

KEEP-ENG IN TOUCH

Eastern Connecticut State University English Department Newsletter

May 2014

Volume 1

Issue #2



A Message from the Chair

In the first issue of our newsletter (December 2013), we advertised a naming contest. The winning suggestion, "Keep ENG in Touch," came from Kristen Brierley '08. After graduation from Eastern, Kristen attended the Western New England University School of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of their law review. Currently she is Law Clerk to Judge Michael R. Sheldon in the Connecticut Appellate Court. A \$25 gift certificate is in the mail to Kristen with our thanks.

Huge thanks also go to Akaya McElveen for editing and designing this newsletter, to Brooke Baldwin for assistant editing, and to all the student writers who contributed their hard work throughout the semester.

Dr. Lisa Rowe Fraustino

FraustinoL@easternct.edu

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FINDING AN INTERNSHIP: ENGLISH MAJOR EDITION

BY BROOKE BALDWIN

At some point throughout college, many of us will search for, apply to, and successfully have an internship. There are many interning opportunities available, but the process of finding one may not always be easy. Finding an internship in our field can involve branching out into other fields, as our skills are relevant in every company and organization.

As an intern in the English Department this year, my responsibilities included establishing and maintaining the social media accounts ([like](#) and [follow](#) us!), writing articles for this newsletter, attending presentations from the possible new hires, and other miscellaneous odd jobs. Here are some alumni success stories I found as part of my internship.

(Cont. on page 9)

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Visiting Alumni Series

English At Work: A Panel Discussion

BY AKAYA MCELVEEN



Eastern Connecticut State University's English Department hosted its first alumni panel discussion titled "English at Work," featuring alumni Jessica Fontaine, Kileen Gilroy, Starsheemar Byrum (from left to right, above), and Matthew Ryan (right) on Feb. 26. Students Bryan Mitchell and Eivind Oren moderated the panel discussion. The graduates shared their Eastern experiences and explained how their time at Eastern influenced them to pursue their current careers.

The panelists each stated the importance of establishing relationships with faculty and staff. Byrum, who had been in the STEP/CAP program, was introduced to English professor Meredith James. Through meeting James and other professors, Byrum began to believe in her abilities.

Gilroy stressed the importance of staying in contact with professors beyond graduation. She cited professors Maureen McDonnell, Daniel Donaghy and Raouf Mama as mentors.

The panelists also discussed the relationship between their English studies at Eastern and their current career positions. Byrum, who serves as the coordinator of Eastern's Women's Center, says that she utilizes her degree for the different programs she coordinates.

Media Specialist/Librarian Fontaine says she tries to motivate students to become more engaged to explore the library on their own time. Being a transfer student at Eastern, she said she had to learn to advocate for herself. "I find that I have to use that every day; I'm grateful I learned that skill at Eastern," said Fontaine. Fontaine's mentor while at Eastern

was Dr. Lisa Rowe Fraustino, professor and chair. Dr. Fraustino encouraged Fontaine to pursue her master's degree in children's literature at Hollins University.

Ryan, branch operations specialist at Union Bank, uses his degree in his field of work through the writing of appraisals and reviews. He said he also has to revise job descriptions for different departments in the bank and must write them in a professional way.



Students attending the panel said that the panelists provided valuable information that will help them make the transition from students to working professionals. Thank you to our panelists for all of their insights!

Click [here](#) for a link to the video of the panel.

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Successful Turnout at the Eastern Writers Guild Coffeehouse

BY BRYAN MITCHELL



On February 26, 2014, the Eastern Writers Guild held its first coffeehouse of the spring semester in the Student Center Café. The room was filled with writers, musicians and an audience of about 35 people. Each contributor brought something new to the stage—from poetry advocating for gender equality to short stories and memoirs to even including a sing-along sea shanty.

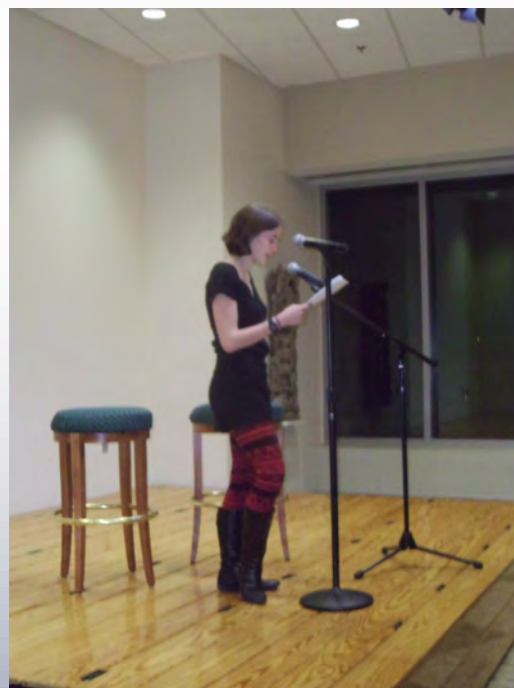
Angela DiLella (right), president of the Eastern Writers Guild, was ecstatic with both the turnout and the variety of acts, which resulted from various announcements about the event through word-of-mouth, in the Guild's weekly minutes, and social media.

"It was amazing to see so many people get involved—including people who just happened to be in the area at the same time, doing homework, eating dinner or just hanging out," DiLella said.

Before the coffeehouse ended for the evening, Eastern alumnus, Kileen Gilroy (pictured above), who once served the editor-in-chief and vice-president of the club, recited a poem from memory. Guild President DiLella commented on Gilroy's visit and the impact it had on her and the club.

"It was wonderful to see someone so pivotal in the club and magazine's earlier years come back to act as a club member once again," DiLella said.

Through events like the coffeehouses, and publishing the *Eastern Exposure* annually in the spring semester, the Eastern Writers Guild continues to be a driving force in promoting literature and creative writing endeavors to Eastern Connecticut State University's student body. Be sure to e-mail the Guild's e-board at easternwriters@my.easternct.edu if you are interested in attending their meetings and collaborating with other aspiring writers.



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Carlos Andrés Gómez Poetry Reading

BY CHRIS SYMONDS AND BRYAN MITCHELL



On March 10, the Campus Activity Board hosted a poetry reading by Carlos Andrés Gómez in the Student Center Café. Carlos Andrés Gómez is an award-winning Columbian poet, actor and storyteller. Raised to objectify women, stay tough and alert, and keep his emotions to himself, Gómez uses his poetry to address these misconceptions.

Gómez began the reading with an icebreaker for the audience, asking them about their favorite type of music to dance to. He did not just call on members of the audience, but bantered with them to draw the audience into his first story about an experience he had in Philadelphia. As the night progressed, his liveliness and openness towards his work captivated the audience. His readings were often interactive and involved asking the audience to snap and clap in response to his poems' messages.

The conversations between Gómez and the audience led from one story to the next. To address conformity, he branched into an anecdote about his grandmother which led into the tribute poem, "Hallelujah." Gómez spoke about how his grandmother's attitudes towards non-conformity allowed him to feel good about being himself.

"My grandmother was the only person who made me feel like I was enough. Whoever I was, was right," Gómez said.

To address gender stereotypes, Gómez asked audience members how others see them. One audience member, who was African American, told Gómez that others saw him as Kevin Durant because of his race, even though he seldom plays basketball. Gómez told his audience that they could be whomever they want regardless of their appearance. Gómez gave a nod to the Men's Project, an initiative from the Women's Center that mirrors what his own personal values are. "I just want us to be the most authentic and real as who we are, not these machismo, unemotional, robotic cartoons," Gómez said.

*My grandmother is the ripest
hallelujah. Where everyone is a
child. Is a dear*

*daughter. A dear son. Has a
story and roots and branches
twisting embrace*

*through the sterile bars of a
subway car.*

[Excerpt from Gómez's
"Hallelujah"]

Gómez's readings, poetry, and presence inspired all who attended.

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Spotlight on Alumnus Christopher Brechlin

BY ANDREA SYLVESTER

Christopher Brechlin, a 2009 graduate, is the definition of driven. A transfer student from Middlesex Community College and a Meriden native, he has become the CEO of one company and the sole owner of another, only five years after graduating from Eastern with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in History. He credits his success to the right amount of creativity, intelligence and a business savvy background (thanks to his entrepreneurial family). He has become an advocate for affordable housing and a contributor to creating more job opportunities in our state.

What I was taught benefited me creatively and my research abilities can be applied constantly in my businesses.

Currently residing in Willimantic, Brechlin explained the value in his time spent at Eastern. Inspired by his parents, who run an auction gallery in Meriden, Brechlin has gone on to utilize skills he learned from them as well as what Eastern has taught him. A writing tutor and Student Orientation Counselor turned head SOC his senior year, Christopher learned how important leadership skills are. When asked why he did not opt for business courses, he responded, "I knew I wanted to run my own company; that is what I love. My family has always had the mindset where, when they found something they love to do, they turn it into a business venture, which is exactly what I have done."

"My choice of major did not affect my career choices negatively," said Brechlin. "What I was taught benefited me creatively and my research abilities can be applied constantly in my businesses."



He chose Eastern over other area schools because of the relationships between students and teachers. At Eastern, professors are attentive and take a high interest in the success and growth of their students, knowing most, if not all by name, something that cannot be said for larger universities. That choice introduced him to Kim Silcox, the director of the Center for Community Engagement. Under her guidance he became a Student Orientation Counselor, which shaped a lot of how he works in the world and with other people. For Brechlin, Eastern had the right mixture of attributes to help him become the successful businessperson that he is. He mentioned, "Everything Eastern offered me worked out. The Liberal Arts education makes for a well-rounded individual that can contribute effectively to the working world."

His business "MadeCloser" is an online marketplace that makes it easier for consumers to find and buy general merchandise made closer to where they live. Also, his other business "Blueprint for a Dream" is a social enterprise that uses data to rethink, reboot and scale impact. Still in its start up phase, it has successfully completed a project for the Windham Region Ten Year Plan to end Homelessness called Blueprintforhousing.com, a data tool that works for local organizations to help create affordable housing for and end homelessness.

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An Evening Reading with Aisha Sabatini Sloan

BY AKAYA MCELVEEN

The English Department and the Visiting Writers Series presented an evening reading with Aisha Sabatini Sloan in Webb 110 on April 24. Sloan's essays have been named to the *The Best American Non-Required Reading* and *Best American Essays* anthologies of 2011, nominated for a "Pushcart Prize" and been published in *Ninth Letter*, *Identity Theory*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Terrain*, *Callaloo*, *The Southern Review*, and *Guernica*. Her first book of essays, *The Fluency of Light: Coming of Age in a Theater of Black and White*, was published by the University of Iowa Press in 2013. She has taught writing at the University of Arizona for six years, and is currently a contributing editor for *Guernica: A Magazine of Art & Politics*.

Sloan read an essay titled *D is for the Dance of Operas*, which centered on crime and violence in Detroit. Inspired by riding around with an officer on duty in Detroit, Sloan incorporated the idea of opera into the essay, which creates a contrast between dark and light. When asked why she had chosen to write about Detroit and use opera terms throughout the essay, she explained, "I've been there [to Detroit] intermittingly throughout my life," and also had been listening to classical music while riding in the police car. It acted as a backdrop or a soundtrack to her experience.

During the reading, Sloan shared with the audience issues she faces during the writing process and asked members of the audience about their own writing experiences as well.

"I think what she's done is brave," said English Professor Reginald Flood. "She took a town that she loved, and even though she talked about horrible things, the bottom line of the essay is love."



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Sigma Tau Delta Update

By Brooke Baldwin

Sigma Tau Delta, Eastern's chapter of the International English Honors Society, kept busy this academic year with a number of events. Last semester, the society held a supply drive that benefited Sweeny Elementary School in which donations were accepted for pre-paid school supplies. Through this, Sigma Tau Delta members were also able to raise \$115 in profit, which was spent on even more supplies for the school.

This semester, Sigma Tau Delta participated in the Better World Book drive. This was an ongoing collection via boxes dispersed throughout campus of gently used books that will be donated to literacy programs all over the world. The funding from this drive allows for schools to be built and the shipping of books, as well as gives families worldwide an opportunity to read.

Sigma Tau Delta also participated in World Book Night, an annual celebration of literacy in which volunteers gave thousands of books away to share the love of reading. The society gave out copies of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. Sigma Tau Delta then partnered with The Writer's Guild for the annual end-of-year English party to celebrate the efforts of our English majors.

President Emily Story, a senior, says that her year being president has been rewarding. "I have met many people that share the same passion and interest as myself in the field of English. I am incredibly proud to have been the president of Sigma Tau Delta and of all the hard work and service that we have completed this past year. I hope that next year's e-board will encourage even more member participation and set forth to do even bigger things within the Sigma Tau Delta chapter at Eastern."

Panel of YA Authors Talk about Their New Books

By Brooke Baldwin



Authors Brendan Kiely, Jason Reynolds, and Chris Lynch held an author's panel at Eastern on January 21 in the Student Center Theatre. Students of both Dr. Fraustino and Dr. Richards attended this presentation, and Dr. Fraustino moderated the panel. Chris Lynch, author of *Little Blue Lies*, has written many novels and offered the advice of creating a scene with two characters and a conflict whenever writer's block happens. Brendan Kiely, author of *The Gospel of Winter*, stated that his novel began as a short story and progressed from there, inspiring the attendees to expand on their stories if they feel there is more of the story to be told. Jason Reynolds, author of *When I Was the Greatest*, started off as a poet in college and attempted to be published many times before he succeeded with his current book. The three authors spoke about the writing process, the trials and errors of being published, and steps to take in the right direction when it comes to any kind of writing. After the presentation, Elle Giordano stated, "We were able to get three perspectives with different ideas about how to approach the writing process in general, focusing on the young adult audience." Although the evening presentation was cancelled due to snow, English students were still glad to participate and experience the panel.

The English Department is now on social media!

Follow us on Twitter at [@ECSUEnglishDept](https://twitter.com/ECSUEnglishDept) or log on to <https://twitter.com/ECSUEnglishDept>

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ECSUEnglishDept>

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Spotlight on Dr. Raouf Mama

BY YASMEINE DOMOND



Distinguished Eastern Connecticut State University Professor Raouf Mama has authored his fourth book, titled *Fortune's Favored Child*. It is a memoir about how he met his biological father at the young age of 20. Mama is not ashamed to say he felt low and hurt for a long time because he believed that his father did not want him. The “heart of the story” is the moment he meets his father. Mama hopes to reiterate to the reader the “magic of that moment” and the impact it has left on his life.

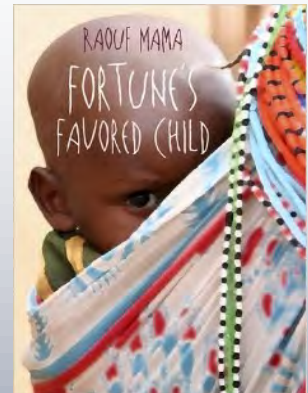
Mama was very sick as a young man. He was experiencing pounding headaches and had endless insomnia. Mama says that “the birds of Omen” were his companions at night and could never shut them out. His sickness was so severe, it got to the point where one of the doctors told him to get a job that would require little to no mental exertion. He was barred from taking his final exam at his university and he became depressed. It was a “death of a dream.”

After the doctor gave him that advice, Mama traveled 275 miles with his “elder” mom (his mother’s older sister) and they went to see a healer. He was given a potion to help relieve some of his ailments. Eventually he began to feel better and traveled back to his original physician and showed him that he was better. After that, Mama went on to study for his final exam, and out of all his “friends” who promised to help him study, only one did. He took the exam and he passed. After graduating from university, he traveled back to the village where the healer resided and that is where he learned who his father was.

As is with tradition in Islamic culture, Mama’s father, a preacher of the Quran, was ready to perform a ritual in which a ram is slaughtered on the seventh day of the naming ceremony. Instead, Mama’s mother drove away and caused him to make a complaint at the Palace of the Kings about Mama’s mother and sister. The King decided to kill the child, but his wife interfered and told the King to let the child live. Mama’s mother told him that he was a brave child and when he asked her why, she said it was because he was Fortune’s favorite child. Mama met his father 10 days later and it was “the most joyful day” of his life. His father then performed the naming ceremony that he was kept from doing when Mama was born. Mama was overwhelmed by love when he met his father’s family and they welcomed him with open arms.

The story ends with Mama arriving here in America for graduate school. On his way out of the airport, an immigration officer told him that he was going to be a great writer here and Mama wishes that officer a life full of happiness wherever he is. The officer’s words were infinitely uplifting and all his self-doubt fell away. Since then he has walked on in hope and faith.

Dr. Mama will be reading from his new book on Thursday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Paul E. Johnson Sr. Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library!



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“Inscription for Air” a Success

By Chris Symonds

On April 22 in Science Building Room 104, a group of Eastern faculty and students gathered to celebrate the posthumous release of Dr. Jake Adam York’s fourth and last book of poetry, *Abide*. The ceremony was entitled “Inscriptions for Air,” and was organized by Daniel Donaghy of the English Department.

The ceremony began with Donaghy speaking briefly on his friend York’s work and his philosophy, particularly in regards to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. At one point during his oration, Donaghy incorporated a quote by the current Poet Laureate of the United States, Natasha Trethewey, who had described York as “one of our most indispensable poets.” Next, Donaghy presented a video recording of York from when he had visited Eastern on April 9, 2008. In the video, York read “From a Field Guide of Etowah County” from his first book, *Murder Ballads* (2005) and Two Poems entitled “At Liberty,” both of which were from his second book, *A Murmuration of Starlings* (2008).

After the excerpts from Dr. York’s 2008 presentation were complete, several faculty members and students each read a poem from *Abide*.

The event, which is a part of “The Power of One: Engage. Enlighten. Empower,” was sponsored by The Division of Student Affairs at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Finding an Internship...cont. from page 1

Christian Gallichio ’13 interned at The Weinstein Company each summer while at Eastern. After sending a resume and having two interviews, Gallichio was accepted to be an intern under an assistant in the movie industry. Gallichio spent his time at The Weinstein Company reading and providing coverage for approximately twenty scripts per week. This involved writing a synopsis of the scripts and offering improvements to the writers and developers. Being an English major helped Gallichio to excel in his internship, which no doubt ensured his rehiring every summer. “My studies in English were especially effective in clearly summarizing a sprawling story in a page or so...a background in reading and analyzing books quickly for classes helped me to digest a large volume of scripts in a short amount of time,” said Gallichio.

Gallichio’s advice for those attempting to find and hold an internship is twofold. “I believe that besides a good resume, samples are important to have to showcase your skills as a writer. Besides good examples, persistence is especially important.”

Michelle Oddis ’06 interned at the National Journalism Center and was placed in syndicated columnist Robert D. Novak’s office in Washington, DC. She was encouraged to apply by her senior seminar professor Dr. Maureen McDonnell, to whom she will be “forever grateful.” Oddis recommended that students take advantage of their relationships with their professors. Her internship involved researching Novak’s political columns and copy editing his memoir. Because Oddis had written political columns for the *Campus Lantern* and was interested in a career in journalism, her internship was a “perfect match.”

Oddis had already graduated at the time of her internship, and her advice to future interns was, “Don’t be afraid to take an internship after you graduate, especially if it’s at a company you would really like to work for.” Oddis was offered a job on Novak’s payroll. This not only helped her to get her career in journalism started, but also helped her to connect with new people and expand her network.

Interning is a fantastic opportunity to gain work experience while getting your degree, and as these success stories have proved they are an important step in defining and thinking about a career path long after you leave Eastern. So be brave, ask around, and get networking to find the internship that’s right for you!

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Dr. Liu Awarded Prestigious Teaching Award from Board of Regents

INTERVIEW BY KEVIN CONNOLLY — ARTICLE BY BROOKE BALDWIN



Dr. Barbara Little Liu was recently awarded the Board of Regents Award for Teaching in the Connecticut State College and University System. After a nomination process, Dr. Liu was chosen as the recipient of this prestigious award. “I was just really excited. I was just skipping up and down the halls I was so happy.”

Dr. Liu has been a professor at Eastern for sixteen years and is currently serving as the Associate Chair of the department. After graduating from Bowling Green State University and earning a doctorate in composition and rhetoric, she accepted a position at Eastern and helped to establish a first-year writing program, which involved having a hand in writing its curriculum as well as serving as its coordinator for several years. Dr. Liu accepted the position for the opportunity to develop and implement this composition curriculum, but also because of Eastern’s student atmosphere.

Dr. Lisa Rowe Fraustino stated that Dr. Liu “has always made teaching her top priority, and I cannot think of a single instructor at Eastern who has had a greater impact on student learning...Her classes are always rigorous yet carefully scaffolded so that students have the support they need to achieve her high expectations.”

Dr. Liu was a first-generation college student, much like many of Eastern’s student population, and the opportunity to teach in this type of environment appealed to her. “It felt like

coming to Eastern and teaching here I was really going to be going back to my roots, even though it’s a different state. In teaching and having the opportunities to teach the kind of student I was when I was going to college. I hoped to have the kind, or hopefully having the kind of impact on them that some of my favorite professors had on me that got me to where I am today...The professors that I had in college who really supported me and helped me and engaged me, were the ones who just saw my ability, saw who I was as a person, the interest I brought, and the capabilities that I brought with me and worked with those and pushed me to do more with them.”

Many factors inspire Dr. Liu to be the kind of award-winning professor she is, including her upbringing and her experiences as a student. Dr. Liu strives to be “somebody who pushes my students to do the best they can. Sometimes I try to really challenge students...but also I try to balance that with being supportive. To me, those are the kind of professors I had when I was an undergrad that really helped me and that’s the kind of professor I’ve always wanted to be.”

“I loved being here at Eastern and my being able to relate to the students here, I think that’s why I put so much into my teaching. Getting this award just validates that again and it really makes me proud. I was like one of the students here and now I’m able to help these students.”

Students often praise Dr. Liu for her teaching. Former student Andrew Minikowski commented, “Dr. Liu’s guidance allowed me to reach my full academic potential as a student at Eastern. Though nominally her job was to teach writing, what she taught me was strength, confidence, and academic and professional integrity.” YiQian Lee noted, “Dr. Liu is truly a dedicated teacher; a teacher who gives only her best to her students, a teacher who students can truly depend on, and a teacher who every student deserves to have.” Congratulations on your well-deserved award, Dr. Liu!

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Meet Our New English Professor, Dr. Youngblood!

BY CHRIS SYMONDS

Symonds: What led you to apply for a position at Eastern?

Youngblood: I was looking for a smaller liberal arts school that had an interest in digital humanities scholarship, as a lot of my work stems from looking at material like video games or web-based interfaces. I came across Eastern's search for an incoming professor who could bridge a variety of fields involving new media and immediately thought, "this seems like it could be a good fit." The more I researched the university, the more excited I became: it was the right size, was in the midst of a lot of new growth and development on campus, and already had the core structure of some forward-thinking humanities programs. I also really wanted to contribute to the Women and Gender Studies Department (WGS), as my roots are as deep in queer theory as they are in new media. Once I visited campus, I was that much more eager to join the department. Needless to say, I'm very excited for the fall.

Symonds: What courses will you be teaching here?

Youngblood: Part of my future teaching here will be governed by the new media studies major, which includes courses on digital rhetoric, new media criticism, and game design. I want to teach classes that explore not only how new media works, but how different ideologies and beliefs are woven into those workings. A class I'm hoping to

teach in the next year will focus on the rhetoric of video games: how they are written both as code and as narratives, what messages they convey, and what it means to "play" at various levels with them. I'm also really pumped to work with the WGS department on classes covering queer literature and history, and there's never a bad time for a Southern literature course. I'll also be teaching ENG 100 and 125 on a regular basis as well. It's all subject to change—I'm most excited about the classes I have no idea I'll be teaching in five years.



Symonds: What kind of research are you currently working on?

Youngblood: A lot of my research is driven by looking at how new media both prohibits and creates different performances of gender and sexuality. Similarly, I try to make new media scholarship interact with gender & sex-

uality scholarship. At the end of the day I want to bring scholars across fields into conversation with one another; it's so easy to get sectioned off and work in isolation, which causes you to miss that there's a ton of valuable material existing between disciplines. I'm also working on creative material as well; there's a really rough game prototype called "Palimpsest" I've been fiddling with for around a year that looks at how saves and memory states in games echo the way we construct social narratives. I'm excited to be making material as well as writing research on existing games.

Symonds: What's one thing that people might not know about you?

Youngblood: When I was an undergraduate, I almost ended up going into the sciences for my career; I had a lot of interest in evolutionary biology, and ended up working with a professor who specialized in that field along with paleontology. During my junior year I had a little specialized lab task where I took a tiny piece of a tyrannosaurus bone dug up in West Texas and washed it in a fancy acid bath each day to see if I could find any existing tissue remnants hidden within. If I had, it would've been a big deal. I didn't, and I went off to eventually become an English professor instead. Still, it's as close as I'll get to Jurassic Park - only with less mosquitoes and Jeff Goldblum.

Welcome to Eastern, Dr. Youngblood!

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English Night May 2014

BY AKAYA MCELVEEN



The English Department hosted its Spring 2014 English Night in the Betty R. Tipton Room on April 28. The event began with a warm welcome from Lisa Fraustino, chair of the English Department. The English major awards ceremony followed.

Brooke Baldwin and Akaya McElveen were the recipients of Service to the Department Awards which are awarded to students who have helped with departmental projects, coordinated events or organized student clubs that have connections to literature or writing.

The Award for Lifetime Learning was awarded to Meaghan Eales. This award is usually granted to a returning or continuing education student who has shown a steady love of literature, writing and the pursuit of knowledge. Eales was also awarded the Commitment to Teaching award for her demonstration of commitment in teaching.

Angelia Dilella also was awarded in two areas: the first being the Contributions to the Cultural Life of the Campus Award, which is awarded to students who have been actively involved as a writer or editor in literary publications. Secondly, Dilella was awarded the Award for Academic Excellence for her demonstration of superior ability and dedication to reading literature and interpreting it well in class discussions and in written work.

The first-year writing awards were presented to Danielle Campitelli and Emilio Estrella. The awards are

given to students in College Writing and College Writing Plus whose writing is innovative, creative, well researched or uniquely articulated. Campitelli's research paper, "Faking it Until I Make It," written for Professor Mika Taylor's first-year writing class, exemplified those qualities. Estrella's innovative and creative writing paper titled "Music and Society: Cause and Effect," also showed those qualities.

Lastly were the senior seminar presentations from Professor Reginald Flood's "Writing Poems/ Reading Culture" seminar, Fraustino's "Adaptation and Ideology" seminar and Maureen McDonnell's "Monstrous Women" seminar. Presenting for Flood's seminar were Kaitlyn Kennedy on "Pledging Allegiance to Progressiveness: An Examination of an Expatriate's Experience Abroad," and Sarah DeConti on "Narrowing the Definition of Cultural Studies."



From Fraustino's seminar were Ashley Parker on "The Icon and the Ideologist: Dr. Seuss and the (Mis)Uses of Political Messages by Audiences of *Horton Hears a Who* and *The Lorax*," Dilella on "There Was a Hole Here, But It's Gone Now: The Adaptations and Ideology of *Silent Hill*" and Michelle Wnuk on "Quarter Quell: Haymich's Hunger Games."

Lastly, from McDonnell's seminar, Carolyn Knowles presented on "Sara Baartman and Human Zoos: Society's Exploitation and Creation of Designer Monsters." Allen Browning presented on "The Young Vampire and Freudian Sexuality" and Emily Story presented on "Monsters: Validating Women Characters within *Jane Eyre* and *Wide Sargasso Sea*."

Congratulations to the award-winners, presenters, and department on another great semester!

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Alumni News

COMING SOON - HELP WANTED!

Would you be interested in offering an internship opportunity in your workplace for our current students? If so, please get in touch with the English Department!

E-mail: english_dept@easternct.edu

Phone: (860) 465-4570



Please let us know about your grad school program, a new job, promotion, publication, or anything else you'd like our community to hear. We would love to include your good news in our next newsletter!

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

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Keep-ENG in Touch

Contributors

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Brooke Baldwin is a junior majoring in English.

Kevin Connolly is a freshman majoring in Biology.

Yasmeine Domond is a senior majoring in Communication.

Akaya McElveen is a senior majoring in English.

Bryan Michell is a senior majoring in English.

Andrea Sylvester is a junior majoring in Communication

Chris Symonds is a senior majoring in Communication.

Writers Wanted!

Mae Ehrnfelt will be the editor of Keep-ENG in Touch starting fall 2015.

Contact Mae: ehrnfeltm@my.easternct.edu

if you would like to get involved with the next newsletter!

Thank you!



Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham Street
Willimantic, CT 06226