I am delighted to share with you the inaugural issue of the UWM English Department Newsletter. This occasion provides the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments in the past year of all members of our thriving intellectual community: faculty, academic staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students, as well as our alumni, emeriti, and many valued supporters. Our Department is sustained through the collective labor and continued success of its members, and it has been an honor to serve as Chair this past year. In a time of unprecedented austerity, we can take great pride in our continued prosperity. This newsletter provides a small way to reflect on the shared successes as well as individual accomplishments of all members of the Department.

Please be sure to keep us informed of your news throughout the year ahead. You can send updates that will be added to the departmental website (en-gl-web-update@uwm.edu), and this information can then be collected together for next year’s newsletter. We would especially like to hear from alumni, so please keep in touch!

On the final pages of the Newsletter, you will also find information on making donations for the Department’s students and programs. As reflected in this past year’s expanded slate of undergraduate scholarships and graduate student awards, your contributions are invaluable for providing our students with needed aid and recognition.

On behalf of everyone in the Department, I wanted to extend our shared gratitude to the remarkable members of our Administrative Staff: Kathy Doering-Kilkenny, Brooke Barker, and Alex Gillen. I would also like to thank the members of Rachel Spilka’s 710 seminar for their excellent work in organizing this newsletter: Alyssa Miller, Amy Casey, Benjamin Johnson, Ben Jones, Brad Jamison, Christine Sweeney, Courtney Vanderveen Mich, Craig Schumacher, Gayle Gengler, Geoffrey Gimse, Laura Roberts, Matt Coughlin, Michael Brickner, Molly Kessler, and Sam Dorios. Thanks to all!

Best wishes,
Mark Netzloff
As a child in Minnesota, Margaret Noodin, Ph.D., heard the language of her ancestors and could not understand a word. Anishinaabemowin, the language spoken by the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Native American tribes, is going extinct. Day by day and year by year, people who speak Anishinaabemowin fluently are disappearing. However, there is hope.

Noodin, who once could not understand the phrase “gimikwenden ina” (do you remember?), is now working hard to ensure that no one forgets it. She is spreading her knowledge of language and culture on the UWM campus and teaching courses in Anishinaabemowin. It is a critically important time for this language spoken in the Great Lakes region for thousands of years.

“Either it’s going to be something that people pick up and embrace in the next 10 or 12 years [or] we won’t have it for the next generation,” said Noodin, Assistant Professor of English and American Indian Studies.

Noodin is making a big impact on campus and beyond. Mark Netzloff, chairman of the English Department, calls Noodin an, “exceptional colleague who has made remarkable contributions to our department and university in all areas of research, teaching, and service.”

With the language under threat, there is some urgency to Noodin’s work. She avoids projects that are too complicated to be completed in a reasonable amount of time, but seeks out projects that extend beyond the UWM campus.

“We need to have an immediate impact and the broadest reach,” Noodin said.

In the Anishinaabemowin language classes that Noodin teaches, she says about half of the students have some experience or heritage with the language and the other half are hearing it for the first time. Learning Anishinaabemowin is an academic challenge for someone who has never used the language. It is a category four language, which means it is as different from English as languages such as Arabic or Chinese. While learning it is not an easy journey, it can lead to a rewarding career. Noodin notes people with Anishinaabemowin background can find work in the arts, business, and education.

Anishinaabemowin, Noodin finds, is ultimately just like every other language. You just have to start at the beginning. “Gimikwenden ina?”

In and English and has led a women’s hand drum group in Anishinaabemowin. She works on various translation projects, including translating contemporary works such as John Lennon’s “Imagine.”

“She has already established herself as a leading scholar in American Indian studies,” Netzloff said. “This is evident in the positive reception of her recent monograph as well as her numerous guest lecture invitations. What links her scholarly research with her teaching and service is the extent to which her work is grounded in the [Anishinaabemowin] language.”

Noodin comes to UWM in 2013 from the University of Michigan. She came to UWM specifically for its American Indian Studies program and the university’s focus on the language.

“‘As director of the Electa Quinney Institute and a member of the faculty on the campus, I feel that I am both representing and helping people get a better handle or connection to our native identity on this lake,’ she said. ‘A lot of people feel that there’s [a] native presence here [and] moving that into their sense of the present and connecting [to] it is important.’

Noodin engages in a variety of projects that help people make language and cultural connections. She has published a bilingual collection of poems Weweni in Anishinaabemowin and English and has led a women’s hand drum group in Anishinaabemowin. She works on various translation projects, including translating contemporary works such as John Lennon’s “Imagine.”

“Whenever possible, I try to move the language into a different realm so people enjoy it [and] can see that it’s relevant and useful and [a] part of the arts that helps them process the world around them,” she said.

Noodin is also the director of the Electa Quinney Institute for American Indian Education. She embraced and learned the language as a student while earning an MFA in creative writing and a Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Minnesota. Noodin said she obtained the Ph.D. to learn how to more effectively teach others to learn Anishinaabemowin.

“We really didn’t have a lot of materials [or] a lot of tools that you would normally have if you were teaching a language,” Noodin said.

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American Indian Studies gives UWM students a thorough understanding of North America’s Native American tribal nations and along the way, a different way of thinking. It’s a program that’s as much about looking forward as it is about looking back.

“Take climate change,” said Margaret Noodin, an Assistant Professor of English and a member of the program’s faculty. “How do we all make decisions in the future that reflect that long, multi-century experience of people who have lived here a long time? When American Indian Studies can be very interdisciplinary and show a different way of being in society and thinking about knowledge, that’s when I feel like it has a lot of value.”

In recent years, the university has expanded its formal offerings with a graduate certificate and major. The interdisciplinary program includes courses from a variety of disciplines, such as anthropology, history, literature, sociology, and education. Through this coursework, students learn about the life experiences, culture, and languages of native people.

Cary Miller, an associate professor of history who is the program’s director, finds the program is drawing strong interest. “We encounter a lot of students who say, ‘wow, there is a lot more here than I thought,’ and they choose to take additional classes,” Miller said.

The 36-credit major includes the opportunity for students to complete courses in the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) language as well as courses, like Contemporary Issues of the American Indian and Studies in American Indian Societies. Alternatively, students may elect to pursue an 18-credit American Indian Studies certificate as a complement to their major field of study. The certificate is the equivalent of completing a minor.

“[American Indian Studies] is doing a great job introducing students to information about the indigenous people of this area and more broadly the native nations in general,” said Kimberly Blaeser, a professor of English who is currently serving as Wisconsin Poet Laureate.

The program can open a number of career doors. Noodin notes tribal nations have a difficult time finding people who can teach native languages. There are also career opportunities for students in the arts and government. “You could work for a large museum or fundraising organization that wants to make sure they are representing all the constituents of their community,” Noodin said. “Sometimes, being able to articulate the history or social circumstance of a group is really useful.”

There are 565 tribal nations, including twelve in Wisconsin, and UWM has a large number of Native American students. The program also has been able to attract a large number of faculty members who are enrolled in or descended from North American tribes, including three members of the English Department. “Our faculty is amazing,” Miller said, “We have faculty who are not only writing books and contributing not just to the intellectual life at UWM but to indigenous studies as a field nationally.”
Faculty Books

Liam Callanan:
*Listen & Other Stories*

Kennan Ferguson and Patrice Petro:
*After Capitalism: Horizons of Finance, Culture, and Citizenship*

S. Scott Graham:
*The Politics of Pain Medicine: A Rhetorical-Ontological Inquiry*

Kumkum Sangari:
*Solid: Liquid: A (Trans)National Reproductive Formation*
Tulika Books, Dehli 2015.

William Keith and Christian Lundberg:
*Public Speaking: Choices and Responsibility, Second Edition*
Joan Dean FitzPatrick and José Lanters:

Beyond Realism: Experimental and Unconventional Irish Drama since the Revival

Dene Grigar and Stuart Moulthrop:

Pathfinders: Preserving the Experience of Early Electronic Literature.

Meg Noodin

Weweni: A Collection of Anishinaabe Poetry
Wayne State University Press, Detroit 2015.

Rebecca Dunham:

Cold Pastoral
Milkweeed Press, Minneapolis 2016.

William Keith and Pat Gehrke:

The Unfinished Conversation: 100 Years of Communication Studies
William Keith won the National Communication Association (NCA) Presidential Citation for Service (November, 2015) for “extraordinary work in editing NCAs centennial volume.” The NCA’s centennial volume, titled Comm 365: Celebrating 100 Years of Communication Research, features theories, concepts, and research findings provided by divisions of the NCA.

Tasha Oren (and Sharon Shahaf, Georgia State University) was awarded Best Collection at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies’ 2014 Conference for Global Television Formats: Understanding Television Across Borders (Routledge, 2001). The award celebrates the scholarly studies of film, television, video, and new media. The collection takes a look at popular television programs from around the world to see how they impact cultures locally and globally.

Kimberly Blaeser was appointed Wisconsin Poet Laureate for 2015–16. Author of works such as Apprenticed to Justice (Salt Publishing, 2007) and Trailing You (Greenfield Publishing, 1994), Professor Blaeser also teaches creative writing and Native American literatures for the English Department. During her tenure as Wisconsin Poet Laureate, she plans on creating a radio program that highlights Wisconsin poets and poetry events.

Teaching Excellence Awards
The candidates for the Teaching Excellence Awards are initially nominated by their peers. Finalists are selected based on the recommendations of the Director of Composition, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, and the Department Chair. A winner is chosen after a review of the candidates’ teaching evaluations.

Teaching Excellence Award, Academic Staff
Anita Chosé

Teaching Excellence Award, Graduate Teaching Assistant
Peter Brooks

Faculty Teaching Awards
In recognition of the accomplished work of faculty members in the classroom, this year the English Department instituted new Faculty Teaching Awards. The recipients were selected based on a thorough review of annual teaching evaluations by five tenured colleagues in the Merit Committee along with the Department Chair.

Faculty Graduate Teaching Award
Annie McClanahan

Faculty Undergraduate Teaching Award
Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece

Fall Awards Ceremony
The university’s annual Fall Awards Ceremony recognizes excellence in research and service to UWM and the greater community. This year three members of the English department were honored at the ceremony.

Office of Research/UWM Foundation Research Awards
Jason Puskar

Research in the Humanities Award
Tami Williams

UWM Academic Staff Outstanding Teaching Award
Benjamin Schneider
The UWM English Department has welcomed Dr. Shevaun Watson ('99) back to the UWM community as an Associate Professor of English. She will also step into the role of Director of Composition this year. In addition to teaching first-year writing and graduate level pedagogy courses, she will work integrally with multiple areas of the school and other faculty to help ensure students have the best access to disciplinary writing.

“I have always really wanted to move back to Milwaukee,” explained Watson. “It’s a really special city that has a lot of pleasant and pleasurable things about it. Politically and racially it’s a very significant place to be.”

Watson grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, cultivating in her a lifelong love of literature from her two professional writer parents. She received her B.A. in English from the University of Minnesota. After a few years working outside of academia, she continued on to UWM where she graduated with an M.A. in Rhetoric and Composition. She then went on to earn a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from Miami University of Ohio.

In addition to simultaneously teaching and working towards her Ph.D. at Miami University of Ohio, Watson also has taught at the University of California-Irvine, the University of South Carolina, and most recently, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Watson is excited to bring her leadership and passion to her new positions and is dedicated to fulfilling UWM’s commitment to serving the Milwaukee area.

“I love my research, but at the end of the day, it’s about helping people.”

The English Department extends its warmest wishes to our colleague Anne Wysocki on the occasion of her retirement at the end of the spring 2015 semester. Anne joined the Department in 2007, and was a valued member of the Department and Rhetoric and Composition program over the past decade.

An influential critic of multimodal writing and the role of new media in composition studies, she helped to shape curricular innovations in the Department and expand links among many of our programs. She was also an accomplished teacher and graduate mentor, and her influence on the department, as well as the field of composition studies more generally, continues with the generation of young scholars who flourished under her guidance. Best wishes for many happy and productive years ahead, Anne!
UWM’s English Department has long been nationally competitive, offering students and faculty robust resources for further honing their crafts and passions. In the early 1970s, Dr. Ihab Hassan joined UWM and accelerated the program into one that would go on to attract other literary heavyweights, such as Andreas Huyssen, Jane Gallop, Herbert Blau, and many others. According to Dr. Jason Puskar, it was Dr. Hassan’s charisma and energy that attracted these top faculty and others. “UWM became a real powerhouse. Over the next two decades, UWM hired a lot of other luminaries in the field and built English into a top twenty program nationally. It was Ihab who made that happen.”

Dr. Hassan’s impact extends well beyond his robust personality and attracting numerous faculty members. He is credited with giving rise to the term “postmodernism,” and is widely celebrated for his 1971 paper that outlined his perception of the shift from modernism to postmodernism. Nearly five decades years later, Dr. Puskar — and countless others — still cite Dr. Hassan’s seminal work.

Prior to reshaping the 20th century literary landscape, Dr. Hassan lived the first two decades of his life in Egypt, where he was trained as an electrical engineer. This field led him to the United States where he earned his M.S. His passion for and evocative mastery of words, however, led him to pursue both his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1950 and 1953, respectively. He earned honorary degrees from the University of Uppsala and the University of Giessen, as well as numerous fellowships, including two Guggenheim Fellowships and three Senior Fulbright Lectureships. Hassan held research appointments on three continents and was awarded numerous teaching awards.

Over the course of his career, he mentored roughly twenty Ph.D. students who would go on to teach in the United States and Europe. Even after retirement, Dr. Hassan was active in what Dr. Puskar describes as an “ambitious” reading group, dubbed the Omega Group, of which he is a member. “When we met to discuss a book, everyone knew it was time to go to work, if Ihab was in the room. He took it very seriously, read very carefully, and had little patience for lazy responses.”

Over the course of Dr. Hassan’s prolific career, he authored fifteen books and over 300 articles and reviews, many of which have been translated into over a dozen languages. He presented lectures in the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and New Zealand.

On September 10, 2015, Dr. Hassan succumbed to a heart attack. He is survived by his wife Sally and son Geoffrey.

Dr. Hassan’s passion for and dedication to teaching and literature extended beyond his passing; in lieu of flowers and gifts, the family asked friends to honor Ihab’s life through donations to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Foundation in support of the College of Letters and Sciences’ “Lecture in the Humanities.” Similarly, a celebration of Dr. Hassan’s life was held on November 19, 2015, as part of a symposium he helped organize.

In reflecting on Dr. Hassan’s personal impact on his life, Dr. Puskar notes that, “He was a very generous man too in many ways. I first met him about five years ago, after I had been at UWM for about three years. We met for dinner with a visiting speaker, and he pulled a piece of paper out of his pocket with a drawing of a cat and something about “Schrodinger’s Cat” written at the top. He slipped it to me slyly. I had written a book about chance and accident that had just come out, and he clearly had made the effort to read some of it. “Schrodinger’s Cat” was meant as a reference to my work on chance, and it connects as well to some of his writing on postmodernism. I found that both a charming and generous gesture from an emeritus faculty member to someone almost fifty years younger.”
On April 9 and 10, 2015, David Lloyd, Distinguished Professor of English at the University of California at Riverside, visited UWM. His visit was sponsored by the Irish Consulate Chicago, the UWM Center for Celtic Studies, UWM Department of English, and Distinguished Professor of English Jane Gallop.

Professor Lloyd’s works have been received with critical acclaim; he is a highly-praised author in his field who has penned numerous works on legacies and histories of imperialism, modernist poetics, and civil rights. His play *The Press* afforded Lloyd staged readings in Dublin, Los Angeles, Liverpool, and Manila. His second lecture at UWM — a Brown Bag Lunch presentation — saw Lloyd discussing the complexities of political memories and postcolonial identity surrounding celebrated Irish poet W. B. Yeats.

On October 24, 2014, UWM and Plan G (Professional and Technical Writing) hosted Professor Steve Fuller for his lecture titled “Free Inquiry and Free Speech: Is Science Compatible with Democracy?” Fuller argued that the public should be proactively accepting or rejecting parts of science, using the Protestant Reformation in Christianity and the current establishment of the Church of Rome as historical models in his argument.

A sociology professor at the University of Warwick since 1999, Professor Fuller was recently appointed to the Auguste Comte Chair in recognition of his work in *Social Epistemology: A Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Policy*. His most recent book, titled *The Proactionary Imperative: A Foundation for Transhumanism*, discusses the proactionary principle in relation to technology and human nature.

Professor Fuller has written twenty-one books, sixty-five book chapters, and over 155 academic articles in topics relating to social epistemology, intelligent design, and transhumanism.

On October 15, 2015, UWM’s Visiting Poet Carmen Giménez-Smith gave a literary reading and Q&A session to an audience of UWM students, faculty, and the general public at the Hefter Conference Center. The following day, Giménez-Smith spoke about her writing, life, and experiences in publishing in a public interview with David Wilk. Giménez-Smith’s celebrated career spans numerous genres, with her 2010 memoir *Bring Down the Little Birds* winning the prestigious American Book Award, and one of four collections of poetry earning her the Jupiter Prize for Poetry, and her collection *Milk and Filth* being shortlisted by the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry.

Giménez-Smith also serves as the editor-in-chief and director of the literary journal *Puerto del Sol*, is the publisher at Noemi Press, is an editor at *VIDA: Women in the Literary Arts*, and is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at New Mexico State University.
On April 23, 2015, revered poet, editor, journalist, musician, and Professor Emeritus at the University of California, San Diego Quincy Troupe gave UWM’s annual Boudreaux reading. Troupe’s storied career began after he returned stateside from France, where he was stationed in the United States Army. There, Troupe was encouraged by French existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre to pursue poetry. Upon returning to the States, Troupe found himself a part of numerous literary and academic groups, ultimately leading to academic positions held on both American coasts.

Arguably his most successful work *The Pursuit of Happiness*, co-authored with Chris Gardner, spent over forty weeks on the New York Times Best Seller list and became a major motion picture starring Will Smith. Troupe’s sweeping bibliography includes scores of fiction and nonfiction, ten collections of poetry, three children’s books, and acclaimed biographies of Miles Davis and basketball legend Earl Monroe. Now retired, Troupe edits *Black Renaissance Noire*, a literary journal housed in the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University.

**Upcoming Visit: Juan Felipe Herrera, Poet Laureate of the United States**

*Waking up is the biggest thing. I’m a political poet — let us say a human poet, a poet that’s concerned with the plight of people who suffer. If words can be of assistance, then that’s what I’m going to use.*  
-Juan Felipe Herrera

The UWM English Department is thrilled to announce Juan Felipe Herrera, current Poet Laureate of the United States, will be presenting the annual Boudreaux Reading in the UWM Union Ballroom on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. He will also give a craft talk in Bolton Hall, Room B52 on Friday, March 4, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. The Boudreaux series brings acclaimed poets to UWM each year and is co-sponsored by the Roberto Hernandez Center and the UWM Union Sociocultural Programming.

Herrera is the 21st Poet Laureate of the United States and first Mexican American Poet Laureate. He began his year-long tenure in the position in September 2015. He has authored thirty books, including collections of poetry, prose, short stories, young adult novels and picture books for children. Herrera’s many collections of poetry include *Notes on the Assemblage; Senegal Taxi; Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems*, a recipient of the PEN/Beyond Margins Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *187 Reasons Mexicanos Can’t Cross The Border: Undocuments 1971-2007*. He is also the author of *Crashboomlove: A Novel in Verse*, which received the Americas Award. His books of prose for children include *SkateFate, Calling The Doves*, which won the Ezra Jack Keats Award; *Upside Down Boy*, which was adapted into a musical for young audiences in New York City; and *Cinnamon Girl: Letters Found Inside a Cereal Box*. Herrera is also a performance artist and activist on behalf of migrant and indigenous communities and at-risk youth.

This will be Herrera’s second visit to UWM. He was interviewed for Volume 32.1 of *cream city review* by alumni Dawn Tefft and Dalia Gomaa in the spring of 2008. The UWM community looks forward to welcoming Herrera this March.
A delicious partnership was on display at over forty Milwaukee and Madison area restaurants in honor of “National Poetry Month” this past April thanks to Eat Local :: Read Local. The UWM English Department organizes the Eat Local :: Read Local initiative, which brings poetry to readers at local eateries. Eat Local :: Read Local invited poets from the Milwaukee and Madison literary communities to submit short poems, which were printed on cards and distributed to patrons throughout the month of April. Additionally, diners were encouraged to participate by composing their own poems inspired by their meals. They could submit their food-inspired verses online to the Eat Local :: Read Local Community Poets Gallery for publication.

Two special highlights of the Eat Local :: Read Local celebration took place at two live reading events—the first on April 7, 2015, at Milwaukee’s Pizza Man restaurant and the second on April 20, 2015, at Middleton’s Craftsman Table & Tap. Audience members at the events had the opportunity to meet and savor the literary fare of poets Robin Chapman, Margaret Noodin, Nancy Reddy, Lauren Russell, Shoshauna Shy, and Katie Vagnino.

Learn more about the poets, participators, and curators at www.eatlocalreadlocal.org.

2015 marked the 40th anniversary of UWM’s cream city review, Milwaukee’s leading literary journal. Throughout the year, several special events commemorated the anniversary, including spring and fall sessions of cream city Live! These free events were open to the public and showcased dynamic live readings of poetry and prose from the journal’s contributors.

The spring session of cream city Live! brought renowned authors Jeffrey Allen (bone and diamond), Duriel E. Harris (Amnesiac: Poems), and Roberto Harrison (bicycle) to the UWM Union Art Gallery on April 30, 2015. Audience members enjoyed intimate, live performances of selected works by featured authors.

cream city editors Loretta McCormick and Mollie Boutell invited community members to the November 6, 2015, cream city Live! event at the UWM Wisconsin Room Lounge during an in-studio session of WUWM’s popular program Lake Effect. The event welcomed a trio of noted authors - Amelia Gray, Randall Horton, and Kyle Minor - to a warmly enthusiastic crowd and featured a special guest performance by Milwaukee poet KJ Prodigy. Gray is the author of the 2012 novel THREATS and three collections of short stories. Minor is the recipient of the 2015 Story Prize Spotlight Award and the 2012 Iowa Prize for Short Fiction. Horton’s honors and accolades include the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, the Bea Gonzalez Poetry Award, and the National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship in Literature.

Bi-annual cream city Live! events will continue to bring high quality literary voices to Milwaukee with its next event taking place April 15, 2016. Further details on future events and featured readers will be available on www.creamcityreview.org. cream city review’s mission is to bring compelling new authors, new writing, and new art to its readers—both in print and digitally—throughout its next 40 years.
United We Read, a recurring faculty/student reading series, is one of the many innovative ways the UWM English Department brings creative work off of the page and into the community. Events are held four to five times a year and hosted by a variety of Milwaukee area bookstores, bars, and cafes. At each reading, one UWM faculty member and three graduate students share poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, and experimental texts with an audience. The readings often are centered around a seasonal theme, offering a new experience to interested listeners every time.

Poet Christopher Williams, who read at the November 4, 2015, United We Read event, shared some insight about the experience from a reader’s point of view. “Reading for United We Read is great because it is reading for an audience of my colleagues and peers,” said Williams. “I’m excited to share my work with folks whose work I respect and admire, and whose thoughtful, insightful comments have been a big part of shaping my poems.” Williams’ comments reflect the tight-knit, supportive nature of the creative writing community at UWM.

United We Read will continue bringing faculty, students, and the community together with more events in 2016:

- March 9, 2016 - 7:00 p.m. at Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 S. Locust St.
- April 12, 2016 - 1:00 p.m. at UWM Library, Daniel Soref Commons
- May 3, 2016 - 7:00 p.m. at Café Hollander, 2608 N. Downer Ave.

Undergraduate Literary Journal
Furrow Continues to Impress

*Furrow’s* sixteenth volume continued to celebrate the undergraduate literary journal’s recent resurgence, as a specially designed workshop class taught by Liam Callanan spent the spring 2015 semester assembling a 100-page edition with more than thirty poems, stories, essays and works of art from more than twenty contributors. The entire effort was student-planned and student-led, from marketing to layout to editing and production, and culminated in a beautiful magazine that was honored at a jam-packed launch reading in Riverwest. When asked how he’d measure *Furrow’s* success, Professor Callanan said, “several ways: one, we all but sold out the print-run; two, we attracted the support of several extremely generous benefactors (and we always welcome more); and three, and perhaps most impressive of all, we’ve heard from students that this experience impressed employers and helped them find jobs -- including one at a magazine right here in southeast Wisconsin.”
Sidney Taiko Sheehan had a great story on her hands but she struggled with an important decision. Where should she set her novel? Divided between Chicago, a city Sheehan once called home, and Paris, a city she loved, Sheehan followed the path of so many great writers before her. She put the decision off.

In fact, Sheehan began working on two versions of the same book. One was set in the Windy City, the other the City of Lights. An advisor gave Sheehan a bit of guidance. “(I should) write the story as I wanted,” Sheehan recalled.

It was good advice. Sheehan’s story (the Paris version) won the 2015 Ellen Hunnicut Prize, the UWM English Department’s annual award for an exceptional excerpt of an unpublished novel or novella still in progress. Sheehan’s winning piece, “Let the Water Rise,” tells the story of a young Parisian family dealing with death.

“It’s a lot about this greater question that we all have to a certain extent,” she said. “How do we move on? How do we honor people? How do we, on a psychological level, cope with a constant suddenly not being there anymore?”

She is also particularly interested in the architecture of Paris so she weaves some details of its built environment into her work. She admits, however, she was initially a little intimidated to write about such an iconic city. “People who know Paris have a very intimate idea of it. People who don’t have this greater familiarity with what Paris is usually hold half right and half terribly wrong perceptions,” she said.

Sheehan, a native of Champaign, Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is pursuing a Master’s degree in creative writing. On campus, Sheehan has had considerable success. She has served as editor-in-chief of the literary journal *Storm Cellar* and has worked as a program assistant at the UWM Office of Sponsored Programs. In addition to the Ellen Hunnicut Prize, she is the recipient of the John L. Rainey Prize in fiction, the Junior Quinn Award in poetry, the Thatcher H. Guild American Academy of Poets Award, and the Florence L. Healy Scholarship.

Sheehan came to UWM for a variety of reasons. Namely, she admired the work of the faculty, and the university was both affordable and close to family. “It seemed to be a reasonable fit so I took a leap of faith,” she said. At UWM, she learned the importance of making connections on campus, but she also learned the importance of being alone with her work. After graduation, Sheehan hopes to continue working in a university setting and to compose a collection of poetry or short fiction. In the meantime she’s finishing the work at hand. Sheehan plans to submit a version of “Let the Water Rise” as her thesis.

Sheehan is glad she chose Paris for her book. “It became clear pretty quickly that that was the way that it had to be and that was the way it needed to be all along,” Sheehan said.
Graduate Student Awards

In 2015, the English Department initiated an effort to expand its slate of graduate awards and undergraduate scholarships. In 2014, the Department gave twenty-one awards. This year, a record forty awards were disbursed. The generous funding for these awards is provided by private donors, including our alumni as well as an earlier generation of our faculty. Our gratitude and appreciation for their generosity is inestimable. It is only fitting that those who shaped the department in its initial years play this important role in ensuring its continued success with their support of its youngest and most promising members.

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<th>UWM English Department Poetry Manuscript Awards</th>
<th>The Włodysław Cieszynski Literary Prize</th>
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<td>Elisa Karbin “Plunder”</td>
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<td>“Then You Cross Rainbow Bridge</td>
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<td>The Sheila Roberts Prize</td>
<td>Mollie Boutell “Sandwich Wars”</td>
<td>Together.”</td>
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<td>Michael Larson “Hay in Summer”</td>
<td>Poetry:</td>
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<td>Alice Gillam Award</td>
<td>Ching-In Chen “Derived Love” and “Noah”</td>
<td>Frederick J. Hoffman Award</td>
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<td>Molly Ubbesen</td>
<td>Siwar Masanat “George Dow,” “The Arab</td>
<td>Alison Sperling “Freak Temporality</td>
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<td>The Ellen Hunnicut Prize</td>
<td>Leader’s Guide to Sanctioned Dictator-</td>
<td>in the Work of Carson McCullers”</td>
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<td>Sidney Taiko Sheehan “Let the Water Rise”</td>
<td>ship,” and “Of My Arab Hospitality, I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Might Offer You a Knife.”</td>
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<td>The William Harrold Memorial Award</td>
<td>The Academy of American Poets/Edward</td>
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<td>Ann-Marie Blanchard “Bract,” “Pith,” and “Cocoa &amp;</td>
<td>Ryan Prize</td>
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<td>Criminals”</td>
<td>First Place:</td>
<td>Honorable Mention:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tobias Wray “Buggery”</td>
<td>Mollie Boutell “Keeper”</td>
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<td>Runner-up:</td>
<td>Honorable Mention:</td>
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<td>Caitlin Scarano “To the City With Her</td>
<td>Katharine Monger “You’ll Be Glad</td>
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<td>You Made the Trip”</td>
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Congratulations to all graduate students who received recognition at the English Department’s 2015 Spring Awards Ceremony!

Two UWM English students recently received prestigious recognition for their work.

**Brittany Cavallaro**, who is pursuing a PhD in poetry, received the National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship in Poetry, 2015.

**Caitlin Scarano**, who is also pursuing a PhD in poetry, was the winner of the 2015 Indiana Review Poetry Prize.


2015 Graduate Degrees Conferred

Andrew Anastasia
Ph.D. Rhetoric and Composition

David Bowen
Ph.D. Creative Writing

Daniel Card*
M.A. Professional Writing

Ching-In Chen
Ph.D. Creative Writing

Edward Danecki*
M.A. Media, Cinema and Digital Studies

Paul Gagliardi
Ph.D. Modern Studies

Michael Haen
M.A. Rhetoric and Composition

Lauren Haufler
M.A. Media, Cinema and Digital Studies

Eric Herhuth
Ph.D. Media, Cinema and Digital Studies

Kiran Jamal
M.A. Professional Writing

Jessica Johnston*
M.A. Media, Cinema and Digital Studies

Katharine Monger
M.A. Rhetoric and Composition

Cara Ogburn
Ph.D. Modern Studies

Adam Pacton
Ph.D. Rhetoric and Composition

Kristin Prins
Ph.D. Rhetoric and Composition

Jessica Retzlaff
M.A. Professional Writing

Rachael Sullivan
Ph.D. Media, Cinema and Digital Studies

Kara van de Graff
Ph.D. Creative Writing

Michelle Vinson
M.A. Professional Writing

* Denotes acceptance to UWM Ph.D. program

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Graduate School Fellowship Recipients!

Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship:
Ghassan Abou-Zeineddine
Michael Beebe
Brittany Cavallaro
Bridget Kies

Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship:
Sherri Hoffman

Advanced Opportunity Fellowship:
Franklin Cline
Allain Daigle
Mark Heimermann
Caitlin Scarano

Graduate Student Fellowships
After forty years in operation, it would be fair to say Milwaukee’s literary journal--*cream city review*--has quite the history.

“One of the reasons I applied here was my knowledge of *cream city review* and its prestige,” explained *cream city review*’s editor in chief and UWM creative writing Ph.D. student Loretta McCormick. “It’s a really well-recognized publication.”

The English Department’s affiliate has seen a great deal of change in recent years. Once subsidized by the English Department, UWM’s recent budget cuts have left *cream city review* looking for new funding opportunities. While McCormick admits it has been a learning curve, she explained the Department has remained a vital resource helping them through what has been a “positive” transition to become self-sustainable.

“The English Department supports us in any way they can,” stated McCormick. “We have a really great relationship with [them] to help us navigate the bureaucracy of a large university. We really feel supported by them.”

In many ways, the journal returned to its roots and spent the year building funding opportunities. The staff–made up of UWM students and Milwaukee-area writers–continued to rebuild the *cream city review* Foundation re-established in 2014. The team also began accepting online subscriptions to help increase their online presence and closed out the year with a fire sale of back issues available for free or a monetary donation.

The organization stayed true to their mission to shed light on voices not often heard. With the receipt of the Community University Partnership Grant, *cream city review*, in conjunction with the non-profit Project RETURN, organized creative-writing workshops in Milwaukee-area jails to help those incarcerated transition back into the community. The grant also helped the journal publish its “Other Side of the Mirror” issue, which highlighted the creative work of previously or currently incarcerated individuals from all over the nation.

While 2015 marks the fortieth anniversary of the journal, the organization will formally celebrate the milestone on April 15, 2016 with a dedication from the city of Milwaukee. The city will designate the day as “*cream city review* Day.” It will pay tribute to its UWM supporters with live readings from many faculty members, including Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kimberly Blaeser and Professor Emeritus and former Milwaukee Poet Laureate Susan Firer.

To donate to *cream city review*, visit its [website](#) or the UWM English Department [donation page](#).
A restructuring of the UWM English Department’s first-year composition (FYC) program has resulted in a new introductory course, English 100: Introduction to College Writing and Reading. The fall of 2015 saw the initial offering of the course, designed for students who require studies in fundamental composition.

For these students, English 100 facilitates the completion of English general education requirements (GER) for literacy sooner and offers a supportive, comprehensive learning experience. Previously, these students were required to complete a series of three courses over three semesters: English 95: Fundamentals of Composition, English 101: Introduction to College Writing, and English 102: College Writing and Research. Now, the successful completion of English 100 and 102 meets the GER requirement. “The aim is to offer core writing courses that can achieve the curricular emphasis on core rhetorical concepts and academic research writing in two semesters,” said Joan Ruffino, senior lecturer and English 100 coordinator.

English 100 is an intense, comprehensive course that contains three components: a three-credit reading and writing course, a one-credit weekly discussion lab, and required attendance at the UWM Writing Center. As Ruffino explained, “English 100 requires more time and work from students, but it also offers more support. Most importantly, students earn four graduation credits for successfully completing English 100. And successful completion of English 100 meets the prerequisite for entering English 102.”

By restructuring the FYC program, “we feel this will lead to greater success in upper level courses and retention of students as they gain more success earlier in their college careers,” Ruffino concluded. For further information regarding first-year composition courses, refer to the English 100/101/102 site at: http://uwm.edu/english/undergraduate/resources/english-100101102/.

Recently, the English Department rolled out a new course that is tailor-made for the importance and emergence of cross-sectorial communication in the digital age. English 310: Writing, Speaking, and Technoscience in the 21st Century addresses the theories and practices of communicating about science and technology.

Students interested in the course had five scheduling options for enrolling in the spring 2016 semester. This provided students an opportunity to construct their schedules with added pliability. Prerequisites for the course includes the satisfaction of the oral and written communication part A (OWC-A) for the general education requirement (GER) or with the instructor’s consent. The course itself satisfies the oral and written communication part B (OWC-B) of the GER.
Congratulations to undergraduate students who won the Business Writing Award Challenge. The 2014 winners were recognized at a ceremony held on February 13, 2015 at the Heifer Center.

**Spring 2014**
Rebecca Sidman
Amy Peterson
Maren Orlowski

**Fall 2014**
Timothy Vander Woude
David Bennett
Melissa Naczek

In 2015, the English Department disbursed awards for all three of its current undergraduate scholarship funds. For these competitively-selected awards, students submitted application materials, including a sample of critical writing, which were reviewed by a committee of faculty members.

The Department is delighted to take this opportunity to recognize five of our most accomplished undergraduate students.

**The Ruth B. Skretting-Bertschi Scholarship**
Jack Ceschin

**The Elizabeth Babbitt Memorial Scholarship**
Kristiana Perleberg
Bryce Stevenson

**Robert Jones Scholarship**
Armani Bolden
Jade Schauf

The 2015 ceremony honoring winners of the Virginia Burke Writing Contest was held on April 10. This ceremony honors the competitively selected essays from top students in sections of the department’s first-year composition program. Congratulations to the students as well as the dedicated instructors of our writing program!

**English 100**
Katriela Jackson
Ethiel Vega-Padilla
Symone Morris

**English 101/ESL 118**
Stacey Henning
Madeline Marina
Vazquez
Matt Larsen

**English 102**
Nathan Steltz
Jeanette Lapota
Alexis Miller

**English 201**
Kameron Fiedler
Tyler Mantz
Payton Albrecht

Congratulations to the instructors of the essay winners: Ingrid Nordstrom, James Stoner, Katharine Monger, Caitlin Scarano, Liana Odrcic, Brian Keilen, and Adam Andrews.
Every year, our graduates move on from the UWM campus to establish themselves as exceptional contributors in their fields and their communities. Many graduates find their experiences at UWM uniquely shape their future careers and successes.

In January 2016, Joshua Worsham (MA, Plan A), who served as UWM Writing Center’s first full time Assistant Coordinator from 2012 to 2015, was appointed The Director of Tutoring Services at Elgin (IL) Community College.

Additionally, our English graduates help to both continue and start essential conversations within our world in unique ways. This year, many of our alumni have contributed to these conversations through the following publications:


Schiller, James. *yes i understand and wish to continue*. Slope Editions, 2015.


The Writing Center: Promoting Strong Writers throughout the UWM Community

If you ask Writing Center Director Margaret Mika why faculty and students care about the UWM Writing Center, she could give you a list lasting for days. But if there is one thing she cares the most about, it is making sure every writer feels welcome.

“It’s a place for all writers,” explained Mika. “We have a motto: every writer needs a reader.”

And, according to the numbers, it is true. The center began in the mid-1980’s as a resource for first-year English students in Curtin Hall room 382. It expanded to a second satellite location in the UWM Golda Meir Library in 2008. Finally, it moved to its current, specially designed location in Curtin Hall room 127 in 2010. The center employs 25-30 tutors per semester and boasts almost 7,000 tutoring sessions a year with students and faculty from all majors and education levels utilizing the resource.

And yes, she said faculty. “[School] deans have used us,” explained Mika.

The center introduced a special session type for graduate students to work with a volunteer faculty member on writing “high-stakes” documents such as dissertations, CVs, or doctoral applications. In 2015, two more faculty volunteers have joined this select service and Mika hopes the number of graduate writers taking advantage of this unique offering will grow.

The center has become so successful it attracts the attention of universities throughout the state, country, and world as a gold-standard model. Visitors from UW-Stevens Point, North Central College (Illinois), and Europa University-Viadrina in Germany toured the Writing Center during the fall 2015 semester searching for cutting-edge concepts for their own programs.

Even through all of its great success, Mika and the team never lose sight of their goal to encourage great writers, no matter their experience or their topic.

“We hope you become a more confident and improved writer,” Mika concluded. “We want to help you produce your best product through conversation.”

For more information, visit the Writing Center website.
English 150: Multicultural America offers a cross-cultural study of U.S. ethnic and racial identities through history, literature, and the media. This three-credit course focuses on the varied experiences of America’s diverse populations, including African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans.

“The development of English 150 in the early 2000s was funded through a federal grant in partnership with UWM’s School of Education,” said Professor Gregory Jay. “We recognized the need for our students to graduate with skills in intercultural understanding and an appreciation for diversity.” English 150 is designed to deepen a student’s knowledge and appreciation of diverse cultures with both classroom and service learning components.

The classroom component provides students with the opportunity to study cultural differences through reading assignments in literature and history as well as screenings of significant documentaries and films. A wide range of writing assignments encourage students to reflect on what they have learned.

The service learning component consists of approximately 15-20 hours of community engagement in an off-campus, cross-cultural setting. This experience provides the student with the opportunity, as Jay explained, “to learn about our city’s remarkably rich diversity of people and neighborhoods.” Service learning placements are available in settings such as schools, museums, and senior residences.

By combining both classroom and service learning components, English 150 offers a unique and rewarding learning experience, which has been well received. As Jay said, “Years of positive evaluations emphasize student appreciation for the opportunity to give back to the community and to explore challenging issues such as immigration, racism, and economic inequality.”

English 150 satisfies a general education requirement (GER) for the humanities as well as the GER for cultural diversity. In addition, this course meets the core requirement for the UWM Cultures and Communities Certificate, a unique interdisciplinary minor that can be coordinated with any major at UWM. Students must complete fifteen credits of Cultures and Communities coursework to earn the certificate.

For further information regarding the certificate program, visit [http://uwm.edu/cultures-communities/students/](http://uwm.edu/cultures-communities/students/).
Every Gift Matters - Support English at UWM

The UWM English Department offers innovative programs that support student growth and accomplishment, positively impacting our community and world. Thank you for considering a gift of any amount to the English Department. Your gift helps the department:

• offer high-quality instruction in various programs;
• support students and research;
• and recruit and retain outstanding faculty.

You can direct your donation to one of the following funds:

• **English General Fund (#3312)**
  Supports students, instruction, and research activities in the English Department

• **Composition General Fund (#3316)**
  Supports students and research in the Composition program

• **Creative Writing Fund (#3714)**
  Supports students, instruction, and research activities within the Creative Writing program

• **Professional and Technical Writing Fund (#3974)**
  Provides support to faculty, staff, and students in the Professional and Technical Writing program

To donate to the English Department:

Give by mail - Use the form on the next page to donate.

OR

Give online - Go to [http://uw.edu/english/give/](http://uw.edu/english/give/) and use the web form.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you to our recent donors!
Thank you to the following recent English Department donors as well as our anonymous donors.

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Mr. Michael D. Calemine  
Ms. Kathy Doering-Kilkenny  
Mr. William W. Ferris, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Finney  
Dr. John Goulet  
Dr. Gregory S. Jay  
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In the drop-down menu, choose “College Letters & Science” and then “English.”

Amount $ __________

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☐ I wish my gift to be anonymous.

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☐ Creative Writing General Fund #3714
☐ Professional and Technical Writing Fund #3974