

Words Matter



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INTRODUCING THE BEATLES: SPOTLIGHT ON DR. WOMACK

by Carlee Migliorisi

In September, Dr. Ken Womack released his latest Beatles book co-authored with Joe Rapolla, *Introducing the Beatles: Backgrounds and Resources*. The idea was to compile a textbook that “addressed the production of the Beatles’ music, from beginning to end. We wanted to provide a high level of detail, ranging from the players on the songs to the impetus for their creation in the first place” said Womack.

This project, split between Womack and MU Music Department Chair Joe Rapolla, took two years to develop the concept and compile needed materials.

When asked about challenges with this book, Womack said the main challenge was “ensuring the accuracy of our findings, which we spent considerable time reviewing for correctness and historical validity. In a particularly innovative aspect, the book includes QR codes that direct readers to the original Beatles tracks on Spotify so folks can listen as they read.” To aid in this, Womack enlisted the help of yours truly to research and collect images of the instruments the Beatles used and Amanda Hayes created the QR codes.

Looking forward, Rapolla and Womack are currently working on a similar text devoted to the study of Music Industry practice (no doubt as a companion text for the Music Industry program here at Monmouth) and hope to see it published sometime next year.

In addition to this resource book, Womack’s latest book, *Living the Beatles Legend: The Untold Story of Mal Evans*, was released on November

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MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

ENGLISH

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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As the Fall 2023 semester recedes into the rearview and a new semester begins, I am thankful for the opportunity to reflect for a moment on some of the incredible things that we and our students have been able to accomplish in the first half of the academic year and to share about some really exciting things we are looking forward to as we head into Spring 2024.

Looking back, it feels like it should have been apparent from the outset that it was going to be a great semester, as we entered the new year learning in August that the English department had been selected to receive our first-ever Diversity Innovation Grant. This competitive grant program, sponsored by the Provost's Office and the Monmouth University Intercultural Center, is intended to support "projects that encourage conversation, learning, and connection across race, religion, class, immigration status, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, and nationality to create opportunities for belonging and to strengthen our sense of community." Our submission, spearheaded by Dr. Jeff Jackson and titled "Reading for Racial Justice," proposed to use the grant funds to create a professional development workshop program to help educate our full-time and part-time faculty teaching sections of General Education Literature about assessable practices and strategies for diverse, equitable, and antiracist literature instruction. I'm pleased to report that Dr. Jackson and members of the department's General Education Literature committee have been meeting and working hard all semester to lay the groundwork for a series of

workshops in the coming Spring semester with Dr. Sophia Sarigianides, a Professor of English Education at Wesleyan University and co-author of *Letting Go of Literary Whiteness: Antiracist Literature Instruction for White Students* (2019). We anticipate that these workshops will help us better align our literature-class outcomes with antiracist goals, as well as learn new strategies for sequencing assignments and activities to develop antiracist literary interpretation and encourage successful classroom dialogues on race/ism and equity.

Along with our department's Diversity Innovation Grant, other highlights of the Fall 2023 semester included our well-attended Visiting Writers Series readings by Benjamin Nugent, Kaitlyn Greenidge, and Mihaela Moscaliuc and Michael Waters and a host of high-profile new articles, short stories, and books published by our faculty and students, all of which you'll find featured within this newsletter. For me, however, some of the biggest Fall semester highlights were ones that didn't make it onto the "front pages," so to speak. One such highlight was having the opportunity to attend this semester's Honors School Research Conference and see three of our English majors—Charlotte Edwards, Nicole Mautone, and Hana Vozzo—absolutely knock it out of the park presenting and answering questions about their incredible creative and critical projects. Seeing these Seniors share the remarkable things they had accomplished working with

NOTE Continued on page 3



CONGRATULATIONS SIGMA TAU DELTA MEMBERS!

Congratulations to our new members! Fall 2023 Inductees

<i>Jillian Bodiford</i>	<i>Melaina Carrara</i>
<i>Lauren Defelice</i>	<i>Zafira Demiri</i>
<i>Ava George</i>	<i>Breanna Guinta</i>
<i>Amera Hemming</i>	<i>Cecilia Leininger</i>
<i>Gabriella Petrillo</i>	<i>Kristi Sabroe</i>
<i>Samantha Saoud</i>	<i>Megan Sternberg</i>



Delta Sigma Chapter Update

The Delta Sigma Chapter congratulates our Fall 2023 inductees. The annual induction ceremony, led by the Chapter Executive Board, will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Congratulations to our

January 2024 Graduates

<i>Emily Balsamo</i>	<i>Charlotte Edwards</i>
<i>Nicole Mautone</i>	<i>Anaiza Medina</i>
<i>Megan Pagliettini</i>	<i>Judith Shingledecker</i>

NOTE (Continued from page 2)

their faculty advisors made me feel more confident than ever about the value of the work that we and our students are doing in the English department. Another under-the-radar highlight of the FA23 term for me was receiving an e-mail late in the semester from Beth Swanson, our Sigma Tau Delta chapter advisor, informing me that our students had reached their long-term goal of raising enough money to purchase a bench and memorial plaque once approved by campus planning. We look forward to seeing these funds, over \$2,000 from their popcorn fundraiser, used to honor the memories of our colleagues, Prescott Evarts, Dave Tietge, and Maggie Del Guercio.

Having had the opportunity to reflect back on the past semester, I for one am heading into the coming semester with a sense of pride in what we have already accomplished and a sense of excitement about what is in store. Our Toni Morrison Day (TMD) Plan-

ning Committee has been hard at work laying the groundwork for our 5th annual TMD Celebration, upcoming on February 23. All indications are that it is going to be our best Toni Morrison Day ever, featuring student and faculty panel discussions, a faculty-led reading group discussing Morrison's Nobel Prize Lecture, a student poetry reading, and a keynote address/reading by the renowned poet and essayist, Ross Gay, author of *Be Holding* (2020), *The Book of Delights* (2022), *Inciting Joy: Essays* (2022), and *The Book of (More) Delights* (2023). Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for April 10, when we will be welcoming Hernan Diaz, author of *Trust* and winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, to campus for the final Visiting Writers Series event of the year!

Best wishes for an energizing and productive Spring semester.

THE MEANING OF FREEDOM: KAITLYN GREENIDGE

by Jennifer Rivera, M.A. '23

The Visiting Writers Series (VWS) was founded in 2005 by Professor Michael Thomas. Alex Gilvarry, Associate Professor and Director of the MFA in Creative Writing, emphasized the importance of this program when he said, “The VWS has consistently brought the best authors to campus to meet with our students and community.” Past speakers have included Louise Gluck, Marlon James, Mary Gaitskill, Mary Carr, Joyce Carol Oats, and Colm Tóibín.

On Monday, October 30, the Visiting Writers Series welcomed author and journalist Kaitlyn Greenidge. Ms. Greenidge is the author of two books, *We Love You Charlie Freeman* and *Libertie*. She is a contributing writer with the *New York Times* and the Features Director at *Harper’s Bazaar*. She has also been featured in *Elle*, *Buzzfeed*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

During his introduction, Professor Gilvarry read from an essay featured at the end of Greenidge’s newest book, *Libertie*, in which the author wrote that her “personal aesthetic will always be in favor of the stories that are strange, that are out of character, that highlight the complexities of power, that talk about the things that none of us want to talk about, that look really jarring on a black history calendar.”

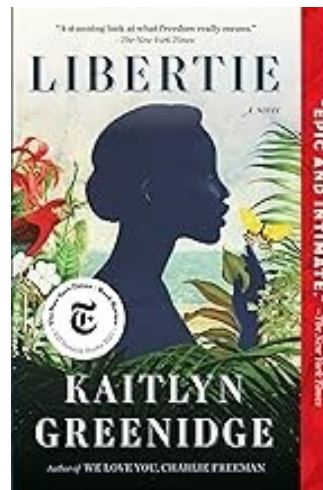
Libertie follows the life of Libertie Sampson, a freeborn Black girl living in a colored section of Brooklyn set around the Civil War and Reconstruction era. Libertie’s mother, Dr. Catherine Sampson, was inspired by the life of Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Steward, the first Black female doctor in New York. Libertie’s mother envisions her daughter following her path in medicine. In seeking her freedom, Libertie fails at school and marries a man who promises her equality if they move to Haiti. However, life in Haiti fails to provide her true liberty.

Libertie is a necessary book because it examines the idea of freedom. “We tend to think of the reconstruction period in America after the Civil War as inherently hopeful. But for many Black Americans, this was not the case. It was the beginning of a

systemic racism that infiltrated so much of American life,” Professor Gilvarry stated.

When asked what she would like the readers to take from the book, Ms. Greenidge said, “The title, *Libertie*, means freedom and how it looked different for everyone.” The characters that we encounter in the book all have varying definitions of what freedom means for them. Liberation from slavery did not equal freedom. For those born free, life was not easily navigated, especially for dark-skinned Black Americans like Libertie, who was constantly reminded that her darkness was a hindrance. For some, true freedom only came in death.

While *Libertie* is historical fiction, it feels contemporary because Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) still face the struggles discussed in the book, like racism and colorism. Professor Gilvarry added that the VWS hopes to invite more BIPOC and LGBTQ authors to share their journey to authorhood to reflect the growing diversity on campus.



(Left to right): Kaitlyn Greenidge gives a reading from her novel; *Libertie* (Algonquin Books, 2022); Prof. Alex Gilvarry moderated the Q&A session.

VISITING WRITERS SERIES: MOSCALIUC & WATERS

by Liza Gordon '23

On November 16th, the Visiting Writer's Series at Monmouth University welcomed poets Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc and Dr. Michael Waters for its final event of the fall semester. Dr. Moscaliuc is an Associate Professor of English at Monmouth University and the department's Graduate Program Director. She has published several poetry collections including *Immigrant Model*, *Father Dirt*, and her latest work, *Cemetery Ink*, and has received multiple awards and fellowships. Dr. Waters is a retired professor of English at Monmouth University and author of the poetry collections *Caw*, *The Dean of Discipline*, and his most recent work, *Sinnerman*. A 2017 Guggenheim Fellow, Waters has received numerous prizes, fellowships, and residency fellowships.

The event began with a presentation honoring Professor Michael Thomas, founder of the Visiting Writer's Series. Alex Gilvarry, Associate Professor of English and Graduate Program Director of the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program, presented Professor Thomas with a commemorative plaque and thanked him for his outstanding work with the series, and his service to the English Department.

The evening, which was the most attended series event of the semester, was standing room only. Dr. Waters began with a reading of original poetry, followed by a reading from Dr. Moscaliuc. While this event primarily centered on the couple's latest works, both poets included readings from previous collections as well as from in-progress poems read to an audience for the first time. The reading concluded with a question and answer segment. When asked about finding her writing voice Dr. Moscaliuc stated, "I haven't found my voice yet. Voice is overrated." She emphasized that she was not devaluing voice and continued by saying, "We get our voices from the voices of others . . . I came from a culture where I worked in a lot of orphanages and where lots of populations had been silenced. There was not a lot of opportunity to tell their stories. I wanted to latch onto that." Answering the same question Dr. Waters stated, "The notion of voice is something that comes out of me and moves somehow beyond me in a way. The poem is able to get away from me and get a life of its own."

Professor Gilvarry said of their visit that the reading was "very unique" and that "Mihaela and Michael are two very special poets." Gilvarry continued, "I cherish their books, particularly their latest—*Sinnerman* and *Cemetery Ink*. It's great to read them as a pair. Maybe because these poets are married, the collections seem to complement each other."



(Top to bottom): Michael Waters; Mihaela Moscaliuc and Michael Waters pose with Professor Gilvarry; Michael Thomas accepts a commemorative framed photo.

Submission Guidelines

Art: Submit JPEG or PNG File with list of mediums used (ex: Illustrator, Acrylic Paint, Pastels)

Writing: Submit .Docx File to appropriate dropbox

Submission Deadlines

December 6th
Early Bird Special - If you submit by this deadline, you will be entered to win special prizes!


February 6th
Submissions Close



Call for Submissions!

Share your art and your writing to be published in Issue 67 of the Monmouth Review!

Scan the QR Code to submit or email us with the email subject: MU Review Submission



Email Dorothy Doyle for Writing
s0003732@monmouth.edu

Email Madyson Lagotta for Art
s1302346@monmouth.edu



Monmouth Review is accepting submissions for the upcoming issue. Scan the QR code for details; *Monmouth Review* members pose for a picture during the bake sale fundraiser held in November.

News from the *Monmouth Review*

by Dorothy Doyle, M.A. '23

The university's student run literary and arts magazine, the *Monmouth Review*, is published every year in the spring semester, but the actual work on the journal begins long before that. The Editorial Board of the *MR* met two times this past summer to plan for the upcoming school year. We discussed deadlines and editorial responsibilities, ideas for workshops and group excursions for *MR* club members, as well as ways to increase our presence on campus using social media as a means of encouraging submissions from a larger representation of the student body. We noticed that in the past many, if not most, submissions came from English and Creative Writing majors. This is to be expected of course, but we believe that everyone has stories to tell, so we decided to make an effort to reach out those who might not ordinarily be inclined to submit their work. We officially opened the call for submissions at the Student Involvement Fair, and have been actively getting the word out across campus through social media, department newsletters, flyers, and in person visits to EN-101 classes.

The club hosted a bake sale fundraiser in November to raise money to support members heading to the AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) convention being held in February in Kansas City. In addition to sweets, all purchases included written prompts to spark creativity.

The club hosted a "Helpshop Workshop" at their monthly meeting for those seeking advice or suggestions on pieces they have submitted or were considering submitting to the *Review*. It was a great success and everyone left feeling encouraged about their work.

We hosted an "Early Bird Submissions Party" on Wednesday, December 6th. This event gave those who had already submitted their work an opportunity to be entered into a contest for prizes as a reward for their early (bird) responses!

In January we are hosting an art/writing workshop with a visual artist Mikaela Simon and the local writer Nan Bryan. It will be lot of creative fun and it is open to everyone. Details to come.

The *Monmouth Review* is delighted to announce that we are once again sponsoring a contest in honor of "Toni Morrison Day!" This year's theme is "Community." We invite our entire campus community to submit work that engages with this theme, along with other aspects of Toni Morrison's work and legacy, including but not limited to, social justice, civil rights, Black history, race, gender, diversity, and inclusion. Submissions should be uploaded in the "Toni Morrison Day Creative Writing Contest 2024" folder in the *Monmouth Review* on e-campus. Deadline for submissions is January 15th. Winners will receive \$75 gift cards and will have their work included in the upcoming issue of the *Monmouth Review*.

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: DEANNA VENEZIO

We asked Deanna Venezia '22M, recent alumna and current adjunct faculty member for the English department to share some of her post-graduate experiences.

You took a gap between pursuing your degrees. What motivated you to return to school?

I ultimately took one year off between my undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, this was not my original plan--as an aspiring performer/dramaturg, I was just starting to get my feet wet in professional entertainment when COVID-19 quickly unfolded. While in quarantine, grappling the uncertainty of when things would go back to normal, I turned to books for comfort. I thought getting my Master's was a far-off possibility that wouldn't come to fruition for years. After a lot of reading and soul searching, I began to desire something larger for myself and my career.

Why did you choose to pursue your graduate degree at Monmouth University?

Thanks to close friends already in the program, I was given the encouragement and strength to take that next step at Monmouth. They consistently lauded individual professors and opportunities at Monmouth; after plenty of research, it was clear Monmouth was where I belonged to pursue higher education.

Describe the process of choosing between our tracks and ultimately pursuing your program track?

I chose the Literature track because there was so much canon I haven't yet explored. I wanted to understand how the novel and literature of the past few centuries still influence society and scholarship today. They continuously shift our conversations and challenge us to not just read better, but to listen to one another with intent.

What is your favorite Monmouth University memory?

My favorite Monmouth memory was helping to organize and attend our annual Toni Morrison Day. (I'm a little bias because she's one of my favorite authors.) Her impact on literature and social justice is too profound to not celebrate each year; ensuring there's space for marginalized voices, especially female authors of color is very important to me. While there is much more to be done across institutions, this is a specific moment that solidifies some of the core values of the English department.

What have you been doing post-graduation?

Like many, I began aggressively applying for jobs. . . . I scoured through LinkedIn and HigherEd.com for any opportunity that interested me. But there came a point where I began surveying individual institution websites, and that's when I saw the most movement with applications. It can feel more time consuming this way, but it gives you a better idea on what an institution is looking for. I applied to my roles at Columbia and Rutgers through each school's job application portal.

By the end of summer 2022, I was fortunate enough to be offered a full-time position at Columbia University, where I served as the Graduate Coordinator for the department of



Deanna Venezia, M.A. '23

English and Comparative Literature. After an academic year, I decided to be closer to home and was hired as the Senior Program Coordinator for the Office of Research and Graduate Education (School of Arts of Sciences) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Since May 2023, I have worked at Rutgers and now Monmouth University as an Adjunct Professor for the English department.

Do you feel that your education at Monmouth helped prepare you for [these roles]?

I truly felt Monmouth prepared me for my roles because all of my mentors genuinely cared about my success. I have gained relationships across departments that will carry with me for a long time. During my time as a student, and now professor, I have many people to thank for their kindness and patience, especially Dr. Nancy Mezey, Dr. Patrick Love, Dr. Courtney Werner, Dr. Jeffrey Jackson, and Dr. Sue Starke. They all guided me (and continue to guide me) to be the best version of myself as an academic professional.

What advice would you give to prospective graduate students?

Graduate school is what helps you *become* a graduate student who will learn, make mistakes, and grow into a wiser person universally. Find a pacing that is the healthiest for *you* and you only. Try your hardest not to compare yourself to others because, yes, you deserve to be here.

What advice would you give to new M.A. graduates about the workforce?

When it comes to job applications, it can become very tiresome if you don't allow yourself respite from a process that can



“I couldn’t ask for better, more engaged students. Our campus and students are an enduring sense of inspiration for me.”

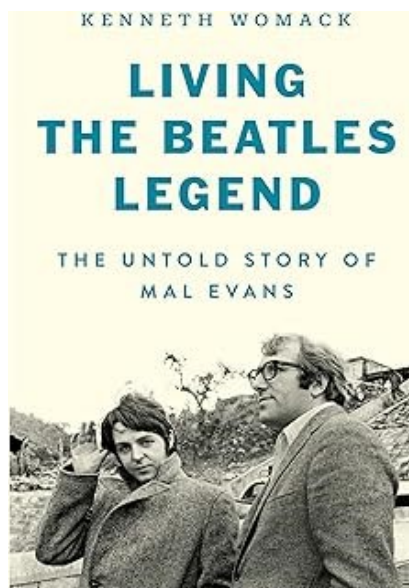
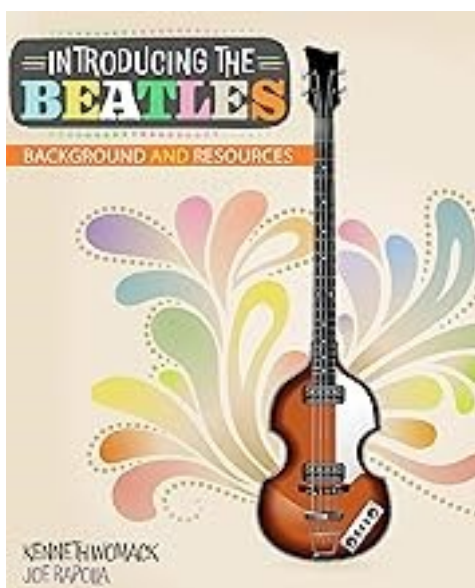
WOMACK (Continued from page 1)

14th, 2023. Since the initial announcement of this project, it has been highly touted and often referred to as the “Beatles Holy Grail” for its basis being that of a long-lost archive owned by the Beatles’ closest confidant, Mal Evans. Evans began as a Cave Dweller in Liverpool’s Cavern Club enjoying the Elvis-like sound of the Beatles back in 1961. After befriending the Beatles, Evans was hired as a bouncer, and soon as their road manager, body guard, personal assistant, chauffeur, cook, and everything in between. Evans spent more time with the Beatles than anyone including manager Brian Epstein, music producer George Martin, and even the Beatles’ wives and children. Over the course of the fifteen years Mal devoted to “his boys” he started developing quite the collection of photographs, diaries, handwritten songs, as well as his own manuscripts. Mal’s manuscripts unfortunately never saw the light of day due to his death in 1976, just weeks before his final delivery of said manuscripts were due for publishing. Thought to be lost forever, Mal’s story is finally available now almost fifty years after his passing.

years of dedication to telling Mal’s story properly. At no small feat, Womack enlisted my help to catalog the vast number of photographs, drawings, and correspondence in the archive and I can’t begin to describe my excitement to finally have this story available to the public.

Womack has been a Beatles fan since his childhood and after pursuing them as an educational topic, he has become one of the most renowned Beatles scholars in the world. Since finding Monmouth as his home base for teaching as a professor of both English and Music, Womack said, “I couldn’t ask for better, more engaged students. Our campus and students are an enduring sense of inspiration for me.”

This project was the product of three



(Top) Dr. Ken Womack, Professor of English and Popular Music; (Left to right): *Introducing the Beatles: Backgrounds and Resources* (Kendall Hunt Publishing, 2023); *Living the Beatles Legend: The Untold Story of Mal Evans* (Dey Street Books, 2023).

THE 5TH ANNUAL TONI MORRISON DAY

Toni Morrison was an author, activist and academic. The first black woman to win a Nobel Prize in Literature, her contributions and influence on the world are immeasurable. Once again in honor of her life and legacy, the Department of English will host its annual Toni Morrison Day (TMD) on February 23, 2024. We are excited to work with a variety of departments on campus, as well as collaborate with Project Write Now, to present a diverse and engaging program for our 5th Annual celebration. A highlight of the day will be an address and Q&A with our keynote speaker, Ross Gay. Please visit our webpage for more information about this special event.

Creative Writing Contest

Organized and sponsored by the *Monmouth Review* club

Eligibility: Contest open to all MU students.

Submission Deadline: January 15, 2024

Submit: Up to three poems or two prose pieces. You may submit work in both categories (prose and poetry).

Digital Poster Competition

Organized and sponsored by the Guggenheim Memorial Library

Eligibility: Contest open to all full-time, students at Monmouth University. All entries should be submitted on an individual basis.

Submission: Entries through February 2, 2024.

Requirements: Only original work is allowed. The poster can be horizontal or vertical, measuring 48" x 36" (ratio of 4:3). All posters must be original art. No trademarked or copyrighted images or phrases should be used.

The 5th Annual Toni Morrison Day
Department of English
February 23, 2024

Keynote speaker: Ross Gay

Join us to celebrate "Community"

- Creative Writing Contest
- Poster Contest
- Viewing/Discussion of Morrison's Nobel Lecture
- Student Symposium

View the full program:

Special thanks to our co-sponsors:

The Intercultural Center
Wayne D. McCurry School of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Social Work
Leon Hess Business School

History & Anthropology
Guggenheim Memorial Library
Monmouth Review
Project Write Now

<https://www.monmouth.edu/departments/english/toni-morrison-day-2024/>

THE FIFTH ANNUAL
TONI MORRISON DAY
CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST & DIGITAL POSTER COMPETITION

This year's theme is *Community*. We invite submissions that engage with this theme along with other aspects of Toni Morrison's work and legacy, including but not limited to social justice, civil rights, Black history, race, gender, diversity, and inclusion.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST
Organized and sponsored by the Monmouth Review club
Eligibility: Contest open to all MU students.
Submission Deadline: January 15, 2024
Submit: Up to three poems (maximum six pages total) or two prose pieces, fiction or non-fiction (maximum eight pages each, double-spaced, Times New Roman). No cover letter necessary. Type your name only at the top of the first page. You may submit work in both categories (prose and poetry).

DIGITAL POSTER COMPETITION
Organized and sponsored by the Guggenheim Memorial Library.
Eligibility: Contest open to all full-time, students at Monmouth University. All entries should be submitted on an individual basis.
Submission: Entries accepted November 15, 2023 through February 2, 2024.
Requirements: Only original work is allowed. If you have a photograph (or images) as part of your poster, please confirm that either you took the photo or you have obtained legal rights to use the photo/images. Poster designs should contain: The name of the event (Toni Morrison Day) and the date: February 23, 2024. A small credit line with the student's name.
Poster Size: The poster can be horizontal or vertical, measuring 48" x 36" (ratio of 4:3).
Media: Any mixed media suitable for reproduction as a poster is allowed, including computer-generated graphics. All posters must be original art. No trademarked or copyrighted images or phrases should be used.

SCAN QR CODE ABOVE OR EMAIL TONIMORRISONDAY@MONMOUTH.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION



Ross Gay (Photo Credit: Natasha Komoda)

ROSS GAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER, 5TH ANNUAL TONI MORRISON DAY

Ross Gay is the author of the poetry collections *Against Which* (2006), *Bringing the Shovel Down* (2011), *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* (2015), winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, and *Be Holding* (2022), winner of the PEN American Literary Jean Stein Award. As an essayist, he has published *The Book of Delights*, a 2019 New York Times bestseller, *Inciting Joy* (2022), and *The Book of (More) Delights* (2023). Gay is founding co-editor of the online sports magazine *Some Call it Ballin'* and an ardent gardener and founding board member of the Bloomington Community Orchard, a non-profit, free-fruit-for-all food justice and joy project.



Zafira Demiri



Donegal, Ireland

‘Away with Words’: A Poetry Trip in Ireland

by Zafira Demiri

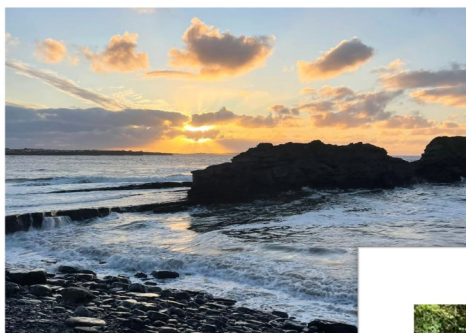
This October, I spent time on the opposite side of the Atlantic. We landed in Dublin on the eastern coast of Ireland and traveled all the way to the western coast at Bundoran, up to Derry in Northern Ireland, and back the way we came. This may seem like a lot of travelling for one week, and it was considering there is no shortage of sights and experiences to be had in the country. The purpose of this trip was to workshop poetry guided by experienced and talented poets, including our own Dr. Moscaliuc—but I feel it went far beyond this goal.

To preface, I not only desperately *wanted* to attend this trip, but I felt I absolutely *needed* to go. Although I am not in the least bit Irish, I’ve always felt a deep connection to the culture and literature of Ireland. The Irish language, despite being the national language of the country, is considered endangered due to a history of language erasure from centuries of English colonization. Personally, I have a unique interest in language endangerment and erasure as I lost touch with my mother tongue in my youth because my parents wanted me to excel in English—an all-too-common experience for children of immigrants in the US. Like many Irish people, I had to relearn and reclaim my language. Speaking with the locals and poets I met on this topic, I felt a beautiful sense of camaraderie and understanding.

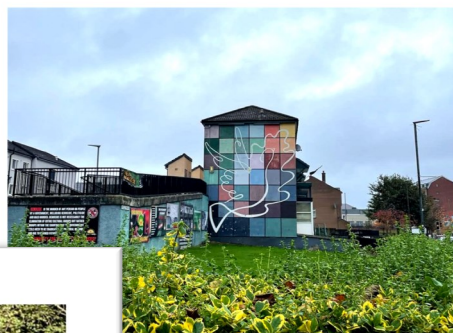
On the day we first arrived we were welcomed by the historic Teachers Club in Dublin with open arms (and plenty of Guinness). We met with the wonderful Irish poets Paula Meehan and Theo Dorgan who read us some of their poetry and regaled us with advice for writers. If you want to get an idea of contemporary Irish poetry, this couple’s work is the embodiment.

During the course of the week, we visited the Seamus Heaney Homeplace, the Patrick Kavanagh Center, The Museum of Free Derry, and many more stops along the way. It was not only an experience that bettered me as a writer and reader, but one that pushed me as a thinker. Just as I’d never seen the sun set on the ocean’s horizon before this (being much more accustomed to the seaside sunrise of Jersey), this trip broadened my perspective. We listened to John Kelly, the brother of a victim in the Bloody Sunday Massacre, his recollection of that day, and his ongoing legal battle to avenge his brother. Our guides Niamh and John educated us on the historical significance of the places we visited, the folklore of the countryside we walked along, and even the basics of reading and understanding some Irish. I was much younger than most of our group, but instead of feeling left out, I felt as though I had made an entire assortment of friends I wouldn’t have had the chance to otherwise: people with plenty of wisdom to share in writing and eager to listen to what I had to say as well.

On the last night, our group got together to attend a play at The Abbey Theatre, co-founded by W.B. Yeats. The play, funnily enough, was set in Elizabeth, New Jersey and written by a Polish woman on the immigrant woman’s experience in the US. It seems that I am often unable to fully escape where I’ve come from—but I am glad it follows me when it does, especially there in Ireland where I not only felt warmly received but also genuinely understood. Of course, I was reluctant to leave, but happy that I was leaving with the friends, knowledge, and experiences I now have—all in a week! To that end, as the Irish might say: sláinte!



(Above) *The coast of Bundoran in Donegal. The sun sets here on the ocean—New Jersey is off far in the distance, out of view. It was a hazardous hike to get this picture, but it was worth it.*



(Above) *The Peace Mural outside the Free Derry Museum in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. The oak leaf is the symbol of Derry and pictured alongside the dove represents the city's ambitious spirit of activism in pursuit of peace.*



(Left) *Zafira Demiri, Dorothy Doyle and Mihaela Moscaliuc pose for a picture at Glencar Waterfall.*

(Below) *The Seamus Heaney Homeplace includes Heaney's personal collection assembled in this miniature library, along with several donations from contemporary Irish writers.*



(Below) *Demiri enjoys a pint at the Teachers Club in Dublin.*

VENEZIO (Continued from page 7)

really test you mentally. Before taking a deep dive, try asking yourself: Where do I see myself working? What am I looking to accomplish within the next 2-3 years and how can a specific job help me accomplish that?

You will most likely have several jobs that will teach you different things—sometimes embracing something different can lead you exactly where you need to be. Sometimes graduate school is what helps you decide the things you *don't* want to do! A M.A. in the humanities qualifies you for a lot of jobs,

so don't limit yourself to one direction.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share?

Lean on your professors and peers even after graduation. Pursuing higher education allows you to make connections and gain references, as well as build confidence from mentors who helped shape you as a student. Being vulnerable enough to ask for help is the strongest thing you can do.



Carlee Migliorisi with her case celebrating the 50th anniversary of Springsteen's second album, *The Wild, the Innocent, and the E Street Shuffle*.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CARLEE MIGLIORISI

by Carlee Migliorisi

Being raised on the Jersey Shore guaranteed me a first class education (courtesy of my father) on Bruce Springsteen and I was quick to be bitten by the Boss-bug. With my childhood of jamming in the back of my dad's car behind me, I have since branched from simply being a fan to a scholar. Over the course of the last year and a half, I have been a student archivist at the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music (BSACAM).

This job has allowed me to not only explore the 37,000+ artifacts contained in the archives, it has also granted me creative opportunities such as conducting my own research. As of this semester, I have successfully curated two mini exhibits and my first was based on my original research.

I spent my summer researching an overlooked aspect behind the song "Born to Run" that coincides with the inspiration for the leading character of the song, Wendy. Everyone knows the song, but not many know that the entire *Born to Run* album was written a few blocks away from Monmouth University in a cottage on 7 1/2 West Front Street in Long Branch. The significance of this house was laid out in a 50 year old issue of *Crawdaddy* magazine that I came across throughout my normal day-to-day interaction with the artifacts in the archive. This issue was a cover feature of Springsteen written by Peter Knobler and it gave the only in depth description of mid-twenties Springsteen's bedroom. Among Springsteen fans, it is common knowledge that Springsteen wrote "Born to Run" sitting on the edge of his bed in the cottage. To my surprise, Knobler's article describing the room shed new light on the inspiration for Wendy. I collected all other information regarding the bedroom and decided to paint my rendition of what the room might've looked like since there are no photos of the room. After completing my painting, I gathered the artifacts used for my research and currently have them in an exhibit "Wendy Let Me In" complete with my painting, on the first floor of the Guggenheim Library.

My second case was a pop-up exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of Springsteen's second album, *The Wild, the Innocent, and the E Street Shuffle* (WIESS). For this case, I gathered artifacts surrounding the album such as alternative lyric sheets, album reviews, and even some tour memorabilia. This case was only intended to be displayed for one day on October 28 when the WIESS symposium took place. But I put the case together two weeks early to be on display for a very important press announcement on October 18. For the occasion, I swapped in a poster from Springsteen's previous band Steel Mill when they performed at Monmouth in the late '60s. Here I not only got to meet Springsteen for the first time, but I also caught the attention of ABC News anchor, Tony Yates. After the announcement she interviewed me for her news segment covering the event. B roll of my case was featured throughout her segment and part of my interview was clipped in as well!

I find myself even more grateful towards Monmouth University and more specifically, the Archives for this incredible opportunity for me to develop my skills as a researcher. I also owe my mentor Ken Womack thanks for guiding me and helping me expand my insights which has now led to my acceptance in contributing a chapter about Bruce Springsteen and the themes of nostalgia and home in his music for an upcoming book with a tentative release of 2025.



Carlee Migliorisi being interviewed by Tony Yates for ABC news.

Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University announcement on October 18, 2023 in the Great Hall.



Carlee with her case, "Wendy Let Me In," on display in the Guggenheim Memorial Library.

DEPARTMENT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Congratulations to the David Tietze Memorial First-Year Composition Award Recipients!

We congratulate this year's winners (pictured left). The winning essay/student was awarded a \$50 gift card to the Monmouth University Store by First Year Advising. Their essays will also be electronically published in the forthcoming booklet, *In Other Words*.

Academic Essay Award — Victoria Bossone and Gina Dige
 Researched Essay Award — Giulia Defabritus

Congratulations to the winners of the Fall '23 Graduate Creative Writing Contest!

The submissions for the Poetry and Prose Awards underwent a blind reading by judges Yesenia Montilla (Poetry) and Scott Cheshire (Prose). The judges wrote the following comments about the winning submissions.

Poetry — Dorothy Doyle

"The works presented in this submission felt complete and part of a collection that I would not only read but return to over and over. I particularly loved the way the poet leaned into form and was not afraid to dance with various subject matters. The speaker of these poems not only offered the reader a glimpse into the interior spaces of their life but also connected us to the world out there. There were moments in this submission that surprised and moved me, moments that I won't soon forget like 'Bathsheba in a Bathrobe' or the 'biscuits cooling on the open windowsill.' The longing in these poems also grabbed hold of my own nostalgia-filled-heart and honestly still have not let go. In summary, I was deeply saddened when I got to the end, the poet left me wanting more — that's good poem-making."

— Yesenia Montilla

Prose Award — John Vurro

"From its bold and daring opening line, 'Attachments' is as funny as it is wise. Vurro is refreshingly original, while clearly fascinated by the Melville legacy. This is a book that seems to be as much about family as it is other books, and I could not put it down."

— Scott Cheshire

MA Theses Defended

Nicole Collins, "Genius in Madness: The Connection Between Mental Illness and The Poetry of Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton." Fall 2023.

Graduate student Dorothy Doyle's review of Yesenia Montilla's *Muse Found in a Colonized Body* was published in the October issue of *The Rumpus*: <https://therumpus.net/2023/10/18/yesenia-montilla/>.

Graduate student Dorothy Doyle and Senior Zafira Demiri attended the 'Away With Words' Poetry and Writing Trip in Ireland in October. The immersive program included guided tours, writing workshops, classes, visits to local landscapes and readings.

Juniors Jillian Bodiford and Tim Pakrad have been recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) for their work in "Pippin." Bodiford and Pakrad have been nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Award and have been invited to compete at the KCACTF Region II Festival in January.

Alumna Leah Coppola '23M co-wrote the article, "Mission and COVID Statements: Writing Centers and Opportunities for Discussing Social Equity," with Dr. Courtney Werner. The article was published in the fall issue of *The Learning Assistance Review* (Volume 28, #2 Fall 2023).

Alumna Andrea Sodhi '13 '17M has been named Ocean Township Elementary School's (OTES) 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year.

Alumna Dr. Sara Mazzone (née Van Ness) '08 '11M has been named Red Bank Regional High School's 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year.

FACULTY NEWS



Congratulations Dean Bluemel! Dr. Kris Bluemel was named to the post of Interim Associate Dean of the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dean Bluemel is also working on her forthcoming book, *Enchanted Wood: Women Artists, Rural Britain, and the Twentieth-Century Wood Engraving Revival*, under contract with the University of Minnesota Press.



Dr. Ken Womack released *Living the Beatles Legend: The Untold Story of Mal Evans* (Dey Street Books, 2023) in November 2023.

Womack and Joe Rapolla co-authored *Introducing the Beatles: Background and Resources* (Kendall Hunt Publishing Co., 2023) in September 2023.



Professor Alena Graedon's short story, "No Changing," was published in the Fall 2023 issue of *The Paris Review*.



Thank you to Dr. Mary Kate Azcuy for over 25 years of service at Monmouth University. Dr. Azcuy's tenure as an Associate Professor of English at Monmouth has included serving as Graduate Program Director for the English Department.



Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc and Dr. Michael Waters headlined the final Visiting Writers Series event of the Fall 2023 semester.

Dr. Moscaliuc participated as a guest writer at the 15th edition of the International Poetry Festival, [Poesía en Paralelo Cero](#) in Ecuador. A bilingual collection of her poetry, [Algunos Poemas Fugitivos](#), translated by Frances Simán, was launched at the Cultural Center Benjamin Carrión.

Dr. Moscaliuc was a guest writer at the 'Away With Words' Poetry and Writing Trip, an immersive literary trip in Ireland in October.



Thank you to Prof. Michael Thomas for his years of service at Monmouth University. Prof. Thomas' achievements at Monmouth include serving as Assistant Dean to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and founding the Visiting Writers Series.



Dr. Courtney Werner co-wrote the article, "Mission and COVID State-ments: Writing Centers and Opportunities for Discussing Social Equity," with alumna Leah Coppola '23M. The article was published in the fall issue of *The Learning Assistance Review* (Volume 28, #2 Fall 2023).



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

ENGLISH

400 Cedar Avenue,
Great Hall Annex,
1st Floor
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
Phone: 732-571-3439
Fax: 732-263-5242
english@monmouth.edu

Check us out on the Web!

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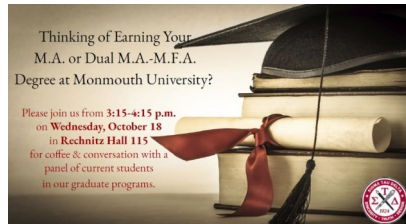
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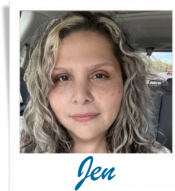
(Right, clockwise) Sigma Tau Delta hosted a variety of events during the Fall semester including an academic workshop, and Ghost Stories in the Great Hall (co-hosted with *The Social Writerly*, an online creative platform launched by alumni Sarah Van Clef and Jaimee Cali); Sig Tau members Olivia Frew and Charlotte Edwards pose for a picture at their Halloween Bake Sale; Zafira Demiri, Dorothy Doyle, Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc and Dr. Michael Waters posed for pictures in Ireland; Dr. Moscaliuc was featured as a guest writer at the International Poetry Festival in Ecuador; Amanda Connelly '14M received the Excellence in Educational Leadership (Doctoral) Award; Carlee Migliorisi described her work celebrating the 50th anniversary of Springsteen's 2nd album while at the announcement for the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music;

(continued right)

SNAPSHOTS FROM FALL 2023



SIGMA TAU DELTA
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY



(cont.) Thank you to our Graduate Teaching Assistants Liza Gordon and Anna Huber, and Graduate Research Assistant Jen Rivera for their hard work in the classroom, with our faculty, and with their fellow students during Fall semester!