

Issue #25 2016

Panoply

MISSOURI
S&T

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English & Technical Communication
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Note from the Department Chair



Dr. Kris Swenson
Department Chair of English

I've been thinking a lot lately about the value of what we do. Anyone who follows national news is aware of the so-called "crisis in the humanities" whereby pundits and politicians suggest (wrongly) that students majoring in English or philosophy or history are doomed to a life of underemployment. Putting aside for a minute the question of the relative value to society of welders and philosophers, the statistics simply do not support this claim. As journalist Blaine Greteman writes:

"Defying all conventional wisdom and their parents' warnings, most English majors also secure jobs, and not just at Starbucks. Last week, at the gathering of the Associated Departments of English, it was reported that English majors had 2 percent lower unemployment than the national rate, with an average starting

"Defying all conventional wisdom and their parents' warnings, most English majors also secure jobs, and not just at Starbucks..."

salary of \$40,800 and average mid-career salaries of \$71,400. According to a 2013–14 study by PayScale.com, English ranks just above business administration as a 'major that pays you back' (New Republic, June 13, 2014).

"English ranks just above business administration as a 'major that pays you back'..."

Beyond the question of jobs, recent events this fall on our campus and at UM-Columbia, as well as the ongoing crises across the globe, have reinforced for me the vital need for citizens who are trained as humanists. We need, more than ever, people in our communities, our institutions, and in our government who think critically and carefully about complex problems, who consider the value of opposing viewpoints and can live with paradox, who communicate with precision and sympathy. These are not skills one learns from a textbook or a Wikipedia page.

One learns them the old-fashioned way, by practice. In our classes, students read, discuss, write, and rewrite about difficult texts with ideas that are often counter-intuitive or alien to them. They create documents that seek to communicate complex information with clarity and precision. They learn about the world and about themselves, just as humanists have been doing for a long, long time. These are skills and values that we dismiss at our own peril.

At the same time, our students are learning to embrace new challenges. The English and Tech Com Department is hardly stuck in the past or in the mud, as the pages of this year's Panoply attest.

This fall, for instance, both our introductory and capstone courses in English have begun to integrate units on career paths for English majors.

We're moving aggressively into the area of digital learning, balancing carefully the convenience of online courses—which many students love—with intellectual rigor and the personal touch of classroom learning. Our online presence in technical communication is growing, with our entire MS degree offered online and now with many of our undergraduate courses available in that format as well.

Eric Bryan and Joss Larson both won "E Fellows" grants this year for reworking courses in composition and literature with an eye toward the digital. And we are hopeful that our next Weiner Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities will be a specialist in Digital Humanities and/or New Media (for SP17—search currently underway!). Several faculty have submitted proposals

"Help our majors become more skilled and thoughtful world citizens."

to lead new study abroad courses for our majors and other S&T students. And we are hiring our first full-time faculty member in English as a Second Language to help our growing number of international students on campus acclimate to S&T but also to help our majors become more skilled and thoughtful world citizens.

Thanks for your continued support of the department and thanks for reading!

Kris Swenson

2015 Homecoming Open House: A Wonderful Time to Reconnect or Just Say Hello



Ah, Homecoming—that magical time of year when the air is crisp, the leaves are colorful, and friends, colleagues, and alumni get together again to reminisce about the old and golden days.

This year's Homecoming Open House was graciously held at the home of Dr. Anne Cotterill, in beautiful Rolla, MO. As in the past, many familiar faces were in attendance to catch up and share stories while eating, drinking, and making merry.

Homecoming is the perfect reason to return to campus to reconnect with former classmates and professors while enjoying the Miner spirit. For more information on S&T Homecoming events, please visit the Miner Alumni Association Online.

Professor Fred Ekstam Retires After 15 Years of Service



Long-time department mainstay Professor Fred Ekstam retired from teaching at S&T in 2015 after nearly 15 years of service to the university. An experienced

instructor, Prof. Ekstam had also taught at the Rolla and Fort Leonard Wood campuses of Park College; the Fort Leonard Wood campus of Central Texas College; and the Rolla and Sullivan campuses of East Central College. Prof. Ekstam taught college composition as well as business and technical writing, and he was active as the faculty advisor for the *Missouri Miner*, the student-run newspaper at Missouri S&T. A once-familiar sight in the halls, Prof. Fred Ekstam with his wit, style, and good advice will be missed by many.

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New Faculty in the E&TC Department

The Department of English and Technical Communication is proud to announce the addition of three new Assistant Teaching Professors to the department.

Dr. Rachel Schneider, Prof. Jossalyn Larson, and Prof. Elizabeth Roberson were all hired in summer 2015 as non-tenure track fulltime teaching professors.

Assistant Teaching Professors at Missouri S&T focus on classroom teaching and service to the university while typically carrying a teaching load of four courses per semester.

Professors Schneider and Larson both specialize in composition and teach several sections of English 1120 Argumentation and Exposition as well as English 1160 Writing and Research.

Professor Roberson specializes in technical writing, and teaches several sections of English 1600 Introduction to Technical Communication and English 3560 Technical Writing.



Faculty Interview Spotlight

Interview with Dr. Drowne, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs



**Dr. Kate Drowne,
Associate Dean
of Academic Affairs**

Effective January 1, 2015, Dr. Kate Drowne was appointed to the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the newly formed College of Arts, Sciences, and Business. A staff writer for *Panoply* caught up with Dr. Drowne to bring our readers the following interview:

Dr. Drowne, thank you very much for your time, and congratulations on your new position. I'd like to start there; you're the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for CASB.

Q: Can you tell us—what does that mean, exactly?

A: As Associate Dean, I report to Vice Provost and Dean Steve Roberts, and with my focus on academic affairs, I try to help faculty, staff, and students in all areas related to the academic mission of the college. So I work on issues related to recruitment, faculty hiring, student success, accreditation processes, promotion and tenure, faculty mentoring, program development,

“...I try to foster good collaborative relationships between the college and other partners both within and beyond our campus.”

study abroad opportunities, and strategic planning at the level of the college. I advocate for students and for faculty in many different contexts; I make lots of presentations to students, prospective students, and employers about the programs offered by the college, and I try to foster good collaborative relationships between the college and other partners both within and beyond our campus.

Q: Dr. Drowne, please tell us more about the new organizational structure surrounding the College of Engineering and Computing and the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business; what does this mean for those students at S&T pursuing a humanities degree?

A: The new organizational structure divides S&T's academic units almost in half. The College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) houses nine academic departments, and the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business (CASB) houses ten.

Although the CEC has many more majors, the CASB actually teaches the majority of student credit hours. That means that all S&T students—even the engineering majors—spend a significant amount of their time and effort in academic courses in CASB.

This college is the beating heart of this institution—we have English, history, math, natural sciences, psychology, philosophy, economics—all the building blocks of a liberal education. And although engineering programs at S&T receive a lot of attention, we know that

broad training in critical reasoning, oral and written communication, and quantitative literacy gives our majors the flexible skills needed to succeed in and even create the jobs of tomorrow. More specifically, this new college structure

“We know that broad training in critical reasoning, oral, and written communication, and quantitative literacy gives our majors the flexible skills needed to succeed...”

will help all CASB majors, including English and technical communication majors, because they now have a dean who is actively working to increase the amount and kinds of resources directed to their departments. These efforts could result in increased course offerings, research opportunities, professional development activities, and even travel to conferences.

Q: Dr. Drowne, you've been teaching at S&T since 2001. In that time, I imagine you've seen a lot of changes on campus. What types of changes do you intend to make as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of CASB?

A: I have seen a lot of changes over the years. For example, I used to serve as director of the Writing Center; when I first arrived, the Writing Center tutors completed about 400 tutoring sessions a year. Now they do more than 3,000 sessions!

Students of the past—especially engineering students—often believed that communication skills wouldn't be necessary to their work. One student even told me that he didn't need to learn to

write well because once he got a job, his secretary was going to do all his writing for him! But times have changed, and one of my goals today is to make sure that the upper administration continues to appreciate the tremendous value that our faculty and students in the social sciences and humanities disciplines bring to our campus. We have some amazing faculty in these departments who are making important scholarly contributions, and I will do my best to champion them and their work, and to advocate for resources that will allow them to continue in these productive paths.

We also have many talented students majoring in humanities and social science disciplines, and I want to do all I can to create new opportunities for them to succeed academically and professionally. So I'm very excited to help facilitate new research opportunities, study abroad programs, and professional development activities that particularly appeal to our humanities and social sciences majors.

Q: Dr. Drowne, thank you very much for participating in this interview. Do you have any parting words for our readers today?

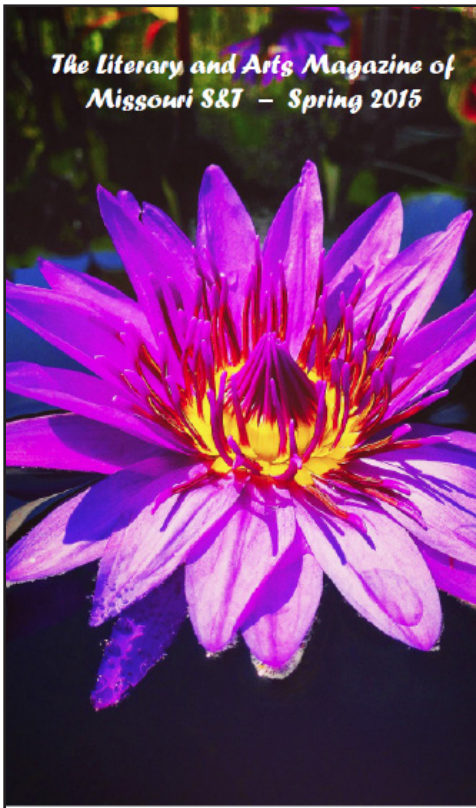
“...at the same time they'll find more ways to engage in valuable experiences...”

A: I'm excited to be a part of a college that wants to focus on increasing enrollment and enhancing opportunities for its students. I think that English and technical communication majors will continue to enjoy all the benefits of a small department full of dedicated, hands-on faculty, while at the same time they'll find more and more ways to engage in valuable experiences (internships, service learning, study abroad, OURE, collaborative protect-based learning) both inside and outside the classroom.

Southwinds

The Department of English and Technical Communication sponsors *Southwinds*, Missouri S&T's only literary and arts magazine, which annually publishes creative writing, along with photography and other visual art submitted by students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Contributions include poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, photographs, and drawings about everything from dragons to love, loss, and the beauty of nature.

The *Southwinds* staff and contributors represent the full range of academic interests across campus — from all areas of engineering and the sciences, as well as the humanities. The magazine submission deadline for the Spring 2016 issue was Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Groundhog Day!



Southwinds

Southwinds has a website, <http://southwinds.mst.edu>, where material can be submitted to the magazine. *Southwinds* also has a Facebook page, so please like us!

In the fall 2015, the *Southwinds* club baked and gave away cookies and brownies, along with copies of the magazine, as part of two different promotional events in front of the Havener Center and Wilson Library. The club also sponsored a literary and art contest to stimulate new submissions.

Suggested themes for submitted material were prompted by the fall season and its holidays: new beginnings, change, fall colors, and monsters. On November 10, the club sponsored a poetry reading in the Black Box Theatre of Castleman Hall by Herman Melville scholar and poet Elizabeth Schultz, Professor Emerita of English at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

The reading included interpretive dance for selected poems by Joan Stone, who taught dance history and choreography at the University of Kansas until she retired in 2010.

For the past two years, the printing of *Southwinds* has been funded by a grant from the Student Council's Student Activity Finance Board, allowing the magazine to be distributed free of charge. The SAFB has proposed that *Southwinds* go on permanent funding, a possibility that will be explored and decided at a meeting of the Student Council at the beginning of the spring 2016 semester.

Southwinds welcomes new staff members interested in editing or working with layout and design. To express interest in joining the staff, please write to swinds@mst.edu or to the faculty advisor, Dr. Anne Cotterill, at cotteril@mst.edu.

Alumni Spotlight

Words ^{by} Witbrod

Freelance Editing Services

Caetlin Witbrod, the freelance editor behind Words by Witbrod, is a recent graduate of Missouri S&T's English department. She provides professional editing services for a wide variety of documents. Most recently, Caetlin has been editing master's theses, journal articles, and other academic papers. She is currently accepting new clients, so feel free to contact her to learn more about her services. You can send her an email at wordsbywitbrod@gmail.com or message her on Facebook at the Words by Witbrod business page.

Make A Difference

Miner Phonathon
Every Gift Makes a Difference!

This February, please consider donating to the English & Tech Com Dept. during the annual Miner Phonathon. Your support is invaluable to the current and future students of Missouri S&T and is greatly appreciated. Your generous donations ensure the future of a strong and vibrant department.

2015 Honors and Awards

In spring 2015, the English and technical communication department started an annual tradition by holding the very first annual Student Honors and Awards Banquet. This event was a special dinner held to recognize the hard work and merit of those students who have been awarded department scholarships as well as those whose grades qualified them for the S&T Academic Scholar's List. The Honors and Awards Banquet was held in the Silver & Gold room of the Havener Center and the complimentary meal was custom catered by Chartwells. In all, seven department



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Left to Right: Harold Ellis, Snehal Shirke, Shanthi Dontula, Saba Nikrahi, Kholood Alharbi, Amy Ketterer, Laura Riggins, Amra Mehanovic, Natalie Light, Drew Amidei, Mike Slusar, Killian Knowles, Jill Sertell, Rebekah Harrah and Alex Womack

scholarship recipients were announced, seven appointees to the Academic Scholar's List were recognized, and one winner of the department's Undergraduate Research Award was acknowledged.

The English and technical communication department would like to extend a hearty "Congratulations!" to all of our successful students.

Scholarship Recipients

The Larry Paul Vonalt and Elizabeth Cummins Vonalt Endowed Scholarship

Nila Horner & Amra Mehanovic

The Pogue Endowed Scholarship in English

Kassi Talak & Caylee Thomas

The Winona Clark and J. Kent Roberts Endowed Scholarships in English

Stephanie Gladback

The Maylou W. Legsdin English Scholarship

Alex Womack & Taylor Schubert

The Prewett Liberal Arts Scholarship

Hannah Ramsey

The Jean Walker Scholarship in English

Lacy Bell

Maxwell C. Weiner Endowed Scholarship in English

Kathryn Curran, Harold Ellis, Grace Kiely, Kayleigh Rogers, Alyson Stanley, & Kassi Talak

2015 STC Region 6 Conference



Society for
Technical
Communication

For the 4th year in a row, members of the S&T student chapter of the Society for Technical Communication attended the annual STC Region 6 conference held at the Missouri State University in Springfield, MO, on March 21 and 22, 2015. The conference is sponsored by Missouri State's Department of English and the Missouri State student chapter of STC and annually draws in many well-known figures within the world of technical and professional writing.

In years past, technical communication scholars such as Carolyn Rude, Mike Markel, and Sam Dragga have given presentations and met with students at the Springfield STC conference. A notable technical communication scholar in attendance at the 2015 conference was Elizabeth Tebeaux of Texas A&M University, a woman well known in the technical communication field for her work related to the history of technical writing, particularly the role of women technical writers in Early Modern England.

The field of technical communication is relatively small, which means that the annual STC conference at MSU continues to be a great opportunity for students in the technical communication field to meet and network with established authors, practitioners, and pioneers in the field. The S&T student chapter of STC plans to attend the 2016 conference. If you're interested in attending in 2016, please contact Dr. Ed Malone for details via email at malonee@mst.edu.



Cumberbatch as *Hamlet*
photo by Johan PW

S&T Students and Faculty Attend the National Theatre Live Shakespeare Production of *Hamlet*

On Oct. 15, 2015, several students and faculty attended a "live" showing at the Tivoli Theatre in St. Louis of the National Theatre Live production of *Hamlet*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch in the titular role.

While attendees from S&T drove to St. Louis, Mr. Cumberbatch and cast never

left London. This "live" showing of *Hamlet* was made possible by the production company National Theatre Live, which records and then simulcasts top London theatre productions via satellite around the globe.

Through the instant speed of the global communications grid, audiences in major cities around the world are able to watch this classic Shakespearean tragedy performed live.

For more information on National Theatre Live productions, please visit : <http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

Miner Phone-A-Thon: Your Chance to Pay It Forward

Where they are now, you once were. Where you are, they soon will be. This February, please support the annual Miner Phonathon. The Miner callers enjoy speaking with alumni, sharing college news, swapping funny stories, and verifying or updating contact information. If you're able, please consider a donation to help support current and future Miners.

Professors Bryan, Larson and Reardon Awarded eFellows Grant



Recently three department professors, Dr. Eric Bryan, Prof. Jossalyn Larson and Dr. Reardon were awarded a 2016 eFellows Tier 1 Grant for a full course redesign. The eFellows program is an opportunity for instructors to redesign their courses to incorporate more technology, with the overall goal of improving student performance. Instructors can overhaul entire courses, designing from the ground up (Tier 1), or they can

make relatively minor changes, editing only one aspect of their course at a time (Tiers 2 and 3).

Dr. Eric Bryan is currently redesigning his English 3001 course, Folklore and Mythology, for a fully online delivery in the summer 2016. Prof. Jossalyn Larson is redesigning her English 1160 class, Writing and Research, for a blended delivery in Fall 2016. Dr. Dan Reardon will redesign English 2243: Science Fiction, and English 2244: Fantasy Literature, into blended courses for fall 2016 and spring 2017. Participants in the eFellows program spend several months developing technology changes to their courses.

They work extensively with the EdTech group to ensure that their technological and pedagogical needs are aligned to produce the best possible course experience for the students. As part of the grant, participants present on their progress and findings at numerous events throughout the academic year, including the Teaching and Learning Technology Conference held annually at the Missouri S&T campus.

Teaching Professors Continue Professional Development

Being a full-time professor is a time-intensive job; along with teaching, mountains of grading, and service to the university on committees and panels, junior members of the English and technical communication department can also add continuing professional development to the list of things that occupy their time as assistant teaching professors.

Missouri S&T offers several different ways that teaching faculty can further develop professionally, reflect on



their approaches in the classroom, and network with other instructors to share their experiences. The Freshman Faculty Forum, organized on campus by CERTI (Center for Educational Research and Teaching Innovation), is one such opportunity.

The Curator's Teaching Summit sessions, also organized by CERTI, are other such opportunities. CERTI provides a variety of faculty resources for teaching and learning, such as professional development events, educational research assistance, observation and feedback of classroom teaching, and serves as a clearinghouse for other teaching information and resources on campus. For more information, please visit <http://certi.mst.edu>.

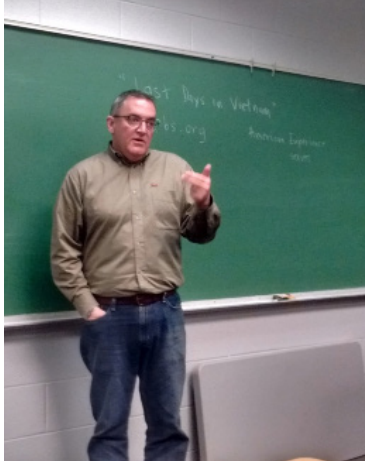
Sigma Tau Delta Bake Sale

Students in S&T's chapter of the International English Honors Society, Sigma Tau Delta, organized a Halloween-themed bake sale in Fall 2015.

The colorful and spooky treats offered at the sale were homemade by the student members of Sigma Tau Delta. Proceeds from the annual bake sale go toward funding events and membership drives, including movie nights and book readings, where pizza and refreshments are frequently provided.

Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors Society, was founded in 1924. The society's goals include promoting English language literature, providing cultural stimulation on college campuses, fostering literacy, and exhibiting high standards of academic excellence. If you're interested in joining, contact them Online via S&T's OrgSync portal.

Faculty News

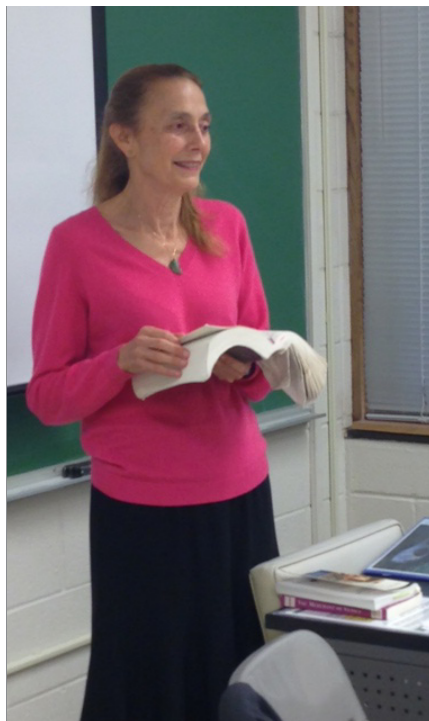


Dr. Trent Brown continues to explore the history of the recent American South in his research and writing. He is the editor of *Civil Rights in Mississippi*, a series of books forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi. The first title in the series, journalist Hodding Carter II's *So the Heffners Left McComb*, will be published in June 2016 with a substantial introduction by Dr. Brown. In October he and the Reverend Ed King spoke at the Louisiana Book Festival about their recent book, *Ed King's Mississippi: Behind the Scenes of Freedom Summer* (University Press of Mississippi, 2014). Their discussion was broadcasted on CSPAN's Book TV. Dr. Brown was also interviewed by a number of media outlets, including National Public Radio and the Associated Press, about his work on white southern identity and Confederate symbolism. He has also completed a book-length manuscript on sex and sexualities in the American South.



In 2015, Dr. Eric Bryan taught courses in linguistics, early British literature, and fantasy literature, and he has been awarded the CASB e-Fellows grant, which will support the redesign of an existing face-to-face course as a fully integrated, online course to be offered in Summer 2016. He plans to redesign his upper-level course entitled *Myth and Folklore*, in which students examine various examples of mythic narratives from ancient to modern times.

Dr. Bryan also completed two significant research projects in 2015: the first is on linguistic phenomena in narratives about Old Norse conversion and Christianization, and the second is a collected volume of essays on historical pragmatics (a branch of linguistics) and proverbs in medieval literature.



As part of her current research project, *Absolute Zero: Cold, Ice, and the Demonic North in Early Modern England*, Dr. Anne Cotterill presented a paper, "Empress of the Northern Clime: London in Winter," at the annual conference of the Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, October 8-10, 2015, in Hartford, CT. Her essay "Armed Winter and Inverted Day: The Politics of Cold in Dryden and Purcell's King Arthur," a part of the same book project, will appear in a forthcoming volume on seventeenth-century politics and literary culture, to be published by Manchester University Press. With the help of a University of Missouri Research Board Grant, Dr. Cotterill is free from teaching this semester to work on her book. She has applied to the Huntington Library for a short-term research fellowship for the opportunity to explore the rich printed and manuscript resources of that Library in San Marino, California. Dr. Anne Cotterill and Dr. Eric Bryan submitted a proposal to the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business for a grant to develop a faculty-led summer study-abroad short course in Iceland, and the proposal was funded.

Dr. Cotterill led a group of 19 students on October 3, 2015, to see a production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* at the Ivory Theatre in St. Louis's Carondelet neighborhood by the St. Louis Shakespeare Company, and she continues to advise the student creative writing and arts magazine, *Southwinds*, whose 2015 issue is currently available free of charge.



Dr. Kathryn Dolan's book manuscript, *Beyond the Fruited Plain: Food and Agriculture in U.S. Literature, 1850-1905*, was published in 2014 through the University of Nebraska Press.

Her article, "Her Daily Bread: Food and Labor in Louisa May Alcott," was published in *American Literary Realism* in fall 2015.

Dr. Dolan has presented papers at the MLA, PAMLA, NeMLA, ALA, and CEA conferences, in addition to the "Writing for Liberty" conference in Lancaster University, England, in April 2015 at the "The City and American Literature" conference in New Orleans, LA in September 2015.

Dr. Dolan teaches early-American and American Gothic courses and taught courses on Mark Twain and Global Foods in London in Spring, 2015.



Since the beginning of 2015, Dr. Kate Drowne has served in the role of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business. Her responsibilities include working with department chairs and faculty in the college to develop programs that improve student learning and enhance faculty development.

Along with her administrative duties, she continues to teach American literature courses for the department, including the American Novel, the American Short Story, and Contemporary American Literature.

Her book about contemporary American writer Richard Russo was published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2014, and her edited collection of 1920s stories about African American flappers will be finished in 2016.



Now in his sixth year at Missouri S&T, Professor Mathew Goldberg teaches composition, creative writing, and literature.

He created and curates the department's minor in creative writing. Goldberg earned a B.S. in Biomedical and Electrical Engineering at Duke University and an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Arkansas.

His fiction has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Shenandoah*, *American Short Fiction*, and many other publications.

At S&T, he serves on the department's composition committee and the campus' pre-med advisory committee.



Dr. Ed Malone was promoted to full professor on September 1, 2015. He published two articles and a book chapter in 2015: “Women Organizers of the First Professional Associations in Technical Communication” in *Technical Communication Quarterly*; “Eleanor McElwee and the Formation of IEEE PCS,

in *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*; and “Children Teaching Food Safety / Teaching Technical Communication to Children: Opportunities Gleaned from the FIRST® Lego® League 2011 Food Factor Challenge,” in *Communication Practices in Engineering, Manufacturing, and Research for Food, Drug, and Water*.



Dr. Kathy Northcut presented a poster and a paper at conferences in Limerick, Ireland, in July 2015. The conferences were ACM’s Special Interest Group in Documentation and IEEE’s Professional Communication Society. She also participated in a roundtable discussion with the Council of Programs in Scientific and Technical

Communication and served as a judge for the student poster competition. Dr. Northcut and her collaborator, Eva Brumberger, were pleased to receive the 2015 award for the best collection of original essays by the National Council of Teachers of English; their edited book, *Designing Texts: Teaching Visual Communication*, was published in 2013.



As both the director of the department’s composition program and as the teacher education program advisor, Dr. Dan Reardon coordinates both programs and teaches the course, Teaching Reading and Writing, which is required of all Missouri S&T secondary education majors. And as a popular media scholar, Dr. Reardon also teaches both science fiction and fantasy literature courses in the department.

This past April, Dr. Reardon presented at the International Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference on transmedia representations of comic book superheroes. He and Jossalyn Larson published, “Reimagining the Stacks: Classroom Technology and Library Collaboration for Writing in the Disciplines” in the fall 2015 issue of the journal *Student Success in Writing*. This spring, Dr. Reardon, Professor Larson, and Julie Phelps of S&T’s EdTech staff will present their work on the English 1160 redesign process at the national Conference on College Composition and Communication in Houston, TX.

Dr. Reardon has two additional articles and a book chapter forthcoming. The first is “Procedural Narrative Functionality: Worldview and Negotiation of Difference in *Dragon Age: Origins*” for *Eludamos: Journal of Computer Game Culture*. In the article, which will appear in the Volume 9, No. 1 (2015) issue of the journal, Dr. Reardon analyzes how identity and difference are conceptualized through digital game narratives. The second article, “Blended and Asynchronous Course Effectiveness in First-Year Composition: A Case Study,” will appear in the Volume 7 (2016) issue of *Teacher-Scholar: the Journal of the State Comprehensive University*. In this article, Dr. Reardon discusses the effectiveness of online delivery methods for foundational college courses.

Finally, Dr. Reardon’s chapter, “The Myers-Goodboy/Web DOK Approach to Positive Disposition Through Feedback Training in Preservice Teacher Education,” will appear in the edited collection, *Dispositions in Teacher Education: A Global Perspective*, in April 2016. Currently, Dr. Reardon, Dr. David Wright and Dr. Ed Malone are at work on an article which examines intersections between technical communication and digital games theory.



Last semester, Dr. Kris Swenson was excited to teach a newly revamped version of Critical Approaches to Literature, which included not only the traditional introduction to literary analysis and theory but new units on career paths for English majors and such things as resume writing and applying for internships.

This semester, she is teaching her old favorite, Brit Lit II, where she has the pleasure of introducing majors from across campus to the likes of Wordsworth, Keats, and Charlotte Brontë.

Dr. Swenson's conference traveling last year was largely on administrative topics: academic leadership, new trends in departments of English, and how to be a more effective department chair. She hopes to find more time for her research projects in 2016. She is patiently building her Evernote files with citations on phrenology & Victorian neurodiversity and on autism & memoir.



Kelly Tate is an Assistant Teaching Professor who teaches courses ranging from introductory composition (both online and in-person) to Creative Nonfiction Writing, a course that is a part of the Department's Creative Writing Minor.

This year, Tate became the Department's English 1120 Composition Coordinator, a role that focuses on providing guidance and materials to English 1120 instructors as well as holding workshops on successful teaching methods.

Tate has been a full-time member of the department since fall 2010.

She and her husband, Professor Mathew Goldberg, live in Rolla with their one-year-old son and their stubborn Basset Hound.



Dr. David Wright taught both graduate and undergraduate courses during the past year. His edited collection, *Communication Practices in Engineering, Manufacturing, and Research for Food and Water Safety*, was published in October by IEEE-Wiley Press, and he recently received a Missouri S&T Innovation Grant to study technology diffusion in smart grid power development for solar houses.

Other ongoing research projects include investigations into the history of technical marketing white papers, technology diffusion in the dairy industry, and the role of crowdsourcing in game development.

He is awaiting results from a federal grant application to study agricultural technology diffusion in the European Union.

New Faculty



Jossalyn Larson is an alumna of the University of Miami, FL, where she studied English and Classical Antiquity. Larson pursued her master's and PhD at Saint Louis University, and she defended her dissertation — a rhetorical study of “soul sciences” in the seventeenth century on December 9, 2015.

Larson has been teaching with Missouri S&T since 2012 and has been instrumental in the revision of English 1160, as well as the creation of an undergraduate student research journal, S&T's *Peer to Peer*. Larson is a New Jersey native and currently lives on a small farm in Owensville with her husband and four kids.



Elizabeth Roberson graduated with a master's degree in technical communication from Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) in 2011. She joined the English and Technical Communication department as an Assistant Teaching Professor in August 2015. She taught three sections of English 1600 Introduction to Technical Communication during the fall 2015 semester.

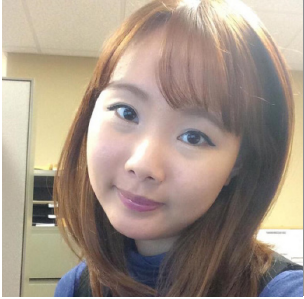
She also worked with Dr. Kathryn Northcut during that time to mentor the graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) while teaching English 3560 Technical Writing. She is scheduled to teach English 1600 during the spring 2016 semester and looks forward to working again with Dr. Northcut to provide guidance to the GTAs.



Dr. Rachel Schneider was recently hired as an Assistant Teaching Professor in the English and technical communication department. Schneider earned her Ph.D. in English at the University of Texas at Austin in 2014. Schneider's research interests include digital pedagogy, popular culture, the history of the book, and eighteenth-century British and American literature. To that end, she will attend two conferences this year: THATCamp Austin and the 2016 annual meeting of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Schneider currently teaches Exposition and Argumentation and will teach courses in Writing and Research and British Literature I this spring. Schneider has enjoyed designing a podcasting unit centered around this year's One Book, *Outcasts United*, and hopes to incorporate other digital writing assignments in her British literature class. Dr. Schneider is a Missouri native from Columbia and is enjoying being close to family and a new member of the Missouri S&T community. In the future, Dr. Schneider hopes to design a course on literature and sport, since she's an avid St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys fan.

GTAs



YeonKyung Lee recently graduated from Missouri S&T with a bachelor's degree in economics. She started the technical communication M.S. program in fall 2015 and is teaching Technical Writing (English 3560) this semester. YeonKyung chose the technical communication M.S. program to improve her communication skill and begin her career in the technical communication field. YeonKyung likes to read books and workout when she is not working on her assignments. She says that she is "a little nervous but excited at the same time" about the class she is teaching this semester.



Aryal Puspa is a new graduate student in technical communication from Kirtipur, Nepal. Before coming to S&T, she completed her undergraduate and graduate degrees in chemistry from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Aryal worked for two years as an undergraduate lab instructor and for a year as a lab assistant under the government of Nepal. Before studying technical communication, Aryal taught chemistry and mathematics in different coaching centers in Nepal.



Amruta Ranade has been working as a technical writer with startups and multinational companies for the past five years and wants to establish her own technical writing practice someday. As a first step towards that dream, she came to Missouri S&T to pursue an M.S. in technical communication with the goal of learning all that she can about the field. Amruta chose the M.S. in Technical Communication program because she found the curriculum to be practical and industry-oriented. She is excited about the teaching experience she began this semester.



Mariah Thomas joined the department in August 2015. In January, she began teaching a section of English 3560. Mariah has a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Missouri (2012). Mariah chose S&T for technical communication because of the opportunity to teach students. Mariah plans to return to the biomedical research field after graduation, armed with the ability to write reports and grants. In her free time, Mariah enjoys exploring the Ozarks around her home in Dixon, MO, and offroading with her fiancé David in their Jeep Wrangler.

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