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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Alumni Newsletter, Winter 2023

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Maine

Emily A. Haddad

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CLAS Alumni Newsletter - Winter 2023

1 message

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Message from the Dean



It has been another outstanding fall semester in Orono, with students, faculty and alumni making their marks both here on campus and in the world beyond. The stories in this newsletter offer a glimpse at the wide range of exciting Black Bear accomplishments.

Computer science professor Torsten Hahmann is leading the way in the development of a digital tool to explore and analyze data relating to PFAS contamination. Alumna Emily Stoddard Burnham '05 has written a book about Bangor in the 1970s, creating a love letter of sorts to the city she has called home ever since her time at UMaine.

And current student Caty DuDevoir spent her summer interning for Maine Public, combining her

studies in anthropology and journalism to great effect.

And there's always room for alumni to stay involved with the life of our campus. Mark Pettegrow '81 was 2022's Littlefield Gallery Sculptor-in-Residence; this fall, he donated one of his sculptures, which is now installed in Lord Hall, home of the Department of Art. Eric Roy '09, scientist and entrepreneur, returned to campus last month to deliver the fifth annual Libby Lecture in Natural Resource Policy.

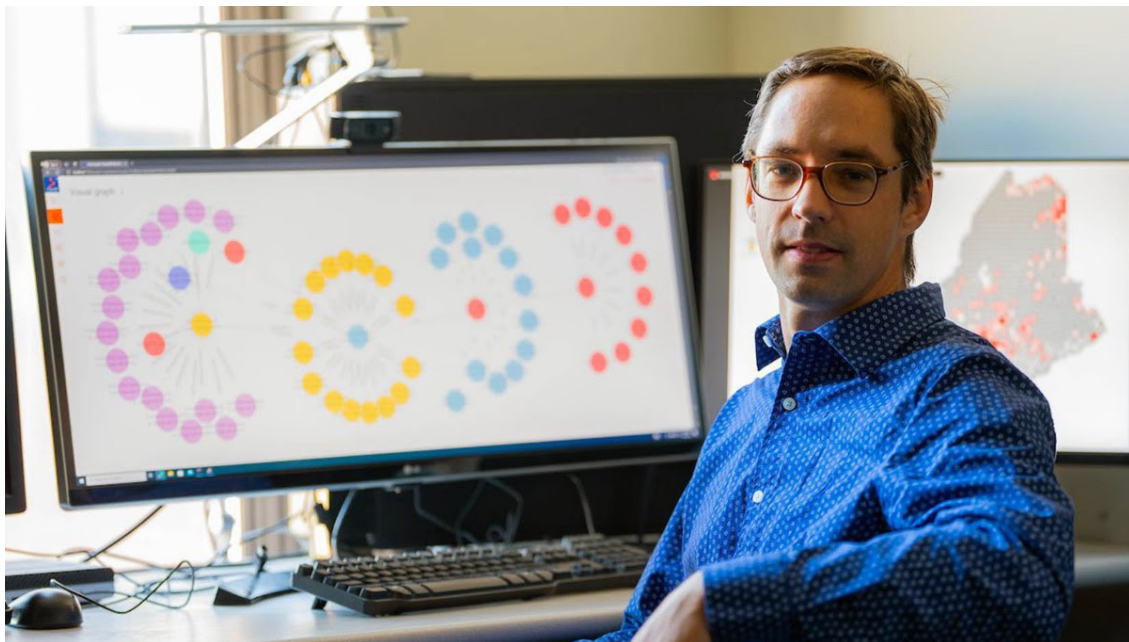
As demonstrated by these examples – a few of many – you are part of something special as an alum of the University of Maine's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Thank you for staying in touch. I truly hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a happy 2024.

Emily A. Haddad
Dean

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Hahmann, UMaine leading development of new state-of-the-art tool for tracking PFAS nationwide

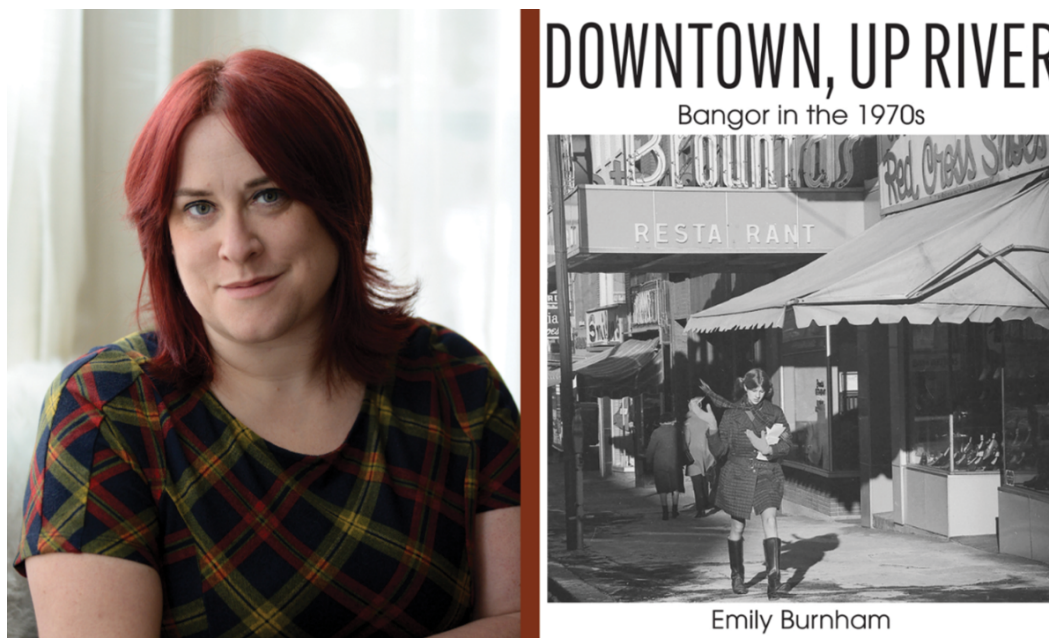
The emergence of toxic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in water supplies, farms and the environment is a growing problem nationwide. Despite many researchers and government agencies investigating these “forever chemicals,” there is no tool for combining all of their findings and providing a more comprehensive view of the problem.

University of Maine computer scientist Torsten Hahmann is spearheading the development of an interactive digital tool that will allow users to explore and analyze data on sites and sources of PFAS contamination throughout the U.S. This software will help investigators and the general public track existing PFAS hotspots, which in turn can help them identify where to test for new ones and better understand how they travel through the natural and manmade environment.

“There is a ton of data out there and plenty of people are testing, but nobody knows how it all fits together,” Hahmann says. “We are building connections among different pools of data.”

The National Science Foundation awarded \$1.5 million for the project, [one of 18 nationwide it recently funded with a combined \\$26.7 million](#) through its Building the Prototype Open Knowledge Network (Proto-OKN) program.

Read more [here](#).



Journalist and author Emily Stoddard Burnham publishes new book titled 'Downtown, Up River: Bangor in the 1970s'

A CLAS alumna has recently published a new book offering a visual history of a very specific period in the history of the Queen City.

Emily Stoddard Burnham, longtime reporter for the *Bangor Daily News* and graduate of the University of Maine’s English Department (Class of 2005), has written a book titled [Downtown, Up River: Bangor in the 1970s](#). The book – published by [Islandport Press](#) and initially released in November – tells the tale of the city during that particularly tumultuous time, both through Burnham’s prose and via scores of photographs of the era pulled from the *BDN* archives and elsewhere.

Bangor in the 1970s was shifting, changing from the city it once was to the city it hoped to become. The twin blows of urban renewal and the Bangor Mall led to a seismic shift in the city’s once-bustling downtown and left residents with the real challenge of balancing

tradition and progress ... a challenge not easily met.

Read more [here](#).



Mark Pettegrow, recent Littlefield Gallery Sculptor-in-Residence, donates sculpture to Lord Hall Gallery

The University of Maine’s Department of Art’s Littlefield Gallery Sculptor-in-Residence Program has been bringing renowned and talented artists to Orono to engage with students since 2015, thanks to the passionate patronage of Kelly and Jane Littlefield, owners of the Winter Harbor art gallery after which the program is named.

Mark Pettegrow, sculptor and UMaine alum, was 2022’s Sculptor-in-Residence, sharing his years of artistic experience with the student body. Like other previous guest artists, he has also shared something more physically permanent with UMaine. Pettegrow’s sculpture *Tidal Crest* has been installed in the Lord Hall Gallery.



Caty DuDevoir: Bringing the student perspective to Maine Public radio

Caty DuDevoir uses her interest in human culture to create news stories that display the true history of Maine. Through her summer internship at Maine Public, the rising senior at the University of Maine majoring in anthropology with a journalism minor has been able to amplify overlooked voices and perspectives, as she also does with her on-campus activism.

Born in Mexico, DuDevoir and her family moved to Biddeford, Maine, when she was entering preschool. She developed a passion for writing and got her first opportunity to be published in high school, when she participated in a journalism workshop with Maine Public about incorporating climate change into school curricula.

This summer, DuDevoir received the Jim Dowe Internship to work for 10 weeks at the offices of Maine Public in Lewiston and Portland. This internship, created in the memory of former Maine Public President and CEO and UMaine alumnus Jim Dowe, is given to a student who displays a passion for the people of Maine and a commitment to public service.

As an intern at the office, she

The piece is part of an ongoing series by Pettegrow – one on which he has been working for many years.

[Read more here.](#)

experiences flexibility in her reporting, striking a balance between being given leads by her superiors and pitching ideas of her own.

[Read more here.](#)



WE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM. NOW WHAT?

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SCIENTISTS TO PURSUE ADVOCACY & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Dr. Eric Roy

Founder, Chief Scientist:
Hydroviv (Now Part of
Culligan International)

University of Maine Alum
(Ph.D. 2009)

WEDNESDAY 08
NOVEMBER

McINTIRE ROOM
BUCHANAN ALUMNI HOUSE

12:00 P.M.
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Eric Roy presented the University of Maine's fifth annual Libby Lecture in Natural Resource Policy at noon on November 8 at the Buchanan Alumni House.

Roy's talk, titled "We Understand the Problem. Now What? The Opportunity for Scientists to Pursue Advocacy & Entrepreneurship" spoke about why scientists are uniquely positioned to lead advocacy efforts and develop entrepreneurial solutions to the "big problems" that face our world, and to discuss examples of the types of unique challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned that accompany these types of public-forward pursuits.

Dr. Roy is the founder of Hydroviv, a water filtration company that will analyze a customer's specific needs and tailor custom filters to them. Roy built the company from a nights-and-weekends side gig, crafting filters in his apartment and selling them at farmers' markets and other DIY locations, to a significant ecommerce success. He appeared on the ABC show "Shark Tank" and ultimately sold the company to global water innovation company Culligan, though he remains in the role of chief scientist. Roy received his PhD in chemistry from the University of Maine in 2009.

In a brief Q&A, Dr. Roy shared thoughts on what drew him to the water filtration space, the overlap

between advocacy and entrepreneurship, and what it means to share his experiences with his alma mater.

To read the Q&A with Dr. Roy, click [here](#).

To watch a recording of the lecture, click [here](#).



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