

# English Department Newsletter

13 March 2013

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The newsletter is published biweekly, kind of, throughout the academic year.  
The next issue will appear on 3 April 2013.

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

**Conversations in and out of the Disciplines Lecture Series**  
The Buffalo State College English Department



Presents a talk by  
**Professor Kimberly A. Blessing**  
Department of Philosophy and Humanities

**“Theistic and Atheistic  
Theories about the  
Meaning of Life”**

**Time: Friday, March 15  
3:00-4:30 p.m.**

**Location: Ketchum Hall 320**

These talks are open to faculty, graduate students, and interested undergraduates

**Roy Cook**, of the philosophy department at the University of Minnesota, will present "**She-Hulk and the City**" on **Wednesday, March 20, 4:30-6:00 pm** in Bulger Communication Center South as the Buffalo State Philosophy and Humanities Department's Year of the City public lecture. John Byrne's *The Sensational She-Hulk* includes many subtle interactions between the fictional world that the She-Hulk inhabits and the actual city within which these comics were produced. Cook will discuss how the overlap between the two complicates and enriches our understanding of fiction within serialized narrative art.

## REMINDERS and USEFUL INFORMATION

SUNY's Office of Global Affairs has awarded Barish Ali a \$5,000 grant to develop and run a Summer Abroad program in Turkey. Starting this summer, Barish will take at least five students to Istanbul, where he will teach a pair of courses on Turkish and Middle Eastern

literature and culture at Boğaziçi University, one of Turkey's most prestigious universities. Student recruitment is underway; if you have any students who may be interested in the program please ask them to contact [Barish](#).

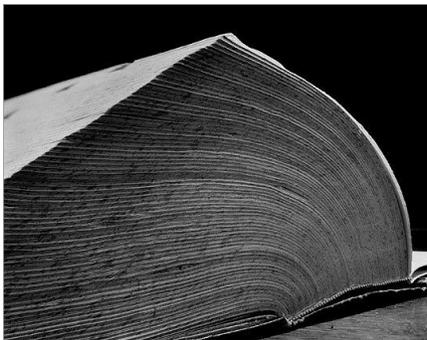
The **Estelle M. Engel Memorial Scholarship** is a \$1,250 award for English, English Education, Writing, TV and Film Arts, and Journalism majors; applications are due to the dean's office by 1 April. Students need three writing samples and a letter of support from a faculty member. Encourage your best writers to apply!

Deadlines are approaching for various **Undergraduate Research Opportunities**. The Small Grants program deadline is 20 February; abstracts for the Student Research and Creativity Celebration are due 19 March (this program is also open to graduate students); and applications for the Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship are due on 2 April. More information and application forms are available at [www.buffalostate.edu/undergraduateresearch](http://www.buffalostate.edu/undergraduateresearch).

## FACULTY NEWS and ACTIVITIES

**Barbara Bontempo** and **Tamara Rabe** will be among those honored next week at Buffalo State's Annual 25-Year-Employee Luncheon.

On March 9, **Lorna Perez** presented a paper entitled "Ambiguous Signs and Incomplete Signification: The Juarez Murders and Embodied Violence in Alicia Gapsar de Alba's *Desert Blood*" at the 1st Biennial Latina/o Literature Conference hosted by John Jay College in New York City. The conference—the first of its kind to bring together scholars who specifically study Latina/o Literature and Criticism, featured some of the most prominent figures working in the field. Lorna reports that it was a humbling and invigorating experience.



A long article by Jennifer Howard, "[In the Digital Era, Our Dictionaries Read Us](#)," appeared Monday, 11 March, in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. **Lisa Berglund**, as Executive Secretary of the Dictionary Society of North America and a scholar of the history of lexicography, is quoted in several paragraphs at the end of the piece.

*Victorian Literature and Culture* (Cambridge UP) has accepted **Ann Colley's** article: "Portrait, Empire & Industry at the Belle Vue Zoo, Manchester." The essay, based upon research Ann did in the Chetham Library's archives, examines how Belle Vue, a popular Victorian zoo three miles from the center of industry, incorporated technology and empire into its structure and operation. In the essay, Ann uses the metaphor of portraiture to work out her argument. She also places her discussion within the context of two industrial novels: Dickens's *Hard Times* and Gaskell's *Mary Barton*.

On Saturday, March 2, Ann met all day at the University of Rochester with other faculty who teach Victorian studies to discuss work in progress. Three people submitted drafts of chapters or articles to the group, which included faculty from Cornell, Syracuse University,

SUNY Brockport, Brock University, and NYU. Finally, Ann is currently reviewing a book proposal on Robert Louis Stevenson for Oxford University Press.

**Jennifer Ryan** will present a paper entitled "The New National Family in *The Known World* and *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*" at the 2013 MELUS Convention in Pittsburgh on March 15.

Over the past several months the Buffalo Public Schools, Say Yes, and national consultants have been managing the development of a strategic plan for BPS. **Theresa A. Harris-Tigg** sits on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which provides guidance to several task forces that include members of the community, BPS, higher education, and business sector. The plan should be finalized and approved by the board by August 2013.

## STUDENT and ALUMNI NEWS

**Michelle Mazur** has been admitted into the PhD program in Comparative Literature at the University at Buffalo.

**Aimee Levesque**, who earned her BA and MA at Buffalo State, received a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) Fellowship through the University of Rochester. Aimee is currently getting her PhD in Learning and Instruction at the University at Buffalo.

At the 2013 Louisville Conference On Literature and Culture since 1900, held February 21-23, graduate student **Joelle Mann** presented a paper entitled "Reading across Uncanny Desires: A Whirligig State of Mind in *Orlando*."

## AND FINALLY

*The English Department Newsletter* 7.11 linked to a *Times's* editorial on online education; here's a commentary from the [UUP Voice](#). VP for Academics Jamie Dangler writes that SUNY plans to add 10 new online bachelor's degrees and three-year bachelor degree programs, but "we're left with questions about implementation issues, realistic possibilities, the need for thoughtful planning and reasonable transitions, and the need to assess exactly what is and isn't good..."

On a more serious note, check out this *New York Times* [piece](#) on the covers of Jane Austen novels.

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