

English Department Newsletter

10 March 2015

Vol. 9, No. 9



This is the ninth newsletter of the academic year. Our next issue will be published April 1, as we will be on Spring Recess March 25.

DEPARTMENT REMINDERS AND NEWS

Please use the [Shared Drive](#) to store your committee work products and the [Department Calendar](#) to schedule your meetings and events.

By-Law Vote Please remember to vote for By-Law amendment VII-B. Voting closes on March 20th. If you would like to see a copy of the by-law revision, please email Maureen.

It seems too soon, but **advisement** will be upon us. You may want to begin going through your advising listings, and start scheduling your advisement appointments now.

If you have not yet done so, please put together **descriptions of your courses, as well as a graphic**, so that we can put together our fall course booklet. Banner Preview begins today, March 11th and registration begins April 8th, so please turn in your descriptions and graphics as soon as possible so we can properly advertise our courses!

MIDTERM GRADING is upon us. You are currently mandated to give your students some sense of their grade at this stage of the semester, either through Blackboard or some other means. Beginning this summer, we will be mandated to formally enter midterm grades in Banner. As such, please take a moment, if you can, to formally input your midterm grades into Banner. This will help us with retention efforts, and will help give us a sense of what students may need intervention. Please note the following from the *Daily Bulletin* **"The midterm grading window will open in Banner on Monday, March 16, at 9:00 a.m. and close Friday, March 27, at 9:00 p.m. In addition to assigning an estimated midterm grade, faculty members can mark how regularly a student has attended a course by entering 0 (never attended), 1 (sporadic, unsatisfactory attendance), or 2 (consistent, satisfactory attendance) in the "Hours Attended" field."**

ONLINE COURSES as a reminder, many of the Chairs of Arts and Humanities continue to discuss best practices as it relates to online courses. Working with our

Instructional Design team, we are working to put some potential future protocols in place. For those of you who teach online, please be mindful that some of these changes may be taking place in the next few months and could apply to your courses as early as next fall.

FACULTY NEWS

DR. BARISH ALI was the invited respondent at SUNY Fredonia's Symposium on Trauma, which was held on February 26, 2015. The symposium, which was organized by the graduate students of Fredonia's English Department, addressed texts such as "The Epic of Gilgamesh," World War I poetry, "The Hunger Games," "Antigone," and Freud's "Beyond the Pleasure Principle" in order to explore how literature deals with trauma.

PROF KIM CHINQUEE'S flash fiction "In My Gear, With All Of My Equipment" has been published in the most recent issue of NOON: <http://www.noonannual.com>. Her contribution, "Eight" was accepted for inclusion in the book MAD TO LIVE ERASED, to be published by Matter Press (<http://matterpress.com>).

DR. ANN C. COLLEY'S article "Edward Lear and Victorian Animal Portraiture" has just appeared in a special issue of *Rivista di Studi Vittoriani* V. 34-35, pp. 11-26. The special issue is devoted to recent studies on Edward Lear and theories of nonsense and features articles written by scholars from England, Canada, Scotland, the United States, Italy, and the Netherlands. The editors, Raffaella Antinucci and Anna Enrichetta Soccio are Professors of English Literature at the G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti and Pescara, Italy and at the University of Naples, Italy.

Another article by **DR. COLLEY** is appearing in the March, 2015 issue of *Victorian Literature and Culture* (Cambridge University Press). This article, "Conversations with Oscar Wilde" is about recent productions of Wilde's "society Plays" and is included in a section entitled "Victorians Live" pp. 171-202. In addition to this article, Dr. Colley has been requested by the Societe Oscar Wilde in Paris to write a piece about her review for their online journal OSCHOLARS. She is pleased to see that the journal is part of the Je Suis Charlie movement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONVERSATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE DISCIPLINES returns with our second talk scheduled for **Friday, March 20th** at 3pm in Ketchum 320 (please note the new date above). This our rescheduled talk after the snowpocalypse last November, and we will finally be hearing from **DR. M. SCOTT GOODMAN** of the Chemistry Department. His intriguingly entitled talk "Two-Step Spin Crossover Behavior in the Iron(II) Complex of Tris(3-

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

Presents a talk by **Professor M. Scott Goodman**
Chemistry Department

"Two-Step Spin Crossover Behavior in the Iron(II)
Complex of Tris(3-methylpyrazolyl)methane.
What Could this Title Possibly Mean?"

Friday, November 21
3:00-4:30 p.m.
Ketchum Hall 320

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

The poster features a chemical structure diagram of a complex molecule, likely the iron(II) complex mentioned in the text, with various atoms and bonds represented in a ball-and-stick model.

methylpyrazolyl)methane. What Could this Title Possibly Mean?” After many months of pondering, we will find out! The talk will be followed by an informal wine and cheese reception.

Save the Date for April 24th, as we will be hosting 18th century scholar **Chloe Wigston-Smith** of the University of Georgia. Dr. Wigston-Smith specializes in material culture studies, fashion, women, labor. Many thanks to Dr. Lisa Berglund, who is helping coordinate the visit. We will have more information when we have a talk title, etc.

PROGRAM/READINGS/CENTER NEWS



The **DROP HAMMER STUDENT READING SERIES** will be held on March 18th at noon at the campus bookstore. Students wishing to read from their original work should contact Professor Chinquee at chinquek@buffalostate.edu

WESTERN NEW YORK NETWORK OF ENGLISH TEACHERS WINTER CONFERENCE

Over 60 English teachers attended The Western New York Network of English Teachers 2015 Winter Conference at Buffalo State. Local teachers presented on a variety of innovative classroom approaches to ELA teaching. These teachers then facilitated breakout sessions where attendees worked together on implementing these approaches in their own classrooms. Titles and presentations were:



“Finding Opportunity, Support, and Individual Creativity in an Age of Standardized Curricula” - Nicole Floss, Maryvale Middle School



“Committing to New Literacies in the ELA Classroom in an Age of Top-Down Education Reform” - Denise Grandits, St. Amelia School

“Gamifying the ELA Classroom: Empowering Student Learning with a New Approach to Curriculum”
Jeff Clark, John F. Kennedy Middle School

“Different Paths to the Same Destination: Structuring Inquiry Units in ELA Classrooms.” - Vincent Cervone, Maryvale Middle School

“Lean on Me: How Strong Relationships Build Stronger Students” - Ian Lewis, Buffalo Public Schools

THE DIGITAL WRITING WORKSHOP

The Digital Writing Workshop (DWW) kicked off its 5th semester in February. In that time the DWW has provided over 50 Buffalo Public school students with engaging, one-on-one digital writing and multimodal composing opportunities and over 20 Buffalo State pre-service



teachers with clinically-rich opportunities to work with middle and high school students,

many of whom are multilingual, and to develop as teachers who can use technology to create powerful learning opportunities for their students.



M.S.Ed. STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH IN ALBANY

English Education graduate students Chelsey Nabozny and Vanessa Ludwig presented research projects conducted in *ENG 693 Research in the Teaching of English* at the 2015 SUNY Research Symposium. Chelsey’s research project, *Inquiry Based English Teaching and the (Re)Emergence of the Dialogic Classroom* focused on one teacher’s work using inquiry-based English teaching in an urban high school to create meaningful discussions around texts.



Vanessa’s project, *Voice Activated Classrooms: Inquiry Based English Teaching in the Age of Top-Down Educational Reform*, explored how one English teacher used inquiry-based teaching approaches to create meaningful learning opportunities for students in a diverse first-ring suburban high school in an age of high stakes testing and neoliberal educational reforms.

USEFUL REMINDERS AND THE PROFESSION

The next [College Senate Meeting](#) will be held this upcoming Friday, the 13th in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall (3rd floor.). As our Senator, [DR. KAREN SANDS O’CONNOR](#) reminds us:

Instead of the usual Senate business, we plan to discuss three major questions (see below). The plan is for all Senators to have input on all three

questions, and then the Senate Committee chairs will take the feedback and make recommendations to the President about our vision for the future of Buffalo State College. Because these are such big issues, however, we will also be taking the feedback/input of the non-Senators who attend the meeting (normally, non-Senators may only observe). If any of these issues matter to you, I urge you to consider attending our meeting, which will be held from 3-5pm on March 13th in the Student Union's Social Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me. I'll be facilitating one particular question at the meeting (the second one) but I can at least point you in the right direction about the others.

The three questions we'll be discussing are:

1. What should an incoming Buffalo State student "look" like (in terms of academic profile, skill sets, that sort of thing)?
2. What do we want a Buffalo State graduate to know?
3. What is the best possible administrative structure for Buffalo State?

I encourage anyone who is interested in these conversations to attend this meeting. These questions have the potential to have a profound impact on us, and we should make sure to make our voices heard.

MLA 2016 will be held in Austin from Jan 7-10. Many of the CFPs have had or will have due dates coming up this week, most being due by mid-March. If you are planning to submit, please check out the calls sooner rather than later.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to **APRIL O'BRIEN (MA, 14)** who was accepted into a number of prestigious PhD programs in Rhetoric and Composition. She has ultimately decided to pursue her PhD work at Clemson University in the Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design Program. Congratulations, April. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments!

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".