

ENGLISH MATTERS

Department of English | Washington State University



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english.wsu.edu/newsletter



Department of

English

College of Arts & Sciences
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Message from the Chair

Greetings, Alumni & Friends.

It is a great pleasure to present *English Matters*, the new newsletter of your Department of English at WSU.

Since my term as department chair began on January 2, I've enjoyed working in a new capacity with a stellar group of faculty, staff, and students. Thanks to each of them—and thanks to your support—we have accomplished so much!

Our recent successes include sending student interns of our literary journal *Blood Orange Review* to the Associated Writers Program in Portland, Oregon, for extra-curricular training. *BOR* also held its first literary contest and welcomed many terrific entries. In addition, the department hosted a wide range of visiting writers on campus, including Crystal Wilkinson, Mita Mahato, Kaveh Akbar, and Rachel Morgan. And we released another exemplary issue of the undergraduate literary journal *LandEscapes*.

With the help of student intern and Outstanding Senior in English, Miranda Sherrell; faculty members, Tomie Gowdy-Burke, Liz Siler, and Laura Powers; and the College of Arts and Sciences communications team, we have put together this newsletter, which we hope to send to you at least once a year. This issue features the achievements of several faculty and staff members, including Will Hamlin, Linda Russo, Aaron Oforlea, Leisa McCormick, and Anna Plemons, along with news of Diane Gillespie's professor emerita award and tributes to late professors Virginia Hyde and Boyd Benson, founder of *LandEscapes*. Also inside, you'll find news about graduate student achievement, our new Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and other events and activities.

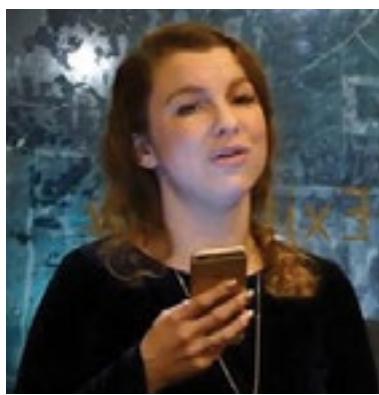
We would love to hear about you, too—your accomplishments, your ventures in reading and writing, and the ways in which you have used your English studies. If time permits, please complete our brief survey at english.wsu.edu/survey, and, if you like, we'll share your stories in future issues of English Matters.

Sincerely,
Donna Potts



Events and Activities

Students find their voices in Open Mic at Café Moro



"There is no 'usually'—that's what I like about it," says Linda Russo who coordinates Open Mic at Café Moro in Pullman with fellow English faculty member Donna Potts.

A community of people reading aloud from their own work or the work of others is what Open Mic is all about. The poems, stories, essays, and even music they present are often deeply personal and sometimes political. Open Mic is open to the public and happens once or twice monthly.



Passport Program cultivates world citizens

Creating a space for students to become their best selves is the goal of the Passport professional

development and mentoring program. LeeAnn Hunter, clinical associate professor of English and self-described "artist, educator, and cultivator of citizens of the world," designed the program to foster more direct professor-student interactions over multiple semesters, encouraging students to follow their own paths and to develop their voices.

"Students who feel supported, and who have a faculty member who believes in them and cares about them and their dreams, are twice as likely to report long-term professional well-being," Hunter says.

Watch the student-produced videos at go.wsu.edu/open-mic and go.wsu.edu/passport-program.

Take our brief survey to help us learn more about you, your interests, and how we can better serve you and our students today and in the future.

english.wsu.edu/survey

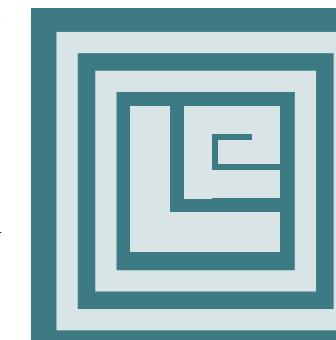
Visiting Writer Series brings notable guests to campus

Presented by the Department of English, the WSU Visiting Writer Series brings noted poets and writers of fiction and nonfiction to campus for creative readings, class visits, workshops, and collaborative exchanges across intellectual and artistic disciplines.

Recent presenters include fiction writer Crystal Wilkinson; cut paper, comics, and collage artist Mita Mahato; poets Kaveh Akbar and Rachel Morgan; book editor, author, and educator Carey Salerno; literary agent and writer Vaughan Fielder; writer, comedian, and producer Ted Tremper; and screenwriter Kevin Willmott, whose work on *BlacKkKlansman*, directed and co-written by Spike Lee, won him an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay this spring.

Undergraduate journal *LandEscapes* strives to publish unique pieces that 'challenge the stigma'

"A creative outlet for WSU students, a high-cultured flyswatter, a mag, a rag, late for dinner—call it anything you want. *LandEscapes* belongs to WSU. A gift." This was how the late Boyd Benson, founding editor of *LandEscapes*, described it.



Each step of the journal's publication process—from advertising to reviewing submissions to layouts and distribution—is run entirely by students from a variety of personal and academic backgrounds. Editor this year is Madison Jackson, former editor of WSU's student-run newspaper *The Daily Evergreen*. In April, the print version of *LandEscapes* 2019 was launched with a celebration at WSU Pullman, featuring readings by students and ice cream from Ferdinand's Creamery. The online version is to be published soon.

Blood Orange Review

WSU literary journal *Blood Orange Review* recently launched its latest issue, 10.2. Founded by alumnae Stephanie Lenox and H.K. Hummel, *BOR*'s inaugural issue appeared online in 2006. It now receives hundreds of monthly submissions from national and international writers. The first 30 issues contain work by more than 200 writers and artists from around the world.

Clinical Assistant Professor of English Bryan Fry joined the editorial team in 2008 and established a student internship, which enables the journal to serve as an educational tool for students interested in editing and publishing. *BOR* interns and students in the English department's editing and publishing track learn hands-on about the editorial process—from selecting work to reading proofs and editing for consistency.

The founders transferred the journal's editorial operations to WSU in 2015 and continue to serve in an advisory capacity. *BOR* strives to carry out their original mission: "to create a home for emerging and established writers." With the transition, *Blood Orange Review* sustains the support of WSU's creative writing faculty, which includes 10 accomplished writers and editors. Fry currently serves as editor-in-chief.

Blood Orange Review's inaugural literary contest this spring honored winners in each of three genres—fiction, nonfiction, and poetry—with awards of \$500 each and publication of the authors' work in the journal.



BLOOD ORANGE REVIEW

2018-19 Scholarships & Awards

Emmett & Mary Avery Fellowship

Awarded to Tabitha Espina Velasco

Murray W. Bundy Scholarship

Awarded to Lindsey Shannon, Keeley Doherty, and Emily Huck

John W. Ehrstine Fellowship

Awarded to Kara Falknor

Alexander Hammond Professional Development and Achievement Award

Awarded to Leah Wilson

Basil and Ella Alexander Jerard Scholarship

Awarded to Sara Quenzer, Rebecca Schallom, and Katelynn Drake

Jennie Brown Rawlins Scholarship

Awarded to Anna Young and Allyson Pang

April Seehafer Scholarship

Awarded to Sophie Shugarts

Ruth Slonim Poetry Award

Awarded to Jasper Contreras, Baylee Barnett, and Kamisha Sewell

Honorable Mentions: Ariana Wyatt and Breanna Daley

Sarah Weems Award for Creative Nonfiction

Awarded to Sara Quenzer

Honorable Mentions: Taylor Ann Ono and Hannah Utter

Special Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to Keyla Palominos

Outstanding Senior

Awarded to Miranda Sherrell (WSU Pullman), Jessica Judd (WSU Vancouver), and Alyssa Uretsky-Pratt (WSU Tri-Cities)

Honorable Mentions: Lionel Edwards and Madison Jackson

Outstanding Seminar Essay or Project Award at the MA and PhD Levels

MA Awarded to Nicholas Binford

PhD Awarded to Kathryn Manis and Richard Snyder

Teaching Assistant Distinguished Teaching Award

Awarded to Haley Vasquez

Appreciation Award for Outstanding Work on LandEscapes and for the Arts at WSU

Awarded to Madison Jackson

Instructor Distinguished Service Award

Awarded to Shelly Richardson

Instructor Distinguished Teaching Award

Awarded to Megan Hall

English Graduate Organization Awards

Beth Buyserie, Heather Ramos, Richard Snyder, Ras Tanvir, Tabitha Espina Velasco, Patty Wilde, and Leah Wilson

Graduate Student News

English master's and doctoral degree students are active in a variety of research, teaching, and other creative and scholarly work. Below is just a sampling of our graduate students' many activities and interests.



Tabitha Espina Velasco

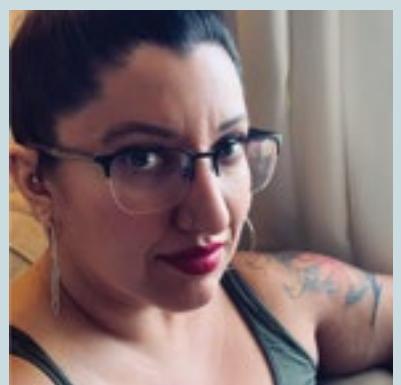
An article by Tabitha Espina Velasco, doctoral candidate, titled "Engaging Existing and Emergent Experiences: Narratives among Young Filipinas on Guam," was published in *Race and Pedagogy Journal: Teaching and Learning for Justice* vol. 3.2. Velasco also

presented as part of the "Asian (American) Settler Colonialism on Guåhan: Migration, Labor, War" panel at the 2019 Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. In addition, she presented her paper "The Halo Halo Generation: Rhetorics of Third-Generation Filipino Identity on Guam" at the International Society for the Study of Narrative Conference 2019, hosted by Georgetown University and University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain. While there, she also chaired the "Race, Identity, and Narrative" panel.

Velasco was awarded the 2019 Karen P. Depauw Leadership Award from the WSU Association for Faculty Women and the Graduate School; the Avery Dissertation Fellowship in English; and the Laura Bassi Scholarship Partial Fee Waiver for 2018-19. She also was a named a Graduate Fellow for Humanities Washington. As part of the NextGen PhD grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, she will be working with Humanities Washington as a Publicly Engaged Fellow to help identify obstacles between the humanities and underrepresented communities, such as the Filipino immigrant community in Yakima.

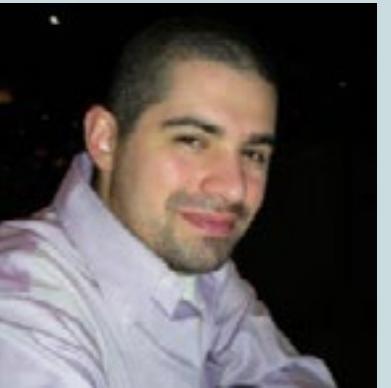
Jessie Padilla, master's student, performed her spoken-word poem

"This Was Supposed to Be" at Project Fearless: Shattering the Stigma of Sexual Violence, a night of art and performance at WSU. Her poem brings awareness to the lifelong impact of childhood sexual assault through a mother's perspective.



Jessie Padilla

Project Fearless is sponsored by the Associated Students of WSU and was created to help shatter the stigma of sexual violence through performance and art.



Mark Triana

Mark Triana, doctoral candidate, and Anna Plemons, clinical assistant professor of English, collaborated with campus partners of the Critical Literacies Achievement and Success Program (CLASP) from the College Success Foundation and

Multicultural Student Services on the article "Crossing the Divide: How Department Chairs Can Better Support Underrepresented Students Through Institutional Collaboration" published in *The Department Chair* in January.



Leah Wilson

Leah Wilson, doctoral candidate, presented her paper "Apocalypse, Now!: Surviving the Pharmacopornographic Era by Imagining Queer Futures in Michelle Tea's Black Wave" at the National Women's Studies Association Conference, Just Imagine, Imagining

Justice: Feminist Visions of Freedom, Dream Making and the Radical Politics of Futures in Atlanta. At the same conference, Wilson also participated in a roundtable, "Reimagining Women's and Gender Studies Education: Just Pedagogical Choices for an Unjust World."

Did you know?

Our graduate program boasts a placement rate for PhDs of over 90%, which is nearly double the national average. In addition, all of our master of arts and PhD students are admitted with full funding.

Alumni Spotlight

Couple doubles scholarship award in beloved English professor's name

Two years after establishing the Ruth Slonim Endowed Scholarship in English, Dr. Robert Arnold Johnson (BS, Zoology, 1964) and Susan Eileen Pickett, professor emerita of music at Whitman College, recently took the generous step of doubling the endowment, which doubled the student scholarship award as well.

Dr. Johnson shared this remembrance: "I met Ruth Slonim first in the autumn of 1960. I was a freshman, attending an evening talk she gave on the role of poetry in a mind and in a society. Our discussion in the question period that followed that talk was to be perhaps the most important single discussion of my lifetime. She took an interest in me. And through her suggestions about my undergraduate career thereafter—and sometimes her direct intervention in it—the placement of critical thinking and frank curiosity—the two together within the liberal arts, the sciences, and

a life—was clarified for me with a force I cannot imagine could have taken hold otherwise."

Slonim was a widely loved professor and a published poet, who joined the WSU faculty in 1947. She taught poetry and literature and brought to WSU several major poets, including Gwendolyn Brooks, Richard Hugo, W.H. Auden, and Galway Kinnell.

Our department commemorates Professor Slonim's achievements here by providing a scholarship in her name to deserving students. To be eligible, Slonim scholars should intend to major or minor in English; preferably should be incoming freshmen; and should demonstrate exceptional literary aptitude (by submitting either a selection of poetry, fiction, or literary analysis). In turn, we offer scholarship recipients opportunities similar to those Professor Slonim provided her students: a stimulating Visiting Writer Series, opportunities to present and discuss their work, and a committed Creative Writing faculty invested in their students.

Nationally renowned writer, editor lends insights to Creative Writing students

Portland, Oregon-based writer and editor Annette Benedetti (BA, English, 2002) spoke this spring with students in Peter Chilson's Creative Writing Form and Theory class about how to survive as a freelance writer and editor, especially in the digital publishing world. While at WSU Pullman, she delivered a public presentation in the Bundy Reading Room followed by a question-and-answer session and reception.

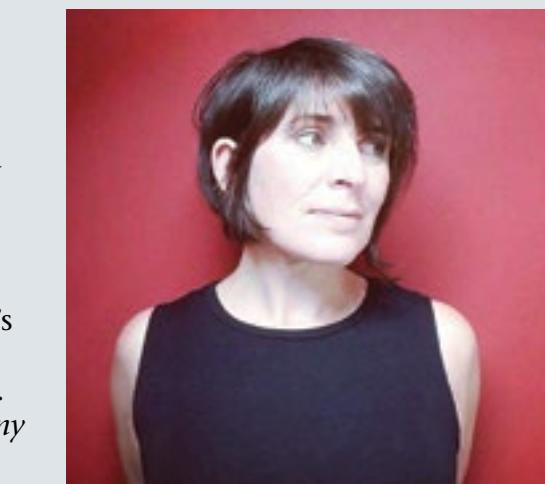
During her visit, Benedetti talked with students and the WSU community about her experience of launching a digital magazine and her ambition to edit a magazine that amplifies the authentic voices of women writers. She is among the earliest graduates of the English department's Creative Writing option.

Benedetti is founder and editor of *She Explores Life*, a national women's travel and exploration journal. She is also Pacific Northwest editor for *Red Tricycle*, a national magazine focused on parenting and family life. Her writing appears regularly in *Bust*, *Domino*, *Motherly*, *Livability*, *Penny Hoarder*, and many other publications.

You can read more about Benedetti at her website, benedetticreative.com.



Susan Pickett and Bob Johnson



Annette Benedetti

Faculty & Staff Achievement

Anna Plemons named WSU's 2019 Woman of the Year

Anna Plemons, a clinical assistant professor of English at WSU Tri-Cities, was named WSU's Woman of the Year for 2019. She was honored at the WSU Women of Distinction Celebration in March on the Pullman campus.

Plemons teaches classes in composition, rhetoric, and digital technology and culture. She also serves as director of the Critical Literacies and Achievement and Success Program (CLASP) for the College of Arts and Sciences. In that capacity, she works

with WSU faculty, staff, and students on issues of retention and persistence, paying particular attention to the relationship between pedagogy and retention for underrepresented students. Working in partnership with other student support services, CLASP is designed to address the retention and degree completion rates of first-generation, multicultural, low-income, or otherwise underrepresented students.

Since 2009, Plemons has also held a grant-funded teaching position with the California Arts in Corrections Program, which allows her to teach creative nonfiction classes at multiple prisons in northern California. The position entails overseeing a research-based literacy project aimed at empowering incarcerated students to be literacy mentors for their family members.

Linda Russo earns CAS Mid-Career Achievement Award

In May, Linda Russo, clinical associate professor and director of the Creative Writing Program, received the Mid-Career Clinical and Instructional

Achievement Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. Russo teaches Introduction to Creative Writing and Intermediate and Advanced Poetry and engages beyond the classroom in many ways, including Open Mic at Café Moro, a forum that's



Anna Plemons

popular with students and the Pullman community. Her collaborative digital mapping, ecology, and arts project, "EcoArts on the Palouse," also brings together students and community members and is forging valuable connections between the arts, humanities, and sciences, which allows her to connect with an even wider range of students.

Russo's books are excellent teaching texts and her teaching, research, and service embody the mission of a land-grant university.

Megan Kaminski, a poet at the University of Kansas who nominated Russo for the award, wrote: "Linda's three recent books, *Participant, Meaning to Go to the Origin in Some Way*, and *To Think of Her Writing Awash in Light*, have had a significant impact on the poetry world. From poetic inquiry through the "worn-out angry eyes" of the last Columbia River Pygmy rabbit, to lyric essays that re-illuminate the writing of women writers—such as Hettie Jones and Dorothy Wordworth, whose work languished in the shadows of their more famous literary relations—to critical work on Larry Eigner, Joanne Kyger, and others, Russo's work has shaped and expanded the growing field of ecopoetry and ecopoetics through her exploration of inhabitance. Moreover, her co-edited volume *Counter-Desecration: A Glossary for Writing Within the Anthropocene* assembles a rich conversation that expands and re-visioned current understandings of the ecological in literary studies. In addition to challenging the anthropocentric view that has traditionally seen the natural world and its inhabitants as scenery or metaphor in human-centric poems, the collection she edited does important work in decolonizing the often very white male world of nature writing."

Aaron Oforlea's debut book wins prestigious honor

Associate Professor Aaron Oforlea's new book, *James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and the Rhetorics of Black Male Subjectivity* (Ohio State University Press, 2017), won the 2018 Award for Creative Scholarship from the College Language Association (CLA).

In his book, Oforlea explores how Baldwin and Morrison—two of his favorite authors—conceptualized the challenges their black male characters navigated. Inspiration for the book arose from his interest in



Linda Russo



Aaron Oforlea

"how African American men achieve their dreams and goals despite racism," he said. "I wanted to know—intellectual curiosity, I guess—what helps us be successful, and how black men, specifically these fictional characters, are imagined to be successful by these authors."

Oforlea's debut book drew interest from prominent university presses and praise from colleagues and scholars. The international CLA honor recognizes excellence in literary criticism, but the nominations are blind, so Oforlea's guard was down, and he was taken by surprise, when the honor came his way, he said.

"You submit so many different things—articles, grants, proposals—and you learn not to hang too much on one thing. To win the award is validation that I'm on the right track, that my work is making an impact in the field."



Leisa McCormick

Leisa McCormick lauded for outstanding academic advising

Leisa McCormick, academic advisor for the English department and Digital Technology and Culture Program since 2010, received the 2019 Outstanding

Achievement in Academic Advising award from the WSU Academic Advising Association.

Advising award from the WSU Academic Advising Association. Leisa was recognized for exceptional work with students and contributions to the field of academic advising in the "primary role" category.

McCormick holds a bachelor of arts degree in English literature and a master of arts degree in English from the University of Idaho. Before becoming an advisor for the Department of English at WSU, she worked 10 years for the Pullman School District as the case manager for Eclipse, Pullman's alternative high school. Eclipse was established in 1993 to help meet the needs of students at risk for dropping out. During that time, McCormick earned her secondary teaching certificate.

The WSU Academic Advising Association is the University's primary organization of professional and faculty advisors and student support personnel. It annually recognizes the outstanding work of its members through a competitive awards program.
—Evie Caldwell

Desiree Hellegers to use Buchanan award toward academic, community projects

Desiree Hellegers, who teaches, writes, and conducts research at WSU Vancouver, received the English department's 2019 Buchanan Fellowship for Associate

Professors to support two of her original projects. Beginning this summer, Hellegers will teach a new iteration of English 341, Native American Literature, with nearly half of the 10 class meetings to be held on the Columbia River in a 15-person tribal canoe helmed by the chairman of the Chinook Indian Nation, Tony Johnson. The course merges community-based, experiential learning, oral history, and scholarly research, and focuses on Linda Hogan's novel *Solar Storms* and the theme "Water is Life." The course will engage students in a comparative analysis of the impacts of the colonial fur trade and hydropower on tribes in Minnesota, Canada, and the Columbia River basin, while providing the students an intimate introduction to Columbia River ecosystems and related cultural traditions of the Chinook and other Columbia River tribes.

The Buchanan award will cover honoraria for Johnson and other guest speakers, along with related costs, such as transporting the canoe. Hellegers plans to integrate the course into the regular fall/spring course rotation by 2021. Her Buchanan funding will also support a staged reading of her play *The Eye of the Needle: Women's Stories of Homelessness, Life, Death, and Resistance*, based on her monograph *No Room of Her Own: Women's Stories of Homelessness, Life, and Resistance* (Palgrave, 2011). Nationally renowned, Portland-based August Wilson Red Door Project will co-produce the play.

Hellegers will also use a portion of the funds to support her sabbatical in 2020-21, when she will work toward staging full productions of her play in Portland, Seattle, and other cities. The play, like the book, focuses heavily on chronic health issues among—and violence against—homeless people. Both also highlight the organizing work of homeless and formerly homeless women activists with Seattle's Women in Black vigils. Since the turn of the millennium, Women in Black activists have stood vigil to honor the lives and mark the deaths of more than a thousand people who died homeless on the streets of one of the nation's most "livable" cities.



Desiree Hellegers

Will Hamlin receives Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award

English Professor Will Hamlin was awarded WSU's Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Research, Scholarship, and the Arts in spring 2018. More recently, he was appointed the first recipient of an endowed two-year distinguished professorship in the WSU Honors College.



Will Hamlin

The Smith Teaching and Learning grants recognize and reward innovative ideas to enhance learning and teaching at WSU. They directly and indirectly impact the educations of students, educators, pedagogy, and practices around the world.

Boyd's project, titled "Washington State Senate Bill 5433 and English Teacher Education: Redesigning Curriculum for Inclusive Education," is developing a capstone experience for teacher candidates comprising content and pedagogies that address indigenous history, culture, and governmental relations. She is partnering with regional tribes and the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at WSU to support the creation of culturally responsive materials and approaches.

Boyd joined the WSU faculty in the fall of 2014 to teach and continue her scholarship into how teachers can become social justice advocates for developing students' critical literacy. Her early research theorized Shulman's Pedagogical Content Knowledge (PCK), which has become the standard for teacher preparation, fails to account for social justice in the preparation of teachers. In response, she and a colleague developed the social justice pedagogical and content knowledge (SJPACK) theory, which argues educators' political stance can never be separated from instruction, but teachers can be empowered to be social justice advocates in their classrooms.

Ross's project, titled "Dialogic and Multimodal Student Engagement with War Literatures," is designed to help students engage in difficult dialogues about sensitive subjects and will include students' creative multimodal projects on literatures and experiences of war.



Susan Ross



Ashley Boyd

For 30 years, Hamlin has studied how major writers and intellectual traditions from classical and continental Europe were incorporated into the literary life of early modern England. He has published many scholarly articles along with three monographs, the most recent being *Montaigne's English Journey* (Oxford University Press, 2013), which traces the influence of the French essayist Michel de Montaigne upon Shakespeare and other English writers.

Hamlin is a faculty fellow in the WSU Honors College. His previous awards include the WSU College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Award, the Edward R. Meyer Distinguished Professorship, and the Lewis E. and Stella G. Buchanan Distinguished Professorship. He also received multiple external grants—among them fellowships from the British Academy, the Huntington Library, the Lilly Library, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2008, Hamlin was honored as a national Guggenheim Fellow, the first ever at WSU in the humanities. He is currently at work on two more books, both scheduled for publication in 2020.

In addition to his scholarship and writing, Hamlin is committed to the success of his students. He has served on more than 40 graduate committees and teaches a wide range of undergraduate courses in both the English department and the Honors College. He twice was named "Most Supportive Faculty Member" by the graduate students in English and twice won the award for "Best Graduate Seminar of the Year."

Ashley Boyd, Susan Ross awarded Smith Teaching & Learning grants

Associate Professor Ashley Boyd and Professor Susan Ross submitted winning proposals for Samuel H. and Patricia W. Smith Teaching and Learning Awards for AY 2018-19.

North Cyprus. She has taught a range of writing courses, seminars on social change and identity, classes on freedom of speech, the cost of free speech, qualitative and critical discourse methods, and the means and meaning of texts across different media. She is co-editor of *Images that Injure* and author/co-author of two textbooks on media law.

Diane Gillespie earns Emeritus Society Legacy of Excellence Award

Professor Emerita Diane Gillespie received the 2019 Emeritus Society's Legacy of Excellence Award. She is an internationally recognized scholar, editor, and expert on the work of Virginia Woolf and figures connected to Woolf's Bloomsbury Group.



Diane Gillespie

Gillespie delivered the Emeritus Society Legacy of Excellence Lecture, "What's Left to Say about Virginia Woolf?" during WSU Showcase events in March.

Gillespie joined the English department in 1975 and retired in 2001. She continues to make outstanding contributions in her academic fields, to WSU and its reputation, and to her community.

Donna Campbell's proposal wins Buchanan award, book wins CHOICE recognition



Donna Campbell

Donna M. Campbell won the English department's Buchanan Fellowship for Full Professors for her proposed project, "Editing Lab: Edith Wharton in a Digital Age." The project focuses on establishing a learning workshop for graduate students to learn digital and

conventional editorial practices. Students will learn about editorial theories (eclectic, documentary, etc.); how to apply contextual clues when working with optical character recognition (OCR) text; how to transcribe handwritten manuscripts for textual comparison; and how to prepare texts using modern digital methods of collation with digital techniques such as Juxta Commons, PocketHinman, and Traherne. They also will be introduced to the principles of textual encoding initiatives (TEI). Developed in 1987, TEI provides international and interdisciplinary standards for describing and preserving humanities data in an electronic form.

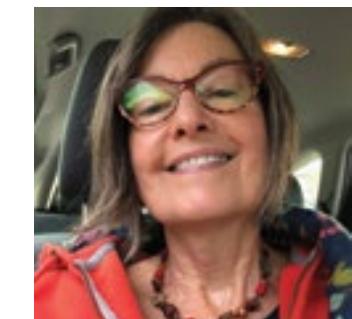
Students will develop their editing expertise by working on The Complete Works of Edith Wharton, a 30-volume series under contract at Oxford University Press, notably *The House of Mirth* and unpublished Wharton manuscripts under the direction of Campbell, who serves as associate series editor and volume editor for *The House of Mirth*.

In addition, Campbell's book *Bitter Tastes: Literary Naturalism and Early Cinema in American Women's Writing* (University of Georgia Press, 2016) was named an Outstanding Academic Title of 2017 by CHOICE, a publishing unit of the Association of College & Research Libraries.

According to CHOICE Reviews: "Campbell's analysis of the interplay between women authors (including screenwriters) and the medium of cinema is nothing less than astounding. The author covers a broad scope, including neglected writers such as Evelyn Scott as well as famous novelists such as Edith Wharton. Yet, despite the incredible range of Campbell's discussion, the book's treatment of each element is meticulous in detail and gripping in presentation. Bitter Tastes should be required reading for any serious student of naturalism, women's writing, or early film."

Patty Ericsson makes the most of her retirement

After spending a few months assessing how her abilities fit into a small, mountain town (Sandpoint, Idaho), Professor Emerita Patty Ericsson "jumped in with both feet." She is now a member the Youth Accountability Board, which works to keep juvenile offenders out of the juvenile justice system. She's also working with the local performing arts community—something she loved in the past and has the opportunity to enjoy again.



Patty Ericsson

Meanwhile, Ericsson hasn't left research and writing behind; currently, she is writing for and editing a collection designed as a learning resource to help prevent sexual harassment.

Last, but not least, she enjoys the flexibility to visit her family more frequently, which means traveling within the United States as well as Germany, France, and Australia.

"All around," she says, "it's a good gig!"

Program Spotlight

New Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies expands English department's reach

The Department of English welcomed five new faculty members and expanded the number and diversity of our course offerings when we launched the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in July 2018.

Directed by Associate Professor Pamela Thoma, WGSS is an interdisciplinary degree program that places gender and sexuality at the center of inquiry, preparing students and professionals for careers in a diverse world and for developing strategies in social and institutional change. The program's dynamic, collaborative undergraduate curriculum offers training and provides opportunities for analyzing the myriad ways in which social class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, age, and ability intersect to shape understanding of gendered experience and injustice.

WGSS uses an intersectional lens in teaching students how to analyze gendered social roles and the ways in which they affect personal lives, artistic expression, work, social relationships, institutional structures, the production of knowledge, and national and international political and economic relations.

The program offers a major in Women's Studies, which requires a minimum of 36 credit hours. Students can also pursue minors in Women's Studies and Queer Studies.

The addition of WGSS to the English department was part of a realignment of two departments and several degree programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Learn more at wgss.wsu.edu.



Pamela Thoma

In Memoriam

Boyd Benson

Boyd Benson, founding editor of the WSU undergraduate journal *LandEscapes*, passed away from cancer in November 2018. He had been living and writing in Everett, Washington, where he grew up.

In 1999, Boyd helped found *LandEscapes*, an arts journal for and by WSU students. He was the first editor. His good humor, hard work, and sense of community helped get the magazine and our Creative Writing Program up and running.

Boyd spent a decade at WSU as a student and teacher of writing while he worked occasional shifts as a prep cook at a diner in Lewiston, Idaho. He earned his bachelor's degree in English and his master's degree in rhetoric and composition at WSU. A gifted guitar player, Boyd described himself as a frustrated rock musician. He began his poetry studies under the late Linda Kittell, another fine WSU poet. He later earned his master of fine arts degree from Pacific Lutheran University, where he studied with the poet Marvin Bell, who honored Boyd's work by publishing his book *The Owl's Ears* in the Lost Horse Press New Poets series (2007), for which Bell is series editor.

Two years later, Boyd won the Jeanne Lohman Poetry Prize, an award that recognizes the work of poets around the state of Washington. Boyd's poetry was published in the *Iowa Review* and many other journals. Washington State Poet Laureate Kathleen Flenniken (2012) published his poem, "The Department of Licensing," on her website, *The Far Field*, which highlighted the best poetry by Washington writers during her time as poet laureate.

Boyd had an ironic, sharp, and self-deprecating wit that often exposed uncomfortable truths. In his third-person author's biography, he wrote of himself, "Since poetry has little or no economic value in a capitalist society, he believes in it highly." Boyd Benson was 57. —Peter Chilson



Boyd Benson

Virginia Hyde

Virginia Hyde passed away on January 2, 2019. She was a professor who specialized in nineteenth-century and twentieth-century British and Irish literature. She was also interested in Arthurian literature and graphic arts in literature. Virginia earned her doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and taught in the English department at WSU for 34 years.



Virginia Hyde

During her career, she authored *The Risen Adam: D.H. Lawrence's Revisionist Typology* (Penn State UP, 1992) and edited the Cambridge Edition of Lawrence's *Mornings in Mexico and Other Essays* (Cambridge UP, 2009). She authored or edited four other books, guest-edited literary journals, and published dozens of essays in journals and books, including the MLA "Teaching Authors" series.

She wrote about George Eliot, Robert and Elizabeth Browning, W.B. Yeats, Lawrence and his circle, W.H. Auden, Franz Kafka, Florence Farr, and others. In 2005, she received the Harry T. Moore Award for lifetime achievement in her field from the D.H. Lawrence Society.



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Undergraduate Student Spotlight

Miranda Sherrell named 2019 Outstanding Senior in English, WSU Pullman

“Alive with curiosity” is how one of Miranda Sherrell’s English professors describes the department’s Outstanding Senior of 2019, Pullman campus.

“Miranda brings life, energy, and enthusiasm to every aspect of her studies at WSU,” said Clinical Associate Professor LeeAnn Hunter. “From the moment she enters a classroom, she comes alive with curiosity,” Hunter said. “She is an outstanding senior because she helps everyone else around her become their best and most outstanding selves.”

Sherrell graduated in May with a bachelor of arts degree in English and specializations in rhetoric and professional writing. She came to WSU as a transfer student from Walla Walla, Washington, and worked on the Pullman campus as an intern in the English department and as a resident assistant in Orton Hall.

An avid videographer and writer, she produced a short film about a Skagit Valley farm as part of a summer internship and worked two summers as a production assistant for American Movie Company. She also served as assistant producer for the Spokane Women in Film & Television organization on a short film about women’s marches in Spokane.

You can view online two of Miranda’s co-produced videos about the English faculty-led initiatives Open Mic at Café Moro and the WSU Passport Program at go.wsu.edu/open-mic and go.wsu.edu/passport-program

“It is wonderful to feel appreciated and acknowledged for the work I have done here at Washington State University,” Miranda said upon being selected Outstanding Senior in English. “The time I have had at the Department of English has been a thoroughly positive and influential experience and it is an honor to receive this award.”

Miranda hopes to attend Chapman University in Orange County, California, to pursue a dual master’s degree in entertainment law and film production and to earn a degree in law.

The College of Arts and Sciences honored Miranda at its annual awards event for Outstanding Seniors in all CAS academic units.



Miranda Sherrell