

Rhetoric and Writing Notes

FALL 2014

ISSUE 30

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

First-Year Cohort	3
Dissertation Defenses and Graduate Lectures	4
Alumni Scholarship and Milestones	5

RHETORIC AND
WRITING PROGRAM,
BOWLING GREEN
STATE UNIVERSITY

21st Century Englishes Conference a Success

October 4, 2014 marked the second annual *21st Century Englishes Conference* organized by students in the Rhetoric and Writing PhD program at Bowling Green State University. This year's call for papers stated, "As the concept of 'Englishes' evolves into the 21st century, issues of access evolve as well. Indeed, we must continually consider neurological, gender, race, language, technological skill, and socio-economic diversities, among many others, and the effects such diversities have on teacher, student, and citizen access to educational, professional and social opportunities."

The day began with engaging opening remarks from the chair of BGSU's English department, Dr. Lawrence Coates. Dr. Coates remarked on how writing and research can often be solitary endeavors, but the goal of the conference is to share our writing and research with others. His tone—insightful, generous, and humorous—set the mood for the rest of the conference.

Presentations covered a range of topics including pedagogy, litera-

cy, storytelling, global Englishes, classical rhetoric, literary studies, and social and digital media. Presenters looked at subjects including poetic auto-ethnography and



Aimee Taylor, 3rd-year PhD student—one of seven who co-organized the conference.

war, Twitter and academic writing, cyberfeminism, language in gaming culture, and international students facing assimilation in the writing classroom. The diversity of topics spoke to the conference's theme of access as a critical and complex aspect of what it means to be part of the field of English today.

The conference was well attended with speakers representative of both regional and other national institutions, including one presenter Skyping in from Japan. Panelists hailed from Eastern Kentucky University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, University of Cincinnati, The University of Findlay, Auburn Universi-

ty, Purdue, St. Cloud University, California State University, San Bernardino, Sam Houston State University, Purdue, University of Michigan, University of Toledo, University of Akron, University of New Hampshire, and Kent State University, with two representatives from BGSU, and a meteorologist from Lima.

Closing remarks were provided by the Rhetoric and Writing program director, Dr. Sue Carter Wood. After highlighting some of the themes threaded throughout the presentations, as well as sharing some of her own experiences, Dr. Wood encouraged audience members to reflect on significant moments during the conference. Several people piped in, sharing reflections, insights, and favorite moments. The participatory nature of these closing remarks—where everyone was invited to celebrate and share after a long, productive day of knowledge-making—was a lovely way to complement the conference theme of access, as well as to continue to establish the *21st Century Englishes Conference* as a welcoming space.

(Continued on page 2)

21st Century Englishes (continued)

“Yergeau argued rhetoric, and by extension, Englishes, runs the risk of glossing over difference. . .”

“The proliferation of tweets signified both an engaged and a social media-savvy group of participants.”

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The keynote speaker was Melanie Yergeau, Assistant Professor of English and the 2014-15 Charles P. Brauer Fellow. At the University of Michigan. Her presentation, “Shiny Rhetorics,” interwove discussions on disability rhetorics, multimodality and pathology, and racialized and hegemonic discourses. Using the idea that “neurotypical” types problematically decide what it means to be atypical, Yergeau argued that rhetoric, and by extension, Englishes, runs the risk of glossing over difference; that is, the field may talk about issues of accommodation and accessibility without actually ever confronting them. Dr. Yergeau infused humor into a presentation humming with powerful arguments and social critiques. Over forty attendees participated in an active discussion following Dr. Yergeau’s presentation. Conference committee organizers and participants were also pleased that Dr. Yergeau was present at the conference all day, attending panels presentations, speaking with attendees, and Tweeting conference notes.

Melanie Yergeau, keynote speaker at the 2nd annual 21st Century English Conference



throughout the day. Attendees were invited to network with one another, and share about their conference experiences and presentations using the hashtag #BGSUCon14. The conference Twitter feed was projected in the registration

room during the day’s events, and the proliferation of tweets signified both an engaged and a social media-savvy group of participants.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Third and fourth year students Tina Arduini, Pauline Baird, April Conway, Ken Hayes, Craig Olsen, Aimee Taylor, and Amy Wrobel Jamieson orchestrated this year’s conference, with Ken Hayes and April Conway also taking photographs throughout the day.

GRATITUDE

The 2014 planning committee are grateful for the support

from faculty and staff from the English Department, including Department Chair Lawrence Coates, former Department Chair Kristine Blair, Rhetoric and Writing Program Director Sue Carter Wood, Rhetoric and Writing Program faculty Lee Nickoson and Andrea Riley Mukavetz, and the English Department’s Central Advisory Committee. The planning committee appreciates all of the attendees’ participation and support to create an engaging space to share new ideas and network with old and new acquaintances.

The committee would especially like to thank Dr. Yergeau for not only delivering a wonderfully engaging keynote presentation, but for attending the entire conference and actively participating in panel discussions throughout the day. Finally, the committee are grateful for the 2013 planning committee who founded the initial *21st Century Englishes Conference*, Laura Adams, Megan Adams, Estee Beck, Shirley Faulkner-Springfield, Ken Hayes, and Heather Trahan.

LOOKING AHEAD

BGSU Rhetoric and Writing students plan to build on momentum generated by positive reception to the conference. The committee is currently recruiting new members and planning for the third annual *21st Century Englishes Conference* in 2015. Interested readers are invited to follow the Twitter account, @bgsucon15, for news regarding next year’s conference.

“We welcome our new program members and look forward to living and learning alongside them.”

Meet the First-Year Cohort

The five students who entered the Rhetoric and Writing program this fall bring with them a diversity of talents, professional backgrounds, and research interests. The application of their unique skills and passions to their work will enrich the study and teaching of writing for all members of the Rhetoric and writing program. We welcome our new program members and look forward to living and learning alongside them.

TIMOTHY BRIGGS

Timothy is a Special Lecturer in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric at Oakland University. He received the 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award at Oakland University and the

new media scholarship. Timothy's work has appeared in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy* and *Computers and Composition Online*.

DANIELLE DONELSON

Danielle is a native of southwestern New York state. She completed her BA in theatre with minors in English and Gender Studies from Marietta College in Marietta, OH. She earned her MA in English literature with a certificate in the teaching of writing from the University of Toledo. After graduating, she worked as an adjunct lecturer at Columbus State Community College and Zane State. Following this, she taught English at Satya Wacana Christian University in Central Java,

and received his BA in rhetoric and composition from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. He attended Newcastle University in England and there received his MA in creative writing. He spent a year working for the Kids First initiative of Americorps as a family planning health educator, where he taught subjects including birth control, anatomy, goal-setting, communication and self-esteem. His scholarly interests focus on rhetoric, popular culture and gender studies. He has a big love for any and all dogs and spends his time running, reading, or at the shooting range with his bow and arrow.

STEPHEN RAULLI

Stephen is from Syracuse, NY and received his BA in rhetoric and composition from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. He attended Newcastle University in England and there received his MA in creative writing. He spent a year working for the Kids First initiative of Americorps as a family planning health educator, where he taught subjects including birth control, anatomy, goal-setting, communication and self-esteem. His scholarly interests focus on rhetoric, popular culture and gender studies. He has a big love for any and all dogs and spends his time running, reading, or at the shooting range with his bow and arrow.

JOSEPH ROBERTSHAW

Joseph was born into a working-class family near Youngstown Ohio. He developed a passion for helping reluctant readers and a deep interest in social justice through his BA in English earned on military base campuses at the University of Maryland University College. He also developed interest in writing Science Fiction and Fantasy Fiction. In 2008, **(Continued on page 4)**



BGSU's Rhetoric and Writing PhD First-Year Cohort: Timothy Briggs, Soha Youssef, Stephen Raulli, Danielle Donelson, and Joseph Robertshaw

2011 *Kairos* Teaching Award. He holds a BA in English from Oakland University and an MA in English, Written Communication from Eastern Michigan University. His research interests include digital rhetoric, multimodal composing, and

Indonesia, for five years. Her research interests include cultural differences in teaching critical thinking to TESOL students, the influence of instructor perceptions of teaching efficacy on responses to student writing, rhetoric in times of peace and war, critical pedagogies, and feminist composi-

First-Year Cohort (continued)

he obtained an M.S. in Education (Curriculum & Instruction) and an M.A. in English at Youngstown State University. He also holds two certificates, one in TESOL and another in the Teaching of Writing. He has published a page on the Center for Working Class Studies and a short story, *On Dentistry in the Constellation*. Education Joseph's current research interests include the rhetorics of Fantasy and Dystopian fictions, the intersections of Marxist, Feminist and Post Colonialist lenses and the pedagogies of the writing processes and the effects of tech-

nologies upon those processes.

SOHA YOUSSEF

Soha's interest in languages, writing, and rhetoric developed at a very young age. Coming from Cairo, Egypt, she was immersed in a culture that values language learning. There, she pursued her BA in English with a minor in German. For two years she taught a variety of EFL courses at a private university. She obtained her first MA at Oklahoma State University where she studied TESL and Linguistics.

She complemented her MA degree with another in Composition and Rhetoric at Eastern Illinois University. Her area of interest focuses around continuing the conversation she started in her latest MA thesis on nonnative students' perceptions on their placement in the mainstream FYC classroom and how their perceptions can, consequently, affect their learning. However, she also hopes to explore areas of intersection between the field of Composition and ESOL.

Dissertation Defenses & Graduate Lectures

DISSERTATION DEFENSES

The members of the Rhetoric and Writing program wish to congratulate those who defended their dissertations this fall:

Estee Beck

Computer Algorithms as Persuasive Agents: The Rhetoricity of Algorithmic Surveillance within the Built Ecological Network

Marianna Grohowski

At War with Words: Understanding U.S. Service-Personnel's Lit-

erate Practices for a Universal Design for Learning Worldview

Heather Pristash

A Sharper Point: A Feminist and Multimodal Heuristic for Analyzing Knitted Rhetoric

GRADUATE LECTURES

We also congratulate those who delivered their graduate lectures this fall.

Tina Arduini

Multimodal Gaming Literacies in

the Composition Classroom

April Conway

Practitioners of Earth: The Civic Rhetorics of Grassroots Cartographers' Composing and Literacy Practices

Amy Wrobel Jamieson

Negotiating Stakeholder Values, Expectations, and Assumptions: (Re)Designing Writing Instruction at the Undergraduate Level

“Our alumni’s numerous awards, promotions, and publications attest to their individual dedication and talents as well as our community’s vibrancy.”

Alumni Scholarship and Milestones

The Rhetoric and Writing Program honors the recent outstanding achievements of our graduates. Our alumni’s numerous awards, promotions, and publications attest to their individual dedication and talents as well as our community’s vibrancy.

PUBLICATIONS

Matt Bridgewater (2014)

Published two book reviews: one on *New Literacy Narratives from an Urban University: Analyzing Stories about Reading, Writing, and Changing Technologies* published in *Computers and Composition*, the other on *Understanding Social Networks in Kairos* (forthcoming, 2015).

Elizabeth Fleitz (2009)

Published, "My Dinner with Abed: Postmodernism, Pastiche, and Metaxy in 'Critical Film Studies,'" in the edited collection *A Sense of Community: Essays on the Television Series and Its Fandom*, and has an essay, "Material," forthcoming in *Peitho* (2015).

Ann-Gee Lee

Published the edited collection, *A Sense of Community: Essays on the Television Series and Its Fandom* and "Sustaining Women's Culture and Preserving a 'Secret' Script." in *The International Journal of Social Sustainability in Economic, Social, and Cultural Context*.

Robin Murphy (2007)

Coauthored "Parody as Civic Discourse: Community's Law and Order Episode" with Jeremy Cook in *The Philosophy of Community* and "Teaching Citizenry through Young Adult Literature." with Macy McDonald in *Teaching with Children's Literature in High School and University* (forthcoming, 2015).

Lynnette Porter (1989)

Published *Benedict Cumberbatch, Transition Completed: Films, Fame, Fans* and its companion book, *Benedict Cumberbatch, In Transition: An Unauthorized Performance Biography*.

Alison Witte (2013),

Stacey Kastner (2013), & Kerri Hauman (2013).

Coauthored "Writing Teachers for the 21st Century Writers: A Gap in Graduate Education," forthcoming in *Pedagogy* (January 2015).

APPOINTMENTS, TENURE, & PROMOTIONS

Florence Elizabeth Bacabac (2008)

Promoted to Associate Professor, Dixie State University, St. George, Utah.

Cheryl Hoy (2010)

Appointed Director of General Studies Writing, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH.

Kent Lenz (2014)

Appointed Assistant Professor of English, Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Barbara Little Liu (1998)

Promoted to Professor, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut.

Christine Tulley (2001)

Promoted to Professor of English, University of Findlay, Findlay, Ohio.

Ruijie Zhao (2010)

Promoted to Associate Professor of English, Parkland College, Champaign, Illinois.

HONORS & AWARDS

Kitty Burroughs (1998)

Received the 2014 Bowling Green State University Arts & Sciences Distinguished Lecturer Award.

Barbara Little Liu (1998)

Won the 2014 Board of Regents/Connecticut State Universities Teaching Award.

Florence Elizabeth Bacabac (2008)

Received the Utah Campus Compact's 2014 Civically Engaged Scholar Award.