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## From the Department Chair

Welcome to the seventh issue of *The Final Draft*, the newsletter for the Department of English and Modern Languages. Finally, a full semester of normal! Enrollments were up; the hallways were cheerfully noisy; the classrooms were full. Sigma Tau Delta hosted two in-person parties—for Halloween and Christmas. The Rude Mechanicals performed *The Winter's Tale*, with a cast and crew of 32. There were several additions and changes to the departmental faculty. Dr. Brian Santana took over the role of director of rhetoric and composition. Czarina Lagarda López joined the department as a visiting Instructor of Spanish. Sadie Shorr-Parks became a full-time lecturer, and two alumni, Danielle Carder and Jeremy McMullan, taught as adjuncts. Again, I am so proud of what our Department's faculty, staff, and students have accomplished. We wish all of our graduating seniors the best in whatever journey they are embarking on and look forward to seeing our returning students in the spring!



Cecelia Mason

#### Dr. Betty Ellzey

Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages

If you would like more information about our Department, be sure to visit our website ([www.shepherd.edu/eml](http://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. 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





## *The Winter's Tale: A Rude Mechanicals production*

by Taylor Beam

In November 2022, the Rude Mechanicals Medieval and Renaissance Players staged their rendition of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* as the fall semester performance. The "tragicomedy of loss and renewal," as the flyer called it, is quite distinct from other Shakespearean dramas. Although there were comedic moments and positive motifs, in the end, the audience is still left with a sense of dread. Hermione is revived at the end, but we are still reminded that she has lost her son, which leaves a film of melancholy over the play. When asked about the play's shifting tones, Dr. Betty Ellzey stated, "I think—just like in life—that even when there's a happy ending, there are still these dark tinges to it. It isn't all just one thing."

One of the central themes in the play is domestic violence, with Adam Wilson as the tyrannical king who channels his insecurities through his anger. With such a heavy topic at the center of the plot, the Rudes held a short panel after one of the showings to shed light on the subject. The panel consisted of Ellzey, Karen Green and Pippa McCullough, both

from Shepherd's Department of Social Work. During the panel, Ellzey remarked, "We talked about two groups of people and two types of violence: obviously, physical violence and psychological violence. One within the family, against the wife and children, but the other was with his advisors and counselors." William Prudnick, who played Polixenes, found that his character was especially difficult to take on due to his manipulative nature, which contributed to the play's overall theme of domestic abuse. William commented on his experience, "It was a tough play to act in, not because it was hard to understand, but because of how heavy the subject matter was. It was not a pleasant thing to play a manipulator and an abuser, as you can understand, but it was a necessity to get across the message."

*The Winter's Tale* is not only quite distinct from other Shakespearean plays, but it is also not performed very often due to its unusualness. The play also requires a fairly large cast, with the Rudes staging 32 different roles. The crew overcame several hurdles, including illness striking, which gave one cast member mere days to learn a new part. Despite these obstacles, the group persevered. Ellzey praised

the cast for tackling such a complex work. "It was a large cast, but they were all great," she said. "They learned their lines; they worked well together." Over the course of the shows, more than 400 attendees had the pleasure of watching the Rude Mechanicals perform their rendition of *The Winter's Tale*. ■

*TOP LEFT: Pictured (l. to r.): Julie Bowen (junior, social studies education), Ash Wilson (alumna), Lyv Thompson (senior, English education).*

*TOP RIGHT: Pictured (l. to r.): Brianna Cline (senior, English), Erica Foreman (freshman, elementary education), Catherine Ellzey (admissions counselor), Abigail Stradley (freshman, English). Photo credit: Charlotte Puttock (English/art double).*



## Pizza, Poetry, and Palling Around

by Taylor Beam

Sigma Tau Delta held their first social event of the fall semester on Friday, September 16, 2022. "Pizza, Poetry, and Palling Around" lived up to its title and more. Those in attendance enjoyed an evening of captivating

conversations, board games, and refreshments from Sigma Tau Delta. Attendees included faculty, English majors, and English enthusiasts. This event was a great start to the semester and brought together new and continuing students. ■

*Pictured (l. to r.): Mark Cuthrell, Kim Cano, Clara Monson, Tanner Boeckmann, Olyvia Thompson*





## F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival

by Carter Warhurst

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, four English majors and members of Sigma Tau Delta—Logan King, Clara Monson, Mark Cuthrell, and Lyv Thompson—attended the F. Scott Fitzgerald Festival in Rockville, Maryland. Accompanied by Dr. Hanrahan and Dr. Nixon, these students volunteered to assist the Festival runners and attended writing workshops and lectures hosted by notable authors, including Richard Powers, Alice McDermott, and Kim Stanley Robinson.

The lecturers present poured their passion into their workshops, describing the quintessential tools of their craft. For example, during some workshops, the

audience received writing prompts to help combat writer's block and boost creative thinking. Clara Monson said she really enjoyed the trip and anticipates that the exercises she learned will help her a lot in future creative writing and education classes. After the Festival, the group enjoyed a delicious homemade meal at Dr. Nixon's nearby home. Overall, the students had a unique experience that sharpened their skills as writers and leaders and gave them a chance to bond and socialize. ■

*Front row (l. to r.): Richard Powers, Alice McDermott, and Kim Stanley Robinson. Back row (l. to r.): Sigma Tau Delta members Logan King, Clara Monson, Lyv Thompson, and Mark Cuthrell.*

## ENGL 377 students offer writing workshops

by Taylor Beam

This semester, ENGL 377: Peer Tutoring and Composition Theory is being taught by the newly appointed coordinator of Writing and Rhetoric Program, Dr. Brian Santana. Santana also holds the title of visiting assistant professor of English. ENGL 377 focuses on the theories for teaching writing and tutoring. Students read and discuss composition theory and implement those teachings in real-world academic settings. This fall, Santana worked with Director of Academic Support Emily Gross to provide ENGL 377 students with tutoring hours but give all students on campus opportunities to get help with their writing projects, no matter the discipline they're writing for.

In a series of workshops, ENGL 377 students

have served their peers in the Academic Support Center. The workshops were open for students to walk in and receive free, one-on-one tutoring and support from expertly trained peers. The first two workshops were advertised to first-year writing students taking ENGL 101. Students could come from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to receive writing help, learn the location and services of the Academic Support Center, and sign up for further tutoring, if desired. These workshops provided a low-stakes introduction to the Center's services for students who might be nervous about seeking tutoring. The third workshop focused on teaching students how to write résumés and cover letters. Tutors provided students with a breakdown of how to make a résumé and what to put in it, along with one-on-one guidance during the writing process.

These three experiences served as the ENGL 377 students' practice requirement. During the semester, ENGL 377 students served as extra staff at the Center, expanding the possible hours available for tutoring appointments. ■



## Sans Merci plans for Volume 47

by Carter Warhurst

The team for *Sans Merci*, Shepherd's literary and art magazine, is proud to announce its 47th volume this spring. This student-led endeavor is overseen by Dr. James Pate, associate professor of English, and Ms. Ally Christmas, assistant professor of art. Pate said, "*Sans Merci* has been publishing since 1976—truly a legacy program on campus. Once again, we have a great—and all-student—group of editors. The magazine showcases the lively, wide-ranging artistic talent on campus, both in terms of the literary and visual arts, and I think this year's issue—the 47th!—will be terrific."

The *Sans Merci* staff welcomes back senior literary editors Mary Barker and Carter Warhurst and senior art editor Charlotte Puttock. They also proudly welcome back art editors Scout Purdy and Emma Corley and welcome art editor Sikara Sokel to the team. Additionally, the *Sans Merci* team welcomes literary editors Tanner Boeckmann, Audrey Chapman, and Dylan Parry. This year, Sophia Scudieri will be the student graphic designer. The staff is so happy to have this wonderful group working on Volume 47.

In anticipation of the volume, Mary Barker, a senior editor, said, "I'm excited for the [fall] semester to end so that we can finally and truly dive into the compilation *Sans Merci* Volume 47! My peers are some of the most creative people I know, and I believe that together, Shepherd writers, artists, and editors will create an amazing magazine!"

Student writers and artists were selected in December 2022 for an opportunity to be included in this volume. Additionally, the top artists for poetry, prose, and art will receive awards during the *Sans Merci* release party in April. The *Sans Merci* staff looks forward to lifting the talented artists at Shepherd for the campus to celebrate. Be on the lookout for the 47th volume of *Sans Merci* soon! ■



## Dr. Santana takes on new role

by Carter Warhurst

Starting this semester, Dr. Brian Santana has taken on a new role in the Department of English and Modern Languages. After the departure of the previous coordinator, he stepped into the role of coordinator of the Writing and Rhetoric Program at Shepherd and now has the title of visiting assistant professor of English. As the new coordinator, Santana has enjoyed further involvement and collaboration with professors in the Department and beyond. Santana explains that when given the opportunity, “I jumped in. I was really familiar with the program, having been here so long.” Santana, who has worked at Shepherd for the

last six years, previously served as a lecturer, teaching primarily first-year writing courses. Having been familiar with the program’s needs, he’s been able to transition to this temporary role quite seamlessly.

In his new role, Santana has enjoyed new challenges and opportunities. Santana said, “I’m involved in the Department and a lot more programs than before. There are a lot of different areas of collaboration.” He has also been mentoring adjuncts and lecturers and guiding tenured faculty in the Department. In conjunction with Department Chair Dr. Ellzey, he assists with hiring writing instructors. He is also helping Dr. Nixon and Dr. Hanrahan

with other Department initiatives. Dr. Nixon is working on developing professional writing certificates for students across majors, and Dr. Santana is helping develop course syllabi and train instructors. Dr. Hanrahan, director of Shepherd’s National Writing Project site, is working closely with Santana on initiatives to help create a dialogue between teachers within the local K-12 school systems and college professors, including hosting workshops this coming summer that will allow teachers from all levels of education to discuss the latest theories and methods of teaching English and writing.

First-year writing has been the biggest challenge for Santana in his new position. As a foundational course for almost every Shepherd student, first-year writing courses present a huge challenge to instructors serving all of Shepherd’s students. “It’s a combination of trying to think of the day-to-day...while also thinking about our overall approach to teaching writing and rhetoric as a whole.” To encourage the first-year writing teachers, he makes an effort to check in and help them address any challenges in their classes. He has also inherited the class ENGL 377: Peer Tutoring and Composition with his new role. With the help of the Academic Support Center, Santana has been able to organize tutoring and résumé workshops for students run by their peers in ENGL 377. As the writing coordinator, he’s also been able to work on rewriting the first-year writing handbook. In this project, he’s been able to work with other writing teachers to make plans on how to navigate teaching issues and programmatic questions.

Santana sees this new opportunity as a great way to change his relationship with the Department and the ways he serves the students and faculty members within it. “I’ve really enjoyed being able to work with the Department in new ways and be more hands-on in the inner workings of the Department,” Santana said. While he is still working with many students, he now sees ways to advocate for fellow faculty members. Santana explains that he is proud to meet new challenges in his work, including “helping and being a support system and cheerleader for all of the teachers who are teaching first-year-writing courses, while also thinking beyond our first-year-writing and rhetoric classes to our writing program’s potential areas of growth.” The Department will search for a permanent faculty member for the position this year, but until then, Santana acts as a voice for the future of the writing program at Shepherd, and we are proud to see the great work he is doing already. ■



# Faculty Achievements



**Dr. Heidi Hanrahan**, professor of English and assistant dean of interdisciplinary and integrative studies, was encouraged by Shepherd University President Mary J.C. Hendrix, Ph.D. to apply for a position on Shepherdstown's Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. After her application was reviewed, she was appointed to the committee, which has been tasked with examining and assessing the implementation of the town's 2014 Comprehensive Plan. Hanrahan will serve as a representative for the University, working to foster a continuing positive town/gown relationship.



**Sadie Shorr-Parks** received Shepherd's Outstanding Adjunct Award in April 2022. In the fall of 2022, after serving as an adjunct for several years, she was appointed lecturer in the Department of English and Modern Languages. Recently, her poetry has been published in *The Hong Kong Review*, *Cleaver Magazine*, and *Door Is a Jar*. This summer, the Southwest Review featured a review of her book *Honey Month* as well as an interview with poet Gabrielle Bates about the book. Additionally, she was interviewed about *Honey Month* for the Chills at Will podcast with Peter Riehl.



**Dr. Valerie L. Stevens**, lecturer in the Department of English and Modern Languages, has recently had an article published in *Brontë Studies* online. The piece, "Fierce Courtship: Animal Judgement in Charlotte Brontë's *Shirley*," is forthcoming in the print issue of *Brontë Studies* soon. This past summer, she also presented "Touching Borders in Michael Field's *Whym Chow: Flame of Love*" at the British Women Writers Conference in Waco, Texas, and received the British Women Writers Travel Award to attend that conference.



An essay by **Dr. Timothy K. Nixon**, professor of English and modern languages, appeared in the June 2022 edition of *FRAME: A Journal of Literary Studies*. The June release of *FRAME* was a special edition focused on "Literary Perspectives on Food." Nixon's essay is entitled "'The Joy It Promised': The Dichotomous Deployment of Food in *The Bluest Eye*." Work on this essay began during Nixon's seminar on Toni Morrison in the spring of 2021. He even presented an excerpt of the essay in progress at a regional conference in the fall of that same year. *FRAME* is a biannual international scholarly journal published in Utrecht, Netherlands.





## “Manuscript to Marketplace” Writers Conference

by Taylor Beam

On the weekend of September 9-10, 2022, Shepherd University hosted a conference encompassing all things writing: “Manuscript to Marketplace.” This is the second time the conference has been held, the first being in 2019. The event offered lectures and one-on-one meetings with industry professionals that ranged from advice on how to kickstart your writing career to having the opportunity to pitch novel ideas to publishers. Events took place in Knutti and Erma Ora Byrd halls on campus and Four Seasons Books on German Street. Shepherdstown locals Alan Gibson and Lee Doty organized the conference with sponsors such as Four Seasons Books and *The Washington Post*.

The Department of English and Modern Languages was closely involved with the

event. Several of the Department’s faculty attended. Dr. James Pate, associate professor of English, offered one-on-one sessions where participants could have their manuscripts reviewed. Sadie Shorr-Parks, lecturer of English, gave a presentation titled “Getting Your Poetry Published in Literary Journals.” Several Shepherd English majors, Dr. Ellzey, and Dr. Hanrahan volunteered to help with the event, directing attendees to events, getting them checked in, and helping troubleshoot when problems arose. Students who did not volunteer were offered a discounted price to attend the conference. Erika Huff, a Shepherd junior, attended the conference as a participant and commented positively on the experience, “Whether the guests were beginners when it comes to writing or seasoned professionals, they all had the opportunity to grow even

more.” Erika also found the conference beneficial due to the diversity of the lectures and the time allotted to connect with other writers in attendance.

All profits from the event were donated to the Department of English and Modern Languages. Donations from the previous conference were used for classroom improvements that greatly benefited the Department. Gibson hopes to hold the conference annually, and our department will continue to provide enthusiastic help with this important event. ■

*LEFT: Alan Gibson (center), conference organizer and author, poses with Jane Friedman and Robin Cutler, two experts in publishing, who provided many words of wisdom at the event.*

*RIGHT: Keri-Rae Barnum, Executive Director of New Shelves Books, provides advice to attendees.*

## Student creativity on display: *Great Expectations* cake

Clara Monson, an English education major, continues to reign as the Department’s unofficial baker. Monson, who previously made cakes connected to a seminar on Indian literature and a seminar on Poe, set a new precedent with her *Great Expectations*-themed cake. Made for Dr. Hanrahan’s Victorian Literature class, this multi-layered cake, a take on Miss Havisham’s decrepit wedding cake—(fake) spiders and all—looked gross but tasted delicious. Monson, who bakes these cakes simply to challenge herself and “see if she can do it,” explains that she also just likes to feed people. And for that, we are grateful. ■

LEFT: Clara and her cake.

RIGHT: Close-up of the cake, spiders and all.







Cailltin Carson and her children dressed up for the occasion.



Lee DiFante mixing up Halloween-themed mocktails.



Olyvia Thompson and Kim Cano



Clara Monson, Lyv Thompson, Tanner Boeckmann, and Karlie Hepner

## Sigma Tau Delta hosts spooktacular Halloween party

by Tanner Boeckmann

On Friday, October 28, 2022, Sigma Tau Delta held its annual Halloween party. Drawing a crowd of more than 30 people, the party was quite a hit with the student body. At the party, students were treated to delicious desserts baked by Clara Monson, spectacular mocktails made by Sigma Tau Delta's wonderful secretary, Lee DiFante, and an assortment of food brought by attendees. Costumes were encouraged, and the party members went all out! Costumes included killer Mr. Clean, a banana, a clown, a bouquet of roses, and a Ghostbuster. Sigma Tau Delta member Olyvia Thompson said, "It was a

fun opportunity to hang out with fellow members and meet the newcomers! There was a huge turnout, larger than any other Sigma Tau Delta party I have attended. It was a spookily good time." Sigma Tau Delta Vice President Kim Cano said, "The Sigma Tau Delta party was such a fun and successful event. Many attendees showed up in costumes, which I loved!" The party was a rousing success and a delightful event for all who attended. ■





## Winter Holiday Party

by Tanner Boeckmann

On Friday, December 2, 2022, the Shepherd chapter of Sigma Tau Delta hosted its annual holiday party, which celebrates the end of the fall semester for students and faculty alike. This year, the party was hosted potluck style, with everyone bringing their favorite dishes. The dishes ranged from baked ziti, cookies, and pigs in a blanket to wrapped grape leaves. Along with the food was the annual white elephant gift-giving game, with gifts ranging from crocheted whales, a chocolate drink maker, and a hot chocolate set, to different books and a Bram Stoker Funko Pop vinyl figure. Senior English Major Mary Barker, who received the crocheted whales, along with a purple tumbler, said, "We were few in number, but it was a great party! I never have much luck with white elephant gift exchanges, but I'm so happy with the one I received!" English education student Logan King, who still insisted on working on a paper during the party said, "The Sigma Tau Delta Holiday party was a nice break before finals, and it was so fun to see everyone enjoying themselves as the semester comes to a close. It is safe to say that everyone who attended had a great time!"

Pictured front row (l. to r.): Logan King, Tanner Boeckmann, and Hannah Williams-McNamee. Back row (l. to r.) Dr. Tim Nixon, Taylor Beam, Frank Santiago-Cabrera, Mary Barker, Dr. Heidi Hanrahan, and Kate Gardner.

Selfie photographer: Clara Monson



## Isabella Hawkinberry wins prestigious Hazel Ruby McQuain Graduate Scholarship

by Tanner Boeckmann

Isabella "Izzy" Hawkinberry, a 2022 English graduate, recently won the prestigious Hazel Ruby McQuain Graduate Scholarship. She is the first Shepherd student to win this award, which provides financial support to outstanding West Virginia residents pursuing a graduate degree from a West Virginia institution of higher education within the United States. Hawkinberry said that "only six recipients were chosen for the scholarship" and thanked Shepherd's faculty, particularly in the English program and the School of Education, for their support. Hawkinberry will also be the first graduate of the new 4+1 English/M.A.T. program, where students can earn an English major and

a Master of Arts in Teaching English in just five years. Hawkinberry said she is using the money to fund her Master of Arts in Teaching and is planning on graduating this spring.

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must have a strong undergraduate and/or graduate academic record, be committed to scholarly study or professional work that addresses the greatest needs of West Virginia and its citizens, have a documented record of public service, and have demonstrated active leadership involvement. The Hazel Ruby McQuain Graduate Scholarship provides up to two years of financial support for master's degree scholarship recipients and three years of financial support for doctoral degree scholarship recipients.





## Common Reading author visits with students

In November 2022, Emma Copley Eisenberg, author of *The Third Rainbow Girl*, this year's Common Reading selection, visited Dr. Hanrahan's English 301 class to talk about her book, her writing process, and to give advice to aspiring authors. "Lean into the things that obsess you," Eisenberg explained to the group, who were eager for tips about their

writing. The talk, open to all students, also drew several attendees from across majors, all of whom enjoyed meeting the best-selling author. Special thanks to Dr. Santana, visiting assistant professor of English, and Shannon Holiday, director of students in transition and the Common Reading Program (and a Shepherd English alumna!), who arranged the visit.



## Barker presents Honors Capstone

Congratulations to Mary Barker, a December 2022 graduate and McMurren Scholar. Barker, who graduated with a 4.0 GPA and numerous academic honors, presented her Honors Program Capstone Project on November 29, 2022. Her project, "As if the Devil was in Her": Fanny Fern Redefining the Nineteenth Century Woman Writer," an examination of Fern's construction and critique of ideas about female authorship, was directed by Dr. Hanrahan.





# Student Voices

*In every issue, we like to ask our students a question. This issue's question: "What's your favorite piece of literature that you read this semester and why?"*



**Clara Monson** (English education)

My favorite thing I read this semester was *Chinatown Family* by Lin Yutang. I found it so fun to read, and the depiction of familial relationships was both endearing and realistic.



**Victoria Ford** (English literature, history minor)

My favorite thing we read this semester is "Your Village" by Elena Bell. I like this poem because it's different and made me think.



**Joanna Hernandez** (Spanish and political science)

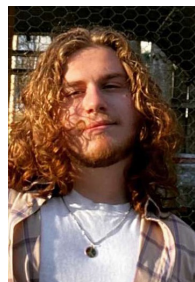
This semester in my Spanish class I reread "Letra de Hombres Necios Que Acusáis" by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. She was a Mexican writer who

was a very interesting character. I first read "Hombres Necios" in a world lit course back when I was a freshman, but I read it translated into English then, so it was nice getting to read it in the original Spanish form!



**Kim Cano** (English)

My favorite piece from this semester was *There There* by Tommy Orange. I loved the unique use of multiple points of view and how well the suspense was formed in the novel. It was really cool to see a different side of the Native American experience that we don't usually get to see in literature.



**Dylan Parry** (business, English minor)

My favorite thing I read this semester was *Aurora Leigh* by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. I read it in Dr. Hanrahan's Victorian Literature course, and I ended up writing a

paper about it. It's centered around a writer who spends a lot of time around her aunt after losing her parents. She compares her aunt to a bird hopping around a little cage without being aware of its confinement. It was so interesting how the narrator examined generational trauma in the piece.



**Olivia Stevens** (English education)

My favorite piece of literature this semester was *The Big Lebowski*. We read it for Dr. Messenger's drama-writing course and I had so much fun reading it and following the crazy story. It's so interesting and makes so little sense. It was a nice reprieve from the intense/sad books we were reading in other 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.*



**Taylor Beam**

I am currently a sophomore here at Shepherd, double-majoring in English and global studies and working towards a minor in education, as well. This is my first time working on the newsletter, and I greatly

appreciate the opportunity to contribute. Although this is my first semester as an official English major, I have always been drawn to literature and see it as a tool to make sense of the world. This attraction has only become more prominent as I have grown and become a member of this Department. The Department of English and Modern Languages at Shepherd has greatly impacted me in my short time here. My experience so far has made me hopeful for the future of my education and helped me grow into a better version of myself. ■



**Carter Warhurst**

I am a junior English major with a concentration in creative writing. I have treasured my first three years at Shepherd and hope to sharpen my skills even more in the time I have left. I'm

so glad to work on the departmental newsletter and look forward to other writing projects I can work on at Shepherd. In my future, I plan to use my degree to write stories that sympathize with the human condition and uplift others. ■



**Tanner Boeckmann**

I am a senior English education major who will graduate in the spring of 2023. I have loved being a part of the Department of English and Modern Languages at Shepherd. People here

have felt like members of my own family over the past three years. I am thrilled to be working on the departmental newsletter this year as well as running the Instagram for the Department. I would like to thank all my professors who have helped me grow during my educational journey. ■