JSM: Can you explain some of the responsibilities of the Dean’s position?

KB: Being a Dean means you are both the chief fiscal and academic officer of the College. The role is one of policy and advocacy. My job is to help shepherd (Continued on page 4)

The end of the spring semester will be a bittersweet time for the English Department, and the Rhetoric and Writing Doctoral Program in particular, as we prepare to say goodbye to Dr. Kris Blair. Dr. Blair was recently named Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Youngstown State University (YSU). On behalf of the students and faculty of the doctoral program, I wish Dr. Blair all the best in her new position, and I know she will do amazing work. I recently had the opportunity to ask Dr. Blair a few questions reflecting on her time at BGSU and about her new position.

JSM: What would you say is your favorite memory of your time as a faculty member at BGSU?

KB: My favorite memory is simply the opportunity to work with such a great crop of doctoral candidates. As I’ve often said in public forums, and I’ve truly meant it, it’s been my honor. Working with graduate students is a privilege I try never to take for granted, and admittedly, it is the thing I will miss the most about being a faculty member here. I do get a little weepy at dissertation defenses and at commencement because those structures mean so much to me as a graduate educator, so that is what I will miss.

JSM: What are you most looking forward to as you prepare to assume your new responsibilities?

KB: Despite my role as faculty and all the wonderful students I’ve worked with, I was also an administrator here for a very long time. I enjoyed administration. I liked being an advocate for programs, faculty, and students, and I think that advocacy role is important in this era of higher education where we’re being asked to do more with less. On a more targeted role, I’m looking forward to fostering and sustaining a culture of research that exists at the institution, making the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences more visible, possibly expanding international education and bringing memorandums of understanding to YSU.

After completing graduate coursework, the task of finishing the dissertation becomes a reality. In the interest of sharing how graduate students become professionalized, I offer my reflections on cultivating sustainable practices towards completing my dissertation and beyond. I position my story at the intersections of the mentorship of my committee and self-advocacy. In the interstices, I have learned that although completing a dissertation requires focused, sustained individual work, the writing process is definitely not a solitary one. I also know for sure that finishing the dissertation requires dedication to self-care. Here is a story that maps my journey.

Writing with Writers: Last summer, when I needed to write, I sought the company of people who write. I joined an online group of writers including Dr. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz, Malea Powell and other rhetoric scholars on Facebook. Persons in the group shared their daily writing goals, encouragement, and resources. The most
Student Publications 2015-2016

Some of our students have had their work published in publications across the field of Rhetoric and Writing. This is a randomized listing of some of those publications:

Darlene Johnston had a multimodal review published in Computers and Composition Online this Spring. The review of McKee & DeVoss’s Digital Writing Assessment and Evaluation can be found alongside a review written by Soha Yousef of the TimelineJS program and a review written by Joseph Robertshaw of Laurie Greis’ Still Life with Rhetoric.

Tina Arduini published a multimodal project with The Scholar Electric at CCDP: “Multimodal Editing: An Interview with Stephanie Vie” at http://www.scholarelectric.org/?p=341.

Kristen LaFollette had Poetry published in Turk’s Head Review, West Trade Review, and Vagabonds and fiction forthcoming from Two Cities Review. Kristen’s artwork was featured as well on the cover for Pretty Owl Poetry and in Plath Profiles: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Sylvia Plath Studies as well as other artwork forthcoming in Spry Literary Journal.

Adam Sprague has had poems published this year in Inwood Indiana, Yellow Chair Review, Tanka Journal and two more in Haiku Journal. Stephen Raulli also had 2 poems published this year: one in Bridge Eight, and the other in Razor Literary Magazine. Danielle Donelson published an article in the Ohio Journal of English an Language Arts. Authors of other publications were unavailable for comment at the time of this publication.
New Roles

As the Department of English prepares to merge with GSW, BGSU's incarnation of a first year writing program, our very own Dr. Lee Nickoson has been named incoming director of General Studies Writing. In accepting the position, Dr. Nickoson expressed praise for her predecessor Dr. Cheryl Hoy and gratitude for support she has received from English Department and GSW Program faculty and students. Nickoson expressed enthusiasm for the professional development opportunities the merger will bring Rhetoric & Writing PhD students: "I look forward to working with GSW instructors and Rhetoric & Writing Program graduate student/instructor colleagues to identify areas for curricular development as well as professional development for R and W students invested in building their profile as innovative pedagogues."

Dr. Nickoson also recently established the the Rhetoric & Writing Web Presence Committee. The Committee brings together a group of second through fourth-year Program students invested in digital media and program identity. There is great excitement surrounding the collaborative website and social media reboots. "We've managed to build a committee of eleven smart, talented students . . . each of whom brings a unique and much-needed skill set to our work," Dr. Nickoson commented, "I look forward to working with, and no doubt learning from, everyone as we move forward with our revision and promotion efforts."

Guess Who Won the Shanklin!

"The Charles E. Shanklin Award for Research Excellence was established by Graduate Student Senate and endowed by the late Charles E. Shanklin as a meritorious award to recognize excellence in original research by graduate students at Bowling Green State University. Research papers are submitted according to the guidelines to be judged first within one of three categories of competition (Arts and Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Science and Mathematics) and two finalists in each category are selected." [Link]

Q: How did you win the award? A: I submitted a 20 page research paper—stemming from my dissertation research—in the Arts and Humanities category, was chosen as a finalist, and presented with the other five finalists though I only "competed" against the other Arts and Humanities finalist. Q: What does the Shanklin award look like? A: The first place prize is $1,250.00. There was also a dinner with the other finalists (see below), GSS officers, and some administrators, like the provost and deans from the Graduate College. There was later a banquet where the winners were announced."

Dr. April Conway
Writing To Finish: My fellow Ph.D. student-writers in the group and I loved the program so much that we asked NCFDD for a dissertation writing program. Although the NCFDD did not cater to dissertators, they listened and accommodated us: they created a beta program for dissertation finishers called Dissertation Success Program (DSP is a paid program). Needless to say, I participated in the DSP during the Fall semester 2016 and finished the dissertation the following semester, logging more than 25,000 minutes.

Writing Smart: Writing smart is individual. For me it means that I aligned my tasks to the knowledge of how long writing takes and under what conditions my body functions optimally. I quit my binging and busting all-nighters. According to the NCFDD writing every day for at least thirty minutes is a necessary for completing writing tasks. Writing happens from idea development to actual writing. Every word counts.

Creating a Methodology of Self-care, Practice, and Reciprocity: Here is the methodology I used for developing habits of mind for writing:

Sunday Meeting with Self: First, writing by hand, I list all of the tasks I plan to do for the week. Next I, migrate the tasks into a daybook (with calendar). I write in tasks for every day except week nights and weekends, when I rested.

Write out specific writing tasks and times: Because writing takes more time than one anticipates, I write specific tasks: “Write on paragraph in chapter 1” (7:30 – 8:00 am). “Mind-map 3 sources” (9:00-9:30; 2:00-2:30; 3:30 - 4:00). “Write chapter one” is not specific enough and a recipe for failure. I averaged four to six 30-minutes sessions per day.

Write first thing in the morning, without fail: I set the timer to 30 minutes and just do it. I often schedule several 30 minute slots throughout the day. I check email in the afternoon when I am tired!

Reflect on and log my inner critics and resistance: “I felt tired;” I feel like I should be grading papers.” After writing, I make notes on what resistances I experienced. Reflecting and logging what resistances I felt helps me to move past them.

Mind mapping 3 sources:

Note: Bowling Green State University is now a member of the NCFDD and students can make use of the many resources (Seminars and workshops offered). See http://www.facultydiversity.org/