

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS THROUGH SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-learning pedagogy links classroom material with real-world experience that meets a community need; since oral and written reflection often “serves as the hyphen” connecting students’ service and learning, English composition and other writing-enriched courses can be natural fits for service-learning. During the Spring 2019 term, Hannah Baggott and Autumn Lauzon are linking their six ENG 1060 courses to service work with the Pembroke Housing Authority.

The 1060 students visit at least once a week during the PHA after-school program to help at-risk youngsters with homework; they also collect observations about gender and gender roles, adding to their course research. Students have been excited and inspired by this experience; some plan to continue volunteering on their own after the term is over. In class, this common experience allows students to draw connections to course material and encourages them in their academic research.

Both instructors plan to continue this work with their classes next fall — a continuing project addressing a real need in the community.

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SERVICE FOLLOWING HURRICANE FLORENCE

UNCP students made the best of a bad situation in the fall semester of 2018, following the many disruptions of Hurricane Florence. For Rex-Rennert Elementary in Robeson County, the donations collected by the students in ETFL members Deana Johnson’s composition classes and Amy Williams’ composition and freshman seminar classes certainly helped to move forward after a bad tragedy.

Johnson and Williams had originally planned for a reading/literacy event in September of 2018; just one week before the scheduled event, Hurricane Florence swept through the area leaving behind some devastating consequences.

Johnson and Williams still wanted to get students involved, so they approached their students with the idea of collecting donations for the elementary school instead. Students responded enthusiastically, and in November, UNCP volunteers delivered a van-load of canned food, hygiene items, and school supplies. In total they collected more than 400 items to share with community members.

“We were disappointed when we could not host our service-learning project as originally planned, but we used this as an opportunity to let our students know that we could regroup and develop a new plan. What makes the students’ contributions even more meaningful is that many of them suffered losses of their own during the storm, but they still made the effort to help others,” Johnson noted.

Johnson and Williams were accompanied by Sandy Jacobs, Associate Director for Service-Learn-



ing in Community and Civic Engagement, Meghan Canady, Student Service Leader for Service-Learning, and UNCP students Leah Locklear, Essence Floyd and Jacy Dial. The group delivered the donations to principal Nikki Brooks on November 9.

Canady noted, "Serving schools in the community, such as Rex-Rennert, in various capacities has opened my eyes to so many needs that could go unnoticed. Being able to commit my time to service for those who need it most has impacted my life in more ways than I could have ever imagined."

"In the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, our second hurricane in three years, we were all too familiar with the immediate needs of our community. Our students stepped in and responded. That's what service-learning is all about," stated Williams.

ETFL MEMBERS GET SCREEN TIME

On November 13 2018, Hannah Baggott Anderson sat down for an interview with Deana Johnson and Sara Oswald of the English, Theatre, and Foreign Languages Department to discuss an ongoing literacy program organized by Johnson, Oswald, and Amy Williams. For three years, these faculty members have been working on a Poetry Publication Partnership with R.B. Dean Elementary School in Robeson County. The project culminates with a literacy celebration at the school featuring a poetry booklet of the original works by the students.

The elementary students are invited to UNCP's campus for an "I Have a Dream" Reading Party celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and famous speech. UNCP students from the composition sections of Johnson and Williams serve as writing mentors, assisting the elementary students in composing poems about their hopes and dreams for the future. Then, students from Oswald's Publication Design Class prepare the poems for publication.

"Through this project, we have been focusing on building partnerships with our local public schools. We want to promote literacy and creativity as well as give the students a chance to see their work in print," noted Johnson. "Sara, Amy, and I are very passionate about this project, so it was great to have the opportunity to feature it on Campus to Community. We hope that highlighting projects like these will inspire more faculty members to engage students in service-learning initiatives," she added. The interview was featured on WNCN TV's show, *Campus to Community* and can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3eJ2xof2Bc>.

LOVE/HATE

On February 13th, the Student Engagement Committee hosted its second annual Love/Hate poetry event, where students and faculty shared their favorite poems about love (or the lack of it). Whether their own work or a published favorite, readers performed a diverse set of texts by poets as diverse as John Donne, Billy Collins, and our own Shelby Stephenson. They celebrated mother love, self love, godly love, and romantic love and enjoyed refreshments before and after the readings.



Student Profile: Sarah Ward

A resident of Whiteville, North Carolina, Sarah Caroline Ward is a sophomore English major with a concentration in Education. We recently reached out to her to learn a little more about her experiences in the program here at UNCP and to gain a bit of insight into the life of an English major.

What made you decide to major in English?

I've always loved reading, and I've loved every English class I've ever taken. As I became older I had trouble deciding what I was going to major in, so I believed it made the most sense to go with something that I enjoyed.

What's your favorite thing about being an English Major?

I like that I'm able to do more than just read a piece and be done with it. I love looking at a piece from a different perspective or thinking about why it was written and how it impacted the world.

What should people outside the major understand about the field?

Many people have said to me that majoring in English is only useful if a person plans on teaching. People believe that it is not practical, but there are many professions that may not require an English degree, but it helps immensely.

What do you like to read for fun?

I like to read psychological thriller novels when I get the chance.

Is there a book you hate to admit to NOT having read?

My mother has been begging me to read *Wuthering Heights* for years, so I'm ashamed that I haven't read it yet.

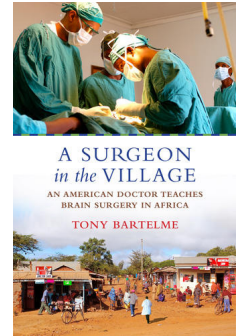
How do you spend your free time (when you're not reading, of course!)?

I don't have much free time as of recently, but I usually just spend time with my friends and family.

WRITERS VISIT CAMPUS

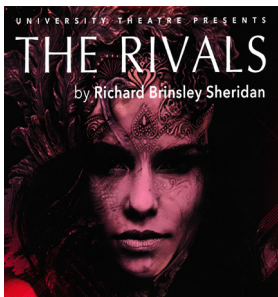
ETFL partnered with *Pembroke Magazine*, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Friends of the Mary Livermore Library to bring two writers to campus during the Spring 2019 semester. On February 25, Tony Bartelme discussed his book *A Surgeon in the Village: An American Doctor Teaches Brain Surgery in Africa*; a reception and book signing followed the talk. Bartelme, a three-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, is a special projects reporter for *The Post and Courier* in Charleston, S.C. Through his reporting, Bartelme has exposed government corruption and explored diverse issues ranging from ocean plankton to the global shortage of doctors. The *Washington Post* described *A Surgeon in the Village* as “harrowing and important.”

On March 14, poet, editor, professor emeritus, and former poet laureate of Louisiana Julie Kane visited Dr. Karen Helgeson’s ENG 2780: Writing Poetry I class, recorded a podcast with Dean Jeff Frederick, and gave a public reading in the Thomas Assembly Room of the Museum of the Southeast American Indian. At the evening reading, Dr. Kane was joined by Shelby Stephenson, professor emeritus of creative writing at UNCP, former editor of *Pembroke Magazine*, and former North Carolina poet laureate, who also read from his recent work. For a podcast on Dr. Kane’s visit, go to <https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-husy2-ab5949>



CLASSIC COMEDY—WITH A TWIST

University Theatre’s production of Richard Sheridan’s *The Rivals* is scheduled for April 2 to 5 at 5:30 p.m. in the studio theater and April 18 at 7:30 p.m. on the GPAC main stage. *The Rivals* holds a special place in the heart of its director, Theatre professor Holden Hansen. “It was my favorite production experience in undergraduate school back in 1980,” Hansen said. “I played Bob Acres and we did the show in a ‘tennis court’ seating (with audience on two sides) in a studio theatre setting.” This model inspires Hansen’s spring production of the play—with a twist. “Unlike the production back in 1980, we are going for a theatricalized hybrid style that combines the high fashion of contemporary runway modeling with eighteenth-century fashion,” he said. “The milieu we hope to create may also emulate current trends in contemporary ‘variety-talent’ TV.”



Hansen’s approach seeks to emphasize the play’s iconic characters. “This concept brings a contemporary flavor to the self-conscious, self-absorbed mannered behavior of the characters, and plays into the penchant of the characters to break the ‘fourth wall’ and acknowledge the audience,” he said. “I love that the play in its own time seems to have been a bit of a satire on the trend towards sentimental comedy, which sacrificed comedy for an emphasis on Puritan conceptions of virtue. Sheridan subverts this by exposing ludicrous behavior in the characters, and the result is hilarious.” The production will make good on the play’s comedy and showcase the talents of its actors. “I consider Sheridan’s comedy to be a masterful contribution to the world canon of comedy of manners,” Hansen said. “It will be enormously challenging for our students to work on this piece, and I hope the audience laughs and has a good time.”

SPANISH PROFESSOR CREATES INTERDEPARTMENTAL PANEL AND INVOLVES STUDENT RESEARCHER

“When I saw that UNC Chapel Hill and Duke were hosting the first annual North Carolina Latin American Studies conference,” says Spanish professor Diana Lee, “it made sense to organize a panel with History professor Chris Wooley and Political Science professor Melissa Buice because our research interests all intersect in many ways, particularly around the care of the environment in Latin America.” Lee recognized that UNCP faculty’s expertise reached across traditional departmental boundaries and that making interdisciplinary connections would strengthen each of their research agendas.

Wooley agreed. “The paper I gave was on the politics of forest access under the Aztec Empire,” he explained. “It is part of the first chapter of a book I’m writing on the history of Mexico forests from pre-Hispanic times to independence in



1821. As such, it's a necessarily interdisciplinary study, so it's always great to get to talk about my work with colleagues from other departments, especially since they often have theoretical frameworks that are new to me that I can shamelessly borrow."

But Lee, Wooley, and Buice did more than develop their own ideas: they asked an undergraduate student, Spanish major Dominique Perez, to join their panel. "She is an incredibly intellectually curious undergrad and she was discussing this issue of fracking that was occurring in her parents' home region in San Luis Potosí, Mexico," reported Lee. "So, I asked her to join our panel to discuss the indigenous resistance to fracking in that area." Working with Perez made it clear to Lee that interdisciplinary work benefits undergraduate researchers as well as their mentors: "As I was working with Dominique to develop the broad stroke ideas for her paper[,] I was able to consult with Chris and Melissa since my own literary background wasn't going to be an appropriate approach for her research. I learned a lot from the experience about how different fields discuss the issue of environmental care and it was great to hear from each of my colleagues and Dominique."

Perez adds that this opportunity to see different approaches was a highlight of her experience: "Working with professors of different departments is interesting because it defines an eclectic perspective," she notes, adding that "attending this conference helped me voice personal experiences through an academic outlet. It required me to do research on a topic I would've otherwise been less informed about. I believe academic reasoning is strategic, informative and self-educating which are all aspects I value." Perez also appreciated the opportunity for development this experience allowed her. "Presenting my research allowed me to gauge my public speaking abilities, and opened my eyes to areas that need improvement. Overall the experience was an opportunity for growth." Wooley adds that she's already off to a good start: "I remember giving my first papers years ago when I was in college, and I will say she was certainly much better prepared than I had been. I think introducing students to our profession is an important opportunity that is often ignored."

"It was a fun conference (if rainy)," Woolley adds, "and I look forward to participating again next year." Lee agreed, adding that the interdisciplinary collaboration is far from over: she looks forward to more opportunities to "discuss current issues in Latin America and how we can use our knowledge together to incorporate these topics into our respective teaching."

RECENT ETFL PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

ETFL faculty keep busy outside of the classroom; below is a brief round-up of recent research presentations and publications from late 2018 to the present.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

DR. DIANA LEE. The London Centre of Interdisciplinary Research: "Intersections between Humans and Animals: Biopolitics and Hippopotamus in *The Sound of Things Falling* by Ivan Gabriel Vásquez."

DR. ABIGAIL MANN. Midwestern MLA. "Pits of Women: Reworking the Logic of Sacrificial Consumption."; Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies. "Speaking from the Graveyard: Conditional Memory in *Our Mutual Friend*."

SARA OSWALD. Philological Association of the Carolinas Annual Conference. "'...this false traytoor Death. / He shal be slayn ...': Harry Potter and *The Pardoner's Tale*."

DR. MELISSA SCHAUB. Victorians Institute Conference. "Disordered Reading: Bingeing, Serializations, and the Form of the Novel."

DR. ROBIN SNEAD. Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. "Performing 'Otherness': The Liminality of the Non-Tenure Track PhD."

DR. RICHARD VELA. Medieval-Renaissance Conference: "Transforming Shakespeare: Teachers and Students on Film"; PCAS/ACAS Conference: "Killer Couples: Romantic Attachments in Hit Man Films"; 40th Conference of the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association: "The Children of the *Sicario* Trilogy."

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

HANNAH BAGGOTT ANDERSON: "How Does it End? On Illness and Craft." *The Muse Magazine*.

AARON COLE: "Drawing Appalachia" (a review of David Joy's *The Line that Held Us*). *Pembroke Magazine*.

DR. PETER GRIMES: "1993: A Revisionary Retrospective" (memoir essay). *The Carolina Quarterly*; "Holes" (memoir essay). *Slice*.

DR. MELISSA SCHAUB: "History and the English Individual in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*." *Victorians Institute Journal*.