

English Department Newsletter

15 April 2015

Vol. 9, No. 11



This is the eleventh newsletter of the academic year. Our next issue will be published April 29.

DEPARTMENT REMINDERS AND NEWS

Please mark your calendars for the [English Department Awards Ceremony](#), scheduled May 15th at 3:30 in the Student Union Assembly Hall.

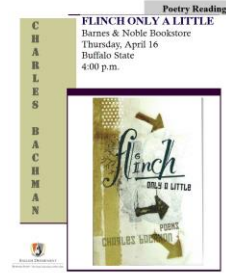
[Committee Assignments 2015-2016](#): We will be sending out the list of committee obligations for 2015-2016. Please nominate yourself for committees on which you would like to serve. Insofar as possible, we would like to take care of this over email, rather than devote considerable time at our last Dept meeting, as we have other pressing business to attend to.

[Course Evaluations](#): Please remember to talk to Marcia and Maureen about setting up your course evaluations. As a reminder, tenure track faculty should continue to use the **pencil and paper evaluations** (see Marcia to set these up), while all other faculty may opt for online evaluations (see Maureen to set these up). If you opt for online evaluations, please tell your student the evaluations will be given online, remind your students to fill them out, and please consider giving students time in class (as you would for the paper recommendations) to complete the evaluations on their computers, tablets, or phones.

[Committee Reports](#): Please remember committee reports will be due to the department very soon, summarizing the work of your committees over the academic year. Ideally, we would like these amended to the consent agenda, as opposed to giving these verbally in the last meeting. If you are a committee chair, please begin work on these soon. Your end of year reports should summarize the work you were able to complete, the work that is in progress, and any potential future concerns for departmental consideration to be taken up by the next committee.

[Bookstore Stuff](#): If you have yet to do so, please place your textbook orders for Fall and (especially) summer, as soon as possible. Also if you plan to rent regalia for graduation, you should try to get to the bookstore as soon as possible, as time is quickly ticking away (though they may be able to still order rentals).

This **Thursday, April 16**, **DR. CHARLES BACHMAN** will be giving a reading from his last (sixth) book, *FLINCH ONLY A LITTLE*, at 4:00 Thursday, April 16, in the Buffalo State Barnes & Noble Bookstore with an introduction by **Lorna Pérez**



RETIREMENTS



Congratulations to **Barbara Bontempo**, **Heidi Dietz Faletti**, and **Tom Newhouse** on their retirements. Many thanks to all of you who came out on Friday to help us celebrate our colleagues' extraordinary careers.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The English Department is pleased to announce that we will be offering a new scholarship for our students. The **Shine Scholarship** has been generously funded by the Riverrun Foundation, and honors the work and example of Laurence Shine. We will begin taking applications for the award immediately. The recipient will engage in a year long research project of their choosing, directed by Laurence, with a focus on Irish or Irish American literature, culture, history, performance etc. More details will be sent out to the department shortly.

FACULTY NEWS

DR. BARISH ALI and **HEIDI WALLACE'S** (MA alum) article "Out of this World: Ziggy Stardust and the Spatial Interplay of Lyrics, Vocals, and Performance" has been published in *David Bowie: Critical Perspectives* (Routledge) edited by Eoin Devereux, Aileen Dillane, and Martin Power. Their chapter examines the words and images of David Bowie from the perspective of literary and postmodern theories. The working hypothesis of their chapter is Roland Barthes's claim that the "grain" of the singing voice – the materiality of the singing body – exceeds traditional modes of linguistic signification because it adds a bodily layer to the singer's words through a reinscription of the voice onto the body. The chapter argues that Bowie has radically problematised our preconceptions of identity and materiality in vocal music by allowing his listeners to enjoy his voice – in both its granular and affective qualities – without having to identify it with a single, unchanging persona.

Also, **The Turkish Coalition of America** has awarded **DR. ALI** a \$5,000 Study in Turkey grant to continue running his Summer in Istanbul program. Over the past three years, Barish's program has received a total of more than \$31,000 in direct aid to students from SUNY Global, the Turkish Coalition of America, and the "We'll Get You There" Student International Travel Award Program.

DR. ANN COLLEY has recently been asked to join the Editorial Board of a new collection of volumes, directed by Francesco Marroni, Professor of English Literature at the University of Chieti-Pescara, Italy. This collection, called "Crossways," was successfully opened a few years ago under the name of "Rasselas." Other members of the board are: Phillip Mallet (St. Andrews University), John Paul Rosso (University of Miami), Andrew Stauffer (University of Virginia), and Norman Etherington (University of Western Australia).

Additionally, DR. COLLEY'S 8,000-word entry on Robert Louis Stevenson has just appeared in the newly published four-volume *The Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature* edited by Dino Franco Felluga, Pamela K. Gilbert, and Linda K. Hughes. Wiley Blackwell is the publisher. The encyclopedia will also be available online: www.literatureencyclopedia.com

MS. CAROLYN MARCILLE will be traveling to Boston MA for the weekend of May 21-24 to present a paper at the American Literature Association National Conference. Entitled "Stumbling Blocks to Freedom: White Moderates and the Inheritance of Unconscious Racism," Carolyn will be presenting this paper for the MELUS panel entitled "American Multiethnic Writing and Violence."

DR. TOM REIGSTAD gave a lunchtime talk to the Twentieth-Century Book Club on Monday, April, 6, reviewing Maureen Corrigan's *So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures* (2014).

DR. KAREN SANDS-O' CONNOR has been appointed Leverhulme Visiting Professor at Newcastle University in England for 2015-2016. While there, she will be giving several public lectures, conducting seminars, and researching publishing for a Black British child audience. She will work with the university to produce an anthology of diverse British children's literature and also with the National Centre for the Children's Book to create an exhibit on Black British children's literature.

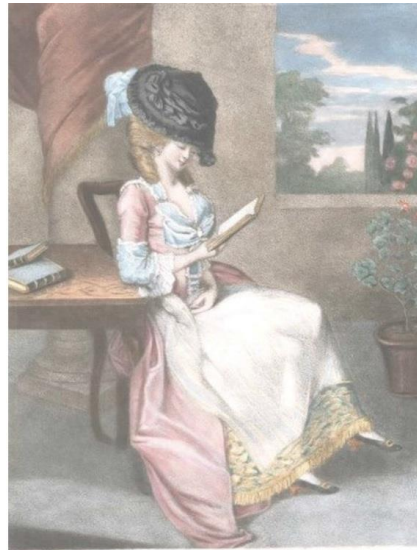
Also, in case you missed it (and if you did it is because you do not check our Department Facebook page— <https://www.facebook.com/pages/SUNY-Buffalo-State-English-Department/177694728978129>), **Karen**, who has had a pretty busy few weeks, was also featured in this article about Buffalo State experts: <http://newsandevents.buffalostate.edu/news/buffalo-state-experts-english-professor-delves-race-childrens-literature>.

PROF. ED TAYLOR'S children's story "Ayesha's Dream" is forthcoming in *Lunch Ticket*, and his poems "Elegy" and "Still Life with Meditation" are forthcoming in

Gargoyle and *Slipstream*, respectively. His reviews of T. Geronimo Johnson's novel *Welcome to Braggsville* and Mario Vargas Llosa's novel *The Discreet Hero* are forthcoming in the *Buffalo News*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 24th, we will be hosting 18th century scholar **Chloe Wigston-Smith** of the University of Georgia, who will be presenting a talk entitled “Textual Fashions: Clothes, Paper, and Fashion Culture In Eighteenth-Century Britain” at 3:00 P.M. in Technology Building 160. Dr. Wigston-Smith specializes in material culture studies, fashion, women, labor. Many thanks to **Dr. Lisa Berglund**, who is helping coordinate the visit. Dr. Wigston-Smith’s talk will be followed by a reception.



THE STUDIOUS BEAUTY.
An engraving by William Verelsteden, 1733. The woman is reading a book.

Buffalo State English Department
Presents
an illustrated lecture by
Chloe Wigston-Smith
Asst. Professor, University of Georgia
“Textual Fashions:
Clothes, Paper,
and Fashion Culture In
Eighteenth-Century Britain”
Friday, April 24th | 3:00 pm | Technology 160
— Reception to Follow —
Sponsored by:
Buffalo State English Department
Buffalo State Theater Department
Buffalo State History Department
Oscar’s Bed & Breakfast
And the generous support of **Bob Budin**
Free and open to the public
Please join us for this very special presentation!

CONVERSATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE DISCIPLINES LECTURE SERIES

The **CONVERSATIONS IN AND OUT OF THE DISCIPLINES** lecture series will conclude

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

Presents a talk by
Tim Bryant
Assistant Professor of English

“Will You Play With Me? The Pleasures of Paranoia from the Cold War to Contingent Culture”

May 8, 2015
Ketchum Hall 320
3:00 - 4:30pm

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

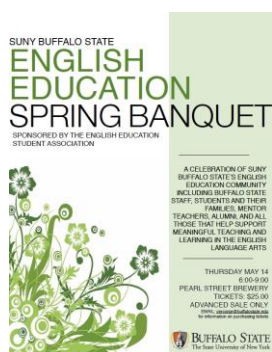
the 2014-2015 season with a talk by Dr. Timothy Bryant of the English Department entitled “Will You Play With Me? The Pleasures of Paranoia from the Cold War to Contingent Culture.” The talk will take place on May 8, 2015 in Ketchum 320 from 3:00-4:00 and will be followed by an informal wine and cheese reception.

PROGRAM/READINGS/CENTER NEWS

NEWS FROM THE LITERATURE MAJOR

Catherine Morse, English Department, Sophomore, will be presenting her paper, "From the Bottom Shelf Up: Building an Informal Library," at Buffalo State College's 17th Annual Student Research and Creativity Celebration (SRCC) (May 1 - 2, 2015). In her presentation, Catherine will be discussing the process of creating the BSC English Department library, what she's learned about library science throughout her experiences, and will also explore what she hopes is for the library in the future.

NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH EDUCATION MAJOR



THE ENGLISH EDUCATION SPRING BANQUET is coming up on Thursday, May 14 from 6:00-9:00 at Pearl Street Grill. The banquet, sponsored by the English Education Student Association, is an opportunity to recognize faculty, students, alumni, cooperating teachers, parents, friends, and other members of our community that support English teacher education at Buffalo State.

Dr. Geraldine Bard and **Dr. Betty Cappella** will receive a lifetime achievement award for their contribution to literacy development in the Buffalo-Niagara region. We will also recognize **Dr. Barbara Bontempo** for her commitment to English teaching in Western New York.

Tickets are \$25.00. A buffet and dessert are included. I have attached a poster with additional information. Please let Dr. Cercone know if you would like to reserve a ticket: cerconje@buffalostate.edu

NEWS FROM THE WRITING MAJOR

PROFESSORS KIM CHINQUEE and **PETER RAMOS** were busy this month, as they both read at the Association of Writers & Writers Programs (AWP) conference. Professor Chinquee played host at the **ELJ Wild and Harvest** book reading, at Mager's and Quinn Booksellers, an off-site reading, where Professor Ramos read, along with other ELJ poets and writers. In addition to their readings, Professors Chinquee and Ramos also spent time promoting ELJ to other writers and poets in anticipation of the next issue "Dirt" to be released in academic year 2015-2016. Professor Chinquee also read at the LUNA launch.



The **DROP HAMMER STUDENT READING SERIES** will be held on April 22 at noon in the campus bookstore. For more information contact Professor Chinquee at chinuk@buffalostate.edu

SUMMER IN ISTANBUL



The study abroad office has organized an information session for students who are interested in applying for the Summer in Istanbul study tour. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 16 from 12:15-1:30 in Ketchum 200. This year's program will be limited to six students; please encourage your best students to apply. More information can be found at <http://english.buffalostate.edu/turkey>. Prospective students should contact

Barish for more details about the program and for information regarding available scholarships and grants.

USEFUL REMINDERS AND THE PROFESSION



The **Buffalo Small Press Book Fair** will be held this upcoming weekend, April 18-19, at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Porter Hall, 453 Porter Street. The event features over 140 small press vendors, as well as ancillary events such as readings and workshops. Come support local

publishing! As it happens, **The Buffalo State College Alumni Writing Group** has a table at the Buffalo Small Book Press Fair on Sat April 18 between 12pm to 6pm. Come stop by to say Hi!

BABEL: PATTI SMITH

The final Babel of the Season is coming up this Friday, April 17, featuring Patti Smith who will be speaking about her work *Just Kids*. There are still tickets available through the Just Buffalo Babel website, and if you are a member of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Libraries, you get five dollars off your ticket! The talk begins at 8:00 at Kleinhans Music Hall.



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.