



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014-2015

Alum uses eco projects to teach English students how to change world

By Steven Barcus

Pontiac High School (PHS) English teacher Mike Soares '95, M.S. '04, is teaching his students that they don't have to wait until graduation to begin changing the world. Soares, and others at PHS, are guiding students in two interdisciplinary programs—Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal (P2D2) and Operation Endangered Species (OES)—that have made an impact at the state and international levels.



Doctoral student Michael Soares embraces The Fonz.

Soares, who graduated from Illinois State with a bachelor's in English education and a master's in literature, first started teaching English at PHS in 1997. One to constantly embrace new challenges, Soares was approached by Paul Ritter, from the school's biology department, about getting involved in P2D2.

P2D2 seeks to educate the public on the misuse and negative environmental impact caused by improper disposal of prescription and nonprescription drugs. When these drugs are not disposed of in a correct manner, they can find their way into drinking water and waterways. P2D2 partners with police, pharmacies, hospitals, and local government to create systems through which unneeded drugs can be properly discarded.

To date, more than one million pounds of prescription and nonprescription drugs have been safely disposed of through P2D2.

Soares was invited to create language arts applications for the program. He set to work creating a variety of materials designed to educate. He began by having students involved with P2D2 write eco-kus—haiku-style poems with an emphasis on ecology. Later Soares worked with his colleagues and students to publish *The Medicine Chest*, an online collection of P2D2 curriculum, resources, history, and promotional materials, so the program could grow beyond Illinois.

The program has been received enthusiastically, with Soares and Ritter being sought to help start P2D2 at other schools across the nation. He, Ritter, and two of their PHS students were even invited to present at the International Arts and Sciences Festival in Istanbul, Turkey.

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Message from the chair

By Christopher De Santis, chair,
Department of English

This past June, I had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of the Association of Departments of English (ADE) in Seattle with Associate Chair



Department Chair
Chris De Santis

Ricardo Cruz, Undergraduate Studies Director Katherine Ellison, Graduate Studies Coordinator Aaron Smith, and Writing Program Director Joyce Walker. The annual ADE meeting is frequently a venue

at which major initiatives of the Modern Language Association are both launched and presented, such as the recent Report of the MLA Task Force on Doctoral Study in Modern Language and Literature and the Report on Professional Employment Practices for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Members.

As my colleagues and I—together forming perhaps the largest representation from a single English Department—listened to and participated in discussions among administrators of English Departments from institutions throughout the country, it became clear that our department is thriving at a time in which many departments are struggling—some at the point of crisis. We anticipated and long ago put into practice, for example, many of the calls for reform for doctoral education that the MLA is only now recommending; our undergraduate assessment

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plan continues to receive university accolades; and our commitment to English studies in all its variety and complexity has put us well ahead of departments still struggling with turf wars and undervalued sub-disciplines of English.

In the context of increasing public skepticism about the value of the humanities and the persistent question—"What can you do with a major in English?"—we have much work to do to poise ourselves for continuing success, but it's important to know that we are approaching that work from a position of strength. The faculty in Illinois State's Department of English, together with the exceptional graduate and undergraduate students that we are so proud to teach and from whom we learn so much, will continue to make vital a department that is, in so many ways, a national model for effective English studies education.

"It is a lot different in Turkey," said Soares, a Ph.D. student in Illinois State's English Department. "In America if a doctor gives you a prescription for five pills, you get five pills from the pharmacist. In Turkey you get an entire package. So after you take your five, what do you do with the rest? You flush it down the toilet or it goes in the landfill."

In Istanbul, Soares and his students also shared information about OES, which aims to restore an all but extinct population of alligator snapping turtles to their natural habitats throughout Illinois.

Started in 2012 by Soares and Ritter in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, OES has received \$100,000 in funding from the State Farm Youth Advisory Grant and \$2,000 from the ING Unsung Heroes Award. The funds have been used to purchase the turtles, which are placed in classrooms in nine participating schools, including Illinois State University's Metcalf School. Students then have the opportunity to learn about the reptiles while collecting and analyzing data that are uploaded into a shared database.

Students approach the OES from a variety of disciplines, raising awareness through civics and history classes, designing program logos in art courses, and even creating an OES theme song in music classes. Soares leads students in his classes through multi-genre writing projects ranging from letters requesting financial support, to care and curriculum guides used in partner schools.

"The students are getting real-world experience that they would not get in any other situation," Soares said. "What they are really taking away is a passion for changing the world. And they're shaping the environment in positive ways."

Alumna profile: Michelle Martin

Michelle Martin, Ph.D. '97, English studies, returned in March 2014 to give the annual Lois Lenski Lecture. At Illinois State, Martin specialized in children's and young adult literature and composition, and her work now focuses on children's literature, African-American children's literature, and community literacy programs. She joined the University of South Carolina faculty in August 2011 as the Augusta Baker Chair in Childhood Literacy.



Michelle Martin, Ph.D. '97

As Augusta Baker Chair, Martin conducts literature and literacy research that she hopes will positively impact literacy in South Carolina and beyond. Martin is the founder of the Read-a-Rama program, and co-founder with Rachelle D. Washington of Camp Read-a-Rama. These programs bring young people together with college students and graduates who have studied children's literature for book celebration programs that teach children and teens to "live books." The Read-a-Rama programs and camps use children's and young adult books as the springboard for all other

activities. Martin works closely with the South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy, including the successful literacy program, Cocky's Reading Express, and serves on a literacy task force that seeks to improve literacy throughout the state of South Carolina.

In addition to many scholarly articles and chapters in edited collections, Martin has authored the book *Brown Gold: Milestones of African-American Children's Picture Books, 1845–2002*; and co-edited, with Claudia Nelson, *Sexual Pedagogies: Sex Education in Britain, Australia, and America, 1879–2000*. Martin also served as editor and co-author of Katie Stagliano's picture book, *Katie's Cabbage* (expected in 2015), an autobiographical story of a nine year-old who is changing the landscape of American hunger and poverty one garden at a time.

The Lenski Lecture, which dates from 1994, is the country's oldest continuing lecture series on children's literature. It is co-sponsored by the Department of English and Milner Library, which holds a collection of literary papers from prolific children's author Lois Lenski. Gifts to the Lenski Lecture Series will help continue this benefit to the ISU community.

Department of English Newsletter

Issue 2

Christopher C. De Santis, chair
Libby Lind, office manager and
editorial assistant

Mary Jeanette Moran, assistant
professor

Lisa Seloni, associate professor

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A Night of Poetry and Community: Spoon River Poetry Review Lucia Getsi Reading

On Thursday, April 10, the historic Ewing Manor in Bloomington hosted the second annual Spoon River Poetry Review (SRPR) Lucia Getsi Reading, featuring poets Jesse Nissim, Jason Bredle, Monica A. Hand, and Jacob Saenz. Nissim was the winner of the 2013 SRPR Editors' Prize for her poem "Fire," which she read along with pieces from her collections *Day Cracks* *Between the Bones of a Foot* and *Nesting Instincts*. The poems from *Day Cracks* explore Nissim's experiences during her time as a dancer, in particular how she dealt with injury, while those from *Nesting Instincts* use collages to depict images of housing and shelter. Bredle, the author of *Standing in Line for the Beast* and *Pain Fantasy*, read selections of his humorous poetry, including "Diary of a Werewolf" and "What to Expect." Hand, who is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Missouri, read "Black is Beautiful" from her book *me and Nina*, as well as newer works "Along the Mississippi" and "Peacock." Relishing the opportunity to present her new work in a public forum, Hand commented, "I don't think I really hear the poem until I've heard it coming back from you." Chicagoan Saenz rounded out the evening with, among others, his poems "In the Time of the Bachelor," "The Bachelor Makes Dinner," and "The Bachelor Gets Ready to Attend a Wedding."

The SRPR Getsi Reading Series was initiated in 2013 to honor Getsi's long-standing work as an editor and benefactor of the SRPR. It is co-sponsored by WGLT's Poetry Radio, Illinois State's Creative Writing Program, and the Department of English. The reading series puts into practice one of the guiding principles of the SRPR as articulated by editor Kirstin Hotelling Zona, "SRPR takes seriously the literary magazine's historical role as a site for community building—not the creation of a clique or a club, but of a capacious, diverse, and committed community wherein readers and contributors feel at once safe and surprised."

Zona is already at work planning the 2015 reading and hopes to feature the 2014 SRPR Editors' Prize winner, Emma Bolden. To hear recordings of 2014 reading, visit the SRPR blog at www.srpr.org/blog/april-2014-srpr-lucia-gets-i-reading-series-event.

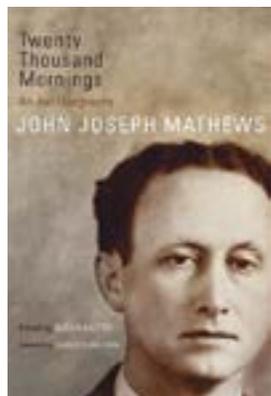
Research highlight

Professor Susan Kalter, who specializes in American literature and Native American studies, has edited a collection of short stories by distinguished Osage author John Joseph Mathews titled *Old Three Toes and Other Tales of Survival and Extinction* (forthcoming from University of Oklahoma Press, 2015). Kalter contends that Mathews' short stories "are sure to be recognized as classics of twentieth-century nature writing and the wildlife conservation movement." She further provided this description of the collection:

"The characters in *Old Three Toes and Other Tales of Survival and Extinction* are coyotes, mountain lions, deer, owls, sand hill cranes, prairie chickens—and human beings, who sometimes kill their prey but are often outsmarted by the largest and smallest animals. Mathews shows us the world through the animals' eyes and ears and noses. His convincing portrayals of their intelligence recall the fiction of Jack London and Ernest Thompson Seton. Like these literary ancestors, Mathews originally intended his nature stories for boys. But the stories transcend boundaries of age, gender, and geography.

Mathews writes not just to inspire his readers with nature's beauty but to demonstrate the interrelatedness of humans, animals, and the landscapes in which they interact. Timely and relevant to discussions of ecology and the environment, his stories will reach a wide audience today, more than 50 years after they

were written. These stories show Mathews' ability to write precise descriptions—of a coyote catching a field mouse, a crane eating a frog, a mountain lion playing. A hunter himself, Mathews understood both the animals' readiness to fight and humans' instinct to survive.



The cover of one of Associate Professor Susan Kalter's recent books.

Scholarship Profile: Eric Longfellow

Eric Longfellow '09, the winner of the 2014 Tom Kuster Creative Writing Award,



Doctoral student Eric Longfellow

is in his third year of the doctoral program in creative writing. Longfellow moved to New York to complete a master's degree at New York University, which he received in 2012. He specializes

in fiction, and his interests include gender and sexuality studies, queer theory, psychoanalytic theory, and cultural studies. Longfellow is working on a novel that explores alternative forms of sexuality. It takes place in New York City and is set against the backdrop of the global uprisings of 2011. Longfellow's work has appeared in the online literary magazine *Cutbank*, and this year he presented creative pieces at the department's First Annual David Foster Wallace Conference and Illinois State's Women's and Gender Studies Symposium.

One of Longfellow's mentors, Professor Ricardo Cortez Cruz, says of his student, "It's a pleasure and a blessing to have Eric in our program, in the department—to get to know him, especially since the cool in him goes all the way down to the bone/center. He's ours—I mean, another brilliant creative writer who really wants to be here, who appears truly satisfied with both what he has found in terms of a stimulating or sublime aesthetic and what has found him. I'm convinced it would've been quite easy for Tom Kuster to admire Eric and his great character(s). Maybe most important, I'm just happy to see Eric recognized and rewarded for the courage that he continually creatively writes, reads, and thinks with."

Richard and Marilyn Kuster endowed the Tom Kuster Award in 1998 in memory of their son. Tom's friend Betty Linn Ross

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summed up the importance of this award to Tom's family and friends, as well as to the recipients: "The Tom Kuster Creative Writing Award was established in memory of a man who was a son, brother, uncle, and friend. The idea in creating this award is to honor Tom by rewarding intellect and creativity—the two traits he most admired in people. In his 28 years, Tom touched many lives. With this award, he'll continue to touch more lives for decades to come."

And he let readers share the dignity of the animal characters, their refusal to acquiesce to their own extinction, particularly in the face of human ignorance and carelessness."

Kalter's afterword traces the inspirations for the short stories in this collection; these stories are the only published examples of Mathews' hitherto unknown short fiction. The collection is Kalter's second edition of Mathews' writings. *Twenty Thousand Mornings: An Autobiography* by John Joseph Mathews was published in 2012, and she plans to begin work soon on a collection of stories for adults by Mathews.

Message from the director of development

Make a difference in the lives of undergraduate and graduate students of English studies at Illinois State University.

Every gift counts and enhances the educational experience for students and the professional development of faculty. From annual gifts to a personal investment in a student through an endowed scholarship, you can enrich the intellectual and creative possibilities of current and future Redbirds in the Department of English.

These are a few of the funds to which you can contribute in support of English studies at Illinois State:

- English: The English Fund is used to support alumni events, faculty and staff development, and professional development events for our students.
- Janice G. Witherspoon Neuleib and Genevieve Witherspoon Perhach Endowed Fund: Awards from this endowment are used to recognize excellence in teaching by graduate students in English or support graduate student travel to present research.
- Lois Lenski Lecture Series: Established in 1994, it was the first named lecture series in children's literature in the United States.
- David Foster Wallace Memorial Restricted Fund: Through this fund, we hope to create the Wallace Memorial Reading Series and an endowed fellowship for doctoral students in creative writing.
- Spoon River Poetry Review Fund: This fund supports the work of the *Spoon River Poetry Review*, one of the nation's oldest continuously published literary journals.

A complete list of development funds in the Department of English is available at English.IllinoisState.edu/Giving/index.shtml.

For more information about how to leave your legacy in the Department of English at Illinois State University, contact Stephanie Sellers, director of Development for the College of Arts and Sciences, at (309) 438-7725 or seselle@IllinoisState.edu.

New course offered this fall: Foundations of U.S. Latino/a Literatures and Cultures

Ana Isabel Roncero-Bellido will be leading students through a survey of Latina feminism. The course will examine the imposition of the Latino and Hispanic labels and how they affect the experiences of Latinas, as well as how Latinas use writing to reflect on these experiences.



Doctoral student Ana Roncero-Bellido

The exploration of Latina feminism will cross borders, focusing on different nationalities and the development of women of color feminisms.

"We also need to understand why some Latinas are using the term Latinas as a coalitional term," said Roncero-Bellido, a Ph.D. student studying Latino/a literatures and cultures in the English Department.

Roncero-Bellido expects to draw students from the English Department, as well as those working toward a minor in Latina studies or women and gender studies. She hopes to attract students from

other disciplines as well to enrich the examination of materials and class discussions with a variety of perspectives.

“I would like students to understand why the development of Latina feminism is important and how it differs from other feminisms but at the same time see the commonalities with women of color feminism,” Roncero-Bellido said. “I would like them to understand the implications of imposing the Latina/Latino and Hispanic labels and what they mean to the Latino community.”

New English education advisor

In June 2014, the Department of English welcomed Tara Hjalmquist, our new English education advisor, who has already shown herself to be a tremendous resource for our students.



English Education Advisor Tara Hjalmquist and partner Kyle.

“At first I was nervous to find out my partner Kyle accepted a job in Bloomington-Normal,” Tara writes. “I am a city snob and enjoyed bragging about living in Minneapolis. I received both my undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota and worked as a middle school teacher in the metro area. I was nervous about how I would define myself in Central Illinois. I am truly lucky to be able to define myself here at ISU as the English education advisor. My colleagues may tell you that I also identify as being ‘Type A.’ I love how my role as advisor allows me to organize,

alphabetize, color code, etc. However, more importantly, I also love working with teacher candidates and helping them navigate their time here at ISU.

When I am not obsessing over organizing things at work, I am obsessing over Harry Potter at home. I *love* the books and movies. We even have a little Harry Potter shrine at our house. My partner and I also plan our vacations to visit Harry Potter landmarks. For example, we visited the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando, Florida, and the Harry Potter Studios in London. The picture attached is my partner and I in front of the Hogwarts model they used for filming. My life isn’t all about Harry Potter; I also enjoy reading on my porch, participating in book clubs, treasure hunting at 3rd Sunday Market, and eating wings at Schooners. I am truly looking forward to the rest of my time here at ISU and in Central Illinois.”

Student news and accomplishments

Danielle Cochran, doctoral student, is a 2013–2014 recipient of the Donald F. McHenry Fellowship.

Gina Cooke, doctoral student, was awarded the Outstanding University Graduate Teaching Award in the Level 1 Doctorate category at the CTLT Teaching and Learning Symposium. Gina has been named an Ora Bretall Fellow.

Samantha De Carlo, undergraduate student, is one of the recipients of the 2014–2015 prestigious Bone Scholarship.

Matt Del Fiacco '14 had an internship at COUNTRY Financial and will be starting our master’s program in the fall.

Gretchen Frank and Megan Gregory, doctoral students, lead the chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at Illinois State University (sponsored by Sally Parry, Robert McLaughlin, and Mark Vegter),

New faculty: Tara Lyons

The Department of English is delighted to welcome Assistant Professor Tara Lyons to the faculty. She is looking forward to teaching



Assistant Professor
Tara Lyons

courses in British literature, early modern studies, Shakespeare, and book history. Since earning her Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2011, she has

been teaching at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, where she was awarded the Chancellor’s Innovative Teaching Award in 2012.

Lyons’s research focuses on early modern drama, book history, and gender and performance studies. Her current book project, *Genealogies of English Printed Drama in Collection to 1623*, constructs a history of the drama collection in the 100 years before the publication of Benjamin Jonson’s *Works* (1616) and William Shakespeare’s *First Folio* (1623). To complete the project, she has conducted archival research in the U.S. and the U.K. Sifting through old printed books and discovering how readers some 400 years ago treated their texts are her favorite parts of research. At ISU, she hopes to share her love for rare books with undergraduate and graduate students by introducing them to the wealth of archival resources in Illinois and in digital archives around the world.

Born and raised in Central Illinois, Lyons is happy to be returning to the Midwest. When she’s not teaching or poring over rare books, Lyons loves spending time horseback riding, hiking, and at the theater. Once she settles in at Illinois State, she hopes to become more involved in community theater programs.

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Graduate student profile: Flourice Richardson

Flourice Richardson, doctoral student in the English studies program, was honored with the Conference on College Composi-



Doctoral Student
Flourice Richardson

tion and Communication's (CCCC) *Scholars for the Dream Award* at its annual convention in March 2014. This award is prestigious in the disciplines of rhetoric and composition, and this was the

most competitive year in the history of the National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE).

The CCCC sponsors the *Scholars for the Dream Awards* to encourage scholarship by historically underrepresented groups whose contributions are central to the full realization of its professional goals. The winners are chosen based upon originality of research, significance of pedagogical or theoretical contributions to the field, and potential for larger, subsequent projects.

Richardson's research is concerned with transforming the way we look at technical communication in theory and practice. Her major foci are in the field of medical rhetoric, critical race theory, cultural studies, and Black feminist thought. Her belief is that technical communication infused with a Black feminist theoretical approach can be used as an agent to dismantle and disrupt the ways that technical communication has traditionally been practiced in the world and been taught in higher education.

This research resulted in an invitation to publish in an edited collection by Octavio Pimentel and Miriam Williams, *Communication Race, Ethnicity, and Identity in Technical Communication*. Her article is titled, "The Eugenics Agenda: Deliberative Rhetoric and Therapeutic Discourse of Hate." This edited collection is an innovative text that answers the call of many scholars in the field of technical communication to explore the intersection of agency and technical commu-

Student News, continued from page 5

which has won the 2013 Project Grant Award in recognition of their work on the English Studies At Large Conference.

Adriana Gradea, doctoral student, served as a graduate assistant for the Graduate Research Network at the 15th Computers and Writing Conference on June 5, 2014, in Pullman, Washington.

Taylor Hobson, undergraduate student, is one of the recipients of the 2014–2015 prestigious Bone Scholarship.

Kristi McDuffie, doctoral student, has won a 2014 Pearson Emerging Pedagogies Research and Travel Grant for the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Shailen Mishra, doctoral student, was awarded a Dissertation Completion Grant from the Graduate School at ISU.

Lisa L. Phillips, doctoral student in English studies specializing in rhetoric and composition, is the recipient of a coauthored \$45,000 National Science Foundation Project InTeGrate mini-grant designed to foster interdisciplinary teaching. Her project links geoscience and environmental justice initiatives with humanities research. Lisa presented "Sensory Wayfinding and Environmental Justice in Rhetorical Theory Pedagogy" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis on March 20, 2014.

Brianna Reed, an English education major and honors student, was awarded a Marie Jessa Scholarship for 2014–2015.

Mike Soares, doctoral student, was awarded a \$100,000 State Farm Youth Advisory grant.

Ameliah Tawls, professional writing and rhetorics master's student, completed a six-month internship at IBM in San Jose, California.

Other graduate student accomplishments

In addition to these student accomplishments, our graduate students published more than 24 scholarly and creative pieces in national journals and literary magazines and presented more than 12 papers at national and international conferences.

Graduates of our Ph.D. program continue to find success in landing excellent jobs:

Beyazit Akman '12, literary and cultural studies, is an assistant professor at Ankara Sosyal Bilimler Üniversitesi, Turkey.

Filiz Barin-Akman '14, literary and cultural studies, is an assistant professor at Ankara Sosyal Bilimler Üniversitesi, Turkey.

Pennie Gray '14, composition/English education, is an assistant professor at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Muhammad Masud '14, children's literature, is an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts–Boston.

Melissa Smith '10, children's literature, is assistant professor at Ferris State University, Michigan.

Distinguished Alumni Luncheon

On June 1, 2014, the Department of English celebrated the accomplishments of two alumni at the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Celebration in the Founders Suite at the Bone Student Center. Faculty, faculty emeriti, staff, and students gathered together on a sunny Sunday to welcome back to campus Lisa Thompson Wagner '93 and Scott DeWitt, M.A. '88, D.A. '92, who have drawn from their educations in very different ways to find great success in their careers.



Professor Jim Kalmbach, Scott DeWitt, M.A., '88, D.A. '92, Professor Emerita Janice Neuleib, and Professor Emeritus Ron Fortune

In 2004, Lisa Wagner founded Lisa Wagner & Company, Inc., which provides a wide range of fundraising solutions, as well as project and event management services, to political, not-for profit, and corporate clients. Since then, her reputation and client list have grown. A Crain's Chicago Business profile earlier this year concluded, "Ms. Wagner is one of the most sought-after political fundraisers in Illinois and a key player." Wagner has raised funds for a number of national and Illinois political campaigns,

including George W. Bush's and Mitt Romney's presidential campaigns, seven gubernatorial campaigns, seven senatorial campaigns, and nine U.S. House campaigns.

Following his graduation from the department's Doctor of Arts program in 1992, Scott DeWitt joined the faculty at The Ohio State University, where he is now associate professor of English and vice chair of rhetoric, composition, and literacy, came to The Ohio State University in 1992. He is the author of *Writing Inventions: Identities, Technologies, Pedagogies* (SUNY 2002), which was awarded the Computers and Composition Distinguished Book Award in 2003.

David Foster Wallace Conference

The first annual David Foster Wallace Conference, hosted by the Publications Unit and the Department of English was held on May 23, 2014, and featured keynote speaker Mary K. Holland and biographer D. T. Max. The conference was created to honor Wallace and celebrate the innovative and important writing he produced. With a goal of 40 attendees, the first year of the conference was a huge success with more than 140 registered attendees and volunteers and another estimated 30–50 students invited to attend specific panels. Attendees came from as far as Ireland, Germany, and Canada (among other places), making the conference an international event.



The book fair raffle table at the David Foster Wallace Conference with undergraduate student volunteers Alyssa Hanchar, Paige Domantey, Rachel Dula, and Jessica Smith.

The second annual conference will be held on May 28–29, 2015, at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center with keynote speaker Stephen J. Burn from the University of Glasgow. In conjunction with the conference, there will be a day of writing workshops on May 30 that will be free and open to all conference attendees, students, and community members. What makes this conference most unique is the breadth of work presented at the conference. Last year's presenters included academics, lawyers, accountants, artists, filmographers, and DFW fans, among others.

In 2014, intern Shelly Kerker helped make the conference a huge success. Two interns are working with the conference during the 2014–2015 academic year. Callie Dziurgot and Emily Brutton have been diligently marketing, designing fliers, contacting potential book fair vendors, and reading and theorizing Wallace's writing with graduate student Carissa Kampmeier as she works through an independent study. For more information about the conference, contact Jane L. Carman at DFWConference@gmail.com or at jlcarma@IllinoisState.edu or visit tinyurl.com/mue385q. You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

nication. This book is the first technical communication textbook that is totally devoted to issues surrounding race, class, and gender in the field.

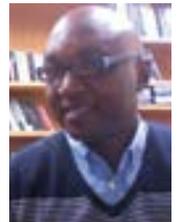
Richardson stated, "This recognition strengthens my resolve to be active in my community and to serve as a voice for change in the field of technical communication and my community. As an African-American scholar, educator, and student in the field of technical communication, I believe that matters of equality and diversity should affect our scholarship and the world."

Richardson was recently awarded a Dissertation Completion Grant from the Illinois State University Graduate School for 2013–2015, and a Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship from the Illinois State Board of Higher Education for the 2014–2015 academic year.

New faculty: Paul Ugor

The Department of English is delighted to welcome Assistant Professor Paul Ugor, one of the two

newest members of our faculty. He earned his Ph.D. in English and film studies from the University of Alberta, Canada, in 2009. In 2010 he was awarded the Social Sciences and



Paul Ugor

Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Postdoctoral fellowship in Canada. Ugor was also awarded the prestigious Newton International Fellowship by the British Academy, which took him to the Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham, UK, where he researched new socioeconomic challenges confronting young people in three different cities in Nigeria and the new existential strategies these youth have evolved to cope with the vicissitudes of life in precarious postcolonial urban spaces. After his fellowship in Birmingham, Ugor worked as a sessional faculty member in the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University, Canada.

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Originally from Obudu in Cross River State, Nigeria, Ugor's research and teaching focus on 20th and 21st century post-colonial anglophone world literature; African literature and cinema/video; African popular culture; new media cultures in the global south; youth cultures in Africa; and postcolonial theory. More specifically, his research and teaching interests are concerned with new social processes—in global politics, economy, information and communication technologies, cultural/textual representations, and everyday life—and the new social responses which these social changes elicit, especially from amongst marginal groups like youth and women in postcolonial settings.

Ugor has an impressive list of publications. His research has appeared in journals such as *Atenea: A Bilingual Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences*; *Africa: the Journal of the International African Institute*, *Imbizo*; *International Journal of Literary and Comparative Studies*, and *Review of Education, Pedagogy and Cultural Studies*. Most recently, Ugor edited a special issue of *Postcolonial Text* (Vol. 8, No 3&4, 2013) titled, "Late-modernity and Agency: Contemporary Youth Cultures in Africa" and has coedited (with Lord Mawuko-Yevugah) a book of essays, *Globalizing the African Youth: Challenges, Agency and Resistance* (Forthcoming, Ashgate 2014). His book manuscript, *Nollywood: Popular Video Films and Narratives of Marginalized Youth*, is under contract with the University of Toronto Press.

Ugor loves watching documentary films, meeting new people, and travelling.

Student profile: Samantha De Carlo and Taylor Hobson

The English Department is proud to announce that two of our undergraduate seniors, Samantha De Carlo and Taylor Hobson, were named Bone Scholars for 2014–2015. Applicants for the endowed scholarship, Illinois State's highest undergraduate honor, submit a substantial portfolio, a rigorous process overseen in the English Department by Professor Bob McLaughlin.

Samantha De Carlo is an English education major who plans to pursue

Program update: Illinois State Writing Project receives grant

In May 2014, the Illinois State Writing Project (ISWP) received a competitive \$20,000 Teacher Leadership Grant awarded by the National Writing Project. The award will support the continued expansion of the ISWP Writing Centers Network, a consortium of Central Illinois junior and high schools that have launched or anticipate student-staffed writing centers. Members include Rich Martin and the Writin' Titan Center (El Paso-Gridley Junior High), Greg Kocourek and the Night Owls' Center (Bloomington Junior High School), Ruth Getchius (Prairie Central High School), Casey Pfeifer (East Peoria High School), Mike Soares (Pontiac High School), and Brad Bovenkerk and Paul Krogmeier (Normal Community High School). Activity of the ISWP Writing Centers Network will culminate in a spring 2015 Young Writers Showcase cosponsored by the ISWP and the Publications Unit. The event will include writing and publication workshops for current and prospective writing center directors, student tutors, and writers.



Julie Cheville

Julie Cheville, associate professor of English and director of the ISWP notes, "I'm honored to be collaborating with area teachers dedicated in every way to their students' development as writers and tutors. Without them and the support of Cassie Hulett, an English teacher at University High School, Evan Nave, doctoral student and event coordinator, and Steve Halle, interim co-director of the Publications Unit, this inaugural showcase would not be possible."

In addition to the Young Writers Showcase, the grant award will also fund the development of sustainable clinical partnerships with network high schools. Teacher candidates seeking licensure in English will have opportunities to tutor high school writers and engage with writing center directors and their student tutors.

According to Cheville, "As an English education program, we are invested in the creation of clinical partnerships that involve our candidates in teaching that is characterized by depth, duration, and diversity. I'm thrilled that teacher leaders in the ISWP Writing Centers Network are committed to the joint design of high-quality clinical experiences. Because these teacher leaders have completed the ISWP Summer Institute and in many cases, a graduate degree or certificate in our department, they possess an orientation to theory and practice consistent with that framing our methods courses."

The partnership model is likely to support the recruitment of doctoral students in English education, as well as the involvement of those currently enrolled in that degree program. "It's a win-win situation for all partners," Cheville added.

Faculty and staff news and accomplishments

Lee Brasseur published "Infographics in Technical Writing and Communication" in the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing and Communication Blog.

Christopher Breu's new book, *The Insistence of the Material: Literature in the Age of Biopolitics*, was published in September 2014 by the University of Minnesota Press, 2014.

Bob Broad presented a paper titled "Valid Assessment = Human Judgments Made in Local Contexts" at the annual assessment institute of the Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference in Normal, IL, on July 17, 2014.

Susan Burt presented "Naming the Neighbors: Changes in choice of referring terms in the written records of a social group" at the Eighth International Symposium on Politeness, University of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, England, July 11, 2014.

Karen Coats published "The Meaning of Children's Poetry: A Cognitive Approach" in *International Research in Children's Literature*.

Katherine Ellison, with Kit Kincade and Holly Faith Nelson, published the edited collection, *Topographies of the Imagination: New Approaches to Defoe* (New York: AMS Press).

Gabe Gudding's new book of essays and historiographic prose poems, *Rivers for Animals*, was accepted for publication by Ahsakta Press, being chosen by Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge and Ahsakta's editors in their yearly competition. His long chapbook, *Literature for Nonhumans*, was published by the New Orleans Review.

Angela Haas presented "The Politics of Our Intellectual Interfaces: Revisiting the Technological Metaphors We Live and Think With" at the Computers and Writing Conference, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, June 2014.

Steve Halle, co-director of the Publications Unit, published "for Sherman" in the *Cordite Poetry Review*. Halle also shared a stage with Holms Troelstrup, M.A. '10, for a poetry reading at Miami University of Ohio on April 11, 2014.

Duriel E. Harris traveled to Seoul South Korea for a Seonbawi Media Arts residency and conducted research for Thingification (her one-woman show) as a part of a Movement Theatre residency with Amoeba Theatre/Cheongju University (Cheongju, South Korea). Professor Harris was recently named editor of *Obsidian: Literature in the African Diaspora*, a journal that will make its new home at ISU this fall.

Elizabeth Hatmaker and Christopher Breu published "The Flexible Mr. Ripley: Noir Historicism and Post-War Transnational Masculinity in Patricia Highsmith's *The Talented Mr. Ripley*" in *Post-World War II Masculinities in British and American Literature and Culture: Towards Comparative Masculinity Studies*, ed. Stefan Horlacher and Kevin Floyd (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2013).

Sarah Hochstetler published "A teacher's terminal illness in the secondary classroom: The effects of disclosure" in the *Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*.

Cynthia Huff presented "Animalographies in Transit: The Ethics of Representation" at the conference of the International Autobiography Association, Banff, Canada, May 29–June 1, 2014.

Tim Hunt published two books in the past year: *The Textuality of "Soulwork": Jack Kerouac's Search for Spontaneous Prose* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press) and *The Tao of Twang* (Cincinnati, OH: CW Books).

Julie Jung published "Systems Rhetoric: A Dynamic Coupling of Explanation and Description" in *Enculturation: A Journal of Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture*. Jung also coauthored with Marie Moeller, Ph.D. '09, who is now an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, "Sites of Normalcy: Understanding Online Education as Prosthetic Technology," forthcoming in *Disability Studies Quarterly*.

Hilary Justice presented "Masculinist Inertia: Performing Maturity in *The Age of Innocence*, the Nick Adams stories, and *A Farewell to Arms*" at the 16th International Hemingway Conference in Venice, Italy, June 2014.

Hyun-Sook Kang published "Korean-American college students' language practices and identity positioning: 'Not Korean, but not American'" in the *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*.

Chris Mays, Ph.D. '14, published "Who's Driving This Thing, Anyway?: Emotion and Language in Rhetoric and Neuroscience" in *JAC: A Journal of Rhetoric, Culture, and Politics*.

Robert McLaughlin published "Sondheim and Postmodernism" in *The Oxford Handbook of Sondheim Studies*, ed. Robert Gordon (New York: Oxford UP). He also presented, with Professor Sally Parry, "We'll Always Have the Movies," at the inaugural Illinois State University College of Arts and Sciences Public Lecture Series, April 3, 2014.

Bill McBride's essay, "Hitchcock's Stylized Capture of Post-Adolescent Fatheads," is forthcoming in *Children in the Films of Alfred Hitchcock*, ed. Debbie Olson (New York: McMillan-Palgrave).

Mary Moran published "The Three Faces of Tally Youngblood: Rebellious Identity-Changing in Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies*" in *Female Rebellion in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction*, Ed. Sara K.

certification in both middle level and adolescent education, as well as in English,

history, music, and politics. She minors in music, playing flute, piccolo, and bassoon. De Carlo is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, and Tau Beta Sigma, the national honorary music and service sorority. De Carlo also coaches speech at University High School, where she enjoys working with students and professionals in her chosen field.

Of her time at Illinois State, Samantha comments, "Some of my best memories of ISU come from being in the marching band (The Big Red Marching Machine), specifically traveling to play at Soldier Field with the band, and recording a CD with the Wind Symphony. However, my best ISU experience thus far occurred this summer when I traveled to Florence with the Honors Program. I got what I feel was a very authentic experience as we did not just go as mere tourists, but intrigued observers of a city we already built a relationship with. We spent as much time taking guided tours and seeing landmarks as we did walking down small cobblestone streets trying new gelato shops, bartering at the marketplace, and sitting in cafés drinking our evening espressos. It was this balance that gave the trip its feeling of authenticity and made it one of the most engaging and worldly experiences I have ever had."

Taylor Hobson will be graduating in December with a major in the publishing studies sequence and a minor in children's studies. After graduation, she plans to find work as an editorial assistant for a publishing house and hopes to work one day for a children's literature press or children's publishing department within a publishing house. Hobson has been in the Honors Program since coming to Illinois State as a freshman (and is still best friends and roommates with her randomly assigned roommate from that



Bone Scholar
Samantha De Carlo

freshman year). She was inducted into Sigma Tau Delta last October, and over the summer completed the first half of a two-semester internship with the English Department's Publications Unit, where she completed layout and design work on the



Bone Scholar
Taylor Hobson

Illinois English Bulletin. Given

her career plans, Taylor was particularly excited to work on a publication that featured adolescent writing.

In her words, "Working on the project from proofreading all the way to choosing a cover design really gave me a great perspective on the type of work I will be completing in my career. It has also made me realize that I am very interested in the design aspect of publishing. My internship has provided me with hands-on publishing experience, which, when applied with scholarship from my courses, has given me a well-rounded concept of the publishing field. My undergraduate experience at ISU has been unforgettable. I have made lifelong friends, formed relationships with wonderful English Department faculty, and gained professional and academic experiences that will put me a step ahead in my chosen field. Though I may be ending my time here at Illinois State, I will always be a Redbird."

Distinguished Professor Roberta Trites

Professor Roberta Seelinger Trites delivered Illinois State University's Distinguished Professor Lecture to a packed house on October 23 in the Prairie Room of the Bone Student Center.

A renowned author who has built an international reputation as a children's literature specialist, Trites gave a lecture titled "Twenty-First Century Feminisms in Adolescent Literature." Following the lecture, she led a spirited discussion.

Day, Miranda A. Green-Bartee, and Amy L. Montz (Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press).

Joan Mullin published, with A. Zenger and C. P. Haviland, "From skills to performativity: Rethinking writing instruction in English at the American University of Beirut" in *WAC and second language writings: Research toward linguistically and culturally inclusive programs and practices*, eds. T. Zawacki & M. Cox (Durham, S.C.: Parlor Press).

Janice Witherspoon Neuleib published "Inventing an Argument and Developing a Thesis Statement" in *AP English Language and Composition: Expanding Definitions of Argument* (New York: The College Board).

Sally Parry published "Carl Van Vechten and the Harlem Renaissance: A Portrait in Black and White" in the *Journal of American Culture*.

Paula Ressler published a review of *Paper Bride*, by Nava Semel, in *Femspec*.

Amy Robillard published "Vulnerability, Precariousness, and the Paradox of the 9/11 Imposter" in *JAC: A Journal of Rhetoric, Culture, and Politics* and, with former ISU Provost John Presley, published "Plagiarism, Academic Mobbing, and the Manufacture of Scandal" in *JAC*.

Lisa Seloni published "'I'm an artist and a scholar who is trying to find a middle point': A textographic analysis of a Colombian art historian's thesis writing" in the *Journal of Second Language Writing*.

K. Aaron Smith is the author of "Historical Development and Aspectual Nuances of Ain't-Periphrases," forthcoming in *An Anthology of Ain't*, eds. Trish Donaher and Seth Katz (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press).

Professor Kirstin Hotelling Zona published "Elizabeth Bishop: Race, Class, and Gender" in *The Cambridge Companion to Elizabeth Bishop*, eds. Angus Cleghorn and Jonathan Ellis (Cambridge University Press).

Faculty and Staff awards

College and university awards

Robert McLaughlin won the Outstanding University Teacher Award for 2014 and has been nominated by the University Teaching Committee for U.S. Professor of the Year, 2014.

Sally Parry, associate dean for Academic Programs and Student Affairs, is the 2014 recipient of the College of Education's Outstanding Service Award.

Amy Robillard has been selected as the winner of the 2014 John A. Dossey Award for Outstanding Teaching by a tenured faculty member.

Lisa Seloni has been selected as the winner of the 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Award for Outstanding Teaching by a pre-tenured faculty member.

Diane Smith, graduate secretary, is the winner of the 2014 Scott M. Elliott Award for Outstanding Staff.

Department of English faculty awards

Elizabeth Hatmaker: Exceptional Teacher of the Year—Lecturer, Instructional Assistant Professor, or Administrative Professional

Sarah Hochstetler: Exceptional Teacher of the Year—Assistant Professor Level

Angela Haas: Outstanding Graduate Student Mentoring Award

Amy Robillard: Outstanding Department Service Award

More faculty honors

Susan Burt has accepted invitations to serve on The Fulbright U. S. Student National Screening Committee for English Teaching Assistants in Germany and the Scientific Committee for the next international Symposium on Politeness, to be held in Athens, Greece, July 1–3, 2015.

Professor Angela Haas was elected to serve a three-year term on the executive committee of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC).

Katherine Ellison's article in *The Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies*, "Digital Scholarship as Handwork and Brainwork: An Early Modern History of Cryptography," was chosen as the University of Pennsylvania Press's Editor's Pick for fall 2013. Ellison was also one of two winners from the College of Arts and Sciences of the Kenneth A. and Mary Ann Shaw Teaching Fellowship. Ellison will use the funds to create a mobile historical text digitization lab that will provide students with hands-on experience in the handling, scanning, analysis, editing, and coding of texts.

Jim Kalmbach was invited by Editor Kathleen Yancey to join the Editorial Board of *College Composition and Communication (CCC)*, one of the most prestigious journals in the discipline.

Kathryn Kerr was interviewed for a WGLT piece by Judith Valente on James McGowan. It is available as a podcast at wgl.org.

Jan Neuleib participated in the leadership team for the Advanced Placement English Language Exam reading in Louisville, Kentucky, in June 2014. Neuleib was also named NCTE's Norman Mailer Fiction Awards, High School Teacher short story judging coordinator. She will soon judge the final round and then travel to the gala in New York in October.

Illinois State University and the ISU Writing Program hosts National Conference on Writing Program Administration

In July 2014, the Illinois State Writing Program was the host of the Annual Conference on Writing Program Administration. Joyce Walker, Writing Program director, served as the local chair for the conference, which was held at both the Marriott Hotel in Uptown Normal, and in the Writing Program's space in Stevenson Hall. This conference brings WPAs from across the country together to present and discuss current research and practices in writing program administration. The impressive group of plenary speakers for the conference included Doug Hesse, a former Illinois State faculty member and writing program director. The event brought more than 350 people to our town and connected them to Illinois State's Writing Program. We've heard nothing but praise for the conference from participants, with many participants sending emails and thank you cards expressing their appreciation for our efforts. In addition to meeting many wonderful colleagues from across the United States, the conference also gave us an opportunity to make some changes in the Writing Program—a general housecleaning and sprucing up that has left us with a more productive (and writing friendly) space.

Food and drink were also a focus at several events we were able to host at locations in both Bloomington and Normal, including a farm-to-table dinner at Station 220 in Bloomington, and a cocktail party at Medici in Normal for the Writing Program Administration Graduate Organization (WPA-GO), which was sponsored by the ISU Writing Program and our *Grassroots Writing Research Journal* publisher, Stipes Publishing in Champaign.

A host of volunteers from our own English Department made the event a success, including various tenured and non-tenured faculty and graduate students.

The ISU Writing Program will continue to benefit from our participation in the conference through the ongoing relationships we've established with colleagues at writing programs across the country. We hope that these productive connections will help us in our work to share information and research related to the innovative practices and pedagogies of our Writing Program.



Professor Roberta Trites

Trites' work focuses on feminism, narrative theory and cognitive studies in children's and adolescent literature. She was one of the first to argue that adolescent literature is not a literature of rebellion

and iconoclasm, but ultimately molds adolescents into socially acceptable and conformist roles.

Her book *Disturbing the Universe: Power and Repression in Adolescent Literature* won the Children's Literature Association book award. Another book, *Waking Sleeping Beauty: Feminist Voices in Children's Novels*, has been honored by the American Library Association. She is also the author of *Twain, Alcott, and the Birth of the Adolescent Reform Novel* and *Literary Conceptualizations of Growth in Adolescent Literature: Metaphors and Cognition in Adolescent Literature*. Several of her works have been translated into Japanese and Chinese.

She served as editor of the *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* and was president of the Children's Literature Association. In addition, she has organized the Children's Literature Association Conference and has served on the board of directors for the Louisa May Alcott Society. Her scholarship has been published in journals such as the *African-American Review*, *Children's Literature*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, *Children's Literature in Education* and the *Journal of Popular Film and Television*. She has delivered lectures at Cambridge University in England and in Taiwan, Japan, China, Belgium, Denmark, and Sweden.

Trites received her Ph.D. in English from Baylor University. A member of the Illinois State faculty since 1991, she has been active in the Illinois State community and has overseen the masters and doctoral work of many students. She has chaired various committees and worked with Fulbright students. She was named Outstanding University Teacher in 2000, was honored with a University Teaching

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Initiative Award and the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award. She has received the College of Arts and Sciences Research Award, and was named the College's Distinguished Lecturer.

She has been an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at Illinois State, acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and director of graduate studies in the Department of English. She has served on the English Department Faculty Status Committee, as well as the Department Council and has chaired multiple faculty searches.

The Distinguished Professor designation honors faculty who have achieved national recognition for scholarly research or leadership; been clearly identified by students, colleagues or external agencies as an outstanding teacher and have contributed significant public service within the academic discipline.

Parry Wins Outstanding Service Award

By Val Ilyukhina

Professor Sally Parry, Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), is the 2014 recipient of the Col-



Professor Sally Parry

lege of Education's Outstanding Service Award to a member of the University community. Parry won the award, which was presented on August 14, for extraordinary service, which includes currently

serving as vice chair of the Council for Teacher Education (CTE) and as chair of its subcommittee on curriculum. She also serves on the CTE's Teacher Education Review Board and an edTPA working group. In addition, she is the CAS representative to the Council for General Education and co-chairs its subcommittee on Humanities.

Dr. Parry also serves as the CAS coordinator for Redbird Receptions and the CAS representative to the Preview Committee, the Transfer Days Committee,

Conference report: International autobiography studies association

Scholars from around the world gathered in Banff, Canada, from May 29–June 1 for the biennial International Autobiography Studies Association conference. The English Department was well represented with former doctoral students, Ricia Chansky, Eric Lamore, and Emily Woster, along with Professor Cynthia Huff. Attendees presented papers and participated in



Professor Cynthia Huff in Banff with doctoral grads Emily Woster, Eric Lamore, and Ricia Chansky.

other activities, including a keynote on blogs and selfies, a life readings series, organized hikes, and a banquet where everyone sang songs from their home countries and shared their six-word autobiographies. The numerical strength of the Illinois State contingent was unusually high for any international conference and shows not only the respect graduates and faculty enjoy around the world but also the overwhelming interest in all things autobiographical.

Ricia Chansky, Ph.D. '09, professor and director of the graduate program at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, is co-editor of the

international scholarly journal, *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, and convened an international symposium, "Auto/Biography across the Americas," where she founded the International Auto/Biography Association-Chapter of the Americas. She is working on two book projects under contract with Routledge.

An associate professor at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, Eric Lamore, Ph.D. '07, is the co-editor of *New Essays on Phillis Wheatley* and the editor of *Teaching Olaudah Equiano's Narrative: Pedagogical Strategies and New Perspectives*. A guest editor for a special issue of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, "The Futures of African American Life Writing," he gave an invited presentation in honor of the 225th anniversary of the publication of *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, The African. Written by Himself*. He is working on two book projects.

Emily Woster, Ph.D. '13, assistant professor in the University of Minnesota-Duluth Writing Studies Department, is joining the editorial team at *a/b:Auto/Biography Studies* as an associate managing editor and was elected to the Grants Committee of the Children's Literature Association. In addition to her forthcoming article in *a/b*, she has a chapter forthcoming in an edited collection on L.M. Montgomery's years in Ontario.

Cynthia Huff's long-standing interest in life writing is reflected in her three published books, *Inscribing the Daily: Critical Essays on Women's Diaries, British Women's Diaries, and Women's Life Writing and Imagined Communities*, as well as her current research and publishing on Victorian life narratives and on animalographies—narratives by and about animals. Professor Huff has been selected as the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Researcher in the Humanities for 2015.

Alumni news

1960s

Guy J. Cardarelli '62 served as a secondary school teacher for 30 years before retiring in 1992. He received an M.A. in theatre arts from Northern Illinois University in 1967 and also attended graduate school from 1975–1976 at the University of Arizona, where he majored in media technology. In 1984, he began a career as a commercial photographer and ran a studio in Downtown Chicago. Cardarelli's photos have been sold and published in six countries. Now semi-retired, Cardarelli still occasionally works as a photographer.

Robert Moore '66, M.S. '67, is a tenured professor of English at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He has published eight books under the name of Red Hawk. His book, *Self Observation: The Awakening of Conscience*, has been published in eight languages worldwide.

Diana Corley Schnapp '68, M.S. '70, taught speech communication at Black Hawk College in Moline for 22 years. During that time, she earned a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland in public communication. Despite taking early retirement from teaching, she has been active in the International Listening Association since 1985 as a committee chair, executive director, and consultant. During the past five years, she has published chapters in books and articles in professional journals. In addition, she is certified in pastoral bereavement counseling. She lives in Overland Park, Kansas, where she is active in religious service.

1970s

Dave Grebner '72 has worked as a reporter and announcer for WCBU-FM in Peoria, as a reporter for the *Observer* newspaper, and assistant editor for the magazine *Upbeat*. He returned to school and received an M.A. in environmental studies at the University of Illinois in Springfield. Following that he worked as a naturalist at Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria and is now employed as an educator and planetarium producer at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. In his spare time he hits the trails with his dog and his hiking club, teaches tai chi, and writes poetry (some published) and screenplays (still waiting for Hollywood to call!).

Dave Baxter received a B.S. in English from Illinois State in 1975. He received an M.A. in mass communication from Miami University of Ohio in 1981. He has taught mass communication, broadcasting and cable, broadcast news writing, and media law for 29 years. The past 22 years were spent teaching at Wright State University in Dayton. Baxter also has experience in radio and retail consumer electronics management. He's played drums for 48 years and is a member of a Beatles tribute band based in Cincinnati called The Sweet Beats. Dave lives in Middletown, Ohio.

Since graduating from Illinois State, **Edward M. Bury** '76 has built a rewarding career in the communications field, first as a news reporter and more recently as a public relations and marketing communications professional for independent agencies and nonprofit organizations in Chicago. His expertise is in real estate and urban affairs. In 2004, he earned the prestigious Accredited in Public Relations credential, and is a member of Board of Directors of the Chicago Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Bury now handles public affairs for the Urban Transportation Center, a research unit at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His blog, www.prdude.wordpress.com, covers public relations and "other stuff."

1980s

Sheila Genson graduated in 1984 with a B.A. in English and a B.A. in Spanish. Genson then graduated from law school in 1991 and has had her own law firm in the Chicago area since 2004. She lives with her husband, Jonathan, who she met at Illinois State University. They have two children, a daughter who graduated from Illinois State University in 2013 and a son who is a junior in college.

Catherine (Cate) O'Hara '84 went on to earn an M.A. in English from the University of California at Berkeley. She has served in various roles including editor, publications manager, head of public relations and marketing, and associate curator of public programs at the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati. She is the program director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Cincinnati.

Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie announced the selection of **Ray Wallace**, D.A. '85, as chancellor of Indiana University Southeast. Wallace served as provost and senior vice chancellor at University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. His appointment as chancellor began July 1, 2014.

Ken Holmes, D.A. '88, is a visiting assistant professor in the Teacher Education Department at Webster University in St. Louis.

JoAnna Stephens Mink, D.A. '85, is professor emerita from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her major publications include four co-edited collections of scholarly essays, chap-

the Commencement Academic Team, and the Assessment Advisory Council. In addition to her many administrative responsibilities, Parry, who holds a doctorate in English from Fordham University, teaches a course each year, usually in the areas of religious studies or American literature. She has presented her work at numerous state, national, and international conferences. She is the author, with Robert McLaughlin, of *We'll Always Have the Movies: American Cinema During WWII*. They are presently at work on a volume analyzing American theater during World War II and continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our students as advisors to the ISU chapter of the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society.

Introducing the English Studies Commons

Thanks to the collective efforts of Department Chair Chris De Santis, Director of Undergraduate Studies Katherine Ellison and Coordinator of Graduate Studies K. Aaron Smith, the Undergraduate Studies Committee, office staff members Libby Lind, Jeanne Merkle, Diane Smith, and Amy Teller, and the wonderful designers, carpenters, electricians, and plumbers in ISU Facilities, faculty, staff, and students will soon enjoy a renovated commons space—formerly known as “the typing pool”—for collaboration, conversation, reading, and collegial fellowship.

Focus group English major requests for study and community space within Stevenson Hall, coupled with the success of the Writing Program space in Stevenson 133, motivated this major renovation project. The Undergraduate Studies Committee suggested that if English majors could stay in Stevenson Hall between classes and spend that time working on projects rather than walking to other locations to study, majors would be more productive and also be better able to feel a sense of community with other English majors, graduate students in English, faculty, and staff.

The renovated space will feature a computer bar, comfortable reading chairs, round tables for conversation and collaboration, and an updated kitchen area.

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Designers of the new space attempted to bring the feel of a reading room to the former mail/photocopy room, selecting warmer paint colors, furniture upholstery, and cabinetry, together with updated lighting, to create a space that will be welcoming to students, members of the Department, and visitors.

Looking for film's stylized moments

The first movie students view in Bill McBride's English 124 class, Film Style & Literature, contains an array of stylized camera shots, lighting and meaningful soundtrack manipulation. The film, *Caddyshack*, is also known as a comedy cult classic.



Professor Bill McBride

The film might seem like an unconventional choice for a college course, but

then McBride teaches students to look for the unconventional.

"*Caddyshack* holds an unusual amount of these 'stylized moments' directors create," said McBride. "I know most film classes start with 'foreign' films or documentaries, but this film is a great example of how a director imparts meaning via metaphor. If students enjoy the film they thought they knew at the same time, then it's a win-win."

McBride equips his students with an arsenal of film terms to hunt for stylized moments. "I tell students to be prepared to learn a new language – the language of film," he said. "They need to understand why a cinematographer or director would choose a 'soft focus,' what it means to 'pan to the left' or use a 'jump cut.' When they know this language, they get a taste of what the director was trying to say."

Gritty dramas also play a role in McBride's class. His students delve into films such as John Ford's *Stagecoach*, John Huston's *Maltese Falcon* and Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*. "These directors openly used the language of film to convey meaning," he said. "We're still using their innovations today. Shots created

ters in books, articles in scholarly journals, and entries in literary encyclopedias. Since retiring in 2008, she continues her literary interests, publishing articles, and presenting at conferences on Thomas Hardy and Jane Austen. Mink resides in Normal, where she serves on the Board of Directors for Beyond Normal Films, volunteers at Heartland Theatre and the McLean County Museum of History, and is a researcher for the Historic Acting Troupe (HAT). She also writes the quarterly Reggie Reads column on the Alumni Association website.

1990s

Jennifer (Johnson) Loper '92 works part-time as an administrative assistant in Human Resources for the City of Longmont, Colorado. She handles job postings, FMLA requests, and other HR-related duties with a job-share partner. Since graduation, she's worked as an editor in newspapers and corporate communications, spent 13 years at home raising her sons, and then returned to the paid workforce part-time as an administrative assistant for an insurance agency. Loper lives in Longmont, Colorado, with her husband and teenage sons.

Clay Beckner, M.S. '99, received his Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of New Mexico in 2013. He is a postdoctoral fellow at the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour, and lives in Christchurch, New Zealand, with his wife and two children.

Elizabeth (Beth) Morrissey '99 is senior program coordinator for the Equality, Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) program at Northwestern University. Morrissey earned an M.A. in Intercultural Studies from Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland in 2009. She lives in Chicago with her partner Rian Jairell, M.F.A. '04.

2000s

Andrew "Andy" DeLaurentis '00 earned a master's degree in education and teaching leadership from St. Xavier University in Chicago in 2003. He has been an English teacher and football coach for the last 14 years at Marian Catholic High School in Chicago Heights, and English Department chair since 2009.

Lauren Cygan '06 majored in English with a minor in creative writing and was able to use all she learned from the university when she accepted positions as an English instructor and college advisor at Wilbur Wright College in Chicago in 2008. Cygan's favorite memories come from the time spent on Illinois State's campus, in the dorms, and around town.

Susan (Beuth) Springer '09 is a 5th year high school English teacher at Mt. Pulaski High School in Mt. Pulaski. She married Brian Springer on June 25, 2011. They live in Minier with their beagle, Copper.

Marjorie Kay Williams '79, M.A. '09 graduated in 2009 with a 2nd bachelor's degree in English. She is employed at the Central Illinois Agency on Aging in Peoria as an information and assistance specialist. She married Melvin Douglas on September 7, 2013.

2010s

Jenna Goldsmith, M.A. '10, is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English at the University of Kentucky, where she received the 2014–2014 College of Arts and Science Certificate for Outstanding Teaching Assistants. This summer, she attended and presented at the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College. Her first article, "Landing on the Patio: Landscape Ecology and the Architecture of Identity in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*," was published in *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory* in April.

Jon Writer (Jonathan Quinones) released his first album, *Race Against Time*, on July 7, 2014, with a college tour set to take off in fall 2014. He writes, "I credit my success to being a Red-bird! When others see what I've had to endure, they too will realize that if we focus on the things we truly love—instead of fooling around in the streets—anything is possible!"

Kevin McSweeney, Ph.D. '11, directed a multi-night performance of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* for the Munroe Park Theater Guild as part of the Hale Theatre

Company's 2014 Fall Theatre Fest. William Thomas McBride, who directed McSweeney's dissertation, served as dramaturge for the production.

Scott Weeden, Ph.D. '98, is senior lecturer and course coordinator for W130 and W131 in the Department of English at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis. Weeden received Indiana University-Purdue University's Outstanding Lecturer award. He attributes much of his success to lessons learned at Illinois State. "Being able to work at the highest levels was made easier because of the modeling you provided and the expectations you set. I might not have done as well without this influence."



The Department of English made a great showing at the recent Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). Pictured from left are Erin Frost, Ph.D. '13, now assistant professor at East Carolina University; Kellie Sharp-Hoskins, Ph.D. '12, now assistant professor at New Mexico State University; doctoral student Ana Roncero-Bellido; doctoral student Flourice Richardson; postdoctoral teaching fellow Katrina Dunbar, Ph.D.'14; doctoral student Chereka Dickerson; Associate Professor Angela Haas; and Garrett Avila-Nichols, M.A. '09



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in *Vertigo* are copied on *Young and the Restless* and candy bar commercials."

Originally studying acting, playwriting and direction before focusing on English Studies, McBride sees the study of film as part of an effort to understand a larger cultural theory. "Cultural theory is a journey that can run from the ancients all the way to today's social media."

One example of cultural theory that plays into McBride's research is "the snap," about which he presented this past spring at the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference. "A snap of the fingers is something humans have done for centuries. You can see on a fourth century BCE Mycenaean vase painting Pan finger snapping with one of his maidens," he said.

It was when McBride watched Marlon Riggs' documentary *Tongues Untied* and a production of George Wolfe's *The Colored Museum* that something clicked. "There was a vignette that included a gay, black man who aggressively snapped a bully into a heart attack. As I was watching, I was struck by the similarities to watching Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* snapping at her husband in her famous speech. She was snapping him out of existence," said McBride, whose students study the film in his classes.

McBride noted that cultural theory fits in well with the Department of English's mission of encouraging the exploration of the intersections and interactions among fields of study. "Our groundbreaking English Studies model examines writings in philosophy, psychoanalysis, social theory, linguistics, rhetoric, TESOL [Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages], anthropology, cinema, and gender studies to find compelling ways to interpret culture," he said. "By questioning disciplinary boundaries, we can ask what is the nature and condition of texts, discourses and systems of meaning in general."

