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News, Events, Announcements & Highlights, March 29-April 5, 2024

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Events, Announcements & Highlights for March 29 - April 5
1 message

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences <clas@maine.edu>  Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 3:59 PM
Reply-To: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences <clas@maine.edu>
To: Matthew.revitt@maine.edu

WEEKLY EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND HIGHLIGHTS

View this email in your browser
So have you heard about this eclipse thing? If so, there's a good chance you received at least some of your information from one of our own.

**Shawn Laatsch, director of the Versant Power Astronomy Center**, has been the de facto "eclipse guy" for news outlets from all over Maine, New England and beyond over the past few months. Laatsch and his team have been interviewed by scores of print and broadcast outlets, sharing their excitement about the upcoming celestial event.

Collection of data for NASA, citizen science projects, even an eclipse livestream via a high-altitude balloon - UMaine is ready to shine brightly even as the sun dims.

With so much going on, you'd be forgiven for not being aware of it all. Luckily, a website has been assembled to collect everything that falls within the Venn diagram of "UMaine" and "eclipse." Events, news stories, videos - it's all there. Check out the website [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=all).
The School of Performing Arts Division of Music has a pair of phenomenal concert offerings coming your way.

First up is the traditional April Fools' Day concert. Titled Anything Goes, this performance will feature music faculty Laura Artesani and Dan Barrett - along with some special guests - offering up whatever music happens to strike their fancy. The very next day, on April 2, SPA will present an evening of chamber music led by faculty member Noreen Silver.

Both shows will take place in Minsky Recital Hall with a start time of 7:30 PM.
The Department of Modern Languages and Classics is hosting a panel discussion about an influential poetry group from the 1970s. The event is scheduled for April 4 in the Arthur St, John Hill Auditorium (Room 165) in Barrows Hall. The discussion is set for 3:30 PM with a poetry reading to follow at 5 PM.

Five scholars will present work on the 1970s Peruvian poetry group Hora Zero and its relation to Infrarealism in Mexico. Fifty years ago, both groups sought to democratize and transform the practice of poetry by employing new and challenging forms of artistic expression. Peruvian writers Rocío Uchofen and Roger Santiváñez, and associate professor of Spanish Carlos Villacorta together with the translator and associate professor John Burns and Mexican professor, poet, and editor Ruben Medina will discuss the works of Jorge Pimentel, Carmen Ollé and Enrique Verástegui among others.

Other sponsors for the event include the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of English and the Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series Fund.

English undergraduate students Paige McHatten and Julia Hills, the student editors of The University of Maine's undergraduate literary magazine The Open Field, are hosting a launch party for the 2024 installment of the publication with other editors and contributors at 4 PM on Thursday, April 4 in the Writing Center, room 402 of Neville Hall.

The Open Field is devoted to publishing poetry, prose, mixed-genre writing and visual art by the undergraduate community at UMaine. The magazine is run by a rotating group of English students in the creative writing concentration, and they make all of the aesthetic and editorial decisions.

Doug Allen, emeritus professor of philosophy, will present the next installment of the Socialist and Marxist Studies Series on April 4 from 12:30 - 1:45 PM in the Bangor Room of the Memorial Union.

Allen's talk is titled "Mahatma Gandhi and his Past and Present Critics: Marxists, Socialists, Dalits".
("Untouchables"), Feminists, and Other Critics." For those unable to attend in person, a Zoom link is available here.

Lord Hall Gallery will host the Department of Art’s 2024 Student Exhibition, featuring artwork made by undergraduate students at UMaine.

Students who were enrolled in an Art class in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 had the opportunity to submit up to six pieces of artwork made in their classes and selections were made by a guest juror. This year’s juror is Amy Rahn, assistant professor of art history and the Charles Danforth Gallery Director, University of Maine at Augusta.

The exhibition runs April 3-28, with a public reception and awards ceremony scheduled for Friday, April 5 at 5 PM. There will be a free performance by Collegiate Chorale April 25 at 1 PM; singers will perform among the artwork in the 2024 Student Exhibition.

The gallery is free, accessible, and open to the public Monday-Friday from 9 AM - 4 PM. Please direct all questions to Diana Baumbach, Director of Galleries.
It’s that time again for **Franco American Programs** - Rassemblement!

The Franco-American Centre will play host to the latest installment of this annual gathering from April 5-7, featuring panel discussions, dinners, movies, music, movies and more! The full list of events can be found [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=all).

There will also be an online component, scheduled to take place on April 13.

All events are free, but registration is required; you can do so [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=all). For assistance or further information, please contact Lisa Michaud at lisam@maine.edu or (207) 581-3789 or Director Susan Pinette at spinette@maine.edu.
The 2024 Human Dimensions of Climate Change Film Series concludes for the semester with a screening of the film "To Which We Belong" on April 9 at 5 PM in Williams Hall, Room 140.

The screening of the film will be followed by a discussion with Rachel Schattman, assistant professor of sustainable agriculture.

The series is sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Climate Change Institute, the Fogler Library, the School of Economics, the School of Food and Agriculture, the Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series Fund and the McGillicuddy Humanities Center.

The 2024 Student Symposium for Research and Creative Activity, the University of Maine's premiere celebration of student achievement, will be on Friday, April 12 from 9 AM – 3 PM at the New Balance Field House.

More than 1,000 students from the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Machias will showcase their research, scholarship and creative activities that they developed over the academic year.

The symposium draws more than 2,000 attendees from across both campuses as well as event sponsors, legislators, business leaders and members of the greater community. There, members of the wider community can interact one-on-one with students and their faculty mentors who are shaping the future of Maine in art, business, education, engineering, science and the humanities.

“The symposium is an opportunity for students to come together with each other as well as the campus community to share what they do and what they care about,” says Caitlin Howell, associate professor and associate director of the Center for Undergraduate Research at UMaine.

“It provides a forum to celebrate creativity and accomplishments across all disciplines.”

Read more here.
The Honors College is set to welcome the 2024 John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics to campus.

Adam Cureton is a professor of philosophy at the University of Tennessee and is an internationally recognized disability scholar and activist who specializes in ethics and the philosophy of disability. His talk is titled "Disclosing a Disability at Work: Respect, Discrimination, and the Ethics of Informal Attitudes" and will take place on April 18 in Room 100 of Nutting Hall. The presentation starts at 3:30 PM.

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy.
The Versant Power Astronomy Center might just be your one-stop shop for all things eclipse this March.

The weekly shows are:

Public program: *Eclipse: The Moments of Wonder* - March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 7 PM.
Family program: *Total Eclipse: Chasers of the Lost Sleep* - March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 2 PM.
Music program: *Pink Floyd: The Dark Side of the Moon - 50 Years in a Heartbeat* - March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 at 4 PM.

The Center will also be featuring additional eclipse-related programming in the coming weeks; be sure to check their website for specific dates and times of these programs.

In other eclipse-related news, Versant Center Director Shawn Laatsch was interviewed by WVII 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](#).

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**PUBLICATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Judith Rosenbaum-Andre, associate professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, is co-author of a new book.

The book is titled *Computer-Mediated Communication: Approaches and Perspectives*; it describes five approaches to understanding the influences of technologically mediated communication on our interpersonal and social relationships.

Rosenbaum's co-author is John Sherblom, emeritus professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism. This marks the book's second edition.

For more information on the book, click [here](#).
NOMINATIONS, APPLICATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are still needed for Commencement 2024. There are numerous positions available to be filled for all sessions. It's an opportunity to be part of one of the biggest days in the lives of our students.

Volunteers are critical to the success of Commencement ceremonies - the largest events that the University will host all year. This is a time to showcase our culture of excellence to graduates, students, friends, family, and community members.

The volunteer signup form can be found [here](#).

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.

UMAINE IN THE NEWS

A tweet by [Michael Socolow](#), a professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, was quoted in a recent [Politico](#) story by Jack Shafer about the hiring of former RNC head Ronna McDaniel by NBC News.

From the story:

"The problem with the McDaniel appointment for NBC News is that, unlike regular politicians, she has [no constituency of her own](#), a point made by University of Maine scholar Michael Socolow on X Sunday. 'MAGA doesn't like or respect her, and neither do Democrats. Who's she going to draw to the television screen?' he wrote."

[Manuel Wörsdörfer](#), assistant professor of management and computing ethics, was recently interviewed by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) on the Department of Justice’s lawsuit...
against Apple and the E.U.’s antitrust probe targeting Apple, Alphabet, and Meta.

**Dean Astumian, professor of physics**, was interviewed by *Chemistry World* on a recent development in light powered molecular crystal motors.

Astumian, an expert in molecular machines who was not involved in the research, is enthusiastic about the progress. “The idea of shining light on a system to get directional macroscopic movement is very intriguing and of potential technological importance,” said Astumian, who was part of an international team several years ago that created a molecular machine capable of pumping rings to produce polyrotaxanes.

**Associate professor of anthropology Johanna Richlin** was the featured guest on a recent episode of the "Hear Me Out" podcast from *Slate*.

Richlin was on with host Celeste Headlee to have a conversation about vaccine hesitancy and skepticism.

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**CLAS PET OF THE WEEK**
We're not about playing favorites here at Pet of the Week (with the notable exception of my own critters, obviously). Everyone's pets are adorable and sweet and wonderful companions.

That said, there's just something about a new kitty. Or kitties, as the case may be.

This week's dynamic duo comes to us from John Mascetta at the Advising and Academic Services Center. These sweet faces belong to Milo (top left) and Tilly (top right). They are brand-new additions to the Mascetta household, a pair of Maine coon cats who are CLEARLY going to be lifelong best friends.

More from John:

"They are siblings and get along very well. Milo is very outgoing and likes to cuddle, and is very protective over his sister, Tilly, who he cleans on a regular basis. The only dislike is that, as kittens they like to wake us up in the middle of the night to be pet. Tilly is much more shy, but is very sweet when she wants to be held. They have been a great addition, even though they may reach up to 20-25 lbs! They are also getting along with their "older brothers" (Arlo and Ollie), who are 70 lb doodles."

Those are going to be some BIG kittens! Our thanks to John for sharing these magnificent specimens of cat with us.

Keep sending those pet pictures my way! Photographic evidence of springtime fun is particularly welcomed, but let's be real - I'll take whatever you've got!

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.