Beginning at 5:00pm on Friday May 9, 2014, the WNMU Humanities Department will be hosting its inaugural celebration for Humanities graduates, as well as for the department’s two retirees, Professor Sharman Russell and Professor Janet Wallet–Ortiz.

The festivities will take place on the second floor of the Student Memorial Building, in the cafeteria’s Sunset Room. Recognition of the accomplishments of graduating students and retiring faculty will be given, scholarships will be awarded, and light refreshments will be served.

Anyone wishing to attend the celebration is more than welcome to drop by! For more information on the event please call 575-538-6644 or email smithc9@wnmu.edu.

### Graduates of 2014

**MAIS with a concentration in Writing OR English**
- Jennifer Campbell
- Ian Carbajal
- Tasha Cooper
- Sarah Derringer
- Beverly Hendrix
- Megan McDonald
- Daniel Leach
- Paul Pal

**B.A English**
- Chad Arechiga
- Jennifer Bjornstad
- Arrianna Estrada
- Jacqueline Nichols
- Rachel Stephens

**B.A Secondary Education: Language Arts**
- Lynda Call
- Katelyn Dean

**Minor in English**
- Antonia Rhoades
Professor Sharman Russell on her upcoming retirement:

I came here in 1981 as the university's first developmental writing teacher. I have taught writing in the classroom and online to undergraduate and graduate students, helped develop the MAIS Writing discipline, and published some ten books. Working with developmental students, I enjoyed getting "down to basics" and appreciated reading first-person student papers, which helped me as a writer and editor. With advanced writers, we could "collaborate" more in the process of revision, and I could model the life of a working writer. My plans for retirement are, no surprise, to write even more. This fall, Diary of a Citizen Scientist will be published. Over the next two years, I plan to release four new fictions. This summer I am applying for a Fulbright research grant to go to Malawi to write about new treatments and ideas concerning childhood malnutrition. In today's publishing world, I have to work much harder "promoting" books and finding my readers. So I intend to do that too. As part of my retirement...I will be walking the Camino de Santiago, celebrating my 60th birthday, and training for an Olympic triathlon. I also hope to return as an adjunct for Western. I'm not going away.

Professor Janet Wallet-Ortiz on her upcoming retirement:

During times of teenage stress, my best friend and I would often quip, "Go West, young woman, go West." As it turned out, I piled my books and clothes into my very old 1972 Pontiac Catalina and headed to Houston and then to Silver City, where I was attracted by this rural university town and the Gila Wilderness. Four of us "pioneers" created the Developmental Skills Department to help mostly first generation college students achieve their educational degrees. I taught Freshmen Seminars, Developmental Reading and Writing, and composition. For five years, I also served as Learning Communities Project Coordinator and worked with the Peer Mentoring Program for the Title V Grant Program, working with dedicated students and colleagues to create Laura Rendon's concept of "familia" at Western. In my retirement, I plan to devote time to my favorite organizations, including Guadalupe Montessori School, the Gila Resources Information Project and the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, my local parish, the Newman Center, and Gila Community Radio, and finally, I want to plant an organic garden. Suddenly, this doesn't sound like "retired" to me! I owe a debt of gratitude to the students, peers, and administrators who supported my professional and personal development. "Vive the Gila!"

Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Tau Delta has had a very busy semester! We held a Conversation Cookie Fundraiser for Valentine's Day, which resulted in $400. You might have also seen us dancing around campus as we've been filming a Western version of the Pharell Williams' "Happy" video. We sponsored The Bomb Squad for the Great Race and had several members participate in the Race. STD earned $115 on Great Race concessions. Our main event for the semester is showing Hunger Games: Catching Fire at Old James Stadium on Saturday, May 10th. Concessions open at 7 pm and the film will start at 8 pm. We will be selling hot dog/hamburger/veggie burger meals, as well as popcorn, candy, and soda for a fundraiser. The film is FREE, so bring your blankets and lawn chairs and come out for some fun! We are always welcoming new members, so if you'd like to join the fun, please contact the advisor, Dr. Michaelann Nelson at Michaelann.Nelson@wnmu.edu or the STD President, Stephanie Newton at snewton987@gmail.com for more information about activities and meetings.

Saturday May 10
Old James Stadium
Free Admission
Concessions 7:00 pm
Film begins 8:00 pm
Meals start at $3.50
Bill’s Blog

As I complete my twenty-second year at WNMU, this seems as good a spot as any for some reflections—both personal and professional.

Beginning fall 2014, no one will still be in the Humanities Department who was here when I arrived. So that makes me the department’s “official old guy.” It’s a tough job, but someone has got to do it. Speaking of jobs, I like mine. I enjoy coming to work. Mary Baumhower, my predecessor, left me the most vital, most enthusiastic, most engaged, most collegial, most student-centered department imaginable. Our faculty, collectively and individually, are excellent. [Anyone want to challenge that sub-verb agreement issue?]

This past year has brought much positive change. Combined with our seasoned veterans (Deb, Mary, Benji, John and me), we now have new faces (Kate, Michaelann and Patricia) and new energies. And our future is a bright one indeed.

And then there’s Chelsea Smith, our new Department Administrator, who holds everything together with grace and humor. She is the one person with whom everyone making contact with the department interacts. She makes each of us look better and work better.

Dr. Bill Toth, Humanities Department Chair

Faculty Updates


Dr. Mary Leen is currently working on a collection of sestinas focused on Italy and Morocco as well as developing a new collaborative writing “system.” She reports, “Yesterday one of my athletes said [class] was the most fun he’d had all day.”

Prof. John Gist will be moving his office into the Humanities department of Bowden Hall for the fall semester. In addition, John published “Kairos,” a creative nonfiction essay, in the January 2014 issue of Pithead Chapel: http://pitheadchapel.com/volume-3-issue-1/ and “Soul of Cat Uncoiled,” a short story, which will be coming out in the next print edition (August 2014) of EDGE literary journal: http://www.tahoewritersworks.com/EDGE-purchase.html.

Dr. Patricia Kilroe published “Inner speech in dreaming: A dialogic perspective” in the December 2013 issue of the journal Dreaming. At the annual International Association for the Study of Dreams conference in Berkeley, California this June, she will be presenting a paper on “The Dream Conversation” as part of a linguistics panel on dreaming.

This semester, Chelsea Smith joined the Humanities Department as the new administrator. Chelsea had been a work study in the department previously and is now settling into her new role and responsibilities.
**Dr. Michaelann Nelson** is excited to be completing her first year at Western. Just prior to the beginning of the school year, Dr. Nelson presented a paper titled, “Wet Desert: The Appropriation of Nature Writing in Anti-Environmental Novels” at the Tenth Biennial Association of Literature and the Environmental Conference held in Lawrence, Kansas. Her research focuses on environmental writing, particularly of the Southwest. This fall, she will be able to share her expertise in ENGL 461: Environmental Literature.

**Dr. Kate Oubre**'s academic article, “Many ‘Right Answers,’ Many ‘Wrong Ones’: A Defense of Close Reading in the High School Classroom,” will be published this spring in a special issue on literary education in the journal *Style* dedicated to controversies surrounding the teaching of literature within the context of the newly adopted Common Core State Standards in secondary education.

**Professor Rick Stansberger**'s fifth book, the narrative poem *Gizmo*, was recently honored at a reading at Roebling Point Books in Covington Kentucky. He is working on a book-length series of poems in memory of his mother, who died last summer, and a group of short stories inspired by two of his uncles, who were shady characters in the last century. He continues to edit poetry online for *Red Savina Review* and *Poetry Circle*.

**Summer 2014 Courses**

**Undergraduate**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 201</td>
<td>Intro to Lit</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Gist</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 205</td>
<td>Chicano literature</td>
<td>M-TH</td>
<td>8:00-10:20</td>
<td>Professor Cano</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 225</td>
<td>Short Story</td>
<td>M-TH</td>
<td>10:30-12:50</td>
<td>Dr. Oubre</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 470</td>
<td>Feminist Theories of Lit</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<td>Dr. Leen</td>
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**MAIS**

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<tr>
<td>ENGL 500</td>
<td>Studies in Poetry</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<td>Dr. Toth</td>
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<td>ENGL 521</td>
<td>British Novel</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Heller</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 524</td>
<td>Greek Tragedy</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<td>Dr. Heller</td>
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## Summer 2014 Courses Continued

**ENGL 570: Feminist Theories of Lit**
Online Dr. Leen
Highlights women’s issues and women’s literature, and investigates theoretical approaches to all literature, building on students’ understanding of the literary canon, women’s social and historical issues, and literary theory, with emphasis on extensive research and writing.

**WRTG 508: Creative Nonfiction**
Online Dr. John Gist
Advanced practice in writing creative non-fiction, including the understanding of fiction techniques as applied to non-fiction writing. Students choose non-fiction subjects, articulate criteria for these assignments, apply dramatic techniques, post their writing assignments online, and review each other’s work.

**WRTG 510: Advanced Creative Writing**
Online Dr. John Gist
Advanced practice in original composition with a focus on research and publication within a chosen genre; demands a sophisticated understanding of the English language, an application of critical thought, and a commitment to creativity.

**WRTG 515: Publishing in the 21st Century**
Online Prof. Russell
Exploration of current issues and trends in the field of publishing, including self-publishing. Students will get hands-on experience in publishing a print-on-demand book either in a collaborative group or as an individual project.

**WRTG 567: Writing for Social Change**
Online Prof. Russell
Exploration of how writing can be used to generate and encourage social change, from opinion pieces in local newspapers to bestselling books on global issues. Students will discuss how such writing has affected their lives, what issues they wish to write about as advocates of social change, what writing forms best fit those issues, and what writing strategies best fit those forms.

## Fall 2014 Courses

### Undergraduate

**PHIL 101**
T-TH 2:00-3:15 Dr. Royce Grubic
Development of such problem-solving techniques as common sense, verification of facts, validity of logic, existentialist analysis, and computer modeling; explores the humanistic value of thinking in itself as distinguished from problem solving.

**ENGL: 201: Intro to Lit**
T-Th 2:30-3:15 Dr. Bill Toth
T-Th 11-12:15 Dr. Michaelann Nelson
Introduction to Literature is a perfect course for those who want to read about and engage in thought-provoking, entertaining, and enlightening ideas. This course will cover a wide range of poetry, drama, fiction, and perhaps a little creative non-fiction, and is designed for students who don’t have a strong background in literature.

**ENGL 225: Short Story**
T-Th 9:30-10:45 Dr. Kate Oubre
In this course, we will explore the genre, including many modern texts but also some great classics that engage us with strong, vibrant, sometimes twisted characters and the occasional page-turning plot-driven narrative.

**ENGL 225: Short Story**
Online Donald Florence
Detailed study of short stories.

**ENGL 240: Native American Lit**
Online Amber Godey
Exploration and analysis of selected texts by Native American writers incorporating fundamentals of history, art, and music with a focus on cultures of indigenous peoples of North America.
ENGL 293: British Lit I  T/TH 9:30-10:45  Dr. Debbie Heller
This is a class where you will not read works which outwardly resemble the news you watch or the movies you enjoy. We are going to read the old stuff, before any wars you have probably ever heard of, before minorities’ or women’s or most men’s right to vote, before radio (and T.V. and computers obviously), though not necessarily before printed media such as newspapers. And I promise that you will still REALLY enjoy it.

ENGL 296: American Lit I  T-Th 12:30-1:45 pm  Dr. Kate Oubre
Did you know that Henry David Thoreau’s act of civil disobedience against the Spanish American War inspired such great historical leaders as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr? Did you know that Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson collectively, though separately, changed the scene of poetry for future generations and created the first original and uniquely American literature? Join in for the fascinating ride through the Colonial, Revolutionary, Early Nationalist, and Romantic periods of American literary study.

ENGL 297 American Literature II  Online  Donald Florence
Survey of major American writers since the Civil War.

ENGL 300: Heroic Myth and Legend  Online  Dr. John Gist
Study of the nature and function of myth and its expression through the literature, legend, and folklore of particular cultural traditions. Examines the heroic code, legendary heroes and heroines, gods and goddesses, and mythic archetypes.

ENGL 316: Traditional Usage and Grammar  Online  Dr. Patricia Kilroe
Intensive grammar study designed primarily for the English major or minor; required for students seeking New Mexico teacher licensure in English.
Prerequisites: ENGL 102 and Junior or Senior standing.

ENGL 320: Creative Writing  T-Th 2-3:15 pm  Dr. Mary Leen
Have you ever wanted to try your hand at writing poetry or dream about becoming the next J.K. Rowling? In this course, you’ll get the opportunity to practice writing all four genres of literature: poetry, drama, fiction, and creative nonfiction. We’ll explore current publications in on-line writing journals; do some amazing collaborative writing in the computer classroom; learn from current working writers as guest speakers; go on field trips; and of course, write and share our own work.

ENGL 325: American Life & Thought  MWF  12:00-12:50  Dr. Bill Toth
The American Dream has inspired millions of immigrants over the last two centuries to move to the United States, but what does the American Dream really mean? In this class we’ll explore the various manifestations (the good, the bad, and the ugly) of the American Dream in fiction and film as well as trace its roots to 18th century America. We’ll read Albee’s American Dream; Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby; Didion’s Play It as It Lays; Smith’s Happiness; Eastwood’s Bronco Billy; and Williams’ The Glass Menagerie, among others.

ENGL 451/551: Lit of the American West  T-Th 12:30-1:45  Dr. Bill Toth
In 1954, 8 of the top 10 television shows in America were Westerns. Today, virtually no Western television shows exist, but the myth of the American West is as popular as ever and pops up in places such as the television series Revolution to advertisements for trucks. In this course, we’ll look at literature and film that was inspired by the region we live in. You’ll come away from class with deeper knowledge about the “Myth of the Frontier” and how it shaped what America has become today. We’ll look at how the Old West has transformed into the New West and the issues affecting our region. We’ll read work by Ellen Meloy, Terry Tempest Williams, Edward Abbey, Jonathan Rabin, Norman McLean, Eugene Rhodes, and others. Join for a trip across the Wild West!
Beginning with Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden*, we’ll examine some of the roots of contemporary environmental thought and ideology as they pertain to US history and culture. We’ll explore the relationship between American literature and environmental values. We’ll get to read about John Muir’s wild ride on a Redwood tree during a raging storm; Edward Abbey’s ride down the Colorado River; Aldo Leopold’s hunt in the Gila Wilderness; Rachel Carson’s fear about a “Silent Spring”; Terry Tempest Williams’ struggle for solace after the death of her mother; and Bill McKibben’s call to action on climate change.

**MAIS**

**ENGL 501: Studies in Ancient & Medieval Lit**  
Dr. Debbie Heller  
Ancient and Medieval Literature (an online course for graduate students with an English concentration; interested upper-division undergrads should contact Prof. Heller at hellerd@wnmu.edu to seek permission to take the course for undergraduate credit). *In English 501 we will explore four different kinds of literature from the culture of ancient Greeks and Romans: Homer’s epic masterpiece, the *Iliad*; selections from the erotic Greek Lyric poets; and two dialogues by the philosopher Plato.*

**ENGL 510: Advanced Composition**  
Dr. Patricia Kilroe  
Intensive work in expository writing

**ENGL 520: Studies in American Lit**  
Donald Florence  
Selected studies in periods, genres, and figures in American literature; appropriate areas of study selected by teachers and students.

**ENGL 525: Studies in the Short Story**  
Donald Florence  
This reading and writing-intensive course involves in-depth study of the art of the short story and of selected works by American, English, French, and Russian authors acknowledged as masters in this genre. Students will also be introduced to the historical and cultural context within which these authors produced their works.

**ENGL 538: Women as Writers**  
Dr. Debbie Heller  
(an online course for graduate students with a concentration in English; interested undergrads can enroll in Fall 2015). This course is devoted to studying great literature written by women. It offers an in-depth study of women writers from a variety of times, places and social circumstances—not only America and not only the 20th/21st century.

**ENGL 547 The Enlightenment**  
Dr. Debbie Heller  
(an online course for graduate students with History or English concentrations; interested upper-division undergrads should contact Prof. Heller at hellerd@wnmu.edu to seek permission to take the course for undergraduate credit). This course is about the massive cultural shift, called the Enlightenment, which began late in the seventeenth century and whose effects are still very much with us today. This shift brought about new notions of equality, gave us concepts of human rights (including, potentially, women’s rights and the rights of racial and sexual minorities), incited numerous political revolutions, and inspired the framework and working parts of the system of government known as democracy. It is a challenging and rewarding course for anyone interested in how ideas of human equality and human rights took hold over two centuries ago.

**ENGL 551: Lit of the American West**  
T/Th 12:30-1:45  
Dr. Bill Toth  
A survey of the literature of the west with emphasis upon historical narratives, folk literature, nature writing, and fiction.
Fall 2014 Courses Continued

**WRTG 503: Writing the Screenplay**  
Online  
Dr. John Gist  
Advanced practice in writing the screenplay, including critical attention to formatting, dialogue and description. Marketing the finished product will also be emphasized. Students prepare a synopsis, write a screenplay using the proper format, post acts of the play online and review and critique each other’s work.

**WRTG 509 Memoir Writing**  
Online  
Dr. Mary Leen  
Students will use in-depth writing exercises to "mine for memories" which they will use as material for a possible book-length manuscript of non-fiction prose. This is not an autobiography; it is a focused study of one theme in the writer’s life. Students will have the opportunity to leave this class with experience and practice of gathering, focusing, composing, editing - and perhaps even submitting for publication - experiences from their own lives in a creative, non-fiction manuscript.

**WRTG 519: Advanced Composition**  
Online  
Dr. Patricia Kilroe  
Intensive work in expository writing.

**WRTG 527: Nature Writing**  
Online  
Dr. John Gist  
Practice in the genre called nature writing- including but not limited to writing about the natural world, environmental issues, living in place, and the biological sciences. Analysis of the history of nature writing and the new role of nature writing in the twenty-first century.

**WRTG 545: Fiction Writing**  
Online  
Dr. John Gist  
Practice in the writing of adult literary fiction, both short story and novel form. Some genre fiction is allowed with permission from the instructor. Students will look at key elements of writing fiction, including plot, development of characters, and point of view. Students who have taken Writing Children’s Literature can continue in this form with permission from the instructor.