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## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Newsletter, Fall 2021

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## CLAS Alumni Newsletter - Fall 2021

1 message

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**UMaine College of Liberal Arts & Sciences** <clas@maine.edu>  
Reply-To: UMaine College of Liberal Arts & Sciences <clas@maine.edu>  
To: \

Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Fall 2021, University of Maine

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## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### Message from the Dean



We're back.

UMaine students have returned to campus and are enjoying a fully residential learning experience for the first time since March 2020. In September, UMaine welcomed one of its largest incoming classes ever. These incoming students, and their returning colleagues, have brought the campus back to life.

While campus activity has not returned to a fully pre-pandemic normal, classrooms are full again; live performances have returned to the School of Performing Arts; attendance at athletic events is welcomed; visiting speakers have arrived and brought new perspectives to our students. [New](#)

[one-credit Research Learning Experiences](#) (RLEs) offered to first- and second-year students have given them the chance to learn mapping skills, garden using historical methods, or perform before audiences, among many other options.

We've learned from the pandemic too, augmenting live events with virtual lectures and livestreaming of performances. And as all this has been going on, our commitment to safety precautions and following the science—as a research university should—have made the University of Maine [one of the safest college campuses in the country](#), even as COVID-19 cases began rising once more around the state.

Today, we welcome alumni back to campus for Homecoming 2021, and we're excited to see those of you whose faces and company we missed for so long. On Monday, we'll host our first in-person Fall Open House since 2019, where we'll connect with those future students (and future alumni/ae) we can't wait to get to know.

As always, thank you for staying in touch with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Emily A. Haddad  
Dean

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## Set Your Course

You can help us ensure the future of liberal arts and sciences education in Maine.

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## Historically Significant Pipe Organ Has a New Home in Minsky Recital Hall

The purchase and installation of an historically significant pipe organ in Minsky Recital Hall on the campus of the University of Maine has been made possible through a \$148,000 donation from an anonymous donor. The gift for the School of the Performing Arts is a major event for the University of Maine and its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that will benefit students and concertgoers for generations to come.

A. David Moore's Opus 18, a mechanical-action pipe organ of two manuals and pedal, is housed in a free-standing case. Crews—including Moore, the organ-builder himself—arrived on campus in late August to begin the careful work of its installation, and will return several times to prepare the organ for its dedicatory recital during the Spring semester.

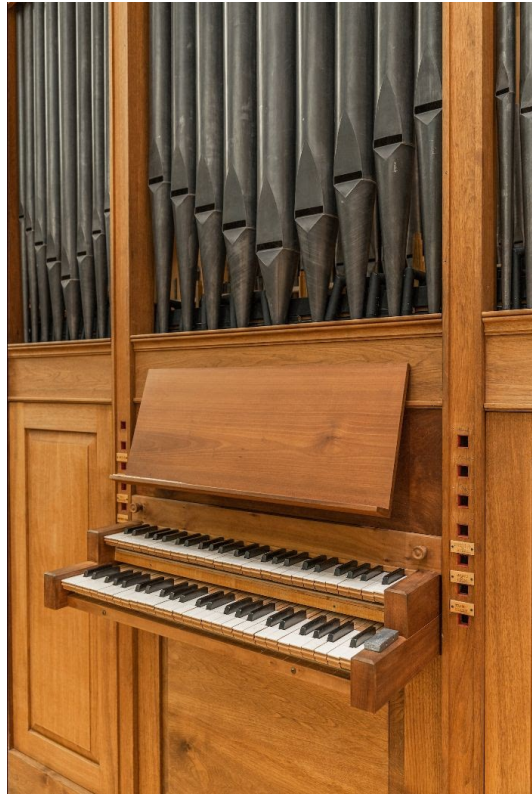
Located for sale in Florida and transported back to New England by UMaine organ instructor Kevin Birch, who wrote his dissertation about A. David Moore's significant contributions to organ building in the United States, Opus 18 was hand crafted in Pomfret, Vermont by a small team of artisans in 1988. The case, console and carvings of the organ, one of just twenty-four instruments produced by Moore's workshop, are made of locally-sourced Butternut and the front pipes, made in the builder's workshop, are of a high-lead alloy. Opus 18 is housed in a free-standing case. Case, console and carvings are made of Butternut, and natural keys are topped with cattle bone. A high

concentration of eight-foot registers (particularly a beautiful Open Diapason 8' with high lead content) is noteworthy and will contribute to a rich, fundamental sound uncommon in instruments of such a modest size.

Opus 18 is optimally suited to teaching and performance of solo and ensemble music, and an important historical example of the work of a gifted organ builder whose unique instruments are the product of his own spirit of inquiry and his appreciation of the enduring beauty of the American and European organs he spent his life studying.







**JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING 2021!**



## **Kling Delivers 2021 Libby Lecture: Are Economics and the Environment Always at Odds?**

On Wednesday, September 22, Catherine L. Kling, Tisch University Professor in the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and Faculty Director at the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University, presented the third annual Libby Lecture in Natural Resource Policy.

Her talk, “Improving Water Quality: Are Economics and the Environment Always at Odds?,” described trends in water quality and the benefits and costs of regulations associated with the Clean Water Act, as well as a discussion of the gaps in the knowledge needed for a more accurate understanding of the efficiency of water quality regulations. [Kling's lecture was recorded and is available for viewing here.](#)

The annual Libby Lecture in Natural Resource Policy was established with a gift from Lawrence W. Libby '62 and Lois Murdock Libby '63, both of whom attended Kling's lecture. The annual lecture is a collaborative event coordinated by the [College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture](#) and the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#), with support from the University of Maine Foundation.



### **‘The Maine Question’ asks how physics can help combat COVID-19**

Numerous medical professionals,



### **Four Students Join McGillicuddy Humanities Center as Fellows in Fall 2021**

This fall the Clement and Linda

biologists and other experts have been combating COVID-19 and the havoc it has wrought since the pandemic began. Physicists have also joined the fray, including one from the University of Maine.

Through a new method of microscopy, Sam Hess, a professor of physics at UMaine, can obtain new insight into the structure of the virus that causes COVID-19 — SARS-COV-2 — and the influenza virus. These findings could help pave the way for effective treatments.

In Episode 3 of Season 5 of the University of Maine's "The Maine Question" podcast, Hess discusses this advancement in microscope technology he spearheaded and his decades-long quest to aid in the fight against these deadly diseases.

Listen to the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, Stitcher, Spotify or "The Maine Question" website. New episodes are added Thursdays.



### **Santiago Tijerina: Killam recipient studying international economics in Canada**

University of Maine undergraduate student Santiago Tijerina of Bangor, Maine was the recipient of a 2021 Killam Fellowship to study international economics in Canada this.

The Killam Fellowships Program provides undergraduate students in Canada and the

McGillicuddy Humanities Center (MHC) welcomed four new undergraduate research fellows for the academic year: (pictured above, left to to right): **Sabrina Paetow, Heather Webb, Luke Miller, and Stephanie Tillotson.**

This new cohort will join existing fellows Delaney Burns, Elizabeth Dalton, Grace Royle and Haley Santerre.

The MHC funds a rotating cohort of eight undergraduate fellows, providing \$4,000 each per semester for two semesters to complete the research or creative projects of their choosing. In addition to honing their research skills and building their academic networks, fellows serve as humanities ambassadors to their peers, the campus, and beyond. Many past MHC Fellows have stayed on at UMaine for graduate school.

Incoming fellow Luke Miller, a history major from Tewksbury, Massachusetts, will spend the next academic year exploring, "How Government Policy Affects the Homeless Population In Maine: From Vietnam to Today." Miller will study state and local policies and data on homelessness, and conduct interviews within the homeless population and those who serve them, to better understand how needs could be better addressed. While comparing data and policies from across the state, his research will focus on Bangor in particular. Miller will be advised by Brian Pitman from the Department of Sociology.

Sabrina Paetow, a Sociology major from Topsham, Maine, will spend her fellowship analyzing "Rhetoric in the Age of Trump: Presidential Discourse on the COVID-19 Pandemic," which is tied to her Honors thesis of the same title. Paetow, who will be advised by Michael Socolow from the Department of Communication and Journalism, hopes to understand



U.S. opportunities to spend a semester or full academic year in the other country as exchange students. Recipients like Tijerina receive \$5,000 per semester, an allowance to offset health insurance costs and a grant of up to \$800 for an educational field trip, according to the program website. The Killam Fellowship operates under Fulbright Canada and allows students academic and cultural connections with the Canadian Fulbright community.

Tijerina, an international affairs student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Honors College, is currently attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton and taking four international economics courses, all taught in French. Taking courses in French will help Tijerina, a first-generation Colombian American, improve his proficiency in the language and his ability to apply it to professional and entrepreneurial conversations, he says. It also will help him become trilingual, making him fluent in French, Spanish and English.

“Furthermore, I view this study abroad experience as an opportunity to forge new networking connections, long-lasting friendships, and memories,” Tijerina says. “I consider having a background in languages to be a critical asset for pursuing a career in international business.”

Tijerina’s application was supported by the Office of Major Scholarships at UMaine. He says he also received guidance from Betsy Arntzen, outreach coordinator for the Canadian-American Center; Nives Dal Bo-Wheeler, director of the Office of Major Scholarships; John Mascetta, director of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services Center; associate professors of French Frédéric Rondeau and Kathryn Slott; Jane Smith, an associate professor emerita of French, Melissa Ladenheim, associate dean of the Honors College, and Robert Klose, a professor of biological sciences with the Honors College and

how this particular public health crisis has been framed across the pandemic, and how Trump’s rhetoric affected public perception and discourse on the topic.

Also joining the new cohort will be Stephanie Tillotson from Cumberland Foreside, Maine, who is majoring in Spanish with a minor in Legal Studies. Tillotson is the first student from the Department of Modern Languages and Classics to be awarded a McGillicuddy Humanities Center Fellowship. For her proposed project, “Making Foreign Language Education Accessible through Spanish Animation,” she aims to create a plan and prototype for a mini series of animated, Spanish learning videos featuring the adventures of a dog named Moxie, inspired by her own dog.

Lastly, nursing student Heather Webb of Bangor, Maine, will be writing a series of interconnected personal reflective essays titled, “When Teacher Becomes Pupil: Writing My Way Through Career Transition.” Webb, who worked as an English teacher for many years, is making a career transition into the field of nursing. Her essays will explore the nature of teaching and learning through her experiences going back to school in an unfamiliar field. Nilda Cravens, MSN, RN, will be advising the project. Webb is the first nontraditional student, and first Nursing student, to be awarded a MHC student fellowship.



University of Maine at Augusta-Bangor.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MAINE**

2021 Geddes W. Simpson Lecture

## Decolonizing Botany



Thurs., October 14 | 1:00 p.m. EST | [Buchanan Alumni House](#) or [YouTube](#) | **HOMEcomings 2021 EVENT**

On Thursday, October 14 in the Buchanan Alumni House (and online at [umainefoundation.org/live](https://umainefoundation.org/live)) **Banu Subramaniam** (UMass-Amherst) delivered the **2021 Geddes W. Simpson Lecture**. Trained as a plant evolutionary biologist, Subramaniam engages the feminist studies of science in the practices of experimental biology. Author of *Holy Science: The Biopolitics of Hindu Nationalism* (University of Washington Press, 2019), and *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity* (University of Illinois Press, 2014), Banu's current work focuses on the study of botany's roots in colonialism and imagines ways to untether botany from the violence of its past. The Geddes W. Simpson Lecture Series features speakers of prominence who provide significant insight on the intersection of science and history.



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