

ENGLISH *Matters*

Spring 2012

The BGSU English Department Newsletter

Write from the Chair...Dr. Kristine Blair

Welcome to our fourth edition of *English Matters*. As always, I sincerely hope you will enjoy reading about the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff as they collectively represent the past, present, and future of the Department. As you'll read, we are delighted to be welcoming new faculty, yet sad to be saying goodbye to other faculty colleagues departing for new positions. We regard all of them and all of you as lifelong members of our local and global community of scholar-teachers and professionals. So keep in touch, and please send us updates about your own personal and professional successes to feature in a future edition of the newsletter. My thanks to outgoing editor Bret Bowers and to our new editor Kerri Hauman, both in the Rhetoric and Writing Doctoral Program.

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Well Wishes to Karen Craigo and Mike Czyzniejewski



On April 27, 2012, the English Department gathered at the Odd Olive at DiBenedetto's to celebrate colleagues Michael Czyzniejewski (<http://michaelczyzniejewski.com/>) and Karen Craigo and to wish them well in their new positions – Mike as an assistant professor of Creative Writing at Missouri State University, and Karen as a full-time instructor of English and English for Academic Purposes at Drury University. Mike, Karen, and son Copernicus ("Ernie") now reside in Springfield, Missouri.



Both Mike and Karen earned their MFAs at BGSU. In fact, Mike spent seventeen years at BGSU, serving in the roles of student, instructor of writing, and beginning in summer 2000, editor of *Mid-American Review* (<http://www.bgsu.edu/studentlife/organizations/midamericanreview>). Karen also spent time as student and instructor of writing at BGSU and served as the faculty advisor for *Prairie Margins* (<http://www.bgsu.edu/studentlife/organizations/praiiemargins>) and longtime poetry editor and then, beginning in 2004, co-editor of *MAR*.

Karen and Mike have both achieved successful publishing records. Karen's chapbook, *Stone for an Eye*, won the Wick Chapbook Competition, and her poems have appeared in *Poetry* magazine, *Indiana Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *The North American Review*, just to name a few. She is also the recipient of two Individual Artist Awards from the Ohio Arts Council and a fellowship at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center.

Mike has published two story collections, *Chicago Stories* and *Elephants in our Bedroom*, and is currently working on a third collection and a novel. His stories have also appeared in more than sixty literary journals and anthologies. Mike also received the 2010 Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Where They Are Now...

Faculty Member, Jennifer Chang



This is Jennifer's first year as a creative writing faculty member at BGSU. Jennifer has been teaching for almost ten years. During that time, she has had the opportunity to teach at

a number of institutions, including the University of Virginia, Rutgers, and LaGuardia Community College. Her time as a teacher has allowed her the chance to teach a variety of courses, including creative writing, literature, and ESL courses.

Currently, Jennifer is enjoying, as she describes, "a quiet interlude between projects." Though she is enjoying the quiet, she remains very active teaching, editing, and publishing. Recently, she has had poems accepted by *Best American Poetry* and *The Rumpus* and has an essay, which examines poetry and the public sphere, that is forthcoming in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. In addition to these works, Jennifer is the author of *The History of Anonymity*. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Nation*, and *A Public Space*. Her honors include fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, Barbara Deming Foundation, Asian American Writers' Workshop, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Sewanee Writers' Conference, and Virginia Commission for the Arts. She has also been awarded the Campbell Corner Poetry Prize.

Jennifer is always asking, "what does poetry do" and "what is a poet?" These two questions underlie her work as a teacher. "Poetry," Jennifer notes, "acts a counter-rhythm to everyday speech." She believes that poetry allows students to imagine other perspectives and gives students a moment to pause and reflect, in the ways that poems allow them to do. What Jennifer loves about teaching is finding ways to make students curious and the collaboration that happens when reading a poem together, "bridging distance between landscapes and perspectives." In the future, Jennifer hopes to teach a woman's poetry course and a course on Emily Dickinson's poetic practices and her influence on modern poetic practices.

In addition to her work as a writer and teacher, Jennifer is a contributing editor for *Shenandoah*, the *Washington and Lee University Review*, and *CURA*, a literary magazine of art and action housed at Fordham University. Jennifer is also involved with *Kundiman.org*, which is dedicated to the creation, cultivation, and promotion of Asian American poetry.

Where They are Now...

Graduate Student, Shirley Faulkner-Springfield



Shirley Faulkner-Springfield took the long road before enrolling in the Ph.D. Program in Rhetoric and Writing at Bowling Green State University. Shirley grew up in North Carolina, where she lived and

worked before moving to Bowling Green. While there, she attended North Carolina Central University, where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English, specifically focusing on African-American Literature.

After completing her degrees, Shirley remained in North Carolina, where she taught first-year and developmental writing at North Carolina Central University. In addition, she also had the opportunity to teach an intensive writing course for Duke University's School of Medicine. It was these initial experiences that led Shirley to the doctoral program in Rhetoric and Writing at BGSU.

As a student in the Rhetoric and Writing program, Shirley has had the opportunity to take a variety of courses, which she hopes will help her grow as a scholar and teacher. Her interests focus on literacy practices, language and identity acquisition, and identity politics. She has investigated these issues in both her Master's thesis, titled *African American Male Identity Formation in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, Beloved, and Paradise*, and her publication titled, "Letters to Young High School Students: Writing and Uniting an Academic Community," which was published in *Reflections*. Shirley was also the recipient of the Winifred O. Stone and Presidential Graduate Fellowship.

When she is not studying, Shirley is very active within the community. Shirley is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and the Durham Literacy Center. Additionally, she serves as a writing tutor. Shirley also likes to take time out of her busy schedule to write poetry and go on the occasional hike.

Shirley has been very busy finishing up her first year in the Rhetoric and Writing program. She hopes that the classes she has taken and the experiences she has gained during this time will help her in her future project, which focuses on the literacy practices of socioeconomically disadvantaged African-American males.

Where They Are Now...

Alumna, Luda Polyakova



It is safe to say that Luda Polyakova knows her way around the English Department. Luda earned her Bachelor's degree in English from Bowling Green State University and is now continuing her education as a member in the M.A. Textual and Literary Studies

program. Her extended stay at BGSU has allowed her to become well acquainted with the English and Creative Writing departments, where she above all values the sense of community and fellowship.

Part of Luda's decision to continue her studies at BGSU was the opportunity to gain teaching experience in the General Studies Writing department. As an undergraduate, Luda developed an interest in teaching from her role as a Peer Facilitator for the Honors Program. Her interest in teaching has only grown, and she highly enjoys teaching academic writing.

As a student of literature, Luda's interests range broadly. She enjoys studying the work of the San Francisco Renaissance poets, with poet Gary Snyder in particular. Her first year of graduate studies has spurred an interest in ecocritical theory as well as theories of the everyday, which she will continue to explore. Much of her Spring semester will be dedicated to finding a thesis topic and settling on one area of focus—a task she finds extremely difficult!

In her free time, Luda enjoys writing and reading poetry. This Fall, she was thrilled to hear Poet Laureate and personal favorite W.S. Merwin read, and she is looking forward to a reading from Margaret Atwood at this year's Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference. In addition, Luda's hobbies include yoga and meditation as well as letter writing.

After her M.A., Luda hopes to either pursue her passion for poetry by joining an M.F.A. program or to develop her strengths as an educator in a Composition and Rhetoric Ph.D. program. To Luda, these two sides of one coin could not be any more different but still so equally appealing.

Where They Are Now...

Emeritus, Alice Calderanello



After graduating with her doctorate in English from the University of Illinois, Alice Calderanello took what would be her first and last teaching position at Bowling Green State University in 1973. At the time Alice was, as she described it, a "swiss army

knife," or generalist, who taught a variety of literature, linguistic and writing courses across the department.

During her thirty-year tenure, Alice accomplished many things. She helped develop the first-year writing course, GSW 1100, and the Grammar and Writing course, English 3810. Additionally, she was essential in the founding and development of the Rhetoric and Writing doctoral program at BGSU. Alice taught a wide range of courses, including first-year writing, rhetorical theory, grammar and writing, and applied linguistics. She even co-taught a course on women and language with Dr. Sue Carter Wood.

Her interests in rhetoric included developmental writing, linguistics and writing, writing and dialects, and rhetoric and gender. It was during her time teaching rhetoric that she came to love the work and theory of Kenneth Burke. Along with her interests in teaching and rhetoric, Alice also facilitated a learning community for new faculty.

Since her retirement in 2003, Alice has kept busy. She has used this time to keep in touch with family and become more acquainted with the visual arts. She has used her time to get involved in the art community in Bowling Green and at BGSU. Alice volunteers for the art gallery and joined the Bowling Green Arts Council. Also, she has also used her time to take courses in painting, jewelry smiting, and metal smiting. She enjoys the physicality of these arts and makes broaches and rings.

2011-12 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.

Kris Blair (Rhetoric and Writing) was appointed as editor for *Computers and Composition* print edition. She also was the recipient of the President's Award for Collaborative Research with Graduate Students. Additionally, she published "Review Essay: New Media Affordances and the Connected Life," in *College Composition and Communication*. Kris also published two chapters, the first titled "A Complicated Geometry: Triangulating Feminism, Activism, and Technological Literacy," in the book *New Directions in Writing Studies Research* and the second titled "Preparing 21st-Century Faculty to Engage 21st Century Learners: The Incentives and Rewards for Online Pedagogies" in the book *Higher Education, Emerging Technologies, and Community Partnerships*.

Jennifer Chang (Creative Writing) has recently had poems published in *The Nation* and *Poetry* and featured on the arts and culture blogs of *PBS NewsHour* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. She was also included in the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day Series. During the summer of 2011, she held an Artist's residency at the Millay Colony in Austerlitz, NY.

Kimberly Coates (Literature) published the essay "Phantoms, Fancy (and) Symptoms: Virginia Woolf and the Art of Being Ill" in *Woolf Studies Annual*. She also published the essay "Finding Fantasia: Leonardo da Vinci, Sigmund Freud, Melanie Klein, and the Aesthetic Subject" in *PsyArt: An Online Journal for the Psychological Study of the Arts*.

Lawrence Coates (Creative Writing) has a forthcoming novel due out in early 2012 titled *The Garden of the World* from University of Nevada Press.

Phil Dickinson (Literature) published two reviews in *The Beat Review*. The first is a review of Erik R. Mortensen's *Capturing the Beat Moment: Cultural Politics and the Poetics of Presence*, and the second is a review of Todd F. Tietchen's *The Cubalagues: Beat Writers in Revolutionary Havana*.

Stephannie Gearhart (Literature) published an essay in *Literature/Film Quarterly* titled "'Only He Would Have the Temerity to Rewrite Shakespeare': Douglas Hickox's *Theatre of Blood* as Adaptation." Additionally, in the *Scottish Literary Review*, she published an essay titled "'The More There Is To See': Another Look at James Kelman's *How Late It Was, How Late*." She also presented "'For Every Generation There is a Gap': Parent-Child Relations in Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet* and Michael Almereyda's *Hamlet*," at Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference.

Gary Heba (Scientific & Technical Communication) co-authored a chapter in the book *the Philosophy of Joss Whedon* titled "Heroes and Villains: Morality, the Will to Power, and the Overman in the Work of Joss Whedon"

Erin Labbie (Literature) recently finished her essay, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Animation and Alchemy in Disney's Medievalism" for "Disney's Medievalism" to be published by Palgrave. She has also a forthcoming co-edited collection titled, *Beholding Violence*, which will be published with Ashgate press. Currently, Erin has a number of other chapters and book projects in process and under review.

Piya Lapinski (Literature) co-edited a collection titled *the Politics of Freedom and Terror*, which will be published in May by Palgrave-Macmillan.

Lance Massey (Rhetoric & Writing) had his collection, *The Changing of Knowledge in Composition: Contemporary Perspectives*, co-edited with Rick Gebhardt, published by Utah State University Press. He also published an article in the *English Journal* titled "On the Richness of Grammar as an Analytical Lens in the Integrated Language Arts."

Sharona Muir (Creative Writing) published a short story and podcast titled "A Monumental City," with *Orion Magazine*.

Lee Nickoson (Rhetoric & Writing) has a co-edited collection, *New Directions in Writing Studies Research*, which has been accepted and is in production with Southern Illinois University Press. Lee also published a co-authored article in the journal *Composition Studies* titled "Mothers' Ways of Making it or Making Do?: Making Over Academic Lives in Rhetoric and Composition with Children."

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Faculty News & Notes (Continued from Page 4)

Jolie Sheffer (Literature) presented “Half-Castes and Half-Breeds in Love: Moving Beyond the Discourse of Blood,” at MLA in Seattle. Additionally, she presented, “Mestizos in Our ‘Sister Republic’: Familial Dramas of Mexico(an) America,” at the 10th Ohio Latin Americanist Conference.

Kimberly Spallinger (ESOL) was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Iraqi Student Project (ISP) as Support Group Coordinator. The ISP is a grass-roots effort to help war-displaced Iraqi students acquire the undergraduate education they need to participate in rebuilding their country.

Larissa Szporluk (Creative Writing) had her fifth book of poetry, *Traffic with Macbeth*, published by Tupelo Press.

Sheri Wells-Jensen (Linguistics) was invited to a colloquium on error detection in Braille orthography at the Smith Kettlewell eye research institute. Also, she will give a talk on linguistic profiling for the National Association of Blind Lawyers and a talk at a cognitive science colloquium on cognition and writing in Braille at the University of Arizona. Recently she was appointed to the review board for the Journal of Visual impairment and Blindness. Sheri is also assisting in the organization of an all Braille readers’ theater for the state of Ohio National Federation of the Blind.

Theresa Williams (Creative Writing) has a number of poems that have been recently published and are forthcoming in a number of literary magazines, including *Contemporary Haibun 12*, *Haibun Today*, *The Prose Poem Project*, *Up the Staircase Quarterly*, *Gargoyle*, *THIS*, *Rufous City Review*, *Infinity's Kitchen*, and *Westview*, and the anthology *Dreams Wander On*, just to name a few. Additionally, she has had stories recently accepted or appearing in *Prime Number Magazine*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Danse Macabre*, *5 x 5*, and *State of Imagination*.



CONGRATULATIONS 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



Well Wishes (Continued from page 1)

While Karen and Mike will be missed by their BGSU colleagues, their editorial positions for *MAR* and *Prairie Margins* are now in the good hands of Abigail Cloud, currently full-time English faculty and previously instructor for General Studies Writing at BGSU. When asked how she feels about her new editorial positions, Abby reflects on her first encounters at BGSU, noting that “*Mid-American Review* was one of the very first elements I encountered when I visited” and, “Karen was one of the first people I met.” After joining BGSU’s graduate program, Abby became involved in *MAR* immediately, and has since worked her way from Assistant Editor, to Assistant Poetry Editor, to Winter Wheat co-coordinator, to Associate Editor, and now Editor-in-Chief.

Although she’s been on what she refers to as a *MAR* hiatus lately, Abby says that when she saw the position of Instructor for *MAR* and Creative Writing available, she felt like she needed to apply. While she admits it feels strange to take over the journal and feels she has a lot to learn, she also feels confident, noting that “Karen and Mike trained me – everything I know about running *MAR* I learned from them in my various editorial positions.” Quick to admit that the statement might seem dramatic, Abby says that in her new positions, she feels like she’s doing what she was born to do.



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