DR. KOCH LAUNCHES NEW BOOK,  
THE THIN PLACES: A CELTIC LANDSCAPE  
FROM IRELAND TO THE DRIFTLESS  
By Ervin Yahr III ('19)

Published in October 2018 our own Dr. Kevin Koch has another book on the market. *The Thin Places: A Celtic Landscape from Ireland to the Driftless* explores the connection between Ireland and the Driftless through the lens of Celtic spirituality and the Celtic calendar. Based around the concept of a dindshenchas or the stories behind how places got their names, Koch discusses sixteen locations between Ireland and the Driftless region of the Upper Midwest. The importance of place stands at the forefront throughout the work as he dives into eight concepts of Celtic spirituality. Each chapter focuses on two locations – one local to the Driftless and another across the Atlantic in Ireland – along with a particular Celtic feast day or astronomical event (solstices and equinoxes). For example, the work starts with the idea that the land is sacred. Chapter 1 centers around this theme and the Winter Solstice as Dr. Koch visits Newgrange in the Boyne Valley and Effigy Mounds just a stone’s throw away from Harper’s Ferry, IA.

The book is a work of creative nonfiction, blending research and interviews with conservationists, historians, and spiritual leaders with personal narratives of guided and solo hikes through both landscapes.

In November 2018, Dr. Koch hosted a reading from *The Thin Places* in the third-floor atrium of the Academic Resource Center. An audience member asked whether or not *The Thin Places*

represents the conclusion to a trilogy – the other two works being Koch’s *The Driftless Land* and *Skiing at Midnight*. While Koch admitted that this book would not have been possible without the growth from the other two, *The Thin Places* stands alone as its own unique work that explores its own concepts.

*The Thin Places* represents the importance of place and the emotions that they evoke. Without a drop of Irish blood in him, Dr. Koch connects Ireland with the Midwest’s own ‘unique island’ due to the deep-rooted idea of spirituality being connected to the land. This led to Koch’s latest work being a great representation of his personal dindshenchas and what the land has given to him.

DR. STONE MAKES 19TH-CENTURY LITERATURE AND HISTORY COME ALIVE:  
2018-19 SABBATICAL  
By Katie Celarek ('21)

During the 2018-2019 school year, Dr. Susan Stone enjoyed a productive sabbatical. She spent her time away from Loras travelling, researching, writing, talking with publishers, and working on two major areas of scholarship. Her first project, for which she conducted primary library and archival research, will hopefully become a collection of critical biographies revolving around the earliest Native Americans to become Catholic priests and nuns. One central figure of her
research is Reverend James Mary Chrysostum Bouchard, S.J., who was a member of the Lenni-Lenape tribe and who brought much of California and the West to Catholicism. Another central figure is Father Francis Marion Craft, who was of Mohawk descent and who founded a short-lived but fascinating order of Native Catholic sisters led by Sister Mary Catherine, Sacred White Buffalo, an additional subject of Dr. Stone’s study. Besides these key individuals, Dr. Stone also worked on critical biographies about the lives and letters of two other priests and another group of nuns from an Alaskan order of sisters called the Sisters of the Snow. Eventually, Dr. Stone will be turning all of this into a handful of essays.

Dr. Stone’s second area of sabbatical scholarship focused on Mary Wilkins Freeman, who was a prominent 19th-century American writer and women’s rights activist. During her long and prosperous career as a writer and editor, Freeman wrote dozens of award-winning short stories and novels. In response to her popular, innovative fiction and criticism, Freeman was awarded the first William Dean Howells Medal for Excellence by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which was the highest possible award for American literature in Freeman’s time. Thus far, as a result of her research and feedback from presentations at the Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Literature Association (ALA), Dr. Stone has written two critical essays about Freeman, and she is happy to report that both have been accepted for publication in different forthcoming books. One article is entitled “The Tenderness of One Woman for Another: Female Friendship and Revolt in the 20th Century,” while the second article accepted for publication is tentatively entitled “Genre Bending, Genre Blending: Mary Wilkins Freeman as Transcendental Realist and Ecocritic.” Aside from those two publications, Dr. Stone was also in communication with two different presses, each of which asked her to submit book proposals based on her work on Freeman. One press expressed interest in a critical biography and the other in a critical edition of Freeman’s later, 20th-century works. Dr. Stone hopes to submit these proposals over the summer and to advance all of her scholarship in the future. She misses her Loras students and colleagues, though, and is looking forward to returning to teaching and advising in fall 2019.

LORAS HOSTS GUEST AUTHOR

AUSTIN SMITH

On November 7, the Loras English program hosted guest author Austin Smith who read from his recent collection of poetry, Flyover Country, to a mesmerized audience of Loras College students, faculty/staff, and community members.

Smith was born on a family dairy farm in northwestern Illinois. His poems have appeared in The New Yorker, Poetry Magazine, Yale Review, Sewanee Review, Threepenny Review, New England Review, and many other publications. His two collections, Almanac and Flyover Country, were published through the Princeton Series of Contemporary Poets. He teaches at Stanford University, where he has also been a Wallace Stegner Fellow in fiction.

Flyover Country is a powerful collection of poems about violence: the violence we do to the land, to animals, to refugees, to the people of distant countries, and to one another. Drawing on memories of his childhood on a dairy farm in Illinois, Smith explores the beauty and cruelty of rural life, challenging the idea that the American Midwest is mere “flyover country,” a place that deserves passing over. At the same time, the collection suggests that America itself has become a flyover country, carrying out drone strikes and surveillance abroad, locked in a state of perpetual war that Americans seem helpless to stop.

Building on Smith’s reputation as an accessible and inventive poet with deep insights about rural America, Flyover Country also draws profound connections between the Midwest and the wider world.
LITERARY LONDON: J-TERM TRAVEL COURSE WITH DR. VANLANINGHAM
By Molly A. MacDuff ('20)

On the plane, I was anxious. Spending over eight hours in a confined space, sitting and attempting to sleep as we soared through the clouds isn’t everyone’s cup of tea. But the tea that was awaiting us was absolutely worth it.

Dr. Erin VanLaningham’s Literary London J-Term course was an experience I’ll never forget, and I feel honored to have been a member of the very first class she took. Being an English major and self-proclaimed literary geek, exploring the home of many of the world’s greatest writers and poets was at the very top of my bucket list. Dr. VanLaningham filled the journey with literary references, trips to theatres, and explorations to some of London’s most popular and renowned attractions. Looking back on the trip nearly six months later, I’m not exactly sure where to begin. My romance with London was quite literally a whirlwind, as we spent ten packed days learning the ins and outs of the city and the Underground (the Tube as it’s better known).

Our adventure began the moment we stepped off the airplane, maneuvering through a nearly deserted Heathrow airport (as it was roughly 6 AM when we arrived). Greeted by our lovely and fashionable tour guide, Valerie, we loaded our luggage onto a shuttle bus and drove through the city, stopping at places like Buckingham Palace to snap photos before most of the working citizens of London awoke and began filling the historic streets. Though many of our tired eyes revealed large circles underneath from exhaustion, we spent most of that first day getting a feel for the London streets. I spent the entirety of our bus tour wide-eyed and rapidly falling for the cobblestone roads and centuries-old architecture. Literary references surrounded ever corner, plastered with a blue circular sign to let us know the significance of the place. Some of my friends and I capped off the night with a pint at the pub across from our hotel (no better way to spend time in London).

Our next few days were spent on the bus as well, heading off to memorable places outside of the city like Stonehenge, Oxford, Bath, Blenheim Palace, and Salisbury. Each of these historic locations opened my mind to the wonders of English life, along with the respect for ancient artifacts and culture (seen with the preservation of Stonehenge and the Roman Baths). I felt like a regular Oxford student as I purchased apparel from their school store, and experienced my first encounter with royalty as I roamed the gardens and neatly kept corridors of Blenheim palace (secretly hoping I’d run into a member of the royal house of Marborough that lived there). Ending each night at a pub is never the wrong way to go, particularly when given the opportunity to visit one of J. R. R. Tolkien’s regular spots from his Oxford days, The Eagle and The Child.

After the first few days of bus tours, we sadly waved goodbye to our guide, Valerie, and began to embark on museum and city of London tours led by our own Dr. VanLaningham. She did an exceptional job of directing us through wonders like the British Museum, the Tate Modern, the British Library, the National Gallery, and the Sherlock Museum. Through making connections between many of the materials we read for class before our trip, I was able to learn about how important many of these cultural attributes were to painters and writers of different British artistic periods, how their work was influenced by culture.

Whether it was viewing the original King James Bible or paintings by Turner and Rosetti, each of these experiences expanded our literary knowledge and its impact on British society. We even received the amazing opportunity to visit Hogwarts, as we toured the set and viewed many of the original models, costumes, and other artifacts of the Harry Potter movie series. One of my friends, who can only be described as the most avid Harry Potter fanatic of all time, describes her reaction to this experience saying, “I grew up on Harry Potter, so being totally integrated into something that represented my childhood was overwhelming. I absolutely loved it.”

Many nights were spent exploring London culinary culture. My friends and I had our share of croissants, scones, curry, and fish and chips (obviously). I was surprised with the variety of choices and delighted with each new entrée I devoured, feeling my personal palette widening with each new dish I tried. After dinner, we were lucky enough to attend three group theatre
performances, *The Mouse Trap*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Exploring each of these different genres of theatre allowed my peers and me to get a more complete understanding of the impact of theatre on the London culture. The West End of London (the theatre district) resembled Broadway with brightly lit marquees and restaurants in every direction. Though we didn’t see a play in the Globe Theatre, we did receive an outstanding tour of the outdoor rendition of Shakespeare’s famous home, learning about the original, Shakespeare, and atmosphere of the theatre during performance.

Perhaps the most royal experience of our trip was tea time at Kensington palace. Donned in our best (well, the best college students can offer), we sat and talked of all the memories we’d made on the trip thus far while feeling utterly royal. Each of us stuffed our fair share of scones, macrons, and authentic British Black tea, pinkies up of course. Caroline and I were blessed with the honor of sitting with Dr. VanLaningham and Dr. Cassella (another faculty member who joined us on the trip) at this historic experience. This little bit of royalty went a long way as we strolled through Kensington Park after the meal, stuffed and satisfied.

Sadly, 10 days was not nearly enough time to fully immerse myself in the London culture. Our final day in London was a free day. An avid Beatles fan (engrained in me by my father and uncles), I made it my mission to find the Abbey Road studios and snap the traditional tourist photo that resembles their 1969 album titled “Abbey Road.” We also visited tourist spots like the London Eye, The Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Tower of London.

Amidst the tourists and common attractions, one of the most inspiring attributes of London was the constant relations to literary texts, authors, poets, and theatre. I felt as though there was a hidden city within the city that only I and fellow literary nerds could see. My trip to London was unforgettable, thanks to the guidance of Dr. VanLaningham and sharing the experience of a new country with many of my friends. Whether it be as a graduate student or as a future Duchess, I know I’ll find my way back to London. It is, in my humble opinion, the city of literary love. But I am perhaps a bit biased, being an English major and all.

Valorie has published nearly 300 poems and articles. She has been the recipient of numerous grants, including a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.

Valorie began her talk by saying, “Dr. Koch asked me to share a few strategies that have helped me stay focused on my creative life, while allowing me to raise five children, now enjoying eight grandchildren, having a husband, and a full-time job.” While Valorie’s passion is writing, she said, “For you it may not be writing; it might be some other expression of yourself.”

About the challenge of balancing work, family, and creative endeavors, Valorie said, “We have so many demands on our time, so many distractions … It’s not easy to keep something alive for a really long time, and it’s something I’ve worked to include in my life, even on the fringes, and sometimes that’s where it’s had to be … but I’ve never given up on it …”

“A key,” she said, “is continuing to learn … I encourage you, as time and life allows, to also keep learning – stay curious. Go pick up a book … I do have to be disciplined. I have to get off my phone just like anybody else; get off Facebook or whatever …”

Valorie had some great suggestions about making personal goals a priority. “Lots of folks make lists,” she said, “but (those things) can be accomplished whenever … A key move in making sure those things actually get done is to schedule those things.”
“You can’t just wait for the big chunks of time,” she said. “If you want to accomplish something in life, you’ve got to take advantage of the small chunks of time.”

For people interested in writing, Valorie offered this advice: “It doesn’t have to be perfect … if you’re going to wait for perfection you’ll wait forever … you can always edit.” She added: “The world out there may never give you the credit for what you’re doing … there’s a lot of competition for people’s attention and time … if you write you may stack up loads of rejections … Certainly I have; still do, all the time … Get over it … Keep moving.”

Above all, Valorie told the group, “You must learn to live with hope, and not fear.”

This marks the 26th consecutive year in which Loras College students have won first, second, and/or honorable mention in one or more categories of the competition. Indeed, this is the fourth straight year of wins in four genres! A record number of entries were submitted to this year’s national writing competition, thus making the Loras students’ accomplishments even more impressive.

Other institutions represented among the winning entries included: St. Mary’s University of Minnesota, King’s College, Thomas More University, University of St. Thomas, Mount Aloysius College, Cardinal Stritch University, St. Francis University (PA), Holy Cross College, and Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Congratulations to our students on behalf of Loras College, Loras’ DES Alpha Chapter and the Language & Literature faculty.

ANOTHER BANNER YEAR FOR CREATIVE WRITING MAJORS

This was another banner year for the creative writing majors at Loras College, and for recent graduates of our program. Four of them, Jacob Butlett, Caroline Breitbach, Cassandra Busch, and Jeff Budz, had poems selected for publication in plain china: Best Undergraduate Writing, poems that originally appeared in our campus journal, The Limestone Review. (To put this into context, other students whose work was selected for plain china this year were from such institutions as Princeton University, Columbia University, Rice University, Duke University, UCLA, the University of Notre Dame, Emory University, etc.)
(continued from page 5)

Of the twenty-six pieces published in plain china in the last six issues, four of them were by Loras College students, which is more than from any other school in the United States.)

Moreover, four students and recent graduates, including Sarah Mueller, Meghan Peterman, Jacob Butlett, and Anna Girgenti, all published stories, poems, or essays in various national literary journals. Sarah Mueller was awarded the Rechenmacher Award for Creativity by Loras College. Recent graduates Jacob Butlett and Anna Girgenti were both accepted into MFA graduate programs in creative writing. And a collection of Anna Girgenti’s poems was awarded an Iowa Chapbook Prize from the University of Iowa in 2018. We couldn’t be more proud of our students, and of our extraordinary undergraduate creative writing program.

LORAS STUDENTS PRESENT AT STREAMLINES CONFERENCE
By Laura Iunghuhn ('20)

“We don’t see what we see. What we see is influenced by the moment.” Again, Dr. Blaeser’s statement crossed genres. The twelve panels featured works of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, literature analysis, and one on the Spanish language. In each of these sessions, students presented what they saw through written works, reading their essays to a small audience. Audience members were then invited to ask questions of the presenters, prompting further consideration of what was seen by the author at the time of writing and what is seen in the present. At the conference, writing moved beyond the page, becoming a medium of dialogue to examine the broader world.

Streamlines featured keynote speaker Dr. Kimberly Blaeser, a poet and English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Blaeser grounded her presentation, “Picto-Poems: Image, Language, and Gesture in Our (Rashly) Interconnected Universe,” with her own poetry, explaining how she mixed poetry and graphic arts to demonstrate that all mediums of thought and creativity are connected. However, Dr. Blaeser’s connectedness moves beyond the fine arts. As a member of the Anishinaabe nation, she deeply connects her creativity with her heritage and the natural world.

Though conference participants may not have been searching to connect their work to nature, they engaged in the act of seeing beyond the self, learning that their work, through sharing it with others, made them active members of the rashly interconnected universe Dr. Blaeser passionately described.

ENGLISH/EDUCATION MAJORS PRESENT AT WAHLERT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Loras College English/Education majors presented on innovative teaching strategies and classroom research they undertook at Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa, as part of their Secondary Education Methods course, taught by Education professor Dr. Hilarie Welsh.
ENGLISH CAREERS DINNER

Two guest presenters shared their stories and wisdom with Loras College students at the annual English Careers Dinner. The presenters were Marisa Moreno Dobbeleare (Loras English ’17), Product Developer at McGraw-Hill Education; and Will Cushman, associate editor at WisContext of Wisconsin Public Radio & Television. Both talked not only of their own career paths but also about how the analytical and communication skills of an English major prepare students for a great variety of professions.

LORAS ENGLISH PROFESSORS PRESENT AT AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR IRISH STUDIES—MIDWEST

Loras English professors Erin VanLaningham, Andrew Auge, and Kevin Koch each presented at the American Conference for Irish Studies - Midwest in Minneapolis on October 5-6. Also presenting was Loras professor Dave Cochran from the Politics program. Loras was the most-represented college/university at the Conference!

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT TENURE/AWARD

It was a great day in the English Department: Dr. Will Kanyusik received Tenure and Dr. Erin VanLaningham received the Mike and Linda Budde Excellence in Teaching Award.

DR. POLLOCK SELECTED FOR HARVARD HELLENIC STUDIES

Dr. James Pollock, Professor of English at Loras College, was one of twenty faculty members nationwide selected to attend a seminar at Harvard University’s Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., July 25–29, 2019. The seminar was designed to school non-specialists in effective approaches to teaching Classics in translation; and Dr. Pollock plans to offer two new English courses at Loras, Ancient Greek Literature and Ancient Latin Literature, beginning in Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 respectively.

DR. VANLANINGHAM LEADS VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT AWARENESS

Loras College English Associate Professor Dr. Erin VanLaningham spoke to the Loras community on Thursday, March 14, about helping students discern their callings, or vocation, in life, an approach that goes beyond the selection of a major or career. Dr. VanLaningham is a contributing writer for NetVUE Vocation Matters. Her co-presenter was Dr. Lisa Grinde, Associate Professor of Psychology, who spoke about her work in “Sustainable Parenting,” an approach to child-rearing that de-emphasizes materialism and comparative measures of “success.” Their presentations were sponsored by the Loras Faith & Values Education Committee.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AWARDS

The following graduating English majors received Departmental awards:

- Lehner Award for English Teachers: Hannah Dirks & Elizabeth Venezio
- Bauerly-Roseliep Scholarship for Literary Studies and Creative Writing: Sarah Mueller & Meghan Peterman
- John and Kathryn Tigges Creative Writing Scholarship: Madison Tolley

Congratulations to these deserving students! It has been a pleasure working with them in a variety of courses and projects!

ROGER RECHENMACHER AWARD FOR CREATIVITY

Congratulations to Sarah Mueller ('19), English & Media Studies double-major, for winning the Roger Rechenmacher Award for Creativity at Loras College. Sarah's Loras portfolio includes exceptional work in fiction, creative nonfiction, and film.

ENGLISH LITERATURE CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

On November 27, 2018, the Loras College English Department and the 2019 Senior-Class Literature Students hosted the Literature Capstone Public Presentation and Defense of:

- Lauren Fritz “Margaret Fuller and Walt Whitman: The Reform of Social Structures”
- Rachel Brands “Conflict and Gender’s Impact on Romeo and Juliet and Antony and Cleopatra”
- Ervin Yahr III “Post-Colonial Irish Theater: How Brian Friel Uses Memory to Reconcile Tradition and Modernity”
- Alex Kruse “Resurrecting Value: Preserving Residual Culture within Paula Meehan’s Poetry”

SENIOR CREATIVE WRITING THESIS READINGS

The Loras College Creative Writing Program and the 2018-19 creative writing seniors hosted a public reading on December 11, 2018 in the Wahlert Curriculum Library. Props to this year's illustrious Thesis Seminar students, who read excerpts of their fine work. We are, as always, very proud of all of you!

MONICA SHAFFER ('14) TO ADDRESS 2019 ENGLISH HOMECOMING BREAKFAST

Monica Shaffer ('14), will be the featured speaker at the upcoming annual English Homecoming Breakfast, held from 9:30 -11:00 a.m. in the 3rd Floor Common Area of the Miller Academic Resource Center (library) on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

After graduating from Loras College in 2014 with a double major in Literature and Creative Writing, Monica moved to Minneapolis, MN, to complete a service year with the St. Joseph Worker Program. During that year, she walked alongside new Americans as they worked through their asylum cases. After growing her passion for partnering with women in crisis, she took a job within the Hennepin County shelter system, supporting women with chronic homelessness due to mental health, chemical dependency, and incarceration. Now she is the Volunteer Coordinator providing programming at Jeremiah Program, supporting single moms trying to go to college. Since graduating from Loras she has had the opportunity to travel to the West Bank in Palestine, become a trainer for housing workers, join a community of prayer leaders, sits on a board, and now is applying to law school!
VICTORIAN TEA WITH DR. VANLANINGHAM

For every nineteenth century British literature course, Dr. Erin VanLaningham, invites her students over to her house for tea—complete with scones, mock clotted cream and jam, and cucumber sandwiches. This gives the students a chance to have a discussion of literature, life, and relax in an off campus environment. It also shows a small slice of British culture, where sharing tea and scones happens regularly in daily life. In many British novels and plays, the topic of conversation over a cup of tea is a major part of the scene, so the experience is also a bit of experiential learning. Dr. VanLaningham also enjoys hosting the students because she feels like it extends hospitality and humanity in a way that shows what liberal arts learning is all about—connecting and getting to know people on all levels. It builds a community that then comes back into the classroom.

ENGLISH FACULTY NOTES

Andrew Auge, Ph.D., Professor of English: Dr. Andy Auge continues to teach the usual array of courses in British, Irish, and World Literature. During the summer of 2018, he delivered a key note address on the Nobel Laurette Seamus Heaney’s Bog poems and Climate Change at a conference on Northern Texts in Dublin. He is currently working on a historical simulation game on the Northern Irish Troubles. This will eventually appear as part of the Reacting to the Past series (the source of our Democracy and Global Diversity course) based in Columbia University. His co-author is former Loras History Professor and Academic Dean, John Burney. Dr. Auge’s sabbatical for Spring semester 2020 will be focused on completing this project.

Naomi Clark, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center: This year students in the Rhetoric and Public Writing minor courses completed a variety of community based learning projects. Last fall they developed promotional portfolios for local nonprofits, building on what they had learned in class about Writing as Social Action. This semester students used concepts from Writing for New Media to conduct usability testing for Loras websites and to collaborate with St. Mark Youth Enrichment to compose short, promotional videos for their after-school programs. These projects help students learn how to apply their liberal arts education in off-campus settings as well as develop professional opportunities and networks. In April tutors from the Writing Center and I attended the Iowa Writing Center Consortium Conference at Mt. Mercy University in Cedar Rapids. This summer I look forward to attending a Writing Across the Curriculum Institute in Denver, Colorado.

William Jablonsky, MFA, Assoc. Professor of English: It’s been a long road, but my story collection Feral Boy Meets Girl was recently accepted for publication at Unsolicited Press, an independent press operating out of Portland, OR, and is due out in October 2020. While I anticipate that I’ll be doing a bit of prep work on that this next year or so, I’m also planning to put the finishing touches on a novel (hopefully more news on that some time next year). I also wrote my first feature-length screenplay, a “literate” horror film using zombieism as a metaphor for a character’s midlife crisis—a few more tweaks and I’ll be putting it up on the BlackList. Lastly, I’d like to thank our Catfish Creek editors, Kayla Thompson (Editor in Chief and overall boss lady), Caroline Breitbach (poetry), Molly MacDuff (nonfiction), and Laura Junghuhn (fiction and next year’s Editor in Chief) for their service in putting together one of our best issues yet.

Will Kanyusik, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of English: This year Dr. Kanyusik was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, effective in August of 2019. In November, he coordinated the Streamlines Undergraduate Writing and Literature conference, hosted on the Loras Campus in collaboration with Clarke University and the University of Dubuque. The conference gives students the opportunity to present their creative and scholarly work in a professional atmosphere, and interact with peers from other colleges. During J-Term, he had the opportunity to teach his course “Narratives of Self and Conflict: Gender, Disability, and War” for a second time. In this course, students study issues related to gender, disability, and war as represented in literature and film, and interact with members of the veteran communities of Iowa and Wisconsin through guest lectures and a day trip to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, while completing their own original research projects related to the course themes. In May, Dr. Kanyusik participated in the Connections Institute, a two-day workshop focused on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition for faculty teaching at liberal arts colleges in Iowa hosted at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids.
Kevin Koch, Ph.D., Professor of English: The 2018-2019 academic year was exciting for Kevin Koch, Ph.D., Professor of English, as his new book, *The Thin Places: A Celtic Landscape from Ireland to the Driftless* was published by Wipf and Stock in October 2018. Kevin held an opening reading event at Loras College, along with several other readings in Dubuque and the surrounding area. He continues writing a bi-monthly Outdoors column for the Dubuque *Telegraph Herald*, which he also posts on his blog at https://www.kevinkochdriflessland.net/. He was back in the saddle this year as Language & Literature Division Interim Division Chair, so he did not teach as many courses as usual, but he will use Summer 2019 to prepare two new courses to be offered for the first time in 2019-2020: “Mississippi River Lore & Legacy” and a FY spring seminar course on “Community in the Driftless Land.”

James Pollock, Ph.D., Professor of English and Creative Writing: Dr. Pollock was interviewed by Nigel Beale in late December, 2018, for his podcast series The Bibliofile. The interview, which focuses on Dr. Pollock’s book *You Are Here: Essays on the Art of Poetry in Canada*, came online in April, 2019. His poem “Crossing the Seine” was published in the April 2019 issue of *The Walrus*, and his essay "A Season in Hell: On The Chemical Life by Jim Johnstone” was published in issue eleven 3 of *Hamilton Arts & Letters*, 16 Feb. 2019. Dr. Pollock visited the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in the fall of 2018 to give a poetry reading and visit a senior manuscript class in creative writing. He spent the summer of 2018 working on a long poem called *Oxford in Snow*, a partial draft of which Dr. VanLaningham’s J-term travel course read before visiting the University of Oxford in January, 2019. As a member of the College’s Academic Council, Dr. Pollock was instrumental this year in producing a new set of Program Review Guidelines that should help strengthen all of the College’s academic programs for years to come. Dr. Pollock was also one of twenty faculty members nationwide selected to attend a seminar at Harvard University’s Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C., in July, 2019, a seminar designed to coach non-specialists in effective approaches to teaching Classics in translation. As a result, he plans to offer two new English courses at Loras, Ancient Greek Literature and Ancient Latin Literature, beginning in Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 respectively.

Susan Stone, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English: Dr. Susan Stone During the 2018-2019 academic year, her 18th at Loras, Dr. Stone was delighted to have her first sabbatical. Although she missed all of her students, colleagues, and the activities of the Literary Society, she was happy to have time to concentrate on her scholarship and was very productive. Over the year, Dr. Stone travelled to Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and a handful of other places in search of more information about the earliest Native Americans to become Catholic priests and nuns. She also researched and wrote two essays on the fiction and criticism of Mary Wilkins Freeman, both of which were accepted for publication in forthcoming books. In addition, Dr. Stone was asked by two different presses to submit book proposals about Freeman’s life and works. And, last but certainly not least, Dr. Stone spent much-needed time gardening, having adventures with her husband, and reading dozens of books—mostly mysteries, dystopian fiction, and sci-fi—for fun!

Erin VanLaningham, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English: I finally got to lead a study abroad course *Literary London and Beyond in January 2019 where we visited Shakespeare’s Globe Theater, the home of Charles Dickens, the Jane Austen Literary Center in Bath, and the Harry Potter tour at Universal Studios. We also had high tea at Kensington Palace Orangery and saw some fabulous plays in London. I was invited to be a contributing writer to NetVUE’s *Vocation Matters*, the online resource on vocation scholarship. You can find my essay on *Middlemarch and vocation* at https://vocationmatters.org/2018/12/18/life-love-and-work-in-middlemarch/ and Eavan Boland’s poetry and mapping our journeys at https://vocationmatters.org/2018/10/24/the-cartography-of-vocation/. The Honors program continues to make impressive impacts on the community, bringing musical instruments to the residence halls, a dance for individuals with special needs, and significant grant writing and fund raising to purchase a new laser projector for the Heitkamp Planetarium on campus. This summer, I am looking forward to attending the Gold Cup US Men’s soccer match with my 16 and 13 year old sons, and then a trip to Australia for 10 days with a dear friend from college who backpacked around Europe with me many years ago.
ALUMNI NOTES

Allan Ede ('61) and MA ('69)
Now retired, I have taught English for 40 years (3 years at Don Bosco, 33 at Western Dubuque, and 4 years at NICC). I have 5 daughters and 1 son and 3 step-daughters and 1 step-son and 10 grandchildren. I am married to Mary Jo Trentz. I have published three books with iUniverse.com (Rosalund’s Raiders, Blood Island, and Fireflies: A Collection of Short stories, Essays, and Poems) all listed on Amazon. I am currently writing my fourth book entitled Working My Way Through Life. It entails my experiences working at 25 jobs besides my teaching years, starting with my first, shining shoes in taverns at the age of four. One chapter includes working in the Loras Bookstore and as a janitor and painter at Loras. Mary Jo and I live in Dubuque.

Denis Marks ('70)
After thankfully graduating in four years, I was drafted into the United States Army, where I was trained as a stenographer and was stationed at the Education Center at West Point. My degree and typing skills saved me from the jungle. After graduation I moved to San Jose, CA and worked at Social Security (What is the nature of your disability?) I quit to study Acting and when I finished my training, I went on a world tour as an actor with El Teatro Campesino. I then went to get an MA in Theater, came back to San Jose where I helped found a theater group where I produced, acted and directed plays. I had five plays I had written produced as well. I’ve continued to write, act and direct black box theater productions. I am currently writing a play that puts Father Junipero Serra on trial, saint or sinner. After many years of theater being a jealous mistress, I took a job teaching at San Jose Job Corps where I have been working for 25 years. I also got married at 55 years old. I feel that my Duhawk days prepared me well for my life’s work even though my GPA was 2.3.

Father John O. Bertogli ('73)
I majored in English with minors in Philosophy, Latin, and Education. I attended St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, WI, and was ordained a priest 42 years ago in 1977. I have served the Diocese of Des Moines in both urban and rural settings. I continue as Rector of our downtown St. Ambrose cathedral now in my 14th year. I also serve as Canonical Administrator of our regional Holy Family grade school which serves refugee students from Asia, Africa, Mexico and South America. I used my English major background while assigned to Dowling Catholic High School instructing Theology and English. During those years, I received a MA degree in spiritual direction/retreat ministry from Creighton University, Omaha, NE. I continue to write for various periodicals on various topics related to spirituality. The Diocese of Des Moines’ 10th bishop is Bishop William Joensen who served as philosophy professor and chaplain to Loras College for 19 years. Bishop Joensen began his ministry among us with his ordination/installation on September 27. He brings a great Loras connection to our diocese. Many of our diocesan clergy attended Loras. I have fond memories of Frank Lehner, Father Karl Schroeder and Father Dan Rogers. I keep in contact with Dr. Donna Baueler who was one of many mentors at Loras. The Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins sums up my gratitude for all the Lord’s gifts. “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” Blessings to all!

Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff ('82)
Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff ('82) retired from her position as Director of Foundation and Government Support at Loras and reports that a collection of her work, with Connie R. Meester, Tsugigami: gathering the pieces, was published in 2018 by Red Moon Press, Winchester, Va., (www.redmoonpress.com) and named to the 2018 Haiku Foundation Touchstone Distinguished Book Awards shortlist. Selected haiku have been exhibited in the Seasons of Haiku Trail at Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio, 2018, and in the Golden Triangle, Washington, D.C., through the Golden Haiku Contest, March-April 2019. Her short poems also have been most recently published in the literary journals Hedgerow, Kokako, Skylark Frogpond, Modern Haiku and Heron’s Nest, and will appear in The Haiku Calendar 2020 (Snapshot Press, 2019). Her short story “Uncle Jim Called” was published in the July 8-15th issue of the New Yorker.

Anne Stattelman ('83)
I stepped down last July as Executive Director of Posada, https://www.posadapueblo.org/ a nonprofit in Pueblo, Colorado that I co-founded 33 years ago. Posada now provides 160 homes (shelter and housing) for those who are homeless in the City and County of Pueblo every night as well as services and advocacy for homeless youth and homeless Veterans. The next project is housing for homeless seniors. Posada has had several Loras Interns over the years contribute summers and full semesters assisting with Posada’s mission. I’ll be totally transitioned out of Posada this July and an official empty nester, as Kate, 25, Martin 23, and Nick 21 are all out on their own. I will be relocating to La Veta, a small town in Southern Colorado. Duhawks always welcome, especially English Majors!
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Will Anderson ('89)
It’s been a busy year. I had six of my audio drama scripts performed and broadcast on air (including one in New Orleans), and another Halloween-themed one performed live in front of a packed house of about a hundred people in Lansing, Michigan. I was awarded a $20,000 collaborative grant to oversee creation and distribution of an 11-episode series based off a script I wrote about a college student who solves academic honor code violations but needs to keep her efforts secret because, well… snitches get stitches at Compass Point State University. I was also granted a Spring 2019 sabbatical to continue work on development of historical audio drama vignettes via QR (quick response) codes. During this time I presented my research in Washington D.C., as well as during my appointment as a visiting artist at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. My wife also got me a new dog. Both are pretty awesome.

Tim Wuebker ('90)
Tim Wuebker published Money for Teens: A Guide for Life on amazon. The book is the result of interviewing happy couple, learning from self-made millionaires, and teaching a personal finance class that featured over 60 excellent guest speakers. Parents love it!

Maureen (Opelka) Surin ('91)
I graduated from Loras in 1991 with a BA in English Writing. I worked for a brokerage firm for a couple years. In 1995, I started to work for Pearson Education in Customer Service, Inventory Management, and now I am in Learning Services. I live in Schaumburg, IL, with my daughter Ashley and my husband Jim. We were married in 1997 and had Ashley in March 2006. Our daughter Ashley was diagnosed with ALL Leukemia 2008. She had chemo through March of 2011. She became cancer free, but chemo meds left her with debilitating seizures. We tried many neuro meds from 2009 until 2017 and became quite frustrated that they weren't working. In 2017, Ashley had a seizure in a store, fell and hit her head, experiencing a concussion. She then had brain surgery in June 2017. My husband and I decided to go to naturapaths with her and see what they had to offer. We put our daughter on a keto diet and applied for medical cannabis, which was granted in January 2018, and she has had no seizures since then. We sued to get her medicine into school, which led us down to our capital in Springfield. We testified and on August 1, 2018, Gov. Rauner signed "Ashley's Law," which allows Medical Cannabis in school for children that have a license. We are so proud of her. I really wanted to share this with my Loras Family.

Kate (Kenneally) McLenaghan ('95)
Kate (Kenneally) McLenaghan has been working at a hedge fund, Citadel, LLC in Chicago in Corporate Communications since December 2016. She and her husband celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary by hiking Cinque Terre in Italy in May 2018.

Penny Gralewski ('96)
Penny Gralewski '96, was a co-creator and speaker for Networking and Interviewing for Communication Arts Majors, a March workshop for Loras juniors and seniors. The event featured five communication arts alumni who shared real world advice on what to do before, during and after the interview as well as social media tips for job seekers. The event was sponsored by the Loras Communication Department and the Loras Women's Leadership Alliance.

Lisa Higgs ('97)
Lisa Higgs had her third chapbook of poetry, Earthen Bound, published in February 2019 (http://www.redbirdchapbooks.com/content/earthen-bound). For the past two years, she has helped run the Rochester Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which goes to show that English majors can do anything. She will be teaching advanced poetry classes at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis this summer, and you can find her book reviews and interviews with poets online at the Poetry Foundation, Kenyon Review Online, and the Adroit Journal. When not writing, Lisa still finds time to garden (when Minnesota is not under blizzard warnings), to read (in the middle of many a blizzard), and to chauffeur her two awesome daughters from activity to activity. Sometimes, when the weather is just right, Lisa even manages to run a few miles with her husband, Toby.

Amanda (Oostendorp) Cachaldora ('05)
My husband, Alex, and I had our second child, Caleb John, in March 2018. Upon my return to work from maternity leave, I was made a partner at my law firm, Bice Cole. In the fall, for the third year in a row, I chaired the Miami-Dade Democratic Party’s annual Blue Gala. Now, I’m planning an event for the candidates and locals during the first Democratic primary debate, which is taking place in Miami in June. Alex and I are hiring a travel agent to plan our upcoming fall trip to Egypt, which should, fingers-crossed, require no planning by me.
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**Kathleen Volk ('05)**


**Hilary (Hahn) Naab ('06)**

Hilary has been employed as the Cedar Rapids Branch Librarian for the U.S. Court of Appeals – Eighth Circuit since November 2009. In November 2017, Hilary and U.S. District Judge C.J. Williams edited and published a memoir written by a deceased Northern District of Iowa judge titled: Donald E. O’Brien, Federal Judge. Hilary and Judge C.J. Williams are currently writing and editing a new edition of a book based on the history of the Northern District of Iowa. In the past year Hilary received her certification in two yoga formats: Buti yoga and restorative yoga (DEEP). She also received her Usui/Holy Fire III Reiki Level I and II certification in May 2019.

**Anne (Leonard) Curtin ('08)**

After graduating from Loras in 2008, Anne attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received her MLIS in 2010. She worked as a Children’s Librarian in the Santa Barbara Public Library System for 3 1/2 years before beginning her current role as the School Librarian at a local Montessori school in Santa Barbara, California. Anne and her husband, Ben, welcomed their son, Max in 2017. Anne enjoys spending time reading, hiking, and spending time with her family.

**Keith J. Flinn, II, Esq. ('12)**

Recently married to Kaitlin E. Sharpe in Petritoli, Italy, my wife and I honeymooned in Corsica and Sardinia thereafter. Afterwards, I started serving the county of Tulsa and the State of Oklahoma as a prosecutor in the Tulsa County District Attorney’s Office. Continuing the Loras tradition of service, I was also selected to be on the Board of Operation Aware (OA). OA is a non-profit organization spreading awareness to children and teenagers about risky behaviors that could jeopardize their future.

**Anna Girgenti ('18)**

After graduating, I attended a writing workshop in Greece during the summer of 2018. This spring, I received acceptances from the MFA programs at Bowling Green State University and Eastern Washington University, but I decided to postpone my graduate education. I recently began working at RedShelf, an educational technology company in Chicago. For now, I’m continuing to write and rewrite, and I plan on applying to grad school again in a few years.

**Brennan Pivnicka ('18)**

Since graduating Loras, I’ve been working as a Service Parts Planner at Hodge here in Dubuque. I write a considerable number of notes, emails, and reports every day, which keeps my English skills sharp. On my off time, I work on writing my short and mystery fiction pieces. I’ve recently had one of my stories, “On Not Shooting a Coyote/Standoff,” published in the latest (and final) edition of the Wapsipinicon Almanac. I’ve also been editing scripts and acting as production assistant and sound operator on several film projects for Random Thought Productions, a local and independent motion picture organization. Further recent exploits of mine include recording mixtapes, stargazing, fighting off Canada geese, and learning the art of winemaking.

**Ashley Pudil ('18)**

After graduation, Ashley accepted a position at Roberts Technology Solutions in Cedar Rapids, IA as their marketing coordinator. She is also a board member for the Czech Heritage Foundation and chairs their queen pageant, website, and newsletter committees. Ashley has done a bit of traveling around the United States this year— to Nashville, Door County, and Yellowstone (just to name a few!) — and enjoys visiting Dubuque and Loras when she can.