

ENGLISH Matters

Write from the Chair...

It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the English Department at Bowling Green State University for these past nine years. As I conclude my second term in June 2014, I want to devote my final "Write from the Chair" intro to *English Matters* to celebrating the diversity and accomplishment that our faculty, staff, and students represent. Indeed, many of our faculty are award-winning teachers and researchers, recipients of honors that include the University's Master Teacher Award, the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer/Instructor Award, the Graduate Student Senate's Award for Outstanding Contributor to Graduate Education, and the Faculty Senate's Community Involvement Award, just to name a few. Our faculty are supported by the most dedicated, hard-working, and award-winning staff, both past and present, with whom I have had the pleasure to work over the years: Max Kupresanin,

Joanne Lohr, Mary McGowan, Michelle Nagel, the late Ardella Pierce, Mary Jo Smith, Mary Ann Sweeney, and Jessica Wade. Our current team of Jessica, MJ, and Max has made each workday one of good humor and good will, and I will be forever grateful for their constant support. Finally, our students and alumni at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are important daily reminders, through their individual and collective successes, of why so many of us have chosen to serve as literacy educators. They have brought both energy and intellectual curiosity to the study of English language, literature, and writing across programs. As we recognize the accomplishments of some and mourn the loss of others within this particular issue, I am hopeful that *English Matters* will continue to serve as a space to take immense pride in our achievements: past, present, and future. My very best wishes to you all,

**Kristine Blair, Professor and Chair
2005-2014**

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21st Century Englishes Conference



The English Department's graduate students organized and hosted a regional conference on Oct 19th on BGSU's campus. The *21st Century Englishes Conference* featured over 30 graduate student presenters from 5 different states, including Kentucky and California, and over 60 registered participants.

Presentations explored themes of diversity, transition, resistance, and redefinition by investigating the new realities of English when it is understood as multiple "Englishes" under the English Department banner. For example, a panel of five

BGSU graduate students explored the issues and concerns that nontraditional female student veterans pose to traditional English pedagogies. Another presenter explained how "gamifying" MOOCs can make them sustainable, and another investigated recent trends in TESOL methods given digital teaching technologies. The keynote speaker, Jason Palmeri from Miami University, spoke about his historical investigation into English Studies pedagogies, arguing they have always had multimodal components, such as early assignments in script writing for radio broadcasts or the early use of cameras as a tool for writers' self-discovery and invention.

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Where They Are Now: Interviews with Past and Present Students and Faculty

Emeritus Faculty, Bruce Edwards

Rhetoric and Writing Professor Emeritus Bruce Edwards is well known for his scholarship on C.S. Lewis, whose death 50 years ago has prompted numerous interview requests. Bruce obliges, but only so far as his retirement to the Alaskan frontier and a host of other family adventures and publishing projects allow. Before retiring last year after 32 years in academia, Bruce taught in the English Department and Africana Studies program, spending a decade building BGSU's online programs. He and his wife Joan raised four children in Bowling Green; all live now in the West. One of their sons, Justin, a BGSU Film Studies alumnus, now lives in Hollywood, where he directed

the upcoming Alaska-based film, *Detective, Detective, Detective*. In Alaska, Bruce lives near their grandchildren in a cabin in the woods Joan herself designed. A self-proclaimed "city boy" from Akron, Ohio, Bruce says the radical change is teaching him a different "aesthetic for absorbing landscape and appreciating the new textures of the terrain. Flora and fauna. The night sky... a new language of delight." He notes that, much like his former experiences in East Africa, Alaskan culture is built on community, "not independence but interdependence."



On retirement he reflects,

"It's better to leave too soon than to stay too late."

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Graduate Student, Pauline Baird



Pauline frequently delights her student colleagues and the faculty with whom she takes courses and works by sharing her experiences from across globe.

Pauline Baird, who is pursuing a doctoral degree in Rhetoric & Writing at BGSU, is originally from Guyana, South America. This is not the first time Pauline has earned a degree in the U.S.; she has a BA in English, as well as an MA/TESOL. She has taught English in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Asia, and Micronesia, and technical and professional writing in Japan. Before joining the Rhetoric & Writing program, Pauline spent four years teaching developmental writing in Guam where she observed with surprise that introducing developing writers to some of the history of rhetoric enables them to understand why writing conventions are significant and worth mastering. Her research interest lies in the common ground between Composition, Cultural Rhetorics, and Caribbean Rhetorics, where she is exploring how interdisciplinarity can bring new voices to disciplinary conversations. She also returns a few times each year to her home in Guam to teach high school and college students. Pauline has developed a cultural rhetorics approach to her teaching that emphasizes "doing" by having her students collect information and stories from the community, particularly by interviewing their elders, peers, and "unusual others," then chronicling them.

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She is also able to integrate her interest in the intersections between poetry and performance by choreographing and dancing in University and charity events and through poetry readings.

New Editor in Chief: Abigail Cloud

The English Department is pleased to announce that Abby Cloud is the newest Editor-in-Chief of *Mid-American Review* (MAR), the English department's literary magazine that has published poetry, fiction, non-fiction, translations, and reviews since 1980. Abby was also recently promoted to the position of Lecturer. She earned a BA in English from Michigan State in 2001 and an MFA in creative writing from BGSU in 2003. Since then Abby has taught numerous courses on writing poetry and fiction. Her own poems have been published widely, in journals such as *The Gettysburg Review*, *Parnassus Literary Journal*, and *Southern Indiana Review*. Her first book of poems, titled *Sylph*, was published by Pleiades Press this spring. Abby has contributed tirelessly to BGSU's creative writing scene since she arrived. She serves as the co-director of the annual *Winter Wheat Conference*, which is hosted at BGSU and celebrates and explores

creative writing. She also advises undergraduate and graduate creative writing students on their theses and writes grants to secure funding for MAR and other educational projects. For MAR, Abby's duties include selecting materials, editing and formatting the journal, organizing annual contests and events, managing the budget, overseeing interns and volunteers, and ensuring that MAR has a presence on the Internet and at conferences. She is also able to integrate her interest in the intersections between poetry and performance by choreographing and dancing in University and charity events and through poetry readings. The English Department congratulates Abby on both of her well-deserved promotions.

Where Are They Now: Bruce Edwards (Continued)

When Bruce isn't imbibing the crisp Alaskan air, marveling at Mount Denali, or getting accustomed to "untethered animals: bears, moose, and sled dogs," he consults with universities on distance education, continues to travel overseas, and researches his contracted bio-critical study of the Beach Boys. On retirement he reflects, "It is better to leave too soon than to stay too late."

Where Are They Now, Pauline Baird (Continued)

finds this approach enables students to "speak to the sensibilities of the people in the region," share generational knowledge, and improve their writing exponentially. Pauline frequently delights her student colleagues and the faculty with whom she takes courses and works by sharing her experiences from across globe. She is an insightful and passionate teacher and a valuable member of the Rhetoric & Writing program.

21st Century Englishes Conference, (Continued)

These non-alphabetic tools and media parallel contemporary digital media, Palmeri said, and they were also accompanied by similar anxieties and excitement. The author advocated productively remixing past pedagogies with present ones in an activist approach to literacy. The conference provided a forum for students to network with others in the region, practice their presentation skills, and share their work-in-progress. The conference was funded by the English Department, and several faculty provided opening and closing remarks and served as presentation moderators.

Scholarship & Award Recipients

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

Frank Baldanza Scholarship in English Studies

Alexander Elfreich

Paul D. Emery Book Scholarship

Amy Heider

Gloria S. Swihart English Award

Rebecca Hovenaar

Lowell P. Leland Book Award

Alicia Wodarski

English Faculty Scholarship

Delaney Miller

Kirk Foster Memorial Fund

Kelsey Lortz

T.L. Wymer Thesis Award

Chloe Koscheva-Scissons



Distinguished Alumni: A Visit with the Lawsons

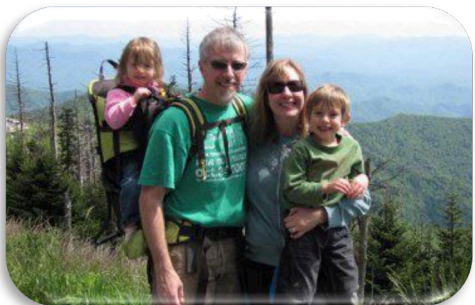
The English Department welcomed a pair of special guests back to East Hall on October 1st: distinguished alumni Benjamin and Mary Lawson, graduates of BGSU's Ph.D. program in Literature and Professors Emeritus from Albany State University, a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in Georgia. They met and married while at BGSU pursuing their graduate degrees then took teaching positions at Albany State in 1972, relieved to find work at the same institution. That move proved to be the right one, as the couple spent the remainder of their years there, where they cultivated important perspectives on African-American communities and the challenges their students face.

One of the most profound realizations came from experiencing what being a minority (as a white on a campus of largely black people) was like. Benjamin advises in his 2010 memoir *Doors: Reflections on an HBCU Career* to never ignore the reality of race or regard it as insignificant, as this is a privilege reserved only for those with the power to do so. Mary, after being drawn to paint a dilapidated, then flood-razed, corner store, produced a painting that compelled others to tell her their diverse stories about the store, all with a common theme: what it was like to be "less than white." She has chronicled these in her book *June Bug's Grocery and the Cornfield Jook: A South Albany Oral History*. Ben continues to teach African-American literature at Florida State Univ. and work with the Fulbright program and Mary continues to paint with watercolors and to pen-and-ink renderings for guidebooks and exhibits. Both Ben and Mary demonstrate the diverse possibilities for putting degrees from BGSU to creative use.



One of the most profound realizations came from experiencing what being a minority was like.

Photo courtesy of Indiana University



Farewell to Sam and Dayna Herrington

The English Department wishes to say a fond farewell to Sam and Dayna Herrington, who are both faculty members in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. Sam and Dayna, along with their two children Alex and Ayla, are moving to Minnesota at the end of the academic year. This dynamic couple has been teaching in the ESOL program for over a decade and will be missed! Sam and Dayna are both fluent in French and have taught abroad. We sincerely wish them all the best on the next leg of their journey!

2013-2014 Faculty News & Notes: Faculty Accomplishments

Below are just a select few of our many faculty accomplishments in 2013-2014:

Lawrence Coates (Creative Writing) received the Nancy Dasher Award in Creative Writing, given by the College English Association of Ohio, for his novel *The Garden of the World*. He also received the Barthelme Fiction Prize for his short story, "Bats," published in the *Gulf Coast Review*.

Abigail Cloud (Creative Writing) completed a poetry collection titled *Sylph*, published by Pleiades Press.

Stephannie Gearhart (Literature) published an article "Lear's Daughters, Adaptation, and the Calculation of Worth" was published in *Borrowers and Lenders* 7.2 (Fall 2012/Winter 2013).

Lee Nickoson (Rhetoric and Writing) co-authored with Suzan Aiken, Emily J. Beard, and David McClure "An Introduction to the Work (and Play) of Writing Studies Research Methods Through Micro Study." In *The College English Association*. She has also co-authored book reviews with former and current students: "Rhetorica In Motion" in *Feminist Teacher* and "Transnational Literate Lives in Digital Times" in *The Scholar Electric*.

Wendell Mayo (Creative Writing) won the Subito Press Award for Innovative Fiction sponsored by the University of Colorado, Boulder, for his collection of stories set in Lithuania, *The Cucumber King of Kedainiai*. Two short-short works of fiction appeared last year in *Paterson Literary Review* and *Amoskeag*.

Sharona Muir (Creative Writing) has a book forthcoming, *Invisible Beasts: Tales of the Animals that Go Unseen Among Us*, from Bellevue Literary Press at New York University.

Jolie Sheffer (Literature) has published an article, "The Optics of Interracial Sexuality in Adrian Tomine's *Shortcomings* and Sherman Alexie's *Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*," in the *College Literature* special issue on "Native/Asian Encounters." She also published a review essay of *Imperfect Unions: Staging Miscegenation in U.S. Drama and Fiction* by Diana Rebekkah Paulin (2012) and *The Amalgamation Waltz: Race, Performance, and the Ruses of Memory* by Tavia Nyong'o (2009) in *Journal of American Ethnic History* (forthcoming).

Sue Carter Wood (Rhetoric and Writing) published an essay on "The Emergence and Shaping of Ida B. Wells's Voice in Her Early Public Rhetoric" in the newly released edited collection *Re/Framing Identifications* (Waveland Press, 2014). She also presented her paper, "The New Woman of Color: At the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and Beyond," at the July 2013 meeting of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric in Chicago.

Promotions to Lecturer

In the 2013-2014 academic year, seven of our talented English Department instructors were promoted to the position of Lecturer:

- **Abigail Cloud**, Creative Writing
- **Heath Diehl**, Literature
- **Angela Garner**, English for Speakers of Other Languages
- **Lucinda Hunter**, English for Speakers of Other Languages
- **Kimberly Spallinger**, English for Speakers of Other Languages
- **Jennifer Warnke**, Scientific & Technical Communication
- **Fred Zackel**, Literature

In Memoriam

William O. Coggin



Professor Emeritus Bill Coggin died on February 9, 2014. Soon after his arrival at BGSU in 1980, Bill established the English Department's Technical and Scientific Communication program, which offered BGSU's students an important emphasis on workplace writing and literacy practices. Bill was born in 1948 in Louisiana and as the first in his family to graduate from high school and go on to college, Bill excelled, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Louisiana Tech University and a dual Ph.D. in Anglo Saxon literature and history from Oklahoma State Univ.

A mentor encouraged Bill to consider technical writing while still pursuing his doctorate and since then, over his long career, Bill published in both literature and technical writing fields. He also served as an officer for the Society of Technical Communication, established a student chapter of the organization at BGSU, and taught in China through BGSU's faculty exchange program with Xi'an Foreign Languages University. Bill had a penchant for languages and cultures, having served in the U.S. Army as a Vietnamese interpreter in 1970, and he put his passions to use in advising students in the Chinese Student Scholars Association. Bill is survived by his wife Betty, their two sons Robert and Martin, his brother Charles, and four grandchildren. The technical writing program he established continues to enable graduates to pursue professional careers in numerous fields, such as business, education, and technology.

Stacey Osborn



Stacey Osborn died on November 25, 2013 in the presence of her family. A beloved teacher by students and faculty colleagues alike, Stacey taught English and Children's literature at BGSU. She was passionate about showing students how to excel as pre-K-12 teachers by designing performance and visual-arts-based curricula and pedagogies. An outstanding teacher, Stacey had received the College of Education's Instructor of the Year award in 2008. Stacey also applied

her interests in the visual to two nationally known arts organizations, serving as the Assistant to the Director for both *Arts Unlimited* and *Ohio Wolf Trap Early Learning through the Arts*. She co-developed and directed a BGSU Learning Community, where teachers, researchers, and other participants shared and developed their knowledge and approaches to early learning. Stacey is survived by her mother and father, Ethel and Richard Mathey; brothers Stephen and Shawn Mathey; sister Suzanne Rawlings; nephews Jesse and Jared Mathey and John and Michael Rawlings; and nieces Hannah and Sarah Mathey.

James Robert Bashore



Professor Emeritus James Robert Bashore, known as "Dr. Bob" to his many students and serving most recently as professor emeritus at BGSU, died on November 19, 2013. Bob earned his undergraduate degree at BGSU and his graduate degree at the University of Wisconsin. When he returned to BGSU in 1948, Bob taught in the English Department as a literature faculty member. He will be remembered fondly for his love of Shakespeare and his wry sense of humor. Bob will also be remembered for his crucial role in developing the BGSU Honors Program, now the Honors College.

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In fact, Bob's family and friends have established the "J. Robert Bashore Scholarship" to sustain the program he had started so long ago. Those wishing to make a donation can do so at "J. Robert Bashore Scholarship c/o Honors College," 24 Founders Hall, BGSU, Bowling Green, Ohio, 43403.

Michael "Mick" Doherty



Michael "Mick" Doherty passed away on October 8, 2013. Mick was born in Bowling Green and had earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English from BGSU, as well as a Master's degree in Rhetoric from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. During his time at BGSU, Mick helped found *Kairos*, the open-access online journal that explores intersections between rhetoric, technology, and pedagogy and attracts 45,000 readers each month. Mick had also written a *The BG News* and as an avid Toronto Blue Jays fan, had been a contributor to *Batter's Box Interactive Magazine*. After graduating, Mick worked for the youth ministry at St. Patrick's of Heatherdowns then moved to the Dallas, Texas area to serve in several professional and technical communications positions, including the Dallas Convention and Visitor's Bureau and American Airlines. Mick leaves behind his parents, Michael and Dorothy Doherty, and two sisters, Mary Lynne Doherty and Eileen Doherty-Sil. A scholarship in his memory is in development.

Keep In Touch with the BGSU English Department



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



"bgsuenglish" on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/bgsuenglish/159349828837>

BGSU.

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

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

Literary and Textual Studies: <http://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/english/graduate-programs/m-a-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>