McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter, April 2024

University of Maine McGillicuddy Humanities Center

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the History Commons

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
Our Symposium work on Rivers is complete for this year, and now we are looking towards next year, with a new Symposium theme and some new people joining the MHC office. Here is a small preview of the plans for 2024-25.

During the summer, Zach Luddington, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, will take over supervision of the Center’s activities for the next two years as the new Director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. Zach has been active at the Center, both as an MHC-funded humanities professor, and as a member of the faculty group of MHC advisors. We anticipate that the transition will be seamless, given his experience with the Center and his familiarity with the Humanities and Arts departments on campus.

Next year’s Symposium theme is “From Talkies to TikTok: 100 Years of Audiovisual Storytelling.” Whether on a screen, on a stage, in an art installation, or part of an enhanced lecture, the ways we share art and information have changed drastically in the last century. We expect multidimensional presentations in a way that would be unfamiliar to those living before “talking pictures.” However, these expectations can be related to the pre-20th century ways of combining these elements, including historical religious ceremonies of many kinds, staged musical performances, and community celebrations.

With guest curators, filmmakers, and humanities scholars both on and off campus, the Center will explore how audio-visual culture has influenced the stories we tell and the art of storytelling itself. We are speaking with several potential collaborators on activities for Fall 2024 and beyond, and we’ll announce these later in the summer, on our way towards the beginning of the semester.

In our final Newsletter this spring, coming May 1, 2024, we will give a sneak peek at the incoming undergraduate Fellows for the Fall, and on faculty funding proposals that the Center will support in the coming months. In this Newsletter, you’ll see some announcements regarding our current and former Fellows, now that some will be walking across the Commencement stage in May.

As always, our Humanities Specialist Brian Jansen has put together details about these Fellows along with reports on recent events on campus. And you can watch some of our past lectures, concerts, and Fellow’s presentations on our MHC Youtube page, through the main MHC website.

Happy April Fools,

Sincerely,

Beth Wiemann

[Image: "Spring Has Sprung" by Izzy Bouchard for the University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications]
On Saturday, March 23, MHC undergraduate fellow Chappy Hall spoke about his research at the Maine Science Festival. Chappy spoke as part of the "Video Games Teach History" panel with UMaine assistant professor of philosophy Robby Finley, moderated by UMaine professor of history Liam Riordan.

The interactive and immersive quality of video games has helped make them wildly popular and profitable entertainment media. Chappy's panel explored how the ability of gamers to relive, alter, and explore a game world has implications on how we understand fundamental aspects of the human experience. For example, history-based video games raise rich questions about "agency," the degree to which individuals shape their own future, in contrast with systematic trends.

**Upcoming Undergraduate Fellows Talks**
On **Friday, April 19** at 11:00 am in the Weisz Room of the Maples, outgoing MHC Undergraduate Fellow Iris Loehr, an English major in the Honors College, will present on her project “**Mountain People: Essays on Place and Personhood in Appalachia**” as part of UMaine’s Women in Philosophy conference. By blending creative and academic styles, Loehr’s project explores human interaction with the region’s geography and geology to develop a narrative of Appalachian identity that runs counter to the ones driven by stigma. In the popular imagination, Appalachia is a site of poverty, incest and strife. Online characterizations of Appalachia portray it as a place filled with cannibals, killers, and spirits that haunt the woods deep in the mountains. Loehr’s project challenges the stigmas drawn from the region’s systemic poverty and historical isolation by presenting a vision of Appalachian culture that’s vibrant, nuanced and inherently bound to the mountains from which it emerged.
On Wednesday, April 24 at 4:00 pm in the IMRC, outgoing MHC Fellow Katie Ritchie, a history and secondary education double major will give a talk on her project, “Mapping the Holocaust.” Ritchie, the Sandra Merrill Peters and John G. Peters Fellow, has used GIS to design and construct a map of sites important to the Holocaust that aims to make education more accessible and dynamic for high school and college-aged students. Her work also looks to bridge the gap between high school classrooms and academic studies of the Holocaust with the use of interactive maps and lesson plans.

MHC, OIP Award Spring Travel Abroad Prize
The McGillicuddy Humanities Center and the University of Maine Office of International Programs (OIP) presented an award of $1,500 from the Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Fund to Abigail Donnelly, a communications major with minors in international affairs and business administration who is currently undertaking a study abroad semester. Donnelly is in Montevideo, Uruguay, completing high-level Spanish coursework.

The Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Fund was established at the University of Maine Foundation in 2022 with a gift from Charles Ryan ’84. The Global Exploration Fund provides students opportunities to participate in activities which will expand their global views, ideas, and experiences through international travel with a preference for those wishing to travel to Central and South American countries.

UPCOMING EVENTS
You’re Invited to

The Open Field’s
Launch Party!

Thursday, April 4th
4pm
Neville Hall: The Writing Center

Come celebrate our latest magazine with our writers and editors. Enjoy food and refreshments. We hope to see you there!

Former MHC Undergraduate Fellow Paige McHatten and English major 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 4:00 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.
Lord Hall Gallery will host the University of Maine Department of Art’s 2024 Student Exhibition from April 3-28.

Undergraduates 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 UMaine 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 at the University of Maine at Augusta.

A public reception and awards ceremony will be held on Friday, April 5 from 5-7 pm. All are warmly welcomed to attend the reception and refreshments will be served.

There will be a free performance by Collegiate Chorale on April 25 from 1 p.m.-1:30 pm. Singers will perform among the artwork in the 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, at diana.baumbach@maine.edu.
On April 1, today, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion hosts the FINAL session of its River, Culture, and Cuisine Series (RCC), presented in part by an MHC grant. The RCC Series is an immersive culinary and dining experience that features rivers from around the globe and highlights the various regional cultures and cuisines. This edition of the RCC series focuses on the River Niger in West Africa.
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 books, which draw on his own experiences as a legally blind person, include Disability and Disadvantage, Disability in Practice, The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Disability, and the forthcoming Respecting Disability. He founded and served as president of the Society for Philosophy and Disability and helped to create the American Philosophical Association’s Committee on the Status of Disabled People. He is a Rhodes Scholar and currently serves as the Lindsay Young Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tennessee.

Co-sponsored by: Department of Philosophy

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 University of Maine Department of Philosophy.

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.

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 at 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. Peruvian writers Rocío Uchofen and Roger Santivañez, 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.

In partnership with the Maine Jewish Film Festival, UMaine Judaic Studies is delighted to present the documentary film Resistance: They Fought Back, which tells the largely unknown and incredibly courageous story of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.

UMaine Judaic Studies and the MJFF will host the Maine premiere of this award-winning documentary film on the University of Maine campus, April 16 at 7:00 pm in DP Corbett 100. Following the screening, there will be a panel discussion with producer and co-director Paula S. Apell and Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine Education Coordinator Erica Nadelhaft, plus a reception with light refreshments.
Upcoming programming in the UMaine School of Performing Arts Division of Music include 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, which are free and open to the public, will take place in Minsky Recital Hall with a start time of 7:30 pm.

Additional upcoming programming in the UMaine School of Performing Arts includes Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit," presented by the University of Maine's student-run theatre group, The Maine Masque (April 4-6, 7:30 pm), the University Orchestra Concert (April 7, 2:00 pm), and the Jazz Ensemble (April 11, 7:30 pm)

For more information on upcoming events in the School of Performing Arts, visit https://umaine.edu/spa/events/. For ticketing info, visit https://umaine.edu/spa/tickets/.

Ellie Markovitch, lecturer in the Department of Communication and Journalism, has received an
MHC grant related to her ongoing "Fermentation Fridays" project, which takes place in the UMaine Food Lab and involves developing recipes, facilitating cooking and storytelling workshops, and producing short videos. The Fermentation Fridays project engages with the local community, creating opportunities for skill sharing, the use of local food, and food rescue. At the core of Markovitch's work is an exploration of the aesthetic of the quotidian and hospitality as art and community building. To RSVP for an upcoming edition of Fermentation Friday, complete this Google Form.
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 5:00 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 & the McGillicuddy Humanities Center.
A public reading of local authors will take place on Sunday, April 14th at noon, at the Queen City Cinema Club in downtown Bangor, Maine.

This event features 13 writers local to the area, including UMaine professors of creative writing Hollie Adams, Gregory Howard, and Jeremy John Parker, as well as graduates of the UMaine MA degree in Creative Writing, Tori Hood, Morghen Tidd, and others.

On Thursday, April 25 at 5:00 pm, the Bangor Public Library hosts its 22nd annual Poets/Speak! event. The program includes introductions by Kathleen Ellis, readings from University of Maine students, and poetry by assistant professor of English Hollie Adams selected from her year-long writing residency at Acadia National Park.
The Wells Conference Center at the University of Maine is one of three locations for our colleagues at the Maine Humanities Council's upcoming Readers Retreat on April 6, which will bring together fantastic speakers with people across the state for a deep dive into There There, Tommy Orange's acclaimed novel about the urban Native American experience. Among the speakers for the event will be author and filmmaker Julian Brave NoiseCat, author Brendan Shay Basham, and UMaine professor of creative writing Morgan Talty.

Visit the Maine Humanities Council for more information.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE HUMANITIES NEWS
The Franco-American Centre will play host to the latest installment of the annual Franco American Programs - Rassemblement gathering from April 5-7, featuring panel discussions, dinners, movies, music, movies and more! The full list of events can be found here. 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. 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.

UMaine professor of English Jonathan Barron co-lead a roundtable discussion in San Diego March 21-23 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the poet Robert Frost. Workshops and roundtable discussions were held by distinguished poets and joined by scholars from around the world. Barron’s roundtable focussed on how the contemporary lyric poem has evolved in form, aesthetic, subject and style from the practice of the early 20th century modernists. He has authored or edited several books of criticism, the most recent being the 2015 monograph How Robert Frost Made Realism Matter.

Assistant professor of English and creative writing Hollie Adams, presented a conference paper at the annual meeting of the College English Association (CEA) in Atlanta, Georgia. Adams’s paper, part of a panel on popular culture, was titled “Barbie and the End of Post-Postmodernism” and explored Greta Gerwig’s 2023 blockbuster film Barbie as a lens for considering questions of literary periodization.
Judith Rosenbaum-Andre, associate professor in and chair of 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.

Associate professor of anthropology Johanna Richlin published a piece in *The Conversation*. The article is titled "Vaccine-skeptical mothers say bad health care experiences made them distrust the medical system." Richlin, who studies how beliefs and feelings circulate in American society, interviewed vaccine-skeptical mothers about their perceptions of new and existing vaccines. Richlin said the mothers' answers were more complicated than vaccine skepticism has been portrayed, and their personal stories showed how the U.S. healthcare system has historically failed women.

Professor emeritus of music Stuart Marrs was recently interviewed by Dr. Domenico E. Zarro for the Zarro Percussion blog, discussing his long relationship with the art of percussion. Marrs explains of his early encounters with music performance, "my first instrument was violin, but my father thought I was treating it like a toy, and he took it away. My next instrument was the clarinet when I was around 10, but that didn't work out very well either." That interview can be found here.

Michael Howard, professor emeritus of philosophy, recently presented a paper at the *Workshop on Guaranteed Income Experiments: The moral, ecological, and economic value of a basic income*, which took place February 22 and 23 at New Orleans University.

Howard's paper was titled "Is the strong ecological argument for basic income a strong argument for basic income?"

The Creative Writing MFA Reading Series and the Literary Translation Society at Boise State University hosted English professor, poet, and former MHC director Jennifer Moxley for a reading and book signing on Friday, March 29. Moxley's most recent books include the collection of essays *For the Good of All, Do Not Destroy the Birds* and an English translation of Quebec poet Marie Uguay's *Journal*. Recent UMaine graduates Adam Ray Wagner (MA in Poetry and Poetics) and Savannah Butler (BA in English) are currently pursuing MFAs at Boise State.
UMAINE HUMANITIES 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.”

Susan Pinette, director of Franco American Programs and the Franco American Centre, was interviewed by The Canadian Press for a story about the future of the French language in Maine. “The community is changing and that's a good thing,” she said. "We don't want (to be) a museum piece of something that's stuck in the past.”

The Portland Press Herald interviewed Warren Riess, associate research professor Emeritus from the History Department, regarding maritime laws surrounding a sunken vessel found near Southwest Harbor. “Maritime laws over salvaging sunken ships were created to help the original and rightful owners, said marine archaeologist,” said Riess.

Mark Brewer, professor and chair of the University of Maine Department of Political Science, was interviewed by Nebraska Public Media and Harvest Public Media, a collection of public radio stations in the Midwest, on how the split electoral vote encourages Republican politicians to campaign in Maine even though Democratic politicians have won the popular vote every election since 1992. “George W. Bush campaigned in Maine to try to grab a vote. Trump went out of his way to come to a site in Maine’s second congressional,” said Brewer. “And he wouldn't have done that if there wasn't a split electoral college vote.”

UMaine media historian and former MHC director Michael Socolow also appeared on WNYC's "On the Media" radio program about the history of the revolving door between politics and journalism; what should disqualify a political operative from working in journalism; and the contemporary hunger for partisan news.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HUMANITIES

Boston Athenaeum Fellowships
https://bostonathenaeum.org/explore-learn/education/fellowships/
Deadline: April 15
The Boston Athenæum offers short-term fellowships to support the use of Athenæum collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects. Each fellowship pays a stipend for a residency of twenty days (four weeks) and includes a year’s membership to the Boston Athenæum. Scholars, graduate students, independent scholars, teaching faculty, and professionals in the humanities as well as teachers and librarians in secondary public, private, and parochial schools are eligible.

National Endowment for the Humanities
https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/fellowships
Deadline: April 10
NEH Fellowships are competitive awards granted to individual scholars pursuing projects that embody exceptional research, rigorous analysis, and clear writing. Applications must clearly articulate a project’s value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both.

National Library of Australia Fellowships
Deadline: May 6
The National Library of Australia offers researchers an opportunity to undertake a twelve-week residency at the library to work in any field or discipline where the Library’s collections have appropriate depth and breadth to support the desired outcomes. Fellowships are available to researchers who require onsite access to the Library’s collections to advance research at any stage towards publication or other public outcomes. Funded fellowships include a weekly stipend, accommodation support, and reimbursement of travel expenses.

Whiting Foundation Creative Non-fiction Grant
https://www.whiting.org/writers/creative-nonfiction-grant/about
Deadline: April 23
The 2024 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant of $40,000 will be awarded to as many as ten writers in the process of completing a book-length work of deeply researched and imaginatively composed nonfiction for a general readership.

University of Maine Office of Research Development Funding Opportunities Website

The University of Maine Office of Research Development maintains a regularly-updated grant funding opportunity website:

https://sites.google.com/a/ maine.edu/funding-opportunities/?pli=1
Please note: this website is internal to the UMaine research community, and updated weekly with a curated list of grant solicitations. The site also contains instructions on how individuals can access PIVOT, UMaine’s subscription grant-seeking database, to customize searches based on individual research and scholarship interests.

Bookmark the page so that you can easily check each week for new relevant opportunities!

Check out the MHC Speakers Bureau

The Faculty Advisory Group of the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center represents 16 departments and units at UMaine with expertise in the humanities and the humanistically oriented social sciences.

In order to make our work better known to the general public, advisory group members welcome media inquiries on topics relevant to their expertise, and are excited to share their work in public lectures with organizations throughout the State of Maine without a fee.

For more information about the MHC Speakers Bureau program and for a list of speakers and their areas of expertise, visit our Speakers Bureau page.

Help Support the Center’s Mission
In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine System does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, familial status, ancestry, age, disability physical or mental, genetic information, or veterans or military status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Director of Equal Opportunity, 5713 Chadbourne Hall, Room 412, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469-5754, 207.581.1226, TTY 711 (Maine Relay System)