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Awards & Publications
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Upcoming Events
Sept. 18
Public showing of film Sideways and Skype session with the novel’s author, Rex Pickett

Nov. 20
Visiting writer Kathleen Rooney

Kurt Vonnegut Connection
In the Fall 2011 semester, English professor Dr. Rai Peterson (and co-director Dr. Russ Wahlers) asked students from various disciplines across the university to join in a 33-week immersive learning seminar. The aim was to reshape and expand the reach of the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library (KVML) in Indianapolis via several approaches, including new marketing, expanded advertising, and the preservation of original and rare Vonnegut artifacts. One example of this, the digitizing of many Vonnegut artifacts, gained national attention.

In July 2012, Dr. Peterson and sophomore Andrew Neylon visited New York to gain an in-depth perspective about Kurt Vonnegut’s life according to his closest family and friends, including former student Suzanne McConnell, and close personal and professional friends Don and Annie Farber. Since the experience additionally aimed to raise the profile of the museum, they also interviewed Lyn Jones and Donelle Henderlong Honored
This spring, Dr. Lyn Jones was the recipient of the Disabled Student Development (DSD) Accessibility Faculty Teaching Award that is given annually to a DSD office mentor who exceeds expectations when providing equal opportunities for participation in the classroom for students with disabilities. Dr. Jones was nominated by her student Donelle Henderlong, who presented the award.

“To be recognized by a student and the DSD community is for me the greatest validation that what I am doing is good.

See AWARDS on page 4
Alumni Profile: English takes Samantha Edwards Worldwide

Both my English degree and a persistent thirst for new experiences continue to carry me through a winding path post-graduation. It has been three years since I received a B.A. in English, Creative Writing from Ball State, and I’ve gone more places—both in occupations and geography—than I had imagined possible for somebody at the age of 24.

Following an internship with the Indiana State Senate, I accepted a full-time position on Indiana’s Health Care Reform Team through the Indiana Department of Insurance. This position required me to be knowledgeable and current on the politically significant—albeit controversial— Affordable Care Act’s affect on Hoosiers (commonly referred to as ‘Obamacare’). Upon being hired, my employer expressed excitement at my English background and noted that my writing and editing skills would be utilized a lot. They were! Though insurance and law can be inherently rather dry, being a source of information and assistance for Hoosiers having issues with their insurance coverage was incredibly fulfilling.

But after one year, I decided to leave the position and use my earnings to travel abroad. I trekked across the European continent during the summer of 2012, jumping from trains to cheap hostels and back again. I saw the Running of the Bulls in Spain, the cerulean waters of Croatia, and the towering Alps in Slovenia. It was the best possible use of my hard work and earnings.

Then in the fall, I ‘settled down’ near Bangkok, Thailand to teach English as a Second Language. This job—more directly related to my English degree—requires me to work full time at a Thai school teaching English to kindergarten and grade school students. Though controlling a classroom of hyperactive youngsters in their second language is often taxing, I get to sing kiddie songs and play classroom games for pay. When I leave in April to return to the U.S.A., I will most miss being greeted every morning by a gaggle of bright faces shouting: TEACHER SAAAAAMM! Seriously, it’s every morning. Not to mention, it’s 85+ degrees and sunny here every day (and this is their “cool season”).

What else is there to say? I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my path since graduation and the consistent support my English degree has provided each step of the way.

We are currently looking for alumni to contribute profiles to the blog. If interested, see Write For Us for details.

Outstanding Senior Tyler Fields’s Road to NYC

The memory is vague. My honors advisor is asking me what I think I’d like my major to be. “What are your interests?” she asks. This question seems a bit cavalier. After all, my answer could very realistically determine my future career or livelihood. I said, “Books.” And with a click of her mouse, my advisor set into motion a series of events, called the Creative Writing Major, which would lead me to a number of opportunities and eventually an internship in New York City. For the next four years, many would ask the infamous question all humanities majors come to know so well: “What are you going to do with that major?” My answers would change over the years from, “I’d like to write,” to, “Maybe I’ll teach,” to, “I have no clue.” Now, as I prepare to attend the New York Arts Program with internships at the literary agency Writers House, and the literary magazine Maggy, I realize that my Creative Writing degree from Ball State University is exactly what I needed to begin realizing my original desire to surround myself with books. It is because of the opportunities afforded by Ball State’s English Department that I now have a clear and confident reply to anyone who asks, “What are you going to do with that?”

About midway through my college career, I came to the daunting realization that I had no desire to write. At least, I had no desire to commit myself wholly to the art of creative writing. For a creative writing major, this realization can create quite the interesting dilemma. However, I quickly came to realize that the reason so many people will ask, “What are you going to do with that?” is the same reason a humanities major was my key to finding a livelihood in the world of books: it’s versatile. When I began to reevaluate my interests and skills, many of which I had acquired in just a few short semesters, I discovered that I could customize my degree to more effectively cater to my future goals.

When I move to New York, all I’ll have with me is a handful of books, a short supply of clothing, and a small amount of savings. But I’ll also have my degree, enhanced over the years by a countless number of persons, classes, organizations, opportunities, and immersive knowledge. It is with this degree that I face not only one of the largest cities in the world, but one of the most daunting questions for a humanities major.
The Eighth Annual In Print Festival of First Books

The 2013 In Print Festival of First Books featured authors Eugene Cross, Elena Passarello, and Marcus Wicker, along with guest editor and author Sarah Wells.

During the two-day event in March, the authors visited classes and participated in a public reading and panel discussion.


Cross, Passarello, and Wicker also contributed pieces to the 2013 issue of Ball State University’s literary magazine, *The Broken Plate*.

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Message from the English Department Chair,
Dr. Elizabeth M. Riddle

Greetings!

Thank you to all our newsletter readers for your support. We have a bunch of good news to share this year, including sponsorship or co-sponsorship of some wonderful annual events plus some new ones, great scholarly productivity, and many student and faculty awards, among other accomplishments. Notably, 135 English majors made the dean’s list in the Fall and 123 in the Spring for maintaining a 3.5 or above GPA, and our graduate students made more than 25 scholarly presentations this past year. In addition, several faculty were honored for their years of service, including Joseph Trimmer (45 years), Webster Newbold and Paul Ranieri (30 years), Carolyn MacKay (20 years), and Peggy Rice and Kecia Thompson (15 years). This issue of our newsletter details many of these items for you.

Changes have also been taking place. In the fall of 2012, we welcomed Katie Atkinson to the department office, Susanna Benko to the tenure-line English Ed faculty, John King to Creative Writing as a contract faculty member, and Elizabeth Whiteacre to the Writing Program, also as a contract faculty member. Mary Lou Vercellotti will be joining the Language and Linguistics area in the fall of 2013 as a TESOL and Linguistics specialist.

Other changes are also in the works, with special thanks going to Jill Christman, Assistant Chair of Programs, who is leaving that position for full-time teaching after three years of service. Joyce Huff will be stepping into that office July 1. Many thanks also go to Mark Neely, Director of Creative Writing, who is going back to full-time teaching as well after three years of service. Sean Lovelace will be taking over as Director of Creative Writing on July 1.

We are also looking forward to the start of a new speaker series very generously funded and named in memory of Marilyn K. Cory, an English Education graduate of Ball State. In 2013-14, we will have a series of four speakers on various aspects of the graphic novel and the comic book.

Please keep us in mind when you have good news to share as well. We love to hear from you!

With best wishes,

Elizabeth M. Riddle, Chair

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Left to right: Eugene Cross, Marcus Wicker, Elena Passarello, Sarah Wells
another fan, Grammy-winning comedian Lewis Black, who acknowledges he has been largely inspired by Vonnegut.

Neylon described the trip as “the most ambitious 44 hours” of his life and chronicled his experience on the department blog. He viewed the NYC interviews, which were eventually transferred, edited, and presented at the Vonnegut Library in Indianapolis, as a “crowning jewel in the digital archive.” He added that “the project as a whole would help bring new life to the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library we’d come to know so well.”

The immersive learning project continued as a traveling exhibit, which debuted at Bracken Library in July. All students were on hand to answer questions and discuss how they researched and made the exhibits, marketing plan, and products for the KVML. The project was funded through the office of the Provost at Ball State. Dr. Peterson thanked her students for their quality work, saying the project increased the good name of Ball State, which was always their ultimate goal.

Turnball explained, “I was so pleased to work with such an incredible group of talented students whose energy was electric!”

V.B.C. Animal Welfare Seminar

In Spring Semester 2013, the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry sponsored Dr. Merrielle Turnbull’s immersive learning seminar, “S.O.A.R.: Strengthening Opinions about Animal Responsibility.” Dr. Turnbull’s class investigated responsible pet ownership as well as animal abuse or neglect issues. Partnered with the Animal Rescue Fund, the seminar produced educational materials for adults and children, including a video for children about pet responsibility and a documentary addressing the importance of the animal/human bond. The seminar’s videos were paired with support materials for 2nd-8th grade classrooms to stimulate further discussion.

“Our seminar allowed students who are passionate about animals and education an opportunity to have an impact on current and future pet owners,” Dr. Turnbull said.

Film/Screenwriting Minor Offered

An eighteen credit hour interdisciplinary Film and Screenwriting minor has been developed between the Department of English and the Department of Telecommunications. The new minor will be open for English students beginning in the Fall 2013 semester. This interdisciplinary minor deepens the long-standing collaboration between the English and Telecommunications Departments.

The departments have also worked closely together to create the Cinema Entertainment Immersion program. This unique interdisciplinary program brings together students from English, Theater, TCOM, and Music to produce original short films. Students enrolled in the Fall Semester sections of English 410: Advanced Screenwriting write the scripts. During the Spring Semester, students from the Theater Department are cast in the leading roles, students from the Music Department compose and produce soundtracks, and students in the TCOM Department direct and produce the films. The projects are screened every April.

AWARDS Cont. from page 1

Henderlong, a senior English major, received the Max Adamson award, the top annual student recognition from DSD. The award is presented to a student with a disability who demonstrates academic success, participates in campus activities, and works to promote access and opportunity for others.
We Welcome the Newest Faculty to the Department

Dr. Susanna Benko earned her B.S. at Butler University, M.Ed. at Indiana Wesleyan, and Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh. She is interested in ways that teachers understand, design, and plan instruction for writing tasks. Her current research focuses on how pre-service teachers provide writing instruction for cognitively demanding writing tasks.

Dr. Miranda Nesler earned her B.A. from Texas Christian University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University. She specializes in Early Modern British literature, and her current book project, *Disruptive Compliance: Silent Women in Stuart Drama*, explores women’s silent participation in dramatic genres despite social prohibitions.

Dr. Jennifer Grouling earned her B.S. from the University of South Dakota, M.A. from North Carolina State University, and Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. Her scholarship is interested in the ways in which TAs develop into instructors. She also serves as the director of the Ball State University Writing Center.

Prof. John King earned both his M.A. in English and M.S. in Information and Communication Sciences from Ball State University. He teaches screenwriting and creative writing courses and is currently co-writing a spec script that has gained the attention of representatives from three networks.

Prof. Liz Whiteacre earned her B.A. from Indiana University at Bloomington and M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2011, and her first chapbook of poetry, *Hit the Ground*, was published in 2013. Her areas of specialization include literary editing, publishing, and disability studies.

Prof. Liz Whiteacre

Dr. Jason Gladstone earned his B.A. from Williams College and M.A. and Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University. He specializes in American Literature, Culture, and Media—primarily in the post-1945 period. His book project is titled *Lines in the Dirt: American Postmodernism and the Failure of Technology*.

Dr. Maria Windell earned her B.A. from Purdue University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. She specializes in Early American and Ethnic literature and is currently working on a book manuscript, *Transamerican Sentimentalism in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literary History*. A common thread in her research is the interaction between history and literature.

See FACULTY on page 6
Prof. Eva Grouling Snider earned her B.A. at Queens University of Charlotte, and her M.A. at the University of Maine. She has completed coursework towards her Ph.D. at Virginia Tech. Her areas of specialization include visual and digital rhetoric, and she teaches professional writing focused on communication technologies.

Dr. Andrea Powell Wolfe earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at Ball State University. Her areas of specialization include Women’s literature, African American literature, and motherhood in literature. Her current research explores representations of black motherhood in narratives of slavery, Reconstruction, and segregation in American history.

Ball State English Professor and Writing Program Director Jackie Grutsch McKinney’s first book, *Peripheral Visions for Writing Centers*, was published by Utah State University Press in 2013. She recently discussed her book with graduate assistant Kelsey Englert.

You open your book by addressing what you’ve deemed the cognitive dissonance between the work done in writing centers and how it is discussed. Was that the impetus for your book?

I think, in a way, yes. An article I wrote a few years ago reflected a moment where I did feel that cognitive dissonance, where every single article I read about writing centers emphasized how cozy, and how friendly, and how happy, and how warm and safe the writing center was for their writers. And not that I felt like the writing center here didn’t do those things, but I didn’t think those things could ever be universal. I realized there was something happening where the story was more powerful in shaping the scholarship than what the material realities were.

So your earlier article, “Leaving Home Sweet Home,” pulled you into thinking that this could be a book?

Right. Then I moved into talking about another narrative that happens in writing centers, that writing centers are like these iconoclasts, that they are the rebels within the university, that they might be in a university, but they’re not part of it and they don’t want to be. And I think that narrative is particularly dangerous, especially for those who direct writing centers because if you take on that ethos that you don’t want to be a part of the university, then it reinforces for others that you shouldn’t be a part of it. You’ll see lots of ads for writing center directors where they will even take a director who might not even have an M.A. And these kinds of things, I think, come as a direct consequence from the story where we say, “Well we don’t have to be scholars, we don’t have to be the same way that the rest of the university operates. We can be different.” And then another narrative that I pull at is the belief or the story that’s told in the scholarship that writing centers work with all students. In fact, only 10 to 20% of students in colleges and universities will ever seek out a writing center. What the title gets to, then, is that writing centers have been so focused on the act of tutoring that they’ve lost peripheral vision for any other ways to support writing on a campus. We know that 100% of the students, 100% of the faculty are doing writing, and so what other ways can a writing center engage or support those activities?

What surprised you most during the researching or writing of this book?

I came to that point when writing where I thought, maybe I’m just imagining this. I wanted further confirmation that others have internalized what I call the writing center grand narrative because that was kind of the crux of my argument, that the narrative was so powerful that we just kept replicating it among ourselves. And so when I did the survey and saw that so many people were using the same language and playing on those same tropes, it reinforced for me that there is something happening here.

Are you thinking about what’s next on the publication horizon?

I am. It’s called *Strategies for Writing Center Research*, and it’s a guide for doing research on and in writing centers. I’ve pitched it to a series that is called *Lenses on Composition Studies*, and it’s geared towards undergraduate students, graduate students, and newcomers to the field.
Dr. Adam Beach published “Global Slavery, Old World Bondage, and Aphra Behn’s Abdelazer” in Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation.

Dr. Brent Blackwell received the C. Warren Vander Hill Award from the Honors College for outstanding teaching.

Angela Jackson-Brown’s novel is slated to be published next spring with WiDo Publishing. She also had three poems published in Identity Theory.

This spring, Jill Christman was elected to the Board of Directors of The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) as the Midwest Representative, and will serve a four-year term representing writers and writing programs in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Ontario, and Wisconsin. The twelve-person AWP board serves the 50,000+ member association.

Dr. Patrick Collier and Dr. Frank Felsenstein (along with the history department’s Dr. James Connolly) were the joint recipients of a $64,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant allowed for an international conference at Ball State University in March 2013 on “Print Culture Histories Beyond the Metropolis.”

Elizabeth Dalton’s creative nonfiction piece “If Ever You Decide You Should Go” was published by ekv.ry quarterly literary journal along with “Interview with Elizabeth Dalton.”

Her creative nonfiction piece “Long Hair” was published in All that Glitters: Nonfiction from Sliver of Stone Magazine.

Peter Davis’s book of poems, TINA was published by Bloof Books.

Cathy Day received an immersive learning grant award from the Discovery Group. Her project, “Publishing + BSU Students,” was funded in the amount of $15,398. The project will allow students to intern at and attend the Midwest Writers Workshop in Muncie this summer. To learn more about this project, you can check out her blog at http://literarycitizenship.com/2013/03/05/publishing/.

Also, she recently published an essay at Punctchnel’s about the Flood of 1913 that ravaged the state of Indiana and her hometown a hundred years ago.

Dr. Jason Gladstone published “Postmodernism. Then” with Daniel Worden in a special issue of Twentieth-Century Literature.

Dr. Jackie Grutsch McKinney published her book, Peripheral Visions for Writing Centers with the Utah State University Press.

Dr. Robert Habich was elected to serve as the president of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, Inc. through 2013.


Dr. Darolyn Jones was awarded the Accessibility Faculty Member of the Year from Ball State University’s Office of Disabled Student Development for the 2012-2013 academic school year, and was nominated and selected for the Excellence in Teaching (EXIT) Award from Ball State University.

Sean Lovelace’s chapbook, Velveeta, was the winner of the Keel Short Short Fiction Chapbook Contest.

Carolyn MacKay and Frank Trechsel published six articles, including “A Sketch of Pisafloros Tepehua Phonology” which appeared in the International Journal of American Linguistics.

Dr. Matt Mullins published several poems including “The Roaring Engine of Here (I-V)” which appeared in Epiphany.

Dr. Nathan Myers won the BSU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Mark Neely published several poems including “Night birds plumbed the aspen grove” which appeared in American Poetry Journal.

Dr. Miranda Nesler published “Performativity and the Biopolitics of Difference: The Taming of the Shrew and The Tamer Tamed” in This Rough Magic and “Closeted Authority in The Tragedy of Mariam” in Studies in English Literature.

She also received the $4,000 Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship to research at the Huntington Library through the Intensive Paleography Institute.

Dr. Rai Peterson published “Red, White, and Boyle,” in Revue Électronique d’Études sur le Monde Anglophone (Spring 2013) and “An efficiency, a great beauty”: Sylvia Plath’s Ariel Titles” in the Plath Profiles (Spring 2013).

She also received an ADVANCE grant for travel to France to research a biography she is writing about Solita Solano, American expatriate novelist, poet, journalist, and editor who lived in Paris and Le Canno between 1921 and 1975.

Peterson was awarded The Miller College of Business Outstanding Immersive Program Award for 2012 with co-investigator Dr. Russ Wahlers.

Peggy Rice was awarded EPIC V: “Evidence-based Professional and Instructional Change: Strengthening ELA Common Core Instruction, Alignment and Assessment Practices to Improve Student Learning,” a grant funded by the Indiana
The word “philanthropy” has come to be associated with financial gifts, although its Greek origin as “lover of humanity” says so much more. Our donors’ generosity of spirit continues to spread when the fresh young mind or eager non-traditional student that is helped contributes to society as a result of the education in which our donors have played a role.

The 2012-2013 student recipients of the department scholarships and awards are:

**Scott Bugher**: The Barry Wright Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to an English undergraduate student displaying artistic excellence in the writing of poetry.

**Kaylie DiGiacomo, Nakkia Patrick, Lacey Lord, & Erin Silcox**: The Elizabeth Martin Scholarship, which is presented to English majors on the basis of scholarship, character, and leadership.

**Jeremy Carnes**: The Frances Mayhew Rippy Graduate Scholarship, which is presented to a graduate student majoring in literature.

**Rachel Johnson**: The Leslie and Patrick Ballard Scholarship, which is awarded to a future teacher of English.

**Brittany Means**: The Matt Jones Creative Writing Scholarship, which is presented to a student majoring in English/Creative Writing who exhibits both a dedicated interest in creative writing and a demonstrated financial need.

**Rachel Johnson & Leslie Erlenbaugh**: The Janet Ross English Studies Scholarship, which is presented to a student enrolled as a teaching major in English/language arts in combination with English as a second language licensure program.

**Thomas Carreras**: The Carol S. Chalk Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a Writing Center tutor who has demonstrated patience, creativity, and a commitment to encouraging, mentoring, and nurturing other student writers.

**Tyler Fields**: The Outstanding Senior Award, which is awarded to a senior with a GPA of 3.8 or higher who is selected by a faculty vote.

The department is dedicated to supporting students through donor-funded scholarships and awards. Also, donations to the general fund support such things as graduate students attending conferences to present their research and develop professionalization, receptions for faculty candidates, which allow for the recruitment of excellent faculty, and guest speakers and lecturers.

Last November, donor support allowed the department to co-sponsor the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company’s on-campus production of *The Tempest*. This October, the group will return to perform *A Midsummer Night’s Dream.*

If you are interested in contributing to any of the aforementioned scholarships, awards, or funds, please visit the Ball State University Foundation. The designated gift codes are listed below.

(2701) General Fund
(2702) Graduate Student Travel Fund started by Joe Trimmer
(2710) Creative Writing Projects
(2720) Hanson Rhetoric and Composition Award
(2751) Barry Wright Memorial Scholarship
(2752) Elizabeth Martin Scholarship
(2755) Frances Mayhew Rippy Graduate Scholarship
(2756) Leslie and Patrick Ballard Scholarship
(2757) Matt Jones Creative Writing Scholarship
(2758) Dr. Janet Ross English Studies Scholarship
(2759) Carol S. Chalk Memorial Scholarship
(2760) Outstanding Senior Award

Thank you for your support!

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**AWARD Cont. from page 7**

Commission of Higher Education for the Improving of Teacher Quality Program. The total amount of funding is $397,562 to be divided between 2013 and 2014.

**Shawna Sewell**, the Secretary to the Academic Programs Directors, was presented the A. Jane Morton Award for her outstanding efforts to all segments of the university community.

**Liz Whiteacre**’s chapbook of poetry, *Hit the Ground*, is now available from Finishing Line Press.

In addition to receiving an ASPiRE Junior Faculty Research Grant from Ball State, **Dr. Maria Windell** has just accepted a Lillian Gary Taylor Visiting Fellowship in American Literature from the University of Virginia, funding two months of research at their Albert H. Small Special Collections Library.

**Andrea Powell Wolfe** was nominated for two teaching awards this spring: The Excellence in Teaching Award and the C. Warren Vander Hill Award.

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We are constantly looking for alumni contributions to both the Alumni Profiles/Guest Posts and Recommended Reads series on our blog. For more information or to email a proposal, visit Write For Us.

If you are not currently following our blog, please visit: bsuenglish.wordpress.com