



English Matters

Working for Student Success

A Word from the Chair

We are sending you this Thanksgiving newsletter to tell you about all of the exciting things happening here in the English Department at Samford. Students and professors alike agree that the fall term has been rich with events and opportunities. We are thankful to have such a wonderful, safe place from which to explore a world of ideas and from which to launch a lifetime of learning and service. In the pages that follow, you'll read about the successes of our alumni, as they teach at Jefferson State Community College, the University of Tennessee, Martin, and the University of Oklahoma; as they write for the University of Florida College of Medicine, work as a news anchor for ABC News in Houston, Texas, or direct the public library in Oneonta, AL. You'll read also about alumni doing important work in France, Jordan, even Micronesia. We are proud of them and thankful to call them Samford English Alumni!

Our students have been busy, too, outside of the classroom, attending Coffee Conversations with visiting alumni, fundraising for Sigma Tau Delta, attending BACHE Visiting Writers' Series events, participating in Film Club events, and publishing our fine department academic journal, *Wide Angle*. The halls of Divinity North are exploding with energy and creativity, and we are constantly looking for ways to ensure the sustainability of our growth. This semester we are launching a campaign to revitalize our Study Abroad Scholarship Fund, which we award annually to students wishing to study at places like the Daniel House in London or the University of Hong Kong. We hope you will continue your generosity and contribute to this fund. (See the information box to the right.)

We hope, too, that you will get in touch with us. Drop us a line or, if you can, stop by. We want to know what's happening in your world!

Dr. M. Brad Busbee,
English Department Chair



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We Need Your Support!

You can make a donation to the English Dept.-just note it on the memo area of your check. Your gift directly impacts the lives of current and future generations of Samford students!

Alumni in Action

Chris Hill, (BA '96) Associate Professor of English, University of Tennessee, Martin, where he writes about Elizabethan religious pamphleteering and teaching classes on Shakespeare, Milton, and other 16th and 17th

Century English writers. . Chris is married to Weslee Hill ('97). They have three children: Jonathan (10), Andrew (6), and Thomas (4).

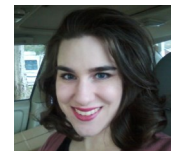


work with the Greater Birmingham Youth Leadership Development Program. She chairs the English Department at Jefferson State Community College, Valleydale Campus.

Kaitlin McCulley (BA, '10) was hired by ABC 13 News in Houston, TX, a top-ten-media market. She previously worked at CBS 42 news in Birmingham, AL.



Rebekah 'Bekah' Wood (BA, 2009)



recently accepted a position in Oneonta, AL, as Director of the Oneonta Public Library. Wood received her Master's in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama in May 2013.

Lizz Milne (BA, '13) is headed to Whitman



Academy in Amman, Jordan, where she will teach AP English Literature and 7th grade reading and composition to students from 17 different nations.

Christine Taylor Boatwright, (BA, '10)



works as a writer for University of Florida Health Advancement Communications, and writes alumni publications for the UF College of Medicine.

Kimberly Younce Schooley (BS '92, JD '95)



stopped by this summer on her stateside visit from Malawi where she and husband, Alan work with their foundation-Malawi Children's Fund. (Pictured here with Dr. Baggett.)

Dr. Stephanie Blackmon is now an



Assistant Professor at University of Oklahoma, where she is in Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, where she studies intercollegiate athletics administration.



Congratulations to alumnus **Dr. Liesl Ward-Harris** for receiving a commendation from Gov. Bentley for her

Special thanks to the following donors for their generous gifts:

Miss Sharon Brown, Dr. & Mrs. Sigurd Bryan, Dr. A. Wayne Deloach, Dr. Rosemary Fisk and Mr. Howard Walthall, Dr. & Mrs. Rodney R. Fitzgerald, Ms. Katy Flinn, Mr. & Mrs. John R. Halsell III, Mr. & Mrs. Scott B. Harris, Ms. Virginia H. Harris; Ms. Valerie Harris Hodnett, Ms. Ginnie Holcomb, Mr. & Mrs. Hovater, Ms. Jodi Hughes, Dr. Jamie McDaniel, Col. & Mrs. Robert Mullins, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher C. Newton, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Charles A. Parker, Jr., Ms. Kimberly R. Patterson; Dr. & Mrs. C. Ladell Payne, Mrs. Billie Pigford, Ms. Olivia Pollard, Dr. Sandra Randleman, Mr. & Mrs. Jason Roland, Ms. Brittany Ross; Mr. Nathaniel C. Sherrer, Ms. Joi S. Tribble, Mr. & Mrs. Bill L Wear, Ms. Jennifer Whitcomb; Mr. Roger Yiu; and Mr. Caleb Zorn

English Alumnus in France

News from Katie Little, English Alumnus 2014 who is teaching and living in France: "I have been constantly learning and adapting. Living in Strasbourg, France, or anywhere that is a foreign country as a young professional is a pressure cooker of life experience. Every day presents new challenges and (hopefully) new triumphs. I negotiate situations with landlords, bills, coworkers, banks, phone companies, and government offices in French, my secondary language. Most of these encounters would be tricky even in my first language, English. I also come away from normal conversations with friends and colleagues with new words in my vocabulary. Though this month has been primarily characterized by transitions and adjustments, I can already see the progress I have made and will continue to make in my language skills and personal growth."



Student Activities

Fall Welcome Picnic—was well-attended. A tropical theme set the tone



and the food, provided by 'Chef Bob' was a big hit.

Hayden Davis, senior, walked away with the grand prize (a mug with famous writers' caricatures on it) for his knowledge in the writers' trivia game. The event provided a good opportunity for all the majors and faculty to get to

know one another a bit better.

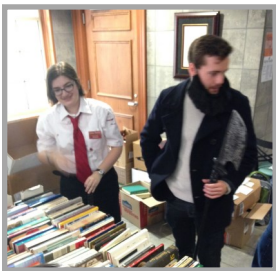


Coffee Conversations—kicked off with a visit from Caitlin Branum, former Sigma Tau Delta president, now graduate student of English at Mississippi State University. Caitlin talked about her grad school application and teaching experience. Then on November 6, two staff members of *Country Living* magazine described work in the print world. That Coffee Conversation had a record 26 people attend! Plenty of good information was passed along and great networking too.



Sigma Tau Delta Book Sale

This year's book sale attracted many buyers and was a huge hit. Many thanks to Dr. Rod Davis, who donated hundreds of books! Plenty of students (and even some faculty) stopped to ponder which books to purchase as they came to and from the Caf. Sigma Tau Delta members dressed as some of their favorite literary characters for the event. All funds raised will support the members' trip to the national convention to be held in Albuquerque, NM.



BACHE

Writers' Visits: Big Success



Our two BACHE Visiting Writer events this fall were a success! Chantel Acevedo (Auburn University) was a delightful, engaging reader and kicked off our series on high note (pictured above).

In November Tayari Jones (Rutgers University) read from her newest novel. Approximately 60 students, faculty, and members of the community attended each of these events. Dr. Kraft commented, "The success of the writers series is definitely due to all of the great participation by all the attendees and the faculty who encouraged everyone to attend. Thanks to all!"



Film Club Notes-

In October, Film Club had its first members' meeting of the year, as well as its annual Halloween screening and costume contest. This year, the club showed *Nosferatu*, the famous German Expressionist film. Film Club held a Screenwriting Workshop and Contest in conjunction with the Journalism and Theater departments. Additionally, Film Club hosted a screening event with Dr. Joel Davis (Samford Music Dept.), who was the sound designer for the films shown. Dr. Carlo Chiarenza spoke at a Film Club screening of *The Great Beauty* for International Education Week.





Look for the next edition to arrive in early December. Go to: <http://howard.samford.edu/english/wideangle/list.aspx?i=1&v=3> to read the latest issue. Join us on December 5th at 1 pm for a party to celebrate the unveiling of the fall issue. Come to the English Dept. hall—the party will be in DIV N 305.



Majors Connection Fair: Department Chair, Dr. Brad Busbee, joined with English Majors in Ben Brown Plaza. Lots of majors wore the new department t-shirt!

Annie Kraus in Micronesia

Annie writes: Life moves slowly and quickly in Chuuk, Micronesia. I feel myself walking slower and having longer conversations with friends and students. Simultaneously, time races away.

I also had my first piece of fresh coconut pie last night. Wow! It was life changing. Mrs. Carl, who is our school nurse, made the pie. The piecrust was homemade and so light and buttery. Mmmm! I wish I could send each of you a piece.

Thank you for packages and letters and, most importantly, prayers! I have received several packages of food, clothes, and school supplies. I appreciate these packages so much! They make my week, especially when there is food.



Annie Kraus graduated in May 2014.

Faculty Matters

Brad Busbee- co-edited the International Journal *Grundtvig-Studier* 2014, published annually in Copenhagen. His book *Approaches to Teaching the Middle English Pearl* will be published by the MLA in the spring, and his article "The Case for a Sleeping Spell in *Beowulf*" was published in the academic journal *Medieval Perspectives*. In October, he presented "Theatrical Cannibalism, Holy War, and Psychological Warfare in *Richard Coeur de Lion*" at the *Southeastern Medieval Association Conference*. And he published a review of *Trolls: An Unnatural History* in the journal *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*.

Steven Epley's—"The Poet's Rapture, and the Peasant's Care": A Service-Learning Course on Eighteenth-Century British Laboring-Class Verse" will appear in the MLA publication *Options for Teaching Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Laboring Class Verse*.

Jane Hiles-received a letter of recognition for Sigma Tau Delta honoring the 55th anniversary of the founding of the chapter at Samford.

Keya Kraft-presented "Radcliffe, the Female Gothic, and the Disruption of Picturesque Modes of Viewing," *North American Society for the Study of Romanticism*, Washington, DC, and "The Figure of the Gothic Castle in Radcliffe's *Castle of Otranto*," at the *Alabama Symposium on Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Studies*, both this summer.

Julie Steward-a poem titled "Custodial Weekend" was accepted for publication in *The Midwest Quarterly*. It will appear this fall in a special poetry issue devoted to the theme of Work and Play.

Geoffrey Wright-presented "a kind of misguided archeology": The Iraq War and Postmortem Memory in Kevin Powers' *The Yellow Birds*" at the *RMMLA* convention in October in Boise, ID. Last summer he presented "Hobbes, Locke, Calvin, and Zombies: The Post-Apocalyptic Politics of Ethics in AMC's *The Walking Dead*" at the *YSBA conference* on "Answering Dystopia" at Regents Park College in Oxford, England, July 2014.

Fundraising at Homecoming

Samford's first-ever Samford Pet Photo Contest had the English Department competing with the best! Sadie the dog, whose mom, Virginia Harris is a Samford English Alumnus, was one of the finalists. Although Sadie did not win the contest, she definitely won a place in our hearts.



You can still make a donation to the English Dept.-just note it on the memo area of your check. Your gift directly impacts the lives of current and future generations of Samford students. Thanks for your support!

Alum Nominated for Prestigious Pushcart Award

Dr. Julie Steward was thrilled to note Drew Pomeroy, a former creative writing student, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, one of the most prestigious literary awards in the nation. The editors of *The Louisville Review* nominated his poem, "A Place to Sleep," which can be found on The LR website. From Samford, Pomeroy went on to earn an M.F.A. in poetry at Spalding University.

Drew is the second Samford grad to be nominated for this award. In 2012 Brit Blalock was nominated for her poem, "Epigraph for this Poem."

Pomeroy took several creative writing classes from Dr. Steward and Dr. Bryan Johnson. Dr. Steward said, "Our Creative Writing Concentration may be small but it's influential. Our students go on to do very big things. We are proud of Drew's accomplishments."

We Want To Hear From YOU!

Please let us know what you're up to. You can also send us your updated email address. Call us at (205)726-2946, write us at English@samford.edu, or just drop by.