



Northern Illinois University

Department of English

First Ph.D. Graduate Reunion

March 29, 2014

From Professor Frank Court:

I have such good memories of my English Dept. days down there. I miss it. I keep busy up here in Madison and I keep looking for the collegiality that the department offered. I have found it to some extent—but not as satisfying—with my UW volunteer work.

I did teach in the UW extension for a bit but now I have committed to the UW Arboretum. I've always been nature-based and the Arb satisfies that need. I was asked to write a history of the Arb, which I did. UW Press published it in 2012. I loved the task and especially the opportunity (9 months) to research the extensive Arboretum collection in the UW archives.

I have also gotten interested in early Wisconsin history and authors as a result—spin off—of the Arb research. It gives me an excuse to work in the Wisconsin Historical Society archives. A rich and fascinating collection. I have some articles coming out in Wisconsin trade mags with very slick pictures. God help me, but I love it.

I am in Florida right now traveling in my camper van. I roam around the panhandle most of the time. But I will be down here until late April, at least. I refuse to head north until I'm certain that spring up there is for real. So I won't be able to attend the March reunion. Tell Penny that I'm flattered that she requested my presence. I would enjoy truly seeing her again and all the others who might be there who were so much a part of my life during those wonderful NIU years.

Give them all my email address [FCourt@aol.com] and tell them that I would love to hear from them. I do stay in touch with John Carlberg who is at UW Whitewater. We exchange emails on things in general, mostly crazy jokes and cartoons. Always good to hear from him though.

So stay warm and stay safe and thanks again for thinking of me and for the invite and the email.

Frank

From Glenn Meeter:

After retirement in 1998 Marlene and I stayed in DeKalb. We visited Belgium and the Netherlands in 2001 (Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Rubens, Brueghel) and saw kids and grand-kids often: Florida, Maryland, Illinois, of course, and North Carolina's Outer Banks. Also traveled to South Dakota, Michigan, Colorado, California, Kentucky, and (again) the Outer Banks to visit our siblings. Our two youngest grandchildren were born during these years and the two oldest graduated from college. And we marked the deaths of many relatives and friends, including Department and University colleagues.

The year 1999 saw my last Faulkner study, seven entries (from "Bible" to "lull") in a *William Faulkner Encyclopedia*. In the new century I presented at Illinois-history conferences three papers on Owen Lovejoy, the abolitionist clergyman, congressman, and friend of Abraham Lincoln: "The Meaning of Milton in Lovejoy's Anti-slavery Rhetoric"; "'War of the Brothers': Owen and Joseph Lovejoy"; and a study of Biblical analogies in Owen Lovejoy's January 1862 speech on prosecuting the Civil War. In 2004 the first was presented again at the Baylor University symposium on slavery. In 2006 the third was accepted for a conference on "Faith and Violence: Jihad and Holy War" at St. Francis College, Brooklyn Heights, New York. Unfortunately I was unable to attend.

In 2009 the story "A Harvest" made its fourth appearance in print, in *Not Normal, Illinois: Peculiar Fictions from the Flyover*. It also joined "Hard Row," another thrice-reprinted story, and ten others in *Stories of Four Decades*. One of these, "Starting from Dakota," was new.

I also did two non-fiction narratives, in 2004 a "further history" of DeKalb's First Congregational Church for the church's sesquicentennial celebration; and, in 2013, a personal history, "Evolution: A Memoir," or "how a Christian Reformed youth learned about evolution in the twentieth century and learned to love Darwin in the twenty-first." This appeared in *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*.

Ph.D. Alumni

Joshua Adair (2009) – Assistant Professor, Murray State University; Director, Racer Writing Center; Coordinator, Gender and Diversity Studies.

Karley Adney (2009) – *Critical Companion to J.K. Rowling: A Literary Reference to Her Life and Work* (co-authored with Holly Hassel), November 2010.

Donna Arnold (1979) – Director of Research, Sears, Roebuck, and Company.

Rita Banerjee (1997)

Cortney Barko (2011) – Assistant Professor of English, West Virginia University Institute of Technology; current faculty editor of *Image*, the literary magazine of WVU Tech.

Kenneth Bidle (1969)

Alice Biggers (1994) – Retired (2011) Professor of English, Elgin Community College.

Kathleen Blair (1989) -- Became a paralegal. Lives in DeKalb.

Christopher Blankenship (2012) – Assistant Professor, English, Modern Languages and Journalism, Emporia State University.

Bette Bonacci (1977) – Professor Emeritus, Lewis University.

Theresa (Terri) Bourus (2000) – Associate Professor of English Drama, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis; Director and General Editor of IUPUI-New Oxford Shakespeare Project; Founding Director of Hoosier Bard Productions; Editor (with Gary Taylor) of *The Creation and Re-creation of "Cardenio": Performing Shakespeare, Transforming Cervantes* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). Terri sent the following:

I would so love to be able to join you all, but I'm directing a play and that's our tech week! Yikes! So I can't get away. . . . I'm in Indianapolis now directing the New Oxford Shakespeare project and Hoosier Bard Productions. It's a good life and I have NIU to thank for where I am today. Thanks so much for doing this – I think it's a great idea! Have much fun.

John Bowers (1984) – Professor of English, University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois.

Elizabeth Bowman (2012) – Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Guam; Chair, Literature Committee; studies the representation of women in literature and film; currently guest editing a special issue of *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies* on contemporary Jacobean studies, working on anthology of works by underrepresented women in global speculative fiction; writing a book on metaphors of adaptation in Shakespeare and Webster; developing the Contemporary Jacobean Society.

Kimberly (Van Kampen) Boyer (1997) – Trustee on the United States Equestrian Team Foundation board; dressage rider and breeder of Pure Spanish Horses; owns and operates Hampton Green Farm in Wellington, Florida, and Fruitport, Michigan; President of the United States P.R.E. (Pura Raza Espanola), serves on its Board of Directors, and is a member of its Management Committee.

Kathryn Brewer-Strayer (1996) –

I have been at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for the past eleven years where I am the Q.E.P. [Quality Enhancement Plan] Director and an Associate Professor of English. I teach courses in African American Literature, American Literature, and Technical Writing. I also am on the editorial board of the *Stillman Magazine*, am on the Q.E.P. Committee, the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Committee on Committees, and the Athletic Committee. I am a past board member of the National Association of African American Studies and Affiliates Conference and past editor of the *Journal of Intercultural Disciplines*. I have read several papers on Toni Morrison, Gloria Naylor, Harriett Jacobs, William Wells Brown, and Barbara Chase-Riboud at national conferences. I have also published articles on Gloria Naylor, Gayle Jones, Cathie Pelletier, and Carolyn Chute. Currently I am working on a book about contemporary Maine Women Writers.

Emma Broussard (1979)

Christine Brovelli-O'Brien (2010) – Freelance writer; writes blog articles about current news stories involving pregnancy and parenting for WhatToExpect.com.

Laura Budler (1998)

Jane Campbell (1979) – Professor of English, Purdue University Calumet; author of *Mythic Black Fiction: the Transformation of History* (University of Tennessee Press, 1986); recipient of both the Outstanding Scholar Award and the Outstanding Teacher Award at Purdue University Calumet.

Anne Canavan (2012) – Adjunct Instructor, English, Modern Languages and Journalism, Emporia State University.

John Carlberg (2002) – Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater College of Letters and Sciences.

Charlotte Carter (1972) – Deceased 2001.

Marydale (Wiley) Caruthers (1987)

Arthur Caso (1977) – Retired from Elmhurst College.

Fu-Jen Chen (2001)

Marilyn Cleland (1989) – Professor Emerita at Purdue University Calumet, where she taught writing, linguistics, and literature until 2007, as well as serving as the Director of the Composition Program and of the Writing Center; developed the ESL Program for Purdue University, developing curriculum and training faculty.

Ted Clontz (2003) – Writing and editing professional; part-time professional writing tutor, Waubensee Community College

Alice Conkright Martin (1974)

Susan (George) Cooper (1999)

Karen Courtney Leyba (2001) – Faculty, Department of Communication, Rock Valley College.

Daniel Cruz (2011) – Assistant Professor of English at Utica College; has published on a variety of contemporary American and Canadian authors in journals such as *Crítica Hispánica*, *Italian Americana*, *Short Story*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, and has published poetry in various magazines such as *Rhubarb* and *The Tenth Muse*.

Dennis Czerny (1993)

Todd Davis (1995) – Professor, Penn State Altoona; recipient of NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumnus Award;

honored with the Penn State Altoona Outstanding Achievement in Research and Creative Activity Award, an artist residency in the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Penn State University, the Grace D. Long Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching at Penn State Altoona, and numerous Penn State Senior Research Grants; received the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize; published five books of poetry and is the author or editor of six scholarly books.

James Decker (1996) – Associate Professor English, The Franciscan University.

Jane DeJovine (1977) – Deceased 2011.

Daide Del Bello (1998) – Researcher, Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Communication Studies, University of Bergamo, Italy.

Stephen Delchamps (2000) – Manager of Technical Services, Intrepid Advisors, LLC.

Robert Denton (1992)

Anthony (Tony) DiSanto (2013) – Adjunct Professor, Aurora (Illinois) University.

Okaka Dokotum (2008) – Faculty, Literature and Film, Kyanbogo University, Kampala, Uganda.

Patrick Dunn (2005) – Assistant Professor of English, Aurora University.

Joyce Anne Dvorak (1994) – Faculty, Department of English, Metropolitan Community College, Kansas City.

Brian Edwards (2013) – Part-time faculty, John A. Logan College (Carterville, Illinois)

Sara Elliott (1998) – Associate Professor of English, Aurora (Illinois) University.

Jose Fernandez (2012) – Assistant Professor, English and Journalism Department, Western Illinois University.

Charles Fierz (1998) – deceased 2011.

Richard Finholt (1975) – Executive Director, Office of Economic Development and Research Parks, University of Missouri; Executive Director, Missouri Research Park in St. Charles County; Executive Director, University of Missouri Technology Park, Fort Leonard Wood; in 1998 received the “Excellence in St. Charles” Award, co-sponsored by SSM St. Joseph Health Center and the *St. Louis Business Journal*; in 2004 received the 2004 Career Achievement Award from the Association of University Research Parks.

Michael Flaherty (2000)

Steve Franklin (1986) –

Steve Franklin retired from NIU in 2009. In his years at NIU, he served as a staff member in the Office of the President and the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences; as a writer and editor in the university’s development division; as a broadcast and print communication specialist in the Office of Public Information; and in marketing and acquisitions for the Northern Illinois University Press.

In addition to his staff positions at NIU, he regularly taught a wide variety of courses in the Department of English, including Literary Classics, Shakespeare, Chaucer, Modern British Literature, The European Novel, American Literary Masterpieces, and The American Novel.

He also served as the university’s first faculty coordinator for the NIU Honors House and regularly taught a number of special topics seminars for the honors program: “Literary Imagination and the Holocaust,” “Religious and Philosophical Implications of the Holocaust,” “The Poetry of Love,” “Great Ideas,” “Greek Tragedy,” “Greek and Shakespearean Tragedy,” “Moby Dick,” “The Worlds of Existentialism,” and “Science and Religion.” In 2006, he was awarded the title “Great Professor” from the NIU Honors program.

Since his retirement, he has adapted and taught two of his honors seminars on-line for the LA&S Office of External Programming and is developing a third for fall 2014.

Emma Frings (1979)

Carl Fuerst (2013) – Student Affairs Student Services Coordinator, Department of English Associate Lecturer, University of Wisconsin Rock County (Janesville).

Donald Fuller (1983)

Keith Fynaardt (2000) – Professor of English, Department Chair, Humanities Director, First-Year Seminar Coordinator, Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa; research explores the intersection of agriculture and the humanities; held the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship from 2001-2006; writes and teaches about modern agriculture's impact on Midwestern cropland and communities; restoring a historic Sioux County (Iowa) farm.

Gregory Galica (1977) – deceased 2013.

Andrew Gallagher (2006) – Teaches classes in ESL, ABE (Adult Basic Education), and GED (General Education Development) at the Walla Walla (Washington) Community College North Campus, also known as the Washington State Penitentiary.

David Gallant (1982)

Joseph Gastiger (1992) – Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ, DeKalb (since 2001); Author, *Loose Talk: Poems* (Lost Horse Press, 2012); board member of Safe Passage, a domestic violence shelter in DeKalb.

Janet Gilligan (1986) – Retired (2009) Professor of English at Wayne State College (Wayne, Nebraska); initiated the Language Arts Festival; won the Balsley-Whitmore Teaching Excellence Award in 2009.

Phyllis Gooden (2005) –

I am Lead Faculty for English and Humanities at American InterContinental University. I supervise faculty and design curriculum for online learning in terms of the integration of text, digital media, web resources, learning tools, and facilitation in adaptive learning systems. This integration includes the areas that I supervise: literature, art, philosophy, and history. Interestingly, I have become quite a tech geek, guiding faculty in monitoring and embracing learning systems and adaptive learning modules, and educational innovations for the humanities. However, my alter ego still muses over the writings of Poe, Morrison, Thoreau, Dunbar, Shakespeare, and Hurston, as I try to integrate their writings into learning paths and electronic nodes (smile).

Lawrence Gorman (1981) – Assistant Provost, Director of English and Communications at East-West University (Chicago); specializes in contemporary literature; his interests include the role of literature in

education; has delivered papers on the place of literature in an overall English curriculum and essays on Don DeLillo and Philip Rieff.

Anam Govardhan (1994) – Professor of English, Western Connecticut State University (Danbury); specializes in 18th-century British literature, Indian literature in English, applied linguistics, and rhetoric and composition; focus is on classroom-based research; has written and presented more than 100 lessons (30 minutes each) on “Communication Skills in both spoken and written English” on Indian Public Television (*Doordarshan*, Madras, India) and *Vaanavil* (*Astro*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). As a creative writer, he has published several short stories in Telugu (a Dravidian language widely spoken in the southern part of India), some of which were broadcast on *All India Radio*, Madras, India. He is also an avid traveler and a keen advocate of international education to foster friendship and understanding between peoples of different countries.

Arthur (A. J.) Grant (1999) – Professor of English, Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in communications, rhetoric, literature, and philosophy, and has offered a variety of professional workshops on writing and professional communication in corporate settings; research interests include writing in the academic disciplines and professions, literature, the history of communications, and popular culture topics.

Priscilla Grundy (1978) – Faculty Emerita, North Central College (Naperville, Illinois).

Gustavo Guerra (1997)

David Gugin (2004) – Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, University of Guam.

Charles (Chuck) Guilford (1971) – Emeritus Associate Professor of English, Boise State University; Chuck sent the following:

Chuck Guilford has thirty years experience teaching a variety of university level courses. He holds a Ph.D. in English from Northern Illinois University. He taught literature, composition, and creative writing at Kansas State University and then for 23 years at Boise State University, where he founded B.S.U.'s Idaho Writers Archive. He retired in 2008 and is presently emeritus associate professor of English.

He is the creator of Paradigm Online Writing Assistant (powa.org), Poetryexpress (poetryexpress.org), and Maybe the Sky (maybethesky.org) websites; his textbook, *Beginning College*

Writing, was published by Little, Brown. He is the author of many poems, stories, essays, reviews, and articles, which have appeared in *Poetry*, *College Composition and Communication*, *College English*, *Coyote's Journal*, and other places. *What Counts*, a chapbook collection of his poems, is available from Limberlost Press (limberlostpress.com). His novel, *Spring Drive: A North Country Tale*, is available from Wordcurrent Press (wordcurrent.com), as is his recent book *Altogether Now: Essays on Poetry, Writing, and Teaching*.

He is a winner of the Western Literature Association's Willa Cather Memorial Award. A longtime member of NCTE and CCCC, he was a frequent conference participant and is the founder of the Council on Basic Writing (CBW.), a CCCC special interest group.

Valerie Guyant (2011) – Lecturer, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

Diane Haack (1980)

John Hafer (1975)

Susan Hardebeck (1996) – Professor of English, Kaskaskia College (Dix, Illinois).

Betsy Harfst (1968)

Margaret Harman (Peg Sides) (1988) – Retired Professor of English, Pfeiffer University (Richfield, North Carolina).

Marcia Harper (1988) – deceased 2011.

Charles Harrison (1978) – Adjunct Faculty, San Jacinto College (Pasadena, Texas).

Timothy Hendrickson (2013) – Adjunct Professor, Trinity Christian College (Palos Heights, Illinois) and Harper College (Palatine, Illinois).

Ruth Hoffman (2006) – Part-time Professor of English, College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, Illinois); Trainer in Foster Parent Programs at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; Author, *Without Education or Encouragement: The Literary Legacy of Flora Thompson*, (Fairleigh Dickinson, 2009).

Donald Homier (1975) – Professor of English, University of Toledo.

Supasiri Hongrittipun (2004) – Department of Western Languages, Prince of Songkla University Pattani.

Timothy Howlett (1972)

Joanne Hughes (1980) – Owner, A Proactive Resume (Northampton, Pennsylvania); Adjunct Faculty Instructor at Northampton Community College.

Timothy Hunt (1971) – Owner, Hunt Non-Profit Consulting Services (Hayden, Idaho); previously was the North Idaho Field Organizer at Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest; served as the Coeur d’Alene Center Director at Lewis-Clark State College.

Connie Jacobs (1996) – Retired Professor of English, San Juan College (Farmington, New Mexico).

Wenjun Jin (1998) – Application Support Specialist, Information Technology Services, NIU.

Cresse John (2008) – Assistant Professor of English, Belmont University (Nashville, Tennessee); teaches American literature, composition, and gender studies; interest in modernist poetry, contemporary women writers, and literary theory, particularly feminism and narratology.

David Johnson (2013) – Retired Professor, Edison Community College (Ohio).

Helen Johnson (1980) – Retired teacher, National College of Education.

Harvey Kail (1978) – Professor and Writing Center Coordinator, University of Maine; primary interests are in writing centers, composition pedagogy, and theories of composition; research and teaching interest in maritime literature; loves to teach poetry, fiction, and drama.

Thomas Kalackal (1985)

Anju Kanwar (1995) – Writing Consultant, Division of Academic Enhancement, University of Georgia; volunteer, Atlanta History Center; working group member, Gender and Development Network, UK.

Richard Keller (1972) – Retired, Emporia State University (Kansas); Dick sent the following:

Regretfully, I will be unable to attend the conference/reunion in March. Though retired, I am still teaching at Emporia State and with a M/W/F schedule, there just isn't enough time to get to DeKalb and back. I especially will miss getting together with Jim Quivey and Kristina Valaitis who are a bit closer than I, Tim Hunt and others. Both events are sure to be stellar. Please pass along my regards to those who attend.

I have very fond memories of Kris. She was one of a small circle (Terry Smith, Hunt, me, and a few others) who made our way through the gauntlets of Old English and Bibliography and Methods of Research together. I hadn't heard of her retirement plans. I did the same last spring although I'm still teaching one course each semester this year. Apparently I just can't quite let go yet.

Please say hello to Kris for me and I hope to see her and meet you in the spring. Thanks again. Take care.

Eun-Young Kim (2001) – Assistant Professor of linguistics/TESL, Andrews University (Berrien Springs, Michigan).

Sang-Wook Kim (2006) – Assistant Professor of English and Graduate Program Director, Department of Global Communication, Kyung Hee University-Global Campus, Yongin, Korea (Republic of).

Leah Kind (2010) – English Instructor, Illinois Math and Science Academy.

Emily Kingery (2013) – Faculty, Department of English, St. Ambrose University (Dubuque, Iowa).

David Knauer (1999) – Senior Project Manager, CTB/McGraw-Hill.

Adam Kotlarczyk (2012) – English Instructor, Illinois Math and Science Academy.

James Langlas (1986) – Former English Department Chair, Wheaton (Illinois) North High School; Chair, Community Partners in Poetry, a group comprised of representatives from the cities of Warrentonville and Wheaton together with Community Unit School District 200; Taekwondo Master, 7th degree black belt; gold medal winner at the International Taekwondo Federation World Championships.

Darl Larsen (2000) – Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Theatre and Media Arts, Professor of Theatre and Media Arts, Brigham Young University; Author, *Monty Python's Flying Circus: An Utterly Complete*,

Thoroughly Unillustrated, Absolutely Unauthorized Guide to Possibly All the References from Arthur "Two Sheds" Jackson to Zambesi (Scarecrow, June 2008) and *Monty Python, Shakespeare and English Renaissance Drama* (McFarland 2003); delivered keynote address at the Monty Python Conference, October 2010, Lodz, Poland; awarded the Alcuin Fellowship from BYU in 2006.

Ben Larson (1987)

John Lawson (1995) – Professor of English, Robert Morris University (Moon Township, Pennsylvania); Chair, Performance Studies Interest Council, Pennsylvania Communication Association.

Barbara Lebin (2001) – Retired, Batavia School District.

Penelope LeFew-Blake (1992) –

Dr. Penelope A. LeFew-Blake earned her doctorate from Northern Illinois University in 1992. In 1989, she accepted a position as a professor of English and Humanities at Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois, where she was named Faculty Member of the Year in 2005. She has also served as a visiting professor of English at Christ Church College in Canterbury, England. In 2006, Penelope was named Distinguished Alumnus from Northern Illinois University. In 2010, she was one of twenty-five American scholars chosen to attend a National Endowment for the Humanities conference on the Pacific War in Hawaii. She is proud to have initiated a nationwide protest against the NEH as a result of her appearance on Fox News where she argued against the anti-military, anti-American revisionism within the NEH.

Penelope is the author of three books, two of which pay tribute to the women who served in the Women's Army Corps at Fort Des Moines during World War II. She regularly speaks at museums, schools and libraries about her publications. When not teaching or writing, Penelope serves as an advocate for veterans, defending their legacies from the encroachment of revisionist historians. In recognition of her support of veterans, she was awarded the Honorary Purple Heart from the Illinois Order of the Purple Heart in 2010.

Leonard Leff (1971) – Retired Professor of English, Oklahoma State University; first person selected to hold the Norris Chair in the Humanities at OSU; won the Oklahoma Book Award and the prestigious British Film Institute Award for his book *Hitchcock and Selznick: The Rich and Strange Relationship of Alfred Hitchcock and David O. Selznick in Hollywood*

(University of California Press, 1999); served as a consultant for a Public Broadcasting Corporation documentary; delivered keynote addresses at a Hemingway Centenary Conference and the International Hitchcock Centenary Conference in New York.

Millicent Lenz (1973) – deceased 2004.

Juris Lidaka (1987) – Professor and Chair, Department of English, West Virginia State University.

Thomas Liszka (1980) – Professor Emeritus, Arts and Humanities, Pennsylvania State University Altoona.

Ann Litow (1991) – Visiting Instructor, Writing Program, Fort Lewis College (Durango, Colorado).

Qiwu Liu (1996) – Analyst, writer, information designer in Chantilly, Virginia; senior consultant, JBS, Bethesda, Maryland—coordinates monthly Knowledge Application Program website maintenance and updates; writes Treatment Improvement Protocol literature review updates; coordinates the development of non-English language brochures as part of the Multi-Language Initiative.

Trina Lorde (2004) – English faculty, Waubonsee Community College (Sugar Grove, Illinois).

James Lucas (1980) – Retired (1993) faculty, Wilbur Wright College (Chicago).

Carl Ludwigson (1978) – deceased 2004.

Kelli Lyon-Johnson (2003) – Associate Professor, Department of English, Miami University (Oxford, Ohio); co-editor, *Performing Worlds into Being: Native American Women's Theater* (Oxford: Miami University Press, 2009); author, *Julia Alvarez: Writing a New Place on the Map* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005); working on a book manuscript, tentatively titled "*This is My Story*": *The New Slave Narrative*, which offers the first analysis of narratives told (and sometimes written) by people enslaved in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries; recipient of NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award, 2011.

Nancy Klein Maguire (1983) – Scholar in Residence, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC; published numerous articles and a book on the

relationship between drama and politics in the seventeenth century; author, *An Infinity of Little Hours: Five Young Men and Their Trial of Faith in the Western World's Most Austere Monastic Order* (PublicAffairs, 2007), about her husband's life as a Carthusian monk.

Suzanne Blum Malley (2013) – Associate Professor, Director of Professional Writing, Columbia College Chicago; areas of research include the multilingual and digital literacies; author, “Multilingual Literacy Landscapes,” *Stories that Speak to Us: Exhibits from the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives*, edited by H. Lewis Ulman, Scott Lloyd DeWitt, and Cynthia L. Selfe (Computers and Composition Digital Press, 2013); co-author with Ames Hawkins of *Engaging Communities: Ethnographic Writing in the Composition Classroom*, an open-access, creative commons 3.0 licensed, collaborative first-year textbook; currently working on a global, multilingual literacy project with a group of scholars from the USA, Canada, South Africa, Russia, Singapore, and Côte d’Ivoire.

David Malone (1999) – Associate Professor of English and Acting Department Chair, Union University (Jackson, Tennessee).

Christina (Gilleran) Marrocco (2011) – Assistant Professor, Elgin Community College.

Janet Marsh (2006) – Retired from Illinois Valley Community College.

Alice Conkwright Martin (1974)

Marcia Smith Marzec (1980) – Professor of English, University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois.

Mary McCarthy-Borth (2013)

Sally McCluskey (1974) – Writer and editor; Sally sent the following:
I'll miss seeing Northern again and my former colleagues and learning the different paths that we all took. Please send them my greetings and my thanks for such good company, such a fine collection of memories, some serious, some very fond, and many that are still funny even after four decades.

Kathryn (Beth) McFarland-Wilson (2012) – Visiting Assistant Professor and Education Coordinator, Wheaton College (Wheaton, Illinois); student teacher supervisor, NIU.

Katherine McMahon (1985) – Professor of English, University of Mount Union (Alliance, Ohio).

Anthony Medici (2003) – Independent scholar; work focuses on modern American literature, history of the book, jazz, and cultural studies.

Victoria Thorpe Miller (1991) – Retired Professor of English, Alverno College (Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

Minka Misangyi (2005) – Executive Director of Girls on the Run of Bexar County (Texas); freelance writer and editor; Writers' League of Texas Manuscript Competition finalist, *Mainstream Fiction* (2011); awarded the Leo Tolstoy Award, Honorable Mention, for her short story, "The Fisher King" (2012); writes a weekly blog about running, *Girls on the Run, life, and more*.

Lamata Mitchell (2009) – Dean of Communication, Rock Valley College (Rockford, Illinois).

Kenneth Morefield (1998) – Associate Professor, Campbell University (Buies Creek, North Carolina); teaches survey courses in British and American literature, academic writing, and literature and film; major academic interests are the history and practice of literary theory and the depiction of religious faith in art and popular culture; editor of *Faith and Spirituality in Masters of World Cinema* (volumes 1 and 2); founder of *1More Film Blog*, an internet journal devoted to examining contemporary film from a Christian perspective; regular contributor to *Christianity Today Movies & TV*.

Paula Morrow (2011) – Harlan Teller Dissertation Award 2012.

Karen Magee Myers (1977) – Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Grace After Fire (U.S. Women Veteran Assistance); president of Karen Myers Strategies, a government relations consulting firm that provides legislative analysis, political advocacy, and business development solutions to multinational corporations and trade associations seeking to expand revenue, earning, and market share in an intensely competitive global economy; serves on the board of directors of the Close Up Foundation, which brings thousands of young people and teachers to Washington, D.C., each year and was active in establishing the Close Up program for students from military families.

Aurora Neiva (1995)

William Nelles (1987) – Professor of English, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; Director of the Spotlight Program for high school students; editorial consultant for *American Literary Realism* and The Ohio State University Press.

John O'Banion (1985) – Professor of English, Robert Morris University (Moon Township, Pennsylvania).

John O'Brien (1975) – Founder, The Dalkey Archive Press and *Review of Contemporary Fiction*.

Dave Oliphant (1975) –

Since I graduated from NIU, my comparative dissertation, "Antipoetry in the United States and Chile: William Carlos Williams; Robert Lowell; Nicanor Parra-Enrique Linn" (directed by Dr. Russell Durning), has continued to be important to my career as a writer and translator. In 1998 my translation of poems by Enrique Lihn appeared as *Figures of Speech* (Host Publications); in 2010, my essay, "Huidobro and Parra: World-Class Antipoets," was included in *Huidobro's Futurity: Twenty-First Century Approaches*, from *Hispanic Issues On Line* (University of Minnesota); in 2011 my version of Nicanor Parra's *Discursos de sobremesa* (as *After-Dinner Declarations* [Wings Press]) won the Texas Institute of Letters prize for best book translation; and the forthcoming issue of *The William Carlos Williams Review* will contain my book review of a selection of Williams' prose, poetry, and correspondence translated into Spanish by Juan Antonio Montlel and entitled *La Invención necesaria* (Ediciones Diego Portales, Chile, 2013).

My latest work of translation is a version of *Cuerpo extraño* (as *Foreign Body* [Literal, 2013]), by Mexican author Jazmina Barrera Velásquez.

I have produced a half-dozen collections of my own poetry since 1975, and this year Lamar University Press published my collection, *The Pilgrimage: Selected Poems, 1962-2012*. Several of the poems in this volume were written and first published during my years at NIU (1969-1974).

Other recent work includes my *Jazz Mavericks of the Lone Star State* (University of Texas Press, 2007); *Harbingers of Books to Come: A Texan's Literary Life* (Wings Press, 2009), a memoir with chapters on my years at NIU; and *KD a Jazz Biography* (Wings Press, 2011), a 192-page poem in rhyming quatrains.

A forthcoming collection of my essays is entitled *Generations of Texas Poets* and represents work written and published over the 40-year period of 1973-2013.

Jody Ollenquist (1990) – Associate Professor of English, Ferris State University (Big Rapids, Michigan); teaches writing and literature, specializing in Anglo-American modernism; has special interests in women’s literature and popular culture.

Katherine Parr (2002) – Lecturer, University of Illinois at Chicago; interests are in rhetoric and composition, media and professional writing, grammar, and 19th-century Irish literature, especially famine literature.

Christine Pavesic (2002)

Charley Perlberg (1972) – deceased 2002.

Rachela Permenter (1992) – Professor of English at Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania).

Michael Petersen (2010) – Professor and director of the Great Books Program, Wilbur Wright College (Chicago).

Paul Petrovic (2012) –

Adjunct Instructor at The University of Tulsa and Oklahoma Wesleyan University; essay “Children, Terrorists, and Cultural Resistance in Don DeLillo’s *Falling Man*” is forthcoming in the journal *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*; currently editing the collection ‘After’ 9/11: *Complicating Ideologies of Trauma, Innocence, and Nationalism in Post-9/11 Literature and Media*.

Sarah Petrovic (2011) –

Assistant Professor of English at Oklahoma Wesleyan University, where she teaches classes on English and world literature, the history of the English language, and English composition; with fellow NIU English alum Anne Canavan, contributed the essay “Tipping the Odds Ever in Her Favor: An Exploration of Narrative Control and Agency in The Hunger Games Novel and Film” to the forthcoming collection *Space and Place in the Hunger Games*.

Ranjini Philip (1993)

Dianne Piper-Rybak (2004) – Editorial Assistant, *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*.

Charmian Poe (1980)

Ruth Port (1999) – Retired faculty, Waubensee Community College (Sugar Grove, Illinois).

Susan Porterfield (1986) –

I have two books of poetry (*In the Garden of Our Spines* and *Kibbe*) as well as a chapbook (*Beirut Redux*). I edited a book on poet Lucien Stryk (*Zen, Poetry, the Art of Lucien Stryk*) and have written on Stryk for the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, *Poets & Writers*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, and *The Writer's Chronicle*. I won a fellowship for poetry from the Illinois Arts Council and have been a Fulbright lecturer in Lebanon. I'm a Professor of English at Rockford University [Rockford, Illinois].

James Quivey (1971) –

Having been retired for nearly 16 years, I can hardly respond to a request for an "update" so offer a brief career summary instead.

I arrived at NIU in Fall 1962 as an M.A Instructor in English. After four very satisfying years and encouragement especially from then Department Chairman Orville Baker and Professor William Seat, I resigned the Instructorship in order to enter the Department's only recently implemented Ph. D. program. After two full-time semesters and summers of coursework and languages, I reassumed the Instructorship, one-half time for a year and full-time for another year. During the latter year in addition to teaching I served as Assistant Director of Composition.

At least partially as a result of that experience I was hired for a Fall 1969 start as Composition Director at Eastern Illinois University. I defended my dissertation in September 1970, was elected to Chair the Department in 1974, and continued in that position until retiring from the University 23 years later.

Of our Northern years both my wife and I have wonderful memories and continue to treasure the friendships we developed both with instructor and graduate student peers and their families and with many of the Department's senior faculty and administrators and their families.

Shah Ebadur Rahman (1981)

Ann Rayson (1973) – Associate Professor of English, University of Hawaii; received College of Languages, Linguistics, and Literature Excellence in Teaching Award, 1996; published scholarly articles in *African American Review*, *MELUS*, *Studies in American Indian Literatures*, *Ethnic Studies*

Review, and others; published several books on Hawaiian history that are used in many of Hawaii's schools.

James Reed (2009) – English teacher/Peer Leadership coordinator at St. Charles (now East) High School (Illinois).

Philip Rider (1977) – Retired publications editor (NIU).

Scott Ritter (1987) – Artist/writer in the New York City area; specialties are most aspects of theatre, visual art, writing, music, and literature; current goal is to practice his arts while working part-time in an art-related field

Judith Rogers (1989)

(Virginia) Elaine Ross (2000) –

Since completing my Ph.D. in the English Department of NIU, I have had an on-going and fulfilling career in my field.

I completed the doctoral degree in 1999. At that time, I had already been in the English Department at Lewis University (Romeoville, IL) for ten years. By (finally) finishing, I was asked to serve as department chair in English, which I did until I retired from Lewis near the end of 2005. Those were most challenging and rewarding years. Because Lewis is a relatively small university, a faculty person really needed to "do it all." I was able, therefore, to teach Writing for the Professions, Composition I and II, a very large range of literature courses, and a capstone Theory of Literature course. As chair, I also undertook many initiatives for the department, the foremost being our writing major, which had two tracks: creative writing and professional writing. In addition, I served on university-wide governance committees and taskforces while continuing to oversee the administration of the English Department for five and one-half years.

I left Lewis in August 2005, and not long after, I began teaching part-time for Aurora University, which is nearby. In fact, I did not seek out the position there, but rather, they asked me. I am still teaching for AU, surprisingly in the College of Education. I found I had some talents that fit exactly with what they needed: research writing in Literacy Learning and (as of this winter) in Curriculum and Instruction. Once the candidates complete the two-course sequence that I teach, they have their Master of Arts thesis complete. All the candidates in these classes are teachers (or educators in some capacity), so I can bring to bear my years of teaching, which really began in 1964 at the secondary level. I help

the candidates to design their Action Research projects and to implement and evaluate them in their schools.

Since entering the field of education, I have held positions, either full-time or part-time, in high-school, junior high school, community college, four-year college, or university. In essence, I have never stopped and find that by still being in university teaching at this stage of life, I am challenged and rewarded—as long as I teach only one course at a time.

My years at NIU meant a great deal to me in so many ways, and I look forward to meeting up again with fellow-doctoral graduates and professors who assisted me along the way in my career.

Jamie Rothstein (1995) –

Worked in the Dean's Office, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at Northern Illinois University, for more than 28 years. Married Tim Hopkins in 1988 and continued to live in our home town, St. Charles. Retired from Northern with just over 31 years of service in 2008. Retirement is great – I remain involved with the university community but also have lots more free time to pursue other interests.

Philip Rubens (1976) –

Thanks very much for the invitation to the graduate reunion; unfortunately, I am now working for the Republic of Ireland helping them plan curricula for all of their member universities. Those tasks keep me bi-continental most of the year.

Dona Ruby (1979)

Gregory Sadlek (1983) – Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Cleveland State University since 2005; from 1998 to 2005 was a member of the Department of English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he taught courses in the history of the English language as well as on the poetry of Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, and Dante Alighieri, and held the Jefferis Chair of English.

Mary Sanders (1995)

Carol Scheidenhelm (1993) – Director, Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago.

Linda Schlafer (1983)

Joann Scholtes Johnson (2002) – English faculty, McHenry Community College (Crystal Lake, Illinois).

Linnea Schoppe (1973)

Shannin Schroeder (1999) – Associate Professor of English, Southern Arkansas University Magnolia.

Joan Schroeter (1993) – Retired from Truman College (Chicago); Joan sent the following:

Thank you for the invitation I am trying to retire to the reading and writing I enjoy so much. Greetings to former colleagues and best wishes for success in their personal and professional lives.

Christina Scott (2004)

Ronald Sheasby (1997) – Retired as an Assistant Professor of writing (non-tenure-track) after ten years at Loyola University Chicago.

Jeanne Sheehan (2008)

Mary Lamb Shelden (2003) – Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University; works with student learning communities with majors in art, business, and social work, as well as in the Discovery program for undeclared students; often works with undergraduate teaching assistants through the Focused Inquiry and Service Learning UTA programs; founding secretary and current president-elect for the Louisa May Alcott Society.

Andrew Sidle (2011) – Upper School English Teacher, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, from which Andy graduated in 1978.

Carol (Hafer) Singh (1975)

Velma Smith (1987) – Professor of English, Lone Star College-North Harris (Texas).

John Somer (1971) – Professor Emeritus, Emporia (Kansas) State University; academic interests are the processes of learning and the cultural shifts in literature through Post Modernism; currently writing *A Rose and A Spider Web: An Examination of America's Heart*.

Chang-Seop Song (1993)

Ellen Sorenson (2008) – Retired, Cowherd Middle School in Aurora, Illinois; currently serving, along with her husband, Frank, in Nicaragua as member and leader support missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; their blog: frankandellen.wordpress.com.

Sabiha Sorgun (2011) – Turkish instructor, Department of State, Foreign Services Institute, Arlington, Virginia.

Kevin Stadt (2009) – Professor of English, Seoul National University of Science and Technology.

Gayla Steel (1991)

(Phillip) Ron Stormer (1992) – Associate Professor of English, Humanities Division Chair, Culver-Stockton College (Canton, Missouri); academic advisor to local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta; academic specialty is Restoration and eighteenth-century English literature; interests include classical literature and mythology, the Bible, the English religious poets (especially John Donne and George Herbert), John Steinbeck, Bobbie Ann Mason, and Flannery O'Connor; enjoys apocalyptic science fiction, supernatural religious horror fiction and films, writing poetry and fiction, and playing the guitar.

Bret Stumphy (2006) – Assistant Professor, Harrisburg Area Community College (Lebanon, Pennsylvania).

Walter Sublette (1991) – Independent writing and editing professional; retired English professor, Aurora University (Illinois).

Charles Taylor (1971) – Instructional Full Professor of English, Texas A&M University (College Station); founder (1973) of Slough Press, which focuses on “contemporary literary authors who experiment with form, communicate to a wide audience, and hope to have a positive influence on the culture.”

Hanni Taylor (1986) – Retired Professor of English, Aurora (Illinois) University.

Linda Tillis (1988) – Real Estate Agent for Century 21 Elsner Realty, DeKalb; former associate director of Housing and Dining, NIU.

Kathleen Turner (2013) – Writing Center Director, University of Mississippi Tupelo; joining the faculty of Aurora University in fall 2014.

Kristina Valaitis (1974) –Recently retired Director of the Illinois Humanities Council; serves on boards of the Federation of State Humanities Councils and the Chicago Metro History Education Center; member of The Chicago Network; received the Volunteer Service Award from the NIU Foundation, the Golden Anniversary Alumni Award and the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award from NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; former member of the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the board of the Illinois Center for the Book, and various task forces and committees of the Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Nicholas Valenti (2011) – Part-time instructor, Rock Valley College (Rockford, Illinois).

Dianna Vitanza (1977) – Associate Professor and Department Chair, Department of English, Baylor University (Waco, Texas); former Director of Undergraduate Studies in English, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Baylor; scholarly interests include Victorian fiction, particularly the novels of George Eliot and Charlotte Brontë, as well as Victorian poetry, particularly the works of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; co-editor of two books on Christian higher education, *The Baptist and Christian Character of Baylor* and *The Future of Baptist Higher Education*.

Paul Vlajcic (1999) – Faculty, Department of Management, NIU; teaches business communication and fundamentals of management; active consultant to various not-for-profit organizations in the Chicago area since 1994, specializing in communications and resource development.

Robert Vore (1997)

Frank Walters (1991) – Associate Professor and Director of Composition, Auburn (Alabama) University; principal research interests are in rhetoric and the history of rhetoric, composition studies, and technical and professional writing; teaching interests are in undergraduate writing courses and graduate rhetoric courses; currently working on research in classical rhetoric and its connections with contemporary issues in composition.

Mark Waters (2002) – Instructor of English, McHenry County College (Crystal Lake, Illinois).

Nancy Webb (1986) –

I moved to Illinois in January 1979 from Florida . . . I started the PhD program, and I finished in 1986. Even though I had a few job interviews there was nothing available.

Wanting to stay (for the time being in DeKalb), I accepted a job with Academic Computing Services (ACS) on campus. Our department provided training and services for NIU faculty, staff and students. I was a technical editor and then a publications editor. My main job was editing and sometimes writing computer how-to manuals and articles for our monthly newsletter, *Computing News*. I also was asked to teach hands-on classes in WordPerfect when the campus no longer used such programs as Wordstar, DisplayWrite and AdvanceWrite. After working in ACS for five years, I decided I missed teaching English.

College of DuPage (COD) in Glen Ellyn had a job listing in 1991 for five positions, two tenure track and three one-year replacements. I applied and had an interview. I actually had interviewed at COD back in 1986, but they were not interested in PhDs at that time.

Now in 1992 my technical writing background was of interest. I got the job and for the next 19 years I taught composition, literature, and technical writing. With the composition classes, I taught primarily the research writing course, and then I taught two different technical writing classes.

During my years at COD, I started our Writing Center and also created a technical writing certificate aimed at professionals with no college credential, but who demonstrated an aptitude for writing. In addition to my teaching duties, I was also the Part-time Faculty Liaison responsible for scheduling 150 instructors in English, reading, and speech.

After 32 years (13 at NIU and 19 at COD), I decided to retire, which I did on August 1, 2011.

Ila Wells (1969) – Retired from Rust College (Holly Springs, Mississippi).

Mary Werner (1996) – Humanities Professor, Madisonville (Kentucky) Community College.

Todd West (2012) – Faculty, Department of English, Kishwaukee College (Malta, Illinois).

Nancy Weyant (1975)

Kelley Wezner (2007) – Director of Institutional Assessment, Assistant Professor for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, Murray (Kentucky) State University.

Ruth Wickersham (1995) – Retired from Moraine Valley Community College (Palos Hills, Illinois) and St. Xavier University (Chicago).

Christopher Wielgos (1998) – Professor of English, Lewis University (Romeoville, Illinois); director of film studies; department's director of technology and technology-supported pedagogies; teaches courses in modern and postmodern U.S. and British literatures, film studies, and first-year writing; regular presenter for Lewis University's Arts and Ideas program and recently presented a series of ten films and lectures on postmodern film; award-winning website author; recently published an article on the work of Mark Costello in the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Fiction*; chairs the Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable.

James Wilcox (1972) – Retired (2011) Professor, College of General Studies, Boston University.

Barbara Wilkinson (1996) – Retired Humanities Professor, College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, Illinois).

G. Christopher Williams (2002) – Associate Professor of English, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point; teaches freshman composition and various literature and media studies related courses with a desire to make students more aware of rhetorical strategies and able to read texts closely; editor of the multimedia section at PopMatters; research and teaching interests include twentieth-century literature, literary theory, film studies, pop culture studies, and media studies.

Jacqueline Wilson-Jordan (1999) – Assistant Professor, English and Journalism Department, Western Illinois University Macomb.

Than Than Win (1998) – owner of Babble Company, a language school based in Seattle, Washington; Washington State registered court interpreter, permanently sworn in with the AOC; Burmese Tutor, University of Washington; translator; Burmese Instructor, Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute.

Diane Wohlwend (1980) – Retired from United States Department of the Interior.

Janice Wolff (1991) –

Since completing the Ph.D. in 1991, I taught just one quick year at Illinois Benedictine College (reading and study skills courses, as well as directing their writing center). After that I was hired into a tenure track position at Saginaw Valley State University in

Michigan. I saw that school grow from 6,000 commuter students to a strong regional university with a population of 10,000. I had opportunity to teach up and down the undergraduate curriculum: lots of writing courses at the first and second year levels, general education literature, professional writing, upper division rhetoric courses (thank you, Rosalie Hewitt!), some theory courses (thank you, Jasper Neel!), even some literature and film courses (thank you, Bob Self!). I had plenty of opportunity for administrative work too: serving six years as Chair of the University Honors Program, and even a two-year stint as Chair of the English Department.

Twenty years went by too quickly, and Terry and I chose to retire in our home state, Illinois, Earlville to be exact. The pace is slower here, but the farmland looks similar to Saginaw. We are making new friends, reconnecting with family, joining book clubs, and following our political interests, and enjoying the pace. We even attended a Huskies football game last fall!

Kenneth Womack (1997) – Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of English and Integrative Arts, Penn State Altoona; recipient of NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 50th Anniversary Distinguished Alumni Award (2009); Penn State University laureate (2013-2014); just released *The Beatles Encyclopedia: Everything Fab Four* (Greenwood, 2014) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the group's appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show; also wrote *Long and Winding Roads: The Revolving Artistry of the Beatles* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2007) and *John Doe No. 2 and the Dreamland Motel* (NIU Press, 2010).

Lihong Xie (1990) – Associate Textual Editor, *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*.

Fusheng Yao (1988) – IT Specialist, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Su-lin Yu (2001)

Deborah Zak (2002) – Freelance writer, web designer, e-learning content developer.

Kai Zhang (2008)

Abbey Zink (2001) –
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English at Texas A&M University—Kingsville (TAMU-K). Under her leadership, the College of Arts and Sciences has added several

new degree programs: B.A. in Criminal Justice, B.S. in Physics (through the Texas Physics Consortium), M.S. in Criminology, M.M. in Music Performance, and M.A. in Cultural Studies. In addition, she championed the creation of the new Department of Clinical Health Sciences to house accredited programs in communication sciences and disorders and social work. She also led the effort to form a partnership with LULAC Council #1 Foundation to establish the Tejano Civil Rights Museum in Corpus Christi, TX. Working collaboratively with the associate vice president for research, she sponsored the development of interdisciplinary research groups in biomedical sciences, social and behavioral sciences, biotechnology, and sustainable energy. She recently served as secretary of the Texas Association of Deans of Liberal Arts and Sciences (TADLAS) and is vice president of the Kingsville Symphony Orchestra and a Kingsville Rotary member.

Prior to joining TAMU-K, Dr. Zink served as a faculty member and administrator at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) in Danbury, CT. Her leadership roles at WCSU included serving as interim dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, assistant dean, professional writing program coordinator, composition coordinator, and director of two campus learning centers. Dr. Zink also coordinated the "Building a Bridge to Improve Student Success" partnership between WCSU and two local school systems that became a model in the ConnSCU system and was cited in WCSU's recognition on the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. In addition, for several years, she was a member of the Connecticut Department of Higher Education Advisory Committee on Accreditation, which reviewed degree proposals from public and private institutions and made recommendations to the then Board of Regents.

Her research interests are dual: college readiness and late 19th- and early 20th-century American women writers.

A brief history of the department:

When Northern Illinois State Normal School opened on September 12, 1899, to 173 students taught by 16 faculty members, it offered courses in composition, rhetoric, and literature under what came to be called the "Department of Ancient and Modern Languages." No formal organization lay behind these courses, which included Latin, English Grammar, and Composition. However, Ida S. Simonson, who joined the faculty in 1901 with a degree from Northwestern, took charge of these offerings and ultimately became the first head of the English Department. Having founded the department and created its structure, she remained its head until she retired in 1935, making her one of the longest-serving chairs of any discipline in the history of the university.

Under her leadership, the department offered, for the first time in 1922, a baccalaureate degree in English. In 1951, when the University had grown to 1,893 students and was called Northern Illinois State Teachers College, the Department offered an MS in English, under the leadership of J. Hal Connor, who succeeded Ms. Simonson.

In 1955, Northern Illinois State Teachers College became Northern Illinois State College, and then in 1957, Northern Illinois University. Over the next ten years NIU's enrollment tripled, while the goals, mission, and orientation of the university changed dramatically. At first, the English Department did not register these changes radically. However, under the leadership of Orville Baker, who had earned his PhD at Harvard in Renaissance literature, English initiated a PhD program in 1961, when 8,111 graduate and undergraduate students sought NIU degrees. Baker's interests were in Freshman English (now First-Year Composition), which he organized and oversaw.

The implementation of the English Department's PhD program and the professionalization of the department were begun by Charles W. Hagelman, Jr., who was hired by Dean Paul Burtress in 1967. With enrollments rising rapidly (18,057 in 1967), Hagelman undertook a broad hiring effort, offering positions to newly-minted PhDs and established scholars. Hagelman, a well-known scholar of

the Romantic Period, began to shape the department as it currently exists, a graduate and an undergraduate division offering the BA, the MA with seven concentrations, and the PhD with traditional, innovative, and interdisciplinary focuses.

Today, the English Department is one of the university's largest, most active and most distinguished departments. Currently, English counts over three hundred majors and nearly one hundred minors. The graduate program is home to approximately sixty MA and PhD students with assistantships, along with other graduate students from the region. Since 1969, the Department has been home to Sigma Tau Delta, the international English Honors Society, which has 850 chapters.

The faculty teaches a wide variety of courses that include offerings in traditional literary history, English pedagogy, linguistics, and grammar as well as, at the undergraduate level, special topics courses like "Writing Creative Nonfiction," "New Literatures in English," "The International Short Story," "American Ethnic Literature" and, at the graduate level, "Shakespeare on Film," "Literature of the Modern South," and "Technical Editing." The scholarly books of department professors have been published by such presses as Oxford, Cambridge, Cornell, California, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Illinois, while their essays have appeared in distinguished journals like *Comparative Literature*, *English Literary History*, the *PMLA*, and *Critical Inquiry*. Alumni of the department teach in primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions across the state and the nation and are active in business, publishing, and non-profit organizations, as well as in a broad array of fields that include medicine, healthcare, law, the environment, and public interest.

To see an illustrated version of this history, please go to http://www.engl.niu.edu/department_history/index.shtml