

# Footnotes

2016 - 2017

## A Year in Review:

With Dr. Lori Askeland, Chair of the English Department

Despite losses of a few beloved faculty members, 2016-17 was another great year in the English department. Teaching is dearest to our heart, so we are thrilled that three of our faculty received recognition this year for their work with students. Dr. Kate Polak won the Southern Ohio Council on Higher Education Teaching Award and Dr. Mike Mattison received the Ron Maxwell award for collaborative learning from the National Conference on Peer Tutoring. Meanwhile, Dr. Cynthia Richards was selected to be an honorary member of the graduating 2017 class. Moreover, Dr. Mattison's resounding success in encouraging students in professional publication and presentation at reputable regional and national conferences is particularly notable.

We are all also scholars in our fields, so we also take joy in the fact that there are seven books in some state of progress toward publication amongst our English faculty members. In particular, Kate Polak's book *Ethics in the Gutter*, is due out from Ohio

State University Press this October. And, faculty presented at five different conferences this year and published fifteen scholarly or creative works in such journals as *The Scriblerian*, *The Cambridge Journal of Post-Colonial Culture*, *Victorian Studies*, *Recovering Disability in Early Modern England*, *Adoption & Culture*, *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*, and *Literature Compass*, and as book chapters in the *Cambridge Companion to the Eighteenth Century*, *The Future of Feminist Eighteenth Century Scholarship*, *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Eliza Haywood*, and *Howl 2016*! Many of us also pride ourselves on writing for non-academic publications like the online blog *The Nerds of Color* and *The Feminist Majority* website.

We all also eagerly took part in annual department events such as a literary Halloween party and the SAGE sponsored Read-A-Thon (this year: dystopian literature). Additionally we welcomed a variety of speakers to campus—from the poets Glenis Redmond and Eavan Boland, to our

wonderful alumni Hannah Hunt ('16), Tom Stafford ('76) and Dan Foreman ('08). We love to welcome alumni back to campus for our "What Can You Do With an English Major?" event, usually in early December. If you have an interest in returning to provide guidance to current students on making the transition to the working world with an English major, please let us know!

Our joy in these events and accomplishments was tempered at the end of the year as we said goodbye to two beloved faculty members—Ty Buckman and Ian MacDonald who are moving to very exciting professional endeavors in Virginia and Florida, respectively. We know they will do well in their new positions, but we also know that many of our students will miss their guidance and the variety of their contributions to our department as teacher-scholars.

But, overall, it was a joyful and successful year. As Garrison Keillor says, "Be well, do good work, and be in touch."

*The Class of 2017*



# Colloquia:

& Guest Speakers (F16-S17)

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## Fall 2016

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- Oct. 18** Poet/artist/activist **Glenis Redmond** gave a poetry reading at the Springfield Museum of Art
- Oct. 19** Drs. **Kate Polak** and **Ian MacDonald** gave their talk "What is Global Anglophone?" about the nuances of worldly literature
- Oct. 28** Literary Costume Party
- Nov. 1** Irish poet **Eavan Boland** read some of her work and discussed poetry
- Nov. 17** The List with Drs. Scot Hinson, Rick Incorvati, and Bob Davis
- Dec. 8** What Can You Do With an English Major: Internship Insights

## Spring 2017

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- Jan. 25** **Dr. Mac McClelland** talked in Ness Auditorium about his recent sabbatical and new novel
- Feb. 1** **Read-A-Thon:** dystopian literature
- Mar. 21** Alumnus **Dan Foreman** spoke about his time in the army and the changing face of English education
- Mar. 30** Literary Pub Fest and departmental awards
- Apr. 13** Matchbook Poetry reading
- Apr. 21** Senior Symposium
- Apr. 27** Creative Writing Capstone and Senior Showcase

# Faculty Notes:

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**Bob Davis** (*Professor of American Literature*) is currently beginning a three-year “phased retirement” from Wittenberg. He’ll teach in the fall semesters of 2017, 2018, and 2019, and live and work the rest of the time in Marshfield, Wisconsin, where his wife, Laurie, has accepted a call to be the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church there. Their nephew, Andrew, who’s been so much a part of their lives since his dad died in 2014, will be moving to Wisconsin with them after he graduates from Springfield High School at the end of this year. Davis’s plan for this spring semester is to use the time to finish his book on spirituality and American literature, *Playful Wisdom*, and submit a manuscript to the Ohio State University Press series on literature and theology.

**Robin Inboden** (*Professor of Victorian Literature*) As her major sabbatical undertaking last spring, Dr. Inboden researched and wrote a proposal for a teaching edition of Anne Bronte’s *Agnes Grey*. She is waiting to hear from the press whether they think there is a market for a new edition of the novel, but the process of planning and proposing it was extremely valuable no matter what the market says.

**Rick Incorvati** (*Professor of Romantic Literature*) is contributing to the forthcoming *Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel* – he’s put the wraps on one entry for Thomas Holcroft’s first novel and is at work on two more titles – and he has a review of H. J. Jackson’s book *Those Who Write for Immortality* (2015) coming out in the journal *Victorian Studies*. In February, he was very pleased to travel with Madelyn DeVore and Amanda Rogus, both of whom delivered papers at the 16th annual Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Conference at Miami University. He also puts in his community service hours with the local LGBT advocacy nonprofit Equality Springfield and is involved with the preparations for Springfield’s third annual Pride Festival this June.

**Mike Mattison** (*Associate Professor of Advanced Rhetoric and Grammar*) and two English Majors attended NCPTW and ECWCA to represent the Wittenberg Writing Center and their academic research.

**Kate Polak** (*Assistant Professor of Apocalyptic, Psychoanalytical Literature, and Poetry*) presented “What is Global Anglophone?” at a fall Wittenberg Colloquium with Dr. MacDonald. She also presented “The Dome and the Disposable: Borders in Junot Diaz’s ‘Monstro’” at the American Literature Association Conference in the fall.

**Cynthia Richards** (*Professor of Eighteenth Century Literature & Women Writers*) is on sabbatical in the fall semester. She will be working on a co-edited collection of essays (with Erin Peters, UK) on Early Modern Trauma. The collection will be published by the University of Nebraska Press. Dr. Richards wants to extend thanks to all her students in English 270, English 280 and especially her “Reading the Body in Eighteenth Century” class for the insightful discussions that greatly enriched her thinking on this topic and helped lead to the collection. Lastly, she has two forthcoming chapters in anthologies that also grew out of class work, one entitled “History without Trauma: Recovering Bodily Loss in the Eighteenth Century,” which is greatly indebted to an “independent study” on *Clarissa* that included eight students who volunteered to read this massive novel and who transformed her thinking on this work. She would like to thank those students from many years ago who took their “spare time” to digest, debate, and even rewrite the ending of this imposing work. The other chapter is entitled “Teasing out Desire: Eliza Haywood, the Novel and the Early Women Writers’ Course” which grows directly out of an assignment in her course: “Bad Girls.” Her last thanks are to all the students in “Bad Girls” who helped her understand just what that phrase means and just how good these early women writers were.



# Sabbatical Reflections:

With Dr. Michael E. McClelland

Novelist and playwright Janet Burroway, writer of the most widely used creative writing textbook in America and the director of my doctoral committee, once told me that during the school year she only writes essays, and tackles novels only when she has time off. I'm the same way. I like to write novels—big, sprawling, multi-character beasties that require immense concentration and big chunks of time alone. When I have classes to teach, papers to grade, students to harass and committee work to complain about, I can't just wander off into my imagination for days at a time. That's why sabbaticals are so incredibly valuable to me. They give me the time to escape the real world and let my imagination run free.

That's exactly what I did on my latest sabbatical, in the fall of 2016. In fact, I used that opportunity to go back to work on a novel I began on a prior sabbatical, in the fall of 2010. That novel, *The Magnitude of Her Fury*, was my response to the BP oil spill that had devastated so much of my beloved Gulf of Mexico. With the backing of a

Witt faculty research grant, I traveled to the coasts of Florida, Alabama and Louisiana, where I talked to fishermen and hotel owners whose livelihoods had been destroyed, and walked beaches still littered with clumps of petroleum and poisoned sealife. Then, armed with heartbreaking details and a heartfelt of indignation, I set to assail the greed and carelessness of corporate America – and failed miserably. I had fallen into a common writers' trap—I was too close to my subject, I cared about it too deeply. Everything I wrote turned into a lecture, a political screed against BP and the corporate mentality. It made me feel a little better, but it was not something anyone would care to read, and it was not going to change anyone's way of thinking. Sadly, reluctantly, I put *The Magnitude of Her Fury* into a metaphorical drawer and moved on to other projects.

Last fall I picked the book up again. Time had eased my anger somewhat, and I was able to write a book that focuses on people, on the natural environment, and how a BP-like spill affected them all. This time, thanks to

the balm of passing time, the writing came easily. The book is—I hope!—much better; certainly it was a lot more fun to write, and I hope, to read. I finished a complete draft just in time to return to teaching this January, then spent this summer revising and rewriting. In late July sent the final version of *Magnitude* off to my agent, who is now shopping it around to the publishing houses.

Will it get published? I don't know; publishers in these times of corporate consolidation and bottom-line-driven decisions are not anxious to gamble on anyone or anything who is not already a proven money-maker. But even if *Magnitude* goes nowhere, I know that I am a better writer, and a better teacher of writing, because of all I learned while writing it. I returned to the classroom relaxed and energized, ready to share all I had learned with my students. I know that my students, myself, and Wittenberg University all benefitted from my time away from the classroom.

And isn't that what a sabbatical is all about?



## Student Notes:

### AWARDS AND HONORS

**Mecca A. Abdul-Aziz**, journalism minor, was named Alma Mater, an honor bestowed upon a junior woman on the basis of character and integrity, service to the community, concern for others, and high standards of scholarship.

The M. Alice Geiger Award was presented to **Camila C. Quiñones**, English major and creative writing minor. The award, named for Wittenberg's first woman graduate, recognizes a senior woman for outstanding contributions to the campus in the areas of performing or literary arts, athletics, co-curricular leadership, new programming, special academic pursuit or through special representation at any time during her college career.

**Joseph T. Sechrist**, English major, was named a Presidential Scholar, an award named after former presidents of Wittenberg, that recognizes junior students with the top 14 grade point averages of their class.

**Curtis J. Makela**, English minor, received the Charles E. Chatfield Global Awareness Award, instituted in 1992, which recognizes seniors who contribute to greater global awareness within the Wittenberg University community.

**Jillian R. Edwards**, English major, received The Community Service Champion Award, which recognizes an individual's commitment to service, the quality of that service, and its positive impact on the City of Springfield and Clark County. It is not merely the hours of service, but the impact on the quality of life in the Springfield community that is most important.

**TO COMMENCEMENT AND BEYOND**

**Amanda Rogus** moved to Staunton, Virginia to attend Mary Baldwin University's Shakespeare and Performance graduate program where she will receive her MLitt degree in British Renaissance Literature and her acting MFA in classical performance.

**Camila Quiñones** moved out to Los Angeles after graduation and is currently working for the Creative Artists Agency (CAA), the top talent and sports agency in the world. While at CAA, she hopes to grow in her knowledge of the entertainment industry, which will ultimately lead her toward a career writing for film and TV.

**Jayde Glaser** applied to a teach abroad program with CIEE where she was offered a position to teach English at a private school in Incheon, South Korea. She plans on teaching there for a year starting this fall.

**Jillian Edwards** was accepted into the graduate program at Wright State University where she is studying Literature and working as a graduate teaching assistant. In this position, she will teach ENG 1100 to college freshman.

**Sophie Hulen** is attending the Case Western Reserve University School of Law and is pursuing her Juris Doctorate. She plans to pursue a career in immigration or corporate law.

**Emma Arace** returned to her hometown of Columbus, Ohio upon graduation and is currently working as a Production Copywriter for the e-commerce company Zulily. She is also a Library Associate at her beloved local library. Emma hopes to continue honing her skills as a writer, editor, and critical thinker and to stay in places where she is surrounded by books.

**Meaghan Summers** was accepted to the Denver Publishing Institute for the summer of 2018 and plans to pursue an editing career in the book publishing industry. She was also accepted to Eastern Gateway Community College to study marketing. Currently, she works as an independent contractor for Waltham Technologies and as a social media marketer for "The Road To Now" podcast.

## Literary Awards: & Department Honors

**OSTROM EXPOSITORY AWARDS:**

*English 101 Prize:* Trevor Hoberty

*Sophomore Prize:* Anissa Dann

*Senior Prize:* Maria Symons

**CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS:**

*Poetry:* Chloe Burchett '17

*The Sherwood Anderson Prize for Fiction:* Megan Winters '20

*Non-Fiction Prose:* Maria Symons '17

*Playwriting/ Screenwriting:* Camila Quiñones '17

*The Lester S. Crowl Creativity*

*Award:* Camila Quiñones '17

**EXCELLENCE IN LITERARY STUDIES:**

Maria Symons '17

**KOPPENHAVER AWARDS:**

Camila Quiñones '17

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**Got News?**

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**Credits:**

This issue was assembled by **Anissa Dann '18** and edited by **Christina Reynolds**.

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