

# English Department Newsletter



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The newsletter is published biweekly throughout the semester; the next issue will appear on 26 February 2014. Current and past newsletters are available on the [English Department website](#).

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

A **Black History Month Diversity Poetry Slam** will be held in the Student Union Lower Level **TOMORROW**, Thursday, February 13, at 12:15 pm.



The **Drop Hammer Student Reading series** will be held next Thursday, February 20, and also on March 13, April 3, and April 24, during Bengal Pause (12:15-1:30 pm), at the bookstore in the Student Union.

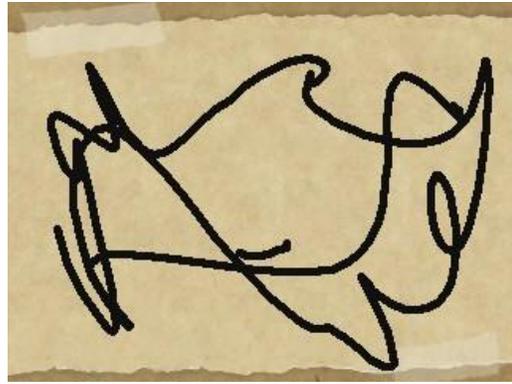
Please mark your calendars for the second and third talks in the spring 2014 Conversations in and out of the Disciplines series: **Anthony Chase**, assistant dean of Arts and Humanities, will talk about Mae West on Friday, March 7, and **James Cercone**, assistant professor of English and coordinator of the English Education program, will speak on Friday, April 25. All talks will be held in Ketchum Hall 320 at 3:00 p.m.

## UPDATES and REMINDERS

The College at Brockport will host the third annual **Master's Level Graduate Research Conference (MaRC)** on **Saturday April 26, 2014**. Last year nearly 400 presenters from 30 universities participated in the one-day multidisciplinary conference. For more information, visit the [conference website](#), or contact [Adrian Safar](#). Presentation proposals are due **NEXT SATURDAY** Saturday February 22. Accepted presenters will then need to register for the conference and pay a \$20 registration fee, which will include a luncheon ticket. Graduate Students: This is a very convenient and inexpensive way to dip your toes into the Conference Game!

The **16th Annual Student Research and Creativity Celebration (SRCC)** is scheduled for **Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3**, with an opening reception in Butler Library on Friday. For more information, visit the [Office of Undergraduate Research website](#), which also includes information on the Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship program. The SRCC online application is available [here](#).

Charles Bachman, *Grading Exams III Losing My Mind (2013)*



Start planning for next year... **The Northeast Modern Language Association Convention will be held at Ryerson University in Toronto, April 30-May 3, 2015.** The online session proposal form will be available mid-March; the deadline for session proposals is April 22, 2014. The full Call for Papers will be available online in June. The abstract deadline for approved sessions will be September 30. Another very convenient conference opportunity...

## FACULTY NEWS and ACTIVITIES

**Karen Sands-O'Connor's** essay "I am an Island: Caribbean Immigrants to New York City in Children's Literature" has appeared in *Children's Literature and New York City*, edited by Pádraic Whyte and Keith O'Sullivan, from Routledge Press.

**Mark Hammer** reports: I'm currently collaborating with a fashion photographer from Milan, Italy, Jessica Pepper Peterson. Turns out that her father was close friends (drinking!) with Bob Creeley, who was my mentor (poetic/intellectual) when I was a graduate student. I'm in the midst of "translating" dozens of her photographs into prose poems that may find their way into a multimedia collection down the road. She's done work for Revlon, etc. and has shot the likes of Angelina Jolie as well. I'm also currently assisting Jess with an online campaign to raise funds to help build a school in a village in South Africa.

**Ann Colley** recently peer reviewed a book manuscript on Arctic exploration for Ashgate Press. She has also reviewed an essay on Alfred Lord Tennyson for the new Blackwell Victorian Studies Encyclopedia, and is now in the process of reviewing an essay on Edward Lear for *Victorian Poetry*. She has also just completed a 5,000 word entry on Robert Louis Stevenson's life, work, and critical reception for the new Blackwell Victorian Studies Encyclopedia.

**Theresa Harris-Tigg** attended the Network Team Institute training for 9-12 ELA-Common Core in Albany, NY on behalf of SUNY Buffalo State Teacher Education Unit on February 4 & 5. The institute provided an orientation to the NY Curriculum Modules on engage NY. Participants discussed a "growth mindset" (Carol Dweck) and classroom implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards for all.

## STUDENT and ALUMNI NEWS and ACTIVITIES

**Byron Gillan** has sold his fantasy novel *Children of the Forest* to the publisher TOR, a big name in fantasy publishing!

Alumna **Denise Rosier**, Grants Officer in the Office of Postsecondary Education, Washington, D.C, was awarded the MLK Jr. Drum Majors award for volunteerism earlier this month. Her biography states: "Denise Rosier established her own company, Universal Write Publication LLC and expanded her volunteerism by donating the proceeds to rape crisis and domestic violence programs. She works with teenagers, providing opportunities for them to develop skills in technology, social media and journalism. She volunteers time judging literary competitions for NAACP; participates in the Great American Teach-In; and volunteers as a member of the National Congress for Black Women and Blacks in Government (BIG), for which she is alternate regional representative and oratorical competition program director." Here's the link to a [photo](#) of members of BIG, including Denise Rosier (second row, far left) standing next to US Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan. (See the photo at the center bottom of the array)

The Polish Arts Club of Buffalo awarded a scholarship to **Mary Jane Masiulionis** at its annual installation luncheon of officers and board members at Gregor's Garden Grove in West Seneca. An alumna of the English Department, Mary Jane is now a graduate student at the University at Buffalo majoring in theater, and an adjunct instructor for theater here at Buffalo State.

## AND FINALLY ...



If you are trying to figure out how to teach metrics, send your students to this Twitter app: <https://twitter.com/pentametrn>. It's a "bot" that retweets pairs of tweets so as to create "found" iambic pentameter couplets. For example:

Gilberto Silva is a righteous dude  
I like the person who invented food.

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