

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



Spring 2017

Faculty Notes:

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 Brontë’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 Díaz’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.

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**

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

Quiñones '17