Collaboration
Research, service and worldwide engagement shape the Honors College experience
Mimi Killinger’s HON 111 class meeting in the Lord Hall Gallery.
In the pages of the 2017–2018 Minerva, you will find stories that inspire and offer hope for our future, stories that speak of the determination, dedication and creativity of our Honors College students, faculty and staff; and stories that highlight interdisciplinarity and collaboration at all levels. These last two ideas represent the theme of our magazine this year. In a time when forces of polarization and separation seem to be ascendant, many of the tales we have to tell speak of the power of diversity and communication across disciplines, national boundaries, and points of view to solve problems and help heal the world.

From the inspiring visit and lecture by Sherri Mitchell, our John M. Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics last April, to the work of our students to help alleviate hunger in Maine through the Hungry 100K project, a fundamental role for Honors in the University is to help connect knowledge to action and to serve as a hub for interdisciplinary and engaged research for undergraduates. The Research Collaborative model that has emerged from UMaine’s Honors College in the last few years is featured in these pages along with several innovative approaches to studying abroad.

We also take a moment to reflect on this, the fifteenth anniversary of the Honors College, by visiting with a number of alumni who graduated in 2003, the year the Honors Program became a College. Another milestone is the 80th anniversary of the first graduating class of Honors students, represented by the four theses from 1937 that sit on the shelves of the Class of 1955 Thesis Room in Colvin Hall. We take stock of all of this in these pages as we also celebrate the 85 graduates of the Class of 2017 whose accomplishments are summarized in this issue.

As you look over the summaries at the back of the magazine, please take note of the names of the thesis advisors from across the campus whose dedicated work as mentors is essential to the success of their students’ theses experience. I thank them along with the staff, faculty and supporters of the College whose dedication and interest create the rich environment and opportunities for our students to thrive and excel — studium erudicionis ardescens.

François G. Amar
Dean

umaine.edu/honors
Features

4 The Research Collaborative
Research, service and worldwide engagement

12 Honors Study Abroad
An increasingly globalized world

20 Bridging Disciplines
Interconnections in science and art

26 Honors College at 15
The value of mentorship

Departments

Honors leadership
1 Dean’s Message
3 The Hungry 100K
19 The Lipstick Project

Student focus
24 Aliya Uteuova
34 Honors goes to Washington, D.C.

Alumni focus
28 Honors College at 15: Jennifer Page
29 Honors College at 15: Matthew Skaves
30 Honors College at 15: Caileen Gamache
30 Honors College at 15: Isaac Record
32 Distinguished Lecturer Sara Morris
33 Rezendes Visiting Scholar in Ethics Sherri Mitchell
39 2017–18 Honors Associates

Faculty focus
11 Naomi Jacobs: Lessons from Ancient Texts

Honors graduates
36 Honors Awards
40 Honors Index
41 Honors Graduates
55 Top in 2017: Allyson Eslin
56 Support and Thank You

On the cover:
UMaine student Emma van Kampen volunteering at the Hungry 100K
The Hungry 100K

Just look at what we accomplished in last week’s Hungry 100K meal pack-out on Maine Day. Every scoop of food stuffs added up, and together we packed a record breaking 107,562 meals that were distributed to people in need statewide. An outstanding achievement. And the message is clear: No act of engagement is too small to make a difference.”

Susan J. Hunter, President 2017 Commencement Address

Mainers were fed and records were shattered when over 250 UMaine students, faculty, staff and community members gathered on Maine Day 2017 for The Hungry 100K: Maine Day Meal Pack-out. Over 100,000 meals were packed—the most meals packed in a single event at UMaine, the most meals packed in a single day in the state of Maine, and the most meals packed by any university in New England, making UMaine No. 1 ahead of 299 others, including Harvard, its closest competitor. Spearheaded by the Honors College Student Advisory Board, The Hungry 100K was inspired by participation in previous meal pack-outs on Welcome Weekend Day of Service and MLK Day of Service. With 1 in 4 Maine children experiencing food insecurity, Honors College students took on the challenge of The Hungry 100K, including raising the $25,000 needed to support this event. President Hunter’s shout-out at commencement speaks to its broader impacts.

Members of the UMaine and neighboring communities work together to help feed Maine residents.
Allen Morell, along with the Ministry of Education Deputy Director in Bo, Sierra Leone, watches as two Child Rescue Center (CRC) students use computers for the first time to take a practice exam using NETT.

Photo courtesy of Patty Morell
A New Framework for Undergraduate Research

By François G. Amar and Melissa Ladenheim

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH has been a hallmark of the Honors program at the University of Maine since its inception. Indeed, Alice Stewart ’37, who was in the first cohort of students to graduate with Honors at UMaine, and eventually returned as professor and chair of UMaine’s history department, credited her success in graduate school in part to “the research techniques and the discipline of the Honors thesis.” Stewart was advised by E. Faye Wilson who she called “a fine teacher and well-trained medievalist.” Stewart’s work with Wilson conformed to a traditional pairing of advisor and student, or what Dr. Stephanie Welcomer calls the dyad model, which is the dominant paradigm of academic research in most fields. Most of the 1,800 or so Honors theses written at UMaine in the last 80 years have been produced under this model.

As a hub of interdisciplinary education, Honors is well-positioned to be innovative in reshaping this conventional model. We took on the question of how can the scope and parameters of complex problems — “wicked problems” to use a Maine idiom — be better understood with the contributions
of multiple disciplines? How can students be encouraged to connect their emerging expertise in their own discipline to needed knowledge from other areas? One response emerging from the Honors College in the last four years is the development of several Research Collaboratives (RCs) that involve engaging multiple students and faculty from different disciplines along with community partners and other stakeholders. Below are two examples of successful RCs that are making important contributions in knowledge and action at home and abroad.

**Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative**

RESPONDING TO a call for proposals to address areas of sustainability that had not been previously studied by the existing programs in the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions, a group of Honors faculty was awarded a seed grant to create the Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative (SFSRC). This group realized that significant work by the partners had been undertaken separately, but that by creating the RC they could expand the scale and scope of what students could accomplish. The three students who formed the initial cohort, Audrey Cross (Ecology and Environmental Science), Ashley Thibeault (Ecology and Environmental Science), and Danielle Walczak (Journalism), came together as SFSRC fellows for three weeks in May 2014; they read journal articles, met with SFSRC faculty and heard from guest speakers to learn about broad issues in the food system while also beginning to identify a specific problem they could address more deeply from their disciplinary perspective. Ashley and Audrey began working on the local implementation of the Real Food Challenge, a national effort to increase the percentage of local, organic, and fairly traded foods used in university and college dining halls. UMaine Dining Services signed on as the “community partner” and gave access to its purchasing data for analysis that would determine a baseline percentage from which to make policy/purchasing decisions on the “demand side” that could increase the amount of “Real Food” consumed by UMaine students in future years. Ashley’s thesis, “Using the Real Food Calculator to Assess the University of Maine’s Dining Purchase within a Food System Context,” and Audrey’s, “The Real Food Challenge and Student Democratic Engagement,” both advised by economist and Honors preceptor Dr. Mark Haggerty, resulted from this research.
But what about the supply side of the local food challenge? Danielle Walczak addressed an aspect of this problem in her thesis, “Forward Not Back: Young People’s Search for Community and Farming in Maine,” in which she interviewed five young organic farmers to learn about their aspirations and challenges. Dr. Melissa Ladenheim and Dr. Jennifer Moore co-advised the thesis which was also published as a feature article in the Bangor Daily News in June 2015.

Further rounds of funding from the Mitchell Center and other partners have allowed at least five other students to participate in the SFSRC and write theses that emerged from the collaborative in areas as diverse as sociology, business, sustainable agriculture and journalism. Dr. Ladenheim is presently co-PI of a USDA grant that uses the SFSRC model to enlist and train undergraduate students to do research on sustainability practices in Maine’s honey production and maple sugar industries. Members of the SFSRC have published multiple articles, given numerous presentations at conferences and garnered significant recognition for their work. The 2016 Minerva featured Brady Davis’ work with Drs. Stephanie Welcomer and Jean MacRae on the sustainability practices of Maine’s artisanal cheesemakers.
AS OTHER opportunities for students to work on interdisciplinary projects arise, we continue to find ways to adapt the RC framework. In spring 2016, a group of faculty and students began to consider a series of education and health related projects in Sierra Leone in partnership with stakeholders who had extensive experience in addressing social needs in that country. Of seven proposed projects, the group decided to start with two: first, the development of a National Examination Test-practice Tool (NETT) and second, a curriculum on attachment theory for caregivers of traumatized orphans and other children.

The NETT project involves significant work in designing and programming an online test preparation system to help students in Sierra Leone succeed in the high-stakes exams they must pass with high marks in order to progress from elementary to middle school and from high school to university.

The heart of the NETT system is a test practice tool that allows students to try out sample tests either at their own pace or in a timed test version. The system will allow local teachers to review students' progress and then to identify areas where they need to strengthen students' knowledge.

It was clear from the outset that a diverse and dedicated team would be needed to create the NETT. Gene Herrschaft, a New Media Honors student, is the team leader for the project, which also benefits from the resources of UMaine's ASAP media group, especially through the skills of director Mike Scott and computer science student Jacob Hall. Other Honors students on the team include Grace Pouliot, an education major who is creating a tutorial on test-taking that students can access from within the system itself. Aliya Uteuova (Journalism and Political Science), Alli DellaMattera (Sociology), Colleen Demaris (Computer Science), Grant Carrier (Business) and Ciara Larence (Mathematics and Psychology) are also contributing to the project. This work has great potential for student success in Sierra Leone, but is also changing the lives of Honors students. As Gene noted, “While working with [Servant Heart Research Collaborative], I have been constantly encouraged to grow, both as a worker and a project manager. [This has] given me an opportunity to build a platform that has a tangible, positive impact on other people's lives.”

The second project involves the development of curriculum modules on Attachment Theory, which is concerned with the development of strong emotional bonds between children and their caregivers. In Sierra Leone, where many children have been displaced by war and their lives disrupted by famine, poverty and disease, these modules are designed to provide caregivers, both short and long term, at orphanages, schools and foster homes with supportive and culturally appropriate practices for caring for the children, ages 3 to 16.

The modules consist of workshops addressing specific issues related to a child’s attachment to a caregiver. Each training includes background information on aspects of healthy attachments and activities that support awareness and skill building.

And as is the case with NETT, the Attachment Theory project benefits from an interdisciplinary team of students and faculty bringing their knowledge and skills to bear on this issue. The team includes Grace Pouliot, Alli DellaMattera, Alex Reppond (Psychology) and Kim Crowley (English) along with Education faculty mentors Julie DellaMattera and Sid Mitchell, who also directs the Peace Studies Program at UMaine.
The Two RCs outlined here have different themes, goals, funding streams, and deliverables. What they share is an interdisciplinary team structure that is responsive to the needs of community partners either in the local area or across the globe. Other potential collaboratives being explored revolve around topics such as aging, impacts of climate change on agriculture, genomics, and many more. The University of Maine community is adapting the RC model for a set of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Collaborative grant projects along the lines of those pioneered in the Honors College.

If the university is to become increasingly relevant to our societal needs and if an important goal of a college education is to train students to translate knowledge to action, then the research collaborative model is a significant way to help realize these goals for undergraduates, especially Honors students.

Challenges and Prospects

Livestock roaming the fields of Tide Mill Organic Farm in Edmunds, ME. Photos courtesy of Danielle Walczak.

Resident of Bo selling colorful lappas (fabric) outside the CRC Mercy Hospital compound. Photo courtesy of Patty Morell.
OVER THE years, I have enjoyed teaching an occasional Honors tutorial, serving on Honors thesis committees, and providing guest lectures for HON 211-212 on Frankenstein and Brave New World. But I only recently joined the faculty for HON 111-112. When returning to full-time teaching after several years in administration, I quickly volunteered to help fulfill the English Department’s traditional contribution of faculty time to the Honors College. The ancient world has always fascinated me. The “Gods and Goddesses” entry in our Golden Book Encyclopedia was a childhood favorite. As a first-year student at a liberal arts college, I took a required Western Civilizations sequence where experiences including a performance of Euripides’ Bacchae, a lecture on daily life in ancient Egypt, and small-group discussions of books such as History Begins at Sumer and The History of West Africa all opened my mind and piqued my imagination. Teaching in Honors lets me revisit that interdisciplinary experience, exploring the complexities of human history and culture through powerful texts that don’t fit my usual courses in 19th and 20th century literature. To approach these works as a non-specialist, and in the company of a small group of talented students, is a great pleasure. I particularly enjoy the range of perspectives the students bring, the way our discussions become more candid and open as we get to know each other, and the opportunity to delve into big questions of values, ethics, and cultural difference. The ancient texts can seem alien at times, but we also see ourselves in them, and we can better understand who we are, by knowing something about who we were, and thus, who we might be.

“I particularly enjoy the range of perspectives the students bring, the way our discussions become more candid and open as we get to know each other, and the opportunity to delve into big questions of values, ethics, and cultural difference.”

Naomi Jacobs
INTERNATIONAL STUDY has never been more important for the University of Maine's Honors College students. Some have never been outside the United States or even on a plane, and “exposure to other cultures and ways of thinking are essential for our students to become global citizens and to be able to thrive in the global community,” says François G. Amar, Dean of the Honors College. While the University and the Honors College are involved in many international exchange programs, the focus in this issue of *Minerva* is on two particular programs: one a direct bilateral exchange between the Honors College and a similar institution in Singapore and the other, an emerging partnership through the existing University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC).

**Honors Connects with Tembusu College in Singapore**

ONE PARTICULAR study abroad opportunity for Honors students grew out of a chance meeting in 2013 between Amar and Gregory Clancey, a Bangor native who is the master (the equivalent of a dean in a U.S. university) of Tembusu College, which is part of the National University of Singapore (NUS). They recognized the similarities of their two institutions and “the possibilities to create meaningful collaborations between them.”

“One of the reasons that Singapore is such a good partner for UMaine is that it is so different: ethnically diverse, tropical, an island city-state that is fully urban, Singapore

A small river winds through the town of Malacca in Malaysia, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its historic European architecture.
could hardly be more different from Maine. Contrasting cases are a good way to teach,” Amar says. “You get to see similar problems dealt with differently as the context requires, and you learn new philosophical ideas and ways to live, which makes you more adaptive and flexible.”

Amar and Clancey collaborated to develop an international study program that has allowed nine UMaine students to attend summer classes at Tembusu and two Tembusu Faculty Fellows to teach and do research at UMaine. In spring of 2017, UMaine Honors preceptor, Mark Haggerty spent a sabbatical semester at Tembusu where he taught a class on food systems and did research in this area as well.

“I want to better familiarize Maine students with this part of the world, and help them cultivate a sense of global citizenship,” says Clancey, whose father and brother are UMaine alumni. “Asia is no longer an exotic ‘Far East,’ but an essential node in a global economy and culture. To be well-educated means to travel. I notice there are an increasing number of Asian students in Maine, but the traffic can’t be all one way.”

This is not a classic student exchange program, notes Clancey. “It’s informal and many-sided,” he says, “quiet and organic, which I think makes it deeper. There is no special dedicated fund for this on either side. We just decided to do it.”

By having this relationship, “we’re building a real family,” Amar says. “When students arrive, we want them to be received like they belong, and we’ve set the program up to be similar to what students already know, which helps them have a good experience.”

At Singapore’s Gardens by the Bay, vertical gardens known as Supertrees light up in an LED display at night. Photo courtesy of James Robe
The Henderson Waves Bridge, located in Singapore's Mount Faber Park, resembles a perfect sine wave from a distance.

According to Grace Pouliot, a junior Honors student majoring in elementary education, that approach works. Pouliot spent a month in Singapore this past summer taking a class called Animals in the City. Her initial motivation was largely one of convenience: she wanted to study abroad, but the only way she could work that into her schedule was through a summer class.

When she arrived, Grace discovered that even simple, everyday habits and patterns were disrupted. And that’s where the relationship between the two schools paid off.

“Local students were really wonderful with teaching me practical things, like how to stand on an elevator or order food,” she says, noting that it wasn’t long before she felt comfortable. “I was amazed at my progress from American tourist to becoming part of the Singapore community.”

Her personal breakthrough was followed by an academic breakthrough.

“I was intimidated at first to be studying with students from Yale, Cambridge and Singapore, but it was very reassuring and comforting to find that Tembusu’s course structure was so much like the Honors College,” she says. “I understood what was expected, so I felt prepared for studying.” I felt like, “OK, I can handle this. I’m comparable to students from around the world.”

As the Honors College prepares to select a new cohort of students to study at Tembusu this summer, the two institutions are also beginning the process of formalizing the connections already established with a memorandum of understanding that will allow the collaboration to grow and deepen over time.
An increasingly globalized world

WHEN JAMES ROBE ’17 landed in Singapore in the summer of 2015, he could not imagine a place more different than the one he had just left. As he explains, “I was born and raised in Maine, a state full of bitter winters and vast open space. Singapore was on the complete opposite side of the world, and was tropical in climate and completely urbanized.”

The opportunity to take a class in Tembusu College brought James to Singapore. The course, Asia Now! The Archaeology of the Future City, explored “tensions between development and preservation of heritage,” mirroring the contrasts he was already observing. There were other differences, too. He would be studying with students he had never met from places he had never been.

But these differences didn’t stop James from experiencing the city and places beyond with his new group of international peers. Together they sat on the bridge at the Marina Bay Sands and watched the sunset over the city, explored lush jungles where small monkeys would come a little too close, and expanded their palates with local cuisine.

It was through these shared cultural experiences that James came to feel a sense of community in a place that initially felt so overwhelming. In his words, “My trip to Singapore was ultimately a reminder of how in an increasingly globalized world, human connection can be easily forged. Despite our vastly different lives, I found surprising connections between all of us, including the universal nature of humor, our love of common media, and our desire to explore.”

James Robe graduated from the University of Maine with a B.A. in Mass Communication and Minors in Graphic Design and New Media. He currently works for the U.S. Green Building Council of Massachusetts as the Outreach and Communication Manager.

UMaine Honors Abroad in San Sebastián, Spain and Santiago, Chile

By Rob Glover and Jordan LaBouff

Dime con quién andas, y te diré quién eres.*

ITERALLY, THIS Spanish proverb means something like: “tell me who you hang out with, and I’ll tell you who you are.” More broadly, it means that our identity is shaped by the relationships we forge.

This could also be the mantra of a group of UMaine Honors students who had the transformative opportunity to study with Honors faculty in San Sebastián, Spain and Santiago, Chile over the past two years.

The project is a collaboration with the University Study Abroad Consortium (USAC), an organization that facilitates faculty and student exchange in nearly 30 global destinations. CLAS-Honors Preceptor and social psychologist Jordan LaBouff worked with USAC and UMaine’s Office of International Programs to develop UMaine

Top left, a religious temple located in one of the older residential areas of Singapore. Top right, students from all around the world who participated in the Tembusu College program in the summer of 2015 after touring Jurong Frog Farm. Bottom, view of the Marina Bay Sands, an integrated resort and shopping mall overlooking Marina Bay.

Photos courtesy of James Robe
Honors Abroad where students can travel with a preceptor for a semester — taking honors courses in the very cultural sites across Europe and South America that they’re studying.

In the Spring of 2016, the first five UMaine Honors students joined Dr. LaBouff in San Sebastián, Spain. As a European Capital of Culture for 2016, students had the opportunity to experience art, dance, food, and music from around the globe. Courtney Jurson, a participating student, observed, “Immersing myself in cultural differences helped me realize that ‘normal’ isn’t universal...studying Honors texts abroad helped me see my own culture and prejudices from an outside standpoint.”

There in the Basque Country of northern Spain, students were able to study historical and cultural developments through a new lens. In the heart of the indigenous Basque culture that has persisted across more than 7,000 years of change in the Iberian Peninsula, students had the chance to investigate the complex interactions between language, culture, government, and environment both in the classroom and in experiences across the region.

As volunteers in local schools and community projects in the Basque Country of northern Spain, students had the chance to practice the cultural skills they were learning in the classroom and develop lifelong relationships. As Courtney further said, “San Sebastián will always be my home away from home.”

In Chile in the Spring 2017 semester, five UMaine Honors students joined CLAS-Honors

Below, Honors students Kaleb Robinson, Amy Lyons, Jordan Houdeshell, and Aspen Kraushaar admiring artwork at Ascensor Reina Victoria in Valparaiso, Chile.

Photo courtesy of Rob Glover
Preceptor and political scientist Rob Glover to hone their Spanish language skills, while taking his courses on student activism and globalization. This was in addition to their honors course (albeit typically held in a bustling Santiago cafe rather than a classroom). Honors student Kaleb Robinson had the following to say about his time in Chile: “[b]eing in Chile with Honors allowed me to experience the challenge of being immersed in a new world, where I could live and exist around new cultures and ideas at the same time as exploring them through Honors as well.”

Chile’s culture is marked by its military dictatorship from 1973–1990. The students learned about the resilience and strength of the Chilean people in fighting to restore democracy and human rights. The period has left the country with a robust, confrontational civil society that paired well with learning about social movements and student activism.

The unusual Chilean geography also meant that our students were able to experience just about every climate imaginable: the driest desert in the world in Atacama; the coastal destinations of Viña del Mar and Valparaiso; and the jagged, windswept mountains of the southern Patagonia. Reflecting on her experience in Chile, Honors student Amy Lyons said, “[as] honors students, we are encouraged to transcend boundaries; studying abroad, especially in a nontraditional location like Chile, where one will experience valuable forms of cultural disorientation, helped me achieve just that.”

This opportunity is just one of the growing international partnerships for UMaine Honors students. In coming years, students will have the opportunity to travel to new locations around the world with new faculty mentors — allowing them to take intellectual risks, to develop relationships, and to craft experiences across the globe that put their honors studies into practice.

Left: Honors student Kaleb Robinson looking out over Valle de la Lunda in San Pedro de Atacama, Chile.
Photo courtesy of Amy Lyons

Right: Moai statues at Rano Raraku on Isla Pascua (Easter Island), Chile.
Photo courtesy of Rob Glover.
“THE ULTIMATE goal should not necessarily be a good death — but a good life until the end,” said Leigh Boyle, Executive Director and Founder of The Lipstick Project, a women-run volunteer organization in Vancouver, B.C., providing free professional spa services to terminally ill patients.

Preceptor Mimi Killinger and four Orono High School girls were awed by Leigh’s keynote address on The Lipstick Project at a 2016 gender conference. Leigh described the Project’s origins in an obstetric fistula hospital in Northern Ethiopia where Leigh gave therapeutic manicures to isolated women deprived of human touch. Honors students Samantha Saucier and Maddy Jackson collaborated with Mimi and the girls to bring Leigh and her story to Maine.

Samantha is a double major in Sociology and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, while Maddy is an English major involved in the UMaine McGillicuddy Humanities Center. The Lipstick Project resonated with their academic interests in gender, humanity and care, and they each earned a Dick Hill Undergraduate Research Award through the Honors College to support their Lipstick Project efforts.

Samantha and Maddy created posters, mailings, press releases and a Facebook presence, spreading the word about Leigh’s visit among university constituencies, regional high schools, palliative caregivers and local spa providers. They furthermore connected with ten co-sponsors across campus, including Honors, bringing Leigh to Orono April 25-26.

Leigh spoke with high schoolers over pizza, had breakfast with Honors students, gave a Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies luncheon talk, as well as an evening address. She taught her Maine audiences about human life measured in quality not quantity of days, in dignity and beauty, in community and care. Samantha, Maddy and Mimi presented on Leigh’s visit at the 2017 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference and are co-authoring an article about Leigh and humanist, collaborative ways to address community needs.
Bridging Disciplines

Interconnections in Science and Art

By Cleo Barker

Bridging Disciplines is the core of an Honors education. Our students and faculty represent many disciplines, and all strive to foster an expansive appreciation of the ways different fields intersect and connect as they grapple with the important questions posed by the curriculum. And it’s not all academic. Students bring their many interests to the table, enlivening discussions and contributing to a robust diversity of ideas and perspectives on thinking and problem solving.

The journey of the student featured in this story, Isaiah Mansour, exemplifies this bridging of disciplines both in his academic work and in his personal life. If asked, we might conventionally say he is a scientist since Mansour is a marine biology and aquaculture major. But that tells only part of his story and would do him a great disservice. He is also an artist and performer; a composer and musician. And who he is as scientist is very much informed by his sense of self as an artist. The reverse also holds true. Isaiah easily holds what may be seen as competing identities, and he enjoys challenging the presuppositions that come with identifying oneself exclusively as one thing or the other. As Isaiah reflects, “We need both (science and art). They function by the same principles.”

Science and art are not opposing forces. They have the potential to harmonize and foster the development of new perspectives and approaches to understanding life.

Finding Purpose

Isaiah finds purpose both in the lab and in music. He has been playing the upright bass since elementary school, and became hooked on scientific research in high school.

Mansour attended Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center, a magnet high school in Connecticut. There, he did his first research project that focused on pre-screening criteria...
for helping to determine which horseshoe crabs were most likely to survive blood drawing and successfully return to the wild. He presented this research at the Future Farmers of America (FFA) National Agriscience Fair in Louisville, Kentucky during his freshman year at UMaine.

Mansour, who has a dual concentration in marine biology and aquaculture and a minor in fisheries studies, works on campus in aquaculture and marine sciences laboratories, collaborating with his thesis advisor Ian Bricknell, a professor of aquaculture.

As a sophomore, Mansour received a grant from UMaine’s Center for Undergraduate Research to investigate the possibility of using a component from the blood of the abalone (a type of marine snail) in vaccines. Currently, there is only one organism being used for this purpose — the giant keyhole limpet, which is endangered in the wild. This research is an attempt to produce the same compound in a more sustainable way.

Mansour has received grants from NASA and other organizations to continue the research.

The summer of 2017, Mansour conducted research at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory as part of his Honors thesis. He had taken short courses there through Honors, including HON 350: Molecular Mechanisms of Human Disease. And in summer 2016, he did research with C. elegans nematodes through the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program.

“I fell in love with the place immediately,” Mansour says.

In spring 2017, he and a friend collaborated to develop Bridging Disciplines, a course for students of different majors to tackle biological problems. UMaine and College of the Atlantic students were the first to
enroll. The course is being offered again in Spring 2018.

“Nature does not differentiate biology, from chemistry, from physics. Science does not exist in silos. Researchers often become so entrenched in their fields that we forget the intrinsic interconnectedness of all natural laws and phenomena,” Mansour says. “Biologists of various sub-genres speak entirely different jargons from each other, so how are we supposed to communicate, let alone collaborate, with chemists and engineers?”

“We’ve become overspecialized. We’ve lost track of the greater community. Problems need a multidisciplinary approach but that’s not happening yet, not on campus or in the world.”

Mansour also co-founded the on-campus group URSA Minor, the UMaine Research Student Association for Undergraduates. The group’s mission is to match students interested in research with labs actively seeking student participants.

Mansour says that the Honors College has “enabled and empowered me in more ways than I can count. It got me into laboratories on MDI. It’s shaped a huge part of my past, present and future.”
Mansour is also passionate about music. While he has performed in various orchestras, jazz and rock bands, most recently he has turned to solo performances with poetry.

During his freshman year, he saw a poster for an upcoming campus poetry slam. He wrote pieces of poetry and combined them with original music to win the competition.

“It was the first I’d ever done. I was shocked when I made it to the second round, then the third round, and eventually won. I thought, maybe this is something I can be good at, something that can be part of my life.”

Since then he has performed in many venues, such as the Belfast Poetry Festival, Bangor “Poets Speak!,” Orono Flow and the UMaine radio station WMEB. Mansour has also performed for the 2014 Tedx UMaine talk series and at the 2015 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Chicago.

Mansour thinks there is a “vacuum in modern poetry for the beauty of life, happiness, contentment” — themes he wants to focus on and contribute to the community. “We are over-saturated with poetry about existential dread, anxiety, and other absolutely legitimate and important, though negative, topics,” he says. “Many people need to express their feelings, and many others find solidarity with the experiences of others, so this poetry is essential for people going through tough times. But there is plenty of it, to the point that sadness has become the fad and popular genre. I would like to see more uplifting poetry balance the emotional spectrum.”

Mansour believes that science and art operate by very similar fundamental laws and relationships.

“We need both (science and art),” he says. “They function by the same principles. Both investigate truth in their own way, and present it from their own perspective.”

“For example, broad ideas such as ‘balance’ and ‘rhythm’ are relevant in both art and science. Cells express levels of chemical balance and rhythm of productivity that parallel the aesthetic application of these principles in art.”

Both art and science reflect the ways in which people understand the world and their place in it. “It is therefore intuitive for art and science to be two sides of the same coin, yet we’ve separated them in modern formal education. Thankfully the Honors College is actively working to imbue a sense of necessity for both of these perspectives in its students,” Mansour says.

After graduation, Mansour plans to take a year to do scientific research before applying to graduate school. ■
I want to show you the land,  
Where people are free,  
like sage,  
growing in the steppe.

I want to show you the place,  
Where land does not exhaust you  
And color does not define you.

I want to show you the life,  
Where peace is returned  
And decency - restored.  
A world where hope is regained  
in yourself, in humanity  
This is, after all  
"The land of liberty, and justice —  
for all," they say,  
"You have a Belmar road," I say,  
Where a wall separates  
The rich and the poor of St. Louis.

To the right there is a store for dog accessories,  
Attached to an aesthetically pleasing coffee shop,  
With people inside, Snapchatting their faces away.  
Through the cafe window — the wall is unnoticed  
The wall behind which there are municipal housings  
And a gas station is the closest place to buy food —  
Fried chicken.  
A Whole Foods, however, is right across the wall.  
With cameras outside it, pointing toward the wall.

A 14-year-old Lily,  
Saved up all her allowings  
Ironed her best, ivory shirt she got for Christmas,  
The sleeves are a bit short,  
but that’s okay, she’ll put on her sparkly bracelets to  
detract the attention  
From the fact that the shirt belonged to someone else  
before her.

Lily took out a book from the library,  
Anna Karenina  
She stepped into the cafe, ordered hot chocolate,  
And as she waited for this over-priced cup of Nestle  
powder,  
She looked at her surroundings, taking everything in.  
People on their phones,  
People gossiping with each other,  
People refreshing their Facebook feeds,  
People holding hands,  
Aretha Franklin playing on the record player  
She saw one of those before,  
Although that one was actually “retro.”

**“Sage” By Aliya Uteuova**

A LIYA UTEUOVA is a fourth-year Honors student from Astana,  
Kazakhstan, studying political science and journalism. She is very  
inolved in campus life as the Arts and Culture editor for *The Maine Campus* — where she is also a frequent contributor, an instructor for an intermediate Russian language class, and is a lead Resident Assistant. She is a member of the Dance and Ballet clubs, Culturefest, the International Dance Festival where she choreographs and performs, is past-president of the UMaine International Student Association, is a graduate of the Maine National Education for Women in Leadership program, and volunteers with Strong Mind-Strong Body, Inc.

Aliya is equally engaged off campus. She is an intern with the Maine Attorney General’s office and previously interned with the Senate Democratic Office at the Maine State House. She was a 2017 UMaine student delegate to the Conference on U.S. Affairs and a frequent participant in Alternative Breaks, an experience she references in her poem “Sage” for which she won the 2018 Dorothy Clarke Wilson Peace Writing Prize. Committed to making positive changes in the lives of others is deeply important to Aliya. She responded to the global refugee crisis by twice undertaking a project to collect clothing and personal items for Syrian refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, each time collecting more than a truckload of desperately needed items. “I couldn’t help but think that a clothes drive shouldn’t have happened in the first place… nature didn’t cause chaos in Syria, people did. And it is people who can peacefully resolve this conflict for the sake of the country’s and the world’s future.”

“Declining Journalistic Freedom in Turkey under the Erdogan Regime” is the title of Aliya’s Honors thesis. Her long-term goal is to become an immigration lawyer but after graduation, Aliya will pursue a masters’ degree in public policy or international relations.
Lily got her hot chocolate, took the window spot, opened her book, And then, through the window, she saw the wall, behind which was her home. Her mother would be back at five, she had to return soon, And soon came soon enough.

Sometimes I wish I never left my home A nest, where I am just another sparrow and people don’t ask me which nest I belong to.

Where are you from? Bangor, Maine — I joke Of course they don’t believe me, I look too different, sound too different, act too different.

So you want to stay in the U.S. after you graduate? I don’t know, maybe. Why did you come here then? Oh, here it goes. Did you come here on a student visa?

No, I don’t want to stay here. Because I am too afraid to live in a country, where psychopaths can carry guns. I am too afraid to live in a country, where it takes a school shooting to discuss gun laws. I will not raise my children, In the land that does not teach them about the place their mother comes from.

The only thing I am guilty of, Is wanting to learn. Eager to write, to report, In a place where freedom of speech, and press is ingrained in the Constitution. What a privilege it is, to speak your mind, loud and clear, And not be afraid to be jailed anymore A privilege misused.

You know what, I am not smiling, nodding, and forgiving this ignorance anymore. He is a college student. He has access to knowledge. He should know where Kazakhstan is located on the map.

Breathe. Just breathe. Just wait until you get to your dorm. And call your parents. No, you can’t wake them up, silly, wait for five more hours. By the time you get to bed It will be morning there, and you’ll update them about everything you learned today.

About the Incarceration of Japanese-Americans in WWII About Brown v. Board of Education About a Gandhi scholar you interviewed Who met Nelson Mandela (how awesome!) And reassured you that peace is worth fighting for.

My parents listen Eagerly, holding on to every word, Adding their commentary to my concerns My worries are incomparable to theirs. Yet they still, somehow, find the best in everything, in everyone. “We love you, you make us proud, everyday, just keep going.”

And suddenly, Everything becomes clearer As if the glass in my glasses has been wiped clean. And there’s no blurriness, no scratches anymore. I want to show you the land, Where you can feel the warmth of morning light, Fingers through the red and yellow leaves, of trees. Trees planted by your ancestors, Greeting you. Rivers filled with sweat and tears of your ancestors, Embracing you. Your soul — breathing again.

What’s your name? Call me Human. Where do you come from? A place called Maine — I can see that.

I couldn’t help but think that a clothes drive shouldn’t have happened in the first place... nature didn’t cause chaos in Syria, people did. And it is people who can peacefully resolve this conflict for the sake of the country’s and the world’s future.”

Aliya Uteuova
MENTORSHIP IS at the heart of the Honors endeavor. Over its long history at the University of Maine, first as a program with only a handful of students, and since becoming a College 15 years ago now with almost a thousand students, the Honors College strives to be student-centered.
The value of mentorship

By Abby Bellefleur
Jennifer Page, Matthew Skaves, Caileen Gamache, and Isaac Record, four Honors alumni from the College’s first graduating class (’03), were asked to reflect on their time in Honors in commemoration of our 15th anniversary. Each of them points to a faculty member who guided them through their Honors journey, and whose influence contributed to their present success.

**JENNIFER PAGE** knew she wanted to be a science educator from the time she was in middle school. She moved to Maine when she was young, went through the Bangor school system, and now resides in Rockland, ME where she is close to her job as Director of Education for the Hurricane Island Institute.

Page received her B.S. in Marine Science with a concentration in Marine Biology. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in Biology from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2009, and shortly thereafter began work as a Science Teacher at Bangor High School where she helped start the STEM Academy in 2010.

Page credits her Honors thesis experience for her decision to pursue a Ph.D. In her words, completing a thesis gave her a “taste of academia,” as Honors courses offered her the chance to engage with and come to appreciate the “power of interdisciplinary thinking and learning.”

Page’s Honors thesis was advised by Dr. Sara Lindsay, Associate Professor of Marine Sciences. The two first met when Page completed an internship in Lindsay’s lab the summer before her senior year of high school. They continued to collaborate when Page conducted undergraduate research with Lindsay, and they worked together again during Page’s postdoc.

As a thesis advisor, Lindsay demonstrated for Page how to mentor student research projects. She gave Page the autonomy, tools, space, and confidence to conduct meaningful research and learn through her mistakes. Page is now a mentor for students who come through Hurricane Island, and pulls inspiration from Lindsay’s “dedication to students on a personal and professional level.”

Lindsay is in turn inspired by Page, and says, “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed seeing Jenn mature into a colleague who is just as excited about biology and committed to learning as she was when she was an undergraduate in the Honors College.”

Building collaborative relationships with her colleagues remains important to Page in her current position as Director of Education, where she believes in “lead[ing] so people are inspired to follow.” She claims to have taken this motivation from the Honors faculty she engaged with and intends to cultivate and maintain this culture at Hurricane Island.
With the leadership skills she gained under Lindsay’s guidance, and the dedication to collaboration she inherited from the Honors College, Page is well-positioned to continue mentoring and encouraging students to pursue their passion for science.

MATTHEW SKAVES is known to some as the “Bloomberg guru,” for his expert ability to teach students about the massive data service. A Lecturer in Accounting and Finance in the Maine Business School at the University of Maine, Skaves grew up in Orrington and now resides in Veazie. As an undergraduate, he earned a B.A. in English with a minor in Business, and went on to earn an M.B.A. in Finance in 2005.

Following graduate school, Skaves became Portfolio Manager at Deighan Wealth Advisors and was later promoted to Chief Investment Officer. He found his way back to the University of Maine in 2013 when he received a full-time teaching appointment in the Maine Business School.

Looking back, Skaves acknowledges the important role Honors played in the development of his critical thinking skills, which he applied when earning his M.B.A. and continues to use in his professional life. He notes, “thinking critically is something every financial professional needs to be able to do.”

As an undergraduate, Skaves was drawn to the Honors College for its small class sizes, thoughtful discussions, and the relationships he was able to forge with members of the faculty. He remembers Dr. Amar (then a chemistry professor and preceptor in the Honors College) inviting his class to his house for brunch one morning for “a change of scenery.” This is just one example of the personal nature of the Honors community that enables students and faculty to build meaningful connections.

Skaves built such a relationship with Dr. Robert Strong (now Professor Emeritus of Finance) when they crossed paths during his time as an undergraduate. According to Skaves, Dr. Strong inspired him to pursue his career in finance, and he tries to model his mentor’s “positive, forthright attitude and his ability to explain complex ideas in simple terms” in his own classroom.

Dr. Strong fondly recalls Skaves as well, asserting that he “thrives in the field of finance.” Dr. Strong supported Skaves both in and outside the classroom, ensuring he was aware of opportunities and encouraging him to succeed. The two continue to work together and are currently serving on the John Bapst Memorial High School investment committee.

Skaves’ time in Honors, as well as his working relationship with Dr. Strong, helped reinforce his success as both a business professional and an educator, living up to his role as the Bloomberg guru.
CAILEEN GAMACHE hoped that one day she would be the next Jane Goodall, and then she took AP Chemistry in high school. When that didn’t go as she imagined, she said goodbye to Jane and looked further afield to political science and eventually to law. Gamache now serves as Senior Counsel at Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, where she focuses on the development and financing of renewable energy projects. She splits her time between her job in Washington, D.C., and her home in Falls Church, VA.

Gamache grew up in California and North Berwick, ME. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree, she received her J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law in 2008. Gamache serves as Administrative Editor of the Energy Law Journal and was recently elected as an Officer of the International Energy Bar Association.

According to Gamache, her path to law school was influenced by the culture of the Honors classroom. It was an environment in which she was encouraged to “question and understand the perspective of sources of information, a skill that was cultivated further in law school, and is a key component of the success of my practice today.”

Gamache speaks fondly about the mentorship of former dean Charlie Slavin, who also served on her Honors thesis committee. She recalls receiving her stein from him at the Honors Celebration as a highlight of her Honors experience. Gamache remembers Charlie as “an amazing professor, mentor, and human being…[he] challenged, guided, and cheered me on to perform my best.”

In her current position, Gamache is inspired by Donna Attanasio, Senior Advisor for Energy Law Programs at George Washington University School of Law, who mentored her as a junior associate at White & Case LLP. Gamache says that Attanasio is an “excellent female mentor” who took the time to “teach, cultivate, and expose [her] to important skills and experiences” in the field. She now has one of Attanasio’s former students as a junior associate, and enjoys the opportunity to pay forward the knowledge and skills that “made [her] a better lawyer.”

Maybe being Jane Goodall wasn’t in the cards, but with the influence of the connections she built as an Honors student and in her professional life, Gamache has established a fulfilling career where she is an example for others.

ISAAC RECORD spends a lot of time thinking about how to live in our technological world. As an Assistant Professor of Practice in science and technology studies at Michigan State University’s Lyman Briggs College, this is an appropriate endeavor.
From Windsor, ME, Record completed a double degree at UMaine, earning a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and a B.S. in Computer Engineering. He received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology from the University of Toronto in 2012 with a small break between when he worked as an Honors Associate.

Becoming a philosophy professor was an unexpected choice for Record, but one for which his Honors journey had prepared him. He notes, “My experience in Honors gave me the confidence that I could master a new way of investigating the world.”

With this confidence, Record was able to transfer his skills from the sciences to the humanities, and now enjoys being able to combine these two interests in his classroom, where he supplements his philosophy lessons with hands-on technological experiences.

Thinking about other ways in which Honors influenced his life, Record remarks, “I’m a philosopher instead of an engineer, and much happier because of it. I’ve traveled much more than I might otherwise have done. I gained many friends and mentors.”

While a student in the Honors College, Record developed a close working relationship with Dr. Francois Amar, who served as his preceptor during the Civilizations sequence and later as a member of his thesis committee. According to Record, Dr. Amar was patient and thorough with this feedback on assignments, and he tries to give his own students “the same level of attention.”

For his part, Amar remembers Record as a kind of “Renaissance man” with the strong technical skills of an engineer and the thoughtful demeanor of a deep thinker, capable of producing brilliant and original work. Amar says, “When I learned of Isaac’s position at Michigan State, I thought how appropriate for him and was, I admit, a little bit envious of the opportunities for interdisciplinary work that it affords.”

By absorbing the various influences of engineering, philosophy, Honors, and his mentors, Record is able to help his own students learn and grow in similar ways.

Page, Skaves, Gamache, and Record all speak to the value of good mentorship and the benefits of connecting with faculty members in the Honors College who invested in their intellectual and personal development as students and scholars. Each of them took inspiration from their Honors journey in achieving their personal and professional goals.

Thus, the experiences of these alumni from the College’s first graduating class represent one of the core tenets of the Honors community: to foster learning that is student-centered. From the program’s conception in 1935 to its transition to a college in 2003, the Honors College remains dedicated to helping our students realize their full potential, and we will continue to uphold our commitment to our students in the years to come.
Sara Morris
2017–18 Distinguished Honors Graduate lecture

Honors and Business alumna, Sara Morris ‘86 returned to campus on Sept. 26, 2017 to deliver the 2017–18 Distinguished Honors Graduate Lecture, Accounting for Happiness: The Rewards of Unlikely Career Choices and the Lasting Value of Kindness. The event was supported by TIAA and co-sponsored by the Maine Business School. She engaged her audience with a mixture of reminiscence about her time at UMaine and in Honors and her advice on how to approach each job that one holds. She advised students to place value on the supportiveness of a work environment and less on a discipline-driven career path.

After considering careers as an actress or a doctor, Sara Morris earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Maine in 1986 with highest honors and highest distinction. She began her career as a CPA in Boston with Deloitte & Touche, and has held senior leadership positions with high-growth financial services companies for more than 23 years. Morris currently is a managing director with Stone Coast Fund Services. Located in Portland, Maine, Stone Coast is an award-winning hedge fund administration company servicing over $53 billion in assets, 80 hedge fund managers across the country and investors around the world.

Her own degree in accounting helped her land her first job but also opened doors to management positions where the focus is less on technical expertise and more on leading teams of people to excel in their tasks. She currently serves as Managing Director of Stone Coast Fund Services in Portland, a leading hedge fund service company. Morris also met with groups of business and Honors students on a more informal basis to discuss her career path and challenges she has faced.
SHERRI MITCHELL, noted activist and lawyer specializing in issues of Native American land rights and cultural preservation, delivered the John M. Rezendes Ethics Lecture, “The Heart of Spirit-Based Change” on April 19, 2017. Mitchell graduated with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maine before obtaining her JD at the University of Arizona. A member of the Penobscot Nation, Mitchell spoke about transformational change as a process that starts with self-knowledge, with who we are and the narratives we construct about ourselves, our origins, and our history. Her talk provided a brief history of the legal precedents used to justify the dispossession of the native peoples in the Americas, dating back to the papal bulls of the 1400s. Mitchell made a convincing argument that this violence has become reflexive in our culture and that our polarized and judgmental public discourse is a symptom of the overall violence humans have visited on the earth. But she also considered those who have reconnected their hearts with their minds and seek to live with empathy and in harmony with the earth. Mitchell met with students in an informal setting and shared her inspiring mix of legal experience and cultural perspective on issues of concern to all Americans.
Honors goes to

Washington, D.C.
THROUGH THE continued generosity of the Bill and Betsy Pullen Leitch ’55 Fund, the Honors College was able to take 29 Honors students to Washington, D.C. where they met with members of Maine’s Congressional delegation. Students also toured the Capitol, the National Gallery, Library of Congress, where they viewed a mosaic of Minerva, our magazine’s namesake, and visited the monuments and other historic sites.

“Some of my favorite moments on this trip were when I walked through the monuments at dusk, explored the city, and met with Senators Susan Collins and Angus King. I learned so much from each of these moments and am very fortunate to have been able to experience them.”

Maria Maffucci ’18

“I learned a great deal about the city and our nation’s history, but more importantly found myself challenged by new viewpoints and ideas that I would not have faced had I stayed home. Being able to explore this city was incredibly enjoyable and thought-provoking.”

Daniel Perkins ’19

Top: Honors students and staff meet with Senator Susan Collins in her Washington, D.C. office. Bottom: Honors students visited many significant historical sites, including the Arlington National Cemetery and Lincoln Memorial (left).
CUGR Research Awards

SUMMER 2017 FELLOWSHIPS
Ashley Soucy '18 (Biochemistry)
Caroline Spangenberg '18 (Zoology)

2017–18 ACADEMIC YEAR FELLOWSHIPS
Cole Butler '20 (Civil Engineering)
Spencer DeBrock '18 (Zoology)
Amy de Silva '18 (Communication Sciences and Disorders)
Cara Doiron '18 (Finance)
Mitchell Harling '20 (Bioengineering)
Calla Williams '18 (Psychology)

INBRE Research Awards
The 2017–18 IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) research fellowships are supported by a grant from the NIH and are awarded for projects in biomedical research.

SUMMER 2017 FELLOWSHIPS
Laura Paye '19 (Marine Sciences; Ecology and Environmental Sciences)
Callie Greco '17 (Biology)

2017–18 HONORS THESIS FELLOWSHIPS
Taaniel Kiidli '18 (Biochemistry)
Ashley Soucy '18 (Biochemistry)
Jackson Foley '18 (Biochemistry)
Audrey Hoyle '18 (Microbiology)

2017–18 JUNIOR YEAR FELLOWSHIPS
Laura Paye '19 (Marine Sciences; Ecology and Environmental Sciences)
Benjamin Tero '19 (Biochemistry)
Sarai Smith '19 (Microbiology; Biochemistry)

Charlie Slavin Research Fund Awards

SPRING 2017
Caroline Curtis '17 (Biology)
Gerard Valliere '17 (Zoology)
Ashley Cooper '18 (Parks, Recreation and Tourism)
Christopher Gilbert '18 (Wildlife Ecology)

FALL 2017
Molly Westbrook '18 (Marine Sciences)
Sam Saucier '18 (Sociology; Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)
Callie Greco '17 (Biology)
Gene Herrschaft '18 (New Media)
Johanna Lunn '18 (Anthropology)
Cara Doiron '18 (Finance)
Steven Longfellow '18 (Engineering)
Jasmine Waite '19 (Biochemistry)

CAROLYN E. REED PRE-MEDICAL THESIS FELLOWSHIP
Isaiah Mansour '18 (Marine Sciences)

RENDLE A. JONES ’65 AND PATRICIA K. JONES ’65 HONORS THESIS FELLOWSHIP
Aliya Uteuova '18 (Political Science; Journalism)
Special Recognition

The Honors College would like to recognize the following Honors students for their outstanding achievements during the 2016–17 academic year.

2017 VALEDICTORIAN
Allyson Eslin ’17 (Economics; Political Science; Psychology)

OUTSTANDING STUDENT, COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES, FORESTRY, AND AGRICULTURE
Afton E. Hupper ’17 (Ecology and Environmental Sciences)

OUTSTANDING STUDENT, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
Adeline Mae Hogan Schneider ’17 (Philosophy; Human Dimensions of Climate Change)

OUTSTANDING STUDENT, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Maude S. Meeker ’17 (Elementary Education)

OUTSTANDING STUDENT, MAINE BUSINESS SCHOOL
Hoang Anh “Christine” Thi Le ’17 (Accounting)

THE JOHN M. REZENDES ANNUAL ETHICS ESSAY COMPETITION, FIRST PLACE
Citizenship, Conflict, and Democracy
Sarah Dean ’17 (Philosophy; International Affairs)
“Ningún Ser Humano Es Ilegal: The Ethical Implications of the Deportation of Undocumented Immigrants”

2017 EDITH PATCH AWARDEE
Hallie Marshall ’17 (Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology)

Distinguished Award Nominees:
Sierra Kuun ’17 (Chemical Engineering)
Valerie Watson ’18 (Ecology and Environmental Sciences)

SERVICE AWARD
Brady Davis ’17 (Business Management)
Abby Bellefleur ’17 (Communication)

STEINMETZ BOOK AWARD
Julia Casey ’20 (Political Science)
Lydia Elwell ’20 (History; Secondary Education)
Isaac Vaccaro ’20 (Mathematics; Music)
Katherine Larochelle ’20 (Molecular and Cellular Biology; Biochemistry)
Arielle Spalla ’20 (Microbiology)

Faculty

AWARDED TENURE IN 2017
Sarah Harlan-Haughey (CLAS-Honors Preceptor of English)
Jordan LaBouff (CLAS-Honors Preceptor of Psychology)
Robert Glover (CLAS-Honors Preceptor of Political Science)

ALL MAINE WOMEN HONORARY FACULTY MEMBER
Mimi Killinger (Rezendes Preceptor for the Arts, Honors)

STEVE GOULD AWARD (2017)
Melissa Ladenheim (Associate Dean, Honors)

PHI KAPPA PHI
Melissa Ladenheim (Associate Dean, Honors)

Scholarships and Fellowships

ROBERT B. THOMSON MEMORIAL THESIS FELLOWSHIP
Jenya Damsky ’18 (Studio Art)
Jared Dumas ’18 (Political Science)

ASPIRATIONS SCHOLARSHIP
Kaleb Robinson ’19 (Business Management)

STANHOPE STUDY ABROAD FELLOWSHIP
Brawley Benson ’19 (International Affairs)

BILL AND BETSY PULLEN LEITCH ’55 FUND
Maria Beaulieu ’18 (Economics)
Thilee Yost ’19 (Philosophy)

MARK R. HASKELL AND KATHERINE Z. HASKELL SCHOLARSHIP
Asher Sizeler-Fletcher ’19 (Political Science)

REZENDES GLOBAL SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP
Taaniel Kiidli ’18 (Biochemistry)

DR. JOHN MITCHELL NICKERSON ’59 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Jeffrey A. Burke ’19 (Political Science)
Thilee Yost ’19 (Philosophy)
Events

SPRING 2017 MAINE MASONIC CELEBRATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Sierra Kuun, *A Study of Undergraduate Perception and Behavior Toward On-Campus Composting*

Gene Herrschaft, *Servant Heart Collaborative: Educational Projects in Sierra Leone*

Julia Mackin-McLaughlin, *Art & Science: A Case Study of Their Interconnectedness in the Marine Natural Sciences*

Aeleah Granger, *Affective Responses and Individual Differences in Threat Based Prejudice Toward Muslims and Arab-Americans*

Elizabeth Proctor, *The Arts, Sciences, and Honors*

2017 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference — Atlanta, GA

PRESENTATIONS:

*Justice Served: Honors and Activism*  
Melissa Ladenheim, Christopher Gilbert, James S. Brown

*From Pupil to Pedagogue: How University of Maine Honors Students Help Their Classmates Succeed*  
Jennie Woodard, Abby Bellefleur

*The Lipstick Project: Connecting Honors, the Humanities & Community*  
Mimi Kilinger, Samantha Saucier, Maddy Jackson

*Knowledge to Action: Tackling Challenges in Sierra Leone Through an Honors Research Collaborative*  
Melissa Ladenheim, François G. Amar, Gene Herrschaft, Grace Pouliot

*Classroom Research Experiences: A Gateway to Advanced Research Experiences Earlier in the Undergraduate Career*  
Katherine Larochelle, Rachel Brooks, Sally Dixon Molloy

*Critical Views on the Western World and the Urgency of Social Justice and Human Rights Foci in the Honors Curriculum*  
Stefano Tijerina, James S. Brown, Jacob Spaulding

*Deep Immersion: Reflections from Abroad*  
Mark Haggerty, Grace Pouliot, François G. Amar

*Student Orientation and Reorientation Throughout the Honors Curriculum*  
François G. Amar, Sean Cox, Jean Loden, Kristine Miller, and Belle Zembrdrt

POSTERS:

*Scientific Illustration: An Interdisciplinary Aid to Student and Artist Learning*  
Chantal Bussiere

*Comparing Meta-Population Dynamics of Spruce Grouse 25 Years Later at Their Southern Range Margin*  
Christopher Gilbert

*Impact of the Acanthocephalan Parasite *Profilicollis Botulus* on Estradiol Levels in the Invasive Green Crab, *Carcinus Maenas: A Potential Biological Control Organism*  
Caroline Spangenberg

*Beyond the Single Issue Problem: Bringing Intersectionality Into the Honors Classroom*  
Jennie Woodard, Keely Gonyea, Erin Butts

*From Undergraduate Classroom Research Experiences to Independent Research Projects: Exploring the Biology of Cluster E Mycobacteriophage*  
Katherine Larochelle, Rachel Brooks

*Utilizing Virtual Reality to Broaden Worldviews Through Meaningful Interaction*  
Gene Herrschaft

Honors College Scholar-Athletes 2016–17

Nicole Arnold  
Kaitlyn Ball  
Alexandria Bromley  
Justin Courtney  
Sean Driscoll  
Nigel Dunn  
Olivia Fandel  
Faythe Goins  
Sydney Green  
Patrick Groening  
Lucia Guarnieri  
Cassidy Hill  
Dylan Jorge  
John Kay  
Beatrix Lavigueur  
Daniel Lesko  
Lauren Nightingale  
Mariya Pominova  
Mikaela Sansoucie  
Sierra Semmel  
Amanda Shuman  
Hannah Smith  
Hannah Stefl  
Tiffany Tanner  
Brittany Torchia  
Sierra Yost
TEAMWORK IS the noun that best describes the dynamic between Honors Associates Sean Cox ’15, a “band geek” with aspirations to teach environmental history, and Abby Bellefleur ’17, a service-oriented advocate who is motivated to pursue a career in health communication. They use their collective experiences to provide support and counsel to Honors students, as well as assist with faculty operations.

Cox graduated with a degree in history, with minors in anthropology and music. After working on Cadillac Mountain with the Friends of Acadia for a summer, temporarily teaching K–8 music classes, and spending a winter with the admissions department, he found his way back to Honors in 2016. In his second year working for the Honors College, Cox coordinates the second-year honors Civilization sequence. After his time as an Associate, Cox hopes to enroll in a masters program for American environmental history.

Bellefleur graduated with a degree in communication and a minor in psychology in 2017. As a recent graduate of Honors, she enjoys the opportunity to help teach and coordinate courses, and share her perspective with current students. Bellefleur is also using this time to gain professional experience and to continue to learn as part of the Honors community. After she completes her term as an Associate, Bellefleur plans on working to help address health concerns among marginalized groups.

The Associates have a unique position of understanding the Honors College from the student perspective and the staff perspective. This means they are able to fulfill an important role as liaisons between the students and the faculty, and are consequently better able to serve the Honors community as a whole.
# 2017 Honors Index

85 graduates from the 2017 Honors class at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average GPA</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who were student-athletes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who are published</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates nominated to Phi Beta Kappa</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who worked while in school</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who were officers in a student organization</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who are published</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates inducted into Phi Kappa Phi</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who attended an Honors trip</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who completed a tutorial alternative</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates from Maine</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who studied abroad</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who plan to attend graduate school</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who submitted a Rezendes Ethics Essay</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates who participated in theater, dance or music</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates with a double degree</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates with a family member who graduated from UMaine</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates from the College of Education and Human Development</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduates from the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduates from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduates from the College of Engineering</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduates from the Maine Business School</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Natalie Altvater
Chemical Engineering
Perry, Maine
Homeschooled
**THESIS:** The Design and Fabrication of an Atomic Layer Deposition Reactor for Coating Powders  
**ADVISOR:** William DeSisto  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** Design and fabrication of a reactor that uses atomic layer deposition to coat a powder. The reactor was constructed then tested on a catalyst. Atomic layer deposition changes the chemical nature of the catalyst surface, making it more useful for applications. UMaine did not previously have this capability in powder technology. This reactor was built for the Chemical and Biological Engineering Department.

Hannah Babcock
Music Education
Washington, Maine
Medomak Valley High School
**THESIS:** Autism: A Song of Understanding  
**ADVISOR:** Beth Wiemann  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** I wrote a four movement musical composition on Autism Spectrum Disorder and had it recorded in the IMRC. It is for alto and tenor saxophone, trombone, tuba, and piano. The movements are Language, Social, and Behavior for the three main categories of symptoms from a child with ASD’s perspective, and Perspective for the outsider’s perspective.

Joshua Andle
Biochemistry
Falmouth, Maine
Falmouth High School
**THESIS:** Investigating the Potential of MicroRNAs as Regulators of the Calpain Systems  
**ADVISOR:** Dorothy Croall  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** Misregulation of the calcium dependent family of proteases known as calpains contributes to several pathologies including Alzheimer’s disease and altered cellular functions including regulation of cell cycle and the cell motility. We have investigated potential interactions of miRNA with five target calpain system members to screen for miRNA interactions possessing a high likelihood of regulating calpain activity.

Kathryn Asalone
Zoology
Hampden, Maine
Hampden Academy
**THESIS:** The Importance of Social Science in Biomedical Education  
**ADVISOR:** Kristy Townsend  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** The goal of the research was to explore the effects social science courses taken in a doctor’s undergraduate education have on self-reported patient interactions. After doctors were interviewed, it was determined that a new course should be required for premedical students. This course would teach the important skills that doctors stated were key for quality patient interactions.

Dominic Barra
Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Wells, Maine
Wells High School
**THESIS:** Success of Artificial Insemination in Two Breeds of Maine Sheep Is Not Hindered by Breed Differences  
**ADVISOR:** James Weber  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** My project is the pilot study evaluating the effectiveness of artificial insemination in Maine sheep. We did this to improve genetic diversity throughout Maine and improve the health of Maine sheep. This was done by adopting a method similar to the one used in Iceland. We determined that this method is a viable option for commercial adoption in the U.S.

Bianca Beland
Forestry; Wildlife Ecology
Barkhamsted, Connecticut
Northwestern Regional High School
**THESIS:** Ash Decline: An Opportunity for Young Forest Wildlife  
**ADVISOR:** Amber Roth  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** This case study examines a timber salvage operation on public water supply watershed land to remove dying white ash (Fraxinus americana) trees while meeting Connecticut and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services goals for creating habitat for the New England cottontail (Sylvilagus transitionalis) and other wildlife.
Abby Bellefleur
Communication
Auburn, Maine
Edward Little High School
THESIS: Television, Interpersonal Communication, and College Students’ Attitudes Toward Mental Health
ADVISOR: Liliana Herakova
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This thesis explores the relationships between television viewing habits, interpersonal communication, personal experience, and college students’ attitudes toward mental health. Using a survey, results revealed that talking with friends or family members about mental health challenges is correlated with positive attitudes toward mental illness. This thesis offers support for peer-to-peer mental health programs on campus.

Heather Cross
Psychology; Sociology
Barton, Vermont
Lake Region Union High School
THESIS: The Effects of Video Games and Religious Reminders on Prosociality
ADVISOR: Jordan LaBouff
THESIS DESCRIPTION: The aim of this study was to see whether or not these two predictors could work better in tandem to increase prosociality. It was hypothesized that both types of predictors would increase prosocial intentions on their own, that both types of predictors would work together to further increase prosocial intentions, and that this interaction would be moderated by personal religiosity.

Jennifer Cashin
Anthropology
New Boston, New Hampshire
Goffstown High School
THESIS: Museum and Exhibition Curation Techniques in Nazi Germany: An Analysis of Curation and Its Effects on Art, Artists, and the Public
ADVISOR: Phillip Silver
THESIS DESCRIPTION: The Third Reich utilized not only art, music and the government to support their growing anti-Semitic ideology, but also used the developing tools of museum curation as another form of propaganda to manipulate the public to hate those who were “degenerate.” These curation effects can be seen in the 1937 Entartete Kunst, or the degenerate art exhibition.

Caroline Curtis
Biology
Richlands, North Carolina
Richlands High School
THESIS: Providing Experimental Support for mTERT as An Adult Neural Stem Cell Marker Using A Triple Transgenic Mouse Line
ADVISOR: Kristy Townsend
THESIS DESCRIPTION: We provide experimental evidence for mTERT as a novel and unique marker of adult neural stem cells, using a triple transgenic mouse line designed so that mTERT-positive cells will glow green, via Green Fluorescent Protein, when the animal ingests doxycycline.

Lucy Comaskey
English
Brunswick, Maine
Brunswick High School
THESIS: She Sees She & Other Poems
ADVISOR: Jennifer Moxley
THESIS DESCRIPTION: A creative thesis collection doubling as my first poetry chapbook, featuring a series of poems inspired by women in Greco-Roman mythology.
Brady Davis
Business Management
Freeport, Maine
Freeport High School
THESIS: Investigating the Sustainability Potential of Artisanal Cheesemaking in Maine
ADVISOR: Stephanie Welcomer
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This thesis examines the extent to which artisanal cheese makers in Maine are promoting the concept of sustainability-as-flourishing through their operations. Despite being well articulated as a new paradigm in the literature, sustainability-as-flourishing has not been thoroughly investigated in the field. The objective of this thesis is to explore how this concept is expressed through the practices of local food producers.

Sarah Elizabeth Dean
Philosophy; International Affairs
Industry, Maine
Hall-Dale High School
THESIS: Invisible Women: Sex Trafficking in the Context of Post-Soviet Moldova
ADVISOR: Stefano Tijerina
THESIS DESCRIPTION: In my thesis, I attempted to uncover some of the underlying causes of sex trafficking in Eastern Europe, where it is highly prevalent.

Sara DeMello
Nursing
Rochester, Massachusetts
Old Rochester Regional High School
THESIS: Gastroparesis: A Literature Review of Disease Manifestations and Existing Treatment Methods
ADVISOR: Deborah Saber
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This thesis aimed to look closer at a disease that many people don’t know much, if anything, about. I wanted to examine not only the physical disease manifestations, but also the effect that this illness has on a patient’s mental health. By paying more attention to the psychological comorbidities that the disease causes we can treat gastroparesis patients more effectively and on a more holistic level.

Savannah DeVoe
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Naples, Maine
Lake Region High School
THESIS: Coastal Erosion in Southern Maine: An Evaluation of Coastal Armoring Structures and Their Effectiveness
ADVISOR: Kimberly Huguenard
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This thesis examined the effects of hard armoring structures on rates of sediment erosion and accretion on four beaches in Southern Maine. In general, hard armoring structures increase the rate of offshore sediment transport and deposition, and deplete the overall volume of sediment on beaches at which they are implemented.

Emily Duran-Frontera
Food Science and Human Nutrition
Las Marias, Puerto Rico
Eva Y Patria Custodio Franqui
THESIS: Development of a Process Approach for Retaining Seaweed Sugar Kelp (Saccharina latissima) Nutrients
ADVISOR: Balunkeswar Nayak
THESIS DESCRIPTION: The aim of this research is to investigate the effects of process parameters of a convective air-oven on the quality and nutritional attributes of dried sugar kelp. The study evaluated the effects of hot air drying temperature, humidity and time on the physicochemical properties (water activity, moisture content, pH, color, water holding capacity, oil holding capacity, ash content, fat content and vitamin C) of sugar kelp during drying.

Caleb Elsemore
Biology
South Portland, Maine
South Portland High School
THESIS: Effects of Asynchronous Auditory Distractors on Visual Acuity Outcomes
ADVISOR: Leonard Kass
THESIS DESCRIPTION: An investigation of the effect of auditory distractors on acuity outcomes using an automated, computer-based visual acuity program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Thesis Title</th>
<th>Advisor</th>
<th>Thesis Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Allyson Eslin| Political Science; Psychology; Economics | Bangor High School               | THESIS: The Economic and Psychological Metrics of Political Decision-Making | Caroline Noblet                | Advisor: Deborah Saber  
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This thesis was a pilot study that examined knowledge of emergency department registered nurses in regards to sexual trafficking. A pre-test was given to assess baseline knowledge. Then, a short educational intervention was implemented. The participants were then asked to complete a post-test to evaluate if knowledge was gained.                                                                 |
| Sarah Ford   | Nursing                            | Londonderry High School         | THESIS: Sexual Trafficking: Developing a Teaching Strategy for Emergency Department Registered Nurses | Deborah Saber                  | Advisor: Hamish Greig  
THESIS DESCRIPTION: I surveyed and identified the unique invertebrate communities found within natural rock pools along the Penobscot River. While these pools are ubiquitous across the landscape, they had never been formally studied in Maine. I determined that both the river and seasonality had an effect on the environmental characteristics of the pools, as well as their invertebrate species compositions. |
| Kathryn Galley| New Media                          | Goffstown High School           | THESIS: It Brings Me Back: A Look at Personally Collected Musical Memories and Their Kinetic Typographical Representation | Jon Ippolito, John Carney     | Advisor: Cynthia Erdley  
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This project examines music related memories and reimagines them through kinetic typography, projected in an immersive, 360° space. The 360° space was chosen specifically to allow viewers to step into the mind of the interview participant and experience a snapshot of their lives through text, imagery and sound.                                                                                                                                                              |
| Alex Gilbert | Psychology                         | Brookfield Union High School    | THESIS: Investigating the Odd-Person-Out Principle: Socioemotional Adjustment of First-Year College Students in Double vs. Triple Living Scenarios | Cynthia Erdley                 | Advisor: Mark Brewer  
THESIS DESCRIPTION: The goal of my study was to highlight the differences in depression, anxiety, academic performance and peer-relationship quality between incoming undergraduate students that were placed into doubles or triples for their first semester of their freshman year.                                                                                                             |
| Natalie Goding| Political Science; Spanish         | Livermore Falls High School     | THESIS: The Types and Effectiveness of Voter Mobilization Efforts in the U.S. Presidential Elections of 1828 and 2008 | Mark Brewer                    | Advisor: Mark Brewer  
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This project is a case study of the types and effectiveness of voter mobilization efforts in the U.S. presidential elections of 1828 and 2008. By utilizing newspapers and academic works, I determined the tactics that political organizations deployed to mobilize potential voters in both election years.                                                                                       |
Kathryn Gottlieb
Sociology; Anthropology
Boothbay, Maine
Boothbay Region High School
THESIS: Cultural Appropriation in Contemporary Neopaganism and Witchcraft
ADVISOR: Lisa Neuman
THESIS DESCRIPTION: My thesis examines the way that modern witches and neopagans think about the issue of cultural appropriation and work with elements of other cultures. It explores this by looking at why witches work with other cultures, how they determine what they can and cannot work with, and how they justify cultural appropriation when it happens.

Aeleah Granger
Psychology
Gray, Maine
Gray-New Gloucester High School
THESIS: The Role of Threat, Emotion, and Individual Difference Characteristics in Attitudes and Perceptions of Minority Groups
ADVISOR: Jordan LaBouff
THESIS DESCRIPTION: These two studies measured emotional reactions in hopes of better understanding threat-based attitudes toward several out-groups (Study 1: Atheists, Muslims, African Americans, and Arab Americans; Study 2: Deaf people, people with disabilities). Findings suggest there may be overlap in threat perception between stereotypically similar out-groups such as Muslims and Arab Americans or deaf people and people with disabilities.

Banton Heithoff
Bioengineering
Oldwick, New Jersey
Voorhees High School
THESIS: Stabilization of Iron Oxide Nanoparticles For Homogeneous Integration Into Cellulose Nano Fibrils
ADVISOR: Michael Mason
THESIS DESCRIPTION: To use cellulose nano fibrils in medical implants the bulk material needs to be modified to be examined through noninvasive means, primarily X-ray and MRI imaging. To achieve this property iron oxide nano-particles can be added to cellulose. Current methods for integrating the particles have proved inconsistent; this project explores different methodologies to achieve homogenous integration.

Sarah Holbrook
Biology
Fort Fairfield, Maine
Fort Fairfield Middle/High School
THESIS: Microglial Activation Immediately After Ethanol Withdrawal and 1 Week After Ethanol Withdrawal in Female C3H Mice
ADVISOR: Alan Rosenwasser
THESIS DESCRIPTION: I studied how the innate immune system reacts to alcohol abuse. I did this by studying microglia, the resident immune system cell of the brain, in the medial prefrontal cortex of ethanol exposed mice.

Alexa Grissinger
Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
Mount Saint Joseph Academy
THESIS: Antioxidants in Atlantic Salmon on a Diurnal Basis
ADVISOR: Timothy Bowden
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Every four hours over 52 hours, three Atlantic Salmon were euthanised and a sample of their liver was obtained. For each sample, the level of superoxide dismutase, catalase, and glutathione peroxidase was determined. These values were graphed to try to determine if these antioxidant levels follow a daily rhythm.

Afton Hupper
Ecology and Environmental Sciences
St. George, Maine
Oceanside High School
THESIS: The Role of Cooperation and Prosocial Behavior in Food Buying Clubs: An Exploratory Study
ADVISOR: Timothy Waring
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Food buying clubs use their collective purchasing power to obtain items at prices lower than offered by retailers. As cooperatively-structured groups, I hypothesized that club members would be more cooperative than the general public. I measured cooperation with two economic games, and found that members were nearly twice as cooperative in the games as others outside of the study population.
Emily Illingworth
Biochemistry
Brewer, Maine
Brewer High School
THESIS: Host Range of Mycobacteriophage and Exploring Lysogenic Relationships Between Mycobacteriophage and Their Hosts
ADVISOR: Sally Molloy
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Mycobacteriophage are abundant viruses that infect bacteria of the genus Mycobacterium. My research focuses mainly on identifying mycobacteriophage that can infect fish pathogens and characterizing how some mycobacteriophage are able to establish and maintain lysogeny, or latent infection, in their hosts. Future research will determine how the presence of the mycobacteriophage genome affects overall bacterial gene expression.

Rachel Karno
Chemical Engineering
Farmington, Maine
Mt. Blue High School
THESIS: Catalytic Hydrogenation of Amino Acids Using Polymer-Derived Microenvironments
ADVISOR: Thomas Schwartz
THESIS DESCRIPTION: My research improved the catalytic hydrogenation of amino acids using a ruthenium catalyst supported on carbon by eliminating the need for an aqueous acidic environment and synthesizing a reusable catalyst. I achieved this by impregnating the catalyst with a polymer that created acidic microenvironments within the catalyst pores capable of carrying out the hydrogenation reaction without the need of excess acid.

Lucy Iselborn
Nursing
Scarborough, Maine
Scarborough High School
THESIS: Contraceptive Counseling Practices Among Providers Prescribing Opiates to Women of Childbearing Age
ADVISOR: Kelley Strout
THESIS DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this study is to examine providers’ preconception counseling processes among women of childbearing age who are prescribed opiates. The long-term goal of this research is to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies among women who are prescribed opioid analgesics.

Nicole Keefner
Zoology; Wildlife Ecology
Great Barrington, Massachusetts
Monument Mountain Regional High School
THESIS: Do Insulating Characteristics of Feathers Vary Among Color Phases of Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus)
ADVISOR: Erik Blomberg
THESIS DESCRIPTION: I evaluated if ruffed grouse exhibit similar relationships between insulating feather characteristics and color phase that have been shown for tawny owls. I evaluated differences of feather barb density and proportion of plumulaceous material among color phases. Color phase was not a competitive predictor of these insulating feather characteristics, suggesting that my results are inconsistent with findings for other species.

Kelsey Kehoe
Political Science
Wilder, Vermont
Hartford High School
THESIS: A Study of the Effects of Foreign Aid on Terrorism in the Philippines
ADVISORS: Kristin Vekasi, Paul Holman
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This project is a spatial and temporal analysis of terrorist activity within the Philippines on a provincial and regional level. The data accumulated from the Global Terrorism Database and USAID demonstrate strong evidence against the foreign occupation theory.

William Johnson
Physics
East Montpelier, Vermont
U-32 Jr-Sr High School
THESIS: Examining Student Reasoning in Introductory Physics: Reversing the Chain
ADVISOR: MacKenzie Stetzer
THESIS DESCRIPTION: As part of a multi-institutional effort to develop instruments to probe student reasoning skills, this thesis describes an investigation into whether the direction of a question can influence the ability of the students to construct correct reasoning chains.
Michael Kennedy

English; Philosophy
South Portland, Maine
South Portland High School

THESIS: Illiteracy as Immanent: The (Re) Writing of Rhetoric's Nature
ADVISOR: Nathan Stormer

THESIS DESCRIPTION: I'm interested in shifting the definition of literacy and illiteracy from a practical to an aesthetic frame of reference. In this shift of discourse about literacy, I hope to come to a deeper understanding of literacy and illiteracy as immanent to each other, rather than opposed, and to translate this new understanding of literacy and illiteracy into a practical pedagogy.

Ginger Kieffer

Political Science
Caribou, Maine
Caribou High School

THESIS: An Analysis of the Sociopolitical Factors Contributing to the Politicization of Sunni Islam in the Middle East
ADVISOR: James Warhola

THESIS DESCRIPTION: This research analyzes sociopolitical trends of the 20th century that have contributed to the susceptibility of the Middle East to extremist organizations, with a particular focus on Sunni Islamic groups such as the Islamic State. The goal of this study is to show how the failure of states to provide sociopolitical and economic stability has led to the politicization of religiosity as an alternative to secular authority.

Sierra Kuun

Chemical Engineering
Kennebunkport, Maine
Kennebunk High School

THESIS: A Study of Undergraduate Perception and Behavior Toward On-Campus Composting
ADVISOR: Travis Blackmer

THESIS DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this study was to observe composting behaviors and attitudes among students and foster an increase in knowledge of suitable composting behavior in on-campus apartments. Waste management issues are quickly becoming a key societal concern. As a result, there has been extensive literature surrounding the benefits of, and factors leading to, pro-environmental behaviors.

Tamara Labanowski

Anthropology
Scarborough, Maine
Scarborough High School

THESIS: A Descriptive Analysis of Porcupine Scavenging in a Forensic Context
ADVISOR: Marcella Sorg

THESIS DESCRIPTION: The impact of the North American porcupine on bone scavenging is rarely discussed in forensic literature. To address this, I processed a series of photographs and videos and several collected bone fragments from a Maine taphonomic study to address how porcupine activity might appear in forensic contexts.

Anthony Kingston

Mechanical Engineering
Baltimore, Maryland
Poway High School

THESIS: Design of a Low Impact Canoe Portage System for the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge
ADVISOR: Andrew Goupee

THESIS DESCRIPTION: The Hirundo Wildlife Refuge requested a system that can assist in moving two 300 lb canoes from the canoe storage to the river, which is about 150 feet.

Conner Lajoie

Biochemistry; Molecular and Cellular Biology
Yarmouth, Maine
Yarmouth High School

THESIS: Investigating the Mechanisms of JC Polyomavirus Endocytosis
ADVISOR: Melissa Maginnis

THESIS DESCRIPTION: JC polyomavirus is the etiological agent of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, a fatal demyelinating disease which no current treatment methods are available for. Through this research, we have identified four endocytotic proteins that are crucial for JC polyomavirus entry and serve as potential drug therapeutics.
Katrina Lapham

Communication Sciences and Disorders
Belfast, Maine
Belfast Area High School

**THESIS:** The Effect of Voice Gender and Spoken Messages in Augmented Interactions

**ADVISOR:** Jennifer Seale

**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** Using communication software, this thesis project explored the effects of voice gender and spoken messages in routine social interactions. The primary investigator approached communication partners using a female voice, male voice, and a text-only condition. Data analysis included differences in interaction duration, need for repairs/repetition, augmented speaker turns, and perceptual data derived from a follow-up survey.

Kaitlyn Lavallee

Mathematics; Economics
Cumberland, Maine
Sabattus High School

**THESIS:** An Agent-Based Model of Urban Sprawl: York and Cumberland Counties, Maine

**ADVISOR:** James Breece

**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** For my thesis project, I developed an exploratory agent-based model, which attempts to reflect and forecast urban sprawl and the general movement of households within York County and Cumberland County, Maine. Additionally, several simulations were conducted to analyze how potential policies or economic development strategies could influence land-use trends.

Hoang Anh “Christine” Le

Accounting
Hanoi, Vietnam
Thornton Academy

**THESIS:** A Creative Thesis: The Me You Don’t Know

**ADVISOR:** Katie Lattari

**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** The fictional character Anna Smith loves her high-profile husband Ryan so immensely that she doesn’t realize that she has been losing herself gradually to a dysfunctional marriage. At the height of her marital turmoil, another tragedy strikes — Anna is seriously injured and wakes to find that she has traveled back in time by fifteen years. With all memories retained, the twenty-one-year-old Anna may have the ability to undo her mistakes.

Ruth Leopold

New Media
Appleton, Maine
Camden Hills Regional High School

**THESIS:** Creating a Culture of Female Coders: Supporting Women Through Community

**ADVISOR:** Jon Ippolito

**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** My undergraduate thesis aims to lessen the amount of women dropping out of computing fields by creating a sense of community. The key components and benefits of community that I targeted were peer support, shared experience, confidence and interest.

Kathryn Liberman

Marine Science
Sumner, Illinois
Red Hill High School

**THESIS:** Pathobiology of Water Molds in Fish: An Insight into Saprolegniasis

**ADVISOR:** Ian Bricknell

**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** Saprolegniasis is an economically significant disease in aquaculture, causing millions of dollars in lost finfish production annually. I studied the disease in a novel zebrafish infection model to determine the host-pathogen interactions, and to use a more ethical model organism in disease research. This study involved optimizing culture techniques, staining protocols, and developing a new model.
Megan Little
Molecular and Cellular Biology; Biochemistry
Calais, Maine
Calais High School
**THESIS:** The Effects of Mercury Exposure on the Cytochrome C Oxidase I Gene of Larval Dragonflies
**ADVISORS:** Sarah Nelson, Keith Hutchison
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** For this thesis project, larval dragonflies were collected from national parks and the amount of mercury the samples were exposed to was determined. The cytochrome c oxidase I gene sequence of each sample was then analyzed for mutations to attempt to find a correlation between mutation frequency and mercury exposure.

Kyle Lonabaugh
Anthropology
Woodbury, New Jersey
Woodbury High School
**THESIS:** Katahdin Woods and Waters: Environmental Values and the Parks Problem
**ADVISOR:** Cynthia Isenhour
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** I did primary research on Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument while looking at how people’s values of nature relate to their views on national parks. My thesis also investigated national parks around the world to see how they work with the local people.

Ryan Lopes
Business Management
Waterville, Maine
Waterville Senior High School
**THESIS:** A Study of the Philosophic Underpinnings of the Motivations and Behaviors of Lifestyle Entrepreneurs
**ADVISOR:** Jason Harkins
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** Lifestyle entrepreneurs are those business owners interested in a specific lifestyle over profit maximization. This was a study explaining and justifying the non-economically motivated behaviors and attitudes of lifestyle entrepreneurs.

Shireen Luick
Ecology and Environmental Sciences
New Sharon, Maine
Mt. Blue High School
**THESIS:** Small-Scale Maine Farmers’ Perceptions and Adaptations to Climate Change
**ADVISOR:** Jessica Leahy
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** This research aims to highlight the effects of climate change on small-scale Maine farmers. We ask what farmers are perceiving in terms of climatic changes and how they may be adapting to those ongoing changes. Both farmers and stakeholders in Maine benefit from this type of research by enhancing farming practices to be more resilient to climate change and providing more effective targeted support strategies.

Julia Mackin-McLaughlin
Marine Sciences
Ambler, Pennsylvania
Wissahickon High School
**THESIS:** Art and Science: A Case Study of Their Interconnectedness in the Marine Natural Sciences
**ADVISOR:** Sara Lindsay
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** I looked at how natural scientists have employed artistic criteria and how it has changed over time. Following this, I embarked on a case study where I used my own personal works of art to convey difficult concepts regarding how ocean acidification affects echinoderms of the North Atlantic.

Hallie Marshall
Wildlife Ecology
Atco, New Jersey
Winslow Township High School
**THESIS:** Perception of the Horizon Predicts Bird Abundance Better Than Habitat Patch Size in a Tidal Marsh Species of Conservation Concern
**ADVISORS:** Erik Blomberg, Brian Olsen
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** I studied the habitat ecology of Saltmarsh Sparrows (Ammodramus caudacutus), a rapidly declining species unique to North American coastal marshes. Specifically, I found that the openness of a marsh is a better predictor of sparrow abundance than marsh size.
Arden McSwain
Civil Engineering
Edgecomb, Maine
Boothbay Region High School
THESIS: The Confinement Effects on the Fiber Pullout Response of Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC)
ADVISOR: Eric Landis
THESIS DESCRIPTION: The results of this comparison showed that increased confinement forces caused a measurable increase in frictional stress, but bond energy remained relatively constant. The results of this work can be used to improve future computational models.

Katherine Miller
Marine Sciences
Boxborough, Massachusetts
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
THESIS: Ecosystem Metabolism Modeling of Estuaries in Maine: Using Dissolved Oxygen as a Tool for Aquaculture Site Assessment
ADVISOR: Damian Brady
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This study aimed to create an easy-to-use, inexpensive model that oyster farmers can use to monitor the changes to biological activity, in terms of net ecosystem metabolism, occurring in the estuary in which they grow their oysters.

Kelsey Moon
Marine Science
Simsbury, Connecticut
Simsbury High School
THESIS: The Effects of Dioxin Exposure on the Hepatic Development of Larval Shortnose Sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum)
ADVISOR: Heather Hamlin
THESIS DESCRIPTION: I investigated the effects of the persistent organic pollutant dioxin on the development of the liver in larval shortnose sturgeon. Using histological analysis, I determined the area and number of liver vacuoles in differing concentrations of dioxin.

Megan Morey
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Chichester, New Hampshire
Bishop Brady High School
THESIS: The Effects of Social Media on the Quality of Life of People with Aphasia
ADVISOR: Judy Walker
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Findings from this literature review suggest that technology may improve social connectedness, thereby decreasing social isolation and improving the overall quality of life of people with aphasia.

Samantha O’Gorman
Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Natick, Massachusetts
Natick High School
THESIS: The Effect of the Absence of Gaffkemia on Homarus americanus in the Gulf of Maine
ADVISOR: Robert Bayer
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Lobster landings in Maine have increased by over 100 million pounds since 1993. Gaffkemia, a fatal bacterial disease in lobster that was essentially eradicated in the mid-1990s, may be an overlooked contributor to this increase. I used a mathematical model to estimate the impact that the absence of gaffkemia had on the lobster boom in Maine.

Kathleen O’Toole
Communication
Kennebunk, Maine
Kennebunk High School
THESIS: Then and Now: A History and Analysis of the University of Maine System Sexual Assault Mandatory Reporting Policy
ADVISOR: Claire Sullivan
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This thesis is intended to connect the reader with the successes, motivations, and revisions of the history of the University of Maine sexual assault reporting policy, its relationship to updated federal laws and bills, and how, moving forward, we can continue to generate improvements to remove barriers and increase access to resources for sexual assault victims.
Karissa Panzino
Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Litchfield, Maine
Oak Hill High School
THESIS: Interspecies Communication in Homo sapiens and Canis lupis familiaris: A Meta Analysis
ADVISOR: Claire Thomas-Pino
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This project systematically reviewed articles discussing interspecies communication between humans and canines to determine what type of articles are best for future researchers to begin their studies. This was done by identifying potential areas of bias, and identifying whether the article used quantitative or qualitative data. The use of psychology and genetics as mechanisms for results was also included.

Anthony Pawlicki
Wildlife Ecology
Buffalo Grove, Illinois
Buffalo Grove High School
THESIS: Mind the Gap: Effects of Habitat and Climate on Northern Water Snake (Nerodia sipedon sipedon) Distribution in Maine
ADVISOR: Malcolm Hunter
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Northern water snakes have a disjunct range in Maine, between Stetson and Calais. I looked at if habitat and/or climate could help explain this gap.

Kaelina Perron
Psychology
Auburn, Maine
Edward Little High School
THESIS: Impressions of Women and Men in STEM Fields
ADVISOR: Shannon McCoy
THESIS DESCRIPTION: The present study examines whether perceptions of women applying for STEM careers depend on whether they are wearing make-up or not. Additionally, we examined the perceptions of males applying for STEM occupations when groomed and not groomed in appearance. Lastly, we measured participants’ view of their own personal fit in STEM fields.

Daniel Perry III
Art History; Mathematics
Keller, Texas
Saint Georges School
ADVISOR: Michael Grillo
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Near the end of William Morris’s life, his work was focused on the Kelmscott Press, a printer and publisher that made printed books in the guise of medieval manuscripts. I argue that the books produced at the Kelmscott Press challenged consumptive modes of vision through the production in the reader/viewer of the books of a kind of being-in-the-moment-ness.

Elizabeth G. Proctor
Anthropology
Newbury, Massachusetts
Triton Regional School
THESIS: The Legendary King: How the Figure of King Arthur Shaped a National Identity and the Field of Archaeology in Britain
ADVISOR: Sarah Harlan-Haughey
THESIS DESCRIPTION: My thesis looked at the development of the legend of King Arthur and how, or if, that has affected the practice of archaeology in the UK. Using Tintagel Castle in Cornwall as a case study, I looked at the impacts of nationalism and tourism on shaping Arthurian legend and the impacts of the legends on the archaeology of Arthurian sites.

James Robe
Mass Communication
Waterville, Maine
Waterville Senior High School
THESIS: Fostering Scientific Discourse Through the Development of an Online Journal
ADVISOR: Bridie McGreavy
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This project was a multi-case participatory and explanatory study. The participatory case involves the production of Spire: The Maine Journal of Conservation and Sustainability. This case aims to illuminate some of the opportunities and challenges that occur in a community of website producers. The second case is explanatory and involves analysis of website-based scientific communities to identify design strategies.
Jaime Roy

Communication Sciences and Disorders
Orrington, Maine
John Bapst Memorial High School

THESIS: Noise Exposure in University Pep Band Members: Acoustic Measurements Versus Musicians’ Perceptions
ADVISORS: Christopher Grindrod, Amy Booth

THESIS DESCRIPTION: Noise levels were measured at UMaine Pep Band performances at hockey and basketball games. Pep Band members also completed a survey about perceptions of hearing health and noise exposure. Noise levels were shown to be at harmful levels during performances. Survey results showed that Pep Band members underestimate their noise exposure and do not wear appropriate hearing protection.

Derrek Schrader

English
Bridgton, Maine
Lake Region High School

THESIS: The Party: A Play in One Act
ADVISOR: Daniel Bilodeau

THESIS DESCRIPTION: The writing, directing, and producing of a full-length play, with the intent to study human emotion and empathy through theatrics.

Amy Schmitt

English
Concord, New Hampshire
Concord High School

THESIS: Out from Under: A Comic
ADVISOR: Ronald Nadeau

THESIS DESCRIPTION: Out From Under is a series of vignettes that recounts the narrator’s experiences of micro-aggressions and misrecognition as a bisexual person. Throughout the narrator’s time at college, she works to come to an understanding of herself based on the interactions she has with others within and outside of the LGBTQ community, and media, particularly as it interacts with the notion of “the other.”

Adeline Mae Schneider

Philosophy; Human Dimensions of Climate Change
Bowdoinham, Maine
Mt. Ararat High School

THESIS: Mass-Producing Indigeneity: State and NGO Discourse and Action Around Indigenous Knowledge in Bolivia
ADVISOR: Darren Ranco

THESIS DESCRIPTION: This thesis examines the power dynamics between the state, non-governmental organizations, and indigenous communities in Bolivia as they relate to discourses surrounding agrobiodiversity and indigeneity.

Erica Sewell

Microbiology
Elliot, Maine
Marshwood High School

THESIS: Characterizing the Intact Prophage of Mycobacterium chelonae Bergey
ADVISOR: Keith Hutchison

THESIS DESCRIPTION: Phage are viruses that infect bacteria, a virus integrated in the genome of its bacterial host is called a prophage. Prophage provide increased virulence and protection from infection by other viruses to the host bacteria, and have been observed in many virulent pathogens. I discovered and characterized the novel prophage in the genome of the fish pathogen *M. chelonae* Bergey.

Amanda Shuman

Marine Sciences
Cicero, New York
Cicero-North Syracuse High School

THESIS: The Potential Impact of Climate Change on Blue Whale Migration in the Eastern Pacific
ADVISORS: Fei Chai, Kristina Cammen

THESIS DESCRIPTION: I reviewed the projected changes for the blue whale’s foraging and breeding grounds. Models for the increase of water temperatures and a decrease in pH were then applied to the response of krill. The research allowed me to theorize a shift and lengthening of the blue whale’s migration.
Angela Silke
Biology
Dixmont, Maine
Nokomis Regional High School
THESIS: Effect of Enzymatic Hydrolysis on Allergenic Capacity of Shrimp Tropomyosin
ADVISOR: Balunkeswar Nayak
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Shrimp were marinated in fruit enzymes to cut the allergenic protein tropomyosin to make it nonreactive when tested.

Stephen Soohey
Molecular and Cellular Biology
Whitefield, Maine
Erskine Academy
THESIS: Role of G-protein Regulation of Formins During Gradient Tracking in Saccharomyces cerevisiae
ADVISOR: Joshua Kelley
THESIS DESCRIPTION: We hypothesize that the hyperactive mutant Ga is able to direct more Bni1 (yeast formin) to a larger area of the plasma membrane. If this were to happen, we predict the cell would then be able to polymerize actin cables to a broader area, resulting in a less focused polarized growth and the observed gradient tracking defects.

Hannah Stef
Food Science and Human Nutrition
Syracuse, New York
Jamesville DeWitt High School
THESIS: Exploring the Nutritional Value of Carrots and Determining Attributes that Are Favored by Consumers
ADVISOR: Angela Myracle
THESIS DESCRIPTION: This study explored 24 varieties of carrots, the most popular vegetable of the Apiaceae family. We found that three carrot varieties: Bolero (C7), Navarino (C8), and Bermuda (C23) fared the best under cold storage conditions.

Bethany Stevens
Marine Sciences
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
Abington Heights High School
THESIS: A Recommendation for Polyculture Agriculture to Reduce Nitrogen Loading that Leads to Hypoxia
ADVISOR: Damian Brady
THESIS DESCRIPTION: Fertilizer runoff into streams can increase downstream nitrate and cause hypoxic conditions by promoting algal growth. This study compared the effects on nutrient runoff of agricultural polyculture with best management practices within the monoculture approach. Recommendations on the use of polyculture agriculture are discussed.

Elijah Tabachnick
Physics
Portland, Maine
Deering High School
THESIS: An Analysis of Inservice Physical Science Teachers’ Understanding of Accelerated Motion
ADVISOR: Michael Wittmann
THESIS DESCRIPTION: I observed middle school physical science teachers solving kinematics problems and looked at their use of a persistent and incomplete model for accelerated motion.
**Mackenzie Tefft**  
Psychology  
Surry, Maine  
George Stevens Academy  
**THESIS:** Dyadic Friendship Interactions and Emotional Adjustments in Adolescents  
**ADVISOR:** Rebecca Schwartz-Mette  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** The current study examined associations of non-verbal interpersonal engagement in the context of adolescents’ same-sex friendships with self-reported friendship quality and depressive symptoms.

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**Jaymi Thibault**  
Political Science  
Lewiston, Maine  
Lisbon High School  
**THESIS:** Analyzing Government-Resident Communication Methods in the City of Bangor  
**ADVISOR:** Robert Glover  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** The objective of this study is to analyze the communication preferences of Bangor residents, with a particular focus on two of Bangor’s largest demographics, renters and residents aged 60 or older.

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**McKenzie Thompson**  
Marine Sciences  
Duxbury, Massacuhusetts  
Duxbury High School  
**THESIS:** Implications of Body Size and Habitat Distribution of Carcinus maenas for Predation on Mytilus edulis in the Gulf of Maine  
**ADVISOR:** Robert S. Steneck  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** I used the Damariscotta River in Walpole, Maine as a thermal gradient to study the effects of temperature on green crab distribution, abundance, and size. In addition, I researched green crab predation on blue mussels to determine if green crabs are the cause of declining mussel populations.

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**Zandalee Toothaker**  
Animal and Veterinary Sciences  
Orono, Maine  
Kubasaki High School  
**THESIS:** Developing Learning Modules to Teach Equine Anatomy and Biomechanics  
**ADVISOR:** Robert Causey  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** We created, streamlined, and tested a process to make two models of the distal horse leg. Using this process, people can learn the anatomy of the horse leg. This knowledge can be used to prevent injuries. Since anatomy is similar across species, the biomechanics learned here can be applied to many animals, including humans.

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**Dylan Trueblood**  
Marine Sciences  
Durham, New Hampshire  
Oyster River High School  
**THESIS:** A Summary of Landings, Legislative Actions, and Possible Climate-Induced Distribution Shifts in New England Fisheries  
**ADVISORS:** Gayle Zydlewski, Richard Langton  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** New England waters have been experiencing an increase in temperature over the past decade or so, and this warming may be causing economically-important fishery species to move their distribution ranges north. This thesis focused on determining whether trends in landings data (how many fish are caught and where) could be related to climate change.

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**Cody Watson**  
Political Science  
Beaver Cove, Maine  
Greenville High School  
**THESIS:** An Analysis of Russian Energy Exports and Their Effects on the Russian Domestic Economy  
**ADVISOR:** James Warhola  
**THESIS DESCRIPTION:** This thesis delves into the different economic, environmental, and diplomatic factors which influence Russia’s decision-making regarding its current energy policy. This research seeks to answer the question of which strategy Russia will pursue in order to regain its place as a world super power.
Top in 2017
Valedictorian from the Honors College

Allyson Eslin

THE UNIVERSITY of Maine’s valedictorian for the class of 2017 is Allyson L. Eslin, an Honors student with triple majors in economics, political science and psychology.

Allyson’s numerous academic honors include the John M. Nickerson Scholarship and the Margaret Chase Smith Public Affairs Scholarship. She was a Madigan Congressional intern in the Washington, D.C. office of Sen. Angus King in spring 2016, and served as editor-in-chief of The Maine Campus and chair of the Political Activism Committee of Student Government. Allyson also participated in the Maine NEW Leadership and Elect Her programs, and is a member of All Maine Women.

Allyson was an undergraduate research assistant in the departments of anthropology and economics and she conducted research in each of her majors, including projects focused on sustainability and the environment. Her research poster, “The Impact of Economic and Psychological Metrics on Political Decision Making” was awarded a third-place prize at the 2016 UMaine Student Research Symposium. Her honors thesis is “The Economic and Psychological Metrics of Political Decision-Making.” She was advised by Dr. Caroline Noblet.

In her senior year, Ms. Eslin began coursework for a dual master’s degree in global policy and economics at UMaine. When she completes her graduate work in 2019, she plans to attend law school with the goal of joining the FBI as an analyst or translator. Her career plans also include serving as a state or federal legislator.
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