Dr. Lauren Esposito Joins English Department

Dr. Lauren Esposito joined the English Department this fall from Stony Brook University. A native of Long Island, New York, Dr. Esposito studied at Stony Brook, graduating with a B.S. in Business Management, an M.A. in English Literature, and an M.A.T. in secondary English teaching. After teaching high school English, she began her doctoral studies at Stony Brook and worked as an English Journal fellow. She completed a Ph.D. in English and a graduate certificate in Teaching Writing, and has taught courses in college composition and literature. While teaching at Stony Brook and Briarcliff College in New York, she published an article in English Journal on the importance of teaching place-based writing and multimodal composition. Her article, “Where to Begin? Using Place-Based Writing to Connect Students with Their Local Communities,” won the Edwin M. Hopkins Award from the National Council of Teachers of English.

Dr. Esposito’s research focuses on first-year composition, writing pedagogies, and improvisational theater. Having performed as an improv actor for three years, she enjoys investigating ways of integrating improvisational acting into her teaching. This approach, she argues, brings the best of improvisational techniques and practices to learning to write and working with others. It helps foster an environment of discovery, inquiry, and creativity, while emphasizing the collaborative nature of learning. It also provides students and teachers with new ways of generating ideas and gaining new perspectives. Dr. Esposito believes that the spontaneous and creative thinking required in improvisation invigorates creative avenues in other aspects of work and life.
Alumni News

- **Amanda Altemose** (‘12) has been a substitute teacher for the last three years in three school districts: Wilson Area, Pleasant Valley, and East Stroudsburg. She has had opportunities to teach ninth, eleventh, and twelfth-grade English, seventh and eighth grade German, and Algebra I. She recently accepted a long-term substitute position at Easton Area High School. She will be teaching ninth-grade English. In addition to teaching, she is enrolled in the ESL certification program offered online through Intermediate Unit 1. She anticipates completing her ESL certification next June. She recently passed the Library Science Praxis and will soon be applying for an add-on certification in Library Science.

- **Tom Borthwick** (‘04) published his story “Silencing the Machine” in the online magazine *Theme of Absence*, which focuses on fantasy, horror, and science fiction.

- **Casey Kelly** (‘12) landed a job teaching eighth grade at Kirtland Middle School in New Mexico.

Amy Rarrick (MAT, ‘13) landed a job teaching English at St. Paul’s School in Scranton. She works with grades 6-8.

---

Alumna Offers Presentation about her Life and Work

On September 23, Newberry Honor author **Susan Campbell Bartoletti**, a graduate of our English department, offered a presentation about her life and work. A packed house heard Bartoletti discuss her early influences, her writing history, and her writing process. She related several stories about traveling to locations about which she has written. Most recently, she published *Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America* (2015), a novel that has already garnered much critical acclaim. A creative writing instructor at Spalding University, Bartoletti is also author of *Growing Up in Coal Country*, *Hitler Youth*, *Kids on Strike*, and *The Boy Who Dared*. Check out her [website](#).
Faculty Doings

Dr. Laurie McMillan and co-author Kevin J. H. Dettmar have forthcoming in *ADE Bulletin*, volume 154, the article “Maintaining a Research Profile While Chairing.”

Dr. McMillan and Dr. Lindsey Wotanis will lead a trip to Ireland over spring break as part a team-taught writing course.

Summer Writing Camp

The Summer Writing Camp took place July 27-July 31. Thirty-six middle and high school students attended. Celine Carlier ('15) served as camp director. Camp counselors included poet Craig Czury and adjunct professors Cheryl Kashuba and Carlie Nicastro. Marywood students Dana Jackson and Matthew Mierzejewski and Marywood alumna Desire Locker served as junior counselors.

English Department Adds Writing Major

Beginning this fall, the English Department offers a third option for folks interested in all things English: a writing major. The major prepares students for all types of writing. A unique aspect of the new program is its focus on activist writing.

The major offers regular instruction and practice writing in various genres to serve creative, professional, and activist goals. Courses help students develop strong rhetorical skills and expertise in editing for correctness and style—abilities that readily transfer to new writing situations.

Course requirements allow room for students to make choices, enabling you to shape the dimensions of your degree. The major offers small seminars that use workshop approaches, a gateway course, and a research-based capstone course.

The Writing major will help you read rhetorically in order to hone your own craft. You will also be challenged to think about the power of writing and how that power can be harnessed for ethical purposes.

With a degree in Writing, you can pursue a variety of professions in wide-ranging fields such as publishing, law, science, business, marketing, politics, and education, among others.

A required internship and options to pursue a second major or a minor will help majors add both breadth and depth to their college experience while also enhancing your marketability.
Ireland

Amanda Thornley

First semester of junior year was the bane of my existence. This is likely overdramatic, but my daily routine of waking up, scrambling around, and feeling nothing but dissatisfaction until I fell asleep needed to stop. I was twenty years old and already in such a tight routine that even having fun with friends needed to be written on a to-do list. I knew Ireland would be a much-needed break, and the days before I boarded the plane felt like decades.

I blinked and I was there. I blinked again and it was over.

Galway is the most heartwarming city I have ever experienced. The narrow streets are lined with pastel-colored houses, eccentric store fronts, and unleashed dogs. In every street nook, musicians play passionately as locals, students, and tourists explore a place that is still very “traditional Ireland” (and recently voted the number one friendliest city in the world). I was known by name in my favorite corner sandwich shop and frequently given discounts at my favorite small businesses. On the trek from school to my apartment, college friends always stopped me, often only to make small talk about my day.

The water’s edge, commonly called the Claddagh, hosted students on a daily basis. They typically held cans of Bulmer’s (hard cider) or a variety of beers. Students were never thumbing through textbooks or pressing against the glass of their phones. Instead, everyone looked at everything around them and spoke sincerely with people, no matter whether they were friends or strangers. What a beautiful palette to be a part of: Irish, French, German, Chinese, and American students laughing, smiling, and taking in every second of their youth.

All of the scenery in Ireland is immaculate, but the most beautiful sight I saw in Galway was young people acting like young people, sharing a drink in the sun and forgetting momentarily about the troubles that were behind or ahead of them. After a short time, I began waking up without a care and falling asleep at night completely satisfied with how I spent my day.

Today it has been 252 days since I boarded my plane to Ireland and 120 days since my experience came to a close. Living in such an extraordinary place was nothing short of a dream, and the effect it had on me is permanent. Nothing from home has changed much, but I see it all through different lenses. American Amanda is different from Irish Amanda; making the two cohere has given me a much more positive way of being in the world. All it took was dropping what I thought created ultimate happiness and remembering what truly does.
the Claddagh, in Galway, Ireland

Photos: Amanda Thornley
Our 2015 Graduates

In May, more members of the English department marched off the stage to meet the world. Congratulations to Laura Amendola, Celine Carlier, Kelly Chadwick, Chelsea Epler, Briana Galea, Erica Kester, Marissa Marold, Heather McDonald Budow, Kelsey Short, Stephen Skierski, II, Allison Ranieri. Keep in touch!

Major on the Move

Samantha Antosh put her studies to work during summer 2015 in her work for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 4-0.

English Department Social

At the English Department Social on April 22, we gathered to read great poetry, eat good food, and to hear librarian Annette Fisher announce the winners of the Barbara Hoffman Writing Awards. For the second year in a row, two students in Sr. Christine Mihelich's English 160 classes swept the honors. Caroline Borne earned first place for “Rotten to the Core”; Chelsea Francavilla took second place for “Uniforms in Public Schools: A Crisis or Opportunity?” Congratulations!

A Writing Contest!

Have you written something lately (creative or academic) that you are really proud of? The Delta Epsilon Sigma 2015 Writing Competition is open to all undergraduates (member or non-member). Delta Epsilon Sigma is the National Academic Honor Society for Catholic Colleges and Universities. Manuscripts may be submitted in any of four categories: Poetry, Short Fiction, Nonfiction Prose, or Scholarly Research. In the local phase of the contest, a First Prize of $25 will be awarded in each category. Additionally, First Prize manuscripts in each category will be submitted to the national competition in December. The national contest has a $500 First Prize in each category. Prose manuscripts should be 1500-5000 words in length. A long poem should be submitted singly; shorter lyrics may be submitted singly or in groups of two or three. Each student may submit a maximum of two entries (either in a single category or in different categories). Indicate clearly the category of each entry. All entries should be typed, preferably in Microsoft Word. All prose should be double-spaced. Include a cover sheet (with name, contact info, category, and title) as a separate attachment. Put your title but not your name on the manuscript itself. All submissions should be emailed to Peggy Leombruni (leombruni@maryu.marywood.edu) by Monday, October 12, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Aaron Simmons, in the Philosophy Department (asimmons@marywood.edu).
Learning Commons

Rose Mrdjenovic

The new Learning Commons stands as a glistening monument above the equally impressive new gardens. Sleek and modern, the LC is in stark contrast to the old library. Abundant space is available for students to study, including in group study rooms. The book retrieval system ensures that books are no longer lost, misplaced, or left in a mess. There are now lockers for commuting students and offices for staff and faculty. Perhaps most strikingly: whereas the old library was dark, closed off, and perhaps a little stale, the Learning Commons has an open, fresh feeling, and its many windows fill the whole building with light.

Some things are the same, however. The coffee shop still buzzes with activity, people still ask how to print from the computers, and you still get seniors who have never checked out a book before. A new building does not magically solve all problems.

The Learning Commons offers the Marywood community a more efficient study space, modern research tools, and a bustling hub of activity. As someone who works there, I think the Learning Commons is a major improvement. In the old library, books did get lost, books did get misplaced, and shelves were left a mess. The book retrieval system keeps everything in its proper place, with no chance for someone to steal or misplace a book. Patrons can even request books from home to pick up later.

Students are always using the computers, reading in the sitting areas, reserving rooms, and using the request system. The coffee shop's food is delicious. And—very importantly, I might add—the couches are comfortable. The Learning Commons propels Marywood into a bright and optimistic future.
English Department
2300 Adams Avenue
Scranton, PA 18509

Phone: 570-348-6219
E-mail: English@marywood.edu

OUR MISSION

The English Department at Marywood University is a dynamic learning community dedicated to exploring the beauty and power of language and literature. We offer a broad spectrum of courses for literary study, teacher training, and professional and activist writing. In addition to a minor in writing, majors in literature, secondary education, and writing are available.

Spring 2016 Courses

ENGL 321: Essay as Literature
ENGL 337: Mystical Writers
ENGL 339A: Young Adult Literature
ENGL 357: American Literature II
ENGL 360: British Literature I
ENGL 370: Shakespeare
ENGL 399: Eighteenth-Century British Literature
ENGL 399W: Travel Writing (Study Abroad)
ENGL 412A: Teaching Writing
ENGL 425: Rhetoric and Persuasion
ENGL 495: Senior Seminar

Centennial Celebration Quiz

Marywood celebrates in 2015 its 100th year. What do you know about the university’s history?

1) The first class met at 11:00 a.m. on September 8, 1915. What class was it?
2) What did this class do during its first meeting?
3) When was the Liberal Arts Center completed?
4) How were library books moved from the IHM Motherhouse to the LAC library?