



Millersville University

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of English & World Languages

FALL 2024/SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

A WELCOME FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to the English & World Languages newsletter for the academic year 2024-2025! We have another year to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and faculty, but we are also offering a fond farewell to cherished colleagues Dr. Jill Craven, Dr. Duckhee Shin, and Dr. Kaitlin Mondello. Together, they represent over half a century of service, mentorship, and impactful instruction for our students and faculty. We will miss them greatly as they move onto the next chapters of their lives. We also lament the loss of a retired, long-time faculty member, Dr. M.P.A. Sheaffer. She passed away this year in February.

We have much to celebrate with our remaining faculty including research presentations at national conferences like Dr. Mayers who celebrated the 30th anniversary of his first presentation at the Conference on College Composition and Communication at this year's conference in Baltimore. Drs. Pfannenstiel, Rae, and Mando also presented at that conference. Dr. Craven took students to the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York, and Dr. Jakubiak invited a local historian to speak to her students about the Underground Railroad. We even started this academic year by hosting the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities conference thanks to the hard work of Dr. Baldys, Dr. Pfannenstiel, and Becca Betty. This was an opportunity for many of our students to present their research and creative works. We are also glad to see that Dr. Corkery's continued leadership of the Carter G. Woodson lecture resulted in extensive coverage in the media spreading the important message of this series about equality. Dr. Craven also organized the "Reel Courage" film series that offered necessary support during such troubling times. Several of our faculty have publications to celebrate this year like Dr. Pfannenstiel's co-authored book *Information Literacy and Social Media*. I would like to emphasize Dr. Rea's article that was published at the beginning of the academic year in *Technical Communication Quarterly* that is a fascinating look at historical urban planning documents that racialize city spaces.

This year, Dr. Baldys, Assistant Department Chair, and I have continued the ambitious agenda that focuses our leadership of this department on building a supportive community. We are most proud of our students who continue to amaze us inside the classroom and as they engage our community. For instance, we have three Spanish students who are studying abroad in Spain with support of our Wilfredo Valentin Marquez Study Abroad Scholarship. Another, Ryan Liebl, an ESL/Linguistics concentration student, will be on his way to study in Germany. We had a strong showing at Made in Millersville this year as 17 of our students presented. We are also proud of our journal, *Engage for Change*, co-edited by Dr. Farkas and supported by many ENWL students. They just published their third issue. We also congratulate Ryan Webb as winner of the Academy of American Poets contest, and Marjorie Dodge as runner up. But it's also every student in our classrooms who has opened themselves up to the world of language, literature, and rhetoric that make us proud.

One of the most enjoyable events of the year for me was our department's trip to the Harrisburg Book Festival where we heard authors of "romantasy" (a genre new to me) share insights about their writing process, and we had a good amount of time to cruise the aisles and aisles of used books on sale by Mid-Town Scholar. Such an event sums up to me what we share: a love for language, a sense of responsibility to support those who provide a home for our talents as linguistically inclined individuals, and a taste for exploration. From the full house at Mid-Town Scholar to my sections of Intro to Linguistic Analysis and Reading Our World that were full of some of the very best students I've ever taught, I have a lot of hope for our department no matter what challenges to reading and writing are afoot. English & World Languages is keeping the *human* in the Humanities.

Justin Mando, Ph.D.

Chair and Associate Professor

Department of English & World Languages

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Dr. Justin Mando, Department Chair

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<https://www.millersville.edu/enwl/english/index.php>

English & World Languages Department blog
<https://blogs.millersville.edu/englishnewsletter/English>

English Graduate Studies blog
<https://blogs.millersville.edu/englishgrad/>

Facebook: Millersville University, Department of English

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ENGLISH & WORLD LANGUAGES 2025 GRADUATES

Graduate Studies

Megan Poff, MA in English

Undergraduate Studies

Colleen Parker, BA in English
Cassandra Kreider, BA in English
Zariana Jenkins, BA in English
John Cedeno, BA in English
Olivia Hess, BA in English
Madison Reisinger, BA in English
Katelyn Strohl, BSE in English
Carson Bolash, BSE in English
Morgan Yurasits, BSE in English
Alicia Spong, BA in English
Caera Home, BA in English
Yaneris Perez, BSE in English

Undergraduate Studies Continued

Julia Yetman, BSE in English
Lauryn Everly, BSE in English
Miriam Abdolhadi, BSE in English
Alena Carrigan, BA in English
Kylie Loiacono, BA in English
Anne Maneval, BA in English
Sarah Hunter, BSE in English
Melany Carrasco, BA in English
Maretta Buckwash, BSE in English
Julia Fallows, BSE in English
Abigail Cogliano, BA in English
Toby Good, BA in English

APPLAUSE AND CONGRATULATIONS

Alice A Fox Memorial Award

- **Kayla Peakes**

Class of 1910 Endowment

- **Jayden Burnside**

Class of 1917 Endowment

- **Grace Jenkins**

Class of 1922:

- **Elliot Simcoe**

Dilworth-McCollough English Endowment

- **Devyn Williams**

Dorothy J. Patterson Scholarship:

- **Mason S Musser**

Eileen Carew Promising Writers Scholarship

- **James Hughes**

Frank R. Heavner Memorial Award

- **Emilie Arsenault**

Deisley English Educator Award

- **Carmen Portillo**

Steven A. Walker Endowment

- **Gabrielle Barlow-Underwood**

Theodore H Rupp Award

- **Angeliz Diaz**

William S Trout Memorial Award for English Ed

- **Elizabeth Skinner**

THE WILFREDO VALENTIN-MÁRQUEZ STUDY ABROAD FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship was created to honor Dr. Wilfredo Valentín-Márquez, a Spanish Languages and Linguistics professor in the English and World Languages Department. After his passing due to illness in 2023, the ENWL department created this scholarship to support the study abroad travel of three English & World Languages students per year. Students majoring in a program housed in the Department of English & World Languages or minoring in Language Studies, Spanish or Culture Studies, or Spanish are eligible to apply. The three recipients of the Fellowship this year are Myah Yesko, Gabrielle Barlow-Underwood and Angie Diaz. Myah is studying in Sevilla, Spain Spring 2025. Gabrielle and Angie will be studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain Summer 2025. Upon completion of their study abroad experience, students will have the opportunity to share their experiences through various formats, including presentations, participation in Open Houses or Admitted Student Days, writing a blog post, or contributing a newsletter article.

MYAH YESKO STUDIES ABROAD IN SPAIN

Myah Yesko, currently studying in Sevilla, Spain, is the first recipient of the Wilfredo Valentín-Márquez Study Abroad Fellowship. She is pursuing a major in Spanish Language and Culture Studies. Myah shared that studying abroad has greatly broadened her understanding of the world's diversity and has provided insights into Spanish language and culture that go beyond what a textbook can capture. These lived experiences and direct cultural connections will play a crucial role in her future goal of being a Spanish teacher.

The most eye-opening aspect for Myah has been the dual challenge and reward of living in another country. She explains, "Being able to adapt and thrive in another country has given me a new skill set and confidence that will carry over into my future career and pursuits." This journey has profoundly changed how Myah views the world and herself, providing an empowering experience that has also deepened her empathy for those who leave their home countries to come to the United States. Learning to thrive in the unknown, as well as adapting to a new language and culture, will benefit Myah both personally and professionally in the future.

When asked what advice she would give to students considering studying abroad, Myah said, "Do it scared. Being abroad teaches you so much, not only about the world, but also about yourself. Don't let fear of the unknown hold you back from one of the greatest experiences you could have."



NOTES FROM OUR GRADUATES

"While I originally came in with the desire to be a counselor, the English department was my calling. The professors who represented the department created a warm and enlightening environment that felt like a place I could thrive academically and network. The English department presented the space and resources to conduct research, publish, and create long-lasting connections." --Julia Fallows, BSE in English

"The MA opened so many doors for me. My learning has enabled me to become a better educator. It has also allowed me to present at various conferences and provide me access to future doctoral work." --Megan E. B. Poff

CONFERENCE CORNER

This past academic year, many undergraduate and graduate students participated and presented at a variety of ENWL-centric conferences including English Associate of Pennsylvania State University (EAPSU), Mid-Atlantic Pop Culture Association (MAPACA), Lancaster Learns, and Made in Millersville (MIM)

EAPSU 2024

The English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU) conference was hosted by Millersville University in October 2024. Dr. Pfannenstiel, Dr. Baldys and Graduate Assistant Becca Betty served as the planning committee for this event. The theme of the conference was *Inclusive Stories, Writing for Change*. EAPSU hosted a comics workshop and enjoyed a Q&A with a Poetry reading by Kate Baer. There were both undergraduate and graduate panels discussing literary and experiential knowledge gained in their time at Millersville. There were also several roundtable discussions and individual presentations presented by Millersville University students and faculty. A big thank you to our volunteers Megan E. B. Poff, Megan Tyson, Rashid Noah, Elizabeth Mutzabaugh and Josh Rea for their help with the event! Below are all the presentations given by our faculty and students at EAPSU this year.

Theorizing Romance: The Pleasures and Perils of Netflix's Queen Charlotte - Presenters: Dr. Emily Baldys, Jayden Burnside, Jamie Hughes, Madison Reisinger (undergraduate students)

Creative Inclusivity: Integrating diverse perspectives in creative works - Presenters: Dr. Caleb Corkery, Autumn Confer, Emilie Arsenault, Michael Finnigan, Christina Finnell, Kylie Loiacono, Leah Pavey (undergraduate students)

Collaborative Leadership to Communicate the Value of Writing - Presenters: Drs. Justin Mando, A Nicole Pfannenstiel, and Josh Rea

Interpretations of Place: Searching for my roots in Sicily
Dr. Elizabeth Mutzabaugh, Adjunct Professor

Roots' Impact on Identity within Jackie Kay's Trumpet and Zadie Smith's White Teeth - Kayla Peakes, undergraduate student

Power and Patriarchy in the Uniforms of The Handmaid's Tale - Megan Tyson, MA English graduate

Engage for Change Journal Roundtable - Dr. Kerrie Farkas (Professor ENWL), Professor Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol (Associate Professor, McNairy Library), Aubrey Lenker, Kylie Loiacono, Madison Reisinger, Ashton Nafziger (undergraduate students)

Bringing Historical Roots of English into the High School Classroom - Jayden Burnside, undergraduate student

What Makes a Risk Worth Taking in Writing and Teaching?
Dr. Justin Mando, Associate Professor

Freedom of Choice in Composition Writing - Megan E.B. Poff, graduate student

Decolonizing English Class: A guide to culturally affirming pedagogy for linguistic minorities in America - Elliot Simcoe, undergraduate student

Reframing Normal: Finding frames of relatability in Sally Rooney's Normal People as an exercise in empathy - blue Guckert, MA English graduate

A Closer Look at the Mind Flayer: Disability narratives in Stranger Things - Liana Ockenhouse, graduate student

Remembering Fanny and Stella: Embracing queer history through Victorian presentism - Becca Betty, Adjunct Professor

Feminist Analysis of Maryse Conde's I, Tituba, the Black Witch of Salem and Kamila Shamsie's Homefire - Ariana Colella, undergraduate student

Ceremony and The Woman Warrior: Reimagining the canonical western structures of literature - Lauryn Everly, undergraduate student

From left to right : Dr. Pfannenstiel, Becca Betty, and Dr. Baldys



Pictured to the left is Faith Strausbaugh with a poster presentation on "Fairy Stories and Folktales Reimagined".

Pictured to the right is Elliot Simcoe with a poster presentation on "Creating a Book Club at My University".



Elliot Simcoe received the Outstanding English Major Award

CONFERENCE CORNER

Lancaster Learns 2025

The Lancaster Learns conference took place on February 28th this year and was chaired by Dr. Pfannenstiel. Professor Becca Betty, and MA student Megan EB Poff served on the planning committee. This year the keynote speaker was Dr. Oliver Dreon, a professor of Educational Foundations at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. His keynote title was "Exploring the Power and Pitfalls of AI in Higher Education".

Drs. Leonora Foels, Marie Firestone, and A. Nicole Pfannenstiel presented on "Eliciting Useful Student Feedback to Realign Classroom Practices" at the conference. Pictured below are the attendees of the conference from Millersville University.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Pfannenstiel(ENWL Professor), Dr. Foels (Social Work Professor), Marie Firestone (Instructional Design, IT), Megan Poff (ENWL MA student), Becca Betty (ENWL Adjunct Professor)



MiM 2025

This year, the department had 17 students participate in the Made in Millerville conference in April. This conference allows students to practice their public speaking skills through oral presentations. Many students also create posters and exhibits to display and share their experiences and research. Charli Hoffman, Jayden Burnside, Elliot Simcoe and Aroob Khan presented on a variety of topics this year from mindfulness and teaching English skills to language bias and analyzing a Shakespeare play. Ariana Colella, Bailey Collington, Emily Dzybski, Lyndsey Kregel, Cas Horne, Axelle Cofie, Kaylynn Keatigh, Michael Keehan, Anna Jessel, Anaya Darr, Kylie Loiacono, Jacob Long, and Claudia Lutz all presented posters and exhibits at the MiM conference this year. Thank you to all who participated and attended.

MAPACA 2024

The Mid-Atlantic Pop Culture Association (MAPACA) conference was held in November of last year in Atlantic City. MAPACA is a unique conference that focuses on popular and American culture and examines a variety of topics from film and animation to a publisher's exhibit. Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel, Becca Betty, and Megan E. B. Poff did a roundtable presentation on "Play and Humanity: Asking Play-Centered Humanities Questions" and blue K Guckert presented on "REFRAMING NORMAL: Finding Frames of Relatability in Sally Rooney's "Normal People" as an Exercise in Empathy". Some other presentations at the event were "Disability Narratives in Stranger Things" by Liana Ockenhouse, "But Daddy I Love Him!": How Taylor Swift's "Tortured Poets Department" Explores Parasocial Relationships in Popular Fandoms" by Heather Verani, "The Dramaturgical Affect in Gameplay" by Megan E. B. Poff, "Speculative Biology, Disability, and Adaptation in Scavengers Reign" by Becca Betty, and Rhetorical Vulnerability: Reconsidering failure pedagogies alongside intellectual risk-taking by Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel.



STUDENT RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCE

Journals

In Spring 2025, *Engage for Change* published an issue on "Equity & Justice in Education". This publication includes works written by English & World Languages majors, and, students, staff, and faculty across campus.

You can read the issue at:

<https://blogs.millersville.edu/engageforchangejournal/>

Each Spring semester, students presenting at Made in Millersville are invited to contribute to the Made in Millersville Journal.

You can read the issue at:

<https://www.mimjournal.com/>

ENWL STUDENT ORGS

Check out these clubs and more on Millersville's Get Involved page at <https://getinvolved.millersville.edu/>

English Club
Spanish Club
Creative Writer's Guild
George Street Press
Film Club

United Nations Commision on the Status of Women



Eight students from Millersville University traveled to New York City to attend the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose of UN's CSW is to gather countries from across the world to assess and to contribute to current efforts toward achieving gender equity, especially to ensure the future safety and empowerment of young women. They were able to attend a variety of panels over the course of 3 days, varying from large panels and small conferences of less than 60. These students had opportunities to listen to countries such as Rwanda, Cameroun, and Cambodia talk about the dangers women face in their home countries and what governments and civil society organizations plan on doing in the future to better assist women who battle against threats such as gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, and human trafficking. Their goal is to find ways to protect and promote gender equity where they can change policies, praxis, norms, and beliefs. They also shared the significance of being a part of international organizations working together to create positive change.

FACULTY UPDATES

Faculty Conference Presentations

Dr. Theodora Sakellarides presented her paper, "Feelings Work: Emotional Labor of/in *This Bridge Called My Back*" in March 2025 at the NeMLA conference.

At the Conference on College Composition and Communication in April 2025, Dr. Justin Mando co-led a workshop "*Play at Your Own Risk: Workshopping Risk and Failure Pedagogies*" and presented with Dr. Pfannenstiel and Dr. Josh Rea "*Collaborative Leadership to Remix and Revalue Writing Studies: Programmatic Boundary Work during Austerity*".



Dr. Mando was also invited to lecture for Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association: "*Listening to the Susquehanna and Giving it Voice*." He presented with poet Michael Garrigan on Feb. 19th, 2025.

Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel served as an invited panelist at the Lancaster AI Symposium 2.0, April 2024.

Faculty Publications

Congratulations to our faculty who have published works this year!

Dr. Justin Mando co-authored a chapter with colleagues in *If At First You Don't Succeed* in December

2024: <https://wac.colostate.edu/books/perspective/s/succeed/>. His chapter is titled "Counterpoint: Why Not Intellectual Risk?"

Dr. Joshua Rea's article "Social Problems and Racial Agendas: Analyzing the Structural Racism of Historical Urban Planning Documents" published August 2024 in the *Technical Communication Quarterly*.

Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel's co-authored book with Professor Michele Santamaria, *Information Literacy and Social Media: Empowered student engagement with the ACRL Framework*, published Summer 2024.

Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel also published the chapter "Play/Playful" in *Keywords & Concepts in Making + Design Thinking*.

Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel and Professor Becca Betty co-authored the chapter "Building Playful Mindset" in *Professors at Play Online Playbook* available as OER at <https://professorsatplay.org/professors-at-play-online-playbook/>.

Professor Judah Mahay's experimental science fiction story "The Human Quotient" was published in Pinky Thinker Press in October of 2024. You can check it out here. [The Human Quotient | Short Fiction by Judah Mahay](#)

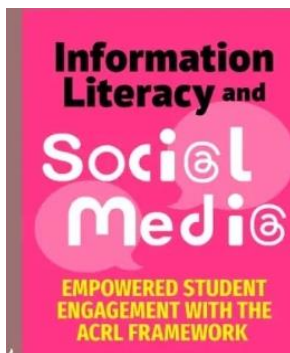
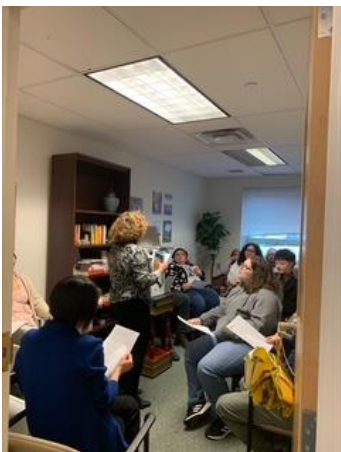
"Breathe" was published in April 2025 with the multilingual literary journal Contrapuntos of Digitus Indie Publishers by Prof. Judah Mahay.

Becca Betty co-authored "Developmental mouse brain common coordinate framework" <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-53254-w> and the research article "Brain-wide connectivity and novelty response of the dorsal endopiriform nucleus in mice". It is accepted pending revisions and preprint is available at this link. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.09.30.615899v1>

FACULTY UPDATES

Faculty Focus: Research Talks

This year our department continued to host a series of Faculty Focus: Research Talks. This “tiny office” lecture series is a special chance for students to see behind the scenes information about faculty research. They are an opportunity to discuss in a more informal setting some of the awesome projects our faculty are working on outside of (and sometimes inside of) the classroom. These talks are also a chance to hear about the realities of working through the research and writing process. This year's presentations included, Dr. Marco Antolin on "Poetry, Translation and War", Dr. Timothy Mayers presenting his research on “Flight 56, Work in Progress, Progress in Work”, Dr. Yufeng Zhang discussing “Rhetorical traditions and innovations of Chinese writing”, Dr. Katarzyna Jakubiak on “Literary Translation: Creativity and Activism” and Michele Santamaría and Dr. Nicole Pfannenstiel sharing research from their new book "Information Literacy and Social Media".



English & World Languages faculty nominated for EPPIIC values awards



Students know how EPPIIC the English & World Languages department is! Five faculty were nominated for the 2024 EPPIIC Value Awards in recognition of their outstanding efforts to uphold Millersville’s commitment to fulfill our mission, achieve our vision, and attain our goals. They were nominated in the areas of integrity, exploration, professionalism, inclusion and compassion. The picture above was taken at the Fall 2024 Ceremony. From left to right: Drs. Nicole Pfannenstiel, Emily Baldys, Katarzyna Jakubiak, Jill Craven, and Justin Mando.

DR. SHIN RETIREMENT

The Department of English and World Languages bids a heartfelt farewell to Dr. Duckhee Shin. Dr. Shin has been an English professor with the department of English and World Languages for 22 years. She pursued a Ph.D. in American Literature from Indiana University and completed postdoctoral work at UCLA which reinforced her belief in a diverse literary foundation and multicultural curriculum. Her main specializations in the field include Early American literature, Religion and Literature, and Contemporary American ethnic literature.

Dr. Shin shared her thoughts on her time at Millersville University. "Through discussions on ethnicity, race, class, gender, and sexuality, I have enjoyed working with my students to explore how historical, social, political, and economic forces shape literature and society and helping them become better readers, writers, and open-minded thinkers. My high point of my teaching has been their enthusiastic aspirations and dreams to promote an inclusive and democratic understanding of the American experience."

She also served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Eighteenth-Century English Literature* from 2006–2016 and was a manuscript reader for *MELUS* from 2003–2015.

Dr. Shin enjoys yoga and traveling and is passionate about ethnic and cultural studies and Asian-American studies. In the past she served as advisor for the Asian-Society of Millersville University. One of her proudest achievements at MU was organizing 8 major Asian American cultural events between 1994 and 2005, featuring renowned speakers such as Dr. Ronald Takaki and Li-Young Lee.

The department of English and World Languages wishes Dr. Shin all the best in her retirement.



Community Responses to Dr. Shin's Retirement

"Dr. Shin is a kind, compassionate, and understanding person who has helped me gain perspective on the most important things in life. "

"I have appreciated Dr. Shin's collegial support and been inspired by her dedication to literary studies."

"Although I was not an English major, I was struck with how attentive Dr. Shin was to my interests in Asian-American studies and she connected me with experiences to foster and expand this area. These experiences included attending an Asian-American studies conference in Boston, participating in her own census research documenting the earliest settlers of Asian descent to arrive in Lancaster county, and feeling welcomed in one of her 400 level literature classes for the cross-disciplinary perspective I could offer. Dr. Shin possesses a warmth, genuine care, and focus on building connection that is remarkable. Many thanks to her for instilling in me (and countless other students) the value of academic exploration and human compassion. "

"Duckhee has always impressed me with her grounded presence: professionally, theoretically, spiritually. She is solid in her relationships, too. She connects with people from that deep sense of what matters to her. I admire and appreciate her sure stance. I thank her for bringing heartfelt interactions as a colleague."

"Duckhee and I have a few things in common: we are both immigrants, we're both mothers juggling family responsibilities and academic careers, and we're both interested in American literature. I appreciate that we've been able to exchange thoughts on these aspects of our lives over the years."

"I have appreciated Dr. Shin's collegial support and been inspired by her dedication to literary studies."

"I remember going into the class uninterested in the topic but by the end of the course, I'd found that I loved it. A big part of that was thanks to Dr. Shin."

DR. CRAVEN RETIREMENT

The Department of English and World Languages bids a heartfelt farewell to Dr. Jill Craven. Dr. Craven has served as a professor with the department for 26 years. She pursued her undergrad in Mathematical Science/Computer Science from UNC- Chapel Hill and initially worked as a systems engineer and marketing representative. However, she eventually realized that this career path didn't align with her values and long-term goals. Seeking more meaningful work, she returned to UNC-Chapel Hill to pursue a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. Her academic specializations include Film Studies, Critical Theory, and Narrative Studies.

Reflecting on a recent experience taking students to see *Good Night and Good Luck* on Broadway, Dr. Craven shared a quote from Edward R. Murrow: *"We will not be driven by fear into an age of unreason if we dig deep into our history and our doctrine and remember that we are not descended from fearful men. Not from men who feared to write, to associate, to speak, and to defend the causes that were for the moment unpopular."* For Dr. Craven, this quote captures the essential role of literature and film; not only to educate but to challenge, inspire, and push individuals to lead meaningful lives.

Dr. Craven was actively involved with students outside of the classroom. As Coordinator of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, she has taken students to the United Nations to see social justice in action internationally. Dr. Craven has also taken students to the Toronto International Film Festival, a world-class cultural experience.

Dr. Craven shared that "The most rewarding aspect of teaching has been interacting with students throughout the years. It is an honor to be able to show students some of the marvelous films that they would have never seen otherwise and hopefully impact their lifelong learning as they continue to view media after graduation."

Upon retirement, Dr. Craven plans to visit friends, do some writing, and spend extra time with her daughter and furry friends. It is evident that Dr. Craven loves her profession and field, and the department of English and World Languages wishes her all the best in retirement.



Community Responses to Dr. Craven's Retirement

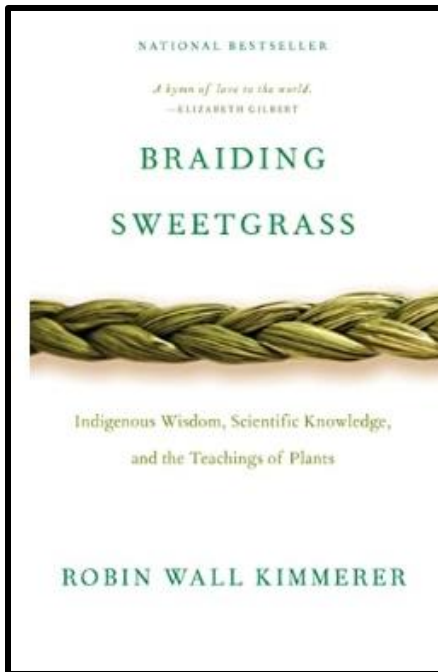
"Working with Jill has been more than a privilege and a pleasure. Her kindness and attention to detail towards all walks of life has truly changed my life and others around her. As a student with physical and mental disabilities, including anxiety, Jill has made my life at Millersville nothing but smooth sailing. I have not worried once on whether I will be graduating on time or in the wrong classes because of Jill's excellent guidance. The opportunities she provided for students transcends her time at MU, and I believe she will leave an everlasting impact and legacy on this campus for all of MUs disabled students."

"Working with Dr. Craven has ultimately changed the course of my life. Her impact on me is the most rewarding aspect in this. She inspires me to be a strong advocate for people who feel speechless, and to always be considerate of others and the challenges they may be facing."

"Dr. Craven is easily one of the most caring professors I've had the pleasure of meeting at MU. I had the honor of working alongside her as the President of the American Association of University Women chapter at Millersville; she takes unique interest in her students and will do anything in her power to push them towards success. I met her as a shy underachiever, but her guidance fostered my confidence; I can positively say that many of the opportunities I had at MU, I wouldn't have thought to take without her encouragement. She is a wonderful professor and a devoted mentor, and I cannot thank her enough for all she's done for me."

"One of the most transformative experiences I've had with Dr. Craven was attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York City. Presenting our experiences at Made in Millersville afterward was equally impactful. At the UN, I engaged in rich conversations about dismantling harmful practices and creating new opportunities for women and girls. I had the space to ask questions, take notes, and bring a fresh perspective back to Millersville—an opportunity I wouldn't have had without Dr. Craven's commitment to expanding horizons for her students. By leading through action and example, Dr. Craven has taken me—and so many others—to places where real change happens and has inspired us to be a part of it."

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS BOOK CLUB



Dr. Nicole Pfannenstiel and Professor Frank Vitale hosted a book club as part of the Exploring Challenging Legacies (ECL) series. In Spring 2025, faculty, staff, students and community members read and discussed *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Kimmerer. Within this book, Kimmerer weaves together indigenous ways of knowing, storytelling, and scientific knowing to connect readers with the natural world around them.

As part of her work, Kimmerer discusses her familial connection to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, the first boarding school for Indigenous peoples in Carlisle, PA. Pfannenstiel and Vitale extended their work with this book club by travelling with several students to the Center for the Future of Native Peoples (CFNP) "For the Peoples Symposium" at Dickinson College March 2025.

Exploring Challenging Legacies screening of "The Lost Children of Carlisle" documentary

As part of Native American Heritage Month, Professor Frank Vitale (Archivist, McNairy Library) and Dr. Nicole Pfannenstiel (Associate Professor, ENWL) organized the screening of the documentary "The Lost Children of Carlisle". This event allowed for an afternoon of cultural engagement and reflection on aspects of Pennsylvania's complex history. "The Lost Children of Carlisle", a very local and WGAL documentary, follows the journey of Native Americans who are trying to find loved ones buried in graves at the site of the first federal off-reservation Indian boarding school in the country. This was the inaugural Exploring Challenging Legacies event as part of the Millersville Institutional Legacy Initiative and featured collaborative research from students and faculty. After the documentary, there was a Q&A time for reflection and discussion with the director, Matt Barcaro.



Pictured from left to right: Frank Vitale, Bryanna Nase (History undergraduate student), Nicole Pfannenstiel, Matt Barcaro

AWESOME EVENTS

Lancaster Book Crawl

On Saturday, April 19th, the department hosted its second Lancaster bookstore crawl. Organized by Dr. Baldys, the student leadership council, and English Club this event allowed ENWL students and faculty to explore downtown Lancaster and check out all its wonderful book shops once again. We would like to thank Read Rose Books, Pocketbooks, Dog Star Books, Farbo Co, The Lancaster Troll Market, The Lancaster Public Library, Nooks, Mayhem's Bookstore and Board Games Cafe and The Heritage Press Museum for participating in our event this year!



Students and Faculty gather for a picture inside Read Rose Books at the start of the book crawl.



Disability Pride

Disability Pride returned this year to Millersville for the 8th annual event with our Department Associate Chair Dr. Baldys once again playing an instrumental role in organizing and running this awesome event. Disability Pride is an opportunity to celebrate disability culture, envision radical access, and advocate for disability justice featuring art activities, panel discussions, guest speakers, and a disability pride march.



Millersville University

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of English & World Languages