

Post Parade

Fort Hays State University English Department Fall 2016



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Forward thinking. World ready.



2016 Post Parade Editorial Team

Back row: Taran Becker, Ashley Kaiser, Kristin Roth, Jenna Long, Eric Menendez

Front row: Kiara Sharp, Kaycee Beilman, Brianna Hardy

Stepping into Cheryl Duffy's shoes to teach Professional Editing this semester was a daunting task, as was the prospect of putting together this issue of the *Post Parade*. However, the students in Eng 385, while a bit squirrely, humored my obsession with nominative absolutes, commiserated with me over AP's rejection of the Oxford comma, and forgave my lack of small furry animal examples. The students brainstormed story ideas, conducted research and interviews, wrote and rewrote articles, designed their pages using InDesign, and edited to the last minute, culminating in another fine student-created-and-produced issue of the *Post Parade*.

Eric Leuschner

Associate Professor of English

Fort Hays State University is a thriving liberal and applied arts, state-assisted institution with an enrollment of more than 13,000 students. It offers bachelor's and master's degrees in many fields and provides a wide variety of cultural and intellectual resources, not only for its faculty, staff and students but for the western Kansas region and beyond. Fort Hays State occupies the southwest corner of Hays, Kansas, a city of about 20,000 people located halfway between Kansas City and Denver on Interstate 70. The city and its people make their livings from across a wide spectrum of industries — agriculture, education, light manufacturing, medical care, oil, retail and technology.

Post Parade -- Fall 2016

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Contents

- 4 Writing Tigers Contest Winners
- 4 English Department Scholarship Winners
- 5 Brilliant Students, Brilliant Futures: FHSU's Honors College
- 6 From Cairo to Kansas: Dr. Amanda Fields Finds Home
- 6 Bartlett Named Nationally Competitive Scholarships Coach
- 7 #Why I Write
- 8 STD Spread Nationwide
- 9 The Essen Exchange: The English Department Is Forward Thinking, World Ready
- 10 Team Duffy
- 13 English Graduates, Summer 2015-Spring 2016
- 14 Writing for the Public, Not the Professor
- 15 Generous Gift for the Writing Center
- 16 Krystal Baugher: Writing in the City
- 16 Hutchison Publishes Monster Book
- 16 Leuschner Named Department Chair
- 17 An Interview with Morgan Chalfant
- 18 Scholarship Contributors

Scholarship Winners 2016-17

Congratulations to the Writing Tigers Contest Winners 2016!

ENGLISH COMP. I

First Place - \$100

Rachel Moravek
"On the Horizon"
(Paulia Bailey)*

Second Place - \$75

Michael D. Stueve
"Mallard's Rebirth"
(Brenda Craven)*

Third Place - \$50

Alexis Wasinger
"Positive Not Perfect: The
Evaluation of a Learning Space"
(Amanda Fields)*

ENGLISH COMP. II

First Place - \$100

Carla Miller
"Vaccination: A Parent's
Obligation"
(Brenda Craven)*

Second Place - \$75

Brianna Witchev
"Demons and Victims: Why
Suicide Should Not Have a
Stigma"
(Brenda Craven)*

Third Place - \$50

MacKinzie Foster
"The Underrepresentation of
Women in STEM Fields"
(Linda Smith)*

*The name in parentheses is the instructor
for whose class the essay was written.

Alice McFarland Scholarship

Paige Phillips
Matthew Spurlock

James R. & Ruth Start Scholarship

Kaitlyn Goetting

Michael Marks Scholarship

Brianna Hardy

Elizabeth Jane "Betty" Lenz Scholarship

Sarah Jarmer

English Development Scholarship

Abigail Artz

English Department Scholarships

Joshua Renner
Alexis-Athena Wyatt
Alina Villalovos

Brett Weaver/Linda Smith Scholarship (with Hawaiian shirt)

Nicole Feyerherm
Kiara Sharp

Non-Traditional Scholarship

Meagan Englert

Lloyd Oswald Scholarships

Amanda Dawson
Erin Renard
Kay Landon
Seonjin Na
Denton Tulloch

Ralph F. Voss/Elvon & Ruby Feldkamp Scholarship

Alexis Tate

Roberta Stout Scholarship

Matraca Ochs
Paige Todd

English Department Freshman Honor Scholarships

Kinsey Barton
Shianne Clark
Kailyn Kerschner
Carmen Coretto Lajam
Cassidy Locke
Brianna Martin
MacKenzie McGregor
Camryn Preston
Joseph Schmidt
Taylor Vredenburg
Tristan Wilson



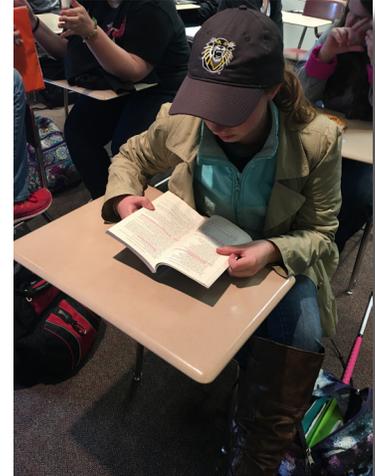
the open mic event at Writing Tigers
Krissy Allacher reads at



Freshman Alexis Wyatt works on her analysis paper covering public writing.



Dr. Bartlett takes her Honors class outside to enjoy the fresh air.



Sophomore Nicole Feyerherm reads a play while studying for her drama unit.

Brilliant Students, Brilliant Futures

FHSU's Honors College features English majors

“The Honors College at the end of the day is really just a big family!” says Alexis Wyatt, a freshman in Fort Hays State University’s new Honors College. “We’re nerds and we’re proud, but we’re more proud of each other than anything else.”

The Honors College was established with a specific goal of making FHSU the destination of choice for ambitious and academically gifted students from not only Kansas but also around the world. The Honors College mission “is to develop student scholar-leaders that are engaged in their communities as a result of an edifying and stimulating collegiate environment of continuous growth and academic preeminence.”

Three students from the English Department were involved with the program in its first year: senior Kylie Herrington, sophomore Nicole Feyerherm and freshman Alexis Wyatt.

“The Honors College challenges you to think critically about academic issues, but it also prepares you for real-life decisions,” Herrington says.

The English Department offered

two of the inaugural six courses in the Honors College: Composition II taught by Dr. Eric Leuschner in Fall 2015 and World Literature & the Human Experience taught by Dr. Lexey Bartlett in Spring 2016. “The advantage to these courses is that students are enrolled in a class filled with other high-achieving students—others with a 3.5 GPA or Honors College students—which allows for more challenging coursework and teaching methods than in a regular section,” Dr. Bartlett says. Leuschner and Bartlett also serve on the Honors College Steering Committee.

“Because this is the Honors College’s first year, numbers are still small,” says Dr. Bartlett. Twenty-five new students will join the 31 current students in the Honors College for Fall 2016.

Feyerherm dreams of pursuing an editing job and believes the Honors College can set her apart from better-known schools. “Being around a group of loving and encouraging

individuals who also make school a priority, has been wonderful,”

Feyerherm says. “I would recommend joining the Honors College because even if you don’t become a central member, you are still surrounded by opportunity and by people who care.”

Wyatt enjoys living on the Honors College floor in McMIndes Hall. She explains feeling very comfortable living around others who share her interests and goals. Being a part of the Honors College has brought many students lifelong friendships they will cherish forever.

“They are truly exemplary students, and it has been a pleasure to work with them in designing the program,” Dr. Bartlett says.

“We’re nerds and we’re proud!”

—Alexis Wyatt

About the Writer

Kiara Sharp



Kiara Sharp is a junior in the English Department’s Writing Concentration. You can usually find her petting any and all cats while sobbing over writing several papers.

From Cairo to Kansas

Dr. Amanda Fields Finds Home



Dr. Amanda Fields is a new Assistant Professor of English who comes to Fort Hays State University after four years of teaching at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, followed by time working with the Ford Foundation-funded Crossroads Collaborative at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where she received

her PhD in Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English. During her time in Cairo, Fields helped develop the first rhetoric and composition department in the Middle East, which inspired her to pursue a doctoral degree. Prior to her time in Egypt, Fields also earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Minnesota.

Fields is enthusiastic about her career at Fort Hays State University: "I like that the students are from backgrounds similar to mine. I find it very interesting to talk to them and help them find their paths." Fields is optimistic about the departments and organizations she will be able to work with on campus, as she currently co-advises the university's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). She also expresses interest in working with the Sociology Department, which is on the same floor in Rarick Hall, as their ethnographic and methodological approaches are ones with which she is both familiar and comfortable.

Fields collaborated on a peer-reviewed webtext published in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology*

and *Pedagogy* that focuses on the youth slam poets Fields observed and worked with in Tucson, Arizona. "Our goal was to think about young people and how they articulate, reflect upon, and are included in discussions about sexuality, health, and rights," Fields says. The text includes multimodal elements of performance to highlight the poets and the Crossroads Collaborative, the organization they worked with.

In addition to this webtext, Fields has also published a number of creative and academic works. Her story "Boiler Room" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, considered one of the most prestigious literary awards in America.

During her first year on campus, Fields taught a variety of courses pertaining to her doctorate, such as Creative Writing and Theories of Rhetoric and Composition. She is "interested in a project that involves students," as it would allow her to collaborate with the student body and get to learn about them as writers and individuals. She is excited to teach a graduate course on Youth and Social Change that focuses on pressing issues for contemporary youth, a subject about which she is immensely passionate.

"It's really exciting to have the opportunity to help your students and feel like you have the time to do that," Fields says of her new career at FHSU.

About the Writer

Brianna Hardy



Brianna Hardy is an English (writing) major and Public Relations minor who can't function without coffee or make much progress with the novels trapped in her head.

Bartlett named Nationally Competitive Scholarships Coach

Dr. Lexey Bartlett was named the new Nationally Competitive Scholarships Coach for FHSU. Her duties include advising students who apply for prestigious scholarships such as the Rhodes, Truman, and Marshall scholarships and chairing the Honors College Nationally Competitive Scholarships Committee. Bartlett is an associate professor of English and is the advisor of the FHSU chapter of the Sigma Tau Delta honor society. She also serves as the High Plains Regent for Sigma Tau Delta.

#WhyIWrite

“Why do you write?”

The Department of English at Fort Hays State University celebrated the National Day on Writing by asking this question of students when they walked in front of the Memorial Union. The event, which takes place annually on October 20 and is hosted by the National Council of Teachers of English, draws attention to how various forms of writing play an important role in society today.

“Students are writing more than ever before. However, they may not be writing in the ways that we’ve conventionally taught them,” says Amanda Fields, Assistant Professor of English. “Social media, in particular, can bring down some of the boundaries between who can be a writer and who can be a critic.”

This was the English department’s first time observing the event, so Fields teamed up with Linda Smith, Instructor of English, and the two brainstormed ways to involve the Fort Hays campus.

With little budget, Fields and Smith grabbed colorful paper stamped with the #WhyIWrite hashtag, and set up a booth outside the Memorial Union. Here, they encouraged those passing by to take a moment to reflect on why they write and what makes writing so crucial.

“The event on campus was great fun, and even now,

months after the October event last year, students continue to stroll through the halls of Rarick, third floor, reading the colorful #WhyIWrite idea flags that grace the walls near the English office,” says Smith.

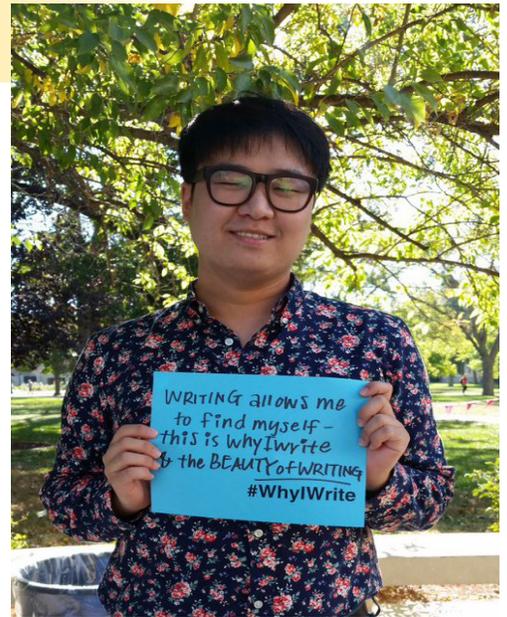
When looking at the idea flags, one notices a variety of different answers to the question, “Why do you write?” Some explain that they write for recreational purposes, while others take a more scholarly approach.

“I write so that I can look back years from now and see how I felt now, rather than how I see it then,” says one student. Another says that she enjoys writing because “I don’t have enough room in my head for all my ideas. I write because I don’t have enough room in my body for my own emotions.”

With approximately 150 participants at last year’s National Day on Writing event, Fields and Smith plan on organizing a similar event this year, but would like to do a little something extra to get more students and faculty involved.

“I think that English departments are often seen as spaces that are only for certain people. I don’t think that’s true,” says Fields. “It’s not just about having a comprehensive knowledge of Shakespeare. English and writing are about so much more.

I believe that events like this can be so helpful because English departments are very important. We just need to articulate why we are.”



Graduate Student Jay Mizno Lee



Sophomore Nicole Feyerherm

About the Writer

Kaycee Beilman

Kaycee is a senior in Communication Studies with a minor in Media Studies. She loves puppies and cries every time she watches a video about corgis.



“Because someone has to write about Moby-Dick”

#WhyIWrite

STD Spreads Nationwide



Back Row: Taran Becker, Zach Walker, Nicole Feyerherm, Meagan Englert. **Nicole Borchers.** **Middle Row:** Jera Gales, Kylie Herrington, Lisa Jones, Jessica Shields, Kat Goetting, Krissy Allacher. **Bottom Row:** Addie Billinger, Sarah Jarmer, and Abby Artz.

Thirteen members of the Rho Psi chapter of the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta at Fort Hays State University attended the international convention, held in Minneapolis, Minn., from March 2-5, 2016. The students joined hundreds of members to share experiences, give ideas and be recognized for their achievements. Dr. Lexey Bartlett, chapter sponsor, and Lisa Jones, English Instructor, also attended. “Dr. Bartlett is an incredible asset to our organization—at the local, regional and international level,” says STD member Taran Becker.

The main theme for the convention was “Finding Home,” and speakers tied their messages into the theme as they presented work they had written, either critical or creative. Kylie Herrington, Jera Gales and Addie Billinger presented critical papers on Tennessee Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire*, William Wordsworth and Shirley Jackson’s short story “The Lottery.” Zach Walker and Herrington participated in roundtables, and Becker read

her story titled “Blocked.” “I really enjoyed presenting my paper,” says Becker. “Plus, I got to hear other fiction stories that had a similar theme to mine.”



One popular event available at the convention was a bad poetry reading, a form of open-

Becker reads her short story during a creative writing session.

mic where the presenter reads either a bad poem written in middle school or a funny poem parodying annoying poetry trends. Billinger participated and was booed off the stage. “Which was exciting because it meant she did a good job,” says Walker.

Becker attended the last convention in Albuquerque and was elected as an Associate Student Representative for the High Plains Region. “During the convention this year, I sat in on a board meeting, which was very

exciting for me because I was able to witness how the organization works on a larger scale,” says Becker.

Walker says that his favorite moment at the convention was seeing everyone present. “It was really exciting watching your peers succeed in such an academic convention that’s highly prestigious as well,” says Walker. “I think that this convention is a good way to really cultivate your own love for your own discipline.”

“I think it’s safe to say that every member of ours found home with this wonderful group of people,” says Becker.

About the Writer

Eric Menendez



Eric Menendez is an English major at Fort Hays State University. His favorite teacher is Dr. Duffy.

The Essen Exchange: English Department Is Forward Thinking, World Ready

FHSU's motto rings true in its offering of exchange programs, such as the two-week program held in Essen, Germany. The partnership between the two universities, initiated by former English department Chair Steve Trout and the late Avi Kempinski in 2009, recently extended its reach to graduate students.

joined by five students from FHSU: Lia Blanchard, Denton Tulloch, Traci Small, Kay Landon and Miranda Bridgforth. Dr. Saskia Hertlein, a participant in the 2014 faculty exchange, and Scott's sister, Sheri, were other welcome additions to the group.



Courtesy of Lia Blanchard.

Berlin Wall crossing point and remnant of the Cold War. Checkpoint Charlie's warning reads in four languages: English, Russian, French and German.

The Brandenburg Gate and Pariser Platz were among several other sites that the group visited while in Berlin. FHSU students were also permitted to travel solo, so long as it didn't interfere with their course work, which was the overall focus of the trip.

Blanchard said of her experience exploring Berlin, "There was no holiday or event being celebrated, no victory—just a bunch of human beings surrounded by music and glad to be alive."

About the Writer

Kristin Roth



Kristin Roth is an English major (writing concentration) and Young Adult Library Assistant at the Hays Public Library.



From left: Traci Small, Denton Tulloch, Lia Blanchard, Miranda Bridgforth, Kay Landon.

The program has been in existence for a number of years. Dr. Pauline Scott was the faculty leader of the most recent program in July of 2015.

The exchange program with the University of Duisburg-Essen had previously been reserved for faculty: one FHSU professor would travel to Germany to teach for the summer term and one German professor would teach at FHSU. Scott, who had already begun teaching in Essen, was

Total enrollment for the class was twenty-seven. Both German and American students from several different areas and levels of study attended Scott's two-week long class, which focused on Shakespeare and adaptation of his works. But it wasn't all work. FHSU students spent three days sight-seeing in Berlin with Hertlein as their guide.

"It was a gorgeous, sunny Saturday in late July and the Platz was full of people from all around the world."

- Lia Blanchard

One particular sight that the group visited is known as "Checkpoint Charlie," the former

Cancer sucks.

TEAM DUFFY

When Dr. Cheryl Hofstetter Duffy was diagnosed with breast cancer in the fall of 2015, many people involved in Fort Hays State University and its English department stepped up to help her out. She received several gifts of food, “everything from sweet bread to Minestrone to roast beef with mashed potatoes to Jalisco’s take-out and so much more!” says Duffy. She was also given some unique gifts: “I skipped class to avoid getting her sick!” says Ashley Kaiser, English major and student of Duffy’s. All in all, the astounding support from Fort Hays State University and its dedicated English department faculty, staff and students demonstrate the team support—TEAM DUFFY.



In the 2015-2016 academic year, several faculty members covered her classes for both a short-term and a long-term period. Brenda Craven, Linda Smith and Amanda Fields covered her classes while she recovered from surgery in the fall, and Fields and Eric Leuschner stepped up to take over her classes when she decided upon a lighter load while undergoing chemotherapy treatment in the spring. Others, including Lisa Jones, also shifted their schedules to accommodate Duffy's absence.

Linda Thomasson and Jacinta Carter, both graduate students in English, developed the TEAM DUFFY concept, with a tree display outside of her office. Any student of Duffy's would recognize the squirrel, Duffy's favorite animal. They may recall the many examples of grammatical usage that center on squirrels. Thomasson and Carter wanted to create something that everyone could get involved in. Having an idea in mind, they reached out to Toby Flores in the Art Department for help. "I explained what we wanted to do, and he took it from there," Thomasson says. "I thought he would just draw something on banner paper, but when I went to pick it up, I was moved to tears by what I saw. He really went above and beyond to make it special for

Dr. Duffy." Many students, faculty members, and other supporters wrote encouraging messages on pink ribbons and attached them to the tree. These two students — and undoubtedly every student she has had — wanted to show Duffy how much they could help her. Thomasson emphasizes Dr. Duffy's passion for her students: "This wonderful woman in our department deserves to feel some of that support given back to her."

Fort Hays State University's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, created a rubber bracelet, with a pink ribbon, "Team Duffy" in all caps and a squirrel. "I knew STD needed to get involved," says Zach Walker, STD President. "STD is a group full of people who interact with her on a nearly daily basis." He adds, "Also, Duffy has always supported us. I know that she holds so many people up with her unending love and kindness." Not only did Sigma Tau Delta help provide a support symbol for Duffy, but they also raised awareness and assistance by selling them during a fundraiser and donating the profit to the Cancer Council of Ellis County, the organization Duffy chose herself. "This is by far my greatest memory of Sigma Tau Delta: we got involved and made a difference," says Walker.

The Team Duffy tree outside of Duffy's office in Rarick Hall. Many supporters wrote messages wishing her well.



About the Writer

**Taran
Becker**



Taran is a senior studying English with a knack for creative writing. She has one self-published novel under her belt and plans to publish several more in the future. One can often find her in one of the many coffee shops in Hays, pen in hand, sweat on her brow.

Michelle (Webb) Lingo (BA 2011, MA 2012) also contributed to Duffy's support. During her time at FHSU, Lingo became passionate about grammar and diagramming

“She inspires people to keep moving, to keep working, to keep reaching.”

sentences—all thanks to Duffy's knowledge and inspiration. “I give her a lot of credit for how my career evolved,” Lingo says. “I followed my passion for grammar and language, and since graduating I have written and published a grammar book and provided grammar trainings for elementary and secondary teachers, and I currently work as a language analyst.”

Lingo designed a TEAM DUFFY T-shirt in her former professor's honor that includes the diagrammed sentence “Cancer Sucks.” On the back of the shirt, it reads “TEAM DUFFY” and includes a squirrel and a tree of pink ribbons. Originally, Duffy was the only one with a

shirt, but students in the English Department spread the word and ordered several shirts for supportive individuals. “I chose the t-shirts because I thought it complemented the other forms of support already in the works,” Lingo says.

Although Duffy decided to relinquish her on-campus classes a few weeks into the spring semester, she maintained several of her duties: she continued to teach her Writing Internship class, meeting with students weekly via Skype; she

persisted in her scholarly research; and she remained an advisor from afar. Duffy personally thanks Linda Leiker in the English Office for acting as liaison as she tried to remain involved in her duties while on medical leave. “Taking medical leave was a hard decision, but it was necessary,” says Duffy. “I was picking up everything from pink eye to bronchitis!”

As we miss her positive outlook on life and dedication to our school, we look forward to her full-time return to the campus and department.



English Graduates

Summer 2015-Spring 2016

Bachelor of Arts in English

Taran Nicole Becker
Rebekah Sage Bencomo
Adaline Marie Billinger
Nicole Lynn Borchers
Rachel Katherine Everett
Kaci Ann Ferguson
Jera Gales
Kylie Herrington
Mamie-Lené Nicole Keating
Jenna Nicole Long
Seonjin Na
Rachel E. Rayner
Kristin Dawn Roth
Zachary Lynn Walker
Michelle Jacinta Waymire

Master of Arts in English

Genesis Laura Ackermann
Hannah Christine Badenhop
Lia Deanna Blanchard
Cheryl Chavez Newey
Traci Ann Small

Master of Liberal Studies—Literary Arts

Kari Lisa Churchill
Anne Michelle Dewvall
Michelle Renee Ernst
Jessica Lynn Heidrick
David F. Hoenigman
David Garth Jensen
Jessica F. Klein
Jenny M. Roberts
Tonya Renee Robinson
Eli Benjamin Svaty
Nathalie Anne Vidlak
James Cory Young



Post-Chemo Update

The weekly chemotherapy treatment sessions left Dr. Duffy tired, weak and more susceptible to illness. But do not worry—she made it through! Because she conquered treatment, she lowered her chances of relapse by 95-98%.

She is excited for her return to campus and taught a class on humor writing during Summer 2016.

Writing for the Public, Not the Professor

While it may seem far from the plains of Hays, Kansas, the University of Colorado was the destination in mind for Dr. Cheryl Duffy and two graduate students, Rhonda Lippert-Bortz and Lia Blanchard. After hearing of a conference based on community writing being held on the campus, Dr. Duffy eagerly submitted a proposal and gathered two of her finest students to join her at the conference to present on the topic “Writing for the Public, Not the Professor: Embracing Diversity in Rural Kansas.”

“I asked Lia and Rhonda to present with me based on the strength of the writing they had done as a part of a graduate course they took the summer of 2014,” Dr. Duffy said, referring to the Topics in Writing: Community-Based Writing course both graduate students had completed.

The Conference on Community Writing, held on University of Colorado’s campus, features a wide range of subjects that relate to community writing, a diverse, multifaceted topic that ranges from cultural issues to social issues such as poverty, racism, prisons, immigration and homelessness.

Blanchard admitted that she was a little intimidated about being in such a highly academic setting. Both graduate students had worked hard on their publications in Dr. Duffy’s course, yet were unsure of how their pieces would fit in at the conference. Their struggle, however, turned into their topic for the conference in an interesting shift of events.

Blanchard said, “During Dr. Duffy’s class, we had worked on individual community-based writing projects that were united in theme: exploring how to encourage ethnic diversity in the Hays area. Most of the class did something directly relating to immigrant populations, but I had taken a different direction and explored Hays’s Sister City relationships.”

Lippert-Bortz and Blanchard found snags in publication for their projects, both running into political and

“Even when community writing is promoting the common good, there’s no guarantee that it will be well-received or even published.”

social obstacles that made publishing their work difficult. As they plotted ideas for the conference, they realized a

topic was sitting right in front of them due to their experiences.

“We decided to structure our presentation around these challenges, demonstrating the fact that even when community writing is promoting the common good, there’s no guarantee that it will be well received or even published. As it turned out, this approach was unique at the conference,” Blanchard explained.

The presentation was well received and was just one subject in a sea of others during the conference. Overall, the conference was an enlightening experience. Blanchard’s final thoughts on the conference were positive: “I learned that there are some fascinating jobs out there! I’m in the MA program to hone my writing skills, and I already love working for nonprofits, so I definitely got some ideas about what kind of cool writing gigs are out there in the world. As a freelancer, this is invaluable information.”



Dr. Duffy, Lia Blanchard and Rhonda Lippert-Bortz at the Conference on Community Writing in Boulder, Colorado.

About the Writer

Jenna Long



Jenna is a senior with a focus on Writing and Biology. She loves sushi, cats and giant transforming robots.

Generous Gift for the Writing Center

Generous funding from Richard and Dolores Fischli, alumni of FHSU, is set to improve Fort Hays State University's Writing Center in a number of innovative ways. High hopes accompany the \$10,000 donation. The FHSU English Department has assembled a committee to determine the specific ways the money may be used.

Dr. Yuri Yerastov, the 2015-16 Writing Center Director and committee member, discussed the committee's top priority for the money. The Writing Center recently moved to the main floor of Forsyth Library from the basement, and because it has no real walls and is seemingly a few desks thrown together with some computers, students wander in and out of the Writing Center without realizing they have entered its premises. To prevent this, the committee wants to move the Writing Center again and put up walls to establish visible boundaries for the Writing Center within Forsyth Library. This will take some coordinating with the library, but the renovation should proceed in the summer of 2016. The committee has also discussed adding more furniture to the Writing Center to accommodate more students and tutors.

Dr. Eric Leuschner, English department chair, says another plan for the Writing Center is to hire more tutors and establish additional training for the tutors: "These funds could be used to increase the number of tutors, which would allow us to boost the number of students served, but we are also exploring opportunities for faculty and students

to travel to conferences for professional development," says Leuschner.

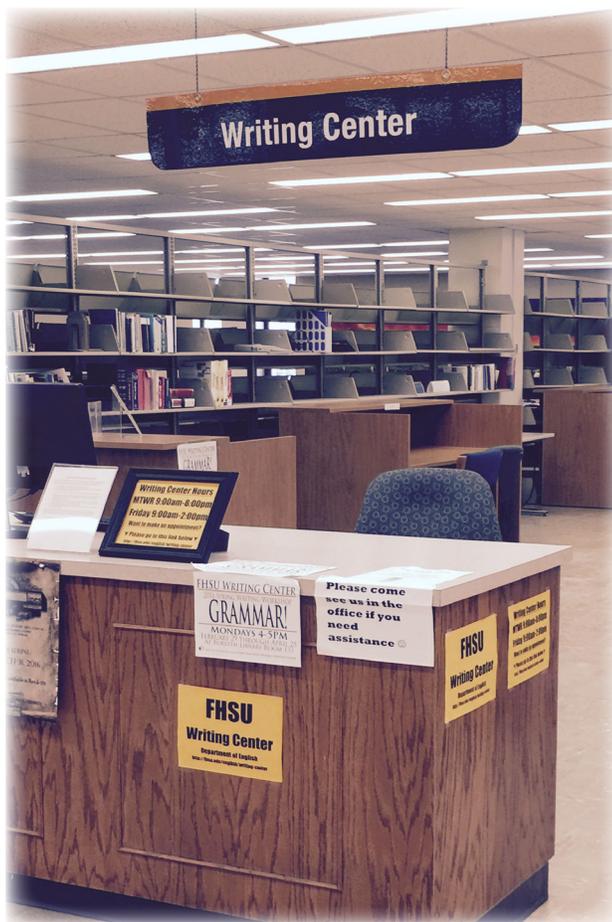
The Writing Center helps students who want to learn how to write a professional, polished paper. Emily Minter (BA, 2013), a former tutor, says, "The Writing Center aims to improve the skill level of all types of students and writers. It is dedicated to tutoring students and helping them gain confidence and knowledge, so they can be better writers and feel more comfortable working without the help of a tutor, teacher or friend."

The tutors will not simply make editing "fixes" to a paper for the students. Rather, tutors ask the student about a specific area of his or her paper to improve upon, and that consultation emphasizes these corrections. The major focus of the Writing Center is to teach students how to write independently and confidently so that, eventually, they will not need to visit the Writing Center; they will have the skills to write well on their own.

The \$10,000 donation will help the Writing Center reach its main goals. Such a generous gift will allow FHSU to better serve current and future students who utilize the free assistance the Writing Center provides.

With a clearly designated area for the Writing Center, students will know exactly where to go to get feedback and support for their writing. The tutors who work at the Writing Center will help students at any stage of the writing process: planning, writing or revision. The committee has plenty to consider as they move forward with ideas and plans for the Writing Center's future.

Writing Center Goals: Planning Writing Revision



About the Writer

Ashley Kaiser



Ashley is an English major who frequently re-reads "Harry Potter." In her spare time she curses books with bad endings.



Krystal Baugher: Writing in the City

Krystal Baugher is a freelance writer and copywriter for Gaiam TV.

“I’m single in the city, and it’s nearly as entertaining as that old show that used to be on HBO about Carrie Bradshaw and friends,” says Krystal Baugher (BA Writing Concentration, 2006), now living in Denver. “Except I don’t spend \$400 on shoes every other week.”

Baugher sees no limits to the opportunities she had during her time at FHSU. “The thing about going to FHSU that helped me develop the most was that while I was there I was able to try out whatever I wanted,” Baugher says. “If I had an interest in something, it wasn’t off limits because it ‘wasn’t my major.’ I wrote for the paper, I was involved in every aspect of the theater productions and I was in a ton of clubs: the gay/straight alliance, the student feminist organization, the Sigma Tau Delta English honor society.”

Baugher continued her education at Chicago’s DePaul University, where she received her master’s degree in Writing and Publishing as well as in Gender Studies.

An interesting array of occupations have colored Baugher’s resume since her time at FHSU. She has done everything from working as an editorial intern to being the Director of Marketing and Communications for Fertile Action (a non-profit that helps women diagnosed with cancer afford fertility preservation treatment). Baugher has been a freelance contributor for *elephant*

journal, The Boulder Weekly, The Atlantic and Meet Mindful, among others.

“Words. Words are everywhere,” Baugher says when asked what was most beneficial about earning an English degree. A playwriting class at FHSU “was beneficial in that I learned how to write dialogue way better than I was doing before.”

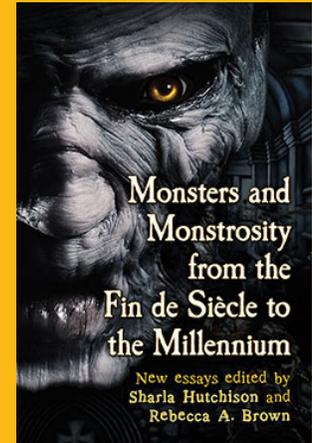
Baugher now works as a copywriter for Gaiam TV. “My position requires me to write landing page copy — all the words on websites, banner ads, emails to people on our prospect list (as I am an acquisitions copywriter), descriptions of shows, commercials about who we are for places like HSN, Comcast, YouTube, etc.,” Baugher says of her newest occupation.

Looking back on her time at FHSU, Baugher says, “The whole department has always been incredibly supportive. Even now some keep in touch, which just goes to show they actually care about the person’s overall wellbeing and truly want their students to be successful. They were always challenging and had high expectations that worked well for me, as a person who has high expectations for myself.”

“Fort Hays gave me the space to develop my authentic self,” Baugher says. “I was never told ‘no’; I was told to figure it out and make it happen — and I did.”

—Kristin Roth

Hutchison publishes monster book



Sharla Hutchison, professor of English, recently published an edited collection of new essays on the popularity of gothic monsters. Hutchison and co-editor Rebecca A. Brown gathered contributions on zombies, vampires and ghosts in texts from the 1890s to the present, including literature, film and comics, for *Monsters and Monstrosity from the Fin de Siècle to the Millennium*.

The book, published by McFarland, includes twelve essays on topics ranging from Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* to Shirley Jackson’s *The Haunting of Hill House* to comic adaptations of H. P. Lovecraft and Bret Easton Ellis’s *American Psycho*.

Hutchison also contributed an essay on Maria Corelli’s 1897 novel *Ziska*, which she reads as an Egyptian ghost story.

Leuschner named Department Chair

Following a national search, Dr. Eric Leuschner was named English department chair effective June 2016. Leuschner had been serving as interim chair for the 2015-16 academic year after Dr. Pauline Scott stepped down as chair in August 2015. Leuschner is an associate professor of English and has been the International Coordinator in charge of the English composition program in FHSU’s cross-border program in China since 2010. He received his PhD from the University of Missouri at Columbia in 2004 and his MA and BA from Oklahoma State University. He has taught courses ranging from “Conspiracies in American Fiction” and “Literature of Kansas” to “The Sonnet” and “Teaching Poetry.” His research interests include the history of the novel and eighteenth-century British literature, and he has published scholarly articles on Henry Fielding, Henry James, William Godwin, Ellen Glasgow, Wallace Stevens and the academic novel. He is also the editor of *Teacher-Scholar: The Journal of the State Comprehensive University*.

An Interview with Morgan Chalfant

Morgan Chalfant (BA 2008, MA 2010) has published two novels, *Focused Insanity* and *Ghosts of Glory*, and is finishing a third. He teaches English Composition at FHSU.

What have you written? What are your books about?

I have written poetry, short stories and two published novels to date. One of my first publications was a poem called “The Iceman” in *Lines from the Middle of Nowhere* at Fort Hays State University. My poetry has appeared in e-zines and print, and my horror short story “Steel Music Box” was published in *Under the Bed* e-zine. *Focused Insanity*, a short horror-thriller, was my first book. It follows a young man in search of his girlfriend, who has disappeared in a small mountain town in Colorado. My second, *Ghosts of Glory*, is an urban fantasy that tells the story of Jersey “The Brawler” Romero, a street-wise tough guy who finds himself pitted against a mysterious man who seeks to destroy him and the city of Glory.

What are you currently working on?

I just finished the first draft of my next novel, *Glass Cannons*. It took me about four and half months to finish, which is fast for me. It’s a book with some supernatural themes that deals with facing and overcoming crippling fear.

What is your preferred genre?

I love blending genres. I dislike it when writers are pigeonholed as “the horror writer” or “the romance writer.” I’d much rather be known as a writer or storyteller. That being said, I do like horror and dark fantasy. I enjoy injecting dark humor into those genres. To me, the opportunity to play with magical elements in a real-world setting unlocks doorways closed to certain genres.

Where do you get your inspiration?

Oh, where do I start? It could be seeing something on the way to work or hearing a song on the radio or even a random thought popping into your head while at the gym. Then, there’s pain. In retrospect, painful memories and experiences can be pretty inspiring when channeled. That’s definitely what formed the beginnings of *Focused Insanity*. After I finished, I realized painful moments in life can be truly inspirational elements.

Are there any specific authors who influenced your writing?

Clive Barker, Richard Kadrey, Harlan Ellison, Neil Gaiman and Robert E. Howard.



Mystery and historical writer Charlotte Hinger was kind enough to mentor me in a writing class at FHSU. She gave me confidence when I needed it and taught me a great deal about the publishing process and writing in general. She was the first one to suggest reading Stephen King’s *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, which was pivotal to my growth as a writer.

Was there a class or professor that was most helpful to you?

Writing for Publication with Dr. Steven Trout was very helpful for learning how

to query agents and markets. Dr. Brett Weaver’s creative writing classes were probably the most important classes I took from a writing standpoint. I learned a lot about the craft itself and about myself in that class. I don’t think we ever truly reach perfection as writers, but we can always learn and improve.

How do you find time to write, and how do you balance work and writing?

Sometimes it’s hard to want to sit down and stare at a computer when you’ve been grading papers on one all day. That’s when I usually switch to writing with a pen and notebook. Little things like that help the motivation. I find myself writing at 1 a.m., even if it’s only a few words. Having worked closely with editors to edit my own work has left me with a healthy knowledge of what to look for in various aspects of the craft. It has also made me much more encouraging to students who want to pursue writing because I was once in their shoes, and that love for writing should be cultivated.

How did you get your work published?

As Charlotte Hinger once told me, “There is no Dumbo’s feather.” In the end, it took a lot of hard work and a little luck. I sent a massive amount of query letters and stories out to a wide range of publishers and literary agencies. It isn’t easy and you have to have an iron chin because, yes, you will be rejected. I’ve been rejected in poetry, short fiction and plenty of novel queries. I have a manila envelope with over 70 rejection letters inside.

Do you have any advice to aspiring writers, especially students?

If you like to write, write. Do it with passion and conviction. Don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t write. It’s like anything else: the more you do it, the more you improve. Every amazing writer once started as a beginner. Harlan Ellison once said, “You must never be afraid to go there.” Those are some sage words to adhere to when writing.

--Interview conducted by
students of ENG 385

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