



Spring 2018

#bsuenglish: Semester in Review

A Message from Dr. Pat Collier

Greetings from the Ball State English Department to all of our alumni and friends! I am approaching my twentieth year teaching British literature and film studies here at Ball State, and I will be taking over as chairperson of the department in January 2019.

Throughout this newsletter you'll see ample evidence of the great work we're doing in the English Department.

Most importantly, we have been bucking the national trend of humanities departments shrinking in size and number of

majors. Our number of majors and minors remains strong: we have more than 400 students studying in our five major concentration areas (Literature, Creative Writing, Rhetoric and Writing, English Studies, and English Education) and more than 400 students in six minors (Literature, Creative Writing, Professional Writing, Linguistics, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, and Film and Screenwriting).

Professor Cathy Day, who will be finishing up a stint as acting chair this December, wrote to

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you last year about how we're doing this: we've streamlined and improved our majors; marketed ourselves successfully to students; maintained a high profile on campus, with lots of public programming and a robust social media presence; and engaged students in planning how to parlay their English skills into successful careers.

As assistant chairperson of operations for the last year, I have been in charge of our marketing efforts. This involves everything from talking to prospective students and their parents to managing a small student team that runs our social media accounts and our department blog. (They have edited and designed this newsletter, and they wrote most of it!)

A great deal of the job of promoting English as a major involves making clear that the high-order intellectual skills students develop in our classrooms are in demand in the workplace and will stand our graduates in good stead as employees and citizens.

At the same time, the first thing on most students' minds when they come to us is not the workplace: it's love.

They come to us because they love to read, love to write, love to get their brains working on profound intellectual problems, love to air out their insights and argue with their peers.

My conversations with prospective students and parents rarely start out with, "I want to

work for a publisher" or "I want to be a teacher." They start out with students expressing their love for the intellectual pleasures and passions that made English their favorite subject in school. (Typically, it's their parents who bring us around to the "What can you do with an English major?" question.)

Our answer to that question is: anything. Anything that requires advanced reading comprehension. Anything that requires efficient and effective research. Anything that calls on you to synthesize complex information quickly and accurately. Anything that, ultimately, calls for you to communicate effectively, with force and precision.

Among recent graduates I've taught are young people who are now running their own non-profits, doing professional writing, working for marketing firms, teaching high school, and working as librarians. In their spare time, some are publishing poems, stories, or journalism, feeding the love that brought them to English and propelled them into their professional lives.

Increasingly, part of what impels young people towards us today is their passion for social justice. Novels, essays, and poetry reveal to them a world

where historical traumas remain unhealed, and where oppression, sometimes outlawed in theory, remains alive in practice. Literature, the study of lan-



guage, and their own self-expression impel and empower their longing to make the world a better place.

So, while I'm delighted to make the case that the English major can lead to a satisfying professional life, I don't want our students, their parents, or our faculty to lose track of the love, and in some cases the hurt, that brought them to us in the first place. As I often say to aspiring majors, English is a place where we can get you ready for the work world and feed your soul.

You can help us in this mission by spreading the word about the great things we're doing (follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)); by talking to the recruiters at your place of business about considering our English majors for positions; by getting in touch with me if you know of appropriate jobs; and, of course, by giving a [gift](#) to the department.

Dr. Pat Collier
Assistant Chair of Operations
pccollier@bsu.edu

800+

English majors
and minors

English Professors Can Also Carry a Tune

You think all we do around here is talk about books?

Two Ball State professors have been productive in the sister arts this semester.

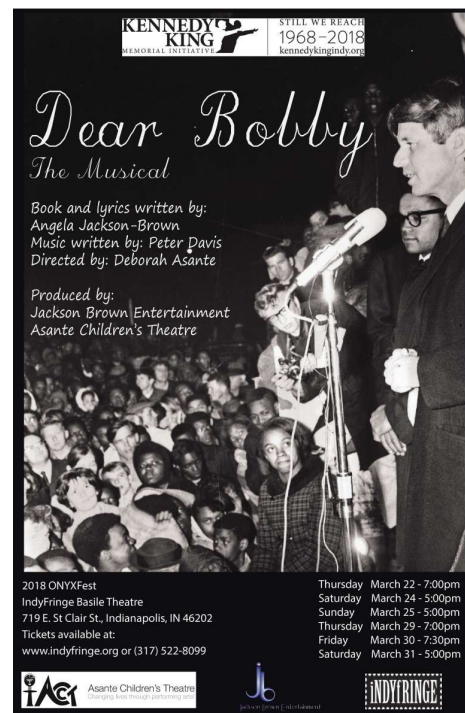
In March, **“Dear Bobby: A Musical,”** written by **Prof. Angela Jackson-Brown** with music by **Prof. Peter Davis**, debuted at the IndyFringe Basile Theatre in Indianapolis. The musical tells the story of Bobby Kennedy’s speech in Indianapolis on the day of Martin Luther King’s assassination.

“I was commissioned by the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative to write a play about Bobby Kennedy’s speech on April 4, 1968,” Prof. Jackson-Brown said. “That night, Kennedy had

just finished giving a speech to over 10,000 Ball State University students (another wonderful connection to this story), so the historical component to this event was not lost on me. I strongly believe in serendipity, and this felt like one of those moments.”

In addition to writing the music for “Dear Bobby,” Prof. Davis released the rap CD *Short Hand*.

Aside from music, Prof. Davis had some other exciting news this semester. His poem “Touching Stuff” was recently published in *The Believer*, and his fourth book of poems, ***Band Names and Other Poems***, is now available from Bloof Books. Finally, Prof. Davis is judging the 2018 Lucy Munro Brooker prize—



KENNEDY KING MEMORIAL INITIATIVE STILL WE REACH 1968-2018 kennedykingind.org

Dear Bobby

The Musical

Book and lyrics written by:
Angela Jackson-Brown
Music written by: Peter Davis
Directed by: Deborah Asante

Produced by:
Jackson Brown Entertainment
Asante Children's Theatre

2018 ONYX Fest
IndyFringe Basile Theatre
719 E. St Clair St., Indianapolis, IN 46202
Tickets available at:
www.indyfringe.org or (317) 522-8099

Thursday March 22 - 7:00pm
Saturday March 24 - 5:00pm
Sunday March 25 - 3:00pm
Thursday March 29 - 7:00pm
Friday March 30 - 7:30pm
Saturday March 31 - 5:00pm

IACT Asante Children's Theatre
Changing lives through performing

J Jackson Brown Entertainment

INDYFRINGE

the University of Indianapolis’s undergraduate poetry prize.

Awards and Publications Galore

Department faculty had more than forty essays, poems, and other works published or selected for prizes in this semester. Highlights include:

Prof. Kathryn S. Gardiner’s feature-length screenplay “The Regiment” won an Award of Excellence in the 2018 Broadcast Education Association’s Faculty Screenwriting Competition.

Prof. Jill Christman published four essays, including: “Naked Underneath Our Clothes” in *Creative Nonfiction* and “Life’s Not a Paragraph” in *River Teeth*.

Prof. Emily Rutter’s *Invisible Ball of Dreams: Literary Representations of Baseball Behind the Color Line* was published in May by University of Mississippi Press.

Student Publications

Several students celebrated literary publications this semester. Two are highlighted below.

Mary Carter, “Returning in the Snow”

Published online by Atticus Review

Cecelia Westbrook, “All Babies Are Ugly, Except for Me (Just Ask My Uncle)”

Accepted for publication in Tributaries

Catching Up with Some Recent Grads

Brandon Buechley (Creative Writing, 2015) accepted a job at DK Publishing in Indianapolis. He serves as an editorial assistant for Alpha Books.

Daniel Brount (Creative Writing, 2016) recently secured a position as a Production/Editorial Assistant at Skyhorse Publishing in New York City.

Nikole Darnell (Creative Writing, 2017) had her short story “When Tomorrow Comes” published in *Potluck Magazine*. The story was originally written for her Honors Thesis at BSU, directed by Prof. Joyce Huff.

Sigma Tau Delta Attends and Wins at Conference

In Fall 2017, the Ball State English Department chartered the Alpha Chi Upsilon chapter of **Sigma Tau Delta**, an international English honor society with over 900 chapters in the U.S. and abroad. In March, nine of our fifteen members, along with our faculty sponsors Profs. Cathy Day and Mary Lou Vercellotti, headed off to Cincinnati for the annual Sigma Tau Delta convention.

Four students from our chapter (John Carter, Hannah Partridge, Taylor Townsend, and Erin Goff) submitted and presented creative work at the convention. John Carter and Hannah Partridge won cash awards for their pieces.

Aside from presenting their own work, our members listened to many of their peers present their work, took part in roundtable and panel discussions, attended professional development



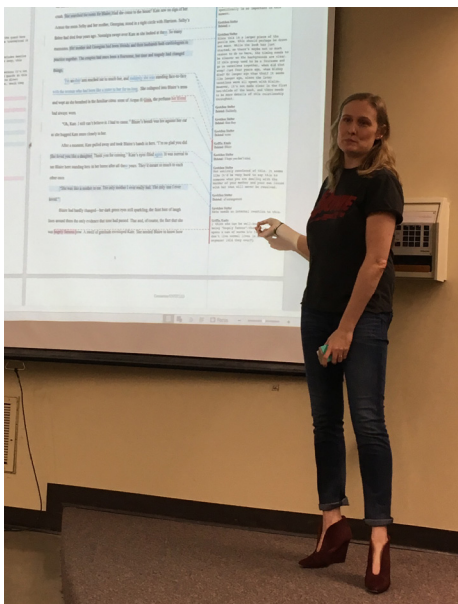
and informational sessions, networked, and spoke with authors. Featured authors included **Christina Henríquez** and **Mary Norris**.

Although there were many academic and professional opportunities, the convention also included social events like an open mic night, a bad poetry competition, and a semi-formal

awards gala. Our chapter had a very successful, educational, and fun week at our first Sigma Tau Delta convention.

You can follow the BSU Sigma Tau Delta chapter at [@bsusigmatd](#) on **Instagram** and **Twitter**, and like “Ball State Sigma Tau Delta: Alpha Chi Upsilon chapter” on **Facebook**.

Alumna Freelance Editor Offers Advice to Students



Alumna **Gretchen Stelter**, who works as a freelance editor in Oregon and has a background as a literary agent, visited campus to speak to students on “Making Books Happen.”

Her April 5 visit was very insightful and inspirational. She broke down the book editing process and gave advice on how to network and how to build a freelancing career. Aside from just speaking, she offered students handouts and guides to help them in editing. After her talk, she stuck around

to speak personally with several students.

After graduating from Ball State in 2003, Gretchen studied in Australia before receiving an MA in Professional Writing from Portland State. With over 10 years of experience, she has worked on more than 500 books that have been published by traditional publishing houses.

She also writes for **Books for Better Living**, **Healthline**, and **Elephant Journal**.

Kaveh Akbar's Songs of Descent and Recovery

Kaveh Akbar, professor at Purdue University and author of the poetry collection *Calling A Wolf A Wolf*, gave a reading at BSU on April 10.

Before reading from his poems for about 30 minutes, Akbar praised audience members for taking time out of a busy Tuesday afternoon to indulge their love of poetry. The large lecture hall in the Arts and Journalism building was more than 90 percent full.

Many of the poems Akbar read appear in *Calling a Wolf A Wolf*. In the book, out last year from Alice James Books,



Akbar explores himself, inside and outside, the mind, and the ideas of religion, recovery, and rediscovery. Not only is Akbar open about this collection being a narrative of addiction and recovery, but he invites readers in to experience the recovery with him.

Akbar didn't just read from his book—he also shared personal stories and poems he had written just that morning. The audience was captivated from the very beginning, and the line for autographs and hugs stretched beyond the lecture hall.

Akbar's poems appeared recently in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *The New York Times*, *Tin House*, *Best American Poetry 2018*, and elsewhere.

Akbar founded and edits *Divedapper*, a home for interviews with the most vital voices in contemporary poetry.

"Stars to Steer By" Guides Students

Every semester, the *Stars to Steer By* lecture series brings alumni and entrepreneurs to campus in monthly events. The program seeks to show humanities majors the vast degree of options available to them after graduation, and to empower students with knowledge to pursue the careers they desire.

This semester, the series kicked off with the return of the popular Networking for Introverts event by Prof. Cathy Day and Ellis Wasserman of the Career Center. This presentation addresses how to make the most of social media and how humanities majors build transferable skills.

Another installment, *Storytelling Careers*, brought to light the need for storytellers in today's

innovative communications environment. BSU English alumni Ellie Fawcett and Lauren Birkey discussed their marketing work in Muncie, along with guest speaker Allison Tourville, who shared her unique experiences in global storytelling.

Careers of Compassion brought alumni Cheri Ellefson, Kaitlyn Davis, Olivia Fellows, WaTasha Barnes Griffin, and Margaux Dever to share their heartfelt stories on how to enact kindness, empathy, and understanding in their work.

Impact Abroad: Discover Global Opportunities discussed opportunities and resources for traveling abroad such as Fulbright scholarships, the Peace Corps, and the JET Program.

Get Involved

Do you have experience in a field you think English students would like to pursue?

Are you interested in helping guide students to success after graduation?

Contact **Cathy Day** at cday@bsu.edu or 765-285-8584 for more information on how you can be a Star to Steer By.

Meet Our New Faculty

Guilherme D. Garcia began teaching linguistics at BSU in January. A native of Brazil, Prof. Garcia has a PhD from McGill University in Montreal. He specializes in phonology and phonetics, both of which focus on the speech sounds that make up languages. Among other things, his research focuses on how speakers learn pronunciation patterns and how meter—the sequences of weak and strong syllables—contrast in different languages. Beyond linguistics and teaching, Prof. Garcia is passionate about guitars and photography.



Alex Kaufman comes to us from Auburn University at Montgomery, where he was department chair and professor of English. This summer, Dr. Kaufman was named the Reed D. Voran Distinguished Professor of Humanities at Ball State. He teaches courses on Robin Hood, outlaws and banditry, historical literature, and medieval literature. He is the co-editor of the book series *Outlaws in Literature, History, and Culture* from Routledge Publishing and is the co-founder and co-editor of the scholarly journal *The Bulletin of the International Association for Robin Hood Studies*.



Grad Students Start Anthology

Graduate students in Prof. Silas Hansen's Practicum in Literary Editing class have created an online literary anthology called *bonfire(s)*.

The anthology accepts works across various genres—including fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry, comics, craft essays, and teaching resources—with each year dedicated to a common theme. This year's anthology focuses on place.

In its first year of publication, *bonfire(s)* received 93 submissions from creators all over the world.



19 Graduate Students Complete Their Degrees

The following are all English graduate students who received their degrees this May:

Abdullah Albalawi received an MA in Linguistics.

Abdullah Ahmed F. Aldhali received an MA in Linguistics.

Khalid Alghamdi received an MA in Linguistics.

Ahlan Hassan M. Alnahawi received an MA in Linguistics.

Rachel Beatty received an MA in Rhetoric and Composition.

John Carter received an MA in Creative Writing.

Mary Carter received an MA in Creative Writing.

Amanda Crow received an MA in English Studies.

Ritassida Djiugimde received a PhD in Applied Linguistics.

Billi MacTighe received an MA in English Studies.

James McAlister received a PhD in Applied Linguistics.

Mary McGinnis received a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition.

Amory Orchard received an MA in English Studies.

Matthias Raess received a PhD in Applied Linguistics.

Anthony Salazar received an MA in English Studies.

Bethany Stayer received an MA in English Studies.

Angela Tomasello received an MA in Linguistics.

Jonathan Wegener received an MA in TESOL.

Paula Weinman received an MA in Literature.

Summer 2018 Graduates

Morgan Gross

PhD in Rhetoric and Composition

Arthur Marsh

MA in TESOL

Kellie Suttle

MA in TESOL and Linguistics

Kelsie Walker

PhD in Rhetoric and Composition

In Print XIII and Release of The Broken Plate

Ball State hosted the thirteenth annual **InPrint Festival** this year on March 28 and 29. Along with the long-awaited release of this year's issue of *The Broken Plate*, three authors and one editor made an appearance.

Carolina Ebeid shared multiple poems from her collection, *You Ask Me to Talk About the Interior*. Ebeid's poems sing with rawness and emotion, and she focuses on finding the beauty in terrible and ugly happenings.

How to Survive a Summer, a novel by **Nick White**, follows the story of a boy experiencing a summer at a gay conversion camp. Inspired by White's own experiences, the novel captures the awkward adolescent voice of a young man fighting his way



through the journey of self-discovery.

Jan Shoemaker finished off the readings with an excerpt from her collection of short stories

titled *Flesh and Stones*. In her collection, readers are introduced to her dogs, her daughter, and the joys and struggles of being a woman.

Kristen Elias Rowley, Editor-in-Chief at **The Ohio State University Press**, joined in for the panel discussion. Rowley is also involved with Mad Creek Books, another literary project based out of Ohio State University.

The Broken Plate, Ball State's literary journal, released its thirteenth issue at the InPrint Festival. This issue includes contributors from all around the world, including a few pieces from Ball State students. The journal also published an **online** issue with more features.

Digital Literature Review Releases Fifth Issue

This year, the *Digital Literature Review* focused on "Imagining the Post-Apocalypse." The critical essays published in the journal examine issues in post-apocalyptic literature and films and include topics such as gender, civilization, ecofeminism, posthumanism, video game theory, and comedy studies. The DLR also hosted a public talk with author **Kristen Simmons** to discuss women's issues in post-apocalyptic literature.

The DLR is a scholarly journal produced annually by English students. Next year's theme will be "Utopias and Dystopias."

Students Work with Mrs. Mearns

Students in our **Creative Writing in the Community** class, led by **Prof. Lyn Jones**, were paid a special visit by Jennifer Mearns, Ball State's First Lady.

This year, the class is focusing on and sharing stories around

the theme "**#KeepMuncieWeird and Wonderful.**" Mrs. Mearns shared unique stories of weirdness and whimsy in Muncie she's experienced so far.

Students in the class loved how accessible and funny she was.



Book Arts Collaborative ends with (Interro)bang

Students in the immersive learning course **Book Arts Collaborative**, a letterpress shop and bookbinding in downtown Muncie, hosted the second annual **Interrobang**.

A two-day festival of book arts, Interrobang welcomes printers and book artists from around the Midwest to speak on the art. Interrobang also marks the official release of Book Arts Collaborative Press's annual

artist's book.

This year's book, *Light*, featured essays from Indiana author **Susan Neville**. The book was designed, printed, and bound by students in the Collaborative, as pictured below. All 60 handmade copies were sold out by the second day of Interrobang.

This year's expert lectures included topics on typeface design, hand-carving wood

type, and letterpress in the digital age. Ball State alumna Brianna Kirkham moderated the panel discussion "The History and Herstory of Women and Letterpress," and BSU English alumnus **Andrew Gaub**, now a rare book dealer in Pennsylvania, returned for a talk on "History and the Book."



Grad's Young Adult Novel Confronts Racial Injustice

Tyler Johnson Was Here, a young adult novel written by BSU English grad **Jay Coles**, hit the stores this March.

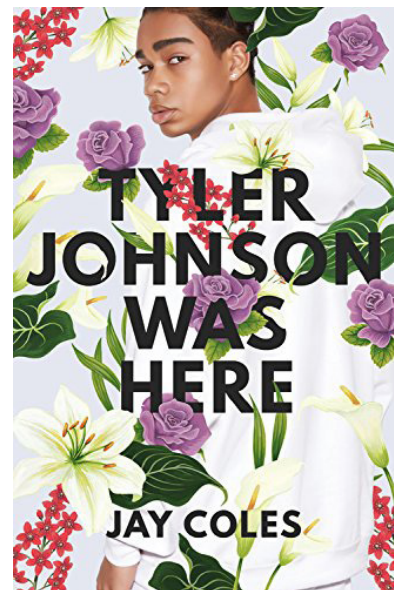
"When Marvin Johnson's twin, Tyler, goes to a party, Marvin decides to tag along to keep an eye on his brother. But what starts as harmless fun turns into a shooting, followed by a police raid," the book's synopsis reads.

The book began as letters Jay had written to his dad, which he decided to turn into a novel after

the shooting of **Trayvon Martin**.

The novel has been a long time coming: Jay began writing the book in high school and faced around 200 rejections from agents and publishers. But he persisted until he found the right agent and publisher to represent his work.

"This is a story that needs to be told," Jay said. "It's a truthful story, it's a very personal story, and it's one that a lot of people are going to relate to."



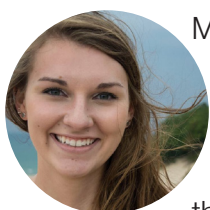
Meet This Year's Outstanding Senior Nominees

2018 Dr. Joe & Carol Trimmer Outstanding Senior



Noah Patterson was a Rhetoric and Writing major from Fort Wayne with minors in

Communication Studies and Literature. Noah was an editor at the *Digital Literature Review* for its "Monsters" issue and tutored at the Writing Center for two years and at the Digital Writing Studio for one year. After graduation, Noah will be pursuing a master's degree in Rhetoric and Composition at Florida State University. Noah will miss BSU and all of the people in the English Department very much and is so grateful for the guidance and friendship this department has provided.

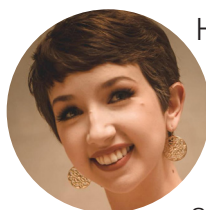


Meredith Dickerson graduated this May after studying Rhetoric and Writing for the past three years. In the fall, she will begin law school at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Although her interests have long been in international affairs, she decided to study English at Ball State because she was convinced that she wouldn't learn how to be a good lawyer until she knew how to be a good person.



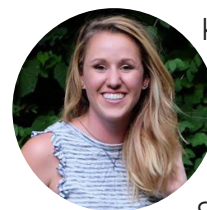
Vanessa Ford graduated with majors in Creative Writing and Journalism and a minor in

Spanish. She was a prose editor for *The Broken Plate* this year, the executive editor for the student-produced magazine *Ball Bearings* the past two years, and has interned at *Indianapolis Monthly*. In what little free time she has, she enjoys writing, playing video games, and spending time with her cat. After graduation, she hopes to move west and have an editing job, in either publishing or journalism.



Hannah Partridge graduated with majors in Creative Writing and French, along with a minor

in Professional Writing and Emerging Media. During her time at Ball State, she has been a member of Jacket Copy Creative, the undergraduate representative on the English Department Programs Committee, the web editor of *The Broken Plate*, the lead design editor of the *Digital Literature Review*, and a member of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society. Outside of the English Department, she helped found the women's singing group The Parallels A Cappella, serving as its coordinator for two years, and spent a semester studying abroad in France.



Kelsey McDonald graduated with majors in Literature and French and a minor in

Spanish. In her time at Ball State, she has participated in Honors Peer Mentors and Epsilon Sigma Alpha. She served as a student representative on the Dean's Student Advisory Council and participated in an exchange with the Université de Lorraine in Nancy, France. After graduation, she will spend the summer working at the Institute for Reading Development, sharing her love for the written word with her students. In the fall, she will return to the Université de Lorraine to serve as an English lecturer.



Natali Cavanagh was a Creative Writing major, minoring in Professional Writing, hailing from Fishers, Indiana.

After discovering a passion for helping writers develop their work, she immersed herself into any editorial positions she could at Ball State, including *The Broken Plate* as a prose editor and the *Digital Literature Review* on the editorial team. She continued down the editorial path in Fall of 2017, when she interned in New York City as a social media intern for *Guernica* literary magazine and as an editorial intern at Writers House literary agency. This summer she will return to New York as a marketing/publicity intern at Little, Brown publishers' Young Readers division.

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Valerie Weingart was a Creative Writing and Vocal Performance double major.

As a member of the Honors College, she served as president of Student Honors Council for two years. She was also the assistant managing editor of the 2016-2017 edition of *The Broken Plate*. In December 2016, Valerie was one of the winners of the Ball State Undergraduate Concerto competition and sang with the Ball State Symphony Orchestra in February 2017. An active participant in Ball State's choral and opera programs, she created the [Ball State Opera Theatre blog](#). Her fiction was recently published in *Tributaries* literary magazine. She looks forward to returning to BSU in the fall to pursue a master's degree in Creative Writing.



Rick Thompson is a non-traditional student and staff member at Ball State. Rick was

raised in southern Indiana and graduated from Indiana University in 1995. He began a military career and became an Infantryman, Drill Sergeant, and a Green Beret before retiring in August of 2001. From 2001 until 2012, Rick worked a few years in retail and six years in telecommunications installing antennas on cell phone towers. Rick was hired as sports facilities supervisor at Ball State in August of 2012 and began taking creative writing courses during the summer sessions of 2014.



Kate Shaffer was a Creative Writing major with a minor in Linguistics. Her

go-to genre of fiction is either science fiction or fantasy, or anything with comedy in it. Though she does not have any particular post-graduation plans at this time, she would love to be a published author and work for a literary magazine.



Emily Barsic graduated summa cum laude with an Honors degree in Literature in December of 2017.

While at Ball State, she served two terms as publicity team leader for the *Digital Literature Review* and as an Honors Undergraduate Fellow, serving as co-lead editor for *The Odyssey*. Emily currently advocates for the rights of people with disabilities at the Share Foundation where she serves as the camp coordinator and marketing director.



Emilie Schiess graduated in December after completing her student teaching in Germany. She plans

to return to Ball State for an MA in Linguistics and TESOL as well as to return to her favorite place: the Writing Center. She is spending her "gap" semester working as a waitress, making products on Teachers-Pay-Teachers, and running a blog about language learning.



Levi Todd is a queer poet and lifelong witness to the Chicago Renaissance.

He is the Founder of [Reacting Out Loud](#), an independent organization devoted to uplifting poetry and community in Muncie. He is currently the assistant poetry editor for *Tinderbox Poetry Journal* and an events and logistics intern for The Poetry Foundation.



Olivia Power is originally from Indianapolis and graduated with a double

major in Rhetoric and Writing and Sociology. She hopes to land a job in the field of social or market research in the Indianapolis area. Throughout her time at Ball State, she has enjoyed working alongside her fellow students as a Writing Center tutor and as a member of the Jacket Copy Creative team.



Brittany Sylvia is a non-traditional student who graduated in December with high honors

in English Education. She returned to Ball State after taking a ten-year break from school. She teaches English at Anderson High School on a temporary contract. She hopes to further her studies in the future, especially in the areas of education within impoverished communities and diversity awareness.

Thank You for Your Support

This newsletter was written, designed, and produced by #bsuenglish students Cecelia Westbrook, Macy Byerly, Melissa Jones, and Tynan Drake (above) in co-operation with the Jacket Copy Creative immersive learning course, which gives students hands-on experience in producing promotional materials.

Your continual involvement with and support of the department helps make programs like this possible. Please stay in touch with us online:

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bsuenglish.com

Like us on Facebook
BSU English Department

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram
[@bsuenglish](https://twitter.com/bsuenglish)



In Memory of Dr. JoAnne Ruvoli



The department lost a valued colleague and much-admired teacher this spring with the untimely

death of Prof. JoAnne Ruvoli.

Dr. Ruvoli died on March 15 while undergoing treatment for leukemia. She had been on medical leave since January but wrote to us just a few weeks before her death, full of optimism and reporting improvement.

Students from her classes were quick to respond on social media to the stunning news. “Such a great professor and I looked forward to her class,” wrote one. “We had the best English 103 class with her,” wrote another. A third wrote, “Phenomenal professor. So sad she’s gone.”

Dr. Ruvoli had a PhD in English from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She was a leading scholar in Italian-American literature and also pursued scholarly interests in film, including early, silent cinema and depictions of Italian-Americans in Hollywood. From 2011-13 she occupied a prestigious Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at UCLA. She joined the department in 2014. She taught first-year writing classes, literature, and film studies.

The department community honored her memory by contributing to her favorite charity, **PAWS**, a national non-profit dedicated to “people helping animals”; it provides shelter to homeless cats and dogs, rehabilitates injured wildlife, and offers education programs.