WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO…
The New GSG Outreach & Professional Development Officer Can Tell You!

This past spring, the position of Outreach & Professional Development Officer was voted into permanence by the GSG. Current OPD Officer Jennifer Hooper (Intermedia MFA) is working to find ways to bring all graduate students together through social events as well as providing a lot of great resources for professional development.

It’s very easy, in a graduate program, to develop a sort of tunnel vision where you as a student are only familiar with and aware of the building where your classes or research are based, and the students and instructors in your particular program.

It’s Jennifer Hooper’s job as OPD Officer, along with the GSG Social Committee, to organize and promote social activities and professional development events. Right now they have quite a few things in the works.

The next monthly GSG Social, for all graduate students, will be at Woodman’s on Thursday, November 1st.

For those students who have families or commute, a 10 pm social event in Orono might not fit in their schedules, so Jennifer and the Social Committee are planning an afternoon coffee socials through the University Club in Fogler Library and other great events.

For professional development, there is a seminar planned for early December regarding job search etiquette and UMaine career resources. Jen is also coordinating a workshop on poster/presentation design.

More information on these events as they are scheduled will be available on the GSG website at http://www2.umaine.edu/gsg/ and through your department’s GSG representative! Or, if you have questions or ideas for Jennifer, please contact her at jenn.hooper@maine.edu.
BUILDING BRIDGES

Graduate Student Spotlight
UMaine Engineering Ph.D.
Student Harold Walton

After winning the Charles Pankow ASCE Award for Innovation in 2011 the University of Maine’s research on the composite buried arch bridge system, also known as the Bridge in a Backpack™, has continued to move forward. Replacing traditional steel or steel-reinforced concrete superstructure with concrete filled fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) arches, the arch system is less prone to corrosion and degradation, promising a longer service life. Harold Walton is an important part of this research.

A 2008 graduate of the University of Maine’s Civil and Environmental Engineering program, Harold became a Master’s student in 2009.

A thesis completed in 2011 entitled ‘Response of FRP Arches to Concrete Filling Loads’ looks at compressive local buckling of thin-walled tubes subjected to either axial compression or bending stress. This work addresses the construction issue of collapse of an arch or tube under the fluid weight of concrete, before the concrete contributes any strength to the arch.

Harold is currently continuing PhD work on the composite buried arch bridge system. Harold’s current research looks at soil-structure interaction between the arches/concrete deck and the surrounding soil backfill, with the goal of improving design efficiency for the bridges. There are three main objectives of this research: finding the locked-in stresses from soil backfilling, finding the load distribution on the arch from a truck load, and finding the load that gets dissipated by the soil when it restrains arch motion. These questions will be analyzed using finite element modeling of the backfilling and truck loading process as well as laboratory model testing. A series of four half-scale bridges (20 ft span) will be built inside the Advanced Structures and Composites Center testing two different material types and two different span to depth ratios in an attempt to bound current design practice.

With Harold’s contributions, as well as many others, the arches technology has come to have an approved national design standard from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). This helps the company that commercializes the technology to be able to obtain more projects out of state and gain Maine more recognition on a national level.

Story and photos by Heather Perry

Scale model of the beginning stages of the soil interaction bridge
HAVE YOU
HEARD?
WMEB 91.9 FM,
UMaine’s
Radio Station, is
your (re)source for
music, sports, AND
professional
development!

One of UMaine’s under-utilized
gems for both undergraduate
and graduate students alike is the student-
run radio station, WMEB, 91.9 FM. The
station is housed in the basement of the
Union. I sat with the station’s employees
and had a conversation about what
WMEB and radio have to offer the
UMaine graduate and student
community.

Lauren Fleury, the station manager, is an
undergraduate with a double major of
Journalism and Philosophy. Fleury: “The
benefits of this station to students include
the liberties people can take in
programming. There is some structure,
but mostly it is a free format, giving
students who participate a free range to
be creative. We want to be a part of the
UMaine media community and we strive
for diversity. Anyone can come in and
propose a show and be their own
producer and on-air talent. It is a really
great opportunity to gain hands-on,
practical technical skills that just aren’t
offered in classes.”

For graduate students, this could be the
opportunity needed for an outlet for
creative projects. They could design their
own show. It’s a great resume-builder.

Bryan Roche, WMEB’s sports editor, an
undergraduate in Journalism, agrees.
“What is nice about UMaine is that it
does not have a really large Journalism or
Media program, so the station isn’t
flooded with competition. I consider this
my ‘in’ into sports broadcasting and I
have the opportunity here to do my own
shows as I like.”

The employees all agreed that one of the
fun things about WMEB is the ability to
share any type of music. The station is
basically alternative, but is really open to
promoting local and regional talent of all
genres. Fleury: “One big station goal is
to facilitate more live music events in the
area. WMEB hosts an Open Mic night at
Woodman’s, which is a terrific outlet for
musicians looking to find a venue and get
their music heard.” The Open Mic nights
are not broadcast on the radio station, but
live and recorded music can be played on
station programs.

One new graduate student-hosted
program airing Saturday afternoons,
Around Sound, is trying to do just that,
inviting local and regional musicians and
bands into the station to play their music
and doing live interviews to give them
exposure.

And the station is able to do that, as its
broadcasting range reaches from Machias
to Waterville. In addition to this, the
station has a live stream feature online so
that anyone can listen, ANYWHERE.

Though there are some technical issues
currently affecting the ability to play the
stream on PCs, it does work well now on
mobile devices, all Apple products and
with Chrome or Firefox on Macs. The
station has a new website in progress and
when that does launch, the stream should
work with all computers.

Nick Rucker, an Intermedia MFA
student, is the only graduate student on
the staff. Rucker said that it is surprising
that only two of the current shows are
hosted by graduate students (Around
Sound and The Alabama Hour of Funk
Power). Rucker: “This is a great tool to
gain hands-on experience in developing
programming, producing and presenting
a show.”

(continued on Page 4)
OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The Graduate School Open House was held October 17, 2012.
Photo gallery by Adam Küykendall

Above: a potential student signs in. Below: Intermedia MFA Program Director Owen Smith greets visitors with a smile.

WMEB (cont. from Page 3)

Per Fleury, “WMEB is gaining serious ground in raising awareness and listenership.” Roche added that he often gets people in different situations who approach him to say “I really enjoy your show.” Fleury agrees this is rewarding: “I also work at Woodman’s. Out of the blue there, a rugby player, when he heard I work at WMEB, came up to me and said ‘The radio is awesome! All my friends have been talking about it!’”

Roche mentioned that last year, a computer virus had really messed up the automatic system, which includes the Robo-DJ, the station mascot that plays music and other programming when no one is doing a show. Roche said of the virus, “That hurt us. There were gaps of no music - hours at a time, sometimes whole days on weekends. But this past summer we fixed it.”

The Robo-DJ now is utilized about 50 to 65% of the time, whenever there are no shows broadcast by live deejays. That is a lot of time that is still open to anyone interested in broadcasting their own show. In addition to music, Fleury said they are very interested in talk shows and live performance pieces. ANYONE who has an idea for a show or would like some hands-on experience can contact Lauren Fleury or Nick Rucker via first-class:
(lauren.fleury@umit.maine.edu or nicholas.rucker@umit.maine.edu)

WMEB is 91.9 FM. Their website is in progress, but can be seen at www.wmwb.fm. They also can be found on Facebook, and have Twitter feeds @sportsWMEB919 and @WMEB919.

Story and photos by Peg Killian
The Graduate School Open House
October 17, 2012

Students and instructors discuss STEM Education in Maine.

Dan Sandweiss, Dean and Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, and Scott Delcourt, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, chat with participants at the Open House.

Stodder Hall was full of tables displaying information on a wide variety of the graduate programs offered here.

GSG Meetings are held in Stodder Hall from 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Upcoming Fall 2012 Meetings are scheduled for the following Wednesdays:

November 7
December 5
December 12

Anyone is welcome to attend!
DISCOVERING MAINE’S WORKING-CLASS HISTORY IN FOLKSONG

Graduate Student Spotlight
UMaine History Student
Ian Jesse

Interview and photo by Aleksandra Swatek

What brings you to University of Maine? One of the major reasons why I came to UMaine is because I wanted to do research on U.S. environmental history with Dr. Richard W. Judd.

Can you tell us briefly about the environmental history field? What is it exactly? Environmental history focuses on the ways humans have interacted with the environment, and the way the environment affected humans. There is a broad spectrum of issues we look at when it comes to human/environment relationship - farming, soil depletion, natural resources (e.g. fish, timber) use – and how these resources have been exploited. Dr. Judd in past research has examined conservation and how it really started before Rachel Carson at a local level. This is unique in the field, because others focus on conservation from a top down approach.

What is the focus of your research? I came to UMaine with the idea that I would look at the history of lumbering in New England. Graduate school allowed me to discover new subjects that became of interest to me, such as folksong. Currently I am exploring folksongs and connections to working-class masculinity in Maine and the Maritime Provinces.

That seems unusual. People usually imagine historians as people who work with printed sources, journals etc. Why are you focusing on folk songs? Yes, traditionally historians work with documents. These documents can be newspapers, letters, diaries and government documents. Folksong and the addition of oral history bring new voices to the historical discussion, and can help create a more complete image of the past. Non-traditional sources are rich in information that would not be known through other sources.

Is there any particular folk song that you like the most? I am currently looking at songs written by a man named Larry Gorman who was born in Prince Edward Island and eventually found his way into the woods of Maine. Gorman wrote many songs that were part of a satirical song tradition and “Michael Riley” is one of them. Such songs were used to make fun of their subjects and must be considered in their social context. What makes this song amusing is the criticisms aimed at Michael Riley. In this song Riley is unable to control his emotions and behaviors; he drinks too much and either fights his father or gets thrown out of a tavern because the tavern keepers can no longer withstand his actions. Riley is so upset that he goes home and takes his anger out on his wife and children. Through Gorman’s song it is clear that Riley did not provide a proper role model for other men.

I know you are also engaged with history in a more interactive way. Can you tell me about digital history and your blog www.musingthepast.com? Digital history, in my opinion, helps me to communicate my research to a broader audience, reaching not only academics, but also anyone who is interested in the past.

My blog is co-authored – the other person working on it is Meg Goodrich, a graduate student at the University of Connecticut in the Medieval Studies program. We focus not only on our historical interests, but also the experience of being in graduate school. While academic publishing is still a critical aspect of working within academia maintaining this blog has been a form of entertainment for me; it keeps me busy. I would also add that when I write about my research in the blog it allows me to rethink the questions I am asking of my sources, it is a way for me to think out loud.