

English Department Newsletter

5 February 2015

Vol. 9, No. 7



This is the seventh newsletter of the academic year, and the first issue of the Spring semester. Our next issue will be published Feb 18th

DEPARTMENT REMINDERS AND NEWS

Welcome back to **DR. ANN COLLEY** and **DR. ADRIENNE COSTELLO** who have returned from their sabbatical leaves. We have missed you! Best of luck to **DR. THERESA HARRIS TIGG** and **PROF. RALPH WAHLSTROM** who will be on sabbatical for S15, and continued good wished to **PROF. DAVID BEN-MERRE** and **DR. AIMABLE TWAGILIMANA** who continue their sabbaticals through the spring.

We have two new work-study students helping us in the office. **Nasirah Wilson** will be with us on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-1pm while **Quillette Jones** will be with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays from TR 9-3pm.

Dept. Calendar: As you begin to schedule committee meetings and events, please remember to put these into the department calendar. In addition to events, this helps the office keep track of space as well. We often direct students and faculty to meeting locations, and we cannot do this if you do not calendar your meetings and events.

Shared Drive: Similarly, please remember to use the Shared Drive to store your committee work products.

Department Website: We continue to tweak the department website and add new content areas. Please look it over and check back frequently for new content.

Faculty Senate Meeting: The first Faculty Senate Meeting of the Semester will be held next Friday, February 13th at 2pm in Butler 210.

English Department Library: We have a working informal library in the student lounge (Ketc 322) The books in this room are organized and catalogued for students to use as they wish. If you want to see what we have you can check out our collection at www.librarything.com/catalog/BSCEDLibrary. If you have extra books, particularly texts you teach, that you would like to donate, there is a box near

Maureen's Desk in the main office that you can drop books off to. Many thanks to **AIMEE LEVESQUE** who is overseeing the project, and BA student **Catherine Morse** who has been working on it.

FACULTY NEWS

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie will be in Buffalo on March 26 as part of Just Buffalo Literary Center's Babel Series. Her latest novel, *Americanah*, has received numerous accolades, including the 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction. For tickets, or to download a reader's guide, you can visit www.justbuffalo.org. On Monday March 16th, our own **DR. BARISH ALI** will facilitate Just Buffalo's Babel@Betty's Book Discussion of *Americanah*. With the restaurant otherwise closed to the public, conversation about the book will take place over wine, coffee, and a special menu of delectables from the kitchen at Betty's (370 Virginia Street). Food will be served at 6:30pm with discussion starting at 7:00pm. Admission is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for Just Buffalo members. RSVP by calling Just Buffalo at 832-5400 or by sending an email to info@justbuffalo.org.

DR. TOM REIGSTAD'S book, *Scribblin' for a Livin': Mark Twain's Pivotal Period in Buffalo*, was reviewed in the Winter 2015 issue of *American Literary Realism*. http://proxy.buffalostate.edu:2251/journals/american_literary_realism/v047/47.2.mcintire-strasburg.html

DR. KAREN SANDS O'CONNOR has a new and wonderful blog on race in Children's Literature. You can find it at <https://theracetoread.wordpress.com/>

PROF. ED TAYLOR read in a Jan. 3 New Year's poetry event at Lewiston Public Library. A new edition of his novel *Theo* was published on January 20, and he has icicles in his beard.

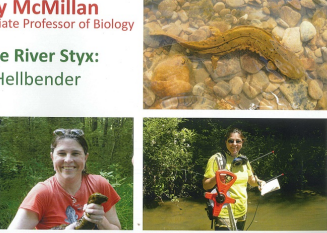
UPCOMING EVENTS

Conversations in and out of the Disciplines Lecture Series
The Buffalo State English Department

Present a talk by **Amy McMillan**
Associate Professor of Biology

The Creature from the River Styx:
The Life Story of the Hellbender Salamander

February 6, 2015
Ketchum Hall 320
3:00PM - 4:30PM



These talks are open to faculty, graduate students, and interested undergraduates

CONVERSATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE DISCIPLINES returns with our first talk scheduled for this Friday, at 3pm in Ketchum 320. **DR. AMY MCMILLAN** of the biology department will be giving a talk entitled "The Creature from the River Styx: The Life Story of the Hellbender Salamander". The talk will be followed by an informal wine and cheese reception.

BABEL: David Henry Hwang's Babel reading was postponed due to snow. His event, which has tickets still available, has been rescheduled for Feb 10. You can find more info here: <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=3b39c4c7-ad42-4e87-aa8e-542f7a377c66&c=1d611940-5961-11e4-bf98-d4ae528e486a&ch=1d664960-5961-11e4-bf98-d4ae528e486a>

STUDENT NEWS

Four of our graduate students, **Stacy Creech**, **Anthony DiGesare**, **Ken James**, and **Leslie Makowski**, had their panel accepted for the International Research Society in Children's Literature (IRSL) Conference in Worcester, England in August of 2015. Their panel is entitled, "Carving Identity from History: Child Characters Emerging from the Past" and they are all very excited to be going.

The GSA (Graduate Student Association) is offering a merit based scholarship for graduate students. The deadline is fast approaching, but you may find more information here: <http://gsa.buffalostate.edu/gsa-scholarship-opportunity>

PROGRAM/CENTER NEWS

The **MA PROGRAM'S** new website (<http://english.buffalostate.edu/masters>) is up and running! **DR. JENNIFER RYAN** coordinated with Mark Norris on the new design. You can now refer students to the site to find things such as the Graduate Handbook, the Comp Exam Reading List, program guidelines, etc.

THE KETCHUM HALL WRITING CENTER is up and running M-Tr 10-3 and Friday 10-2. Please feel free to send your students to the Center for peer-to-peer writing help.

FILM STUDIES MINOR Though it is not yet in the official college catalogue, the film studies minor has been approved by the President. This means we can begin taking students in the minor. We will be working up some information and other promotional materials for the minor that will be available in the office soon.

USEFUL REMINDERS AND THE PROFESSION

Why Read?: This piece in *Time* <http://ideas.time.com/2013/06/03/why-we-should-read-literature> argues that reading Literature makes us smarter and nicer.

Whitman and Archives: while doing archival work combing through newspapers at the Library of Congress, University of Nebraska Professor Wendy Katz found a lost

Whitman poem. You can read more about this incredible find here:
<http://nydn.us/1pV0CHd>

James Joyce: Though not Bloomsday, February 2nd marked the 133rd anniversary of James Joyce's birth. Perhaps to mark the occasion, *Vanity Fair* brought us this quiz yesterday: <http://www.vanityfair.com/online/daily/2015/02/sarah-palin-james-joyce-inspiration>

Harper Lee: You may have heard by now that Harper Lee is set to publish her second novel. You can find out more on this here:
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/02/03/living/feat-harper-lee-new-book/>

Did you see the new promotional video for Buffalo State? You can find it here:
<http://youtu.be/u9JQn8dv5RM>. Did you know that Buffalo State has an official YouTube channel? You can find more videos and profiles here:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/officialbuffalostate>

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.

AMY WIDMAN (BS 12, MA 13) lives in McKinney, Texas and teaches English Language Arts for Prosper High School; this year Amy will be teaching Pre-Advanced Placement English I and on level English II. Amy's future goals are to teach dual credit courses or junior college level college courses, working with Collin College and Prosper High school.

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".