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# Department of English Newsletter

## Words Matter

Spring 2022 \* Volume XI, Issue II

### English Department Hosts Third Annual Toni Morrison Day

by Abigail Brooks '22



Monmouth University's Department of English hosted its third annual Toni Morrison Day celebration on Friday, Feb. 18. This year's celebration included student and faculty scholarship panels, a faculty roundtable discussion, poetry and poster contests, and a presentation from keynote speaker Dr. Regina Duthely.

"We are trying to make Toni Morrison Day as inclusive an event as possible by involving the larger Monmouth University community in the presentations and engagement with several pertinent issues," explained Abha Sood Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Chair of the Toni Morrison Day Planning Committee.

Morrison was a highly celebrated author who is best known for her novels depicting Black culture in America and the struggles faced by African Americans throughout history. She made her

debut as an author in 1970 with her novel *The Bluest Eye*, quickly gaining popularity due to her unique narrative technique. In 1993, she became the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Following Morrison's untimely death due to pneumonia complications in 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine declared Feb. 18, the late Ohio-native author's birthday, to be officially recognized as "Toni Morrison Day" in the state of Ohio. However, Morrison's legacy is celebrated across the U.S. as she is remembered for her contributions to American literature and the advancement of Black culture.

**MORRISON** Continued on page 2

### A Note from the Chair: Dr. Susan Goulding



**Parker Goulding wishes you all a happy and playful summer.**

It has been my genuine honor and privilege—words I do not use lightly—to serve as Chair of the Department of English for the last 10 years. On June 30, I will step down from that role, and, pending some details, hand the position over to my dedicated, thoughtful, compassionate, and amply prepared colleague, Dr. J.P. Hanly. As with any term, there have been many accomplishments, and many challenges; as at the end of any day, I see there is always more to do. But I have stood, as the saying goes, on the shoulders of giants, and

have been surrounded by colleagues, faculty and staff, who have a level of commitment, vision, and energy that allowed—energized—me to serve as Chair. All successes, all accomplishments, have been collective in nature.

And so I will leave you with just this, no long story, no apt quotation, just this, with hope for a world made kinder and more just to all through our work: thank you.

**10:05-11:35 am Faculty Scholarship Panel:**  
**Moderated by Dr. Frank Ford**  
 • Dr. Melissa Adams, "The Maintenance of Racial Education Inequality & Limitations of Diversity-Focused Interventions as Antidotes."  
 • Dr. Nancy Mezey, Dean of the Honors School and Professor of Sociology, Christ Dell, Professor of Communications, and Graduate Research Assistant, "Gossamer St. Orbits: 'The 50th' - Together, We Rise."  
 • Kristin Snyder, "Stemography and Rape as 'Sins' in Butler's Kindred."  
 • Linda Sacks and Bernice Scardigen, "Reading and Writing about Linguistic Justice."  
**11:40-1:00 pm Keynote Speaker: Regina Duthely, PhD, Assistant Professor of English, University of Puget Sound.**  
**Sound: Title: "The Stories Black Women Tell: (Counter)storytelling and Embodied Freedom"**  
**1:15-2:35 pm Faculty Roundtable: Moderated by Dr. Anwer Ullah**  
 • Danyssa Nix, Ph.D., University of Buffalo Center for Diversity Innovation Distinguished Visiting Scholar, 2021-22 and Associate Professor of Philosophy, Canisius College  
 • Joana Davis McElligott, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Black Literary Studies, University of North Texas  
 • Corey Nell Reed, Doctoral Candidate in Philosophy, University of Memphis  
 • Vickie Mosses, Doctoral Candidate in English, St. John's University  
**2:50-4:10 pm Student Scholarship Panel:**  
**Moderated by Prof. Jennifer Hargreaves**  
 • Gillian Dumas, "Emerging from the Shadows: The Julian Able Project at Monmouth University."  
 • Jimmy Jip, "Historical Connections Used as Major Issues in the Plot of Toni Morrison's Beloved."  
 • Hashayyah Stewart, "An analysis of relationships in 'Recitatif' and 'The Thing in the Forest'."

[Click to view the full schedule.](#)

**"Toni Morrison has not just been a writer but also an editor, historian, guide, a keeper of traditions, and a torchbearer for this generation"**  
**- Dr. Sood**

## Third Annual Toni Morrison Day (MORRISON Continued from page 1)

"History, memory, storytelling, and counter-stories reclaim and preserve identity and fight erasure of Black individuals, families, and culture. This was a central theme of our third annual Toni Morrison Day," said Linda Sacks, Lecturer in the Department of English and member of the Toni Morrison Day Planning Committee. "Throughout the day, participants were prompted to reflect on the power of narrative and imagination to witness the truth."

Audience reflection and participation were especially encouraged by keynote speaker Dr. Regina Duthely, an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Puget Sound, noted that she wanted to focus on "communal knowledge building" during her presentation "The Stories Black Women Tell: (Counter)storytelling and Embodied Freedom."

"The keynote especially reminded us of the importance of taking charge of our destinies by writing ourselves into the creative, artistic, social spaces that we are kept out of," Sood said. "Each panelist emphasized the necessity of avoiding elision and occupying those movements and historical periods that African Americans have been written out of, and acknowledging the injustice that marginalized people have faced over the years."

Duthely's current research explores Black women's embodied digital rhetorics. As a rhetorician who studies social media and digital culture, she looks at online digital spaces as sites of resistance to think about the ways that Black women are engaged in embodied acts of freedom.

"The Black female body is loaded with meaning and weighed down by the expectations imposed by a society that only seeks to consume and destroy that body. I'm always interested in the ways that Black women work to reclaim that body, to exercise ownership over that body," said Duthely.

Her work examines the ways in which Black women engage in counter-story in order to reclaim truths about their own lives and ownership of their bodies, both of which are consistently denied by dominant voices that overshadow the voices of marginalized populations. She notes the constant dismissal of personal stories as inaccurate or biased and seeks to emphasize the importance and appreciation of lived experiences from those who have been silenced by such sentiments.

"Toni Morrison did this work in her writing. She told the stories of women and girls that would have been dismissed and discounted while simultaneously being destroyed by the world around them," said Duthely, who noted the impact of several of Morrison's novels on her own life and what they meant to her.

Building off of Morrison's work, Duthely emphasizes the significance of reclamation in order to redefine existing narratives that harm Black women, focusing specifically on how this has been done through conversations on social media platforms by allowing more voices to contribute to the public sphere.

"Dr. Duthely's work lies at the intersection of history, culture and literature. Given her focus on digital rhetoric, her

scholarship conceptualizes and articulates Black women's bold and essential occupation of digital spaces," explained Sood. "We selected her as the keynote speaker as she is the voice of the younger generation of scholars who are defining the literary digital spaces artists and activists must inhabit to have a durable impact."

Morrison's contributions to literature and society as a whole will continue to be celebrated at Monmouth. "Toni Morrison has not just been a writer but also an editor, historian, guide, a keeper of traditions, and a torchbearer for this generation," said Sood. "She has reminded all of us in myriad ways the importance of history is in remembering our collective past as a nation."

"She is an inspiration to numerous contemporaries and future creative writers and social activists," Sood continued. "We are hoping to honor that legacy every year."

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## Dr. Regina Duthely Delivers Keynote Address at Toni Morrison Day

by Sarah Curtis

The Black woman's body, her body's purpose, and her body's stories have been dismissed by society, but Black women of today are reclaiming their bodies and reclaiming these stories, says Dr. Regina Duthely in her presentation, "The Stories Black Women Tell: (Counter)storytelling and Embodied Freedom." Dr. Duthely was the elected Keynote Speaker for Monmouth University's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Toni Morrison Day event.

"When humanity is denied, how do Black women tell different stories?" Dr. Duthely asks the audience. "The Black female body is loaded with meaning and weighed down by the violent expectations posed by society that only seeks to consume and destroy that body, and so I'm always interested in the ways that Black women work to reclaim that body to exercise ownership over that body."

Dr. Regina Duthely is a trained rhetorician who studies social media and digital culture. She is an assistant professor of English at the University of Puget Sound. Feminist digital rhetoric, African American rhetorics, and multimodal composition and rhetoric are areas of specialization in her research. Published in a journal titled *Changing English*, Dr. Duthely's essay "Black Feminist Hip Hop Rhetoric and the Digital Public Discourse" highlights how social media spaces (i.e., Twitter, the blog *The Crunk Feminist Collective*) enable Black women's voices to enter mainstream media and transform the spaces where the epistemological and ontological practices of Black women can flourish, notes Dr. Anwar Uhuru at the start of the event. Present-

ly, Dr. Duthely is working on a book-length manuscript exploring women's embodied digital rhetorics.

Dr. Uhuru, co-chair of the Toni Morrison Day Committee, invited Dr. Duthely to be the Keynote Speaker for Toni Morrison Day as her work is representative of Morrison's contributions to academia. "I chose Dr. Duthely because her work in my opinion is an example of having read and studied the writings of Toni Morrison and her contemporaries," Dr. Uhuru states. "I wanted Monmouth and anyone who listened to Dr. Duthely to witness what scholars are doing to reshape academia in their scholarship and teaching."

Toni Morrison is celebrated for using stories of the past to speak for voices of the present. "History, memory, storytelling, and counter-stories reclaim and preserve identity and fight erasure of Black individuals, families, and culture. This was a central theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Toni Morrison Day" says Professor Linda Sacks, member of the 2022 Toni Morrison Day Committee. Counter storytelling allows for stories to be shared that previously have been largely unknown or undiscussed by society, and Toni Morrison worked to make sure those hushed voices are heard.

Throughout her speech, Dr. Duthely connected Toni Morrison's novels and their themes to present day matters, noting why Morrison's work is important. "I assert the counter stories that Black women and girls tell about their bodies are a reclamation, a form of resistance against the stories and narratives woven about them in the world," Dr. Duthely de-

clares. "Toni Morrison did this work in her writing. She told the stories of women and girls that would have been dismissed and discounted while simultaneously being destroyed by the world around them." For example, Dr. Duthely discussed how beauty is defined by white supremacist standards and how this is a theme of Morrison's novel, *The Bluest Eye*. The novel tells a story of a young African American girl, Pecola, and how she desired blue eyes to be deemed beautiful by others.

Toni Morrison's work continues to influence society today. "I think her work has impacted audiences today by either being a vehicle to have difficult but necessary conversations that often spark transformation," Dr. Uhuru says. Morrison silences the silence that many African Americans have been forced to endure.

Dr. Duthely described how social media platforms such as Twitter are allowing Black women to break free from the silence that society has placed upon them, a long-standing issue that has not been addressed until the twenty-first century. "One of education's greatest powers is that people are exposed to the experiences of others. Dr. Duthely's research regarding Black women's experiences using digital formats and her insightful commentary provided listeners with just that exposure," mentions Toni Morrison Day Committee member, Professor Belinski. "Many of the students with whom I communicated after her talk felt that they had thought about and understood race in a new way. This is the importance of engaging in topics that are sometimes uncomfortable. They help to bring us together."

Students and faculty alike were

**KEYNOTE** Continued on page 6



Dr. Regina Duthely,  
Keynote Speaker

**"[Toni Morrison] told the stories of women and girls that would have been dismissed and discounted while simultaneously being destroyed by the world around them."  
- Dr. Duthely**



3rd Annual Toni Morrison Day  
**POETRY COMPETITION**

"We speak, we write,  
we do language.  
That is how  
indications level."

Sponsored by:  
The Monmouth Review  
Student Club

Eligibility: Contest open to all students  
at Monmouth University

Deadline: Submitted to January 25, 2022

Submit: Up to two poems per student (in one file), maximum 5 double-spaced pages of poetry. No cover letter necessary. Type your name only on the bottom of the file. Submit to the Toni Morrison Day Poetry Contest folder in the Monmouth Review submission site (link in the sidebar).

Submission guidelines: The poems may engage with any aspects of Toni Morrison's work and legacy including issues related to social justice, race, gender, and identity. Black history, identity, community, beauty, spirituality. Only original, previously unpublished poems may be submitted. Submit all work in one file, as Word document (.docx). Submissions will be judged anonymously by members of the Monmouth Review editorial board.

Prizes: Three winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place) will be announced at Toni Morrison Day, February 18, 2022. They will receive gift card prizes of \$50, \$25 and \$10 respectively and will be published in the 2022 issue of the Monmouth Review.

By participating, the student agrees to donate to and be listed in the Monmouth Review. If you have questions, contact the Monmouth Review Student Club at 609.665.6666 or Faith Earl at 609.665.6666.

### Toni Morrison Day Poetry Competition flyer.

## Monmouth Review Selects the Winners of the First Toni Morrison Day Poetry Competition

by Faith Earl, M.F.A. '22

This February 18<sup>th</sup> marked Monmouth University's third annual Toni Morrison Day. Our campus has recognized the importance of Morrison's legacy these past three years with student presentations, faculty panels, and prominent keynote speakers. To further acknowledge the importance and relevance of Morrison's work in today's society, *Monmouth Review*, which is Monmouth University's student-run literary and art journal, sponsored a poetry competition. Students were invited to write poems inspired by or in conversation with Toni Morrison's work, on issues related to social (in) justice, civil rights, Black history, race, gender, community, identity, beauty, and spirituality. The editorial board members of *Monmouth Review* who reviewed the entries were impressed by the quality of the received submissions and by the effort and time students put into honoring Morrison's work. Many of these poems honored Morrison's works' investment in exploring the dichotomies of good and evil, love and hate, death and life, justice and injustice, and beauty and ugliness in society. From these submissions, *Monmouth Review* could choose only a third, second, and first place winner. Submissions were evaluated based on their relevance to Toni Morrison's legacy and the overall quality of the submissions made the task of choosing just three winners difficult. The panel, which consisted of four graduate students from *Monmouth Review's* editorial board, read the works anonymously, discussed each submission, and deliberated carefully before deciding on the winners.



3rd Annual Toni Morrison Day Poetry Competition winners (left to right): Samantha Walton, Deanna Venezio and Jenna Puglisi.

ly's struggle to find rest in an unjust world: "When silence falls over the cemetery,/ you wonder if this is healing./ This should not be a woman's only chance at peace."

The poem in second place was "Supermarket" by Deanna Venezio (M.A. '22, English). "Supermarket" deals with the themes of equality and identity, as the speaker contemplates the ways life might be different if they had been born as a different race. Venezio's speaker wonders: "The things I could have...the races I could win... The tears I could cry from my oceans for doe eyes," before declaring their own inherent

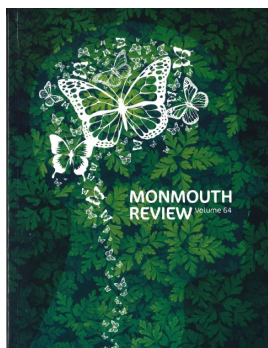
worth, and the ways it may be bound to history: "Don't they realize that my eyes are the earth that houses their oceans?/ The foundations of their palaces with the blood from my ancestors' hands?"

The poem chosen as the first place winner was "The Half-Widow of Ithaca," written by English major Samantha Walton (pursuing BA + MA, English). "The Half-Widow of Ithaca" explores themes pertinent to Morrison's work, such as identity, beauty, ugliness, as well as the ways societal pressures

influence identity. Walton writes, "i must be beautiful/ turmeric for dark pigmentation/ clay to tighten the skin/ I must regain youth," before reaching a conclusion that speaks clearly to

themes addressed in Morrison's own work and reckoning with society: "i must be desirable."

*Monmouth Review* was honored to participate in an event that is committed to keeping alive the legacy of Toni Morrison, who devotedly reckoned with issues that are as relevant today as ever. We were so happy to see so many students attentively engage with Morrison's work, and are very proud of the three winning poems, which will be published in the upcoming issue of *Monmouth Review*.



Monmouth Review 2020-2021, Volume 64.



## Toni Morrison Day 2022—Students Get Creative with Poster Contest

by Prof. Jennifer Harpootlian

This year's Toni Morrison Day sought to involve the students beyond the annual Student Scholarship Panel. The addition of the poster contest allowed for students to express their thoughts on Morrison and her legacy in a visual format to be shared across the campus. The call for posters went out in the fall. Students were asked to design a poster to encourage and promote a celebration of equity and diversity in recognition of Toni Morrison and her contributions to addressing significant social issues. The contest was sponsored by the

sign. Following graduation, she is planning to attend graduate school to get her MAT in Art education. She hopes to work teaching high school Art but would also consider going down the advertising or social media path with a focus on design. When I asked Shannon how familiar she was with Morrison's work prior to creating her poster, she explained that she had read *The Bluest Eye* in high school but admitted that while she knew she was an influential writer, she was not aware of the extent of her achievements.

that detail her impact on diversity and inclusion and how it is viewed in the modern world. One fact that I thought was remarkable was that when she didn't win the National Book Award for *Beloved*, many Black writers and authors got together on her behalf to protest that she be nominated for her revolutionary work. In light of Black History Month, I think this says a lot about her work in representing black characters and her impact on the community." The judges were impressed by Shannon's research and inclusion of key moments in Morrison's life.

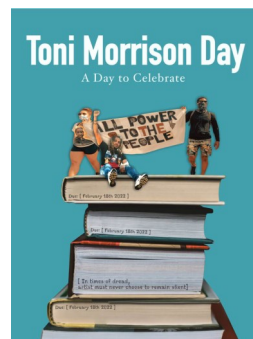


**Calling all artists!**  
Eligibility: Contest open to all full-time undergraduate students at Monmouth University. All entries should be submitted on or before January 14, 2022.  
Prizes: Winner will receive a \$100 prize and a certificate of recognition. Second place will receive a \$75 prize and a certificate of recognition. Third place will receive a \$50 prize and a certificate of recognition.  
Rules: All posters must be submitted on or before January 14, 2022. All posters must be submitted in digital format (PDF or JPEG) and must be submitted to the contest website. All posters must be submitted in digital format (PDF or JPEG) and must be submitted to the contest website. All posters must be submitted in digital format (PDF or JPEG) and must be submitted to the contest website.

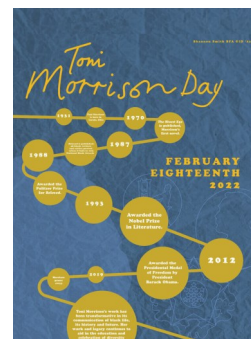
### Toni Morrison Digital Poster Competition flyer.



**First Place:**  
**Toni Morrison Day—February 18, 2022—A Day to Celebrate**  
**Leah Tatu**



**Second Place:**  
**Toni Morrison Day—A Day to Celebrate**  
**Amanda Grello**



**Third Place:**  
**Toni Morrison Day—February 18, 2022**  
**Shannon Smith**

Guggenheim Memorial Library and Librarian Kurt Wagner, who donated the \$100 first place, \$75 second place, and \$50 third place prizes. Through collaboration with the Art Department, word of the contest spread. Each poster that was submitted was judged based on theme/ clarity of content and overall design. These posters can be viewed on the Toni Morrison Day website:

The third-place winner of the poster contest was Shannon Smith. Shannon is a junior, Fine Arts major with a specialization in Graphic and Interactive De-

I also asked Shannon if there was something that inspired her to create her poster. This was her response: "I was inspired by my research when creating this poster. Morrison has accomplished so much [...] on many fronts. I thought that the best way to honor her legacy was to highlight these accomplishments across a timeline. She has impacted the world and left a legacy that encourages unity, diversity, equity, and culture. I researched mostly about her accomplishments but also looked for featured articles

Amanda Grello was the second-place winner. Amanda is a senior, and also a Fine Arts major with a specialization in Graphic and Interactive Design. After graduation, she is considering social media marketing or print/ logo designing with a larger company. She has already done some freelance work as well as an internship at a print shop. Amanda studied Toni Morrison in high school and was aware of her accomplishments as a writer and activist. It was the quote on the call for posters that inspired her. She included this quote on her poster: "In times of dread, artists



**Guggenheim Memorial Library**

**POSTER** Continued on page 6



## Keynote Address at Toni Morrison Day (KEYNOTE Continued from page 3)

inspired by the keynote address. “I was very moved by Dr. Duthely’s speech,” says Dr. Sood, co-chair of the Toni Morrison Day Committee. “She brought together several key elements of contemporary African American culture and expression, its impact on current sociopolitical thought and I deplore the deliberate silencing of Black voices by systematically banning works by revolutionary writers like Morrison—we cannot allow suing to continue.”

Morrison’s writing is liberating as it speaks for the Black

women who never had the chance to speak for themselves. “Morrison told the stories of Black women and girls so they may survive and be free and Black women in the digital public are telling their stories as part of the long legacy of Black women’s embodied freedom as shepherded by Toni Morrison and the other brilliant Black women that came before and after and those that are still to come,” Dr. Duthley concludes at the end of her speech. Toni Morrison’s contributions to society have lit a light that illuminates Black voices, particularly the voices of

Black women. Society can make sure this light source never goes out, especially with social media as a platform of expression.

## Students Get Creative with Poster Contest (POSTER Continued from page 5)

must never choose to remain silent.” This, combined with the images of activism in action, is what stood out the most to the judging committee.

The winning poster for the Toni Morrison Day poster contest was created by Leah Tatu, a junior Fine Arts major with a concentration in animation. Her post-graduate goals include attending graduate school and

studying Architecture. Leah was aware that the English Department held an annual celebration in honor of Toni Morrison; however, she admits that she did not know very much about her or her work. She began her research, “diving into

her work and life accomplishments.” *The Bluest Eye* was the first novel that caught her attention; this “grew into a representation [that included] the majority of her novels.” Leah credits taking on this project with providing her with a new understanding of

equity and diversity perfectly.

Art and activism have long gone together. Artists seek to enlighten, provoke, and inspire. Whether it be any number of Toni Morrison’s novels, paintings such as Picasso’s *Guernica*,

or songs like “This is America” by Childish Gambino, art has the ability to move people emotionally and inspire change. With this year’s inclusion of the poster contest,

as well as the poetry contest, hopefully Toni Morrison Day 2022 has inspired a new generation of activists.



**3rd Annual Toni Morrison Day Digital Poster Competition winners**  
(left to right): Leah Tatu, Amanda Grello and Shannon Smith.

“how significant a person she was in this world and the influence her works had.” The judging committee all agreed that the use of the colors of the rainbow, often used to symbolize LGBTQ pride and equality, hope, and new beginnings, supported the theme of





## Tuesday Night Book Club Features Toni Morrison's Novel, *Beloved*

by Sarah Curtis

On February 22, 2022, Monmouth University's Tuesday Night Book Club (TNBC) featured Toni Morrison's novel, *Beloved*. Just a few days after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Toni Morrison Day, the event was a perfect extension of Monmouth's celebration for the immensely inspiring Morrison.

*Beloved* is a critically acclaimed novel, awarded a Pulitzer Prize in fiction (1987). Dr. Kenneth Womack, the host of TNBC, describes the popularity of the novel amongst club members. "Every year, our Book Club membership selects our future subjects, and *Beloved* was a unanimous choice," Dr. Womack says. "It's a genuine twentieth-century masterwork, demonstrating in powerful, unforgettable fashion the psychological trauma of slavery."

Set in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1873, *Beloved* tells the tale of Sethe, a Black woman who is haunted by the ghosts of slavery and the atrocities slavery forced her to endure. Morrison powerfully dedicates the book to "60 Million, And More." Such a dedication represents how slavery "continues to leave a scar," notes Dr. Womack. "This is a powerful dedication when you begin to unpack it."

Dr. Womack declares how *Beloved* tackles tough topics that we still wrestle with. While the story is both metaphorically and literally paranormal—set in a house haunted by memories and spirits alike—it is also symbolic of the ghosts that linger in America today. "Slavery is our haunted house in the United States," says Dr. Womack.

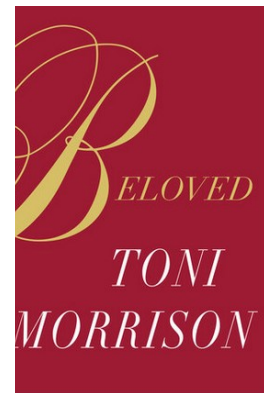
Morrison is known for communicating important stories

and themes that were grossly underrepresented in American literature. Her novels, such as *Beloved*, portray themes that hold not only great historical meaning, but immense societal importance as well. According to Dr. Womack, "The themes are many, including the ways in which slavery exerts an ineffable mark on history and succeeding generations. But *Beloved* also provides readers with moving stories about mother-daughter relationships and the complexities of masculinity and other gendered constructions."

The Toni Morrison TNBC meeting was well attended with active participants that were eager to analyze, discuss, and celebrate the renowned *Beloved* and the important contributions Morrison has made to American Literature. Dr. Womack comments on Morrison's remarkable literary achievements, "*Beloved* reminds us that Morrison was not only one of our finest novelists, but also perhaps its bravest. The novel has already stood the test of time as a towering work of the literary imagination." Morrison is a literary hero.

*Beloved* is a treasure of

American Literature. "The discussion [of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*] may have been the most lively we've had at Tuesday Night Book Club," Dr. Womack announced at the end of the event. Morrison's literature inspires readers to talk about haunting topics, such as slavery, by enabling us to hear the voices of the past, voices that have been incredibly marginalized by white society. With her immaculate work such as *Beloved* representing her legacy, Toni Morrison will forever inspire and forever spark tough conversations that need to be had, as she did for this special TNBC event.

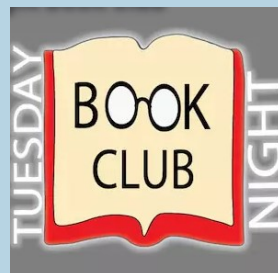


*Beloved*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2004.

Image Taken from  
[www.penguinrandomhouse.com](http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com)

**"It's a genuine twentieth-century masterwork, demonstrating in powerful, unforgettable fashion the psychological trauma of slavery."  
- Dr. Womack**

### Reserve Your Seat



For more information on Tuesday Night Book Club, visit  
<https://www.monmouth.edu/mca/series/tuesday-night-book-club/>.



MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY

ENGLISH

## Department Student Achievements

The Department of English is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020-2021 awards.  
We congratulate this year's winners, and thank our donors for their generosity.

The English Merit Award — Valerie Aristy-Reyes

The English Merit Award — Christina Blumstein

The English Award for the Academic Writing Prize — Kathleen Ruocco

Runner-Up — Liza Gordon

The Undergraduate English Award for the Creative Writing Prize — Patricia Banfitch

Runner-Up — Gabriella Pisacane

The English Award for Graduate Creative Writing — Malia Padalino

Runner-Up — John Vurro

The English Award for Graduate Study — Valerie Aristy-Reyes

The Caryl Sills English Teaching Award — Melissa Ondrush

The David Tietge Memorial First Year Composition Academic Essay Award—Maura Foley

The David Tietge Memorial First Year Composition Researched Essay Award— Lukas Kalinauskas



Senior Anna Huber, presented a portion of her departmental honors thesis, "Double Feature: The Characters Norma Jean and Leroy Moffit in "Shiloh" as Viewed Through Literary Trauma Theory," at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research on April 8, 2022.



Patricia Banfitch, a two-time Undergraduate English Award for the Creative Writing Prize recipient, has successfully completed her Departmental Honors Thesis.

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of

2022

### MA Theses and Manuscripts Defended

Michael Qualiano, *The Guided and Other Trips*. Fall 2021.

Sarah Van Clef, *Birdman*. Fall 2021.

Melissa Badamo, "The Lost Daughter of Grover." Spring 2022.

Faith Bates, *Terror, Avant-garde*. Spring 2022.

Jennifer Broman, "Here Be Monsters." Spring 2022.

Anthony Clark, "The Wreckage of Spring." Spring 2022.

Stephanie Lam, *Hiraeth*. Spring 2022.

James McConville, 'My Fading Voice Sings of Love': Romanticism, Silence and Myth in 'The Dead' and Grace." Spring 2022. **Distinction.**

Malia Padalino, "Reflections from the Ballet Barre." Spring 2022.

Nicole Picinic, "Bearing Witness and Early Social Protest Writing Through Modernist Reportage Poetry in Muriel Rukeyser's "The Book of the Dead" (1938)." Spring 2022.

Timothy Spicer, "Exhuming Faulkner from the Spotlight, Grave, and Closet: Real Queer Identities Manifested in Yoknapatawpha." Spring 2022. **Distinction.**

Deanna Venezio, "The Rochester Mansion: An Insane Asylum for Victorian Women." Spring 2022.

### MFA Manuscripts Defended

Michelle Giles, *Yellow Wildflowers*. Fall 2021.

Christopher Bogart, "The Beast." Spring 2022.

Faith Earl, "Songs to Sick Blood," Spring 2022.

Mallory Green, "Nightshift." Spring 2022.

Nicholas Morris, *Existential Graffiti*. Spring 2022.

### 2022 Graduates

January 2022— 8 UG, 3 GR

May 2022— 30 UG, 14 GR





## Delta Sigma Chapter



# SIGMA TAU DELTA

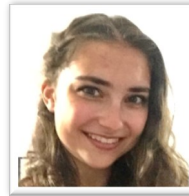
## INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

The Delta Sigma Chapter held a virtual ceremony this year on Friday, April 8, 2022. We would like to extend our thanks to the hard-working Executive Board, and our congratulations to the 2022 Inductees.

### Sigma Tau Delta, Delta Sigma Chapter Executive Board Members



Jennifer Rivera  
President



Malia Padalino  
Vice President

### SIGMA TAU DELTA OATH

I shall endeavor to advance the study of literature, to encourage worthwhile reading, to promote the mastery of written expression, and to foster a spirit of community among those who specialize in the study of the English language and of literature, ever keeping in mind our international motto:

Sincerity, Truth, Design.

### Congratulations to our new Members!

<i>Faith Bates</i>	<i>Anthony Clark</i>	<i>James McConville</i>	<i>Nicole Picinic</i>	<i>Marci Rubin</i>
<i>Timothy Spicer</i>	<i>Deanna Venezio</i>	<i>John Vurro</i>	<i>Valerie Aristy-Reyes</i>	<i>Emily Balsamo</i>
<i>Patricia Banfitch</i>	<i>Sarah Curtis</i>	<i>Aidan Hague</i>	<i>Kathryn Hawkenberry</i>	<i>Morgan Kelly</i>
<i>Lindsay Lipkin</i>	<i>Allianna Makowski</i>	<i>Mikaela Manarang</i>	<i>Nicole Mautone</i>	<i>Megan Nielsen</i>
<i>Emily Osterman</i>	<i>Megan Pagliettini</i>	<i>Kelly Petersen</i>	<i>Gabriella Pisacane</i>	<i>Kathleen Ruocco</i>
<i>Zandro Salomone</i>	<i>Cameron Santoro</i>	<i>Alexandria Schlaifer</i>	<i>Mary Schuld</i>	<i>Madison Wade</i>
<i>Samantha Walton</i>				



**Brittany Scardigno,  
M.A. '21**

**“My goal is to  
make my  
students invested  
in assisting  
their own  
communities  
and build an  
appreciation of  
their own  
culture . . . ”**

**- Scardigno**

## **On Becoming a Fulbright ETA Selected Candidate**

**by Brittany Scardigno, M.A. '21**

You might be asking: what exactly is a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship? I was asking the same thing when one of Monmouth's Fulbright advisors, Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc, brought it to my attention. The Fulbright ETA program strategically places individuals, called “Fulbrighters,” inside classrooms abroad to assist local English teachers in advancing students with their acquisition of the English language. Fulbright currently operates in over 160 countries, so choosing a country to compete for a spot as an ETA is no easy task. Then again, the entire process is anything *but* an easy task and the application is only the beginning of a long, but extremely rewarding, experience.

My choice to apply to South Korea came quickly, because the culture and language have been an integral part of my life for quite some time. My best friend, Jiwon, had emigrated to the United States from Suwon, South Korea about thirteen years ago. Along with our friendship bloomed an entirely new outlook on translation, pronunciation, context clues, and cultural exchange. I grew up watching K-dramas and eating *tteok-bokki*, yet I have only experienced Korean culture through a western lens. To gain a fuller understanding and appreciation of a language and culture, one needs to fully immerse themselves in the environment from which it originates.

After choosing South Korea, the process became excessively more difficult, and rightfully so. Fulbright is one of the most competitive programs in the world. The application process took about four months and countless editing rounds to

complete. While filling out the Fulbright application, Dr. Moscaliuc advised how to approach it best: “You need to stand out among thousands of applicants. What is going to make them continue reading your application after the first few words?” Yes, terrifying, but also one hundred percent worth the struggle once I read the first congratulatory line of my Fulbright ETA grant acceptance letter. The application requires you to figure out how to best describe your entire life in a single page document, while also tailoring the material to the country you're applying to. I took advantage of my immediate sources, such as Jiwon and her mother and had to consider what exactly South Korean students need most right now and utilized my own experiences teaching ESL students here at Monmouth and Brookdale Community College. Excessive amounts of research on South Korea's educational system revealed what's important for these students' acquisition of English; not only their comprehension, but utilization of the language in real-world scenarios is a must. I plan on implementing mock interviews and networking workshops to ensure my students' personal, academic, and professional definitions of success.

In addition to what you're going to be doing inside the classroom, Fulbright is also interested in what you'll be doing outside the classroom as a representative of the United States. Outside of the school curriculum, I will be volunteering at Justice for North Korea (JFNK), a nonprofit organization that provides aid to North Korean refugees whether it be clothing, shelter, or Korean and English language tutoring. My goal is to

make my students invested in assisting their own communities and build an appreciation of their own culture, so I plan on having a few students join me in this volunteer work for them to realize their linguistic and cultural strengths.

Maneuvering through the Fulbright process continues to be one of the biggest academic and personal challenges I have ever taken on. Although the acceptance letter is in my possession, there are many steps to go. Throughout this process, I've realized one can never learn enough about the influence cultural and linguistic exchange has on our daily lives. As I plan for my departure from the United States for a full year, one reminder I keep telling myself is: You miss 100% of chances you don't take. As students, we are capable of things we've never imagined and I'm ready to absorb everything South Korea offers to teach me.

For more information on The Fulbright Program, please visit [www.monmouth.edu/igu/fulbright](http://www.monmouth.edu/igu/fulbright) or contact Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc, Fulbright Program Advisor (FPA), Monmouth University at [mmoscali@monmouth.edu](mailto:mmoscali@monmouth.edu).



## Graduate Student Spotlight: John Vurro

by Melissa Badamo, M.A. '22

MA/MFA student John Vurro's novel, titled *Play, Rewind*, was shortlisted in *Craft's* 2021 First Chapters Contest, a literary magazine for fiction and creative nonfiction. His chapter advanced to the final round of judging alongside eleven other finalists.

Vurro described the process of participating in the contest: "I made it to the judge, but I wasn't picked as one of the three winners. It wasn't a total loss. The editor from *Craft* sent me an email and said if you want to ever send us a story, it'll go right to the editors; it won't go through a slush pile. Just being shortlisted, and getting that invitation from the editor, was like winning."

Vurro's novel follows 26-year-old Wes, who works in a video store to support his mother, who has dementia. With the help of his high school friend Lola, Wes films his mother to learn about her past and the mystery behind who his father really is. The plot was partly inspired by Vurro's own experiences; his mother has dementia and his father owned a video store until 2004, where Vurro worked most of his life. The story is based in Queens, New York, where Vurro grew up, and where he received his bachelor's at Queen's College.

Since beginning the novel four years ago, Vurro saw Monmouth's MA/MFA Program as an opportunity to flourish as a creative writer. In fact, he plans to continue working on the novel as a part of his thesis manuscript, the capstone project of the MA program, in fall 2022. Afterwards, Vurro will matriculate into the 18-credit MFA program, where he will further hone his craft through

feedback from his peers and professors during writing workshops, which he considers the most valuable aspect of the program.

"One of the best things you learn in workshop is to listen to different people's advice," he said. "I've been working on this book for four years, and there's only so much you can change when you're by yourself. You get to a certain point where you're not going to see the things that it needs—the scene you need to add or the dialogue you can cut out. That's the nice thing about being in a workshop because you have other people who aren't constantly looking at it and are giving fresh opinions and fresh outlooks."

Another of Vurro's works of fiction has received departmental recognition: his short story "Mentors," about a protagonist who struggles with mental illness, won the 2021 English Graduate Creative Writing Award. This year, Vurro was the runner-up for the award and was inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, which requires at least 12 credits and a 3.7 overall GPA for graduate students.

Vurro has found a home in Monmouth's tight-knit creative writing community, which was a core reason for choosing the MA/MFA program. "I've really enjoyed it," he said, reflecting on his experience in the program. "I wanted a more community feel. The professors have really helped me progress my writing, critical thinking, and reading skills. Their enthusiasm sparks my enthusiasm, which sparks creativity."

Alex Gilvarry, Associate Professor of English and MFA Program Director, commented on Vurro's dedication as a writer and student. "A writer must know humility, or they'll never see how their work can improve. John knows this and learned it way before he came to us to study," Gilvarry said. "He'd also give his left arm to write great literature, and so this combination, humility and desire can make a writer truly special. And that's John."

After graduating with his MFA, Vurro plans to publish his novel, teach creative writing at the college level, and submit his work to other contests and literary journals. "Ideally, my book will find a home," he said. "Writing, especially contests, is a lot of rejection. Any time you get good news, you should take it as a nod from the universe to keep going. It means that what you're doing is meaningful and that people are responding to it in a positive way."



John Vurro

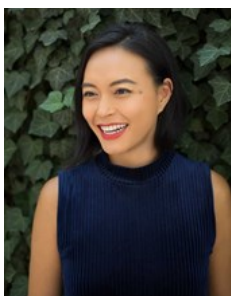
**"[T]he nice thing about being in a workshop [is that] you have other people who aren't constantly looking at it and are giving fresh opinions and fresh outlooks."**

**- Vurro**

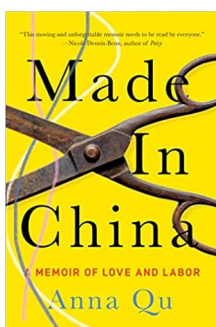
For more information on the M.A. in English program, please visit <https://www.monmouth.edu/graduate/ma-english/>.

For more information on the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program, please visit <https://www.monmouth.edu/graduate/mfa-creative-writing/>.





Anna Qu



*Made in China: A Memoir of Love and Labor.*  
Catapult, 2021.

Image Taken from Catapult website.

## Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Anna Qu

by Jennifer Broman, M.A. '22

Nonfiction is a “blend of craft and truth,” according to author and visiting professor Anna Qu. But how do you tell a story that is steeped in a culture of secrecy and lies? Ms. Qu’s memoir *Made in China* attempts to do just that, especially the pages that she read aloud at the first event of Monmouth’s Spring 2022 Visiting Writers Series. The memoir details Ms. Qu’s childhood growing up in China, and then moving to New York to work in her parents’ sweatshop. To say that the work is emotional would be to both overstate and to grossly underestimate its power.

“I am both the narrator, a character, and the author,” Qu explained when asked about the emotional side of delving into her family’s history. “It is not an easy thing to do, to write about your family.” This is made painfully evident from the book’s opening chapters, which Qu read aloud to the gathered Zoom audience of over fifty people. From details about the strict lunchtimes and the long hours spent working on the cutting floor of her parents’ sweatshop, Qu skillfully weaves in her family’s history while following the teenage version of herself through the streets of New York.

During the event, Qu read aloud from chapter 2 of her

book, and then answered questions from the audience. “You are more important than any story you will write,” was her response when asked how to confront the emotional trauma connected with writing one’s own history. Coming from a woman who spent over ten years writing her memoir, that advice rings particularly true. She was emphatic that writers need to first care for their emotional and mental state before they can sit down and confront the emotions of the past. Qu is no stranger to emotional trauma, as her memoir makes perfectly clear. She offered up helpful suggestions for self-care during the writing process, suggesting journaling, walking, solo trips, and the intake of art to name a few. She was honest about the emotional toll that writing can have on an author, especially when dealing with a not so distant past and a family history that leaves much to be desired.

Qu is not only an author, she is also a visiting professor who has spent the Spring 2022 semester as part of Monmouth University’s English department, teaching creative writing non-fiction. Professor Gilvarry was enthusiastic when asked about Qu’s contribution to the department. “We’re so lucky to have Anna Qu as a Visiting Writer this semester, and teaching nonfiction,” Gilvarry stated. “She’s a fearless

writer and her work brings a unique point-of-view to literature, and our program.”

It was a pleasure to listen to Qu read aloud from her book, as well as hearing her heart and intentions behind the words on the page. While it can be difficult to grapple with the pain, fear, and emotional longing that comes with writing such an honest book, Qu has woven her words together beautifully and skillfully, allowing her reader to experience the journey with her, along with the victory that comes with setting her story free. Qu stated, “As a Chinese-American writer, I actively write against the Model Minority Myth and stereotypes of a ‘good Asian,’ which leaves little room for a wider range of experiences like mine. Experiences, for example, that include socio-economic divides in class, such as undocumented work, manual labor, and domestic work. I find that often oppression feeds on secrecy and shame. I hope that in writing into this space, we can normalize conversations around abuse, labor, trauma, and recovery. For me, surviving my childhood has been about writing against secrecy and shame, and lies that come from the need to hide our shame. Shame is a social construct that loses power as soon as we begin to speak up against it.”

## Visiting Writers Series Welcomes Rivka Galchen

by Faith Bates, M.A. '22

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Monmouth’s Visiting Writers Series (VWS) had the tremendous honor of welcoming Rivka Galchen for a reading and discussion. Galchen is an award-winning author whose work includes two novels, *Atmospheric Disturbances* and *Everyone Knows Your Mother*

*Is a Witch*; a short story collection, *American Innovations*; a collection of observations about motherhood, *Little Labors*; and a children’s book, *Rat Rule 79*. She is a recipient of the William S. Royan International Prize for Writing, among other awards, and a staff writer for *The New*

*Yorker*, where she regularly contributes articles on a mélange of fascinating topics—from *Sherlock Holmes* to nuclear fusion. With her penchant for the peculiar, Galchen has no shortage of insight, especially when it comes

*GALCHEN Continued on page 14*



## Gluttony, Edibility, and Family: Jane Wong's "Visiting Writers" Reading

by Jenna Puglisi, M.A. '21

Jane Wong joined the Visiting Writer Series on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. The virtual event included a reading from her collection of poetry, *How to Not Be Afraid of Everything*, as well as a Q&A led by Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc.

Wong, born and raised in Monmouth County, expressed her excitement for returning home. A "restaurant baby," she grew up in a Chinese restaurant that her family owned in Shrewsbury Plaza. Many of her poems are inspired by the restaurant, as well as the significance of food in her culture. Wong shared, "Me being a writer started in that restaurant." The smells, sights, and overheard conversations from customers all fueled her imagination. As a child, she also spent many hours at the Monmouth County library, which further inspired her writing career.

Her poems largely follow the theme of being "edible." In fact, Wong actually ate the last poem in this collection, "After Preparing the Altar, the Ghosts Feast Feverishly." She printed the poem's lines on rice paper, and then folded the paper into dumplings. Ultimately, her poems work to "find the space between gluttony and starvation." This fascination for Wong originates in the historical events of China's "Great Leap Forward," and desire to pay homage to the millions of people were lost to starvation during that time. Now, only several decades later, our current generation only knows of gluttony and excess. While exploring these generational differences, the poems became very personal to Wong. Fittingly, the poetry collection is dedicated to her grandparents. She

shared, "This feels like someone is seeing into, not only my heart, but my family's heart."

During the reading, Wong read seven poems from her collection, including "I Put on My Fur Coat," which is written in her mother's voice. To further the intimacy of the reading, Wong shared several family photos, including ones of her mother, grandmothers, and brother. Since the collection is heavily influenced by her family, this felt like the perfect touch.

Wong also shared a younger photo of herself and said, "I'm always trying to get back to baby Jane." Essentially, by retreating to her childlike wonder, she is able to write in a heightened state of vulnerability. In the process of letting her guard down, she also had a very spiritual experience—her ancestors' ghosts co-wrote her poem, "After Preparing the Altar, the Ghosts Feast Feverishly." Wong shared that she had spent so much time writing letters to her ancestors, so it was finally time for them to "answer back." She cannot remember writing the poem, and she has never revised it—a phenomenon that has never happened to her before.

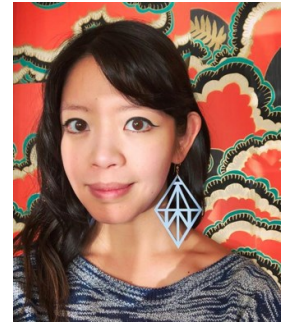
During the Q&A portion of the night, Wong shared that she received the James W. Ray Distinguished Artist Award for Washington artists. Her art installation was displayed at the Frye Art Museum in 2019. This opportunity allowed her to turn her poetry into pieces of art. Wong said, "I'm obsessed with trying to think of the poem off the page now." When asked about the process of creating the art, Wong shared that it was similar to "playing with Play-Doh" as a child. She

had to dream big, accept the process of trial and error, and keep working until she got it right. Wong also collaborated with the museum's curators to work out technical details, such as how large the pieces could be.

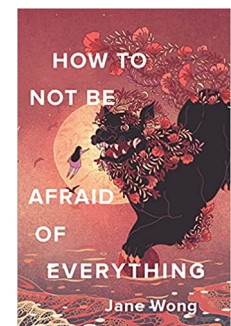
Wong shared some photos of the art exhibit, and one memorable piece was a neon sign that translated to, "Have you eaten yet?" Wong explained that it is a common saying in her culture—it is a way to check in on someone's wellbeing, rather than asking, "How are you?" This perfectly ties into her collection's themes of gluttony and edibility.

Wong closed the session by sharing a writing prompt, which continued to follow the theme of food. To summarize, the prompt is the following: Write a list of what you ate today. Begin with something literal, and then add in something figurative. In the list format, keep going back and forth between the literal and figurative. Then, list what you *wanted* to eat, but did not get to—again, think of this both literally and figuratively.

The event was a beautiful discussion of honoring one's family, as well as all the people and things that nourish us. Wong's forthcoming memoir, *Meet Me Tonight in Atlantic City*, is set to be released in 2023.



Jane Wong



*How to Not Be Afraid of Everything*. Alice James Books, 2021.

Image Taken from [www.alicejamesbooks.org](http://www.alicejamesbooks.org)

## Visiting Writers Series (GALCHEN Continued from page 12)

to the scientific and its intersection with the creative. Holding both an MFA from Columbia University and an M.D. from the Ichan School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Galchen brings a marvelous duality in her approach to writing.

MFA Graduate Program Director, Alex Gilvarry asked Galchen to discuss her leap into journalism. “You write about science,” said Gilvarry. “And it seems like you have fun.”

“Researching non-fiction is a lot more fun than lying about not getting anything done,” replied Galchen. She related how, when she sometimes finds herself losing interest in writing fiction, non-fiction can be the perfect catalyst to rekindle her interest. Galchen’s non-fiction enriches her fiction and vice versa. Referring to her journalism, Galchen continued, “I get to write about and meet people I would never normally get to meet. It makes me feel more interested in writing fiction again. It fills me up with interesting people and their interesting lives.”

According to Galchen, she has always seen the personal and “emotional in science.” This rings especially true for her scientifically and psychologically uncanny debut novel, *Atmospheric Disturbances*. Galchen also certainly finds the humor science. “I’m not a funny person” Galchen claimed at the VWS event, “but I do love reading funny things.” And writing them too, as anyone who has experienced Galchen’s work can attest.

During the reading, Rivka Galchen gave a magnetizing performance of her work. She read from her short story,

“The Region of Unlikeness,” which can be found in *The New Yorker*, where it was originally published in 2008. Galchen recounted how she wrote the piece during her own time as a creative writing student. Alive with unforgettable details, eccentric characters, and mystery, the story might be about time travel, or it might not. Read it and decide for yourself!

During the Q&A, Galchen offered wisdom to writers at any stage and discussed her work, namely her most recent novel.

Imbued with Galchen’s signature wit and animated by her attention to details, *Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch* is a fictionalized telling of Katharina Kepler (mother of astronomer Johannes Kepler) when she falls under accusations of witchcraft in 17<sup>th</sup> century Germany. The novel draws from actual historical records and is told by a cacophony of narrators, including Katharina herself and the many “witnesses” who testify against her—a narrative structure which showcases Galchen’s incredible skill in crafting voice.

“What was your method in organizing the narrators in the novel?” was one Q&A question.

Galchen: “I found that I was managing the energy. It was almost like I assembled them to manage the energy of the book rather than managing the information in the book.”

Another question was: “What would you recommend to a young writer?”

Galchen: “First, the most important thing is for rejection to become normal—a way of

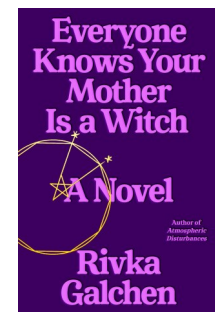
life.” Galchen explained that the ability to thrive from regular rejection is a necessary quality in all successful writers. “Second, reading all the time.” According to Galchen, her constant reading has shaped her as the writer she is today.

Finally, I asked Prof. Alena Graedon, to comment on Galchen and her visit.

“I know a two-year-old who’s obsessed with witches,” said Graedon, “But she’s never been told they’re supposed to be scary, so she just thinks of them as incredibly wise, powerful, and benevolent beings with great creative force and fashion sense. By that definition, *Everyone Knows Rivka Galchen is a Witch*. Her stories, novels, and journalism are mesmerizing, and the way that she reads her work is disarming. Her advice is practical (e.g., to young writers: “Learn to love rejection”), and she makes achieving literary superstardom like hers seem achievable, just by being so grounded, approachable, and funny. It was a pleasure to have her on campus to read her work, and it was a wonderful and inspiring way to celebrate a (semi-)post-Covid return to normalcy for the Visiting Writers Series.”



Rivka Galchen



*Everyone Knows Your Mother Is a Witch: A Novel.* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2021.

Image Taken from  
[www.us.macmillan.com](http://www.us.macmillan.com)





## EN Faculty news...



Dr. Heide Estes

- Presented the hybrid lecture, "Disability, Gender, and Jews in Old English Poetry," at the Colloquium for Early Medieval Studies on May 5.
- Presented the Adult Education Series lecture and three-session course, "Climate Crisis: What Can We Do?" on April 26 and May 12-26, respectively.
- Presented the lecture, "Ecocriticism, Disability, and the Beowulf Manuscript", at the University of Rochester on April 15.



Dr. Kristin Bluemel

- Presented The Orwell Society George Talk, "Orwell and Feminism," on April 10.



Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc

- Participated in the Hudson Valley Writer Center: Reading (via Zoom) on May 4.
- Read at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books (Univ. of Southern California) on April 23
- Participated in a reading at Salisbury University (MD) on April 6.
- Poem, "By Chocolate," was published in the Spring 2022 issue of *Ploughshares*.



Anna Qu, M.F.A.

- Awarded the 2022-2023 Black Mountain Institute (BMI) Shearing Fellowship.
- Guest Reader for the English Awards and Sigma Tau Delta Induction Ceremony on April 8.



Brittany Scardigno, M.A.

- Awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea for the 2022-2023 AY.



Dr. Jeffrey Jackson and  
Dr. Mihaela Moscaliuc

- Celebrated 10 years at Monmouth University.

Thank you to the Toni Morrison Day Planning Committee for successfully organizing the 3rd Annual Toni Morrison Day on February 18.



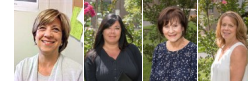
- (Left to right) Professors Abha Sood, Anwar Uhuru, Noel Belinski, Frank Fury, Jennifer Harpootlian, and Linda Sacks).



Thank you to Dr. Susan Goulding for her 10 years of service to our students, Department and Monmouth University as English Department Chair.

### **Congratulations to the following faculty on being recommended for:**

- Four-year continuance, Lecturer line:



- (Left to right) Professors Noel Belinski, Jennifer Harpootlian, Linda Sacks and Lynn Siracusa

- Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor:



Prof. Alena Graedon

## In Memoriam

The faculty of the English Department mourn the deaths of our departmental colleague, Dr. Margaret (Maggie) Del Guercio, and Emeritus Professor, Dr. Thomas Reiter.

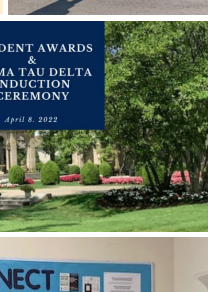
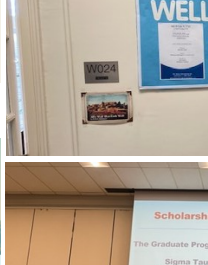
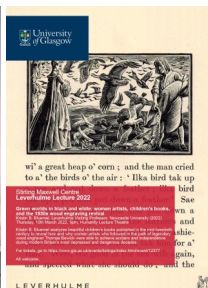
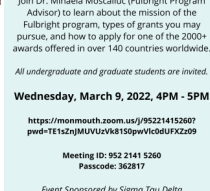
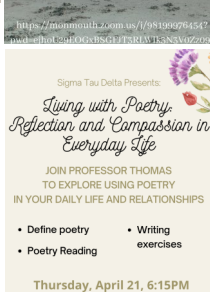
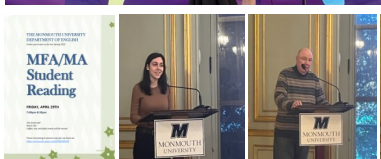
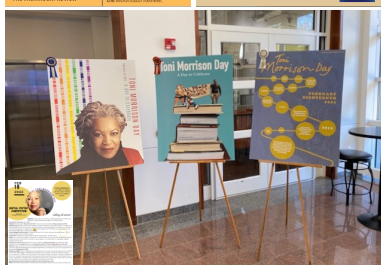
For 34 years, Dr. Del Guercio demonstrated great dedication to and compassion for students. She worked with students on countless revisions of essays, and made her classroom a welcoming and innovative place. She took great pride and pleasure in her poetry, writing and publishing her works widely, and sharing her craft with students. She was an advocate for her students, concerned for their well-being as well as their academic development. We, her colleagues, will miss her very much.

Dr. Reiter joined the University in 1968, and retired in 2005. He served as the first Wayne D. McMurry Endowed Chair, from its implementation in 1985 until his retirement. An accomplished, nationally-recognized poet, he was a dedicated teacher and quiet, calming presence.

Our sympathies go out to his family.



## Snapshots from 2021-2022



### ENGLISH

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muenglishdept/

(cont.) board in the English Lounge; The Graduate programs in English Scholarship Week Student Symposium; Visiting Writers Series guest Rivka Galchen discusses her work with MFA Program Director, Alex Gilvary; MFA/MA Student Reading participants (left to right): Melissa Badamo, Christopher Bogart, Jennifer Broman, Faith Earl, Mallory Green, Jora Lam and Nick Morris; Dr. Moscaliuc gives a reading at the L.A. Times Festival of Books; Toni Morrison Day Poetry Contest; The Monmouth Review, Vol. 64; Our entry in Student Employment's "Deck Your Door Contest"; The Toni Morrison Day Digital Poster Competition prize winners; The 3rd Annual Toni Morrison Day program; STD hosted the "Living With Poetry" workshop facilitated by Prof. Thomas; STD sponsored the Fulbright U.S. Student Program Information Session; Prof. Thomas read "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" among the daffodils.

(Above; clockwise) Dr. Moscaliuc's 21/FA EN-615 students visit the Banksy exhibit in NYC; Sigma Tau Delta (STD) hosted a "Life After Monmouth" Workshop facilitated by Dr. Blair; Dr. Bluemel gave a Leverhulme lecture at the University of Glasgow; Dr. Bluemel visited Castle Howard in Yorkshire, UK.; The English Student Awards and Sigma Tau Delta Induction Ceremony; The ConnectWell MU bulletin (continued right)