

# MINERVA

*a publication of*  
THE HONORS COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

2010



# 75 YEARS

The  
**Honors**  
*College*  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Charlie Slavin, Dean

## MINERVA

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Front Cover: The Honors College medalion, which is worn by Honors graduates during commencement exercises each year. In honor of the 75th celebration, the Class of 2010 received a special anniversary charm featuring the 75th logo.

Opposite: The Maine section of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Back Cover: A snapshot of a student's flip flop that was kicked-off during an energetic game of frisbee at the Welcome Back BBQ.

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# FROM THE DEAN



## 75

You'll see that number many times in this issue of MINERVA. We are very proud to be celebrating seventy-five years of Honors education at the University of Maine. As we look forward from this lofty vantage point, it is appropriate that while celebrating the past, we both reflect upon the current and dream of the future. I'm proud to say that we have received some pretty good reviews recently. As we strive to "become a leader in undergraduate education in New England," I want to share two of these reviews, each of which has a New England flavor.

In 2009, UMaine underwent its ten-year reaccreditation evaluation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The visiting committee produced a substantial document, but admittedly, one paragraph jumped out:

Another important initiative that has heightened the profile of the university and enhanced the ability to attract top candidates for enrollment is the growth of the Honors College. Evolving from the Honors Program in 2002, the stronger and more integrated college has established a comprehensive, challenging and highly supportive intellectual environment for approximately 700 students. The Honors College provides students with maximum flexibility to pursue their academic interests. The core strength of the Honors College is built on the commitment to small classes, individual contact with faculty and a guided capstone experience, exploring a topic of mutual interest between student scholar and faculty member. The program has strong institutional commitment.

Honestly, I felt good reading that. [Though current enrollment is about 800.]

Later in these pages you will read more about our Celebration of 75 Years of Honors. There you will also see some of Bob Edwards wonderfully crafted and thoughtful keynote address, but I have asked our intrepid editor, Emily Cain, to let me use some of Bob's words here to reinforce my point:

What the Honors College most consciously does, though, is lay higher-level intellectual foundations which have a serious ethical dimension: interdisciplinary courses and lectures underlining that a student's "subject" or "major" is not reality, but a serious, disciplined way of thinking about a narrow part of it; "preceptorials," the small group discussions of assigned work from which intellectual avoidance is difficult—or becomes its own art form; and finally, the thesis, that specific piece of academic work, or artistic endeavor, that must meet the standards of its field and for which the student must take personal responsibility.

Bob was the president of Bowdoin College from 1990 to 2001, so his knowledge of the New England higher education landscape is quite extensive. These words, too, made me proud of the work we have all done here.

The past and present being accounted for, we look toward the future. What will the next seventy-five years bring? I am confident that it will be positive. We have a wonderful base upon which to build, and none of us involved in the Honors College enjoy standing still. The following pages will give you a good idea of what might be in store – and the profiles of our students suggest that the future is very bright indeed. I encourage you all to join us and see.

*Charlie*

Charlie Slavin, Dean

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[www.honors.umaine.edu](http://www.honors.umaine.edu)

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# 75 YEARS OF HONORS



## A Celebration of 75 Years of Honors at the University of Maine June 25, 2010

A large group (photo above) of students, faculty, staff, and Honors graduates came together to formally celebrate 75 years of Honors at the University of Maine. Wells Conference Center was adorned with photos and artifacts of Honors over the past 75 years, highlighting our growth and progress over time. The formal program featured a special video welcome from UMaine President Robert Kennedy, remarks by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sue Hunter, a celebratory toast by Charles Stanhope '71, and a dynamic keynote address by Bob Edwards (see opposite page). Special thanks goes to Amos Orcutt and the University of Maine Foundation for supporting our event as a sponsor.

Two surprise presentations were made by Dean Charlie Slavin to Charles Stanhope and Bob Edwards. Charles was presented with his very own UMaine Honors College chair (photo below) to thank him for his generosity over the years hosting our students at the Library of Congress and to congratulate him on his retirement to Maine after a lifetime of work at the Library. After the keynote, Charlie surprised Bob by making him the first-ever honorary Honors College graduate from the University of Maine. He was presented with his very own Honors certificate, medallion and stein (photos opposite page) to make it official!

This special evening was the culmination of hard work and planning by the Honors College staff. The focus of our celebration was not only on how far we have come, but how far we can, and will, go in the future. Our students motivate us to think bigger, do more, and create opportunity for them to grow as scholars and leaders every day. 



## Excerpts from the Keynote Address by Robert H. Edwards, Ph.D. *The University of Maine's Honors College: 75 Years Old* *Thinking Anew about Ancient Challenges to Reason and the Reasonable*

"I'm not sure why I have the honor of speaking before you on this grand and triumphant occasion. It may be that I happen to have arrived in the world the same year as the College's antecedent Honors Program: 1935; or that I was the beneficiary of the College's intellectual analogues at Princeton and Cambridge; but I'd like to think that it's the more basic reason that I represent the final gift of education: years beyond professional retirement that are not "retirement" from thinking but filled with delight and vivid conversation; driven by habits of reading and rereading and looking things up midst the unending wonders of Maine's seasons, trees, birds, rocks and waters...

"I suspect that, as at Bowdoin, Honors College students are highly intelligent but that many arrive from high school in important ways unformed and unready to learn. They know smatterings of things, often not including grammar; many have not acquired the habits or techniques of cutting into really hard subjects. The College probably does some high-level remedial work. What it most consciously does, though, is lay higher-level intellectual foundations which have a serious ethical dimension: interdisciplinary courses and lectures underlining that a student's "subject" or "major" is not reality, but a serious, disciplined way of thinking about a narrow part of it; "preceptorials," the small group discussions of assigned work from which intellectual avoidance is difficult—or becomes its own art form; and finally, the thesis, that specific piece of academic work, or artistic endeavor, that must meet the standards of its field and for which the student must take personal responsibility...

I think that one of the most difficult things for us in our rational, secular academy to think about—or even regard as a very interesting question—is that there exist in the world today substantial, influential groups of people, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist, who inhabit a different intellectual and emotional world. They cleave to a colorful, textured explanation of events and of their own identity that is based on ancient texts, faith, and tradition—a world we have largely abandoned. In fact, we feel the Enlightenment liberated us from that authoritarian world. Anthropology and sociology speak in comfortable analytical abstractions about culture and ethnicity; economists are now conjuring with "irrationality" and political scientists with the abstraction of "religion." But I'm not sure that these applications of our analytical tools get us very close to grasping the intimate interior cohesion and emotional grip on personal and group identity of what we might call, to paraphrase de Toqueville, "systems of the heart..."

"The coming generation of Honors College graduates will likely face requirements of imagination, eclecticism and creative understanding of unfamiliar systems of thought heavier than we know. Secular and politically correct as the academy can be, and ahistorical as we as a nation have become, I'm not sure that the beginnings of understanding don't lie in reminding our students of our own anguished, bloody 200-year Western transition from a world of faith to one of reason and quantities—in these times of ours when public worries about values and sheer complexity may make passionate conviction and faith seem the only answer." 75



*A good time was had by all!  
Here's to the next..*



All 75th celebration photos by Anne Schmidt, [www.anneschmidtphotography.com](http://www.anneschmidtphotography.com)

## And the Award Goes to...

Members of the Honors community recognized, and a special visit from Dr. Andrea Pelletier

### Emily Cain '02

has the *Spirit of Maine*

During Homecoming this fall, the UMaine Alumni Association recognized Honors College Coordinator of Advancement, Emily Cain, with the 2010 *Spirit of Maine Award*. The award is given annually to an alum who has graduated within the past 15 years and whose accomplishments, commitment and initiative reflect the high standards and vitality of UMaine.

Cain, who earned her degree in Music Education from UMaine with Highest Honors, was recognized not only for her work in the Honors College, but for her dedication to higher education as the State Representative from Orono to the Maine Legislature. Cain served as House Chair of the Appropriations Committee from 2008-2010 during very tough fiscal times for Maine, and was sworn-in to her fourth term in the Maine House on December 1 as the new Democratic House Minority Leader for the 125th Legislature. 75



### Dr. Andrea Pelletier '05 returns as an expert

On November 18th, Andrea Pelletier, M.D. (above, center), visited the Honors College to participate in a panel discussion of *A Midwife's Tale*, by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, for the Honors 211 class lecture. Dr. Pelletier spoke about her experience as a first-year OB/GYN resident at Maine Medical Center, comparing her perspective to those of the rest of the panel, which included a professor of Women's Studies and a practicing midwife. She spent the night in Colvin Hall's Visiting Faculty Suite (and slept past 3:45am for a change!), and was kind enough to join a group of Honors students for breakfast Friday morning before returning to her life in the professional world. Thanks, Andrea! 75

### Daniella Runyambo '14 for social justice

First-year Honors student Daniella Runyambo was honored this fall with the Young Women's Social Justice Award at the annual Maryann Hartman Awards, sponsored by UMaine's Women in the Curriculum and Women's Studies program. Runyambo was born in Congo. Her family moved to Rwanda and then to Portland. When she arrived in Maine in 2007, Runyambo organized a youth group in the community to bring youth from Rwanda, Congo, and Burundi to teach them their culture and to live without forgetting where they came from, and how beautiful it is there. "Our goal was to be the light of the world," says Daniella. "We named the group 'umoco' to reflect that goal." 75



## The 2010 — 2011 academic year at the Honors College is off to a great start!

Here's what we've been up to...



**Open House:** August 23rd: Future generations of Honors students got to check out the College firsthand. The staff held an informational meet-and-greet on the Mall, and prospective students took tours the Honors buildings, Colvin and Balentine.

**Move-In Day:** August 27th: The day started bright and early and by the end, nearly 300 new Honors students had moved-in across campus!

**Start of Classes:** August 31st: The start of the semester is always exciting. This year, first-years began by discussing the Honors Read (*Persepolis*, by Marjane Satrapi), while sophomores picked up where they left off, with Shakespeare's *Tempest* and essays by Michel de Montaigne. Third-year students began broadening their horizons through Honors tutorials or approved alternatives such as study abroad or congressional internships. Finally, our seniors began hitting the books and researching their theses.

**Welcome Back BBQ:** September 3rd: The first week of classes can be stressful, so once it's over, we treat our students to an afternoon of relaxation, fun and food. This year, after an entire week of sun and heat, we only just escaped Hurricane Earl!

**Looking Forward:** We've settled into the semester, but there are a number of events coming up, including another Open House, the NCHC conference in Kansas City (October 20th-24th), and, the Honors Holiday Party to finish off finals week in December! <sup>75</sup>

Keep in touch with us at [www.honors.umaine.edu](http://www.honors.umaine.edu)!

## Meet our New Associates...



**Jonathan Erde '10 and Ben Wooden '10**

We have two new Honors College Associates this year. Jonathan Erde graduated in May 2010 with a BA in Financial Economics. Ben Wooden graduated in the same class with a BA in Anthropology. Both are looking forward to working with students throughout their Honors journey.

For Ben, this means focusing on the development of good writing skills early in each student's career. He is working to expand the resources available to Honors writers, and hopes to find ways of making writing more fun (or at least less painful).

Jonathan changed his major four or five times, but he always had a home in the Honors College. He hopes to help Honors students feel a connection to UMaine through the Honors College, even if they change their major as often as he did.

Ben and Jonathan have quickly adapted to their new responsibilities. In addition to their regular work, they have created a blog, *The Experiment Station* — [theexperimentstation.wordpress.com](http://theexperimentstation.wordpress.com) — where you can find weekly updates on Associate projects and reviews of movies, books, and art. You can also keep up with Honors College news and events at the UMaine Honors College Facebook page. <sup>75</sup>

Visit Ben & Jonathan's new blog at:  
<http://theexperimentstation.wordpress.com/>

**THE  
EXPERIMENT  
STATION**

**AN HONORS BLOG**



# UMaine150

## New joint positions for Honors & LAS on the horizon

In May 2010 President Robert Kennedy unveiled *UMaine 150*, a plan to move the University of Maine through current challenges and on to future opportunities as we approach its sesquicentennial. As part of his aim to “enhance our core mission and build on unique strengths,” President Kennedy announced the establishment of four College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – Honors College Preceptors: “This can help us grow the Honors College, one of our greatest success stories, and provide more opportunities for those outstanding students – especially outstanding Maine students – who want to experience a rigorous, liberal arts-based education in the context of a comprehensive university setting.”

Deans Jeff Hecker (CLAS) and Charlie Slavin (Honors) collaborated to define these positions, envisioning a group of teacher-scholars committed to interdisciplinary pedagogy and scholarship. CLAS-Honors Preceptors will hold joint appointments in the Honors College and units in CLAS, and they will engage undergraduate students in the classroom and beyond its walls, as teachers, mentors, and advisors. As members of the Honors College faculty, they will be part of a community of scholars who together explore questions both within and beyond their various disciplines. In Honors and their disciplinary units they will champion pedagogical innovation, interdisciplinary interactions, and, particularly, undergraduate-involved scholarship.

All units of CLAS were invited to submit proposals for these positions. Those submitted were innovative, compelling, and exciting. Deans Hecker and Slavin, along with Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education Stuart Marrs, selected the four recipients: English, Communication and Journalism, Political Science, and Psychology. Joint search committees have been formed for each position, announcements have been written and posted, and applications are already flowing in. We expect a wonderfully exciting spring semester filled with candidates visiting campus, staying with us in the Margaret Chase Smith Visiting Scholars’ Suite in Colvin Hall, and interacting with our students and the entire University community.

We couldn’t be more excited about this collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that will continue to build the core of our Honors College Faculty. 75



The big event for the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) in 2009-2010 was the inaugural Undergraduate Research and Academic Showcase. On April 14, 2010, over 100 undergraduate students from across campus presented their work in a university-wide symposium. Original performances were presented by students from several programs, including Honors students Mae Walters (English), Andrew Prindle (Communication) and Emma Davis (Theatre & Psychology). More than 50 research posters highlighted the work of students representing such diverse academic areas as sociology, chemical and biological engineering, nursing, journalism, biochemistry, history, and kinesiology. The work demonstrated the high quality of research being conducted by undergraduates at UMaine, and it was a testament to the dedication of the 30+faculty who provided mentoring for the students. Honors was well represented by both students and faculty. These faculty included Bill DeSisto, Chris Gerbi, Nancy Hall, Constanza Ocampo-Raeder, and Rich Powell (Honors Council members) and Nancy Ogle, Michael Palmer, and Tina Passman (Honors faculty). CUGR and the research symposium planning committee are already at work on next year’s event. 75

## 2010 Charles V. Stanhope '71 Study Abroad Fellowships Awarded



Two Honors students have been selected to each receive a Charles V. Stanhope '71 Study Abroad Fellowship to support them as they study abroad this academic year.

Amy Marie Michaud (left, top), a third-year biology major from Presque Isle, ME, is in England at the University of East Anglia. She is spending the entire year in England, taking courses in genetics, plant biology, field ecology, biology, and language and gender. Amy plans to pursue a career in biological research.

Jackson Witherill (left, below), a third-year international affairs and political science major from Readfield, ME, is in Belgium, focusing his course work on Advanced French, the European Union, and Understanding Contemporary Conflict. Jackson is interning at the international law firm of Laffineur Soulier in Brussels, and his goal is to become a foreign service officer for the State Department.

The Charles V. Stanhope '71 Study Abroad Fellowship encourages students to study abroad to expand their horizons and increase their exposure to and understanding of different cultures. Charles Stanhope, a UMaine Honors graduate who recently retired to Maine after a long and distinguished career at the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington, DC, remains active with the Honors College. He established this endowed fellowship in 2007 to acknowledge his connection to the College and to the impact that international experiences played in his education and career. <sup>75</sup>



## 2010 Carolyn E. Reed Pre-Medical Honors Thesis Fellowship Awarded

Honors student Zachery Garcia '11, has been selected to receive the 2010 Carolyn E. Reed '72 Pre-Medical Honors Thesis Fellowship. The Fellowship will provide Garcia with financial support while working on his Honors thesis in biology this year.

Garcia is a senior biology major with minors in neuroscience, chemistry, and psychology. He is from Brunswick, ME and attended North Yarmouth Academy. Garcia's Honors thesis focuses on the endocrine disrupting chemical Bisphenol A (BPA) and its impact on development of the cardiac system and aspects of the reproductive system in *Drosophila melanogaster*, commonly known as fruit flies. BPA is used widely, which makes exposure common, and research like Garcia's will help to build understanding of the impact of this exposure on animals. UMaine Professor of Zoology, Dr. Harold "Dusty" Dowse is Zachery's advisor.

Garcia explains his topic: "I think it is important to understand how the heart works and how its development can be affected by chemicals that can have long lasting and devastating effects on the fitness of the animal and its offspring. By better understanding how it is affected in this model organism, I hope to better understand overall function of the heart, its development, and pathologies that arise in development." Garcia plans to attend medical school in Fall 2011, and hopes to become a cardiothoracic surgeon, just like Dr. Reed,



the namesake and benefactor of the Fellowship.

The Reed Pre-Medical Thesis Fellowship is intended to encourage students to investigate and understand the rigorous academic path to a career in medicine, and is awarded annually to a UMaine Honors student whose undergraduate thesis research resembles the passion for, and dedication to medicine evident in the work and career of Dr. Reed who graduated from UMaine with a degree in Chemistry and with Honors. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1977. Dr. Reed has been at the Medical University of South Carolina since 1985, and currently is Professor of Surgery; Chief, Section of General Thoracic Surgery; Deputy Director of Clinical Affairs, Hollings Cancer Center; and holds the Alice Ruth Reeves Folk Endowed Chair of Clinical Oncology. <sup>75</sup>



## Honors Sophomores on Their Way to Medical School at Tufts University



Thanks to their hard work, three Honors students have received early acceptance to Tufts University Medical School. Jonathan Pelletier (left photo, bottom) and Aaron Perrault (left photo, top) were accepted in 2009, and Bradie Manion (right photo) was accepted in 2010.

The Maine Track Early Assurance program allows sophomores at all campuses of the University of Maine System, and Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin Colleges to apply two years early to this partnership between Tufts University School of Medicine and Maine Medical Center. The minimum eligibility requirements are rigorous. Applicants must complete at least one semester of organic chemistry and maintain a 3.5 GPA in all science courses. Competitive applicants have volunteer or employment experience in the health care field.

Early Assurance guarantees that students who meet the admission requirements will be accepted into Tufts' Medical School. Yet, they are not required to make a binding commitment. What a stress reliever! Students who enter the Tufts' Maine Track program will study on the Boston campus and at Maine Medical Center in Portland, ME—two of New England's top medical institutions. Graduates will receive a combined diploma from TUSM and MMC with the expectation that a significant number of graduates will practice medicine in Maine. 75

## 2010 INBRE Awards

The Honors College and the Maine IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence are pleased to announce the recipients of six Honors Thesis Fellowships, and two Junior Year Research Awards. The awards are presented to Honors students whose research relates to biomedical research in comparative functional genomics.

### THESIS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS:

- **Ryan Dawes** (Biology), Belgrade, ME, with Sharon Ashworth, Assistant Professor of Cell Biology, and David Neivandt, Associate Professor and Director of Product Development, Pulp and Paper Process Development Center.
- **Sam Entwisle** (Biochemistry, Molecular & Cellular Biology), Sedgwick, ME, with Dorothy Croall, Professor of Biochemistry.
- **Erin Keim** (Zoology), Veazie, ME, with Keith Hutchison, Professor of Biochemistry/Molecular Biology.
- **Jonathan Pelletier** (Microbiology), Scarborough, ME, with Julie Gosse, Assistant Professor of Microbiology.
- **Aaron Perreault** (Biochemistry), Northfield, NH, with Carol Kim, Associate Professor of Biochemistry.
- **Kara Sarver** (Biochemistry), Gorham, ME, with Mary Rumpho, Professor of Biochemistry.

### JUNIOR YEAR RESEARCH AWARD:

- **Breana Bennett** (Biochemistry), Freedom, ME, with Sharon Ashworth, Assistant Professor of Cell Biology.
- **Ryan Hanusek** (Biology), Dayton, ME, with Sharon Ashworth, Assistant Professor of Cell Biology.
- **Bradie Manion** (Biochemistry), Old Town, ME, with Carol Kim, Associate Professor of Biochemistry.

## Honors Read 2010: *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

In the 2010 Honors Read, *Persepolis*, author and illustrator Marjane Satrapi tells the story of her life as a young Iranian woman, describing her struggle to find an identity in a world torn between the poles of religious fundamentalism and liberal indulgence. A graphic memoir in black-and-white -- the word "novel" doesn't really apply here -- *Persepolis* is stark in both its imagery and its social themes, but the politics of Satrapi's story are packaged in the entertaining and affecting story of her coming-of-age.



Satrapi's portrayal of her younger self is frequently unflattering; as an author she makes little attempt to gloss over the self-interest of her youth, and only obliquely justifies it as a product of the environment in which she grew up. Instead of corrupting her credibility, however, this moral waywardness serves more as a reminder of the psychological scars borne by war's collateral population. As is often the case, it is through her failings (rather than her successes) that Satrapi's humanity comes across most clearly.

Since the inception of the Honors Read, the first lecture of the year has been devoted to discussion of the text by all first-year Honors students. As usual, class discussion this year was lively and engaging, centering on questions of responsibility and relativism. The relationship between the book's images and narrative interested many students -- for some, Satrapi's stripped-down illustrations focused their attention by dispensing with irrelevant details; others found the simplicity liberating in its interpretive openness.

Defying tradition, almost everyone enjoyed *Persepolis* (the Honors Read can be polarizing), but despite its broad appeal, the topical relevance and aesthetic quality of *Persepolis* make it an apt beginning for new students. 75

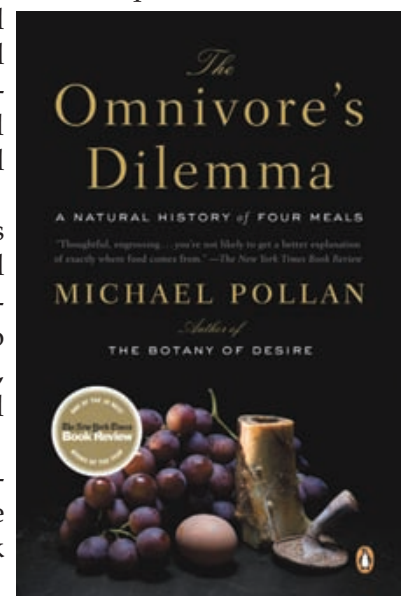
## Honors Read 2011: *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan

In the summer of 2011, the incoming Class of 2015 will begin their undergraduate journey by reading *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. The Honors College is particularly excited about the 2011 Honors Read because of its practical and intellectual approach to an everyday thing -- food.

*The Omnivore's Dilemma* was nominated by Julia Flanders, who wrote: "Another way to view climate change and global, economic, and environmental crisis is to understand how food is produced and delivered, how removed from our local farming community it has become, and the impact that it has made on global warming and climate change. Michael Pollan discusses the effects of our current food manufacturing and consumption has on our health. The kinds of changes we can make in what we eat and where we get our food can have profoundly positive effects on our individual health, the economic health of our communities, and the environment."

The students who selected the book were equally impressed by Pollan's work: "Within a relatively short time, our society has transformed from local farms to industrialized plants capable of producing food on a scale once unimaginable. But at what cost? As you read *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, try not to fall into the intellectual trap of thinking just about food processing. Instead, consider the social structure that has caused most of us to become so detached from something so elementally human: the act of eating."

Even if Michael Pollan doesn't change the way we choose to eat, the implications of his food saga are sure to be extremely thought provoking. The Honors College is confident that the Class of 2015 will enthusiastically sink their teeth into *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. 75



# Why I Teach in the Honors College

## Sharon Tisher, Resource Economics & Policy

I compose this as I am in the process of reading some forty odd first essays from my first year preceptorials. For many, this is not an auspicious context for writing, “Why I love teaching in the Honors College.” As I pursued my first career as a trial lawyer, I kept in touch with college classmates who went on to academic positions. While there was much to envy in their lives, their uniform and strongly voiced complaint centered on the tedium, and frustration, of reading student papers and trying to teach writing skills. Blessedly, such tedium and frustration have escaped me in my sixteen years of teaching in Honors.

As I sit down with a cup of tea and a first year’s first essay, I expect it to be far from perfect. Sometimes I am surprised by its quality. More often I encounter the first step in an arduous process. The first draft of an Honors essay is the beginning of a struggle to understand a complicated historical text, to draw comparisons with other texts, and to develop an understanding of the culture that has shaped who we are.

As an undergraduate at Harvard College, my interests were in making connections between different art forms and the cultures from which they sprang. I proposed a self-designed major studying 19th century visual arts and literature. I gave up the effort, finding neither the English Department nor the Art History Department interested in moving outside their boxes. In coming to teach environmental law and Honors at the University of Maine, I’ve come full circle. I get to explore, with curious and talented students, the great art works, texts, and ideas that fascinated me in college. The difference is that in the Honors College, I work with colleagues who love exploring realms outside their comfort zones, and students who are game for the adventure. 75



## David Gross, English

“The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.” —Plutarch

When I returned to my beloved home state of Maine after 32 years at the University of Oklahoma in 2004, I wasn’t sure I was done with teaching. In 2005 Dean Slavin hired me on as a 211-212 preceptor, and I can honestly say I have loved every minute. Well, perhaps not every minute of grading papers...

The best thing about UMaine Honors is the students. At Oklahoma I taught many Honors courses, and had been Associate Director of Honors. Here’s a simple fact: Maine students are better. Not so much in academic ability, though there I would also have to give the edge to Maine. In both places almost all Honors students seem to have learned a lot in high school. The big difference is in their approach to their education, their attitude toward learning.

The students in my preceptorials at UMaine are almost all serious, thoughtful students, eager to learn, and genuinely engaged with the material. In the *Civilizations* courses, we explore demanding texts. These




are not readings that are easy to deal with, or even to understand! I think of discussion sessions dealing with Nietzsche’s *On Truth and Lying in an Extra-Moral Sense*, with its challenges to many of the bedrock “truths” of our own civilization. My students struggle in an earnest, committed manner to make sense of a text that seems to call into question the very possibility of making sense! These students arrive on campus with solid values, but they seem more open to ideas that challenge those values than their peers at Oklahoma. Often, their core values may be strengthened after readings and discussions that subject them to critical scrutiny. But whatever happens in that regard, many may find that the thinking they have done in Honors preceptorials has sparked a life-long process of reflection and discovery. There is nothing more satisfying for a teacher. 75

**John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics**

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE


THE 2010 JOHN M. REZENDES VISITING SCHOLAR IN ETHICS

Dick Hill



**Wednesday, April 21, 2010**  
 Reception: 3:30 pm, Andrews Leadership Hall, Buchanan Alumni House  
 Talk: 4:00 pm, McIntire Room, Buchanan Alumni House  
 University of Maine

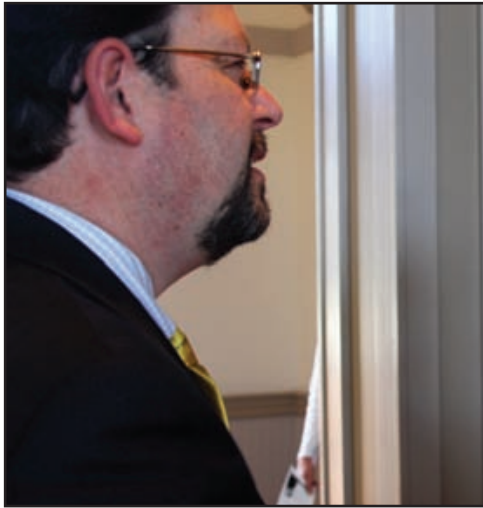
Dick Hill came to the University of Maine in 1946 as a Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Since that time he has made invaluable contributions to both the University and state-wide community through his work with local government and his efforts to educate the people of Maine on energy matters.



*The John M. Rezendes Ethics Lecture was established to critically engage students, faculty members, and the surrounding community with ethical issues of national importance. This event is sponsored in part by the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund.*

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 The University of Maine is a member of the University of Maine System.

75 YEARS Honors College THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE



The annual Rezendes Ethics Lecture and Essay Competition is made possible by the generosity of Dennis '57 and Beau Rezendes through the John M. Rezendes Ethics Fund, dedicated to providing our students and community access to important ethical issues.

FMI, please visit: [www.honors.umaine.edu/traditions](http://www.honors.umaine.edu/traditions)

# Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecture



THE HONORS COLLEGE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

2010 DISTINGUISHED HONORS GRADUATE LECTURE SERIES

## BETTINA BOXALL

# Please don't tweet me: journalism today

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Reception: 3:30 pm

Andrews Leadership Hall, Buchanan Alumni House

Talk: 4:00 pm, McIntire Room, Buchanan Alumni House

Bettina Boxall '74 is a 2009 recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting. She shares the honor with *Los Angeles Times* colleague Julie Cart, with whom she wrote the award-winning series on wildfires in the western United States.

*The Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecture series was established in 2002. Each year this award highlights the accomplishments of a UMaine Honors graduate. The Lectures serve as an opportunity for the University community to recognize the individual's accomplishments, vision, and connection with the University.*

This event was supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series.



In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and in pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University of Maine System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veterans status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the Executive Director of Equal Opportunity, The University of Maine, Room 405, 5754 North Stevens Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5754, telephone (207) 581-1126 (voice and TDD).

The University of Maine is a member of the University of Maine System.



Since 2002, we have endeavored to annually host a distinguished graduate for a several day visit. The visit includes conversations with Honors students and the UMaine community relevant to the honoree's life, experience, and work.

FMI, please visit: [www.honors.umaine.edu/traditions](http://www.honors.umaine.edu/traditions)

# T R A V E L



The 2009 National Collegiate Honors Conference was held in Washington, DC, and thanks to the continued generosity of Besty '55 and Bill Leitch, 20 students, 5 faculty, and 5 staff rode the bus to our nation's capitol to present at and participate in the conference.

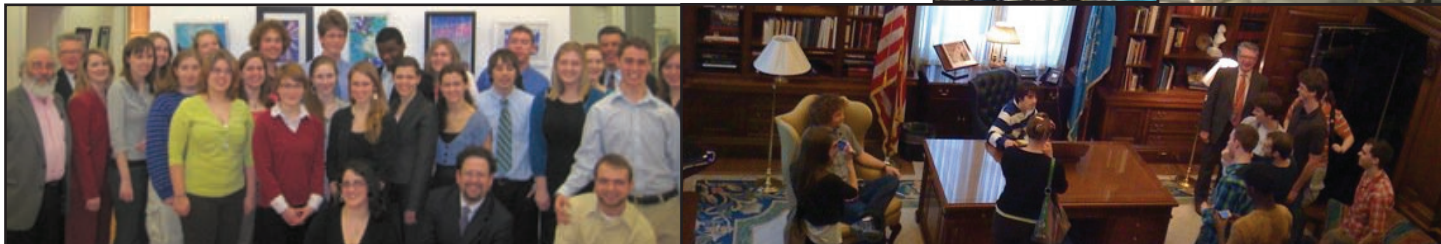
## UMaine Honors College Presentations Included:

*Beyond College Avenue: Civic Engagement in the UMaine Honors Experience* by Karin Baard '12, Tim Baker '10 & Keri West '12; *Decorum! Delegate! Decorum!* by Julie Herbert '11 & Bri Monahan '10; *The Formation of Rubrics for Evaluation of Honors College Theses* by Charlie Slavin, Mark Haggerty & Mimi Killinger; *Reading between the Lines: Newspaper-Generated Poetry and the Global Perspective* by Sam Paradis '12, Melissa Ladenheim, Stephani Nola '07, Greg Viens '12; *From Page to Stage: Performing Arts in the Honors Curriculum* by Killinger, Amar, Katherine Brown '11, Rachel Snell '06; *Can Honors Bridge the Two Cultures? Integrating Science into the Core* by Carly Gaudette '11, Amar, Erica Brown '11, Edith Elwood; *Exploring Gray Matter: Science and Technology Expanded through Honors* by Bradie Manion '12, Richard Luc '12, Nolan Southard '11; *Currents & Contexts: Enhancing Students Awareness with Global Issues* by Haggerty, Ankita Chowdhury '10, Mike Maberry '10, Southard, Kasey Spear '10; and *Ethnogenesis: The Construction & Dynamics of the Honors Classroom Culture* by Kristen Kuhns '10, Morgan Brockington '12, Ladenheim & Elwood. Amy Foley '10, Ankita Chowdhury '10, Matt Ciampa '10 & Derek Hardy '10 presented posters about their thesis research. 75



## Honors Goes to Washington March 2010

Our annual spring trip to DC was a huge success, with twenty-plus students, faculty, and staff traveling to see museums, the botanical gardens, and the National Archives. Our regular visit with Honors graduate Charles Stanhope '71 at the Library of Congress was extra-special because it was the last visit with him in DC before he retired to Maine in May (though we're glad he's closer now!). Another wonderful Honors graduate, John Dodge '82, hosted us for a reception at the ARTiculate Gallery with Honors graduates, current and prospective students, and friends of UMaine. 75



# P O S T C A R D S



# Honors Students Travel The Globe In Search Of Adventure!



**Kaitlyn Anderson** '12 – Anthropology  
Bilboa, Spain

**Kristina Anderson** '12 – Psychology  
Salzburg, Austria

**Karin Baard** '12 – English, Spanish  
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

**Maja Bedak** '12 – Int'l Affairs, Poli. Sci.  
Cairo, Egypt

**Katherine Brown** '11 – Marine Science  
Norwich, England

**Kathleen Carroll** '13 – Wildlife Ecology, Marine Biology  
South Africa and Mozambique

**Leona Dalphond** '11 - German, French, History  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Benjamin Doty** '11 - Political Science, English  
Norwich, England

**Samuel Entwisle** '11 - Biochemistry, Molecular & Cellular Biology  
Norwich, England

**Ariel Grenier** '12 – Psychology  
London, England

**Caitlin Howland** '12 - Spanish, International Business  
Granada, Spain

**Michael Krebs** '11 - Political Science  
Amman, Jordan

**Zoe Rose Lindsay** '11 – Studio Art  
Quimper, France

**Heather Ledoux** '13 - Biology, Sociology  
Semester at Sea

**Stephanie Littlehale** '12 – International Affairs  
Bulgaria

**Madeleine Manning** '12 - International Business  
Torino, Italy

**Amy Michaud** '13 – Biology  
Norwich, England

**Rory Nickerson** '11 – Psychology  
Semester at Sea

**Sarah Niemic** '11 – Anthropology, German  
Salzburg, Austria

**Margaret Payne** '11 - History, Political Science  
Ormskirk, Lancashire, England

**Rafael Ramos** '12 – Psychology, Philosophy  
Lancaster, England

**Benjamin Richard** '11 – Studio Art  
Le Mans, France

**Tyler Shortsleeve** '12 - Business Administration  
Lima, Peru

**Andrew Tomes** '13 - Botany  
Dunedin, New Zealand

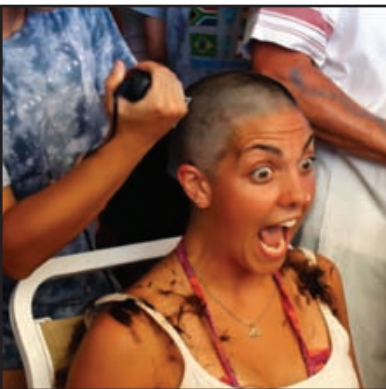
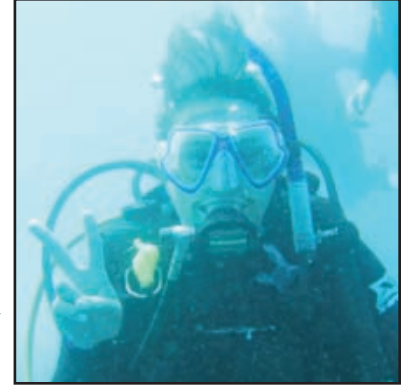
**Auken Tungatarova** '12 – Int'l Affairs, Poli. Sci.  
Semester at Sea

**Sebastian Velez** '11 – Marine Science  
North Queensland, Australia

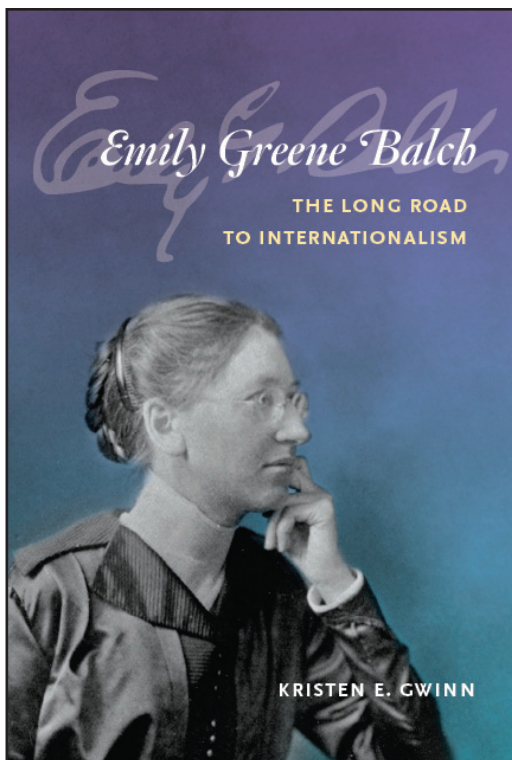
**Jennifer Wayboer** '12 – English  
Paris, France

**Jackson Witherill** '12 – International Affairs  
Brussels, Belgium

**Katie Wonch** '11 - Wildlife Ecology  
South Africa & Mozambique



F R O M H O N O R S



Kristen  
Gwinn  
'97

a woman  
of women  
ahead of  
their time



***“do what you love, do what you’re passionate about, and it will be recognized in some way”***

UMaine Honors graduate and historian Kristen Gwinn '97 is drawn to the lives of women who were ahead of their time. In her own way, Gwinn was too. The Levant, ME, native graduated from Bangor High School in just three years and from UMaine at age 19. Now, 13 years after leaving UMaine Gwinn has her Ph.D. and is celebrating the release of her first book: *Emily Greene Balch: The Long Road to Internationalism*, which will be published in December 2010 by the University of Illinois Press. Gwinn is an independent historian working in Chicago, researching and writing about history, and designing and developing biographical and historical databases and websites.

A third-generation UMaine student, Gwinn says the reason she came to UMaine is different from the reason she stayed. “I chose UMaine because it was my family tradition to do so and because I was quite young,” she says. “I chose to stay, however, because I discovered a rich scholarly community here, particularly in the history department and the Honors Program, and I realized that these would provide the foundation I would need to succeed.”

Gwinn fondly remembers the many afternoons she spent engaged in conversation at the Honors College as some of her most treasured memories from UMaine. “It is where I truly learned how to think and came to appreciate, and later continue to cultivate, an open space dedicated to the deliberation of ideas. In the most immediate sense, it truly prepared me for the academic challenges of my graduate studies. Honors classes were my first marker by which I judged all later seminar work.”

Tina Passman and Tony Brinkley were the two most central figures in Gwinn’s experiences at the Honors College. Tony led her first Honors seminar and she vividly recalls being blown away by this kind of college experience – students challenging one another to expand their interpretations of a particular text. “How thrilling! I hold numerous and dear memories of cozy chats with Tina Passman about my future and how academia may or may not suit my interests. Independent study was always encouraged here and that allowed me to begin to figure out what I actually wanted to study.”

Gwinn sees her work profiling women ahead of their time as a model of inspiration, not only for herself, but for UMaine Honors students and people everywhere. “These women’s stories are less known in our history,” Gwinn says. “Yet their lives contain important lessons and I’m lucky to be a part of sharing their stories. Balch was a woman involved in all kinds of exciting things. Perhaps only a handful of people know her name today, yet she won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1946. The most important thing to take away from that fact is to do what you love, do what you’re passionate about, and it will be recognized in some way.” 75

To order Gwinn’s book, visit [www.press.uillinois.edu](http://www.press.uillinois.edu).

I am pleased to offer an update of my life since serving as an Honors Associate, if for no better reason than to reflect on how Honors has impacted my life.

Honors was an important academic journey for me; it included one of my earliest conference presentations where I dared to publicly describe the “wrath of Charlie” (in reference to our esteemed and usually mild-tempered Dean), as well as the ups and downs (mostly ups) of the thesis process. More than that, I will always remember the pull Honors had as a hub of friendship as much as scholarship. Starting as an anxious and peripheral participant in my first year, I gradually moved—both physically and emotionally—toward the center of the Honors College, winding up as a senior resident assistant in Honors housing alongside my still-best-friend and Honors alum, Dr. Andrea Pelletier, and eventually becoming an Honors Associate. I was very sad on my last day of service to what had become my Honors College home.

When I left UMaine in 2007 with a new husband and many happy memories, I moved to the Midwestern cornfields to pursue my PhD in English and Writing Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. There I have been working as a writing teacher and writing program administrator, training both stu-

## Honors Associate Catch-Up: Lauren Marshall Bowen '04, '06G



dents and teachers to be conscientious producers of meaning and knowledge—ideals not so far from my experiences in Honors. Also not so far from home is my current research. Using interests and research strategies founded in my creative Honors thesis (a work of fiction based on my grandmother’s life story), my dissertation involves gathering oral histories of older adults whose particular life experiences have prepared them as writers in digital times.

To those I had the pleasure of meeting, I miss you and thank you for being an important part of my life. For those new to Honors, welcome. And a warning: Honors is catching, and permanent. 75



## Current Student Profile: Bradie Manion '11

They say the first step to getting over an addiction is admitting you have a problem. I admit it: I am a bibliophile. Reading is not just an addiction for me: it is a lifestyle choice. The books I read define and shape my character. The first book I read of any significant length was *Amy’s Eyes*, by Richard Kennedy. After making it through the four-hundred-plus pages detailing adventures of an orphaned girl whose doll turns into a human while she becomes a doll, I was hooked on reading. There was no slowing me down. Through middle and high school, I devoured every book in sight. When it came time for me to apply to college, you would think I would have applied to be an English/Literature major. I did not. My other great passion happens to be medicine, so I applied as a Biochemistry major.

In the Honors College, I was able to expand my love of reading. I was introduced to *The Dao*, and then voraciously tracked down a variety of Eastern literature, including the first novel ever written, *The Tale of Genji*. Once I had taste of some of the greatest thinkers of Western civilization, I expanded my reading to include philosophers and scientists. Though not all of the texts were easy to digest, getting through the words and experiencing the different ways of thinking expanded my mental boundaries more than I could have ever imagined.

Reading is a portal into someone else’s world. Sitting at home, one can experience the thrills of an exciting adventure or be a part of a debate in wits. In the Honors College, students are encouraged to share their own perspectives on this journey. We are invited to engage in discussion to further enrich our reading through the thoughts and insights of our peers. Seeing the world through another’s eyes is key to development as an individual.

My ultimate goal is to be a physician who can relate to other people and empathize, but also can understand what they are saying to aid in diagnosis. The Honors College has helped teach me how to understand another perspective. Not only that, but it has also introduced me to a variety of worlds, hidden within the pages of books. 75

# I N M E M O R I A M



## ***Arline Thomson (1912-2010)***

*The Honors College community lost a dear friend this fall with the passing of Arline Thomson, but the impact of Arline's passion - her artwork and her love of her community - will be with us forever.*

*She designed our logo, captured our academic buildings in paintings and sketches that will be with us forever, and was a constant reminder for all of us to appreciate the people and opportunities around us.*

*Arline came to be part of the Honors family through her husband, the late Robert B. Thomson, long-time Director of the Honors Program at UMaine and the namesake of the Honors Center today.*

*Her connection may have started with Bob, but it lasted until her final days, and it is with much gratitude and heavy hearts that we begin to understand the magnitude of the generosity that Bob and Arline have left for the Honors College in perpetuity.*

*Thank you for everything, Arline. We miss you.*



# HONORS INDEX\*

## *2010 Honors Graduates at a Glance*

- Percentage of graduates in Phi Beta Kappa: 56
- Percentage of graduates in a Greek organization: 16
- Percentage of graduates involved with music/theatre/dance: 23
- Percentage of graduates who attended at least one Honors trip: 30
- Number of graduates who presented at an academic conference: 18
- Percentage of graduates who were officers in a student organization: 48
- Number of graduates on the Residence Life staff: 12
- Percentage of graduates with a Parent/grandparent who graduated from UMaine: 21
- Number of students who participated in student government: 14
- Percentage of graduates who worked while in school: 63
- Percentage of students who lived in Honors housing at least one semester: 45
- Percentage of graduates planning to attend graduate school after graduation: 40
- Number of graduates who studied abroad: 16
- Number of graduates who completed a tutorial alternative: 19
- Number of graduates who had the Dean of the Honors College on their thesis committee: 10
- Average GPA of 2010 graduates: 3.71
- Number of graduates from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture: 24
- Number of graduates from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: 36
- Number of graduates from the College of Business, Public Policy, and Health: 6
- Number of graduates from the College of Engineering: 4
- Number of graduates from the College of Education and Human Development: 1
- Number of graduates with a double major: 12
- Percentage of graduates with at least one minor: 49
- Number of graduates from Maine: 52
- Number of graduates from states other than Maine: 19
- Number of international graduates: 2

# Special Recognition

*The Honors College would like to recognize the following Honors students for their outstanding achievements during the 2009-2010 academic year. Congratulations!*

Outstanding Student, Natural Sciences, Forestry & Agriculture:

**Laura A. Wood** '10 (Ecology & Environmental Sciences)

Outstanding International Student, Liberal Arts & Sciences:

**Brenna R.T. Walsh** '10 (Chemistry)

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*The Honors College annually recognizes students with these special awards:*

**The John Ferdinand Steinmetz Memorial Award** was established in 1962 by the parents and two sisters of the late John Ferdinand Steinmetz of the Class of 1943. The income of this fund is to be used annually as an award for first-year Honors students demonstrating outstanding characteristics and appropriate need.

**Andrew A. Bergeron** '13 (Psychology)

**Geoffrey A. Davis** '13 (Biochemistry, Secondary Education: Physical Sciences)

**Jordann M. Hatfield** '13 (English, Management)

**Alice D. McBride** '13 (Zoology)

**Emily V. Patrick** '13 (Wildlife Ecology)

**The Robert B. Thomson Memorial Awards** were established in 1984 by family and friends. The income from the fund is awarded to outstanding Honors College juniors majoring in Political Science and in Art.

**Charles J. Bergeron** '11 (Political Science, Psychology)

**Renee J. Bissonnette** '11 (Studio Art)

**Meredith M. Cherry** '11 (Political Science, Women's Studies)

**Benjamin P. Richard** '11 (Studio Art)

**The Professor Melvin Gershman Scholarship Fund** was established at the University of Maine in 1998 with gifts from family, friends, and associates. The income from the fund shall be used to provide scholarship assistance to meritorious science students enrolled at the University of Maine. Preference shall be given to students in the Honors College whose curriculum includes a strong emphasis in the humanities.

**Jeremy P. Bender** '11 (Marine Science)

**Erica D. Brown** '11 (Molecular & Cellular Biology)

**Matthew S. Cronan** '11 (Biology)

**Jonathan E. Dumont** '11 (Biology)

**Samuel W. Entwisle** '11 (Biochemistry, Molecular & Cellular Biology)

**Aaron R. Perrault** '11 (Biochemistry)

**Ria K. Saunders** '11 (Food Science & Human Nutrition)

**The Honors College Service Award** is presented to one or more graduates of the Honors College, recognizing outstanding commitments and contributions to the University of Maine Honors community. The award is supported by gifts from our graduates.

**Hogan Marquis** '10 (Biology, Secondary Education: Life Science)

**Aislinn Sarnacki** '10 (Journalism)

**Chelsea Tanguay** '10 (Psychology: Biological/Cognitive)



SHANNON TYLA ALEXA  
**Biology**  
*Neuroscience*

Colorado Springs, CO  
 Cheyenne Mountain High School

**Double Bulbing: An Exploration into Bladder Patterning and Position on *Ascophyllum nodosum* Along the Coast of Maine**  
**Advisor:** Robert Vadas

**Thesis description:** *Ascophyllum nodosum* is a common rockweed that grows in the intertidal zone along the northern Atlantic Ocean and the White Sea in Russia. These algae are perennial, marking growth with a single bulb per year. In the field, some shoots produced two bulbs within the same growing season. I examined this phenomenon environmentally and genetically. Environmentally, I wanted to see where and under what conditions this happens most often; and genetically, I compared microsatellite loci in double bulbed and non-double bulbed shoots for a discrepancy. Counting the bulbs and measuring internodal growth is a common method in understanding the age and environmental conditions that the shoot experienced during any particular year.

**Future Plans:** I plan on serving in Americorp NCCC for a year and then attending medical school in 2011.



ABBY ELIZABETH ARENA  
**Animal & Veterinary Sciences**  
*(Pre-Vet)*

Stetson, ME  
 Central High School

**An Exploration of Inhibitory Properties of Probiotic Candidates on Mastitis Pathogens**

**Advisor:** Anne Lichtenwalner

**Thesis description:** Mastitis is the top economic and health problem for dairy producers. By using topical probiotics to enhance immunity, problems associated with current mastitis treatment could be avoided. Normal flora was isolated from the teat skin of four lactating dairy cows and from the streak canal of four different dairy cows. Isolates were differentiated and identified, and five were selected for use in a probiotic teat dip for the prevention of mastitis. These organisms were tested for inhibitory properties against mastitis pathogens using variations on a cross-streak technique. Several probiotic candidates showed inhibition on some pathogens, and some had no effect or may have enhanced growth.

**Future Plans:** After veterinary school, I will come back to rural Maine as a veterinarian to work with large animals, food animals, companion animals, and their people.



TIMOTHY DONALD BAKER  
**Mathematics**  
*Computer Science*

Bowdoin, ME  
 Mount Ararat High School

**Using Algebraic Topology to Detect Structure in Data with Applications in Image Analysis & Sensor Networks**  
**Advisor:** Robert Franzosa

**Thesis description:** Algebraic Topology provides the tools necessary to analyze structure in large and small data sets, making possible the discovery of patterns and relationships otherwise invisible. This thesis aims to provide the reader with an understanding of this theory along with a few practical applications so that a reader with only a basic mathematical background can be brought up to speed with the theory.

**Future Plans:** I will begin working on my Masters degree in Mathematics at UMaine in the fall of 2010.



HEATHER BARROWS  
**Philosophy**

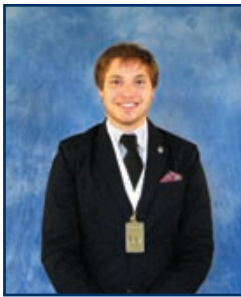
Lincolnton, ME  
 Camden Hills Regional High School

**The Relationship Between Self-Expression and Appearance in Japanese Society with a Focus on Young Women**

**Advisor:** Tina Passman

**Thesis description:** Self-expression and appearance work together to construct a self-portrait projected on Japanese society. Self-expression indicates an individual's position within a social group, while appearance is a subtler expression of status. Status determines the way an individual is expected to address a social group. Dress in Japanese society expresses shades of meaning which has fascinating implications on social groups and is reflected in their linguistic response to appearance. This thesis investigates that connection, with a focus on how young women in Japan express themselves through appearance and Japanese popular culture.

**Future Plans:** After studying abroad in Beijing, I will attend law school in Fall 2010, and plan on pursuing a career in international law.



**JOSHUA DAVID BERNSTEIN**  
**Child Development &  
 Family Relations, Sociology**  
*Peace & Reconciliation Studies*

Nashua, NH  
 Nashua High North

*“Well, He Just Lost Man Points in My Book”:  
 The Absence of First-Year College Male Volunteerism*

**Advisor:** Susan Gardner

**Thesis description:** There has been a significant amount of research on volunteerism in America. The majority of this research compares gender differences between men and women, groups men and women as one representative group, or neglects college students altogether. To my knowledge, no research to date has focused exclusively on first-year college men. This qualitative study addresses the question, “Why is there a lack of volunteerism among first-year male college students at the University of Maine?” The study is based on 10 in-depth interviews with first-year men at Land Grant University. The sample will be drawn from first-year students living on campus

**Future Plans:** I plan to get a job and make money.



**BRIAN DAVID BINK**  
**Psychology**  
*Business, Naval Sciences*

Penfield, NY  
 Penfield High School

*The Effects of Male Social Dominance on  
 Females’ Interest*

**Advisor:** Cynthia Erdley

**Thesis description:** My thesis addressed the issue of how different attributes of females influence their mate attraction. To do this, an experiment was conducted, placing participants (females) in five-minute interactions with two types of socially dominant males. I looked at gender, self-esteem, and personality type and whether they correlate with mate preference between the two socially dominant males (gregarious-extrovert, arrogant-calculating).

**Future Plans:** Immediately after graduation, I will be heading to Europe for a month of backpacking, before I am at the Navy’s will. In September, I will be heading to South Carolina for Nuclear Power School in order to prepare myself as a Submarine Officer. While in the Navy, I plan on getting my Doctorate and pursuing a career in relationship counseling upon leaving the military.



**SARA LOUISE BOISVERT BIRON**  
**Studio Art**  
*Art History*

Auburn, ME  
 Edward Little High School

*Alienation: A Series of Six Paintings*

**Advisor:** Michael Lewis

**Thesis description:** In this creative thesis, I investigated the notion of alienation through a series of six paintings. I researched artists to gain inspiration and insight into their own processes. Using light and composition to help evoke the intended mood, each painting portrays a solitary figure in various locations on the UMaine campus. I chose places I frequently use, taking the broad subject of alienation and making it personal. I also kept a journal throughout to document my creative process, recording my experiences, actions, and thoughts in relation to this project. The journal acted as a means of self growth and I was able to learn more about myself as an artist and as a person.

**Future Plans:** I plan on pursuing an advanced degree in art and eventually becoming an art therapist.



**JAMES PATRICK BROPHY**  
**History, Latin**  
*Classics*

Winthrop, ME  
 Winthrop High School

*Catullus: A New Translation*

**Advisor:** Tina Passman

**Thesis description:** My thesis is a translation of the corpus of the Roman poet Catullus, with introductory essay discussing important themes in the work. The translations try to find a midpoint between catching the poetic ear of a contemporary American audience and remaining true to the original. I hope my translation can make this great poet accessible to more people.

**Future Plans:** In the fall I will be staying here at UMaine, in the M.A. program in English. Down the road, I’ll be looking at Ph.D. programs in comparative literature or intellectual history, focusing in either case on forms of modernism, and the literature of imperial decline.





SAMANTHA LESLIE BROWN  
**Psychology**  
*Anthropology*

Paris, ME  
 Oxford Hills Comprehensive  
 High School

**Place Psychology:**

***An Application and Analysis of Interior Design***

**Advisor:** Melissa Ladenheim

**Thesis description:** My thesis combines psychology and interior design. Written from the first-person perspective of an interior designer, the thesis explores twenty “psychological dimensions” that affect how a “space,” or physical area, becomes a “place,” or emotional area. In the thesis, an imagined family of four hires the interior designer to redesign their entire house using the principles of Place Psychology; the thesis then explores the personality traits of the family and the physical places created in the house by the interior designer. Pictures of original scale models, as well as a full catalogue of the furniture and fixtures used in the redesign, are used as visual references for the text.

**Future Plans:** I plan to work and live in Orono while I wait for my boyfriend to graduate; after that... who knows!?



ERIN RENEE BRUNK  
**Zoology**  
*Molecular & Cellular Biology*

Carmel, IN  
 Westfield High School

***The Role of Cofilin 1-like in Zebrafish Development and Kidney Function***

**Advisor:** Sharon Ashworth

**Thesis description:** Cofilin 1-like is an actin binding protein in the ADF/cofilin family. It was knocked down by microinjecting morpholinos against cofilin 1-like into 1-2 cell zebrafish embryos. Cofilin 1-like’s impact on development was found by observing the embryos for five days and noting phenotype differences between the morphants and controls. By microinjecting 70kD FITC-dextran into the cardiac venous sinus of the embryos at 48 hours post fertilization(hpf) and observing the intensity of fluorescence in the pupil every 24 hours until 120hpf, the kidney function of the morphants and controls could also be compared. Results indicate cofilin 1-like has a large impact on development, but no obvious effect on kidney function.

**Future Plans:** After an animal care/behavior internship, I will decide if I want to go to graduate school.



YIN CHIU  
**Biology, Mathematics**

Portland, ME  
 Portland High School

***A Stochastic Particle-based Model of Muscle Morphogenesis in Zebrafish***

**Advisor:** Sharon Lubkin

**Thesis description:** I presented a mathematical model of muscle development and morphogenesis in zebrafish to help make testable predictions on how short round cells transition into long muscle fibers. I expand the scope of current methods to model the complex system of muscle morphogenesis in zebrafish by exploring the properties of cellular particles with consideration of adhesive proteins, which are largely responsible for cell-cell and cell-ECM binding. Altering the cellular environment is also done to stimulate cell movements. Results show that the current method is insufficient, but including more biological detail into the model could provide better results.

**Future Plans:** I will travel, climb, read, explore foods, and play sports. I plan to pursue a graduate degree in Statistics in NYC where I can spend more time with family.



ANKITA CHOWDHURY  
**Molecular & Cellular Biology**

New Delhi, India  
 Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute

***Engineering Ovalbumin-expressing Candidia albicans***

**Advisor:** Robert Wheeler

**Thesis description:** This thesis presents the development of genetically engineered *Candida albicans* that express chicken ovalbumin protein. *C. albicans* were transformed by homologous recombination with codon optimized ovalbumin gene driven by the ADH1 promoter, a strong promoter that drives constitutive expression of genes in most fungi. By engineering *C. albicans* to express a known model antigen, namely ovalbumin, we can study many aspects of the host-Candida interaction by setting up experiments using transgenic mice designed to express CD+4 and CD8+ T cells that recognize the same model antigen.

**Future Plans:** I will be earning my PhD in Immunology at Emory University.



MATTHEW J. CIAMPA  
Financial Economics

York, ME  
York High School

*Sector Based Trading Strategy  
Focused on Regression to the Mean*

**Advisor:** Robert Strong

**Thesis description:** The goal of the investing model laid out in my thesis is to test a trading strategy by which to maintain a sector-based portfolio of domestic equities. The primary focus is using the mathematical concept of regression to the mean to generate positive 'alpha', or risk adjusted returns superior to a benchmark index, and also reduce the volatility, or risk, of those returns. There are countless funds that employ complex computer algorithms to detect minor price movements in individual securities; this is not the aim or scope of my thesis. The overarching theme is a focus on developing a strategy that could be employed by someone who does not have an extensive background in investing and is looking to only maintain their portfolio on a periodic basis.

**Future Plans:** I will attend UMaine in the School of Economics to earn my MA in Financial Economics. I would like to work at a hedge fund or private wealth management firm.



JACQUELINE ANN COBB  
Civil Engineering

Bangor, ME  
Bangor High School

*The Effect of Background Ions on  
Arsenic Removal Using Iron Coated Sand*

**Advisor:** Jean MacRae

**Thesis description:** Arsenic contamination of drinking water is a world wide issue. Recent studies have shown adsorption using iron coated sand to be a viable, low cost removal method, but the presence of background ions can affect efficiency of adsorption. Sulfate, bicarbonate, chloride and nitrate were studied to identify their effects on the adsorption process. All tests were conducted in 100 ml of 50 mg/L As(V) with 2g of iron coated sand. Samples were taken at intervals between 10 min and 7 days and arsenic was measured in the liquid phase. Chloride had no apparent effect, but sulfate and nitrate had negative effects on adsorption and bicarbonate had a positive effect. To isolate the background ions, pH of the samples was not controlled; sample pH's ranged from 6.3-7.

**Future Plans:** I plan to find an environmental engineering job within the state of Maine.



CHRISTINE ELIZABETH DAVIS  
Anthropology  
Business Administration

Tremont, ME  
Mount Desert Island High School

*MDI: Growing, Shrinking, Changing*

**Advisor:** Stephen Hornsby

**Thesis description:** Mount Desert Island is a popular tourist destination on the coast of Maine. Once a center of fishing, lumbering, and shipbuilding, it has now become the resort of choice for approximately three million visitors annually. This study focuses on the fall of two industries, the sardine business and The Hinckley Company, and the rise of the cruise ship and hotel industries. Through an analysis of history and local progress, the following question is addressed: Should there be further communication between island residents and an effort toward unified and sustainable progress, or will the thrill of an affluent summer season taint all hope of a more consistent solution?

**Future Plans:** I plan to study for the GMAT exam for application to an MBA program in marketing.



CORY MICHAEL DAVIS  
History  
Public Administration

Bucksport, ME  
Bucksport High School

*Divided Ownership, Wild Speculation*

**Advisor:** Liam Riordan

**Thesis description:** My thesis explores the connections between Thomas Hutchinson, the last Royal Governor of Massachusetts, and the Kennebeck Proprietors, a land company, in land speculation in mid-18th century Maine. It focused on the many personal and professional actions, behaviors and conflicts that defined their relationship and what implications those conflicts had in Maine and the late-Colonial period.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend Salem State College in Salem, MA to pursue an MEd in Higher Education in Student Affairs. My future plans will revolve around having a daily impact on the lives of college students.



EMMA POWELL DAVIS  
Psychology (Abnormal/Social),  
Theater

Readfield, ME  
Messalonskee High School

*A Study of Behavior: The Use and Application of  
Theatrical Performance to Explore Behavior*

**Advisor:** Sandra Hardy

**Thesis description:** My thesis explores how actors use a comprehensive psychological approach in preparing a character and understanding its behavior. An actor must understand the three main influences on behavior: biology, environment, and unique history of experience. Then the actor applies this theory to the development of a character as they react in conflict. To demonstrate this, I prepared a performance of eight monologues with a common thematic element: female sexuality. I discuss the influences on behavior and the rehearsal process for each monologue.

**Future Plans:** I plan to go to graduate school and earn my PhD in Counseling Psychology.



CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH DEMERS  
Biological Engineering  
Biomedical Engineering

South Berwick, ME  
Marshwood High School

*Combinatorial Cell Microenvironment Generator*

**Advisors:** Scott Collins, Rosemary Smith

**Thesis description:** My thesis entails the design, fabrication and testing of a microfluidic device, consisting of two layers of polydimethylsiloxane (a silicone). The top layer contains a cell chamber and the bottom layer consists of four channels through which you can flow any reagent. An array of ports connect the layers, allowing the reagent to diffuse up into the cell chamber, creating a gradient. Any gradient can be established in the chamber, and the device has been shown to be able to create stable gradients that can sustain cell growth for up to three days. Useful applications include the investigation of cellular responses to multiple chemical gradients, and in developmental biology, where complex chemical gradients help determine cell fates.

**Future Plans:** I will earn a PhD in Biomedical Engineering at the UMaine Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. I want a research job in academia or at a private research company.



SARAH BRIANN DOUCETTE  
Animal & Veterinary Sciences  
(Pre-Vet)  
Equine Science

Wareham, MA  
Wareham High School

*Diagnosis and Treatment of  
Equine Uterine Yeast Infections*

**Advisors:** Robert Causey, Anne Lichtenwalner

**Thesis description:** Yeast is a eukaryotic microorganism with a variety of purposes, but it can be pathogenic. If yeast infects a mare's uterus, conception rates can decrease, resulting in economic loss for the breeder/owner. Using the yeast species *Clavispora lusitanae*, this research included two parts: first, clinical identification of yeast, including observing a uterine cytology, conducting a gram stain, and defining optimal growing conditions. Based on the grading system created, we found *C. lusitanae* grew best on Sabouraud Dextrose Agar incubated in carbon dioxide. Second, sensitivity testing, using a variety of standard drugs and unconventional drugs, including the possibility of probiotics. Based on relative zones of inhibition we defined a preferred method of treatment.

**Future Plans:** I will apply to vet school, and my hopeful long-term goal is to become an equine veterinarian.



REBECCA ANN DYER  
Biology

Yarmouth, ME  
Yarmouth High School

*Isolation of the Melatonin Receptor  
in Drosophila melanogaster*

**Advisor:** Harold (Dusty) Dowse

**Thesis description:** Melatonin is a hormone produced by the pineal gland that is typically associated with sleep in humans, and has also been suggested to serve a role in regulating, preventing, or treating certain cardiac conditions. This research uses *Drosophila melanogaster* (the fruit fly) as a model organism of cardiac disease by testing strains of flies with selected genetic mutations impacting the function of the heart. The injection of melatonin into the fly increased the cardiac rhythmicity (how regularly the heart beats), without significantly changing the frequency (the heart rate). Ultimately, this work will lead to finding a strain of fly that does not respond to the injection of melatonin, indicating that the mutation has likely interrupted the melatonin receptor in this strain.

**Future Plans:** I will attend medical school at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.



JONATHAN I. ERDE  
Financial Economics  
Mathematics

Gray, ME  
Gray-New Gloucester High School

*The College Wage Premium in Maine and Massachusetts*

**Advisor:** Todd Gabe

**Thesis description:** I estimated the effect of a college degree on wages in Maine and Massachusetts. I used an econometric model based on Jacob Mincer's model that included variables for age, level of education, gender, marital status, race, and residence in a metropolitan area. I estimated that a college degree increases wages by 36% in Maine and by 41.84% in Massachusetts. Hypothesis testing showed that percentage point difference to be statistically significant. Further research would investigate whether this is caused by the types of occupations available to residents of each state.

**Future Plans:** My dream is to become a CFA and work at a trust for four to five years before becoming a federal agent to investigate financial fraud and economic crimes. For now, I will be enjoying life in Maine.



CHELSEY E. EVEREST  
Sociology  
Psychology

Portland, ME  
Deering High School

*Learning Cultural Competence*

**Advisor:** Phyllis Brazee

**Thesis description:** My thesis explored the literature regarding educational theory to develop a framework for implementing multiculturalism into public education curricula. I posit that in order to create a classroom environment conducive to a diverse student body, schools as living systems must promote the attainment of cultural competence, or the ability to understand and interact with people of different backgrounds and perspectives. I examine the Five Discipline method presented by scientist Peter Senge as a viable model for school reform.

**Future Plans:** I have been accepted to Americorps in Boston, MA where I will be working at the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers Educational Development Group, training new immigrants in English communication, reading, and writing skills. Eventually I hope to work towards a doctoral degree in educational public policy.



HILARY JEWELL FERNALD  
Economics, Political Science  
Minor

Brewer, ME  
Brewer High School

*Freedom for the Thought We Hate?  
Addressing Hate Speech in America*

**Advisor:** Solomon Goldman

**Thesis description:** I analyzed hate speech in America and crafted a response consistent with the First Amendment. After considering the harm caused by hate speech, attempts to address it both domestically and internationally, and arguments against regulation, I separated hate speech into four categories by looking at two factors. First, does the speech advocate violence? And second, is the speech directed toward an individual or group? I concluded that hate speech advocating violence can be prohibited under certain circumstances, that non-violent hate speech directed toward a group is protected by the First Amendment, and that hate speech directed toward an individual, even when it is non-violent, may occasionally be regulated to redress personal injury.

**Future Plans:** I will be moving to Boston and attending Boston College Law School.



JESSICA PALMER FISH  
Anthropology  
French, Political Science

West Gardiner, ME  
Gardiner Area High School

*The Peopling of the Americas: The Characters,  
Crackpots, and Cold Hard Facts of the Debate*

**Advisor:** Brian Robinson

**Thesis description:** The search to discover the first Americans is a complex academic problem that has fascinated scientists and the general public for the last five hundred years. The nature and longevity of the argument over when Americans first arrived constitute an interesting study in how both factual evidence and human personality can affect a scientific debate. This thesis analyzed the primary factors in the argument, beginning with the theories of the first European explorers and expanding to include the obstacles – both scientific and personal – faced by Paleoindian archaeologists.

**Future Plans:** After working at an excavation on the Gault site in Texas, I will begin a Masters of Studies at Oxford University for European Archaeology. In the future, I hope to find a job with a group like the World Heritage Foundation or Smithsonian Institute.



HANNAH YORK FLETCHER  
Biology

Waterville, ME  
Waterville Senior High School

*Do You See What I See?*

*An Introductory Study of Human Color Perception*

Advisor: Leonard Kass

**Thesis description:** I created an experimental system to quantitatively analyze the degree to which individuals discriminate colors. I attempted to confirm the project's validity, demonstrate differences in color perception from person to person, and differences in color perception from eye to eye in the same individual. Humans possess varied amounts of blue, green, and red cones (photoreceptors that detect color) within the retina of the eye. It was expected that most of those tested would discriminate the colors differently when asked to match an adjustable Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) spot to the color of a Light Emitting Diode (LED), and that subjects would match the LCD spot to the color of an LED differently, depending on which eye they were viewing with.

**Future Plans:** I plan to take a year to travel and enjoy life before attending graduate school near San Francisco.



AMY CARA FOLEY  
Biochemistry

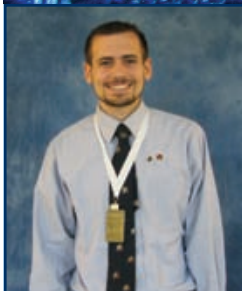
Deer Isle, ME  
Deer Isle-Stonington High School

*Growth of Bovine Aortic Endothelial Cells Under Microgravity Conditions*

Advisor: Alireza Sarvestani

**Thesis description:** For my thesis, bovine aortic endothelial cells were grown in a NASA-designed rotating-wall vessel bioreactor containing media and microcarrier beads that the cells adhered to during the culturing process. This simulated microgravity conditions like those experienced during space travel. My objective was to optimize growth of the cell culture as well as observing and analyzing how microgravity affected cellular growth. The cells' morphology was examined using scanning electron microscopy and fluorescence staining of actin filaments, an integral part of the cells' intracellular matrix. By examining their morphology, we can better understand the effects of microgravity on mammalian cells.

**Future Plans:** I will continue in Dr. Sarvestani's lab and work in biomedical research before traveling in Europe prior to attending medical school.



TYLER JULIAN FRANCKE  
Journalism  
Psychology

Preque Isle, ME  
Presque Isle High School

*War of the Worldviews:*

*The Clash between Evolution and Fundamentalist Faith*

Advisors: Tina Passman, Stellos Tavantzis

**Thesis description:** This study analyzes the clash between the theory of evolution and religious fundamentalists. I found that an allegorical interpretation, rather than a literal one, has held sway for many influential church leaders. The immediate impact of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* is documented, and the roots of the modern biblical literalism movement are traced back to cultural, historical, and social events in the 1920s and 1960s. The most common objections against evolution are analyzed, and determined to be without merit. Finally, a more philosophical and theological perspective is used to find harmony between evolution and the Judeo-Christian God, traditional morality, and even the Bible.

**Future Plans:** After getting married, I will pursue a career in print journalism and writing, and plan to do long-term mission work overseas after my wife's graduation.



REBECCA REDMOND GERBER  
Ecology & Environmental Sciences  
(Natural History)

New Gloucester, ME  
Freeport High School

*The Winter Distribution of the North American River Otter in Acadia National Park, Mount Desert Island, Maine*

Advisor: William Glanz

**Thesis description:** I studied the winter distribution of the North American River Otter in Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island. I studied 10 watersheds, searching for otter sign such as tracks, slides, dens, and latrines. I sought to determine the significant habitat variables used in discriminating between those watersheds used and not used by otter. I found 6 watersheds to be used, and 4 to be unused. Using GIS analysis, I determined there are three variables important in describing winter otter distribution: presence of deepwater habitat, beaver activity, and prey availability. I hope that Acadia National Park can use this study to manage and protect the North American River Otter.

**Future Plans:** After an organic farming internship in Ireland, I hope to work in a research field before attending graduate school.



AMANDA L. HALLETT  
English (Literary Critical Writing)  
*Communications*

Howland, ME  
Penobscot Valley High School

*An Analysis of Campaign Arguments for Question 1 in the Maine 2009 Referendum: A Repeal of L.D. 1020, The Same-Sex Marriage Law*  
Advisor: Kathleen Ellis

**Thesis description:** This is a compilation of the arguments and strategies used in the 2009 referendum Question 1 campaign by both Stand for Marriage Maine and Protect Maine Equality. I also used newspaper opinion pieces to measure the public's feelings and understanding of particular rhetoric. I discuss the nature of political campaigns especially in regards to language use and the power of language on social perceptions.

**Future Plans:** I am attending the UMaine Graduate School beginning in August 2010, pursuing an M.A. in Communications and will also be teaching CMJ 106.



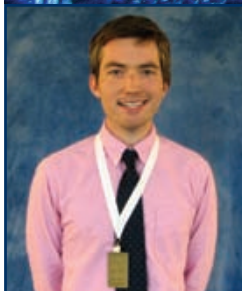
WILLIAM DAVID HAMILTON  
Food Science & Human Nutrition  
(Human Nutrition)

Old Town, ME  
Old Town High School

*The use of a Geographic Information System (GIS) to Identify Supports for Healthful Lifestyles on the University of Maine Campus*  
Advisor: Adrienne White

**Thesis description:** Geographic information system (GIS) software is an efficient way to study relationships among environmental factors impacting community health. I assessed environmental support for healthful living for college students with geomapping. Environmental data were collected and geocoded using an ortho-aerial photograph and digitally joined to a GIS database. Five buffer regions were created around residence hall complexes as the analysis units for accessibility to walkways, dining facilities, and the recreation center. Walkway scores differed across regions, dining facilities were accessible to all buffer regions, and only two buffer regions had accessibility to the recreation center.

**Future Plans:** I will attend the UMaine combined dietetic internship and master's degree program and sit for the registered dietician exam.



DEREK DOUGLAS HARDY  
Financial Economics  
*Business Administration, History*

Deer Isle, ME  
Deer Isle - Stonington High School

*Maine-China Trade:  
Where We Are and Where We're Going*

Advisor: George Criner

**Thesis description:** With the global economy becoming increasingly integrated, it is important for businesses and states to recognize opportunities presented abroad. My thesis explores what sorts of trade is currently going on between Maine and China, as well as what could be done to strengthen and extend those ties. It also aims to outline what strategies small businesses in Maine have used to enter and then be successful in the China market. Finally, possibilities for the state - including the EB-5 Visa Program, creation of a 'State of Maine' brand to market in China and the cultural peculiarities of doing business with China today - are also focused on.

**Future Plans:** I plan to study Mandarin in Beijing for a year, after which I will return to the US and pursue a graduate degree.



ABIGAIL FRANCES HERRICK  
English (Technical Writing),  
Public Management

Old Saybrook, CT  
Westbrook High School

*Writing Wrevolution*

Advisor: Patricia Burnes

**Thesis description:** I analyzed writing habits of undergraduates to show diversity in their writing, and answer three questions: 1) What kinds of writing are UMaine students doing inside and outside of the classroom?; 2) How much time are students spending on their academic writing vs. life writing?; 3) Are students demonstrating an awareness of audience in both their academic and life writings? My findings show that UMaine students are doing the same proportion of academic to life writing as Stanford students and effectively evaluating rhetorical situations to shift between academic and life writing. Implications are explored, and the new ways colleges are incorporating life writing and digital writing environments into their curriculums are examined.

**Future Plans:** After teaching for Teach for America, I plan to go to graduate school and become a high school principal and, ultimately, a superintendent of schools.



CARLIE EMICK HERRING  
Marine Science

Mechanicsville, IA  
Tipton Community High School

*Plastic and Paper Degradation in Marine Environments*

**Advisor:** Lawrence Mayer

**Thesis description:** Plastic debris has invaded the marine environment for the past half century and may take tens to hundreds of years to degrade. My thesis examined degradation of plastic (biodegradable and non-biodegradable) and paper materials in marine sediments for a 2-3 month period. Materials selected are items frequently found on beaches: paper/plastic cups, straws and bags. I found that the plastic samples underwent little weight loss (< 1%) whereas paper experienced significant weight losses (5- 25%). Thus, the plastic cups and bags we use daily, including the 'Biodegradable' ones, are not going to disappear naturally in marine sediments on a seasonal time scale.

**Future Plans:** I will be moving to California to work as a Marine Science Instructor at the Catalina Island Marine Institute, and plan on attending graduate school.



ALEX ROBERT HOPKE  
Biochemistry, Microbiology,  
Molecular & Cellular Biology

Dunstable, MA  
Groton Dunstable Regional High School

*The Characterization of MDA5 in the Zebrafish*

**Advisor:** Carol Kim

**Thesis description:** My thesis examines the role Melanoma differentiation associated protein 5 (MDA5) plays in the induction of an innate immune response against RNA viruses in the zebrafish. This will be done with morpholino technology, through which expression of MDA5 will be knocked down and its effect on the zebrafish's ability to fight viral infection will be examined with mortality curves and TCID50 assays. The ability of MDA5 over-expression to provide protection against viral infection will also be examined in cell culture with TCID50 assays. Localization of fluorescently tagged MDA5 and IPS-1 (a downstream adaptor molecule in the MDA5 signaling pathway) will also be examined using confocal microscopy.

**Future Plans:** I will be returning to the University of Maine to pursue my PhD in Microbiology.



JANE ELIZABETH HUNT  
English (Literary Critical Writing)

Bucksport, ME  
Bucksport High School

*"I've grown to love you—my dear boy, to love you": Homosexuality & Gender Subversions in Lady Audley's Secret and The Woman in White*  
**Advisor:** Naomi Jacobs

**Thesis description:** My thesis stresses the importance of a historical and cultural reading of the homosocial relationships present in *Lady Audley's Secret* and *The Woman in White*, and explores the transgressive endings hidden within the 'conventional' endings of each text. I argue against critics who say there is homosexuality present in the texts, arguing instead that while the intense nature of these texts' Victorian homosocial relationships may seem odd by contemporary standards, they were quite normal for the time period. I argue that, while I don't find the homosocial relationships themselves transgressive, I do find transgression in the seemingly conventional endings of each text, as each homosocial relationship is allowed to perpetuate in a way not proper for the time period.

**Future Plans:** I will be pursuing an M.A. in English Literature at UNH, and teaching college composition.



ABIGAIL IRENE JACOBS  
Marine Science  
Marine Biology

Ashtabula, OH  
Lakeside High School

*Patterns and Rates of Tunicate Invasion in Three Maine Estuaries*

**Advisor:** Robert Steneck

**Thesis description:** Non-native ascidians (tunicates) arrive in an ecosystem outside their natural range through anthropogenic means. Non-native and cryptogenic ascidians can decrease biodiversity and be a nuisance to the boating and aquaculture industry. In Maine, tunicate fouling abundances along temperature and salinity gradients were determined in three rivers. No native species of tunicates were found. The highest colonization rates occurred in the Damariscotta, the Sheepscot and the Kennebec, and colonization rates declined up river. Temperature extremes, low salinity, and currents could limit abundances. Non-native ascidians are most abundant in the Damariscotta River likely because of frequent inoculations in aquaculture.

**Future Plans:** After a summer aquarium internship, I will work in marine biology research before graduate school.



ASHLEY LEE JANOTTA  
Political Science

Lyman, ME  
Massabesic High School

*A Person's Constitutional Right to Physician Assisted Suicide*

**Advisor:** Timothy Cole

**Thesis description:** My thesis proves that constitutional standing for Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) exists. It examines a person's right to die in refusing medical treatment, by investigating the decisions in the cases of Karen Ann Quinlan, and Nancy Beth Cruzan. The principle of Clear and Convincing evidence is found to be a significant component in a person's right to chose PAS. The refusal of medical treatment sparked the issue of PAS, which is best examined by Washington v. Glucksberg and Vacco v. Quill. The U.S. Supreme Court inexplicitly stated that under certain conditions PAS would be constitutionally protected. With an examination of the right to privacy, and the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses, I show that a person has a constitutional right to PAS.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend law school and hope to work in Corporate/Business Law.



DYLAN JAMES KING  
Ecology & Environmental Sciences  
(Resource Environment Policy)

Yarmouth, ME  
Yarmouth High School

*Collaboration Among Local Land Trusts in the State of Maine*

**Advisor:** Mark Anderson

**Thesis description:** This research develops an understanding of how and why land trusts in the state of Maine collaborate regionally. Furthermore, it considers if these collaborations are worth pursuing, and to what degree. Conclusions are drawn from interviewing nine Maine conservation actors, reviewing four case studies, and analyzing available literature. The research shows that local land trusts in Maine are collaborating in a number of ways, and some not at all. Reasons for collaboration include consolidation of tasks, financial resource capabilities, stability of the organization, and regional point of view. Issues with collaboration are primarily differences in viewpoint and local sentimentality.

**Future Plans:** After at least one year away from anything resembling academia, I will attend law school to study environmental law.



KRISTEN ELISE KUHN'S  
Anthropology  
Pre-Medical Studies

Waltham, VT  
Vergennes Union High School

*H1N1: A Case Study of Concepts and Prevention*

**Advisora:** Ann Acheson, Linda Silka

**Thesis description:** The flu and its symptoms have been known for over 2,000 years and numerous pandemics have been documented. Now, H1N1 (swine flu) has taken over our media and caused fear of a super-pandemic, estimated to affect millions worldwide. This thesis considers what kinds of plans are being made, how individuals are seeking prevention, and the best ways to transmit information to individuals. This research focuses on UMaine as a case study, and uses an ethnographic approach which includes interviews with key informants involved with planning and prevention, semi-structured interviews with a sample of students and a smaller sample of parents of pre-schoolers, and participant observation.

**Future Plans:** I will attend Georgia State University for a masters in Anthropology focused on medical anthropology.



MELODY SUSAN LAPLANTE  
Business Administration (Marketing)  
Equine Studies

Bow, NH  
Bow High School

*Why Couples Start Businesses: A Qualitative Study to Explore the Motivations Behind Married Couple Partnerships*

**Advisor:** Jason Harkins

**Thesis description:** Literature exists to explain how and why new venture teams and family businesses start businesses. While this literature can provide useful insights to help rationalize why couples would start businesses, research must be done to expand the business community's knowledge of this special type of new venture team. The research question for this study was: Why do couples go into business together? Through my study of six different copreneurial couples I discovered three themes that help to explain why couples go into business with their spouse: convenience, family issues, and experience.

**Future Plans:** I will be working as a Financial Representative for the Northern New England Financial Group of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and living in Candia, NH.





MARGARET JANE LIBBY  
Anthropology

Mt. Vernon, ME  
Maranacook Community High School

*Once Upon a Quest*

**Advisor:** Tina Passman

**Thesis description:** Once Upon a Quest is a young adult novel combining characters from the real world with a fantasy, fairy-tale world, bringing in common fairy tales and re-interpreting them for a modern audience.

**Future Plans:** My plans for the near future aren't cemented yet, though I will probably do Americorps VISTA for a year or two. Eventually, I intend to get either this book or one of the others I've written published.



VENICE RENEE LOMBARDO  
Art History  
German

Wayne, ME  
Maranacook Community High School

*Duchamp's Audience*

**Advisor:** Justin Wolff

**Thesis description:** My thesis examines how art is defined in society. I focus on Marcel Duchamp's ideas of how art is defined, especially the role of the audience in determining whether an object is art and his challenges to how art was perceived, as demonstrated by his ready-mades. I also discuss how the audience can be persuaded to accept an object as art, based on how the object is presented.

**Future Plans:** I have applied to the Peace Corps and am a candidate for an English-teaching program in Eastern Europe, but have not received a definite assignment yet.



JAMES M. LYONS  
Biochemistry, Political Science  
Chemistry

Yarmouth, ME  
Yarmouth High School

*An Examination of the Factors Determining American Foreign Policy with Regards to Global Climate Change Treaties*

**Advisor:** Timothy Cole

**Thesis description:** For several decades, global climate change had been an issue addressed in both national and international debates. While much of the rest of the world has adopted a number of treaties aimed at addressing global climate change, the United States has consistently lagged behind its peers. My work is an examination of the factors that may contribute to this.

**Future Plans:** I will be attending Columbia Law School.



MICHAEL ROBERT MABERRY  
History

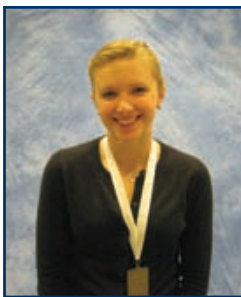
Mechanic Falls, ME  
Poland Regional High School

*Edmund Muskie: Charting Environmental Politics from Governor to Senator*

**Advisor:** Richard Judd

**Thesis description:** Edmund Muskie was a prolific Maine politician who changed Maine State Government and federal politics in many ways. As Mr. Clean he made it his goal to protect the environment when no one else cared to do so. As Governor, he knew that this could not be his top priority but as Senator he provided the means for the states to embrace environmentalism. His policies and legislation have left a mark on both the nation and the state of Maine.

**Future Plans:** I will attend UMaine to earn my Master's in Higher Education and Student Development. I would like to continue working in the field of Student Affairs.



NISSA RAE MARIONE  
**Biology**  
*Psychology*

Simpsonville, SC  
 Delaware Valley High School

*The Effects of Coming into Breeding Condition in Captivity on Feather Quality in Dark-Eyed Juncos*

**Advisor:** Rebecca Holberton

**Thesis description:** My thesis involved looking at feather quality as a representative of health, age, experience, genes, and fitness of dark-eyed juncos. This feather quality was examined both in feathers grown before the birds entered breeding conditions and after. The values obtained for the barb density (feather quality) were expected to change as when the birds enter breeding condition, several physiological changes such as increased testosterone levels, take place. These changes were hypothesized to increase the feather quality of the birds.

**Future Plans:** I will take part in a six month animal care and conservation internship at the International Exotic Animal Sanctuary in Boyd, Texas. Following this internship, I plan on returning to graduate school to obtain a Master's degree in animal science.



NILE CHENEY MCGHIE  
**Animal & Veterinary Sciences**  
 (Pre-Vet)

Cutler, ME  
 Washington Academy

*The Evaluation of N-acetylcysteine for Reduction of Post-breeding Uterine Inflammation in Mares*

**Advisor:** Robert Causey

**Thesis description:** Fertility in the mare is highly dependent on the ability to clear inflammation in the uterus after breeding. My study examined the use of the drug N-acetylcysteine (NAC) as an intrauterine wash to reduce breeding-induced inflammation, potentially increasing fertility. NAC is commonly used in human medicine for treatment of Tylenol overdose, and as a mucus-dissolving drug for respiratory disease therapy. I analyzed four key indicators of inflammation: Neutrophils (immune cells), debris, uterine epithelial cell height, and uterine mucus height. Knowledge gained from this study will enable further development of non-invasive techniques for treating mares that do not breed easily due to prolonged uterine inflammation.

**Future Plans:** I will attend vet school at the University of Minnesota, focusing on mixed-animal medicine.



CHRISTINE NOELLE MCGIVNEY  
**Biology**

Burr Ridge, IL  
 Hinsdale Central High School

*Antimicrobial Properties of American Cranberry Phytochemicals in Relation to Gastrointestinal Health*

**Advisor:** Vivian Wu

**Thesis description:** I am studying the effects of different cranberry fractions on *E. coli* O157:H7, *Lactobacillus* strains, and *Listeria monocytogenes*. These bacterial strains represent gram negative pathogenic, probiotic, and gram positive pathogenic bacteria, respectively, that can cultivate in the human gut.

**Future Plans:** After attending Midwestern University's Science Master's program, I plan to attend medical school.



THOMAS JAMES MEEHAN  
**International Affairs**  
 (Political Science)

Parsonsfield, ME  
 Sacopee Valley High School

*The Future of U.S. Involvement in Afghanistan*

**Advisor:** Seth Singleton

**Thesis description:** After a nine year engagement, the U.S. military and political involvement in Afghanistan is at the center of our domestic political discourse and is a flashpoint of American foreign policy. The Obama administration has implemented a new strategy with the intent of changing the direction of the war in Afghanistan. The purpose of this thesis is to analyze all the relevant factors and suggest a course of action for the United States in Afghanistan in accordance with the policies and goals of the Obama administration. This thesis is not intended to consider the moral arguments regarding certain military and political actions but rather is a pragmatic assessment of the current situation in Afghanistan and how the U.S. should proceed to achieve its stated goals.

**Future Plans:** I plan to enjoy the Maine summer and then travel in South America for a while.



**ABTIN MEHDIZADEGAN**  
**Political Science**  
*Communications*

Presque Isle, ME/Raleigh, NC  
 Presque Isle High School

*The Motivation of Palestinian Female Terrorists*

**Advisor:** Paul Holman

**Thesis description:** My thesis explores demographic and personal motivations of female terrorists within Palestinian radical organizations. It delves into the operational necessity of women in terrorism and more importantly identifies factors that make women susceptible to involvement with radical organizations.

**Future Plans:** I will attend the University of Arkansas School of Law, focusing in international law, and with an interest in entertainment law. I don't know what life has in store for me, but I hope to use my law degree for the JAG Corps, State Department, CIA, or in the entertainment industry. After law school, I hope to work internationally, putting my legal education and background in Middle Eastern culture to use. What will I do? Who knows!



**NICHOLAS EARL MILLETT**  
**Mathematics**  
*Computer Science, Physics*

Hermon, ME  
 Homeschooled

*Mathematical Approximations of a Medium Dispersal Strategy in a Spatial Population*

**Advisor:** David Hiebeler

**Thesis description:** In my thesis I studied a lattice population model and developed a mathematical approximation which describes how the population behaves. Computer simulations were used to implement the model and determine the accuracy of the mathematics, which were found to provide a highly successful description of the population dynamics. The goal of this research was to create a mathematical framework which can be extended to describe other spatial population models.

**Future Plans:** I would like to start a career in software engineering, specifically in the area of game development.



**DANIEL ROGER MOBERG**  
**Chemistry**  
*Mathematics, Physics*

Middleborough, MA  
 Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School

*DFT Study of MoO<sub>3</sub> Defect Formation and Acrolein Hydrodeoxygenation*

**Advisor:** Brian G. Frederick

**Thesis description:** Biofuels are a promising alternative energy option for replacing liquid fuels such as gasoline and diesel. Wood is fed into a fast pyrolysis reactor to produce pyrolysis oils, which are then upgraded into biofuels. As of now, pyrolysis oils are not high enough in quality to make usable biofuels. I performed density functional calculations on a small molybdenum oxide cluster, Mo<sub>3</sub>O<sub>9</sub>, to try to determine if hydrodeoxygenation (HDO) can be used to lower the oxygen content and improve pyrolysis oil quality. My work focused on studying the formation of defects, the first step in the HDO process.

**Future Plans:** I will attend Cornell University to earn my Ph.D. in Chemistry.



**BRIANNA L. MONAHAN**  
**Food Science & Human Nutrition**  
**(Human Nutrition & Dietetics)**  
*Child Development & Family Relations*

Camden, ME  
 Camden Hills Regional High School

*The Use of a Retrospective Pre-test in Measuring Eat Well Program Participant Behavior Change*

**Advisor:** Kathryn Yerxa

**Thesis description:** My thesis investigated the sensitivity of a retrospective pre-test in measuring knowledge gained by participants in the UMaine Cooperative Extension Eat Well nutrition education program, compared to a standard pre-test/post-test model. Two potential problems with pre/post tests are: 1) data is often incomplete because participants may not complete both; and 2) there is a "response-shift bias", where participants overestimate their behaviors and knowledge relating to food in the pre-test, and then underestimate them on the post test, showing little or no change in behavior.

**Future Plans:** After living and studying in China, I hope to earn my master's in Nutrition and become a registered dietician. I want to work with low-income people and develop public health programs to better the nutrition and food security of women, infants and children.



DUSTIN LEE MORGAN  
Philosophy, Political Science

Caswell, ME  
Limestone Community School

*Southern Political Realignment: The Two-Party South*

**Advisors:** Mark Brewer, Richard Powell

**Thesis description:** I looked at how party affiliation changed in the South from the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt to the midterm election in 1994. I found that there were multiple factors that led to the partisan switch that happened in the region, none being solely responsible for the change. While many feel that either race or class can singularly explain change, I found that you must look at all factors in unison to truly explain the Republican takeover.

**Future Plans:** I will attend the Penn State Dickinson School of Law.



REBECCA JOYCE MORTON  
Anthropology

East Longmeadow, MA  
East Longmeadow High School

*Africa: Climate Change, Cosmology, and Consequences*

**Advisor:** Paul Roscoe

**Thesis description:** My thesis is hopefully the beginning of an area of very important research--understanding other cultures' views on weather. I had a two-fold goal: to begin the first database of African cultural perceptions of climate and weather, and to begin analyzing promising relationships between these characteristics. I hope this will serve future policy makers, aid givers, and cultural anthropologists in areas where little is known.

**Future Plans:** I will begin working this summer at the Veterans Affairs Technology Assessment Program in Jamaica Plain, Boston, and attend graduate school in Library and Information Science at Simmons College this fall. Next summer I will also be getting married to my high school sweetheart, Alex!



KATHERINE L. NADEAU  
Biology  
Neuroscience

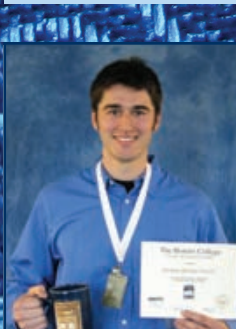
Glenburn, ME  
Bangor High School

*Timp2 and Timp2b Localization & Characterization in Zebrafish (Danio rerio)*

**Advisor:** Clarissa Henry

**Thesis description:** This study uses the zebrafish myotendinous junction (MTJ), which is both rich in extracellular matrix (ECM) and analogous to the mammalian tendon, to investigate the expression pattern and biological role of two zebrafish orthologues of the human TIMP2 gene, *timp2* and *timp2b*. Our results indicate that both *timp2* and *timp2b* play a key role in maintaining MTJ integrity during embryonic development. In addition, knocking down expression of these proteins results in an accelerated muscular dystrophy phenotype in laminin1 mutant embryos, a finding that may have exciting implications for the future study and/or treatment of congenital muscular dystrophies.

**Future Plans:** After getting married, my husband and I plan to spend next year serving in collegiate ministry before I attend medical school in New England.



ZACHARY MICHAEL NORRIS  
Computer Engineering

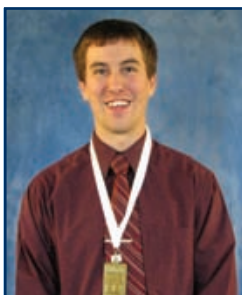
Newburgh, ME  
Hampden Academy

*Trailview: A GPS Enabled Photologger*

**Advisor:** Richard Eason

**Thesis description:** My project involved designing and constructing a digital camera with a GPS built in. When turned on, Trailview takes photos and saves them to an SD card with GPS coordinates. When turned off, the SD card can be removed and inserted into a computer. The saved files can be viewed in GoogleEarth as a series of placemarks with photos attached.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend the University of New England to become a Physician's Assistant.



**MATTHEW DEAN PITTIS**  
English, Secondary Education

Bangor, ME  
Bangor High School

*Anti-Leisure in Dystopian Fiction and its Contemporary Analogues*

**Advisor:** Laura Cowan

**Thesis description:** My thesis examines the use of leisure as social control, or anti-leisure, within three dystopian novels: *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood; *We*, by Yevgeny Zamyatin; and *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley. A chapter is devoted to each of the three novels, wherein I explore the use of anti-leisure in that society. The final chapter of my thesis examines analogues of anti-leisure within our contemporary society and the implications thereof.

**Future Plans:** I plan to pursue a teaching career, and eventually I'd like to teach at an international private school and spend time abroad.



**VICTORIA JEAN POLITO**  
Animal & Veterinary Sciences  
(Pre-Vet)  
Microbiology

Boston, MA  
Boston Latin Academy

*Developing a Field Necropsy Protocol for Moose (Alces alces) for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

**Advisor:** Martin Stokes

**Thesis description:** Maine is home to the second largest moose population in the U.S. The health of this population is a concern for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W). To learn more about their health, IF&W must increase the amount of sampling performed at key times, specifically after death during a necropsy. IF&W personnel are limited in doing this due to lack of a uniform, step-by-step necropsy procedure specifically for moose. My project entailed writing a regionally specific necropsy procedure, data forms and other instructional forms. I also wrote a short compilation of diseases possibly infecting the Maine moose population to help educate IFW personnel on important health issues.

**Future Plans:** I will study veterinary pathobiology with emphasis on zoonotic infections of wildlife or comparative anatomy research at Oklahoma State University.



**DEIDRE MARIE REIGEL**  
Biology  
Chemistry

Falmouth, MA  
Falmouth High School

*The Role of ADP-ribosyltransferase in the Muscle Development of Zebrafish Embryos*

**Advisor:** Clarissa Henry

**Thesis description:** We looked at the role of the enzyme ADP-Ribosyltransferase (ART1) during muscle development in zebrafish embryos. We knocked down the translation of the protein using morpholinos, and qualitatively analyzed the phenotype we saw in the musculature. We saw that ART1 protein knockdown does show characteristics of Congenital Myopathy, a less severe form of Muscular Dystrophy. We also determined that ART1 does play a significant role in the adhesion between the extracellular matrix and the cytoskeleton of the muscle cell.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend medical school and hope to become an OB-GYN, continue to live in Maine after my schooling, and get married to my long-term boyfriend, Joe.



**NICOLE SUZANNE ROGERS**  
Forest Ecosystem Science & Conservation  
(Forest Ecosystem Science)

Licnolville, ME  
Camden Hills Regional High School

*Northeast Forests: An Assessment of Current Carbon Stocks and the Potential for Biofuel Creation*

**Advisor:** Robert Seymour

**Thesis description:** As atmospheric carbon continues to rise, the importance of carbon mitigation and fossil fuel offset grows. A mixture of spruce-fir and mixed hardwood forests cover the northeast landscape and have great potential to reduce atmospheric carbon through a combination of forest sequestration and biofuel creation from woody biomass. Through analysis of existing forest data, the northeast forests were assessed for carbon storage, annual carbon increment, and average harvesting patterns. Analysis suggests northeast forests have yet to reach their carbon storage peak, while biofuel creation requires increased efficiency to make a larger impact on fossil fuel offsets.

**Future Plans:** After some volunteering and time spent honing my research skills, I plan to attend graduate school related to forestry.



**KELSEY LYNN RUSH**  
**Physics, Secondary Education**  
**(Physical Science)**

Brunswick, ME  
 Brunswick High School

*Investigation of Student Understanding of Magnets and Magnetic Fields*

**Advisor:** John Thompson

**Thesis description:** I studied student understanding of magnetic fields in an introductory physics course by asking written questions and analyzing the responses for common incorrect ideas about magnets, magnetic fields, and refrigerator magnets. I also designed and modified curricular materials to address conceptual difficulties found among students. The effect of targeted instruction on student understanding was analyzed, and the materials seemed to help the students reach a deeper, more meaningful understanding of magnets. Additionally I used the computer to model magnet behavior, specifically refrigerator magnet behavior to match simulated results with observed refrigerator magnet superposition patterns using ferrofluid-based magnetic field viewer cards.

**Future Plans:** I plan to teach science in Maine.



**AISLINN ANNE SARNACKI**  
**Journalism**

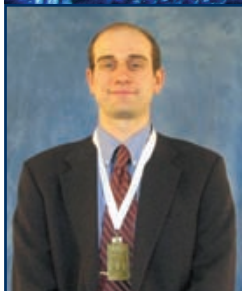
Winterport, ME  
 Hampden Academy

*Finding Elevation in the Maine Wilderness*

**Advisor:** Mimi Killinger

**Thesis description:** My thesis is an autobiographical account of a few transformative months of hiking over land and through life. From May 2009 to September 2009, I explored twelve Maine mountains and several lowland trails, alone and with others. What started as a journalistic endeavor to learn about nature writing turned into a personal journey towards improved health and perspective. In the style of literary non-fiction, I recount my experiences, highlighting the benefits of independent travel as a woman and reflecting on the healing powers of low tides, wild strawberries, birch bark and granite outcroppings.

**Future Plans:** I plan to start a new writing project, first and foremost, but I also have a job at the *Bangor Daily News* that will keep me busy while I study for the GREs—my last hurdle before I apply to graduate school.



**THOMAS JAMES SCHWARTZ**  
**Biological Engineering,**  
**Chemical Engineering**

Amesbury, MA  
 Amesbury High School

*Energy Densification of Cellulosic Biomass by Thermal Deoxygenation*

**Advisor:** Clayton Wheeler

**Thesis description:** Waste biomass is converted to levulinic acid, an easily produced derivative of cellulose. This levulinic acid is then upgraded by a process termed Thermal Deoxygenation to improve the energy density. The products of thermal deoxygenation have a composition more suitable to upgrading as is done by the petrochemical industry, and they are excellent precursors to aviation turbine fuels.

**Future Plans:** I will be attending graduate school at the University of Wisconsin—Madison working towards a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering.



**LAILA SARAH DYLAN SHOLTZ-AMES**  
**Journalism**  
*Anthropology*

Exeter, ME  
 Homeschooled

*A Comparative Analysis of African-American Stereotypes from 1915 to Present Day*

**Advisor:** Edith Elwood

**Thesis description:** In my thesis, I analyze two films, *Birth of a Nation* and *Gone with the Wind*, from the early 20th century and look at the stereotypes from the pre-civil rights era. I then analyze two later movies, *Monster's Ball* and *Diary of a Tired Black Man*, from the 21st century to compare and contrast stereotypes in each era. I also discuss how movies depict a less favorable image of minorities, especially African-Americans. By analyzing film, I examine these roles and stereotypes for each group.

**Future Plans:** I am currently working as an assistant director at a non-profit. In the next few years, I plan on continuing to write, travel and hopefully attend graduate school in the next five years. I hope to continue working in the nonprofit field, both domestically and abroad.



SAMANTHA ROSE SHULMAN  
**Political Science**  
*Pre-Medical Studies*

Bangor, ME  
 Bangor High School

*High Risk Drinking on College Campuses:  
 Causal Factors and Possible State Response*

**Advisor:** Mark Brewer

**Thesis description:** While much is known about why college students drink and the negative consequences associated with excessive alcohol consumption, what effectively facilitates a reduction in this risky behavior is less understood. It appears that state governments are utilizing a variety of policies and practices to control alcohol abuse and its negative consequences. Despite these efforts, college students who high-risk drink and the consequences associated with this risky activity persist, and new approaches are necessary. Improvements to the labeling of all alcoholic beverages could save lives, and a significant number of students may be receptive to these improvements.

**Future Plans:** I will work as a consultant with Alpha Phi, my sorority, traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada before attending medical, law, or business school.



ASHLEY ELIZABETH SMITH  
**Music Education**

York, ME  
 York High School

*Maine Learning Results Past & Present: The Revision & Implementation of the Standards for the Visual & Performing Arts*

**Advisor:** Laura Artesani

**Thesis description:** I re-examined the Maine Learning Results for the Visual and Performing Arts, considering the original and revised standards and their use in secondary music education classrooms. After examining the processes involved with creating and revising the standards, a survey was created and distributed to secondary music educators to collect feedback on the implementation of the standards in the classroom. Responses were analyzed and interviews were conducted based on the responses. This lent an insider's look to how and why the Learning Results for the Visual and Performing Arts are implemented in secondary music education classrooms in Maine.

**Future Plans:** I plan to pursue a Master's Degree in music education or choral conducting and teach vocal music at the Secondary Level.



DANIELLE MARIE SOSNICKI  
**Animal & Veterinary Sciences**  
**(Pre-Vet)**

Rutherford, NJ  
 Rutherford High School

*Isolation of Binucleate Placental Cells to Produce Bovine Placental Lactogen in Culture*

**Advisor:** Charles R. Wallace

**Thesis description:** The goal of this thesis was to isolate binucleate placental cells that would produce bovine placental lactogen (bPL) when cultured. Placentomes were collected from a Holstein cow after calving, the tissue was digested with collagenase and centrifuged with Percoll gradients. Binucleate cells were found to be present and were then plated on collagen-coated wells with a solution of modified Eagle's medium nutrient mixture, serum replacer and antibiotic. The cells were incubated for 12 days and the media was replaced every 48 hours. Radioimmunoassay was used to confirm the presence of bPL in the media that was removed from the wells every 48 hours. Cells in five of the twelve wells produced detectable amounts of bPL for at least one of the 48-hour culture periods.

**Future Plans:** I will pursue a career as a veterinarian.



KEVIN W. STAPLES  
**Marine Science**

Mount Desert, ME  
 Mount Desert Island High School

*A Study of Water Masses on Georges Bank during May and June of 2007 and 2008*

**Advisor:** David W. Townsend

**Thesis description:** This study examined temperature and salinity data taken on Georges Bank during May and June of 2007 and 2008 for the presence of four source waters: Labrador Shelf Water, Labrador Slope Water, Gulf Stream Water and Warm Slope Water. The relative tendencies of the temperature-salinity plots and the presence of these water parcels were compared to the North Atlantic Oscillation, an atmospheric phenomenon that affects the Gulf Stream and Labrador Current, two ocean currents that transport water to Georges Bank. The data suggest that the temperature-salinity values on Georges Bank may be a signal for the influence that the North Atlantic Oscillation has upon the region's water properties.

**Future Plans:** I will work in marine sciences as a fisheries observer, and hope that working on fishing vessels will open doors to research positions, and graduate school.



EMILY JEAN STEENBURGH  
**Sociology (Crime, Law, Deviance)**  
*Dance*

Niskayuna, NY  
 Niskayuna High School

*Strategies of Older Workers Re-entering the Workforce*

**Advisor:** Ann Leffler

**Thesis description:** I conducted five interviews of workers over the age of forty five who had been unemployed for at least one month and have recently become reemployed. I asked them questions about their perceptions of the application processes in the current job market, what skills they have, and what changes they have made, if any, in order to get a new job. The project focused on the strategies older workers develop to combat ageism and ageist stereotypes of the current workforce and potential employers. Older workers find that it is more difficult for them to become rehired once they are unemployed and must make resume modifications, appearance changes, and update their skills in order to find a new job.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend law school with a focus on Elder Law and continue to live and work in Maine.



CASSIE LEE VAILLANCOURT  
**Forestry**

Fort Kent, ME  
 Fort Kent Community High School

*Landscape Level Planning: Exploring & Evaluating Management Alternatives for the Dwight B. Demeritt Forest*

**Advisor:** Jeremy Wilson

**Thesis description:** My thesis involved using the forest management planning process to explore and evaluate alternative management scenarios for the Dwight B. Demeritt Forest. This process exposes certain tradeoffs between scenarios in order to find an appropriate balance between landowner objectives. I developed and evaluated three alternative scenarios including a no harvest, intensive, and moderate scenario. After analyzing the results to determine which scenario best meets the landowner objectives, recommendations were made as to how to alter and improve the scenario and remediate any concerns.

**Future Plans:** I will be attending graduate school at UMaine to earn a Master of Business Administration. My long term goal is to attain my forestry license and work for a land management company in Maine.



BRENNA RAE TINKHAM WALSH  
**Chemistry**  
*Astronomy*

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 Dartmouth High School

*Neutron Scattering to Characterize Micropore Structure in Mesoporous Silica SBA-15*

**Advisor:** Brian G. Frederick

**Thesis description:** This research considers several ways to use Maine's wood for bio-fuel processes. The raw wood products made by pyrolysis and Fischer-Tropsche synthesis need to be upgraded and the upgrading reaction needs a catalyst to speed up the reaction. A catalyst needs to be well dispersed in a catalyst support. I am testing the pore structure of a silica catalyst support to ensure that the micropore structure does not override the benefits of the mesopore (larger) pore structure.

**Future Plans:** I plan on attending graduate school and studying physical chemistry.



DEBORAH A. WILLIAMS  
**Civil Engineering**

Richmond, ME  
 Richmond High School

*Changes in Civil Engineering and Construction: A Look at the Brooklyn Bridge, Then and Now*

**Advisor:** William Davids

**Thesis description:** The fields of Civil Engineering and Construction have changed over time. Measuring and documenting these changes is particularly challenging because the fields of Civil Engineering and Construction are large and diverse. Therefore if one wants to measure the change it is preferable to limit the scope so that an accurate assessment can be made. In the following thesis, the planning, design and construction of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City is used to illustrate some of the major changes that have happened since the late 19th century. This thesis compares the original design, public opinion and construction methods to the current state of practice.

**Future Plans:** I will earn my Masters degree in Structural Engineering and then work in the field.





**LAURA ASHLEY WOOD**  
 Ecology & Environmental Sciences  
 (Natural Resource Management)  
 Anthropology

Scarborough, ME  
 Scarborough High School

**Returning the Tide to Gulf of Maine Salt Marshes: Evaluating Plant, Soil, & Hydrologic Response to Restoration**

**Advisor:** Joseph Kelley

**Thesis description:** This study evaluated the soil, plant and hydrologic response to restoration of 4 impacted salt marshes along the coast of Maine using a Restoration Performance Index (RPI): Drakes Island Marsh in Wells, Cascade Brook Marsh in Scarborough, Wheeler Refuge in York, and Spruce Creek Marsh in Kittery. The results showed that many of these sites were still severely restricted from natural tidal flows and further restoration is needed at all sites. This study will be incorporated into a larger database of salt marsh monitoring from other NERRS participating in this larger congressional effort to restore 1 million acres of coastal wetlands by 2010.

**Future Plans:** I hope to go to Ireland, France and Italy someday, my favorite color is pink, and my plan is to move to Minnesota to work in environmental protection before graduate school in natural resource management.



**BEN WOODEN**  
 Anthropology

Wilton, ME  
 Mt. Blue High School

**Group Formation and Parochial Ethnicity**

**Advisor:** James Acheson

**Thesis description:** My thesis is about the origins and mechanisms of group formation in human societies. Groups are enormously important, but the processes that drive their evolution are not clear. It is hypothesized that cultural group selection is mainly responsible for the high level of cooperation in human populations, and that the existence of prosocial emotions (such as empathy, guilt, and group loyalty) is a result of this process. Although the study of cooperation is still young, it promises to give important insights into the forces that govern human societies, and will ideally contribute to the reduction of violent conflict by suggesting strategies to policy-makers.

**Future Plans:** I plan to take a year off and then go to medical school. I want to work in a non-Western setting, so I can apply my interests in medicine and anthropology in a potentially meaningful way.

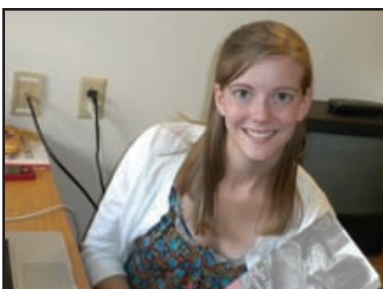


**Class of 2011 Preview: Fun through research!**

If you want to write a thesis on African elephants...go to South Africa! That's exactly what Wildlife Ecology major **Katie Wonch** did. Managing elephant populations within Africa's game reserves has been a significant challenge for conservationists. One recent solution has been to vasectomize some male elephants. Wonch's study focuses on whether vasectomies affect male elephant home range patterns, activity budgets, and social behavior. Katie Wonch hopes that her thesis work leads to publication in a peer reviewed ecology journal.



**Emily Lizotte**, an Accounting major, has observed that "Sustainability for large corporations has become a hot-topic of discussion in the business world." Less has been said about sustainable practices that small businesses should adopt. Emily is most interested in social sustainability (as opposed to economic or environmental). She explains that her thesis will have two parts. "After determining the most important characteristics of what it means for a small business to be socially sustainable and what a specific local small business's goals are, I plan on constructing specific social sustainability implementation strategies for that local small businesses."



**Meredith Cherry**, a Women's Studies and Political Science double major, is analyzing the sway of the first lady on presidential decision making. Her thesis will focus on Eleanor Roosevelt and Hilary Clinton—two first ladies she recognizes as particularly influential. Just how powerful is a first lady? "More than you think," says Meredith. "The first lady is arguably one of the President's closest advisors, and I aim to highlight just how influential she can be." 75


# C E L E B R A T I O N



## Honors Celebration 2010



The annual Honors College Celebration is an opportunity for us to recognize our graduating students, their achievements during their time at UMaine, and the exemplary work they did to complete their theses. It is also a special time for us to spend with the families of our students, to say thank you and engage them in the sense of Honors community that we hope all of our students feel during their time at UMaine.

This year's Celebration included the added benefit of enhancing our year-long recognition of the 75th anniversary of Honors at UMaine. Every medallion handed out that day to our graduates was adorned by a special charm in recognition of the 75th (see the cover photo for a close-up!). We hope that this unique addition to the medallion will serve as a reminder to our graduates that they are part of a long legacy of Honors graduates at UMaine that will continue long into the future. 



# A VISIT WITH EMMA DAVIS

## Tell us about your majors...

When I got to UMaine, I was unsure of my future. I have always loved the stage and performing but I wasn't quite settled on studying theatre. I felt UMaine would be a good place to find myself, and I choose courses from all different disciplines. In my first year, I took everything from anthropology to communication sciences and disorders to psychology to theatre. I found what I love. I discovered I couldn't live without theatre or my passion for psychology. Why can't I study both? It's not really a strange combination. Much of what an actor does is study the mental processes and behavior of a character. A psychologist does the same thing. Theatre and psychology study individual people and the societies they live in. I chose both!

## What's the story behind your thesis?

My thesis went through many transformations. I originally wanted to do a more standard psychology thesis but I couldn't find the right advisor. I was scrambling when most of my peers already had solid outlines for their theses. I went through a stage of panic and ultimately developed the idea that theatrical performance is a means through which to explore a vast range of human behavior. I asked my long time mentor, Professor of Theater Sandra Hardy, to be my advisor and, with her guidance, I focused on the idea that a comprehensive psychological approach to acting creates the greatest understanding of a character and his or her behavior. I wanted to incorporate a performance aspect in my thesis, so I put together a series of monologues by eight different characters from various authors. I discovered each of the monologues had a common thematic element: the character's sexuality. I used that theme to study each character's behavior and, through the analysis and subsequent performance, I proposed that theatrical performance is an elaborate, detailed study of psychology.

## What insights did you gain from your thesis?

In writing and preparing my thesis, I found myself. To portray a character genuinely, an actor must draw from personal experience and emotion. I had to uncover pieces of myself that were not always pretty. I spent hours in my own mind, drawing on my own darkness and hurt. The process was extremely painful, and it forced me to face some of my personal demons. Due to the sexual nature of the monologues, I couldn't shy away from my own sexuality. I found that I had so much building up inside of me that I wrote my own autobiographical monologue, "The Choice," about my personal struggle with depression and abuse. It's scary to bare that much of one's soul, but I knew that in order to understand others I had to understand my-

self. Some people are intimidated by performing, but when I'm on stage it is the truest, rawest form of myself. I am being honest and that is why I do it.

## Why was Honors important to you?

My Honors classes exposed me to a range of intellectual stimulation that is hard to find. Where else can you study opera and Aristotle in the same curriculum? It provided me with an opportunity to study with intellectuals from all different disciplines. I got to know the other students as individuals and they got to know me. I was given the opportunity to think for myself, and encouraged to develop my own ideas. People think and learn in very different ways, but we come together in Honors.

## What are you doing next?

I plan to go to graduate school for my Master's in Drama Therapy and eventually my Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. I will continue acting and performing.

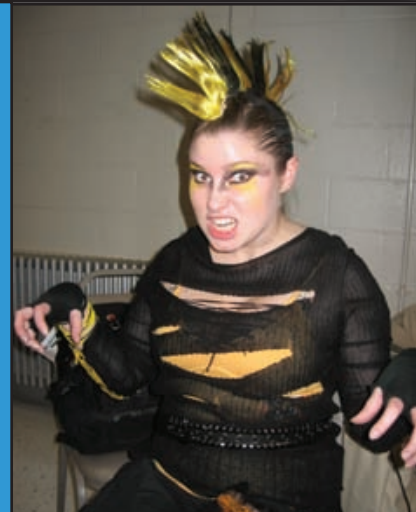
## Any advice for the next generation of UMaine Honors students?

Question the things around you. You are there to learn. If you don't understand, ASK! If you want to know more, ASK! Question those around you, and don't forget to question yourself. Your own curiosity can be your greatest strength. 75



### About Emma Davis!

- oldest of 4 children
- 6th in her class from Messalonskee HS
- major: Psychology (Abnormal/Social) and Theater
- Shows: *Hedda Gabler*, *Scapin*, *The Birds* (photo), and *Savage in Limbo*
- Involvement: Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity; VP of Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society





**75 YEARS**  
The  
**Honors**  
*College*  
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