

## Cleveland State University EngagedScholarship@CSU

English Department Publications

English Department

Fall 2015

# The Unicorn Newsletter Fall 2015

Stephanie Nunley

Cleveland State University, [s.nunley@csuohio.edu](mailto:s.nunley@csuohio.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cleng\\_deptpub](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cleng_deptpub)

 Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

**How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!**

### Recommended Citation

Nunley, Stephanie, "The Unicorn Newsletter Fall 2015" (2015). *English Department Publications*. 4.  
[https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cleng\\_deptpub/4](https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/cleng_deptpub/4)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the English Department at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in English Department Publications by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact [library.es@csuohio.edu](mailto:library.es@csuohio.edu).



This digital edition was prepared by MSL Academic Endeavors, the imprint of the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University.



A publication from the faculty and staff in the Department of English



## Cleveland State University The Department of English

---

# The Unicorn

---

FALL 2015

## Letter from the Chair

By Dr. David Larson, Assoc. Professor Emeritus and Interim Chair



I want to welcome everyone back for the start of Fall Semester, 2015. I hope everyone managed to enjoy summer after it belatedly arrived.

Although the overall shape of the coming academic year is still unclear, the English Department has many things to celebrate at its commencement. First, we welcome a new associate professor, Brooke Conti, to our fold. The Department finally has a specialist in early modern nondramatic literature, a position we have needed to fill since Jeff Ford retired. In addition, Mike Geither is returning to full time service as a faculty member at CSU after his three year term as Director of the NEOMFA. As we are seriously understaffed in creative writing, his return to full time faculty status after his successful stint as an administrator is very welcome.

There are also non-personnel changes that should benefit the Department in significant ways. With support from Library Director Glenda Thornton and CLASS Dean Gregory Sadlek and with guidance from our colleague Caryl Pagel, the Hazel Collister Hutchinson Poetry Room in the library is in the process of being transformed into a new home for the Department's Poetry Center. The new room will give the Poetry Center much needed

space for its work; it should also increase the Center's visibility to the outside world. For the fifty years that the Center has been crammed into a couple of offices on the eighteenth floor of Rhodes Tower, the question asked by visitors to the Center has been—where is the Poetry Center? Finally, there will be a there, there.

In addition, as I am certain everyone has noticed, under the leadership of Lori O'Laughlin (with the assistance of Stephanie Nunley and Jane Dugan), the Department's physical facilities have been renewed. Sixteen offices have been repainted, and the conference room, the mail room, and the break room have been repainted and refurbished. In addition, dilapidated desk chairs have been replaced. Even the Chair's office has a new desk and new paint, though the old corkboard remains.

Last, and probably most significant, as you all know Jeff Karem has been elected as Chair of the Department. When he takes office in January, the English Department will enter a new era of leadership, for Jeff will be the first Chair who was not initially hired during the Lou Milic era. I have every confidence that with Jeff as Chair the Department will be in the best hands possible. That will make it much easier for me to leave in December when I retire (for the second time) from serving as Chair of the Department.



### IN THIS ISSUE

#### ENG gets Engaged

Humanities Librarian, **Mandi Goodsett** highlights our department's use of EngagedScholarship@CSU and Selected Works

Page 2

#### Great Additions

Welcoming New Faculty member Dr. Brooke Conti

Page 2

#### Letter from First-Year Writing

Page 3

#### Lecturers @ CCCC:

John Brentar reports on presenting at the CCCC

Page 3

#### The Vindicator:

Dr. Burrell takes over as faculty advisor

Page 4

#### 2015 Scholarships Awarded

Page 4

#### Changes @ the Poetry Center

Dr. Pagel highlights a year of changes at CSUPC

Page 5

#### English @ MC2 STEAM

Page 6

#### 2015 Faculty Scholarship Initiative awards

4 English Faculty members were awarded

Page 7

## GREAT ADDITIONS

**Dr. Brooke Conti**

Associate Professor



Brooke Conti joins the Cleveland State University Department of English as an Associate Professor after nine years teaching at the State University of New York, College at Brockport. A specialist in nondramatic Renaissance literature, she received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Yale University. She is the author of *Confessions of Faith in Early Modern England* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014) and articles in venues such as *Milton Studies*, *Modern Philology*, *The John Donne Journal*, and several edited collections. She is co-editing a new edition of Thomas Browne's *Religio Medici*, which is under contract with Oxford University Press, and she is currently at work on a second monograph tentatively entitled *Religious Nostalgia from Shakespeare to Milton*.

## CONNECT TO YOUR RESEARCH

If you are interested in contributing your work to EngagedScholarship, would like to set up a SelectedWorks page, or have additional questions about what is already being done on these sites, please don't hesitate to contact

Amanda Goodsett at

[a.goodsett@csuohio.edu](mailto:a.goodsett@csuohio.edu)

To view the English Department's EngagedScholarship page or visit Dr. Carnell's SelectedWorks page follow the links below:

<http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/c/eng/>

[http://works.bepress.com/rachel\\_carnell/](http://works.bepress.com/rachel_carnell/)

**ENG gets EngagedScholarship@CSU****Connecting the English Department to the World**

by Mandi Goodsett, Performing Arts &amp; Humanities Librarian

**What is EngagedScholarship@CSU?**

EngagedScholarship@CSU is Cleveland State's open-access institutional repository, and it serves as a tool for collaboration, collection, preservation, discovery, and research for CSU's students and faculty. To date, 11,355 papers have been uploaded, and 662,673 full-text items have been downloaded by readers from around the world. As a part of the Michael Schwartz Library's efforts to serve faculty, offer additional opportunities for calculating scholarly impact, and provide worldwide access to CSU's research, I have been adding materials authored by English Department faculty members to EngagedScholarship@CSU since the fall of 2014. The presence of faculty publications here allows them to be Google-searchable, and it gives you access to analytics about patterns of readership, some of which you may have already received via e-mail.

Another function of EngagedScholarship is the option to establish a SelectedWorks page, a place for faculty to present their scholarly and creative materials, with direct links to the full text of publications and the faculty member's CV. This page provides an additional point of contact for other researchers and can increase the visibility of faculty in their discipline and the world of scholarship at large. To set up a SelectedWorks page, simply e-mail me an updated CV that includes a list of your published works, and I will work with our Digital Initiatives Librarian to create a customized page for you. You may also choose to include a short summary of the history of your research and scholarship.

**EngagedScholarship and CSU English**

The English Department has already contributed a number of materials to EngagedScholarship, including

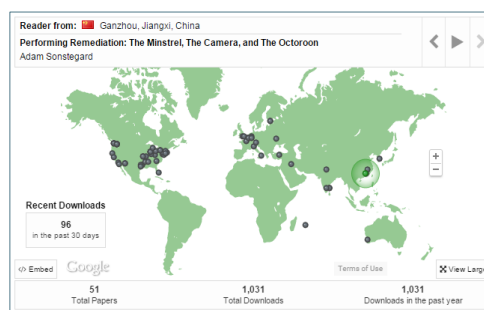
departmental newsletters, materials from the *Bringing Henrietta to Life* conference, and student work. Of my liaison areas, the English Department's materials continue to be the most downloaded. In June alone, Dr. Dyer's article, "The Arrest of Caleb Williams: Unnatural Crime, Constructive Violence, and Overwhelming Terror in Late Eighteenth-Century England", was downloaded 58 times, and since it was added to the repository in December, it has been downloaded 218 times. As a department, English faculty materials have been downloaded more than 1,000 times since I began uploading them in December, 2014. Interested faculty may at any time view on a map where readers are accessing materials by visiting the

[English department page.](#)

For example, viewers can use the Readership Activity Map to see that Dr. Carnell's work has a reader from Nord-Pas-de-

Calais, France; Dr. Marino's from Milan, Italy; and Dr. Burrell's from Bochum, Germany, among many others.

Dr. Carnell is the first of the department to set up her own [SelectedWorks](#) page, which can serve as a template for others who wish to set one up. Through her dashboard, Dr. Carnell can see that her articles have been downloaded 204 times, and that her most-downloaded article, "Feminism and the Public Sphere in Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*," has been downloaded 38 times. She can also see how readers are accessing her work, whether through a Google web search, Google Scholar search, or directly through EngagedScholarship. With help from a librarian, she can also use EngagedScholarship to create a bibliography of her work with direct links to the full text in the repository.



# Letter from First-Year Writing

by Dr. William Breeze, First-Year Writing Director



It has been a quiet summer for First-Year Writing, and we look forward to the excitement of the coming year. While Jane, Lori, and Stephanie were busy coordinating renovations and furniture replacement throughout the offices and common spaces, FYW focused on preparing for the new academic year. There are several new faces joining the program this year, adding a wealth of new expertise to our already excellent faculty. Our pre-semester workshop was the best-attended ever, and the excitement generated there will make for a fun and inspiring fall semester.

As the year begins, FYW is proud to announce the promotion of John Brentar. Though he received confirmation of his successful promotion near the end of last year, we now have a chance to recognize his achievement in the newsletter. Great job, John!

## Apple Education

FYW also received iPads at the end of last year, courtesy of the CLASS Dean's Office. The iPads are available to checkout for classroom use. Several instructors have worked over the summer to develop strategies for utilizing the iPad's, and we will be offering a workshop in the coming year to discuss these best practices. All English faculty are encouraged to check out the iPads for use in developing their classes. Just stop by Jane's or Dr. Breeze's office to borrow one.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Amber Taliancich Allen



Amber received her Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of South Alabama and is entering her third year in the NEOMFA program at CSU, studying fiction.

She's worked as an editor for [The Oracle: A Fine Arts Review](#), as well as is the current Editor-in-Chief of [Whiskey Island Magazine](#) and holds a graduate assistantship in the CSU Poetry Center. Beyond her editorial prowess Amber is also an accomplished writer, recently reading at [Brews + Proses at Market Garden Brewery](#) and was awarded the Leonard Trawick Scholarship in Creative Writing. Though she's from the Mississippi Gulf Coast, she enjoys the snowy winters that Ohio has to offer, as well as the amazing writing community she's discovered.

## Lecturers @ the CCCC –Preparing for a tech-based classroom

by John Brentar, College Lecturer

This past March, Melanie Gagich, Jessica Schantz, and Emilie Zickel and I had the pleasure of presenting a panel at the [Conference on College Composition and Communication](#) in Tampa, Florida.

In "High-Tech, Low-Tech, No-Tech? Divergent Implementations of Technology and the Risks and Rewards for Student Writing," we explored whether high-tech, low-tech, or no-tech pedagogical strategies could create a broader path to literacy in First-Year Writing (FYW), based on our experiences in Fall 2014.

In her classes, Melanie (the panel chair) adopted a low-tech approach, forgoing most electronic technology, with the exception of Blackboard for its calendar and gradebook functions, and replacing it with hard-copy handouts and chalkboard writing.

Jessica, taking a higher-tech approach, asked students to use their devices for nearly all classroom functions, from note-taking to peer review sessions. She also used Blackboard and Turnitin, the anti-plagiarism site, for essay submission and her return feedback. In the classroom, electronic presentations replaced chalkboard and handout.

Both Emilie and I concentrated on how a Course Management System (CMS) could either enhance or detract from the FYW classroom. Emilie used Edmodo--whose interface resembles that of Facebook--to determine whether it could create more engagement and interaction.

My focus was on Blackboard, especially for the online classes. Straining against its operability issues, I was concerned about user-unfriendliness for students new to it. My question was whether Blackboard represented more help or hindrance to our online students

We surveyed our students at the beginning and end of the semester, asking about their use of technologies that can aid instruction, such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones; their expectations beforehand about the use of technology in the FYW classroom; and their experience afterward of how technology was used in our classes.



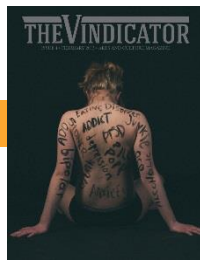
(Continued on p.6)

# The Vindicator – Has a New Advisor

by Dr. Julie Burrell, Assistant Professor

In spring 2015, I took over from my colleague, Dr. Adrienne Gosselin, as the faculty advisor for *The Vindicator*, Cleveland State's student-run, multicultural arts magazine. Since then, I have been deeply impressed with the dedication and professionalism that *Vindicator* staff and contributing writers and artists—all CSU students—have consistently shown in putting out the monthly magazine.

*The Vindicator* was founded in 1970 as the voice for African American students at CSU, and has since evolved to reflect the campus and the city's multicultural population. *The Vindi's* beautiful graphic design sets it apart from other student publications on campus. More than merely a chic glossy, *The Vindi* reflects the wide-ranging interests of CSU's student body. Recent editions have explored addiction and mental health issues faced by students; protested police violence in the wake of Ferguson and the shooting of Tamir Rice; surveyed the local music scene; drawn attention to labor conditions for our adjunct professors; and showcased Cleveland State students' prodigious creative talents, including poetry and visual art.



English major Michelle Galmarini is *The Vindi's* current copyeditor. Michelle says that what makes the *Vindi* exceptional is its diversity, not simply in the makeup of its staff, but also in the pages of the magazine itself. When I asked Michelle how her English courses have contributed to her work at the magazine, she said, "English 310: Traditional Grammar directly helps me edit." She noted, though writers may sense that something "doesn't sound or look right, they might not be able to explain the reasons why, and this class provides those reasons. It shows that English isn't as arbitrary as we may think, but that there is actually some logic behind the madness."

Drawing on her training in our department, Michelle has made an in-house grammar guide for the writers. "I feel like I'm teaching people about English," she notes. She's getting a jump start on her career, as she is intending to become an English teacher when she graduates.

To see more of *The Vindicator* and read student work, including Michelle's, visit [thevindi.com](http://thevindi.com). To view *Vindi* interviews and special video features, visit [youtube.com/user/CSUVindi](http://youtube.com/user/CSUVindi).

Stay updated at:

@Vindi\_CSU

[Facebook.com/VindicatorCSU](https://www.facebook.com/VindicatorCSU)

[instagram.com/Vindi\\_CSU/](https://www.instagram.com/Vindi_CSU/)



## NEW CREATIVE WRITING SCHOLARSHIP

This year the Department of English Awarded 19 exceptional students with scholarships and prizes. We also added a new scholarship to our yearly student awards, **The Raab-Brennan Endowed Scholarship in Creative Writing**: This endowed Scholarship is created through the generosity of Scott Raab and Lisa Brennan to support the MFA in Creative Writing program in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

For more information about this scholarship and other department awards Visit the Department of English Webpage at:

<https://www.csuohio.edu/class/english/english>

## 2015 Awarded Student Scholarships and Writing Prizes

### Current 2014-2015 Award Winners

Andrews Award

Award Winner: **Maria Alberto**

Leonard Trawick Scholarship in Creative Writing

Award Winners: **Amber Allen, Daniel Dorman and Emily Troia**

Neal Chandler Creative Writing Enhancement Award

Award Winner: **Tucker Kelly**

Raab-Brennan Scholarship in Creative Writing

Award Winner: **Rebecca Spagnuolo**

Cleveland Arts Prize

Award Winners: **Jesse Crombie and Bobbi Trunck**

Plain Dealer Writing Contest Awards

Award Winners: **Kirsten Bull, Eric Kish, Chelsea Mace, Nemanja Rodic and Nattawat Sunpituksaree**

Gulbenkian Award

Award Winner: **Danita Grigsby**

Donald W. Miller Scholarship

Award Winner: **Loren Rodgers**

Spring 2014 Creative Writing Scholarship

Award Winners: **Daniel Cleary, Michael Putnam, Logan Smith, Rebecca Spagnuolo and Hannah Sylvester**

## News and Updates from the CSU Poetry Center: New website, New Logo and New Location

by Dr. Caryl Pagel, Assistant Professor and Director of the CSU Poetry Center



What's going on at the Poetry Center? Glad you asked! Here's a list of some of the more recent events and activities:

**New website:** At the start of 2015 the CSU Poetry Center launched a new website which can be found at [www.csupoetrycenter.com](http://www.csupoetrycenter.com); it includes a complete listing of the nearly 200 titles we've published over the last 40+ years plus current author information, student reviews and interviews, guidelines for our book contests, and the ability to purchase books online.

**New Location:** The CSU Poetry Center will be relocating to the **Hazel Collister Hutchison Poetry Room** (RT 415) on the 4th floor of the Michel Schwartz Library. This move will increase office space for the graduate assistants and provide a more open and collaborative work environment. This new space will also create a welcoming central location to sell books, have workshops, host readings and showcase the 200+ titles that are currently published by the CSU Poetry Center.

**Book Competitions:** Last spring the CSU Poetry Center hosted three national book contests: a First Book Poetry Competition (judged by Guggenheim and Lambda Book Award recipient Eileen Myles), an Open Book Poetry Competition (judged by a panel of past CSU authors), and for the first time ever an Essay Collection Competition (judged by NBCC Award nominee and Whiting Award winner Wayne Koestenbaum). We received nearly 1,100 manuscripts and will be announcing the winners of those competitions this fall.

**Lighthouse Reading Series:** Also in the spring of last year we launched a monthly student-run reading series, which was named the "[Best New Reading Series](#)" by the *Cleveland Scene*. This year we will host 12 contemporary poets over the course of the academic year. Readings are free and open to the public and the schedule can be found on our website.

**New Catalog & Awards:** Last-but-not-least the CSU Poetry Center staff is proud to have selected, edited, designed, & promoted three new books of contemporary poetry and one Russian translation of poems last year. Two of those titles have already appeared on Small Press Distribution's monthly bestsellers list and in the last year recent CSU Poetry Center titles have won awards from the Forward Review, the Texas Institute of Letters, and the Eric Hoffer Book Award.

For more information on the Poetry Center readings, authors, or internships contact Caryl Pagel at [c.pagel@csuohio.edu](mailto:c.pagel@csuohio.edu).

## CSU Poetry Center 2015 releases:

### *Bottle the Bottles the Bottles the Bottles*

By Lee Upton

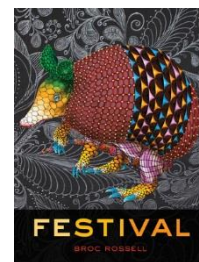


Winner of the  
2014 Open Book  
Competition,  
selected  
by Erin Belieu

### *Festival*

By Broc Rossell

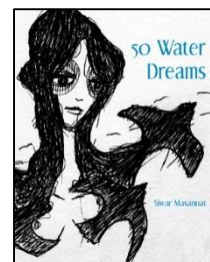
Editor's Choice  
for the 2014 First  
Book Competition



### *50 Water Dreams*

By Siwar Masannat

Winner of the  
2014 First Book  
Competition,  
selected  
by Ilya Kaminsky



### *I Burned at the Feast: Selected Poems of Arseny Tarkovsky*



Translated by  
Philip Metres &  
Dimitri Psurtsev

## English @ MC2 STEM – Connecting with High School educators

by Dr. Mary McDonald, Director of the CSU Writing Center



Starting in November 2014, several members of the English Department worked to secure a connection among some Cleveland Municipal High Schools and high school English teachers in the Greater Cleveland area. Nadine Grimm of the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County, who has taught Proposal Writing and First-Year Writing for the department, wrote and received a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to ease high school students' transition into university-level math and English classes. To address part of that transition, she invited Dr. Mary McDonald along with Amanda Lloyd (adjunct instructor in English) and Melanie Gagigh (College Lecturer in English) to give workshops to high school teachers, to develop a tutoring program at the MC2STEM high school on campus, and to train tutors for the Maple Heights High School.

Amanda and Melanie offered their insights about students' performance in workshops to high school teachers; they also observed high school students at work on assignments and offered feedback for the grant evaluation process. Melanie gave a workshop on college assignments to students from Collinwood High School. Mary offered a set of workshops to high school English teachers on creating a high school writing center, developing writing-across-the-curriculum classes, forming assignments, and teaching the research paper. CSU tutors at the MC2STEM high school (Dan Dorman, Arvin Mathur, and Ben Schwartz) received great feedback from administrators, teachers, and students. We hope to continue having a tutor at the school in the future.

### (Lecturers @ CCCC continued)

**E  
N  
G  
L  
I  
S  
H**

We found that all students from the initial survey own at least one or some combination of those devices. Further, nearly 70% of the students responding to our exit survey found that using those devices in the classroom was helpful.

We concluded that our students have nearly ubiquitous access to various types of personal technology, use it actively in the writing process, and enjoy bringing it to the classroom to work on writing assignments.

The exit survey showed that many of Melanie's students appreciated the low-tech environment. Jessica's students indicated that her high-tech approach was still a well-balanced supplement to the class. Emilie's students thought that Edmodo fostered at least better student-instructor interaction, if not student-student interaction. Lastly, my students' experience of Blackboard was largely positive, with minor problems easily resolved.

Ultimately, students said that more important than the amount or kind of technology in our classes was the instructor's comfort level with the technology. Regardless of the level or type of technology employed, most students reported that they thought the amount was "just right."

While at the conference, we attended many panel presentations, covering a wide range of topics, such as multimodal approaches in writing, the teaching of non-violence and mediation in the writing classroom, and celebrating linguistic diversity in the classroom.

We wish to thank the First-Year Writing Program, the English Department, and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences for their monetary support of our attendance at the conference. – John Brentar

## 2015-16 Faculty Scholarship Initiative awards

According to the Department of Research's webpage, The Faculty Scholarship Initiative (FSI) was established to facilitate faculty scholarship and research. As CSU moves toward becoming the region's urban research university, the scholarly reputation of each discipline is vital to our mission. The FSI funds faculty conducting quality research, or other creative or scholarly activity, that advances the respective field or discipline. This year 4 of these coveted awards went to members of the English Department:



**Rachel Carnell**

Prosecuting Satire in the Reign of Queen Anne

**Gary Dyer**

Lord Byron on Trial: Literature and the Law in the Romantic Period



**Michael Geither**

Creation Myth: A Full-Length Devised Theatrical Experience



**Caryl Pagel**

The Reality of the Unseen



Follow the link below to see the full list of the 2015 FSI awardees:  
<https://www.csuohio.edu/research/2015-2016-faculty-scholarship-initiative-fsi-award-announcement>

## Unicorns @ Work -Department Research and engaging activities

### Julie Burrell hits the archives

Thanks to CSU start-up funds, I traveled to three archives critical in the preservation of African American theatre and performance cultures: the [New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#), the [New York Public Library for the Performing Arts](#), and the [Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Archives at Emory University](#). I found a wealth of new information and primary resources on black theatre in the mid-Twentieth Century, which I am in the process of digesting and distilling into my manuscript, *Staging Freedom: The Civil Rights Theatre Movement in New York, 1939-1966*. *Staging Freedom* tells the story of the interracial theatrical milieu of World War II-era New York City that mounted innovative plays that challenged Jim Crow onstage and backstage. All three archives offered an incomparable glimpse at these largely unheralded artists and their groundbreaking work in the American theatre.

### D.E.S.S.E.R.T. – #BlackLivesMatter

In the wake of the most recent attacks on African Americans and other minority groups by our nation's police force, **Dr. Julie Burrell**, Assistant Professor of English, has dedicated a section of the second edition of the department summer reading series to readings that address racial inequality and the social injustices that plague minorities in the US. This year's **D.E.S.S.E.R.T.** features recommendations on titles including Jonathan Kozol's *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid in America's Schooling* and Claudia Rankine's *Citizen* to name a few.



## Department of English Unicorn Newsletter

2121 Euclid Avenue, RT 1815  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Phone: 216.687.3951  
Email: [s.nunley@csuohio.edu](mailto:s.nunley@csuohio.edu)

[Addressee]  
[Street Address]  
[City, ST ZIP Code]