, cited according to standard practice using the U.S. Reports

Due to the pervasiveness of generative A.I., **qualifying essays must also include an appendix** containing the student's notes and/or essay outline from which the essay was composed.

Questions about the contest may be directed to Robert Ballingall, Assistant Professor of Political Science, [robert.ballingall@umaine.edu](mailto:robert.ballingall@umaine.edu). Extra copies of this announcement are available in the office of the Administrative Assistant, Department of Political Science.

It's never too early to start planning for Commencement, scheduled this year for May 3 (Graduate) and May 4 (Undergraduate).

Faculty are asked to complete this [short form](#) by March 1 in order to indicate your intention to participate in Commencement and whether you have your own regalia. If you do not own your own regalia, the University will cover the cost of renting regalia this year. Details concerning regalia will be provided once you've completed the form.

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Two of UMaine's prestigious student honor societies are seeking help in procuring nominations.

The Senior Skulls are accepting nominations for their Class of 2025. The nomination form can be found [here](#). All Maine Women are also accepting nominations for their newest class; that form can be found [here](#).

Please note that the nomination deadline for Senior Skulls is March 1, while the deadline for All Maine Women is March 8.

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[UMaine UVote](#) and the **Department of Political Science** are once again working with the Town of Orono to recruit members of the campus community to serve as poll workers in the upcoming presidential primary election on Tuesday, March 5. This year's primary election will happen at the Orono Town Office on 59 Main Street in downtown Orono.

Serving as a poll worker is essential and important work; you can literally play a role in helping ensure that your fellow community members' democratic voices are heard. And it's a fun opportunity to engage with your fellow students and members of the town of Orono. Those participating can choose to be paid for their work, volunteer, or if you are in a course or student organization that requires community service, these hours can be counted towards that.

If you're interested in potentially serving, please fill out this [form](#).

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We have seen a recent uptick in requests for new headshots for departmental usage. If you don't have an official UMaine headshot - or have one that is a bit too long in the tooth - the folks at Marketing and Communications are happy to help.

The first Tuesday and Wednesday of each month feature dedicated times for head shots, with Tuesday sessions happening in the morning and Wednesday sessions in the afternoon. You can reach out directly to [Adam Kuykendall](#) to make an appointment.

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## UMAINE IN THE NEWS

[AP News](#) interviewed **Mark Brewer, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science**, about the uptick in political party registration among formerly independent voters.

“It’s a symptom of the ever-increasing political polarization,” said Brewer. “Just when you think partisan differences can’t get any sharper, they do.”

[U.S. News & World Report](#), [The Hill](#), [The Washington Post](#), [Newsday](#), the [Houston Chronicle](#), [Chron](#) and other news organizations nationwide shared the AP report.

Brewer also spoke with the [Portland Press Herald](#) about possible voter actions in response to semi-open primaries. Brewer said that while there may not be a significant surge, there could be some increase in voters switching parties or unenrolling due to the semi-open primary system and strong feelings about certain candidates. He said he believes that although some voters might consider switching parties for strategic voting, the overall impact may not be substantial.

The [Sun Journal](#) shared the *Press Herald* article.

**Professor of sociology Amy Blackstone** was interviewed by [TechnoBlender.com](#) for an addition to a [Los Angeles Times](#) article on the economic feasibility of having children in the modern age.

Referencing a book she wrote, *Childfree by Choice*, Blackstone said the movement gained momentum in the 1970s with the social and health movements of the time. In the current era of high student debt and housing markets, she said financial discussions as they relate to children come up even more often.

## CLAS PET OF THE WEEK



One of the things that I've learned about the greater CLAS community over the time that I've been putting together this feature is that our love for our pets is by no means defined by the amount of time that they have been in our lives.

Whether you've had your pet for a couple of months or a couple of decades, your love for them comes through as truer than true and deeper than deep.

This week's entry offers a look at both sides of that particular coin, coming to us courtesy of Laura Rickard from the Department of Communication and Journalism.

Our star is Cleopatra - Cleo for short - a one-year-old Maine Coon cat that they got just this past

Christmas. As you can see from the delightful selection of photos above, this is a cat who enjoys closely examining houseplants, sprawling atop fresh-from-the-dryer laundry baskets and making herself fit into spaces that aren't quite big enough (seriously - look at that fuzzy gam sticking out of that cat bed!).

But Cleo isn't alone.

As you can see below, Cleo has a kitty sister. Abby is 16 years young and approximately one-third the size of her family's new addition. Diplomatic relations between the two are, as Laura puts it, "rocky," but she adds that "they seem to tolerate each other if treats are involved."

Senior pets or brand-new critters - we love them all the same, don't we? Let's just keep trying to be the people that they believe us to be.



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Send your CLAS events, announcements, and faculty or student highlights (and pet photos!) to [allen.adams@maine.edu](mailto: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](mailto:allen.adams@maine.edu).



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5774 Stevens Hall, Room 100  
207.581.1954  
[clas@maine.edu](mailto:clas@maine.edu)

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**Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 Boudreau Hall, 207.581.1226, [equal.opportunity@maine.edu](mailto:equal.opportunity@maine.edu).**

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