

English Department Newsletter

20 April 2016

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The newsletter appears biweekly during the semester; the final issue for the spring semester will appear on Wednesday, 4 May 2016. Current and past newsletters are available on the [English Department website](#).

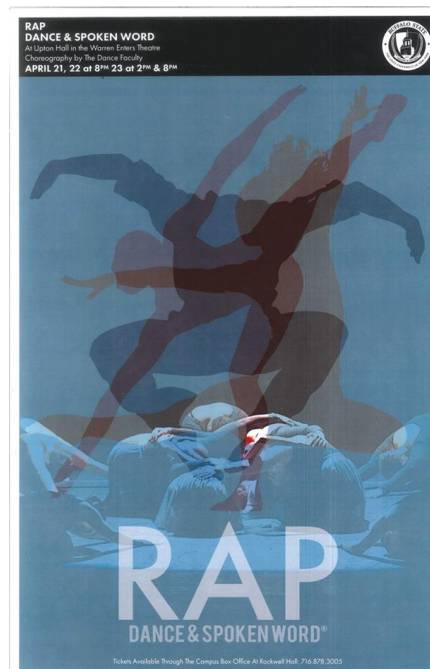
DEPARTMENT AND FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to **KEVIN RAILEY**, dean of the Graduate School and former English Department chair, who this week was named provost at St. John Fisher College in Rochester.

On April 18, **BARISH ALI** presented on "The Future of Kurdistan" at Tapestry Charter High School. His presentation was part of the International Institute of Buffalo's [Great Decisions Discussion Series](#), a set of discussions about global issues, international events, politics, and history as outlined annually by the [Foreign Policy Association](#).

ED TAYLOR's dance-spoken word collaboration with Associate Dean Carlos Jones, "5 Skandhas," will be performed April 21-23 in Upton Hall as part of the Casting Hall production "Rap--Dance and Spoken Word." He read at Rust Belt Books on April 16 in a Poetry Month event featuring area writers. Ed's review of John Wray's novel *The Lost Time Accidents* appeared April 17 in the *Buffalo News*, and his *News* review of Mark Leyner's novel *Gone with the Mind* is forthcoming.

AIMEE LEVESQUE gave an invited lecture at the Westchester Institute on Human Development (WIHD) on Thursday, April 14. Aimee spoke about an area of her dissertation research – Health Literacy and Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – to participants of WIHD's LEND (Leadership Education on Neurodevelopmental and other Disabilities) Program. The LEND Program trains



future leaders in a variety of disciplines to improve the health of children who have or are at risk of developing neurodevelopmental disabilities or similar conditions such as autism and intellectual disabilities.

On April 6, **TOM REIGSTAD** was a panelist at a session on "From Research Question to Results: The Publication Pipeline" at the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication in Houston, TX. The session was sponsored by the International Writing Centers Association; fellow panelists were co-editors of *The Writing Center Journal*. On April 12 Tom presented an illustrated lecture on "Mark Twain in Buffalo" to the Friends of the Aurora Library in East Aurora.

Busy week for **KAREN SANDS-O'CONNOR**: she gave speeches on Independent Black Publishing for Children after 1985 for Newcastle's English Department and on Bogle L'Ouverture Press for Newcastle's Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and also went to London to advise the charity BookTrust on book selection for reluctant readers.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS



ASHLEY WESELAK (left), who will graduate this May from the MS program, has been awarded a Fulbright Language Teaching Assistantship and in September will leave for a year in Rwanda..

Three English majors will be conducting 2016 Summer Research Fellowships through the Office of Undergraduate Research.

CLAYTON PITCHER, with mentor **AIMABLE TWAGILIMANA**, will work on "Deleuze on the Shore: Self-Realization in the Post-modern Era." **JILLIAN CUSTODI**'s project, "The Postcolonial

Feminine: Power and the Periphery in *Wide Sargasso Sea*," is being directed by **LORNA PEREZ**. **JUDE LESTER**, an Arts and Letters major—English concentration, will be mentored by **AIMEE LEVESQUE** (herself a former recipient of the fellowship); his project is "To E or Not to E: Writers in an Electronic Age."

Terrific graduate school news from two Writing majors from the class of 2013: **AMANDA PRATT** has accepted an offer from University of Wisconsin--Madison and will enter the PhD program in Composition and Rhetoric in the fall; and **MICHELLE SCOTT** has been accepted into the University at Buffalo School of Social Work Master of Social Work degree program, where she will be an Arthur A. Schomburg Fellow. The fellowship includes full tuition and an annual stipend of \$12,000.

Writing major **STEVEN JURA** has won the School of Arts and Humanities Estelle M. Engel Memorial Award for excellence in writing.

At the College's Honors Convocation on Thursday, April 21, the following students are among those who will be honored: English majors **CAROLYN BALDWIN**, **TIFFANY BASSETT**, **SUSAN BLAKE**, **KATHARINE BROWN**, **JEREMY DRAKE**, **KAYLEIGH EDGINGTON**, **NICHOLAS FOX**, **DYLAN HARRISON**, **GABRIELLA HOLMES**, **LEIAH JETTER**, **BRIAN JOHNSON**, **MARY KELLY**, **KEVIN KNOTT**, **WILLIAM LAHACHE**, **ABIGAIL OWCARZ**, **MEGHAN PROVENZANO**, **LEANNE REUMAN**, **MICHAEL RICKARD**, **ADAM RUBIN**, **MICHAEL SPITZ**, **BRITTANY WILCOX**, **NASIRAH WILSON** and **NICOLE ZAK**; English Education majors **HALA ALOMARI**, **JAMES BURCHALEWSKI**, **LAUREN CARROLL**, **MONICA CARUANA**, **JENNA CASKINETT**, **SHEREE GRANT**, **SHAINA HIBBARD**, **LILLIAN INGLUT**, **JESSICA KANGAS**, **MICHELLE KUEBLER**, **STEVEN LEFFLER**, **KAYLEE MELVEN**, **SPENCER MILIOTTO**, **JENA NUNNARI**, **WILLIAM O'NEIL WHITE**, **AMANDA PARADOWSKI**, **LIAM PHELAN**, **ANDREA RASHAD**, **PETRINA SCAGLIONE**, **KARINA SEVERINO**, **BRIANNA SMITH**, and **CHRISTINA WARD**; and Writing majors **LOLADE JACOBS**, **ANTHONY LUTA**, **HANNAL SCHUL**, and **KAITLIN SCIRRI**.



EVENTS AND REMINDERS

At the 18th Annual Student Research and Creativity Celebration April 29 and 30, the English Department's 2015 recipients of Undergraduate Research Fellowships will present their work: **ALEXANDRA ASENJO** (faculty mentor **BARISH ALI**) will speak on "Modern Theory for a Modern Age: A Contemporary Approach to Navigating Social Media Storm," and **CATHERINE MORSE** (faculty mentor **AIMEE LEVESQUE**) will present her poster "Bringing Jane Austen into the YouTube Age: Web Series Adaptations and the Way We Interact with Literature." Other students from English who will present original research are: **FRANCESCA AUSTIN** (faculty mentor **GREGG BIGLIERI**), "Expression and Perception"; **JUDE LESTER** (mentor **AIMEE LEVESQUE**), "To E or Not to E: Writers in an Electronic Age"; **SPENCER MILIOTTO** (faculty mentor **JAMES CERCONI**), "Creative Writing, Media Production, and Literacy Development in a Digital Writing Workshop"; and **MICHAEL RICKARD** (faculty mentor **BARISH ALI**), "Live and Die in L.A.: Understanding Neo-Noir."

Conversations in and out of the Disciplines Lecture Series

The Buffalo State English Department

Presents a talk by

**Professor
Jason Grinnell**

Department of
Philosophy and
Humanities

“Codifying Excellence: The Tension Between Ethics and Accountability”

Friday, April 22, 2016 • Ketchum Hall 320 • 3:00-4:30 p.m.

These talks are open to faculty, staff, and students.

Gov. Cuomo, in 'State of the State' address, unveils fourth ethics reform package since taking office

Erie County DA Aims to Strengthen County Code of Ethics

Debra Gekker
Wall Street Short on Ethics, Report Finds



For surely such fellows are the most charming spectacle in the world when they enact and amend such laws as we just now described and are perpetually expecting to find a way of putting an end to frauds in business and in the other matters of which I was speaking because they can't see that they are in very truth trying to cut off a Hydra's head.
-Plato, Republic 426e

DEADLINES AND OPPORTUNITIES: For Students

The Buffalo office of **U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** is **looking for interns for the 2016 Fall Semester**. Typical intern duties include supporting staff with constituent outreach and advocacy events, participating in meetings with community leaders and organizations, monitoring daily regional news, and serving as an advocate on behalf of Buffalo for the Senator. Interns may apply for college credit through their department or college career office. Deadline is **June 3**. An application is available at <http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/services/internships/>. Contact Kapila Kapoor at (716) 854-9725 or Kapila.Kapoor@gillibrand.senate.gov for more information.

RECOMMENDED READING

The 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare is being commemorated worldwide this Saturday. In Buffalo, you can see two complete sets of the Four Folios of Shakespeare, the 17th-century collections that preserved his 37 (?) plays. Buffalo is one of the very few cities *anywhere* that can boast two sets of Folios. Visit the Poetry Collection at the University at Buffalo, or the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library—both exhibits run through this year, but now's the time for a pilgrimage. And then you can sit back and reread the play whose title is delightfully misspelled on the title page of the Fourth Folio: *Hamlet Rpince of Denmark*.

English Department Newsletter, Buffalo State College;
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