



# #bsuenglish: Fall 2018 Review

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## A Letter from Prof. Cathy Day

After five years in department administration, I'm moving back to my "civilian office." Dr. Pat Collier was elected department chair in spring, but he was due for a sabbatical, so I kept the seat warm for him during Fall 2018.

Typically in these letters, I tick off our accomplishments and then, in a small paragraph toward the end, I ask you to maybe consider (if you feel moved to do so, of course) sending us some of your hard-earned dough. But since this is my last "letter from the chair" for awhile, I'm just going to start with the ask and spend some time talking with you about alumni giving.

### **Giving To My Alma Mater**

I'm a first-generation college student who had the opportunity to go to a pretty expensive school: DePauw University in Greencastle, IN. Education transformed my circumstances, and it's all due to the generosity of one Rolla M. Malpas.

He was an insurance executive from Lebanon, IN, who bequeathed all his money to help Indiana public high school students whose family circumstances would preclude them from attending DePauw for financial reasons. And since DePauw's tuition and room and board constituted most of my dad's yearly salary, I couldn't have attended that fine university with a 10:1

*Continued on page 2*

## Contents

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### Faculty News

Page 3

### New Faculty Profiles

Page 4

### Events

Page 5

### Student News

Page 6

### Visiting Writers

Page 6-7

student-faculty ratio any other way.

From Day 1 on campus, I understood that my education was the product of generous donors, and that once I graduated, I'd pay it forward. And for many years, I did exactly that. I went straight to graduate school after college, and my total yearly income of \$7000 (yes, that's right) came from a teaching assistantship. Broke as I was, I wrote a check to my alma mater for \$25 or \$50 every year, and I always earmarked the money for student scholarships.

### Why I Stopped Giving

After graduate school, I applied for a teaching job at my alma mater. By this point, the English department was featuring me on its website as a "success story." I figured, hey, I was a shoo-in for this job. But not only did I not get the job, I got a form rejection letter. I thought about all those checks I'd written when I was a poor grad student, and then I stopped giving.

Now, of course, I realize how foolish I was to get mad over this. Job searches are unpredictable, no matter how "perfect" you think you are for the position. The brand-new faculty member who contacted me for information to put on the department website probably had nothing to do with the job search, and the Human Resources officer who sent out the rejection emails had no idea I was the alum who wrote all those tiny checks for 10 years, nor did she know I had been featured on that one page of the huge university website.

Please note: As I'm writing this, I just logged onto my alma mater's website and made a donation.

### Giving To Your Alma Mater

The other day, I asked a group of students if they planned to give back to Ball State after they graduated. One said, "I don't want what little money I have to go towards, I don't know, a fence or curb."

If this worries you, too, give to the English department specifically. [Here are the directions](#). You can help us fund specific scholarships or give to the General Fund, 2701. I know that "General Fund" might sound dangerously close to "Fence Fund," so let me explain.

The General Fund is how we:

- Pay for expenses when graduate and undergraduate students travel to conferences—whether it's as close as Taylor or Butler University, or as far away as Tampa, FL, or Portland, OR, or Dublin, Ireland!
- Bring a documentary to screen on campus.
- Buy pizza, cookies, etc. for special student events.
- Taking visiting writers or lecturers out to dinner with faculty and students.
- Lots of other things that help ensure student success.

If you don't have a lot of money to spare, no big deal. You'd be surprised at how much a bunch of small gifts of \$10 or \$25 can help!

If there's something that happened to you while you were in school or that's happened since that kind of sticks in your craw and makes you resist making



a gift, tell us about it. Maybe there's a way to resolve things so we can be on good terms again. Nothing would make me happier.

### Give Your Time And Expertise

The English department needs your expertise, too. After our last alumni newsletter went out, Lydia Storie got in touch with us. She graduated back in 2006 and works now in the entertainment industry. She mentioned to me that she was going to be in Muncie in October and offered to speak with students. Now, one of our screenwriting students is interviewing for a summer internship at Lydia's production company, and she's offered to Skype into classes!

I've loved serving this department and its students, and I thank you for reading this letter. Please consider a small gift, because it really does make a difference.

Best,  
Prof. Cathy Day  
cday@bsu.edu

# Faculty News: Presentations and Publications

**Susanna Benko** and her colleagues **Emily Hodge** and **Serena Salloum** completed a project for New America and the International Society for Technology in Education.

**Frank Felsenstein** published “Against the Odds: The Jew in the Medieval Mind.” It was published in *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, vol. 108:3, summer 2018, pp. 389-399.

**Kathryn S. Gardiner** was named a quarterfinalist in the Diversity category of the Final Draft Big Break Screenwriting Contest for her feature-length screenplay, “The Art of Yielding.”

**Emily Jo Scalzo** was invited to read for the Big Birthday Bash of Second Flight Books, and for Armistice Day at Main Street Books in Lafayette, IN, on November 10 and 11. She has been invited back to Main Street Books to read for Small Business Saturday on November 24.

**Mary Lou Vercellotti** presented at the Indiana Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (INTESOL) conference on December 1 in Indianapolis. Her presentation guides instructors in the creation of rubrics for their classroom assessments.

**Kathryn Ludwig** presented a paper at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Triennial Conference in Denver on November 9. Kathryn’s paper was entitled “Race, Gender and Sacred Violence in Morrison’s *Paradise*.”

research on makerspaces at the Cultural Rhetorics conference at Michigan State University on November 16. Her talk was titled: “Makerspaces as Catalysts of Cultural Change in Post-Industrial Cities.”

**Alex Kaufman** co-edited a new volume of essays, *Robin Hood and the Outlaw/ed Literary Canon* (New York and London: Routledge, 2018), to which he also co-authored the introduction.

**Patrick Collier** presented “The Languages of Cultural Prestige in *The Bookman* and *The London Mercury*” at the Modernist Studies Association conference in Columbus, OH, on November 10. Also, his 2016 book *Modern Print Artefacts: Material Textuality and Literary Value in British Print Culture* was noted in the recently published *Year’s Work in English Studies* from Oxford University Press.

**Molly Ferguson** published a chapter in the edited collection *Irish Urban Fictions* (Palgrave): “Migrants in the City: Dublin Through the Stranger’s Eyes in Hugo Hamilton’s *Hand in the Fire*.”

**Sreyoshi Sarkar** published an article titled “The Art of Postcolonial Resistance and Multispecies Storytelling in Malik Sajad’s Graphic Novel Munnu: A Boy From Kashmir” in the *South Asian Review*.

in summer and fall issues of *Gulf Coast*, *Slice Magazine*, *FIELD*, and *Cream City Review*. He will also be presenting on a panel at the AWP conference in Portland, OR, this spring.

**Andrea Wolfe’s** article, “The Narrative Power of the Black Maternal Body: Resisting and Exceeding Visual Economics of Discipline in Margaret Walker’s *Jubilee*” was published in an issue of *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory*.

**Deborah Mix’s** book, *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Gertrude Stein*, co-edited with Logan Esdale of Chapman University, is now in print.

**Darolyn “Lyn” Jones** presented at the international conference on Literacy, Culture, and Language Education held in Bloomington, IN, on the topic of “Unschooling and Equity Teaching Practices and Community Literacy: #blacklivesmatter.”

**Emily Rutter’s** first book, *Invisible Ball of Dreams: Literary Representations of Baseball behind the Color Line*, was published by University Press of Mississippi in May. Her second book, *The Blues Muse: Race, Gender, and Musical Celebrity in American Poetry*, was published in October.

**Michael Begnal’s** poem, “The Traitor’s Flag” was published in *Writers Resist* issue 71.

**Laura Romano** presented

**Mark Neely** had poems appear

## Allyson DeMaagd

We welcome [Dr. Allyson DeMaagd](#) in a full-time contract faculty position. She received her PhD in English from West Virginia University. Her dissertation focused on the works of Modernist women writers, including H.D., Mina Loy, and Virginia Woolf, and she will be teaching first-year writing.



## Roman Lesnov

[Dr. Roman Lesnov](#) is a visiting assistant professor who will teach TESOL and Linguistics courses. He received a PhD in applied linguistics from Northern Arizona University in May of this year. He has over 10 years of experience teaching English and linguistics in the US and Russia. He will be teaching in our MA and PhD programs in linguistics.



## Meet Our New Faculty

## Sarah Domet

[Sarah Domet's](#) debut novel, *The Guineveres*, was released from Flatiron Books in October 2016. She's also the author of *90 Days to Your Novel* (Writers Digest Books, 2010). She holds a PhD in literature and creative writing from the University of Cincinnati and will be teaching courses in fiction writing in our creative writing program.



## John Carter

[John Carter](#) is a 2018 graduate of Ball State University, where he earned his Master of Arts in creative writing and where he also holds a BA in English—creative writing. He's interested in using description and lyricism to bring a love of nature, farming, and the rural American Midwest to an accessible space.



## Join the #bsuenglish Conversation



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[blogs.bsu.edu/english](http://blogs.bsu.edu/english)



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We're now on Snapchat



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## In Print XIV Festival of First Books

March 20-21, 2019

### Featuring:

Chen Chen  
Nafissa Thompson-Spires  
Dustin Parsons  
Allison Joseph

## The Humanities Shine at “The Star Party”

On Monday, October 29, the College of Science and Humanities hosted the first ever **Star Party**. Based on the College of Communication, Information, and Media’s Super Party, the Star Party offered students interested in the humanities an opportunity to discover organizations and projects they can join during their time at Ball State. **The Star Party** featured organizations that provide experience in a variety of topics including philosophy, history, English, modern languages, and religious studies.

The event featured **Lydia Storie**, a Ball State alum who studied both literature and history. Storie currently works as the vice president of development at Muse Entertainment, a boutique international studio, and produc-

er of *The Kennedys*, *Tut*, *Bellevue*, and numerous movies for the Hallmark Channel. She educated attendees about the versatility of a humanities degree and how to turn personal passions into rewarding careers.

The next **Star Party** is already in

the works as the departments of the College of Science and Humanities continue to provide students opportunities to immerse themselves in the humanities and prepare for their careers.




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## Students Look to Their “Stars To Steer By”

The **Stars to Steer By** lecture series welcomes alumni and entrepreneurs to speak at monthly career development events. This series offers humanities majors insight into the wide variety of career paths they can take after graduation, as well as advice on how to use their humanities degrees to get the jobs they want.

The “**Start Giggling Today**” workshop explored the future of work and how a student’s humanities skills will allow them to succeed in the gig economy. Students learned about the future of the workforce, as well as how they can get real world experience while they’re still in school, like getting hired for an

internship that can provide a path to a full-time job.

The Stars to Steer By “**Languages: Your Career Advantages**” program focused on how students with skills in foreign languages can use those skills in their careers. Students learned the practical difference between translation and interpretation and how to pursue careers in those fields. The event’s speakers answered students’ questions about the world of professional interpretation and translation.

### Get Involved

**Do you have experience in a field you think English students would like to pursue?**

**Help guide students on their journeys.**

Contact **Cathy Day** at [cday@bsu.edu](mailto:cday@bsu.edu) or 765-285-8584 for more information on how you can be a Star to Steer By.

## Student Successes

**Maisarah Almirabi** (PhD English–applied linguistics student) had his paper, “Second Language Acquisition Metaphor Development” accepted to present at the Western Conference on Linguistics (WECOL) at the California State University, Fresno in November.

**Nuha Alsalem**, graduate student (PhD English–applied linguistics) received the Aspire grant for travel for the presentation, “A Multimodal Analysis of Saudi Arabic Television Commercials,” at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in Honolulu.

**Marissa Lockhart** (English–creative writing, Spanish minor) was awarded Best Presentation at Practical Criticism Midwest for her presentation entitled “Read, White, and Blues.”

**Leah Heim** (English–Literature, Anthropology and French minor) was published in the *Oakland Arts Review* for her creative non-fiction piece “Woman’s Work.”

## Marianne Boruch Talks Inspiration and Experience

On Wednesday, October 17, we had the pleasure to welcome poet, author, and teacher **Marianne Boruch**.

The prolific poet read works primarily from her newest collection, *Eventually One Dreams the Real Thing* (2016). She also read from *Cadaver, Speak* (2009) and told stories about her experience studying in the cadaver lab at Purdue University, which inspired the collection. The atmosphere of the reading was casual; as a reader, Boruch was relaxed and often humorous. After Boruch was finished reading, she answered questions from the audience about her day-to-day writing life and the experiences that inspire her poetry.

The morning after the formal reading, Boruch stopped by Dr. Katy Didden’s advanced poetry

writing class where she talked about her life and work and answered questions about her writing process.

**Boruch** has published ten books of poetry, three books of essays, and one memoir. She also developed and directed the creative writing MFA program at Purdue University.



## Pilgrim Souls

Inspired by the W.B Yeats poem “When You Are Old,” our new blog feature, Pilgrim Souls, focuses on current #bsuenglish students doing interesting things. Our long-running Stars to Steer By series tells our graduates’ stories to inspire and guide our current students while proving you can do anything with an English major. In the Pilgrim Souls series, we feature students who haven’t figured it all out yet, but are making the most of the journey.

Keep up with our Pilgrim Souls on our [new blog site](#).

## Alums Start Literary Journal

Turnpike magazine is a literary journal founded in July of 2018 by Ball State University alumni Matthew Swain and Natasha Chopra. Its editing team features Paige N. Price as prose editor, Matthew Swain as poetry editor, and Natasha Chopra as art editor. The magazine focuses on works centered on positivity.

Turnpike welcomes writers and artists of all backgrounds to [submit](#) their work.



## Poet Hanif Abdurraqib Breaks Down Barriers

Hanif Abdurraqib, poet and author of *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, read at Ball State University on September 27.

Before reading from his poems, a few students read their own poems to the audience. Afterwards Abdurraqib thanked everyone for coming to his reading on a Thursday evening. The lecture hall in the Teacher's College was completely full; students sat in the aisles to make room for more people.

Abdurraqib's collections of poetry and essays deal with topics such as the n-word, contemporary music and sports, and racial profiling. He is open about everyday threats black Americans face, as well as how he used music to find refuge as a teen.



The chemistry between Abdurraqib and the audience was comfortable and inspiring. He encouraged students to sit on the stage with him when the room became too full of excited attendees.

His poems and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Brooklyn Magazine*, *Muzzle Magazine*, and *Pacific Standard*. He is an editor at *Muzzle Magazine* and an interviewer at *Union Station Magazine*.

## Alumnus Jay Coles Returns as a Visiting Writer

Ball State English alumnus Jay Coles gave a reading from his young-adult novel *Tyler Johnson Was Here* on November 8 as part of his promotional tour for the new release.

Before the official reading that night, Jay Coles joined a Ball State University English class to discuss his work in a more intimate setting. Students were able to engage with Jay one-on-one to discuss the topics of his novel.

During the reading held later that night, Ball State students were immersed in the life of Tyler Johnson and his experience with police brutality in America.

The book was inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement

and true events from Coles' life. Students were invited to a Q&A session and book signing following the event where they were able to ask Jay about his personal and writing experiences.



## Immersive Learning News

This semester, [Professor Lynne Stallings](#) led a new immersive learning class meant to better understand standardized testing and assessment literacy. Students spent this semester working with the Indiana Department of Education to research and discover how the people of Indiana perceive standardized testing. This program aims to inform families and students about the benefits of standardized testing and open up the discussion about how testing can be improved to increase the academic success of each student. To learn more, visit the [Ball State Daily News article](#) on the program.