
The Midcoast Inquirer

Newsletter of Midcoast Senior College
December 2016, Volume 12, No 1



Letter from the President

There is no question that Midcoast Senior College is growing. Our membership is at an all-time high, and our courses and lectures are often filled to capacity. This Fall we enrolled 466 students who made up our 573 registrations for classes. We need to manage our growth and collectively decide what programs we wish to expand.

As enthusiastic as we are about our college, we need to be aware that continued growth may threaten to dilute the quality of our offerings. We pride ourselves on providing liberal-arts courses with academic rigor taught by a faculty with outstanding academic credentials. This is the cornerstone of our senior college and it distinguishes us from other community-based training programs that tend to be more social or vocationally based. Increasing the number of courses may be difficult to achieve without sacrificing some of the academic excellence that we now enjoy.

Another approach may be to organize new activities such as overnight excursions to theater, concerts, museums and other cultural offerings outside the region. Our popular summer excursion routinely is oversubscribed indicating that there may be interest in such an overnight activity as well. This, however, would require a substantial administrative commitment by our staff and would entail a larger financial investment by the participants.

Noontime presentations at Curtis Library remain popular and can be enlarged. These talks, currently free to the public, represent a significant cost to MSC that could not be increased without instituting an admission charge. This is a possibility, but asking our staff of volunteers to administer such an enlarged program is problematic.

As we wrestle with these decisions we look for input from our members. Learning is an essential part of aging. Growth is good, and we embrace it. Let us know your thoughts on these matters.

Tony Belmont
President, Midcoast Senior College

North Korea Today: Now that the Party is Over, What's Next?

Bradley O. Babson

In early May 2016, North Korea convened a national Party Congress for the first time in 35 years. At the previous one, the major news was to anoint founding father Kim Il Sung's son, Kim Jong Il, as the successor leader, thus cementing family-centered socialist rule that has defined North Korea's political character. At this Party Congress, the third generation leader, Kim Jong Un, consolidated his rule and laid the foundation for how he plans to govern. Only in his mid-thirties, and without a family successor in sight, we could be in for the long haul if he succeeds in his ambition to maintain the security of the nation through unwavering commitment to nuclear and missile defense and parallel commitment to economic development.

The Party Congress was significant for several reasons. First, it rebalanced the roles of the military, Cabinet and Korean Worker's Party by consolidating political control under a refurbished Party apparatus, subordinating the military to the Party thus reversing Kim Jong Il's "military first" politics, and elevating the authority of the Cabinet to provide technocratic leadership in devising a "realistic" economic development strategy and implementing a five year plan. Second, it revealed that Kim Jong Un is taking personal and public responsibility

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Mission Statement

The Midcoast Inquirer articulates the academic spirit and educational mission of Midcoast Senior College to offer lifelong learning for older adults. To this end, we provide a bulletin board that announces course offerings, lectures and special events, and a literary forum (or virtual classroom) of essays, reviews, interviews and commentaries written by faculty and students.

The Midcoast Inquirer

is the newsletter of

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ity for governance under his leadership. He took center stage and the microphone, giving lengthy speeches at the Party Congress. The legitimacy of his regime domestically is now tethered to his ability to deliver on his promise for economic development that improves the livelihoods of ordinary North Koreans and protection of the state from foreign security threats through nuclear and missile programs regardless of the pressures of intensified international sanctions against the country. Third, the fact that the Party Congress was held at all after 35 years and went off without a hitch indicated that Kim Jong Un has succeeded in building acceptance of his rule from entrenched interests in the military and Worker’s Party.

Despite the theatrics of socialist rhetoric, a 70-day labor campaign in the run-up to the event, public displays of loyalty, and little information about the details of future policies and plans to achieve the broad goals adopted, the Party Congress reflects a tipping point in North Korea’s trajectory. Underneath the surface a generational shift is underway. The challenge is how to balance deeply rooted socialist and militaristic ideals of older generations imbued with Kim Il Sung’s personality cult, with future aspirations of the generation that has grown up since the famine of the mid-1990’s. These include being more interested in making money than ideological loyalty, a hunger for knowledge of the outside world, and a taste for consumption goods that are all being shaped by the dynamics of markets that now serve the daily needs of most people.

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Volunteer Recognition and Thanks!!

BRAVO! COURSE LIAISONS, NON-BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS, BULK MAILING HELPERS

Astrida Apse, Joan Atwood, Nancy Barber, Joyce Bes- sen, Nora Bishop, Angela Bournakel, Sally Broderick, Harry Hopcroft, Catherine Buotte, Tom Burrage, Ingrid Chalafour, Bianca Chambers, Miriam Charette, Debo- rah Cravey, Madison Cravey, Mary Cuthbertson, Leona Dufour, Joyce Devito, Eunice Fraser, Patricia Galbreath, Marnie Hackenberg, Bill Hammond, Devereau Hill- ard, Prisca Kenison, Martha Lentz, Joseph Lisi, Phyllis Lisi, David Mckeith, Jackie Melissas, Sharon Melinier, Susan Mikesell, Jim Millinger, Gerry Orem, Skip Orem, Esther Palmer, Evie Papacosma, Jean Pope, Mary Jane Rosenfield, Judy Rouillard, Janet Blair Stenberg, Romain Savoie, Kelly Watt, Phyllis Wolfe.

Going On Line. Midcoast Senior College has launched two new paperless online platforms: a **Facebook** page (<https://www.facebook.com/midcoastseniorcollege/>) that anyone can “friend;” and a new online **MSC Gazette** (<http://midcoastseniorcollege.org/msc-online-gazette>) where you can find old newsletters, selected articles, book reviews, poetry and letters to the editor. Check out our Website. <https://midcoastseniorcollege.org/>

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While these internal imperatives are leading North Korea in the direction of becoming a more normal country, the external environment and response to North Korea's determination to be recognized as a nuclear state are leading North Korea into deeper isolation and intensifying efforts to pressure Kim Jong Un into submission. North Korean relations not only with the U.S. but also South Korea and China are at rock bottom. In response to North Korea's nuclear and missile tests in the months before the Party Congress, and after another nuclear test in September and a barrage of missile tests in recent months, the international community has steeled its resolve to ratchet up economic pressure on North Korea to unprecedented levels.

The closing of the Kaesong Industrial Complex by South Korea placed over 100 South Korean companies and 54,000 North Korean workers out of business. UN Security Council Resolution 2270 seeks not only to extend sanctions to all exports of coal, iron ore and other minerals that benefit the North Korean military, require inspections of all import and exports for sanctioned items, add more companies and individuals to sanctioned lists, and deny access to financial services worldwide, but it aims also to improve enforcement and compliance of this and earlier UN sanctions against North Korea by Member States. Loopholes in these sanctions that have allowed North Korea to evade their full impact are now being addressed in negotiation of a new UN Security Council resolution.

U.S. sanctions approved by Congress in an unusual bi-partisan consensus also have led to sanctioning companies in other countries that do business with North Korea, notably China. The decision to place a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system in South Korea to counter the North Korean missile threat has upped the ante while increasing tensions with China. We clearly have entered a new era of determination to deny North Korea acceptance of being a nuclear state and using pressure to force a commitment to denuclearization.



The collision of North Korean and international positions on North Korea's nuclear future has set the stage for a new episode in the troubled history of North Korea's relations with the rest of the world and a sharpening of a test of wills. In approving UNSCR 2270, China made it clear that in its view the objective is to bring back North Korea to the negotiating table and to address in those negotiations the need for a permanent

Peace Agreement to replace the Armistice that has left the Korean War unresolved for the past 63 years, in addition to seeking a formula for denuclearization. North Korea itself has raised the idea of a Peace Agreement publicly and in informal consultations with the U.S. as recently as last December.

But the gaps in ideas about what such an agreement would cover and the sequencing of commitments to denuclearization and other items for negotiation remain vast. With a Presidential election in the U.S. in 2016

and one in South Korea in 2017, it seems likely that an impasse will continue for some time. Korea watchers will be looking for signs of the practical impact of tightened sanctions on North Korea's economy and Kim Jong Un's ability to have his cake and eat it too. All eyes are also on China that has the most important economic and political relationship with North Korea despite strained ties at present.

For years, the price of peace on the Korean Peninsula has been patience, but patience is wearing thin and North Korea's nuclear and weapons programs continue to improve in quantity and quality. New administrations in the U.S. next year and in South Korea in 2018 will definitely have North Korea policy on the front burner. So hold onto your hat.

For the Latest Information

Go to Our Website:

midcoastseniorcollege.org

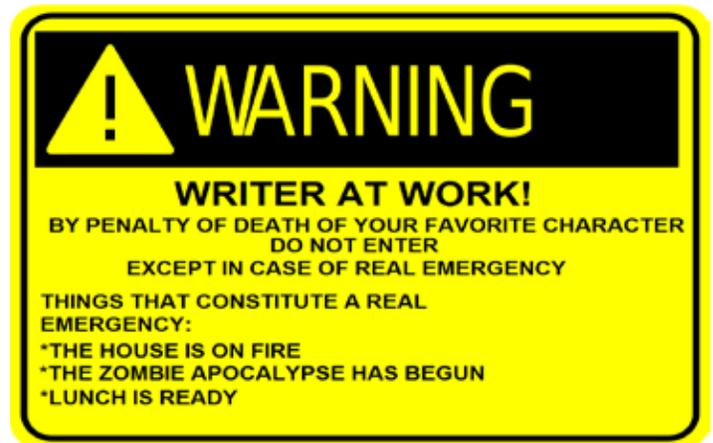
Midcoast Senior College is one of seventeen Senior Colleges in the State of Maine. We serve the area from Freeport to Waldoboro and inland up to Augusta. Most of our classes are held at 10 Tibbetts Drive, Brunswick, Maine. Class schedules and The Midcoast Inquirer are available on our web site for each semester. Students may register on line at midcoastseniorcollege.org.

Writers Wanted for Our Online Gazette

Joyce Bessen

Midcoast Senior College is a community of active learners. We do not passively audit our classes, but become engaged in questions and discussions with our faculty.

In the spirit of active learning, and to further the educational mission of senior college, we now offer both students and faculty the opportunity to send us original writing to be posted on our website under the Gazette heading. Our website may also in this way become more interactive for our community, and not simply an on-line tool to register for classes or check course listings. Our gazette has the potential to offer far more educational material than our thrice-yearly newsletter, the Midcoast Inquirer.



Try something new, again! Register on-line.

More than half of you register for courses online now. We encourage the rest of you to do so. Registration is secure - It's as safe as buying a book at Amazon and just as fast; it saves time and paper for us all.

You will receive your Spring catalog in the mail and can see it first on-line at midcoastseniorcollege.org after December 5. Online registration will be opened (and at the College volunteers will help you register) on January 16 and 17. Either way, you will receive a receipt of your payment and registration. Come have a cup of coffee and a cookie and meet your fellow students while you register.

Where in the Midcoast?

Do you recognize this place?

An occasional feature of the *Inquirer* will be a picture from somewhere in our area of a place you might like to visit, if you haven't already. The answer is elsewhere in this newsletter.



We invite our readers to become our writers! We invite student-to-student education, and not just faculty-to-student education, just as in our remarkable classrooms. We are seeking essays of up to 800 words on a subject in which the writer is knowledgeable; critical book reviews by students or faculty who have some expertise; recommended reading by students involved, or not involved, in book groups; original poetry or poetry commentary; and/or letters to our editor. In this interactive way, we continue to challenge ourselves both socially and intellectually as we age.

To challenge yourself, write a piece, and please send it to the Gazette, at midcoastseniorcollege.org, joycebessen@gmail.com, or call us at (207) 725 7- 4900.

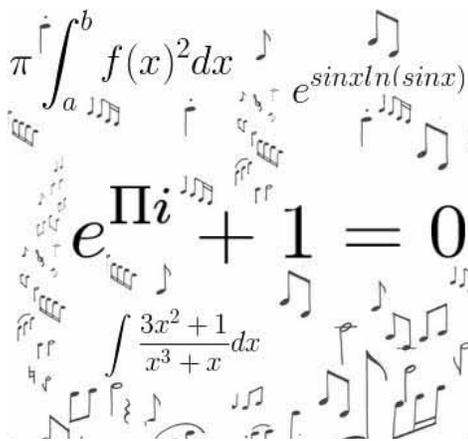
Did you Miss Something? There is Still Time to go back and Get It.

Gina Barreca, University of Connecticut

If you could go back and study a subject you'd never had the chance to explore or understand, what would it be?

Let your imagination go free-range. You will not be graded. You will be applauded. You're doing this for yourself alone and not your resume.

Because I am illiterate when it comes to all things musical—being unable to read it, even though I can appreciate hearing it—I wish I had taken courses in music



when I was in high school and college. I'd like to hear the design in a Bach fugue as well as be in awe of it, and I'd love to hear nuance as well as brass when listening to a jazz band.

At both the fundamental

and ethereal levels, I know math and music are connected, and I wish I knew the math part, too. Because I unknowingly but systematically transposed numbers as a kid, however, I was always terrible at math, barely passing even the most basic classes. I assumed that part of my brain was misshapen, like an intellectual hangnail or hammertoe, annoying and unfixable. I placed mathematics in my peripheral vision.

I'd like to be able to claim with confidence that I can ice-skate, fix old cars, trace your family's genealogy, design and build a bookcase where the title I'm searching for is instantly illuminated and recite the Book of Job in the original Hebrew whenever the need arises (which happens more than you think).

Most lives aren't long enough to study everything we'd love to learn, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't try. If we're fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of horizons that shimmer in our imagination, or have at our fingertips talents we'd like to unlock, let's instill in one another the courage to approach them. The only thing there's no time for is a sense of inadequacy or a fear of failure. That time has passed.

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Historical Nuggets from the Midcoast Past



JFK leaving Sunday mass in Boothbay Harbor with his sister, Pat Kennedy Lawford, in August 1962.

Presidential visitors to Maine have included James K. Polk (Augusta, 1847), U.S. Grant (Augusta, 1873), Benjamin Harrison (Bath, 1889), Lyndon Baines Johnson (Brunswick and Topsham, 1966) and Jimmy Carter (Bangor, 1978). The Bush family spends considerable time at their summer home in Kennebunkport. President Barak Obama and his family visited the Maine coast twice in 2010.

President John F. Kennedy first visited Maine as a child sick with scarlet fever in 1920. He spent two months at a private sanatorium before returning to Boston. In August 1962, JFK made his famous visit to Boothbay Harbor where he briefly skippered the Coast Guard yacht Manitou, spoke at the Brunswick Naval Air Station and visited boxer Gene Tunney's summer home on Johns Island in Bristol near Pemaquid. JFK and his sister, Pat Kennedy Lawford, attended Sunday mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Boothbay Harbor, as 2,500 people waited outside to catch a glimpse of the president.

Gene Tunney, the world heavy-weight boxing champion in 1926-8, was a personal friend of Joseph P. Kennedy, JFK's father. Tunney's home, built in 1924, stood on 28 acres of land, featured a gambrel roof and is currently valued at close to four million dollars. Here on this Midcoast island, JFK and his sister found peace and rest—for a brief time. Tunney's widow, Paula, died in 2008 at the age of 101.

News from the Board of Directors



Jack Thompson (left) and Howard Whitcomb (right) at the MSC Annual Luncheon, June 14.

The Wheeler-Thompson award was presented to Howard R. Whitcomb at the MSC annual luncheon at Bowdoin College on June 14, 2016.

Jack Thompson received a special award from the board for his more than two decades of teaching at, and service to, MSC. Tony Belmont read letters of commendation from Senator Angus King and Nancy Wheeler.

Tony Belmont, Linton Studdiford and Ronald A. Golz were reelected to another three-year term on the board. Lynn Lockwood and Robert C. Williams were elected to their first three-year term (Williams completed the term of Joyce Bessen this past year).

The board completed a revision of its By-Laws.

Note: If you are a member of MSC and would like to volunteer on any of the board's committees (finance, administration, public relations, technology, curriculum, development, summer/winter wisdom, or special events), please contact Donna Marshall in the MSC office.

Sir Thomas Bodley's Retirement Project

Susan F. Beegel

He was a Renaissance man, an Oxford scholar, and a senior whose retirement project would transform a dusty room full of empty shelves into one of the world's greatest research libraries.

In 1545, Thomas Bodley was born into the violent crucible of the English Reformation. The reign of Henry VIII was a disaster for lovers of learning. Henry's dis-

solution of England's monasteries saw their libraries destroyed in an effort to stamp out Catholic ideas. Books and manuscripts were burned en masse, parchment pages torn out and sold by weight for cleaning boots or making soap. When Henry's son Edward ascended the throne, the violence spread to Oxford, where in 1550 the university's chancellor ordered the destruction of its small common library, housed in a big room on the top floor of its 15th century Divinity School. And then, in 1553, Henry's Catholic daughter Mary became queen and began avenging these Protestant excesses by burning dissenters at the stake.

Bodley's Protestant family moved to Switzerland rather than stay in England during Bloody Mary's reign. There young Thomas learned German and studied Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. The Bodleys did not return home until 1558, when Elizabeth I was crowned and peace restored. Thomas attended Oxford, graduating in 1563 and becoming a Fellow of Merton College. His subject was ancient Greek, but his college awarded him a grant to tour Europe and study French, Italian, and Spanish. On his return, Bodley's facility with languages and knowledge of foreign countries attracted Elizabeth I's attention. He would serve as a diplomat from 1585-1596, becoming an extremely wealthy man along the way by marrying a rich widow named Ann Ball.

Bodley retired to Oxford. In 1598, Merton College held a dinner in his honor, and Bodley may have conceived the idea of giving his university a common library that evening. He was 53 years old, senior in an era when the average life expectancy was 42. He needed a retirement project. Almost fifty years after it had been "laid



Bodleian Divinity School

waste," Oxford's library was still standing empty—underneath a rotting roof that needed replacement. Bodley received the university's permission to restore the space—at his own expense.

After fixing the roof, Bodley supplied the “great desolate room” with “seats and shelves and desks.” To protect valuable medieval manuscripts, Bodley had them chained to the shelves. Believing that a “handsome”



library would “stirre up other men’s benevolence,” he commissioned a coffered ceiling embellished with Oxford’s coat of arms. Bodley raised money from powerful alumni and purchased dictionaries, grammars, and texts in Latin and Greek, as well as works in Hebrew, Persian, Arabic, Hungarian, and Chinese, and literature by modern European authors. He inspired wealthy noblemen to donate their private libraries and persuaded religious houses to hand over their surviving caches of manuscripts. To recognize his donors, Bodley created a beautifully bound register—inscribed with their names and illuminated with their coats of arms. According to one contemporary, “every man” wanted to be “written in the scroll of benefactors.”

Known as Bodley’s library, or “the Bodleian,” the library opened in 1602. Bodley established an endowment and a system of governance to make his library independent and dedicated it “Pro Republica Literatorum,” to the “Republic of Readers.” The Bodleian would serve not only scholars from Oxford, but from around

the world. Bodley established rules to protect the collection—forbidding the lighting of fires (a hardship in an era without electricity or central heat), and, famously, forbidding anyone—even the King—from taking books out of the building. Bodley’s librarian, Thomas James, became a pioneer in library management, the first to organize books alphabetically by author and the first to publish a library catalogue in England. Together, the two men persuaded England’s printers to donate one copy of every new book published, making the Bodleian the first library of deposit.

In 1604, King James I knighted Bodley for his service to the nation. The new Sir Thomas never stopped looking towards the future, however, but began building an addition to the old Divinity School to accommodate the Bodleian’s explosive growth.

Thomas Bodley died in 1613, aged 68, and was buried in the chapel of Merton College. His library lived on. The day after his funeral, Oxford broke ground for a second, larger addition, the Schools Quadrangle. Four centuries later, having survived both civil and world wars, Bodley’s library is a mecca for scholars, housing eleven million books in 40 buildings and still growing at the rate of 500 volumes a day. Its priceless rare books and manuscripts—from Magna Carta to Shakespeare’s First Folio—are cherished not only by visitors to Oxford but by a worldwide “Republic of Readers” accessing the Bodleian via its digital initiatives. Quite a legacy for a visionary senior who had hoped to stay occupied in retirement.

Where in the Midcoast?

Pemaquid Point & Lighthouse

What a great place to visit! I loved walking along the water’s edge, taking photographs of the rocks, seagulls waves and people! I was able to paint there and also use the pictures I’d taken as reference material for later works/watercolors, oils, pastels... The guide at the lighthouse was very knowledgeable and seeing all view from there was a real treat! Luckily, we had perfectly clear conditions, no fog whatsoever, so we could even see Monhegan Island in the distance. The grounds are clean and well tended and the art gallery is just a few steps away from the lighthouse. There you can see local artists’ work, some plein air, and enjoy their creations! I loved this place and will be going back this Fall. It’s a dream and the term Lighthouse is very befitting because when the light hits it, it’s spectacular!



Tripadvisor

Winter Wisdom Lecture Series

Curtis Library, Brunswick, Wednesdays, 12:15 – 1:45 pm.
Free and open to the public. Sponsored by The Highlands.

- January 4 **Stu Gillespie**, Music of the Nineteenth-century Sailor.
- January 11 **Susan Bowditch**, A Look at the Life of Nathaniel Bowditch.
- January 18 **James Parmentier**, The FDA and the Drug Approval Process.
- January 25 **Jym St. Pierre**, Mapping Brunswick.
- February 1 **George Krassner**, The Origin of Satellite TV, GPS and Weather Satellites.
- February 8 **Ken Carpenter**, Ben Franklin’s “Way to Wealth”.
- February 15 Longfellow Days.
- February 22 Snow make-up Day.

Mark Your Calendar!

- December 5 **Spring course listings** posted on MSC web site.
- January 6..... **Bulk mailing** of spring course listings.
- January 16-17 **Registration** Begins.
- March 13 **Spring Classes** Begin.



...because learning never ends.

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