

# English Department Newsletter

30 September 2015  
Vol. 9, No. 16

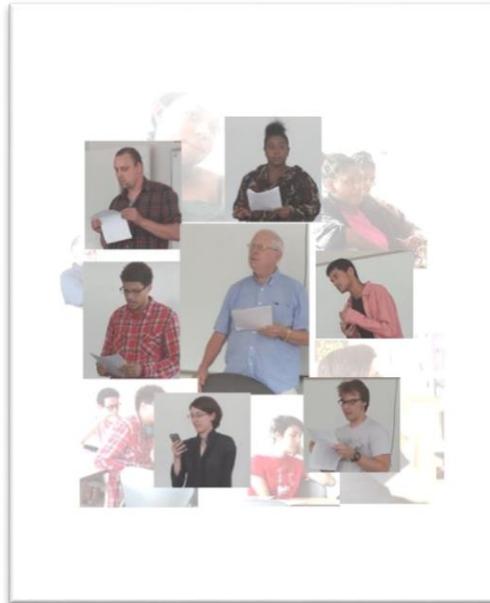


The newsletter appears biweekly throughout the semester; the next issue will appear on 14 October 2015. Current and past newsletters are available on the [English Department website](#).

## DEPARTMENT AND FACULTY NEWS

On Thursday, September 24 the English Department hosted our first **Drop Hammer Reading** of the 2015-2016 academic year and it was incredible!! Thank you to **GENEVA FREDERICK, TAHMEED AHMED, NATHANAEL STOLTE, JUDE LESTER, SHERWIN WILLAMS, and SARAH WEBB** for being our inaugural readers, as well as to all who attended and helped us to spread the word. Special thanks to **DAVID LAMPE** for kicking off the event!

Students interested in participating in a Drop Hammer Reading should contact [MAUREEN LOUGEN](#). The next Drop Hammer will be on October 22 and the theme is "Spooky Things."



**ED TAYLOR's** short story "Rumplestiltskin" was in the September issue of *Cobalt* and his poem "Shovel" will be in Vol 53, issue 1 (2016) *Southern Poetry Review*. His flash CNF piece "Still Life with Invasive Species" will be in *Canary* in 2016, and his poem "Leaf" will be in *Mobius* in fall 2015. He attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the National Endowment for the Arts on 9/29, in Washington DC at the National Museum of American Art (because he's a former employee).

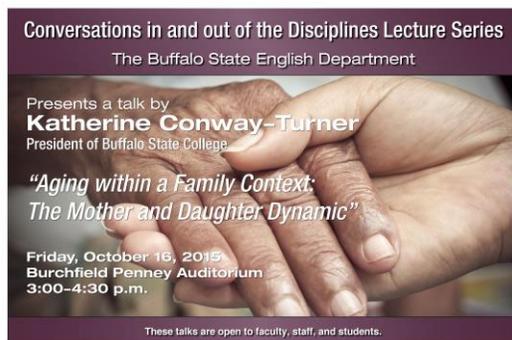
**JENNIFER RYAN's** article, "'The Madness-Driven Violence': Black Bodies and the Evolution of a Radical Black Poetics," has just appeared in the Summer 2015 issue of *Modern Language Studies*, as part of a special feature on cultural responses to Trayvon Martin. Her article on Wanda Coleman's elegies, "Saying Goodbye: Elegiac Subjectivity in Wanda Coleman's *The World Falls Away*," appeared in the 2014 issue (published in Summer 2015) of *Hecate*, in a featured section commemorating

Coleman's work. Jennifer organized the section and wrote the introductory biographical note for the issue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Fall 2015 conference of the [New York College English Association \(NYCEA\)](http://www.nycea.org/New York College English Association/Welcome.html), October 9-10, 2015, at Hilbert College in Hamburg, NY. For more information: <http://www.nycea.org/New York College English Association/Welcome.html>.

[JOEY NICOLETTI](http://www.justbuffalo.org/event/rustling-the-leaves-2015-10-09/) will be giving a poetry reading at Talking Leaves (Main Street) on October 9, in support of *Reverse Graffiti*, his latest book. For more information: <http://www.justbuffalo.org/event/rustling-the-leaves-2015-10-09/>.



Mark your calendars for the Conversations series this semester: on October 16, [PRESIDENT KATHERINE CONWAY-TURNER](#) will speak on "Aging within a Family Context: The Mother and Daughter Dynamic" (in the Auditorium of the Burchfield-Penney); on November 6, [KELLY FROTHINGHAM](#) of the Geography and Planning Department will speak on "Stream Restoration: Local WNY Activity in

the Context of National Trends"; and on December 4, the Music Department's [CHUCK MANCUSO](#) will discuss "The Last Great Days of the Buffalo Jazz Club Scene." All presentations are on Fridays at 3 pm and unless stated otherwise, take place in Ketchum Hall 320.

[Poets Joan Murray and Janet McNally](https://www.burchfieldpenney.org/events/event:10-25-2015-2-00pm-writers-and-poets-series-joan-murray-and-janet-mcnally/) will read from their work at the Burchfield Penney Art Center on Sunday, October 5 at 2 pm. For more information, visit <https://www.burchfieldpenney.org/events/event:10-25-2015-2-00pm-writers-and-poets-series-joan-murray-and-janet-mcnally/>.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

We've heard from [KAYLA COLLINS '13](#) (Writing): "I am a month away from finishing my master's thesis at Southern New Hampshire University. I will receive my MFA in Fiction this January. When I'm not working on my young adult novel, I work as a Staff Reviewer and Blog Manager at Young Adult Books Central. As manager of the blog, I've collaborated with YA author C.J. Redwine in designing logos, setting up posts with other authors, and even writing a few of the columns myself.

"This year, my writing was published at *Germ Magazine*, "Bite-Sized" and "Drowned," both poems. I was later invited to become a permanent writer for the magazine, and have since published pieces including: "A Life of Whens," "When You

Think about the Next Five Years," "When You Must Believe," "When You Must Be True," "Ciao, Baby," and "When You Think About Fiction." You can find that work [HERE](#).

"I also published my first short story at *1:1000*, another online magazine. After three stories, they invited me to become an editor and regular contributor and I have been doing that ever since. My published pieces there include: "Three of Swords," "Hanged Man," "Exulansis," "Calculations," and "Rust" (with more to come in the future). You can find that work [HERE](#).

"All of these wonderful writing ventures have been done under my pen name, Kayla King. I have a website and blog under this name as well, which you can find [HERE](#). As I continue to build my platform as a writer, I know my time at Buff State was so influential in creating the writer I am today."

We continue to feature the achievements of our alumni in our alumni booklet and our Ketchum Hall bulletin board of alumni profiles. This information is very helpful (even inspirational!) for our current students. If you'd like to share an update on your post-Buffalo State activities, either for the alumni board or for the newsletter, email [MAUREEN LOUGEN](#). Please include your graduation year and degree info, and feel free to include a photograph.

## DEADLINES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Undergraduate Research Office** is now accepting applications for the fall round of the Small Grants Program and the Undergraduate Travel Program. Links to online applications can be found on the [Undergraduate Research website](#). Please share this message with interested undergraduates... and why not go on the site to check out the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (applications due in March) and the Faculty Research Grants?



The [Faculty-Student Association](#) (FSA) is **accepting applications for grants** to enhance the educational and cultural life of the Buffalo State campus during the 2016 calendar year. Application forms are available on the [FSA website](#).

## REMINDERS

**Please pay your Faculty Dues:** \$50 for those earning  $\geq$ \$60,000; \$45 for those earning  $<$ \$60,000; \$5.00 for adjunct faculty. This money allows us to send flowers for condolence or congratulation and enhances the hospitableness of departmental gatherings, without us doing a whip-round for each event. Maureen can accept cash or a check made out to Lisa Berglund. Your dues are tax-deductible if you itemize.

## RECOMMENDED READING



The National Endowment of the Humanities has identified the **50 most important projects funded** during its first half-century of supporting research in the humanities. It's a wonderful testament to the importance of the humanities, with notable contributions to literature and language studies. Among the projects celebrated by NEH are the Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE),

What Middletown Read (a monumental study of American reading practices), the NEH Summer Seminars for Teachers, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Library of America, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society, the resurrection of the Tlingit language, and the Mark Twain Papers at UC Berkeley. Visit <http://50.neh.gov/> for more information.

Meanwhile, for Banned Books Week, visit the American Library Association's website ([www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)) and pick out a book to read with your morning coffee. This year's top ten list of "challenged" books includes *Persepolis*, *The Bluest Eye*, *The Kite Runner* and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

Or opt for a classic banned book, like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

What? Oh, the Oompa-Loompas were advocating cannibalism when they celebrated children who enjoyed reading books about

Pirates wearing purple pants,  
And sailing ships, and elephants,  
And cannibals crouching round a pot  
Stirring away at something hot.  
It smells so good! What can it be?  
Good gracious, it's Penelope!

English Department Newsletter, Buffalo State College;  
Compiled by Lisa Berglund, [berglul@buffalostate.edu](mailto:berglul@buffalostate.edu)