Outstanding Faculty Awards

Three English Department faculty members won Outstanding Faculty Awards in 2013. These awards were announced at the annual Fall Convocation in August. Dr. Matt Mullins received the Creative Endeavor Award, while Dr. Susanna Benko and Dr. Darolyn Jones each received Excellence in Teaching Awards.

The Creative Endeavor Award recognizes a faculty member for their involvement in the university’s creative arts programs. Students nominate professors for the Excellence in Teaching Award, and the faculty members with the most votes are invited to submit course enhancement proposals. A committee composed of faculty and students selects the winners.

Marilyn K. Cory Speaker Series

This year saw the inauguration of the Marilyn K. Cory Speaker Series, funded by a donation made by her family to honor her memory. Ms. Cory was an English Education major at Ball State. Dr. Deborah Mix and graduate student Lindsey Vesperry organized the series on the theme of graphic novels and comic books, with two speakers each semester.

In the fall, Ball State welcomed Scott McCloud. He is considered a pioneer in both creating and theorizing comics. His early comics, such as Zot!, brought together different graphic traditions, in particular, American superhero comics and Japanese manga. McCloud has also worked in mainstream comics, and has invented new forms, such as the “24-Hour Comic”. He is also the author of several non-fiction books, such as Understanding Comics, and Making Comics.
Angela Jackson-Brown publishes her first novel

After publishing her first novel, *Drinking From a Bitter Cup*, Assistant Professor Angela Jackson-Brown hosted a reading and signing for the Ball State community on Jan. 22 in the Arts and Journalism building. She said she enjoys hosting readings because she likes “seeing the expressions on [the audience’s] faces, especially when they react in the way I hoped they would.”

Jackson-Brown said that when she began writing, she did so in secret because she did not realize that African-American women could be writers. It was when she saw Maya Angelou on the back cover of *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* that she felt her passion verified. Now, after publishing her first novel, she calls the experience “a dream come true.”

She made a vow to have her first novel published before she was fifty, and she accomplished the task five years early.

By researching agents and publishers, she said she was able to send her novel to the right people. “If you can say this is like the work they’ve already published, you can at least get your work noticed,” she said.

She plans to host more readings in the future in order to promote her novel and to engage more with readers. “Just to be able to connect for a moment and share what I’ve done makes it all worthwhile,” she said.

Faculty Book Releases

**Invoking Slavery in the Eighteenth-Century British Imagination.** Edited by Adam Beach & Srividhya Swaminathan. (Ashgate, 2013.)

This book includes Beach’s essay “The Good-Treatment Debate, Comparative Slave Studies, and the ‘Adventures’ of T.S.”

**24 Bar Blues.** Edited by Andrew Scott. (*Press 53*, 2013.)

This collection of short stories (“two dozen tales of bars, booze, and the blues”) is edited by Andrew Scott, author of the short story collection *Naked Summer*.

**The Frogs are Incredibly Loud Here.** By Sean Lovelace. (*Bateau Press*, 2013.)

Lovelace’s collection of flash fiction, winner of the 2013 Keel Prize for short fiction, is filled with fun and playful themes ranging from Velveeta cheese to astronauts.

**TINA.** By Peter Davis. (*Bloof Books*, 2013.)

Davis’ third poetry collection creates a quirky, bittersweet narrative of Tina and Kyle, “...difficult people in ordinary situations,” dealing with “nostalgia, love, revolution, and a million what-ifs.”

**Monday Coffee & Other Stories of Mothering Children with Special Needs.** Edited by Darolyn Jones and Liz Whiteacre. (*INwords*, 2013.)

This collection of memoirs sheds light on the lives of parents of children with disabilities.
Letter from the English Department Chair: Dr. Elizabeth M. Riddle

Greetings to all our readers!

Thank you for your continued interest, and please keep us updated on your doings. We would love to share news about those with ties to the department.

We had some wonderful events this year, including the annual Visiting Writers Series, the annual In Print Festival of First Books, and the new annual Marilyn K. Cory Lecture Series, which are covered in this issue. There was a great turnout for these events. Next year’s MKC series will focus on civility in discourse. If you have any ideas for future themes and/or speakers, please send them our way.

Changes have also been taking place. In Fall 2013, we welcomed Mary Lou Vercellotti as a tenure-line faculty member in Linguistics and TESOL, and the following professors as contract faculty in the Writing Program: Jeffrey Frawley, Diane Mooney, Brian Morrison, JoAnne Ruvoli, and Emily Scalzo. We were also pleased to have Melissa Hull join us as Secretary to the Directors of the Writing Program and the Writing Center earlier this semester.

A number of faculty and a staff member are transitioning this year. Joseph Trimmer is retiring after 46 years at Ball State, most recently having served as Director of the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, and known for his leadership in the development of immersive learning at Ball State, not to mention his Riverside Reader. W. Webster Newbold is retiring after 30 years of teaching rhetoric and writing and helping to lead the department into the computer age. Both plan to continue their academic pursuits, albeit at a more leisurely pace. Dr. Trimmer will be spending a lot of his time writing, in addition to assisting the English Department with some projects. Dr. Newbold plans to complete his book project, a critical edition of The English Secretary, a 16th century letter-writing manual by Angel Day. In addition, Peggy Rice is moving to the Department of Elementary Education in Teachers College, where she will be able to work more closely with faculty and a curriculum focusing on child literacy. Several other faculty are moving on to positions elsewhere, including Amit Baishya, Michael Gladstone, Michael Meyerhofer, Miranda Nesler, and Maria Windell. Shawna Sewell, Secretary to the Directors of Programs, is leaving after seven years with the department. Our departing colleagues will be greatly missed, but we send them off with our very best wishes.

Other changes include: Jackie Grutsch McKinney is completing her term as Director of the Writing Program, and will move back to directing the Writing Center, with Michael Donnelly taking up the reins as Director of the Writing Program. Jennifer Grouling-Snider, currently Director of the Writing Center, will be returning to full-time teaching. I will complete my term as Department Chair at the end of June, when Adam Beach, currently Assistant Chair of Operations, will take on that office. Cathy Day will become Assistant Chair of Operations. Joyce Huff is continuing as Assistant Chair of Programs, along with Sean Lovelace as Director of Creative Writing, and Pamela Hartman as Director of English Education. Sharon Hillman continues to serve as Administrative Coordinator, Katie Atkinson as Secretary to the Assistant Chair of Operations, Melissa Hull (see above), and Chris Elliott as computer technology consultant. The department is in great hands with this continuing and new administrative team.

We are excited to be welcoming some new faculty for the Fall. Silas Hansen will be joining the Creative Writing area, and Rory Lee the Rhetoric/Composition area. Searches for other new faculty and a secretary are in the works. At the same time, we are celebrating our longtime faculty as well. This year, two faculty were honored for their years of service, Robert Habich (30 years) and Peter Bethanis (15 years).

With best wishes,

Elizabeth M. Riddle, Chair

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Graduate Students Elmar Hashimov and Heather Wilson Win Awards

Elmar Hashimov and Heather Wilson each left the Graduate School Awards with honors on March 31.

Jackie Grutsch McKinney, an associate professor, introduced Hashimov, who won the Doctoral Excellence in Teaching award.

“His course plans are theoretically and pedagogically sound, his materials beautiful, and his peer and student evaluations are sprinkled with exclamation marks,” McKinney said.

Heather Wilson earned the Ball State Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Creative Project. Her advisor was associate professor Jill Christman. Mark Neely and Sean Lovelace were also on her committee.

“Essay after essay, in stunning prose, Heather’s project showcases extraordinary originality and clarity,” Christman said.

Left to right: Jill Christman, Heather Wilson, Elmar Hashimov, Jackie Grutsch McKinney
#InPrint14: The Ninth Annual In Print Festival

The ninth annual In Print Festival of First Books featured novelist Mario Alberto Zambrano, nonfiction author T Fleischmann, and poet Natalie Shapero. Editor, author, and founder of Butler University's literary magazine Booth, Robert Stapleton also joined the three writers in the panel discussion.

Zambrano is the author of Loteria, Fleischmann's first book is Syzygy, Beauty, and Shapero authored No Object. All three spoke and read from their first books on the first day, and they participated in the panel discussion on the second day. While on campus, the guests visited classrooms to interact with students.

Along with the readings and panel discussion, the two-day event also included the release of the 2014 issue of Ball State's national literary magazine The Broken Plate, which includes pieces by and interviews with the three guest authors. The staff of The Broken Plate helped put the festival together.

Hauntings: The Digital Literature Review’s First Edition

A group of students dove into Historical Hauntings and Modern-Day Manifestations for the inaugural issue of the Digital Literature Review. The undergraduate research journal was created as part of an immersive learning project that the Office of the Provost supported and Dr. Adam Beach and Dr. Debbie Mix taught. “Students need an opportunity to write for an audience other than teachers,” Dr. Beach said.

The journal focuses on the social and historical significance of ghosts and specters. Dr. Mix said the theme explores “ways that ghosts allow us to think and talk about what frightens us in all kinds of ways.”

To promote the release, the class hosted a presentation gala on April 22. Students presented their research, discussed the process of creating the journal, and introduced the theme for next year’s issue: Slavery Now. The class also presented at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research at The University of Kentucky in April.

Lauren Lutz, senior English studies major and journal managing editor, said she was proud of the “fact that we created this journal and started with nothing.”

In the future, Dr. Mix hopes the journal will “build momentum, connect students and become a place where other people come to look for insightful and new work.”

With the #InPrint14 hashtag, attendees had the opportunity to tweet their experience at the festival. @BrittanyMeans, @AliceThomsen, and @lizwINKs19 tweeted the above photos.
Welcoming the Newest Faculty to the Department

Diane Mooney earned her M.F.A in Creative Writing from Florida International University in 2008, and has taught both traditional and online courses at Florida International and Miami Dade College. She also taught for two years at Shantou University in China.

Emily Scalzo earned her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from California State University, Fresno in 2010. She also has political science and peace studies minors, which she said help her teach students critical thinking skills.

Brian Morrison earned his M.F.A. at The University of Alabama in 2010. He has published 19 poems in various literary journals, has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes, and has also won the Academy of American Poets Prize.

JoAnne Ruvoli earned her M.A. at Loyola University in Chicago and her Ph.D. at University of Illinois at Chicago. Alongside her interest in English studies, she also studies multi-ethnic American literature, primarily Italian-American literature.

Jeff Frawley earned his M.F.A. at New Mexico State University in 2009. In 2011, he was a Fulbright Scholar in Budapest, Hungary, where he taught writing, creative writing and journalism.

Mary Lou Vercellotti joined the department after earning her Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012. Her main research focus is the development of English as a second language.
A Brief Look Inside the English Department

AWARDS  Cont. from page 1

Dr. Matt Mullins
Recognizing the potential for digital interactivity with readers, he started lit-digital.com and began to work on video poetry.
“We can engage [readers] and have them go inside the text and manipulate it in various ways and actually kind of take over and control their own experience,” he said.
While working in this digital realm, he continues developing his screenwriting knowledge to further benefit his students.

Dr. Susanna Benko
After being nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award, Dr. Benko completed her enhanced course proposal on ENG 350: Teaching Writing in Secondary Schools. She wanted to provide more ways for students to see teachers in practice.
Because scheduling makes class visits difficult, Dr. Benko decided to partner with three teachers in middle schools and high schools in Central Indiana. By working with the Ball State Teleplex, she filmed the teachers in class and worked to edit the videos to demonstrate teaching strategies.
“It is really meaningful that this is a student-nominated award,” she said. “My students are who are with me in the classroom day-in and day-out, so I’m thankful that they felt like something is going right in our work together. When I worked on my proposal, I wasn’t even worried about being ‘granted’ the award by the committee – being nominated by my students felt like a win in and of itself.”

Dr. Darolyn Jones
Dr. Jones earned the award as a result of her work on leading the first issue of “Rethinking Children’s Literature: Read for Change.” The free app is available on both Apple tablets and Android tablets.
“I was blown away,” she said. “People are here for years and years, so to be here for three years and get nominated and win, I was like ‘wow.’ I was the first person in my family to graduate from college. I wanted to go to college, get my doctorate, write a book, win teacher of the year. Now I want to have a TED Talk. I’m going to keep at it; I think anything’s possible.”
Alongside her role as a professor, she also works as an education outreach director for the Indiana Writers Center, a not-for-profit literary arts community.
Faculty Awards and Publications


Doctoral student Nicki Litherland Baker’s article “Get It off My Stack: Teachers’ Tools for Grading Papers” is in press, to be published in Assessing Writing.


Peter Davis’s third book, TINA, was published by Bloof Books in 2013. A poem from TINA was featured online at Versedaily.com. Davis is also featured in a new anthology, The Incredible Sestina Anthology, which was edited by Daniel Nester.

Cathy Day published a short story entitled “Mr. Jenny Perdido” in Volume 9 of Pank Magazine in 2013. She also received a grant called “Publishing + BSU Students” that provided funds for twenty students to participate in the 40th annual Midwest Writers Workshop from July 25-27, 2013. The funds were part of the Discovery Award Grant provided by the Discovery Group of Muncie, and totaled $15,398. Day also wrote a guest post for the Indiana University Press blog called “The Book Behind the Old Washington Street Festival” on August 30, 2013.


Darolyn Jones was awarded the Outstanding Proposal Submission at the Diversity and Inclusivity Teaching and Research Symposium at Indiana University Southeast on October 13. A memoir collection she edited along with English department faculty member Liz Whiteacre called Monday Coffee and Other Stories of Mothering Children with Special Needs was released in November.

Sean Lovelace released a flash fiction collection published by Bateau Press titled The Frogs Are Incredibly Loud Here. It was the winner of the 2013 Keel Prize for short fiction. Two more of Lovelace’s flash fiction pieces titled “I Roll into a Ball and They Throw me at Derek Jeter” and “Separation” were published in Fall 2013 in Quarter After Eight literary magazine. During the summer of 2013, his flash fiction piece titled “Saturday” was published in Juked magazine.

Craig O’Hara’s short story “The Corner,” which appeared in the North Dakota Quarterly, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Emily Scalzo’s poems, “The End of Childhood,” “The Process of Grief,” and “Comfort Food,” were featured in the online literary magazine Dead Snakes. Her short memoir piece, “Degradation,” was published in the online literary magazine Run to the Roundhouse, Nellie. Scalzo’s poem, “To Adam,” was published at Deep Water Literary Journal, and two poems, “My Reason for College, 2003,” and “Homeless Man, Purdue University,” were published at Eunoia Review.

Trey Strecker reviewed Evan Dara’s Flee for the TLS: Times Literary Supplement and Joseph McElroy’s Cannonball for the Quarterly Conversation 34.

Mary Lou Vercellotti’s article “Use and Accuracy of Verb Complement in English L2 Speech” was published in the Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics. Her article “Examining the Impact of Self-Correction Notes on Grammatical Accuracy in Speaking” was published in TESOL Quarterly. In addition, she contributed a chapter called “Language Acquisition and Language Assessment” to the book The Companion to Language Assessment.

Maria Windell’s article titled “Moor, Mulata, Mulatta: Sentimentalism, Racialization, and Benevolent Imperialism in Mary Peabody Mann’s Juanita” has been accepted for publication in J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.

Andrea Wolfe taught a Virginia Ball Center seminar entitled “Down to Earth: Small Farm Issues in a Big Farm World” this semester. The class produced a documentary nominated for six regional Emmys, and winner of two.
Donations Fund Student Scholarships and Awards

The word philanthropy has come to be associated with financial gifts, although its original Greek definition — “lover of humanity” — is far more accurate. Our donors’ generosity multiplies as fresh young minds and eager non-traditional students contribute to society as a result of the education in which our donors have played a role.

The 2012-2013 student recipients of our department’s unique scholarships and awards are:

**Brent Holden:** The **Barry Wright Memorial Scholarship**, awarded to an English undergraduate student displaying artistic excellence in the writing of poetry.

**Daniel Brount, Rachel Johnson, & Brittany Means:** The **Elizabeth Martin Scholarship**, awarded to English majors on the basis of scholarship, character, and leadership.

**Imad Khawaldeh:** The **Frances Mayhew Rippy Graduate Scholarship**, awarded to a graduate student majoring in literature.

**Kristal All:** The **Leslie and Patrick Ballard Scholarship**, awarded to a future teacher of English.

**Hannah Vollmer:** The **Matt Jones Creative Writing Scholarship**, awarded to a student majoring in English/Creative Writing who exhibits both a dedicated interest in creative writing and a demonstrated financial need.

**Seula Han & Isaac Muhando:** The **Dr. Janet Ross English Studies Scholarship**, awarded to a student pursuing an MA in TESOL.

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

**Tara Olivero:** The **Outstanding Senior Award**, 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.

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
- (2710) Creative Writing Projects
- (2720) Hanson Rhetoric and Composition Award
- (2751) Barry Wright Memorial Schol.
- (2752) Elizabeth Martin Schol.
- (2755) Frances Mayhew Rippy Graduate Schol.
- (2756) Leslie and Patrick Ballard Schol.
- (2757) Matt Jones Creative Writing Schol.
- (2758) Dr. Janet Ross English Studies Schol.
- (2759) Carol S. Chalk Memorial Schol.
- (2760) Outstanding Senior Award

Thank you for your support!

SPEAKERS Cont. from page 1

The second fall speaker was **Christina Blanch**, a doctoral student at Ball State. She developed and taught one of Ball State’s first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), “Gender Through Comic Books,” a course that enrolled over 7,000 students last spring and fostered conversations among students and comic creators on subjects like “Gendered Spaces and Consuming Comics” and “Who Is Producing Comic Book Culture?”

The two spring speakers were **Rachel Williams** and **Ramzi Fawaz**. Williams is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Iowa. She spoke about autobiographical comics and ran a hands-on workshop on flash graphic memoir.

Fawaz, an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin, visited the campus in April. He is completing a book titled **The New Mutants: Comic Book Superheroes and Popular Fantasy in Postwar America**, which will be published by New York University Press.