MAINE CENTRAL INSTITUTE

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Spring at Maine Central Institute



Greetings from MCI Residential Life!

What an incredible year we have had here at MCI and in our residential program. I am continuously amazed by the fantastic staff that we have overseeing, helping, and caring for the students living on campus. I was reminded of this and of the important / impactful role that they fill in our end of the year BBQ for our graduating seniors. Dorm Directors and Supervisors sharing stories of those graduating and the emotions that came out from adults and students was so endearing.

I feel extremely fortunate and blessed to be part of such an amazing community, work closely with those living in the dorms, and to make connections with these incredible students from all around the world.

I thank MCI and the parents of those students for this opportunity and will continue to do my best in serving them all to the best of my ability.

All the best!
John Dean
Dean of Student Life

April Vacation Activities

by Avery (Suyeon) Jin '27 - South Korea

Movie Trip - 4/19 Saturday - At 6 PM, we had a delicious dinner at school with our friends and went on a movie trip with Mr. Dean. We arrived at the Flagship movie cinema in Waterville. There were various genres of movies such as Minecraft 3D, Snickers, Drop, The King of Kings, and Sinners. We decided which movie we would watch with our friends and bought popcorn to eat during the movie. After entering the theater, we waited for the movie to start while eating popcorn and having fun conversations with friends. We could control the temperature for our chair and it could be used as a bed, so we could comfortably enjoy the movie for about 2 hours. After all our friends finished watching at 9 PM, Mr. Dean took us to eat a delicious McDonald's meal for those that were hungry. We ate burgers while laughing and talking about the movie in the car. The food was so delicious. We arrived at the dorm at 10 PM and rested for tomorrow's activities. We started our spring break activities with fun movies and delicious burgers. We were so excited and happy about the spring break.

Ice Cream Social and Movie - 4/20 Sunday - At 7pm, We went to the Student Center with friends and watched a movie while eating delicious ice cream with Mr. Dean. The ice cream had vanilla, chocolate, mint chocolate, and coffee flavors, and there were chocolate chips, marshmallows, cherries, oreos, and chocolate syrups that we could put for topping. We were so excited that we just filled up our ice cream cup. We watched 50 First Dates, which Mr. Dean recommended. The movie was a romantic comedy that everyone could enjoy together. We laughed and were touched the whole time watching the movie. Unlike the movie theater, we could freely talk about the movie, so it was comfortable and we could get together more. Also, there were English subtitles, so some students could understand the story that we were not able to understand. Through this, we could easily learn new expressions of English. Although it was a short activity, Everyone felt like we had spent our day meaningfully and it was not boring. (Avery: Next time, I want to watch a scary horror movie.)





Trampoline Park and Chick Fil A - 4/21 Monday - On Monday, at 4pm, we went to enjoy Chick-fil-A and Trampoline Park. For dinner, Chick-fil-A's chicken strips and chicken sandwiches with Chick-fil-A sauce were so perfect and delicious. It is our favorite fast food restaurant. As soon as we entered Trampoline Park, we could hear exciting music. It was very large and had many kinds of trampolines. We climbed, jumped, and ran around like monkeys. We were very tired, but we were happier than just sitting in the dorm for the whole day. We took funny pictures with our friends and made fun memories. Finally, Mr. Dean took us to a delicious ice cream store for us who were tired. The delicious ice cream recharged all our energy and made the day end energetically.

Shopping and Fast Food (Waterville) - 4/22 Tuesday - On Tuesday, at 5:30, we went to a shopping mall and fast food restaurant in Waterville. Most of the students stopped by Walmart first and bought a lot of snacks to eat during the rest of the April break. Especially, we bought ramen, chocolate, Lay's chips, fruits, and jelly. We went to a place where fast food restaurants were located to eat dinner. We thought it was far away from the shopping mall, but we arrived quickly as we walked while laughing and talking with friends. We had many options such as Taco Bell, McDonald's, Subway, and Burger King. Still, we headed to McDonald's to eat their delicious soft cones. We bought chicken nuggets, ice cream, and a burger combo and enjoyed it. Since we shopped and walked a lot, time passed quickly and the foods were so good. On the way back to the dorm, Mr. Dean stopped by McDonald's for the friends who could not eat because of the lack of time. Thanks to him, some students were able to eat ice cream one more time. It was a day when we could go back to the dorm and sleep very well.

Bowling - 4/23 Wednesday - On Wednesday, after brunch, we took the bus to go bowling at 1pm. We were so excited to go bowling with friends. Some of my friends were new to bowling and some were good at it. The bowling balls were heavier and more varied than we thought, so some people did not know how to do them, but we taught each other and bowled hardly. It was a meaningful time because some friends got to try things I had not experienced during the vacation. We also learned English words related to bowling that we did not know well, so it was very informative. We returned to the dorm from the bowling alley around 2pm. When we got back, it was already time for dinner. Time went by faster than other days. I was sad because I felt the vacation was coming to an end, but we had a great time bowling with our friends.







Boston / Red Sox Trip - 4/24 Thursday - On Thursday, at 7am, we headed to Boston. It was a trip that everyone had been looking forward to. It was about a 3-4 hour drive, but we were able to see the MLB baseball game for free there. We could also easily visit various international markets and restaurants for international students. The weather was also warm, although the sun was strong. After arriving in Boston, we walked along the pretty streets and went to the baseball stadium. On the way, we stopped by the Boston Public Garden to take pictures of the pretty flowers and played with the ducks for a while. As there are many universities and colleges in Boston, I was able to see the campus of Boston University, one of the great universities. We talked about our dream schools while looking at the college campuses. It was a long walk of about 30 minutes, but the time passed quickly since we were looking around here and there. When we entered the home stadium of the Boston baseball team, the MLB Red Sox, many people came to cheer for the team. We bought chicken strips and ice cream before the game and watched the game. The players were so cool and fun. Also, it was a good time for some friends to learn a new sport. After that, we split into groups from 4pm to 8pm and had 4 hours of free time. Each group went to a restaurant they wanted to eat at or stopped by a market to buy a lot of food. We also stopped by a clothing store to buy pretty clothes and accessories during free time. We spent the day laughing. Also, we was so grateful to the dorm teachers who gave us this experience. I hope we can have this activity again during the next spring break.

Roller Skating Trip - 4/26 Saturday - On Saturday, at 11:30 in the morning, we went roller skating. As soon as we arrived, we each found roller skating shoes. Some of our friends were roller skating for the first time in a long time. We spent time having fun as we fell and twisted each other. We sang along to the beat of an exciting song and went around the roller skating rink. Our feet hurt from roller skating for a long time, but we endured it and kept going because it was so much fun. We had fun skating and making new skills with friends. It was the last spring break activity, so I was a little sad. However, I was so happy that I was able to spend my time meaningfully until the end without getting bored.















Winter Carnival and Sno Ball

by Jane Mautz ’25 & Caleb Kennedy ‘25 - United States

Winter Carnival is considerably one of the best events MCI has to offer. This year’s Winter Carnival was filled with fun, as well as some perseverance due to the weather. Starting off Winter Carnival with decorating the gym brings the classes together, and is where the competitiveness begins. Volleyball and Sled Relay races were both filled with fun as us Seniors rolled in Volleyball, but the Juniors were superior in the relay races. The skits were very entertaining this year, as each class was different from each other, and we got to see Mr. Morin get carried off by one of his Sophomores. Every event that followed was competitive and filled with an energy that’s hard to replicate. We topped off Winter Carnival bright and early in the morning with Kickball, and ended the night with a great Sno Ball!

This year’s prom theme was Night Under the Stars and was definitely my favorite theme out of all four years. MCI’s Key Club did a beautiful job decorating the cafeteria, transforming it into a completely different place. Between the singing and dancing the entire MCI student body had a wonderful evening together, a nice ending to Winter Carnival. This prom was particularly special for me and Caleb as we won prom king and queen. We have attended prom together since our freshman year and ending our last one as king and queen was the best.

International Food Fetstival

by Cameron Morin, IFF Coordinator and Math Teacher - United States

The 18th annual International Food Festival was a great success. Eleven teams participated in the event representing 9 different countries and states. We had over 30 students and faculty members sharing their culture and cuisine with the community on the rainy Sunday in May. Dishes ranged from Chinese hot pot to chocolate babka, and included freshly made kimchi fried rice, onigiri, crepes and many other amazing dishes. Despite the weather, the community showed up in large numbers to support the students and enjoy the food. The students enjoyed sharing with each other and the community in a chance to create bonds through food.

As dorm parents running the event for the first time, it was wonderful to be a part of the process. Students were ecstatic to share a little bit of their culture with the surrounding community. Much like a playoff match or state championship in sports, this felt like the final event for many of the dorm students, many of which are already excited for and planning for next year.

Dorm Olympics

by John Dean, Dean of Students - United States

In looking at the 2024-2025 school year I wanted to look to see how we could bring our Residential Life community closer together. Two initiatives were undertaken with the hopes of doing just that. The first was to put in place mandatory trips that would get students out of their rooms, dorms, and comfort zone and go on trips that they would not otherwise do. Some students wrote about some of the trips in previous newsletters, but I wanted to provide a list of all that they did and all the places they went.

- Hiked Mt. Battie and shopping in Camden, Maine
- Apple Picking and Cornmaze - Levant, Maine
- Umaine Hockey - Orono, Maine
- BBT Nutcracker - Waterville Opera House
- Maine Celtics and Maine Mall - Portland
- Shopping - Freeport, Maine
- Portland Sea Dogs (minor league baseball team)

Along with these mandatory trips MCI offered many more trips such as movies, skiing, dinner, etc. that our students had the opportunity to take advantage of.

The second activity that was put in place was the MCI Dorm Olympics. Four teams were created among our residential students and they competed all year long with the hope to capture the first title of Dorm Olympics Champions. The follow were the events that they competed in: Flag Decorating, Door Decorating, Pie Eating Contest, Hula Hoop Contest, Costume Challenge (Halloween), Volleyball, Kahoots Trivia Challenge, Ugly Sweater / Best PJs (Holiday Theme), Stuffy Smackdown, Pictionary, Dr. Dodgeball, Egg Hunt, and Kick Ball.

At the end of the Olympics it really didn't matter who won, just that we were coming together as a community and having a lot of fun. For those that want to know the final results were the following:

Final Rankings:

Blue Jays - 850
Red Hot Chili Peppers - 825
Hornets - 670
Green Goats - 650

Spring Fling Dance

by Seine Chin '25 - United States

My name is Al-Amin Suleiman Machira. I'm from Tanzania. I'm an international student at Maine Central Institute. During my whole 3 years at MCI I have experienced the flag ceremony, which is one of my favorite ceremonies at MCI. It's a wholesome experience to see my peers representing their country's flag, their faces filled with pride and joy to represent their nation.

As I walked in, I felt a rush of excitement as cheers filled the air. The energy of my classmates and teachers made the moment even more special as I approached my flag. My heart pounded with pride, knowing I was representing my country in front of the whole school. Grabbing the rope, pulling the flag, and raising it high. I felt a deep connection to my culture and where I come from. Seeing it displayed alongside so many others, reminded me how diverse and united our school is. In that moment, I wasn't just carrying a flag, I was sharing my identity with everyone around me, and it was an experience I will never forget.

Final Thoughts from Our Graduating Seniors

Seungbeen Eom '25 - South Korea: MCI is a warm and supportive school that truly values student voices and growth. I've really enjoyed my three years here as a student, the community made it a meaningful experience. Everything has been great. Thank you MCI!

JK Lee '25 - South Korea: It's been a pleasure, especially the community around here was so meaningful and I really enjoyed all three years so much. I would recommend it to people back in my country who want to study abroad. I will always look back at my time at MCI as a fantastic experience.

Leslie Escartin Mora PG - Mexico: As the year comes to an end, I feel lucky to say that I will always cherish and appreciate my memories from this year at MCI. I am really thankful to have been a part of this community, which has allowed me to pursue one of my passions in life through Bossov Ballet Theatre. I feel grateful towards all my teachers, and the effort that they put into everyone in their classes.

Seine Chin '25 - United States: I created a countdown on my bedroom mirror of the days until graduation, but as the days moved from double digits down to single ones, I had to erase it. It became something that brought me sadness instead of a tool to look forward to. My time here at MCI has been so meaningful thanks to the teachers that have believed in my success and have guided me through my past three years here. Mrs. Libby, especially, has become someone that I could look up to and also a person that I could ask for advice and mentorship. Her classes were always full of laughter and joy. She could have taught any class and I would have taken it just to have had her as my teacher. Mrs. Verrill has also had a profound impact on me. She has not only been a wonderful teacher that makes it so clear how much she cares for her students, but I have also seen her at every ballet performance, cheering on her students with tears in her eyes. She is the type of teacher that you never forget because her love and passion shines so brightly.

Jane Mautz '25 - United States: I cannot believe these four years are over. Everyone said high school would go by fast, but I never thought the end would come this quickly. MCI has been my home and my second family. There's truly no words I can put together to express my gratitude for how the MCI community has helped shape who I am today. I'm beyond grateful that I had this opportunity to be a part of this community. Although it was not always easy for me, the triumphs and tribulations I experience here has taught me perseverance, kindness, and loyalty. I wouldn't trade these past four years for anything.