

English Department Newsletter

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Past newsletters are available on the [English Department website](#).

DEPARTMENT NEWS

In January, **ADRIENNE COSTELLO** began a term as Interim Department chair, replacing **LISA BERGLUND**, who is on sabbatical. Also on sabbatical this spring is **MICHELE NINACS**; **MAGGIE HERB** is serving as Interim Writing Program director.

The English Department has completed a Self-Study covering the years 2008-2016. A strategic plan has been drafted and will be discussed, along with the outside reviewers' report, at the Department faculty meeting on February 7.

The newly acquired offices on the second floor of Ketchum Hall are currently being cleaned and painted.



FACULTY NEWS

On January 26, **RALPH WAHLSTROM** and the English creative and professional writing program presented a webinar entitled *Tech Writers Without Borders and Using Your Skills for Non-Profits* in the Ilene R. Fleischmann Writing and Publishing Suite. Dr. Wahlstrom and students from his ENG 409 and ENG 302 classes hosted members of the Western New York chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC) for the program and the Q & A session that followed. On January 31, Ms. Reine Hauser, Director of Advancement for Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York joined Dr. Wahlstrom's ENG 409 Proposal and Grantwriting course to present a lecture and discussion entitled "What Grantmakers Want Applicants to Know." Ms. Hauser found an engaged, interested, and talkative audience. Among her other accomplishments, Reine Hauser is the former Executive Director of the Graycliff Conservatory. Other scheduled guests for ENG 409 include Florine Luhr, President of the Cullen Foundation; Bryana DiFonzo, Coordinator of Volunteers with Journey's End Refugee Services; Marisa Wigglesworth, President of the Buffalo Museum of Science; and Patrick Hulsman, Retired Associate VP for Institutional Advancement at Niagara University.

AIMEE LEVESQUE was interviewed for [a story that ran on 88.7 WBFO](#) about Disability Rights and the importance of creating opportunities for performers with different abilities. More information about Aimee's company, The Inclusive Theater of Western New York can be found on its [website](#).

JOEY NICOLETTI has [three new poems](#) in *Peacock Journal*; one of them is about Silo City. All of these poems appear in Joey's book *Thundersnow*, which is forthcoming from Grandma Moses Press later this year.

JENNIFER RYAN and KAREN SANDS-O'CONNOR have both been awarded E.O. Smith Arts & Humanities Faculty Development Grants. They are also developing a summer 2017 study abroad program for graduate students, with a focus on Black British literature and archival research.

TOM REIGSTAD kicked off the 2017 lecture series at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site on January 24, with a talk on "The Clash of the Titans: Theodore Roosevelt and Mark Twain," where he spoke about the contentious relationship that America's legendary humorist had with its President in the early 1900's. In addition, he was [interviewed for a Time Warner Cable news video](#), as part of their Explore New York series, on Mark Twain in Buffalo.



SARA KOVASCI is currently appearing in O'Connell and Company's production of "It Shoulda Been You." She received a [rave review](#) for her performance from Colin Dabkowski of The Buffalo News. Visit O'Connell and Company's [website](#) for tickets to the show.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Drop Hammer Student Reading Series resumes February 2 with the theme of "Ground Hog Day" and special guest David Lampe. The reading will begin at 4:30pm in Ketchum 302.



The spring 2017 **Conversations in and Out of the Disciplines Series** begins **Friday, February 3**, when **Robert Warren**, Associate Professor of Biology, presents "Competition and cooperation in the natural world—no more mister nice guy" at 3:00 in Ketchum Hall 320. A Q&A and short wine-and-cheese reception will follow the talk. Everyone is welcome.

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