

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE | BANGOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP CENTER

COPC e-news

January 2008

Welcome to COPC!

We are pleased to announce our January issue of COPC News. The intent of this newsletter is to inform our COPC community about news, events, projects, and each other.

COPC Overview

The HUD COPC initiative, funded by the Office of University Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a long-term effort to build strong and sustainable partnerships between the University of Maine and Bangor. The three-year grant is designed to build and grow opportunities for partnerships between the community and university. The Bangor-UMaine partnership focuses primarily on three areas: Community Inclusion, Youth Empowerment, and Affordable Housing. For a visual narrative, please see our diagram and exhibit:

www.umaine.edu/mcsc/COPC/aboutus.htm.

Monthly Feature:

Manna Soup Kitchen Photo Essay

New Media Senior Lecturer Bill Kuykendall shares his student's work produced for his NMD 201 Photo



Reporting & Storytelling class. In "Life, Loaves, and Hope" C. Paige Madeira poignantly depicts all angles of the Soup Kitchen, its volunteers, guests and owner so that the reader comes to understand Manna as more than just a place that serves hot meals. "The atmosphere is like a family kitchen full of laughter, conversation, and sharing. Many come for the society that it fosters as much as for

the food." Owner Bill Rae credits his experience working with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 1960's Poor People's Campaign which taught him that everyone at some point needs help in some way or another. Though Bill Rae is driven by his love of helping people, he would be happier if there was no need for soup kitchen's like his. "I love people and I love seeing the smile and thrill on someone's face when they realize that they have made it—that they can take care of themselves and their family members without federal assistance or the help of a soup kitchen." Read more about Manna Soup Kitchen on our website in [Life, Loaves, and Hope \(.pdf\)](#).

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Bill prepares the first "Manna style chili dog" for his guests

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Student Highlights: Abigail Stiers

Abigail Stiers is a graduate student in the Masters of Fine Arts' program with a concentration in New Media Studies. She joined the CYBER Project (formerly called Project Life) last fall and since then she's been working alongside fellow graduate student Scott Clement at two project sites in Bangor. Using new media technology, Abby captures the attention of the middle school students while also working to foster notions of career and college planning.



Abby Stiers

Abby is very excited to be working on the CYBER Project and feels strongly that all youth should have access to the opportunities that new media can bring. "Having taught video to teenagers through the youth outreach program for public access television in Ithaca, NY as well as at various summer camps and after school programs, I

believe that teenagers can gain new perspectives on themselves and their role in the world through digital art and media projects. Learning to use media allows them to gain confidence with technology and gives them skills that will be useful in any field. It also lets them reach new audiences, feel like they can make a difference, have opportunities to be creative, think outside the box, express themselves, and explore ideas that are important to them. In turn, they inspire us with new ways of thinking.” After graduation, Abby plans to continue teaching video and media skills to children.

Campus Profile:

News & Information Survey

Last fall, PhD Communications & Journalism student Jessica Brophy embarked on a news and



information survey of downtown Bangor to better understand how its occupants gather news. A total of 110 surveys were hand

distributed to businesses and city offices. Better than half of the surveys were returned, for a sampling of 59 individuals. All age groups responded (18 to 61+ years), but most were between the ages 46-60 years. Newspapers came in first as one of the dominant modes of news gathering followed by word of mouth, and television. Jessica is still in the process of analyzing the data, but she hopes to further investigate various relationships such as age and media gathering practices among the survey results. Since the internet was not among the top rated news-gathering modes, Jessica hopes to explore the possibility of drawing more people to this resource.

Upcoming Events / News

2007 Conference Report: New Times Demand New Scholarship II: Research Universities and Civic Engagement — Opportunities and Challenges www.compact.org/initiatives/research_universities/

New Book: Educating for Democracy: Preparing Undergraduates for Responsible Political Engagement Nov. 2007 www.indiana.edu/~mpsa/Publications/MPSANews1-7/elibrary_pdf_671.pdf

Check our website for a list of civic engagement news in higher education—conferences, awards, and forums! www.umaine.edu/mcsc/copc

Partner Profile: A documentary on violence and movies

Recently, Abby Stiers and Scott Clement of the CYBER project challenged their students to create an interesting “movie” that did not rely upon violence for entertainment. The 30 minute documentary shows the students interviewing each other, and asking questions about violence.



CYBER Project's student interview on violence & entertainment. (For privacy, faces have been blurred)

“Why is it important to have violence in movies? What makes something violent? Can a movie be interesting without violence? Can you name one movie that is interesting but does not contain violence?”

Students were unable to name a “good” movie which did not contain overt violence. They were certain that violence made movies interesting and fun, but could not articulate why it was entertaining. The documentary concludes with the students own reflections on links among age, gender, and violence, inadvertently proving to them that “movies” can be interesting without violence.