



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of English

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



REAVIS NEWSLETTER

NIU DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
2022-2023

On the cover:

English major **Bridgette Fox** at the Exploring English Fair. Fox was also the vice president of NIU's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta and managing editor of *Stonehouse Academic Journal*.



Mission III congratulates outstanding Graduate Student Awardee Mina Rajaei Moghadam, pursuing an M.A. in English.

REAVIS NEWSLETTER

NIU DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH 2022-2023

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From the Chair



Scott Balcerzak,
professor of English and
department chair.

Hello, friends. The 2022–2023 academic year has been an exciting time for English at Northern Illinois University. As we transitioned from the pandemic era, on-campus classes and events returned with great enthusiasm. Our dedicated faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants worked tirelessly to foster an engaging and productive learning community in Reavis Hall. Students enjoyed our in-person Exploring English

Fair, Showcase for Student Writing, Unrehearsed Players, First-Year Composition and Undergraduate/Graduate Award Ceremonies and other events.

We are grateful for the support we receive from donations to our funds at the NIU Foundation. Those donations allow us to support our teaching, research and student engagement missions. We are thankful for the support of alumni and friends of the department.

English has an outstanding leadership team: **Melissa Adams-Campbell**, director of undergraduate studies; **Alexandra Bennett**, director of graduate studies; and **Ryan Shepherd**, director of First-Year Composition. In addition, **Beth McFarland-Wilson** coordinates the secondary teacher licensure programs in English and assists with the undergraduate major programs, and **Timothy Ryan**, job placement coordinator, mentors graduating Ph.D. students.

Our department remains lucky to have an amazing support staff. We saw the return of two beloved members of our English family to Reavis Hall in 2022. Keeping our department running smoothly, **Angie Gasero** returned to the role of office administrator. **Jodi**

Long also returned to support first-year composition. **Dawn Sibley** continues to serve as graduate and undergraduate office manager and **Dawn Galbreath** remains as an office support associate.

Ryan Shepherd joined NIU's English faculty in fall 2022 as director of first-year composition, replacing **Michael Day**, who retired after over 20 years of service to the university. Shepherd — along with **Ellen Franklin** and **Eric Hoffman**, assistant directors of first-year composition — skillfully led the first-year composition program this year. Fall 2022 saw the launch of zero-cost textbooks for English 103 and 203 classes, easing the burden on first-year students. This initiative, as well as the efforts of the entire English faculty, was recognized by the university's Course Materials Affordability Task Force. The first-year program also saw a lively in-person open mic event and two first-year writing award ceremonies. Additionally, the 14th annual Showcase for Student Writing, organized by doctoral student **Faye Scott**, was a great success.

The Department of English continues to remain committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive learning community. Our **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Committee** became a standing department committee during the academic year. Committee chair **Melissa Adams-Campbell** led many initiatives, including administering a department climate survey to students, awarding the “Fostering Belonging” award to celebrate student contributions in promoting inclusion, and expanding professional development and training opportunities for faculty and graduate teaching assistants. Other departmental initiatives included increasing diverse course offerings through the newly established diverse literatures requirement for multiple M.A. areas and updating our student learning outcomes to promote equity-focused programmatic assessment. Also, this year saw an increase in diverse graduate and

undergraduate course offerings such as immigrant literature, LGBTQ+ drama, Marvel's Black Panther and Black Atlantic contexts, Latina/Latino literature and feminist criticism by women of color.

Our English faculty continued to produce well regarded books and journal articles in the areas of literature, media, rhetoric and writing, creative writing, linguistics and secondary education in English Language Arts. Also, emeritus faculty member **John Knapp** continues to edit the academic journal *Style*. You will learn more about the books authored by our faculty within this newsletter.

NIU English students produce three annual publications: *Towers Magazine* for creative writing, *Stonehouse Academic Journal* for student scholarly writing, and *Contemporary Voices*, an anthology of work by students in our developmental writing classes. NIU English majors also maintain an active chapter in Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society, which continues to call NIU its home institution. **Timothy Crowley** serves as our chapter's faculty mentor. Graduate students **Amani Alsharief** and **Karina Diaz** organized a virtual Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language and Media (MCLLM) on the topic of "Ethnic Images: Between Art and Reality," which brought scholars focused on diversity and equity-minded issues together for an engaging virtual conference.

Please read on to learn more about our faculty, staff, students and alumni. To keep up with the latest department news throughout the year, check the English Department website (niu.edu/clas/english) and Like™ us on Facebook (facebook.com/NIUEnglish). Please also stay in touch via email (askEnglish@niu.edu), as we love to hear updates from our alumni and friends.

Enjoy the Reavis Newsletter. Go Huskies!

Scott Balcerzak
Professor of English and Department Chair



English majors Cody West, winner of the Mike and Anne Malone Award for Short Fiction and Robert T. Self Award in Literature and Film, and Kenny Hernandez, winner of the Fostering Belonging and S. Orville and Adra Baker English Scholarship.



Faculty Recognition

Michael Day received one of four 2022 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty awards. The CLAS distinguished awards are presented to members of the college community who are celebrated for their prominence in their professional field or through their civic, cultural, or charitable service, or who have made major contributions to the college and its reputation for excellence.



Michael Day, professor emeritus of English and former director of First-Year Composition.

Timothy Crowley won the 2023 University Honors Program's Great Professor Award. He will also be a three-time Honors Faculty Fellow come this fall. English minor Brenna Bretzinger, who worked with Professor Crowley on an Honors capstone project on classical Greek myths retold from marginalized women's perspectives, states, "Dr. Crowley truly inspires his students to engage in their learning and get excited about English."



Timothy Crowley, associate professor of English, receiving the 2023 Great Professor Award from NIU Honors.



Melissa Adams Campbell, associate professor of English, presenting on her Hains Teaching Fellowship "Chicago Literature" course.

Melissa Adams Campbell finished her Hains Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship, 2019-2023, used to develop "Chicago Literature," a general education course focused on community-based learning and engagement. On March 22, 2023, she gave the department presentation "Reading Chicago: Engaging Local Identities in the Gen Ed Classroom."



Ryan Hibbett, associate professor of English.



Angeline Stuckey, instructor of English.

Ryan Hibbett and **Angeline Stuckey** both won 2023 Curricular Innovation Grants, which are awarded by NIU's Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning to provide support for experimenting with innovative teaching methods. Hibbett will use the award to develop his course, Dub Cultures: Literatures and Music of the Caribbean and Black Britain, and Stuckey will explore ways to incorporate visual literacy components to ENGL 103 to support student success in writing skills development.



Department Recognition



Chair **Scott Balcerzak** (center) accepts the award for the department's low and zero cost textbook initiatives.

The **Department of English** shared recognition with the Department of Philosophy on April 6, 2023 for our Outstanding Effort by the Course Materials Affordability Task Force. 64% of our courses now require zero or low cost materials. The Department of English remains committed to promoting student success and equitable learning through offering coursework with affordable materials.

Exemplary Student Teacher Award Winners

By *Beth MacFarland-Wilson*

On May 8, 2023, the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awarded nine teacher licensure candidates from the five disciplines in the CLAS Educator Licensure Program the 2022-2023 Exemplary Student Teacher Award. Two of the winners were from the Department of English. We are grateful to Huntley Middle School and Bartlett Middle School for hosting them. We are also grateful to Amy Sayed and Michael Miserendino for providing these student teachers excellent mentorship.



Andrea Elion with Thomas McCann at the Department of English Award Ceremony.

Andrea Elion is a teacher who understands how to invite students into the joy of reading, writing, thinking and discussing. Working seamlessly with her cooperating teacher at Huntley Middle School, Amy Sayed, Elion demonstrated her care for students through her calm and firm engagement with them, her effective collaboration with colleagues, and her knowledge of how to align lesson activities so that students gained the benefit of a range of learning experiences during a lesson. Her university supervisor, Beth McFarland-Wilson, considers Elion not only a natural in the classroom but also a teacher who consistently, creatively, and effectively applied what she learned in the English Teacher Licensure Program.



Ryan Wyrobek (center), with supervisor Andrew Nelson, receives his Exemplary Student Teacher Award from Dean Robert Brinkmann (right).

Ryan Wyrobek, who student taught at Bartlett High School, was described as a teacher who has the “It” factor by his NIU university supervisor, Andrew Nelson. Wyrobek is a teacher who shows outstanding respect for and rapport with students as he creates a positive learning environment. His cooperating teacher, Michael Miserendino, described him as an enthusiastic, “passionate, and reflective young teacher.”

Graduate Student Recognition

Tiffany Messick (Ph.D., 2021) won the Graduate School's competitive Most Outstanding Dissertation of 2021-2022 in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and education category for "The Transcorporeal South: Bodies and Ecologies in Twentieth-Century Southern Literature," directed by **Mark Van Wiene**. Messick is currently an assistant professor of English at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, Florida.



Brandie Booker was recognized as a Carter G. Woodson Doctoral Scholar for 2022-23. The Woodson program promotes the entry of individuals from underrepresented groups into this nation's professorial and professional ranks. Booker was renewed for 2023-24 and **Karina Diaz** was also awarded a Woodson for 2023-24.

For 2022, **Anthony Salazar** was recognized as an Outstanding Graduate Student from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For 2023, **Karina Diaz** and **Mina Rajaei Moghadam** were recognized with the same honor.

Undergraduate Student Recognition

English major **Marie Harris** was recognized in 2022 as a finalist for the statewide Lincoln Laureate award. Marie has served as a volunteer for prospective NIU students both as an English Student Ambassador as well as a residence hall tour guide. She also served as a Living Learning Community Leader at Teach House and has tutored students in the English department's Writer's Workshop. In 2021-2022, she was a student representative on English's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism) Committee, where she contributed meaningfully to department programming.



English minor **Brenna Bretzinger's** Honors Research Capstone Project won third place among Humanities presenters at the Conference on Undergraduate Research and Engagement and received special recognition by the Honors Program. The project, "Feminist Retellings of Homer's *The Odyssey*, 2005-2022," was supervised by her faculty mentor **Timothy Crowley**.



Patricia L. Francis Awards for Outstanding Service to the Department of English



Ellen Franklin,
assistant to the director of
First-Year Composition

2022-2023 was a transitional year in First-Year Composition, one that our new director Ryan Shepherd skillfully navigated. The department recognized two individuals with the 2023 Pat Francis Award whose service proved instrumental to maintaining that program's standard of excellence:

Ellen Franklin and **Eric Hoffman**. With over 40 years in the program, Franklin's dedicated work with CHANCE students in our ENGL103P classes as well as mentoring instructors in developmental writing and guiding the Writers' Workshop is why English is known campus-wide for our first-year student support. After 25 years of service to the department, Hoffman continues to step-up to support our department in so many ways critical to our success. Along with taking a central role in steering the direction of our First-Year Composition, this year he took on even more duties directly training our graduate teaching assistants. He remains a critical reason why our First-Year Composition teaching assistants thrive inside the classroom as they welcome hundreds of new Huskies to campus every year.



Eric Hoffman, coordinator,
Networked Writing and
Research.

Faculty Retirement

Bradley Peters joined the NIU English faculty in 1999 and taught undergraduate and graduate classes in the theory and research of written composition, theory and history of written rhetoric, teaching writing for middle and secondary schools, and other areas. He also mentored many undergraduate and graduate students who went onto productive careers as



Bradley Peters,
Professor of English.

researchers and teachers of writing and rhetoric. As well as being an active researcher in his field, NIU English wishes to recognize his contributions to the department and the larger university community. Peters served as Director of Undergraduate Studies for six years, proving one of the most impactful faculty members to hold that position by, among other accomplishments, developing our popular Studies in Writing degree focus which now makes-up over 35% of our majors. He also served as Acting Chair and Acting Director of Composition. Peters was coordinator of Writing Across the Curriculum for eleven years, a program whose mission supported faculty and students as they integrated writing into their teaching and learning in disciplines across the university.

New Executive Director of Sigma Tau Delta

In fall 2022, the Department of English welcomed **Matt Hlinak** as executive director of Sigma Tau Delta. Hlinak is the fourth executive director in the International English Honor Society's 98-year history. He follows the previous director, **William**



Matt Hlinak, Executive
Director of Sigma Tau Delta

C. Johnson, distinguished professor emeritus of English at NIU. Hlinak has taught or held administrative positions at Northwestern University, the University of Illinois, Dominican University and Ellis University. Since 2014, he has also served as a member of the board of directors for Alpha Sigma Lambda, the national honor society for adult learners, including a term as society president in 2019-20.

Housed on NIU's campus, the International English Honor Society has over 900 active chapters located in the United States and abroad, there are more than 1,000 faculty advisors and approximately 9,000 members inducted annually. The society is also the proud sponsor of the National English Honor Society (NEHS). NEHS, a program of Sigma Tau Delta, serves students and faculty in secondary schools throughout the country and provides an outreach to thousands of students and faculty who share a commitment to excellence in English language arts.

Faculty Publications

- Baker, William, ed. *Wilkie Collins in Context* (Cambridge UP, 2023).
- Birner, Betty. *Meaning: Semantics, Pragmatics, Cognition* (Routledge, 2023).
- Bonomo, Joe. *No Place I Would Rather Be: Roger Angell and a Life in Baseball Writing* (U of Nebraska P, 2019; paperback ed. with new epilogue, 2023).
- Court, Frank. *Six Pioneer Accounts of Life on the Old North-West American Frontier, 1790-1850: A Critical Reading* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2022).
- Hibbett, Ryan, ed. *Lit-Rock: Literary Capital in Popular Culture* (Bloomsbury, 2022).
- May, Brian. *1948: A Critical and Creative Prequel to Orwell's 1984* (U of Exeter P, 2023).
- McCann, Thomas M., Elizabeth A. Kahn, Sarah Hochstetler, and Dianne Chambers. *On the Case in the English Language Arts Classroom: Situations for the Teaching of English* (National Council of Teachers of English, 2022).
- McCann, Thomas M., and John V. Knapp. *Teaching Literature in High School: Principles into Purposeful Practice* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022).
- Newman, Amy. *An Incomplete Encyclopedia of Happiness and Unhappiness* (Persea Books, 2023).
- Libman, Dan. *Book of Grudges* (Spuyten Duyvil, 2023).

Student Scholarship and Award Winners

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends of the English department, students who excel academically continue to receive awards and scholarships to ease their financial challenges. The 2021-22 and 2022-23 award winners and scholarship recipients include the following:

Undergraduate English Majors

Charles W. Hagelman, Jr. Scholarship for Study in Oxford

Sara Schaefer (2023).
Kate Seimetz, Katie Wright, Jared Zilnic (2022).

Russell and Jeanne During Family Fund Scholarship

Alissa Williams (2023).

John C. and Judith M. Gurley Endowed English Scholarship

Sara Schaefer (2023).
Mariah Edison (2022).

S. Orville and Adra Baker English Scholarship

Kenny Hernandez (2023).
Sean Brown (2022).

Rosalie Hewitt Scholarship in English

Alison Pinion, Naya Haller (2023).
Grace Sharp (2022).

Marjorie K. Winters Department of English Scholarship Fund

Hunter Kaltenback (2023).

Lynne Waldeland Scholarship in English

Kyndall Jackson (2023).
Michael Belmontez, Naya Haller (2022).

David and Linda Nelson Endowed English Scholarship

Faith Kocher (Spring 2023).
Christine Zugay (Fall 2022).
Sarah Bevan, Emily Lejman, Stephanie Tepinski (Spring 2022).
Monica Acevedo, Faith Kocher (Fall 2021).

Orville Baker Essay Award

Piper Martin (2023, first place), Grace Sharp (2023, Co-second place), Colleen Davidson (2023, Co-second place).
Brenna Bretzinger (2022, first place), Bisola Bello (2022, second place), Christine Zugay (2022, third place).

William C. Johnson Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship

Simona McDonald (2023).
Brooke Hale (2022).

Fostering Belonging

Priscilla Asare, Kenny Hernandez (2023).
Marie Harris (2022).

Richard H. Howland Award for Poetry Writing

Amarachi Nwawueze, Sara Strong (2023).
Stephanie Padilla, Sakina Shabbir (2022).

Mike and Anne Malone Award for Short Fiction

Cody West (2023).
Maxwell Reardon (2022).

Robert T. Self Award in Literature and Film

Cody West (2023).
Margaret O'Donnell (2022).

Jeannie A. Hains Award for Teacher Licensure in English

John Aubert, Grace Connors, Stephanie Padilla (2023).
Sarah Bevan, Aaron Garcia, Allison Jasinski (2022).

Exemplary Student Teacher Award

Andrea Elion, Ryan Wyrobek (2023).
Kade Bennett, Kristen Sedlacek (2022).

Outstanding Senior GPA

Carley Ackland, Anna Borzuta, Sean Brown, Benjamin Hanley, Faith Kocher, Stephanie Padilla, Tiphany Schlau, Ryan Wyrobek (2023) Emmanuel Arevalo, Doria Brown, Mariah Edison, Daniel Engstrom, Nick Glover, Jordanelle Goldman, Benjamin Hanley, Nicholas Kubik, Jessica Milner, Cody West (2022).

Student Scholarship and Award Winners (continued)

Graduate Students:

Arnold B. Fox Graduate Research Writing Award

John Paul O. Dela Rosa (Spring 2023, first Place);
John Mason (Spring 2023, Honorable Mention).
John Paul Dela Rosa (Fall 2022, first Place);
Richard Thompson (Fall 2022, Honorable Mention).
Sata Prescott (Spring 2022, first Place);
Richard Thompson (Spring 2022, Honorable Mention).
Richard Thompson (Fall 2021, first Place); Sarah Hands
and Sata Prescott (Fall 2021, Honorable Mention).

Harlan R. Teller Dissertation Award

Alisa Burris (2023).
Tiffany Messick (2022).

Mary Suzanne Schriber Junior Scholar Award

Justina Clayburn (2022-23).
Alisa Burris (2021-22).

Robert T. Self Graduate Award for Dissertation Support

Joshua Sopiarcz (2023).
G. Jeff O'Malley (2022).

Fostering Belonging

Rachel Kurasz (2023).
Anthony Salazar (2022).

Graduate Director's Awards for Exemplary Contribution to the Program

Karina Diaz, Amani Alsharief (2023).
Heavyn Lester, Rachel Kurasz (2022).



Student Scholarship and Award Winners (continued)

First-Year Composition

Jenefer M. Giannasi Award for Excellence in Teaching First-Year Composition

Angeline Stuckey (2023).
Caitlin Gamble (2022).

Director's Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award for Excellence in Teaching First-Year Composition

Faye Scott (2023).
Marcy Bock Eastley (2022).

Gail White Award for Excellence in Tutoring

Patricia Rickett, Katherine Benson (2022).

Queen Victoria Hardison Award for Excellence in Tutoring

Fatimah Mitchell, Abby Deewaard (2023).
Marie Harris, Christopher Wright (2022).

Maude Uhland Award for Excellence in First-Year Composition

Claire Hamaker (2023, first place), Evan Malcore, Kelsey Neuman, Aubrey Robertson, Jalyn Tse (2023, second place), Connor McCormick (2023, third place), Evan Malcore, Cheyanne Quintanilla, Valeur Nkurikiyinka (2023, honorable mention).
Leslie Cabanas-Molina (2022, first place), Aaron Dennis (2022, second place), Quentin Stewart (2022, third place), Rebekah Steele (2022, honorable mention).

Jan Kiergaard Award for Excellence in First -Year Composition

Omar Alshuredah (2023, first place), Omar Alshuredah (2023, second place), Valeur Nkurikiyinka (2023, third place).
Zongjie Lei (2022, first place), Linna Sophea (2022, second place).

Mae Thomas Award for Excellence in First -Year Composition

Allona Henderson (2023, first place), Janiyah Taylor (2023, second place), Tony Olvera (third place), Lark, Brandon Zenon (2023, honorable mention).
Sawyer Stein (2022, first place), Princess Rogers (2022, second place), Cece Dallas (2022, third place).



2022-2023 English M.A. and Ph.D. Graduates

M.A.

Kayla Banac, Hanna Brown, Haley Follman,
Evan Schrader, Austin Slott, Shelby Tomassini
(Spring 2023).

Brianna Barker, Ashley Guzman, Julia Thornton,
Taryn Galasso (Fall 2022).

Anthony Blanco, Jr., Justin Burns, Jennifer Cintron,
Ellen Herrmann, Heavyn Lester, Ashley Palmer,
Athanasios Prokos, Dylan Simons, Andrew Terleckyj
(Spring 2022).

Ph.D.

Bryan Mead (Summer 2022), "Writing in Film Studies:
Poetics and Pedagogy."

Elizabeth Murray (Summer 2022), "Controlling Women's
Appetites: Food and Femininity in Victorian Literature."

Marcy Bock Eastley (Spring 2022), "Collaboration
Literacy in Technical Communication: Using
Workplace-based Teamwork Practices and
Technologies to Teach Distributed Knowledge Work."

Alisa Burris (Spring 2022), "In Search of a Homeland:
Jewish-American Women Writers and Their Struggles
with Cultural Alienation."

Anthony Salazar (Spring 2022), "Deconstructing Queer
Outsiders: Examining the Intersecting Identities
and Concerns of Contemporary Gay Ethnic
American Poets."

Other Department News

Our English faculty, staff, students, and alumni are consistently enhancing their academic and larger communities. Below are a few of the many exciting contributions and achievements from 2022-2023.



First-year student awardees at the 14th Annual Showcase for Student Writing.

In April 2023, First Year Composition held its **14th Annual Showcase for Student Writing** (covered in the **Northern Star**). We congratulate those recognized in the following categories: Artistry: Janiyah Taylor (first place); Charles Seelow (second place); Research: Riley Day, Akili Jones, Terrence McKinley, Andrea Perez, Grace Zolvinsk (first place); Naomi Kelly, Liyah Lowry (second place); Aaron Mitchell, Emily Fuller, Kassandra Salinas (third place) Director's Choice: Melissa Carranza, Samiyah Mull, Asia Nesbitt, Molly Schmidt, Maggie Thomas.

In January 2023, **Jessica Reyman** was named **Associate Dean of the Graduate School**. She states, "One of the things I love most about the new role is that I will have opportunities to work directly with students from across campus to help them overcome barriers and reach their educational and professional goals."

Reyman was also awarded the Eychaner Award, which recognizes individuals who have made positive contributions to social justice and equality on behalf of people who identify as LGBTQIA+.

In 2022-23, the library launched its History of the Book Seminar Series, which featured talks by two of our faculty. On Nov. 3, 2022, **Melissa Adams-Campbell** presented on "Representing Native American Women in Popular Literature: Tiger Lilly and other Women Warriors." On April 6, 2023, **Jeffrey Einboden** spoke on "Indigenous Letters, Islamic Lineages: The Legacy of Jefferson's Archives."

Gulsat Aygen was the keynote speaker for the 14th International English Language Teaching Conference, Middle Eastern Technical University, June 16-19, 2022.

Nicole Clifton chaired the first-ever Mahoney Prize Committee for best book on an Arthurian topic, for the International Arthurian Society, North American Branch, June 2022.

Scott Balcerzak gave the invited lecture "Stella Adler and the Thinking Actor" at the Stella Adler Studio for Acting and Center for the Arts on July 13, 2022.

Joe Bonomo was interviewed by BBC Radio for the Nov. 4, 2022 broadcast "Baroness Blood, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ian Jack, Hilaree Nelson."

Lara Crowley began her service in 2022 as Secretary-Treasurer of the John Donne Society.

Amy Newman was featured in **NIU Faculty Spotlight**.

Molly McNett launched a special fall 2022 class on Nature Writing, with field trips to the Lorado Taft Field Campus, located 35 miles west of DeKalb in Oregon, Illinois. Learn more about this course in this **Northern Star** article.

Dan Libman, in his role at WNIJ 89.5, the broadcast arm of NIU and our local NPR affiliate, was featured in **NIU Today**.

Emeritus professor of English, **Franklin Court** published *Six Pioneer Accounts of Life on the Old North-West American Frontier, 1790-1850: A Critical Reading* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2022).

The **Xi Delta chapter**, NIU's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, continued to offer its Unrehearsed Players readings of Shakespeare. Learn more about this event in this **Northern Star article**.

Cody West, English major, was featured in a **Huskie Spotlight**.

In April 2023, alumnus **Abbey Zink** (Ph.D., 2001) was appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at St. Cloud University, St. Cloud, Minneapolis.

Alumnus **Ting-Ting Chan** (Ph.D., 2017) was recognized in a **volunteer spotlight** by the NIU Alumni Association.

NIU Today featured a profile of **Katryna Weingart** (B.A. 21), who is currently a Golden Apple Scholar, a program that prepares highly effective teachers in Illinois schools-of-need.



Christina Marrocco, associate professor of English, Elgin Community College, with her novel *Addio, Love Monster*.

Alumnus **Christina Marrocco** (Ph.D., 2011), associate professor of English at Elgin Community College was the 2022 winner of the Chicago Writers Association Book of the Year Award for Indie Fiction for her novel *Addio, Love Monster*.



William McCoy, Ph.D., director of the Rutland Institute for Ethics, speaking to majors.

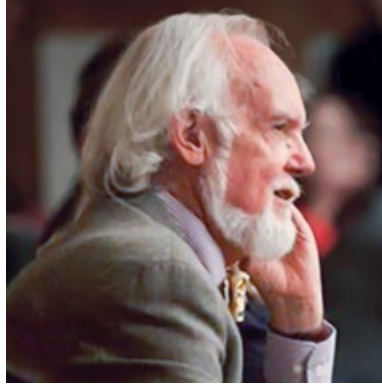
On April 13, 2023, alumnus **William McCoy** (B.A., 1992), returned to the department to give the talk “Making It Do What It Do: Maximizing Your Liberal Arts Degree for Success” to a group of English majors. McCoy is currently the director of the **Rutland Institute for Ethics at Clemson University**.



In Memoriam



In 2023, we lost Professor Emeritus **James Miller**. He had a long career at NIU specializing in Old and Middle English language and literature. Miller served as director of undergraduate studies and then chair, leading our department during a time when our major and faculty grew exponentially. Many recall his kindness as well as the fact he would commute between campus and Wisconsin to be close to his wife. In his retirement, Miller was a very active member of the Rotary Club, helping to create a scholarship program for Milwaukee area high school students.



Professor Emeritus **William Proctor Williams** passed away in 2023. He was a major scholar who published much on English literature and book history. Notably, he co-authored with Craig S. Abbott the widely-used *An Introduction to Bibliographical and Textual Studies*, which saw four editions. He began his career at NIU in 1967 and taught courses on Sixteenth-Century English literature, Milton, Shakespeare, Spenser, Metaphysical poetry, book trade history and textual criticism and other topics as well as mentored numerous young scholars. He also played a crucial role in developing our NIU at Oxford Program.



We lost **Ildikó dePapp Carrington** in 2023. She was an instructor in our program for 44 years. Carrington was also a recognized literary critic and was among the first to write criticism on the Canadian author Alice Munro in her book *Controlling the Uncontrollable: The Fiction of Alice Munro*. She also wrote fiction, receiving the award for Outstanding Short Fiction from the Illinois Arts Council in 1973 and the Novella Contest award at *Sou'wester Magazine* in 1979. After retiring from NIU, she continued to work as an editor with NIU graduate students and professors.



HELP US CONTINUE OUR LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

By giving to the Department of English, you are playing an important role in supporting students and faculty. There's a method to fit just about any budget, like annual giving or planned giving and endowments. For more information, please contact Senior Director of Advancement Laura Knight at 815-753-2390 or laura.knight@niu.edu.

There are several ways to make your gift to Northern Illinois University's Department of English.

Online: Make a credit card gift **online** (designate your gift to the Department of English).

By Phone: 1-877-GIV-2-NIU.

By Mail: One-time credit card payments or check gifts may be made using the **Gift Form**.

Alumni, let us hear from you! Share your professional news, milestones with us by emailing askenglish@niu.edu.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
Department of English
Reavis Hall 215 | 815-753-0611
niu.edu/English — facebook.com/NIUEnglish



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