



THE BGSU ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Write from the Chair

by Dr. Lawrence Coates

Welcome to the ninth edition of *English Matters*. 2016-17 was an important year for the English Department. The merger between the English Department and the General Studies Writing Program was finally approved at the February meeting of the university's Board of Trustees. The newly enlarged department now has some sixty full-time faculty members. Among the many benefits of the merger is that it will now be easier for faculty to teach outside their home programs; teachers with talent, passion, and expertise will have greater opportunities to exercise them. The merger will also allow some new initiatives in writing studies on campus.

As always, some welcomes and farewells were part of the year. Dr. Fred Zackel, who first taught for BGSU in 1996, retired as a lecturer, though he continues to write fiction. Dr. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz will soon take a new position in the Liberal Studies Department at Grand Valley

State University. We wish them both well in their new endeavors.

The department also welcomed Anastasiia Kryzhanivska, who recently completed an MA in ESOL at Ohio University, onto our faculty. Dr. Nina Ha, who was awarded her PhD from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, received a joint appointment in English and International Studies. Tifanie Keeton joined the English Department as Secretary to the Chair.

The department also underwent its first complete program review since 2002. After receiving a charge from the Provost, an ad hoc committee made up of faculty from both GSW and English drafted a sixty-one page self study that looked at where the department has been and where it should go. Two external reviewers, from Western Michigan University and Northern Illinois University, visited the campus and met with students, faculty, and

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administrators. We are looking forward to receiving their feedback and beginning to work on the goals we've outlined.

Our overall goals haven't changed, of course. The newly enlarged English Department's mission is still 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 third year of my term, I am honored to serve the department as chair. ■

AWARDS AND HONORS

This past year saw faculty, graduate students, and units receive important marks of distinction from the university.

The **General Studies Writing Program** was awarded the university's first **Pedagogical Recognition Award** by the Center for Faculty Excellence. The award was established to recognize unit engagement with the CFE and a commitment to pedagogical innovation. Congratulations to GSW faculty for receiving this award and for their continued commitment to the innovative teaching of writing.

Dr. Khani Begum, Literature Program, was honored by the College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee with the 2017 A&S Diversity Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has led a student project or initiative that increased awareness of at least one diversity-related issue, and educational influence on BGSU students is the main criterion. Dr. Begum was recognized for her work during her courses "Global Responses to 9/11" and "Deconstructing Islamophobia."

Dr. Sue Carter Wood, Director of the Rhetoric and Writing program, was honored as the recipient of the **President's Award for Collaborative Research and Creative Work**. The award recognizes research and creative work conducted by a faculty member in collaboration with graduate students.



The award recognized the collaborative research project begun in Dr. Wood's Spring 2016 seminar class entitled "US Composition History in the Nineteenth Century." The class performed archival research and created a digital exhibit, "Literacy Artifacts: Preserving Tools, Methods, and Teachers' Technologies of the Long Nineteenth Century."

The exhibit is published in the Student Digital Gallery of the Jerome Library:
<https://digitalgallery.bgsu.edu/student/exhibits/show/literacy>

The project has also been presented at the national level, including: the College English Association of Ohio (CEA), the Thomas R. Watson Conference, and Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC).

Congratulations to Sue (pictured above) and to the fourteen graduate students who collaborated on the digital archival project.

Graduate Student Recognition

Joseph Robertshaw, rising fourth-year doctoral candidate in Rhetoric & Writing, received the College

English Association's Karen Lentz Madison Award for Scholarship, given by CEA to a contingent faculty member who contributes significantly to study in English.

At the Eleventh Annual BGSU Teaching and Learning Fair, **Stephen Rauli**, rising fourth-year PhD candidate in Rhetoric & Writing, was presented with an Award for Pedagogical Recognition by the Center for Faculty Excellence and the Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness.

Soha Youssef, rising fourth-year PhD Candidate in Rhetoric and Writing, won the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) 2017 Graduate Essay Contest with her activist digital project, "Sett bmit ragel 'A Woman as Good as a 100 Men': An Arab Woman's Narratives on Discrimination in and outside Academia."

A group of students from Dr. Khani Begum's "Deconstructing Islamophobia" class—**Derek Mitchell, Samantha Weiss, Meriem Mechehoud, Morgan MacDougal, Katelyn Phillips, Stephen Ohene-Larbi, Debra Nicholson, and Margaret Lemoine**—received the 2017 Kurt E. Hofmeister Award for Outstanding Student Group. This award recognizes exemplary performance in an academic, credit-bearing, community-based learning experience.

In addition, **Meriem Mechehoud** received the Kurt E. Hofmeister Outstanding Student Award for her efforts organizing and participating in community discussions designed to promote cross-cultural understanding and respect in the community.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Undergraduate Student Awards (English Department)

Fall 2016

Louise Cooper Award for Outstanding Thesis – Sherrel McLafferty

Spring 2017

Frank Baldanza Scholarship in English Studies – Kaylee Duff

English Faculty Scholarship – Madison Everett and Kailin Ferguson

Sandra Marie Albright Scholarship – Rachael Keucher and Eden Griffith

Dorothy Wolfe Scholarship – Eden Griffith

Tom Wymer Undergraduate Literature Senior Thesis Award – Max Funk

Lowell P. Leland Book Award – Grace Friend

English Major Book Award – Adam Gretsinger

Graduate Student Awards

English Department

Devine Winner in Poetry – Jacob Hall and Jen Pelto

Devine Winner in Fiction – Nick Heeb and Nathaniel Meals

Irina Ratsushinskaya Book Award – Coral Nardandrea

University-Wide

Regalia Award (Spring 2017)

Brianna Caitlin Mauk and Jeffrey Salem Moore

Graduate Student Senate Executive Committee Member of the Year

Joseph Robertshaw, Academic Affairs Representative

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

COMINGS AND GOINGS



Aloha to Fred Zackel

The English Department wishes to say hail and farewell to Fred Zackel, who is retiring as a lecturer after twenty years. Fred graduated with his PhD in English with a Creative Writing emphasis from BGSU in 1995 and has taught as a Graduate Teaching Fellow, Instructor, and Lecturer.

Fred was also an active writer and published a number of novels during his time here, including *Murder in Waikiki* and *Cinderella After Midnight*.

We'll miss Fred, but we hope we'll run into him at Flatlands Coffee, or Grounds for Thought, with his laptop open, working on the next book.



Welcome to Anastasiia Kryzhanivska

The English Department welcomed Anastasiia Kryzhanivska to the ESOL program this fall. Anastasiia received her MA in Linguistics, along with certificates in TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) and CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) from Ohio University in 2016.

She received her BA from Petro Mohyla Black Sea State University in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, in 2013. In her first year here, she taught a range of classes to our international students, and she also presented papers at both the Ohio TESOL conference in Columbus and the national TESOL conference in Seattle.



Welcome to Tifanie Keeton

In October of 2016, the English Department welcomed Tifanie Keeton as the new Secretary to the Chair. Tifanie holds a B.S. from the University of North Dakota, and she worked most recently as Transportation Secretary for Perrysburg Schools. She has already become an integral part of the life of the department, and we look forward to having her with us for many years.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Annual Conferences have become a fall feature of the Department of English. Winter Wheat, the Mid-American Review's Festival of Writing, celebrated its sixteenth year last November. 21st Century Englishes, a conference put on by the Graduate Students of the Rhetoric and Writing program, celebrated its fourth edition in October. And ATLAS, the group for Graduate Students in Literary and Textual Studies, put on their first conference in September.

The newest conference, put on by **ATLAS (The Association of Textual and Literary Analysis Students)** centered on the theme of Global Responses to 9/11 and the War on Terror. The conference, held days before the fifteenth anniversary of the attacks, stemmed from a class taught by Dr. Khani Begum in the spring of 2016. Two students from the class, Sarah Worman and Elena Aponte, both members of ATLAS, took the lead in organizing the conference. Along with the students in the class, the conference attracted papers from a good number of other faculty and graduate students. The keynote talk, given by Dr. Jeffrey Brown of the Popular Culture Department, was entitled "Rewriting 9/11: Superheroes and the Remasculinization of America." Plans are already underway for a second conference, to be held in the fall of 2017.



Sarah Worman and Dr. Khani Begum

The fourth annual **21st Century Englishes Conference** was sponsored and planned by the Rhetoric Society of the Black Swamp, the BGSU student chapter of the Rhetoric Society of America. It took place on the campus of BGSU on Saturday, October 15, 2016. The conference drew students from across the country, from California to North Carolina, for an engaging day of graduate scholarship. This year's theme was interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity, and presentations covered the spectrum from creative non-fiction, to digital humanities, to English language learners, visual analysis, creative discourse analysis, historical analysis, and more. Dr. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz provided the keynote address. Her address, "Listening to Our Relations: Mapping Michigan Indian History," explored the importance of place and space, identity, embodied rhetorics, and storytelling. Dr. Lee Nickoson and Dr. Sue Carter Wood provided the opening and closing remarks, bookending an amazing conference experience.

Winter Wheat, the *Mid-American Review's* Festival of Writing, took place from November 3 – 5 and attracted more than two hundred attendees. This conference was special for two reasons. First, the conference welcomed back Karen Craigo, former editor of *Mid-American Review* and one of the conference's founders. Karen was one of the featured presenters and read from her debut book of poetry *No More Milk* (Sundress, 2016). Second, the conference was held in conjunction with the annual conference of FUSE (Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors). The editors of BGSU's own undergraduate literary journal, *Prairie Margins*, welcomed their peers to campus for presentations and discussions on the theme of Literary Citizenship. Winter Wheat featured readings, panels, workshops, and a bookfair where literary journals show off their latest issues and attendees sell copies of their books. Along with Karen Craigo, this year's festival featured readings by Wendell Mayo and Phillip Metres. The conference was capped off by an open mic reading downtown at Grumpy Dave's.

IN MEMORIAM



This past February, we, the former and present members of Bowling Green State University's English Department, with great sorrow experienced the passing of a fellow colleague, graduate, and friend, **Peter Schank**.

Peter was a talented 2011 graduate of our Master of Arts in Literary and Textual Studies program as well as a brave serviceman in the United States Army. After graduation, Peter went on to serve in Afghanistan with an Ohio group out of Toledo. He later earned the designation of Captain, of which he was very proud, and he returned to the states to teach at Canisius College (ROTC).

Peter's background informed his unique voice as a soldier academic, a voice that we will remember. His work on Charles Dickens and the narrative function of naming was well regarded by academic peers and he continued to identify strongly as a writer until the end of his life.

Peter was laid to rest on February 25, 2017 at Our Lady Help of Christians in his hometown of Cheektowaga, New York. He is survived by father, John Schank; mother, Susanne Schank; and brother, Zachary Schank. Those wishing to express condolences may mail them to Peter's parents, 30 Paula Drive, Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

By way of honoring Peter's memory, an effort is underway, initiated by a member of Peter's cohort with the input of Peter's family, to establish a scholarship in his memorial for service members at BGSU. For those interested in this effort's current state, information may be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/peter-schank-scholarship>.

We join with those who mourn the loss of Peter and express our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and fellow service members.



We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Dr. James Harner**, who served as a professor of English at Bowling Green State University from 1971-1988. After leaving BGSU, Dr. Harner was a professor of English at Texas A&M University, where he was named the Samuel Rhea Gammon Professor of Liberal Arts in 2000.

Dr. Harner edited or wrote more than 30 books, notably the *Modern Language Associations Literary Research Guide*, which received an award in 2009 from the American Publishers Association. Among other honors, he received the Besterman Medal and the Besterman/McColvin medals in recognition of his editing of the World Shakespeare Bibliography Online.

The English Department is proud to have had him as a member of our faculty and sends condolences to his family and friends.

Keep In Touch with the BGSU English Department
<http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english.html>

English Department Blog: <https://bgsuenglish.wordpress.com/>

ON FACEBOOK:

BGSU English: <https://www.facebook.com/bgsuenglish-159349828837/>

Creative Writing: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/14770642341/>

21st Century Englishes – Rhetoric and Writing Conference: <https://www.facebook.com/21stCON/>

ON THE WEB:

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

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL):
<http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/english-for-speakers-of-other-languages.html>

English Literature:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-arts-in-english.html>

Rhetoric & Writing:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/graduate-programs/phd-in-rhetoric-and-writing.html>

Scientific & Technical Communication:
<http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/scientific-technical-communication.html>

