

The Afterword

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire English Alumni Newsletter

A Welcome from the Department Chair

Dr. Carmen Manning

Many new things are happening on the UW-Eau Claire campus—a new Davies Center about to be opened, ground breaking soon for an academic building, and a new Chair of the English Department. Perhaps not all of these are quite on the same scale, but I am excited to write my first “From the Department Chair” letter.

While packing my things to leave the office yesterday evening, a recent alumnus stopped by to chat. He was headed home from a long day of teaching. We talked about his work and shared updates on our lives. It was delightful to see him. Moments such as when former students stop by, email about new jobs, update Facebook with new baby pictures—these make teaching so rewarding. It is the connections and relationships formed among students and faculty

that makes the UW-Eau Claire English Department a special group.

This issue of *The Afterword* profiles the work of many of the wonderful students, faculty, and alumni of the English Department. Meet our newest faculty members Carey Applegate and BJ Hollars. Learn about alumna Yolanda Molina-Gavilán. Find out about students Christina Huber and Heidi Deal (formerly Potratz) who recently published an article in a prestigious journal. There is also the sad news of the passing of retired faculty members, Dina St. Louis and Nan Dougherty, both of whom will continue to be fondly remembered. Also, faculty members Jan Stirm and Jack Bushnell share their experiences teaching abroad in England and China. And finally, a story about Jon Loomis’ third mystery novel in his Frank Coffin series.

You can also discover the new, progressive endeavors in the department. The Writing Center has been transformed into the campus-wide Center for Writing Excellence. We have initiated a large-scale revision of freshman composition into the new Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing which is generously funded by student Blugold Commitment funds. And our graduate program has expanded to include a writing emphasis along with the existing literature program. Perhaps you might be enticed to return to UW-Eau Claire for a master’s degree in English.

Finally, we invite you to two important events this spring. First, the nationally acclaimed author Linda Hogan will be the keynote speaker

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for the annual English Fest to be held April 23-27. Information on her presentation, as well as the International Poetry Reading and other panels, will be on our website soon. We also invite you to the new English Department Awards Ceremony from 4:00-5:30 pm on Friday, May 11 in the Tamarack Room of Davies Center. At this ceremony, we will present the English department scholarships, which are generously supported by friends and alumni of the English department. We hope to see you there.

Students and faculty from the English Department continue to engage in interesting and innovative activities. Your generous contributions to the English Advancement Fund help support our students and faculty in their work. We appreciate those who have given before, and encourage you to do so again. If you have never given to the English Advancement Fund, please consider even a small donation to sustain the ongoing work of our students and faculty.

Introducing the 'Blugold Seminar' and New 'Center for Writing Excellence'

Kim Pluedeman

The Blugold Commitment has provided funding for two major changes, including the complete revision of the English 110 course, now called, Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing, and the addition of the new Center for Writing Excellence. Dr. Shevaun Watson, Associate Professor of English and Dr. Carmen Manning, English Department Chair, are leading the changes in these areas. Watson explains that the changes to the English 110 courses include a shift to a more rhetorical focus. "The course is designed to ground students in rhetorical knowledge that helps them read critically and write across the disciplines," said Watson. "It should help them improve their writing skills in a variety of classes over the course of their academic careers." The English 110 class size has been lowered from 28 to 20 students, and the current English 099 is now being piloted as English 108, a credit-bearing developmental version of 110 with a class size of 15. There are 14 sections in both the fall and spring semesters. Each section will follow

the same curriculum, but each professor will have the freedom to choose a theme and topical readings to use in their specific class.

"Everyone will do a major research paper, and the curriculum is more standardized," said Watson. "Students will find it not only more useful, but more interesting to do because we've built in a lot of student choice. We will be assessing this for many years to come in terms of students' perceptions and attitudes about English 110. We want to track students and talk to them in their junior and senior years. Right now we don't have much evidence of transfer from 110 to later years and courses."

The second change, thanks to the Blugold Commitment, is the addition of the Center for Writing Excellence, currently located on the second floor of the McIntyre Library. "[McIntyre Library director] John Pollitz's vision is for the Collaborative Learning Center to be a 24-hour place where students can get tutoring on a variety of subjects," said Watson. "Right now the Center for Writing Excellence is located there during daytime hours, but ultimately the CWE will be housed in the new academic building, and the current library space will operate as a satellite location for the writing center." There are currently five satellite locations, including Sutherland and Towers dorms for residents of the University. The number of tutors has risen dramatically since the CWE has been built. "We have many more tutors than ever before," said Watson. "We probably have 65 tutors on staff currently." Tutors also participate in a Writing Fellows program, which pairs upper-level, experienced tutors with a 300- or 400-level class to assist students with writing. This not only helps the students in that particular class, but also benefits the tutors by encouraging them to improve their own skills.

Watson would like to recognize that without the Blugold Commitment, it would not be possible to rethink first-year writing or the Writing Center on campus. "Writing centers and writing programs can receive national recognition through our professional organizations, and that's pretty hard to get," said Watson. "That's my personal goal for our program."

Former Students Publish in Prestigious Journal

Mariah Molnar

UWEC graduates Christina Huber and Heidi Deal (then Potratz) were recently published in the Fall 2011 volume of *The Oswald Review*, a journal that publishes undergraduate research and criticism within the field of English. Their essay, entitled “Domestic Soldier: Kitty’s Secondary Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in *The Return of the Soldier*,” began as a paper for a World War I literature class taught by Dr. Jennifer Shaddock. After having written two separate papers about the character of Kitty in Rebecca West’s *The Return of the Soldier*, Dr. Shaddock suggested Christina and Heidi combine their papers into a larger piece exploring Kitty’s struggle with secondary post-traumatic stress disorder. They both chose to defend Kitty Baldry, while Heidi specifically chose to write about “how Kitty ‘caught’ her husband’s PTSD as one might catch a cold from their spouse.”

Heidi was responsible for the bulk of their research, which included topics like Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Rebecca West’s life, World War I, and gender roles in Britain. It was then Christina’s job to sift through Heidi’s research and determine how to incorporate what she learned from it into the paper. The project took 18 months of research, writing, and editing to finish. Dr. Shaddock offered advice throughout the process and reviewed what Christina estimated to be at least a dozen versions of the paper. “[Dr. Shaddock] went over each and every one of them with a fine-toothed comb,” said Huber. “We started with larger themes and ideas, making sure the paper was cohesive and readable. Then we went sentence by sentence and, finally, word by word.”

Once it was finished, Christina and Heidi sent the paper out to three peer-reviewed undergraduate journals and were thrilled to learn that *The Oswald Review* selected their paper for publication. Christina says that she learned a tremendous amount about academic writing and the publishing process. Christina and Heidi both hope that the experience of writing this paper and getting published will benefit their professional lives and prove their skills to potential employers.

Dr. Shaddock is extremely proud of their accomplishments and hopes that more students will consider pursuing faculty guided research projects.

“Faculty/student research grants aren’t just for the sciences!” said Shaddock.

What Are You Reading?

Professor Katherine Hinnant Recommends:

The Keeper of Lost Causes

By: Jussi Adler-Olsen

A Visit From the Goon Squad

By: Jennifer Egan

Graduate Programs in English

Kim Pluedeman

The Master’s Degree in English with a writing emphasis began in 2010 as a way for graduate students to develop their skills in creative writing, science and technical writing, composition, and linguistics. Dr. Jennifer Shaddock, Director of Graduate Programs in English, understands the need for such a program in the community. “There seems to be a strong interest in the creative writing aspect of the program,” said Shaddock. “We hope it appeals to teachers in the area who are not looking for an MFA, but who want to continue with their craft so they can teach creative writing better in their schools. We also imagine there might be business people in the community who would like to advance their communication skills through exploring different kinds of writing.”

Additionally, Shaddock notes that the program could better be described as a stepping stone between an undergraduate degree and the MFA (Master of Fine Arts) for the students serious about developing a career in writing or teaching writing at the 4 year college or university level. “It’s a bridge to an MFA program,” said Shaddock. “With our MA degree, students would be able to teach at a community college or a technical college, but they can also use our program to get the kind of practice or experience they need to get into a

competitive MFA program.”

Before the graduate writing program was developed, graduate courses were mostly restricted to those with a literature emphasis. Now all professors with a variety of expertise have the opportunity to teach graduate classes. “The program has a very dedicated faculty,” said Shaddock. “They provide a lot of attention and help to the students, and the students enrolled in the graduate program form a tightly-knit bond between themselves. It makes for an intensive and effective learning experience.”

Not only is the well being of the graduate students a first priority here, but Shaddock is also thinking about how the presence of graduate students in upper level courses will provide a new experience for undergraduate students, since 300 and 400 level undergraduate courses are commonly paired with graduate courses. “Our emphasis at this institution has always been the undergraduate education,” said Shaddock. “Graduate students bring a whole new level of discussion and perspective to courses. I think it’s a great opportunity for the undergraduates here to have graduate students in their classes.”

The graduate writing program may only be in its second year, but there are high hopes for it to flourish as interest in the program grows. Any questions about the graduate writing program should be directed towards Dr. Shaddock at shaddoj@uwec.edu.

What Are You Reading?

Professor BJ Hollars Recommends:

The Race Beat: The Press, The Civil Rights Struggle, and The Awakening of a Nation

By: Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff

English Festival 2012 *“Landscape of Language”*

Alyssa Reiper

English Festival is quickly approaching once again. This language arts celebratory event at UW-Eau Claire is one of the largest student-run festivals in the country. Participants can attend paper presentations by students from English and other disciplines on scholarly topics and research; attend presentations and readings by noted local authors and scholars from across the country; relax to the music of local bands; and learn about the latest trends in English studies. Most importantly, English Festival continues to be a wonderful resume-building experience for student presenters.

Dr. Cathy Rex, Assistant Professor of English at UW-Eau Claire and faculty advisor for English Festival, realizes how exclusive the Festival truly is. “English Fest really provides unique opportunities for the UW-Eau Claire students and community to come together in a celebration of texts,” said Rex. Along with opportunities to present academic and creative works, students can also serve integral roles in the planning and orchestration of the event, gaining leadership skills and earning service learning hours or course credit.

This year, Linda Hogan, an immeasurably talented writer and poet, will be English Festival’s featured speaker. Linda Hogan is an internationally renowned Chickasaw poet, novelist, environmentalist, and Pulitzer Prize finalist. She has published numerous works that concentrate on environmental themes and has been one of the most prolific authors to bring together Native tribal representation and feminist themes, particularly connecting them to her Native ancestry. Along with placing as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Literature (1990), Hogan has received numerous awards and honors, including an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation (1986), and a Guggenheim Fellowship (1991). Hogan’s works are many and varied and include collections of poetry (*Rounding the Human Corners*, 2008), a memoir (*The Woman Who Watches Over the World*, 2002), fiction (*Mean Spirit*, 1990, and *Solar Storms*, 1995), and environmental meditations (*Walk Gently Upon the Earth*, 2010).

Hogan was chosen by the English Department to be the featured author at English Festival because of her creative talent, accessibility, and production of interdisciplinary texts that reach multiple audiences. Hogan is not simply a writer of fiction, but rather a feminist, environmentalist, and Indian activist who will draw audiences from a large cross-section of the UW-Eau Claire campus, including American Indian Studies, Women's Studies, English, and Environmental Sciences, as well as audiences from the larger Eau Claire community. Hogan's presence at English Festival and the integration of her texts in university courses also assist the University in achieving its equity, diversity, and inclusivity goals. "We are very excited to have such a dynamic and well-known author coming to our campus," said Rex.

English Festival will be held on the UW-Eau Claire campus from April 23 through April 27.

What Are You Reading?

Professor Jennifer Shaddock Recommends:

The Way We Live Now

By: Anthony Trollope

Introducing Dr. Carey Applegate

Russell Hershman

The English Department is pleased to introduce one of its newest English faculty members to UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Carey Applegate. We are excited to have her join our exceptional English Department. Dr. Applegate earned her Doctorate in English Studies from Illinois State University with a concentration in English Education. When asked why she chose Eau Claire, she said that she was impressed with the expertise and dedication of the faculty and felt like this university was a great place to teach.

Dr. Applegate teaches English Education methods courses, composition, and this past winter she taught a popular culture course. In addition, she supervises student teachers, visiting and providing feedback to students while overseeing their teaching. When asked, she said she really enjoys this aspect of

her position. Her favorite class thus far has been her winter term pop culture class, *The Graphic Novel*. She said that it was a great experience due to the enthusiasm of the students, the popularity of the texts, and the dynamism of the subject. Not only were many of her students graphic novel enthusiasts, they were also artists and writers. Their strong interest in the course led to the creation of a new student organization.

In addition to her teaching, Dr. Applegate is creating a new summer camp program for middle and high school students. The camp will draw middle and high school students from surrounding areas to participate in non-classroom writing activities on campus. As the lead coordinator, Dr. Applegate envisions the camp to be an avenue for students to develop an appetite for studying English. Students will participate in activities such as video documentaries and downtown writing crawls. Since this will be the camp's first year, only 30 students will be invited to participate. Those students will learn the technical and writing skills needed in creating a digital story of the camp. Dr. Applegate's innovative and relevant ideas are sure to enhance the level of excellence in the English Department. She is certainly off to a great start!



Introducing Professor BJ Hollars

Katie Wanzer

The UW-Eau Claire English Department is excited to welcome a new creative writing professor who is also a newly published author. BJ Hollars joined the department earlier this year from tornado-wrecked Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he worked and earned his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing. His new book, *Thirteen Loops: Race, Violence, and the Last Lynching in America*, hit bookstands in October. When it came to writing his thesis during his last year in Tuscaloosa, he knew it was time to try something different. "I had always written fiction, and I had always liked writing fiction, but I thought I would try something new," said Hollars.

When Hollars discovered that the last lynching in America occurred as recently as 1981 in Alabama, he became enthralled with the subject and knew he had to write about it. In promotion of his new book, he travelled through Alabama and other southern states on a tour with the hope to connect with the readers and people related to the lynching. Hollars said his favorite part of writing the book was learning and finding different connections between people and events that perhaps few had ever thought of before. He is currently working on a second book that will focus on de-segregation at the University of Alabama as well as the civil rights movement within the town of Tuscaloosa.

The southern historical writer in him definitely misses Alabama, but he is more than glad to be residing here in Eau Claire. Hollars said his favorite part of Eau Claire so far is the students. "It's amazing to me how there's no sense of entitlement here," said Hollars. "Every student who walks into my class seems to have earned that place. Not only intellectually, but physically working two jobs to pay tuition to be in that class. I hardly have to think about attendance being a problem because they show up everyday hell or high water to be there and it's awesome."

He is also very appreciative of the staff for their constant encouragement and support. Hollars said when he interviewed here at Eau Claire in the dead of winter, he really connected with the students and staff.

When the job offer came during the spring semester, he said he never had to think twice about joining the UW-Eau Claire English Department.

Hollars was born and raised in Fort Wayne Indiana. He now lives happily in Eau Claire with his wife and newborn son.



Professor Experiences Abroad

Russell Hershman

One of the greatest advantages to attending UW-Eau Claire is the opportunity to study abroad. Likewise, many professors take advantage of opportunities to teach abroad. Dr. Jack Bushnell taught overseas this past spring at Jinan University in Zhuhai, China. For a month, he took over a course teaching 19th century British literature to Chinese students majoring in English. He also delivered a number of lectures to the wider campus on American culture, creative writing, and the concept of the 'frontier' in American history. Dr. Jan Stirm recently returned from teaching abroad at Harlaxton College in the UK. She was involved with an "island" program where US students study in a US type program, apart from other international students. UW-Eau Claire has a cooperating agreement with the University

of Evansville so that UW-Eau Claire students can attend Harlaxton College and transfer their course credits. Visiting US faculty usually teach three general education courses that fit with the University of Evansville course catalog.

Dr. Bushnell says that living on the sea in Zhuhai, China was a nice change. Thinking back, Bushnell contends that the most memorable cultural differences between China and the United States were among the most basic of day-to-day occurrences. Despite the excellent public transportation, there were “lots and lots” of people riding bicycles and walking on the sidewalks. There were not very many traffic lights so he was astonished to find drivers entering the intersections, blindly hoping for the best. Dr. Stirm also commented on the benefits of transportation abroad. She says that in Wisconsin, we are several hours away from Canada and most big cities, but in the UK, it is a real treat to hop on a train and go somewhere really different for a weekend or take a relatively cheap flight and be in another country. During her time in England, she travelled to Ireland, Scotland, and France. Students immersed in these programs typically have a four-day class week, giving both them and faculty more opportunities to travel.

Both Bushnell and Stirm recall particularly fond memories while living abroad. In China, Dr. Bushnell remembers taking students on a long weekend trip to the Yangshuo Karst Formations. He was immersed in the classically beautiful and breathtaking Chinese landscape. One of Dr. Stirm’s favorite experiences was when she went to Westminster Abbey and arrived before a special service was read in the chapel of St. Edward the Confessor. She was surrounded by the tombs of Edward I, Edward III, Richard II, and nearby, Henry V, all memorable historical figures in Shakespearean drama. She remembers the intimacy of the service and the grandeur of the cathedral as awe-inspiring.

Both Dr. Bushnell and Dr. Stirm highly recommend that students travel overseas. Both agree that the experience is transformative and essential for growth and the development of appreciation for foreign cultures and customs. Dr. Bushnell knows first hand that you are never the same after you return from somewhere truly far away.

Professor Jon Loomis to Release New Book

Alyssa Reiper

Devoted writer and creative writing professor at UW-Eau Claire, Jon Loomis, is anxiously awaiting the release of the third book in his fictional Frank Coffin crime/mystery series entitled, *Fire Season*. In the series, main character Frank Coffin, a Provincetown, Massachusetts police officer, suffers from panic attacks caused by several unavoidable phobias, thereby causing him to relocate. Despite inevitably uncomfortable circumstances, the scenarios turn out strangely entertaining to the readers. Along with his partner Lola, Coffin is forced to confront his demons, reconcile with his internal struggles, fight crime, and solve mysteries.

Within the series, Coffin and his girlfriend further develop their relationship and discuss having a child. In the third book, Coffin finds himself in the middle of an interesting festival called “Fantasia Fair.” This real annual event is a chance for transgendered individuals to gather in celebration of gender diversity. Coffin is forced to solve a crime that has taken place during this popular and chaotic event.

Each novel in the successful mystery series is approximately 300 pages in length, which takes Loomis over two years to complete. Alongside crafting his third novel and supporting a full time teaching career, Loomis has two children and a wife, Allyson, so quiet writing time is a rarity in his daily lifestyle. Despite his hectic lifestyle, Loomis gladly sees this situation as a blessing. During the writing of *Fire Season*, Jon Loomis also received direction from his wife, Allyson, who is also an English professor at UW-Eau Claire. Both are optimistic for a successful summer release.

What Are You Reading?

Professor Monty Earnst Recommends:

An American Tragedy

By: Theodore Dreiser

Nan Dougherty: Friend, Colleague, Teacher

Tim Hirsch, Professor Emeritus

I met Nan in 1967 when she and I were first-year teachers in the English Department at the university. Nan was forty-three years old, about 18 years older than me, but everyone who ever met Nan knows that age did not matter to her—not yours, not hers. She loved people of all ages. She made friends everywhere she went. In two minutes she could charm a waiter, a general, or a stranger on the street. Nan taught all who knew her the power and value of taking risks to learn about other people. She had a powerful curiosity about others and a determination to connect with each one with respect and understanding.

After many years of teaching in secondary schools in Michigan, Nan came into the UW-Eau Claire English Department as a specialist in the teaching of language arts. In addition to composition, she taught methods classes and supervised English Education students in their field experiences. In every way, she modeled for new teachers how to be confident, dedicated, inspiring, professional teachers.

In her role supervising student teachers, Nan visited school districts and made life-long friends among teachers, administrators, secretaries and custodians alike. But woe to any administrator or teacher who, in Nan's view, misused a student teacher! When one school assigned a student teacher to cover classes for a teacher who wanted to go to the state basketball tournament, Nan pulled the teacher and placed her in a school where she knew her student would have a better experience.

Her years of working with teachers in middle and secondary schools drew Nan into a leadership role in the Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English. She served on the WCTE Board, taking on, in turn, every office except Treasurer. She provided dozens of panels and programs for teachers, both through WCTE and through other agencies. During her years as WCTE President, she drew several other members of the UWEC English Department into active roles in WCTE. Because of Nan's contacts with former students and her reputation as an amazing teacher of English Education, UW-Eau Claire developed the reputation as the best place in the state to prepare for

an English teacher.

As a teacher, Nan was always able to work magic. But the teaching stories she loved best were the ones where she had to laugh at herself. She told a story about one of her students in a tenth or eleventh grade class. Buddy, let's call him, observed Nan reaching through her collar to adjust her bra strap which had fallen off her shoulder. In standard classroom-clown fashion, Buddy imitated this action. When Nan spotted Buddy mocking her, she said to him, "Oh, Buddy, I see you're having trouble with your bra strap, too." Buddy and Nan became life-long friends.

In retirement, Nan continued to teach. She started memoir groups, she wrote her own memoirs, she taught English to new residents of the US, and she taught in summer language camps. Until her eyesight prevented it, she was a voracious reader. She loved to talk about literature and about language. She loved teaching language arts.

Nan taught all who knew her the power and value of taking risks to learn about other people. She had a powerful curiosity about others and a determination to connect with each one with respect and understanding. Nan was a great teacher in a classroom, but she provided even more powerful lessons by showing us how to live.

What Are You Reading?

Professor Theresa Kemp Recommends:

Wolf Hall

By: Hilary Mantel

One Day

By: David Nicholls

In Loving Memory: Nadine St. Louis

Katie Wanzer

Retired University UW-Eau Claire professor and Eau Claire Poet Laureate, Nadine St. Louis, passed away on September 29th in Chippewa Falls after fighting an eight-year battle with neuroendocrine cancer. St. Louis was hired in the fall of 1969 and retired in January of 2000. St. Louis taught English

Composition, and variously throughout her career, Introduction to Literature, Drama, Science Fiction, Book Publishing, Shakespeare, Bibliography, Seventeenth Century Literature, and other courses. She was appointed as the first Assistant to the Chancellor for Affirmative Action and the first woman chair of the UW-Eau Claire Faculty Senate. Among her appointments to many other departmental and University committees, she also served as the Chair of the English Department for five years. She taught English at the University of Bielefeld in West Germany in a faculty exchange program, where she developed her love for writing poetry. She wrote consistently up until her death.

Former colleague, John Hildebrand, said working with her was a pleasure. He will forever miss her presence in the department. Hildebrand said her command of information on levels that elude PhD's in 17th Century British Literature was uniquely impressive.

"She had this incredibly smart, all-business side to her, but also had a creative side as well," said Hildebrand. "She was someone who enjoyed simple words, and under her tenure, the creative writing portion of the department really flourished. Nadine was someone who transcended categories."

After retirement St. Louis stayed active in the Chippewa Valley writing community. She helped organize the annual fall book festival in Eau Claire and worked to establish many area poetry readings and workshops that helped to instill a love for writing in others. St. Louis published the books, *Weird Sister* and *Zebra* in 2000 and 2008, respectively. In spring 2010 she was named Eau Claire's first Poet Laureate of Eau Claire by the City Council.

St. Louis is survived by her husband of 50 years, Robert; daughter Dr. Leigh Saint-Louis; granddaughters, Faith, Maryland, and Zoe Swords; grandson, Shannon Swords; and great-granddaughter, Clara Alain Swords.

What Are You Reading?

Professor Stacy Thompson Recommends:
The Notebook
By: Agota Kristof

What Are You Reading?

Professor Stephanie Turner Recommends:
The Subversive Copy Editor: Advice from Chicago
By: Carol Fisher Saller
A Field Guide for Science Writers
By: Mary Knudson and Robin Marantz Hening,
eds.

Blast From the Past: Alumna Spotlight *Yolanda Molina Gavilán*

Kristin Frosch

Yolanda Molina-Gavilán remembers her time at UW-Eau Claire fondly. As a former international student from Spain, she desired a comprehensive education that would not only provide her with a solid foundation in general writing skills and English translation work, but a greater appreciation for the transformative and transcending nature of literature and language.

"As a high school student in Spain I had no doubts about my favorite subjects at school: literature and foreign languages," said Molina-Gavilán. "My family encouraged me to spend my last year of high school in the US, and the exchange student program I used sent me to a place called Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The International Students program gave me an instant way to form connections and lasting friendships with people from all over the world."

Graduating in 1985, Molina-Gavilán credits her success to the English Department's encouragement and support. Then professors Blagoy Trenev, Elizabeth Morris, and August Rubrecht were among a list of UW-Eau Claire faculty that inspired her to overcome her language barriers, strive to become an effective communicator, and ultimately go on to complete her M.A. in Romance Languages from the University of Oregon and her Ph.D in Spanish Literature from Arizona State University. After finishing her education, spending a year working for an American airline in Spain, and teaching English and Spanish at American colleges in Japan, she found her niche teaching at

Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. She has now been teaching Latin American and Spanish literature for fifteen years, growing as an educator and learning more from her students everyday.

Molina-Gavilán's research focuses on Spanish science fiction literature. She has contributed articles on the subject to numerous journals, including: *Romance Languages Annual*, *Chasqui: Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana* and *Science Fiction Studies*. She published *Ciencia Ficción en Español: Una Mitología Moderna Ante El Cambio* in 2002, a pivotal work in the field, and is the co-editor of *Cosmos Latinos: An Anthology of Science Fiction from Latin America and Spain*. She is soon due to release *The Time Ship: A Chronological Journey*, an edited translation of Enrique Gaspar's *El Anacronópete*, a 19th century Spanish science fiction novel about time travel.

Most would agree that the pattern of excellence at UW-Eau Claire is still alive and strong. Molina-Gavilán is thrilled to serve as an example of a successful graduate of English.

"I consider the whole experience I had at Eau Claire as, in so many ways, a preparation for just what I am doing right now and, if I could be in any way an example of a successful English major graduate, I would be happy to," said Molina-Gavilán.



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The Afterword

Spring 2012

Editor: Kristin Frosch

This newsletter has been sent to those whom the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association lists as graduates of UW-Eau Claire with degrees in English. Requests for changes of names or addresses should be sent to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Alumni Association, 105 Garfield Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54702.

