LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Dear Friends and Supporters of English:

The English Department has had a very busy and exciting 2016-17 academic year. Most notably, under the leadership of Prof. Derek Pacheco (Director of Undergraduate Studies) and Barbara Dixon (Associate Head), we revised our undergraduate major and course offerings, all of which will go into effect in Fall 2017. Faculty designed a new major by combining three of our departmental disciplines (literature, education, and linguistics), and we also designed several new courses, many of which have now been approved for the university core. Speaking of new courses, Dragons (an experimental large-lecture course taught by Professors Dorrie Armstrong and Nush Powell) was a big hit in fall of 2016; students from across the university loved reading about these mythical creatures in literature from *The Faerie Queene* to *Nimona*. We promoted a *Design Your Own Minor* initiative, which allows students to select any five courses in our department and, well, design their own minors, and we developed a professional writing minor. Looking ahead to next year, we are hoping to develop a gaming track for our new major, too.

Literary Awards was a major highlight of our year. This year’s speaker, Margaret Atwood, offered provocative remarks at the banquet for student award winners and their guests, and she later gave an entertaining *reading* for the public. After her reading, the line for her book signing was the longest many faculty could remember. With a TV version of her *The Handmaid’s Tale* soon to be aired on Hulu, Atwood’s visit was timely and prescient.

Our tradition of *Books and Coffee*, which brings together university and local communities, generated lots of interest this year, too. President Mitch Daniels even made an appearance to talk about the lessons we can all learn from *Hamilton*, the Ron Chernow book version.

As you will see from the stories that follow, our departmental organizations have been busy: for example, ICaP is redesigning English 108 and developing an online version of English 106, and MFS continues its tradition of excellence. Our department members have been heralded for their accomplishments this year, too. For example, Prof. Marianne Boruch earned a spot in the *New Yorker’s Best Book List*; Prof. Bradley Dilger won a Humanities Without Walls grant; Prof. Melanie Shoffner won a Fulbright Award; and Prof. Jenny Bay won the CLA Engagement Award. Graduate and undergraduate students earned recognition at our Literary Awards banquet, and three of our staff—Lisa Hartman, Jill Quirk, and Janeen Redman—won Purdue *Bravo Awards* for their excellence in performing work “vital to the University’s mission and the morale of faculty and staff.”

I could go on, but I won’t. Instead, I’ll encourage you to read on and discover what’s been going on this year in Heav Hall.

Best wishes,

Krista Ratcliffe
Professor and Head of English

P.S. Don’t forget to support the English Department during *Purdue’s Day of Giving* on April 26, 2017!
ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

TEACHING HONORS

Charles B. Murphy Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Dorsey Armstrong was honored as this year’s winner of the Charles B. Murphy Award for outstanding undergraduate teaching. This award, given annually, represents the University’s highest undergraduate teaching honor and is accompanied by a $10,000 cash prize and induction into Purdue’s Teaching Academy.

Kenneth T. Kofmehl Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Professor Robyn Malo was awarded the 2016-2017 Kenneth T. Kofmehl Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. The Kofmehl is the highest honor granted by the College of Liberal Arts for undergraduate teaching.

The award was established in 2003 to honor Dr. Kofmehl, professor emeritus of political science at Purdue for over 30 years. Nominees are evaluated based on teaching service, student ratings, student and faculty nominations, integration of teaching and scholarship as it relates to the faculty member’s educational mission, and efforts to assist and motivate students outside of the classroom.

College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Awards

Professor Margie Berns was selected by the CLA Educational Excellence Committee as a 2016-2017 College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Graduate Teacher. Professor Nush Powell was selected as the a College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher for 2016-2017. Professors Berns’s and Powell’s outstanding teaching record, enthusiastic student nominations, and commitment to integrating teaching and scholarship were recognized and rewarded.

College of Liberal Arts Excellence in Engagement Award

Professor Jenny Bay has been selected as the first recipient of the CLA Excellence in Engagement Award for 2016-2017.
Overall English Department Excellence in Teaching Award

Each year, the English department awards the “Overall English Department Excellence in Teaching Award.” Four awards were given for 2016-2017 in the areas of undergraduate teaching, graduate teaching, instruction by a graduate teaching assistant, and instruction by a lecturer. The department’s Excellence in Teaching committee reviewed applications for evidence of significant reflection on practice, awareness of the institutional and cultural contexts of instruction, a willingness to modify and improve practice, and evidence of creativity and/or innovation in teaching. Congratulations to this year’s winners:

Overall Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching: Professor Robert Lamb

Overall Excellence in Graduate Teaching: Professor Nush Powell

Overall Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student: Mary McCall

Overall Excellence in Teaching by a Lecturer: Mariam Alamyar

Quintilian Award for Excellence in Teaching First Year Composition

Spring 2016
Alex Mouw, Amy Elliot, Bethany Leach, Christina McCarter, Daniel Ernst, Daye Phillippo, Dustin Meyer, Elaine Cannell, Elena Shvidko, Elizabeth Boyle, Hannah Korell, Hannah Rahimi, Ingrid Pierce, Jeffrey Amos, Jie Geo, Jonathan Isaac, Joshua Galat, Justin Barker, Kenneth Tanemura, Kwaku Osei-Tutu, Margaret Sheble, Mariam Alamyar, Mitchell Jacobs, Mitchell Terpstra, Negin Goodrich, Olivia Nammack, Sandra Banales, Tulin Ece Tosun, Yue Chen

Fall 2016
Crow, the Corpus & Repository of Writing, Wins $142K “Humanities Without Walls” Grant

An interdisciplinary team from Second Language Studies and Rhetoric & Composition has been awarded a $142,000 grant in a Mellon-funded grant program, “Humanities Without Walls.” Crow, the Corpus and Repository of Writing, has been funded in the first round of a new research challenge, “The Work of the Humanities in a Changing Climate.” Crow is the first web-based archive which combines a corpus of student writing with a repository of teaching materials, offering new possibilities for both research and professional development. For example, the project will support mentoring by making it easier to share syllabi and assignments. Researchers will be able to use diverse methods to study the ways writing prompts shape student writing in mainstream and international-student focused English 106.

Crow project leaders are professor Bradley Dilger, Purdue alum and Michigan State professor Bill Hart-Davidson, former English faculty member Shelley Staples, now at the University of Arizona, and visiting professor Beril Tezeller Arik. Graduate students Hadi Banat, Tony Bushner, Sherri Craig, Wendy Gao, Ge Lan, Lindsey Macdonald, Michelle McMullin, Ji-Young Shin, Ola Swatek, Ashley Velazquez, and Terrence Wang are contributing, with support from professional writing students Blair Newton and alumna Samantha Pate. The Crow team has already presented at multiple conferences and will host a symposium in Fall 2018. Learn more at their web site, http://writecrow.org/ or the Humanities Without Walls site, http://www.humanitieswithoutwalls.illinois.edu/.

The New Yorker’s Best Books


Big 10 Academic Alliance Leadership Program

Professor Emily Allen has been named a fellow in the Big 10 Academic Alliance Leadership program, a program designed to develop the leadership and managerial skills of faculty who have demonstrated exceptional ability and administrative promise.

Library Scholars Grant

Professor Marlo David was award Purdue University Libraries’ Library Scholars Grant to support her project to develop a literary and artistic biography of African-American filmmaker, playwright, and actor Bill Gunn.

National Endowment for the Humanities

Professor Chris Lukasik was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant for his current book project, The Image in the Text: Intermediality, Illustration, and Nineteenth-Century American Literature.

College of Liberal Arts Discovery Excellence Award for the Humanities

Professor Pat Sullivan has been selected for the CLA Discovery Excellence Award for the Humanities, the college’s highest recognition for scholarly achievement in the humanities and social sciences.

Fulbright Scholar

Professor Melanie Shoffner is a Fulbright Scholar recipient for her project “Adjusting the American Lens: Literature and Pedagogy as Cultural Study in Romania.” Prof. Shoffner spent the 2016-17 academic year in the Faculty of Letters at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, located in northwest Romania in the province of Transylvania.

Woman of Distinction Award

Professor Venetria Patton received a Woman of Distinction Award from the YWCA Greater Lafayette, awarded on the basis of her outstanding achievements, leadership, and community involvement while serving in a professional role.
### ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

#### LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS (G=GRAD; UG=UNDERGRAD)

#### CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>Hon. Mention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bain-Swiggett Award (UG—Best Poem)</td>
<td>Gregory Yogan</td>
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<td>Barriss &amp; Iola Mills Award (G—Best Poem)</td>
<td>Megan Denton Ray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booth Tarkington Award (G—Short Story or Novel Excerpt)</td>
<td>Diana Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Award (UG—Short Fiction)</td>
<td>Kelsey Schneider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flash Fiction or Prose-poem (G/UG)</td>
<td>Gabriela Garcia (G)</td>
<td>Hayden Smith (UG)</td>
<td>Noah Balding (G)</td>
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<td>Federal Credit Union Award (G/UG—Short Story)</td>
<td>Laura Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Credit Union Award (G/UG—Non-fiction)</td>
<td>Diana Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Play or Screenplay (G/UG)</td>
<td>Drake Meed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poetic Sequence Award (Sequence of 5+ poems or 1 poem of 5+ pages)</td>
<td>Hannah Dellabella</td>
<td>Megan Denton Ray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polynnia Prize (UG—Sequence of 3-7 Poems)</td>
<td>Rachel Leonard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidwell Award (G/UG—Novel-in-Progress)</td>
<td>Gabriela Garcia</td>
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#### CLA & INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARDS

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<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>Hon. Mention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLA Diversity in Action Award</td>
<td>Maryam Ghafoor, Gabriela Garcia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Anthropology Award (G/UG)</td>
<td>Sharareh Taghizadeh Vahed</td>
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<td>Department of Philosophy Award (G/UG)</td>
<td>Scott Beamer (UG), Berman Chan (G)</td>
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<td>Disability Studies (G/UG)</td>
<td>Amy Elliot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Studies and Nature Writing</td>
<td>Pamela Carralero</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBTQ Studies (G/UG)</td>
<td>Joshua Galat</td>
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## ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

### LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS (G=GRAD; UG=UNDERGRAD)
#### CLA & INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARDS

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<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>Hon. Mention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School of Languages and Cultures Award (G)</td>
<td>Christina Maria Weiler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Studies/Science Fiction Award (G/UG)</td>
<td>Pamela Carralero</td>
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<tr>
<td>VPA Award</td>
<td>Trevor Odelberg</td>
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### LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS (G=GRAD; UG=UNDERGRAD)
#### KNEALE AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>Hon. Mention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kneale (American Literature - UG)</td>
<td>Jessica Seamands</td>
<td>Thomas McGuire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (British Literature - UG)</td>
<td>Thomas McGuire</td>
<td>Sarah Nolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (History - UG)</td>
<td>Colleen Couch</td>
<td>Mary Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Popular Culture - UG)</td>
<td>Claire Christoff</td>
<td>Sarah Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Postcolonial Literature - UG)</td>
<td>Jenna Wojcicki</td>
<td>Sarah Bahr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Fiction - G)</td>
<td>Samantha Atkins</td>
<td>Diana Clarke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Poetry - G)</td>
<td>Mitchell Jacobs</td>
<td>Noah Baldino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Linguistics - G)</td>
<td>Kwaku Osei-Tutu</td>
<td>David O'Neil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Literary Criticism - G)</td>
<td>Leah Pennywark</td>
<td>Stacey Dearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Pedagogy - G)</td>
<td>Leah Pennywark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Rhetoric and Composition - G)</td>
<td>Erin Brock Carlson</td>
<td>Erin Brock Carlson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Second Language Studies - G)</td>
<td>Zhaozhe Wang</td>
<td>Negin Goodrich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kneale (Theory and Cultural Studies - G)</td>
<td>Joshua Galat</td>
<td>Pamela Carralero</td>
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**LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS (G = GRAD; UG = UNDERGRAD)**

**EXPOSITORY AND CRITICAL WRITING AWARDS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>Hon. Mention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Babcock Award (Shakespeare - G/UG)</td>
<td>Dustin Meyer (G)</td>
<td>Soon Kwon (UG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bass Williams Award (Black Literature - UG)</td>
<td>Kyrie Sismaet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Braeger Award (Middle Ages Essay - G)</td>
<td>Justin Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hugh McKee Memorial Award (Business Writing, Technical, or Health Communication - UG)</td>
<td>Sarah Bahr</td>
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<td>Swedlund Award (News or Feature Story - UG)</td>
<td>Sarah Bahr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Von’s Book Shop Award (Literary Criticism - G)</td>
<td>Brittany Biesiada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodman Award (Women’s Literature - UG)</td>
<td>Sam Weggeman</td>
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**Purdue Writing Showcase 2017**

Every spring, the Introductory Composition and Professional Writing programs at Purdue University host a Writing Showcase. The Writing Showcase is a day-long symposium that displays posters representing the year’s most innovative print and digital projects produced by English 106 and 108 students, professional writing students, and instructors.

Congratulations to this year’s winners:

*ICaP*

**People’s Choice:** “Objective Nature of Scientific Research” by Krishna Suresh

**Best Primary Research:** “Super Strength: How Carbon Fiber Will Shape Our Future Consumer Products” by Tyler Baumgartner

**Best Collaborative Research:** “Building Project Teams Through Collaborative Research” by Scott Cundiff, Christian Deck, Jacob Dial, Jonathan Frost, Nathaniel Moore, Brandon Plaster, Katie Reid, Carlos Ribot, Jr., Jason Robertson, Russell Saputo, Justin Shultz, and Anthony Smith

**Best Remediation to Presentation Design:** “Yeas and Nays For MENA Migration to Europe” by Anna Poznyak

**Best Visualization of Research:** “Evaluating the Science Behind ‘Star Wars: Battlefront’” by Zachary Burman

**Best Creative Project:** “Touch the Music Podcast” by Justin Zhong

**Most Innovative Syllabus Approach:** “Transculturation in First Year Composition” by Rebekah Sims and Had Banat

*Professional Writing*

**Best Overall Project:** “Mentoring Skills on FIRST Robotics Teams” by Kija Davis

**Best Collaborative Project:** “Iconographic Tracking of the Google Logo” by Daniel Miller, Kendra Moyer, and Kaela Disney

**Best Visual Design:** “Aortic Stenosis and Treatment with Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR)” by Katherine Lin

**People’s Choice:** “Iconographic Tracking of the Google Logo” by Daniel Miller, Kendra Moyer, and Kaela Disney

**Instructor IGNITE Session: 1st place,** “Iconographic Tracking as a Method for Community Engagement” by Erin Brock Carlson;

**2nd place,** “pwn-ing History” by Sherri Craig

**Cover Design Contest:** Caitlynn Lawson
**MFS Modern Fiction Studies**

2016 saw our first special issue devoted to contemporary Chinese fiction. My English Department colleague, Charles Ross, Director of Comparative Literature, served as coeditor along with Wang Ning, Changjiang Distinguished Professor of English at Tsinghua University. The issue includes essays on Chinese metafiction and avant-garde writing of the 1980s and 1990s, as well as essays on such writers as Gao Xingjian, Yan Lianke, and Yan Geling.

Our three general issues feature essays on topics as diverse as Ford Madox Ford and propaganda, the shift from Enlightenment to modernist Orientalism in E. M. Forster’s *A Passage to India*, neoliberalism in Karen Tei Yamashita’s *Tropic of Orange*, W. E. B Du Bois’s *Dark Princess* and African American beauty culture, and the figurative depiction of climate change in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*. Other essays focused on such novelists as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, J. M. Coetzee, Anita Loos, Muriel Spark, and Louise Erdrich.

MFS remains the most used humanities journal in Project Muse, an online database that provides access to over 300 academic journals at more than 2500 libraries worldwide.

For more information about our current and future issues, please visit us at www.cla.purdue.edu/english/mfs

John Duvall, Editor

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**BRANCH, 1775-1925**

*Britain, Representation and Nineteenth-Century History* ([branchcollective.org](http://branchcollective.org)) is based at Purdue and associated with RaVoN ([ravonjournal.org](http://ravonjournal.org)). BRANCH publishes articles of various lengths on events occurring from 1775-1925, especially in Britain. Recently, BRANCH reached a new milestone by reaching a half million words of material. BRANCH is now expanding into other forms of publishing and pedagogy through The COVE: The Central Online Victorian Educator: [http://live-rc-distro.pantheonsite.io/](http://live-rc-distro.pantheonsite.io/)

-Dino Franco Felluga, Editor

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Based at Purdue since 2009, *Arthuriana* continues to publish the latest cutting-edge criticism relating to the Arthurian legend. Recent special-topics issues have included a festschrift in honor of famed Arthurian scholar Alan Lupack and an issue devoted to Layamon’s *Brut*.

-Dorsey Armstrong, Editor
New Undergraduate Concentration in English Language in a Global Context

As part of a revised curriculum for the English major, the department will be offering a new concentration in English Language in a Global Context (Engl-Global) starting in Fall 2017. This concentration recognizes the global status of English, which has close to half a billion native speakers worldwide, and over a billion second or foreign language learners. Students in this track explore the English language from social, historical, and linguistic perspectives while also gaining practical knowledge and skills in teaching English as a second language.

Engl-Global is the only undergraduate program of its kind in Indiana. Its unique curriculum combines courses in English Language and Linguistics with courses in Teaching English as a Second Language, taking advantage of Purdue’s strong international reputation in Linguistics and in Second Language Studies/ESL at the graduate level. The courses in English language and linguistics provide a foundation in the structure of the English language, its history, its various dialects, and its role in different multilingual societies. The courses in Teaching English as a Second Language introduce students to theories of second language acquisition while also providing practical training in language teaching and curriculum design. These courses are offered in partnership with Purdue graduate programs in Second Language Studies/ESL (Department of English), Teaching English Language Learners (Department of Curriculum and Instruction), and Applied Linguistics (School of Languages and Cultures).

An especially attractive feature of the new concentration is the internship opportunity that students take in their final year. This internship provides students with on-the-job experience as an apprentice English language instructor in the Purdue Language and Cultural Exchange (PLaCE), as well as the opportunity to participate in a weekly seminar in applied linguistics. The seminar is designed to contribute to the internship experience by creating a regular opportunity to discuss observations, problems, and accomplishments that arise in English language classrooms, with reference to current thinking on effective second language teaching, learning, and acquisition. A study abroad option for this internship is also under development.

The Engl-Global concentration provides valuable training for domestic students who want to teach English abroad, for international students who want to teach English in their home country, and for future professionals who wish to bolster their English language credentials for working in international contexts. The concentration also provides a strong background for those who wish to pursue graduate studies in Applied Linguistics or Second Language Studies. For students who are not majoring in English but who would like to gain some experience in Teaching English as a Second Language, a portion of the Engl-Global curriculum can be taken in the form of a four-course minor in English. This suggested course combination includes one course in introductory linguistics, two courses in Teaching English as a Second Language, and the internship course described above.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Engl-Global concentration or the minor option in Teaching English as a Second Language, please contact Prof. Elaine Francis (ejfranci@purdue.edu).

“Culture, Creativity, Technology” Learning Community

Beginning in Fall 2017, the English Department will launch its “Culture, Creativity, Technology” Learning Community. Sponsored by a CLA Innovate Grant, this learning community brings together the Department of English and the Department of Computer Graphics Technology to foster the foundational technical, critical, and creative skills needed for a fulfilling twenty-first-century career. Students will strengthen their written, visual, and technology literacies, practice remediation and iteration in relation to digital media production, and master theoretical approaches to narrative and storytelling. Students in the Learning Community will enroll in five classes across three semesters. Visit http://www.purdue.edu/learningcommunities/profiles/LiberalArts/Culture_Creativity_and_Technology.html to learn more.
Margaret Atwood at the 83rd Annual Literary Awards

April 5, 2017

A winner of many international literary awards, including the prestigious Booker Prize, Arthur C. Clarke Award, Governor General’s Award, the PEN Pinter Prize, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, Margaret Atwood is the author of more than forty volumes of poetry, children’s literature, fiction, and non-fiction. She is perhaps best known for her novels, which include The Edible Woman, The Handmaid’s Tale, The Robber Bride, Alias Grace, The Blind Assassin, Oryx and Crake, and The Year of the Flood. Her non-fiction book Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth, part of the Massey Lecture series, was made into a documentary. Her recent novel, Madaddam (the third novel in the Oryx and Crake trilogy), has received rave reviews: “An extraordinary achievement” (The Independent); “A fitting and joyous conclusion” (The New York Times). The trilogy is being adapted into an HBO TV series by celebrated filmmaker Darren Aronofsky. Atwood’s most recent collection of short stories is Stone Mattress. Her most recent novel is called Hag-Seed, and it is a modern retelling of Shakespeare’s The Tempest. In addition, Atwood has authored a graphic novel: volume one of Angel Catbird appeared in 2016 and the second volume will be released soon.

In March 2017, Atwood will be the honored recipient of the Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the National Book Critics Circle. Atwood’s work has been published in more than 40 languages, including Farsi, Japanese, Turkish, Finnish, Korean, Icelandic and Estonian. In 2004, she co-invented the LongPen, a remote signing device that allows someone to write in ink anywhere in the world via tablet PC and the internet. She is a founder of the Writers’ Trust of Canada and a founding trustee of the Griffin Poetry Prize. She is also a popular personality on Twitter, with over a million followers.
**Visiting Writers Series**

**Fall 2016**

Donald Platt, poetry. September 13th: 7:30pm.

Christine Sneed, prose. September 28th: 7:30pm.

Jamaal May & Tarfia Faizullah, poetry. October 17th: 7:30pm.

Marianne Boruch, poetry. November 3rd: 7:30pm.

**Spring 2017**

Adrian Matejka, poetry. January 30th, 7:30pm.

Don Share, poetry. February 27th, 7:30pm.

Alexander Chee. March 30th, 7:30pm.

Dana Roeser, poetry. April 12th, 4:30pm.

**Sycamore Review**

*Sycamore Review* published its first issue in 1989 and has been running consistently ever since. The first issue was dedicated to Ann Griffith Lindsey, a Purdue University graduate student and poet who had campaigned for a literary journal, but died in a car accident before her dream could become reality. To this day, her parents have continued her dream with a generous bequest in Ann’s name.

In February *Sycamore Review* was identified by WFIU as one of three internationally recognized literary magazines in Indiana. Interviews with current editor-in-chief, Anthony Sutton, are forthcoming on the Café Indiana programming block, *Indiana Review* online, and the *Washington Independent Review of Books*. Recent contributors received awards and distinctions in the past year include Nancy Chen Long, Allison Davis, and Jessica Wilbanks. Nancy won the Tampa Review Poetry Prize for “Light Into Bodies,” her first book of poetry, and received a 2017-2018 NEA Fellowship. Allison’s poem “The Heart of it All + A Free Beer” appeared *Sycamore Review* issue 26.2 and has been reprinted in the 2016 *Best American Poetry* anthology. Jessica was the winner of our 2015 Wabash Prize in Nonfiction and recently sold her first book, a memoir recounting her childhood in a radical religious society. Mariano Peccinetti, the featured artist for issue 27.2, has work featured on the cover of the new STRFKR album *Being No One, Going No Where*. 
MARS 2016 Symposium
On November 10, 2016, MARS hosted its annual symposium. This year’s speaker was Professor Guido Ruggiero, Cooper Fellow and Professor of Italian Renaissance History at the University of Miami, who presented on “The Lord Who Rejected Love or Boccaccio’s Griselda (Decameron X.10) Reconsidered Yet Again.” Special thanks to Professor Silvia Z. Mitchell of the Department of History who was instrumental in bringing Professor Ruggiero to campus and who took care of the bulk of the organizational details.

Medieval and Renaissance Studies
MARS students and faculty were well represented at the 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 2016) at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Some of the highlights involving English Department faculty and students were a session on “Attending to Manuscript Realities” organized by Christina M. McCarter and sponsored by MARS and a session on “Scandinavian Studies” organized by Shaun Hughes on behalf of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies. Justin Lynn Barker, winner of the 2015 Thomas Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, presented her prize-winning paper, “Unstable Matter and Poetic Authority in Thomas Hoccleve’s Series,” in the session “Touching Hoccleve” sponsored by the International Hoccleve Society. The winner of the 2016 Thomas Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay in MARS was Christina M. McCarter for an essay entitled, “Malory and Authorship: The Production of Material Form in Le Morte Darthur.” A version of this paper will be presented at the 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies in May 2017. The MARS 22000 course for Fall Semester 2017 will be “Pirates!” taught by Professor Nush Powell.

Comitatus
Comitatus, the Purdue Graduate Student organization for students in Medieval and Renaissance Studies in the Department of English, has had an exciting and busy year. For their Common Read event, the group read Patty Ingham’s The Medieval New. Christy McCarter and Aidan Holtan organized a faculty showcase and social featuring scholarship by Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Powell, Dr. Hughes, and Dr. Johnston. To read more about their conversations, check out @Comitatus_Purdue on Twitter. Comitatus is collaborating with Indiana U., Indiana U.’s Lilly Library, the Notre Dame Medieval Institute, and the Newberry Library as part of the Indiana Medieval Consortium to organize an official IMC Roundtable for the Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo, MI on resources and resource sharing for medievalists in the Midwest.

Early Atlantic Reading Group
Annual Colloquium
The Early Atlantic Reading Group (EARG) Colloquium was held on April 7th and 8th, 2017. This year’s theme was “Early Atlantic Studies: Circulation and Material Culture.” Kelly Wisecup from the Northwestern University was the guest speaker and gave her keynote address, “The Journeys of a Mohegan Herbal: Samson Occom, Indigenous Medical Knowledge, and Atlantic Networks.” This year’s program also featured roundtables on teaching children’s literature and “Eliza Haywood and the Mansplainers” along with exciting papers on health & medicine, bodies, art, and children’s literature. The colloquium features graduate students from Purdue and students from outside the university. Please be on the lookout in the fall for the 2018 EARG CFP. Details about the organization are available through our website: http://earg.weebly.com.
José David Saldívar: 2016 Woodman Lecturer

The English Department was pleased to host the 2016 Leonora Woodman Memorial Lecturer, José David Saldívar, the Leon Sloss, Jr. Professor of Comparative Literature at Stanford University. His talk was entitled, “Imaginative Transference and the Fukú Americanus in Junot Díaz’s The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.”


The Woodman Lecture was held on Wednesday, 7 September at 4:30pm. For more information on the Woodman Lecture Series, please visit https://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/woodmanlecture/index.html

Upcoming Event
Big Read 2017-2018

Station Eleven is critically acclaimed, a National Book Award finalist in 2014, appealing to both Purdue’s large and varied student population and West Lafayette Public Library patrons. Although readily classified as science fiction, the book invites collaboration with many other interests. Its representation of the killer “Georgia flu” lends itself well to discussions by writers and epidemiologists alike. The persistence of Shakespeare after the apocalypse triggers questions about great art and an enduring canon of literature, and the book’s traveling troupe of actors could profitably be compared to Elizabethan troupes performing in Shakespeare’s own day, or even contemporary itinerant players, such as the Stone Soup Shakespeare Company, which tours much the same route covered by the players in Station Eleven, our own Midwestern parks and towns.

Books and Coffee was held on Thursdays in February and March 2017 from 4-5 p.m. in STEW 302/306 and the South Ballroom of the Purdue Memorial Union.

We had amazing presentations for Books & Coffee 2017:

Thursday, February 9, 2017, 4-5pm
Professor Dorsey Armstrong speaking on Marr Ruff’s Lovecraft Country

Thursday, February 16, 2017, 4-5pm
Professor Janet Alsup speaking on Laura Ruby’s Bone Gap

Thursday, February 23, 2017, 4-5pm
Professor Nush Powell speaking on Noelle Stevenson’s Nimona

Thursday, March 23, 2017, 4-5pm
President Mitch Daniels speaking on Ron Chernow’s Hamilton
Florence Conference on Victorian Studies, May 17-20, 2017

With Catherine Robson of NYU, Dino Franco Felluga is lead organizer of the NYU/Purdue supernumerary conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association and the Australasian Victorian Studies Association, which will be held in Florence, Italy this May. Over 300 registrants will be coming from all around the world to engage in the conversations on Victorian studies, particularly on topics such as Victorians in Italy.

Prof. Felluga will also be running a week-long Professionalization Workshop for graduate students before the start of the conference, May 15-May 21, and a March Break study-abroad program in Venice, Italy for Purdue’s Honors College. The Workshop will be attended by graduate students from around the world, with visiting guest speakers like Catherine Robson (NYU), Ivan Kreilkamp (Indiana U), Mary-Elizabeth Leighton (U Victoria, Canada), Lisa Surridge (U Victoria, Canada), and Marlene Tromp (Arizona SU).

Also while in Italy, Prof. Felluga will be giving talks and running a seminar at the University of Macerata with Prof. Emily Allen through a visiting scholar fellowship at the university.
**Reading London 2016**

In May/June 2016, Prof. Melanie Shoffner and ten undergraduates spent three weeks exploring London at war in the *Reading London* program. Students combined their study of text and image with their study of the city itself: reading the poetry of WWI in tandem with a visit to the Imperial War Museum; examining photos of the Blitz before climbing to the top of St Paul’s Cathedral; studying contextual uses of language prior to exploring the city’s WWI and WWII monuments. Beyond London, students traveled to Canterbury, home of Canterbury Cathedral; Bletchley Park, home of England’s code-breaking efforts during WWII; and Blenheim Palace, ancestral home of Winston Churchill. Thanks to a student’s serendipitous conversation on a plane, the students also had the unexpected pleasure of spending an afternoon with Sinclair McKay, author of one of their program texts, *The Secret Lives of Codebreakers: The Men and Women Who Cracked the Enigma Code at Bletchley Park*.

The Reading London program is open to undergraduates and graduate students interested in studying the literature, history, culture and character of one of the world’s most dynamic cities. Through program coursework and activities, students explore a range of texts and issues related to the teaching of literature through the context of London. A mix of classroom instruction, experiential learning activities and free time allows students to explore the city from multiple perspectives.
Maymester in London: “Global Studies in London and the UK”

In Maymester 2017, Prof. Robert Marzec and graduate teaching assistant Pamela Carralero will take eighteen students to London to participate in the “Global Studies in London and the U.K.” study abroad program. This program offers two exciting courses that introduce the rich political, literary, historical, and cultural context of London and the English countryside, and students have the opportunity to receive up to six total course credits to put towards the following: Purdue’s general education “Other Cultures” requirement, Interdisciplinary Studies requirements, and the Global Studies Minor. Students will begin work with a week of classes at Purdue before flying out to spend three weeks in the United Kingdom, where they will explore London, experience private access inside the stone circle of Stonehenge, visit Oxford, and journey to Boscastle on the beautiful Cornwall coast. This year, in what is certain to be an exciting new addition to the program, Prof. Marzec and Pamela will additionally take the group to spend a few days in Dublin, Ireland!

One of the many goals of this program is for students to learn how to navigate around a global city. Practicing this is too much fun. While in London, students are encouraged to visit sites as Westminster Abbey, wander along the Thames River, attend a live performance at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre, and explore London’s vibrant music and arts scenes.

Applications for the 2018 program will open early next fall. The program welcomes undergraduate and graduate applicants no matter what their discipline or degree. For more information on contact either Prof. Marzec (rmarzec@purdue.edu) or Pamela Carralero (pcarrale@purdue.edu) and visit the program’s beautiful new website created by 2016 Global Studies’er Mallory West at http://purduelondon.weebly.com/. Mark your calendars for 2018 and come join us in London!

Maymester in London is led by Robert P. Marzec, Professor of English, Associate Editor of Modern Fiction Studies, and author of works on Global, Ecological, and British studies.
James Tadd Adcox continues with our faculty in 2017. In 2016, his work appeared in *Granta* and *The Collagist*, and a novella, *Repetition*, was published by Cobalt Press.

Kaveh Akbar joins the Purdue Creative Writing faculty in Fall 2017. You can find new poems from him this year forthcoming in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Tin House*, *LitHub*, and elsewhere, and new criticism in *The Kenyon Review* and *The Oxford American*. His first full-length collection of poems, *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*, will be out in September with Alice James Books; you'll have the opportunity to see him read from it this Fall in our reading series. His chapbook, *Portrait of the Alcoholic*, which the poet Patricia Smith called “one of the best books of poetry I’ve ever read,” just came out in January from Sibling Rivalry Press. You can check out his ongoing series of long-form interviews with contemporary poets at *Divedapper*, and visit Kaveh’s personal site at *kavehakbar.com*.

Emily Allen

In her role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in Purdue’s interdisciplinary Honors College, Emily Allen helped open a new, $90 million living-learning facility, The Honors College and Residences. The new buildings are home to active learning space, faculty and administrative offices, and 800 of Purdue’s 2500 Honors College students, who come from every disciplinary college on campus. Prof. Allen will be traveling with honors students over March break to Italy, where she will be in residence for the last half of spring semester 2017 as a visiting research fellow at the Università di Macerata.

Kristina Bross

*Future History: Global Fantasies in English and American Writings* (2017)

Kristina Bross’s current book, *Future History: Global Fantasies in English and American Writings*, extends her interests in colonial identity, cultural contact, and archival theory to a study of how early modern English and American writers imagined themselves in the world before England was a global power. Reviewers praised Bross as “unusually good at engaging her sources,” noted that the book’s “disciplinarity is hard to pigeonhole,” and praised her book manuscript as “imaginative, exciting, and persuasive.” The book is forthcoming from Oxford University Press on August 1, 2017.
Elena Benedicto

Professor Benedicto continues her research program focused on formal analyses of non-traditional language varieties. One of her research projects is on how an English (abstract, mental) grammar arises in children with an already existing grammar (L1): Mandarin-English, Spanish-English and Korean-English bilingual children and youth. This project hosts a number of undergraduate RAs in the IELLab (8 interns in Fall 2016, 5-7 in Spring 2017); an output of that undergraduate research is an article published in the Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research by two of our senior undergraduate RAs (DOI: 10.5703/1288284316157). Prof. Benedicto is also heavily involved in the new English in a Global Context undergraduate major, working on creating semester-long options for the new majors. She continues her work on the Motion Predicate project, now involving 11 languages with several international workshops and conferences (from Venice and London to Mexico and Cuba) and publications. JPUR: http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/jpur/vol6/iss1/5/ IELLab: https://www.cla.purdue.edu/sis/p/iell/index.html

Margie Berns

Margie Berns presented the paper “What World Englishes can do for Second Language Writing: Part II” at the 15th Symposium on Second Language Writing at Arizona State University, Tempe, October 22, 2016. In November she participated in a symposium held in memory of Braj B. Kachru at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. There she was one of a group of his former students invited to pay tribute to him and his legacy as the founder of the field of World Englishes.

Marlo D. David

Marlo D. David’s book, Mama’s Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression, was published by Ohio State University Press in October 2016. In this book, she presents her analyses of contemporary black novels, music, and film in order to describe how particular texts use transgressive maternal figurations to critique stereotypes of black women. Marlo also received a New York Public Library Short-Term Fellowship to visit the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture to gather materials for her next book project on African American playwright and filmmaker Bill Gunn.
During a two-week excursion to Harlem, Marlo located a great number of personal letters, photographs, and unpublished works by Gunn. She has plans to return to New York and to visit Los Angeles to gather more materials. She was also invited to present the annual John L. Johnson Lecture in African American Studies at Syracuse University in February 2017.

**Angelica Duran**

Angelica Duran is spending the 2016-17 schoolyear in Mexico through a Fulbright-García Robles grant. While she is there conducting research for her book project *Milton in Hispanoamerica*, she is also working with presses and making her way through the proof stages of her co-edited volume *Milton in Translation* (Oxford UP, July 2017), guest co-edited special issue of *Milton Studies* “Milton in the Americas,” and her monograph *Milton among Spaniards*. Her third non-fiction essay, “An Academic Evolution: From Chicanita to Mamá to Abuela” has been published in *Staging Women’s Lives in Academia* (SUNY, February 2017). She is serving concurrently on two MLA groups, as Treasurer (2012-21) of the Milton Society of America and Executive Board member of the Poetry & Poetics Forum (2016-19).

**John Duvall**

2016 saw Professor Duvall enter his 15th year as the editor of *MFS Modern Fiction Studies*, the English Department’s highly regarded journal of literary criticism. Last April, John delivered the Bash Lecture in Modern American Literature at Indiana State University. His presentation was “Pulp Fiction and Faulkner’s Literary Reputation.” At the May 2016 American Literature Associate Conference in San Francisco, John spoke about Don DeLillo’s and E. L. Doctorow’s thinking about the role of history in contemporary fiction. At the same conference, he also participated (along with Gordon Hutner of *American Literary History* and Lynda Zwinger of *Arizona Quarterly*) in a roundtable discussion on academic journal publishing. John’s thoughts on what may lie ahead for literary studies appeared in *Textual Practice’s* thirtieth anniversary forum “30@30: The Future of Literary Thinking”; the journal’s forum was published in the November 2016 issue and includes other pieces by such internationally known writers and critics as J. M. Coetzee, Jean-Michel Rabaté, and Marjorie Perloff.


Award-winning author and livewire talent Roxane Gay burst onto the scene with the widely acclaimed novel *An Untamed State* and the *New York Times* bestselling essay collection *Bad Feminist* (Harper Perennial). Gay returns with *Difficult Women*, a collection of stories of rare force and beauty, of hardscrabble lives, passionate loves, and quirky and vexed human connection.

The women in these stories live lives of privilege and of poverty, are in marriages both loving and haunted by past crimes or emotional blackmail. A pair of sisters, grown now, have been inseparable ever since they were abducted together as children and must negotiate the elder sister’s marriage. A woman married to a twin pretends not to realize when her husband and his brother impersonate each other. A stripper putting herself through college fends off the advances of an overzealous customer. A black engineer moves to Upper Michigan for a job and faces the malign curiosity of her colleagues and the difficulty of leaving her past behind. From a girls’ fight club to a wealthy subdivision in Florida where neighbors conform, compete, and spy on each other, Gay gives voice to a chorus of unforgettable women in a scintillating collection reminiscent of Merritt Tierce, Jamie Quatro, and Miranda July.
Dino Franco Felluga

In 2016, Dino Felluga published “Truth is Stranger than Fiction: Don Juan and the Truth Claims of Genre” in a special issue of Modern Language Quarterly on historical poetics. He was also invited to present his work to the faculties of Cambridge U, Oxford U, the U of Exeter, the U of Birmingham, and Birkbeck, U of London. He completed a semester as fellow of CLA’s Center for Undergraduate Excellence by creating a new publication and pedagogy venue for the North American Victorian Studies Association dubbed COVE: The Central Online Victorian Educator, with over $100,000 of support from a variety of sources. Sponsoring institutions for the initiative include Rutgers, Vanderbilt, the U of Maryland, Ryerson, the U of Birmingham, the U of Exeter, Birkbeck, Queen Mary, U of London and the British Association for Victorian Studies.

Elaine J. Francis

Elaine Francis has recently taken the position of General Editor at the journal Language and Cognition. She is one of six editors for this interdisciplinary journal, which is published by Cambridge University Press. She will also be teaching at the Linguistic Institute, to be held at the University of Kentucky in July 2017. Her course, titled “Resumptive Pronouns in Competence and Performance,” builds on her own empirical studies on this topic, which were published as journal articles in Lingua (2015) and Linguistics (2016). She is also excited to be co-presenting a poster titled “Codability Modulates Priming of Path in Mandarin and English” with her PhD student Carol Chun Zheng at the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, to be held in Boston in March 2017. Here at Purdue, Prof. Francis serves as Director of the English Language and Linguistics graduate program and of the Experimental Linguistics Lab.

Roxane Gay

Roxane Gay won the City of Literature Paul Engle Prize, the Exceptional Merit in Media award from the National Women’s Political Caucus. For Marvel she wrote the comic book series World of Wakanda. She also published the bestselling short story collection Difficult Women (Grove Atlantic), interviewed Madonna for Harper’s Bazaar, and continues to serve as a contributing opinion writer for The New York Times.

Christian Knoeller

Reimagining Environmental History presents an ecocritical study examining representations of landscape change, spanning 19th century artist-naturalists and pioneering ecologists, as well as 20th century poets, Native American novelists, and contemporary literary naturalists associated with the Midwest. Each of the ten authors addressed engages place in ways informed by environmental and cultural history, contemplating the idea of what is ancient, indigenous, and ongoing—as well as anticipating current ecological concerns such as stemming extinctions and perpetuating species biodiversity in an era of cascading environmental decline while the very ideals of wilderness and “wild” continue to be redefined.

Each section juxtaposes writers paired by historical period, literary genre, or themes such as the relation of indigenous language and identity to landscape and place. The authors addressed (Audubon/Stratton-Porter; Errington/Sanders; Roethke/Stafford; Erdrich/Glancy; and Dodd/Gruchow) depict landscapes that had inspired them aesthetically, scientifically, and spiritually that have been fundamentally disrupted. Their accounts cross conventional disciplinary boundaries when considering the ecological and cultural consequences of landscape change—whether artists writing about declining wildlife, Native American novelists tracing the connection of indigenous languages to nature in particular places, ecologists writing literary natural history, poets expressing environmental sensibilities, or contemporary literary naturalists incorporating anthropology, archaeology, geology and linguistics into essays about nature and place. While wide ranging, the volume is unified by its consistent focus on environmental history.
Sandor Goodhart
I had a good year academically. Last April, I was the keynote speaker at a conference at the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau, and as well, this past November, at Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada, where I spoke about René Girard. My book, The Prophetic Law: Essays on Judaism, Girardianism, the Literary, and the Ethical (Michigan State University Press, 2014) was honored at a special session of the American Academy of Religion in San Antonio in November where two critics addressed the book and I replied as author. I delivered a paper on Emmanuel Levinas in Toulouse, France, in July, and two new books of mine, Möbian Nights: Reading Literature and Darkness (Bloomsbury Academic Press, 2017) and, co-edited with Moshe Gold, ‘To See Another Thus’: A Meditation of Shakespeare and Levinas (Purdue University Press, 2018), were accepted for publication and are currently in production.

Shaun Hughes

Maren Linett,
Bodies of Modernism: Physical Disability in Transatlantic Modernist Literature (2016)
Bodies of Modernism brings a new and exciting analytical lens to modernist literature, that of critical disability studies. The book offers new readings of canonical and noncanonical writers from both sides of the Atlantic including Flannery O’Connor, Eudora Welty, H. G. Wells, D. H. Lawrence, Elizabeth Bowen, Henry Green, Olive Moore, Carson McCullers, Tennessee Williams, J. M. Synge, Florence Barclay, Virginia Woolf, and James Joyce. Through readings of this wide range of texts and with chapters focusing on mobility impairments, deafness, blindness, and deformity, the study reveals both modernism’s skepticism about and dependence on fantasies of whole, “normal” bodies.

“A nuanced view of disability as it intertwines with modernist aesthetics. Linett concentrates on disabled protagonists but expands her study from mere character analysis to a thoroughgoing critique and understanding of modernism itself. An important contribution to the field of literary and disability studies.”
— Lennard Davis, University of Illinois at Chicago

“In a wide-ranging, lively, and convincingly argued study of an array of modernist works, Maren Linett shows how various are the attitudes towards disabled bodies but also, paradoxically, how the attitudes towards specific disabilities fall into distinct broad patterns. Anyone interested in modernism will find challenging and valuable new insights on the literature of the period in Linett’s crucial and stunning view of it through the lens of disability studies.”
— Michael Groden, University of Western Ontario

“Linett’s unflinching, sometimes mortifying exposé of writers’ and readers’ misconceptions about blindness, deafness, and locomotive difficulties, together with her intricate analyses of modernist texts, will ensure the resounding impact of this study.”
— Maud Ellmann, University of Chicago
Michael Johnston

Michael Johnston spent most of 2016 at work on his second book, “The Reading Nation in the Age of Chaucer.” This book investigates the history of manuscript production and circulation in fifteenth-century provincial England. Research for this book took him to examine manuscripts at the Huntington Library (Pasadena, CA), as well as libraries in the U.K. and France. He also presented parts of this research in Dublin, London, and Harlaxton (U.K.). In addition to this book, he continued cultivating his love of William Langland’s Vision of Piers Plowman, publishing an essay on the relationship between this poem and the Peasants’ Revolt of 1381 in Yearbook of Langland Studies, vol. 30. He was also elected to the executive committee of the International Piers Plowman Society. He continued teaching English 327, The History of the English Language, as well as graduate courses on medieval language and literature.

Christian Knoeller

Christian Knoeller’s forthcoming ecocritical study Reimagining Environmental History: Ecological Memory in the Wake of Landscape Change is currently in press at the University of Nevada and scheduled to appear in October, 2017. Related conference papers include two upcoming readings from that manuscript: “Epilogue: Returning” at the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature on a panel also featuring two Purdue graduate students from the Reading the Midwest Seminar last offered Fall, 2016: Michelle Campbell (PhD candidate, Literature) and Ryan Schnurr (PhD candidate, American Studies). In addition, he will be presenting an invited talk in April at Texas Tech University, “Islands of Time: Paul Gruchow’s Legacy in Environmental History” at the annual conference of the Sowell Family Archive of major American naturalists on the occasion of their acquisition (which Knoeller personally helped arrange) of Gruchow’s extensive unpublished papers.

Robert Paul Lamb

Prof. Lamb has two peer-reviewed articles forthcoming: “Mark Twain’s New Method of Cultural Critique: Authorial Double-Voiced Speech in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” (Nineteenth-Century Literature) and “The Real-Life Sources of Jim in Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Uncle Dan’l, George Griffin, John T. Lewis, Frederick Douglass, and Samuel L. Clemens” (American Literary Realism).

Daniel Morris

Not Born Digital: Poetics, Print Literacy, New Media (2016)

Not Born Digital addresses from multiple perspectives – ethical, historical, psychological, conceptual, aesthetic – the vexing problems and sublime potential of disseminating lyrics, the ancient form of transmission and preservation of the human voice, in an environment in which e-poetry and digitalized poetics pose a crisis (understood as opportunity and threat) to traditional page poetry.

The premise of Not Born Digital is that the innovative contemporary poets studied in this book engage obscure and discarded, but nonetheless historically resonant materials to unsettle what Charles Bernstein, a leading innovative contemporary U.S. poet and critic of “official verse culture,” refers to as “frame lock” and “tone jam.” While other scholars have begun to analyze poetry that appears in new media contexts, Not Born Digital concerns the ambivalent ways page poets (rather than electronica based poets) have grappled with “screen memory” (that is, electronic and new media sources) through the re-purposing of “found” materials.
He’s currently revising his fifth book, *Huck and Jim’s America: Slavery and Race in Mark Twain’s World*, for Knopf Doubleday. Last year, Bob received a Department Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, the 55th teaching award/honor of his career. He’d like to give a shout out to his former dissertator, Kevin Scott, recently promoted to be the Associate Dean of Arts and Humanities at Albany State. Since August, Bob’s main priority has been taking care of his beautiful angel Simone, the love of his life, who suffered a spontaneous double pneumothorax, had two of her seven lung lobes surgically removed, and is battling pulmonary carcinoma. She’s infinitely more important to him than any of this other stuff.

Photo: Simone Nicole Lamb

**Donald Platt**  
*Man Praying* (2017)

In his sixth book, Donald Platt starts a poem by exclaiming, “The days are one thousand / puzzle pieces.” He gathers up the days into this book of terrors and ecstasies decanted in seamlessly reversing tercets of long and short lines, syllabic couplets, and lyric prose. The puzzle pieces include a dying father-in-law, AIDS, maimed World War I veterans, Caravaggio’s painting of the beheading of St. John the Baptist (his largest canvas), and the story of a gay boxer who KOs and kills the opponent who has called him a faggot at the weigh-in. It is a book that encompasses contradictions. The poet writes about his bisexuality, his close and intimate marriage, Rudolf Nureyev, a daughter with manic depression, a painting by James Ensor entitled *Christ's Entry into Brussels in 1889*, and la Playa los Muertos, the Beach of the Dead in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The poet puts these fragments of a life together into a thousand-piece jigsaw, a self-portrait of the artist in middle age, and calls it unabashedly *Man Praying*.

**Brian Leung**

Brian Leung’s novel, *Ivy vs. Dogg* will appear in winter/spring 2017 from C&R Press. In March, he gave the Keynote Address at the annual Gathering of Writers sponsored by the Indiana Writers Center. This summer he completes his final year serving as City University, Hong Kong’s External Academic Advisor for its low-residency MFA program.

**Maren Linett**

Maren Linett’s second book, *Bodies of Modernism: Physical Disability in Transatlantic Modernist Literature*, was published by the University of Michigan Press in December 2016. She is now working on her third book project, *Literary Bioethics: Disability, Animality, and the Human*, for which she has received an Enhancing Research in the Humanities and Arts grant and a Center for Humanistic Studies fellowship for 2017. Prof. Linett has presented papers over the past year at the Modern Language Association conference, the Modernist Studies Association conference, and the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900. She has been invited to present her work for the Emory University Disability Studies Initiative in March 2017. Prof. Linett directs the new undergraduate program in Critical Disability Studies.

**Derek Pacheco**

In May of 2016, Prof. Pacheco was appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies in English. Much of the past year has been dedicated to reviewing undergraduate curriculum, which includes creating our new “Design Your English Minor” initiative for Fall 2017. Along with colleagues in the Departments of English and Computer Graphics Technology, Prof. Pacheco was awarded a College of Liberal Arts “Innovate”
grant to develop a new, joint learning community entitled “Culture, Creativity, Technology.” He was also voted President-Elect of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society in July 2016, and, along with Michael Demson, is editing a special issue of The Nathaniel Hawthorne Review on “Transatlanticism and The Blithedale Romance” for Spring 2017.

**Donald Platt**


**Manushag Powell**

Manushag Powell had a great year learning the ropes as interim DGS, and has not, to date, accidentally set a single thing in her borrowed office on fire. She and her co-editor Jennie Batchelor delivered a big old 300,000-word anthology of cutting-edge essays on women and periodicals in Britain to Edinburgh University Press, and can’t wait to see it in print next year, when it will with beautiful violence crush and reshape the field that gave it birth. She also attended ASECS, CSECS, and NE-ASECS, and just for fun wrote up an essay on pirate hair, forthcoming in a collection edited by Joe Roach.

**Victor Raskin**

Victor Raskin has published a variety of book chapters and conference papers, most of the latter invited plenary talks and the others are co-authored with colleagues and students. The topics cover a range of semantic and cognitive subjects and address a large audience, from humor scholars to computer scientists and engineers. He never misses a chance to expose machine learning for what it is and is not. He continues to graduate several Ph.D.’s every year in a variety of departments, universities, and countries. He is incubating several books simultaneously.

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**Donald Platt**

*Tornadoesque* (2016)

In his trademark alternating long and short lines, and in occasional lyric prose, Platt gives us *Tornadoesque*, a weather report from middle age. The poet discovers his bisexuality in a heterosexual marriage of longstanding passion and responds to war in the Middle East, the deaths and illnesses of friends, and a daughter’s bipolar condition. His book is an eyewitness account of where the tornado has touched down: what’s lost, what’s saved.

“Tornadoesque whirls with powerful and challenging images, always refusing to turn away from the unsettling while also refusing to treat those images as snapshots that can be experienced in isolation, outside of the intricacies of human desire and history. Donald Platt confronts with great honesty and frankness the complexities of being a son, husband, and father within a world whose layers have been shaped by the visions of religion, politics, art, and dream. The scope of this collection is dazzling; each poem is both tapestry and journey.” — Mary Szybist
Charles Ross

Charles Ross completed his sixteenth wonderful year as Director of the Purdue University Comparative Literature Program. He thanks his amazing students. He co-edited and co-wrote the introduction to a special edition of Modern Fiction Studies on Twentieth- and Twenty-First Century Chinese Fiction (2016). An article titled “The Italian Romance Epic and English Renaissance Literature” was accepted for the MLA volume Approaches to Teaching the Italian Romance Epic. Presentations include “Restoring Sidney’s Arcadia” (Renaissance Society of America Conference in Boston), “Pamela’s Argument for Necessity as the Basis of Sidney’s Morality” (International RSA in Bruges, Belgium), and “Morbidity and Mortality in Confucius (and Dante)” (Purdue Chinese Studies Colloquium). Professor Ross received an Enhancing the Humanities Award (CLA) for a digital version of Sidney’s Arcadia. The book edition is set for publication in 2017.

James Saunders

This past year, Professor Saunders enjoyed working with the editors of McFarland and Company, in the process of bringing The Wayward Preacher in the Literature of African American Women back into print. In addition, he had several essays published, including “Susan Scarf Merrell: Recapturing the Essence of Shirley Jackson.” Having recently completed reading Colson Whitehead’s award-winning novel, The Underground Railroad, Saunders has become increasingly intrigued by Underground Railroad stations in rural Indiana. Intrigued, further, by what must have been a very complicated environment, allowing members of escaped slave communities to hold paying jobs, attend integrated churches, die fighting in the Civil War, and be buried back in Indiana on plots of land that can be measured in feet from where they had lived upon first arriving in Indiana after their escape from slavery.

Melanie Shoffner

As proof that academic life is anything but dull, Prof. Shoffner is a Fulbright Scholar this academic year at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, teaching courses in adolescent literature, pedagogy, and American culture. In further adventures abroad, she gave invited talks in Adelaide, Australia, Thessaloniki, Greece and Bucharest, Romania this year. Prof. Shoffner’s most recent work is the edited book, Exploring Teachers in Fiction and Film: Savoirs, Scapsgoats and Schoolmarm (Routledge) and the co-edited book Teaching English Language Arts to English Language Learners: Preparing Pre-service and Inservice Teachers (Palgrave Macmillan). She is currently the Past Chair of the Conference on English Education (CIE) and co-editor of CITE (English).

Charles Stanley Ross and Joel B. Davis, eds.

Arcadia, A Romance

Sir Philip Sidney (2017)

1). Ross and Davis have undertaken a daring venture: to “restore,” as they put it, the immense masterpiece of English Renaissance prose, Sidney’s Arcadia. Why, one might ask, should Sidney’s baroque syntax be made simpler and his archaic diction modernized? Because their complexity and unfamiliarity, after the lapse of some 400 years, has made the work all but unreadable, except by a small and steadily shrinking cohort of scholars. The choice is either pious oblivion or the kind of creative updating we routinely welcome in contemporary productions of Shakespeare. Ross and Davis want to give a new generation of readers access to a literary achievement of surpassing intelligence and beauty.

Stephen Greenblatt
Harvard University

2). Sir Philip Sidney’s Arcadia perfectly defines what we think of as the English Renaissance. By the sheer quality of its achievement, it created the illusion of separating traditional rhetoric from literature or polite letters. Emerging out of the small coterie around Sidney’s sister Mary, the countess of Pembroke, Sidney’s oeuvre reached Shakespeare, who took to new heights the oratory exhibited by the Arcadia’s characters in their speeches, debates, and poetry. Sidney’s masterpiece richly deserves the renewed attention of everyone interested in the history of English rhetoric, moral philosophy, and the language arts.

Krista Ratcliffe
Arizona State University
Past President of the Rhetoric Society of America
James Saunders

The Wayward Preacher in the Literature of African American Women (2017)

In African American culture the preacher has traditionally held many roles: minister of faith, orator, politician, idealist, and most importantly, leader. But the preacher was also traditionally male, and in many ways this advanced the perception that African American women were incapable of questioning the authority of black men.

Nella Larsen, Zora Neale Hurston, Paule Marshall, Gloria Naylor, and Terry McMillan wrote of flawed African American preachers, empowering their female characters by exposing the notion of the black preacher as beyond reproach. The writings of these five women warn African American women—and society as a whole—of the power of the religious functionaries who insist that the self must be virtually obliterated in order for salvation to be attained.
Luciana C. de Oliveira and Melanie Shoffner, eds., *Teaching English Language Arts to English Language Learners: Preparing Pre-service and In-service Teachers* (2016)

This edited collection focuses on the preparation of secondary English Language Arts (ELA) teachers to effectively teach English language learners (ELLs) in 21st century ELA classrooms. As the ten chapters in this book attest, while ELA teacher educators recognize the importance of educating pre-service and in-service teachers to teach ELLs, they struggle with how to do so. The increasing diversity and established needs of today’s student population, however, require English teacher educators to consciously consider what is needed to prepare ELA teachers for ELL students. English teacher educators must ask—and answer—difficult questions: What does ELA teacher preparation look like when it meaningfully incorporates preparation to teach ELLs? How does ELA curriculum change when teacher educators address ELL learning, specifically? How can ELA teachers learn to work more effectively with ELLs in their current classrooms? The chapters in this collection address those questions, covering a range of topics that includes the current state of ELL education in the ELA classroom, approaches to leveraging the talents and strengths of bilingual students in heterogeneous classrooms, best practices in teaching writing to multilingual students and ways to infuse the secondary English teacher preparation curriculum with ELL pedagogy.

Melanie Shoffner, ed., *Exploring Teachers in Fiction and Film: Saviors, Scapegoats and Schoolmarms* (2016)

This book about teachers as characters in popular media examines what can be learned from fictional teachers for the purposes of educating real teachers. Its aim is twofold: to examine the constructed figure of the teacher in film, television and text and to apply that examination in the context of teacher education. By exploring the teacher construct, readers are able to consider how popular fiction and film have influenced society’s understandings and views of classroom teachers.

Organized around four main themes—Identifying with the Teacher Image; Constructing the Teacher With Content; Imaging the Teacher as Savior; The Teacher Construct as Commentary—the chapters examine the complicated mixture of fact, stereotype and misrepresentation that creates the image of the teacher in the public eye today. This examination, in turn, allows teacher educators to use popular culture as curriculum. Using the fictional teacher as a text, preservice—and practicing—teachers can examine positive and negative (and often misleading) representations of teachers in order to develop as teachers themselves.
Luciana C. de Oliveira and Tony Silva, eds.,
*Secondary Language Writing in Elementary Classrooms: Instructional Issues, Content-area Writing and Teacher Education* (2016)

Second Language Writing in Elementary Classrooms focuses on L2 writing in elementary classrooms. It features chapters that highlight research in elementary classrooms focused on the writing development of multilingual children, and research in teacher education to prepare elementary teachers to teach L2 writing and address L2 writers' needs. Part I presents instructional issues for L2 writers at the elementary level. Part II focuses on content-area writing. Part III focuses on L2 writing teacher education at the elementary level.

Tony Silva, Junju Wang, Cong Zhang, and Joshua M. Paiz, eds.,
*L2 Writing in the Global Context: Represented, Underrepresented, and Unrepresented Voices* (2016)

In this book, thirteen authors explore the current status of second language writing and writing instruction in a number of national or regional contexts—some well represented, some underrepresented, and some largely unrepresented in the currently published scholarship on second language writing. It is hoped that this book will help to broaden the scope of second language writing studies, especially by recognizing what is being done and what contributions are being made by scholars working in areas that are typically neglected by the field and, consequently, move the field toward a more truly global perspective.
Elizabeth Boyle
Elizabeth’s article, “Antebellum Womanhood and Taming Her ‘Wild Way’: Petticoats, Mourning, and Social Indocritination in Grace Greenwood’s History of My Pets,” was accepted for publication in Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature. In addition to receiving the 2016-2017 Learning Community Academic Connection Award with Priya Sirohi, Sarah El-Azab, Beth Wilson, Dr. William Oakes, and Dr. Carla Zoltowski, Liz has also enjoyed her position as Production Manager at Modern Fiction Studies and as Vice President of GradSEA. In March, she presented her essay, “To Make a Woman: Artistry, Inheritance, and the Coming Woman in The Story of Avis,” at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference and, in April, she presented her research at this year’s Early Atlantic Reading Group Colloquium.

Amelia Chesley
Amelia Chesley has prepared her interdisciplinary research with the Polytechnic Institute’s Integrated First-Year Experience for presentation at the 2016 American Society for Engineering Education’s Annual Conference, and was additionally selected to present some of this research in the Student Research Competition at the Special Interest Group on the Design of Communication Conference last fall. She also presented “Tending to the Multilingual, Transmedia, Crowdsourced Cultural Commons of LibriVox.org” at the Cultural Rhetorics Conference at Michigan State University. More recently, Amelia published a book review of Ronald E. Day’s Indexing it All: The Subject in the Age of Documentation, Information, and Data in the January 2017 issue of Technical Communication Quarterly. She was also awarded an ATTW scholarship to attend an upcoming ATTW Research Methods Workshop with Dr. Laurie Gries.

Stacey Dearing
This spring, Stacey Dearing presented her paper “More than Mere Medical Providence: Sin, The Soul, and the Patient as a Whole,” at the Society of Early Americanists’ 10th biennial conference in Tulsa, OK. She also presented on “Cotton Mather and Patient Agency: Medical Providentialism and the Active Role of Puritan Patients in Eighteenth-Century New England” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference in Minneapolis, MN. Stacey has continued to support graduate student professionalization in her role as President of the Early Atlantic Reading Group; in this capacity, she arranged to have Purdue Alumna Dr. Elyssa Tardif (’13), current director of the Carpenter Museum in Rehoboth, MA, visit and present on alt-ac careers. In addition, Stacey is currently completing a digital internship with the Carpenter museum focused on creating digital content contextualizing the museums’ seventeenth-century collections. In her teaching, Stacey has brought her advocacy for student veterans into the classroom by partnering her English 420 courses with the Purdue Veterans Success Center. This summer, Stacey will be returning for her fourth year as a writing instructor for the Warrior-Scholar Project at the University of Michigan to prepare college-bound veterans for academic success.

Amy Elliot
Amy Elliot presented a paper on Anne of Green Gables at the Children’s Literature Association Conference in June, presented at IWCA on developing tutor training programs for writing centers, and presented at INCS on “The Lady of Shalott.” She also attended NAVSA’s national conference where she participated on a panel about careers in the public humanities at the graduate student professionalization workshop. She also gave a paper on Clough’s Amours de Voyage and spent a day hiking through the desert with Victorianists. In the meantime, she served as EARG’s treasurer and colloquium chair, was awarded the Liddell Lowe scholarship, earned an Excellence in Teaching Award from the department, was nominated by CLA for the Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award, facilitated a writing group for MFRI, taught for the Warrior-Scholars Project in the summer of 2016, attended two weddings, and managed to pass prelims and defend her prospectus.

Dan Froid
Dan went to ASECS in March, where he chaired a roundtable, “Laboring-Class Poets in Print and Digital Culture,” and presented his research on Charlotte Smith’s children’s books in a separate roundtable on didactic children’s literature. He also presented a paper on Charles and Mary Lamb’s Tales from Shakespeare at the EARG Colloquium. Later this year, an article, “Satirical Conservatism in Catherine Ann Dorset’s Papillonades,” will be published in a special issue of Women’s Writing on children’s literature of the long nineteenth century.

Liz Lane
In September, Liz was invited to participate in the Graduate Student Research Competition at the Special Interest Group for the Design of Communication (SIGDOC) conference in Silver Spring, Maryland. In March, she presented a paper on “Cultivating a Critical Approach to Social Media Research in Rhetoric and Writing Studies” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Portland, OR. This coming fall, Liz and Purdue Rhetoric and Composition alum Don Unger’s chapter, “Considering Global
COMMUNICATION AND USABILITY AS NETWORKED ENGAGEMENT: LESSONS FROM 4C4EQUITY,” WILL APPEAR IN THE COLLECTION, THINKING GLOBALLY, COMPOSING LOCALLY: RETHINKING ONLINE WRITING IN THE AGE OF THE GLOBAL INTERNET, PUBLISHED BY UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS. SHARING HER RESEARCH ON GENDERED ELECTRICITY AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ML A CONFERENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY, AND ON WORKING CLASS ARTISTS AT THE AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DENVER. IN SPRING 2017, SHE WILL PRESENT AT PURDUE’S ANNUAL EARG COLLOQUIUM. THIS SEMESTER, SHE HAS ENJOYED TWEETING, POSTING, AND HELPING TO ADVERTISE EVENTS AS THE DEPARTMENT’S SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR.

HAYLEY LARSEN
THIS YEAR, HAYLEY LARSEN PRESENTED ON GENDERED ELECTRICITY AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN MLA CONFERENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY, AND ON WORKING CLASS ARTISTS AT THE AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN DENVER. IN SPRING 2017, SHE WILL PRESENT AT PURDUE’S ANNUAL EARG COLLOQUIUM. THIS SEMESTER, SHE HAS ENJOYED TWEETING, POSTING, AND HELPING TO ADVERTISE EVENTS AS THE DEPARTMENT’S SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR.

DAN LIDDLE
IN SEPTEMBER, DAN LIDDLE PRESENTED A PAPER ON VISUAL RHETORIC AND MOBILE USER INTERFACES AT THE ACM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON THE DESIGN OF COMMUNICATION. HIS CORRESPONDING ARTICLE, TITLED “EMERGING GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH ANIMATION IN MOBILE USER INTERFACES,” WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. DAN ALSO PUBLISHED A BOOK REVIEW IN JANUARY WITH FELLOW GRADUATE STUDENT KATIE YANKURA.

ALLEGRA SMITH

BETH TOWLE
THIS SUMMER, BETH TOWLE’S FIRST CHAPBOOK, RHABDOMANTICS, WAS PUBLISHED BY ADJUNCT PRESS, AND IN NOVEMBER, HER POEM “THE WOODLAWN NARRATIVE” APPEARED IN THE INDIANA ISSUE OF SO IT GOES, A JOURNAL PRESENTED BY THE VONNEGUT MUSEUM. ALSO IN NOVEMBER, A BOOK REVIEW OF TUTORING SECOND LANGUAGE WRITERS, CO-WRITTEN WITH VICKI KENNEL, WAS PUBLISHED IN THE WRITING CENTER JOURNAL. BETH PRESENTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER WITH SOME OF HER WRITING LAB COLLEAGUES. THE WRITING LAB AWARDED BETH WITH ITS ANNUAL GRADUATE TUTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD IN MAY 2016, AND THIS LAST SUMMER, SHE CO-WROTE THE WRITING LAB’S ANNUAL REPORT. CURRENTLY, SHE SERVES AS THE LAB’S BUSINESS WRITING COORDINATOR.

MICHAEL LEDFEATHER
IN ADDITION TO PUBLICATIONS, “CONTESTANT SALTS AND VOLATILE Ethers: Jekyll and Hyde and the Pharmacy Act” IN THE JOURNAL OF STEVENSON STUDIES. HE ALSO HAS A FORTHCOMING ARTICLE IN THE SOUTH ASIAN REVIEW TITLED “SILENCE AND MEDIATION: NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES IN SUDHWA’S CRACKING INDIA.” IN ADDITION TO PUBLICATIONS, MICHAEL PRESENTS PAPERS AT THE SPACE BETWEEN SOCIETY (U MISSISSIPPI) AND FINDING FRONTIERS: THEN, NOW, AND BEYOND (WEST VIRGINIA U) CONFERENCES THIS SPRING.

Sebastian Williams recently published “Contaminated Salts and Volatile Ethers: Jekyll and Hyde and the Pharmacy Act” in the Journal of Stevenson Studies. He also has a forthcoming article in the South Asian Review titled “Silence and Mediation: Narrative Techniques in Sidhwa’s Cracking India.” In addition to publications, Sebastian is presenting papers at the Space Between Society (U Mississippi) and Finding Frontiers: Then, Now, and Beyond (West Virginia U) conferences this Spring.

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