News, Events, Announcements & Highlights, April 19-April 26, 2024

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
In the United States, more than 133 billion pounds of food are thrown away each year. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, food waste is responsible for 33% of total greenhouse
gas emissions in Maine, and about 11% of emissions nationwide. 

Kate Flynn, a fourth-year political science student, was exposed to the extent of food waste across the state and nation during a class project that dealt with nutrition insecurity and the redirection of excess food to where it is needed most. Her project inspired her passion for making a difference in how people can access food.

“We like to frame it as connecting excess or surplus food to where food is needed because frequently, the phrase ‘food waste’ has a negative connotation. It is ‘wasted food,’ because the majority of food waste is perfectly good and edible food that is falling through the cracks of our food access system,” said Flynn.

Read more here.

EVENTS & EXPERIENCES

The School of Performing Arts Division of Music is pleased to present an end-of-semester concert from the Black Bear Mens’ Chorus on April 21 at 2:00 PM in Minsky Recital Hall.

The group, made up of singers from UMaine and the greater community, will be performing a number of choral songs, closing as always with a rousing singalong rendition of our very own Stein Song.

Tickets for the show are $12, though admission is free with a student MaineCard. Purchase your tickets here.

The annual CLAS Awards ceremony is scheduled to take place on April 22 at Wells Conference Center. This is a celebration of the very best of both students and faculty under the CLAS umbrella. The festivities begin with a reception at 3:30 PM, with the ceremony itself beginning at 4:00 PM.

Honorees include the recipients of:
Catherine Metivier Outstanding Staff Award
C. Wickham Skinner Humanities Award
Promotion & Tenure
Co-Valedictorian
Outstanding Graduate Student Awards
Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
Departmental Graduating Senior Awards
James Stevens Junior Awards

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Kelly Gilks.

Professor of theatre Dan Bilodeau is the scenic designer for the upcoming production of Mr. Burns, a Post Electric Play at Penobscot Theatre Company in Bangor. The play's official opening night is April 20, with performances running through May 5.

Assistant professor of English Hollie Adams will be leading a talkback following the April 24 performance, discussing some of the parallels between the play and the Emily St. John Mandel novel Station Eleven (as well as the TV series based upon it).

Several other people with past and present connections to CLAS are involved with this production as well, both onstage and behind the scenes ... including your very own intrepid newsletter correspondent, who is part of the show's cast.

For tickets or more information, click here.
One of the highlights of every semester is the Spring Dance Showcase, presented by the **School of Performing Arts Division of Theatre and Dance**, scheduled for three nights - April 25-27 - with all performances at 7:30 PM in Hauck Auditorium.

Scores of dancers from an assortment of classes and clubs will be presenting work that runs the gamut, from ballet to modern to hip-hop and everything in-between.

Tickets to this event are $12, while admission is free with a student MaineCard. The ticket link is [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=all), but be aware - this event consistently sells out, so if you’d like to attend, get your tickets as soon as possible.

The next installment of the Socialist and Marxist Studies Series will take place on April 25 from 12:30 - 1:45 PM in the Bangor Room of the Memorial Union.

This latest entry is titled "Mahatma Gandhi and His Past and Present Critics: Marxists, Socialists, Dalits ("Untouchables"), Feminists, and Other Critics" and will be delivered by **Douglas Allen, professor emeritus of philosophy** and coordinator of the Socialist and Marxist Series.

For those unable to attend in person, a Zoom link is available [here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=all).

The **School of Computing and Information Science** invites the public to join them for their student capstone presentations on April 26 from 5-7 PM at the Ferland Engineering and Design Center.

The SCIS Capstone students will present their projects on the first and second floors. These dedicated students from **New Media, Computer Science**, and Computer Science research have worked tirelessly to showcase their projects. The annual SCIS Showcase offers a compact overview of the diverse research endeavors of SCIS undergraduates and a few graduate students.

This informal event will feature engaging posters, demonstrations, talks, and refreshments. The student projects are a wide selection of New Media and Computer Science projects, with over 40 students participating.
The NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Awards Ceremony will also be held, with a guest talk by our 2023 AiC award winner, Margaret Kastelein, a current computer science major.

For more information, contact Laura Gurney.

The eclipse might be behind us, but that doesn't mean the Versant Power Astronomy Center is lacking for awesome programming this April.

The weekly shows are:

Public program: *Incoming! Asteroids, Comets, and the hard-Hitting Stories of Our Cosmic Origins* - April 12, 19 & 26 at 7 PM.

Family program: *Magic Globe: A Story of the Seasons* - April 14, 21 & 28 at 2 PM.

Music program: *Enchanted: A Taylor Swift Musical Journey* - April 14, 21 & 28 at 4 PM.

For tickets or more information on these or other programs at the Versant Center, visit their website [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. There will be a free performance by Collegiate Chorale on 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.

PUBLICATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Michael Delorge of Biddeford, Maine, is a 2024 valedictorian. Pursuing dual degrees in political science and biology, Delorge crafted coursework focused on public health policy with the goal of generating skills to improve medical care. Originally a pre-med student, he altered his studies to meet his interests and spent class time integrating topics such as plant biology with substance use policy.

Having enrolled during the COVID-19 pandemic, Delorge sought to improve his experience by finding community in a way that joined leadership and public service. For the next four years, he participated in student government and UMaine’s Partners for World Health (PWH) chapter, a nonprofit organization that distributes recycled medical supplies to global communities. His senior year he became student government president, responsible for leading a 30-person team, making administrative decisions and advocating for undergraduates with an organizational budget of $1 million and oversight of 150 student groups. Delorge became co-president of UMaine’s PWH chapter his sophomore year, serving as president for the next two. In addition to distributing medical aid to communities in Senegal and assisting in sending 22,000 pounds of medical supplies to Ukraine, he more than doubled the number of student volunteers and secured $30,000 in grant funding. Through his commitment, he found a home in UMaine and learned the gratitude of leaving a community better than when he arrived.

Read more here.

Three faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were recently named as recipients of Faculty Mentor Impact Awards.

Assistant professor of English Hollie Adams, associate professor of political science and honors Rob Glover, and associate professor of Spanish and chair of Modern Languages and Classics Carlos Villacorta were honored for their mentorship of students.

Associate professor of political science and honors Rob Glover has been named the winner of the 2024 Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award.

Glover’s work with UMaine Vote, with the Maine chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network (SSN), and on policy attitudes toward overdose and the opioid crisis all contributed to his receiving this prestigious honor.
The Center for Teaching and Learning has some upcoming opportunities available to faculty.

CITL has issued a call for proposals to become a Scholarship in Teaching and Learning Fellow. The deadline for applications is May 15. For more information, click here.

Additionally, the wait list remains open for CITL's upcoming Course Design Institute (CDI). This three-day program - scheduled for May 21-23 - is intended to help faculty develop classes through various forms of assistance. While this May’s CDI is currently at capacity, but with enough interest, more seats could be added. Find out more here.

Lastly, CITL will be offering a Racial Equity in Teaching Summer Retreat from June 4-6. Anyone with a teaching role on campus is welcome to register. You can do so here, as well as find more information.

The University of Maine 4-H Centers are still seeking to fill counselor openings at their summer camps this year. If you have any students who might be interested, they can find out more at the Cooperative Extension website here.

The Versant Power Astronomy Center is accepting used eclipse glasses to give to others for future events, particularly to children who live outside of the U.S. and may lack access to these resources.

The drop off for undamaged glasses is located inside the center, which is open from 9 AM - 4 PM Monday through Friday, from 6-8 PM on Fridays and from 1-5 PM on Sundays. The center is accepting glasses until Sunday, May 5.

The effort is part of the center’s participation in the Eclipse Glasses USA donation program, which aims to help as many people as possible enjoy solar eclipses. Visit the organization’s website for more information.

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

The Mount Desert Islander promoted an event happening Tuesday, April 30 at the Wendell Gilley Museum with professor of English Jennifer Moxley, who will discuss her book titled “For the Good of All, Do Not Destroy the Birds.”

The event will be live-cast online, with an in-person reception at 6 p.m. and the presentation starting at 7 p.m. Registration is required.

National Parks Traveler featured a new effort by the National Park Service to protect Wabanaki archaeological sites in Acadia National Park from climate change that involves collaboration with several Wabanaki partners, University of Maine Ph.D. students and Bonnie Newsom, associate professor of anthropology.

Michael Socolow, professor of communication and journalism, spoke with CNN and The Washington Post about the wide-ranging impact of the O.J. Simpson trial on television programming in the U.S. According to Socolow, the surge in TV viewership from the trial persuaded Rupert Murdoch to launch Fox News, as well as a surge in reality TV programs.

“Simpson proved enormous profits could be generated from high ratings from programming that did not require actors and writers and sets. Reality TV had started earlier, but after Simpson there was a massive profusion of ‘Reality TV,’” Socolow said.

CLAS PET OF THE WEEK
The end of the semester is always a whirlwind of activity. Campus is buzzing and everyone is incredibly busy over these final weeks.

I understand why we haven't seen as many pet pictures come in recently. No matter - if we don't get new ones, we'll just reshare some of our past favorites that may have flown under your radar the first time around.

We first met Tavi, who came to us courtesy of Karyn Sporer from the Department of Sociology, back in early February. Karyn's comments about this handsome fellow were simple and to the point, saying that he "loves adventuring and hiking in Acadia (as seen in the pic). He is a very good boy."

I'll confess that I was never much of a believer in the notion that "a picture is worth a thousand words," but images like this make me think I need to adjust that attitude.

Seriously - how can one pup be so ruggedly handsome while still being such a sweet-face? It boggles the mind!

Obviously, we're lucky to see Tavi again, but we're also still looking for new pet pictures! So, as we swing into spring and beyond, please feel free to share images of your animal pals!

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/.