LORAS ENGLISH HOSTS
POET LISA HIGGS ’97

Poet Lisa Higgs (’97) was the English Department Homecoming Breakfast guest speaker on October 7, 2017. Lisa’s first chapbook, *Lodestar*, was published in 2011. Her second chapbook, *Unintentional Guide to the Big City*, was published by Red Bird Chapbooks in April 2015. Her work has been published in numerous literary journals – including Crab Orchard Review, *Water~Stone Review, Midwestern Gothic* and *PMS: poemmemoirstory* – and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and two Illinois Arts Council Literary Awards. As an undergraduate at Loras College, Lisa won two first place prizes in the Delta Epsilon Sigma national undergraduate Writing competition: for nonfiction in 1996 and for poetry in 1997. A Minnesota native currently living in the city of Rochester, Lisa received her M.F.A. in creative writing from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Currently, Lisa is Poetry Editor for *Quiddity International Literary Journal*. She also reviews poetry collections for *Kenyon Review Online*.

ENGLISH CAREERS DINNER

Professor Brian Kallback (M.A. Literature, ’02) and Ms. Noelle Henneman (’16 Writing) were guest presenters at the 6th annual English Careers Dinner on April 17th, 2018, held at Lina’s Thai Bistro.

Professor Kallback is the Program Director for Financial Planning & Wealth Management within the Francis J. Noonan School of Business here at Loras College. He teaches undergraduate courses in personal financial planning, investments, corporate finance, and a first-year orientation on wealth and stewardship.

Henneman graduated from Loras with majors in Creative Writing and Spanish and minors in Publishing and Catholic Studies. She currently works at Kendall Hunt Publishing as a Project Coordinator, helping instructors create products for classrooms and managing their projects.

Bill Pauly, Valorie Woerdehoff, Lisa Higgs ’97, Donna Bauerly

Noelle Henneman ’16
AUTHOR: PERSISTENCE IS THE “WRITE” WAY TO GO
By Ashley Pudil (’18)

On Wednesday, Oct. 27, the Loras English Department welcomed author Keith Lesmeister to campus. Lesmeister spent the evening holding a reading for his most recently published book, We Could’ve Been Happy Here, that night at 7 p.m. on the third floor of the Academic Resource Center. The event was attended by several English faculty members as well as English literature and creative writing majors.

Lesmeister’s fiction has appeared in American Short Fiction, Gettysburg Review, North American Review, Redivider, Slice Magazine and many others since he started writing. He is also a published nonfiction author, with his work being published in River Teeth, Sycamore Review, The Good Men Project, Tin House Open Bar and Water–Stone Review, among others. The book he read at the reading, We Could Have Been Happy Here, was published by MG Press in June of 2017, five years after Lesmeister started writing it during his MFA program in 2012. He currently teaches writing at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Lesmeister started out his reading by giving students and professors a sense of where he had been on his writing journey. During his undergraduate years, he majored in communication studies but didn’t take very many English classes. After he graduated from college, Lesmeister spent a few years raising his daughter with his wife and settling down as a family. After the birth of his second child, however, the author thought it would be a good time to take a class. The food co-op in his town offered a creative writing course, so Lesmeister signed up.

“That was my very first reintroduction to writing,” Lesmeister said. From that point, he decided to start writing fiction and nonfiction.

After working on what was supposed to be a memoir about family, mental illness and religion, Lesmeister was unsure of whether or not to publish it. His professor suggested that he start writing fiction. Thus, writing We Could’ve Been Happy Here had begun.

“I wanted to write a short story collection instead of just one fiction piece,” Lesmeister explained about his book. “That was the form I gravitated to the most, the form that I read a lot and really loved.”

Throughout the five-year period of writing his book, Lesmeister faced lots of writing challenges. He explained that writing a novel, a book of short stories or other works for publication is a group process. Influences from professors and people he had met in the past all went into helping him create his book. The acknowledgment page and dedication of his book, he said, could have easily been much longer.

“There are people who, when I first started off as a writer, believed in me along the way even when I was a non-traditional student,” Lesmeister said. “I look around and see a lot of writing majors here, and I’ve heard about some of the courses offered for the writing majors and the involvement in the literary work from professors. It’s great to have that support.”

Lesmeister answered questions from the crowd after his reading. His main piece of advice, however, was creating deadlines for himself as he wrote.

“That was one of the things that really helped me when I was a student. Create deadlines for yourselves because it’s easy to get off track from what you really want to do,” Lesmeister emphasized. “It’ll help you in the long run.”

The students who attended the event were given inspiration by Lesmeister’s genuineness and honesty.

“He is a very warm and down-to-earth individual,” senior Maria Teets said. “His depth of personal experience and knowledge of human nature are clearly manifest in his fiction writing. If I can be as cool as he is one day, I’ll consider it an accomplishment.”

To learn more about Lesmeister and his book, visit https://keithlesmeister.com.

LORAS WRITERS EARN TOP AWARDS IN NATIONAL WRITING CONTEST

Please join us in congratulating the following English majors and recent graduate who won first or second place in the 2018 DES National Undergraduate Writing Competition:

- Anna Girgenti (’18), 1st place poetry: “North America Abstracted”
- Maria Teets (’18), 1st place creative nonfiction: “Psalm 22”
- Cassandra Busch (’17), 1st place Critical/Analysis essay: “Feminism in the Margins”…
- Cassandra Busch (’17), 2nd place Short Fiction: “Meadowridge”

These writers, whose work appeared in the 2017 Limestone Review, continue a tradition of excellence in which Loras students writers for 25 consecutive years have captured at least one first place, second place, or honorable mention in the DES national writing competition. This is the fourth consecutive year in which we have done so in three or four of the genre categories.

Congratulations to all!
“Presenting at Streamlines the first time was a bit nerve-racking. I was a psychology major in a sea of English/Literature majors,” said two-time presenter Sophia Muzzarelli. “However, everyone who attends was so supportive and nice. Everyone is there to celebrate the talents of everyone present.”

The conference consisted of four sessions for presentations split 3-1 by a catered lunch and a keynote speaker. This year’s keynote speaker was Clarke University’s Steve Bellomy who enlightened attendees about the role and significance of references to November in 20th century literature and culture. Each presentation session featured 3-5 presenters, grouped by topic.

“I would have to say that the best part about streamlines is looking at the panels and seeing people who might not have known each other before the conference being put together based on similar works,” said senior Muzzarelli. “Especially during the question portion, when everyone is able to discuss their thought processes and inspirations.”

Professor William Jablonsky also presented in a panel on publishing work and Drs. Kevin Koch, Kate McCarthy-Gilmore and Susan Stone served as moderators for the sessions amid faculty members for the other universities. In the true nature of the collaborative conference, the venue of the event rotates among the three. The 2018 Streamlines Conference will be held at Loras on Nov. 10.

“The process [of planning for next year’s event] is actually already underway,” said Dr. Kanyusik. “The initial steps go into place actually for the following year at the start of the school year the year before to make sure that everything is set; it’s already in the works.”

**NEW J-TERM COURSE**

**NARRATIVES OF SELF AND CONFLICT:**

**GENDER, DISABILITY, AND WAR**

This past J-Term was the first year that the course Gender, Disability, and War was offered at Loras, taught by Dr. William Kanyusik. The course examined texts that focused on the relationship between society and war, and the significant impact this relationship has had on American culture. The various texts explored in the class were written by authors such as Ernest Hemingway, Ron Kovic, and Studs Terkel. In addition to the literature on the course topic, Dr. Kanyusik incorporated a focus on documentary and fiction film into the course. The course also incorporated multiple guest speakers who spoke to the students.
about their journeys in their different branches of military during different periods of American history, allowing students to be involved with the veteran community and to reflect on the topics discussed in the classroom on a more personal level. Furthermore, our class was provided with the opportunity to travel to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, Wisconsin to gain a more in-depth understanding of the different wars of the 20th Century and the situations and environments in which the soldiers lived. Overall, this course stimulated new conversations and allowed for students to gain familiarity with issues surrounding disability and gender in the context of specific issues related to war and American veterans.

FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY

In March, students in ENG390 Grant and Proposal Writing met with non-profit community partners to discuss the projects they were writing about this semester. After learning about the projects and areas of need, students worked in teams to research potential funders and develop funding proposals. When this class was offered two years ago, one student secured $5,000 to help update St. Stephen’s Food Bank’s computer system for managing inventory. We hope for more funded projects out of this class, too. Not only do students find great satisfaction in learning how to make a material contribution to their communities, but the hands-on experience also adds to their résumés and professional networks.

Representatives from Habitat for Humanity and Fountain of Youth sit down with students to discuss projects and needs that students will help them find funding for.

DR. JAMES POLLOCK SABBATICAL

By Erin Peters ('21)

While the rest of us were jumping back into classes after a long summer, Dr. James Pollock spent the fall of 2017 on sabbatical. He used his time off to write in the attic of his home in Madison, Wisconsin. He made significant progress on an elaborate poem titled “Oxford in Snow.” The poem is set on the campus of the University of Oxford and comments on the literary significance of the school. Pollock summarizes the main focus of his poem, “As the poem’s solitary narrator visits, describes, and meditates on various ancient buildings and sculptures on the campus, on what amounts to a literary pilgrimage, he imagines and evokes the poets, critics, and writers who have lived in or visited those places in the past…” Dr. Pollock told me about the extensive research he did before he began his writing. He visited the campus to take notes and read thirty-five books about literary figures and historical information in order to prepare him for his ambitious piece. During his time away from teaching, he took the poem from just three to twenty-one manuscript pages. He plans to continue the poem and estimates that it will be around sixty-five to seventy printed pages when it is completed. Unfortunately for Dr. Pollock, he spent the majority of his free time trying to recover from an extended case of acute bronchitis. He shared his sense of humor with me when I asked him what he learned about himself and his writing while on sabbatical. He remarked, “This time around I learned I’m capable of writing well even when I’m terribly sick.” Dr. Pollock was isolated while he was working on his poetry, which was probably good for anyone who isn’t a fan of bronchitis, but he made sure to mention those whom he collaborated with: “I was definitely collaborating with a lot of dead poets and writers, all of them extraordinarily interesting.” His research and exploration of writers from the past drove Pollock’s writing. Like any good Duhawk, though, he still missed his “fine colleagues and eager students, of course.” Dr. Pollock’s sabbatical in the fall of 2017 provided him with an opportunity to explore writers of the past and create poetry that Loras will be proud to show off when it is completed. But of course, we’re glad to have him back on campus with us.
2018 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AWARDS

The following graduating English majors received Departmental Awards:

- Ms. Kelly Minear was awarded the Frank Lehner Future Teachers Award.
- Ms. Maria Teets was awarded the Bauerly-Roseliep Scholarship.
- Ms. Anna Girgenti was awarded the John and Kathryn Tigges Award.

The Bauerly-Roseliep Scholarship annually recognizes an English senior who excels as a student of literature and as a creative writer. Applicants must submit a literary analysis, a creative work, and a cover essay which explains how their study of literature has influenced their writing, and vice versa.

The Lehner Award was established in 2004 by an anonymous Loras College English alum in honor of Dr. Frank Lehner, who taught at Loras from 1955 through 1985. The award is given to one or two English graduates each year who show special promise as future secondary education teachers of English.

The John and Kathryn Tigges Award honors a graduating English major who is an accomplished writer. John Tigges was a Dubuque author and Loras graduate ('54) who published nearly 40 books, including some under pen names.

VICTORIAN NOVEL CLASS

Dr. Erin VanLaningham revised her Victorian Novel class to include a reading in the Loras Rare Books Room and a Victorian Tea at her home.

ENGLISH FACULTY NOTES

Andrew Auge, Ph.D., Professor of English: Dr. Andy Auge continues to teach English courses on contemporary Irish and early modern British literature as well as a junior/senior seminar on Literary Criticism. His research remains focused on the Nobel-award winning Irish poet, Seamus Heaney. Last fall he presented a conference paper on the genesis of one of Heaney’s most controversial poems, “Punishment.” This summer he delivered a keynote lecture for a conference on “Northern Texts,” hosted by the Institute for Art, Design, and Technology in Dun Laoghaire, our partner institution in Ireland. The subject of his lecture is “Reading Heaney’s Bog Poems in the Anthropocene.”

Naomi Clark, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center: Last semester my students wrote grant proposals on behalf of area non-profits such as St. Stephens Food Bank, Boy Scouts, Albrecht Acres, Habitat for Humanity, and Fountain of Youth. Since community based learning is critical to the Rhetoric and Public Writing minor, we make a point of developing sustainable and reciprocal relationships with our community partners by working with many of the same organizations semester after semester. These sustained partnerships allow us to track the impact on partnering organizations and their capacity to meet community needs. Last fall, Maggie Baker, the Service Learning Coordinator here at Loras, and I traveled to the Conference on Community Writing in Boulder, Colorado, to give a presentation about this approach and our method for assessing it. This spring I also had a chapter published in the edited collection, Circulation, Writing, and Rhetoric (Utah State University Press).

William Jablonsky, MFA, Assoc. Professor of English: I've spent much of the school year recovering from sabbatical and the letter-blindness that results from writing three to four thousand words a day. I am still deeply ensconced in the task of cutting a nearly 800-page monstrosity of a novel manuscript down into something I wouldn't be embarrassed to show an agent or publisher. In addition, I've had the good fortune to review many excellent student stories and screenplays this year, and watched our current crop of English writing majors succeed beyond expectations. I look forward to more of the same, with new student editors for Catfish Creek, new majors, new courses to design and offer, and new ways of looking at old approaches.
Will Kanyusik, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of English: This past year, Dr. Kanyusik’s third at Loras, he taught his first J-Term course since coming to campus: Narratives of Self and Conflict: Gender, Disability, and War, which built on his research into cultural depictions of disability in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The engaged learning course involved guest speakers from the veteran’s community in Dubuque and southern Wisconsin, and a day trip to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. Students enrolled in the class looked at issues related to gender, disability, and war in fiction, oral history, and documentary and feature film, and created group multimedia research projects related to the course themes. He also continued to serve as the Loras College coordinator for Streamlines: an Undergraduate Conference Celebrating Language, Literature, and Writing, and he is looking forward to the fall when the conference will be hosted on the Loras Campus for the first time in three years. This summer Dr. Kanyusik continued work on a number of research projects and read the last two novels in Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan series. (The first two are excellent, and you should read them.) He also continued exploring Dubuque and its surrounding countryside on his bicycle.

Kevin Koch, Ph.D., Professor of English: Kevin Koch, Ph.D. (professor of English) marked his 35th year of teaching at Loras College with such courses as Thesis Seminar, Nature Writing, Language Theory & Teaching of Writing, Nature of Ireland, Writing the Midwest Landscape, Creative Nonfiction, and Monastery Voices. He continued in his role as Faculty Editor of The Limestone Review. This year he returns to a previous role as interim Division Chair for the 2018-19 academic year. Dr. Koch continued writing a bi-monthly outdoors column for the local newspaper among other writing endeavors. His nonfiction book The Thin Places: A Celtic Landscape from Ireland to the Driftless will be published in the upcoming year by Wipf and Stock. When he is not teaching or writing, you can still find him bicycling, hiking, or kayaking in the Driftless region.

James Pollock, Ph.D., Professor of English and Creative Writing: Dr. Pollock published a critical essay, “A Season in Hell: On The Chemical Life by Jim Johnstone,” in the journal Hamilton Arts & Letters. His poem “Crossing the Seine” was accepted for publication in The Walrus, and four of his poems were reprinted in The Next Wave An Anthology of 21st Century Canadian Poetry. He spent the fall of 2017 on sabbatical, working on a new long poem called “Oxford in Snow,” and read an excerpt from that poem at the Legacy Symposium in May, 2018. He was also elected as an at-large member of the college’s Academic Council.

Susan Stone, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English: Dr. Susan Stone enjoyed another successful year, completing her term as Division Chair. As always, she enjoyed working with her amazing advisees and Capstone students, teaching various American literature and writing courses, and mentoring the Loras Literary Society and Writers’ Ink group. In addition to her duties as Division Chair and teacher, she also presented her scholarship on Mary Wilkins Freeman’s transcendentalism at the American Literature Association meeting in Boston, which led to her election to the International Freeman Society’s Board and to the award of a full year of Sabbatical for the 2018-2019 academic year. Although she is sure she will miss everyone for the year, Dr. Stone is excited not only to work on a book proposal for Freeman, but also to continue her research and writing on the earliest Native Americans to become leaders in the Catholic Church.

Erin VanLaningham, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English: A year ago, I spent a week in Chicago with faculty from around the country at a seminar on Teaching Vocation, and this summer I got to return for a follow-up conversation and study weekend. I am looking forward to my future travel during January 2019 to lead a study abroad course Literary London and Beyond, where we will visit Shakespeare’s Globe Theater, the homes of Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle, the Jane Austen Literary Center in Bath, and the Harry Potter tour. I am revisiting my scholarship on British women’s writing and art, as I prepare for a fall conference where I’ll discuss the representation of art museums in the writing of Michael Field and George Eliot. The Honors program continues to make impressive impacts on the community, collaborating on a neighborhood mural with local teens at the Multicultural Family Center and work with bringing yoga classes to the Veterans Freedom Center. I was able to spend a few days of spring break on a Florida beach with my 15 and 12 year old sons, away from their busy soccer/golf/basketball/music activities. Future family highlights include taking in Maroon 5 and U2 concerts, and kayaking at my family’s cabin in Northern Wisconsin this summer.
ALUMNI NOTES

Edward J. Rielly, Ph.D. ('66)
I have received the rank of professor emeritus from Saint Joseph’s College in Maine. The 2017-18 academic year was my fortieth as a member of the English Department at Saint Joseph’s, where at various times I served as chairperson of the English Department, director of our college honors program, dean of the Distance Education Program at the college, and, most recently, director of our Writing and Publishing major. I look forward in retirement to a variety of writing projects, a lot of gardening, and much time with my family.

Father John O. Bertogli ('73)
I am a 1973 graduate, English major from the college. I attended St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, WI, and was ordained a priest in 1977. Last summer I celebrated my 40th anniversary of ordination. My ministerial assignments have been in the diocese of Des Moines in both rural and urban settings. I am in my 13th year as rector of St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines IA. I continue to act as Canonical Administrator of Holy Family School, an inner city school composed of refugees from Asia, Africa, Mexico and South America. I used my English major background when stationed at Dowling Catholic High School instructing Theology and English. During those years I obtained an MA degree in spiritual direction/retreat ministry from Creighton University, Omaha, NE. My English major has served me well in both writing for numerous periodicals and in preaching. I enjoy keeping in contact with Dr. Donna Bauerly who was one of my mentors. God’s blessings to all Loras English majors.

Bob Stephan ('75)
Loras helped prepare me for a start as a retail copywriter with a manual typewriter, a handful of carbon paper and heart full of enthusiasm. My marketing career traversed two agencies, some rewarding ecommerce marketing experiences and now Rocket Industrial where I manage marketing, and help clients Package with Less. My wife of 35 years Cathy and I have raised six boys, miscellaneous horses, dairy goats, sheep and poultry on the edge of the north woods in Athens, Wisconsin, where we occupy ourselves with haying, gardening, walks in the old growth woods, finding room for more books, and live Newman Catholic High School sports. Warmed by memories of Father Schroeder, Dr. Bauerly, Dr. Lehner, et al, I am working on Camino plans, continued farmhouse and out building restoration, and getting my gelding to hold still in warm Epsom salts to heal his hoof abscess. Stop by sometime. Blessings to all.

Mary Craff ('88)
I am a member of the Loras College class of 1988 and I double majored in English Lit and French. After working in a law firm for 10 years, I received my Master's in Education along with an endorsement in Gifted Education and TESOL (Teaching English to Students of other languages). Currently, I am the Instructional Coach at a Title 1 school in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I am married to Robert Craff, Esq. (Loras Class of 1986), Economics, University of Iowa Law, 1990. We have three children, McKenna, Alexander and Abigail. We love to travel and play tennis. Our daughter McKenna currently attends Loras as a Breitbach Scholar recipient and plays on the Loras Tennis Team.

Sarah (Horst) Edwards ('88)
Sarah (Horst) Edwards ('88) is Professor and Chair of Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has a Ph.D. in language, culture and literacy and has had the opportunity to teach in a variety of settings in five states and on three continents. Sarah has had dozens of manuscripts published in peer-reviewed professional journals. Sarah writes, “I am one of many in the Horst Clan who loved my time at Loras that centered me in both my belief and helped me find my career. “

Will Anderson ('89)
Over the past year, I’ve accomplished some neat stuff. My suspense/horror play “The Relic,” which combines my love of guitar, washed-up English heavy metal bands, and demonic possession, was performed as part of a Halloween-themed show at the Robin Theater in Lansing, Michigan. Another script, “Remit Payment: A Student Loan Horror Story,” was performed live on Central Michigan University’s WMHW-FM as part of WorldAudio Drama Day (October 30th). The audio drama scriptwriting competition I started in honor of my grandmother (www.mtbscriptcompetition.com) has entered its sixth year. In 2017, this competition had 113 entries from seven countries and was a featured story in Watertown, Wisconsin, paper The Watertown Times. My Justin Bieber-themed audio drama "Left to right: The last stand of a Canadian pop star" was used as a sound bed for an animated cartoon, which was screened at the Central Michigan International Film Festival in February. Any Duhawks interested in audio drama/podcasting are welcome to look me up at Central Michigan University.

ALUMNI NOTES
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Tiffany Crowley Kolb ('93)
Tiffany married Doug Kolb ('92) and they have three children, (Jacob, Eli, and Elizabeth) and live in Wisconsin. Tiffany spent twenty-four years in education, teaching and working as a school administrator. In recent years, she started her own business, Philekoos College Admissions Counseling, to guide students and families in the college selection process. Tiffany enjoys cycling and traveling with her family.

Tracy (Binninger) Morrison ('94)
Following graduation at Loras with my dual major in Psychology and Literature, I completed a graduate degree in Clinical Counseling. Even before graduating, I accepted a job with the Riverview Center (rape crisis) to provide counseling to individuals who experienced sexual abuse. I quickly found a passion working with children and after five years, co-founded a non-profit children’s advocacy center that helps children through the child abuse investigation, legal proceedings, medical and mental health treatment. Following a re-location for my husband Aaron’s job, we moved to East Dubuque where we have lived for 11 years. During this time, I have the privilege of guiding the social services for the Catholic Church as the Executive Director of Catholic Charities. My dual degree in psychology and literature from Loras many year ago has assisted me greatly in my non-profit career, especially in writing and educational promotions.

Karen Schissler Van Assen ('94)
Karen Schissler Van Assen ('94) was just named Assistant Principal at Brother Rice High School in Chicago. I am completing my 23rd year at BR, and have been involved in many departments including athletics, theology and English. I live in Tinley Park will my husband, Marc, and five children.

Kate (Kenneally) McLenaghan ('95)
Kate (Kenneally) McLenaghan is working in Corporate Communications for Citadel, LLC in Chicago. She traveled to Italy in May of 2018, and will be running her 7th marathon in October.

Lisa Higgs ('97)
Lisa Higgs ('97) will publish her third poetry chapbook, Earthen Bound, with Red Bird Chapbooks in 2018. She continues to write and publish poetry in various literary journals and serves as poetry editor for Quiddity. Her interview with poet and translator Fiona Sze-Lorrain was featured in Quiddity's 2018 issue. Her book reviews can be found on Kenyon Review Online, and an essay on the poetry of national book award finalist Ada Limón is forthcoming online with the Poetry Foundation.

Angela Willits ('01)
I am a clinical assistant professor and the director of the Part-Time MSW Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work. I live in Mount Horeb, WI, with my husband, three kids and huge Goldendoodle named Teddy.

Sarah Lauer ('06)
I'm currently a teacher in downtown Chicago, IL, teaching 6th grade English-Language Arts at an independent school called The Frances Xavier Warde School. I have been here for almost 8 years now. I received my K-12 Reading Specialist M.Ed. in 2013, and tutor students in 4th-8th grades daily. In the last three years, I have had 5 students win national writing contests and win major prizes including laptops for the writers, and for me, as well as a bevy of books, t-shirts, and visits from the Chicago White Sox! I have also helped 7 students publish their poetry in locally and nationally recognized literature. I became a National SEED Project Leader, and lead monthly 3 hour faculty seminars about equity and diversity, and am a Project LIT Comm chapter leader--working to give kids access to diverse literature and foster a love of reading.

Christine Duff ('10)
I graduated from University of Kentucky as a second degree student with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. I am currently working in the Neonatal Intensive Care unit at Kentucky Children’s Hospital.

Sarah (Cunningham) Jackman ('10)
This fall, I will begin my 4th year in the English Department at Dubuque Senior High School. I teach Speech, Journalism, Newspaper, and Yearbook. As much as I love education and learning, I am excited to take a break from graduate and continuing education classes. This will be my first class-free summer since 2013! My summer plans include playing outside with my toddler, making some progress on my "To-Read" list, advancing my baking skills so I may one day appear on "The Great British Baking Show," and traveling.
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Andrea Berns ('15)
Andrea Berns ('15) graduated with a Master of Arts degree in English Studies from Illinois State University in May 2018. In December 2017, she published her chapbook, *Free the Strange*, through the Illinois State University Publications Unit. Her chapbook, as well as her blog of the same name (www.freethestrange.com) are personal observations and recollections of her struggle with mental illness. She is also serving as a partner for Project: I Am Not Ashamed, a worldwide movement dedicated to breaking the stigma associated with mental illness one person at a time. Andrea is currently working as a Trials Coordinator for Talk To Me Technologies in Cedar Falls, IA, where she is using her background in writing to help give the gift of words to those who struggle with communication.

Elizabeth Dickhut ('15)
Elizabeth Dickhut ('15) graduated with an MA in English (English Studies) at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA, in May of 2018. Recently, Elizabeth was funded to attend a leadership conference in Melbourne, Australia, in February of 2018. She was also accepted for publication as a chapter contributor for a book of scholarly essays on resistance in popular culture (release date in spring of 2019). This fall, Elizabeth will continue her studies, but in musicology and vocal pedagogy.

Devin Gackle ('15)
I am the Web Content Editor at the Mount Prospect Public Library in Mount Prospect, IL. Over the past few years I’ve been doing a bit of traveling to other domestic locations, including Puerto Rico, and this summer I’m excited to be traveling to England, Scotland, and Ireland. Something new I’ll be doing this summer is working as a roving musician at the Bristol Renaissance Faire in Bristol, WI. I’ve also been doing some travel and fiction writing, and you can find some of my work in The Fable Online, Dime Show Review, The Stray Branch, and more. I’m currently working on a couple of big writing projects; I’ll try to get some updates out on that front!

Marisa (Moreno) Dobbeleare ('17)
Marisa (Moreno) Dobbeleare ('17) accepted a position at McGraw-Hill Education in Dubuque, Iowa as a product development coordinator after graduating in December 2016. She was promoted in early 2018 to a product developer, managing chemistry and physics higher education products both print and digital. She currently lives in the Dubuque area with her husband, Joe Dobbeleare. They were married in October 2017.