

# English Department Newsletter

22 February 2019

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The newsletter is published six times per semester. Past issues may be found on the department website.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Conversations In and Out of the Disciplines will next feature **MACY TODD** speaking on "Dispatches from the Kingdom of Shadows: Film and Video in the Age of Fiber Optics" on **Friday, 1 March at 3:00 pm**. As always, presentations in this series will take place in Ketchum 320 and will be followed by a reception.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Books for Kids book drive, sponsored by Project FLIGHT, *The Buffalo News*, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Wegmans, and WGRZ will take place during the month of April 2019. Faculty who wish to encourage student participation in the 2019 Books for Kids drive should contact either **GERALDINE BARD**, co-director of Project



FLIGHT, or **BARBARA BONTEMPO**, board member. Since its inception, over 2.8 million books have been donated to children who cannot otherwise afford them, as well as to area agencies that nurture them. On April 12, the Books for Kids partners will broadcast live at the Wegmans on Sheridan Drive in Williamsville, collecting new books donated by the public.

## DEPARTMENT & FACULTY NEWS

**JOEY NICOLETTI'S** poem "Recovery" and book review of Lawrence Baldassaro's *Baseball, Italian Style: Great Stories Told by Italian American Major Leaguers from Crosetti to Piazza* appear in the latest issue of *Voices in Italian Americana*. **JOEY** will be a featured reader at Boston's I AM Books on February 23, and his newest chapbook, *Capicola Slang*, is due out in April.

**MACY TODD** gave a paper on Daniel Defoe and Jonathan Swift at the annual NEASECS conference in Rochester in October and read a paper on Howard Hawks's *Scarface* at the annual *Film and History* conference in Madison in November. He published an essay on Charles Chaplin titled "Audience and Performance in *Kid Auto Races in Venice*" in *Senses of Cinema* in December, and he delivered the keynote at the University of Greenwich (London) conference on the Irish famine in February.

**KAREN SANDS-O'CONNOR** is featured in the latest issue of 1300 Elmwood, discussing her research on race and diversity in children's books. She is currently awaiting delivery of the shortlisted books for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway children's book medals, which she will read and comment on for the UK's Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

**LAURENCE SHINE** is celebrating 25 years at Buffalo State this spring.

At the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference in Denver next month, **MARK FULK** is presenting a paper entitled "Tactful (Dis)Taste in (the Teaching of) Pope's *The Dunciad*." It explores the teaching of satire in the age of Trump.

The Toni Morrison Society selected *Margaret Garner: The Premiere Performances of Toni Morrison's Libretto* (edited by La Vinia Delois Jennings; UVA Press, 2016) as the Best Edited Book on Morrison's work for 2016-2018. The book features a chapter by **AIMABLE TWAGILIMANA** on "Imagining Margaret Garner: Classical and Contemporary Texts and Intertexts" (pp. 144-168).

Please congratulate **AIMEE LEVESQUE** on completing her PhD. at the University at Buffalo; Dr. Levesque's dissertation is "Building Bridges of Understanding: Persons with Disabilities Empowered by Opportunities for Expression and Social Experiences in a Writing Group."

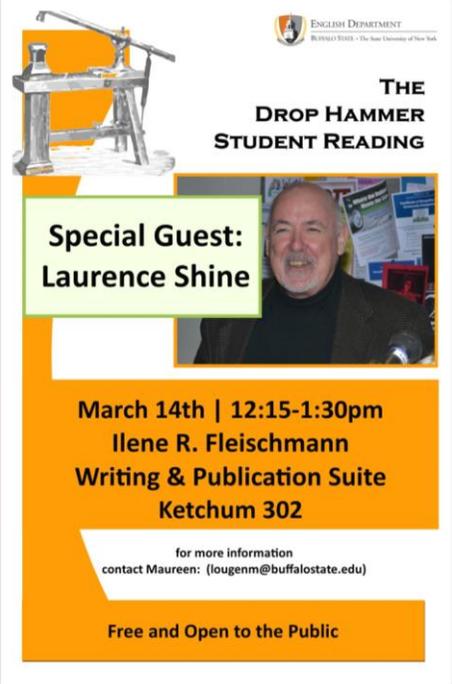
On February 7, **GERALDINE BARD** and **BARBARA BONTEMPO**, of Project FLIGHT, presented 2,050 new books to Waterfront Elementary School, which won the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Leaders Are Readers" School Award for Literacy. On that occasion Project FLIGHT received a letter of commendation from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.

## INFORMATION FOR FACULTY

Faculty members who wish to encourage their students to visit the Writing Center may schedule a "commercial"—a 10-minute in-class presentation by a tutor who will explain the services offered by the center and how students can best use them to their advantage. Also, faculty members can now use the center for feedback on their own work. To schedule either a tutor visit or a faculty writing consultation, contact **MAGGIE HERB**.

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Buffalo State undergraduates are invited to submit proposals to participate in the fifth annual **SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC)**, an all-day event with



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
BUFFALO STATE - The Sun University of New York

**THE  
DROP HAMMER  
STUDENT READING**

**Special Guest:  
Laurence Shine**

March 14th | 12:15-1:30pm  
Ilene R. Fleischmann  
Writing & Publication Suite  
Ketchum 302

for more information  
contact Maureen: (lougenm@buffalostate.edu)

Free and Open to the Public

luncheon and keynote speaker, to be held Saturday, April 27, on the campus of Niagara County Community College. Student proposals for research poster sessions, oral presentations, and performances of creative work are welcome. For information, [visit the SURC West conference website](#), which includes links to the application portal and sample abstracts. The deadline for online submission of proposal abstracts is **Friday, March 8**.

**The Steve Street Award**, named in memory of our late colleague, is given annually to an undergraduate student or group of undergraduate students at a SUNY campus who have created any paper or documented any **project related to social justice issues**. Projects may take the form of traditional academic work, creative work, or community-based projects. The work must have been performed in conjunction with coursework assigned at a SUNY campus. The **deadline is May 1**. Here's a link to the Steve Street Award application form: <http://uupinfo.org/scholarships/pdf/2019SteveStreetAwardapplication.pdf>. There are other UUP scholarships, too: <http://uupinfo.org/scholarships/scholarship.php>.



The Modern Language Association (MLA) is **hiring several interns for summer 2019** at its New York City office: a communications and outreach intern to assist with social media and marketing tasks; a communications and advocacy intern to assist with content development and marketing; a fund-raising and communications intern; a convention engagement intern to assist with digital initiatives; and a bibliographic database intern to assist with research, testing, and administrative tasks relating to the *MLA International Bibliography*. Candidates should possess strong organizational, writing, and research skills and be comfortable working with *Microsoft Office* and social media platforms such as *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *LinkedIn*. There are other preferred skills for each internship; full job descriptions are at

<https://www.mla.org/About-Us/Employment/#communications-and-outreach>. Interns will receive a \$960 stipend every other week and unlimited-ride MetroCards for the ten-week internship. To apply, send a résumé and cover letter by **15 March** to [C032019@mla.org](mailto:C032019@mla.org).

## RECOMMENDED READING & FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**ANGELA FULK** has published an eloquent and important essay in *Inside Higher Ed*, entitled "How Bias Toward Adjuncts Plays Out Among Students, Other Faculty, and Administrators." <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/14/how-bias-toward-adjuncts-plays-out-among-students-other-faculty-and-administrators>.