

NESCOM students produce public affairs program

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to host your own television show? Five journalism students at the New England School of Communications (NE-SCom) found out when they hosted The Maine Report, a public affairs program recorded at Husson University's broadcast-quality television studio.

"Being involved in this project forced me to step outside of my comfort zone," said Nicole Duplessis, a NESCom journalism student from Van Buren. "Researching and hosting a television show instilled a new sense of confidence in me that I never really had before."

The Maine Report is part of a class dedicated to teaching students how to produce and host a TV public affairs show. For their final project at the end of the semester, students produced a series of five talk shows that focused on the work of prominent central Maine non-profit organizations. The episodes are on YouTube.

Each program featured a different organization and a different host. All of the hosts were NESCom students enrolled in the school's journalism program.

"This project not only helped me get more comfortable behind the camera, I now better understand how to interview people. I also learned how to present myself more effectively," said Olivia McCrillis, a NESCom journalism student from Scarborough.

The programs featured leaders from the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter, the Bangor YMCA, Penquis, Robinson Ballet and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Maine.

The NESCom students impressed the leaders of local area non-profit organizations.

"[It was] an honor to work with the students at the New England School of Communications on their public affairs class project. They were all professional, well prepared, and extremely competent in their various specialties," said Diane Dickerson, CEO and chief marketing officer of the Bangor YMCA. "My reporter did her homework and asked great questions. The entire TV facility was amazing. I've worked with media all across the country for the past 30-plus years and these students were as talented and skilled as any group of working professionals."

The local United Way appreciated the added visibility

LIONS SUPPORT EMMC



PHOTO COURTESY BANGOR LIONS CLUB

In December, the Bangor Lions Club completed its pledge of \$10,000 to Eastern Maine Medical Center with a \$3,000 check in support of EMMC's modernization endeavors. Greg Howatt, Eastern Maine Medical Center Human Resources Director, gratefully received this donation, explaining how these funds will boost quality health service delivery for Mainers near and far. "The Bangor Lions Club recognizes the importance of the EMMC Modernization Project for healthcare here in Maine. This will ensure for years to come that EMMC will attract the best doctors, and will offer the best medical facilities right here in Bangor to serve the needs of Maine people," said Club President John Vickery.

ity given to their member organizations.

"We're thrilled to have an amazing community partner like Husson University," said Jesse Moriarity, vice president of re-

source development and communications at the United Way of Eastern Maine. "Our partner agencies were lucky to be working with such a talented group of students."

Career fair planned for University of Maine

The University of Maine Career Center will host its 18th annual UMaine Career Fair from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the New Balance Student Recreation Center on campus.

More than 120 employers from Maine and around the country with job and internship opportunities are expected to exhibit at the fair. Several graduate and professional schools, as well as branches of the military, also will be represented.

"We look forward to welcoming all of these organizations to the University of Maine," said Crysanne Blackie, director of the Career Center. "With such wide range of opportunities available, we encourage students to take advantage of all that the Career Fair has to offer."

Students attending the fair are advised to dress professionally, bring resumes, prepare a 30-second introductory pitch, and research the companies they plan to speak with before attending.

New this year, students also are encouraged to download the "Careers by Simplicity" app available on Apple's App Store and Google Play. The feature

allows students to filter participating employers by available positions and preferred majors.

The UMaine Career Fair is the largest career fair in the state. While the event is held each year for UMaine students and alumni of all majors, students and recent graduates from colleges and universities around the state are welcome to attend. Approximately 850 students attend the event annually.

The fair is underwritten by Bangor Savings Bank and Camden National Bank with additional support from several area sponsors including Kepware Inc. and Tyler Technologies.

More information, including a list of participating employers and Career Fair tips, is available online or by contacting Blackie at cblackie@maine.edu or 581-1355. The snow date for the event is Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Something Happening Here

If you have news, e-mail: weekly@bangordailynews.com or write:

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UMaine scientists study impact of melting glaciers in Peru

In the context of modern anthropogenic climate change, many Peruvian societies are experiencing the brunt of abrupt climate change impacts. The Peruvian Andes are home to 70 percent of the world's tropical glaciers, which provide surrounding communities with water for drinking, agriculture and pastoralism, energy production and tourism.

Recent studies indicate that glacier coverage in the Cordillera Blanca — a mountain range in the Ancash region of Peru and part of the larger Andes range — has declined by more than 25 percent since 1970, which is twice the rate of the global average. In the last decade, rapidly receding glaciers in the range have resulted in an increase in heavy metals being exposed and washed downstream, degrading the region's water quality.

Though water quantity is an apparent and impending issue for the region, the overall quality of the water may be of greater concern.

Understanding how changes in climate influence tropical glaciers and glacially fed systems in the Andes, and how these changes influence land use, water avail-

ability and quality is the research focus of three Ph.D. students at the University of Maine. The researchers are working to monitor the use of the regions' essential grasslands and wetlands, which immobilize heavy metals naturally present in the valley's hydrologic system.

The project took shape in August 2014 when Kathryn Warner, Dulcinea Groff and Jessica Scheick traveled to Huaraz to speak with their local collaborators, The Mountain Institute (TMI). The nonprofit organization works to conserve mountain ecosystems, ensure sustainable economic development and offers support to local cultures.

TMI was instrumental in the selection of their research site and in guiding and developing their research questions to make them relevant to local populations.

The project, which ultimately resulted in two integrated projects, has seen many iterations since its inception aiming to address water availability. Since the initial trip, the larger project now includes an anthropologist, Ph.D. student Jamie Haverkamp, who is aiming to inform sustainable adaptation policies in the region using anthropological approaches.

The graduate students are fellows in the Climate Change Institute's Adaptation to Abrupt Climate Change (A2C2) Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT), which provides funding to Ph.D. students for interdisciplinary research projects aimed at improving climate change adaptation strategies.

"In interdisciplinary, applied work, it's important to go in with an open mind and be willing to learn and change your project as you go," says Scheick.

The purpose of UMaine's IGERT is to tackle the issue of adaptation to abrupt climate change, part of which involves forming teams from different disciplines to come up with a collaborative immersion project.

"I am often in awe of the opportunities we have in the Climate Change Institute, not only to work on important problems, but to also work with world-class leaders in climate change research," says Groff.

To the local population in the Cordillera Blanca — the world's highest tropical mountain range — their work will inform stakeholders about the climate history of the region and provide important information to guide decisions about current and future water management strategies.

"I feel that our project was developed in a fully collaborative way with TMI, which makes the project even more exciting, knowing that we are providing information and resources to an area of particular interest not only to TMI, but also to the local communities and the Huascaran National Park," says Warner, a trained limnologist — someone who studies inland waters — and economist.

Huascaran National Park, which comprises most of the Cordillera Blanca mountain range, aims to restore the wetlands of the region. One hypothesis about the declining water quality is a lack of wetland plants able to absorb heavy metals in

the environment.

Removing grazing animals would be one strategy to improve water quality, but would have implications for the livelihood of pastoralists who have been in the valley for millennia.

"We may be able to shed light on the ecological resilience of this system and how it may influence the social system of local communities and decisions by the national park," says Groff.

As the project's paleoecologist, Groff uses information from the last 10,000 years to measure and understand climatic variability and how animals and plants vary in their composition in the region.

"While my research fo-

cuses on natural systems, the opportunity to inform and learn from other disciplines is very important because our work may influence rangeland management practices, conservation policy, restoration efforts, etc.," says Groff.

"The resources at UMaine have allowed us to be successful so far and various people and groups have assisted us with all stages of our project from logistics in planning and travel, to dating sediment cores, and providing valuable feedback on how and what steps to take next," says Warner.

"While four of us make up the core team, it has truly been an effort across many individuals."

"I don't just love John Bapst because of its academics – I appreciate the community and the opportunities the school brings."

– NICOLE BOUTAUGH '17, EDDINGTON

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Nicole Boutaugh '17, Eddington; Cooper Martin '18, Bangor; Santiago Tijerina '19, Old Town, and Mitsuki Hirashita '18, Nishinomiya, Japan. Photographed by Madeleine Allan-Rahill '16, Orono.

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