

ENGLISH *Matters*

The BGSU English Department Newsletter

Spring 2016

Write from the Chair ...

Dr. Lawrence Coates

Welcome to the eighth edition of *English Matters*. In the words of Heraclitus, “the only thing that is constant is change,” and this past year in the Department of English was no exception. We welcomed in new faculty. Dan Bommarito, who received his PhD from Arizona State, joined the faculty in Rhetoric and Writing. Amy Hicks, who received her PhD from Illinois State University, has joined us as a specialist in Literature for Children and Adolescents. And Fernanda Capraro, who received her PhD from The Ohio State University, has joined our ESOL program. And we welcomed Danielle Burkin as Senior Secretary, with responsibilities in both ESOL and Undergraduate Studies.

We are also saying farewell to two long time members of the department who are embarking on new phases in their lives. Lynn Campbell, who has been working for Bowling Green State University for more than thirty years, has retired as a Senior Lecturer. And Kris Blair, who came to BGSU in 1996, will soon take on the position of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Studies at Youngstown State University.

Other changes continue apace. We continue to make progress on the merger between the Department of English and the General Studies Writing Program. While the merger may not be finalized until next fall, Dr. Lee Nickoson of the Rhetoric and Writing Program has been named to be the new Director of GSW, to begin on July 1, 2016. And I am hopeful that the merger will lead to some exciting new initiatives in writing studies on campus.

Some things don’t change, though. The faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the English Department have continued to accomplish great things, in the service of the department’s overall mission: to provide students with a comprehensive education in literacy—that is, reading and writing in all forms—and to promote research and creative activities. At the end of the second year of my term, I am honored to serve the department as chair.

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Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference

In October of 2015, Dr. Stephannie Gearhart served as host and chief organizer of the 39th Annual Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference, held at Bowling Green State University. The event was sponsored jointly by BGSU, Lourdes University, Owens Community College, and the University of Toledo. The theme of the conference was “Negotiating Shakespeare: History, Culture

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New Faculty . . .

Dan Bommarito received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University in May 2015 and joined the faculty of the Rhetoric and Writing Program in August. Though he has been living most recently in the Southwest, he does have roots in the Midwest, and so the weather here was not a complete shock to him. Dan has interests in Composition Theory and Pedagogy, and also in Writing Program Administration, having served as Associate Coordinator of TA Development at ASU. He has an article entitled "Cultivating a Reflective Approach to Language Difference in Composition Pedagogies" forthcoming in the journal *Composition Studies*, and he has several more works either under consideration, under revision, or in progress. In his first year, he has taught classes at both the graduate and undergraduate level, including English 7240, Theories of Rhetoric.



Dan's research interests and dedication to teaching will no doubt prove a great benefit to the department as we move forward on the merger with General Studies Writing.

Fernanda Capraro received her PhD from The Ohio State University and came to BGSU most recently from Otterbein University, in Westerville, Ohio. In her first year, she has taught mainly at the graduate level in our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, and she is already proving herself to be a popular and successful teacher. She has also been active in her professional organizations, presenting at the Ohio Foreign Language Association Annual Conference and attending the Ohio TESOL Conference in Columbus. She also published an article in *The Newsletter of the Second Language Writing Interest Section* in October of last year.

Fernanda joins an ESOL program that will be gaining in importance as international students form an increasing part of the student body at BGSU.



Amy Hicks received her PhD from Illinois State University in May 2015, and she has stepped right in to teach the department's very popular classes in Literature for Young Children, Literature for the Middle Child, and Literature for Adolescents. Her graduate work prepared her very well for this role. Her dissertation, *Playing at Crusoe: Gender, Place and Identity in Girls' Robinsonades* examined both the historicity of children's and young adult literature and also their relationship with ecofeminist themes, and she had already taught several courses in children's/adolescent literature, including an interdisciplinary course on Robinson Crusoe and its legacy for young readers. She also published two essays in collections and has a forthcoming piece on young adult retellings of H. G. Wells' *The Island of Dr. Moreau*.

With her teaching skills and experience complemented by her research interests, Amy is already establishing a profile for herself on campus in the important field of Children's Literature.

Farewells. . .

Lynn Campbell

The English Department wishes to say a fond farewell to Lynn Campbell, who is retiring as a senior lecturer after more than thirty years. Lynn graduated with her MA in English from BGSU in 1986 and has taught as a Graduate Assistant, Instructor, Lecturer, and Senior Lecturer.

Lynn is well known as a tireless and dedicated teacher, and anyone who has walked by her office in East Hall at certain times has heard her, pressing her students toward clarifying their writing and ideas. Over many years, Lynn developed specialized themes for her courses that provide connections between literature and other majors on campus. Notable among these is her course on Literature and the Natural World, which attracted students from SEES, and her course on The Self in Family and Marriage, which dovetailed with the concerns of the Sociology Department. Her accomplishments in the classroom have been recognized by four nominations for the Master Teacher Award, the first in 1986 and the last in 2002.

Her career and her accomplishments were recognized at the meeting of the Board of Trustees this May, where she received emeritus status.

We'll miss Lynn, and we hope she enjoys the view from her back deck in Whitehouse. But we still hope to see her from time to time around Bowling Green.



Kristine Blair

The English Department wishes Kris Blair all the best on the next stage in her career as she takes on the position of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Studies, at Youngstown State University.

Kris came to BGSU in 1996 from Texas A&M Corpus Christi, after receiving her doctoral degree from Purdue University, and she established herself as a leading scholar in her field, with much of her work centered on the intersection between Rhetoric, Feminism, and Technology. Over her career, she has authored three textbooks, co-edited two collections, and (at last count) published 47 refereed articles, chapters, and essays. She has also edited both the digital and the print version of *Computers and Composition*. She served on scores of dissertation committees, both as director and member. And she has received many awards recognizing her contributions, including the 2010 Charles Moran Award, a national award presented annually at the Computers and Writing Conference; the 2007 CCCC/7Cs Technology Innovator Award; and at BGSU, the President's Award for Collaborative Research with Graduate Students, and the BGSU Women of Distinction Award. She also recently directed the dissertation of Megan Adams, who received the 2015 Distinguished Dissertation Award.

We should thank her above all for her service as chair of English for nine years. There were many accomplishments during her two plus terms as chair, but her foresight and vision in creating the Online MA degree deserves to be particularly highlighted.

In eastern Ohio, Kris will have to get used to hearing "Go 'Guins" instead of "Ay Ziggy Zoomba." We are sure she will enjoy the same level of success as dean that she enjoyed here in her teaching, research and administration.



2015-2016 Student News & Notes: *Student Accomplishments*

English Department Awards

Congratulations to the winners of this year's English Department scholarships and awards:

Fall 2015

Irina Ratsushinskaya Book Award

Erika Schnepf

Frank Baldanza Scholarship in English Studies

Delaney Miller

Paul D. Emery Book Scholarship

Anna Priore

English Faculty Scholarship

Kaylee Duff

2016 Devine Winner in Poetry

Jacob Hall

Eric Komosa

2016 Devine Winner in Fiction

Lydia Munnell

Katherine O'Neill

Spring 2016

English Major Book Award

Anna Priore

Lowell P. Leland Book Award

Lillian King



Graduate College Awards

Distinguished Dissertation Award

Megan Adams

PhD in Rhetoric and Writing

Shanklin Award for Research Excellence

April Conway

English; PhD Rhetoric & Writing

2015-2016 Faculty News & Notes: *Faculty Accomplishments*

Below are just a select few of our many faculty accomplishments in 2015-2016:

Kris Blair directed the dissertation of the 2015 Distinguished Dissertation Award Recipient, Megan Adams.

Fernanda Capraro published "Reflections on Peer Review in a Second Language Writing Course" in the *SLWIS Newsletter*, October 2015 edition.

Abby Cloud directed the work of Creative Writing MFA students and six undergraduate interns in publishing *Mid-American Review*. Issue 36.1 included a special chapbook with work by Lithuanian writer Judita Vaiciunaite, translated by Rimas Uzgis.

Lawrence Coates received the Olscamp Research Award, given annually by Bowling Green State University, and also an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award. In addition, he published a novel, *The Goodbye House*, and a novella, *Camp Olvido*.

Charles Crow, Professor Emeritus, edited and contributed to *The Palgrave Handbook of the Southern Gothic*.

Heath Diehl published *Wasted: Performing Addiction in America* on Routledge, in the series The Cultural Politics of Media and Popular Culture

Performing Addiction in America



Stephannie Gearhart organized and hosted the 39th Annual Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference at Bowling Green State University in October, 2015.

Erin Labbie edited a special edition of the journal *Literature and Medicine*, published by Johns Hopkins University. She also contributed an introduction to the edition, which centered on Trauma and the Middle Ages.

Kimberly Spallinger presented papers at the 2015 Annual TESOL Convention in Toronto, Canada and at the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Conference in February 2016. Kimberly was also a workshop leader at the Nam Can Tho University, Viet Nam in the summer of 2015.

Theresa Williams received an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award.

Alumni Return for Reading Series

The College of Arts and Sciences Reading Series, at Prout Chapel, hosted alumni from three different decades of the Creative Writing program.

George Looney (MFA 1984) is a professor of Creative Writing at Penn State – Behrend, where he also serves as editor of the journal *Lake Effect*. He has published six collections of poetry, most recently *Monks Beginning to Waltz* (Truman State University Press, 2012). He has received a number of awards, including the Larry Levis Editors' Award in Poetry from *The Missouri Review*, and his work has been recognized by a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, two awards from the Ohio Arts Council, and a fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

George founded the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at Penn State – Behrend, modeling it to a certain extent on the BFA in Creative Writing at BGSU. He served as editor of *Mid-American Review* while at BGSU, and he remains connected to the journal as its translation editor.

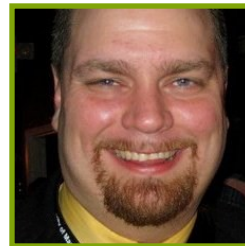


Amy Gustine (MFA 2002) published her first book, *You Should Pity Us Instead*, in 2016 on Sarabande Books to wide acclaim. It received starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *Booklist*. A review in *The New York Times* called it “an affecting and wide-ranging debut.”

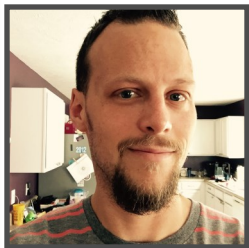


Another alumnus, Michael Czynniejewski, (MFA 1997) was a featured reader at *Mid-American Review's* Winter Wheat Festival of Writing. Mike's third book, *I Will Love You for the Rest of my Life – Breakup Stories*, came out in 2015 on Curbside Splendor press. Mike is probably best remembered at BGSU for his long service at the helm of *Mid-American Review*, along

with Karen Craig. He is currently an assistant professor at Missouri State University, but he has kept his hand in the world of literary editing through his role as editor of *Moon City Review*



and *Moon City Press*.



Gary L. McDowell (MFA 2007) is an assistant professor of English at Belmont University. He has published five collections of poetry, most recently *Mysteries in a World that Thinks There Are None* (Burnside Review Press, 2016). He also co-edited *The Rose Metal*

Press Field Guide to Prose Poetry: Contemporary Poets in Discussion and Practice (Rose Metal Press, 2010).

We're very proud of all of our alumni, from all decades, and we look forward to having more of them come back to BGSU in the future.

ESOL Spotlight

As Bowling Green State University continues to attract larger numbers of international students, the program in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), part of the English Department, will grow in importance. ESOL courses assist both undergraduate and graduate students in the development of academic English skills so that students can better meet the demands of their degree programs. The ESOL Program also provides clearance for International Teaching Assistants/Associates, as required by Ohio State Law.

The current director of ESOL is Kimberly Spallinger, who received her MA in English with a concentration in Teaching English as a Second Language from BGSU in 1999. Kimberly has taught English both in Ohio and overseas in Vietnam. The program's faculty includes Lucinda Hunter, who serves as Assistant Director, and Fernanda Capraro, who joined BGSU this past year.



The program also assists with a graduate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), under the direction of Dr. Sherry Wells-Jensen. This certificate is sought by those who wish to make a career teaching English, and graduates frequently seek employment abroad.

In addition to offering courses for enrolled BGSU students, the ESOL Program offers two optional programs to promote cultural understanding and language development. The Cross-Cultural Conversation Connection matches American and international students in small conversation groups to connect people from various cultures through conversation. In addition, the Family English Program is a free English Class that is open to family members of BGSU faculty, staff, and students, as well as to members of the community.



In Memoriam

The English Department was deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Bruce Edwards, professor emeritus of English, on October 23, 2015. Dr. Edwards joined the faculty of BGSU in 1981 and was a member of the Rhetoric and Writing program, chairing more than thirty doctoral committees and more than a hundred master's theses. He received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in Nairobi, Kenya, and he also held a yearlong professorship at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. He later served in administrative positions including associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, associate dean for distance education and international programs in Continuing and Extended Education, and associate vice provost for academic technology. He retired in 2013.

Dr. Edwards was known for his work on the author C. S. Lewis. In addition to his book *Further Up & Further in: Understanding C. S. Lewis's the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, he edited a four volume reference set: *C. S. Lewis: Life, Works, Legacy*.

In retirement, Dr. Edwards had been living in Willow Alaska, but he kept in touch with the English Department and often sent notes of interest and encouragement. He will be missed by all who knew him.



Dr. Bruce Edwards

Dr. Robert Johnson

The English Department is saddened by the loss of Dr. Robert Johnson on June 29, 2015. Dr. Johnson received his PhD from Bowling Green State University in 1971 and went on to a distinguished career in education. His dissertation was entitled *A Study of the Style of Henry James's Late Novels*. He was a professor at both the Community College of Moses Lake, WA and at the University of Victoria in British Columbia before finding a post at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he taught for twenty-seven years until his retirement in 1998. He remained active after his retirement, serving on the Board of Directors of the Kittanning Public Library and at one point holding the office of Vice President. The English Department is proud of his accomplishments in the many years since his graduation and sends condolences to his family and friends.



Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference

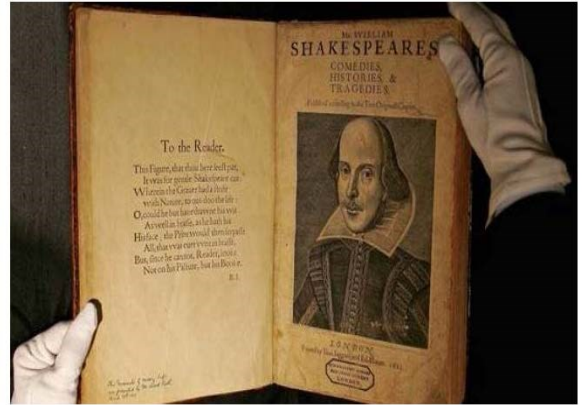
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and context, and the plenary speaker was Dr. Ian Smith, of Lafayette College, who gave a talk entitled "We Are Othello."

More than seventy participants took part over the course of the conference, and Dr. Gearhart was especially pleased that eighteen undergraduate students submitted papers and gave presentations, including six from BGSU. A high point of the conference was a production of *Macbeth* by the Rubber City Shakespeare Company, performed at the Bowling Green Performing Arts Center.

After the conference, the president of the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference wrote that BGSU is now recognized as "a noteworthy resource and supporter of Shakespeare scholarship." Kudos to Dr. Gearhart for organizing a successful conference and bringing it to Bowling Green.

The Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference 2015
"Negotiating Shakespeare: History, Culture, and Context"



Plenary Speaker:
Dr. Ian Smith, Lafayette College



October 8-10, 2015
Bowling Green State University

The OVSC 2015 is sponsored by Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, Owens Community College, and the University of Toledo.

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Creative Writing: <http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/creative-writing.html>

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