Message from the Acting Department Chair:  Tracy Ann Morse

In fall 2018, Chair Marianne Montgomery planned ahead for whoever would be acting chair in the spring; and she gets credit for many of our department’s accomplishments in her absence and under my leadership. However, I will claim success in steering a steady ship and keeping us on course to accomplish the many things we did.

Our department worked hard this semester to move curricular matters forward. We approved the BS in Professional Writing and Information Design to advance in the University curriculum process and dedicated ourselves to a revision plan for our BA in English. We also voted to implement changes to our MA in 2020. We secured strong candidates for faculty searches, resulting in new colleagues Assistant Professor Suzanne Roszak and Whichard Chair Kirstin Squint, and secured more multi-year contracts for our fixed-term faculty. In addition, we finally received approval for the revisions to our Unit Code.

Faculty have been quite productive and successful this semester with many publications, guest speaking/reading engagements, and college/university award recognitions. Nikki Caswell and Lida Cope were both recognized with Centennial Awards, David Wilson-Okamura was recognized as the ECU recipient of the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs received the inaugural Harriot College Fixed-Term Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award in the Humanities.

Because of Andrea Kitta’s and Lida Cope’s work, we have a successful Google ad for our MA and a wonderful “Your Major Matters” marketing video that is narrated by Anna Froula. We celebrated a large graduating class with almost 70 undergraduate and graduate students attending the ceremony. We also recognized Jim Kirkland, the main speaker at the ceremony, on his 50 years of teaching at ECU. We had 7 PhD students graduate and hosted an audience of well over 500!

I am grateful for this opportunity to have served the department, college, and university in this capacity. Go English!

Department of English Establishes PhD Program Priority Fund in Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication

The Department of English now has a fund to help support our doctoral students’ scholarly activities, including conference and research travel, scholarships, professional development, awards, and other priorities. The money in this fund can be spent immediately on current students. In the past year, the fund has supported student travel and the establishment of a competitive research award for doctoral students.

Your gift to the English PhD Program Priority Fund will have an immediate impact on our PhD students and will help us to compete with other national programs as we recruit top students.

For more information, please contact Jessica Nottingham, Director of Alumni Relations for ECU’s Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, at 252.737.1753.

Thank you!
Publications & Creative Activity

**Michael Albers** (editor with **Suzan Flanagan**). *Editing in the Modern Classroom*. Taylor & Francis.

**Michael Albers**. “Editing for Human-Information Interaction.” *Editing in the Modern Classroom*.

**Will Banks** and **Matt Cox** (editors with Caroline Dadas). *Re/Orienting Writing Studies: Queer Methods, Queer Projects*. Utah State University Press.


**Brian Glover**. “‘Nor Can We Give the Whole Account of Any One Thing Whatever’: An Eighteenth-Century Window to Object-Oriented Ecocriticism in a Sermon by Joseph and Thomasarton and the Theology of Joseph Butler.” *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*.

**Margaret Bauer**’s essay “Unsent Letters: We Know Better” was named by *Cold Mountain Review* as a Best of the Best Reader Favorite.

**Maramé Gueye**. “Senegal’s Fear of Outspoken Women.” *Africa is a Country*.

**Christy Hallberg**. “Fistful of Mercy.” *Riggwelter*.

**Tom Herron**. “Through the Virtual Keyhole.” *Archaeology Ireland*.

**John Hoppenthaler**. “Eagles.” *Endlessly Rocking*.


**Andrea Kitta**. “Vaccination Myths.” *Ethical Record*. Conway Hall Ethical Society.

**Randon Billings Noble**. *Be with Me Always*. University of Nebraska Press.

**Angela Raper**. “Biscuits.” *The Broken Plate*.

**Angela Raper**. “Obituary.” *Chaleur Magazine*.

**Angela Raper**. “Right on Schedule.” *The Same*.

Panels & Presentations


**Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs**. Opening remarks. International Women’s Day. ECU.

**Helena Feder**. Women and the Natural World. International Women’s Day. ECU. [Moderator]

**Gabrielle Freeman**. Multicultural Reading Day. ECU. [Reading]

**Erin Frost**. Women and the Natural World. International Women’s Day. ECU. [Panel]

Marame Gueye. “Laabaan Songs in Senegal: Teaching Sex and Sexuality through Verbal Art.” International Women’s Day. ECU.


Su-Ching Huang. “Mayan Sun Roll and Green Diablo Roll: Culinary Identities in the Film East Side Sushi.” International Women’s Day. ECU.


Andrea Kitta. “Slender Man and the Experience of the Supernatural.” Department of Classics’ Discovery Themes Lecture Series. Ohio State University.


Gera Miles. Women and Culture. International Women’s Day. ECU. [Moderator]

Tracy Morse. “Meta-Play: Using Technology to Work for us and our Students.” English Department Professional Development Workshop. ECU.


Wendy Sharer (with PhD student Kerri Flinchbaugh). “Metacognition in the Writing Classroom and Beyond.” Carolinas Writing Program Administrators Meeting in the Middle. UNC–Charlotte. [Workshop]


Amber Flora Thomas. Quail Ridge Books. Raleigh, NC. [Reading]

Creative Writing faculty's Food Bank Benefit Reading brought $106 in cash donations - which translates to over 500 meals - plus 111 pounds of canned goods and nonperishable food items. Reading to a standing room only audience were John Hoppenthaler, Randon Billings Noble, Bob Siegel, Amber Flora Thomas, Luke Whisnant, and Liza Wieland.

Corinee Guy, teaching instructor and co-author of New Century Literature, retired at the end of the spring semester.
Outreach & Media Coverage

**Erin Frost** was interviewed by ECU now about her upcoming summer residency at the National Humanities Center in Triangle Park.

**John Hoppenthaler** has joined the Advisory Board of Backbone Press.

**Andrea Kitta** was interviewed for the Dutch newspaper *Nederlandsdagblad* about her research in rumor, fake news, epidemics, and medical information.

**Amber Thomas** was interviewed by PEN America about her literary influences and writing process.

**Liza Wieland**’s new novel - *Paris 7 A.M.* - was reviewed by *Publishers Weekly.*

Speakers & Events

**Trina Baker.** ECU Human Resources. “What Faculty Should Know about FMLA/FSIL.” English Department Professional Development Workshop

**Mariah Barber.** Spoken-word poet. 2019 Black Read-In. Co-sponsors: Joyner Library, Honors College, and Harriett College of Arts & Sciences

The Department of English was again the “large department” winner of the HCAS Staff Council donation drive, which benefitted the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina.

In appreciation, **Dean Bill Downs** bought lunch for our staff and spent several hours in the office making copies and answering phones.

Shown are Dean Downs (left) and our very own Lead Administrator, **Laura Jolly**.

**English Graduate Student Conference.** Co-sponsor: Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

**Ben Frey.** “Cherokee Language Revitalization: Tending Fire in 2019.” Co-sponsors: Department of Anthropology, Department of History, & Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

Novelist **Greg Howard** (left) is shown with **Timm Hackett.** Co-sponsors: Gender Studies Program, Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center, Women & Gender Office, and Harriot College of Arts & Sciences
Denice Frohman. Latinx spoken-word poet. Co-sponsors: Gender Studies Program; Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center; Women & Gender Office; Student Affairs; Department of Geography, Planning, & Environment; Department of Sociology; and Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

International Women’s Day. Co-sponsors: Gender Studies Program, Department of Sociology, Women & Gender Office, and Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

Nancy Mitchell. Poet. Co-sponsor: Harriot College of Arts & Sciences

Tracy Morse. “Meta-Play: Using Technology to Work for us and our Students.” English Department Professional Development Workshop

Multicultural Reading Day. Co-sponsor: Ethnic Studies and Harriot College of Arts & Sciences


Lisa Randall. Physicist. “Dark Matter and the Dinosaurs.” Voyages of Discovery. Co-sponsors included Academic Affairs; Student Affairs; Division of Health Sciences; Honors College; and various Harriot College of Arts & Sciences departments

Readers Theater. Play. Williams Carlos Williams’ “The Girl with the Pimply Face.” Co-sponsors: BSOM Department of Bioethics & Interdisciplinary Studies, Gender Studies Program, and Harriot College of Arts & Sciences


Shakespeare Sonnet Contest. Co-sponsors: Joyner Library, Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Great Books

TESOL/Applied Linguistics Graduate Students (TALGS) Conference. Greensboro, NC. Co-sponsor: Greensboro College

Clinton Van Zandt. Retired FBI profiler. “Psychological Profiling: Solving Famous Unsolved Cases.” Voyages of Discovery. Co-sponsors included Academic Affairs; Student Affairs; Division of Health Sciences; Honors College; and various Harriot College of Arts & Sciences departments

Awards & Honors

David Wilson-Okamura received the 2019 Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest recognition presented by the UNC system. In accepting the honor, he paid homage to his mentor, Michael Murrin: “Though decades have passed since I was his student, he is still teaching me. In a lecture he said that while reason can destroy cherished illusions, it replaces them with something richer….He lived in that confidence, that truth was beautiful and could be trusted every day. He was the kind of person that I wanted to be and the kind of teacher that I hope we are all becoming. Thank you for this honor. I will try to be worthy of it and of him.”
Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs received Harriot College of Arts & Sciences’ inaugural Fixed-Term Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award in the Humanities.

Michelle Eble received a Diversity & Inclusion Research and Scholarship Award from the Office of Equity and Diversity.

Helena Feder is part of Mellon/ACLS Scholars & Society Fellows’ inaugural cohort. She will be in residence at the NC Museum of Art, working on “Apprehensions: Six Senses of the World.”

Marame Gueye has been awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in West Africa by the West African Research Association. She will spend a portion of the summer in West Africa, working on her project “Discourses of Wifing: Gender, Marriage, and Language in Senegalese Popular Culture.”

Eddie Moore received UNC-Chapel Hill’s inaugural Dr. J. Lee Greene Award for outstanding work on race and ethnicity in literary studies.

Liza Wieland’s Paris - 7 A.M. was named by Oprah Magazine as “[one] of the best LGBTQ books that’ll change the literary landscape in 2019.”
After 37 years of teaching, Ron Hoag “graduates” with parting words of wisdom

The following is an excerpt from Ron Hoag’s fall 2018 commencement address. He retired from the department after having taught 37 years.

Allow me a brief digression to tease out some implications of a Robert Frost dictum, that “A good poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom.” The words of a wordsmith writer entice us into their world and the world-view they provide. Sometimes, they penetrate the perplexing fog and swirl of life, orchestrating selected details to imply those meanings that amount to what Henry James called “the story in it.” Sometimes, the chaos and confusion are the story in it, the “non-sense” expressed by Shakespeare’s overwhelmed Macbeth to whom life seems “a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

With “meanings” construed broadly as whatever we take from our close reading of good literature — feelings, impressions, aesthetic responses, ideas, answers and questions — those meanings help raise our own human experience to a higher plane of regard. To explore the questions implied by our existence in the natural world, we invented science but also religion and philosophy, literature and art, sometimes in combination as in various mythologies.

The subtitle of my Appreciating Literature course has always been the same: “True Lies: Why Made-Up Stories Matter.” Believing that they do matter — and matter a great deal — I consider myself incredibly lucky to have had a teaching career in the English Department at East Carolina University.

Today is my graduation too, and I’ll end this talk by wishing my fellow graduates luck as good as mine has been in their careers and in their “other lives” as well. I’ll also offer one piece of advice: If you keep reading good literature, you’ll always be in good company.

Thank you for your time, ECU students — all 37 years of it.
Publications & Creative Activity


Ina Cariño (BA ’16). “What Does the Little Death Feel Like Coming from a Woman?” *Fugue.*

Ina Cariño (BA ’16). “Snapshots of Girl with Galaxy of Spiders Drowning.” *Fugue.*


Suzan Flanagan (PhD ’19; editor with Michael Albers). *Editing in the Modern Classroom.* Taylor & Francis.


Lindsay Saunders (BA ’06, MA ’14). “We Can't Turn from Countries that Turn to Us.” *Raleigh News and Observer.* [Op-ed]

Jonah Schwartz (MA ’17). “Graph Colors vs. the World: Exploring the Empty Valley between Data Visualization and Multicultural Communication.” *Intercom.*

Honors & Awards


Cecilia Shelton (PhD ’19). Graduate Research Award, Association of Teachers of Technical Writing.

Ruby Kirk Nancy (PhD ’19). Received funding to attend the Spring 2019 Faculty Writing Retreat.

Sharicka Botex
2019 Outstanding English Graduate Student

Garrett Yarbrough
2019 Outstanding English Undergraduate Student

Glensha Berryman
2019 Outstanding English Undergraduate Student
Panels & Presentations


**Zachary Lundgren** (PhD ’19). “To Be Unalive: How Facebook Memorial Pages Perform Death in the Digital Age.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburgh, PA. [Panel]


**Temptaous Mckoy** (PhD ’19). “So, About That Night I Performed at @TrapKaraoke and Avowed My Embodiment; Avowed Embodiment — A New Performance Theoretical Framework for the People.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburgh, PA. [Panel]


**Lindsay Saunders** (BA ’06, MA ’14). “Outlining Inequality; Identifying Advocacy and Partnerships Opportunities.” Democratic Women of Johnston County.

**Cecilia Shelton** (PhD ’19). “Doctoral Student Take Back: Students Present Themselves to the Field.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburgh, PA. [Panel]

Professional Service

**LaKela Atkinson** (PhD student). HBCU representative. Southeastern Writing Center Association Board.

**Brandon Hardy** (PhD ’19). Qualitative Research Network associate chair. Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburgh, PA.

**Angela Kitchin** (MA student). Promoted to North Carolina Literary Review assistant editor.

Nine undergraduates intern with NCLR

The North Carolina Literary Review (NCLR) had a record number of undergraduate interns this academic year:

- Dylan Newitt Allen
- Alyssa Coleman
- Jordan Crawford
- Alexis Gadzinski
- Melissa Glen
- Susie Hedley
- Erwin Peed
- Tay Peed
- Zak Sheppard

NCLR is an award-winning literary magazine housed in the Department of English. Margaret Bauer, the Rives Chair of Southern Literature, has been its editor since 1997.
Spring 2019 PhD Recipients & Their Dissertation Titles


Brandon Michael Hardy. Constellating Identities and Workplace Genres in Writing Center Discourse.


Zachary Lundgren. The Rhetoric of Climate Change: Using Latour to Compose a Nonmodern Approach to our Modern Climate Crisis.

Temptaous Tashawn Mckoy. Y’all Call it Technical Professional Communication; We Call it #ForTheCulture: The Use of Amplification Rhetorics in Black Communities and their Implications for Technical and Professional Communication Studies.


Alumni Transitions

Ina Cariño (BA ’16) successfully defended her MFA Thesis at North Carolina State University.

Jessica Cory (MA ’12) teaches composition at Western Carolina University.

Nicole Crevar (MA ’18) is studying Mexican American Literature in the PhD program at the University of Arizona.

Brian Lampkin (MA ’11) is a co-owner of Scuppernong Books in Greensboro.

Jennifer Memolo (MA ’03) is a full-time faculty member in the Clarkson College (NE) Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

Lindsay Saunders (BA ’06, MA ’14) is serving a one-year appointment as the USAID/Zambia Development, Outreach, and Communications Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka, Zambia.

Lindsay Saunders (BA ’06, MA ’14) is a Communications Manager with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Jovan Smith (MA ’13) is teaching general English and IELTS preparation courses in Cambodia.
"Like the sun and the moon," James Kirkland is "a fixture," said Luke Whisnant in his introduction of the department’s Spring 2019 commencement keynote speaker. Kirkland is “an energetic, caring, and inspirational teacher” who has been an advocate for students throughout his 50 years of teaching in the department, drawing “awe and admiration” from his colleagues.

I’d like first of all to thank Luke for the wonderful introduction and Tracy [Morse] for asking if I would be willing to say a few words at this year’s commencement ceremony. I immediately said yes, not only because I consider this a great honor but also because it was refreshing to be asked a question other than the one I get most of the time these days: “Are you still here?”

I’m happy to report that I am still here - and hope to be here at least a while longer because I would truly miss occasions such as this when faculty and students, family and friends, can gather together to reflect on the past, to celebrate the present, and to look to the future.

As I near the end of my fiftieth year of teaching at ECU, I think often what the campus was like when I first joined the English Department in the Fall of 1969. I remember when the Old Cafeteria Building was actually an old cafeteria; when Joyner Library had not yet acquired such novel architectural features as musical steps, water walls, and creepy clowns popping out of clock towers at midnight; and when the building we now think of as “Old Austin” was called “New Austin” - partly because it was then the newest building on campus and partly to distinguish it from the original “Old Austin” on Fifth Street where the English Department resided during the first 55 years of its existence.

I missed by about three years the department’s move from the old building to the new; but I still remember fondly the 19 years I spent in New Austin, despite its quirks and limitations. There were no elevators or office phones in those days and, of course, no personal computers since they had not yet been invented. And it would be several years before Chancellor [Thomas Bowman] Brewer, successor to the legendary Leo Jenkins,

Continued on the next page
removed the up and down staircase signs at the end of each hallway and silenced the school bells that announced the end of each class.

Since then I’ve observed countless other changes. I’ve seen student enrollment grow from around 7,500 to nearly 30,000, I’ve witnessed the construction of numerous campus facilities, including the Bate Building, which has been home to the English Department for over thirty years now. And I’ve marveled at the extraordinary number of new courses and programs both within the department and across the campus.

Yet amidst those changes, there has been one constant: The Department’s role in fostering critical inquiry, responsible research, and effective writing in an environment conducive to the open and mutually respectful exchange of ideas about issues that matter.

The best measure of its value has been the accomplishments of our graduates. They include a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for The Washington Post; the president of her class at the Brody School of Medicine; the graduate of a prominent law school who published in her school’s law review an essay on Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper,” which she had written in one of her undergraduate English classes; and countless others who have excelled as teachers; writing program administrators; poets, novelists, and other creative artists; technology specialists; business and community leaders; and in other endeavors too numerous to name.

I expect nothing less from the class of 2019 and look forward to learning of your accomplishments in the years ahead.

But today I’d like to give the final word to one of my favorite authors, Henry David Thoreau, who had this to say about his reasons for leaving the place he loved, Walden Pond: “I left the woods for as good a reason as I went there. Perhaps it seemed to me that I had several more lives to live and could not spare any more time for that one.”

My wish for all of you is that all your lives have been and will continue to be as rich and rewarding as mine.

Thank you.
Message from the Editor: Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

Attaining a degree in English is a lifelong treasure with unlimited possibilities. Graduates from our programs have become editors and bookstore owners, businesspeople and prize-winning authors, teachers and embassy specialists. And with this issue, we have expanded our biannual newsletter to more fully celebrate not only our current colleagues’ accomplishments but those of our students and alumni.

If you graduated from or have ever taught in our department, we would love to share your professional successes. Visit our newly designed website – English.ecu.edu – and click on “contact us” to submit your information. Be sure to let us know what degree(s) you earned and/or in what year(s) you graduated or taught. (We are looking forward to following the career paths awaiting the 44 BA students, 20 MA students, and 7 newly minted doctors who graduated in the spring!)

While you are exploring the site, please consider helping with our departmental priorities, including student scholarships, awards for graduate students, student travel funds, and study abroad opportunities. Your donation to the English PhD Program Priority Fund, English Scholarship Pool, English Graduate Student Professional Development Fund, or English General Fund will make a difference for ECU English students. The “Make a Gift” button will take you to the donation form. Most importantly: Whatever you do and wherever you are…Go English!

The Fine Print

If we missed any news-worthy events that took place before May 5, 2019, or – gasp! – made an error, please forward the editor a gentle note at dudasikwiggsc@ecu.edu.

Student & Alumni News

Scholarships & Fellowships Awarded in the Spring

Dylan Allen • Senior majoring in English
    University Book Exchange Scholarship in English

Laura Bardin • English MA student in the Creative Writing Concentration
    Ebbs Graduate English Fellowship

Kelsey Burroughs • PhD student in Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional Communication
    Ebbs Graduate English Fellowship

Alyssa Coleman • Senior majoring in English
    McKinley and Barbara Price Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship

Matthew Jennette • Senior double majoring in English and English Education
    Charles and Patricia Moore Scholarship in English

Rebekah Shimer • Senior double majoring in English and English Education
    McKinley and Barbara Price Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship

Erika Takeda • Junior majoring in English
    Russell Christman Memorial Scholarship

“Goeth English!”