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Department of English and Modern Languages

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From the Department Chair

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The Final Draft*, the newsletter for the Department of English and Modern Languages. As we, along with the rest of the world, are gradually emerging from more than a year of what would have been called "plague time" in the Renaissance, I am so proud of what our department's faculty, staff, and students have accomplished. Four of our majors presented at the West Virginia Literary Symposium, three presented at Shepherd University's Undergraduate Research Day, *Sans Merci* held a virtual release party, the Rude Mechanicals produced plays written by three of our majors in six live performances, and nine students presented their capstone projects virtually. This is a testament to our continuing commitment to our mission statement: We educate students to write well, think critically, and examine the world through the lenses of literature and languages.

On a sad note, our absolutely wonderful administrative assistant, Brenda Feltner, is retiring after 47 years of incredible service to Shepherd University. Her skillful management and friendly personality made the second floor of Knutti Hall a welcoming environment for students, faculty, and the public. We will miss her and wish her a happy, well-earned retirement.

If you would like more information about our department, be sure to visit our website www.shepherd.edu/eml and our Facebook page *Shepherd University's Dept. of English & Modern Languages*. And graduates: we would love to hear from you! Please let us know what you are up to.



Cecelia Mason

Dr. Betty Ellzey

Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages

You might find yourself featured in an upcoming installment of our "Alumni Spotlight." Whether you are a current student, a future student, an alum, or simply a supporter of our department, we hope you will enjoy reading about the exciting news we have to share.

Sincerely,
Dr. Betty Ellzey





Rude Mechanicals Perform Student-Written Plays

This spring the Rude Mechanicals put on three plays that were authored by student writers: *Dream Girl* by L Harvey, *The Bird* by Abi McClung, and *Wishing You Were Here* by Frank Santiago Cabrera. Watching plays performed and written by Shepherd students is nothing short of inspiring. Although things were made difficult by adjusting to COVID-19 restrictions, the Rude Mechanicals made significant adjustments to keep the spirit of theater alive. The community was still able to attend multiple performances of the plays and watch how the actors brought these student

writers' dramas to the stage.

Abigail McClung stated, "Writing *The Bird* and seeing it performed was such a surreal process. A huge element of the story is the protagonist's dreams, partly because I get many of my writing ideas from dreams. Seeing it from the audience's perspective was equally unreal as dreaming it up. The actors brought it to life in such a way that I could never have visualized on my own, and I couldn't have asked for a better group than the Rudes to perform it."

All of the writers and actors put in tremendous amounts of work to see these plays come to life, and they succeeded. In watching these plays, the audiences entirely forgot that they were written by someone they had an early morning class with or acted by someone they walked by in the halls of Knutti every day. The talent that is found within the Shepherd community continues to amaze and astound students, faculty, staff, and townsfolk! ■

by Emily Robinson

TOP LEFT: A scene from "Dream Girl" by L Harvey, featuring Olivia Stevens (l.) and Courtney Bell.

TOP RIGHT: A scene from "The Bird" by Abigail McClung, featuring Dannah Lohr (l.) and Olivia Stevens.

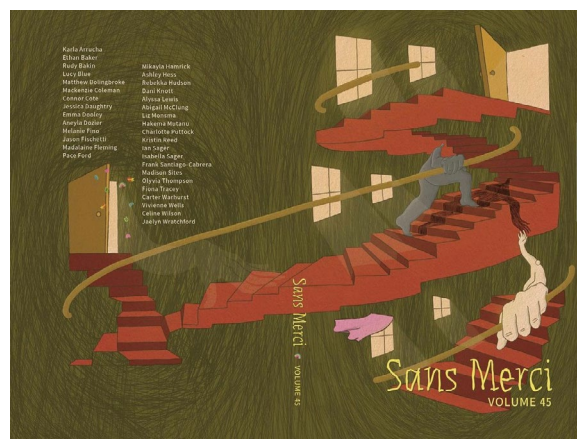
Sans Merci, Vol. 45

Sans Merci, a student-run creative magazine, has continued to thrive in the face of the changes and struggles presented throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. The editors of *Sans Merci* have released their second volume since the beginning of the pandemic, volume 45. The 2021 prose winner was Connor Cote for his submission "Border Calling." The runner-up was Kristin Reed for her submission "untitled." The 2021 poetry winner was Melanie Fino for her submission "The Sky Unfolding." The poetry runner-up was Madison Sites for her submission "Daydreaming." The 2021 art winners were Karla Arrucha for her submission titled "Conversación entre Niñas" and Mackenzie Coleman for her submission "Lovers." The art runners-up were Jason Fischetti for his submission "Chosen One" and Rebekka Hudson for her submission "Remember the Lilacs."

Sans Merci has allowed Shepherd's community of writers, artists, and poets to maintain their connections despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Fiona Tracey became an editor for *Sans*

Merci in 2018 and has served as senior editor for the past two years. "As a poet and lifelong literature addict, it has been a treat for me to read and curate the wonderful work of Shepherd students," said Tracey. "It's such an incredible feeling to have your work published for the first time, and I love being able to give that to the poets and writers here on campus."

On Wednesday, April 21, the first-ever *Sans Merci* virtual reading took place, allowing the editors and community to connect and hear the wonderful contributors read their work. The magazine also was able to reach a wider audience through its presence on social media and Issuu. com. While the editors hope that in the future *Sans Merci* can again meet and celebrate in person, the pandemic has allowed them to gain the knowledge that literature will continue to connect us, no matter the circumstances. Volume



45 is now available in print on the second floor of Knutti Hall and in a virtual copy form at issuu.com/sansmerci/docs/sans_merci_vol45.

■ by Olyvia Thompson



Remembering Dr. Charles Carter, 1942-2020

In 2020, the Department of English and Modern Languages learned of the passing of Dr. Charles Carter, a true legend in Knutti. Dr. Charles Wesley Carter was born in Conway, South Carolina. He was educated at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received his B.A., his M.A., and his Ph.D. Before coming to Shepherd in 1972, Dr. Carter was a member of the graduate faculty at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, and a full-time faculty member at his alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Carter's areas of expertise included 19th-century American literature; American poetry; English literature of the Renaissance, especially Shakespeare and Milton; and Classical literature and mythology. He regularly taught advanced courses in each of these areas. By invitation, Dr. Carter gave numerous poetry readings for the campus and the community over his distinguished career.

At Shepherd, he served on virtually every major standing committee of the University and as chair of a number of special administrative task forces. He was the first moderator of the Shepherd College Assembly, the first director of academic advisement (1997–2005), and was involved with promotion and tenure decisions on departmental, school, and university levels for a number of years. Dr. Carter held the rank of professor of English since 1985, and he also served as chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages from 1990 to 1993 and from 2004 to 2010. He was inducted into the Shepherd chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in 2000 and served the University, its students, his colleagues, and the community for

more than 38 years.

Dr. Carter was a lover of the classics like Shakespeare and Milton, and he also enjoyed teaching Greek Mythology. Though he was very much classically trained, he was also willing to keep up to date with newer theories and ask for recommendations from his peers. Dr. Betty Ellzey, his former colleague and current department chair, recalls a specific moment where he asked her for some feminist theory to read so he could familiarize himself with it. She also noted, "He mentored and encouraged me from the first day I interviewed at Shepherd. I treasured his advice and sense of humor."

Dr. Carter was a popular teacher, who was always willing to lend a helping hand and share his particular opinion on a given subject. He was a professional and a Southern gentleman through and through, with his respect for others always shining bright. This point is apparent in the way he always referred to people, namely his students, by their last name. Former students shared dozens of personal memories on the department's social media pages upon learning of his passing. For instance, Sarah Alouf Vogel-sang wrote, "Doctor Carter was one of a kind. Truly brilliant, so eloquent, and wickedly funny. I'll never forget reading *Paradise Lost* with him. And what an honor to have him lecture about his beloved Emily Dickinson! He was so loved and will be missed."

His impact is felt far beyond the classroom, as students reflected on how his classes prepared them for the professional world. Chris Garten,

who wasn't even an English major, remembered that "Dr. Carter was perhaps the most influential professor I had, and I majored in music! He taught me how to write, but more importantly, how to think critically. I still have and cherish the papers I wrote for him. He wrote copious notes on each paper, and on my final paper for English 102, he wrote how proud he was of me and how far I'd come. That was extremely high praise from him; he held every student to a very high standard, and that's why I respected him so much." In his online remembrance, he added, "Thank you for everything, Dr. Carter. I have reached my successes in large part because of you."

Another former student, Shannon Kraushaar, also spoke to his high standards and his passion for helping and developing young people. She explained, "Dr. Carter is the reason I am in the profession I have today, and a large part of why I am successful. I am heartbroken by this news. I will never forget his high standards, his passion for literature, or his soft spot and compassionate care for coaching young people to be the best they could be. He was a tough teacher, but he was always my favorite."

Dr. Carter also helped shape the next generation of teachers, including faculty he mentored. "Charles was warm and encouraging. I remember how he celebrated a publication with me shortly after I started teaching at Shepherd. He was happier for me than I was for myself," said Dr. Tim Nixon, professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages. Similarly, Dr. Joshua Cross, who is now a college professor himself, had this to say: "Dr. Carter was one of my inspirations as a student, and he later gave me my first job as a teacher. He was a wonderful man."

In April, the Shepherd University Foundation announced the creation of the Charles W. Carter Memorial Scholarship, created through a bequest in Dr. Carter's will. The scholarship will benefit students who study English, ensuring that he will continue to shape Shepherd students for decades to come. Logan Carter, his son, noted, "I am pleased that this gift will help my dad's passion for teaching and learning live on at Shepherd."

Dr. Carter will be missed, but there is no doubt that his spirit lives on in the passion that the Department of English and Modern Languages displays on a day to day basis. His high standards and rigorous expectations are a huge part of what makes the English program at Shepherd so successful along with every faculty members' willingness to nurture its students, just like Dr. Carter would have wanted. ■ *by Lane Simpson*

Modern Languages Independent Studies: *A Unique Opportunity to Learn*

For modern languages majors and minors, an independent study is a great opportunity to go beyond the typical curriculum and focus your studies. An independent study is a form of education where students can essentially create their own courses on a topic of their choice with the guidance of the instructor. They can choose their own path toward the information they want to explore within the language. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic and the new guidelines that have been implemented to ensure the safety of the Shepherd community, independent studies allow the students to work virtually and, as the name suggests, independently and practice being in control of their own learning.

Annabelle Guice, a communication and new media major who has a minor in modern languages, took part in this semester's French independent studies class. "Studying French Science Fiction was one of my favorite classes I took at Shepherd.



Annabelle Guice

I came up with the topic by picking something that combined both the interests of my major and minor," Guice said. "During the independent study, I worked closely with Professor [Rachel] Krantz on studying the development of the genre of science fiction in France. We started with Jules Verne and George Melies and worked our way up to the modern day, tracking how the genre and French culture interacted. It was a great class, and Professor Krantz was very fun to work with."

Celine Wilson, an English major with a concentration in creative writing and a minor in French, was excited to talk about her experience as part of Dr.



Celine Wilson

Krantz's French 419 Independent Studies class. "My independent study was on the evolution of the French dialect. I wanted to explore how a language like French that is so rigid with a whole governmental function to preserve it came to be," said Wilson. "It's really cool getting the sense of how much of a melting pot it is and how much history goes into its creation. I would definitely recommend an independent study to students. You get this freedom to explore this subject in your own terms with the learning style that you thrive in."

■ by Olivia Thompson



Faculty Highlights

In January, Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, professor of English, attended the virtual "Granting the Future" workshop hosted by the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC). The workshop explored creating networks among COPLAC members who can then apply for grants. Also in attendance from Shepherd were Dr. Jeff Groff, professor of environmental science, and Dr. Ben Bankhurst, professor of history. The three are currently planning future projects based on what they began in that workshop, particularly the development of Learning Communities at Tabler Farm, Shepherd's

agricultural campus. Additionally, Dr. Hanrahan's review of *Mark Twain in Context*, an anthology of essays edited by noted Twain scholar John Bird, was published in the latest issue of *Studies in American Humor*.

In March, Dr. Rachel Krantz, associate professor of French, presented a paper at the 52nd annual Northeast MLA conference. Her essay was titled "Starting Strong: Icebreakers for the Modern Language Classroom."

Yildiz Nuredinoski, lecturer of English, presented "Student Writers as Game Designers" at the

CWVWP (Central West Virginia Writing Project) 2021 Spring Virtual Writing Conference. She discussed how she teaches rhetoric through game design and argued that through multi-modal compositions (like game design), students better utilize the writing process and understand rhetorical situations.

Dr. Brian Santana, lecturer of English, contributed three chapters to the textbook, *Introduction to Literature*, edited by Jeremy Lrance (West Liberty University, WV), for the Open PAS-Sageways Initiative. This open-source literature

TOP: From left to right: Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, Dr. Rachel Krantz, and Yildiz Nuredinoski.

continued on page 5

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textbook will be available to high school students within the state of West Virginia beginning next year. Santana's contributions included one on the works of Washington Irving (with short essays on "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle") and another on Nathaniel Hawthorne (with essays on *The Blithedale Romance*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Marble Faun*, "Young Goodman Brown," "The Minister's Black Veil," and "My Kinsman, Major Molineux"). His final contribution to the collection focused on "Literary Allegory." Dr. Santana is currently working on two projects: one with Dr. James Pate, associate professor of English, is an anthology tentatively titled, *House of the Devil*, which examines cultural artifacts from the Satanic Panic. The second is another long-form essay that is tentatively titled "Internet Saints," which examines the recent beatification of Carlo Acutis.

In March, Dr. Eva-María Suárez Büdenbender, associate professor of Spanish, attended the "SOCARE International Congress 2021." She presented a paper titled: "Attitudes toward Mul-



ticulturalism in the Educational System of Puerto Rico." ■

TOP: Dr. Eva-María Suárez Büdenbender
RIGHT: Dr. Brian Santana



Sigma Tau Delta's Poetry Festival Goes Virtual

April is National Poetry Month, and traditionally Shepherd University's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, has hosted an annual poetry festival to celebrate. This year, due to COVID-19, the organization reimagined the festival as a virtual, month-long celebration on the Department of English and Modern Languages' Instagram page.

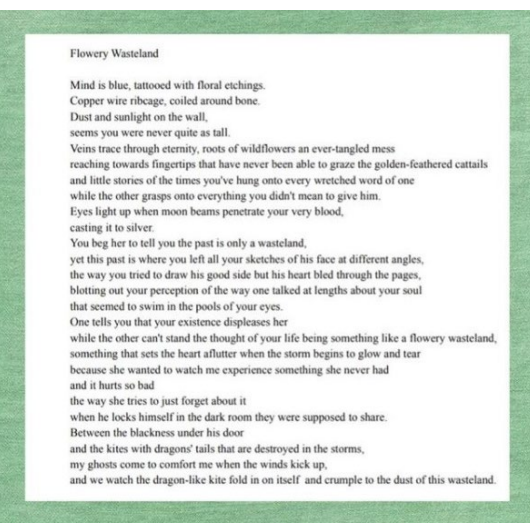
"For us, the Poetry Festival is one of the highlights of the year," said Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, faculty advisor to the group. "It gives students, faculty, staff, and community members the chance to come together to share their love of poetry. Since it isn't safe to hold this event in person, we decided to move our celebration online." For the entire month of April, members

of the Shepherd community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters, were invited to share poetry that matters to them. Picture and video submissions were welcome.

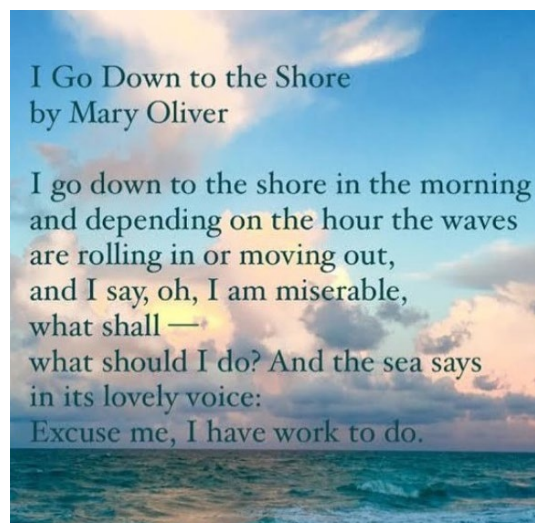
Sarah Seibert, an English major from Martinsburg and current chapter president, said Sigma Tau Delta was excited to host its Poetry Festival online because it allowed many more people to participate. "It [was] accessible to all our students, including those currently having to live away from campus," Seibert said. "Without a time constraint, people [could] participate whenever it work[ed] for them. This event was important because it reminds everyone of the beauty of poetry and writing, as well as how cathartic it can be to write a poem."

Olyvia Thompson, who as part of her practicum, helped manage the department's social media, helped Seibert manage the submissions. Thompson, who is a poet herself, was excited about using social media to share poetry. "In a time when so much of our lives has had to be changed to adapt to a new norm, I think it is essential that we use social media to continue connecting as a community and sharing the art of poetry," Thompson said. "The Poetry Festival showed that, through an online platform, we can still celebrate writing and its importance as a creative outlet." ■

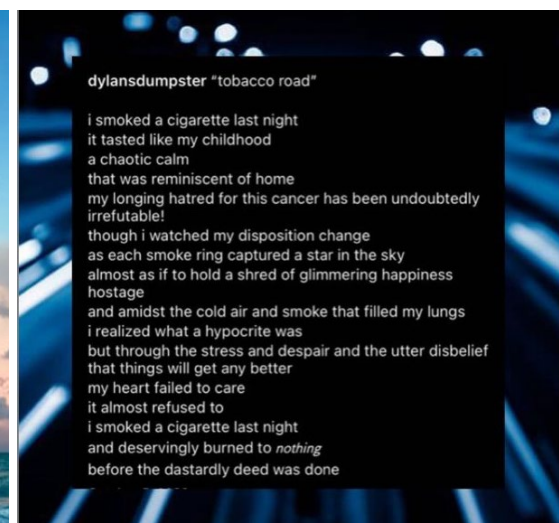
Those interested can check out all the submissions at www.instagram.com/shepherd_engl_ml.



Dylan Parry, a Business major/English minor, submitted his poem, "Tobacco Road."



Submitters often shared beloved poems by other poets. English alum Lauren Coffey submitted Mary Oliver's "I Go Down to the Shore."



English major Melanie Fino submitted her poem "Flowery Wasteland."

Shepherd Students Succeed: Sigma Tau Delta and Beyond

Sigma Tau Delta's New Members

In an online ceremony on April 22, Shepherd University's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, proudly initiated 10 new members: Mary Barker, Tanner Boeckmann, Kimberly Cano, Shelby Daugherty, Leanna DiFante, Chloe Johnson, Allyson Masterson, Abigail McClung, Olyvia Thompson, and Celine Wilson. Our chapter was also pleased to welcome Dr. Tim Nixon on board to serve as co-advisor with Dr. Heidi Hanrahan. In some of his first official duties, he led the students through the initiation ritual. Welcome, new members, and congratulations! ■



Ashley Hess



Isabella Sager



Sarah Seibert



Vivienne Wells

Sigma Tau Delta International Convention

Four English majors—Ashley Hess, Isabella Sager, Sarah Seibert, and Vivienne Wells—led a roundtable discussion titled “Metamorphosis and the Female Voice in Literature and Culture” during the March 26 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention, which took place virtually this year.

The students prepared a pre-recorded video presentation where each introduced her particular critical take on the topic. Hess focused on the

female voice in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. Sager examined *Cassandra*, a novel by Christa Wolf, while Seibert looked at Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*. They showed how female characters used silence strategically to access a new kind of voice and power. Wells focused on contemporary stand-up comedy, including Hannah Gadsby’s *Nanette*, and illustrated how that medium can be used to open up new conversations about voice and gender.

Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, the chapter sponsor, said with the shift to an all-virtual, all roundtable format, the application process for this year’s convention was particularly competitive. “After attendees viewed the video presentation, the presenters and the audience engaged in a lively, real-time discussion of the topic, building on the presenters’ ideas and extending them,” said Hanrahan, who served as the moderator and noted how impressed the audience was with the students’ work. ■



West Virginia Undergraduate Literary Symposium

Four English majors (Isabella Sager, Celine Wilson, Madison Sites, and Shelby Daugherty) presented their work during the 29th Annual West Virginia Undergraduate Literary Symposium, which took place virtually on February 27. Sager, Sites, and Daugherty wrote their papers for Dr. Heidi Hanrahan's seminar on Emily Dickinson, while Wilson wrote her paper for Dr. Carrie Messenger's British literature seminar.

Sager presented "Emily Dickinson's Paradoxical Variants: The Tension of Choice and the Other," which looked at ways the word variants within Dickinson's manuscripts affect the meaning of her poems. "My thesis centered on the words of scholar Sharon Cameron, who claimed that Dickinson decided not to choose when it came to her variants, and as a result, created an open-ended poetic realm," Sager said. "In many ways this invites the reader into the poem, yet the strong voice of Dickinson's speakers suggest otherwise."

Sager said despite the COVID-19 restrictions, participating in the conference was a wonderful experience. "Not only did I get to listen to other thought-provoking and enlightening essays written by other students, but I also was able to participate in wonderful conversations with professors and scholars," Sager said.

Sites gave a presentation titled "In Light of Emily Dickinson's Darkness: Fading into Eternal Rest," which explored the depiction of sunlight and darkness in Dickinson's poetry. Sites argued that although Dickinson recognizes that light and darkness are mutually constructive, she was especially disturbed by the blinding light of the sun and preferred a darkness that metaphorically fades into eternal rest.

"It was such a pleasant and wonderful experience," Sites said. "Had it been held in person, I might not have been able to attend. It was fascinating to hear others' passionate research. I also very much enjoyed being able to present and answer questions on the panel with my classmates."

Daugherty's paper, "Emily Dickinson: Representative of the Universe," focused on poems that are better understood by reading them through a lens of occultism. The paper focused on the poem "I Think I Was Enchanted" and sought to show how it describes a supernatural experience. Daugherty drew parallels between the poetic speaker in Dickinson's work to spiritual mediums as she exposed the poet for the pagan she was.

"I had been excited about my research all

throughout the last semester, and having the chance to share my literary perspective was truly delightful," Daugherty said. "Overall, I would describe this experience as eye-opening, as this was my first step in joining the literary community. I'd like to thank Shepherd University for providing me with this opportunity, and I hope to have many more in the future."

Wilson's presentation, "Virginity and Fairytales in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*," focused on the role of virginity in Carter's story collection. Wilson examined the significance of virginity in fairytales and how it is a tool that historically is used to oppress women. However, in Carter's stories women become empowered through their loss of virginal traits and body.

"I thought that the conference was really nice," Wilson said. "I enjoyed getting to be a part of an experience that celebrated literature and literary figures. It was interesting and enlightening to see and hear the different viewpoints my peers had about each of their subjects." ■

TOP LEFT: Celine Wilson

TOP MIDDLE: Madison Sites

TOP RIGHT: Shelby Daugherty

McMurrin Scholar

The Department of English and Modern Languages was thrilled to see one of our students, Ashley Hess (pictured right), be named a McMurrin Scholar, Shepherd's highest academic honor, this semester. Below, we share Dr. Carrie Messenger's citation for Ashley's award.

"Ashley attended Spring Mills High School. Her grandparents are Mark and Suzanne Santamaria. At Shepherd, she has been the heart and soul of our department. She was our fearless president of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honors society, during an incredibly challenging semester, bringing students together when we literally could not be together. She has presented at

three conferences and was accepted to present her poetry at the unfortunately canceled Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in 2020. She has been an editor for *Sans Merci*, Shepherd's literary magazine, and her poetry appeared in two volumes. She is both a poet and a scholar, and sometimes a scholar of poetry. Her essay on Ovid appeared in Shepherd's *Sparks Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Ashley was a Spanish minor and traveled to Cuba, one of her last trips before the pandemic. In addition to her other accomplishments, Ashley can drive a forklift, a skill that often came up in our capstone class. Ashley plans to attend graduate school to study poetry and work for a nonprofit. We are so



proud of what she has done at Shepherd, and we look forward to what she will do with her many talents." ■



Shepherd's Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors

The 2021 Exhibition of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors gives the campus and the greater community a chance to observe and appreciate the hard work of undergraduate students in numerous areas of study. This year's exhibition features the work of three students from the Department of English and Modern Languages. All three presentations are available at www.shepherd.edu/sri/undergraduate-research-exhibition.

One of the three presenters for the English program is Madison Sites, who shared her essay "Stuck Behind Dublin's Window," a study of James Joyce's *Dubliners*. Sites explained, "I decided to explore window symbolism and the theme of paralysis in James Joyce's *Dubliners*. Symbolism in literature has always interested me, so I very much enjoyed being able to examine it in such a wonderfully written collection. It's great to be able to share my work because I put so much time and research into it. I also really enjoyed seeing the student research across all departments!"

Frank Santiago Cabrera presented his critical essay, "Fantastic Creatures and Where to Find Them: The Animals of Emily Dickinson Vol. II."



Frank Santiago Cabrera

He notes, "I was never big into poetry, and I had yet to take a class that fully opened my interest of poetry. After I took Dr. Hanrahan's class, I became more invested in analyzing poetry, and I especially became interested in the animals that made consecutive appearances in Dickinson's poems. The poet had a great love for nature and its creatures, so I attempted to write an essay in which I try to show readers why Dickinson shows us animals the way she does in her poems." Santiago Cabrera appreciated the chance to step out of his comfort zone and share his work, saying, "being able to present was an amazing opportunity. I don't usually go out of my shell and share the things I write with the world, and this was my first time sharing what I had to say. It was very encouraging to see some of my professors pushing me to share my work on Research Day."

While Sites and Santiago Cabrera contributed oral presentations, Sarah Seibert created a poster presentation, adapting her critical essay to this new medium. Seibert explains, "As we read Philip Larkin's poems in class, I quickly picked up on the pattern of death and pessimism in his work. However, I also noticed that occasionally there were poems that were incredibly hopeful and beautiful, and I knew then that I had to write my term paper on those poems. . . . [M]y core argument was that Larkin's beliefs don't change when he writes a happy poem—instead, he emphasizes the thoughts in all of his sad poems by the use of juxtaposition." Interestingly, Seibert's essay connects to Santiago Cabrera's. She notes, "Larkin really loves animals and can empathize with them seemingly easier than with humans. I believe this could be because he was writing shortly after the Second World War, or Larkin happens to be sensitive to the evils of the human race. It's probably a bit of both."

Like Sites and Santiago Cabrera, Seibert is grateful for the chance to share her work, saying, "To be featured on Undergraduate Research Day was so thrilling—it makes me feel like my work really matters. And while I'm not studying it, I have a small interest in graphic design, so I enjoyed making the poster and making it look pretty. It's been a real honor to present on Undergraduate Research Day and represent my department."

■ Lane Simpson

Department of English and Modern Languages 2020-2021 Academic Year Awards and Honors

Outstanding English Major

Ashley Hess

Outstanding English Major, Creative Writing Concentration

Fiona Tracey

Outstanding English Major, Literature Concentration

Samuel Hosey

Outstanding English Major, English Education Concentration

Brandon Hagen

Outstanding English Minor

Elisha Pidcock

Outstanding Spanish Major

Dona Anderson

Outstanding Spanish Minor

Gabriel Maldonado

Outstanding Modern Languages Minor

Bianca Ison

Vera Malton Scholarship

Vivienne Wells

Nellie Gantt Owens Scholarship

Isabella Sager

Dr. Lee and Wanda Keebler Scholarship

Emily Keefer
Madison Sites

Catherine Fix Contest Essay Awards Outstanding Essays from First-Year Writing Classes

First Place—Krystal Rosario Cruz
Second Place—Emily Baker
Third Place—Kaitlyn Warren ■



Dr. Carrie Messenger

Capstone

As the 2021 English Capstone class comes to a close and all the students have delivered their presentations, I am impressed by all that we were able to accomplish this semester. As a student in the class myself, I was able to see first-hand how hard everyone worked until the very end. From brainstorming initial ideas for final paper topics, to learning how to conduct interviews over Zoom, all nine of us worked together to provide each other with as much support as we could. This semester, Capstone was conducted entirely online, which presented new challenges. Nonetheless, the professor for the course, Dr. Carrie Messenger, was still able to encourage and assist us all with the utmost kindness.

In spring 2020, when we were forced to finish the semester online, teachers couldn't expect everyone to be available for synchronous online

meetings, so most work happened via online discussion forums or one-on-one virtual meetings with Dr. Messenger. By spring 2021, though, both Dr. Messenger and the students had the capability to meet synchronously on Zoom, which made a huge difference. Dr. Messenger explained, "It is so valuable to see each other's faces. That's how I tell when a student is under stress!" She added, "Actually, except for the presentations, pretty much everything else is the same or has a Zoom equivalent. Zoom breakout rooms feel like group work in the classroom."

The students also enjoyed the experience and spoke with pride about their projects. Frank Santiago Cabrera explained, "I decided to edit and expand upon my play 'Wishing You Were Here,' which follows a young man named Eli as he travels back to his hometown to attend the one year death anniversary of his best friend, Peter." Santiago Cabrera's play, which was also adapted for the "Page-to-Stage" Rude Mechanicals' production, was just one part of his capstone experience, which also includes job-search training and compiling both an academic and professional portfolio.

For my capstone, I chose to write about Shakespeare's "The Tempest." It was my favorite play, and I thought it was fitting since it was Shakespeare's last play, and this was my last project. I am proud to stand among all of these intelligent and creative students as we presented our culminating projects as English majors here at Shepherd. With a solid mix of both literature and creative writing focuses, we had a wide span of topics that kept the class interesting and fun. I cannot wait to see all that my fellow students accomplish in the years to come.

■ Lane Simpson

THE COMPLETE LIST OF PROJECTS AND PRESENTERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- *This Woman Is Not Right: Female Antagonists in the Psychological Thriller Genre*
by Chloe Johnson
- *Rogue: A Branching and Variable Narrative*
by Christopher Douglas
- *The Key to The Bloody Chamber: Angela Carter's Unique Use of Femininity*
by Amanda Laitres
- *Hidden Hearth: The Stories of Appalachia and the Sediment That Formed Me*
by Mikayla Hamrick
- *Feminine Strength in the Bible and Judith: An Argument for the Biblical Heroine*
by Sam Hosey
- *Wishing You Were Here*
by Frank L. Santiago Cabrera
- *The Moral Neutrality of Death: An Analysis of Select Emily Dickinson Poems*
by Emily Robinson
- *Historical Art and Its Portrayal of Tempting Biblical Women*
by Amber Everhart
- *The Role of the Author's Voice in Shakespeare's The Tempest*
by Lane Simpson

Common Reading Essay Contest

Congratulations to Carter Warhurst (*pictured right*), a first-year English major, whose piece "He's Sure Walkin'" won the Common Reading Essay Contest. The Common Reading Program runs the essay contest every year, with a set of prompts prepared by Dr. Heidi Hanrahan. This year's Common Reading selection, *Walking to Listen* by Andrew Forsthoefel, resonated quite well with Shepherd students, especially those at the beginning of their college journey. Warhurst's essay spoke to this point specifically. He argues that the book is "perfect material

for liberal arts [students] as they learn about others and themselves. Forsthoefel may have gone to an extreme method for learning, but through his example, others can learn to examine their experiences and grow into who they want to be, understand the world around them, and maybe take a little more time to explore the world, take a walk, and listen." Warhurst received a \$350 gift certificate to the Shepherd Bookstore to purchase course materials. ■



Student Voices

This semester we asked our majors this question: What have you learned this year that you want to take with you moving forward?



Mary Barker: This year I learned that time management and organizational techniques are harder to maintain without specific structure and set schedules. Moving forward I want to hone these skills, to make them and myself adaptable to unpredictable times and challenges.



CJ Barney: I learned a lot about the process of writing and how the product is not the goal at the end of the day. I used to be very sporadic with my writing and attempted to do it all in

one sitting, but I've improved greatly at becoming more comfortable with my written work. Taking out blocks of time to get that done is essential, and I've made significant strides in that area. I've seen myself and my writing begin to flourish as a result, and I'm glad I was able to receive a broader perspective on writing this semester.



Clara Monson: Something I learned this year and will take with me moving forward is the value of communication. This is my freshman year, so I honestly didn't know what to expect in terms of communication with my peers and professors. In high school I spoke to my teachers, but I never really asked them questions about assignments or for help on anything. The same went for most of my friends and peers. I was never one to ask other people for help. I think that if I had asked fewer questions this



year, I definitely would not have understood/done well on several assignments. I emailed my professors/visited office hours so many times over the past year, and honestly that was probably the best thing I could have done to make my first year at college run a little smoother. It's definitely something I'll continue to do and something I would recommend everyone else do as well.

Christopher Douglas: I would say over the past year I've learned a lot about myself as a person and as a student. When working on my capstone, it made me realize how much I enjoy tackling new mediums and truly putting thought into how to take advantage of it. I have also learned that I'm adapting well to the pandemic so far, which makes me question how much I really get out. I've enjoyed what I have done so far at Shepherd, and I'll soon be gone, so I hope to do as much as I can with my remaining time.



Tanner Boeckmann: I would say that one thing I have learned this semester is to research, write, and revise early. I picked the topic for a long, critical essay this semester before midterms had even started and was already starting my research. I've learned, especially this semester, when it comes to writing papers, you need to start early! The end product for my critical essay was a beautiful, well-written piece that I am proud of. Procrastination comes upon everyone, but if you can avoid it, avoid it! ■

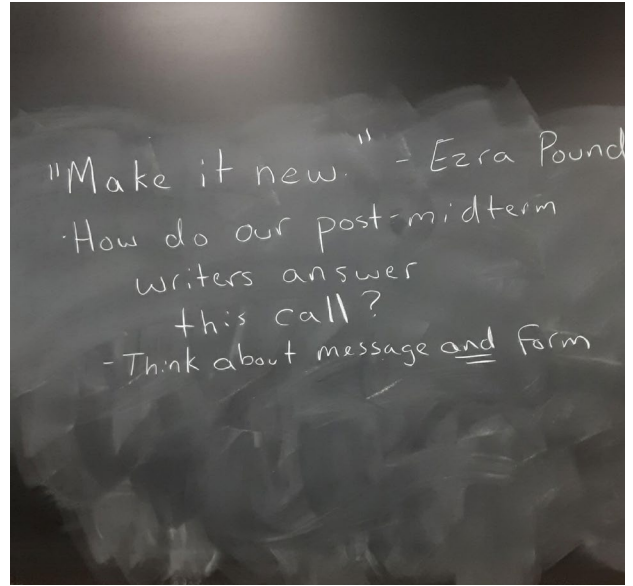
Glimpses Inside Spring 2021 Classrooms

As English and Modern Languages continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, our department offered courses in multiple modalities, including face-to-face, hybrid, online synchronous, and online asynchronous. We wanted to give you glimpses into some of those different "classrooms." No matter the modality, we are meeting our students' needs and delivering quality instruction.

FACE-TO-FACE:

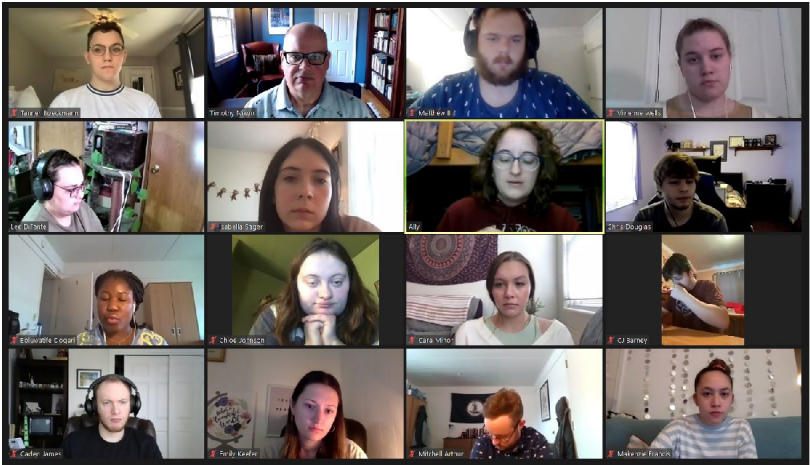


Dr. Heidi Hanrahan's masked-up, socially-distanced, in-person ENGL 204: Introduction to American Literature.



The chalkboard in Dr. Hanrahan's ENGL 204 class.

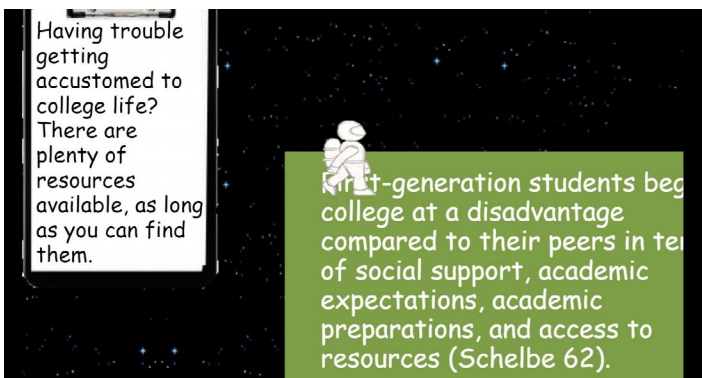
ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS:



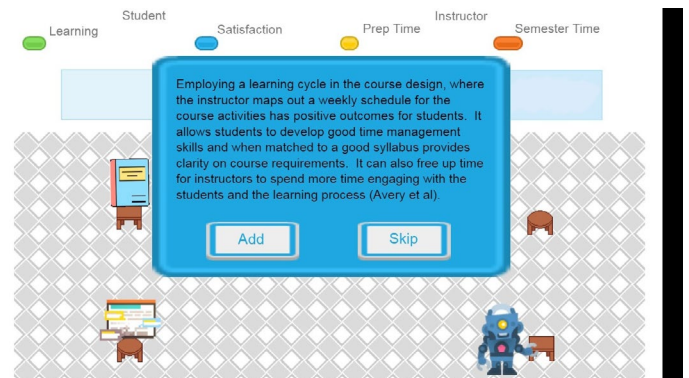
Dr. Tim Nixon's ENGL 406 class meeting via Zoom.



The book list for Dr. Nixon's ENGL 406 class, a seminar on Toni Morrison.



Students in Professor Nuredinoski's ENGL 102 demonstrated what they learned about rhetoric, research, and game design through their creation of individual video games. Here's a screenshot of Victoria Lassahn's game on first-generation college students.



Another ENGL 102 student, Shane Butcher, made his game about designing online classes.

About Our Student Writers and Editors

The content of this newsletter comes almost entirely from three Shepherd English majors who have completed the work as part of a practicum course they took with Dr. Heidi Hanrahan. Below, you can read a little bit about each of them.



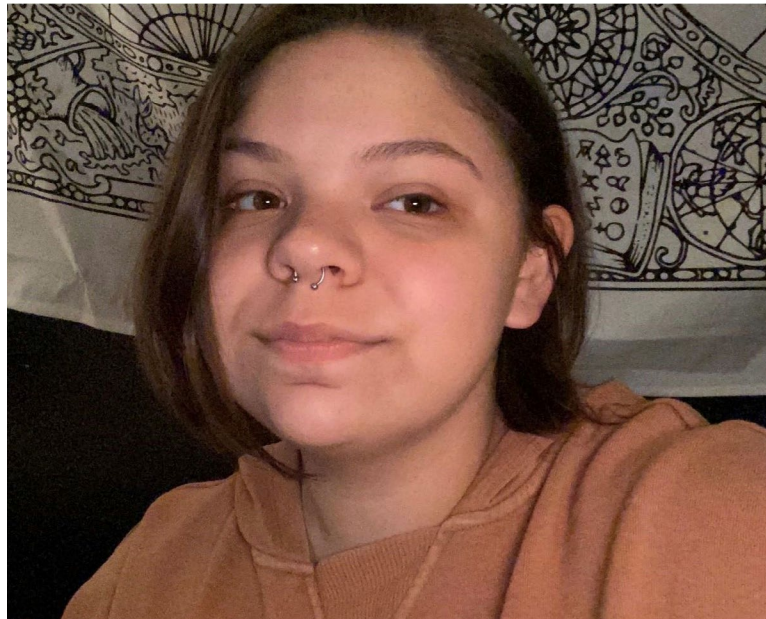
Lane Simpson

I started my education at Shepherd University back in 2013. In my long time at Shepherd, I have learned many life lessons that have helped me in the “real world.” I currently work full time as an operations manager for FedEx Ground at the Hagerstown Hub, one of the busiest in the country. The personable and compassionate atmosphere at Shepherd has helped foster the development of my people skills that are vital in the everyday duties of my job. Even though it may appear that my job has nothing to do with my English major, I am able to perform administrative duties and create and write company documents with ease. I also give motivational quotes and “food for thought” for my employees every day to try to give them something to think about and inspire them. I enjoy poetry, specifically Frank O’Hara and John Keats. For novels and short stories, I enjoy Stephen King and Edgar Allan Poe. ■



Emily Robinson

I transferred to Shepherd in the fall of 2019 and have loved every minute since. Although it is always challenging to be the new person, I felt immediately accepted by both students and professors alike. My time at Shepherd has taught me so much about what it takes to push yourself while still enjoying the process. I always thought I leaned more toward the creative writing side of things but have learned to appreciate the creativity that is required to write a research paper, to utilize sources to fit your argument, and to bring new opinions to works that may be centuries old. I hope to one day return to my education to perhaps be a professor myself and return all the support that I was given in my time as a student. ■



Olyvia Thompson

I am a junior English education major at Shepherd, and I am excited to have helped work on this semester’s English and Modern Languages Newsletter. I transferred to Shepherd in the spring of 2019, finding a welcoming and exciting home within my classes. Through my college career and the global pandemic, I continue to feel grateful for my professors and peers and the ways in which they have made me a more confident writer. This semester has taught me

how to be an active member in my role at Shepherd beyond participating in my classes. I have become a member of Sigma Tau Delta, had my work published in *Sans Merci*, and built stronger relationships within the Shepherd community. I am still growing as a writer, a student, and a human, but I would not be who I am today if it weren’t for my experience in the Department of English and Modern Languages. ■

