

ENGLISH *Matters*

Spring 2011

The BGSU English Department Newsletter

Write from the Chair...Dr. Kristine Blair

Welcome to our third edition of *English Matters*. I sincerely hope you will enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our students, staff, alumni, and faculty as they represent the past, present, and future of the Department. We were deeply saddened at the passing of three emeritus faculty this year: Edgar Daniels, Beth Casey, and Thomas Wymer, and our thoughts continue to be with their families. Please send us updates about your own personal and professional successes to feature in a future edition of the newsletter, wonderfully edited by doctoral student Alison Witte.

Warm Send-Off for Vicki Patra

The English Department celebrated the retirement of Vicki Patra, after 30 years at BGSU, on April 22 at DiBenedetto's Italian Bistro.



Vicki came to BGSU from the University of Wyoming as a professor in the English Department in 1981. She has taught classes in drama, dramatic theory, feminist theory, and American Culture studies.

Her research interests in drama and feminist studies led her to publish extensively during her career, including her most recent, *Spectacular Suffering: Theatre, Fascism, and the Holocaust*. She also served several years as contributing editor to the journal *Women in Performance*.

In addition to her teaching and research, Vicki founded and directed the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS). As director of ICS, she created and organized the Provost's Lecture Series—a campus-wide lecture series with seminars and workshops led by invited guest speakers.

Continued on Page 5

Fond Farewell for Rick Gebhardt



After more than 41 years of teaching—21 at BGSU—Rick Gebhardt has decided its time to try something else. He retired at the end of the first summer session and is looking forward to spending some time relaxing in South Carolina during some much deserved time off.

Rick came to BGSU in 1989 as a Professor of English. He has taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses in writing instruction and pedagogy, writing program administration, and publishing.

In addition to his teaching, Rick served as Chair of the English Department from 1989 through 1997. He also served on Faculty Senate, several university wide committees, and as Director of the Rhetoric and Writing PhD Program.

During his career, Rick has also been active in academic publishing, publishing dozens of articles and book chapters, as well as five books.

He also served as editor of *College Composition and Communication* from 1987 until 1994, transitioning it to a peer-edited publication.

Continued on Page 5

In This Issue

1	Write from the Chair
1	Rick Gebhardt & Vicki Patra Retire
2	Faculty & Graduate Student Profiles
3	Alumna & Emeritus Profiles
4-5	Faculty News & Notes
5	Scholarship Winners
6	BGSU News & Notes

Where They Are Now...

Faculty Member Theresa Williams

Finding time to write has not always been easy for Creative Writing Senior Lecturer Theresa Williams. For the past twenty-three years, Theresa has been balancing a strenuous writing schedule, teaching load, and family life. She has been teaching at BGSU in various capacities since she began her MFA here in 1987. After



graduating in 1989, she taught primarily in the General Studies Writing program and joined the Creative Writing program in 2007. Her upcoming creative non-fiction piece "On Writing," which will be published by *Talking Writing* in January, is a compilation of many blog and journal entries about the struggles of writing, the struggles she tries to help her students overcome. And of the many lines in the piece, this one seems to best capture Theresa's approach to writing and to teaching: "I need to write more and trust myself more."

And currently, she is doing lots of writing. Theresa is working on two major writing projects, including a collection of poetry and a second novel. Her collection of haibun, a combination of prose and haiku, is inspired by a trip she took with her husband in 2005. Theresa enjoys working in the haibun form because it allows her to combine styles, just as she is combining her experiences on her trip with her interest in Chinese and Japanese poetry.

In addition to her ambitious writing schedule, Theresa directs her energies into her teaching. During the fall, Theresa taught Imaginative Writing for a group of students in the Arts Village. Although she has taught this class many times before, the experience this time is much different because of the close community of students she is working with. She likes the energy they bring both to class and their work. She finds that her teaching has a positive impact on her writing through the discussions she has with students and through the genres she teaches. Teaching poetry, for example, has increased her interest in poetry and led to more poetry writing, including the work in her collection of haibun.

For Theresa, an important part of teaching is helping students remove impediments, "real or imagined," from their writing. After working for many years to make time to write her first novel and get it published, Theresa wants them to know that she also struggled with her writing, but that ultimately she did succeed, and that they have the same opportunity. Students often dream too small, she says, and she wants to encourage them to dream bigger and worry less about failing. After all, she encourages, "Everybody's creative. You have to be to make it through life."

Where They are Now...

Graduate Student Scott Sundvall



Scott Sundvall had a long journey to the MA program in Literary and Textual Studies at BGSU. While growing up in California, Scott had the opportunity to visit Minnesota and really enjoyed the area. That visit played a large role in Scott choosing to attend the

University of Minnesota in Minneapolis/St. Paul. While there, he earned a BA in Cultural Studies and English, as well as taking classes in Comparative Literature.

After completing his degree, Scott moved to Bowling Green to become a member of the MA program. His interests focus on technology and digital media. As he wraps up his second year, he looks forward to completing his thesis that examines the work of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari and the ways "digital mediation implicates and complicates the body, as well as our notions of alienation and authenticity." In addition to the work for his thesis, Scott has also organized a panel to present on this topic at the National Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference in San Antonio Texas.

As a student in the literature program, Scott has had the opportunity to teach in General Studies Writing. The opportunity for gaining some teaching experience was one of the reasons Scott chose to come to BGSU. And while he says he's glad to have had the opportunity to teach writing for the experience, he's looking forward to teaching some literature courses in the near future.

When he's not studying, Scott enjoys camping, fishing and hiking in the Adirondacks with friends and is looking forward to his next trip. He's hoping to top his catch from the last trip! He is also an avid Minnesota sports fan, rooting for the Twins and the Vikings.

Scott has also been spending much of his time applying to PhD programs. When he completes his degree at BGSU this spring, Scott plans to continue his studies in a PhD program in Literature or Cultural Studies and is looking forward to the next stage of his journey.

Where They Are Now...

Alumna Cara Byrne



As a student at BGSU, Cara Byrne was extremely busy, working to complete both her BA in English and her BS in Education. Cara's senior thesis, under the guidance of Dr. Stephannie Gearhart, focused on adaptations of Shakespeare for children and young adults, a project she used during her student teaching at Bowling Green High School. After

graduating in 2009, Cara continued her busy schedule by enrolling in the MA program at CASE Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where she is studying literature. Her current interests are in gender studies and 20th century British fiction, thanks to a course on modernism during the fall semester.

One of the attributes that attracted Cara to CASE Western is its large and diverse international student population. As a teaching assistant, Cara has several opportunities to work with some of these international students. In the fall, she taught an upper level writing course for international graduate students and for faculty members who want to improve their writing skills. Cara says she really enjoys this class because "I've been given the opportunity to work with a culturally and intellectually diverse group of students who are both challenging me to find different ways to explain writing and grammatical concepts, as well as teaching me about their fascinating research projects and international educations."

Cara has also had the opportunity to teach outside the university, teaching a one day workshop for sixth and seventh graders at Hawkens School in Cleveland. She applied the concepts from her Shakespeare project to the work the students were doing in their classrooms. "The Hawkens students were studying the Twilight series, which I was familiar with after leading a Twilight book discussion with Dr. Rona Klein for the Honors Program. In order to get this group excited about the different steps of the writing process, specifically revision, I knew drawing upon the popular characters would gain the students' attention. We completed "Edward editing" and "Jacob revision," and the students had a great time refining their prose and discussing the books."

It should be no surprise, based on her current work, that Cara's recent research focuses on teaching and working with ESL students. She is also interested in using collaboration in teaching ESL students. Cara hopes to begin the PhD program in literature at CASE Western in the near future and may continue to pursue her interest in ESL in her PhD studies. But she is also considering using her education degree to teach high school in the Cleveland area. Either way, Cara is glad for the preparation she received and feels she is ready to pursue either course thanks to her time at BGSU.

Where They Are Now...

Emeritus Tom Klein



When Tom Klein retired six years ago after a long and busy 38 year teaching career that included third grade, high school, and college, as well as teaching an assortment of literature and writing courses, starting the Great Ideas program, and founding the Chapman Learning

Community at BGSU, he was certain of one thing: he didn't want to teach any more.

But for the last six years, Tom has pursued a variety of different teaching experiences. He taught for the Semester at Sea program through the University of Virginia, which gave him the opportunity to visit and teach in 10 countries. In 2009, he spent time in Thailand teaching English as a Second or Other Language to Chinese, Burmese, British, and American students.

And more recently, believing that religious literacy can help bring an end to war, Tom has spent time pursuing his interests in religion and inter-faith understanding by teaching four inter-faith workshops in the Toledo area. These workshops have sought to educate participants about other religions and encourage dialogue between faith groups.

To further his exploration of the roles of religion in daily life, Tom recently travelled to Israel, where three of the world's major religions have many holy sites. This trip encouraged him toward a life goal of "tikkun olam," which is Hebrew for "to mend or heal the world." Tom hopes his inter-faith workshops will work toward this goal, but is also looking for new ways to put this goal into action.

In addition to giving him time for his passion for increasing religious understanding, retirement has allowed Tom to spend time on his more artistic side. Although he has been taking art classes periodically for the last 20-plus years, in retirement he has focused his attention on glass and metal jewelry. He makes jewelry from glass beads he creates in his basement workshop. And he often sells his jewelry at local shows like the Black Swamp Arts Festival.

After teaching for the last six years, Tom doesn't have any plans for teaching in the near future, but is waiting to see what life presents to him. In the meantime, he is planning a trip to Turkey, a country he visited during his Semester at Sea experience, and looking forward to his next adventure.

2010-11 Faculty News & Notes

Here are just a few accomplishments that are representative of the breadth and diversity of talent and interests here in East Hall. As you will see, the Department's faculty had a very busy year! This is only a partial list, so please visit our department blog at <http://bgsuenglish.wordpress.com/> for more recent updates.

Khani Begum (Literature) will have an article entitled "The Dialogics of a New Orientalist Discourse: Telling Tales of Iranian Womanhood," in *Women and Islam* published as part of the Women and Religion series published by Greenwood Press. She also participated in the South Asian Literatures Association panel at the Modern Language Association Conference in January 2011 on "Transnational Transgressions in South Asian Cinema: From National Allegory to International Metaphors of Border Crossing."

Kris Blair (Rhetoric and Writing) gave the Spring 2010 Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Lecture and received the national 2010 Charles Moran Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field of Computers and Composition. She also received the 2010 BGSU President's Award for Collaborative Research with Graduate Students for her work on the Digital Mirror Computer Camp.

Kimberly Coates (Literature) published "Photographing Violence: Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas* and Contemporary Feminist Responses to Images of War" in *The Theme of Peace and War in Virginia Woolf's Writings: Essays on Her Political Philosophy*. She also published "Queering London: Virginia Woolf and The Politics of Perception" in *Woolf in the City: Selected Papers from the Nineteenth Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf*.

Lawrence Coates (Creative Writing) published a short story, "Alistair's Fool" in the journal *Packhouse Review*.

Phil Dickinson (Literature) published a review of Adilifu Nama's *Black Space: Imagining Race in Science Fiction Film* in *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*.

Jude Edminster (Scientific & Technical Communication) published the chapter, "Reinventing Audience through Distance" in *Design Discourse: Composing and Revising Programs in Professional and Technical Writing*, which is part of the *Perspectives on Writing* series. She also had "From Manuscript to Digital: Remediating the Geology Field Notebook" published as part of the conference proceedings from the XVII European Languages for Specific Purposes Symposium.

Stephannie Gearhart (Literature) was an Institute for the Study of Culture and Society (ICS) Fellow (Spring 2010) and gave a public lecture, "Drama and the Politics of Generational Conflict in Shakespeare's England." She also presented "'To Tell My Story': Horatio's Hamlet as Adaptation," at the School of Media & Communication Studies Colloquium. She also published "'The More There Is To See': Another Look at James Kelman's *How Late It Was, How Late*" in *Scottish Literary Review*.

Erin Labbie (Literature) published an essay in Duke University Press' *The Legitimacy of the Middle Ages*. Her book *Lacan's Medievalism* has been contracted to be translated into Turkish. Dr. Labbie is also serving as contributing editor to *Glossator* which published its first two full length issues this year. She also presented papers at four international conferences.

Lance Massey and Richard Gebhardt (Rhetoric & Writing) had their collection *Revisiting The Making of Knowledge in Composition: Perspectives on an Evolving Field* accepted by Utah State University Press.

Sharona Muir (Creative Writing) had several chapters of her work-in-progress accepted at various journals, including four chapters in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, one in *The Kenyon Review* online, and one in *Orion Magazine*. She also reviewed E.O. Wilson's novel *Anthill* for *The Kenyon Review*.

Lee Nickoson (Rhetoric & Writing) was recognized as the BGSU Graduate Student Senate Outstanding Contributor to Graduate Education. She also published a chapter in the collection *Revisiting Teacher Research* and secured a contract for a collection, *New Directions in Writing Studies Research*, which she is co-editing with Mary P. Sheridan.

Jolie Sheffer (Literature) received a Faculty Fellowship for Fall 2010 at the Institute for the Study of Culture & Society (ICS) to work on her book project, *The Romance of Race: The Familial Origins of American Multiculturalism, 1880-1930*. She also published "'Citizen Sure Thing' or 'Jus' Foreigner?': Half-Caste Citizenship and the Family Romance in Onoto Watanna's Orientalist Fiction," in the *Journal of Asian American Studies* and "Recollecting, Repeating and Walking Through: Immigration, Trauma, and Spatiality in Mary Antin's *The Promised Land*" in *MELUS*.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

Theresa Williams (Creative Writing) published 15 poems in *Barnwood International Poetry Magazine Contemporary Haibun Online*, *Fraglit*, *Haibun Today*, *Miller's Pond*, *Mirian's Well*, *Notes from the Gean*, and *Segue*. She also published a short story, "The World in Red," in *The Sun Magazine*.

Michael Winkelman (Literature) published "Sighs & Tears: Biological Costly Signals & John Donne's 'Whining Poetry'" in *Philosophy & Literature*, "The Composing of 'A Jet Ring Sent'; or, John Donne as Thinker & Imaginator" in *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*, and "Biochemistry & Donne's Penetrating Anatomizations in 'Farewell to Love'" in the *John Donne Journal*. He also spoke at both the Ohio Medieval Colloquium and the 25th Anniversary John Donne Society Conference.

Patraka Continued from Page 1.

Although she came to BGSU as a member of the English Department, she joined the faculty of the American Culture Studies Department in 2002. Additionally, she is involved with the Women's Studies and Theatre departments.

For all her many contributions to ACS, the English Department, and to the campus as a whole, Vicki will be missed. But her friends, colleagues, and students wish her a "Happy Retirement!"

Gebhardt Continued from Page 1

The English Department recognized Rick and his contributions to the department and the field with a party on April 15, 2011. Friends, colleagues, and students gathered to wish Rick a happy retirement at the Clazel Theater in Bowling Green.

Although he is officially retiring, Rick will be teaching his class on academic publishing for the Rhetoric and Writing doctoral students in Spring 2012.

**Make a Contribution to
YOUR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ to support the work of the BGSU English Department.

Please make checks payable to:
English Department Foundation Account

Please Return this form and your gift to:

Department of English
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403



**CONGRATUALATIONS
TO THE DEPARTMENT
SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS!**

LOWELL P. LELAND BOOK AWARD
James Hilty

ENGLISH MAJOR BOOK AWARD
Caitlyn Rice

GLORIA S. SWIHART ENGLISH AWARD
Ludmila Polyakova

PAUL D. EMERY BOOK AWARD
Lauren Veith

BGSU Notes



BGSU Remembers...

Dr. Beth Casey, Emeritus faculty member in literature, who retired in 2010. Beth is remembered both for the contributions she made to the English department as well as the Canadian Studies Program, and for those she made to the university as Director of General Education. She passed away in August 2010.

Dr. Edgar F. Daniels, who retired from the department in 1980, after teaching for 27 years. During his time at BGSU, Ed served as department chair and taught literature classes. He is remembered fondly by friends and colleagues for his many contributions to academic life. He passed away in August 2010 in California, where he moved with his wife after retiring.

Dr. Thomas L. Wymer, retired Emeritus faculty member in Literature, who passed away in November 2010. Tom served in many capacities over his 41 years with the department and will continue to be remembered through the Senior Thesis Award established in his name.

English Department Says Goodbye to Office Staff

Mary Ann Sweeny (1984-2011)

After 27 years at BGSU, 25 in the English Department, Mary Ann Sweeney is retiring at the end of August. Mary Ann started with Computer Services in 1984, and joined the English department in 1986. She has been the Graduate Secretary for 16 years.



Mary Ann, despite her fondness for the weather in northwest Ohio, has plans to move to Estero, Florida and relax on the beach after she retires. She also looks forward to spending time with her grandkids.

While Mary Ann won't miss the weather, she says she will miss the students, faculty and other office staff—Mary Jo, Jessica and Kelly--when she retires.

Joanne Lohr (1981-2010)



Joanne Lohr retired from the English Department after 29 years. She began her career at BGSU in 1979 in the Department of Continuing Education and joined the English Department in 1981 as Graduate Secretary. In

1986, she became the Administrative Secretary and worked mostly with the operating budgets, but she really enjoyed working with students and staff.

Since retiring from the English Department, Joanne has been busy. She has joined a gym and a bowling league that bowls every Tuesday. She also enjoys golfing and spending time with family and friends.

She said that she hasn't had anytime to get bored. She's always doing something.