This is the fourth newsletter of the academic year. Our next issue will be published on 19 November 2014.

DEPARTMENT REMINDERS
This year's SEFA campaign is upon us! Please fill out the forms left in your mailboxes. You can access a paperless copy of the participating charities by visiting www.buffalostate.edu/sefa. As a reminder, folks who donate will be given raffle tickets to win a number of prizes including your very own parking space! Please return your SEFA forms to Lorna Perez's faculty mailbox (in the faculty lounge) and she will give you tickets accordingly. If you do not wish to donate, please let me know as well. **Please turn in these forms ASAP.** Also, please turn your forms back in even if you DO NOT intend to donate (you can just put a paperclip on them and put them back in my mailbox) as they want us to keep track of this as well.

**Advisement** is upon us. You should be wrapping up your student advisement as registration begins now. If you have questions, please let Lorna now.

**Faculty Dues:** Thank you to those of you who have paid your faculty dues. For everyone else, please make arrangements with Maureen to do this as soon as possible.

Please be mindful of scheduling your committee meetings in the department calendar. You can also send this to Maureen and Lorna if you cannot calendar them yourself. Please remember that given the number or committees we all serve on, this is an important step so as not to double schedule rooms or meetings.

FACULTY NEWS
**DR. TIMOTHY BRYANT** presented at the Northeast Popular Culture Association Conference held at Providence College in Providence, RI on 25 Oct. 2014. The paper, "Adaptive Choice in Narrative Gaming," is a part of ongoing research into the rise of contingency as a cultural trope during the Cold War.

The beloved musical comedy and family favorite “The Music Man” will be staged at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda on November 14, 15 and 16. **DR. LISA**
BERGLUND has a principal role as Eulalie Mackechnie Shinn, the Mayor’s wife, and SÁRA KOVÁSCI is featured as Maud Dunlop. Chaucer! Rabelais! Balzac! For ticket information, visit www.rivieriatheatre.org.

DRs. ANGELA and MARK FULK are in a production of the Victorian Christmas classic Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, directed by Randy Rumley and Christine Coniglio (under the auspices of Raiders of Niagara). The show runs at 7:30 p.m. on November 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, & 22; and at 2 p.m. on November 9, 16, & 23. Performances will be held at the Church of the Advent, 54 Delaware Road, Kenmore, NY. Tickets are $9 pre-sale, and $10 for students/seniors and $12 for all others (except children under 5, who are free) at the door. For pre-sale tickets or other questions, please call 716-878-6504.

DR. JENNIFER RYAN has been pretty busy. She attended the 2014 Northeast Popular Culture Association conference on October 24-25 in Providence, RI, where she gave a paper entitled "Birds and Worlds: Assessing the Popular Reputations of Today’s Black Women Poets." Her paper, "The Madness-Driven Violence: Black Bodies and the Evolution of a Radical Black Poetics," has just been accepted for presentation on the "Still Standing: Trayvon Martin in Popular Culture" panel at the April 2015 Northeast MLA convention in Toronto. Both of these papers focus on poetry by Wanda Coleman. Jennifer’s article on Coleman’s 100-poem American Sonnets sequence, "The Transformative Poetics of Wanda Coleman’s American Sonnets," has also been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of African American Review.

SHAKESPEARE GARDEN
A number of educators and other interested people, including faculty emeriti DR. CRAIG WERNER and DR. LINDA DRAJEM have begun work on a Shakespeare garden for the Buffalo area. A generous plot of land has been secured at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum on Porter Avenue, some funds have been raised, and work on planting and fencing has begun. It is hoped that the garden will open sometime in 2016. We are heartily seeking interested English Department faculty to help in this innovative project. We are also seeking a student to build a website and maintain it with the expectation that such maintenance will soon be taken over by committee members. The building of an iOS app is also contemplated. If you are interested in helping, and if you can recommend students with technical expertise in need of internships, please contact Lorna Perez (perezll@buffalostate.edu), and also send an email to wernercg@buffalostate.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS
The 2014–2015 “CONVERSATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE DISCIPLINES” began with a quite a bit of flair when Carlos Jones presented a talk entitled “White Washed: The Unconcerned Erosion of the African Moving Body.” Please join us for the next talk in the series, given by Professor M. Scott Goodman of the Chemistry Department. His intriguingly entitled talk “Two-Step Spin Crossover Behavior in the Iron(II) Complex of Tris(3-methylpyrazolyl)methane. What Could this Title Possibly Mean?” will take place on Friday November 21 in Ketchum 320. As always an informal wine and cheese reception will follow.

**THE DROP HAMMER STUDENT READINGS**

The next Drop Hammer reading will be held on Nov 6 from 12:30-1:30 at the Campus Bookstore. Free coffee/refreshments and snacks will be provided. Students wishing to read from their works of nonfiction, fiction, and poetry may contact Professor Chinquee at chinquk@buffalostate.edu.

**THE CREATIVE WRITING CLUB’S** next meeting will be held at 1 pm on November 12th in the Student Lounge.

**ELJ BOOK HARVESTS** will be held November 13th and 20th in the third floor of the Ketchum Hallway. Please come out and support the publication of ELJ and our hard working students by buying or donating books.

**NASO** November is Native American Awareness Month at Buffalo State. In November the Native American Student Organization at SUNY at Buffalo State has the following events planned at Buffalo State:
**Nov. 1, 2014** Native American Heritage Celebration Social Hall 3:00 pm - 9:30 pm, Free food and drinks. Everyone is welcomed.

**Nov. 5, 2014** Screening of Unseen Tears NASO Office Campbell Student Union 105f light refreshments will be served.

**Nov. 12, 2014** Beading workshop Bulger Communication Center - West. 4 pm - 6 pm Limited Space.

**Nov. 20, 2014** Thanksgiving Dinner Social Hall 5 pm - 10:30 pm Free food and drinks. Everyone is welcome.

**Every Wednesday NASO weekly meetings 11 am - 12pm.** NASO Office Campbell Student Union 105f. Open to Everyone; You don’t have to be Native American to attend.

Entire month of **November 1st - 30th Native American Awareness Display** in the **Butler Library** (Available during Library operational hours)

Any Questions please contact NASO President Brandon VanEvery: vanevebs01@mail.buffalostate.edu Go to www.facebook.com/NASO.at.Buffalo.State.College for more information about updates on NASO’s events.

**CENTERS, PROGRAMS, AND PUBLICATIONS**

**ELJ Submissions**
ELJ, **Elm Leaves Journal**, is accepting submissions of fiction, nonfiction and poetry for our 2014 Harvest issue. So far, the issue includes work by Trevor Dodge, Kathy Fish, Lydia Copeland, Gail Seigel, and others. Please send work in an email to eljbuffalo@gmail.com. Thank you.

**Ketchum Hall Writing Center**
The Ketchum Hall Writing Center remains open and ready to assist your students with peer-to-peer tutoring. The Center’s hours are 10-4:30 M-Tr, and 10-3 on Fridays. The center takes walk-in appointments as available, but students are encouraged to set up an appointment either in person or by calling x5409. As a reminder, the center will provide your student with a sheet that summarizes what kinds of topics were covered in a session, so you can see what the tutors and your student worked on. As large writing assignments and end of term work approaches, please remember to encourage your students to use this service.

**Department Website**
We continue to work on updating the department website. Please send current bios and
photos to Lorna Perez. Also be sure to update your information in the college directory, as this is where your contact information is pulled from.

USEFUL REMINDERS AND THE PROFESSION

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE: University College has released the CEP schedule for Fall 2014. As a reminder, you are REQUIRED to meet with your students during this time, even if you are not giving an exam.

Check out this article http://chronicle.com/article/A-Brief-History-of-Academics/149755/ from The Chronicle of Higher Education on "A Brief History of Academics Writing Seriously about Zombies". While interesting, it leaves out the work of noted Philosopher David Chalmers, whose own website http://consc.net/chalmers/ has a much more animating take on the philosophical implications of the zombie, particularly as it relates to questions of consciousness and mind. Worth a read.

Remember the article from our last newsletter on the shabby dress of academics. Well, this blistering rejoinder, http://gu.com/p/42mht/sbl, also in The Guardian, points out the deep gender biases that attach to discussions of the shabbily shod nature of the profession.

And speaking of professional dress, gender, and the patriarchy, many of you may have probably seen the phenomenally ridiculous Delicious Women's Phd Darling Sexy Costume, available on Amazon for a mere $50 (http://amzn.com/B005301QT2). Do yourselves a favor, read the comments, in which Lady PhDs (as well as "normal" PhDs and non-PhDs) the world over give this the solid thrashing it deserves. Some highlights:

• “First things first, I am a lady Ph.D. Like all lady Ph.Ds, I frequently ask myself: "How could I be sexier?" Delicious costumes has come to my rescue! I can now lecture in my 5 inch gold spiked heels and "barely there" regalia while giving nary a thought to the male gaze and its implications on the prevalence of rape culture in our society. I fully expect my chili pepper rating on RMP to go through the roof once I begin to greet my students in this costume. Hopefully I can keep my "post structural hegemonies" from engaging in some wardrobe malfunctions. Then again, who cares? I'm sexy! Forget about the 7 years I spent sweating out a dissertation and engaging in innovative research! SEXY!!!"

• “First off, why isn’t there a sexy PHD costume for men? The sexy costume industry is well-known for it’s overtly sexist and biased offerings that discriminate against men who wish to be sexy. I, for one, would love an outfit that accentuates by [sic] biceps-which just happen to be chiseled like stone due to carrying stacks of books from the university library to my ’93 Honda
Civic and back. Also, do you have it in red? I look great in red. If you’re going for realism, this costume should cost a minimum of $30,000.”

- “This is a BA/BS costume at most for the following reasons:
  1. The hat is wrong. PhD’s wear velvet tams, not mortarboards.
  2. PhD gowns have 3 stripes on each sleeve and velvet panels on the front.
  3. No hood, PhD gowns have a hood.
  4. I give this costume an F for accuracy, rebrand this as a sexy Bachelor’s degree costume and you might have something.”

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni, we want to show off your achievements and hear about what you are doing. We’ve created an alumni booklet featuring profiles of English Department Alums that demonstrate the wide variety of things one can do with an English major. We have also created an alumni bulletin board in Ketchum Hall featuring Alumni profiles. If you would like to be featured, please send an email to Maureen Lougen (LOUGENM@BuffaloState.edu) with the subject line “alumni board” (feel free to include a recent professional photo). Also, we would love to hear from you to find out what you are up to. Please feel free to send your news and achievements for this newsletter to Maureen Lougen with the subject line “alumni newsletter item”. Please include your graduation year and degree info.

Wendy A. Reynolds (BS, 90) has just been appointed Editor for Ripley Publishing in Orlando, Florida, where she will be responsible for eleven titles yearly, including the world-famous Ripley’s Believe It or Not! annual. Most recently, Wendy served as Senior Copy Editor for Cavendish Square Publishing, an imprint of Rosen Publishing, here in Buffalo.

Wendy will also be receiving her master’s degree in Online Teaching and Instructional Design from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in December. She will be graduating with a 4.0 average, at the top of her class. Wendy hopes to use her degree both in her work for Ripley’s as well as with the Florida Virtual Schools, which is at the forefront of distance education in American public schools.


Reminder: Please let us know your news and achievements for the next newsletter. Send your info to Maureen Lougen (LOUGENM@buffalostate.edu), copied to Lorna Perez (perezll@buffalostate.edu) with the subject line “newsletter item”.