

English Department Newsletter

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Past issues of the newsletter are available on the department website.

LATEST NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS



Congratulations to the College Writing Program (especially **NATALIE SZYMANSKI** and **MARY BETH SULLIVAN**) for winning this year's **Homecoming Door Decoration contest!** The judges said: "We absolutely loved your design (and playlists). You so creatively utilized this year's theme with your own program's theme." And here are the playlists (on Spotify):

- [Writing as Rioting](#) (New School 2020)
- [Writing as Righting](#) (Old School)

Alumni **JULIO MONTALVO VALENTIN** and **OLI WIGGINS** will be among the poets reading in **ASCENSION!**, a **Latinx Heritage Month Celebration** of the Buffalo-based series **Poesía LIVE** at 8:00 pm Saturday October 11 on Facebook.

The 2020-2021 "**Conversations in and out of the Disciplines**" series begins on Friday, October 30 at 3:00 pm, as **Ruth Goldman**,

(Communication, and Coordinator of Women & Gender Studies), presents "Cultivating Community: Interviewing as a Collaborative Process." All talks this fall will be held on Zoom (details TBA). The "Q & A" and virtual wine and cheese reception will follow. Everyone is welcome (bring your own cheese). The second talk of the semester, on November 20, will feature John Torrey (Philosophy) discussing "The Possibility of Black Reparations." Spring talks will be given by Jevon Hunter (School of Education), **KRISTEN PASTORE-CAPUANA** (English), and A. K. Shauku (Political Science and Public Administration).

ROY BAKOS (English Department alumnus and CWP faculty member) is the co-owner of **Café Godot**, set to open later this month at 388 Porter Avenue. The Buffalo News quotes Roy as saying, "It's absurd that we're opening a café during the pandemic. It's an allusion to the absurdity and the existential angst going into opening up our business during the middle of a pandemic, when there's 25 million unemployed Americans." The flexitarian

menu will reflect the diverse food culture of Buffalo. "We're going to be two guys during a pandemic who are waiting for customers to come," ROY told the News. "Hopefully, unlike the play, they actually show up." Visit <https://www.cafegodotbflo.com/>.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

The **Undergraduate Research Small Grant Awards program** is continuing, although only non-travel expenses can be funded until further notice. This program provides up to \$400 to assist students in carrying out their research and creative activities. The award may be used to help defray the cost of materials required to conduct the project. It is not intended as salary for the student. **Deadlines for submitting applications for the fall round of awards are October 14 for the student and October 16 for the faculty mentor.**



Other programs from the Undergraduate Research Office will continue, including the [Undergraduate Travel Program](#), which invites applications in support of student presentations at virtual disciplinary conferences. Fall 2020 [EURO](#) Micro-Projects provide \$500 stipends to lower-division students for participating in faculty research and creative activities. (Applications close on October 26.) Digital projects are encouraged and faculty mentors and students may search the [Digital SRCC](#) by discipline for models. Contact the [Undergraduate Research Office](#) for more information.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The Northeast Modern Language Association is going virtual for its 52nd Annual Convention. This year's Convention is sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania's Romance Languages Department in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences at the University at Buffalo. **The [CFP submission deadline](#) has been extended to October 11.**

The [National Humanities Center](#) has posted a call for applications for the 2021-2022 residential fellowship program. **The application deadline is October 8, 2020.**

FACULTY NEWS

The Capella-Bard School of Education Scholarship for Applied Literacy Fund has been fully endowed, thanks to the generosity of Betty Capella and **GERALDINE BARD**. The fund supports an annual scholarship for a student whose major includes the promotion of applied literacy (including English Education). Details of the application and award process will be forthcoming from the Financial Aid office.

On July 24, **MAGGIE HERB** and some Writing Center tutors attended a virtual conference hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association on Anti-Racist Writing Center Pedagogy, the aim of which was to "assist administrators in developing tutor training and tutors in negotiating conversations about antiracism as it arises within tutoring sessions." The participants will be doing a professional development session on what they learned for the entire Writing Center staff later this fall. Among the tutors who attended the conference

were peer tutor **ARIEL NEITCH** (Writing major) and professional tutor and CWP faculty member **CHERYL WEAVER-AMENTA**.

MAGGIE also was invited to give a virtual lecture for West Virginia State University's writing center tutors-in-training on online tutoring pedagogy and the impact of Covid-19 on writing center practices.

Five new poems by **JOEY NICOLETTI** appear in the latest issue of *Ovunque Siamo*. **JOEY** also has four new poems in the relaunch issue of *Stymie Magazine*, a new poem in *Trouvaille Review*, and more poems forthcoming in *Pembroke Magazine* and *Paterson Literary Review*.

MARK FULK'S poem "Light Channels Light" was included in the SUNY Pride 2020 exhibition with art and other works. Mark also was on a panel that presented at the virtual opening of this year-long exhibit. The poem commemorates the Pulse Nightclub shooting victims. Read the poem [here](#).



THOMAS J. REIGSTAD, professor emeritus, published "[The Buffalo Courier-Express Mural: A 90-Year Journey](#)" in the summer 2020 issue of *Western New York Heritage* magazine. The article tells the story of the iconic mural that hung in the lobby of the *Courier-Express* building at Main and Goodell Streets from 1930 until 1989, when

it was donated—in need of repair—to Buffalo State. The college has kept it in storage for over 30 years. In a separate article on the restoration of the Courier-Express mural, The Buffalo News referenced **TOM'S** research: https://buffalonews.com/news/local/history/remembering-a-mural-that-told-buffalo-s-story-where-stories-of-buffalo-were-told/article_928b392c-f932-11ea-b0d8-c77c48837585.html#tracking-source=home-the-latest

LORNA PÉREZ edited the special issue of the journal *Label me Latina: (Un)Natural Disaster: Sites of Resistance* (Vol. X 2020). The issue can be found here: <https://labelmelatin.com/>.

KIM CHINQUEE was the judge of the content award for the AWP Program Directors' [Prize](#).

Here's a [five-minute video](#) from Cuneiform Press that features University of Utah Professor Craig Dworkin discussing Keats' "Ode to Sleep" in relation to **GREGG BIGLIERI'S** *Reading Keats to Sleep*, originally published by Cuneiform. Click on the link "watch video here."

ED TAYLOR'S commissioned theater piece "Black Nikes" was presented as part of the inaugural production of [Alleyway Theater's](#) 2020/21 season, "Currents: 716."

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Writing major **HANNAH BACHWITZ** has been awarded the English Department's 2020-2021 James J. Morris Scholarship. English Education major **JAYLAN SNAITH** was a finalist for the award.

"May 29, 2019, 1:20 pm," a poem by Writing major Angelina Cruzal, appears in [Girls Right the World](#) (Issue 4, May 2020).

JULIO VALENTIN gave an online reading for [Lit City Voices](#) this summer..

KIA MARLENE '10 has debuted as the author of a book of poetry titled *Evolution of Awareness*. According to **KIA**, the book is about "transformation, connecting further with self, and about a journey towards enlightenment." More information about her and her book is available at www.kiamarlene.com.

Alumni **CLAYTON PITCHER** is enrolled in the Master of Arts program at New York University, while **DANTE SIMONCELLI** has a fully funded scholarship for the Film Studies MA at the University of Ohio.

Earlier this summer Variety reported that the smash Netflix hit "Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness," is based on **LEIF REIGSTAD's** *Texas Monthly* article "Joe Exotic: A Dark Journey into the World of a Man Gone Wild." Son of English professor emeritus **TOM REIGSTAD**, **LEIF** graduated from Buffalo State in Journalism (class of 2014) and subsequently earned his master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.



Literary Studies Minor **ASHLY CANUTE** (mentor **LISA BERGLUND**) completed an Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship this August. **ASHLY** transcribed and edited portions of the diary of a prominent Buffalo lawyer and abolitionist, who was a friend (and critic) of Millard Fillmore. "The Life and Times of George W. Jonson" involved working with original Jonson materials in the collection of the Buffalo History Museum.

FURTHER READING...

This article on accessibility and distance learning was recommended by **BARB BONTEMPO** and **LORNA PÉREZ**. <http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2020/08/02/how-to-teach-with-text-platforming-down-as-disability-pedagogy/>. **LORNA** also directs our attention to the extensive and thoughtful resources at: <https://www.mapping-access.com/blog-1/2020/3/10/accessible-teaching-in-the-time-of-covid-19>.