

immersed

a publication of UMaine's **IMRC CENTER**



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imrc / im·merse / i'mərs / [verb] :
to involve oneself deeply in a particular activity or interest

supporting research and innovation

Going into the new academic year classified as a Carnegie **RI-rated institution**, UMaine's designation as "a top-tier research university of global impact and local relevance" has brought continued opportunities to the IMRC Center to contribute to advancing research efforts all over campus. Recent projects supported by the IMRC Center include:

- Assisting with the prototyping of **MESAT 1: Maine's first small satellite**, a project of UMaine's WiSe-Net Lab, due to launch in Spring 2023.
- Collaborating with UMaine's MIRTA Accelerator Program to assist in the development of the first **SunRule**, created by Mathematics and Art faculty and students, installed in October 2022
- Ongoing development of structures to assist Climate Change Institute graduate assistant Hanna Brooks in transferring **Denali ice core samples** for further study while minimizing sample deterioration.
- Providing an acoustically-controlled environment for undergraduate Mechanical Engineering student Drew Browning's **audio monitoring research** to collect data used for development of 3D printer precision control capabilities.

cross-campus collaborations

This semester, the IMRC Center welcomed students, faculty, staff, and guests back to connect with key interdisciplinary study resources here at UMaine:

IMRC Center staff are collaborating with graduate student Maraina Miles and the UMaine Climate Change Institute to create a **new scale topographical model of Mount Katahdin** using a layering method enabled by the Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) machine available in our Fabrication Lab. A similar strategy has been applied to prototyping a **model knight's effigy** for Matthew Blazek of History Live! North East, a non-profit educational organization. Photogrammetry of existing effigies create a blueprint for utilizing the CNC machine to take understanding from two dimensions to three.

The **UMaine Arts Initiative** awarded seed grants to **Creative Research Collaborations**, "innovative and interdisciplinary collaborations that seek to build a diverse, inclusive, sustainable and equitable community of art researchers, practitioners, supporters and promoters." Winners presented on their projects at a celebration in the IMRC Center and streamed over Zoom on October 19:

- **Technology and Tradition: Shaping Indigenous Collections for the Future**, Gretchen Faulkner, Director, Hudson Museum
- **The Island Soundscape Project**, N.B. Aldrich, Associate Professor of Art and Steve Norton, independent researcher
- **Art & Creative Ecologies Series**, Susan Smith, Associate Research Professor of Art, Graduate Coordinator of Intermedia Programs, Department of Art and Justin Wolff, Chair, Department of Art, Professor of Art History
- **I Give You My Home: a site-specific opera and its historical background**, Beth Wiemann, Director, Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center, Professor, Music Division
- **Blending Migratory Wildlife Science, Curatorial Practice, and Visual Arts for High School Educational Programming**, Amber Roth, Assistant Professor of Forest Wildlife Management and George Kinghorn, Executive Director and Curator, Zillman Art Museum

The IMRC Center also hosted a New Media department screening of the film **A Watershed Moment**, a collaboration of Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries and Maine Coast Heritage Trust and featuring contributions by the Island Soundscape Project. Associate Professor of New Media N.B. Aldrich organized a supporting panel discussion following the screening.

Tate Yoder, Media Specialist for the MCCF and director of the film, shared:

"As an alum of the New Media program at UMaine, it was an honor to be welcomed back to the IMRC to screen A Watershed Moment. Part of our goal with this project was to broadly share the important work being done to restore Maine rivers and empower fishermen to help steward and collaboratively manage river herring fisheries in our coastal rivers. These efforts are complex and require an 'all hands on deck approach' - often bringing together a collaborative of unlikely partners as these projects cross so many borders. So it was fitting to be able to share this film at the IMRC, a building and environment ripe for rich and meaningful engagement and further the important conversation of this work. We're so thankful to have had this opportunity."

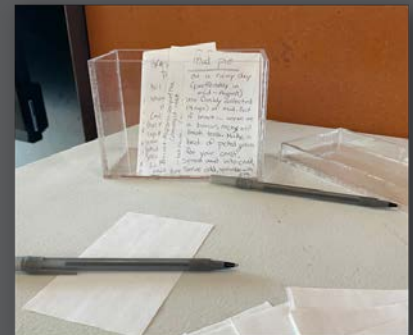
spotlight

Lia Davido

Intermedia MFA student and
IMRC Center staff member



Before They're Gone (2022)



Lia's installation features etched acrylic boxes with intricate illustrations of important family imagery. From her gallery label:

"Using her family as an example, Lia encourages people to have conversations with their loved ones about their lives and family histories. For her family, food is an important part of their story, and through the use of personalized boxes and recipe cards she asks people to consider what's important to them and theirs."

We encourage you to visit the IMRC Center through the end of 2022 to see and interact with Lia's work.

Check out our **Student BLOG** for more of what's possible in the IMRC Center Labs.



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submit your project or event to be featured in *immersed*: imrc@maine.edu



“During FY22, the IMRC Center provided **over 2000 hours of student credit hour support** in IMRC Center classroom spaces.

Direct academic support has increased by 17%, and interdisciplinary representation of majors supported has increased by 38% [since FY20].”
IMRC Center Annual Report AY 21-22



new collaborators

James LeBlanc, a current Intermedia MFA student, joins the IMRC Center operations team and specializes in Audiovisual support. James’ skills will allow the IMRC Center to expand its event capacity and service to students.

Kathleen Toole enters a new Administrative Coordinator position, splitting duties between further support for IMRC Center daily operations and development of the Experiential Programs Innovation Central (EPIC) initiative. This position further strengthens the IMRC Center’s integration with both EPIC and the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR).

The **IMRC Center Advisory Committee** has expanded to include additional representatives, most notably from the graduate and undergraduate student populations, and has organized new subcommittees to further refine service experience, relationship management, and alignment with UMaine and UMS foundational values.

If your department, organization, community, or business would like to collaborate with the IMRC in 2023, contact us: imrc@maine.edu.

photos this issue

front

top: students enjoy an open-air concert at the adaptive presentation/performance environment September 2022 (Jim Winters)

center: IMRC Center atrium (Sean Taylor)

right: *Beflore They're Gone*, Lia Davido

back

top: *Radical Gardening*, Susan Smith

top left: audio recording class (Ron Lisnet) and digital art class (Adam Kuykendall)

bottom left: students at Maine Impact Week display April 2022 (Ron Lisnet)

bottom right: IMRC Center display case (Lia Davido)



looking back

- This fall, Student Entertainment debuted a **concert series** taking advantage of the unique features of the IMRC Center Adaptive Presentation / Performance Environment. On September 30, October 14, and November 4, the concerts featured campus talent in the bands **Gunshot Glitter**, **Milk Street**, **Sizzle**, **Gnocchi**, **Midnight Breakfast**, and **Skyline Drive**. The unique retractable exterior wall allowed the bands to have the full benefits of a professional stage while the audience gathered outside on the Stewart Commons lawn to enjoy the shows.
- The English Department returned with another entry in their long-running **New Writing Series**, hosting events featuring “innovative, adventurous, and/or unduly neglected writing.” The series has hosted over two hundred readings since its inception in 1999; on November 3, New York-based short story author and photographer **Giada Scodellaro** read from her debut collection, *Some of Them Will Carry Me*, to an attentive full-house audience.
- The **Intermedia MFA Speaker Series** continued this semester with appearances by notable interdisciplinary artists **Dave McKenzie**, **Ashley Page**, and **Annea Lockwood**. Hybrid presentations combining live audiences and Zoom streaming allowed participants from beyond campus to join together virtually.
- IMFA Faculty were also featured in the **ART Workers** exhibition kicking off the semester, culminating in a gallery talk during which **N.B. Aldrich**, **Arturo Camacho**, **Bethany Engstrom**, **Sheridan Kelley Adams**, and **Intermedia MFA Program Director Susan Smith** discussed the pieces with students and visitors.

looking ahead

- The Intermedia MFA program joins the Studio Art and New Media programs to host their annual **Open Studio Night** to close the semester. **December 6**.
- The **Influential Art Film Series**, developed as a collaboration between the Center and Student Entertainment, will debut during spring semester. Films will be rear-projected to be viewed outdoors from the Stewart Commons lawn. Begins **January 26**.
- Anticipate a variety of Intermedia research featured throughout the IMRC Center during **Maine Impact Week**. **April 10-14**.
- New Media and SCIS Student Showcase** will share a wide variety of prototypes, artistic collaborations, and more to conclude the semester. **April 28**.
- The **Intermedia MFA Speaker Series** continues with the following visiting artist appearances:
 - Maria Villanueva **February 7**
 - Chelsea Knight (virtual) **February 21**
 - Letitia Huckaby (virtual) **February 28**
 - Tectonic Industries **March 28**

acknowledgment

The **M. Perry Hunter, Jr. '52 Fund for the Innovative Media Research and Commercialization Center**, otherwise known as the **Hunter Fund**, is an endowment that has allowed the IMRC Center to be able to maintain and upgrade the student experience at the IMRC. Most recently, this gift was used to enhance safe access to the Audiovisual, Prototyping, Fabrication, and Electronics Labs by installing card access pads and security cameras that allow for students to reserve and use lab equipment independently and conveniently.

Mr. Hunter was an economics major at UMaine and was an industrious innovator, both while a student and throughout his career—most notably as an inventor of a successful method for tapping existing water mains. The bequest states:

“In providing for this fund, Perry hoped to support undergraduate and graduate students who, like him, had an entrepreneurial spirit.”

We are grateful for the generosity of Mr. Hunter and his family’s dedication to providing support for student innovations that become tomorrow’s necessities.

Please contact imrc@maine.edu for more information about how to support future-focused interdisciplinary studies with your own gift.

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