COMMUNITY-ENGAGED & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

By Allison Carey

English majors tutoring second- and third-graders to prepare for the state’s reading proficiency test. Student teams writing grant proposals for area non-profits to address the region’s heroin epidemic, provide meaningful after-school activities for teens, and help the Dayton Art Institute digitize its collection. These are some of the ways that the Department of English is helping to further UD’s mission through community-engaged learning.

In the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, Kelly Bohrer (Director of Community-Engaged Learning) facilitates collaboration and provides numerous resources for faculty and staff to incorporate such learning into their teaching. And our department continues to build on this opportunity. "Honors Report and Proposal Writing," taught by Professor Nicky Adams, has partnered student teams with over 20 Dayton non-profit organizations to produce grant proposals since 2010. Last spring, one team had a hand in helping the Miami Valley Hospital Foundation

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

I have just completed my first semester as Chair of the Department of English and have been inspired by the care that faculty and staff show to students in and out of the classroom - by the quality of scholarly and creative works that we are publishing and by the leadership that English faculty and students exhibit on campus, in the Dayton community, and around the world. If you are in Dayton, we hope you can stop by to catch up with us. If you are not, we are happy to hear from you and to celebrate your successes with our own.

The English department has become a very special place for me; I am grateful for all of the gifts that our faculty and staff, our students, and our alumni bring to our communities. -Dr. Andrew Slade

Travel Abroad: UD alum and English major Daniela Porcelli spent the past summer in Malawi, Africa with Determined to Develop, an annual trip sponsored by the Political Science Department that strives to develop literacy. The students spend six weeks working in Malawi to help the people increase their literacy, specifically in regards to navigating various types of rhetoric.

successfully obtain funds to distribute heroin overdose kits including Naloxone, a prescription drug used to interrupt an opiate overdose and prevent death, potentially saving an estimated 600 lives in the Miami Valley alone.

Furthering the University’s mission to produce justice-minded citizens, the Social Justice LLC (SJLLC), coordinated by department faculty members Lori Phillips-Young and Dr. Margaret Strain, boasts a civic partnership with the Wright-Dunbar Neighborhood Priority Board. This semester, students cleaned and cleared the National Museum parking lot and the Oak and Ivy Park, removing over 300 bags of refuse to beautify the area and accumulating over 850 hours of service.

“There is a lot happening here, but I would love to see [these opportunities] expand,” says Dr. Andrew Slade, Chair, Department of English. No matter the program or class, community engagement takes learning to another level for students, as well as giving them the opportunity to experience firsthand the heart of the University’s mission of Learn, Lead, and Serve.

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An Integrated Learning Living Community: Writing and the Arts

By Sarah Spech

The Writing and the Arts Integrated Learning Living Community (WAA ILLC) is a residential experience open to first-year students of all majors. Molly Sexton, Coordinator and faculty member in English, stresses the need and appreciation for the creative arts among non-humanities majors. Through the following characteristics, an ILLC is able to introduce students to those with similar interests, allowing for a more integrated Dayton community:

The first-years share a floor in Founders Hall, giving them easy access to study buddies and friends upon first moving in. All of the students take English 100 together, which counts toward graduation requirements. Outside of class, students keep a blog in which they reflect on different arts events they attend and the art they produce.

This year, the students experienced the music of the Pakistani group Khumariyaan, toured the Stuart Rose Rare Book Collection in Roesch Library, produced a play by a former WAA member at White Box Theatre and will be attending the Dayton Opera performance of Dead Man Walking this spring.

The Writing and the Arts ILLC is an exemplification of UD's focus on academics and community by integration of the two in a constructive, enriching approach. Students are able to live with friends with whom they can grow in both mind and spirit through the integration of the social and the educational.

Dead Man Walking

By Taylor Kingston

A nun befriends a man on death row and grapples with themes of forgiveness and capital punishment in Dead Man Walking, the book, film, and opera. The Dead Man Walking opera is coming to the Schuster Center with an evening showing on Feb. 27 and a matinee on March 1. The story was written by Sr. Helen Prejean about her own experience and adapted to music by composer Jake Heggie.

UD students are encouraged to attend by Graul Chair Dr. Richard Chenoweth because the opera “humanizes the experiences of incarceration, capital punishment, and dealing with death of loved ones.” Students can purchase reduced-price $15 tickets the day of the show. The entire freshman class is attending a private performance on Feb. 25, just as last year's freshman class took in Stravinsky's Rite of Spring. Several other events were or will be held on campus relating to the opera and its themes, including:

- A Discussion with Composer Jake Heggie (Jan. 30, 10 am, Sears Recital Hall)
- Capital Punishment: A Roundtable Discussion (Feb. 4, 7-9 pm, Sears Recital Hall)
- Dead Man Walking: Film Screening (Feb. 20, 5 pm, KU Ballroom)
- Dayton Art Institute Exhibit: The Last Supper (Feb. 21-April 12)
- Sr. Helen Prejean: Speaker Series (Feb. 26, 7 pm, RecPlex)
Sherman Alexie Speaks at UD

By Taylor Kingston

“Every time you meet someone, ask yourself how many times they have had to think – ‘I’m not going to survive this,’” said writer/poet Sherman Alexie addressing “Perspectives on Peace.” His talk took place on Nov. 11 in the Kennedy Union ballroom. As a member of the Spokane and Coeur d’Alene nations, Alexie “pushes us to think about the experiences of 21st century American Indians as shaped by our colonialist history. True peace only belongs to a nation that is responsive to all of its citizens and works to create the best life for those citizens. Alexie advances those goals,” says UD Alexie scholar Dr. Tereza Szeghi. A dominant theme in his talk was that peace can be achieved by practicing perspective-taking.

Alexie spoke to an over-packed room as diverse as a meeting of the United Nations. Displaying the humor and wit seen in his writing, he poked fun at most cultures represented. Speaking to Catholics, for example, he compared transubstantiation to the Native American belief that rocks have spirits, saying that “one religion can appear as ‘goofy ass’ as the next.” Dr. Tom Morgan, who recommended Alexie for the speaker series, compared him to satirists Mark Twain and Dave Chappelle. “You didn’t hear him saying, ‘peace – do this – peace – do that,’” said Dr. Morgan, “but there were implicit messages about the role that indifference plays in making peace possible.”

With his bold oration, Alexie demonstrated that sensitivity surrounding cultural issues sometimes just stifles the dialogue. Alexie told an anecdote about a dentist on his reservation who gave him half the normal amount of Novocain because he believed Native Americans felt only half the pain of whites. Alexie admitted that sometimes he dreamt of hurting this dentist, but at that moment on the stage, he felt indifferent. “Maybe,” said Alexie, “that’s what peace is?”

The Impetus for “Rites. Rights. Writes.”

By Taylor Kingston

You never know when those conversations will happen that you will remember for the rest of your life. My interview with the Graul Chair in Arts and Languages Dr. Richard Chenoweth is poised to become such a conversation. “Arts are an essential part of life,” he said. “It’s in the clothes you wear, the car you buy, the way you arrange your food on a plate.” Dr. Chenoweth also explained the relationship that lies between the three R’s: Rites = develop habits; Rights = develop expectations; Writes = communicate expectations.

As a player of the French horn, Dr. Chenoweth said that he realized his music wouldn’t amount to much if it weren’t for the support and collaboration of the orchestra. The same humility before the power of community, he says, is the impetus for “Rites. Rights. Writes.” The Graul Chair in Arts and Languages was “specifically designed to promote interdisciplinary approaches to the arts and languages with a particular focus on international perspectives,” according to the UD website.

The theme of this year’s event is “Faith and Reason.” “There is enough food at the table, a spot for everyone,” Dr. Chenoweth said. The Department of English has contributed to this year’s dialogue with the Stuart Rose Rare Book Exhibit, talk from Sherman Alexie, and Dead Man Walking opera series.

Our department faculty members have furthered the “Rites. Rights. Writes.” theme through a number of Campus Cultural Connections events, including Of Dialect, Race, and Representation (a symposium devoted to the work of Paul Laurence Dunbar); Religion, Literacy, and Social Justice: Autobiography of Malcolm X; the Metal and Cultural Impact Conference; and the Native Peoples of the Americas Colloquium. For more information, visit udayton.edu/artssciences/ endowedchair/graul/rrw/index.php.
The way we individually define personal progress is subjective. Our goals can differ greatly from one day to the next. But what about collective, communal progress? What about thousands upon thousands of years’ worth of progress by a group of immeasurably diverse people? How can we take note of all the ways the human race has grown and changed?

human history. The vast assortment shows how human values and ideologies range and change across time, across oceans, across disciplines.

Dr. Patrick Thomas, English professor and a member of the UD Library Committee that coordinated the collection, claims that history is defined not only by the wide spectrum of themes and topics covered in the books, but also in raising the question, “What’s been left out?” Dr. Thomas notes the significance of the books in the collection as well as what they symbolize. The evolution of print itself displays history’s technological advancements and “the rise of mass literacy as a culture,” he states.

At the closing celebration on Nov. 9, Stuart Rose donated two pieces to UD: a first edition King James Bible and Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland illustrated by Salvador Dali. More information can be found at https://www.udayton.edu/news/articles/2014/11/stuart_rose_gift.php.

A digital version of the exhibit is accessible on the Roesch Library's homepage at: http://library2.udayton.edu/rosebook/timeline/
Faculty Feature

DR. SUSAN TROLLINGER

Next Stop: Amish Country

By Allison Carey

In her book Selling the Amish: the Tourism of Nostalgia, Dr. Susan Trollinger discusses three Ohio Amish towns—Walnut Creek, Sugarcreek, and Berlin—and the visual rhetoric of tourism that visitors experience in each. At first glance, it appears that the theme of each town has nothing to do with the Amish. So, Dr. Trollinger asked the following questions: “What are these towns selling? Why is it compelling to tourists? Does it have anything to do with the Amish? If so, how so?” Her argument is that each town does make a connection to the Amish.

The theme of Walnut Creek is Victorian America, offering visitors an experience of tradition, stability, and timelessness. It draws on the collective nostalgia for a different time when people had time to cook “slow food” and sit on their porches. As visitors eat at the famous Der Dutchman restaurant in Walnut Creek, they can imagine a different kind of life in which they have time to prepare and enjoy family meals daily. This raises the question of whether we could do the same.

http://www.walnutcreekohio.org/

Sugarcreek is known as the Little Switzerland of Ohio and draws upon historical Amish roots. Dr. Trollinger argues that this town is the least successful of the three because rather than invite visitors to imagine a better future through an idealized experience of the past as the other two do, it often makes those who have lost a strong connection to their ethnicity feel a strong sense of longing.

http://www.experience-ohio-amish-country.com/sugarcreek-ohio.html

The theme of Berlin is the American frontier. It remembers a time when human beings controlled technology rather than the other way around. Seeing Amish plowing their fields as they walk behind a team of horses or driving buggies on country roads around Berlin allows visitors to consider the possibility that they would be better off with a different relationship to technology than they currently have.

http://www.berlinohio.com/

Amish tourism invites tourists to think about the current structure and character of their fast-paced, technology-driven lives. For this reason, Amish tourism is more significant than people might imagine. Moreover, Amish tourism has enabled the Amish to thrive as access to farmland has diminished dramatically in the last few decades.
PJ Carlisle

PJ Carlisle is UD’s Herbert Woodward Martin Post-Doctoral Fellow of Diversity & Creative Writing and a 2014 Lambda Literary Foundation LGBTQ Emerging Writer. While earning a Ph.D. from the University of Utah, Carlisle served as the managing editor of Western Humanities Review. A first novel, EpicFishStory, won the Mary McCarthy Undergraduate Award for fiction at Bard College, judged by Harry Mathews. Chapters from The Golden Book of Dangerous Boys, a new novel, won both the Turow-Kinder Award and the AWP Journals Award. Published prose has appeared in Quarterly West, WHR, Thickets, Prosody: NPR Pittsburgh, and is forthcoming in Lamplight: An Anthology of LGBTQ Writers, 2014.

Fatima Esselii

Fatima Esselii joined UD as an Assistant Professor of TESOL in Fall 2014. She’s currently teaching ENG 100, ENG 472, and ENG 594. Dr. Esselii earned her M.A. in English as a Second Language from The University of Toledo. In 2011, she graduated with a Ph.D. in Second Language Studies from Purdue University. After that, she worked at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and at the University of Balamand in Lebanon. Her scholarly interests include second language writing, World Englishes, discourse analysis, and language testing and assessment.

Lindsey Light

Lindsey Light was born in the Dayton, Ohio area and is a hometown girl at heart. Accordingly, she received her M.A. from the University of Dayton in 2010 and her B.A. from Wright State University in 2008. She began her teaching career as a teaching assistant at the University of Dayton. From there, she went on to adjunct for several institutions. Light has taught varying levels of composition, ranging from developmental courses to professional writing. In addition, she has taught public speaking and online courses. When she is not teaching, Light spends most of her time chasing around her two children, Deacon (3) and Nora (20 months).

Cody Lyon

Cody Lyon hails from the great rainy state of Washington, so you’re likely to see a smile on his face whenever it’s not raining. He has lived in South Korea, where he lived for over six years teaching English as a second language and earning his master’s degree in education. Lyon is currently working on his dissertation for his Ph.D. in English Composition and TESOL from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His research is focused on looking at different ways that composition teachers give their students feedback about their writing. In particular, he is curious about students’ preferences on the feedback they receive from their teachers in addition to the impact that different kinds of feedback have on students’ efforts to revise their writing.

New Faculty continued on next page
**Welcoming New Faculty, Continued**

**Cheryl Naruse**

Cheryl Narumi Naruse received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa in 2014. At UD, she teaches courses in postcolonial literature, literary theory, and writing. Her other research and teaching interests include diaspora, cultural studies, and neoliberalism. Naruse is currently working on a book project in which she examines how literary and cultural productions from Singapore make legible the relationship between human mobility and neoliberalism.

**Alumna Spotlight:**

**Heather May**

By Stephanie Loney

Alumna Heather May (M.A. ’13) and her husband, Keith, currently teach English in Guizhou, China with the Peace Corps. They are also finalists in the “Blog It Home” contest, a Peace Corps-sponsored competition that encourages volunteers to submit blogs that detail their experiences abroad.

“Frankly, our initial motivation was mid-life crisis,” said May. When she and her husband decided to apply for the program, she was working on her Master’s degree in English, and he decided that he wanted to do something different with his life. The Peace Corps fit what they were looking for because of its longer term of commitment – two years – and its accommodations for couples.

May cites UD faculty as a major support system. With the help of Dr. Andy Slade and Dr. Patrick Thomas, she completed her Master’s degree a semester ahead of schedule, enabling her to finish before leaving for China. Additionally, May says the Marianist charm and UD’s ten commitments to community align with the mission and goals of the Peace Corps.

Of the experience, May said, “You learn so much, not only about the country you serve in, but also about yourself.” She encourages those who travel abroad to write down what strikes them as out of the norm. This can be helpful to readers who may travel to the same location but can also allow for thorough reflection both during and long after the experience.

May hopes to continue working with Chinese students after her Peace Corps service ends, possibly identifying students to bring back to the United States to study for a year or two.

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**Adjunct & Part-Time Faculty**

We thank our part-time faculty members and teaching assistants for their outstanding service to the department!

**Part-Time**
- Tim Azbill
- Luke Bowman
- Sooyoung Chung
- Laura Elizabeth
- James Fisher
- Eric Gilliland
- Caleb Hildenbrandt
- Dante James
- Maria Kisel
- Amy Krug
- Becky Morean
- Madhu Narayanm
- Marianne Raab

**Graduate Assistants**
- Breann Bourelle
- Brittany Cook
- Stacie Covington
- Elizabeth Hageman
- Jaime Malloy
- Rachel Sebastian
- Bridget Singleton
- William Skelly
OUR NEW LOOK

By Taylor Kingston

As English majors, we love our compound-complex sentences, those Austen-esque constructions that develop every facet of an idea before allowing a period to finally, after several parenthetical phrases, end a thought. But English majors are also busy and realize that not all texts require the same level of critical analysis and engagement. Therefore, our newsletter has adopted a new look and format that gives you more visuals and shorter articles that tell you where to learn more if you wish. It’s supposed to be more inviting, and we hope it is.

What We’re Reading

The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt (Arneicia Patterson)
The Round House by Louise Erdrich (Miriamne Krummel)
Americanah by Chimamanda Adichie (Arneicia Patterson)
The Mistress of the Art of Death by Ariana Franklin (Miriamne Krummel)
How Soon is Now? by Carolyn Dinshaw (Miriamne Krummel)
The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd (Joe Pici)
Zelda by Marilynne Robinson (Joe Pici)
Powder: Writing by Women in the Ranks, from Vietnam to Iraq by Lisa Bowden & Shannon Cain (Joe Pici)
Why Teach?: In Defense of a Real Education by Mark Edmundson (Joe Pici)
Redeployment by Phil Klay (Joe Pici)
Tenth of December by George Saunders (Bridget Shingleton)
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway (Lindsey Light)
Moby Dick by Herman Melville (Xiamara Hohman)
 Allegiant by Veronica Roth (Liz Mackay)
The Silkworm by Robert Galbraith (Liz Mackay)
Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Picketty (Rebecca Potter)
The Ephesus Fragment by Gary E. Parker (Lori Phillips-Young)
The Lichtenberg Figures by Ben Lerner (Elizabeth Hagemen)
Victoria: A Life by A.N. Wilson (Laura Vorachek)
The Mystery of a Hansom Cab by Fergus Hume (Laura Vorachek)
One Kick by Chelsea Cain (Meredith Doench)

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