

English Department Newsletter

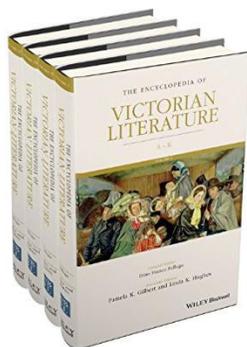
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The newsletter appears biweekly during the semester; the next issue will appear on Wednesday, 2 March 2016. Current and past newsletters are available on the [English Department website](#).

DEPARTMENT AND FACULTY NEWS

JENNIFER RYAN has been asked to give the keynote speech for SUNY Fredonia's annual Big Read event. Her talk, "'A Great Fish-Net': Metaphor and Memory in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," will take place at the Fredonia Opera House at 7 p.m. on March 9.



The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature in which **ANN COLLEY** has a long essay on Robert Louis Stevenson was recently named the most outstanding reference book by the American Library Association.

Ann has been contacted by Jenny Uglow, a renowned biographer, historian, and former editorial director of Chatto & Windus, to meet with her in London. Uglow is now writing a biography of Edward Lear and is already consulting Ann via email. Ann would like everyone to know that Ashgate publishers has recently been taken over by and absorbed into Taylor & Francis (a large corporation). This is the end of a publishing house that supported many academics and their projects. It is a great loss. When news got out that Ashgate was being absorbed, many petition and letters were sent to try and prevent this. Editors, commissioning editors, and other people associated with Ashgate have lost their jobs. What books that might have been supported by Ashgate are now being considered by Rutgers. This is the loss of a firm that has been very important to people's careers, and leaves a great hole.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The last **focus group meeting** for the new Buffalo State strategic plan will take place tomorrow, February 18, 12:15-1:15 pm, Bulger East. This is an all-college forum; no RSVP is required. If you have not yet participated in one of the strategic planning sessions, do make every effort to attend!

The Drop Hammer Student Reading Series continues on February 29 with our **inaugural “Flash in the Pan”**: fiction, poetry, essays or creative nonfiction of 1,000 words or less. The reading will take place in the Fleischmann Writing and Publication Suite (Ketchum 302) at 1:00 pm; [contact Maureen Lougen](#) if you would like to read.



On Friday, February 26, **M. STEPHEN PENDLETON** (Political Science) will present “From Bad Air to Bugs: Buffalo’s Role in the Vanguard of the Public Health Revolution: 1832-1910” for the **Conversations in and out of the Disciplines series**. The talk will be followed by time for questions and a short wine and cheese reception. And mark your calendars for the second and third talks of the semester: on Friday, April 22, **Jason Grinnell** (Philosophy and Humanities) will present “Codifying Excellence: The Tension between Ethics and Accountability”; and on Friday, April 29, **Alice Pennisi** (Art Education) will present “Painting as Research, Activism, and Teaching Tool: Nine American Boys Series.” All Conversations events are held at 3:00 pm in Ketchum 320.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS



The Anne Frank Project’s fourth student delegation to Rwanda spent three weeks touring the country, teaching drama-based education, and participating in community-building experiences. The students, who will be giving a series of presentations on their experiences, include English Education major **LILLY INGLUT**; her talk is tomorrow, Thursday, February 18, 12:15–1:30 p.m. in Technology Building 160.

JAMES CERCONE and three students from the English Education program--**RENE BONILLA, ALYSSA MORETTI, AND SPENCER MILLIOTTO**—will be at Canterbury Woods tomorrow evening to speak to residents about the *Digital Writing Workshop*, an after-school program for young people living in the city of Buffalo. The session will share pre-service teachers’ experiences developing and running the program, which serves recent immigrants, English language learners, and other students from Buffalo’s public schools. Content created by young people, including digital videos, poetry and other original works will also be shared.

TAMARA BURROSS BA '14 recently published her story "Migraines for Hegel" in [New World Writing](#).

English and Philosophy double major **CLAYTON PITCHER** was one of two Buffalo State students selected to attend the Exploring Liberty Philosophy Conference this weekend at the College of New Jersey in Trenton, NJ – all expenses paid by TCNJ.

If you'd like to share an update on your post-Buffalo State activities, either for the alumni bulletin board or for the newsletter, email [MAUREEN LOUGEN](mailto:MAUREEN.LOUGEN). Please include your graduation year and degree info, and feel free to include a photograph.

DEADLINES AND OPPORTUNITIES

[ELJ's Dirt Edition](#), due out late spring, will be accepting submissions (eljbuffalo@gmail.com) until March 1. To date, this issue will include work by Bobbie Ann Mason, Brandon Hobson, Robert Lopez, Kathy Fish, Laurie Kaiser, Ed Taylor, Girija Tropp, Avital Gad-Cykman, Lydia Copeland-Gwyn, and others.

[The Undergraduate Research Small Grants Program](#) provides up to \$400 to assist students in carrying out their research, scholarly, or creative activities during the academic year; up to \$600 may be requested for a single project that involves two or more students. The deadline for submission of applications by students is Tuesday, February 23; mentors have until Thursday, February 25, to complete their portion of the application. Applications for the Small Grants Program are [completed online](#).



An [English graduate student conference to be held at SUNY Brockport](#), will be held on Saturday, April 23 (Shakespeare's birthday!). The SEGUE conference invites two

types of proposals: a 15-minute paper that will investigate the symposium topic of dissenting voices in literature, philosophy, history, and/or art; or original creative works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and/or a hybrid of any of these genres. Creative works may approach the symposium topic in a direct, oblique or unconventional manner. Abstracts of 300 words are due by February 29; for more information, visit digitalcommons.brockport.edu/segue.

Each summer, the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) supports residential seminars and institutes for faculty who teach American undergraduates. Participants in these two- to five-week programs receive stipends to help cover travel and living expenses. Topics for summer 2016 include: *Beowulf* and Old Norse-Icelandic Literature, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, *The Commonplace Book and Its American Descendants*, *Native American Histories and the Land*, and *Religion, Secularism, and the English Novel, 1719-1897*. For complete information and eligibility requirements visit the [NEH Summer Programs website](#). Most deadlines are in late February. The National Endowment for the Humanities is also accepting applications for grants to direct a summer program for college faculty or schoolteachers on a humanities topic of your expertise, in 2017.

RECOMMENDED READING

This story from [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) describes a course entitled “Novel English Majors” that teaches English majors to “identify and articulate the usefulness of their educational choices”: <http://chronicle.com/article/Feeding-English-Majors-in-the/235042>. David Lodge’s novel is one of several on the reading list, but the students also interviewed professionals from a range of careers, explored their technophobia, and weighed “the alt-ac narrative.”

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