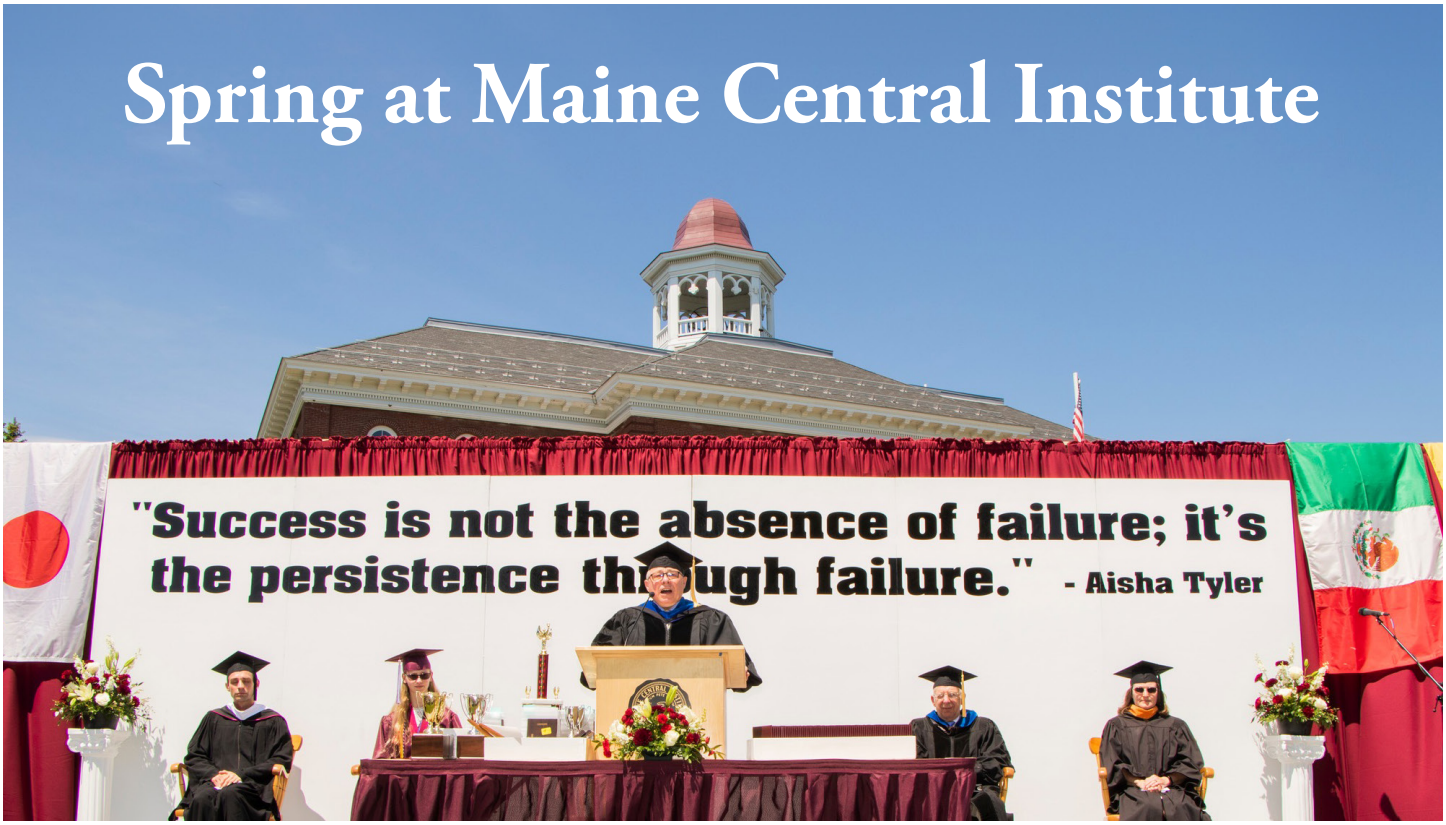
MAINE CENTRAL INSTITUTE

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Spring at Maine Central Institute



Greetings from MCI Residential Life!

What an unforgettable 2023-2024 school year this has been, especially the second semester. The semester began with one of the most memorable Winter Carnivals that we have had in years. Although the snow was lacking, the competition and the school spirit of the students was incredible. MCI decided to remain open for both February and April break for the kids to enjoy some rest and relaxation in a safe and comfortable place, but many activities were provided for them to get out and have some fun. Many of the students took advantage of the trips, especially the one to Fenway Park to watch the Boston Red Sox play. Following April vacation, MCI held their annual International Food Festival in which many of the students made their favorite dish from their home country. This festival has become such a community event with many people attending from surrounding towns. Founders Weekend took place in May with the Night of Madness (talent show) and the Spring Fling, the last dance of the school year. To cap off the school year was our Graduation weekend, which brought us some beautiful weather as well as wonderful memories in saying goodbye and good luck to our graduating class of 2024.

Please enjoy the Residential Life Spring Newsletter and what our students are saying and experiencing here at MCI.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!!!

With much gratitude,
John Dean, Dean of Student Life

Winter Carnival



by Jane Mautz ’25 - United States

The second half of the school year was definitely busy! Winter Carnival was a highlight for many MCI students! However, the events and activities were a bit different than what past students were used to, as the weather was not up to its usual intensity for that time of year. There was absolutely no snow on the ground! In fact, the Winter Carnival week had rainy days instead of snow storms.

Due to the lack of snow, many usual Winter Carnival activities had to be replaced temporarily this year. Unfortunately MCI students were unable to do the outdoor sledding race and the famous snow sculptures. However, these activities were replaced with some surprisingly fun new activities. The sledding races were moved inside, using scooter boards. The students had to complete many different variations of races, some being relay races, single races, and the fan-favorite dizzy-goggle race! The snow sculptures were replaced with a cornhole tournament that was filled with laughter and surprises! The new events certainly proved that Winter Carnival is all about having fun.

To end the 2024 Winter Carnival, MCI Key Club hosted its annual Sno-Ball (MCI’s prom) with the theme of Masquerade! This special dance is where the winners of the Winter Carnival are announced. This year the class of 2024 Seniors took their SECOND Winter Carnival win, as they also took home a win during the 2023 Winter Carnival! To say they were excited is a complete understatement!

Although the 2024 Winter Carnival was different compared to a typical MCI Winter Carnival, the event brought even more laughter, excitement, and memories! Winter Carnival is truly the highlight of students’ school year, and can create forever memories if the students involve themselves and don’t let fear get in the way!



Sno-Ball

by Hyewon No ’25 - South Korea

One of the most memorable occasions at MCI is the Sno-Ball (Prom). As an MCI student, I had lots of experience this year, especially at the Sno-Ball. I came to MCI when I was a freshman. Over the past two years, I’ve never been to dances like Sno-Ball or Homecoming because I was not that interested in them when I first came. However, as I’m getting used to the lifestyle in America and making new friends over here, I wanted to have fun with everything that I’ve never tried before.

This year was the first time that I’ve been to the Sno-Ball dance. I had fun with my friends and the DJ played a big role in Sno-Ball. He made sure that all students would have fun with the music he played. There was also the selection of this year’s Sno-Ball Queen and King, which played an important role in capturing MCI students’ attention and interest. There were also lots of cookies or snacks that all students could have and the biggest part was the photo. There were MCI teachers who took pictures of us. Thanks to them, we could keep our pictures dressed and feel like we were on the runway. Everyone there had fun dancing and singing in unison. I’ve never been to these dances before, so I don’t know what it was like in the past, but I had so much fun and enjoyed it that I’m sure this year’s Sno-Ball was the best.



Weekend Activities

by Minjun Kim ’26 - South Korea

On weekends or weekdays, MCI always provides activities. The week’s activity appears on the site called MCI Huskies, and you can sign up on the MCI Huskies site to participate in the activity. Most activities are optional, but some activities, such as big events or activities, are mandatory. For example, some of the activities we do at school are to go to Walmart every Sunday to buy students’ daily necessities, food, etc., and take them to the department stores. I sometimes go to eat delicious food and do activities with other students. There are fun activities in spring and winter. In the spring it is an activity to go swimming and canoeing, and in the winter it is an activity to go to the ski resort.

I did a variety of activities but I will tell you two my favorite activities and why. My favorite activities were swimming and going to Walmart. Swimming was cold so it made me forget about feeling hot and swimming with friends is really good. Also when I ride in a canoe, I can feel that feeling of adventure. In my home country (South Korea), experiencing that feeling is not easy so it was a good experience, and when canoeing, if you lay down on the seat and stare into the sky it is very quiet and makes me feel comfortable. I have such good memories with my friends when we were swimming and canoeing. Walmart may not look fun, but there are no fun activities like going to Walmart. It’s not big but shopping around with friends and buying some food and daily necessities makes me really happy. These activities make you get closer to your friends and create a fun memory.

End of the School Year / Summer

by Seine Chin ’25 - United States

As the school year comes to a close, the last few weeks at MCI are packed with eventful end-of-year festivities fostering a sense of chaos and excitement all around. The week started off with underclassmen awards, a time where students in grades 9, 10, and 11 are recognized for their hard work throughout the year. Proud smiles can be seen from both the students and teachers on the stage of Powers Hall in the Founders building. Awards are handed out for excellence in all areas of academics, including visual + performing arts, humanities classes, science, mathematics, and more. The following day was 8th grade move-up day, where the incoming freshman class got to spend the day on MCI’s campus to prepare for the upcoming fall. Myself and some of my classmates and friends had the privilege of playing games and touring these students around campus. I enjoyed getting to learn a little more about the kids and hearing all their questions. That same day, Powers Hall was featured once again for the annual long-lasting tradition of Manson Night. As part of junior year, every student writes a Manson Essay where they research a topic of their choice, and argue for a particular side. Of those students, nine finalists were chosen to speak on Manson Night, where they delivered their speeches to a room full of students, parents, and judges. Each finalist is awarded for their participation, and two awards are given out; Manson essayist and Manson essay runner-up. Topics ranged from concerns about our Organ transplantation system, to advocacy for more gun restrictions, to the effects of technology on the younger generation. As a finalist myself, I thoroughly enjoyed hearing my fellow classmates speak on a topic they were truly passionate about, and getting to practice my public speaking. A few days later was Senior Chapel, where family, friends, teachers, and students all gathered together to honor the class of 2024. Scholarships and awards were given out, speeches were made from the salutatorian, former class president, and rising class president, and a humorous yet bittersweet senior slideshow was shown. As a junior, it was our job to help usher and set up for this event, and I enjoyed getting to see so many familiar faces unite together.

Sandwiched between Senior Chapel and Commencement was Bossov Ballet Theatre's spring performance, titled *Musical Dialogue*. The production featured an array of pieces ranging from group dances, trios, and small ensembles. Each piece was choreographed by Natalya Getman and included dancers from levels 1, 2, and 3. The spring show is always so special because the students get to explore an unfamiliar style of dance such as contemporary. I love any opportunity to perform with my classmates, especially with my family and friends cheering in the audience. The following day was Commencement, a final goodbye to our senior class. The weather was beautiful, so graduation took place on our front campus. The day featured many laughs, tears, and hard goodbyes. Seeing the seniors leave our MCI family is always challenging, though each and every one of them will go on to achieve bigger and better things.

Though the campus feels much emptier without the upperclassmen, the underclassmen wrap up the year with final exams. Kids get to share the information they have accumulated all year in projects, quizzes, and tests. Members of MCI also had their final school meeting, where each grade got to rotate to their new spot in the gym for our weekly school meetings. Moving from the left side of the bleachers to the right side was a much bigger change that I initially thought. I can confidently say myself and many other members of the junior class are looking forward to being seniors next year and leading the school.

Although the school year might be over, the campus will not stay empty for long. MCI is getting ready to host hundreds of students from Taiwan for our STEAM camp, as well as ballet students from around the world for Bossov Ballet's summer intensive. I am looking forward to being back here next week to prepare for BBT's production of *Paquita* and *Romeo and Juliet!*



Some final thoughts from our Graduating Seniors:

Hein Nanda Kyaw



What I am going to miss most at MCI is the residential community and our late night laughs. We were all from different countries but we all shared the same laughs, the same smiles and the same memories. One recent memory I can think of is having our campfire and all of us (including the dorm parents) enjoying each other's company, playing bocce and of course, having smores and playing "Granny" around a campfire. I'm also going to miss meeting such a diverse group of people on campus during SOLI week and visiting the lake during the start of the year. Those were some of my favorite times and I always looked forward to it.



Minhyeok Kim

My favorite memories were nights in Manson Hall. Every night, we played games together, talked to each other, and had some night food with each other. I would really like to thank Manson Hall dorm parents. They treated us like we were their own children. I felt very comfortable living in Manson thanks to them. I am going to miss the friends I met in MCI the most. I really appreciate that I had a chance to become friends with these people from all over the world in this place. I want to keep in touch with them forever.

Mehmet Berke Baran

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Pomeroy (Academic Counselor) for all her support. She was a calm and competent individual who helped me follow an academic path that enabled me to get into my desired major and college. I appreciate her guidance, belief in me, and the opportunities and doors she opened during my high school journey. Her involvement and personal attention connected me with courses and mentors who have shaped who I am today. All the best to my guru.





Jaekwon Song

My favorite memory of MCI is hanging out with friends down at the town. I would really like to thank Mr Morin (Math Teacher / Dorm Parent) for always giving me an advice and helping me see so many things I could not see and thank Mrs Brenton (Math Teacher / Dorm Parent) who gave me company and provide me with her wisdom and helping me to walk on the right path. What I am going to miss the most at MCI is attending sit down dinners as a community and doing Sunday's bible study with my favorite person whom I met at MCI.

Maxine Pallante



My favorite memory at MCI would have to be when I first met my best friend Gigi. She and I met our sophomore year in English class and we instantaneously clicked. Gigi has been my biggest support along the way and has always been there for me through my ups and downs. In addition to Gigi, another two people at MCI I owe a lot to would be Ms. Verrill (Chemistry teacher) and Ms. Fehnel (Dorm Director). Ms. Verrill continued to push me to be a better student and a better person in general and allowed me to explore the idea of pursuing chemistry as a career. Ms. Fehnel was my dorm director all four years of high school and without her I don't know what I would do. She was basically my mom throughout my time here and I could never thank her enough for what she has given me. Without these three women in my corner while at MCI, I don't know if I would be on the path I am now towards a successful career. MCI gave me many things, but the gift of friendship and the support of mothers who take in anyone who needs a little extra love from a mom. I couldn't have asked for a greater gift.

On a final note...

I would like to wish the class of 2024 the best of luck in whatever path they choose. In their time here they have made MCI a better place and I would encourage them to take their positive energy, their appreciation, their kindness and love and continue to spread it around the world.

John Dean
Dean Of Student Life

