



The News
from

Liberal Studies

UMA Bangor

Fall 2011

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High-tech, low-tech, hybrid tech

Use the words “technology” and “education” in the same sentence, and many people immediately think “online classes.” Liberal Studies students can take online UMA courses ranging from ENG 101 and Native American Literature to genetics and world music.

They can also choose from the online offerings of all the other UMS campuses, including full minors in education (see adjacent story).

“Hybrid” courses blend high and low tech. In Sarah Hentges’ online classes, for example, field trips and film series get students out of their houses and computer lab and into live discussion with their peers and instructor. Conversely, many instructors extend on-campus discussion through web-based chats.


Media for the “live” classroom

But there’s more to technology than web-based teaching and learning. New media is alive and well in traditional classrooms.

Panopto Focus enables instructors to easily videotape their classroom activities. The video is available to students by web streaming. A sick student can view a missed class from home. A student who doesn’t understand a concept, or wants to review, can replay the relevant lectures.

On campus, too, the “smart classroom” has become standard. With nothing more than a flash drive, instructors can plug their materials into the classroom hook-up and bring DVD, web, PowerPoint, and other wonders of modern technology almost instantly to their students.

High, low, and hybrid tech, or any combination: multiple ways to teach and learn.



Friday, September 23rd

Before convocation, join Professor Sarah Hentges and her students from AME/MUS 303: Hip Hop: Art, Culture, and Politics as we discuss the role of Hip Hop in revolution and the role of revolution in Hip Hop.

Klahr Center Classroom
11:30-12:45

**HIPHOP
REVOLUTION**

BASE Digital Routes

Immortal Technique, The Coup, Dead Prez, Sarah Jones, Lupe Fiasco... and more!

One example of a “live” opportunity for online students.

Education minors

Liberal Studies students can now choose education minors leading to teacher certification.

Online course work from UM–Machias allows students to acquire the minor in special education, and in elementary education from UM–Presque Isle.

Negotiations are underway to make the secondary teaching minor available soon.

While online learning isn’t for everyone, the arrangement does make highly desirable programs available to more students.

“It’s a wonderful arrangement,” Campus Dean Gillian Jordan said. “Students can work toward teaching certification from wherever they are while acquiring the broad skills and knowledge of the liberal studies degree.”

REVOLUTION

Each year, UMA faculty select a theme and book as a focus for teaching, community events, and discussion.

Winona LaDuke, nationally-known Native American advocate for sustainable development and environmental justice, got the 2011-12 academic year off to a rousing start with a Convocation presentation addressing this year's theme, "Revolution."

The theme book, *Talking About a Revolution*, is a series of interviews with noted thinkers and activists such as LaDuke, Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, and Barbara Ehrenreich.

Classes in biology, business, women's studies, English, and others are using the theme. Activities centered on the theme include speakers, musical events, and the annual poetry festival.



Winona LaDuke, this year's Convocation keynoter.

Because the theme is taken broadly, opportunities for thinking and discussing are ample, ranging from people who revolutionized our understanding of biology to what constitutes musical revolution.



Campus Briefs

ADMISSIONS WORKSHOPS this fall are scheduled for:

Wednesday, October 26

Tuesday, November 11

Both workshops are from 4:00-5:00.

More staff = better admissions and advising. ADMISSIONS has a new Intake Associate, Nicole Cloud. Staff from other areas will be doing more ADVISING. The next issue of *The News* will focus on the enhanced advising program.

THE CAMPUS GYM has a whole new menu of fitness and recreational activities, thanks to new Staff Associate for Wellness and Fitness Kristy Albee. Offerings range from flag football to Zumba.

The DENTAL CLINIC has opened in its new home in the former College Center. Once a social center for Dow Air Force Base—for years a big disco ball decorated the large meeting space/former ballroom—the building has been fully retrofitted. It gives the Clinic considerably more space than its old digs in Lincoln Hall, and allows for further modernizing of clinic equipment.



College classes for high school students

Juniors and Seniors in high school can take up to two courses under the High School Aspirations program.

High school students pay, at most, only half of UMA's already low tuition, plus the cost of their textbooks. Kate Kevit, Assistant Director of Admissions, says that there is even a possibility, depending on available funds, for free tuition.

For more information, call 262-7700, Option 3 or email kevit@maine.edu.

Name change applauded

As the Greater Bangor area gets used to the change, the reviews are positive: UMA BANGOR is a great name.

Campus Dean Gillian Jordan says that everything she's heard about the name change is favorable.

"I don't have scientific evidence" that the change has been successful, she says, but anecdotal evidence is all good. And about time, too, she says: "After a long history of confusing names, 'UMA Bangor' finally says exactly who we really are."

She noted the former confusion between "UCB," University College of Bangor, and University College, the distance education arm of the UM System. Both units are very important and have very different missions, she said, so she was happy to see that difficulty vanish.



For more information about Liberal Studies and UMA Bangor:

Admissions and Financial Aid 262-7800, Option 3

Liberal Studies 262-7750

Student application form:

http://www.uma.edu/assets/docs/admissions/Student_Application.pdf

And the walls came tumbling down



It was a matter of minor importance to the world, but it made a big difference on campus. In April, Augusta Hall, long an eyesore and harbinger of pigeons, came crashing down in a tremendous cloud of dust and concrete.

Some shutterbugs, however, were fascinated by the geometry—if they were punctual, because the whole demolition was over before you knew it.



The resulting green space provides easier connection between classroom and office buildings by way of new sidewalks.

Next spring, the area will be landscaped, and benches provided to create a park-like, restful corner of campus.

Focus on Faculty

Continuing its focus on Liberal Studies faculty, *The News* recently visited with . . .

You wouldn't guess it from her German surname, but KAY RETZLAFF is a huge fan of all things Irish. She jokes that her favorite Irish tradition is chocolate, but her real focus is mythology. And Irish-American writers. And Irish history in Maine. And Irish theater. And chocolate.

Like any good faculty member, she learns as much as she teaches, and her home is packed with books. Hence our title—in Irish, of course: *ollamh*, the professor.

The ollamh

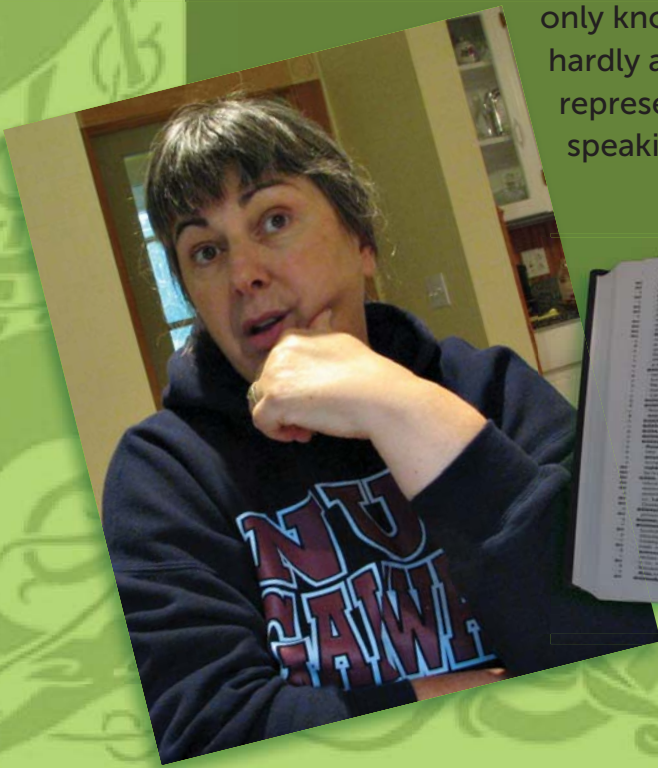




Early in her career, Retzlaff took summer student groups to Ireland. She continues to return every year or so to teach courses and do research at the National University of Galway, and simply soak up the culture.

She is near completion of a book on Belfast—the one in Maine, where 19th Century Irish immigrants huddled together in a slum next to the wharves. This is no dry social history: its focus is a lurid mystery about a man who murdered his wife and got away with it. Along the way she explores the lives of the immigrant families, all but forgotten by traditional histories.

Which leads us to another of Retzlaff's passions: gender and culture issues. She loves bringing women's and Native American literature to students who have only known mainstream writers. And hardly a semester passes without representatives of minority cultures speaking in her classes.



Photos of Galway: Mike Searle,
Brenton Ashby