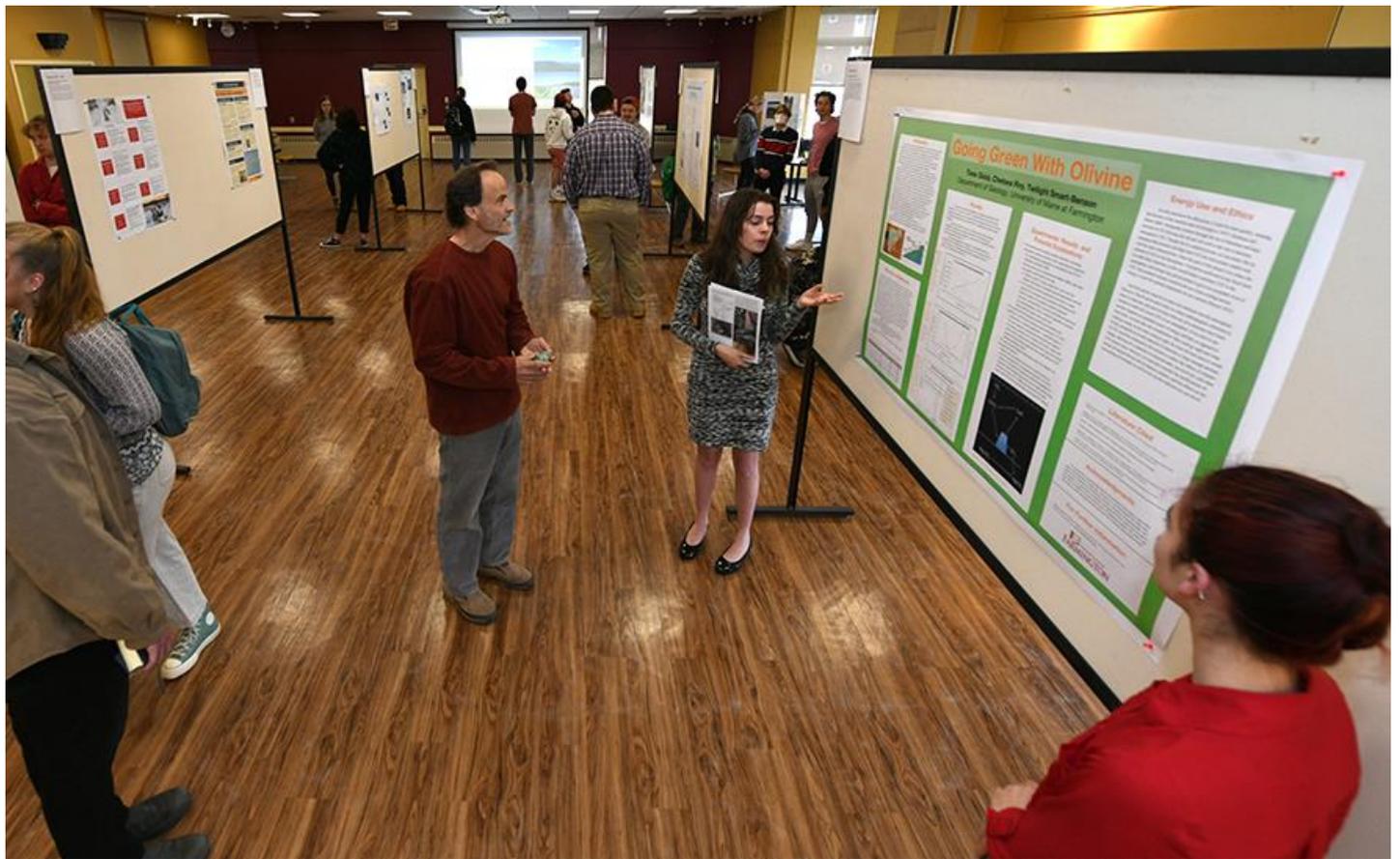




Michael D. Wilson SYMPOSIUM 16 April 2025



Welcome to the Michael D. Wilson Symposium

16 April 2025

The annual Symposium Day on the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF) campus celebrates its 27th year of highlighting the best of a UMF education, with students sharing their academic work with their campus community and beyond.

At UMF, we do not measure an education by the credits amassed or the grades obtained, but by the work produced. Don't tell me, show me. Imagine an art student who said, "I obtained a degree in art with straight As". Wouldn't you say, "show me your art"? I want to see the paintings, the sculpture, the graphic designs, and the installations. I don't want to see your report card. Show me your portfolio.

The same can be said of any field of study. Show me your creative writing, show me your scientific research, show me your political analysis, and show me your teaching plans. At UMF, we help *all* students build portfolios of their work.

Symposium day gives students an opportunity to share their work and their passion – to present on their results and their importance. I am amazed at the poise of our student presenters, but also the interest of our audiences in the work of their fellow students.

Congratulations to all our presenters and to their faculty mentors who prepared and guided our students throughout the year in preparation for this event. A special thanks to the Culture Committee and all who worked behind the scenes to make the day such a success.

Joseph W. McDonnell, President

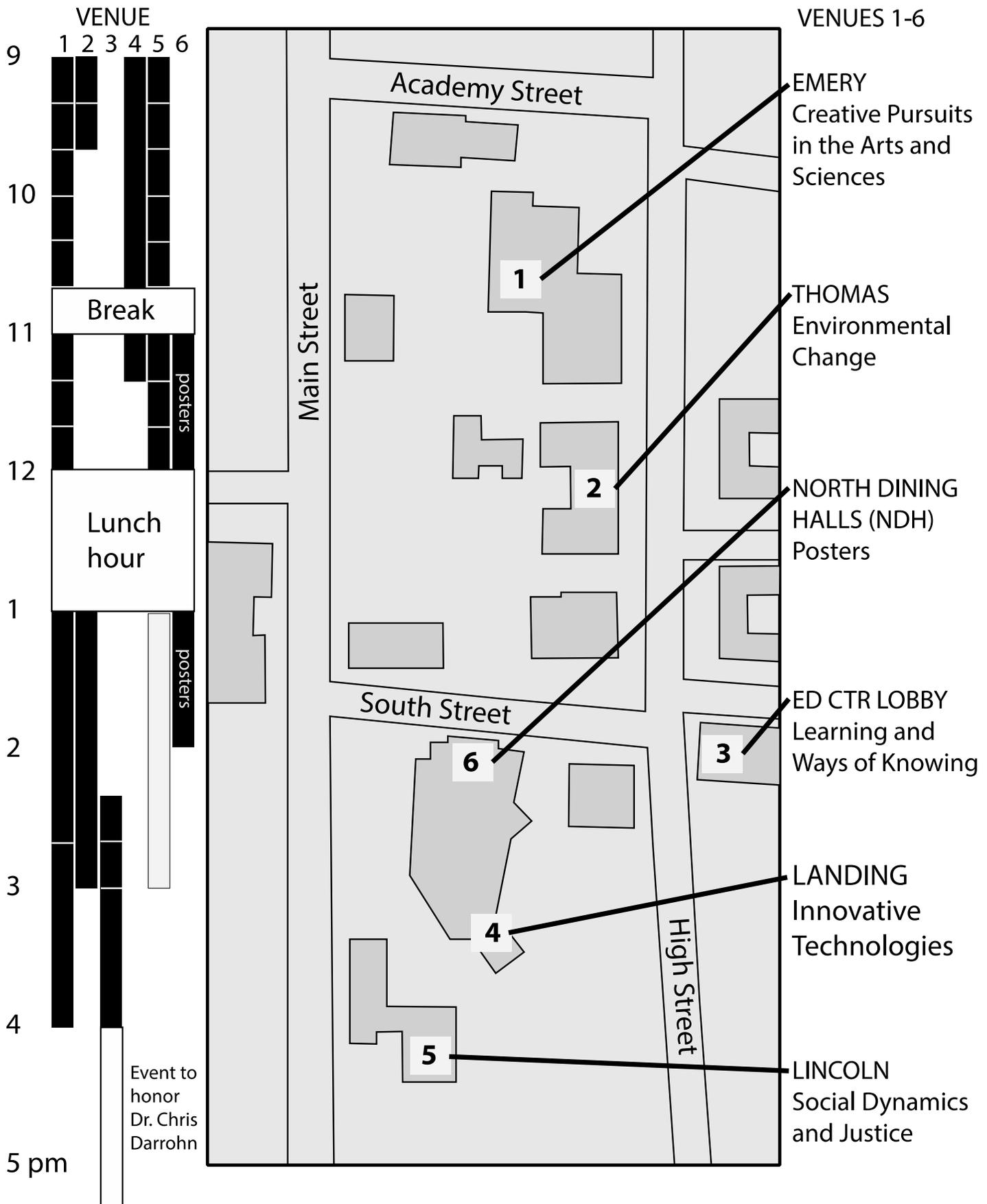
The Michael D. Wilson Symposium reminds us that research and creative activity are never solitary adventures. Rather, scholarship and the fine arts emerge out of our community and are shared with this very community. Symposium thus speaks to the very heart of who we are as artists and knowledge seekers. Every member of our academic community is called to participate in the *generation* of art and knowledge. As such, Symposium is a celebration of engaged citizenship and an affirmation of our collective responsibility to make meaningful contributions to our shared world.

Steve Quackenbush, Interim Co-Provost and Dean of Arts and Sciences

Symposium Day provides a wonderful opportunity for students from all disciplines to share their impressive scholarly and creative work with the UMF community. The incredible array of presentations, poster sessions, readings, installations, and performances highlights the many talents of our student body and the multiple opportunities students have to engage in rich, rigorous research and learning experiences throughout their UMF education. Congratulations to all of the student presenters and faculty mentors, and many thanks to the organizers of this special event!

Kathy Yardley, Interim Co-Provost and Dean of the College of Education, Health, and Rehabilitation

UMF SYMPOSIUM 2025



UMF Indigenous Land and Water Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by recognizing that the University of Maine at Farmington occupies the traditional homelands of the Abenaki people of Anmessokkanti, whose communities lived and sustained themselves along what we call the “Sandy River” for millennia until very recent times. We would like to honor them by sharing a short summary of this region’s significance to Abenaki people.

The Sandy River is a vital part of the food and kinship network extending throughout Abenaki or Wabanaki homelands. The river’s original name, Anmessokkanti, loosely translates to “land of the small fish,” being home to shad and alewives, and providing critical spawning habitat for Wild Atlantic Salmon. The plentiful fish populations here were a major food source for the Anmessokkanti and used as fertilizer for corn, beans, and squash cultivation. These crops, but corn in particular, were then shared with Wabanaki communities to the northeast whose soils and climates were less amenable to cultivation. This network was disrupted by colonialism and the industry, pollution, and river damming that accompanied it.

We acknowledge that UMF inherited its campus at the expense of the Abenaki community, after centuries of war, scalp bounty policies, and other tactics designed to extinguish the Abenaki from their own land. These events forced most Anmessokkanti to relocate to two Abenaki reservations in Quebec in 1704, called Wôlinak and Odanak. Many families descending from the Farmington area remain there today. We recognize that the dispossession and expulsion of the Abenaki from their homeland is an ongoing injustice upheld by settler colonialism. We pledge to bravely confront this painful reality.

We acknowledge that the Abenaki people of Odanak and Wôlinak descend from the original caretakers of this area, and maintain a sacred connection with it. We pledge to honor them by educating ourselves about their history and current struggles, and accepting our responsibility to correct ongoing injustice. We wish to also extend this acknowledgement to the Maliseet, Mi'kmaq, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy nations who, with the Abenaki, make up the Wabanaki people.

We recognize and affirm the sovereignty of the Native nations in this territory and beyond. We recognize that sovereignty means the ability to self-govern, and to govern over one’s homelands. We understand that this statement has real implications, and that decolonization is not a metaphor.

We pledge to continue our collaboration with Wabanaki people to further decolonize spaces and to transform UMF into a place that honors Wabanaki and other Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge that this is an ongoing process in which the University of Maine at Farmington promises to partake, in partnership the many Indigenous individuals who have contributed to this important cause.

(The Indigenous Land and Water Acknowledgement statement was authored by Mali Obomsawin [Odanak Abenaki First Nation, Bomazeen Land Trust] with input from Darren Ranco [Penobscot Nation, University of Maine].)

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Why this sequence? “Environment” supports everything else. Along with the arts and sciences, technology evolves—inevitably and sometimes, for better and worse, rapidly. Functional government (social dynamics and justice) creates space for creative works in the arts and sciences, which can then be shared by educators in an effective learning environment.

In Memoriam

Dr. Christine Darrohn Associate Professor of English

Dr. Christine Darrohn joined the English faculty at UMF in September 2000. She held an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D in literature from Rutgers University. Dr. Darrohn taught courses in British literature from 1800 to the present and particularly on Victorian authors such as Charles Dickens and literary genres such as fin de siècle and post-colonial literature. She published scholarly essays in peer reviewed journals on authors such as Virginia Woolf and Katherine Mansfield and English literature during WWI.



Dr. Darrohn served as UMF's Writing Program Coordinator and provided guidance to instructors teaching FYS 100 and ENG 100. She devoted her service to campus committees, including the General Education Committee, and every year she was the famed emcee of the Humanities Award Ceremony. Dr. Darrohn is remembered for her dedication to one-on-one student conferences and student advising, as well as for her kindness and positive personality. Her laugh often filled the second floor hallway of Roberts Learning Center.

Dr. Darrohn passed away suddenly on December 13, 2024, at her home in Farmington. To commemorate her legacy at UMF, faculty, staff, and students have undertaken efforts to honor Dr. Darrohn in the following ways: the second floor conference room in Roberts Learning Center has been renamed The Dr. Christine Darrohn Conference Room; the Humanities award ceremony has been renamed The Dr. Christine Darrohn Humanities Award Ceremony; and a display on the second floor of Roberts has been created to memorialize Dr. Darrohn's literary interests and teaching legacy. The creation of a teaching award named after Dr. Darrohn is in the works.

**An event honoring Chris will be held in Venue 3 (Education Center Lobby) beginning at 4pm.
Check with Dr. Misty Krueger for details.**

Michael D. Wilson Research Fellow and Scholars

The Michael D. Wilson Scholars and Fellows represent some of UMF's best students from across all disciplines. The program recognizes UMF students' tremendous creativity, and expands UMF's commitment to undergraduate research and faculty mentoring. Each student is awarded funding to help underwrite an original undergraduate research or creative project. The Program has been providing single-semester support for research, scholarship and creative projects at UMF since the fall of 2006. It was expanded in the fall of 2007 to include two full-year Wilson Research Fellow awards to support even more substantive research projects. In the years since its inception, the Wilson program has supported the investigative research and creative activities of more than 250 students at UMF. During this time over 60 UMF faculty members have developed strong mentoring relationships with individual scholars, providing guidance with proposal development, research methodology and continuing pre-professional and post-graduate opportunities. The awards honor UMF alumnus Michael D. Wilson, class of 1976, an avid environmentalist, aspiring teacher, and dear friend whose untimely death in 1977 deeply saddened the UMF community. The students are nominated by a UMF faculty mentor and, after a competitive selection process, are chosen by the UMF Undergraduate Research Council.

2024-25 Wilson Fellow

Christopher Houdeshell – *An Investigation of the Relationship Between pH of high Elevation Lakes and Surrounding Topsoil Chemistry*

Faculty Advisor: Rachel Hovel

Fall 2024 Wilson Scholars

Abbie Bitomske - *Shingles For Teeth: An Exploration of Monstrous Haunted Houses in Literature*

Faculty Advisor: Noelle Dubay

Angelina Crocker - *Book Banning Fallacies: Why Children Need Diverse Libraries*

Faculty Advisor: Kathryn Will

Tori Oliveria - *Snowglory*

Faculty Advisor: Amy Neswald

Spring 2025 Wilson Scholars

Ev Dearborn - *Humanity and Wolves: An Analysis of Werewolf Media and the Human Identity*

Faculty Advisor: Misty Krueger

Adrienne Foss - *Hozier's Unreal Unearth and Dante's Inferno*

Faculty Advisor: Misty Krueger

Nicholas DeMarchi - *Free Art Initiative*

Faculty Advisor: Ann Bartges

Nicholas Laro - *UMF Tour of the Curious and Captivating*

Faculty Advisor: Dawn Nye

Saraphin Bechard - *The Feminist Advocacy*

Faculty Advisor: Ann Bartges

Valentina Levesque - *Forgiveness and You; The Impact of Forgiveness on Well-being and Human Flourishing*

Faculty Advisor: Joey Ka-Yee Essoe

Sargent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

In 2012, the Undergraduate Research Council (URC) presented the first Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. In 2013, the award was named to honor the late Walter Sargent, a UMF history professor and URC member. Walter was not only a council member, but a mentor of many undergraduate research projects that built a culture of undergraduate research in his discipline. **At 11:40 am in Lincoln Auditorium (Venue 5),** we will present the 2024 Walter Sargent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award to a faculty member with a similar record of mentoring and establishing a culture of undergraduate research within the discipline.

Past awardees

2024 – Dr. James Melcher, Professor of Political Science

2023 – Dr. Julia Daly, Associate Professor of Geology

2022 – Dr. Rachel Hovel, Assistant Professor of Biology

2021 – Shana Youngdahl, Assistant Professor of English

2020 – Dr. Timothy Breton, Assistant Professor of Biology

2019 – Dr. Kathryn Will, Assistant Professor Literacy Education

2018 – Dr. David Gibson, Professor of Geology

2017 – Dr. Karol Maybury, Associate Professor of Psychology

2016 – Dr. Nicholas Koban, Professor of Mathematics

2015 – Dr. Jean Doty, Professor of Biology

2014 – Dr. Matt McCourt, Associate Professor of Geography

2013 – Awarded posthumously to Dr. Walter Sargent, Associate Professor of History

2012 – Dr. Ron Butler, Professor of Biology

Arts Night

Tuesday April 15th

5:00

- **Reception (Emery Arts Center)**

- **Outside lobby**
 - Beyond Corsets: The History of Underwear as a Foundation for Costume Design
Sydney Booth, Tori Oliveira, Manu Ritchie, and Sonny Shouse present design renderings for Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel*, and George Brant's *Elephant's Graveyard* to discuss their research and conceptual designs in the context of costuming a play.

5:35

- **Welcome and Awards**
 - Welcome -- Jayne Decker & Steve Pane
 - Excellence in Music award - (Steve Pane presents an award and introduces Music Performances). Sponsored by Western Maine Blues who performed at Emery on November 17, 2024

5:45-6:30

- **Music Performances**
 - Voice / piano piece (Pyam Morin, voice)
 - Oboe / piano piece (Shaina Fusco, oboe)
 - Neo (Vocaloid piece) JIN (Lily Cui, voice) 3"
 - Vivaldi "Domine Deus" from *Gloria* for (Py, Shaina, Steve) 5"

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

VENUE 2: Thomas Auditorium (Preble-Ricker)

9:00-9:20am

How Biodiversity in Costa Rica is Affected by its Surrounding Habitat

Eli Budet

This presentation will explore the impact the rainforest habitat has on the diversity located within it. Costa Rica is home to five percent of the world's variety of living organisms which is a lot for such a small country. There will be discussion about how different rainforest habitats support this biodiversity of plants and animals by showcasing different rainforest habitats I traveled to. This talk will showcase how the large variety of organisms in Costa Rica adapt to survive in a place with inconsistent weather patterns and resources.

9:20-9:40am

Elizabeth Rush's *The Quickenings*, and the Changing Presence of Maternity in Nature Writing

Marcus S. Wile

I have examined the text of Elizabeth Rush's memoir, *The Quickenings*, a text that focuses on the role of motherhood and women in the changing canon of nature writing, and determined that between Rush's writing, Camille T. Dungy's memoir, *Soil*, the importance of women's perspective is being recognized as a central motif.

This textual analysis is paired with external research on women in Antarctica, and the ways in which female writers have influenced the canon as it has started to include these narratives. The results will be paired with the textual analysis of Rush's depiction of motherhood and the ways in which this interacts with the natural world, supported by Dungy's *Soil*.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

VENUE 4: The Landing (Student Center)

9:00-11:20am

AI from Musical Chess and Knitting to Baseball Stats and Education

Steven Anthony, Cal Beckwith, Jameson Bloch, Ben Branch, Maya Cannon, Gwen Cyr, Hunter Frost, Lauren Girouard, Erica Johnson, Joe Kalisz, Lake Lindelof, Kay MacClellan, Reilly Mccabe, Cheylin Meader, Zachary Myers, Sarah Morrisett Otley, Emily Seymour, Alexander Webb

Students in ACE/HON 277 Exploring AI in Thought and Practice will present their semester-long work through presentations and table/poster sessions. These projects highlight how students are integrating AI into diverse contexts while considering its impact on creativity, collaboration,

and broader societal concerns. Their projects demonstrate AI's potential across multiple domains:

- Wellness & Community Support: An AI tool assisting mental health; a crocheting website offering customized patterns and tutorials.
- Education & Learning: AI-powered resources for teaching difficult topics; a lesson-plan exchange platform; a local-business directory built with AI.
- Creative Expression: A musical-chess game; a neural network for exploring song lyrics; a continuously learning game; a creative-writing Discord server with anonymous AI-driven feedback.
- Athletics: AI-guided weightlifting advice; a baseball "coach" bot mirroring team philosophy; a basketball stats predictor.
- Finance & Logistics: Comparing AI vs. human budgeting advice; an automated trading system; a clothing-fit assistant; and a tool to help users discover local businesses.

VENUE 2: Thomas Auditorium (Preble-Ricker)

1:00-3:00pm

BIO 377/PSY 377 Neurobiology and Cognitive Neuroscience - Gene Lightning Talks

Evan Benway, Emma Bourget, Breckon Davidson, William Harriman, Carolyn Kinney, Joanna Korasadowicz, Jade Martens, Keira McGrath, Jayden Meader, Kiley Meader, Samuel Parsell, Reilly Russell, Abby Wrinn

Each student is BIO 377 or PSY 377 researched a gene related to neurological function or disorders. PSY 377 students will present their work using free online tools and databases to understand their gene's patterns and functions at several levels. BIO 377 students will also present on this work as well as their own wet-bench lab work to assess their gene of choice across several organs in adult zebrafish. Highlights include genes involved in Parkinson's disease (ex: parkin), opioid addiction (opioid receptor mu), neurotransmitter release (synaptobrevin), and serotonin signaling (serotonin receptor 2a).

SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND JUSTICE

VENUE 5: Lincoln Auditorium

9:00-9:20am

Bromance and Sexuality Among Male Varsity Teammates at UMF in Relating to Friendships

Tegan Andrew

The act of being on a sports team means that teammates are in close contact with each other for a large portion of their time. This combined with the nature of competitiveness and the tendency of sport as a form of social war creates interesting dynamics among teammates. All

these factors combine to create a culture in sports teams that is wholly unlike that found in other contexts. This presentation will seek to explain these dynamics in male varsity sports athletes' friendships at UMF with a focus on "bromance" and acts that could be perceived as sexual to an outsider.

9:20-9:40am

From Tradition to Transformation: Gender Roles and Family Structures in Japan's History

Nicholas Bernier

This project examines the evolution of gender roles and family structures in Japan, comparing the late Edo period (1853-1868) with the contemporary Reiwa period (2019-present). It explores how socio-political events like the Meiji Restoration (1868-1912) and post-WWII reforms (1945-1952) shaped gender expectations and family organization. Using a comparative methodology the study will analyze historical documents, sociological studies, and use interview data to highlight key shifts in gender roles, legal and economic changes, and the influence of globalization. The research aims to deepen understanding of how Japan's family dynamics reflect broader social, political, and cultural transformations.

9:40-10:00am

Where Have all the Protesters Gone?: An Exploration of the Culture of Student Activism on the UMF Campus

Autumn Sawyer

When we go back a hundred years, what would you expect to see on college campuses? There is a long history of connection between education and student activism within American history. Through the use of social science research methods, including a survey promoted to UMF students, and a voluntary focus group to discuss the opinions and experiences students are having currently. Within an actively evolving society with increasing technological advancements, and mindset changes, forms of activism and the ways groups gather has also changed. This project seeks to understand this generation of scholars' engagement within the culture of activism.

10:00-10:20

The Things that Bind Us

Cog Gaffen

The Things That Bind Us is an anthropological survey research project looking at how human relationships interact with material items. Everything surrounding you right now stems from a long, evolving social history told through items; books, jewelry, collectables, crafts, trinkets, clothing, and games. Relationships start because of these things. They grow because of these things. These are things that help attach groups and relationships together, that help create

and develop cultures and subcultures centered around the perceived role, or use of Things in human life. Using material and symbolic culture, the connection between item and social relationship can be explored.

10:20-10:40am

We Don't Walk Alone: Community and Art, Intertwined

Holly Ness

In an era of so much potential connection and community, it feels like people are more disconnected than ever before. Despite this, community can still be found and sought out by people who choose to be a part of them. College campuses especially provide community space and a sense of belonging among their students. This project seeks to better understand how college students view their community and their sense of belonging through the art that they make. The objective is to piece together how community and belonging is perceived through photos, poetry, drawings, and many more forms of creative expression.

10:40-11:00am BREAK

11:00- 11:20am

Forgiveness and You: Forgiveness Predicts Well-being and Flourishing in Rural College Students

Valentina Levesque (Wilson Scholar)

Conflict is inevitable in relationships, but forgiveness fosters healing and growth. This study explores the role of forgiveness in shaping well-being among rural college students, an understudied population. As hypothesized, we found that trait forgiveness has a greater impact on increased positive mood and human flourishing. These findings emphasize the value of fostering trait forgiveness to support mental health.

11:20-11:40am

Reconstitute the World: Lesbian Separatism in Theory and Practice

Michaela Terlizzi

Lesbian separatism emerged in the second half of the twentieth century as a movement which sought to preserve the unique differences in the lifestyles and identities of lesbian communities, and to create alternative spaces within which new social possibilities might emerge. This paper both surveys the conditions under which a lesbian separatist politic emerged and identifies its strengths and limitations, especially concerning the subject of intersectionality. Further, the paper affirms the lesbian separatist movement's impact on contemporary radical queer thought.

11:40am-noon

Announcement of Walter Sargent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award

1:00-3:00pm

Make a sign and/or poster

UMF Students

“...of the people, by the people, for the people.” (Abraham Lincoln, 1863) How is democracy doing? Perishing? Flourishing? Beginning at 1pm, blank sheets of 2' × 3' paper will be available along with markers and tape. Bring your friends. Bring your ideas. Bring your courage. Mingle! Create! Determine your fate! At 2pm, a representative from JustME for JustUS may be present to facilitate and share their efforts to support rural communities. Weather permitting, potential for outdoor photo op at 3pm.

CREATIVE PURSUITS IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES

VENUE 1: Emery Arts Center

5:00-7:00pm Tuesday 15 April

UMF Tour of the Curious and Captivating

Nic Laro (Wilson Scholar)

UMF Tour of the Curious and Captivating is a short animation replicating the look and feel of early 2000s edutainment point-and-click games while highlighting unique and unusual aspects of campus. Presented on a monitor within an installation designed to evoke a childhood study desk, viewers are invited to sit and watch as if rediscovering a forgotten educational game. Behind it, a second computer offers interactive Unity minigames, designed as in-universe activities from the animated game. This project blends animation, game design, and installation art to create an immersive, nostalgic experience that reimagines learning through digital storytelling.

9:00-9:20am Wednesday 16 April

Shingles for Teeth: A Literary Exploration of the Monstrous Haunted House

Abbie Bitomske (Wilson Scholar)

What makes a house a home? Philosophers have toiled over this question for centuries, generally agreeing that while the house is a mere structure, the home is a human concept, created by projecting one's self onto a space. But what happens when that projection fails? Is a

haunted house irreconcilable with the notion of home? If so, what would that mean for the occupants who must live there? Through readings of classic haunted houses in American literature, particularly *The Haunting of Hill House*, *Shingles For Teeth* considers this question in four dimensions: architectural, animalistic, psychological, and anatomical.

9:20-9:40am

Humanity and Wolves: An Analysis of Werewolf Media and the Human Identity

Ev Dearborn (Wilson Scholar)

This project examines werewolf literature and films and explores how werewolves symbolize humans' relationships with ourselves, our self-inflicted alienation from the animal, and the significance of this relationship. By analyzing works such as Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Sabine Baring-Gould's *Book of Werewolves* and comparing their thematic influences on modern media such as George Waggner's *The Wolfman*, the project concludes with a reflection on the unique history of werewolves, how werewolves have continued to challenge the concept of humanity, and the separation of humans from animals throughout the ages.

9:40-10:00am

The Feminist Advocacy

Saraphin Bechard (Wilson Scholar)

This presentation revolves around my big final project for senior seminar, the project itself is a series of mixed media collages. They focus mainly on political problems that involve women and women's issues. Topics like birth control and abortion, wage gaps, and the pink tax. With this work, I hope to help rebuild the notion of women to help bring back their voices and their bodies and let their work be not only seen but heard.

10:00-10:20am

Snowglory: a Comic Adaptation

Tori Oliveira (Wilson Scholar)

Snowglory is a story about the titular character—a young wolf—who struggles to accept change. After her brother leaves, Snowglory decides to venture away from their pack as well, joined her best friend, a raccoon named Bandit. This presentation will focus on adapting the story—originally written as a feature length screenplay—into a digitally drawn comic. It will go over the initial writing process, character design, and what it is like to adapt a script to a hand drawn story board and finally to a finished comic page.

10:20-10:40am

Free Art: of the Unconventional Eccentric

Nicholas DeMarchi (Wilson Scholar)

I have been overseeing the foundry of my premier arts curatorial practice, the "Free Art Initiative." Committed to exhibiting art in unconventional spaces, and breaking down the stigma associated with "fine" arts (that it is for fancy investors). I have been working closely with the owners of Twice Sold Tales to Curate a thematic exhibition titled, "Free Art: of the Unconventional Eccentric." The purpose of this first exhibition is to bridge the gap between the UMF campus and the greater Farmington community by providing a foundation for both demographics, offering arts based programming, such as an artist talk and discussions.

10:40-11:00am BREAK

11:00-11:20am

Beyond the Bin: Composting as a Reflection of Environmental Engagement

Eli Gallant

Composting is an essential method for minimizing food waste, transforming discarded organic materials into nutrient-rich soil that benefits individuals, the earth, and sustainability. This study examines composting behaviors to explore how personal beliefs, values, and perceived obstacles shape one's connection to the environment. Through an online survey of the University of Maine at Farmington and the broader Farmington community, this research analyzes how these factors influence composting participation and reflect environmental engagement. My findings will offer insights into the cultural and structural influences on composting and sustainability efforts.

11:20-11:40am

The Impact of Religion and Culture on the Display of Human Remains

George H. Miller IV

Modern views on the display of bodies in museums and private collections have fallen under scrutiny due to ethical concerns often rooted in religious and cultural perspectives. This project aims to examine the history of religious and cultural influences on England's perspectives and how modern views on the display of bodies have been shaped by them. Understanding these viewpoints can help us better address ethical concerns regarding the display of human remains in England and America.

11:40-noon

A Study of the Cultural-Biological Evolution of Lactose Intolerance

Jillian Taormina

In the United States, dairy composes a large portion of both our everyday diet and the things that we think about. However, dairy consumption is a relatively recent development in human history, aided by both the domestication of cattle (and other milk-producing species) and the biological adaptations required for humans to digest lactose. I aim to assess the current understandings of lactose intolerance among my cohorts, utilizing a survey and a literature review to compare perceptions to actual prevalence of lactose intolerance. In doing so, I am painting a comprehensive picture of the cultural and biological ways that we interact with dairy products.

1:00-2:40pm

B.A. in Art & Design Senior Exhibition Artist Talks

Saraphin Bechard, Sophie Bedrinana, Nicholas DeMarchi, TJ Dorn, Hunter Kemp, Sol LaBelle, Nic Laro, Becca Nirza, Madeline Pumphrey, and Crow Then

Senior Art & Design and Performing Arts/Arts Administration majors will discuss their capstone art exhibition, "Circadian Limit." The show includes photography, mixed-media collage, sculpture, animation, video, installation art and web design, and engages themes of ecology and natural phenomena, social activism, interpersonal relationships, resilience and experimental documentary storytelling. Each student will give an artist talk that presents the ideas and processes that inspired their artwork.

2:40-4:00pm

Readings from ENG 310 (Advanced Fiction)

Paz Clark, Kathryn Grover, Connor Haskell, Austin Marden, Emma Marsh, Holly Ness, Tori Oliveira, Madeline Pumphrey, Zain Richard, Manu Ritchie, Visio Roughton, Miranda Shelley, Danny Taylor, Marcus Wile, Tyler Wright, and Cole Writeout.

Students in the current semester of ENG 310-Advanced Fiction Writing will each read a three-minute excerpt from a work-in-progress. Throughout March and April, the students will facilitate their own "Portrait of the Artist" workshop in which they describe sources of inspiration (visual art, music, film, etc). For this Symposium event, each student will choose a projected image to accompany their reading.

LEARNING AND WAYS OF KNOWING

VENUE 3: Education Center Lobby

2:20-2:40pm

Multilingual Learners in Maine Schools

Taylor Nelson (Annual Maine Policy Scholar Lecture)

Maine's growing population of multilingual learners presents challenges for schools, highlighting the need for stronger policies. In the 2023-2024 school year, 7,208 multilingual learners were enrolled statewide, with significant variations in district needs. While Portland serves over 2,000 students, smaller districts like RSU 37 have fewer than 40. Maine's current policy requires identification within 30 days and ESOL-supported instruction but lacks specificity. This research project aims to analyze multilingual learner policies in other states, assess Maine's current approach, and propose a more comprehensive policy to ensure equitable support for all multilingual learners across diverse school districts.

2:40-3:00pm

Through the Gates of Hell: An Analysis of Hozier's *Unreal Unearth* and Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*

Adrienne Foss (Wilson Scholar)

Irish singer-songwriter Hozier released his studio album *Unreal Unearth* in 2023, which was heavily influenced by Dante Alighieri's 14th-century narrative poem, *Inferno*. This project explores the lyricism of Hozier's songs, which tell the story of a man's descent through the nine circles of Hell—the subject of Dante's *Inferno*. I closely examine Hozier's lyrics as poetry, and study the musical motifs he presents in the songs that work to connect them to Alighieri's *Inferno*. I also explore how Hozier's *Unreal Unearth* acts as a contemporary retelling of *Inferno*, and how he provides a more modern interpretation of Alighieri's depiction of Hell.

3:00-3:45pm

Queer Austen Adaptations

Dante Capone, Adrienne Foss, Katie Gasper, Ella Grant, Soren Hatfield, Madelynn Hopper, Zoe Lawler, Lina Nocito Martinez, Marissa Mclaughlin, Milo Melchert, Edward X. Simo, Jacie Strander, Anabelle Taff, Eva Tebbutt, Emily Veith, Kiara Warren, and Musette White

Students in Misty Krueger's Honors 377 class will present the findings of their research on queer adaptations of Jane Austen novels.

POSTER SESSION

VENUE 6: North Dining Hall

*Please note that all poster presenters are expected to be at their poster for at least one hour, either between **11:00am and 12:00pm** or between **1:00pm and 2:00pm**. The posters will be set up between 9:00am and 10:00am and should be left up until 3pm.*

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Poster #1

Effects of Sediment Size on Macroinvertebrate Taxa and Abundance in Temple Stream

Christopher Houdeshell, Jillian Taromina, Michaela Hendrix

Construction and removal of dams may change the composition of benthic habitats in rivers, which is important in determining the species present in a river. Temple stream of Farmington, Maine, boasts various macroinvertebrate species, differentiated in preferred habitat, that have varied in response to the recent removal of a dam. To assess the effect of dam removal on macroinvertebrate populations, macroinvertebrate, substrate, and morphological measurements were collected from 2019 to 2024. Findings showed that the majority of the stream's substrate is cobble and pebble, creating suitable habitat for most groups of macroinvertebrates. Overall, macroinvertebrate abundance increased with the amount of pebble composing the sediment, however results were inconclusive on how the dam removal impacted macroinvertebrates. The largest changes observed were likely due to release and suspension of fine sediments following dam removal. Further research involving compounding factors is needed to determine how macroinvertebrates in Temple stream have responded to dam removal.

Poster #2

The Relationship Between High Elevation Lake Acidity and Watershed Factors

Christopher Houdeshell (Wilson Fellow)

Past atmospheric deposition of sulfuric and nitric acids ("acid rain") has acidified high elevation lakes across New England, affecting ecology of lakes and their surroundings. Since the passage of the Clean Air Act Amendments in 1990, acid deposition has declined and many of the affected lakes have begun to recover. However, this recovery trajectory does not look the same at all lakes. Across western Maine, nine high-elevation lakes have been part of long-term water chemistry monitoring since 1986 and show variation in their pH trends over time. We explored relationships between water chemistry, pH, and ANC trends as response variables, lake and watershed morphology, and current watershed pH and dominant ions as predictors. We found no significant relationship between lake recovery and watershed morphology or watershed soil

pH. However, there was a relationship between soil pH and the lake sulfate trends. Further studies focusing on underlying surficial geology and longitudinal data collection on watershed soil chemistry will be useful to further reveal influences on lake recovery.

Poster #3

Sediment Dynamics Downstream of a Recent Dam Removal: Analysis of Deposits from the May and December 2023 Flood Events

Kevin Sweeney

This study examines sediment deposits downstream of Temple Stream after dam removal, focusing on deposits from the May and December 2023 floods. These events created dune-like deposits and secondary distributary channels across a previously scoured, sediment-starved floodplain. Sediment >0.50 m thick was deposited. Analysis of grain size distribution revealed coarser sediments upstream and finer grains downstream, with a fining upward sequence in each flood event. Coarser middle layers, likely from higher energy during the December flood, were observed. These findings provide insights into post-dam removal sediment dynamics and the effects of flood events on stream morphology.

Poster #4

An Analysis of the Effect of Domestic Cat Presence on Small Mammal Species

Ryan Martin-Hachey, Brianna Benson, Leila Daskoski, Cora Treiss, Dr. Donelle Scwhalm

The species *Felis catus* is one of the most important predators amongst small mammal species. Studies have shown that cats are a stressor on ecodynamics. We examined how activity of *Felis catus* impacts small mammal species. There is evidence that small mammal species are transmitters for numerous tick-borne pathogens through tick-feeding. Activity of small mammals may increase the prevalence of tick attachment, and this would thus increase the prevalence of tick-borne pathogens. We hypothesize that outdoor cats affect small-mammal populations through feeding and increasing exposure to disease. For this research we compare ten sites around Farmington.

Poster #5

Small Mammal Population Dynamics in Farmington, Maine

Nora Hull, Alex Debo, Joe Kalisz, Elizabeth Martin

Habitat fragmentation is an issue caused by deforestation and development that affects many species, including small animals. There are a number of small mammals native to Maine, all of which may be threatened by habitat fragmentation. Farmington is a relatively developed area with fragmented forests. We are interested in populations of small mammals in these fragmented woods, particularly the areas with high foot traffic and domesticated animal presence. We used bucket-based camera traps to survey the small mammal populations in Farmington, Maine.

Poster #6

Geography Of Monstera Species Across Costa Rica

Rachel Hatfield

The monstera genus is endemic to the tropical regions of central and south america, and is extremely popular for indoor ornamental use. It is also used for agriculture, in the form of *Monstera deliciosa*, one of the largest known species with edible and highly flavorful fruits. In Costa Rica, currently at least 40 species of monstera are known. This review aims to describe the ranges of said species, as Costa Rica has extremely high rates of endemic species (species found natively nowhere else in the world), and descriptions of the total ranges is highly important for continued conservation and the identification of areas of most concern. I expect to find many monstera species limited to extremely small ranges within Costa Rica, even a single mountain or particular peninsula.

Poster #7

Consequences of Glacial Retreat on the Natural World

Rita Beniot, Jenna Payne, Eli Misavage

Glacial retreat is a key indicator of climate change, and has many implications for surrounding ecosystems. Retreating glaciers rapidly change surrounding habitats, exposing new land for succession, altering downstream aquatic ecosystems, and releasing novel bacteria and viruses into the already fragile environment. The meltwater released has global effects on ocean currents, salinity, and sea level. This review paper summarizes the impacts of glacial melt on the natural world, both on a smaller local ecosystem scale, and at a global scale. Understanding ecological impacts of glacier loss will help inform management, policy and adaptation in the face of climate change.

Poster #8

Meso-Mammal Biodiversity & Activity Levels in Western Maine

Michaela Hendrix, Emily Carrasquillo, Nate Trussell, Spencer Brennick

Meso-mammals occupy a large variety of niches due to size, diet, habitat, activity period, and dispersal. Quantifying what species are present and their effects on the environment will lay the groundwork for future projects in wildlife conservation. In recent years, game cameras have become common in identifying biodiversity through effective non-invasive monitoring. We conducted a wildlife survey focusing on meso-mammals through non-invasive scented camera trap sites in riparian, deciduous forest, coniferous forest, and open field habitats. Our objectives are to quantify what and how many meso-mammals are present in each habitat, and their temporal activity levels.

Poster #9

Channel sediment characteristics following dam removal and subsequent historic high-flow events, Temple Stream, Farmington, ME

Iris Bertolami, Will Christman, Alex Debo, Christopher Houdeshell, Hazel McEnaney, Jenna Payne, Amanda Power, Kevin Sweeney, Sophia Winters, Julia Daly

Temple Stream opened following removal of a historic dam in July, 2022. Two significant flood events in 2023 redistributed sediment and developed meanders within the channel. Grab samples collected in the fall of 2024 were analyzed to determine grain size distribution. Additionally, several of the largest clasts found in the field were chunks of Presumpscot Formation exposed along the banks. Channel sediments ranged in size from sand to gravel. Samples of the clay cobbles were angular close to their source and significantly more rounded downstream indicating that these clasts break down quickly once introduced into the channel.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Poster #10

Using Novel Agonists and Phoenixin to Investigate Gene Expression Changes Related to the SREB Receptor Family in the Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) Ovary

Emma Bourget, Jade Martens, Joanna Korasadowicz

SREBs (Super-conserved Receptors Expressed in Brain) are a family of receptors found across vertebrates. Phoenixin (PNX), along with novel agonists (8535 and PT-91) provide new tools for understanding these receptors. The main purpose of this study was to use these tools to better understand the gene expression changes in the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) ovary. Ovaries were treated for 6 hours, RNA was extracted, and RNA-seq was used. Each treatment exhibited many differentially expressed genes, with PT-91 and 8535 showing the most similarity while 8535 and PNX showed the least. These preliminary results highlight that SREBs may function in regulating cell migration and energy metabolism.

Poster #11

Titcomb Mountain

Justin Castaldo

We will be doing a SWOT analysis of titcomb mountain and comparing it to other ski resorts in the New England area. Competitive analysis and how the operations differ from other mountains and its unique dynamics that make it stand out in the Farmington community.

Poster #12

Ovarian Teratomas and Human Parthenogenesis

Elizabeth Martin, Jillian Taormina, Sophia Winters

Parthenogenesis is a phenomenon where reproduction in an organism occurs via the genetic contribution of a single parent, functionally identical to cloning. In mammals, parthenogenesis is incredibly rare, even rarer in humans, where it almost always manifests as an ovarian teratoma, a type of reproductive tissue tumor. This medical condition may lead to various comorbid issues due to the genes involved in regulating parthenogenetic reproduction and the immune system. This review aims to assess the current understanding of what causes parthenogenetic reproduction in humans, the presentation and diagnosis of ovarian teratomas, and the conditions that may arise in tandem with their development.

SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND JUSTICE

Poster #13

Thriving Thrift: Understanding the Business Model of Touch Of Class

Colony Horne, Laura Gunter, Jill Gamage

As residents of Farmington, we are well aware of the number of thrift stores that exist. This semester, we researched how Touch of Class in Farmington remains in business and prevails through the pandemic, intense competition, and other challenges. We take a look at the company's ties to the community and how they navigate public relations to keep up with buyers and donors. We examine their pivotal role in providing affordable clothing to members of Franklin County and highlight business practices that help them stay alive. We identify strengths and weaknesses and gain a broad overview of what it is like to be a small business owner in Maine.

Poster #14

Book Banning Fallacies: Why Children Need Diverse Libraries

Angelina Crocker (Wilson Scholar)

Rates of book challenges and bans have been exponentially increasing for the past several years and this censorship disproportionately is levied at diverse literature. Most often LGBTQIA+ identities, People of Color, and so-called explicit topics. Not only is foisting a minority of people's opinions on literature on all people ludicrous, but it also has a detrimental effect on young people's ability to learn. It has been repeatedly and irrefutably shown that diverse literature has myriad benefits for readers, especially adolescents. This work aims to systematically disprove the fallacies used to defend and enact this censorship.

Poster #15

Noisy Judgments: The Role of Misophonia Familiarity in Public Stigma

Aili Webb

82 participants completed the Reported and Intended Behavior Scale (RIBS) before and after an informational passage to measure changes in stigmatization. A paired t-test model revealed that welcomeness (M=15.7, SD=11.7) and awareness around misophonia (M=2.8, SD=3.13) was initially lower before the passage, and increased afterwards (welcomeness: M=17.3, SD=8.5; awareness: M=5.2, SD=3.06; $p < .05$). Findings suggest that promoting awareness about misophonia may improve perceptions and welcomeness towards individuals who experience it.

Poster #16

The Moral Compass of Ambition: Career Goals and Moral Foundations

Aleks Bachkovsky

In a survey study, we examined the relationship between students' career goals (aspiring to helping vs non-helping profession) and their valuation of human life—as measured by (1) their self-reported willingness to assume financial debt to save a stranger's life, and (2) their Moral Foundations Questionnaire scores. 90 adults, majority being college students, participated. Planned statistical analyses were not tenable, as only one individual reported aspiration for a non-helping profession. Exploratory analyses are underway using specific career choice (fields and job titles) and self-reported majors in place of the helping vs non-helping profession survey item.

Poster #17

Breaking Society's Stereotypes about International Adoption

Andrea Collin Reigosa

This study examines whether college students' willingness to adopt internationally would change after learning about its pros and cons. 93 UMF college students rated their beliefs about adoption before and after reading the informational passage using the 11-item Adoption Belief Scale (Gibbons, 2006). The analysis is currently underway.

Poster #18

Intersectionality of Marginalized Identities and Patient Satisfaction

Arlie Marcs

This survey study investigated healthcare perception disparities between individuals whose race, gender, or sexual orientation are of marginalized groups vs those in non-marginalized groups. Non-marginalized groups are operationally defined as non-Hispanic white, cisgendered,

and heterosexual individuals. 75 individuals, mostly university students, provided self-report data on identity factors and completed a modified patient satisfaction survey measuring healthcare perception. A independent sample t-test ($t(73)=2.27, p=.03$) revealed that marginalized individuals ($n=40$) reported significantly lower healthcare satisfaction ($M=29.25, SD=5.66$) than non-marginalized individuals ($n=35; M=32.11, SD=5.25$). This finding contributes additional insight towards identifying factors underlying unequal healthcare outcomes for marginalized individuals.

Poster #19

Social Bonds and Academic Stress: Exploring the Role of Belonging

Catherine Landaeta Gould

This online survey study examined the relationship between the sense of belonging at university and academic stress. 93 participants (ages 18-61), mostly college students, provided demographic information and completed two validated, 18-item questionnaires on belonging and academic stress. Contrary to hypothesis, linear regression revealed that sense of belonging positively predicted academic stress ($p<.05$)—rather than negatively predicting it. It is possible that factors not measured in this study can explain this effect, or that students who experience higher academic stress seek out social support, thus increasing belonging. Further research is necessary to examine the specific contexts and factors that influence this relationship.

Poster #20

Vocal Tone: Driving Persuasion, Changing Behaviors

Cole Willette

This study investigated how emotive vs neutral vocal tones affect persuasion. Participants listened to audio passages warning against slouching, being sedentary, and not flossing delivered in a happy, angry, or neutral tones. They rated each speaker's persuasiveness and their likelihood of changing behavior. Paired-sample t-tests revealed that happy tone was rated as more persuasive ($M=5.63, SD=2.27; p<.025$) and increased behavioral-change intent ($M=4.99, SD=2.64; p<.025$) than neutral tone (persuasive: $M=4.38, SD=2.45$; intent: $M=4.31, SD=2.57$). Angry tone had similar effects (persuasive: $M=5.03, SD=2.66$; intent: $M=4.66, SD=2.46; p<.025$). Findings suggest emotional vocal tone influences social judgments, even negative emotions like anger enhance persuasion more than neutrality.

Poster #21

Is the youngest actually the favorite?

Isabella Cain

Birth order has been proposed to relate to various outcomes such as personality, stress, and academic achievement, though findings are mixed. This study examined the relationship

between birth order and perceived parental favoritism. 90 participants (63 F, 19 M, 6 Non-Binary/Other; age 18-45) completed a survey on their birth order and perceptions of how parental attention or preference was distributed among siblings. Data analysis is currently underway.

Poster #22

Middle Child Meltdowns & First Born Freakout's: The Anxiety of Birth Order

Noah Dostal

In the U.S., 19.2% of adults and children show signs of anxiety, with cases rising annually. Untreated anxiety can worsen mental health disorders like depression. Previous research found a correlation between birth order and mental health, without exploring anxiety specifically. This study examines whether birth order is associated with anxiety via an online survey, hypothesizing that firstborns will exhibit the highest anxiety as measured by a validated anxiety scale, followed by middle and youngest children. An ANOVA examining data from 90 participants (63 F, 19 M, 6 Non-Binary/Other, 2 Insufficient Data; age 18-45) found no significant results, likely due to unequal group sizes (48 Firstborn, 12 Middle-, 20 Youngest-, 10 Only-Child). Exploratory analyses are underway as other birth-order data were also collected.

Poster #23

From Broken Homes to College Halls: The Lasting Effects of Divorce on Self-Esteem

Noela Altvater

Parental divorce is a common experience impacting children with long-lasting effects. This study examined the relationship between perceived divorce impact and self-esteem in rural college students. 90 participants (63 F, 19 M, 6 Other/Non-Binary; age 18-45) recruited from the University of Maine at Farmington completed the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES) and three Divorce Impact Questions we developed. We hypothesized that divorce impact would negatively correlate with self-esteem (higher perceived divorce impact was associated with lower self-esteem). Contrary to hypothesis, a multivariate Pearson correlation analysis revealed no significant results. A secondary literature review is underway to explore potential methodological or theoretical factors that may explain the discrepancy between our findings and previous research.

Poster #24

Extraverted or Just Extra: The Association Between Extraversion and Personality Perception

Shaylynn Koban

101 participants (60 F, 28 M, 7 Non-Binary/Other, 6 Insufficient Data) viewed three "screenshots" of contentious text message exchanges, one for each emoji valences (containing no, positive, and negative emojis). They then ranked the communicators on personality

characteristics like friendliness and sincerity. Preliminary analysis indicated that emoji valence did impact the personality perception of the text messenger, and that extraverts always ranked the communicators higher than introverts for each emoji condition. A repeated-measures ANOVA will be conducted to examine the effects of both factors on personality perception.

Poster #25

Stigma Against Bipolar Disorder and the Willingness to Seek Help

Evan Burnell

Poster #26

Agree to Disagree? Personality Traits and Political Views

Brody Sylvia

100 participants (61F, 27M, 12 non-binary/other; ages 18-57) completed an online anonymous survey commissioning the Big Five Personality Inventory 2 and a 1–5 Likert scale for political ideology (1 = Extremely Liberal, 5 = Extremely Conservative). A bi-variate Pearson correlation found no significant relationship between Agreeableness and Political Ideology ($p > .05$). These results call into question previous findings since they imply that agreeableness might not be a reliable predictor of political views for college students.

LEARNING AND WAYS OF KNOWING

Poster #27

Books vs. Balls: Academic Motivation of Athletes and Non-Athletes

Kayla Lee

There is limited research comparing academic motivation between athletes and non-athletes. This study explores academic motivation among the two groups measured by the Academic Motivation Scale (AMS-28). The independent variable is athlete status (athlete vs. non-athlete), and the dependent variable is academic motivation measured through intrinsic, extrinsic, and amotivation dimensions. An independent t-test revealed no significant results, likely due to unequal group sizes with 19 Athletes (20.43%) and 72 Non-Athlete (79.57%). Follow-up exploratory analyses are underway. Understanding these differences may enhance academic motivation and provide better support for students and student-athletes.

Poster #28

"The Resilient Scholar: How Emotional Strength Predicts Academic Performance"

Tanner Walsh

This study examines the relationship between emotional resilience and academic success. In an online survey, 94 participants (ages 18-81) provided their GPA and completed the 25-item Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale. Contrary to hypothesis, a multivariate Pearson correlation analysis revealed no significant results ($p > .05$). A secondary literature review is underway to explore potential methodological or theoretical factors that may explain the discrepancy between our findings and previous research.

Poster #29

From Cartoons to College: How Childhood TV Time Shapes GPA

Tom Gingras

This study examines the relationship between childhood television habits and academic performance. Recruited from the University of Maine at Farmington, 82 participants (54 F, 17 M, 8 Non-Binary/Other, 3 Insufficient Data; age 18-61) completed three questions about their GPA and childhood TV habits, contained in a larger anonymous survey. Linear regression examined whether a higher ratio of educational to regular television watched per week predicts a higher GPA on a four-point scale. Contrary to hypothesis, the regression analysis did not yield significant results ($p > .05$). A secondary literature review is underway to explore potential methodological or theoretical factors that may explain the discrepancy between our findings and previous research.

Poster #30

Educational Technology & Academic Flourishing

Makenzie Juliano

This study examines whether early exposure to educational technology predicted long-term academic flourishing conducted at the University of Maine at Farmington. As part of a larger anonymous survey, 93 participants (Mean Age 21.74 ± 8.01 ; 37 F, 14 M, 5 Non-Binary/Other, 1 Insufficient Data) responded to two retrospective questions about their grade when first exposure to technology and their perceived academic flourishing during elementary school. Contrary to hypothesis, a linear regression revealed that the grade of educational technology introduction positively predicted academic flourishing ($\beta = .10, p < .05$). Results suggest that the later one is exposed to tools like computers and smartboards, the more one flourished academically during elementary school. While a secondary literature review is underway to reexamine the robust body of literature supporting technology integration in classrooms to enhance student development, this contradiction is likely due to the retrospective nature of the current study or other limitations.

Poster #31

The Future of Bookstores in Maine, a Case Study of Twice Sold Tales

Sammi Toothaker, Alyssa Parker, Emily Buono, Nick Lobdell

We use strategic planning to understand key trends of bookstores in Maine.

Poster #32

Origin: Strategic Planning for Businesses

Logan Holcomb, Greyson Bell, Sam Wrigley, and Simon Chadbourne

We will explain a strategic plan for the business origin based here in Farmington. This will include a literature review as well as summaries of interviews from key individuals within origin itself. We will also show a few different types of analyses as well as a strategic plan for where origin can take their business in the future so that they can ensure success.

Poster #33

Strategic Analytics Casco Bay Lines

Cal Beckwith, Gracyn (Grace) Erskine, Patience Miranda, Noah Mayrose

We use strategic planning to understand key trends in Casco Bay Lines.

Poster #34

Strategic Plan for Rugged Seas

Jessica Watkinson, Nathan Coombs, Jameson Bloch, Patrick McKinney

This strategic plan outlines Rugged Seas' approach to expanding brand awareness and optimizing its product portfolio. By analyzing market trends and consumer behavior, the plan identifies key opportunities for growth through target market segmentation, pricing strategies, and operational efficiencies.

Poster #35

Strategic Analysis of Pine Tree Camp

Christa Allen, Hannah Milliken, Kiara Warren, Lauryn-Jaimie Waltson

Pine Tree Camp, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing transformative outdoor experiences for individuals with disabilities, faces unique challenges in strategic management. This poster explores the camp's approach to long-term growth, sustainability, and operational efficiency, analyzing key strategies employed to navigate the evolving landscape of nonprofit

management. Topics include resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, program development, and adaptive leadership, with a focus on integrating innovative practices to meet both financial and mission-driven goals.

Poster #36

George Mitchell Peace Scholarship in Cork, Ireland

Lily Grant

Being selected for the George Mitchell Peace Scholarship, a fully funded opportunity, I was able to study abroad during the fall semester in Cork, Ireland at the University College Cork. Doing so allowed me to be immersed in a new culture and learning methods while earning credits towards my major. Through the experience, I was able to travel around Ireland and Europe, broadening my knowledge of the world.

A Tribute to Michael D. Wilson

Michael D. Wilson graduated from UMF in 1976. He loved teaching, helping children grow and develop. He reached out to help people whenever he could. He also had a deep love for the beauty and serenity of the wilderness where he felt a deep sense of connection.

Michael chose to live his life in a manner that was true to his beliefs. Many people remember him as a special person and a good friend. He died in a tragic accident in 1977, just as he was preparing to begin a new teaching position in a small town in Aroostook County.

