

THE MIRROR & THE LAMP

The Department of English at Western Illinois University Issue 5 Spring 2018



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR—READING BEYOND THE PRESENT MOMENT

by *Dr. Mark Mossman*

This Spring my undergraduate mentor, Dr. Jeffrey Skoblow, retired from teaching.

Jeff Skoblow will always be the embodiment of “English” for me. A deeply read Marxist theorist, specializing in William Morris and Victorian culture, Jeff opened my mind to numerous perspectives critical of our current cultural moment—he asked his students to stop watching television, to think about how our everyday actions hurt other people on this planet, and to consider how our very dreams themselves are a part of a larger enterprise of which we are only dimly aware.

More than anything, this English professor taught me how to read, and how to read critically and with a deep seriousness. What does this mean? I have been trying to figure that out for a long time: as a student, as a professor, and even as the Chair of the department.

In part what reading critically means is adopting a perspective that is distant from the moment.

Reading, and reading with seriousness, gives us distance. In the moment, we experience the chaos of the present; in its first blush of practice, reading gives us a distance from that chaos.

Instead of the moment-by-moment crisis of twitter, or snapchat, or any other kind of instantaneous media communication, reading, and especially reading the historical traditions, opens up an entirely different, slow field of experience, which allows us to then rethink that present. Being imaginatively separated from the urgencies and crises of the moment, reading allows us to think in new ways, to imagine changing that chaotic world into something better.

In this way, like laughter perhaps, reading is a profoundly political act.

And in this way, again like laughter, reading is a profoundly hopeful action.

Thus, as citizens of our present moment, I ask everyone reading this letter to pause and read, with seriousness, every single day.



Chair Mark Mossman, 2018

CONTENTS

“Letter from the Chair”.....	2
“Birds Love Simpkins Hall” and “Jerry Hansen Retires”.....	3
“Conference Craze”.....	4
“Boiler Room Reading Series Fall 2017.....	6
“Little Free Library”.....	7
“The Grad School Shuffle”.....	8
“English Majors Are Zombies?!”.....	9
“The Writing Center: My Experience as a ‘Newbie’”.....	10
“Fall 2017 Dinner and Conversations”.....	11
“2017-2018 Awards and Announcements”.....	12
“Bookish Travel: Twice Lost”.....	16
“The Book That Changed My Life”.....	18
“Proust Questionnaire: Ellen Poulter”.....	19

BIRDS LOVE SIMPKINS HALL

by Aubrey Foust

Everyone likes birds. What wild creature is more accessible to our eyes and ears, as close to us and everyone in the world, as universal as a bird?

– David Attenborough

Most students who frequent the halls of Simpkins are familiar with the persistent TAP TAP TAP tapping at the glass windows. The little birds that nest in the bushes outside of Simpkins have earned themselves the title of simply “the bird.” Class will be progressing in its usual fashion when suddenly there comes a tapping, as of someone gently rapping, rapping at... Simpkins’ window. Whispers will quietly break out in the room “Oh, it’s the bird again” or “Oh look it’s the bird,” and for a brief moment, a magical thing happens in those longstanding classrooms. One student will turn to another and whisper “While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping;” another student will chime in... “Hope is a thing with feathers...” and finally one student will finish off “It’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” One small bird for a brief moment manages to grab everyone’s attention, and in that moment everyone’s worries of the day fade into the background. Students laugh, forgetting all the papers they need to type, and the professor grading those papers takes a break from their lecture to smile.



The source of the bird’s strange behavior is probably due to it seeing the skies reflection in the glass, but my colleagues and I choose to indulge our imaginations. We instead choose to believe that the bird and his friends simply want to obtain a wholesome education. Perhaps the bird is a fan of Dr. Morrow’s Shakespeare class, or Dr. White’s Young Adult literature class. Whatever the birds’ preferred academic focus may be, one thing is for certain: birds undoubtedly love Simpkins.



JERRY HANSEN RETIRES

When Jerry Hansen arrived at WIU in 1984, he had no idea he’d stay 34 years. Here in WIU’s English Department, Jerry found his home. He immediately immersed himself in the department culture by serving on committees and planning department events. Jerry’s true passion, though, was teaching. His students found themselves in an engaging writing course, learning critical thinking and traditional rhetoric.

Jerry Hansen recognized for 34 years of teaching at Writing at Western



Jerry’s expectations for his students were high, and many of his students left his course with true lessons on how to succeed in college and in life. His colleagues have benefited from Jerry’s years here, too. His expertise in teaching and his departmental knowledge

Thank you, Jerry, for all you have given to our department and to our students. You will be greatly missed!

Your friend and colleague,
Christy Wherley

CONFERENCE CRAZE: MY EXPERIENCE ATTENDING THE NATIONAL NCTE AND NATIONAL SIGMA TAU DELTA CONFERENCES

by Tess Tyler

As English majors, all of us are familiar with the amount of dedication, sweat, and tears it takes to write a solid essay or create a complex project. Many times, these projects and papers are read by our professors and given a grade, but then they become only a wisp of a memory in the back of our minds, especially after we are assigned additional essays and projects. However, there are times when we create an essay or a project that we are really, really proud of. So proud, in fact, that we may want to share it with others. Thankfully, college students can have the opportunity to share their work with others by attending conferences. There is truly no greater feeling than having the opportunity to present a paper or project (that you've spent hours of time creating) in front of a group of peers and professionals who support and encourage you.

This semester I have had the wonderful opportunity to attend two national English conferences where I shared my academic work, met new people, and gained valuable knowledge from professionals in the field of English and Education. After diligently submitting abstracts and receiving research grants, I was able to present a project at the national NCTE conference in Fall 2017, and I was able to present a paper at the national Sigma Tau Delta Conference in Spring 2018!

The NCTE Conference:

NCTE stands for the National Council of Teachers of English, and this conference was comprised of English teachers from all over the country! The national NCTE conference, which was held in Saint Louis, Missouri this past November, was dedicated to helping English teachers refine their skills, network with other teachers, discover new books to read with their class, and meet new popular authors. Thanks to the help of Dr. Alisha White, I was able to attend the national conference. Dr. Rebekah Buchanan also joined us!

While at the conference, I was able to attend a variety of panels to gain more information about recent research concerning English instruction. A few of my favorite panels were: Recapture Our Voices: The Joy of the Thing (I was able to hear various authors, such as Laurie Halse Anderson and Jason Reynolds, discuss their young adult literature books), The Arts for Action and Meaning Making Today, Tomorrow, and Forever:

An Invitation to Think, Play, Move, and Feel (Dr. Alisha White, from WIU presented in this panel, which advocated for using art to teach literature!), Recapturing the YA Voice in Literature: Culture, Family, and Identity (Various teachers presented on various novels and the benefits of teaching them, and author Benjamin Alire Saenz gave an incredible speech about the importance of young adult fiction in English classes). I was also able to hear authors Gareth Hinds and Jacqueline Woodson speak about their work in the general session panels. Additionally, I presented my learning segment project "Analyzing Isabel: Exploring A Fierce and Subtle Poison Through Action Strategies" in the Future is Now: Exploring 21st-Century Teaching Ideas with the Next Generation of English Teachers panel. During this panel, I was able to talk with other pre-teachers and teachers about fresh ideas and activities to use in the English classroom. Besides having the opportunity to present at this incredible conference, my highlight of the conference was having the chance to meet Rick Riordan, author of the Percy Jackson and the Olympian Series!



Dr. Alisha White and Tess Tyler at NCTE



Tess Tyler and author Rick Riordan at NCTE

The Sigma Tau Delta Conference:

Sigma Tau Delta is a national English honors society. WIU has an active chapter, Phi Delta, which devotes itself to supporting literacy, volunteering, and giving English majors the opportunity to network with other English majors and present their work. Thanks to the help of Dr. Magdelyn Helwig and Dr. Timothy Helwig, Paige Rohrback, Molly Cameron and I were able to attend both the regional Sigma Tau Delta conference, which was held at WIU, and the National Sigma Tau Delta conference, which was hosted at the Hilton Hotel in Cincinnati,

Ohio. Attending the National Sigma Tau Delta conference was an incredibly enriching experience because it not only gave me the opportunity to share my academic work, but it also allowed me to network with other English majors and hear about their scholarly research. A few of the panels that I attended and found

particularly interesting and helpful were: How to Teach Shakespeare to Children of All Ages, Popular Culture and Mental Health, Getting Published: From Pen to Printing Press, and Pedagogy: Teaching Writing. I believe that the information I gained while participating in these panels will assist me in my future as an English Teacher. I loved being able to hear recent academic research concerning the field of English, and I was glad that I was able to attend the conference and gain new information. While at the conference, I presented my essay "Prospero: Man of Otherness," which discussed the relationship between the colonizer, Prospero, and the colonized natives, Caliban and Ariel, of the island in William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Paige Rohrback presented her essay "Home Away From Home," which was centered on *The Book of Unknown Americans*. Molly Cameron presented her essay "Addicted to



Dr. Helwigs, Molly Cameron, Tess Tyler, and Paige Rohrback attending the Gala.

Happiness: Dystopia as Utopia" and also presented in a roundtable called "Brave New Worlds: Plausible Dystopias." Her presentations focused on exploring dystopian novels and their messages to readers. All of our presentations were successful, and we enjoyed getting to discuss our topics with other English majors.

In between conference days, we also had the opportunity to tour the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center with chapter advisors Tim and Magdelyn Helwig, and receive a private tour of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House.

Additionally, this conference included fun socializing activities such as an Open Mic Night (Anyone and everyone could share their writing), a Bad Poetry Contest, (Molly Cameron shared her poem "Chipotle," and

Molly, Paige and I presented our poem "I'm Feeling a Little Suicidal, So I'm Going to Wallgreens," which was based on a poorly executed theft we witnessed at the Wallgreens down the street from the hotel) and a Literary



Tess Tyler, Molly Cameron, and Paige Rohrback eating amazing food in Cincinnati!

Escape Room. These activities allowed everyone to get to know one another and bond through our love of English. The Bad Poetry contest was particularly hilarious, and the audience enjoyed booing and heckling speakers off the stage. Participants won awards for "Worst Bad Poems" and "Worst Good Poems." Be sure to ask Molly Cameron about the award she won for "Chipotle," which she artfully composed around 5 minutes after eating dinner with me at the restaurant by the same name. The Literary Escape Room was also extremely enjoyable, and each escape room was focused on a particular book or book series. For example, our group attended the *Jane Eyre* room and the Series of Unfortunate Events Room (Sadly, those were the only rooms we could experience because so many people attended this event!) We were also able to attend the final Gala, which included a multi course dinner and an award ceremony. Overall, the National Conference was extremely enjoyable!

BOILER ROOM READING SERIES FALL 2017

by *Brittney Douglas*

On October 27th the English department put on their Boiler Room Reading Series at the university art gallery. The featured readers were Undergraduate student Tess Tyler, Graduate student Nick Nusbaumer, and faculty member Dr. Shazia Rahman. Each reader presented a piece or pieces of their personal work to share with the audience. The atmosphere of the Boiler Room reading was very calm, inspiring, and accepting.

Undergraduate student Tess Tyler began the Boiler Room readings with her Multi Genre Project on *The Phantom of the Opera: Uncovering the Secrets behind Gaston Leroux's Masterpiece*. Tyler read pieces from her multi genre project such as a journal entry that was from Gaston Leroux, a drawing of Christine and the Phantom, and an obituary for "Pierre Emile"; a fictional man since the identity of the man killed from the chandelier is unknown. Tyler explained her love for *The Phantom of the Opera*, the importance for educational value using a Multi genre project, and the passion she has for English.

Graduate student Nick Nusbaumer read two of his poems. His poems I'd much like to remain and People powerwith two sections "harvest," "bag," and "feast. These were poems that he wrote to help him explore his Filipino heritage. Nusbaumer's poems were both powerful and moving as one could feel the weight of his pride in each poem. Nusbaumer spoke of his Filipino heritage getting lost along the way and how the passing of his Lola (grandmother) has helped inspire him to get back into his heritage.

Faculty member Dr. Shazia Rahman read her piece *More to Me*, which was a reflection of her identity, her life growing up embedded in multiple cultures, and her passion for acceptance of her own beliefs. Dr. Rahman spoke with passion as she read and explained deep parts of her identity in her piece. A few things we learned from Dr. Rahman's piece is that she loves to travel and is proud of who she knows she is. She also spoke about the Mediterranean always feeling very close to her whenever she revisits.



Readers Tess Tyler, Nick Nusbaumer, and Dr. Shazia Rahman pose together for a picture at the event.



Our 2017-2018 staff pose together outside Simpkins.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: SIGMA TAU DELTA AT WORK

by Molly Cameron

Under the cover of twilight on the edge of a damp and chilly evening in February, a group of people snuck onto the sidewalk of an unassuming YMCA carrying tools of all shapes. What was their nefarious purpose? Were they vandals? Woodworking Illuminati? The ghosts of community service past, present, and future? While I'm still holding on to my Illuminati theory, it has been confirmed that these people were generous Sigma Tau Delta members working on a service project which will brighten up the community and help young readers.

On February 23, 2018 Sigma Tau Delta members braved the less than ideal weather to begin restoring the Little Free Library: a small library box outside the Macomb YMCA containing children's books which can be taken and returned by anyone at no charge. The Little Free Library was first put in place by Western's NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English)

chapter several years ago, and—although it still stands— it is clear the structure has seen better days. Weather worn sides, a cracked foundation, and a sagging hinge meant that the box could use some love and the English Honors organization answered the call.



sealant, and other practical supplies for the restoration of the Little Free Library, as well as books to restock the mostly empty shelves. In the past, the Little Free Library has contained mostly board books for young children; however, since the Macomb area is a poorer community

and children of all ages could use the resource, Sigma Tau Delta has provided everything from small picture books to Young Adult novels and classic storybooks. Inside each book a short letter was hidden to be found by the children. The letters will encourage the child to continue reading and allow books to become a positive influence in their life.



After venting pent up frustration through aggressive sanding and scraping, the students sealed the structure with a waterproof coating and filled in the cracked foundation to prevent further weather damage. The project was left to cure, and Sunday the fun work of painting and stocking the new and improved Little Free Library began. Distance learners and members from the Quad Cities campus joined Macomb members in sprucing up the now plain wood box, coming together to help one community. With a fresh coat of cheerfully bright paint, the little free library

was once again covered in quotes and characters from Dr. Seuss, which invite children to go and read. Before long, this staple of the Macomb community will look like new and have a selection of books for everyone to enjoy. Between this service project, marching in the homecoming parade, and holding a bake sale outside of Simpkins hall (Gasp!), this has been a busy year for Sigma Tau Delta. The fun is just beginning as the chapter gears up for the national conference and the spring book drive this semester, which both promise to be exciting events. We may not be a mysterious band of vagabonds sneaking in to do community service under cover of darkness, but we are a fantastic group of people working to improve our community, reach out to students, and provide a home for those with a love of literature.



THE GRAD SCHOOL SHUFFLE

by Molly Cameron

Entering freshman year for me felt like staring down another brief eternity; I had just finished high school and completed a chapter of my life, only to be faced with the prospect of starting yet another chapter at another school for another four years. At the time, it felt like I would be at W.I.U. forever and my “grown up life” would never begin. Looking back as a senior, I now see that time in my life as a fresh start- life is not a series of endings, but a compilation of new and exciting beginnings (cheesy as that may sound).

At the end of my senior year of undergrad, I find myself in a similar position to the one I was in four years ago, with one major exception (aside from the mountain of debt the older me is now saddled with): I am expected to know what I’m doing. It is terrifying. When a high school student applies to college for the first time, they are not expected to know anything more than the absolute basics. Heck, you don’t even have to declare a major for the first year or two (some never do). If you try to apply to a grad program as “undecided” you’ll be laughed out of the place and \$100 poorer to boot.

The thing about applying to grad school is that it forces you to focus. With each draft of my statement of purpose, I was told to be more specific, to find my area of expertise, to pinpoint exactly what I want to know; my struggle with this process was one of language. Before looking at grad programs at various schools, I had never heard of ecocriticism, technocracy, or transnational anglophile multicultural lit. Professors in some of these big schools have areas so specific, they study only the aesthetics of black female authors in three counties of the American southeast written between 1842 and 1868. While applicants are not expected to be quite that focused, you are required generally to figure out at least one area of focus, a timeframe, and what side of the pond you’ll be studying. It’s a process that is at once horribly uncomfortable and pleasantly liberating, because you’re forced to think of yourself not as a future grad student, but as a future expert of something. It forces you to answer those questions of who you want

to be when you grow up in a manner that will actually get you where you’re going. You can’t just say “I want to be a professor” because you are beyond that point in the process. You must now say “I want to be a professor of ___” and go from there. You’re taking a tangible step towards your future, and it’s up to you to find out where exactly you should be going.

Applying to grad school can be this great activity of transformation and fulfillment, or it can be a bunch of really boring paperwork. Heck, we’re English majors, we know something can be both at once. I was prepared for that. What I was not prepared for is the fact that grad school applications are expensive as all get out. Every application is between \$60 and \$100, plus \$7-\$10 for official transcripts and \$27 for GRE scores (which cost you \$150 to get in the first place). Multi-

It’s a process that is at once horribly uncomfortable and pleasantly liberating, because you’re forced to think of yourself not as a future grad student, but as a future expert of something.

ply that by about 10 schools and you’ve got a whole lot of money invested in a bit of writing and a glimmer of hope. While I never want to say that the extortion of already poor students is good, the fee does have certain unexpected effects which helped my application process along. Having to pay outrageous amounts of money

for each application meant that I narrowed down my school list and focused my search on schools which I could see myself attending and which were situated within my realm of possibility.

Let’s be honest, there is no way I’m getting into Johns Hopkins no matter how many hearts and smiley faces I draw next to the entry in my list of applications. It was far better for me to focus on a range of schools with programs more suited to my interests and faculty with whom I could see myself working with in the future than to waste my time and resources on schools with prestige and no heart. Additionally, the hefty price made me slow down and focus on producing the best application possible. If I was about to drop over \$100 on this, then it’s going to have to be competitive or that money was wasted. It’s still a little unsettling that I had to pay so much money to maybe not be accepted, but in the end the application process is a necessary, if

painful evil one must face.

Having gone through all of this, I somehow feel more confident in the work I've done as an undergrad here at Western. Throughout the process I've been supported by such amazing professors (shout out to Dr. Morrow, Dr. Banash, and Dr. Helwig for writing about a thousand letters of recommendation and coaching me through the process), without whom I would have been lost. With just a few months before graduation, I've realized that I am going to miss this place and the people here much more than I had expected. I've found a home here and it never occurred to me that I'd be leaving so soon. I look to the future now not as an ending, but as another in a long series of new beginnings. Good luck with your own journey forward (you're going to need it).

As October 31st draws nearer by the day, WIU students' heads are filled with spooky thoughts of ghosts, ghouls, and things that go bump in the night. Werewolves, vampires, witches, and, of course, the Zombie. You may or may not know that there are many ways to turn into a zombie. For example, being exposed to cosmic radiation or perhaps stumbling into a vat of toxic waste. There's also the prospects of genetic manipulation, biological weaponry or becoming an English major...yes, you read that last part right! "Becoming an English major?" you might laugh "How does becoming an English major turn you into a zombie?" college-zombie This is no laughing matter my friend! When that chilly Autumn air rolls in with the familiar smell of pumpkin spice, Simpkin's halls become a very spooky place to reside.

Imagine this: you're minding your own business when, suddenly, you hear a ghastly moaning and groaning. "Eek!" You shout only to turn and find your friend Tess slumping down the hallway carrying her mountain of English textbooks. With a sigh of relief, you round the corner only to bump into your other friend Bryce who has dark circles under her eyes. She greets you with a familiar groan "Ohhh...Heyyyy...I was up all night typing papers" she shrugs. You laugh it off and head for your next class, you open the door and hear someone softly groaning "Brain...s...Brain...Brains..." You gasp in horror only to be greeted by your friend Matt rubbing his temple "Ugh my Brain...hurts." You shake it off this last encounter and continue to go about your day, but it's not long before you notice everyone has those familiar dark circles under their eyes and everyone is moaning with exhaustion in Simpkins.

You quickly come to the stark realization that they have all turned into zombies! So what is there to be done? Can the English majors be saved? Will they ever be their normal selves again? Don't fret my dear friend this happens every October, and the spell is usually lifted shortly after midterms are completed. It won't be long before the English majors can return to their normal selves. Well...as normal as they can be.

ENGLISH MAJORS ARE ZOMBIES?!

by *Aubrey Foust*



[From left to right] Brittney Douglas, Anabel Torres, Tess Tyler, Laura Landa, Emily-Bryce Swain, and Matt Thrush

THE WRITING CENTER: MY EXPERIENCE AS A “NEWBIE”

by Katie Green



It was an oddly sticky, blazing hot October day out around the WIU Macomb campus. It was a Tuesday, as I recall. I was strutting down the sidewalk in my best clothes, but sweating incessantly through my shear pink blouse. I tried an hour beforehand to look my best for my very first interview, but my low ponytail ended up making me look less professional and more like Will Turner from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The longer I hiked over towards the Malpass Library, the more I perspired and the more the sun burned my pale, pasty white skin. I finally arrived at the Library and darted straight up the stairs to the Writing Center for my interview. I sat and waited for Dr. Baird, and the interview began....and before I knew it, it was finished!

A week later I remember waking up to my phone pinging, signaling that I had received an email. It was Dr. Baird; he wanted to meet up with me for a second time. The next day I got ready for the second interview by putting on my warmest wool sweater and winter coat (the weather in Illinois can't make up its mind). I hiked up the dreadful hill that leads to Simpkins (we all know the one) and arrived to the entrance of his office. Within that brief meeting, he announced that I was officially hired for the job. I shook his hand and promptly clicked my heels together before heading down the staircase; I did it!

Fast forward to the Spring semester...after a long, joyous winter break I walked into the Malpass Library Writing Center for the first time since my

interview, and I was once again very nervous. What will the other consultants think of me? I mused. What if I don't know as much about writing and grammar usage as I thought? All sorts of emotions were whirling around my head like a swarm of angry hornets. I was put somewhat at ease, though, when I figured out I wasn't the only “newbie” of the semester. Dr. Baird read off all the content and skills we would be learning as new consultants in the Writing Center. He then explained to us that for our training, we would be observing our fellow consultants during their sessions and we would also complete three “mock” tutoring sessions. Here, we would be challenged to react appropriately and professionally given various tutoring situations.

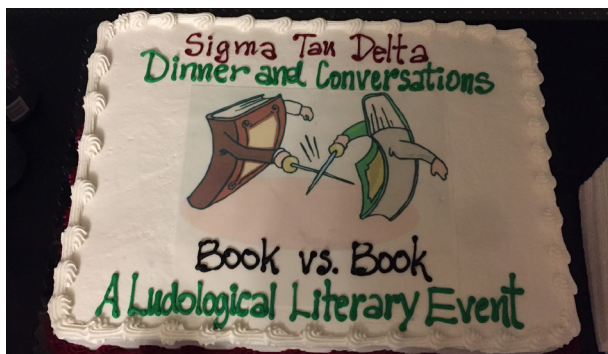
So far, we have been given an “easy” client as well as a “difficult” client. THIS. WAS. TERRIFYING. I recall the “difficult” mock session to be with Nick, another consultant. He, twirling his raven locks through his fingers, gave me a stern look and asked, “Why don't you think my paper is good enough? I can't believe you think it's bad!” Oh man...I thought. Suddenly I began to sweat just like I had in October. I searched for the right words and responded with “It's not bad, I just think it needs some improvement because it doesn't quite follow your assignment sheet”. Okay, I thought. Now you're on to something. To be brief, I got through the session and, although a bit frazzled, I actually felt confident. Although this was a very difficult session to get through, it has been my favorite thus far because it taught me how to handle confrontations in the workplace in a calm and assertive manner.

Thus far, I have learned many useful skills in the Writing Center. I have learned that it is great fun to work with ELL writers and that they can teach you a great deal about culture and language. I learned that although it's scary to make friends with coworkers at first, once you become friends they are some of the sweetest people to hang out with on campus. Most importantly, what I have learned is that this job has taught me to be confident, assertive, an immensely open-minded to new ideas. Thanks to the writing center, I have gained a brand-new understanding of the entire writing process and how our aim as consultants is NOT to edit or change a writer's paper, but to shape a writer's approach to writing. So....what I guess I'm trying to say is that maybe being the “newbie” isn't so bad after all.

BOOK VS. BOOK: A LUDILOGICAL LITERARY EVENT

By Tiffany Dimmick

Every year a new Dinner and Conversations hosted by a faculty member occurs as part of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Sometimes the event is a party portraying literary and cultural icons to solve a murder mystery using Sherlockian Detection, sometimes it's going to a morgue-turned house to discuss Edgar Allan Poe with gothic décor and desserts made from Poe-shaped cookie-cutters, and sometimes it involves making Zines (a self-published magazine), printing Shakespearian sonnets with a Vandercook No. 1 Proof Press, or critically listening to music and how it changes as it travels around the globe.



This year it was a battle of books hosted by Chris Morrow at The Old Bailey House on Saturday, December 2. This was a chance to pick a cherished book to pit against other books in an ultimate test of humor, cleverness, and literary madness. During the gathering, faculty and peers cut, fragmented, and decontextualized their book's language to defeat one another in a game called *Bring Your Own Book* (similar to *Apples to Apples*). The appointed decider chose a prompt such as "text on a birthday card," "the way the world ends," "euphemism for going to the bathroom," "the 11th commandment," "a phrase you'd overhear on a truck driver radio," or "this just in: a line of breaking news!" Each person in the collective gathering had a limited time to find the perfect line(s) in his/her book to sway the decider to choose that book for the prompt. Captain Ahab battled Shakespearean characters who battled mountain-climbers who battled graphic novel characters who battled animals, bus drivers, feminists, philosophers, sci-fiers, and many more. Playing games academically? How ludicrous...or ludiological!



*Dr. Chris Morrow
as Shakespeare*



*Dr. Tim Helwig as
Captain Ahab from
Moby Dick*



*Dr. Neil Baird as a
mountain-climber
from Into the Air*

2017-2018 AWARDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Award Winning Students

Each spring, the English Department awards \$20,000 in scholarships and fellowships for our graduate and undergraduate students. We are pleased to announce the following students were awarded English scholarships this spring for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Undergraduate Scholarship and Award Winners:

Barbara & John Blackburn Scholarship – **Emily Bryce Swain**; Paul Blackford Scholarship – **Mackenzie Bennett**; Olive Fite American Literature Scholarship – **Desiree Steele**; Irving Garwood Shakespeare Scholarship – **Kaylee Gundling**; Robert Hodges English Education Scholarship – **Laura Landa**; Lila Linder Scholarship – **Claire Possin & Kevin Titus**; Karen Mann Essay Award in Literature and Film – **Ashley Hanson**; Alfred Lindsey Memorial Scholarship – **Desiree Steele**; John Merrett Scholarship in British Literature – **Tess Tyler**; Beth M. Stiffler Scholarship – **Paige Rohrback**; Nai-Tung Ting Scholarship – **Paige Rohrback**; Sig, Jeannette & Dean Johnson Scholarship – **Tess Tyler**.

Scholar of the Year Scholarship – **Tess Tyler**

Writing Awards:

Bruce H. Leland Essay Contest: English 100, Introduction to Writing – 1st Place, **Judson Henry**; 2nd Place, **Jerasha Davenport**; 3rd Place, **Asya Morrison**. English 180, College Writing I – 1st Place, **Kaleb Wadsworth**; 2nd Place, **Andrea Przybylski**; 3rd Place, **Kelli Thompson**. English 280, College Writing II – 1st Place, **Frankie Alexander**; 2nd Place, **Ryan Zurek**; 3rd Place, **Lauren Wood**. Lois C. Bruner Creative Nonfiction Awards – 1st Place, **Austin Middleton**; 2nd Place, **Jason Cummins**; 3rd Place, **Kendrick Keller**. Cordell Larner Award in Fiction – 1st Place, **Cheyenne Rideaux**; 2nd Place, **Maria Chiaradonna**; 3rd Place, **Marissa Purdum**. Cordell Larner Award in Poetry – 1st Place, **Claire Dodson**; 2nd Place, **Marissa Purdum**; 3rd Place, **Marcus Sweeten**.

Graduate Scholarship, Fellowship, and Award Winners:

John Mahoney Research Fellowship – **Kristin Shepard**; Ron & Leslie Walker Graduate Fellowships – **Tralynn Pullen & Grace Sheley**; Syndy M. Conger Essay Award – **Dakota Carlson**; Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award – **Jared Worley**.

Departmental and College Scholar Awards:

The Departmental Scholar awards are sponsored by the Illinois Centennial Honors College. Each semester, departments select the top student in each of their majors graduating that semester. Students are selected based on g.p.a. as well as honors and activities. Those selected receive a medallion to be worn at graduation. Our winners for this year are **Rebecca Graham** and **Annie Gortowski**.

Announcements

Current Undergraduate Students:

Molly Cameron presented “Addicted to Happiness: Dystopia as Utopia” and moderated a round table in plausible dystopias at the international $\Sigma\Delta$ convention in Cincinnati, Ohio (2018). She also presented the same paper at Undergraduate Research Day. At the Midwest regional $\Sigma\Delta$ conference she presented “The Performance of Deception: Machiavellian Betrayal in *Arden of Faversham* and *The Shoemaker’s Holiday*” and “Degeneration, Excess, Transgression, and the Other: Exposing the Gothic Victorians Through the Actions of Doctor Moreau”, which won second place for undergraduate papers at the conference (2017). She wrote a successful grant through $\Sigma\Delta$ which secured the funds for the WIU chapter to restore and replenish

Shane Dierikx accepted a position teaching at Mercer County High School. He was also invited to be a Student Teaching Voice at a summit on teacher shortages and reforms in the State of Illinois. He spoke with Illinois superintendents, education leaders, and the state representative Cheri Bustos.

Tess Tyler presented her paper “Prospero: Man of Otherness” at the regional and international $\Sigma\Delta$ conventions (2017, 2018). She also presented her project “Analyzing Isabel: Exploring A Fierce and Subtle Poison Through Action Strategies” at the national NCTE convention in St. Louis, Missouri (2018). Additionally, she presented this project at the WIU College of Arts and Sciences Student Speaker Series and also gave presentations on both her paper and project at Undergraduate Research Day.

Paige Rohrback presented her essay “Home Away From Home” at the regional and international $\Sigma\Delta$ conventions. Her paper was centered on *The Book of Unknown Americans*, by Christina Henríquez. This book was the common reader novel for $\Sigma\Delta$. Her presentation was supervised by Dr. Magdelyn Helwig. Paige also won the Common Reader award for her paper at the Midwest regional $\Sigma\Delta$ convention.

Kaylee Gundling, Maria Chiaradonna, and Desiree Steele organized and led the Feminist Discovery Reading Group, surveying work from *A Room of One's Own* to *The SCUM Manifesto* every Thursday in the student lounge. They plan to continue the group next year.

Ashley Lefringhouse and **Morgan Burwell** presented their original work with Dr. Knox for “Building a Future Honors Course: Orderly Topics, Student Co-creation, and Original Projects” at the Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference: Future Stories. Graceland University, (2018).

Current Graduate Students:

Mohammed Al Musawi was a volunteer mentor helping new international students at Western's Quad Cities campus. He was also a volunteer teaching local students Arabic language and culture.

Dakota Carlson presented from “Absence to Creation: The Father in the Male Melodrama” and co-hosted a roundtable about the 2017 remake of Stephen King's *IT* at the EGO/ $\Sigma\Delta$ conference (2017). This summer he will be researching the preservation of Midwestern culture in cinema and film at the Chicago Film Archives.

Kirsten Dillender presented “Grow Like a Tree, Not Like a Fire”: Ecological Citizenship, Green Liberalism, and Wendell Berry” at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment biennial conference in Detroit, MI (2017); at the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts conference in Tempe, AZ. (2018), she presented “Rice and Potatoes: Biotechnology and Impacts on Non-Western and Western Cultural Health in *The Windup Girl* and *All Over Creation*” on a panel that she chaired. She also participated in the roundtable, “Orphan Black and Biotech 2.0”

Alyson Eagan presented “Controlling the Uncontrollable” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association national conference in Indianapolis, (2018).

Selina Mannion is the President of WIU Veggie Club. She has given several presentations for various WIU clubs on philosophy, health, nutrition, and environmental concerns. Selina is a Vegan Mentor for PETA and she also participates in Mercy For Animals Hen Heroes program. She was recently a guest speaker at the Chicago Jain temple.

Nick Nusbaumer presented his short story “On Tarsiidae” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association national conference in Indianapolis. (2018).

Bo Plumer spent the summer of 2017 studying German at the University of Mannheim. He also presented his paper “Emily Dickinson: The Cosmology of Doubt” at the European Society for Science, Literature, and the Arts convention in Basel, Switzerland (2017).

Tralynn Pullen and **Kristin Sheppard** attended the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association national conference in Indianapolis (2018).

Alumni:

Marissa Anderson (B.A. 2017) accepted a position as an English Language Arts teacher at Harmony High School.

Chelsea Brotherton (M.A. 2016) took a position with the American Health Information Management Association in Chicago.

Brittany (Barrie) Cooper (M.A. 2014) is an adjunct professor at Upper Iowa University.

Christopher David (M.A. 2017) is Assistant Director for Educational Technology at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Rebecca Gonner (B.A. 2017) accepted an internship with Book List in Chicago.

Annie Gortowski (B.A. 2017) accepted a position as a Para Educator at Andrew High School.

Ashley Grady (B.A. 2016) accepted a position teaching 6th grade English Language Arts at Westchester Middle School.

Haley Helgesen (B.A. 2017) accepted a position as a technical writer with the Triumph Group in Dallas.

Maggie (Wallace) Hoerdeman (B.A. 2017) accepted a position teaching freshman and sophomore English at Bushnell-Prairie City High School.

Ed Komenda (B.A. 2011) is a staff writer for Shaw Media in Crystal Lake, IL.

Lucas Marshall (M.A. 2016) is Lead Copywriter at Elevate Creative Group in Chicago.

Travis Moran (M.A. 2011) is now a Lecturer at Beijing Language and Culture University.

Laura Pfeiffer (B. A. 2008) works at Zurich North America in Chicago, writing commercial marine, property, and professional liability insurance policies for global clients.

Kelly Schloss-Harrington (M.A. 2017) accepted a position as Business Operations Manager for Old Navy in Carbondale, IL.

Katelynn Walsh (B.A. 2016) accepted a position teaching Sophomore and Senior English at Kankakee High School.

Eliza Anne Wells (M.A. 2017) accepted a position as Editorial Assistant with SAGE Publishing in Chatsworth, CA.

Faculty:

Merrill Cole published “The Queer Repression of Jacques Lacan,” in the Cambridge anthology, *After Lacan*. His book *The Other Orpheus: A Poetics of Modern Homosexuality* (Routledge 2003) has been reissued as a paperback. He has published numerous poems: “Lynxes,” *The Good Men Project* (2017); “Johnny in Lights,” “The Hip Poet,” and “Defense Mechanism” *Spoon River Poetry Review* (2017); “This Fabulous Shadow” *Women’s Studies Quarterly* (2017).

Jim Courter (Emeritus) published short stories “Elvis-sa” *Write Out* (2017) and “The Map of Florence” *Downstate Story* (2017). His novel *Rhymes With Fool* will be published in June by Peasantry Press in Winnipeg.

Roberta Di Carmine won the College of Arts and Sciences award for Internationalizing the Campus. She presented in honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Interdisciplinary Film Minor during the film event “Honoring Our Veterans: Film Screening and Live Concert” with Chicago-based filmmaker Lucia Mauro and Composer Enzo De Rosa. A celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Interdisciplinary Film Minor and a commemoration of veterans during WIU Military Appreciation Week. She delivered a paper entitled, “The Rise of Immigration, Migrant Cinema, and Cultural Plurality in Italy” at the Popular Culture Association (PCA) Conference in Indianapolis.

Magdelyn Helwig co-authored the chapter, “Making it as a Female Writing Program Administrator: Using Collective Action to Transgress Gendered Boundaries,” forthcoming from South Illinois University Press in *Women’s Ways of Making* (Southern Illinois UP 2019). She traveled to New York City to conduct archival research on her University Research Council Research Grant-supported project, “Splitting Schist in Stones: Delving Into the Integrated Personal and Artistic Collaboration of Frank O’Hara and Larry Rivers,” and in June she will travel to Harvard to complete her archival research.

Tim Helwig presented “Unsettling Whiteness: Black Disguises and Racial Liminality in Antebellum Serial Fiction” at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference in San Francisco in March, and “Cross-Racial Class Vengeance in George Thompson’s *City Crimes*” at the American Literature Association Conference in San Francisco in May. At this year’s Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society convention in Cincinnati, he was re-elected to another four-year term as Midwestern Regent.

Bill Knox was a panelist-discussion leader for *The Sleep Dealer*, dir. Alex Rivera (2008) and he was a presenter (assisted by students Ashley Lefringhouse and Morgan Burwell sharing their original work) of “Building a Future Honors Course: Orderly Topics, Student Co-creation, and Original

Projects” both at the Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference: Future Stories. Graceland University, Lamoni, IA. 24 Mar. 2018. He presented “Sustainability Lessons for the Crew of Spaceship Earth from the International Space Station” for the Horn Environmental Learning Project’s Earthfest.

Barbara Lawhorn Her ENG 100 students adopted Mr. Hanold’s second grade class at Lincoln Elementary School. They conducted a semester-long writing partnership, and invited the class to Simpkins Hall, where they had a “Reading & Writing Rocks” party. Her students gifted each child with a literacy kit and a brand new book, which they read aloud to their partners. They enjoyed cake and punch, and donated 10 additional books to Mr. Hanold’s classroom library. Lawhorn took part in a biweekly Creative Writing Club at Edison Middle School (4th-6th grade), working with Dr. Rebekah Buchanan and her English Education students. With Dr. Jacque Wilson, she advised the fourth issue of *SITREP: Veteran Perspectives on Combat and Peace*. She presented “Everybody Knowing, but Pretending Not To: Internal and External Geographies Transformed by Grief” at PCA/ACA in Indianapolis (2018). She was an invited guest speaker for Preeminent Ladies Society, a student organization on campus. She interviewed Fiona Helmsley regarding *Girls Gone Old* for New Book Networks Popular Culture podcast and she is a book reviewer for *Mom Egg Review*. Her publications for the 2017-18 year include: “Glance” in *Panoply Literary Zine*; “Do Not” in *Zingara Poetry Review*; “Even Words Fail to Protect You” in *Poetry South*; “What Woke You” and “What Can I Tell You That You Don’t Already Know” in *Helen: A Literary Magazine*. Her poem “Something Salvaged” was reprinted on Danny Simon’s *Poem’s I Admire* blog. She also wrote the forward for Sean M. Conrey’s *The Book of Trees*.

Amy Mossman published “Retrofitting the Ivory Tower: Engaging Global Sustainability Challenges through Interdisciplinary Problem-Oriented Education, Research, and Partnerships in U.S. Higher Education” in *The Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* March 2018 (22.1)

Alisha White presented “Creative Responses in Stimulus Response Interviews: Universal Design for Interview Methods” for CAS Talk 2018. She presented “Universal Design for Interview Methods: Giving Voice to the Experiences of Students with Disabilities” for the Annual Conference of ILLOWA AHEAD in Peoria, (2018) and “Floorstorming: Building Background Knowledge Through Visual Displays” for the Commission On Arts and Literacy Session at the Annual Conference of NCTE in St. Louis (2017).

Jacqueline Wilson was co-advisor for *SITREP: Veteran Perspectives on Combat and Peace*, now in its fourth edition. She presented “The Place of Trauma Narratives in the Composition Classroom and Beyond” at the Allerton English Articulation Conference. A 2002 article she published, “Teaching Joyce Carol Oates’s ‘Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?’ as an Initiation Story” In *Eureka Studies in Teaching Short Fiction* has received so much traffic on academia.edu in the last several months that during one week in August she was among the “top four percent” of researchers at academia.edu. She believes the revived interest may have been related to the #metoo movement since her works examine issues of initiation, gender, rape, and murder.

Erika Wurth published her short story collection *Buckskin Cocaine* (Astrophil 2017) and her poems *A Thousand Horses Out to Sea* (Mongrel Press 2017). Her story “Barry Four Voices,” was reprinted in *The Offing*, (2017). She published “Light and Her Mother’s Arms,” *Midwestern Gothic* (2017) and “Almost Like Children,” *Heavy Feather Review* (2017). She published essays including “How Trump ‘Care’ Will Sicken Native Americans”; “Artists Can Only Be Themselves”; “The Rest of Us Have Always Been Here”; “The Horrible Terrible Oppression of Famous White Writers Who Have Been Politely Questioned” and “The Problem with Pretendians” in *ROAR* (2017); “Eden Robinson’s Son of a Trickster, a Funny, Dark, Native Fantasy”, “Vermette’s The Break is a Killer”, and “Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Collection, Volume 2,” in *Anomaly*, (2017). She published poems, including “*giggles*”, *Lit Hub* (2017); “Your Eyes to the Sun” and “Beasts at Her Feet,” *Taos Journal of International Poetry and Art* (2017). She appeared at book readings and interviews throughout the United States. Her story, “Barry Four Voices,” was nominated for Pushcart by *The Offing*.

Pat Young advised the The African American Literary Society. AALS co-hosted a Film Club Meeting in celebration of African American History Month; She presented the panel “Stellar African Americans in United States Literature” at the Multicultural Center, and conducted a follow-up discussion to keynote speaker Dr. Mckinley Melton’s Martin Luther King Speech. She presented “The Private Face of Angelina Weld Grimke” at the College Language Association in Chicago (2018) and “Perusing Iola’s Letter,” A study of Ida B. Wells’ activism at the National Council on Black Studies in Atlanta (2018).

BOOKISH TRAVELING: TWICE LOST *by Emily-Bryce Swain*



Baraboo, Wisconsin where my order was lavender-caramel decaf macchiato and an apple cider donut.

I believe that these types of moments capture an aesthetic that most English majors (and bookish people in general) can appreciate. C.S. Lewis even famously said “You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.” Taking it a step further, I believe the combination of coffee shops, bookstores, and new places become a sort of perfect trio for the bookish person. I find myself longing to find these places as I travel, as they have become my sanctuary. This may seem obvious to some, but for me personally, this combination of the simple pleasures in life had meant nothing more than a cute Instagram picture before the year 2017.

“My classes have primarily occurred on the first floor of Simpkins; yet, they have also moved beyond those walls to places I never would have imagined I would visit during my four years at Western.”

I’m sitting in a cafe in Wisconsin munching on an apple cider donut. It’s raining outside, and in my lap sits a pile of new and old books wrapped in crinkly paper. Across the table, my fiance takes a tentative sip of my lavender-caramel macchiato (which he states was “surprisingly decent”). The rain trickles down the window beside me, and I watch as the raindrops race each other to the bottom of the pane. Between the smell of brewing hot chocolate, and the sounds of hipster instrumentals peeking out from speakers hidden around the room, I find myself falling into a sort of happy lull.

I reach into the brown paper bag, pull out my newest purchase, and flip open to the first page. I’ve never heard of this book before, but the premise sounded promising, and the cover captured me upon first glance. It features muted green and turquoise streets surrounded by a string of fairy lights with the words “Midnight at the Electric” splayed across the front in white cursive. I settle into the story with a final sip of my macchiato. With the taste of lavender on my tongue, I find myself transported twice. Once, from Macomb, Illinois to Baraboo, Wisconsin, for a family camping trip; then twice, into the world of the page.

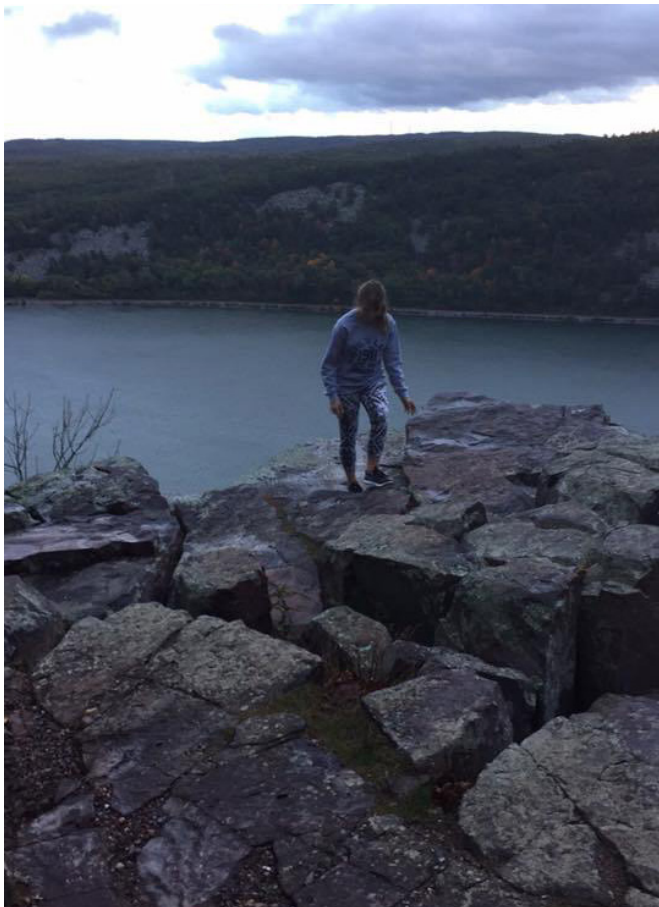


The hidden sitting area for a cafe in the City Museum, St. Louis. My order was a small cup of homemade soda and a bar of dark coffee-chocolate.

“...I still managed to find my way into weird little coffee shops and bookstores no matter where I went.”

exhibit that was ethereal and strange, with odd found-art pieces hiding between shelves of classics.

During my spring break road trip to Florida, I stopped at a Starbucks right past the state line, and I sat near the window marveling at the palm trees while sipping my first iced drink of the season. After I got engaged in St. Louis, I still distinctly remember lounging on an oversized chair, eyeing the shiny new ring on my finger as I turned the pages of “Anna and the French Kiss.”



Not quite an Instagram model, this is little old me hiking in Wisconsin once the rain let up.

This year, I have done more traveling than ever. I’m a college student, so these trips were rustically cheap, but I still managed to find my way into weird little coffee shops and bookstores no matter where I went. In Louisville, my colleagues and I found a newly opened coffee shop/bookstore/ art



Louisville, Kentucky where my order was a cup of green tea and a scoop of vegan chocolate ice cream.

As I enter my senior year of college at WIU, I am beginning to plan where I may physically travel next.

Yet, I have found that I have already done a lot of traveling mentally over the years. I have spent time nestled in the pages of Arthurian legends, American Gothic, and Shakespearean dramas. I have traversed the poetic images of Sylvia Plath the same way some have viewed the Grand Canyon. Instead of tour guides, I’ve had the voices of immigrants lead me through their struggles in the United States and have listened to the exclamations of artists breaking the frontier of Internet hypertext. My classes have primarily occurred on the first floor of Simpkins; yet, they have also moved beyond those walls to places I never would have imagined I would visit during my four years at Western.

Now, as I move forward, I will have to find those spaces elsewhere. I know that those places will not be the same as WIU, and that this school will forever hold a special spot in my heart, but as time goes on, I find that my need to physically travel has grown along with my ability to travel through text. I don’t know very much of the destinations I plan to travel to, but I do know one thing: they serve cold brew.

THE BOOK THAT CHANGED MY LIFE: FEATURING AUBREY FOUST

by Tess Tyler

English majors share a lot of common interests; one of these interests, naturally, is books. Yes, it is true—English majors live and breathe literature, and it is rare to find an English major that isn't reading at least four books at one time. For the majority of us, reading is second nature. We love to curl up in a cozy spot and immerse ourselves completely in a great novel.



As English majors, we believe that books have the ability to change our lives and perspectives of our world. Of course, some books are more life-changing than others.

Aubrey Foust, a fellow English major at WIU, loves to talk about her favorite books: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll.

Aubrey, if you had to pick a book that you think has changed you, or really stood out to you, what book would you choose?

*Aubrey: I think that would have to be Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. Both of those books... I just fell in love with them. I can't exactly say what it was about them that drew me to them first—it was all a blur—I just remember reading them and thinking, "Wow, there is something special here." I feel connected to it for some reason.*

What do you think is special about them? Is it how they make you feel, or the ideas they represent?

Aubrey: I think it is how they make me feel. They made me want more. I delved into them—I even did self-research about Lewis Carroll because I was interested in



*who he was as a person. I found out about his history and his friendship with a mathematician who had a daughter named Alice. People suspect that was how he got inspiration for the Alice in the story. I mean, I know the darker stuff too...I know about Carroll's suspected self-repressed pedophilia. I just wanted to know more about all that I could. I loved the books so much that I got them tattooed permanently on my body. My tattoo on my right calf is a huge *Alice in Wonderland* cameo, and it's got literary elements throughout the whole thing! It's got elements from both *Wonderland* and *Looking Glass*. I've got a knight chess piece, which is supposed to represent the white knight. I have a queen of hearts playing card, which is supposed to represent the queen of hearts. I've got the Cheshire cat smile and the mushroom. It is just filled with things!*

So you really enjoyed the book because of how it made you feel, and the fact that it had so much history in it. It was something you could keep coming back to.

*Aubrey: Yes, I really think it draws back to my analytical side. That's my favorite part of English, the analytical aspect of it. I love more than anything to analyze and overanalyze something. *Alice in Wonderland* is HUGE for that. It is almost as "big" as Tolkien. So much of it is metaphorical, and it can be analyzed and taken so many different ways. And you can read *Alice in Wonderland* through any lens. Any lens! You can read it through feminist theory, you can read it through queer theory—anything. And I think that is why I really like it!*

Thank you Aubrey for sharing your favorite books with us!

PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE

The Proust Questionnaire has its origins in a parlor game popularized (though not devised) by Marcel Proust, the French novelist, who believed that, in answering these questions, an individual reveals something of his or her true nature. It has become a tradition of *Mirror and the Lamp* to use these questions to get to know students, faculty, and staff in the English department.

ELLEN POULTER

by Molly Cameron

An in-depth look at one of the unsung heroes of the English department.

You may have seen Ellen hiding out in her office, surrounded by Harry Potter memorabilia and student files. But how much do you really know about the person you meet with once a semester? Ellen earned her degree in English and Speech Communication/Theater Arts from Monmouth College in 1992. She's been at WIU since 1996, first in the Department of Engineering Technology, before moving to the English Department in 2002. She currently advises students in both English and the Liberal Arts & Sciences Department. In addition to working at WIU, she raises cattle and manages a grain farm. According to Ellen, "My future after WIU will involve continuing to raise cattle, reading, writing, traveling, going to as many concerts as possible, and spending time with my daughter, wherever she lands after college!"

1. Who are your favorite writers? Jan Karon, Harper Lee, J.K. Rowling, Jane Austen, Dan Brown

2. Which historical figure do you most identify with? I'm not sure you'd call her "historical," but Katharine Hepburn. I love how independent she was, especially during a time when that wasn't the norm. She made her own rules for her life, mostly without regard for what others might think. That's where I am in my life, and I look to her when I need reminding that I am in charge of my own destiny.

3. What is your idea of perfect happiness? There is no such thing as "perfect happiness." One of my favorite quotes is, "we tend to seek happiness when happiness is actually a choice." If you want to be happy, you HAVE to choose it, regardless of your circumstances or the bad things that happen in life.

4. What is your greatest fear? Regret.

5. What is your greatest extravagance? I like a nice car!

6. What do you consider to be the most overrated virtue? That's tough because they all have their place, but I suppose I would choose temperance as the most overrated, mostly because I like a good whiskey or a great martini!

7. Which living person do you most admire? My daughter, Anderson, because she is hands down the strongest person I know.

8. Which living person do you most despise? Life is too short to despise anyone. There are people I like better than others, of course, and those who do truly evil things are beyond contempt, but we're all humans making human mistakes...just trying to figure out this life. I try really hard to understand people from their point of view and just let everyone be.

9. Which words or phrases do you most overuse? "No way!" "Holy Shit!" "Coo coo ca-choo, Mrs. Robinson"

10. What or who is the greatest love of your life? My late husband, Kent, and our daughter are the two loves of my life.

11. When and where were you happiest? That's hard

to pinpoint because I've mostly had a happy life and still do, even though it's different now. I guess if I had to pick a "when," I'd say 2008-2015. Life was really good during those years. The "where" would be here... meaning home, work, living our together.

12. Which talent would you most like to have? I would LOVE to be able to play the piano!!

13. What is your motto? I have two, I suppose... 1) Remember who and what you are, and 2) Love everyone, especially yourself.

14. Describe Macomb in one word. Complicated.

15. What do you love most about WIU? Simpkins Hall and the way its familiarity comforts me every morning when I walk in the door.



THE MIRROR AND THE LAMP
Print Edition 2018

Managing Editor: Emily-Bryce Swain

Undergraduate Editors: Matt Thrush, Janay Conley, Aubrey Foust , Tess Tyler, Brittney Douglas, Courtney Bender

Layout Designer: Courtney Bender and Tiffany Dimmick

Sigma Tau Delta Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tim Helwig

The Mirror and the Lamp Faculty Advisor: Dr. David Banash



SIGMA TAU DELTA

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY