MSC SURVEY RESULTS!
What you told us and what we are doing

We received an outstanding response to our recent survey! Thank you to all who took a moment to share your thoughts about our senior college - we had a 25% return. The information that we collected is very valuable as we move forward and determine how best to use our new facilities at 29 Burbank Ave. Here's what we learned:

- Nearly 80% of respondents want a winter term
- 40% would take a summer class, workshop, or seminar
- 30% would welcome a Saturday learning event
- Short 3-hour workshops are appealing to 76%
- A full day workshop received high interest as did a one-week and symposium-style educational event
- More excursions! 77% want additional excursions
- Clubs & Groups would be a welcome addition to MSC

We hear you! MSC is adding to its programming. We are responding right away and have added a Winter Term. Five four-week courses will be offered mid-January to mid-February. Look for an email in early December for details and registration instructions.

Again, thank you for your helpful comments and suggestions. Your input, support, and enthusiasm propels Midcoast Senior College.
WHAT DOES THE MSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS DO?
by James W. Wilkes, President, Midcoast Senior College

The Midcoast Senior College (MSC) board of directors believes that strong board leadership is fundamental to a strong and effective college. When asked to explain what the MSC board does, I turned to a book I have used as my bible in the nonprofit world since 1988. Richard Ingram's *Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards* is now in its third edition and published by BoardSource.

The Midcoast Senior College board of directors:

1. Is responsible for ensuring that MSC's mission is clearly stated and advocates for it
   - The mission statement serves to guide board and staff decisions about programs, volunteer initiatives, and priorities among competing demands for scarce resources

2. Selects the executive director and determines what the executive director does
   - Board of directors sets policy, plans, and strategy
   - Executive director executes policy, completes plans, and implements strategy

3. Supports and evaluates the executive director
   - The board provides personal and organizational support for the executive director's leadership
   - At least annually, assesses the executive director's performance

4. Ensures effective planning
   - All programs support and promote the mission and goals of MSC

5. Monitors and strengthens programs and services
   - Determines which programs are consistent with mission, and monitors their effectiveness

6. Ensures adequate financial resources
   - Assists in developing the annual budget, and ensures proper financial controls are in place

7. Protects assets and provides proper financial oversight
   - Protects fiduciary responsibilities (public trust)
   - Safeguards assets and holds them in trust

8. Recruits competent members to the board who bring specific, needed skills
   - Articulates prerequisites for board positions
   - Orients new board members
   - Assigns members to chair committees in administrative, finance, development, other areas
   - Periodically evaluates its own performance

9. Ensures legal and ethical integrity, and maintains accountability
   - Adheres to legal standards and ethical norms, including: compliance, transparency, accountability

10. Enhances MSC's public standing
    - Serves as a link between the college, its members, and the general public
    - Acts as MSC ambassador and advocates for the college
MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE NEWS - NOVEMBER 2018

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL WINTER WISDOM DETAILS!

MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE presents
WINTER WISDOM 2019
Curtis Mem. Library & UUCB—Wednesdays, 12:15—1:45 pm
For information, contact Midcoast Senior College (207) 725-4900 midcoastseniorcollege.org

January 9: Johannes Brahms, “The Young Eagle”*
Mr. George Lopez is the Backwith Artist-in-Residence at Bowdoin College and a familiar performer/lecturer in the Bath/ Brunswick Community. He has received local and international acclaim for his artistry at the piano as well as his insight and depth of context for the works of many composers. He will perform excerpts by Brahms and discuss the conflicted relationship between the composer and his contemporary, Robert Schumann. Mr. Lopez is a graduate of the Hart School of Music and received his Master’s Degree from the Sweelinck Conservatory, Amsterdam.

*At Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Middle St, Brunswick, across from Curtis Memorial Library

January 16: Action Plan for Terrorism
What can we do to protect ourselves from terrorism? Is this a relevant question given the intelligence community assessment of future attacks against the U.S. and its citizens. This talk will explore six actions that could assist our country, region, and community in dealing with this threat. Francis Dillon, Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret.), received a B.S. in Business from University of CT, and a Master’s Degree in Political Science from Troy State University. In 1993 he completed a 30-yr. career in the U.S. Air Force, serving with AF Office of Special Investigations. He assumed command of that office in 1998 and served in that capacity until retirement.

January 23: The Uncertain State of U.S.-Cuba Relations
President Trump’s decision to discontinue normalizing relations with Cuba has called into question the short- and long-term future of relations between the two nations. Are we returning to the hostility of the Cold War era? Or is the opening progress to such an extent that a return to more confrontational policy is unlikely? This talk will explore the factors that contributed to Obama and Raul Castro’s decision to normalize relations, the Trump administration’s apparent about-face, and the prospect for future relations. Allen Welt is Emeritus Professor of History at Bowdoin College. He received his B.A degree in History and Latin American studies from SUNY, Binghamton, and his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University. In addition to his teaching career, he has pursued research interests in modern Mexico, the history of commodities, and U.S.-Latin America relations.

January 30: A Changing Casco Bay: An Update on the Health of our Coastal Waters
Friends of Casco Bay in South Portland works year-round to improve and protect the health of Casco Bay. Ivy Frigance is the lead advocate of this effort. Her talk will provide an overview of current efforts to reduce pollution entering the Bay, address climate change and ocean acidification, and suggest measures to help the Bay adapt to changing conditions. She is the Graduate of the University of Vermont, and received her JD degree from University of Maine. Prior to her work with Friends of Casco Bay, she served as an advocate for Vermont’s public lands and Lake Champlain, and most recently as a Senior Attorney with Conservation Law Foundation.

February 6: Greece Before the Odyssey: Myth and Realities
In Book 3 of the Odyssey, Homer describes the royal palace of King Nestor at Pylos, in southwestern Greece. This talk will explore the Bronze Age reality behind that epic vision—the earliest Greek history we possess—from the discovery of Nestor’s palace in 1939, to current excavations in Pilagia, one of the towns in his kingdom. Cynthia W. Shelmerdine is Robert M. Armstrong Centennial Professor of Classics, emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin, and a Research Associate in Classics at Bowdoin College. Her main research focuses on Aegean Bronze Age archaeology, and the language, history and society of Mycenaean Greece. She was educated at Bryn Mawr College, Cambridge University and Harvard University (Ph.D. 1977).

February 13: Twice A Day Island: The Peterson Canal at New Meadows
Sometimes referred to as the “canal to nowhere,” this project was constructed by hand in the 1790’s with the expressed purpose of connecting the New Meadows River with Merrymeeting Bay. Its purpose was to allow the transport of logs cut along the Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers to sawmills on the New Meadows River. This talk will review the origins and history of this project and the people who built it. Brenda Cummings, is a native of Phippsburg, studied philosophy and history at Antioch College, is a Certified Maine Assessor, and is Cry Assessor of Bath. Timothy Richter is a native of Bath and received his B.S. in Education/History from UMF. Both serve on boards of Phippsburg Land Trust and Bath Historical Society and lead the annual Peterson Canal walk.

February 20: Longfellow Days

February 27: Snow Make-up Day

THE HIGHLANDS 30 Governor’s Way, Topsham, ME (207) 725-2650

Sponsored by
The DaPonte String Quartet performance on November 13 brought music and insight to a rainy fall day!

Thank you to the Quartet, Curtis Memorial Library, and our generous anonymous sponsor who made this special free performance possible.

NEW FICTION WRITER’S GROUP FOR ALL LEVELS AT MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE!

- Are you a senior (50 yrs. +)?
- Do you have some work started?
- Or, thinking of getting going?
- Wish to write better fiction?
- No experience needed!
- This is a cooperative effort, not a course...

What: Free drop-in writer’s group for writers of fiction

When: Wednesday mornings, every other week, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

*Snow Dates will be assigned; if Brunswick schools are closed or delayed, meeting is cancelled

Where: Midcoast Senior College, 29 Burbank Ave., Brunswick

Contact: Harry at 207-729-4238

Upcoming meeting schedule
November 28
December 12
(no meeting December 26)
January 2
January 16
January 30
Please, join our Annual Fund effort and help make Midcoast Senior College thrive!

Did you know?

In addition to cash, gifts made to the senior college during our Annual Fund effort and throughout the year may also be made with common and preferred stock, bonds, and mutual fund shares. Most of these gifts are considered fully tax deductible under current IRS rules applicable to 501(c)3 organizations like the Midcoast Senior College.

And, did you realize that if you are over age 70 1/2, you may gift up to a maximum of $100,000 from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) divided amongst your qualified 501(C)3 organizations and PAY NO INCOME TAXES on your withdrawal? The gifts are withdrawn from your financial institution and sent directly to your qualified 501(C)3 organization. (Please note: You must not receive the asset for forwarding. You are not allowed to take a tax deduction for your gift since you paid no taxes on your IRA withdrawal.)

Always check with your tax advisor for confirmation or guidance regarding the options outlined above or any financial transaction.

Friends and others -- you may also show support for MSC by becoming a member! Annual membership (July 1 to June 30) is $35. Membership is required to attend all MSC classes and selected events.

We welcome cash donations, as well. Please visit our website to make your gift: midcoastseniorcollege.org

For further information, please contact Donna Marshall, our Executive Director, at 207-725-4900.