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# The Midcoast Inquirer

Newsletter of Midcoast Senior College  
June 2021, Volume 16, No 2



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## Teaching with Zoom, Again

The following essays by MSC professors who had never taught with Zoom before are intended to help us all learn to improve our teaching and learning with Zoom technology in our home classrooms. Thanks to all who participated!

### One Fella's Zoom.....Letter to The Home Folks

*by Steve Piker*

Dear Friends:

Greetings from newly discovered and explored Zoomland. I hope that this letter finds you all well. I write to share some of what I have come across in this new techno-territory.

I have been offering courses at three of Maine's senior colleges, including Midcoast, for about ten years now, have loved every bit of it. How superbly successful these places are. "Successful at what?" one might ask. My take is that they succeed at enriching the lives of seniors, by involving seniors in an array of activities, mainly liberal arts courses. If one looks just at the contents of the activities, one might miss a big part of the show. Because for participants, the activities come wrapped in a sociality that features warmth, welcome, informality, equality, mutual affirmation and appreciation.... a whole lotta feel good. Best free show in town, free for me, that is. Students gotta pay a little something.

Thus it has been until now. But then, a year ago March, along comes the pandemic, no more in-person face-to-face, senior college activities, just about all transplanted to zoom. How has the senior college's mission of enriching the lives of seniors played with this sea change in how the senior college does its business?

Bottom line first.....I couldn't be more admiring of and grateful for how well the senior college has met this new and big challenge..... so well that we are now seeing a formidable challenge as a teaching opportunity. Only

Continued on Page 3: Steve Piker

## President's Letter

It would be an understatement to say MSC has had a busy year. A year of adjustments, new technologies, new vaccines, new regimes, new rules, new realities. For Midcoast Senior College, it has been very successful. It was difficult to envision or plan for financial viability. But let it be. Our membership rallied to our challenges and supported us with great enthusiasm. Your Board focused sharply on what we thought we could achieve, our instructors were dedicated to teaching and learning zoom graciously, our members, though hesitant initially, recognized our predicament and became far more technically savvy than we could guess. Thanks to all for seeking a winning solution to the international scourge of the pandemic.



Special recognition needs to be accorded Donna Marshall, our Executive Director, whose focus, creativity and dedication to our success was outstanding. Others who were part of our team include Clare Durst whose software and technical expertise was imperative. Did you realize that Clare volunteered her time for weeks and months with daily office hours at home helping people learn and manage zoom? What a champion! Still others no longer on the Board such as Richard Neiman, Tony Belmont, Dorothy Bell and Nora Bishop helped lay down our current foundation, a vision of success.

Our future does include a return to in-person classes, but also maintenance of on-line ones. Social interaction for members and our instructors is an integral part of our mission. We have received many emails of appreciation from members expressing their enthusiasm for on-line classes, especially recognizing their conveniences. Some, including myself, have mentioned meeting new friends via zoom. We are planning for only on-line classes this fall and will evaluate the safety of in person

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is the newsletter of  
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We are working remotely and have closed our office.

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*\*Term concluded May 1, 2021*

*Midcoast Senior College membership becomes effective upon payment of the fee and is for one fiscal year only, currently July 1 through June 30 of each year.*

*Our by-laws require that our board members be elected by members at the annual June meeting, and that the board then elect its own slate of officers. Names here are tentative.*

Continued from Page 1: President's Letter

classes later this year. We are not holding our annual meeting in person again this year; it will be done on-line in June.

Our financial security has been improved through the outstanding results of our Development Committee efforts. One year ago, at the time we suspended classes, we offered full tuition reimbursements for those registered for the spring term. Approximately 70% of the registrants told us to keep the tuition as a donation. It has been this kind generosity that has helped us have confidence and optimism about our future. We are also seeing more gifts of stock and donations from Donor Advised funds. Estate planning gifts are especially important for our future.

We have also been budgeting a contingency fund to strengthen our ability to respond to future needs. Some have asked why. We need to acknowledge that the future is unknown and we need to recognize how we would cope with unexpected surprises, like the covid issues, and previously, our losing our sublease from Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU.) As we grow, we are likely to need more employee support. Other unknowns are future rental expenses and suitable space availability at prices we can afford. Space is relatively expensive in this area.

We are continuously seeking new qualified volunteers for our Board and committees. This includes finding people with skills that we need. Any member may propose others for the Board but must contact the Executive Committee or Nominating Committee at least two months before the next MSC annual meeting. We vet all prospects to find people with needed skills.

Thank you all for a most enjoyable opportunity to serve as your President in the past several years. And especially I thank the Board members who have indulged me with great constructive criticism. And some humor. Lynn Lockwood succeeds me. I have much confidence in her future leadership.

**Doug Bates, President**

**Mission Statement of The Midcoast Inquirer:**

*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.*

*--Robert C. Williams, Editor*

Continued from Page 1: Steve Piker

fitting then, to start off by highlighting the senior college folks who made it all happen.....head office administrators and member volunteers, several faculty members who ventured in and gave Zoom courses a try early on, students who were willing and eager to try it out, amazing tech support from the senior college's technology committee, and the always ready volunteer hosts who worked with students and faculty in individual courses. Kudos to all.

Now, just looking at courses. The general issue: How, newly, in Zoomland will the senior college do business and maintain accessibility for its membership?

Students and faculty needed to learn how to use zoom to do courses. My experience fell into a couple of parts. First, senior college folks did a magnificent job of organizing, packaging, and conveying the relevant info clearly and concisely. A vital part of this involved the teachers of Zoom learning from the senior college faculty about how, already, they taught, and by tailoring teaching of Zoom specifically to them. Many faculty members don't normally inhabit Zoomland for our teaching. The MSC teachers of zoom grasped this and



guided us to where we wanted to go on an individualized basis. Second, some of us (me included), both students and faculty, had at the outset inchoate but strong adverse feelings re the very prospect of Zoom courses. Simply learning zoom technique did not dispel this. But for many of us, I'm sure, deployment in teaching of Zoom technique of the trademark senior college feel good sociality helped mightily. I found technique learning suffused with enjoyment. Surprised the socks off me.

What about instructional formats? Personally, I liked the in-class format. How similar to a Zoom class could it be? In content, all of my subject matter can work with Zoom. Second, in-class process, meaning for me, lecture and discussion. Lecture is just about the same, classroom and Zoom. What about discussion? Quite similar,

it turns out. With Zoom, there are a couple of ways to do discussion. One is for would-be discussants to raise hands (physically or electronically) and wait to be called upon by class host or instructor. Another is seminar-style conversational free flow. I prefer the latter, which, for classes of fifteen or less, seems to work just fine.

Then there is the ambience. Happily, the virtually unflinching student politeness and mutual consideration which presented in my ten years of senior college classrooms has been no less present in this past year's Zoom classes, as have been the frequent smiles and chuckles and good will all around. The personal social feel of us classmates has been alive and well in Zoomland.

With Zoom, however, the before and after class schmoozing around the water cooler, and other out-of-class face-to-face stuff, doesn't happen. Opening Zoom class meetings, fifteen minutes early and staying after class for chat helps a bit with this shortfall.

Finally, what about out-of-class communication. During previous terms, I have routinely sent mailings to students, and encouraged students to be in touch with me, if so disposed. And students have done all class mailings. With Zoom, this is unchanged.

Again, to rehearse the obvious, fulfillment of the senior college mission requires that seniors have access to senior college activities. Some seniors, unhappily, are unable to leave home, or find doing so difficult, or find the commute to activities unwelcome. Zoom activities can mightily ease the access problem for these folks and may be preferable to some of the rest of us. And Zoom activities open the senior college's doors to the world. This term I am doing classes with students residing in Iowa and Vancouver, B.C.

One hopes that face-to-face senior college activities will resume within a year. With much Zoom experience under its collective belt, how then will the senior college configure its interface with its membership? A mixture of face to face and zoom formats? Peering into the fog, I think I can see a couple of things pretty clearly: 1) The strong and creative senior college response to the wholly unexpected onset of the Zoom era bodes well for the next steps to be explored and taken, and 2) Input from the membership will be invaluable to this process.

Friends, time to close this. Maybe we'll do a class together? Be well!

**Steve Piker**

*Steve Piker is a retired Professor of Anthropology at Swarthmore College, a dedicated teacher of senior students and a member of the MSC board of directors.*

Teaching an Old Dog New Tricks

by Ross Crolius

In 2018, after spending many rewarding summer vacations at the family retreat in Phippsburg, my wife and I decided to make Midcoast Maine our permanent home. As part of the getting acquainted process with our new community, we had the distinct pleasure of meeting Dr. Mort Achter and his wife, Barbara. Mort is an accomplished musician with a long, distinguished career as a college music professor and is currently on the board and faculty of MSC. We hit it off at once, easily engaging in many animated conversations about our shared interest in classical music which eventually led to his recommendation to the MSC board that I be considered to teach a course in opera appreciation. A successful interview soon followed, and I eagerly accepted the invitation to lead a class the following spring.

It was then March of 2020 and I was all set to offer a survey course in the wonderful world of Italian opera. What could possibly go wrong? As we are all aware, an insidious little virus was wreaking havoc throughout the land and forcing everyone to make some significant lifestyle changes to control this alien invasion, including limiting social interaction. This meant cancelling the upcoming MSC courses until the virulent pest miraculously withered away. When that didn't happen, the college looked for a practical alternative to classroom learning and landed on an increasingly popular internet communication platform called Zoom. Could a confirmed technophobe like me find a way to teach using this? I was offered the chance to try it out and I took a flying leap.

Fortunately, I was not going to be flying solo. I was assigned two copilots, or cohosts, Judy Fiterman and Clare Durst, whose collective experience and expertise would prove to be indispensable.

My course was included in the 'online only' fall catalogue and to my amazement, enthusiasm far exceeded

my expectations. To meet this increased demand, the decision was made to offer two classes a week of each session and then we were off and running. Okay, maybe not exactly running. There were plenty of details that needed attention slowing our pace.

First, my usual method of relying on opera DVDs for specified scenes proved to be too complicated. The solution was YouTube. Every conceivable type of media can be found on that extraordinary resource, includ-

ing a plethora of opera excerpts and full productions with English subtitles. I simply would make the selections for each session, send them on to my cohosts who would put them on the course website as a reference. With that hurdle behind us, we moved on to issues better suited to the multiple skills of my cohosts.

They wisely suggested that a trial run be done prior to the first class. Judy, with her extensive background in television, offered advice on what to wear, how to improve lighting and where to place oneself in front of the computer. When she discovered that the internal camera on my PC was not functioning up to par, I hastily made an order on Amazon for a suitable replacement which thankfully showed up the next

day. Now with only two days remaining before the opening session, a bigger issue was quite literally staring me in the face; my trusty twelve-year-old Dell PC was not keeping a reliable internet connection. Even a house call from marvelous Ms. Clare with her Chromebook in tow proved to be only a temporary fix.

The next day, Sunday and at about six that evening, I found myself standing in the computer section of Portland's BestBuy and quite bewildered by the variety of choices. As it turns out, that's a surprisingly good time to do some shopping there; I easily found a capable, patient salesperson who suggested a replacement that was user-friendly enough even for my mediocre level of computer competency. The only hiccup was a two-day delay in the delivery, yet I was confident that we could muddle through the first class using my old standby.

Our focus now turned to our students, many of whom

Zoom Etiquette



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were totally new to online, virtual learning. An email was promptly circulated inviting all to join the class thirty minutes early for an impromptu zoom orientation. Judy and Clare carefully conducted a thorough tutorial and we commenced class with everyone feeling a bit more adept with this newfangled technology.

I have now taught two complete courses on Zoom. Has it been a problem-free ride? Not quite. Some of us still need to be reminded about that muting/unmuting thing, there may be an occasional glitch in the internet signal, or a pet may even make an unexpected on-camera appearance eager to divert our attention. But these are small matters compared to what I feared might impede my success with this method of instruction. All things considered it's been a worthwhile endeavor. Indeed, one truly can teach an old dog new tricks.

*Ross Crolius spent thirty years in the New York City area performing operas, including singing with the Metropolitan Opera chorus. He has also taught music and opera appreciation in various colleges and universities.*

## Over Coffee

*Edited by Nora Bishop*

Coffee with friends had rarely been more satisfying. It had been a year since we met with other Senior College friends after Niles Schore's class on the Constitution, where we sat long into the afternoon at Scarlet Begonias restaurant sharing our strong opinions about the upcoming elections. Then Covid 19 came to Maine and mandated this extended isolation and impacted everything we did in our daily lives.

Thus, when Angela Bournakel and Howard Whitcomb met recently with me remotely, the first thing we talked about was, "Did you get the vaccine and which one?" We learned that Howard had just recently returned to tennis after suffering serious health issues and spending the summer and fall recuperating. (It was, after all, tennis which had brought him to the attention of Jack Thompson and Edward Liston, both founding board members of Midcoast Senior College.) Now Howard just wants to get back to Scarlet Begonias.

The conversation turned to Midcoast Senior College; the connections made and our strong ties to its mission. I'd met Angela during a course on the Wild Women in

Euripidean Tragedy. She loves studying the classics and is an enthusiastic supporter of MSC. She summed it up beautifully, "Many of us come to Senior College having recently retired from our careers, when you're entering a new time of life. I was thinking about my own life and the sort of arc of growing into early adulthood, a time of exploration and trying new things. Then you get into the middle part of your life where you're established in a career and wrapped up in family. In retirement, at least in my case, you're kind of back to where you started, ready for new adventures, interests and connections. Senior College was a new community of people with whom I could share this new phase of my life. What made it so wonderful was that many teachers, and I include you, Howard, inspired a group of students who loved your classes. In a way, you had a following, a band of groupies."

"I sure did."

"And so, if you said I'm doing a class on cooking, we'd probably be there. These communities of interest were created by the teachers as people began to socialize and meet between classes, especially in Bath in the little café and that common seating area. This program has meant so much to so many people not just the learning, but the friendships."

Howard chimes in, "I agree 100% about the interaction among the students that evolved over a period of time and we're talking about not just a year or two, but in some cases almost two decades. I did take several courses, but it was as a faculty member that I found my greatest satisfaction. The collective faculty had the arcs of their careers that led eventually to retirement and our program. We didn't always teach in the area of our professional expertise as much as the things that we would have loved to have taught before and didn't have the opportunity to do so, or in some instances to focus on things in detail that would just be mentioned in passing. For example, I taught a four-week course on the Roosevelt court packing plan and that's something I would have spent probably an hour or so in a constitutional law course. There I was able to focus on that incident with a group of interested students, many of whom I knew and spend eight hours talking about FDR. Fortunately, there was an excellent book on FDR's proposal, and it was read by virtually all of the students."

Howard also taught two courses, one on Percival Baxter and the formation of Baxter State Park and another with three guests, examining lands that Thoreau travelled in the 1840's and 1850's and wrote about in

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Continued from Page 6: *Nora Bishop*

*The Maine Woods.* The Katahdin Region: A Century of Conservation had a packed room and Howard spent the first hour having everyone introduce themselves and tell their connections or interests in the region. There was a native of Millinocket and another from nearby Brownsville Junction, which was the major repair shop for the Canadian Pacific, a railroad that ran from Montreal to St. John, New Brunswick. She related experiences of having parents who worked for the Canadian Pacific.

Angela remembers the enthusiasm. She had never been to the region, but took the course out of sheer curiosity having read many articles about the mountain since moving to Maine. She was reminded of a friend who traveled to Baxter every year on business and would regale her with stories about his adventures.

Howard and Angela prefer the classroom and look forward to the connections that in-person teaching allow yet both expressed admiration for the curriculum committee and the administration, who by going to an online environment have kept the organization viable and alive during the pandemic.

Until we meet in person, Angela enjoys curling up with a good book and enjoying one or two pieces of dark chocolate, while Howard's secret passion is a dish of Talenti sorbetto with two Tate's chocolate chip cookies. Not a bad way to spend an evening.

*Angela Bournakel's career was in the investment management and trust business, at the Boston Company, now part of BNY Mellon. She has taken many courses focusing on literature, art history, and the Supreme Court. She is also active in the Hellenic Society of Maine and continues to travel, including stays in Greece every summer.*



*Howard Whitcomb was on the faculty at Lehigh University and spent five years as an associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He also served as a Judicial Fellow at the Supreme Court, 1973-74. He is the author of Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary History of Baxter State Park, 1931-2006. Over the years, he taught fourteen courses at MSC and chaired the curriculum committee for eight years.*



## Denmark Declares 7 No Trump for Greenland

*By Doug Bates*

Were you as surprised as I was with the recent inquiry about Greenland? Or was this merely a Trumpian distraction to shield the former president from the day's realities. Greenland is not for sale as of now. At least not as far as we know.

Partly as a result of David Wood's excellent Polar History senior college class a few years ago, my wife Lynn and I traveled to Greenland in August 2019 to observe the challenges wrought by global warming. In 1967 and 1968, I was a deck officer aboard a US Coast Guard icebreaker (the CGC Edisto) and spent the summers breaking ice along the Greenland coast as well as a far-flung attempt to circumnavigate the North Pole. Why? The US government partially compensated Denmark and Greenland for use of their land to construct and monitor BMEWS (ballistic missile early warning sites like Thule Air Force Base), to monitor Arctic activities. Our ship opened frozen bays, fjords and harbors to enable Danish resupply of various communities along the west Greenland coast. It was a terrific, fascinating experience.

What has changed over the years? Temperatures are higher, as we know. Temperatures in Greenland are warming at much higher rates than almost anywhere on the globe. A few smaller cruise ships are enabling anyone to visit dramatic Arctic areas. We were aboard the Norwegian Hurtigruten ship Fram for sixteen days of wondrous beauty, mostly with 24-hour sun.

Greenland is barren, stark and scenic. Very rarely do we see a tree. Very rocky terrain, sometimes dramatic ledges, peaks and cliffs, abounds. Spectacular geological structures lie underground. No roads except very short ones exist in some communities. Transportation in the summer is by boats (kayaks now are plastic and often are for recreational use) with snowmobiles and dog sleds in the cold season. Air travel by small planes and helicopters is available with prices considered dear. Ice caps, icebergs, ice-choked fjords still exist. North of the Arctic Circle, radical cultural changes over the past fifty years have occurred--of necessity. The predominant hunter/gatherer economy north of 70 degrees has had to change due to climate and technological evolution. I should not overlook the exceptional Danish generosity of approximately \$650 million dollars given annually to the 57,000 residents

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of Greenland. This is about the only green that one sees, beyond some green wooden houses (igloos are passé.)

Flying to Kangerlussuaq from Copenhagen, we sailed down Sondrestrom Fjord and turned northward above the Arctic Circle. No, it is not cold in the summer on the west coast, but cool in several ways. On Google maps and other sites, you can find the communities of Sisimiut, Qeqertarsuaq, Uummannaq, Siorapaluk, Qaanaaq, Ilulisat, and Intellec, formerly Itivdlek. We encountered less fast ice attached to the shore, but many more icebergs, some of enormous size and shapes. The lack of fast ice presents far more challenges to people seeking seals for food, and clothing- mostly seal skins. Thus, hunting opportunities have been reduced, but halibut fishing and fish processing plants have appeared and need employees. In lieu of the former trading post of fifty years ago, there are now modest sized stores with fresh breads, decent wines, frozen steaks, Ben & Jerry's ice cream, washing machines, computers, phones and some ATM's. We found even a small bank window and recycling machines! One can still purchase a leg of reindeer or cari-



bou, parts of musk ox, fresh seal meat and halibut fish. Occasionally, one can order a latte or espresso.

In northern areas, polar bear pants can still be seen, as well as seal skin garments, but fashionable western style clothes dominate. Whale oil and blubber rarely provide heat; petroleum oil heats most homes and electricity now lights most structures. What an enormous change.

As of December 2020, the US State Department has stationed a Greenlandic Affairs Officer in Nuuk, the capital. The Greenland foreign affairs ministry has indicated that it is open for business, but not for sale. President Trump's attempts to buy the island has offended local residents who would prefer their independence. This would appear not to be likely in the near future, since the Greenlanders need to build a sustainable economy, according to the Wall Street Journal of April 24, 2020.

Greenland's natural resources and its location fronting the Arctic Ocean are of strategic interest to the US.

At other historical times, the US has tried to buy Greenland, notably in 1867, 1910, 1946 and 2019. It may not happen in the near future, but it remains a keen interest of the US State Department. Meanwhile, the Inuit culture remains strong despite the nearly unpronounceable Greenlandic language. And the inevitable effects of climate change continue to moderate the beautiful land, sea and air of Greenland.

*Doug Bates was born in Portland and grew up in Cape Elizabeth, ME. He received his B.A. degree in Economics from Bowdoin in 1966, then joined the US Coast Guard OCS with assignments in Boston, Greenland and Russia aboard an icebreaker.*

## A Conversation with Linton Studdiford

by David McKeith

Linton Studdiford's recent passing is deeply felt. Good friend to many, he was a major player at Midcoast Senior College where--with our profound gratitude--he had a seat at the Board of Directors' table, taught courses on challenging topics, and gave superb direction to the Curriculum Committee which brought out a splendid array of fine courses with an excellent faculty.

Graduating from the Kent School in Connecticut, then Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania, Linton entered a period of teaching literature. Then, seeking an alternative path, he and his wife, Bonnie, with two children tilled a piece of land and kept a pasture north of here in Cornwall, Maine, from which they supplied local markets with essential foods. His growing interest in serving in the ministry guided him to Bangor Theological Seminary where in 1985 he was ordained to Episcopal priesthood. What followed were churches in four Maine communities that he and Bonnie served with devotion. In retirement they came to live in Brunswick where both studied to become Master Gardeners.

I first came to know Linton during his thoughtful course on the thinking of farmer/environmentalist Wendell Berry. I found him a fine conversationalist, and I drew much from our visiting.

One that comes to mind was his spirited response to my comment one day while sitting in his backyard that Midcoast Senior College had remain grounded in the liberal arts.

"Oh," Linton brightened up, "that plan of study is so essential to anyone broadly desiring knowledge and perspective, certainly for us as life-long learners. You

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know, David, we should be saying 'Liberating Arts.'

"Liberating," I repeated, waiting with a grin for him to say more, and he didn't delay.

"Yes, I like that word here. Sometime in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, scholars named this traditional course of learning, what originated with the Greeks, with the Latin word *liber*, because it denotes the state of being free or freed. The body of learning newly called liberal arts was designed to free students from not-knowing, from their ignorance--another nice old word."

We watched a rabbit sitting motionless far out on the lawn; a bluejay's harsh slurring 'jeeah' sounded from a bush. In a moment Linton added, "Study of the liberal arts also frees one from biases or pre-judgments, from bigotry."

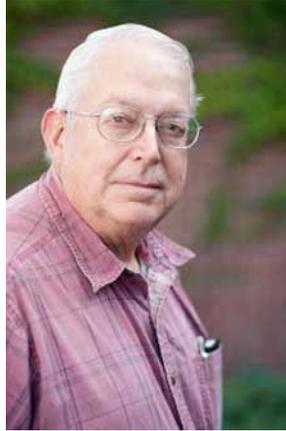
He leaned back in his lawn chair, "I must mow this afternoon." Pointing, he added, "I should have pruned that cherry tree over there a little closer. It was very cold that day, and I hurried!"

After Bonnie refreshed our welcome iced tea, he went on. "I have long been fascinated by how humankind has evolved from an instinctual life of nature--our primordial ancestors--to the consciousness of historical beings. Over time pre-historical creatures developed fire and came to realize that they could change habitat, hunting practices, diet, apparel--much more. They were learning they could have influence over happenings, over events." After a deep breath, he added, "Mankind evolving. Fascinating!"

A handsome sable fox appeared from behind a bush, eying the rabbit. Suddenly both disappeared and Linton returned to our focus. "Some of our courses focus on the continuing process of humans evolving, on who we are and how we continue to change." He paused for a moment, then: "From the Humanities--lit and poetry, philosophy and religion, art history and so on--I've thought a lot about change in how we think and reflect; our new ideas and ideals; changing values, and so forth."

He squinted into the welcome summertime sun that bathed his and Bonnie's bountiful gardens. In a moment he said, "We have courses in how we conduct our lives as individuals and in groups: our behavior, types of interactions, how we govern ourselves, the management of labor, money and resources, and so on. Lots of evolving here, and some courses give attention to this."

To that I put in, "Art and music invite us to think



about qualities of taste and how they change in a variety of expressions. A course on architectural history would be interesting."

Linton nodded. "And the Physical World beyond Humans. The sciences are so important to anyone's knowledge base--the quantifiable world around us, animate and inanimate, and how our interacting with nature changes in many ways, some constructive, some not so. So much to learn."

Linton turned in his chair and pointed. "Those fruit trees over beyond that garden bed, they're a real interest of mine. Come, let me show you."

As we got to our feet and strolled off, he named flowers and shrubs he and Bonnie had planted, and what was unusual about each. Once he paused to return to his interest in our primordial ancestors, as he called them, as they began to realize they were capable of affecting the course of their lives. "We still feel we can--we know we can--and I really believe it's worth understanding that continuing evolution."

I left Linton that day feeling such a pleasure to have his company. And being glad we have Senior College. But now several years later I feel a deep sadness to have had to say good-bye to such a gentleman with lively spirit and keen mind that was still exploring and open.

*David McKeith has been a staunch supporter of Midcoast Senior College and the liberal arts for two decades, as well as founding editor of this newsletter.*

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## HATS OFF! Again to the MSC board of directors, still hard at work at a Zoom meeting:



**From left to right: Row 1: Donna Marshall, executive director; Clare Durst; Doug Bates, president; Lynn Lockwood, secretary; Row 2: Karen Williams; Bill Haggett; Steve Piker; Erv Snyder, treasurer; Row 3: Victor Papacosma; Mort Achter; Janet Kehl; Annie Miller; Row 4: Susan Michael; Kelly Matzen; Bob Williams; Reg Elwell, vice president.**

With the retirement of Doug Bates, Lynn Lockwood will become the next president of Midcoast Senior College for 2021-2. Lynn is a retired public library administrator whose undergraduate degree is from the University of Wisconsin. She received her Master's in Library

Science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She spent most of her working life at Baltimore County Public Library, retiring as Assistant Director in 2005. After moving to Maine, she served as Director of the Auburn Public Library, retiring in 2013.



New board members to be elected in July include Freda Bernotavicz, Bruce Hauptli, Jay Kuder,

Leona Dufour, Craig Snapp, and William VanderWolk

Our board of directors has lost six valuable members whose terms have expired in accordance with our By Laws.

Doug Bates has been an exemplary board member

and president, managing our financial future, keeping meetings blessedly brief and maintaining good relations with other Maine senior colleges.

Clare Durst has made outstanding contributions in technical support for our burgeoning software empire: Sales Force, Zoom, etc. After graduating from Rice University, she had a long career in administrative computing at Brown University. Clare is a resident of The Highlands who spends hours of every day supporting MSC with her computer advice, registration assistance, and winning smile, supported by boundless energy.



Reg Elwell, a Harvard alumnus, has maintained and improved the Winter Wisdom lecture series in the era of Zoom and is an avid participant in Stu Gillespie's MSC Singers class.

Annie Miller has been a successful fund raiser and teaching assistant in several courses.

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Victor Papacosma, a retired historian and a graduate of Bowdoin College, has (with the late Linton Studdiford) led the curriculum committee in faculty recruitment, course development and teaching evaluation, and will continue to serve the committee as a co-chair. Steven Piker departs the board but will continue in an advisory capacity and continue to teach for MSC.

We shall miss them all, as we shall miss Tony Belmont, a former board member who as chair of the nominating committee has continued to identify and recruit outstanding board members for the future.

## Volunteers

Despite the pandemic, a number of our volunteers continue to help us out in adapting to a new teaching and learning environment online. Helping us with Zoom and online classes were: Doug Bates, Nora Bishop, Kernan Cross, Clare Durst, Judy Fiterman, Jack Henderson, Harry Hopcroft, Janet Kehl, Jay Kuder, Fred Masciangelo, Kathie Mason, M. Kelly Matzen, Kathy Remmel, Betty Robinson, Deb Showalter, Sonia St. Pierre, Barbara Snapp, Craig Snapp, Kelly Watt, Karen Williams and Nancy Wilkes. We are most grateful for their time and effort in helping us meet the challenges of a new form of education.

## Summer Wisdom

In 2021, this series will be streamed on-line using Zoom. Join us on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. for a virtual, educational & enlightening hour.

*The Summer Wisdom lecture series is sponsored by Sunnybrook Senior Living. Thank you!*

June 2: *HOW THE U.S. NAVY ORDERS NEW SHIPS AT BATH IRON WORKS, Captain Joseph Tuite*

June 9: *A TALE OF TWO PANDEMICS, Richard Neiman, MD*

June 16: *CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN THE CONTEMPORARY ARCTIC, Susan A. Kaplan*

June 23: *PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE OLD NAVY BASE IN BRUNSWICK, Steven Levesque*

## By the Numbers:

This fiscal year MSC has 569 members and 1,084 enrollments in 51 classes offered for Fall, Winter, and Spring Term I. With just one term left (Spring II) before our summer break we are happy to report these numbers. Students take classes at home from a variety of platforms—desktop, laptop, iPhone, cell phones and so forth. Faculty likewise can teach from home. Our articles in this issue provide good testimony to MSC successes and challenges in adapting to a whole new teaching environment.

## Last Words

After six years as editor of *The Midcoast Inquirer*, I realize it is time to call it a day, or a year, or six years. I have benefitted from the wisdom, experience and advice of two of my predecessors, David McKeith and Joyce Bessen, and owe them my gratitude. Burr Taylor and Donna Marshall were always available to help with design, layout, editing and publication. The faculty and board members have been willing contributors of articles and opinion pieces that help us all keep up with a changing world. And people have wisely respected the independence of the editor and the diverse opinions expressed and encouraged.

When I began as editor, this newsletter was printed on paper in Bath, folded and stuffed into envelopes by our volunteers, and snail-mailed to readers via the USPS. Now it is an on-line publication, emailed to members, archived in the MSC web site, but still printable on demand.

MSC people are a bright, thoughtful and experienced bunch of diverse individuals who share a common belief that learning never ends, that the liberal arts are at the core of a continuing education, and that our older students testify to the energy of aging. They often teach us as much as we teach them. They read books and exchange ideas. They conduct civil discussion of current events and politics in an uncivil and divisive period in American life. They adapt readily to unexpected changes in our world, such as a global pandemic and Zoom technology. Without our volunteer faculty, students and board members, we would become an empty shell. With such volunteers, we discover new friends.

I shall also depart the board in 2022 but will continue to teach courses from time to time. Teaching is in my blood, as is scholarship, research and writing. But the real treasure is the circle of friends I will continue to maintain as a legacy of my MSC years. Thank you all!



**Bob Williams**