

English Department Newsletter

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The newsletter appears biweekly during the semester;
the next issue will appear on Wednesday, 17 March 2016.
Current and past newsletters are available on the [English Department website](#).

DEPARTMENT AND FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to **MICHELE NINACS** who has been granted continuing appointment (tenure) and promoted to associate professor, effective next year. Michele also has been awarded a sabbatical for the spring of 2017.

DAVID BEN MERRE will be giving a talk this month at UB entitled "Violet Blossoms and Violent Letters: On Virginia Woolf and Lyric Reading." The date is Wednesday, February 17 at 3:30 pm and it will be in Clemens 360.

ED TAYLOR's football op-ed essay "God Bless the Buffalo" is appearing Super Bowl week in *The Public*. His review of Rick Moody's latest novel, "Hotels of North America," appeared January 24 in the *Buffalo News*. Ed's poems "Still Life with Current Events" and "Still Life with Weekend, Laundry, Ulysses, Second Thoughts" are forthcoming in the spring 2016 issue of *Clackamas Literary Review* and his story "Rumpelstiltskin" appears in the current [New World Writing](#).

A book review and an essay by **JOEY NICOLETTI** appear in the Winter 2016 *VIA: Voices in Italian Americana*, and two poems, "To Donald Trump" and "To Fred Grandy," in the Winter 2016 issue of [The Potomac](#). Joey was featured at the John D. Calandra Italian-American Institute on January 20, where he read poems from *Reverse Graffiti*, his latest poetry collection, and some new work.

GERALDINE BARD and **AIMEE LEVESQUE** each earned an Online Course Design Specialization Certificate from the Instructional Resources Department.

KIM CHINQUEE's flash fictions "I Figure" and "I Have to Fly" were accepted for publication in *NOON* 2017. On May 4 at 7 pm, she will read at the Center for Fiction in NYC, in celebration of *NOON* 2016's launch. Her flash fictions "In My Gear, With All of My Equipment," "Swinging High," "Art on the Wall," and "Touch Me" were nominated for The Best Small Fictions 2016 to be published by Queen's Ferry Press. She was recently named Senior Editor of *New World Writing*.

Lots of news from **TOM REIGSTAD**: (1) He was the voice of Jack Kemp on a [Heritage Moments radio spot](#) (concerning racism and the old Buffalo Bills) on January 14-23 on WBFO-FM; (2) Two different snippets of an interview with Tom about Mark Twain and Buffalo were aired on WBFO-FM on December 21 and 28, 2015, to help promote the "Mark Twain Comedy Award" show on WNED Television; (3) on January 11 he was one of six alumni/veterans to speak at a half-day Military Roundtable for 200 11th grade English students (who had read *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Things They Carried*, etc.) beforehand at Sweet Home High School. Each gave a presentation on their military experiences and engaged in Q&A with the students; and (4) Tom published two book reviews that the *Buffalo News* featured on the Sunday book page: [Twain's End](#) by Lynn Cullen (December 20, 2015) and [Mark Twain's Autobiography](#), Vol. 3, eds. Benjamin Griffin and Harriet Elinor Smith (September 20, 2015).

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **Drop Hammer Student Reading Series** resumes February 11, with the theme of "Love." The readings begin at 4:30 pm; due to the overwhelming response last semester, the series has moved to a bigger venue: Ketchum 320. We're also adding readings devoted to "Flash" writing -- fiction, poetry, essays or creative nonfiction of 1,000 words or less. Those readings will be held February 29, March 28 & April 18, at 1-1:50 pm in Ketchum 302.



The College Planning Council (CPC) is holding **focus group meetings** as part of writing a new strategic plan for Buffalo State. This document will guide the college for the next five years, and it is critical that all voices be heard. Among the meeting dates are: for faculty of the School of Arts & Humanities, Tuesday, February 9, 12:15-1:15 pm, Bulger East; for untenured faculty, Thursday, February 11, 12:15-1:15 pm, Butler 208; for adjunct faculty, Tuesday, February 16, 5:30-6:30 pm, Cleveland Hall 418; and an all-campus open forum, February 18, 12:15-1:15 pm, Bulger East. This is an open invitation and no RSVP is required.



STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

ILENE R. FLEISCHMANN, MA '73, has made a substantial planned gift to Buffalo State. In recognition of her generous contribution, the college is dedicating the Ilene R. Fleischmann Writing and Publication Suite in Ketchum Hall. A dedication ceremony will take place later this semester. You can read more in the Winter 2015 issue of [1300 Elmwood](#).

Ilene Fleischmann and President Conway-Turner

If you'd like to share an update on your post-Buffalo State activities, either for the alumni bulletin board or for the newsletter, email [MAUREEN LOUGEN](mailto:MAUREEN.LOUGEN). Please include your graduation year and degree info, and feel free to include a photograph.

DEADLINES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The second SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference will take place on Friday, April 15 at SUNY-Cobleskill. The online student submission deadline this year is [this Friday, February 5](#). In addition to receiving subsidies for conference registration and poster printing from the Office of Undergraduate Research, BSC student presenters may also benefit from a free travel bus arranged in conjunction with UB. The bus will depart from UB-South Campus at 6 am on the conference morning and return to Buffalo at 10 pm that evening (WNY students will not be assigned the earliest presentation time slots, in order to facilitate travel plans). Please encourage your students to apply; for more information, visit the conference website: <http://blog.cobleskill.edu/SURC/surc.html>.



An [English graduate student conference to be held at SUNY Brockport](#), will be held on Saturday, April 23 (Shakespeare's birthday!). The SEGUE conference invites two

types of proposals: a 15-minute paper that will investigate the symposium topic of dissenting voices in literature, philosophy, history, and/or art; or original creative works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and/or a hybrid of any of these genres. Creative works may approach the symposium topic in a direct, oblique or unconventional manner. Abstracts of 300 words are due by February 29; for more information, visit digitalcommons.brockport.edu/segue.

Each summer, the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) supports residential seminars and institutes for faculty who teach American undergraduates. Participants in these two- to five-week programs receive stipends to help cover travel and living expenses. Topics for summer 2016 include: *Beowulf* and Old Norse-Icelandic Literature, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, *The Commonplace Book and Its American Descendants*, *Native American Histories and the Land*, and *Religion, Secularism, and the English Novel, 1719-1897*. For complete information and eligibility requirements visit the [NEH Summer Programs website](#). Most deadlines are in late February. The National Endowment for the Humanities is also accepting applications for grants to direct a summer program for college faculty or schoolteachers on a humanities topic of your expertise, in 2017.



RECOMMENDED READING

A thoughtful [blog](#) on the limits of teaching composition, entitled: "I Cannot Prepare Students to Write Their (History, Philosophy, Sociology, Poly Sci., etc...) Papers."

And [an article from the New York Times](#) with new insights about teaching, publishing and intellectual history, based on the Open Syllabus Project.

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