

# English Department Newsletter



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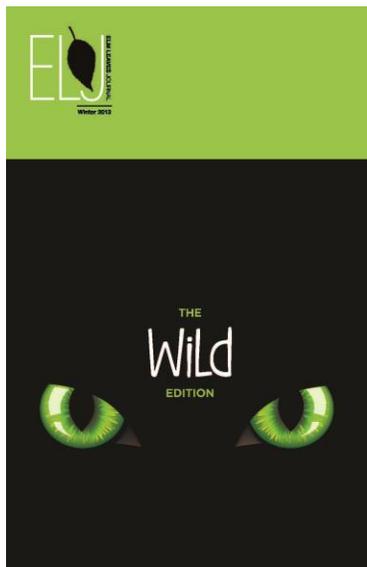
The newsletter is published biweekly throughout the semester; the next issue will appear on 12 February 2014. Current and past newsletters are available on the [English Department website](#).

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

**Dr. Jevon D. Hunter, assistant professor in the Elementary Education and Reading Department**, will give a presentation entitled **"Be Prepared to Go for Broke: Re/Imagining Literacy in English Language Arts (and Beyond)"**, on Thursday, February 6, at 12:15 pm in Ketchum 313. Building upon James Baldwin's "A Talk to Teachers," Dr. Hunter will share data from his current research with Buffalo youth, their classroom teachers, and Buffalo State teacher candidates. His presentation is sponsored by the English Education Student Association and is part of the Education Brown Bag Lecture Series.

The spring 2014 Conversations in and out of the Disciplines series kicks off Friday, February 7, as **Camille Holmgren, associate professor of geography and planning**, presents **"Sonoran Desert Biogeography: Past, Present, and Future"** at 3:00 p.m. in Ketchum Hall 320. A short, informal wine-and-cheese reception will be held after the talk.

Please also mark your calendars for the second and third talks of the semester: **Anthony Chase**, assistant dean of Arts and Humanities on Friday, March 7, and **James Cercone**, assistant professor of English and coordinator of the English education program, on Friday, April 25. All talks will be held in Ketchum Hall 320 at 3:00 p.m.



On **Sunday, February 9, from 2-4 pm at the Campbell Student Union**, **ELJ (*Elm Leaves Journal*)** will host a launch party to showcase its new design. Come help us celebrate! Copies of the last issue, The Wild Edition, will be available at a discounted rate, and there will be food, drink and poetry.

**A Black History Month Diversity Poetry Slam** will be held in the Student Union Lower Level on Thursday, February 13, at 12:15 pm.

The **Drop Hammer Student Reading series** will be held on February 20, March 13, April 3, and April 24, all during Bengal Pause (12:15-1:30 pm), at the bookstore in the Student Union.

## UPDATES and REMINDERS

A meeting with MA Coordinator candidate Jennifer Ryan will be held on Thursday, 6 February at 12:15 pm in Ketchum 318. All English graduate faculty are strongly encouraged to attend.

Each summer, the **National Endowment for the Humanities** supports residential seminars and institutes for faculty who teach American undergraduates. These study opportunities allow faculty and a select number of graduate students to increase their knowledge of current scholarship and advance their own teaching and research. Participants in these two- to five-week projects receive stipends to help cover travel and living expenses. Seminar topics for summer 2014 include: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: Literature, the Arts, and Cinema Since Independence; Black Aesthetics and African Diasporic Culture; Daoist Literature and History: An Introduction; George Herbert and Emily Dickinson; Mississippi in the National Civil Rights Narrative; Performing Dickens: Oliver Twist and Great Expectations on Page, Stage, and Screen; Reconsidering Flannery O'Connor; and World War I and the Arts. A complete list of the 30 seminars and institutes to be offered in summer 2014, along with eligibility requirements and contact information, is available [here](#).



## DEPARTMENT NEWS



The renovations to the English Department main offices are nearly complete. To celebrate, the Department will hold a casual Open House on Tuesday, 4 February from 8:30 am – 2 pm. Stop by Ketchum Hall 326 for a cookie and a look at our missing wall!



## FACULTY NEWS and ACTIVITIES

**Barish Ali** has been invited to speak about “Travel Narratives in Dialogue: Contesting Representations of Post-Ottoman Cyprus” at the [Ottoman Cosmopolitanism Research Network](#)’s international conference at Birkbeck College, University of London in June. This interdisciplinary network brings together cultural anthropologists, photographers, art

historians, chefs, museum curators, musicologists, historians, literary critics — among other scholars — who are researching transcultural memory in the context of the Ottoman Empire.

From London, Barish will travel to Istanbul, Turkey where he will lead his [Summer in Istanbul](#) study abroad program. **Heidi Wallace** will once again co-direct the program and will travel from Buffalo with the program participants. There are still spaces available so please encourage any interested students to apply! The application deadline is March 15.

## STUDENT NEWS and ACTIVITIES

The English Department mourns the loss of **Douglas Colby**, a student in the MA program, who passed away suddenly on January 7, 2014. Online condolences may be posted at [www.lombardofuneralhome.com](http://www.lombardofuneralhome.com).

## AND FINALLY ...

The [Atlantic Monthly](#) finds reason for optimism in a report that determines fewer Americans are reading...

While on *New York Magazine's* Vulture blog, Kathryn Schulz has compiled the [five best uses of punctuation](#) in the history of literature from the colon in Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* ("Marley was dead: to begin with") to the ellipses in T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock."



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