

Department of English Newsletter

Words Matter

Spring 2019 * Volume VIII, Issue I

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M.A./M.F.A. Program Set to Launch Fall 2019 by Damian Luboch



Monmouth University's English Department added a new versatile program to its graduate offerings. The full-residency 48-credit dual degree M.A./M.F.A. program in Creative Writing is an exciting opportunity for aspiring writers. After completing an M.A. in Eng-

lish with a Creative Writing concentration, students will take an additional 18 credits of intensive creative writing study and a year-long thesis seminar that culminates in a complete book-length manuscript. In addition, few M.F.A. programs offer the in-depth study of literature and research methods that the dual degree M.A./M.F.A. program offers.

The dual degree M.A./M.F.A. program was designed to serve a range of writers: the M.A. student who wants to finish a manuscript and get a terminal degree that will qualify them for full-time teaching, the undergraduate student who wants to develop their craft as well as preparation for publishing and teaching careers, or the returning student who wants to recommit to their creative work. Of course, M.A. English students with a concen-

tration in Literature or Rhetoric & Writing are welcome to apply for the M.F.A. program if they demonstrate a proficiency for creative writing through a thesis or equivalent work.

When asked what distinguishes the M.F.A. program from similar programs in the nation, Program Director Melissa Febos replied, "Our combination of close mentorship and professional preparation sets us apart from other programs, as well as our dual-degree status." Creative writing faculty brainstormed the best way to serve students who want to finish their books, master their craft, and also be prepared for the job market. Unlike other M.F.A. programs nationwide, the program attends to the pragmatic concerns of the writer with a focus on résumé preparation,

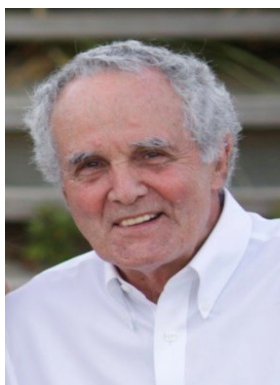
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A Note from the Chair: Dr. Susan Goulding

As these pages show, we have much to celebrate in our accomplishments as a community this year. Our new M.F.A. program, our student award winners, and our faculty successes all make us proud to be here. I see in these accomplishments the power of the liberal arts to stand firm and to fortify us all in the face of the incivility, vitriol, and discrimination that threaten our world. The influence of the teacher, the spirit of generosity in a true communi-

ty: these are the hallmarks of a liberal arts education. As A. Bartlett Giamatti (President of Yale University, Commissioner of Major League Baseball) wrote, "Teaching is an assertion of the common capacity of the human mind to make and sustain a context in which another mind makes back, and thus makes anew. In the mutuality of minds—which does not necessarily mean agreement or acquiescence or domination—there is a recogni-

tion of mutual receptivity. And in the receptivity there is, every time, every day, everywhere, another example of the way human minds can find a common ground and clear it and build a city where people live together." To our graduates: congratulations! And to our graduates, continuing students, faculty, and staff: may the cities we all build together flourish.



"It is a pleasure to see this room where Dr. Evarts spent so much time meeting with students and faculty, 51 years, in the hall where his presence graced us all, dedicated in his memory."

-Dr. Goulding

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

SCHOLARSHIP WEEK
APRIL 22nd - 26th, 2019

FEATURED:

"Hawk Talks"
Public, Theory and Lobby
Wednesday, April 24th 1:00pm-4:15pm

Service Learning Showcase
Wilson Hall 1st Floor
Friday, April 26th 1:00pm-3:00pm

Hope is a Thing with Feathers:
A Celebration of Emily Dickinson
Monmouth University Library Room 101
Tuesday, April 23rd 1:15pm-2:30pm

OPEN CLASSROOM:

Rome: Origins at the Confluence of Myth and Reality
Wilson Hall Room 210
Wednesday, April 24th 11:00am-1:00pm

Using Writing and Research to Forge New Partnerships
Richards Hall 107
Wednesday, April 24th 11:00am-1:00pm

Literatures of Immigration
Wilson Hall Room 210
Thursday, April 25th 6:00pm-8:00pm

English Department events held between April 23-28, 2019

Wilson Annex 400 Dedicated in Dr. Prescott Evarts' Memory

by Damian Luboch

The dedication of Wilson Annex 400 as the Evarts Seminar Room was held on Friday, April 19, 2019. Colleagues and family were in attendance to celebrate the life and legacy of the late Dr. Prescott Evarts Jr., who was a pivotal force in shaping Monmouth as a liberal arts institution. Dr. Evarts was a core member in the University, whose passion for teaching classical and modern works touched the lives of faculty and students alike.



Dr. Goulding and Mrs. Janine Evarts

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Dr. Susan Goulding, Chair, Associate Dean Michael Thomas (who read poetry by Yeats and Evarts), Dr. Sue Starke, Mrs. Janine Evarts, and son Geoff Evarts.



Mrs. Janine Evarts, son Geoff Evarts and grandson William outside of the Evarts Seminar Room.

Dr. Goulding concluded her remarks, stating, "It is a pleasure to see this room where Dr. Evarts spent so much time

meeting with students and faculty, 51 years, in the hall where his presence graced us all, dedicated in his memory."

One of Dr. Evarts' poems, "The Way Home," now decorates the room that was dedicated in his honor. The Evarts Seminar Room will forever commemorate Dr. Evarts and his indelible contributions to liberal arts here at Monmouth.



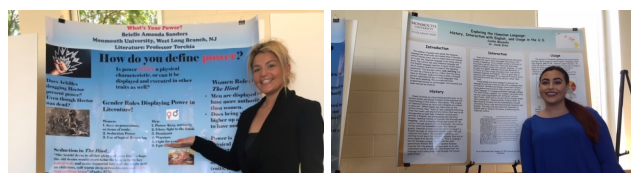
Dean Thomas unveiled a framed a copy of Dr. Evarts' poetry.

Student Scholarship Week 2019 Highlights

Monmouth University's 4th Annual Scholarship Week, designed to celebrate the accomplishments of students, was held April 22 through April 28, 2019. The English Department would like to extend their appreciation and congratulations to all of the faculty and student participants of this special week of events and activities.



Jane Lai and Michelle Casey, *Hope is a Thing with Feathers: A Celebration of Emily Dickinson*



Brielle Sanders and Caitlin Mazzella, "Hawk Talks"



Emily Osterman, Olivia Monahan and Grace Remshfski, and Prof. Sacks, *Service Learning Showcase*



(above) EN-533 presented in *Literatures of Immigration*.

Febos Named Graduate Program Director for the M.A./M.F.A.

by Damian Luboch

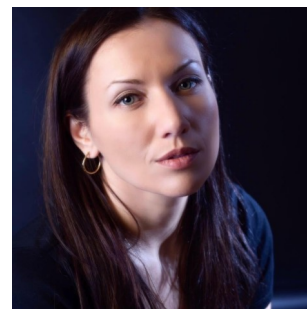
Associate Professor of English Melissa Febos will lead the new M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing as Graduate Program Director. Having led the effort to develop the new program, she is looking forward to its launch and is confident that the dynamic creative writing faculty here at Monmouth will successfully meet the practical needs of the writer, with an emphasis on rigorous career preparation.

An accomplished writer herself, Febos's last book, *Abandon Me*

(Bloomsbury 2017), was published to great acclaim. *The New Yorker* called the essay collection "mesmerizing," and it was a LAMBDA Literary Award finalist, a Publishing Triangle Award finalist, an Indie Next Pick, and was named a Best Book of 2017 by *Esquire*, *Book Riot*, *The Cut*, *Electric Literature*, *Bustle*, *Medium*, *Refinery29*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Salon*, *The Rumpus*, and others. Excerpts from *Abandon Me* were awarded the 2018 Jeanne Córdova Nonfiction Prize from LAMBDA Literary and the Sarah

Verdone Writing Award from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

Febos spent last summer in Cassis, France at the Camargo Foundation, where she was awarded a residency to work on her third book, *Girlhood*. An essay from the manuscript, "Thesmophoria," was recently published in *The Sewanee Review*. Other essays from *Girlhood* have appeared in *Granta*, *Tin House*, and *The Believer*. The book is scheduled to be published in the summer of 2020 from Bloomsbury Publishing.



"Our combination of close mentorship and professional preparation sets us apart from other programs, as well as our dual-degree status."
- Prof. Febos

M.A./M.F.A. Program Set to Launch Fall 2019 (Continued from page 1)

networking, and craft. Candidates will benefit from an extensive internship seminar, paid teaching opportunities, graduate assistantships, scholarships, and networking opportunities to connect with visiting writers and publishing professionals.

The most notable advantage is

training with accomplished writers and passionate teachers who have published award-winning works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The critically-acclaimed published faculty are experts in their literary fields who regularly attend conferences and readings across the nation. Anyone at Monmouth knows how close

and supportive the community is at helping each other achieve success. The new dual degree M.A./M.F.A. can be completed full-time or part-time. Applications are being accepted now and into the summer.

Annual Graduate Symposium by Brittany Cote

Tuesday, April 30th marked the English Department's annual Graduate Symposium. The Graduate Symposium topics ranged from selected creative writing excerpts to literature of immigration and a "threesis" competition to wrap up the night.

With the assistance of Dr. Blue-mel, the English Department GAs (specifically Jennifer Bro-man and Brittany Cote, as well as Charlie Chipman and Damian Luboch) were able to gather professors and students to present on their writing processes and provide insight on



Kendall Turchyn gave a thesis presentation.

capitalizing upon an English M.A.

A special thanks to Dean Thomas, Dr. Werner and Dr. Hanly for participating in the Graduate Symposium. Congratulations to the following presenters on the successful event:

Brittany Cote, Campbell Lee, Alissa Malkemes, Jaimee Nadzan, MacKenzie Svarrer, Sally Tawil, Kendall Turchyn, and Matthew Yard.



Brittany Cote, Alissa Malkemes and Jaimee Nadzan conducted a panel discussion on *Literatures of Immigration*.

ANNUAL GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 30, 2019 | 3:00 - 8:30 PM



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Graduate Symposium presents students with the unique opportunity to not only present their work before their peers, but also to hone their speaking skills while simultaneously building their resumes/CVs.

All English Graduate students are welcome to submit papers and presentation proposals to Jennifer Bro-man (Jennifer.L.Broman@monmouth.edu).

Threesis Competition

What is the Threesis? Consider it an elevator pitch for your thesis (or any research you've done)! Present a 3-minute long, non-jargon prose description of your thesis or research paper, and compete against your fellow Grad students for \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card!



Department Student Awards

MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

ENGLISH



Dr. Goulding, Chair, welcomes award recipients, family and friends to the Student Awards Ceremony, held on April 12, 2019.



The Department of English is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2018-2019 awards. We congratulate this year's winners, and thank our donors for their generosity.

The English Award for the Academic Writing Prize—Alissa A. Malkemes

The English Award for the Creative Writing Prize—Jenna C. Puglisi

The English Merit Award—Mallory A. Green

The Rising Junior Award—Felipe D. Estrada

The English Award for Graduate Study—Annabel K. Lamb

The Caryl Sills English Teaching Award—Alexandra E. Zabel

The David Tietge Memorial First Year Composition Academic Essay Award—Hunter W. Tedder

The David Tietge Memorial First Year Composition Researched Essay Award—Angelina Sicoli



(Left to right) Professor Linda Sacks, Alexandra E. Zabel, Alissa A. Malkemes, Hunter W. Tedder, Jenna C. Puglisi, Annabel K. Lamb, Felipe D. Estrada, Mallory A. Green, and Dr. Jeffrey Jackson.

MA Theses with Distinction

Daniel Murphy, *Who is Daniel?* Fall 2018. **Distinction.**

Michael Sefack, "What Do You Mean This Class Doesn't Count? Negotiating the Challenges of Writing Placement in Two-Year Colleges." Fall 2018. **Distinction.**

Susan Schuld, "*Dracula*: An Intertextual, Byronic Romance." Spring 2019. **Distinction.**

Sally Taylor Tawil, "The Measure of a Moment." Spring 2019. **Distinction.**

Departmental Honors

Jane Lai, English with a Concentration in Creative Writing

Annabel Lamb, English with a Concentration in Creative Writing

Campbell Lee, English with a Concentration in Creative Writing

Alissa Malkemes, English

2019 Graduates

January 2019— 12 UG, 6 GR

May 2019 — 33 UG, 8 GR

Delta Sigma Chapter Induction



SIGMA TAU DELTA

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

The Delta Sigma Chapter held its annual Induction Ceremony on Friday, April 12, 2019 in Pollak Theatre.

Dr. Michael Waters shared a poetry reading during the ceremony.

Congratulations to the following students on their academic achievement.

Sigma Tau Delta Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Inductees

Sabrina Arnold	Stephanie Bianchino	Kristina Bonadonna	Melanie Broman
Meghan Brown	Lauren Calabro	Cassandra Capozzi-Smith	Jillianne D'Alessio
Deanna Dantas	Lauren Eisenman	Sophia Galvez	Caitlyn Hartigan
Alyssa Kelly	Margaret Lafferty	Campbell Lee	Melissa Lauria
Alissa Malkemes	Caitlin Mazzella	Jaimee Nadzan	Nicole Ondrof
Jessica Phillips	Jenna Puglisi	Mary Rademacher	Kristen Rigo
Michelle Sapolnick	Julia Shaffer	Judith Shingledecker	Nicole Tarsitano
Kendall Turchyn	Brooke Walker		



Dr. Michael Waters



(Left to right) Co-Advisors: Professor Alex Gilvarry, Professor Beth Sara Swanson, Executive Board Members: Morgan DeWinne, Faith Earl, Laurel Monks, Mike Padovani and Jason Aquino.



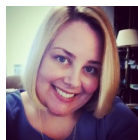
(Pictured right) English Student Award recipients and Fall 2018 and Spring 2019 Inductees.

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Congratulations to EN Faculty



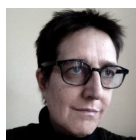
Dr. Stanley Blair,
NJEA'S
Steven J. Rosen
Mentor Award



Professors Beth Swanson and
Joe Torchia for their 3-year reap-
pointments.



Dr. Abha Sood for her
4-year reappointment.



Dr. Heide Estes
was recognized in
Monmouth Now
for the interdis-
ciplinary course,
Humans and the Environment.



Professors Linda Sacks,
Jen Mantle, and Lynn Siracusa
for their 2nd 3-year reappoint-
ments.



Dr. Courtney Wright-
Werner and Prof. Alex
Gilvarry for
Tenure Candidacy.



Dr. J.P. Hanly
for Tenure and Pro-
motion.

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words



Lowbrow, Middlebrow, Highbrow: Interventions in Cultural Studies



(Right; clockwise) EN-101-19 celebrates the success of their project with Long Branch Public Schools; EN-533 welcomes poet Yesenia Montilla; Sigma Tau Delta's "Blind Date with a Book" event; Guest poet Camille Rankine with Dr. Waters and *The Monmouth Review* Editor, Jane Lai; Dr. Goulding, with Morgan DeWinne, is inducted into Sigma Tau Delta; *The Monmouth Review* Volume 62; The "Deck the Door" Contest; Dean Michael Thomas reading Wordsworth amongst the daffodils; Guest speaker Dr. Nash visited campus to give a lecture for the Lowbrow, Middlebrow, Highbrow: Interventions in Cultural Studies series.

