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McGillicuddy Humanities Center May Newsletter

1 message

MHC <mhc@maine.edu>
Reply-To: MHC <mhc@maine.edu>
To:

Wed, May 1, 2024 at 1:29 PM

MCGILLICUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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MCGILLICUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is the last "Message" in my role as Director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. It's been a wonderful two years in the position, and there are many people to thank for making these years possible.

First, I'd like to thank Michael Socolow for essentially overlapping with me at the beginning of my term. It was his idea to have [Heather Cox Richardson](#) featured at the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester, as the final celebration of the MHC's 10 year anniversary. This event led us to work with the Collins Center for the Arts on more projects, with film screenings, research presentations, regular pre-event talks in the Bodwell Lounge, and the Rhiannon Giddens events last September. So, a big thank you to the CCA Director Danny Williams. I will always remember preparing the Rhiannon Giddens' venues with you.

The two sets of advisors for the Center have also been a huge help, with both the short-term analysis of our work, and the long-term planning. Tim Garrity became the Chair of our Board of Advisors as I started as Director, and has been a great leader and a regular presence at all of our events, as have the other BOA members. Our humanities Faculty Advisory Group does important work in selecting our student Fellows and reviewing funding requests from UMaine faculty and staff several times a year. Both groups help the Center engage with communities on and off campus to promote the humanities and the work UMaine offers in these disciplines.

Dean Emily Haddad and University of Maine Foundation Associate Director Matt Mullen have been invaluable to the Center, in ways too numerous to count. Humanities Specialist Brian Jansen was relatively new to the MHC when I began my term. He is the main collaborator with the Center's Director at all times, and is directly responsible for supporting the student Fellows through their challenges and successes. He has been a tremendous help on all fronts, and cheerfully reminds me of things that I should remember on a daily basis.

Lastly, I will thank Clement and Linda McGillicuddy, whose support is the Center's mainstay. They have been engaged with the MHC's long-term plans, offering their wisdom as well as their continued financial support, and I thank them profusely.

As of July 1, 2024, Zach Ludington, associate professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics here at UMaine, will take over as Director of the MHC. Around the same time, those of you on our mailing list should begin to receive our 2024 annual report, which will feature many of the things that Brian has showcased in these newsletters, along with more details on the funding for students and faculty provided this year. We will also be updating our YouTube page to show some of our Fellows' final presentations, and getting some of our Fall Symposium events finalized for next year's theme, "From Talkies to TikTok: 100 Years of Audiovisual Storytelling." I anticipate that next year will be a busy one for the Center.

Wishing you a great summer.

Sincerely,



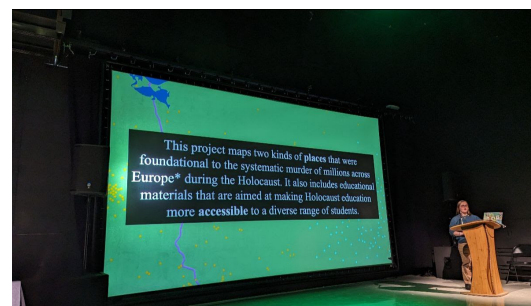
Beth Wiemann

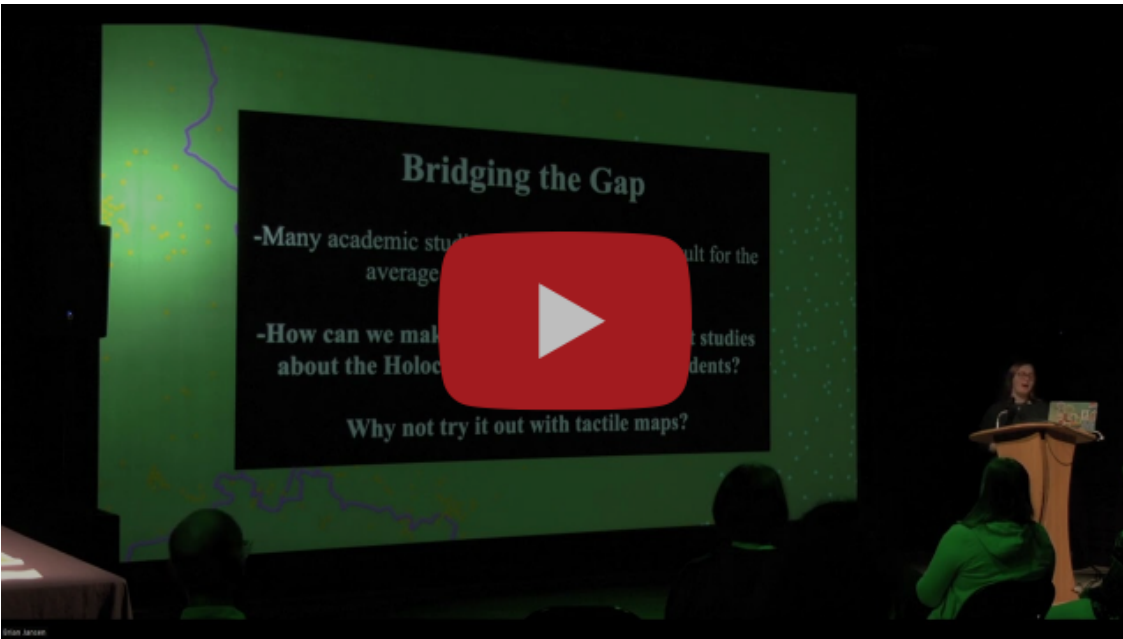
[Image: "Student on Library Steps in the Sun" by Ron Lisnet for the University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications]

MCGILLICUDDY HUMANITIES CENTER NEWS



On Wednesday, April 24, **Katie Ritchie**, the Sandra Merrill Peters and John G. Peters Fellow delivered a talk about her MHC project, "Mapping Education: Using Maps to Teach the Holocaust." Ritchie, who will graduate from UMaine this year with a double major in history and education and who will be pursuing a Master's degree in history from Dalhousie University in Halifax, spoke about her project designing and manufacturing a tactile map of sites related to the Holocaust for use in high school classrooms. You can watch her presentation embedded below.





Loehr Explores Appalachia in Fellows Talk



On **Friday, April 19**, outgoing MHC Undergraduate Fellow **Iris Loehr**, an English major in the Honors College, presented 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. [You can watch Iris's presentation here.](#) In the Fall, Loehr will be beginning an MFA in creative writing at the University of Tennessee.



MHC Awards Spring '24 Faculty Grants

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center notified faculty recipients of its funding decisions for the Spring 2024 Faculty Research Awards cycle. MHC Faculty Grants provide up to \$5,000 to UMaine faculty (including lecturers and adjunct instructors) for financial support of research, community engagement, or innovative teaching proposals. This year's recipients were:



Anthony Sutton, assistant professor of Native American studies and food systems, was awarded an MHC faculty grant for the project "Building Campus Culture with Wabanaki Values." Sutton will use MHC funding to aid in programming related to Native American Heritage month in November 2024, including drum groups and a community meal to highlight Wabanaki growers that will take place during the flag raising that marks the beginning of Native American Heritage month observations.

Dan Sandweiss, professor of anthropology and climate studies, has received an MHC grant for a translation project on "The History and Archaeology of El Niño in Peru." The Center will support the translation into Spanish of a series of scholarly articles stemming from a previous [2021 MHC grant](#) that documented (and translated into English) the first recorded accounts of an El Niño event in Peru, in 1578.





Laura Artesani, professor in the School of Performing Arts Division of Music, will use an MHC faculty grant to support travel to and performance at the Northeast Regional Tuba Euphonium conference. The conference will be held at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA on May 24/25, 2024. Artesani will be joined by David Stern, the tuba and euphonium instructor in the School of Performing Arts, a past collaborator on several occasions, most recently at a faculty recital this past January.

A Sneak Peek at our Incoming MHC Fellows

The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellowship is the flagship program of the MHC, offering a select group of talented juniors and seniors the opportunity to spend two semesters working independently on a humanities-based project under the supervision of a UMaine faculty member. Fellows receive \$8,000 and, while working on their projects, attend meetings, collaborate and build relationships with their cohort, participate in interdisciplinary humanities programs, and act as student representatives of the humanities on campus and in the community.

We'll introduce our new set of Fellows in more depth as we return to campus in the Fall, but for now, here's a sneak preview!

The incoming fellows include:

1. **Rehannah Baksh** (Queens, NY), whose project "Dignity and The Dancer" proposes to choreograph a dance piece devoted to the live narration of scholar Ranjana Khanna's 2007 article "Indignity", which argues for a radical reassessment of the category of dignity as the basis for the human or humanity.
2. **Obie Casperson** (Fort Collins, CO), an anthropology major whose project "Explorations of Local Distinctiveness in Cyprus Amidst Effects of Mediterranean Urbanization and Globalization" seeks to document local distinctiveness in the Mediterranean city of Nicosia and evaluate the impact of 21st century contemporary urbanization and globalization.
3. **Kyra Pederson** (Brainerd, MN), a philosophy major whose proposal, "Packing the Wound: A Phenomenological Account of Grief Objects," asks what fills the space that loss creates, and why must that space be necessarily occupied?
4. **Neil Rockey** (Chicago, IL), an international affairs major, whose project "Balancing the Scales: Developing Ethical Guidelines for AI's Role in Life-and-Death Decisions," considers examine the environments in which artificial intelligence (AI) is, or will be, involved in making critical life-and-death decisions.



Congratulations to former McGillicuddy Humanities Center undergraduate fellow **Luke Miller** (Fall '21/Spring '22), who was recently elected to the Board of Health in his hometown of Tewksbury, Massachusetts.



MHC undergraduate fellows past and present are well-represented among the University of Maine's outstanding graduating seniors this year. Current Fellow **Chappy Hall** (left) was named Outstanding Graduating Senior in the Honors College; Fall '22/Spring '23 Fellow **Paige McHatten** was named Outstanding Graduating Senior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A number of MHC fellows were also recognized by their home departments: **Chappy Hall** received the Senior Recognition Award for the Department of History, while former Fellow **Brenna Jones** was recognized as the Outstanding Graduating Senior in the Department of Sociology. Outgoing fellow **Sarah Renee Ozlanski** was named a James S. Stevens Outstanding Junior.



Sarah Harlan-Haughey, professor in the UMaine Department of English, is the 2024 recipient of the Wickham Skinner "Making Things Better" Award, established to be awarded each year to recognize a faculty member whose recently scholarly accomplishments have contributed substantially to the humanities. The Wickham Skinner Award was named for and honors Harvard Business School professor and philanthropist, the late C. Wickham Skinner. Harlan-Haughey, the author of two books, is a medievalist with an interest in literature and the environment who writes about outlaws, landscape, and memory.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 MFA Thesis Exhibition

**CHARLES ADJAYE | JESSY BRAINERD | AUGUSTA SPARKS FARNUM
LUKE MCKINNEY | ALEX ROSE | AMANDA ROSE | MERRILEE SCHOEN**

Lord Hall Gallery, May 17–July 12, 2024
Opening Reception May 17, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. The University of Maine recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot Nation, where issues of water and territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing.

1865 THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

INTERMEDIA

Proximity, this year's Intermedia MFA thesis exhibition, opens Friday, May 17. Please join us for the opening reception from 5-7:00 p.m. at Lord Hall Gallery. The exhibition runs May 17 – July 12.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
JUDAIC STUDIES

presents

Silent Voices Remembered

A Yom HaShoah Commemoration Concert of Holocaust Memorial Trios



Carborundum etching "Trio" by WPA-era American artist Hilda Husik

THE ESSEX PIANO TRIO

A CONVERSATION AMONG FRIENDS

Ashley Offret, *violin* • David Cabral, *cello* • Beverly Soll, *piano*

Although the subject is dark, the music is gorgeous, representing the work of five composers including Dimitri Shostakovich. While mourning the atrocities of genocide — as only art can — this concert celebrates the courage and resilience of those who survive and recognizes the tragic loss of all people targeted by senseless hate and violence.

Sunday • May 5, 2024 • 3:00 p.m.

Minsky Recital Hall

University of Maine • Orono, ME

The **Judaic Studies** program is hosting a concert by the Essex Piano Trio to mark Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day). The event, called "Silent Voices Remembered," is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on May 5 at Minsky Recital Hall.

This concert will explore the music of five composers dating from the 1940s to the present. Although the subject is dark, the music is gorgeous, and Essex Piano Trio believes audiences will be inspired by this remembrance, which, while portraying and mourning the atrocities of this genocide, also — as only art can — celebrates the courage and resilience of those who survived and expresses hope for the future of the Jewish people and others targeted by hatred and violence.

Essex Piano Trio is made up of David Cabral on cello, Beverly Soll on piano, and UMaine alum Ashley

Offret on violin. Admission to the concert is free and open to the public, thanks to the generous support of the JCEA.

2024 ATLANTIC CANADA STUDIES CONFERENCE

THE NEW ACADIENSIS SCHOOL



From May 9-11, 2024, the University of Maine will be hosting the **Atlantic Canada Studies Conference**, a biannual conference focused on history and society in Atlantic Canada. Dr. Mark McLaughlin, associate professor of history and Canadian studies, is the key organizer of this event. Over 90 participants will come to the University of Maine to present their work and engage in discussions. The event is supported in part by the University of Maine Canadian-American Center. For more information, visit <https://umaine.edu/canam/acs2024/>.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE HUMANITIES NEWS



Newsom, UMaine students and Wabanaki partners aid effort to protect Acadia's Indigenous archaeological sites from climate change

Along the rocky shores of Acadia National Park are 24 known archaeological sites that preserve the history and heritage of Wabanaki people. Many of the sites house pottery sherds, tools, animal bones and other artifacts that showcase ancient Indigenous culture from a bygone age.

Sea level rise, flooding and storms are eroding these sacred and culturally significant places.

The National Park Service (NPS) is launching a new effort to protect Wabanaki archaeological sites in Acadia from climate change using Indigenous and western knowledge and recruited UMaine anthropologist Bonnie Newsom and archaeology Ph.D. students to help.

[Read more . . .](#)



Among the 41 UMaine faculty receiving tenure and/or promotion this spring semester were **Sarah Harlan-Haughey** (English, full professor), **Hao Hong** (philosophy/honors, associate professor), **Rob Ballingall** (political science, associate professor), and **Kathryn Swacha** (English, associate professor). **Derek Michaud**, director of Judaic Studies and religious studies, received promotion to senior lecturer with just-cause protection.



Nicholas Micinski, a University of Maine assistant professor of political science and international affairs, wrote an article published by [The Conversation](#) titled “EU migration overhaul stresses fast-track deportations and limited appeal rights for asylum seekers.” Micinski’s article explores governmental responses to issues relating to refugees in Europe. [Metropolitan-Barcelona](#) shared the article.

Rosalie Purvis, Libra Assistant Professor of English and Theatre, has published an article in *PARtake: The Journal of Performance As Research*. "[Root Map: Embracing the Border as Method](#)," discusses her collaboration with the Kolkata based Arts Collective Chaepani, whose work centers around topics of migration and crossing cultural barriers, and argues that we must embrace performative realities that emerge from the rhythms of migration, diaspora and border spaces.





Professor emerita of political science **Amy Fried** was recently named president of the New England Political Science Association. Fried is the third University of Maine professor to hold the office in the 75-year history of the organization; Gene Mahwinney and Matt Moen are the previous two. NEPSA presidents serve a one-year term.

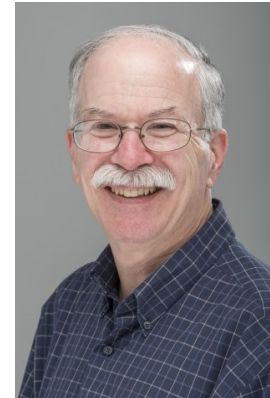


As part of Maine Impact Week in April, UMaine faculty members **Hollie Adams** (English), **Carlos Villacorta** (Modern Languages and Classics), and **Rob Glover** (Political Science/Honors) were honored with 2024 Faculty Mentor Impact Awards. These awards recognize exceptional faculty mentors who have made an important impact on their students. Each year, the Office of the Vice President of Research and the Dean of the Graduate School solicits nominations for outstanding faculty mentors from undergraduate and graduate students.



Robert Glover, associate professor of political science and honors, has received the University of Maine's Presidential Public Engagement Achievement Award. Glover has dedicated his career to empowering students and fellow researchers to engage in the democratic process. Through his work, he has brought actionable policy insights to political leaders and mentored UMaine students on how to become political changemakers. Since 2016, Glover has co-led UMaine UVote, a nonpartisan student voting effort to encourage voter registration, educate young voters and bolster election turnout.

Professor emeritus of **sociology Stephan Barkan** recently co-authored an op-ed that appeared on CNN's Opinion page. Barkan's co-author was **Michael Rocque**, associate professor of sociology at Bates College and a UMaine alum (BA '05). The op-ed "[5 reasons why immigrants aren't bringing higher crime, as Trump claims](#)" argues that, "Based on many studies from the past two decades, the answer here is clear: Immigration does not produce more violence or other crime, and immigrants do not have higher crime rates than native-born Americans. Much research even suggests that immigration reduces crime rates and that immigrants are less likely than native-born Americans to commit crime."



Darren Ranco, professor of anthropology and chair of Native American Programs at the University of Maine, wrote an opinion piece for the [Bangor Daily News](#) titled "Wabanaki stewardship of the land benefits all." Ranco wrote about recent collaborations between Indigenous communities and conservation groups, including several in Maine with which he is involved. He said land return, repatriation and conservation work intersects with the issues impacting the well-being and cultures of Indigenous nations, including those of environmental, climate, health and economic justice and food sovereignty.

[Everyday Shakespeare](#), the podcast co-hosted by Stephen E. King Chair in Literature **Caroline Bicks**, was honored for Best Live Podcast Recording in the 28th Annual Webby Awards. Hailed as "the Internet's highest honor" by the New York Times, [The Webby Awards](#), presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, is the leading international awards organization honoring excellence on the Internet. "Honorees like Caroline Bicks and [co-host] Michelle Ephraim are setting the standard for innovation and creativity on the Internet," said Claire Graves, President of the Webby Awards.



UMAINE HUMANITIES IN THE NEWS

Michael Socolow, professor in the **Department 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.

[The Boston Globe](#) interviewed **Mark Brewer**, professor and chair of the **Department of Political Science**, who said Mainers like the current situation with the 2024 presidential election campaign because of all the attention the state is receiving. Brewer noted that Maine has also been a campaigning destination in past presidential elections.

Associate professor in the **Department 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.

[Maine Public](#) featured **Rob Glover**, University of Maine associate professor of political science and honors, as a panelist on the Friday, April 19, segment of "Maine Calling." The show traced the philosophical roots of "social contracts" and examined how people today view their obligation toward other human beings.

University of Maine professor of sociology **Amy Blackstone** was interviewed by [Women's Health Magazine](#) on the social constructs of motherhood and the generational movement of women choosing to remain childfree. "We tend to think of motherhood as a natural part of being a woman," said Blackstone. "Gen Z has insisted on disentangling the connection openly and without apology, but it persists because it's so deeply embedded in many of our social institutions." She added that religion, economy and the institution of family depend on the connection between women and motherhood, and that people tend to have negative thoughts regarding women who decide to not have children.



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](#).

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Any questions? Contact brian.jansen@maine.edu or mhc@maine.edu.



[Forward to a friend](#)

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