

# CLEMENT AND LINDA MCGILlicuddy HUMANITIES CENTER 2024 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 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 by students and faculty.

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



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ADVANCING RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES WHILE CONNECTING  
SCHOLARS TO ONE ANOTHER AND THE BROADER MAINE COMMUNITY



## FROM THE DEAN



The McGillicuddy Humanities Center has entered into its second decade. The MHC recognizes the value of the practical skills instilled by the humanities – creativity, critical thinking, curiosity – while also celebrating their intrinsic worth. The humanities inspire the imagination and foster meaningful, empathetic connections among people, across time, place, and culture.

On campus, the Center supports faculty in conducting all manner of humanities research and in enriching campus life through visiting speakers, performances, class workshops, and more. And as always, the Center's devotion to supporting students through fellowships remains strong. In fact, the 2024/25 academic year will see, among others, the 50th undergraduate fellow in the program's history.

The Center has also introduced named fellowships through the generosity of donors. One example is the Echoes of Maine Fellowship, which each year supports an MHC fellow whose work engages with positive values of the past with a preference for a student who is majoring in Journalism and/or whose project relates to the Echoes philosophy: "Touching the Past en route to the Future."

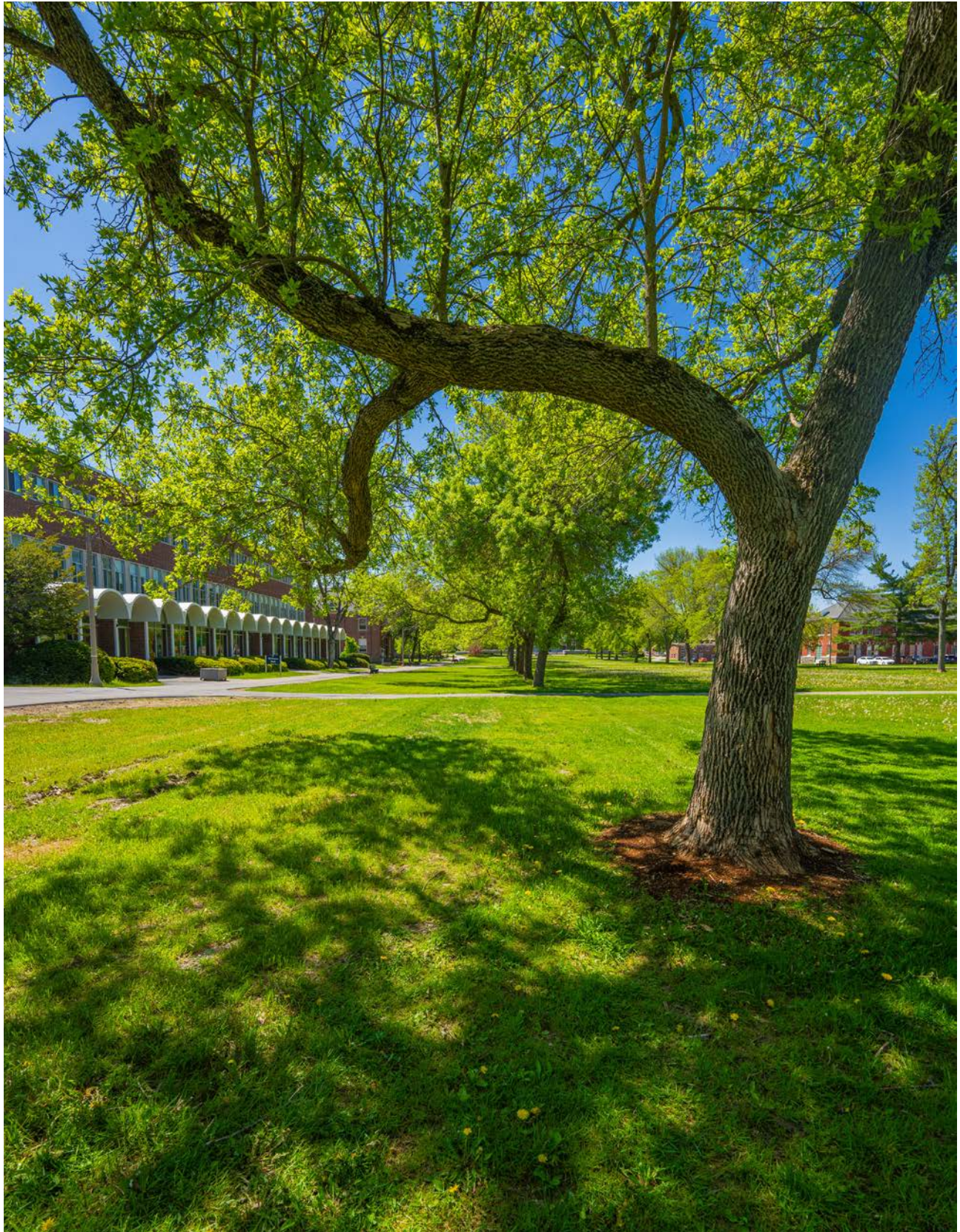
I welcome Zach Ludington, Associate Professor of Spanish, as the incoming director of the MHC. I have no doubt that he will guide the Center with the same thoughtfulness and drive that previous directors have brought to the position. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Beth Weimann, whose two-year term as director of the McGillicuddy Humanities Center ended in June. Beth's resourcefulness, dedication, and good humor served the Center well. I will miss her presence on the College's leadership team.

As I begin my own second decade at UMaine, it's a pleasure to recognize how far we have come together. Thank you for sharing my commitment to the McGillicuddy Humanities Center.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Haddad  
Dean  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences









## FROM THE DIRECTOR



I write to you while wrapping up the McGillicuddy Humanities Center's twelfth year supporting excellent teaching, research and public engagement in the humanities at the University of Maine. This report marks the end of my term as MHC Director, and the beginning of Zachary Ludington's term for the next two years. It's been a great time working for the Center and with all of the

people surrounding it, and I'm sure that Zach will feel the same when his term is complete.

We began Fall 2023 with a weekend of events with Rhiannon Giddens – her interview with Jack Burt from UMaine's School of Performing Arts, following receptions with guests before her performance, and a masterful concert with Giddens and her band, attended by 900 people. The Center worked closely with the Collins Center for the Arts team, especially Danny Williams and Karen Cole. As it turned out, this was just the first of five events done in collaboration with the CCA this year.

The MHC Symposium on Rivers, "River Towns are Winged Towns," included two significant residencies by visitors to campus: Margaret Pearce, a Maine-based cartographer of national reputation, and Eve Beglarian, a dynamic composer and performer. Both guests are, in different ways, students of rivers, and they were able to share their stories with students, faculty, and community guests this spring. Other events within the Symposium this year included a screening and panel discussion of the locally-made film "This River Is Our Relative," and a presentation by exhibit makers at the Maine Discovery Museum on their design and build of a new water feature about our local Penobscot River. The Symposium also attracted faculty and staff proposals on its theme: one example, Taylor Ashley's "Rivers, Cultures, and Cuisines" series of four immersive dining experiences, was an incredibly successful addition to our Symposium plans. You can find videos of many of these events on our YouTube page, along with other student and faculty work from this academic year.

We continue to support faculty in the humanities and arts throughout the year, and in this particular year we increased funding for faculty conference travel on top of our regular commitment to individual faculty research projects. Our community of 8 undergraduate fellows includes examples of

striking student success, with several of the graduating seniors winning outstanding awards at Commencement. We've continued to help undergraduate students with their own research through the Sandy and Bobby Ives Research Award, and the two funds for study abroad: the Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund and the Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Fund. You will read more in this Annual Report about all of these awardees and the patrons that support them.

This fall we will begin work in earnest on the collaboration with the Minnesota Humanities Center on a project to lead discussions around the topic of military veterans "from the margins." This NEH work has already begun in Minnesota, with the training of discussion leaders, and our part of the work will start in a similar way this fall and winter. The Center is now looking for people that are interested in being trained to lead discussion of groups of veterans and their families and friends, in the hopes of our hosting the discussions themselves in 2025. We look forward to connecting with various communities of veterans and scholars in this work.

Next year's Symposium is now being built, beginning with the theme of "From Talkies to TikTok: 100 Years of Audiovisual Storytelling." We've begun contacting a range of regional film makers and multi-media scholars, and we hope to see many of you at the lectures, workshops, and performances that they bring to our campus in the coming months.

In closing, I'd like to thank the many of you that have supported the Center's work, including members of our Board of Advisors, our Faculty Advisory Group, and our patrons. We could not do this work without the support of these patrons, and the underpinning we receive from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University of Maine Foundation, particularly the help of Dean Emily Haddad and UMaine Foundation officer Matt Mullen. The report that follows this message, like all of our monthly Newsletters that many of you enjoy, is written by Humanities Specialist Brian Jansen, whose work with our student fellows and on our communications with you is an inspiration.

Welcome to Zach, and best wishes to you all,

Beth Wiemann  
Director  
McGillicuddy Humanities Center









## McGillicuddy Humanities Center, Collins Center Welcome Rhiannon Giddens for Discussion, Performance



Rhiannon Giddens' visit to the University Maine culminated in an evening performance at the Collins Center for the Arts (above); in the afternoon, UMaine professor Jack Burt interviewed Giddens.

On Saturday, September 23, the Collins Center for the Arts and the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center were delighted to welcome GRAMMY, Pulitzer Prize, and MacArthur "Genius" Grant winner Rhiannon Giddens to the University of Maine campus for an evening performance and an afternoon conversation with UMaine School of Performing Arts professor Jack Burt.

Rhiannon Giddens has made a singular, iconic career out of stretching her brand of folk music, with its miles-deep historical roots and contemporary sensibilities, into just about every field imaginable. A two-time GRAMMY Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning singer and instrumentalist, MacArthur "Genius" grant recipient, and composer of opera, ballet, and film, Giddens has centered her work around the mission of lifting up people whose contributions to American musical history have previously been overlooked or erased, and advocating for a more accurate understanding of the country's musical origins through art.

While doctors had placed Giddens on total vocal rest to preserve her voice for the evening concert—she had previously been forced to cancel performances in Michigan and Toronto after having lost her voice—her team managed an elegant solution for the afternoon interview, with Giddens

typing furiously on an iPad and her partner and collaborator Francesco Turrisi serving as interlocuter.

The wide-ranging conversation covered Giddens' musical training, the history and cross-pollination between musical genres, and questions of cultural appropriation. Giddens even produced a violin and shared some music with the audience gathered for the afternoon talk.

"Giddens is not only an outstanding performer and composer, but also a scholar of the ways in which American music interacts with our society, both in the past and in the present," says Beth Wiemann, MHC director and professor of music at UMaine. "We were so lucky to welcome her, particularly now, with the release of a new album, a television program, a collaboration with Beyoncé, really at a moment when her work is having such an impact on American music."

"The CCA and McGillicuddy have a long-standing partnership working to present pre-show lectures throughout our season, but this was by far our most ambitious collaboration. We were thrilled to be part of bringing an artist of this caliber to UMaine," says Collins Center Executive Director Danny Williams.



"I feel better about this country than I did 10 years ago," Richardson said, responding to an audience question.





Composer Eve Beglarian performs with collaborators James Moore and Joshua Henderson. Right: Margaret Pearce delivered a talk on mapmaking practice after coordinating a series of workshops on mapping for graduate and undergraduate students.

As part of the MHC’s 2023-24 annual symposium on “Rivers,” which sought to address many aspects of how rivers both large and small—and both literal and metaphorical—shape and are shaped by the stories we tell, the art we make, and the ways in which we live alongside them, the McGillicuddy Humanities Center welcomed a variety of scholars, performers, speakers, and organizations to our Orono campus to work with students and deliver talks. Among the highlights of the 2023-2024 symposium series were visits by award-winning cartographer Margaret Wickens Pearce and celebrated composer Eve Belgarian.

Pearce, a cartographer and writer based in Rockland, Maine, a 2023 recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and creator of the University of Maine Canadian-American Center’s “Coming Home to Indigenous Place Names in Canada” map, concluded a three-week residency at the University of Maine with a talk about her research on mapping. Titled “Bméndan: In search of a cartography of responsibility,” Pearce’s lecture

explored links between the expropriation of Indigenous lands—including for the purposes of land grant universities—and mapmaking practice. Pearce’s work envisions cartographic language as a powerful mode of expression, a complement to writing and speech that helps us conceptualize narratives and conversations across cultures and between viewpoints.

Pearce’s talk followed a series of workshops for University of Maine undergraduate and graduate students on mapping—for those new to cartography and for students with previous experience in Geographic Information Systems. Among the participants were English students in creative writing, who explored how mapping can help enrich fictional worlds.

Just a week later, the MHC and the School of Performing Arts played host to Eve Beglarian for a residency, during which time she delivered a series of master classes for music students in the School of Performing Arts. Her residency culminated in a free, public performance in Minsky Recital Hall, where she



performed selections from the River Project, compositions made in response to a four-month journey by kayak and bicycle down the Mississippi River in 2009.

Beglarian was joined by accompanists James Moore and Joshua Henderson, playing a variety of instruments including—in what may have been a Minsky Recital Hall first—the ping-pong, as well as MHC director Beth Wiemann on clarinet and vocals.

According to the Los Angeles Times, composer and performer Eve Beglarian is a “humane, idealistic rebel and a musical sensualist.” A 2023 winner of the Arts and Letters Award for “a spectacular body of work that innovates and takes enormous risks,” she is also a 2017 winner of the Alpert Award in the Arts for her “prolific, engaging and surprising body of work,” and has been awarded the 2015 Robert Rauschenberg Prize from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts for her “innovation, risk-taking, and experimentation.”



TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM LEFT: Margaret Pearce speaking on “a cartography of responsibility” at the IMRC Center. MIDDLE: Pearce leads a student workshop on the integration of cartography with creative and research practice. BOTTOM RIGHT: Eve Beglarian performs at the Minsky Recital Hall, accompanied by James Moore and Joshua Henderson.



# 2024-2025 Symposium Theme Explores 100 Years of the Audiovisual

## *FROM TALKIES TO TIKTOK: 100 YEARS OF AUDIOVISUAL STORYTELLING*

This year's McGillicuddy Humanities Center Symposium theme focuses on the myriad ways in which combinations of audio and video can carry a narrative. Whether on a screen, on a stage, in an art installation, or as 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, our expectations can be related to pre-20th century ways of combining audio, visual, and other 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.

Contact [mhc@maine.edu](mailto:mhc@maine.edu) or incoming MHC Director Zach Ludington at [zachary.r.ludington@maine.edu](mailto:zachary.r.ludington@maine.edu) for more information.











## The Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Undergraduate Fellows



The Fall 2023-Spring 2024 McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellows, from left to right: Chappy Hall, Katie Ritchie, Sarah Renee Ozlanski, and Iris Loehr.

The Fellows program offers junior and senior year students the support to develop individual humanities research or creative projects, work collaboratively with their peers, participate in interdisciplinary humanities programs, and gain professional skills. Fellows attend, help plan, and promote the Center's programs, which helps connect them and the Center to their peers, faculty, and the public. Fellows also act as student ambassadors for the Center's mission, both on campus and in communities beyond.

Each student works with a faculty advisor, as well as with the MHC staff and other Fellows, to develop and hone their research for public presentation. At the culmination of the fellowship, they are required to share their findings or creative works in an MHC showcase event. Most Fellows also create additional outputs for their projects, from poetry chapbooks and journal articles to gallery shows and workshops.

Research proposals are due by the March 17 and October 17 semi-annual deadlines. Currently the MHC funds eight total Fellows simultaneously, with new cohorts of four rotating in and out each semester. Fellows are awarded \$8,000 over two consecutive semesters for their work.

As of Spring 2024, 42 students have been selected to join the MHC Fellows program.



## Fall 2023 though Spring 2024 MHC Student Fellows



**CHAPPY HALL**, a history major in the Honors College from Brunswick, Maine, completed his MHC project, titled “Playing History: What Video Games Teach Us About the Past” under the supervision of professor of history Liam Riordan. Hall surveyed gamers to understand how historically themed video games teach history as an active experience. Focussing on the video game “Europa Universalis IV” and themes of colonialism and imperialism in the 18th century, Hall researched the relationship between history and the video games industry, the nature of video games as a medium, and the potential video games possess to create an understanding of history through experience. Chappy was named the Outstanding Graduating Senior in the Honors College at UMaine, as well as the Outstanding Graduate in the Department of History; he was also recipient of the Department of History’s Comstock-Western Scholarship, awarded in alternating years to history s awarded every other year to a history major who has demonstrated excellence in their academic achievements.

**IRIS LOEHR**, an English major in the Honors College from Cincinnati, Ohio completed her project, “Mountain People: Essays on Place and Personhood in Appalachia,” working with faculty mentors James Brophy of the Honors College and Jennifer Moxley in the Department of English. Loehr’s collection of essays addresses a variety of topics pertaining to central Appalachia and place, blending creative and academic styles. The project, which also formed the basis of Loehr’s Honors thesis, 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. In the fall, Loehr will be pursuing an MFA from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.





## Fall 2023 though Spring 2024 MHC Student Fellows

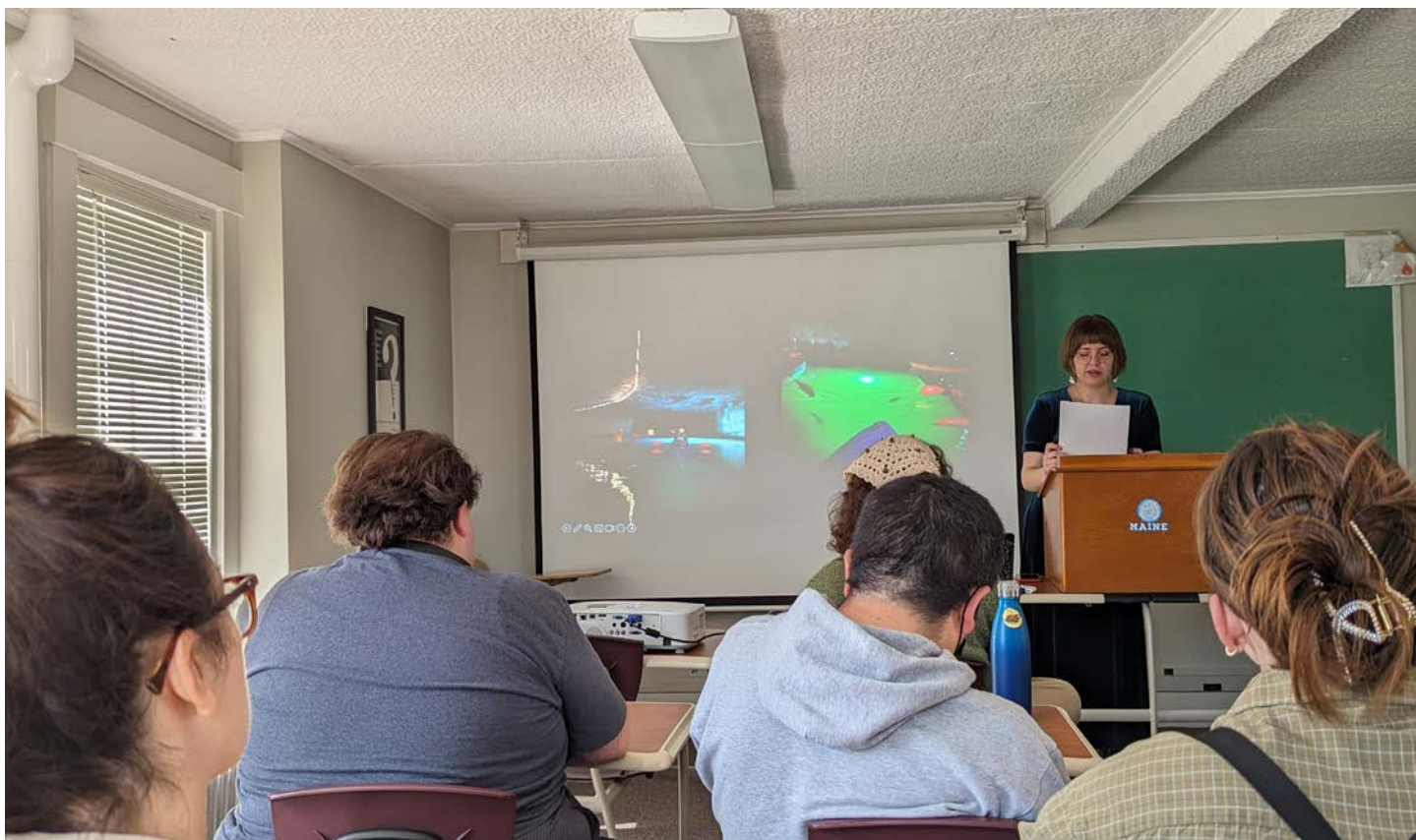


**SARAH RENEE OZLANSKI**, a studio art and English double major from Belfast, Maine, worked on a projected titled “The Language of my Grandmother is a Language of Resistance: How the Matrilineal Transmission of Pisanki Express Cultural Identity.” Ozlanski, the Echoes of Maine Fellow, researched the matrilineal tradition of pisanki, which forms a part of her cultural heritage. Pisanki are colorful eggs with images written on them through a wax and dye resistance process. These eggs can be read by those who understand the combination of colors and symbols. Ozlanski, who taught pisanki-making workshops as part of her fellowship, explored the ways this tradition has been preserved for over a thousand years by being passed down from mothers to daughters, examining as well how pisanki has become a symbol of cultural identity for people of Ukrainian and Polish heritage, an object of cultural memory and a symbol of resistance for Ukraine during Russia’s invasion. Sarah Renee was awarded the Bangor Art Society Scholarship and received Honorable Mention for a sculpture titled The Shipwright’s Apprentice in the annual student art exhibition, and was named a James Stevens Outstanding Junior in the University of Maine’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

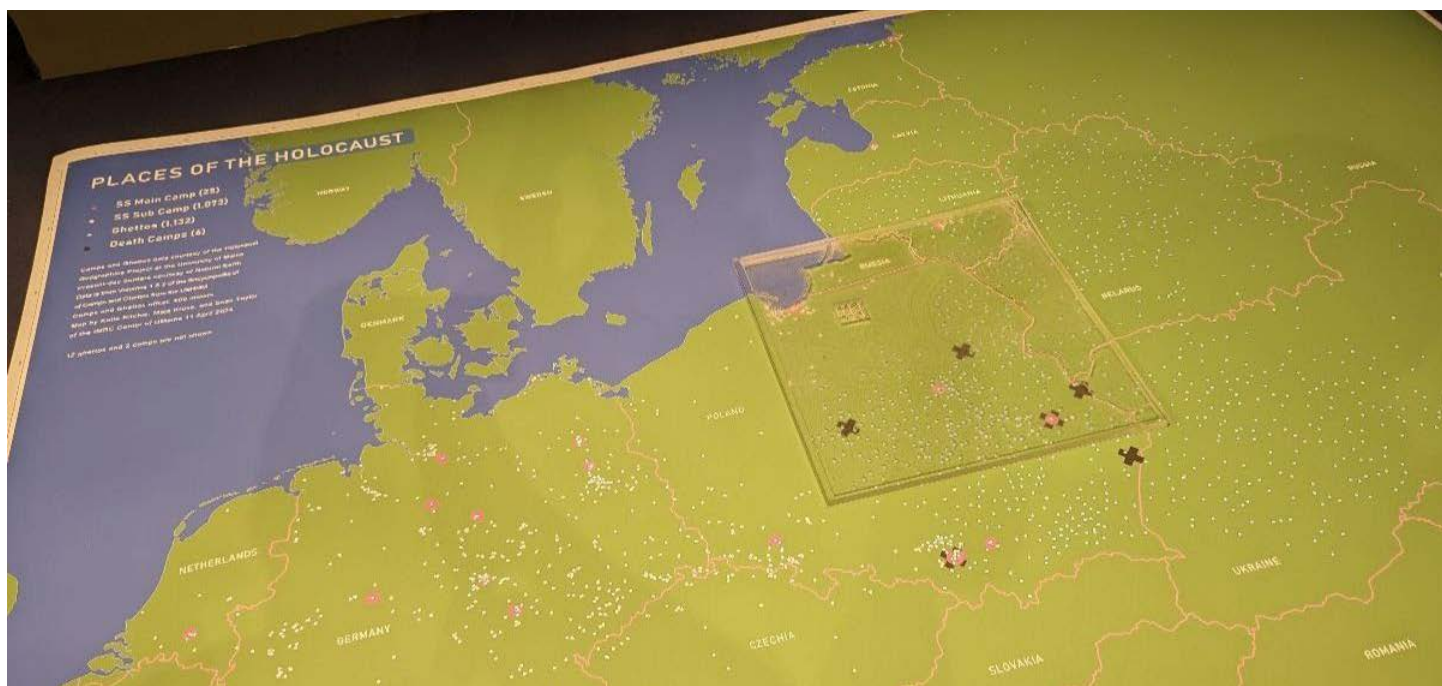
**KATIE RITCHIE**, a history and secondary education double major from Northport, Maine spent her fellowship working with professor of history Anne Knowles to pursue a project titled “Mapping Education: Using Maps to Teach the Holocaust.” Ritchie, the Sandra Merrill Peters and John G. Peters Fellow, used mapping and teaching methods to make Holocaust education more accessible and dynamic for high school and college-aged students. Ritchie employed a geographic information system (GIS) to create maps and lesson plans for fellow teachers and students with the goal of making the topic more approachable. 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 that are educational for both students and teachers at the secondary and collegiate levels. Ritchie, who also presented a paper on loyalist perspectives of the American Revolution at the 2024 Atlantic Canada Studies conference, will be pursuing a Master’s degree in History at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in fall 2024.







Iris Loehr presented on her research as the morning keynote of UMaine's first annual Women in Philosophy conference.



Peters Fellow Katie Ritchie presented audience members with a prototype of her map at a presentation in the IMRC.



## Spring 2024 - Fall 2024 MHC Student Fellows



The Spring 2024-Fall 2024 MHC Undergraduate Fellows, from left to right: Jess Cleary-Reuning, Alex Morgan, Kiera Campbell and Mackenzie Reynolds.



**KIERA CAMPBELL**, a junior majoring in English from Buxton, Maine, was named the David '64 and Alison '71 Wiggins Humanities Fellow for her proposed research project "Getting To Know A Dead Man: The De-Deification of Brian (A Non-Case Study)." Gregory Howard, associate professor of English, is supervising the study. Campbell's project will draw on the work of philosopher Simone de Beauvoir to explore how the relationships children form with their parents change in young adulthood.



**JESS CLEARY-REUNING**, a senior in the Honors College from Eliot, Maine, who is majoring in marine biology and minoring in journalism, will pursue a project titled “College Radio’s Continuing Role: How WMEB and Other College Radio Stations Create and Sustain Community,” supervised Michael Socolow, professor of communication and journalism. Drawing on her experience as manager of WMEB, UMaine’s student-run radio station, and her interest in media studies, Cleary-Reuning’s research aims to explore the recent history of WMEB in the context of the past and contemporary practices of college radio in the United States.



**ALEX MORGAN**, a third-year psychology major in the Honors College with minors in philosophy and neuroscience from Perry, Maine, will pursue a project titled “Roots and Resilience: Understanding the Belonging Among Children of Iranian Diaspora in The United States.” Jordan LaBouff, associate professor of psychology and honors, will supervise the project. Morgan’s work will aim to understand how the underrepresented group of second-generation Iranian Americans experience their perceived belonging in a cross-cultural context of multiple identities.

**MACKENZIE REYNOLDS**, Reynolds, the Liam Riordan Humanities Fellow and a history major and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies minor from Conroe, Texas, will be working on a project titled “Separate But Not Equal: The Exclusion of Black Women from First-Wave Feminism in Maine and Louisiana, 1900-1925.” Kara Peruccio, assistant professor of history and women’s, gender and sexuality studies, will supervise the project. By studying different modes of racism in Louisiana and Maine’s suffrage movements, Reynolds’s work will explore how social and cultural differences between Louisiana and Maine impacted the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and its auxiliaries in these states between the years of 1900–1925. Though NAWSA’s Maine and Louisiana Woman Suffrage Associations existed under the same national umbrella, their local politics and cultures impacted their statewide activism, who could be involved and how their platform was presented to each state’s respective citizens. Because of implicit and explicit racism found in their state movements, Black women in both states formed their own groups to advocate for themselves.





## Fall 2023 Faculty Grants

### Taylor Ashley (Office of Diversity and Inclusion)

#### **"Rivers, Cultures, and Their Cuisines"**

Taylor Ashley, Coordinator for Diversity and Inclusion at the UMaine Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI), received an MHC grant for a proposal which sought to educate students and UMaine community members about the variety of cultures and cuisines that originate from major rivers around the globe. The "Rivers, Cultures, and their Cuisines" program brought diverse community members together for a hands-on immersive experience presenting guests with an opportunity to learn traditional cooking techniques and commonly consumed dishes originating from various rivers and their cultures around the globe. Following food preparation and a subsequent communal meal, guests learned about the cultures and their relationship to the river through a faculty-led presentation and hands-on activity.

### Ellie Markovitch (Communication, Media Studies, and Journalism)

#### **"Fermentation Fridays"**

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.

### Kara Peruccio (History/Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies)

#### **"Under the Same Flag: Transnational Feminist Activism in the Interwar Period, 1919-39"**

Kara Peruccio, assistant professor in the Department of History and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, was awarded an MHC grant for her project, "Under the Same Flag: Transnational Feminist Activism in the Interwar Period, 1919-39." The MHC supported Peruccio's travel to the American Historical Association's annual conference in San Francisco, for which she organized a panel presentation. Peruccio presented a paper entitled "Unflattering Portraits: Mediterranean Women

and the International Alliance of Women, Berlin 1929," and subsequently travelled to Seattle University to give a talk on her work.

### Liam Riordan (History)

#### **"What We Know, What We Wish': Maine Statehood, Historical Commemoration, and the Urgency of Public History."**

Professor of history Liam Riordan received an MHC faculty grant related to his project "What We Know, What We Wish': Maine Statehood, Historical Commemoration, and the Urgency of Public History." "What We Know" is a co-edited interdisciplinary collection with nine chapters which grew out of the Maine Bicentennial and Statehood Conference, organized at UMaine in summer 2019. Pulitzer-Prize winning historians Alan Taylor and Laurel Thatcher Ulrich have written its foreword, and the volume is under contract with the University of Massachusetts Press. MHC funding will support the inclusion of a detailed two-page map to be included in the volume.

### Michael Socolow, Amelia Couture Bue, and Haley Schneider (Communication, Media Studies, and Journalism)

#### **"Eroding History"**

A group proposal submitted by Michael Socolow, associate professor of communication and journalism and former MHC director, along with Amelia Couture Bue and Haley Schneider, both assistant professors of communication, was funded to invite the filmmakers behind the documentary "Eroding History" to campus in spring 2024, for programming connected to the observation of Black History Month. The film "Eroding History" documents twin challenges facing the United States, and the world, in the twenty-first century: racism and climate change. "Eroding History" tells the story of two historic Black communities on Deal Island Peninsula, on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and how sea level rise threatens the island and its residents. As part of their visit, the filmmakers hosted a public screening of the documentary and visited a number of UMaine classes. This project was supported also in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund.



# Spring 2024 Faculty Grants

## Anthony Sutton (Native American Studies)

### “Building Campus Culture with Wabanaki Values”

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 (Anthropology)

### “The History and Archaeology of El Nino in Peru”

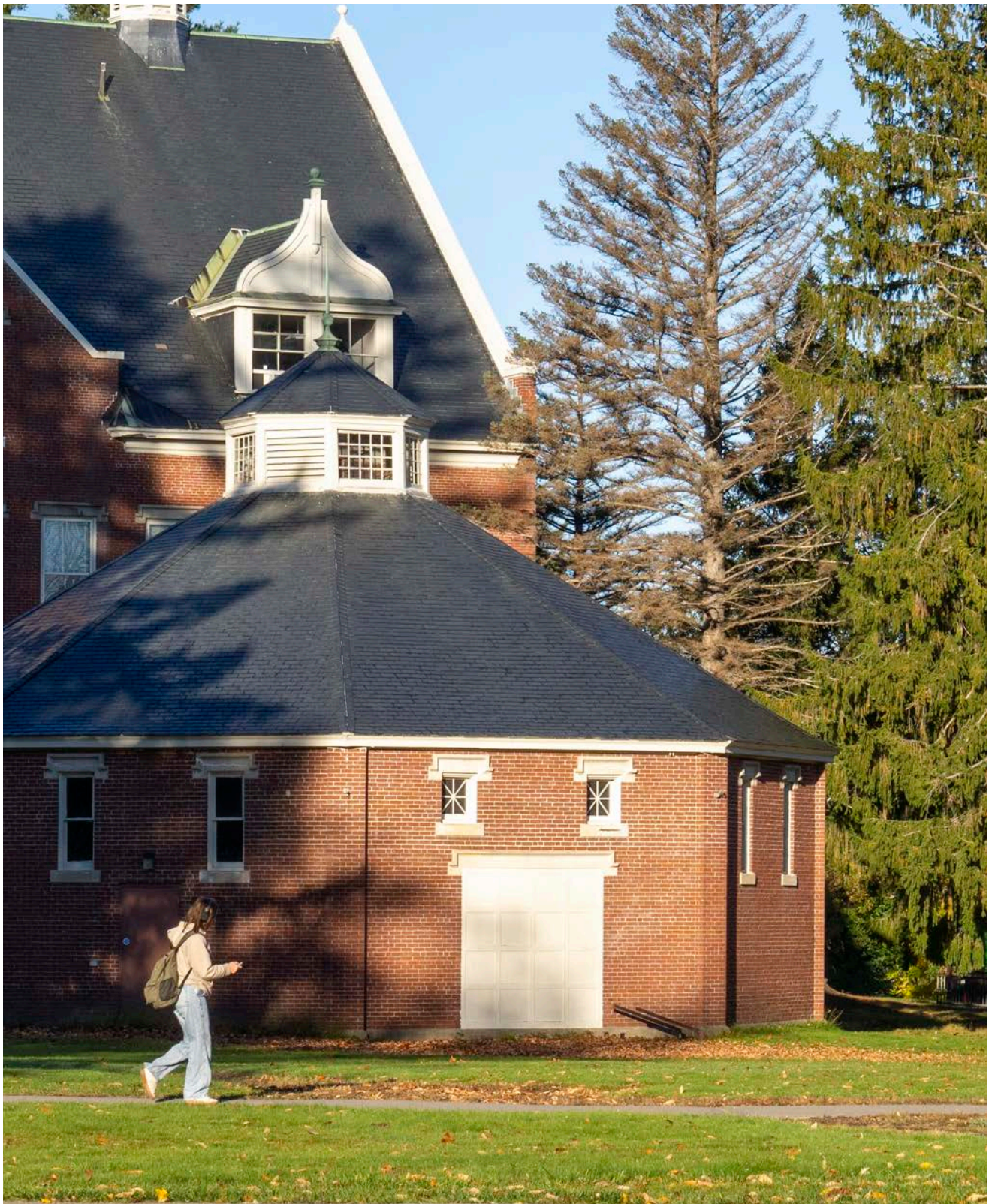
Dan Sandweiss, professor of anthropology and climate studies, who was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences, has received an MHC grant for a translation project on “The History and Archaeology of El Nino in Peru.” The Center will support the translation into Spanish of a series of scholarly 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 (School of Performing Arts Division of Music)

Laura Artesani, professor in the School of Performing Arts Division of Music, used an MHC faculty grant to support travel to and a performance at the Northeast Regional Tuba and Euphonium conference. The conference was held at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA on May 24-25, 2024. Artesani was joined by David Stern, the tuba and euphonium instructor in the UMaine School of Performing Arts, a past collaborator on several occasions, most recently at a faculty recital this past January. The pair performed a recital with Dr. Kevin Chiarrizzio, faculty member at Liberty University, which included the premiere performance of “Ice Sounds” by Beth Wiemann. At the same conference, Heath Kennedy, a double major in tuba performance and music education, received second place in the mock orchestra auditions.









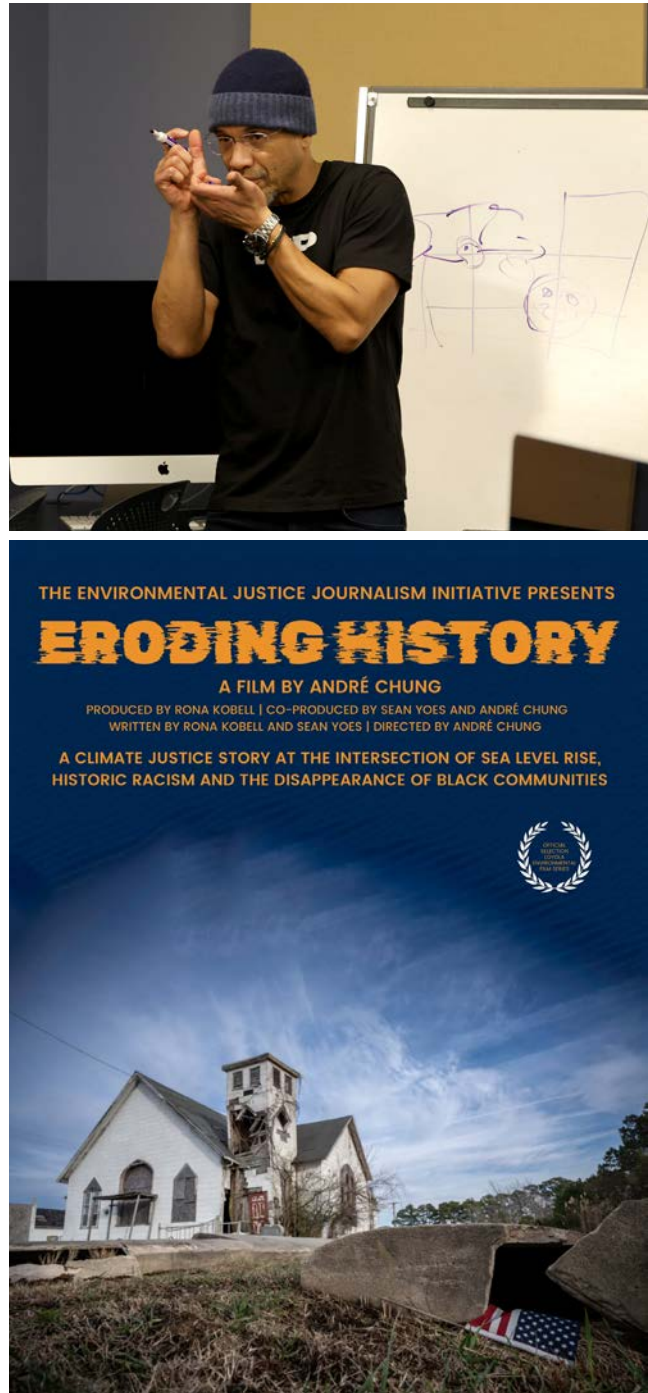
## MHC Grant Supports Documentary Film Screening, Classroom Visits

In February 2024, the Department of Communication, Media Studies, and Journalism at the University of Maine, with the support of an MHC Faculty Grant and funding from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series at UMaine, welcomed to campus the filmmakers behind the documentary “Eroding History” for a series of film screenings and classroom visits.

“Eroding History,” directed by André Chung and co-written and co-produced by Rona Kobell, tells the story of two Black communities on Deal Island, on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, that are finding themselves at the intersection of sea level rise, historic racism, and the disappearance of Black communities. It is a climate justice story, made by two Black filmmakers and a Jewish grandchild of refugees. A deeply personal and moving story of a community striving to hold on to its culture, “Eroding History” is anything but dry.

As part of their visit, André Chung and Rona Kobell attended two sections of CMJ 102: Storytelling, where they screened the film and moderated discussions, while Kobell spoke As part of the Department of Communication and Journalism’s colloquium about the Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative (attendance: approximately 15). Chung and Kobell also appeared on WABI TV to discuss the screening in an interview, and visited CMJ 489: Seminar in Media Ethics; CMJ 391: Topics: Food, Farm and Photography; and CMJ 375: Media Law to speak to students about their work as professional journalists, photojournalism, and documentary filmmaking.

A public screening of the film occurred in Williams Hall, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Haley Schneider, assistant professor of communication, and featuring University of Maine climate scientist and associate professor of paleoecology and plant ecology Jacqueline Gill.



Courtesy The Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative.



## Visions 2024 Highlights Humanities On Campus

In 2020, the MHC presented its first “Visions” event to highlight current work in the arts and humanities. In 2024, the MHC presented the sequel: Visions 2024, a showcase of current research and creative projects in the humanities held at the Collins Center for the Arts.

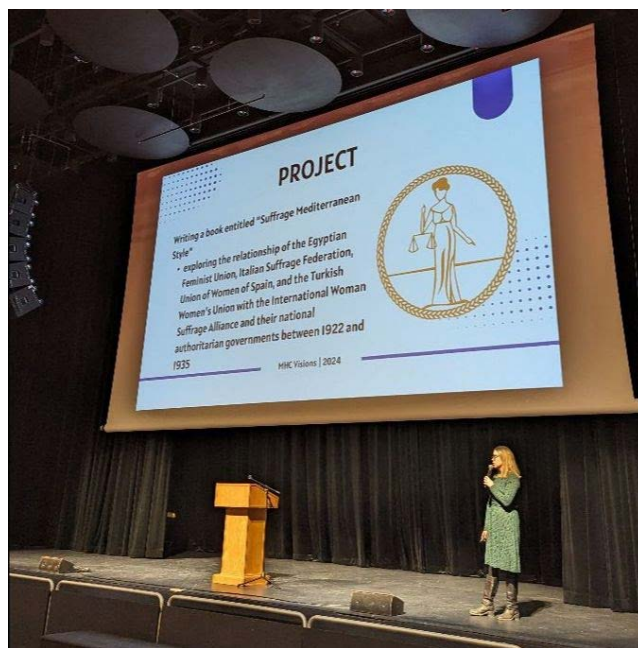
Featuring brief talks from the Collins Center mainstage, video presentations and an informal conversation in the Bodwell Lounge, and exhibitions in the center lobby, “Visions 2024” highlighted research supported by the MHC’s faculty grant and undergraduate fellowship programs. Among the speakers were professor of history Liam Riordan, who delivered a brief talk titled “Picturing Maine’s Indigenous Context: Colonialism and the Penobscot,” and assistant professor of history and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies Kara Peruccio, who discussed her work on suffrage movements in the Mediterranean.

The CCA lobby featured installations by UMaine faculty and artists including Susan Smith and Louise Bourne, while the Bodwell Lounge featured multimedia work by professor of music and MHC director Beth Wiemann, whose site-specific opera and film “I Give You My Home” was supported by an MHC grant.

“The McGillicuddy Humanities Center has been able to support faculty from all corners of the arts and humanities at UMaine, aiding the research of both full- and part-time instructors in these fields,” said Wiemann. “As director of the center, we’re proud of the support we’re able to provide, and as a past recipient of MHC faculty funding, I’m thankful for the Center’s investment in the arts and humanities. We are extremely grateful to Clement and Linda McGillicuddy for their tremendous support in this work.”

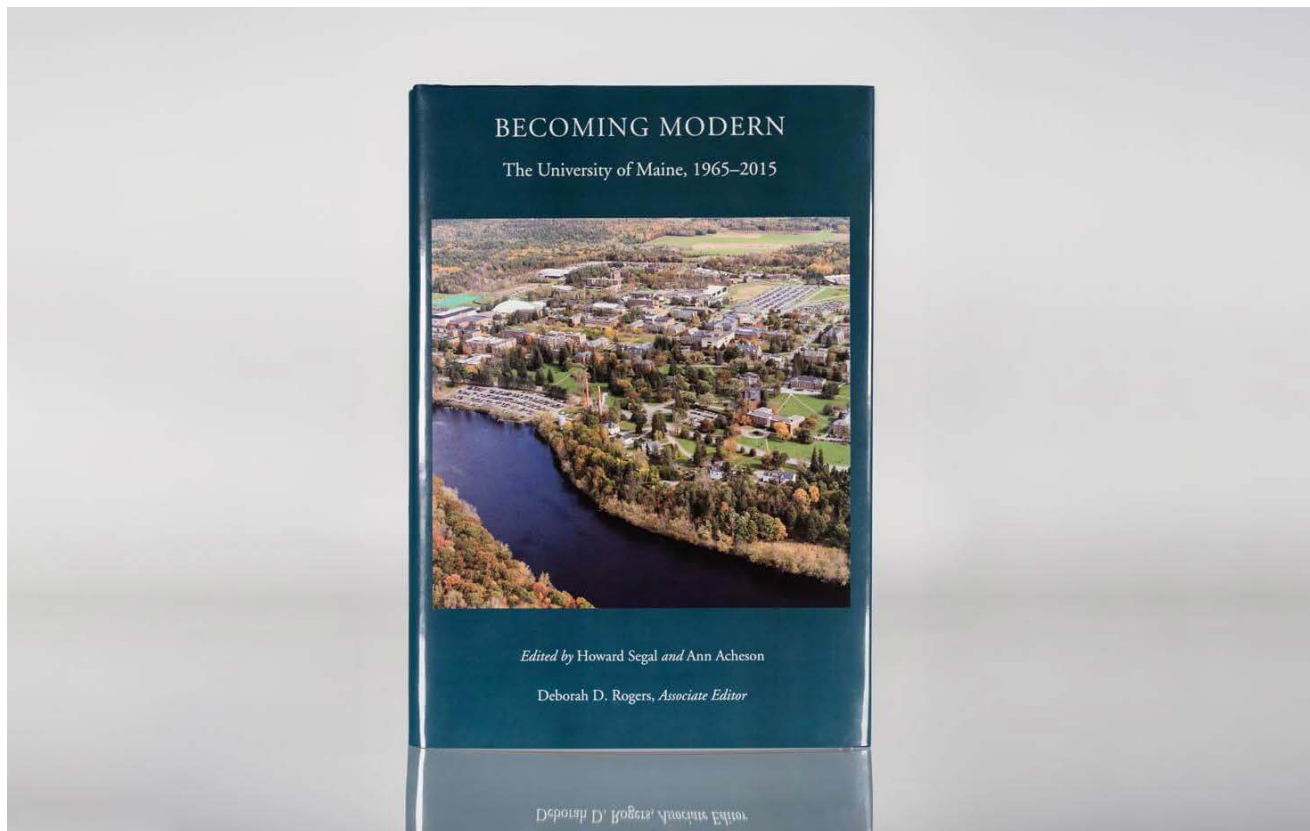
Also in the Bodwell Lounge were current and former MHC undergraduate fellows, students pursuing independent research in the humanities under the supervision of faculty mentors. Those present included 2023-24 fellow Katie Ritchie, a history and secondary education double major from Northport, Maine, whose project explored mapping’s role in K-12 Holocaust education, and Sarah Renee Ozlanski, a studio art and English double major whose project examined the matrilineal tradition of pisanki, colorful eggs with images written on them through a wax and dye resistance process.

The evening’s programming highlighted the diverse interdisciplinary expertise and interests of UMaine faculty and staff involved in research and teaching on campus and outward-facing humanities work, and familiarized the public with the many roles of the MHC — from student fellowships and faculty grants to campus lectures, performances and community outreach.



Speakers for the Visions 2024 event included Kara Peruccio (History/ Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), Gregory Zaro (Anthropology), Anne Knowles (History), Elizabeth Leclerc (Anthropology/Climate Change Institute), and Rosalie Purvis (English/Theatre).





"Becoming Modern: The University of Maine, 1965–2015" features 33 essays that depict UMaine's transition from a traditional land grant university to a vastly more diversified institution with a national and international reputation.

## New book details UMaine's journey of 'Becoming Modern'

The University of Maine marked its 100th anniversary in 1965, prompting widespread celebration and discussions of its future.

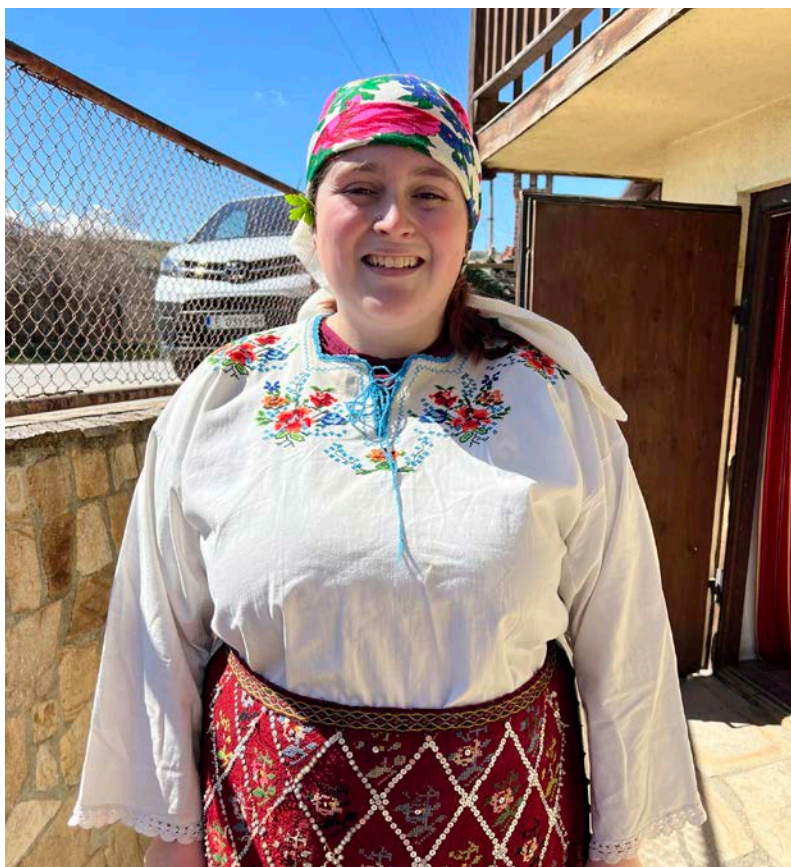
University leaders, community members, policymakers and other supporters devised plans to bolster enrollment, programs, research and public service. Yet the transformative growth UMaine experienced in the five decades between its centennial year and 2015 surpassed these visions, according to a new book published by University of Maine Press.

"Becoming Modern: The University of Maine, 1965–2015" features 33 essays that depict UMaine's transition from a traditional land grant university — one primarily focused on agriculture, business and engineering — to "a vastly more diversified institution with a national and international reputation in many fields."

The late Howard Segal, editor of the book and former UMaine history professor, began working on the book in 2012. He solicited essays from 46 contributors — faculty, staff and students from varying disciplines — and wrote the introductory and concluding chapters.

In addition to showcasing UMaine's historic milestones following its centennial, Segal described forecasts from 1965 about how UMaine would evolve. In "Back to the Future: An Introduction," the book's first essay, Segal wrote that these predictions show "what those visions reveal about the persons, movements, organizations and culture that project them."

After Segal's death in 2020, his wife, Deborah Rogers, associate editor and UMaine English professor, and co-editor Ann Acheson completed the book, which retiring University of Maine Press Director, Michael Alpert, designed and typeset.



Kailee Soucia received a Global Perspectives for Humanities Exploration award for study abroad in Bulgaria.

## Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Awards

The Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund was established at the University of Maine Foundation in 2018 and has been made possible by alumni and friends of the New England Universities in Salzburg Study Abroad Program in honor of the program founder, Dr. Josef Roggenbauer, longtime professor of German, Department of Modern Languages and Classics. The fund was launched by Tracey Graffam-Dickson '93 and Jessica Canatsey '92, two friends who met at UMaine and shared a “life-changing experience” when they participated in a travel abroad program in Salzburg. They believed experiencing a foreign culture was transformative in their lives, and so the women teamed up to initiate a fund providing opportunities for today’s undergraduates to live their own cultural adventure. Other donors have since joined in this initiative as well, and the funds invested will generate awards and life-changing memories far into the future.

The Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations Fund provides scholarships for study-abroad opportunities. This year’s recipients of Global Perspectives for Humanities Explorations funding, chosen jointly by the MHC and the UMaine Office of International Programs, were Oliver Bois, a finance major studying abroad in Bilbao, Spain, and Kailee Soucia, a triple major in business management specializing in entrepreneurship and innovations, marketing, and business information systems, studying abroad at the American University in Bulgaria.

**“Studying abroad has been one of the best experiences of my life and in less than a heartbeat I would decide to go abroad again.”**

– Oliver Bois



## Sarah Harlan-Haughey, Scholar of the Middle Ages, is “Making Things Better”



Sarah Harlan-Haughey, professor in the UMaine Department of English, is the 2024 recipient of the Wickham Skinner “Making Things Better” Award, established and to be awarded each year to recognize a faculty member whose recent scholarly accomplishments have contributed substantially to the humanities.

The Wickham Skinner Award was named for and honors Harvard Business School professor, philanthropist, and Board of Trustees member, the late C. Wickham “Wick” Skinner.

Harlan-Haughey’s scholarship in medieval studies demonstrates the novelty and richness of her interests and her contributions to the humanities, ranging from explorations of the “outlaw” in medieval literature, to Chaucer studies, to Old Norse/ North Atlantic studies, to work in the emerging field of medieval ecocriticism. As Dr. Siân Echard at the University of British Columbia has noted, Harlan-Haughey’s body of work exemplifies “an active, curious scholar working capably in several connected fields [whose] range of work is particularly impressive.”

Owing to her diverse interests, Dr. Harlan-Haughey has been an energetic and prolific scholar in the humanities during her time at the University of Maine, publishing her 2016 book *The Ecology of the English Outlaw in Medieval Literature* (Routledge), in addition to over a dozen articles and chapters, several reviews, and numerous articles on pedagogy, the interdisciplinary humanities, and honors education. Her second book, *Layamon’s Necropoetics: Death, Landscape, and Poetry in the Brut* is under contract with Exeter Medieval Texts and Studies (an imprint of Liverpool University Press). She has initiated work on her third book project and has five working articles on themes ranging from gender performativity and consumption in the rhymes of Robin Hood to ecocritical readings of the role of whales within Icelandic *Ketil Hængs Saga*.

Such seeming range and diversity of scholarship belies the common themes that resonate across Dr. Harlan-Haughey’s work, while bringing alive the relevance of these texts for understanding the human condition. Her extensive work on outlaws within medieval narratives, for instance, centers the figure of the outlaw as arising in relation to concrete

social, historical, legal and political trends: anxiety about the ambiguous relationship between humanity and wilderness; absurdist parody of the perceived injustice of forest law, thus creating a “syntax and vocabulary of protest” that would drive popular efforts to resist such encroachment. In Harlan-Haughey’s skilled scholarly hands these themes continue to speak to us, though separated by centuries. Our societies still struggle to demarcate the boundary lines between wilderness and humanity, stigmatizing those who transgress such boundaries. As Dr. Siân Echard notes, Dr. Harlan-Haughey “clearly identifies the tensions in, and subversive potential of, the outlaw figure.” Thus, it is no surprise that we continue to remain fascinated with outlaws, lionizing the figures who provide us with the syntax and vocabulary of protest to resist perceived encroachment and injustice. We still struggle with and resist those (be they the state or powerful economic actors) who attempt to lay claim to the physical spaces we consider to be the commons, such as water and land.

In light of the insightful and cutting-edge scholarly contributions, it is no surprise that Dr. Harlan-Haughey is a highly sought after instructor and academic mentor. In just the past ten years, she has developed and taught over 20 separate courses on an array of topics: gender and literature; sagas; medieval romance; ecocritical theory; the “imagined medieval” in 19th and 20th century culture, and so much more. She has served on over 60 honors thesis committees, and advised 10 honors theses. She is sought after by her students and enlisted to help organize and advise student reading groups, symposia, and humanities research fellowships and labs.

She is also an excellent ambassador for the humanities beyond the university, sharing her expertise with the community in a variety of venues: pre-performance talks at theatrical performances; public libraries, community gatherings, the American Folk Festival, and on local radio.

Receiving the award, Harlan-Haughey says, is a tremendous gift. She sees her work — as both an academic and teacher — as an important way to “honor the human experience.”

“In the humanities, we’re trying to connect on a really intense level with somebody from a different time or place which is always important work,” Harlan-Haughey says. “We are asking our students and readers to engage in a radical act of empathy and critical thinking. This kind of work stretches our own minds and horizons.”



# Fundraising for MHC

## 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.**



The McGillicuddys support the Humanities Center through a fund they established at the University of Maine Foundation. The two met in New York City while working in the computer industry, and are committed to “giving back” to a state that means a great deal to their family.

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 and Houlton native, explains, “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.” 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.



## 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 nearly \$3,300,000 through May 2024.

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 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.

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

**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.



**Sandra Merrill Peters and John G. Peters Humanities Fellowship Fund**, established by Sandra Merrill Peters '69 and John G. Peters '69 to support a Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellow with a preference for a student from Maine who is majoring in a humanities field.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**Echoes of Maine Humanities Fellowship Fund**, established by founding editor/publisher of Echoes magazine, Kathryn Olmstead, to support a Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellow with a preference for a student majoring in Journalism and/or whose project highlights positive values rooted in the past that have relevance for the present and the future.

**Claire Labrie Strickland '75 Scholarship**, established by friends and family in honor of Claire's retirement, to provide scholarship funding to upperclassmen in the humanities who have demonstrated financial need, with a preference for those who are the first in their family to pursue a post-secondary education.

**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.

**Dr. Robert M. and Jean W. Swan Humanities Scholarship Fund**, established by the Swans, to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students enrolled in health and related sciences who may wish to pursue additional studies in the humanities

**Brennan Family Scholarship**, established by Michael Brennan, Ph.D. '19 in memory of his mother, Tara Brennan O'Meara, to benefit students with demonstrated financial need who are majoring in any humanities disciplines.

**Patricia S. O'Brien Humanities Fellowship Fund**, established by Matt Mullen '08 in honor of his mother to support a Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellow with a preference for a student who is majoring in History.



**Wabanaki Student Support Fund**, established by Barbara Bassler Keast '63, to provide Native American students enrolled in the humanities disciplines short-term immediate financial assistance, to help ensure that they will have tools and resources needed to succeed in their pursuit of a degree.

**David '64, '67G and Alison '71 Wiggin Humanities Fellowship**, established by David Wiggin '64, '67G in memory of his wife, Alison, to support a Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellow with a preference for a student who is majoring in English or Modern Languages from Southern Aroostook County.

**Liam Riordan Humanities Fellowship Fund**, established by Tim Garrity '14G and Lynn Boulger, in honor of History Professor Liam Riordan, to celebrate his 25th year on the UMaine faculty. It supports a Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellow with a preference for a student who is majoring in History.

**Global Exploration & Language Opportunities Fund**, established by Charles Ryan '84, provides support to students who wish to expand their global views through international travel to Central and South American countries.

**Dr. Herbert E. Whiteley '73 and Yvette Poirier Whiteley '74 Fund**, established by the Whiteleys to enrich the University community by providing support for visiting musicians and scholars in the humanities.

**Moxley-Evans Fund for Literary Arts**, established by Jennifer Moxley and Steve Evans, to support literary arts at UMaine with an emphasis on poetry. It is their hope that the fund helps to ensure that literary arts flourish at the University of Maine.



Teagan Russell is the inaugural recipient of funds from the Global Explorations and Language Opportunities Fund

## Global Exploration and Language Opportunities Fund Award

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 undertook a study abroad semester 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.



## Patrons Circle

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

Richard P. Anderson and Karin Anderson  
Constance H. Babcock  
Douglas C. Baston  
David Canatsey and Jessica Canatsey  
Sheila E. Comerford and Stephen W. Gove  
Dennis Cox and Elizabeth Downing  
Corey L. Davis  
Timothy Garrity and Lynn Boulger  
Philip Hamilton and Susan Hamilton  
Jeffrey E. Hecker, Ph.D. & Judith L. Stickles  
Susan J. Hunter, Ph.D and David H. Lambert, Ph.D.  
Faye W. Gilbert, Ph.D.  
Jim Jenkins and Anne Jenkins  
Stephen E. King and Tabitha Spruce King  
Clement E. McGillicuddy and Linda McGillicuddy  
Matt Mullen and Emily Mullen

Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy and Richard A. Mundy  
Brian Naylor and Barbara Van Woerkom  
Kathryn Olmstead  
Daniel P. Ostrye and Hannah Ostrye  
John Peters and Sandra Peters  
Charles H. Ryan  
Henry L.P. Schmelzer and Cynthia E. Livingston  
Lauren A. Sterling and William D. Adams  
Terry Strickland and Claire Strickland  
Robert M. Swan and Jean W. Swan  
David Taylor and LeeEllen Friedland  
David C. Wiggin  
James S. Ward IV and Susan C. Ward  
Yvette Poirier Whiteley and Dr. Herbert E. Whiteley



## Board of Advisors

The Center's Board of Advisors is a standing committee composed 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.

## Chair

Tim Garrity '14, Historian, Mount Desert Island Historical Society

## Members

Nolan Altwater, '20, University of Maine I.Ph.D. student and Special Projects Cultural Coordinator, Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Richard P. Anderson, '73, founder, Richard Parks Furniture (founder) and Karin Anderson, psychiatrist (retired)

Mary Copeland, '11, Managing Director, Avance Partner Search

LeeEllen Friedland, President, Ethnologica

Philip Hamilton '85, Managing Partner, Diablo Vista Capital, LLC

Jeffrey Hecker '86 Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of Maine

Carl Little, freelance writer, art critic and author

Brian Naylor '78, Washington Correspondent, National Public Radio (NPR) (retired)

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

Sarah Penney, '21, Project Manager, Partners in Health

Sandra Peters '69, Educator (retired)

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

Lauren Sterling '10, Philanthropy Consultant

David A. Taylor '74, External Relations and Program Development Officer, Library of Congress

Herb Whiteley, '74, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine

## Ex Officio

Emily Haddad, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Maine



