

- New Graduate and Dissertation Chair Win Prestigious Award
- Program Adds New Faculty Member

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Rhetoric & Writing Notes

Issue 32

Joseph Robertshaw editor

12 / 09 / 2015

Dr. Megan Adams Awarded BGSU's Best Dissertation

By Brianna Mauk

Dr. Megan Adams, 2015 graduate of BGSU's Rhetoric and Writing PhD program, recently received the 2015 Distinguished Dissertation Award, which is granted annually by the Graduate College as a way of recognizing and promoting excellence in research and dissertation advising. Dr. Adams' dissertation, titled *Through Their Lenses: Examining Community-Sponsored Digital Literacy Practices*, offers "a more thorough, contextualized portrait of how people are taking up and manipulating digital tools and spaces to understand their identity as citizens of a particular community and to better comprehend how

they are using their new-found literacy practices to enact tangible changes in their community" (abstract). The dissertation centers on the Hollow project, a digital multimodal resource which preserves the stories of those who dwell in McDowell County, West Virginia.

According to dissertation chair Dr. Kris Blair, professor of English, Rhetoric and Writing, Dr. Adams' work is "a wonderful model of the power of video and multimodality in both data collection and data representation." Furthermore, Dr. Blair reports that the dissertation not only treats "the voices and the media that represent them as



Dr. Megan Adams (left) with Dissertation Chair Dr. Kristine Blair (right).

supplemental, but rather fully integrates them into the project." This seamless synthesis of voices, along with the affective responses the voices provoke, is just a part of what makes *Through Their Lenses* a standout

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New Faculty Member Joins Program

By Lauren Garskie and Kelly Moreland



The Rhetoric and Writing Program introduced a new core faculty member in Fall 2015. Daniel Bommarito, PhD, is BGSU's newest assistant professor of Rhetoric and Writing. Earning his Philosophical Doctorate at Arizona State University, his scholarly interests include writing theory, collaborative writing, and language issues in writing. For his dissertation work,

Dr. Bommarito observed graduate students conducting a research project tackling a question about second language issues. Dr. Bommarito's project focused on collaboration, the role writing played in the students' study, and situated learning. He said one of the most interesting parts of his study was watching the students pick up the pieces and change

their question after the study failed.

Dr. Bommarito focused on similar subjects in the Rhetoric & Writing graduate course he taught this fall semester, ENG 6210: Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition as a Discipline. In the course he encouraged his student, the first-year PhD cohort, to pose questions and alter

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Our BGSU Football Falcons have won the MAC again and are set to face the Eagles of Georgia Southern in the "Go Daddy Bowl"

December 23rd at 8pm on ESPN

Talons Up!

Eight new PhD students entered the ranks of the Rhetoric & Writing Program this Fall

RSA Student Association

Interest has been expressed in forming an RSA Student Chapter here at BGSU which can provide a forum for gathering locally as rhetoricians and can serve a variety of rhetoric-related functions. The chapter can also provide funding opportunities for graduate students for academic travel and for other events and circumstances.

To form this chapter we

need to do the following:

- I. Establish a mission statement,
 - II. Select a Chair, I
 - II. Hold a minimum of two (2) chapter meetings per academic year,
 - IV. Hold a minimum of one (1) event per academic year
- *Colloquia*
 - *Professionalization talks*
 - *Reading groups*

- *Scholarship Development*
- *Abstract writing*
- *Graduate seminars*
- V. Collect dues (if so desired) not to exceed \$10 per academic year

A meeting will be held In January to further assess interest and discuss the next steps toward foundation. Watch your emails for the announced day and time of the meeting

Welcome New PhD Students

Sara Austin - BA in Spanish for Translation & MA in English Literature from Andrews University.

Lauren Garskie - BA English at Walsh University

MA in English with a concentration in Applied Linguistics at University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Darlene Johnston - BA Hanover College English and Political Science

MA in English (Composition and Rhetoric and American Literature) Indiana University (IPFW)

MA in TESOL University of Findlay.

Kristin LaFollette - BA in English literature with a minor in creative writing and MA in English with a

concentration in creative writing from Indiana University South Bend.

Kelly Moreland - BA in English journalism(m) & MA in English Gannon her University in Erie, PA.

Stephen Ohene-Larbi - BA Communication &

Masters of Public Administration (MPA) &

MA English with ESL(con) University of Toledo

Marshall Saenz - B.S. in Geology from Texas A&M University-Kingsville

M.F.A in Creative Writing The University of Texas-Pan American

Lauren Salisbury - BA in English (Creative Writing emphasis) &

MA in Rhetoric and Writing The University of Findlay.



CiRC Site Rides Again

<https://rhetcompconf.wordpress.com/>

In 2011 a website was created by Estee Beck born out the of work of Mathew Bridgewater, who created a document of national and regional conferences for fellow Rhetoric and Writing students. This year two people have taken up that mantle and shaken

the dust off of the dormant site. Joseph Robertshaw is this year's Assistant Editor and as Chief Editor we have the amazing Jeffrey Moore. This Spring, Moore will pick next year's Assistant and Robertshaw will move to the Chief role.



Welcome to the Current Conferences in Rhetoric and Composition site. The images are the site locations of the conferences for the next academic year. The images are links to more information about each conference.



Keynote Speaker:
Doctor
David Gold



The Conference is about to enter its fourth year. Your help would make it even better than this year.

The third annual **21st Century Englishes Conference** was hosted by the Rhetoric and Writing Doctoral Program at Bowling Green State University on Saturday, October 24, 2015. As in previous years, the conference was held to give graduate students in rhetoric and composition, and allied fields a chance to showcase their research in a collegial

atmosphere, and to acknowledge and support the important work being done by graduate students. The theme of this year's conference was "Then and Now and Then", which encouraged presenters to consider the ways history continues to influence rhetoric and composition, and consider how students and scholars can make the most use of the historical resources available to them. This year's conference drew presenters from across the country, with attendees and participants representing institutions as far away as California, Oregon, New

York, Texas, and Georgia, among others. Dr. David Gold, from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, provided a keynote address on the history of women's rhetoric and education in America, and how historical attitudes about women and education continue to influence our world, a presentation which was both timely and informative. **The 21st Century Englishes Conference** was a resounding success, and thanks are due to the students and faculty of Rhetoric and Writing Doctoral Program for a job well done.

— by **Jeffrey Moore**

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dissertation. On getting involved with the production of Hollow, Dr. Adams explains how her inspiration developed: "After discovering the Hollow project on Twitter, I volunteered to assist with cinematography during the production stage of the project (during the summer between my first and second year in the program)." Once a need for more research arose, Megan took the charge. "I was excited and eager to work with digital media and data as well as to insert that data into my dissertation. I felt as if the

"This project genuinely stands out as one of the best." - Blair

data I had collected and the relationships I had formed with the community storytellers necessitated this digital content to preserve their agency."

Both Dr. Adams and Dr. Blair received a cash prize for the Distinguished Dissertation award, in addition to recognition from the University and community. According to Dr. Blair, "As a faculty member, I have directed over fifty dissertations and have served as a reader on approximately 100 projects; this

project genuinely stands out as one of the best." Dr. Adams expresses that, "I am forever grateful to Kris for her support and encouragement, but also very thankful to Dr. Lee Nickoson, Dr. Sue Carter Wood, and my outside committee member, Dr. Bonnie Berger, who also shared my enthusiasm and provided guidance every step of the way." Through Their Lenses is truly an exemplary dissertation, representative of the caliber of faculty and scholarship happening in the Rhetoric and Writing program. Dr. Adams is now Assistant Professor of Communication at the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio.

PhD's Conferred

Megan Adams
Assistant Professor
Communications
University of Findlay
Estee Beck
Assistant Professor of
English
The University of Texas
at Arlington

Shirley Faulkner-Springfield
Writing Specialist;
Writing Program
Coordinator
Duke University
Mariana Grohowski
Assistant Professor of

Congratulations

Doctors!

Humanities
Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Ken Hayes
Assistant Professor
Southwestern Oklahoma State University



Craig Olsen (2015)
Assistant Professor
University of Arkansas
Monticello

Remembering our Losses



Dr. Bruce L. Edwards

September 5, 1952 -

October 28, 2015

Bruce Edwards, professor emeritus of English, died on October 28. A C.S. Lewis Scholar of some note and a very early faculty member of the BGSU Rhetoric & Writing Program, he joined the faculty in 1981 and later served in administrative positions including associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, associate dean for distance education and international programs in Continuing and Extended Education, and associate vice provost for academic technology. Although he retired in 2013 and moved to Alaska to be nearer his family Edwards continued to follow our program from his home.

It is also with heavy hearts that we report our colleague and BG grad **Paul Casey** died in a motorcycle accident in California. Paul Graduated BGSU in 2004 and became an assistant Professor at Occidental College. He is survived by his two young sons.

WEBLIFT Study

The WEBLIFT team has conducted a survey this fall that has sought to determine what the users of the Program website expect and desire from the electronic edifice. The finding of the study will be made known in the Spring Semester but the initial outlook is promising.

Many have commented that the awareness of the program's constituent parts online is limited but that they would like to have a more seamless experience over the various facets of the online presence. The coming weeks and

months may in fact be filled with surprises for those who already follow the Rhetoric & Writing program's Twitter hash tags and Facebook pages or get feeds from the department blog. For those new to the many online avenues of Rhetoric & Writing in the program you will want to stay alert for updates.



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them if need be as they explored areas of inquiry in the field. He fostered a collaborative environment, too, where students were commonly encouraged to work together to sort out their individual ideas. Dr. Bommarito said he enjoys working at BGSU because of the tight-knit community of the Rhetoric & Writing program. He likes working with the bright, interested graduate students here. The undergraduate students too, he said, are intellectually curious and great to work with. He also said it's nice to be at a university where there's as much school spirit as there is here at BGSU.

Aside from his work at BGSU, Dr. Bommarito said he likes to play music (guitar and piano) and participate in triathlons in his spare time.

Welcome, Dr. Bommarito, to Rhetoric & Writing at BGSU!