

Greetings from the Chair

Greetings, everyone. Launching the *Alumni Newsletter* for the Department of English and World Languages is such a happy occasion. Thanks to the initiative of Professor Robin Blyn, we're joining many other departments at UWF as well as most universities and colleges with news and opportunities we hope will be of interest to you all, our VIPs, the department alumni.



The next round of salutes, then, go to our most recent additions to alumni ranks. Summer saw off graduates Iesha Adams, Rebecca Cleary, Emily Erland, Michelle Lloyd, Izamar Martinez, Brittany Pires, Liandethza Ramirez-Crespo, Treyson Sanders, Sara Thompson, and Autumn Pearson. In December, we celebrated the graduation of Ashley Danner, Shasta Harrell, Jack Lancaster, Jessica London, Brett Magruder, Sarah Smead, Christina Slack, Matthew Watson, Amy Hus, Amber Byers, Toni Holt, Maygan Eldridge, Herbert Hoffman, and Delores Merrill. In May 2014, we will add the names of Gary Bell, Cathryn Blumreiter, John Brown, Megan Floyd, Jeanessa Gantt, Sierra Grillot, Alyson Humphrey, Stephanie LaGasse, Matthew Lothar, Damiana MacCrone, Brooke Martin, Lisa Mauro, Grady Miller, Rana Moore, Eman Ogab, Christian Pacheco, Kelci Pascoe, Kimberly Rooks, Kirran Somerlade, Jennifer Pyle, Kaylee Thomas, Rebecca Steward, Destin Waller, Bradley Barnes, Ryan Butler, Maria Burns Steele, Michael Barretta, Laura Herbek, Barbara Rieben, and Michael Lehman to our alumni VIP list. Congratulations one and all—and welcome back on board as alums.

We have an impressive group of awards winners this year, as well. Our reputation for extraordinary teachers continues to grow. Spanish Instructor Laura Arguea won a Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. Recent winners of this award include our own David Baulch, Robin Blyn, and Jonathan Fink. Student awards in English went to Laura Herbeck, for distinguished graduate teaching; to Maria Steele Burns for distinguished graduate student; and to Grady Miller, for distinguished undergraduate. We congratulate them all for setting the bar so high.

As you can see from the other articles in this newsletter, this year has been busy and productive. Be sure to take the time to check out the collaboration between David Earle's Virtual Newsstand project and the The Art Gallery (TAG) team at UWF, as well as the exciting work going on in the new Women's Studies Collective, Sigma Tau Delta, and the Creative Writing Program. Recent developments also include the introduction of a new type of graduate seminar. Thanks to a recent grant from UWF, in Fall 2014 we will offer our first synchronous seminars for graduate students. Girded with new software, hardware, and expertise, we will be able to include

students from various locations in real time in our graduate seminars. Our First Year Writing Program also continues to develop in interesting directions, including the introduction of new “writing studios” and composition courses tailored for students in specific majors. Composition Program Director Bre Garrett had some extra help this year; we welcomed Pam Meyers and Scott Satterwhite to our faculty as Composition Instructors. We are delighted to have them aboard.

Keep your eye out for us in *Pensacola Magazine (PM)*. Through our collaboration with Ballinger Press, graduating seniors continue to publish book reviews in *PM*, thereby nurturing a love of reading in the greater Pensacola community and gaining invaluable professional distinction prior to graduation. Many of our graduate students have also been sharing their expertise outside of UWF, as well. Laura Herbek, Stephanie Johnson, Becca Namniek, Shannon Holst, Andii Johnson, and Rachel Johnson all presented papers at professional conferences around the country this year.

As you can see, our department continues to be one of the most active and accomplished on campus. I urge everyone to keep up with special events and announcements via our website (<http://uwf.edu/cas/cas-departments/english-and-world-languages/>). A number of new features have been added by Kate Baumann, trusty webmaster. Among these features is a department marketplace, where books by the faculty are available as additions to your library shelves with just the click of a mouse. Exciting additions to the site include new books out this year from Allen Josephs (*Beyond Death in the Afternoon*) and Robin Blyn (*The Freak-garde: Extraordinary Bodies and Revolutionary Art in America*). Thanks to Dr. Angie Calcaterra, it is also now possible to keep up with us on Facebook. Be sure to “friend” us in order to receive the newest and latest information about everything that is happening in the world of literature, language, and writing at UWF.

Finally, we want this newsletter to be about you. What are you up to now? Where are you living and working? What are your friends doing? Do you have any pictures to share with us? Send us an update at englishalumni@uwf.edu.

Be in touch. Stay tuned. *A lot* is going on in Pensacola.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Yeager', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Bob Yeager, Professor and Chair, Department of English and World Languages