This year was filled with many accomplishments by faculty and students. As you read this newsletter, you’ll be impressed with the quality, quantity, and diversity of our department’s publications, awards, and achievements. Individually and collectively, we contribute to the essence and vitality of the liberal arts on this campus and in our local and global community.

This spring, we celebrate the careers of Professor Casey Charles, Professor Christopher Knight, and Professor Karen Volkman as they retire from our department. We also bid farewell to Professor Prageeta Sharma as she joins the faculty at Pomona College in California.

On Friday, May 3, from 4:30 pm to 6 pm, the English Department is hosting an end-of-the-year reception at the Dell Brown Room in Turner Hall. At this informal gathering, we will honor our retiring professors, the Mortar Board Outstanding Seniors, and all scholarship recipients. Everyone is welcome to attend.

On Saturday, May 4, at 9 am, the University will hold its commencement ceremony for the College of Humanities and Sciences and Missoula College at the Adams Center.

We encourage you to keep in touch by sending us your news items and photos. We always enjoy learning about your experiences. We especially appreciate hearing how your English degree empowers you in your work and civic lives. We also hope you will contribute to our fundraising projects through the UM Foundation.

We value and need your support. Please join us in recruiting students to our department and university. Each of you is an important contributor to our legacy of literacy and lifelong learning.
This spring, we honor the careers of three professors: Casey Charles, Christopher Knight, and Karen Volkman. Each of these professors has contributed to our department’s national and international stature as a leader in literature and creative writing. We thank them for their years of dedicated service and celebrate their accomplishments as teachers, scholars, and writers.

Professor Casey Charles earned his B.A. in English Literature at the University of California—Santa Cruz, his M.A. in English Literature and Certificate of Composition Instruction at San Francisco State University, his J.D. at the University of California, and his Ph.D. in English Literature at the State University of New York—Buffalo. His dissertation title was “Desire and Love I Late Medieval and Renaissance Literature.” He was hired as an Assistant Professor in 1994, became an Associate Professor in 1998, and was promoted to Full Professor in 2006.

Professor Charles is the author of novels, poetry, and scholarly works, including The Monkey Cages (novel), Zicatela (poetry), The Trials of Christopher Mann (novel), Blood Work (poetry), The Sharon Kowalski Case: Lesbian and Gay Rights on Trial, and Critical Queer Studies: Law, Film, and Fiction in Contemporary America. Professor Charles presented papers at numerous conferences, including the Shakespeare Association of America, the Abroad Writers Conference (Italy), International Congress on Medieval Studies, San Miguel Poetry Conference (Mexico) and the College Composition and Communication Conference.
Professor Charles enjoyed teaching undergraduate and graduate students in his courses, which included Shakespeare, Film, Critical Theory, Queer Studies, and Literature and Law. He also served the university and department in important ways. He served as English Department Chair (2006-2009), as UFA Grievance Officer (2014-2016), and as a leader in the Outfield Alliance, UM Allies, University Standards Committee, and the International Programs Advisory Committee. Through his teaching and service, Professor Charles made our department and university a more humane learning environment.

Dr. Christopher Knight

Professor Christopher Knight earned his B.A. in English from Manhattan College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in British and American Literature from New York University. He was hired as an Assistant Professor in 1999, became an Associate Professor in 2001, and was promoted to Full Professor in 2003. Professor Knight is the author of five books: Penelope Fitzgerald and the Consolation of Fiction; Omissions Are Not Accidents: Modern Apophaticism from Henry James to Jacques Derrida; Uncommon Readers: Denis Donoghue, Frank Kermode, George Steiner and the Traditions of the Common Reader; Hints and Guesses: William Gaddis’s Fiction of Longing; and The Patient Particulars: American Modernism and the Technique of Originality. He also wrote book chapters for The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Life, The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Criticism and Theory, and Contemporary Literary Criticism. Professor Knight’s articles appeared in The Journal of Narrative Theory, Religion and Literature, Contemporary Literature, Literature/Film quarterly, and American Literary History.

Professor Knight taught a wide range of courses, including American Literature I and II, Applied Literary Criticism, Shakespeare, Modern Poetry, Studies in Film, History of Criticism and Theory, and graduate seminars in British and American literature. During his 20 years at UM, Professor Knight served as our Department Chair, as the department representative to the University Faculty Association, and as a UM Faculty Senator. Through his teaching and scholarship, Professor Knight engaged and inspired us with his keen intellect and passion for learning.
Professor Karen Volkman earned her B.A. in Russian/Literature at New College (Sarasota, Florida) and her M.A. in English with a concentration in Creative Writing at Syracuse University (New York). She was hired as an Assistant Professor in 2004, became an Associate Professor in 2006, and was promoted to Professor in 2012.

An acclaimed poet, Professor Volkman has published numerous books, including Whereso, Nomina, One might, Spar, and Crash’s Law. Her poems have also appeared in prestigious anthologies and journals. Throughout her career, Professor Volkman received many honors in recognition of her stature as a writer, including James Laughlin Award (Academy of American Poets), Iowa Poetry Prize, Emily Dickinson Award (Poetry Society of America), and Prairie Schooner Readers’ Choice Award. She also received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, the National Poetry Series prize international fellowship from the Camargo Foundation (Cassis, France), the Akademie Schloss Solitude (Stuttgart, Germany) the Bogliasco Foundation (Genoa, Italy), and the American Academy in Rome.

As a teacher, Professor Volkman enjoyed working with graduate students, who valued her commitment to helping them develop their craft. At the university level, Professor Volkman served on the Unit Standards Committee, the Fulbright Committee, the Faculty Development Committee, and the English Department Steering Committee. In 2006 and 2008, she received University Research and Creativity Grants. Professor Volkman enriched our lives through her creative works.
MARGARET FINLAY (ENT)

Margaret Finlay is an exceptionally talented and mature early career teacher. She is dedicated to helping all students become careful readers, effective writers, and critical thinkers. With enthusiasm and energy, Margaret is a role model for her students and mentors them as they grow into more compassionate, respectful, and responsible young adults.

She designs lessons with thought provoking questions and student-centered activities. As a trained volunteer with Writing Coaches of Montana and as a student teacher at Big Sky High School in Missoula, Margaret helps students write clearly and effectively for different purposes and audiences. She also engages her students in reading and responding to literature written by authors of diverse ethnicities, perspectives, places, and times. Above all, Margaret creates positive, safe, and inclusive learning environments for all students.

We are very pleased and proud of Margaret’s accomplishments in our English Teaching Program. Margaret Finlay is already a valued member of the teaching profession.

EARL CLARK (FILM STUDIES)

Earl Clark has always loved the Western film genre for its stunning landscapes and compelling characters. With his passion for Media Arts and Wilderness Studies, Earl Clark graduates from our Film Studies Program as a wonderfully talented filmmaker.

Last fall, Earl directed a powerful documentary that featured a man wrongfully imprisoned for over twenty years. This spring, he produced a beautiful UM promotional celebrating the Wilderness and Civilization Program. He plans to further his career as a film producer by attending graduate school in Media Arts at New Mexico’s Highland University. We look forward to more of Earl Clark’s philosophically sophisticated, ecologically sensitive filmmaking.
DUSTY KEIM (LIT)

The Literature faculty praise Dusty Keim for her intellect, creativity, and commitment to service. The recipient of numerous awards, Dusty is a University scholar, Honors College Student, peer mentor, and member of the University Band. She infuses her passion, energy, and enthusiasm into all that she does—from her academic coursework to her volunteer work with local organizations.

Because Dusty believes literature can change the people’s lives, she has been an effective and articulate advocate for the English Department and for Liberal Arts at UM. We are very proud of Dusty Keim’s many accomplishments and know she will continue to grow as a scholar and a contributing member of society.

MARKO CAPOFERRI (LIT & ENVIRONMENT)

Marko Capoferri is an exemplary student in Literature and the Environment Program. In class, he is a genial, smart, good humored presence who not only thinks deeply, but who also engages his peers in open conversation and honest debate. As a writer, Mark is equally gifted: he writes clear, agile, and insightful essays that engage both the latest works in eco-theory as well as the current trends in cultural and critical race studies.

Our faculty praise Mark’s genuine engagement with the discipline and his insightful application of academic content to his own life and the world at large. We applaud his dedication to studying Literature and the Environment and for seeing its significance for local and global communities.

MADISON HAYNES (CRWR)

Madison Haynes arrived on campus as an accomplished student with significant potential. Through her discipline, determination, and creativity, Madison consistently and significantly grew as a writer and scholar in the Creative Writing program.

During the past year, Madison served as the Editor-in-Chief of The Oval, the undergraduate literary magazine at the University of Montana, and as a reader for Cutbank, the literary journal of the University of Montana. These are only two examples of Madison’s willingness to embrace and succeed in leadership roles. Both the Creative Writing and the Literature faculty praise Madison’s written work as being of the highest caliber. Faculty say her ideas are a joy to read: bold and thought-provoking—increasingly lucid and thoughtfully balanced. We look forward to Madison Haynes’ future accomplishments as a creative writer.
Scholarships

Special thank you to all of the donors and contributions that make scholarship and award funds for higher learning in the humanities possible.

Graduate Students

Kelly Schirmann - Bertha Morton Scholarship
Natalie Elliot - Bertha Morton Scholarship
Beatrice Garrard - Bertha Morton Scholarship

Anne McCullough Inglis - Merrian-Frontier Award

Amelia Morand, Kylie Westerlind, and Barry Maxwell - Second Wind Coordinators 2018-2019

Joe Kirk - CutBank Editor-in-Chief 2018-2019

Undergraduate Students

Dillon Knuffke - Helen J. Olson Scholarship
Adea Sanders - Helen J. Olson Scholarship
Noah Belanger - Helen J. Olson Scholarship

Darian Keels - Maureen Mansfield Scholarship

Nicole Brockman - Rose Southworth Megee Scholarship

Anna Potter - The Freeman Award
Congratulations MFA & MA Class of 2019

MFA in Creative Writing

Jonathan Pierce - Poetry
Thomas D'Addario - Poetry
Carlos Medina - Poetry
Maren Schiffer - Poetry
Riley Woods - Poetry

Catalina Baker - Fiction
Dwight Curtis - Fiction
Jesse Durovey - Fiction
Amelia Morand - Fiction
David Queen - Fiction
Kylie Westerlind - Fiction
Taylor White - Fiction
Amanda Wilgus - Fiction

Bryn Agnew - Nonfiction
Jason Bacaj - Nonfiction
Laura Blake - Nonfiction
Joseph Kirk - Nonfiction
Miranda Morgan - Nonfiction
Jennifer Sheets - Nonfiction

MA in English (Teaching)

Emily Griffin - English Teaching
Sean McConnaha - English Teaching
Caroline Reel - English Teaching
Elizabeth Paich - English Teaching
Blake Sherman - English Teaching

MA in English (Literature)

Morgan Beavers - Literature
Joseph Brookbank - Literature
Nathaniel Cox - Literature
Jensen Lillquist - Literature
In 2018-2019, Dana Haring (ENT Adjunct) has continued to work to enhance literacy across Montana. She presented multiple sessions at the MFPE Educators’ Conference in Billings. She participated with other Montana educators at SEAM (Symposium on English language arts Across Montana).

In July, she was a scholar at a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar in New York and has brought that content to her seventh grade students and her teaching partners. She strongly believes that a commitment to lifelong learning enhances her teaching at all levels!

Adjunct ENT faculty Leanne Deschamps has been building the bridge to support students’ transition from high school to college life. With her Florence-Carlton High School seniors taking dual enrollment WRIT 101, Leanne worked directly with the campus community to bring her students to U of M in April.

Current ENT college students Caleb Hartman-Pickens and Madi Wickens highlighted campus resources, student life, and specific department course offerings. Students were particularly enthused about their ability to join Traolach O’Riordan’s Irish Studies class and Robert Browning’s LIT 370 Science Fiction course.
Beverly Ann Chin was an Honored Guest Speaker at Liaocheng University (People’s Republic of China) in May 2018. She presented to international high school educators at Study of the U. S. Institute on Secondary Education and to Chinese university professors at International Scholarly Exchange Curriculum. Chin also presented to Defense Critical Languages and Cultures Program and to Montana Conference of Education Leaders. At National Council of Teachers of English, she spoke on “Students as Change Agents” and “Empowering Student Voices through Close Reading and Descriptive Writing.” In May 2019, the U. S. Embassy will sponsor Dr. Chin as the plenary speaker at the English Language Teachers Association conference in Belgrade, Serbia.

English Teaching Program Hosts Visiting Chinese Scholars

This year, Professor Chin mentored five English language professors from universities in China: Hou Li (Liaocheng University); Wang Fangfang (Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine); and Zhang Xiaojie, Yang Youwen, and Zhang Xiaolei (University of Jinan).
Earl Clark, a senior in Film Studies, was accepted with funding into the MFA program in Culture and Technology at New Mexico Highlands University.

This year Montana PBS accepted the following four documentaries that were produced in Sean O’Brien’s Film Studies documentary courses over the last several years:

- **Saving Salish**
  - produced by Antonio Torres and Liz Zitnik

- **Bicycle Warrior**
  - produced by Keith Szudarski and Sonia Bergmann

- **Unparalledled**
  - produced by Mary McCormick and Micah Pengelly
  - (still undergoing revision)

- **Indigenous Smoke**
  - produced by Marty Lopez and Janet Higgins

---

*Film still from Indigenous Smoke*

*Film still from Saving Salish*

*Film still from Unparalledled*

*Film still from Bicycle Warrior*
Henrietta Goodman’s sonnet sequence, *All That Held Us*, published in 2018 by BkMk Press at the University of Missouri, is a finalist in the Foreword Reviews INDIES Awards for Poetry. Her poem “Pelican” was runner-up in Western Humanities Review’s Mountain West Writers’ Contest. Her work was featured on Connotation Press’s Poetry Congeries in November, and her poem “Hummingbird” appeared in *Fugue #55*. She has poems forthcoming this spring/summer in *Clade Song, Terrain: A Journal of the Built + Natural Environments*, and *The American Journal of Poetry*.

Visiting Hugo Writer, Stacy Szymaszek, won the Foundation for Contemporary Arts award for Poetry 2019. Since its inception in 1963, the mission of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts has been to encourage, sponsor, and promote innovative work in the arts created and presented by individuals, groups, and organizations. FCA depends on artists to fund its programs; to date, over 1,000 artists have contributed paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, photographs, performances, and videos to help fund grant programs that directly support individual artists working in dance, music/sound, performance art/theater, poetry, and the visual arts. Thus, FCA remains the only institution of its kind: created and sustained by artists to benefit artists.
Robert Stubblefield’s foreword, “The Empty Hand of the Wind” appears in This Dialect of Grass, Thomas Madden’s posthumous collection of poems published by Basalt Press in February 2019. A native of Helena, Madden received an MA from the University of Montana and was a long-time Professor of English Literature at Eastern Oregon University.

Joanna Klink has just returned to teaching in the Creative Writing Program after spending 2018 in Rome on the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Fellowship. She is the recipient of a 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Dr. Erin Costello Wecker published refereed articles in WPA Writing Program Administration and Ireland, Irish America, and Work. She also published a chapter in *Misogyny in American Culture: Causes, Trends, Solutions*, which was named one of the best reference books of 2018 by *Library Journal*. Wecker edited the third editions of *A Guide to College Writing and Triple Divide*, which featured all new content written by UM teaching assistants and the original compositions of WRIT 101 students. Wecker was accepted to present her work at five conferences including American Conference for Irish Studies in Boston, Massachusetts, Conference on College Composition and Communication in Pittsburgh, PA, Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference, Baltimore, MD, Two-Year College Association of the Pacific Northwest & Pacific Northwest Writing Centers Association Conference, Yakima, WA, and American Conference for Irish Studies-West, Jackson, WY. She also served as a co-chair for the Feminist Caucus workshop at the Conference on College Composition and Communication.


In the 2018-19 academic year, Associate Professor Quan Manh Ha has three articles accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals, of which two are co-authored with his undergraduate students. He and Andrew Vigesaa co-wrote “The Malleability of Truth and Language in Chay Yew’s Porcelain and A Language of Their Own” which is published in the *Journal of Contemporary Drama in English*. He also co-wrote “Postcolonial Satire, Imperialist Nostalgia, and Reconciliation in Phan Huy Duong’s ‘The Billion Dollar Skeleton’ and Andrew Lam’s ‘Slingshot’” with William Frost. That piece is published in the *Journal of the Short Story in English*. His book *Other Moons: The Vietnam War and Its Aftermath in Vietnamese Short Fiction* is currently under consideration for publication with Columbia University Press.
Nancy Cook had a busy year working on essays and conference presentations, including a trip to the University of the Basque Country in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. There, as an invited speaker on a plenary panel at the Fourth International Conference on the American Literary and Cultural West, she presented "New Trends in Western American Studies." Her essay, "Writer as Labor Historian: The Changing World of Work in Ivan Doig's Montana Books," was published in a special issue of Montana: The Magazine of Western History and has already merited fan mail. She completed an essay, "Lightning Strikes, Burned Bread and Chipmunks: Women Lookouts in the American West," for the book Representing Rural Women, forthcoming from Lexington Books. She presented an essay, "Long Shadows Across the Valley: Regarding Difference in Frank Bergon's California," at "Visions of a Basque American Westerner: the International Conference on the Writings of Frank Bergon," at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her essay, "Teaching the Quotidian West" has been accepted for publication in Teaching Western American Literature, edited by UM alumna Randi Tanglin and English Department Professor Brady Harrison. And, in early May, Professor Cook will present a talk, "Annals, Anxieties, and Alterations of Influence: The Legacies of Wallace Stegner and the Stegner Fellowships in a Changing American West," at the symposium "Wallace Stegner and the Changing American West: Reimagining Place, Region, Nation, and Globe in an Era of Instability," at MSU.
Irish Studies has had a very busy year, facing old and new challenges, and, I believe, overcoming or is in the process of overcoming most of them. Talking about challenges and difficulties doesn’t make them go away, but reading about some of the successes does inspire us to keep going. Below I chronicle some of the highlights from the past 12 months.

The Connection to Ireland - An Ceangal le hÉirinn

Irish Language and Law Interns

Irish Studies offered internships to two exchange students from the Language and Law program at University College, Cork in the fall and spring of this academic year. Seán Gunning and Megan Hurley were our interns in the fall; Cárthach Ó Faoláin and Róisín Ní Chinnéide are with us this spring. These internships are offered in partnership with the Federal Court and the Law School. Judge Molloy originated the program in 2008.

Visiting Speakers

Irish Studies partnered with the Notre Dame Club of Western Montana to bring Professor Patrick Griffin, the Madden-Hennebry Professor of History and Director of Irish Studies at Notre Dame, to UM this April. Professor Griffin spoke on the Irish Brigade in Missoula and Butte. Irish Studies also hosted Dr. Katie Ni Loinseigh who spoke on interpreting Brexit through the Irish language. A large and appreciative audience welcomed Dr. Ní Loinseigh to Butte for the second of her lectures. Both visits were sponsored by the Friends of Irish Studies and supported by the Irish Government’s Emigrant Support Program.

Study Abroad

Irish Studies ran a very successful Irish language study abroad course again last summer. A total of fourteen students participated, not all from UM. The course was organized in partnership with Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuihne, an Irish Government sponsored teaching and cultural institute.

Fullbright Irish Language Teaching Assistant

Irish Studies partnered with the Fulbright Commission to host an Irish language teaching assistant for the academic year 2018/19. We sought and received an instructor proficient in the Irish language and in the game of hurling. Donncha Ó Murchú has been with us since August, and, from the time of his arrival, he has worked tirelessly to promote the language, hurling and the culture on and off campus.

USA Camogie Team Foireann Chamógaíocta SAM

Katie Wahler, an Irish Studies student, president of UM’s Irish Club, and member of the Grizzlies Hurling team has been selected to play on the United States Camogie (ladies’ hurling) team this summer at the World Games in Ireland. This is a remarkable achievement and speaks to the quality of students we have here on campus.
Irish Studies have been actively involved in visiting the high schools of Montana over the past year. Support from the Emigrant Support Program, the Friends of Irish Studies, and Sam and Julie Baldridge have it possible to employ Clair Leonard to work with the schools and to organized presentations. We hope our work will pay off in terms of increased enrollment in the future.

Irish Studies have been working on a documentary film on the life of Thomas Francis Meagher, former acting Governor of Montana Territory. The work is very near completion and we should be ready to premier later this summer. We hope this work will raise awareness of Montana’s rich Irish heritage, the Irish Studies program, and attract out-of-state students to choose UM for higher education.

Irish Studies will offer a four-credit Irish language course for university students this fall. This will be the only course of its kind available and should attract students from other universities.

Irish Studies has been very active in promoting Irish music and dance over the past number of years. The Irish music course has brought some of Ireland’s premier musicians to Montana and forged strong links between the community here and in Ireland. This relationship has proved inspirational and impressed upon local musicians the need for an Irish Music Summer Camp. The first camp will be held this coming August on the Flathead River. Bring your fiddle, bodhrán, pipes and dancing shoes, it will be a blast!

Dr. Erin Costello Wecker published a peer-refereed article titled, “The Trouble with Invisible Labor: Irish Women’s Work beyond the Emotional, Communal, and Spiritual” in Ireland, Irish America, and Work, edited by Donna Potts and Amy May, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. She was invited to present her research titled, “Rocking the System, Not the Cradle: Exploring the Irish Suffrage Movement through Material Culture and Public Memory” at the American Conference for Irish Studies / An Chomhdháil Mheiriceánaíoch do Léann na hÉireann in Boston, MA. Professor Costello Wecker was appointed by the President of the American Conference for Irish Studies / An Chomhdháil Mheiriceánaíoch do Léann na hÉireann (Western Region) to serve as a committee member for the Donald E. Jordan–Willard C. Potts, Jr. Award, which recognizes exceptional work by emerging scholars in Irish Studies. It is awarded annually to the ACIS-West member judged the most meritorious emerging scholar.
English Department end of year party

Faculty, staff, students, family, and alumni are warmly invited to attend a celebration in honor of our retiring faculty and our Mortar Board and scholarship awardees.

Friday, May 3rd, 2019
4:30-6:00 pm
Dell Brown Room in Turner Hall

Refreshments will be provided.
Contributions from English alumni and friends fund a variety of Department initiatives, programs, and student scholarships. If you would like to support the College of Humanities and Sciences, English Department, please send check or money order to University of Montana Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159, with a note in the memo line designating it for the English Department. Contributions are also accepted online.

For more information about making a gift (with no obligation to do so), please contact the UM Foundation, (406) 243-2593.

Join us on facebook:
University of Montana English Department
University of Montana MFA Creative Writing
Friends of Irish Studies in the West (FISW)
Like our pages for news.
Join discussion groups on facebook.

Designed by Rachel Smith
Edited by Beverly Chin and Rachel Smith
Photography by Leanne Deschamps, Traolach O’Riordain, Joshua Amses, and Kim Smith