

CLEMENT AND LINDA MCGILLICUDDY  
HUMANITIES CENTER

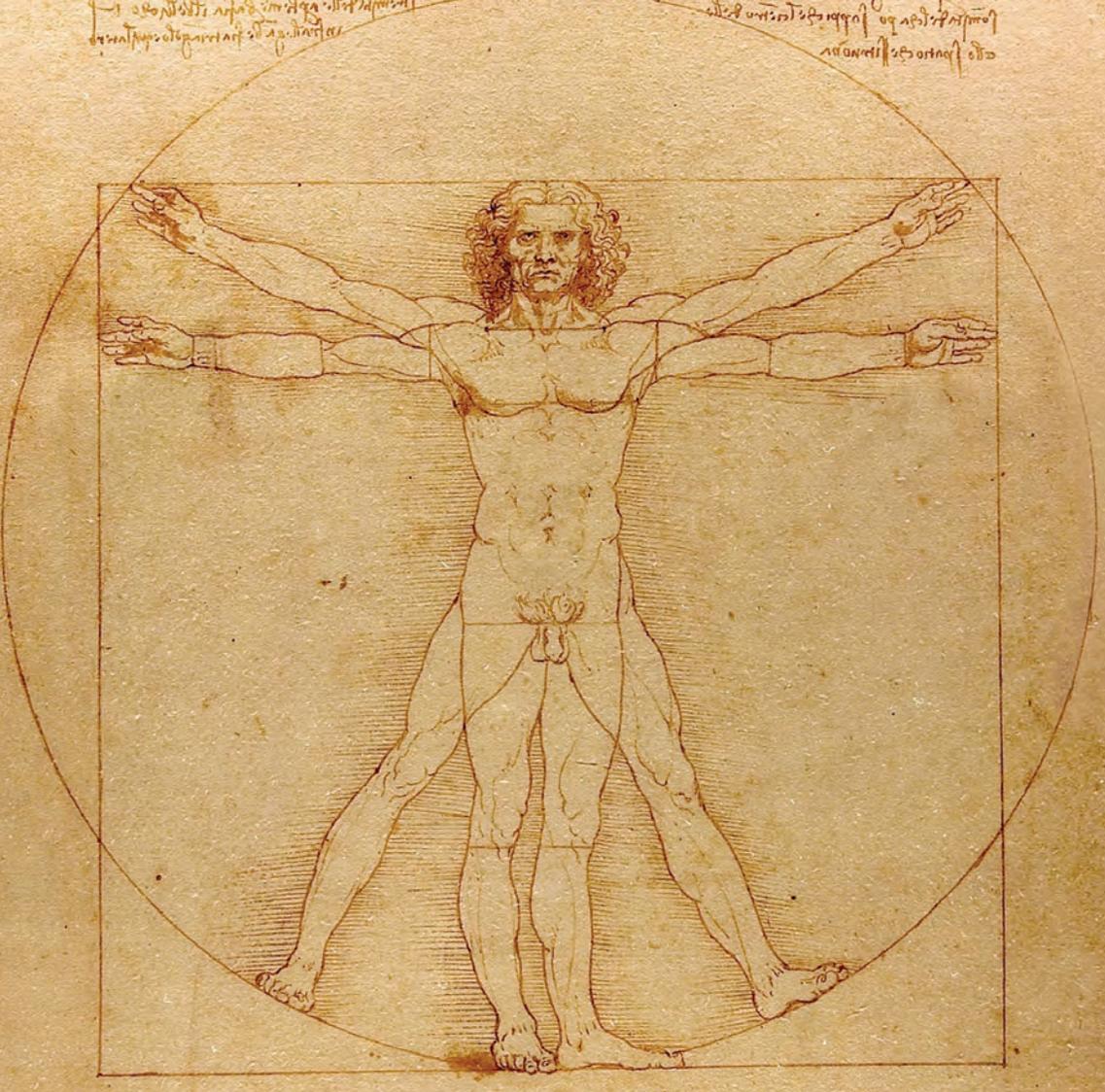


THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MAINE**

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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"Vitruvian Man" by Leonardo da Vinci

Cover image: Sculpture along the Penobscot River, Old Town, Maine. "All Along the Watchtower" by artist Ton Kalle

## CLEMENT AND LINDA MCGILlicuddy HUMANITIES CENTER 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center's mission is to demonstrate the immediacy and applicability of humanities studies by advancing teaching, research and public engagement in the humanities in Maine. It supports programs that foster intellectual curiosity, critical reflection, and creative innovation.

Central to the Center's work is the belief that study of the humanities cultivates compassion across differences, develops empathy, and, in addition to providing a sound training in critical thinking, develops the emotional and intellectual agility needed to brilliantly navigate an increasingly interconnected and complex global landscape.

The Center serves as a locus for humanities research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and meaningful conversations among scholars, artists, students and the public through the support of lectures, symposia, panels, performances, and exhibitions, as well as individual and collaborative research of students and faculty.

As the humanities constitute not only a cluster of disciplines, but an entire stance toward lifelong learning, the Center also seeks to enrich the experience of humanities education both within and beyond the borders of the public university, from K-12 students to Maine's thriving community of senior citizens.



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ADVANCING RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES, LINKING SCHOLARS  
TO ONE ANOTHER AND THE BROADER MAINE COMMUNITY



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center at the University of Maine plays a central role in educating the public about the humanities—yet another key embodiment of our land grant tradition. I continue to be impressed by the MHC’s leadership, vision and advocacy. Its mission, “to promote the cultivation of cultural knowledge, intellectual curiosity, and critical and creative reflection,” is even more relevant now in these unprecedented times as we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. A few weeks ago I would have written a very different message, but as I reflect on our response to the coronavirus crisis, I want to comment in this space on how amazed I am by the many creative, innovative and generous efforts of this university community, and its impact locally, regionally, nationally and beyond.

The new ways of interacting, communicating and being that society is now constructing provide a rich context for humanities scholars. Interdisciplinary and convergence approaches will be needed to build understandings of who—and how—we are as a society in this time and in the future. The circumstances of the pandemic also drive us to examine how our decisions now and in the coming months will mold the future for our students as they utilize their learning and research experiences to influence the world. I envision that the McGillicuddy Humanities Center will play an important role in bringing scholars and students together to explore the emerging topics, frame new issues and ways of looking at the world, and educate the broader public through the work of its researchers. We all look forward to learning more through the symposia and lectures that the Center will provide.

Internationally renowned scholar and American philosopher Martha Nussbaum said, “Courses in the humanities, in particular, often seem impractical, but they are vital, because they stretch your imagination and challenge your mind to become more responsive, more critical, bigger.” At UMaine, the work of those in the MHC continues to take us all forward into new understandings and interpretations of our work, to expand our awareness of the vitality of the humanities, and to push us to “stretch our imagination.”

I am excited about the outstanding work of the MHC as cultural staple and catalyst for the University of Maine, the state and beyond. I look forward with great anticipation to what it will bring to us.

Sincerely,

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President







Margo Lukens  
Director, McGillicuddy Humanities Center

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The academic year 2019-2020 was particularly eventful and challenging because of the COVID-19 pandemic; the shift in spring 2020 from in-person to virtual and remote work has called for creativity, patience, and courage.

I have seen these qualities particularly in our undergraduate fellows, who have taken “lemons”—dislocation, inconvenience, and canceled events—and made lemonade. In spite of everything, at the end of two semesters these dedicated students are completing their fellowship research projects and creating digital presentations of their projects. You will find links to their podcasts and slide lectures on our webpage. I deeply respect and admire the curiosity and joy with which the fellows have pursued their interests, and feel sure we are doing the right thing in supporting them generously.

Clement and Linda McGillicuddy’s vision to enhance undergraduate humanities experience at UMaine has set us apart from most other institutions in the country. Because of their support, our undergraduate fellows have world-class research experiences in the humanities, from pursuing the history of mathematical literacy through a particular 18th century geometry text, to exploring media representations of social justice efforts by marginalized American communities. With six fellows in spring 2020, we are on track to support seven in the fall and to achieve our full complement of eight McGillicuddy Undergraduate Fellows in spring 2021.

After our first full-time humanities specialist moved on, I was fortunate to hire Karen Sieber in July 2019. Karen came to us with an MA in Public History and additional expertise in grant proposal writing, of great value as we apply for grants to support UMaine’s work assisting Maine K-12 teachers teaching Wabanaki culture and history. A digital historian, Karen is planning a course introducing students to digital humanities tools, platforms, and best practices to enhance humanities research.

In fall 2019 we began our academic year symposium “Society, Colonization, and Decolonization” with a full schedule, including a film series on the cinema of decolonization. Events included a lecture by Bancroft History Prize winner, Lisa Brooks, on her book *Our Beloved Kin*, and a performance of “The Oreo Effect” by solo comedian Aydrea Walden. “Human Beans,” a series of public suppers based on a different culture’s bean recipe each week—Maine, New Mexico, Brazil, and Cuba—served up a helping of humanities knowledge at each event.

In early spring 2020 we inaugurated Humanities 2020 Visions, an annual campus research exposition. Held at Buchanan Alumni Center, the event invited campus and community members to learn, through performance, poster session, and PechaKucha-style slide lectures, about the work of student and faculty researchers in the humanities.

As my term directing the McGillicuddy Humanities Center comes to its end this summer, I reflect with gratitude upon the creativity and freedom I’ve experienced in the these two short years. The invitation to bring my own passions to bear in service of raising the profile of the humanities has been both irresistible and fulfilling, and I have really enjoyed working with our visionary Board of Advisors. I am at work on the transition with my successor, Michael Socolow, Professor in Communication and Journalism, who returns from a sabbatical in Australia to lead the Center. Mike is a career journalist with a PhD in History and influential networks beyond campus. He is well-situated to guide the Center into next year’s exploration of “The Story of Climate Change.”



Margo Lukens  
Director, McGillicuddy Humanities Center  
Professor of English



# SOCIETY, COLONIZATION, AND DECOLONIZATION



MCGILlicuddy HUMANITIES CENTER 2019-2020 SYMPOSIUM  
"SOCIETY, COLONIZATION, AND DECOLONIZATION."  
LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ORGANIZE, PARTICIPATE  
AND ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS IN  
PUBLIC-FACING EVENTS AT UMAINE AND BEYOND.

## **MHC 2019-2020 Annual Symposium "Society, Colonization, and Decolonization"**

Every year the McGillicuddy Humanities Center organizes a series of symposium events related to a central theme, which for the 2019-20 academic year was "Society, Colonization and Decolonization." From guest lecturers to a film series to community suppers, the MHC planned and sponsored events that explored the complicated global legacy of colonization, and the ways in which the humanities can use decolonial tactics to address and critique the perceived universality and superiority of Western knowledge and culture. Following is a sampling of symposium events from the last year.

## The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright

Ann M. Little, Professor of History at Colorado State University, gave a lecture on October 3, 2019 on “The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright: Communities of Women in the Northeast Borderlands.” She spoke about her methodology in writing about a person with little traditional historical evidence to document her life, and the connections and continuities she forged across linguistic, religious, and cultural borders in the eighteenth-century northeast. Little’s 2016 book of the same title won the biennial Corey Prize for the best book in Canadian-U.S. history.

## Indigenous Shakespeares



Visiting Libra Professor Madeline Sayet (Mohegan) is an award winning stage director, the Executive Director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program, a TED Fellow, and was named one of *Forbes* “30 Under 30 in Hollywood &

Entertainment” in 2018. She received critical acclaim for her solo show *Where We Belong* at the Globe Theatre in London. On October 17, 2019 in the Fernald APPE space in the IMRC, Sayet discussed the historical relationship between Native peoples and Shakespearean performance, and how Native artists have used Shakespearean productions as a tool to reclaim their voices and empower the Native Theater movement.

## Mary and Molly: In the Spirit of the Ancestors

On November 16 the MHC sponsored a production of *Mary and Molly: In the Spirit of the Ancestors, a Birthday to Remember* at the Bangor Public Library. The play, written by Penobscot tribal leader and author Donna M. Loring, was directed by William S. Yellow Robe, Jr. The story, set in Bangor, follows a young woman’s struggle to discover and embrace her full heritage, which is both Penobscot and African American.

## Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War

Abenaki historian and literary scholar Lisa Brooks spoke on November 7, 2019 in Arthur St. John Hill Auditorium in Barrows Hall to a packed house. Brooks, a professor of English and American studies at Amherst College who specializes in the history of Native American and European interactions from the American colonial period to the present, is the author of the recent Bancroft prize-winning book, *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War*. Professor Brooks also visited with graduate and undergraduate classes currently studying her book.

## The Oreo Experience

Aydra Walden, a writer for DreamWorks, Disney, and Nickelodeon and a well-known figure in the LA stand-up circuit, visited the University of Maine in December for two events, cosponsored by UMaine’s Rising Tide Center, the department of Journalism, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, and the Honors College. On December 9 she performed her musical one-woman show *The Oreo Experience*, about living as a Black woman in white America. The following day she screened for students her award-winning web series *Black Girl in a Big Dress*, which touches on her experience as an African American anglophile cosplayer in love with the Victorian Era.

## The Cinema of Colonization and Decolonization

New this academic year for the MHC symposium was an ongoing film series, “The Cinema of Colonization and Decolonization.” The global films in the series included selections from Senegal, Canada, Argentina, Mali and the United States, and featured a variety of filming styles, including documentary, ethnographic, and outsider films, as well as big studio productions. The films, held in Hill Auditorium in Barrows Hall, examined colonialism, racism and post-colonial identity, as well as the decolonization of the film industry itself. Included in this year’s series were the movies *Zama* (2017), *Before Tomorrow* (2008), *Carol* (2015), *Within Our Gates* (1920), and *La noire de...* (1966).



Student volunteers serve community members at a Human Beans supper in November.

## Human Beans Community Supper Series

Throughout the fall semester, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center held a series of free public bean suppers as part of our annual symposium theme of “Society, Colonization and Decolonization.” These events allowed the Center not only to discuss the legacy of colonialism, but also highlight how food is a window to understanding the similarities and differences between different cultures.

The suppers were held at the Church of Universal Fellowship in Orono, and were cooked by volunteers from the community, with help from UMaine students. Each of the suppers featured a different cultural identity and bean recipe, including Franco-American bean-hole beans with brown bread, U.S. Southwestern-style beans with red & green chiles, Cuban bean chili, Brazilian black beans, and a final potluck supper to which people were invited to contribute their own bean recipes.

Each evening also included a brief presentation by a local specialist, including historians, farmers, and groups working on food security issues, to touch on the process by which the beans and the recipes arrived in the Americas, and to delve into the human dimension of beans.

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center has plans to continue the series in the future, offering bean suppers in locations across the state, and expanding into the summer months.



Human Beans supper



# Bangor Humanities Day

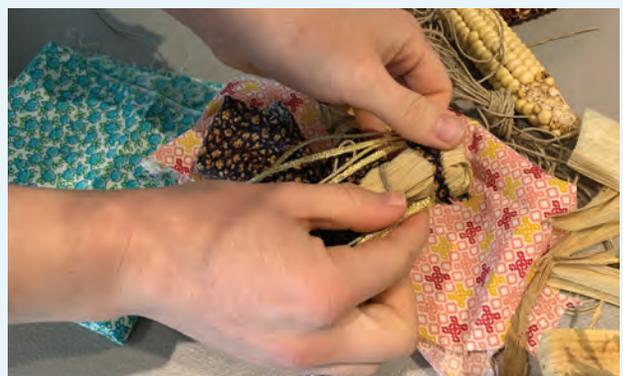
The 8th Annual Bangor Humanities Day was held on February 1, 2020. A city-wide celebration of music, art, history, literature and other humanities disciplines, the day’s events featured over fifteen hours of programming at venues throughout downtown Bangor.

The free public event kicked off at Bangor Public Library with live music by UMaine’s all-treble a cappella group Renaissance, followed by presentations by humanities students from Bangor area high schools. Penobscot Nation member Ann Pollard-Ranco also led a morning demonstration on traditional corn husk doll making.

UMaine professor of philosophy Doug Allen presented a midday keynote lecture, “The Decline and Potential for the Renewal of the Humanities: Scientific Reductionism and Gandhi-informed Humanities Research.” The afternoon also featured an improv workshop with Stan Wells (The Groundlings) and presentations by Matt Bishop, curator of the Bangor Historical Society, and Shawn Laatsch from Emera Astronomy Center, who spoke on “Cultural Astronomy: Human Uses of the Sky.”

The evening began with a reception and gallery tour at the University of Maine Museum of Art, led by museum director and curator George Kinghorn. The celebration moved to Bangor Arts Exchange for a poetry reading curated by Norumbega Collective 2.0. We capped off the evening in the festive BAE Ballroom with an improv comedy show by local improv group Unredacted.

Scenes from Bangor Humanities Day 2020, top, Humanities Day poster; middle: UMaine’s a capella group Renaissance performs at Bangor Public Library, Professor Doug Allen gives the day’s keynote address; bottom: community member Anne Pollard Ranco leads a Wabanaki corn husk doll-making workshop at Maine Discovery Museum.



# 2020 Visions: The Humanities at UMaine

While the MHC has organized Bangor Humanities Day over the past number of years to promote the strength of cultural institutions and creative endeavors from across the greater Bangor area, we wanted to expand our efforts this year to celebrate the strength of the humanities on campus. On January 31 the MHC sponsored a showcase of current research and creative projects in the humanities, “2020 Visions: The Humanities at UMaine” held at Buchanan Alumni House.

“The humanities are an evolving, creative, forward-thinking group of disciplines that train people to better understand the world and each other,” says MHC’s humanities specialist Karen Sieber. “By highlighting the work of scholars from over a dozen different disciplines on campus, the innovative, groundbreaking work being done in the humanities on campus was foregrounded.”

The afternoon began with a poster session, digital project display and networking reception. Students and faculty from diverse humanities fields were on hand to talk about their research. Among the presenters were MHC undergraduate fellow Matthew Ryckman, who discussed his research related to book history during the transatlantic 18th-century world, using a 1732 edition of *Euclid’s Elements* by Isaac Barrow. UMaine student Nolan Altvater presented on a university collaboration with tribal members examining how Western science and traditional Wabanaki ecological knowledge can work together to promote the sustainability of natural resources and Wabanaki sovereignty.

Professor Anne Knowles and students from the History Department showcased their work on *Holocaust Ghettos*, a study of the spatial and temporal patterns of ghettoization in relation to individuals’ experiences, and Professor Susan Pinette and Jacob

Albert of the Franco American Studies Program also highlighted their *Franco American Portal Project*. Digital humanities research like these efforts are representative of the future of the humanities.

Students from the School of Performing Arts Opera Workshop, Erin Farrell, Zachary Fisher, and Kayla Gayton, performed for a packed audience, led by voice instructor Isaac Bray and accompanied on piano by Clayton W. Smith.

The highlight of the afternoon’s celebration was a fast-paced slideshow featuring faculty research in the humanities. Among the presenters: Liam Riordan, history, “Maine Statehood and Bicentennial Commemoration”; Zachary Ludington, modern languages and classics, “On and Off the Clock: How Avant-Garde Poetry Can Teach Us What It Means to be Modern”; and Carlos Villacorta-Gonzales, modern languages and classics, *Cuentos de ida y vuelta: 17 narradores peruanos en Estados Unidos*, his recently published anthology of Peruvian writers living in the United States.

The day’s events drew attention to the diverse interdisciplinary expertise and interests of UMaine faculty and staff involved in research and teaching on campus, and outward-facing humanities work. The afternoon also familiarized the public with the many roles of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center—from student fellowships and faculty grants to campus lectures, performances and community outreach. MHC’s director, Professor Margo Lukens, plans for the campus humanities showcase to become an annual event. “It’s my hope that UMaine faculty can continue to engage in broadly interdisciplinary work, especially as we pivot toward our thematic symposium on ‘The Story of Climate Change’ for academic year 2020–2021,” Lukens says.



Fall 2019-Spring 2020 Fellows (left to right): Sarah Penney, Matthew Ryckman, and Noah Loveless

## The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Undergraduate Fellows

The fellows program offers junior and senior humanities students the support needed to concentrate on their coursework and develop humanities research projects, work collaboratively with a select group of peers, participate in interdisciplinary humanities programs, and gain professional skills. Fellows are awarded \$4,000 per semester for two consecutive semesters to work on their humanities projects.

Fellows attend, help plan, and promote the Center's various programs, which puts them in new and meaningful contact with peers, faculty, and the public. Fellows also act as student ambassadors of the Center's mission, both on campus and in communities beyond.

At the culmination of their research, Fellows are required to share their findings or creative works with a public audience.



## Connor Ferguson Senior English major

Fifth year student Connor Ferguson is an Iowa native and an English major with an emphasis in literary analysis and a minor in creative writing.

His research hopes to “revive queer authors in the literary canon, primarily Modernist Era authors,” he says, “because that’s where erasure of queer identity becomes prevalent. We seem to privilege people with mainstream identities, but if we’re looking to place literature in a socio-cultural perspective, we need to include queer people as well. I think it’s important to understand the place of sexuality in influencing literature.”

Prior to graduating in December of 2019, Connor led a discussion on “Queering the Fin de Siècle,” at UMaine’s Writing Center, focusing on Virginia Woolf’s novels and Wilfred Owen’s poetry.



## Olivia Reese Senior Media Studies major

Senior Olivia Reese is originally from Pittsford, NY. This Media Studies major is interested in “how communication affects us, how we affect it, how it evolves with technology and with our experience of that technology,” she says.

Her project revolves around the idea of applying George Gerbner’s cultivation theory, which essentially states that people who watch television frequently will be affected by its messages, to social media. “I want to apply a modern take to that theory examining the Twitter-sphere,” she explains. “Is social media affecting the way we see the world, and will it continue to do so?”

Olivia plans to present her research in coming months, where she will delve more into her findings and the data collection process.



Fellow Connor Ferguson presenting his research on “Queering the Fin de Siècle.”



## Matthew Ryckman Senior Mathematics and History major

Ryckman is a fourth-year Mathematics and History double major, with concentrations in pure mathematics and medieval history. His research revolves around the relationship between the advent of the printing press in the Late Middle Ages and the dissemination of Euclid's *Elements* in Renaissance Europe.

Ryckman focuses on a copy of Isaac Barrow's 1732 printing of *Elements* that he found in UMaine's Special Collections. He has created a cohesive narrative illuminating the intellectual world of 18th-century Europe, showing how printing fostered the dissemination of knowledge to new audiences for geometry.

## Sarah Penney Junior English major

Penney, of Thomaston, Maine, is a third-year English major with a minor in Media Studies and an interest in folklore and literature, particularly of Iceland.

For her research, "Outlawry, Liminal Space, and Christianity in Gísli's Saga," Penney uses Icelandic outlaw stories to investigate how religious conversion had larger implications for saga characters. Detailing lineage, feuds, and mythic pasts, among other things, the sagas function as one of the earliest forms of literature and history.



## Noah Loveless Senior English and Philosophy major

Loveless, from Cumberland, Maine, is a fourth-year English and Philosophy double major, with a creative writing concentration. For his project titled "The Task of the Critic: The Philosophy and Aesthetics of Walter Benjamin," Loveless examines Benjamin's innovative approach to philosophy and literary criticism.

Using Benjamin's *Arcades Project* as his central text, Loveless explores how Benjamin's ideas influenced his contemporaries, as well as current scholarly discourse in multiple disciplines, thereby changing the way critics engage with material culture.

# Faculty Research Awards

In 2019, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center awarded over \$35,000 in grants to support humanities faculty research, travel, and campus and community programs.

## Spring 2019 Faculty Grant Awardees

### Joel Anderson (History)

#### **"Writing Icelandic Bishops into the Medieval Church"**

Assistant Professor Joel Anderson was awarded a grant to travel to the Arnamagnæan Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark to study medieval manuscripts housed there, and to deliver a lecture at the University of Aarhus. Anderson will be incorporating this research into an upcoming book manuscript.

### Dan Barrett (School of Performing Arts)

#### **"Mainly Baroque" Early Music Residency**

Lecturer Dan Barrett brought four guest artists in from Europe for a workshop at UMaine in April 2019. Students received an introduction to principles of historical performance practice on period instruments, as well as an application of these principles to modern instruments. Two public concerts were held in Minsky Recital Hall.

### Ryan Dippre (English)

#### **"The Nexus of Local and National Contexts in Writing Program Administration: UMaine College Composition, 1972-2018"**

A team of researchers, led by Assistant Professor Ryan Dippre, have been tracing the emergence of innovation and disciplinary knowledge that has developed from writing instruction at UMaine in recent decades. The group presented their findings at the Council of Writing Program Administrators' annual conference in Baltimore held in July 2019.

### Anne Knowles (History)

#### **"A topological approach to mapping place and movement during the Holocaust"**

Digital spatial humanities tools are allowing new insight into the Holocaust, moving beyond just space and data to incorporate memory, experience, and perception. Professor Anne Knowles's grant helped fund the travel of cartographer and GIS specialist Levi Westerveld from Norway to help with the project.

### Andy Mauery (Art)

#### **Kew Gardens: Endangered Art Research**

A research trip to the UK's Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew) provided Associate Professor Andy Mauery with inspiration for future fiber artworks featuring rare, endangered botanical species. This recent series uses traditional craft, including stitching, weaving, and glass work, to examine narratives of loss, ambivalence, and misplaced power.

### Stephen Miller (History)

#### **"Re-imagining the Anglo-Boer War: New perspectives 120 years down the line"**

A leading historian on the Boer War in South Africa, Professor Stephen Miller used his grant award to travel to present his research on *Daily Mail* war correspondent Edgar Wallace at the War Museum of the Boer Republics in Bloemfontein in October 2019. Miller also visited archival collections to do additional research for an upcoming book on the Anglo-Boer War.



McBride Professor of History Anne Knowles

## Spring 2019 Faculty Grant Awardees *continued*

### Elizabeth Neiman (English)

#### **“The Romantic ‘I’: revisiting and re-envisioning life-writing in the Romantic period and today”**

Associate Professor Elizabeth Neiman used MHC funding to present a paper in August 2019 at the annual North American Society for the Study of Romanticism conference. She also attended a preconference workshop, titled “Romanticism Now.”

Neiman, who has a joint appointment in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, incorporated what she learned at the conference and workshop into the classroom to examine what Romanticism looks like when re-centered around work by marginalized women writers, including women of color.

### Susan Pinette (Modern Languages)

#### **Translating *Piecework: When We Were French* and *Les filles du quoi?***

The Franco American Centre and UMaine Press are re-launching a series dedicated to publishing works on Franco Americans. The next manuscript in the series will be two plays by Franco-American writer Abby Paige. The first, *Piecework: When We Were French*, explores the legacy of French- Canadian immigration to New England, and the second, *Les filles du quoi?* is an ode to ancestors on both sides of the U.S./Canada border. Professor Susan Pinette worked with Franco-American playwright Greg Chabot and Paige to translate the works into French.

### Giles Timms (Art)

#### ***Touch My Human***

Assistant Professor Giles Timms used his grant to create an exhibit of digital, analogue, mixed media, and augmented reality work, titled *Touch my Human* that was submitted to national and international galleries for exhibition. His works are inspired by the uncertainty and wonder of childhood.

## Fall 2019 Faculty Grant Awardees

### **Jack Burt**

#### **(Music, School of Performing Arts)**

#### **Jazz Day at UMaine with guest artist George Garzone**

Associate Professor Jack Burt was awarded a grant to organize a day of jazz master classes and performances by legendary tenor saxophonist George Garzone, along with the UMaine Jazz Ensemble, and student and faculty jazz combos. The public events will be used as a recruiting tool for UMaine music ensembles and programs.

### **Susan Camp (Art)**

#### **Mass MoCA residency**

The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) selected Adjunct Associate Professor Susan Camp to be an artist in residence beginning in January 2020. MHC funds were used to support this residency, where Camp worked on a series of sculptural pieces with the working title, *Latex Shaman*, which is an investigation of the exploitation of Native American culture in the New Age movement, and how our culture uses consumerism to connect to the natural world.

### **Ryan Dippre (English)**

#### **"Writing through the Lifespan, Across Borders"**

Grant funding was bookmarked for Assistant Professor Dippre to attend the fifth annual Writing Research Across Borders conference in Xi'an, China, to present part of an ongoing research project, participate in a roundtable about the state of lifespan writing research, and recruit scholars to join the project of writing through the lifespan. The conference was postponed due to the coronavirus.

### **Philip Edelman**

#### **(Music, School of Performing Arts)**

#### **Presentation at the International Society for Music Education conference**

Thanks to funding from MHC, Assistant Professor Philip Edelman will be presenting his research at the International Society for Music Education conference. Edelman's research investigates novel ways to teach the skill of error detection to our students who will become Maine's next generation of music educators.

### **Michael Swacha (English)**

#### **"Narrative Form and the Relations of Being: Exploring the Intersection of Lacan, Adorno, and Henry James"**

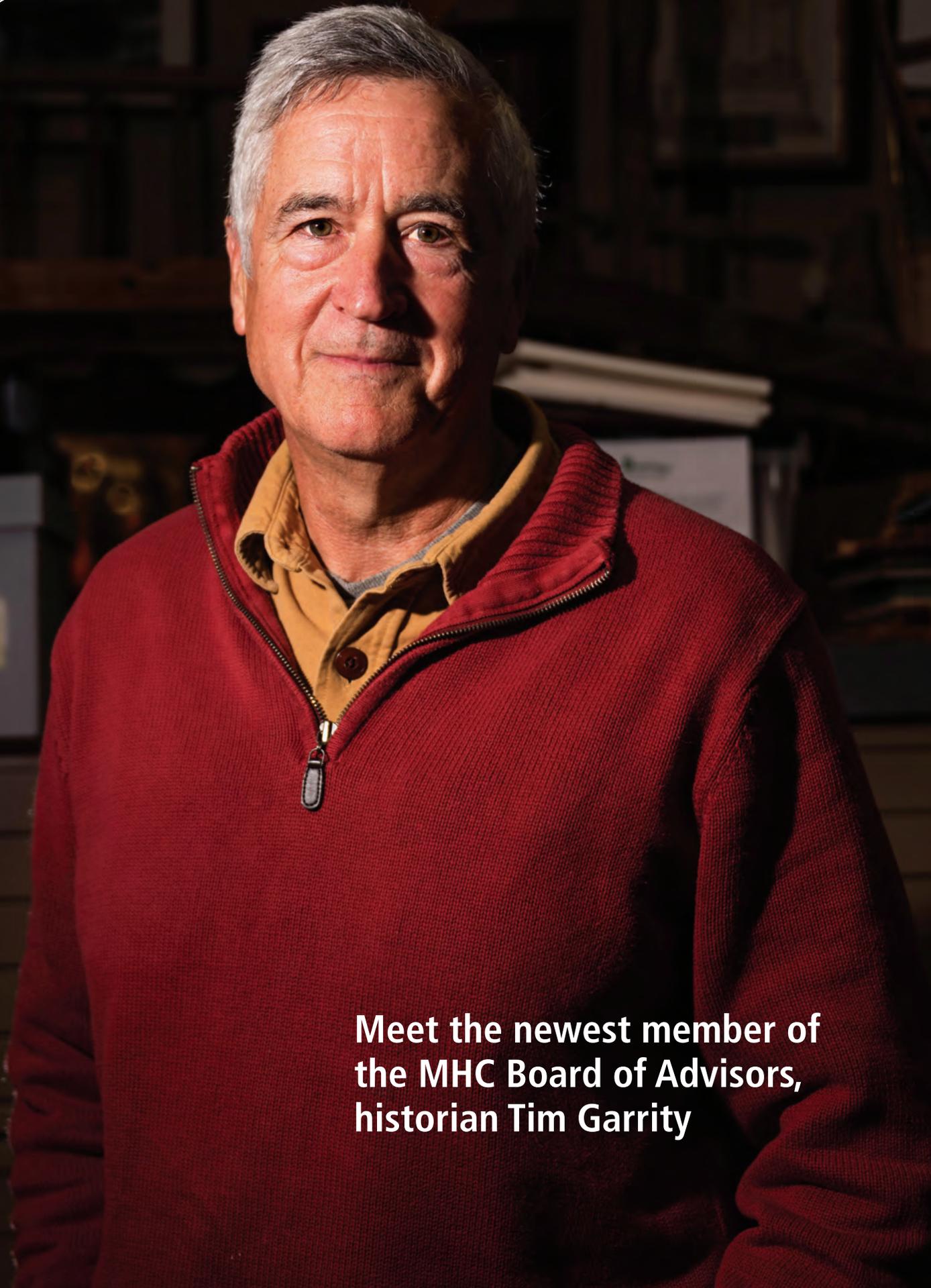
Michael Swacha, a lecturer in English, attended the Modern Language Association's annual conference in Seattle in January to present his research, which brings into conversation the work of Jacques Lacan and Theodor Adorno, to explore the ways their respective work mobilizes articulations of the internal (Lacan) and external (Adorno) structures that constitute our understanding of being.

### **Carlos Villacorta**

#### **(Modern Languages)**

#### **ACTFL Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (MOPI) Workshop**

Associate Professor Carlos Villacorta received funding to help organize Modified Oral Proficiency Interview training for colleagues from the University of Maine, Colby College, Bowdoin College, and Bates College teaching Spanish, Chinese, and English/ESOL. This training will help faculty better serve and prepare language students.



**Meet the newest member of  
the MHC Board of Advisors,  
historian Tim Garrity**

In 2019 the McGillicuddy Humanities Center welcomed Tim Garrity to our Board of Advisors (BOA). Garrity currently works as the historian for the Mount Desert Island Historical Society (MDIHS), a recent transition after serving as the organization's Executive Director.

Tim spent twenty-five years in the healthcare field, first as a Navy hospital corpsman and later as Chief Executive Officer at Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, before going back to school at the age of 53 to pursue his lifelong passion in history. He enrolled in the Master of Arts program at the University of Maine Department of History in 2009 and graduated in 2014.

"I felt sometimes like the boundaries of my own intelligence were concrete walls that I had to probe in the dark, looking for a way beyond. With the help of professors like Richard Judd, Liam Riordan, and Michael Lang, I learned the rudiments of the historian's craft and became a better reader and writer."

While taking classes at UMaine, Garrity worked as a ranger in Acadia National Park. When the MDIHS opened a search for a new executive director, they considered his experience in nonprofit management and education from the University of Maine as a historian a great fit for their organization.



This past year, Garrity was able to transition to a new role as historian, allowing him to step away from administrative and fundraising duties and spend more time pursuing his real passion. Much of his work involves writing, editing, and presenting historical material for a lay audience, and editing the Society's journal *Chebacco*.

He first became involved with the MHC in 2013, when then-director Justin Wolff invited him to speak at a "Maine Humanities Summit" in Augusta. Since that time, Tim has looked for opportunities to strengthen the relationship between the Society and the University, allowing academic historians to interact with the public, and giving students the opportunity to show how historians think and conduct research.

After joining our BOA, Garrity has been "in awe of our student humanities fellows. The diversity and ambition of their work is amazing."

In addition to serving on our board, Tim and his wife, Lynn Boulger, are also donors to the MHC, and supporters of the humanities. The couple are avid readers and travelers, and seek out opportunities to discover the beauty and cultures of different parts of the world. Tim and Lynn "encourage anyone who is able to come to the defense of the humanities by supporting the MHC."

"Much of life in today's world can feel dehumanizing: the gig economy, out-of-control social media, income inequality, and so forth. So many essential systems that keep us alive operate virtually, automatically, and impersonally. The humanities help us find meaning in a world that is becoming dehumanized. In a world that sidelines human qualities in favor of the utilitarian and efficient, the humanities constantly remind us that humans are more than the sum of their machines."

Tim Garrity and wife Lynn Boulger



# Fundraising for MHC



Clement and Linda McGillicuddy

## Our Mission:

The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) demonstrates the immediacy and applicability of humanities studies by advancing teaching, research and public engagement in the humanities in Maine.

Clement and Linda McGillicuddy support the Humanities Center through a fund they established in 2017 at the University of Maine Foundation. The McGillicuddys are committed to “giving back” to a state that means a great deal to their family.

Clem, a 1964 graduate of UMaine, appreciates the Humanities Center’s diverse activities in Orono and across the state. He is especially appreciative that the Center’s outreach extends well beyond classroom learning and opens new horizons for high school students and other Maine citizens.

The UMaine alumnus adds that the Center’s mission resonates with his own experience as an undergraduate who grew up in Houlton, Maine: “The University of Maine exposed me to many new situations ... . Many of my courses at UMaine, unrelated to my major, contributed to my curiosity and created a foundation for lifelong learning.”

## McGillicuddys honored with Stillwater Society Award

In 2019, the McGillicuddys were given the Stillwater Society Award at the University of Maine Foundation's annual Stillwater Dinner in recognition of their philanthropy. Provost Jeffrey Hecker accepted the award on behalf of the McGillicuddys.

In his speech, Hecker noted he was not surprised that the McGillicuddys supported the idea of creating a center for the humanities. "Clem is passionate about poetry, history, and philosophy; Linda is a strong, passionate supporter of the arts. [The Center] benefits and provides opportunities for students, it promotes scholarship in the humanities, and also public outreach...Clem and Linda get engaged by ideas that are big and that are a little bit off the beaten path, and they are very excited about providing world-class opportunities for students like those who come to the University of Maine."

Vocal performance students from the School of Performing Arts sang a spoof/tribute to the humanities (lyrics by CCA Director, Danny Williams) set to the tune of Sam Cooke's famous "Wonderful World." Recent music education graduate Zack Fisher (in Shakespearean collar) sang the lead, with backup vocals by Kayla Gayton, Brooke Pietri, and Elijah Verhof.



## Making the Humanities Matter: a Patrons Circle Dinner Conversation



In October, Colin Woodard joined MHC Patrons Circle members for a dinner and conversation at Portland's Press Hotel on "Making the Humanities Matter in Maine." Woodard, a Maine resident, is a *New York Times* bestselling author, historian, and journalist, who currently works as the State and National Affairs writer for the *Portland Press Herald*. Co-hosted by MHC Board of Advisors member Lauren Sterling, husband Bro Adams (past chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities), and Bob and Jean Swan, a lively evening ensued with a number of ideas and themes that came up throughout the dinner conversation that align with the MHC's mission and goals for the future:

1. Partner with K-12 public schools and UMaine School of Education to foster teaching the humanities.
2. Expand efforts to put a "public face" on the humanities through community events and partnerships.
3. Publicize MHC's leadership among college humanities centers in fostering undergraduate research.

As the MHC looks ahead to a new year of programming and undergoes a strategic planning conversation, special thanks to Colin, our hosts, and guests for sharing their thoughts and philanthropic support.



## MHC Gifts, Endowments and Funds

Donors have made gifts and pledges, and contributed their vision, time and expertise, as well as operating funds and sponsorships to support MHC activities.

### Fundraising:

The McGillicuddy Humanities Center Endowment Fund was created to support the MHC mission. Launched in 2010, the fund and Center were named for Clement and Linda McGillicuddy in 2017, and the Center continues to receive their generous support. Beyond the MHC Endowment Fund, additional donors have created, and continue to create, specific endowments affiliated with the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. Collectively, donations total more than \$1,910,000 through February 2020. Gifts of all sizes contribute to this permanent resource for the humanities at UMaine.

### Endowments

#### Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fund

The University of Maine Humanities Center was renamed in 2017 to recognize the enormous support of Clement McGillicuddy '64 and his wife, Linda, of Hobe Sound, Florida and Northeast Harbor, Maine. The McGillicuddys appreciate the Humanities Center's diverse activities in Orono and across the state. They are especially appreciative that the Center's outreach extends well beyond classroom learning and opens new horizons for high school students and other Maine citizens. The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fund advances teaching, research and public knowledge of the humanities. By developing and supporting programs that engage art, literature, history, philosophy, politics and diverse cultures, MHC aims to enrich the lives of all Maine citizens.

#### University of Maine Humanities Center Endowment Fund

Launched in 2010, the University of Maine Humanities Center Endowment Fund supports the Center's mission. Earned income provides annual support for programs, research and community engagement. The fund is a general repository for gifts of any amount. Additional donors have created specific endowments affiliated with the humanities.

**Affiliated Funds** are established to support activities consistent with the mission of MHC and can be managed in collaboration with other UMaine units.

**Susan and Philip Hamilton Humanities Fund**, established by Susan Hamilton and Philip Hamilton '85 to support humanities faculty and community engagement.

**Sandy and Bobby Ives Fund**, established by David Taylor '74 and LeeEllen Friedland in recognition of the Ives' contributions to folklife studies. The fund supports UMaine student research, conference travel or ethnographic fieldwork training relating to the fields of ethnography, oral history, folklore, or regional studies of Maine or the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

**Alan Miller Fund for Excellence in Communication and Journalism**, established by Anne Lucey '81 in memory of her late husband.

**Jeannine Emond Lucey Franco-American Program Fund**, established by Anne Lucey '81 in tribute to her mother.

**Richard Parks Anderson and Karin M. Anderson Music Composition Fund**, established to provide financial assistance to the School of Performing Arts' Music Division in support of the composition of musical works by UMaine faculty and students, and performances by UMaine faculty and students of those works and other works by living composers.

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Scholarship Fund**, established by Kathryn Olmstead (emerita, Communication and Journalism) to support meritorious students with a financial need in the arts and humanities.

**Sandra Merrill Peters and John G. Peters Humanities Scholarship Fund**, established by Sandra Merrill Peters '69 and John G. Peters '69 to provide financial assistance to a deserving UMaine first-year undergraduate student majoring in a humanities field.

***Echoes of Maine Humanities Fund***, established by founding editor/publisher of *Echoes*, Kathryn Olmstead, to support faculty and student engagement in research, events, lectures and collaborative activities that highlight the *Echoes of Maine* philosophy.

**Adrien Lanthier Ringuette Franco-American Centre Library Fund**, established by Celeste Ringuette in memory of her late husband.

**The Schmelzer-Livingston Center for Poetry and Poetics Fund**, established by Henry Schmelzer '65 and his wife, Cynthia Livingston, in recognition of the newly renamed Center for Poetry and Poetics at UMaine. The fund will support ongoing and new initiatives at the center.

**Wickham Skinner "Making Things Better" Humanities Fund**, established to support an annual award to a faculty member whose recent scholarly accomplishment has contributed substantially to the humanities.

**Eaton Family New Writing Series Fund**, established by John T. Eaton '66 and Linda Talbot Eaton '66 to support innovative and adventurous literary programming through the New Writing Series.

**Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund**, established by Friends of the Salzburg Study Abroad Program in honor of Josef Roggenbauer, professor emeritus of German, provides support for faculty and students to benefit from opportunities that expand their global views, ideas and experiences.

**Opportunities in Journalism Fund**, established by Brian A. Naylor '78, '04 H and Barbara J. Van Woerkom. The fund is intended to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students majoring in journalism.

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To give to the McGillicuddy Humanities Center Endowment Fund or to establish an Affiliated Fund, visit [our.umaine.edu/humanities](http://our.umaine.edu/humanities) or call Matt Mullen, 207.581.5100. Gifts of all sizes contribute to our goal to build a permanent resource for the humanities at UMaine.



### Patrons Circle

Patrons provide an annual gift of \$1,000 in support of MHC initiatives.

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|---|--|--|
| John C. Abbott                            | Allen and Sally Fernald                | Celeste A. Ringuette                           |
| Richard P. and Karin Anderson             | Timothy Garrity and Lynn Boulger       | Edward and Judith B. Rowan                     |
| Constance H. Babcock                      | Philip and Susan Hamilton              | Henry L.P. Schmelzer and Cynthia E. Livingston |
| Mary Bok                                  | Jim and Anne Jenkins                   | Lauren A. Sterling and William D. Adams        |
| David and Jessica Canatsey                | Barbara B. Keast                       | Terry and Claire Strickland                    |
| Dennis Cox and Elizabeth Downing          | Parker S. Laite Jr. and Nancy L. Laite | Robert M. Swan and Jean W. Swan                |
| Mark and Anne Cressey                     | Matt and Emily Mullen                  | David Taylor and LeeEllen Friedland            |
| Matthew G. Dunlap and Michelle Ann Dunphy | Brian Naylor and Barbara Van Woerkom   | John K. Veroneau and Carol Svoboda             |
| John and Linda Eaton                      | Kathryn Olmstead                       |  |
|   | John and Sandra Peters                 |  |

### Board of Advisors (formerly the Executive Committee)

The Center’s Board of Advisors is a standing committee constituted of University of Maine alumni and friends who advance the McGillicuddy Humanities Center’s mission. Leading by example as ambassadors, advisors, and supporters, the Board of Advisors acts as a conduit for information and opinion to and from the MHC, broadly sharing the programs and mission of the Center. In addition to contributing their time and expertise, all members of the BOA have made gifts and pledges to support MHC activities, or have included the MHC in their estate plans.

### Co-Chairs

Kathryn Olmstead, Associate Professor emerita in Communication and Journalism, University of Maine; retired columnist for the *Bangor Daily News*, and editor/publisher/co-founder of *Echoes* magazine

Henry L.P. Schmelzer ’65, former Chair, Maine Public Broadcasting (MPBN) Board of Trustees; former President and CEO, Maine Community Foundation

### Members

- H. Allen Fernald ’54 and Sally Fernald ’55, owner/publishers of *Down East* magazine
- LeeEllen Friedland, President, Ethnologica
- Tim Garrity ’14, Historian, Mount Desert Island Historical Society
- Philip Hamilton ’85, Managing Partner, Diablo Vista Capital, LLC.
- Brian Naylor ’78, Washington Correspondent, National Public Radio (NPR)
- Sandra Peters ’69, Educator (retired)
- Lauren Sterling ’10, Philanthropy Consultant
- Dr. David A. Taylor ’74, External Relations and Program Development Officer for the Library of Congress
- John K. Veroneau ’83, Partner, Covington & Burling, LLP
- Margo Lukens, Professor of English and Director, McGillicuddy Humanities Center, University of Maine

### Ex Officio

- Jeffrey Hecker, Senior Advisor to the President, University of Maine
- Emily Haddad, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Maine

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[umaine.edu/mhc](http://umaine.edu/mhc)