



# Annotations

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

## Badgers and Internships

**H**ow do our English majors prepare for the workforce? They land internships! Thanks to department advisor Karen Redfield, career advisor Karen Knipschild, some dedicated alumni, and the Department's effort to link work opportunities to courses for credit, English students are finding that internships help them land successful jobs after graduation.

*for full story, see page 4*



Emily Madsen



Courtesy of Andrew Kerber



Courtesy of Samantha Kaplan



Courtesy of Elizabeth Wendt

From left: Elizabeth Delaquess, *Wisconsin Public Radio*; Andrew Kerber, *Rayovac*; Samantha Kaplan, *One Model Management*, *Beyond Vintage*, *Brides* magazine, *Seventeen* magazine, *Cosmopolitan* magazine; Elizabeth Wendt, *Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health*

## INSIDE

CONTENTS

**2** From the  
Chair

**5** Department  
Life

**8** Alumni  
Corner



# An Exceptionally Rich Major



Caroline Levine

What is the value of an English major? I've been hearing two kinds of arguments.

One group insists passionately that English is a valuable major for preparing for professional life. Our classes build crucial workplace skills: critical thinking, evidence-based argument, creative risk-taking, and, of course, the intensely important and difficult craft of writing. It's time to start boasting, this side of the argument goes, about the economic value of an English major.

But others ask: should our lives be solely dedicated to economic gain—to getting ahead in the world? What about a life enriched by curiosity? What about building meaningful communities and serving others? What about stopping to reflect on our deepest values and commitments? English is an exceptionally rich major in this respect. Words shape whole societies—think of the trouble monarchs have legitimating their authority in Shakespeare, for example. English Professor Leslie Bow has recently shown that the words “white” and “colored” on drinking fountains in the segregated South were not only troubling but also confounding to many Americans. Bow's book, *Partly Colored*, investigates the experience of Mexican, Asian, and Native Americans, groups that didn't fall clearly on either side of the color line in the Jim Crow era. The great value of the English major, many argue, lies in shaping thoughtful, searching citizens who will take responsibility for our world in the next generations.

What's extraordinary about English is that it offers both economic *and* social value. In the past few months, we have heard from many of you that the UW–Madison English Department did a magnificent job of training you for the workplace, honing the skills necessary to your careers in law, science, communications, marketing, education, the non-profit sector, and more. And we have also heard that you appreciated the English major for expanding and challenging your sense of what it means to be human, to be a citizen, to connect to others, and to understand the power of words to make and remake worlds.

What is your experience? If you have a few minutes, please send me a note to let me know how English has been valuable in your own life (clevine@wisc.edu). And please connect with other alumni, as well as our highly-skilled new graduates, through our new LinkedIn network: [www.linkedin.com/in/uwmadisonenglishdepartment](http://www.linkedin.com/in/uwmadisonenglishdepartment)

*I'd love to hear from you.*

Caroline Levine

*Annotations* is the alumni newsletter of the Department of English at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

600 North Park Street  
Madison, WI 53706

E-mail: [annotations@english.wisc.edu](mailto:annotations@english.wisc.edu)  
Website: [english.wisc.edu](http://english.wisc.edu)

Department Chair: Caroline Levine

Editor: Emily Madsen  
[emadsen@wisc.edu](mailto:emadsen@wisc.edu)

Assistant Editor: Vanessa Lauber  
[vlauber@wisc.edu](mailto:vlauber@wisc.edu)

For gifts information, contact:  
Toni Drake, UW Foundation  
[toni.drake@supportuw.org](mailto:toni.drake@supportuw.org)

Design and production by  
University Marketing



# From the Dean's Desk

Spring brings renewed energy to the UW–Madison campus. Not only are students studying hard for final exams, but many are preparing for summer jobs, study abroad, internships, and life after graduation.

These are important steps, and they present big challenges. Our students have much to offer the world, but to land good jobs or go on to graduate school, they need to articulate confidently what they've learned in and out of the classroom.

The skills required for employment have changed and we must rethink the ways in which we prepare our liberal arts students to join the global workforce.

To meet these challenges, I am launching the Letters & Science Career Initiative (LSCI), which will engage students in personal and career development from the time they step on campus to graduation.

From self-assessment ("Who am I?") through exploration ("What do I want to do?") and planning ("How do I get there?"), the LSCI will assist students in defining, articulating, and achieving their career goals.

The LSCI will build upon existing strengths in career services, while adding more advisors, launching a sophomore-year career-planning course, and opening doors to alumni mentors who can share tips, strategies, and opportunities.

Our departments will be crucial to the initiative's success. Employers in every sector, from service to finance, insurance to real estate, value the writing skills of an English major. Responding to a recent College Board survey, one employer said, "you can't move up without writing skills."

You, too, can play a role. We value your insights, as an alum of this university, but more specifically, of the English Department. We want you to connect with our students to share the valuable lessons you have learned over the course of your career. Please get in touch with us at [careerinitiative@ls.wisc.edu](mailto:careerinitiative@ls.wisc.edu) if you would like to get involved. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of this great university.

*On, Wisconsin!*

John Karl Scholz



John Karl Scholz  
Dean, College of Letters & Science

University Communications

## Life After Graduation

The Department congratulates Brontë Mansfield ('15), who has been awarded a Beinecke Scholarship to further her academic goals post-graduation. In the words of the program itself, "The program seeks to encourage and enable highly motivated students to pursue opportunities available to them and to be courageous in the selection of a graduate course of study in the arts, humanities and social sciences." Mansfield is one of 20 Beinecke Scholars for 2014, and will receive \$4,000 just prior to entering her future graduate program, as well as \$30,000 over the course of her graduate education.





# Badgers and Internships

## Elizabeth Delaquess

### Wisconsin Public Radio

Elizabeth Delaquess ('13) held a part-time job at Wisconsin Public Radio throughout her tenure at UW–Madison. She worked in the Radio Operations Center, where she edited and archived recordings of Wisconsin Public Radio's live talk shows, in addition to scheduling and facilitating interviews with other studios, assisting producers and board operators, and working as a board operator on Saturday and Sunday nights. She remarks that her English major gave her the benefit of professional communication skills, such as writing memos, conveying technical information and writing resumes and cover letters. "I took a writing course called Writing in the Workplace during my senior year, and the skills I learned in that course were immensely helpful when I was applying for a work-related scholarship and two jobs last summer," says Delaquess.

## Andrew Kerber

### Rayovac

Andrew Kerber ('13) is majoring in English and Technical Communications. He has been interning at Rayovac, in Middleton, WI, since December 2013. Kerber writes instruction manuals for assembly line machines, and credits his English major with his ability to gather information from an unfamiliar source and present it in a coherent fashion. He says, "I had to write easily understandable user manuals that provided enough information so that the operator can master a machine, but not so much that an operator is overwhelmed or confused."



Elizabeth Wendt and Teen Educators at the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health.

## Samantha Kaplan

### *One Model Management, Beyond Vintage, Brides magazine, Seventeen magazine, Cosmopolitan magazine*

Samantha Kaplan ('13) held several internships in order to pursue her goal of working in magazine publishing. For Samantha's most recent internship, she took a Directed Study that enabled her to obtain credit and reflect on her experiences through writing as she interned. Samantha notes that these very writing skills gained as an English Major distinguished her as an intern. At *Seventeen* magazine, she was the only intern selected to write articles for [www.seventeen.com](http://www.seventeen.com).

English and her certificate in Global Health. For the past three years, Wendt has been interning at the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. "I have used so many of the skills I've learned as an English major at my internship," she says. "I am directly involved in curriculum development for one of our projects, the Wisconsin Adolescent Health Care Communication Program. This requires me to help write scripts, worksheets/information sheets, and more. I also assist in grant writing, which, of course, relates to all of the writing experience I've had as an English major."

## Elizabeth Wendt

### Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health

Elizabeth Wendt ('13) will pursue a Master's in Public Health (MPH) after she completes her BS in Biology and

## Find Us Online!

Visit and explore the English department website:  
[english.wisc.edu](http://english.wisc.edu)



# What's New in the English Department?



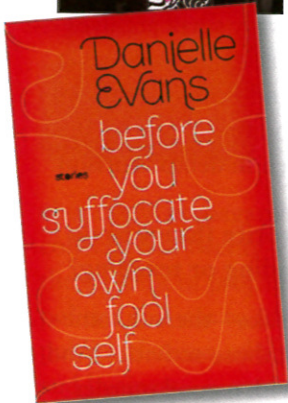
Nina Subin

## Writer Danielle Evans to Join the Creative Writing Department

The Creative Writing Department will welcome new faculty member Danielle Evans in the fall of 2014. Evans is the author of *Before You Suffocate your Own Fool Self*, which is a co-winner of the 2011 PEN American Robert W. Bingham Prize for a first book, a National Book Foundation 5 under 35 selection for 2011, the winner of the 2011 Paterson Prize for Fiction and the 2011 Hurston-Wright award for fiction, and an honorable mention for the 2011 PEN/Hemingway award. In a review, *The New York Times Book Review* remarked: "Danielle Evans's whipsmart first story collection charts the liminal years between childhood and the condition dubiously known as being a grown-up...Fiercely independent, all of Evans's characters struggle for a place in a world intent on fencing them out. But as her title suggests, the biggest obstacles they face are often their own selves."

*The Boston Globe* commented: "Whether she's observing people who work at Ruby Tuesday or Harvard students, Evans is a startlingly good sociocultural mimic. Each story shares a particular female voice: tough, pragmatic, knowing, snappy...There are books that capture our world perfectly, like a scrim over a stage. And then there are books that surprise the audience and go somewhere new, somewhere completely unpredictable. In this collection, Evans paints a picture, sometimes ripping through the fabric. One wonders where she will go next."

The answer, for now, is UW–Madison.



## DARE, Digitized



The digital version of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE) was launched on December 2, 2013 through Harvard University Press. This digital version makes entries searchable by state or region and includes audio clips from DARE Tape quotes. For a video preview, visit <http://go.wisc.edu/t05313>; <http://www.daredictionary.com> includes 100 sample entries for your enjoyment.



MUSE Literati Conference

Courtesy of MUSE

## Checking in with MUSE

MUSE, the Madison Undergraduate Students of English, strives to raise awareness of the humanities, help organizations in need, and create a shared intellectual space for undergraduates interested in language, literature, and the humanities. In the spirit of these goals, in the month of March, MUSE hosted the second annual Literati Conference, centered around the theme, "Speaking Bodies." The conference investigated the importance of language used to describe bodies and explored the different kinds of bodies—human, animal, and other—that literature represents.



# The Department Welcomes Two New Faculty Members



Emily Madsen

## Stephanie Elsky

Stephanie Elsky, Assistant Professor of English, earned her PhD from University of Pennsylvania in 2010 and completed a post-doctoral research appointment in Amherst College's Department of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought in 2013. She teaches courses on Shakespeare and the Renaissance.

**Q: What have you learned about UW students in your first semester of teaching?**

**A:** This semester my Shakespeare students experimented with two ways of analyzing a passage to see what it was like to bring together multiple interpretations. One student created an amazing comic strip depicting a scene in *King Lear*. I have also learned that some of them had "drive your tractor to school" days in their hometowns.

**Q: Where is the most interesting place your research has taken you?**

**A:** I spent about a month in Kendal, a small town in the Lake District of England, which houses the archives of an early female diarist, Lady Anne Clifford. It was a beautiful town and a very small archive where everyone else was trying to discover their family history—and I often witnessed the archivists having to break the news that their ancestors had been in debtor's prison!

**Q: What are your favorite things to do when you are not reading or teaching?**

**A:** I love to cook and bake—there is something meditative about those activities. And I also love to curl up with a good murder mystery and my mostly friendly cat (who also enjoys the view of the lake).



Courtesy of Ramzi Fawaz

## Ramzi Fawaz

Ramzi Fawaz, Assistant Professor of English, joins the Department from George Washington University, where he both completed his PhD and served as a post-doc in American Studies.

**Q: What courses do you teach?**

**A:** I'll be teaching a senior seminar on sex, politics, and queer literature since the 1970s. We'll be reading some radical and exciting writing by the most cutting edge LGBT authors of the late 20th century to see how their work has changed the way Americans view sexuality and sexual freedom. I'll also be teaching a university writing course called Queer About Comics: Sexuality and Graphic Fiction.

**Q: What can students expect from you in the classroom?**

**A:** My classes try to recreate what it felt like to live and write in a specific historical moment—what was it like to be queer in the 60s and 70s? To fight homophobia, to tell your story, to change history without even knowing it? We'll ask tons of questions, grapple with tough ideas, and try to grasp why and how writers accomplished what they did.

**Q: What's the most-thumbed book on your shelf?**

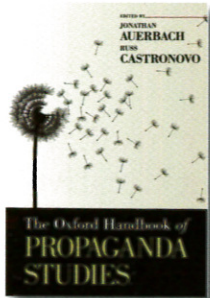
**A:** Either Maxine-Hong Kingston's "The Woman Warrior" or Joe Brainard's "I Remember" (both of which I taught this year).



## RECENT RELEASES FROM FACULTY MEMBERS

*The Oxford Handbook of Propaganda Studies*

Russ Castronovo, co-editor  
Oxford University Press, 2014

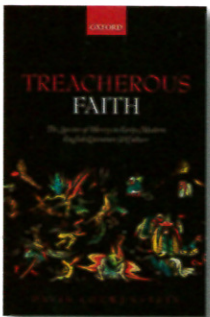


We live in a world saturated with media, where various fundamentalisms and global networks are growing. This changing world creates a need to think in new ways

about how propaganda works. This collection of twenty-two essays expands the concept of propaganda from politics and war to advertising, media, public relations, education, religion, and business.

*Treacherous Faith: The Specter of Heresy in Early Modern English Literature and Culture*

David Loewenstein  
Oxford University Press, 2013

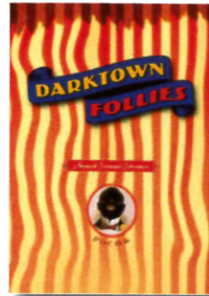


*Treacherous Faith* offers a new and ambitious cross-disciplinary account of cultural anxieties about heresy and heretics between the early English Reforma-

tion and the Restoration. This book examines the dark, often brutal story of defining and punishing heretics in early modern England, and especially the ways literary writers responded to the politics of religious fear-mongering and demonizing, sometimes reinforcing them, sometimes interrogating them.

*Darktown Follies*

Amaud Jamaul Johnson  
Tupelo Press, 2013



Named one of the best poetry collections of 2013 by *Slate Magazine*, *Darktown Follies* investigates the popularity of black Vaudeville performances, particularly in the

Midwest and South, at the turn of the twentieth century.

*Constitutive Visions: Indigeneity and Commonplaces of National Identity in Republican Ecuador*

Christa J. Olson  
Penn State University Press, 2013

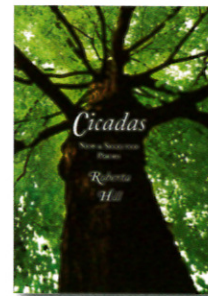


Olson is breaking new ground in the study of rhetoric by focusing on the ways that images make arguments. She is one of a number of young scholars to work in the emerging

field of "visual rhetoric." Here Olson uses these methods to understand contested national identity, and focuses on the example of Ecuador, which saw a long struggle between a large indigenous population and a white-mestizo minority.

*Cicadas: New and Selected Poems*

Roberta Hill  
Holy Cow! Press, 2013



This volume gathers together seventy-five poems from Roberta Hill's two previous poetry collections, *Star Quilt* and *Philadelphia Flowers*, along

with a generous selection of new poems. Roberta's poems are powerful lyrical expressions of love with a wide context for contemporary politics.

## Alumni Publications

Do you have a recent work of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry that you would like to share with the English Department community?

Tell us all about it at [annotations@english.wisc.edu](mailto:annotations@english.wisc.edu) and we will feature it on our alumni bookshelf.

## New Ways to Connect



Follow us on Twitter:  
@EnglishUW



Like us on Facebook:  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
English Department



# Oh, the Places We Go!

**A**lumni have been using our Class Notes Feature to check in and let us know what they've been up to. Here's a small selection; more can be found at <http://www.english.wisc.edu/alumnicommunity.htm>. Want to submit your own? Use our convenient form: <http://go.wisc.edu/457x9g>

## 1973 Elaine Ginnold MA in English

My career is proof of the versatility of a major in English. After getting my MA in English at UW–Madison in 1973, I taught writing and literature at the Madison Area Technical College and then became Community Relations Director for Goodwill Industries of Madison. I was elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 1976 and again in 1978. After I moved to California in 1979, I became a home health care administrator and am now the Registrar of Voters in Marin County. My MA in English gave me the analytical and writing skills necessary for all of the positions I have held.

## 1984 Amy Schuler BA in English

I moved to New York City after graduation in 1984 and worked as an editor in book publishing for ten years. I switched to magazines in 1995 and spent the next decade working as a

freelance and full-time copy-editor. Since 2009, I've been a full-time copy-editor for *GQ* magazine. I travel as much as possible and love to bake.

## 2003 Elissa Federoff BA in English

I grew up in Woodstock, NY and after graduation I headed back east to live in NYC. I spent a few years working for a real estate developer before deciding to pursue my real love, film. I currently work at The Weinstein Company in Film Distribution, but got my start interning for a small film studio called THINK, before moving onto Lionsgate and then Oscilloscope Labs, the company founded by the late Beastie Boys' Adam Yauch. To satisfy my love for film further and work in a more hands-on capacity, I've produced independent projects for friends and colleagues and volunteer for a new film festival called "On My Block Films," whose goal is to create stronger communities through the collaborative process of filmmaking. I currently live in Brooklyn, NY.

## 2008 Ray Hsu PhD in Literary Studies with a Minor in Creative Writing

After graduating from UW–Madison English in 2008, I wanted to "sally out and do intellectual battle in the open," as Bruce Robbins puts it. I spoke about creativity and education in a TEDx talk, and about prisons and literary festivals on Chicago Public Radio and CBC Radio One.

While studying at UW–Madison, I published a book of poems (*Anthropy*, winner of the Gerald Lampert Award) and have published a second since (*Cold Sleep Permanent Afternoon*, winner of an Alcuin Award). I love collaboration, so I co-founded Art Song Lab ([artsonglab.com](http://artsonglab.com)), which commissions new collaborations across poetry, music, and performance.

I'm now based in Vancouver, where *The Globe and Mail* named me one of the city's "most promising young entrepreneurs." You can reach me at [thewayofray.com](http://thewayofray.com).





# A Semester with Gwendolyn Brooks



Photo courtesy of UW Archives, S11709

**In February 1969**, a report by Madison Campus Chancellor Edwin Young noted that the Administration was responding to black students' concerns about the availability of classes on black history and literature as quickly as possible by offering, among other courses, a "creative writing course ... taught by Gwendolyn Brooks." Yet Young could offer only five other examples of recently developed courses reflecting an institutional move towards more diverse offerings (including Darwin Turner's class on black literature), which suggests both how remarkable it was that Pulitzer-Prize-winner Brooks had been invited to campus as Rennenbohm Visiting Professor of Creative Writing in the first place, and the long distance the Administration still had to go to fulfill black students' requests.

Lester Lennon ('73) was enrolled in Brooks's class in the spring of 1969. He recalls that it was a small, 15-member class, but that its attendees included some non-students, among

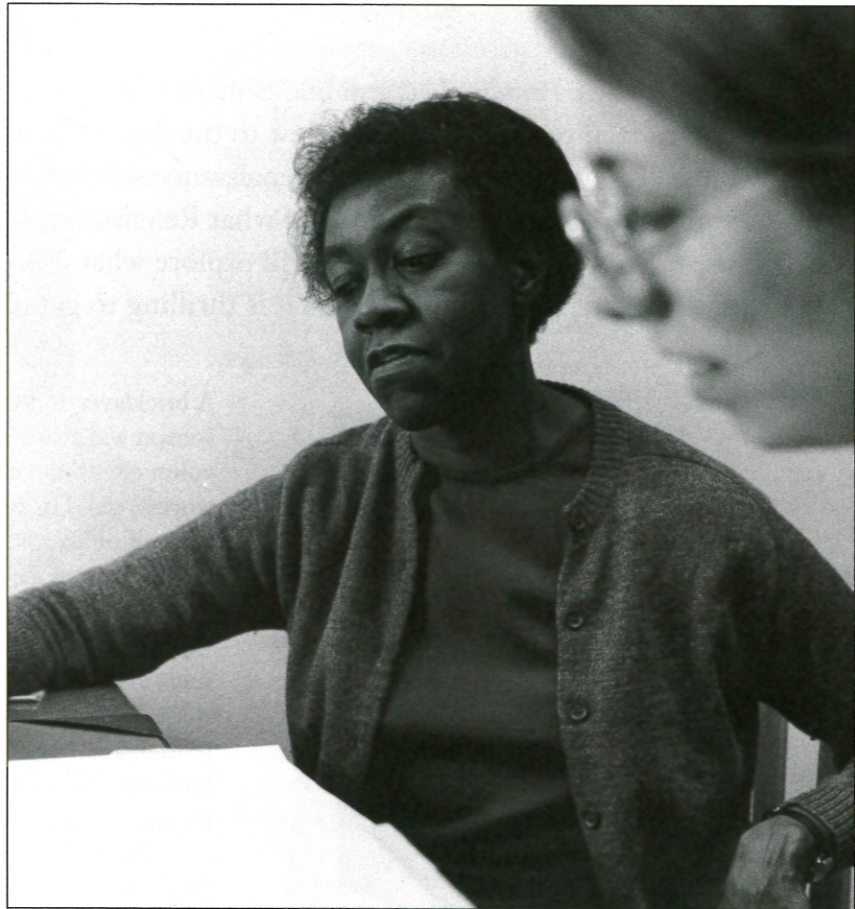


Photo courtesy of UW Archives, S12724

Miss Brooks in her UW-Madison classroom.

them Rod Clark (then John Clark), publisher of the quarterly literary magazine *Rosebud*, and Andre De Shields, the Broadway actor.

Lennon recounts that the class was a biweekly workshop. Gwendolyn Brooks was always "Miss Brooks." "She was unfailingly positive and supportive," he says. "She rarely sat and was always walking about the room. Her enthusiasm gave you the sense she was pleased to be there with us discussing/making poetry."

Lennon has kept the poetry he produced in Brook's classroom, complete with her marginal comments: "Wonderful!" and "WHO ARE YOU?!!!"

Lennon remembers her kindness and generosity, including her offer to send a manuscript of his work to her publishers at Harper & Row.

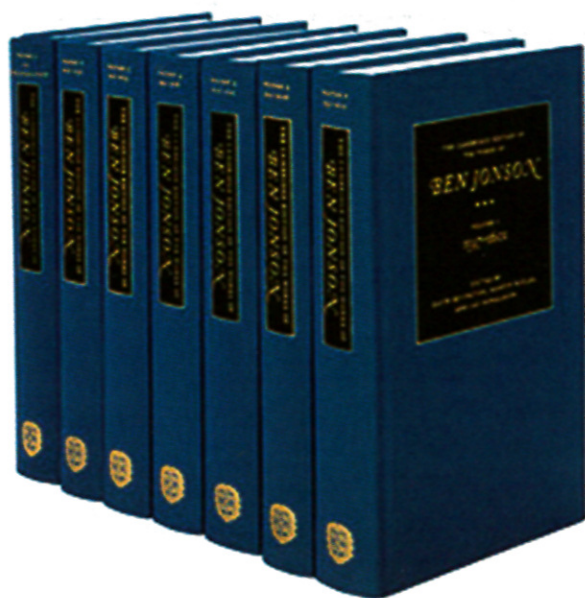
Although Lennon has been in public finance for 36 years, he has been a poet for nearly 50 years. Of his writing, he says, "A sense of guilt or waste, the feeling that I must write or die compels me to write."

A quotation by Brooks from the *Ebony Articles Agency* suggests she felt the same: "When people ask why I don't stop writing, I say, 'Look at what's happening in this world. Every day there's something exciting or disturbing to write about.' With all that's going on, how could I stop?"



## Early Modern Scholars Carry On Traditions and Break New Ground

**S**pies, monstrous bodies, *Paradise Lost* and books made of recycled clothes are just a few of the topics our early modern faculty, several of them new to the department, are investigating in their current projects. Continuing a strong tradition of Renaissance scholarship in the UW–Madison English Department, they are expanding considerations of what Renaissance scholarship means for the contemporary world. This summer's Mendota Seminar will explore what it means to read and watch Shakespeare 450 years later, but there are many other authors it is thrilling to get to know.



A bricklayer and a soldier, a brawler and a convict, Ben Jonson was also a prolific writer, as we see in the seven-volume set that comprises the Cambridge Edition of his works, issued in 2012, which clocks in at approximately 2.5 million words. **Professor Karen Britland** of the UW–Madison English Department served as an Associate Editor for the project, a task twenty years in the making, which marks the first printing of Jonson's collected works since 1952. Now complemented by the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson Online*, released in January of this year, this monumental achievement will change the way that both scholars and new generations of young readers approach Jonson's work.

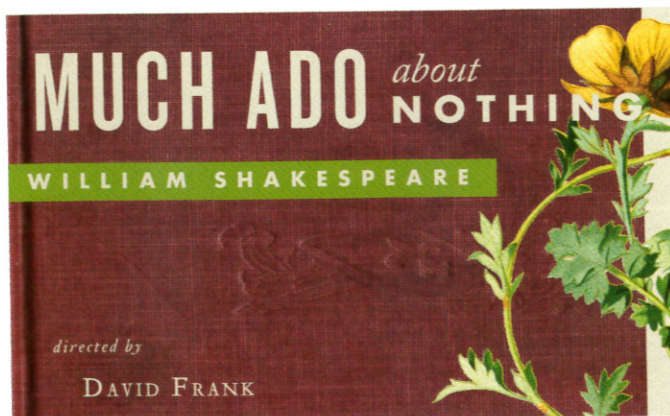
With those seven volumes on the shelf, Professor Britland is now delving into the world of spies during the English Civil War.

### *Take a trip to the American Players Theater*

Pack a picnic and join your fellow participants in the Mendota Seminar for a trip up the hill, and watch Hero and Claudio swoon, Don John plot, and Benedick and Beatrice exchange glittering verbal volleys.

To reserve a spot for the Mendota Seminar, or for more information, send a message to [MendotaSeminar@gmail.com](mailto:MendotaSeminar@gmail.com)

Follow the Mendota Seminar on Twitter! [@mendota\\_seminar](https://twitter.com/mendota_seminar)







**Professor David Loewenstein** is editing *Paradise Lost* for the new *Complete Works of John Milton* (Oxford University Press), the first complete scholarly edition since the 1930s. The new edition of *Paradise Lost* includes, for the first time, both the first and second editions of Milton's great poem (1667 and 1674 respectively) and is attentive to the relation of *Paradise Lost* to the political and religious contexts and literature of seventeenth-century England.

...

**Associate Professor Elizabeth Bearden's** current project, *Monstrous Kinds: Body, Space, and Narrative in Renaissance Representations of Physical Disability*, investigates physical disability in conduct books and treatises, travel accounts and plays, the picaresque, wonder books, essays, and early novels. The premodern take on physical disability continues to shape our understandings of disability today.

...

**Assistant Professor Joshua Calhoun** is at work on his first book, exploring the relationship between literary ideas and the physical forms they took as sixteenth- and seventeenth-century texts. Calhoun's book will consider how readers thought about their reading material when it was made from recycled clothes, slaughtered animals, and felled trees.

...

Meet Assistant Professor Stephanie Elsky, the newest member of the early modern faculty, on page 6.

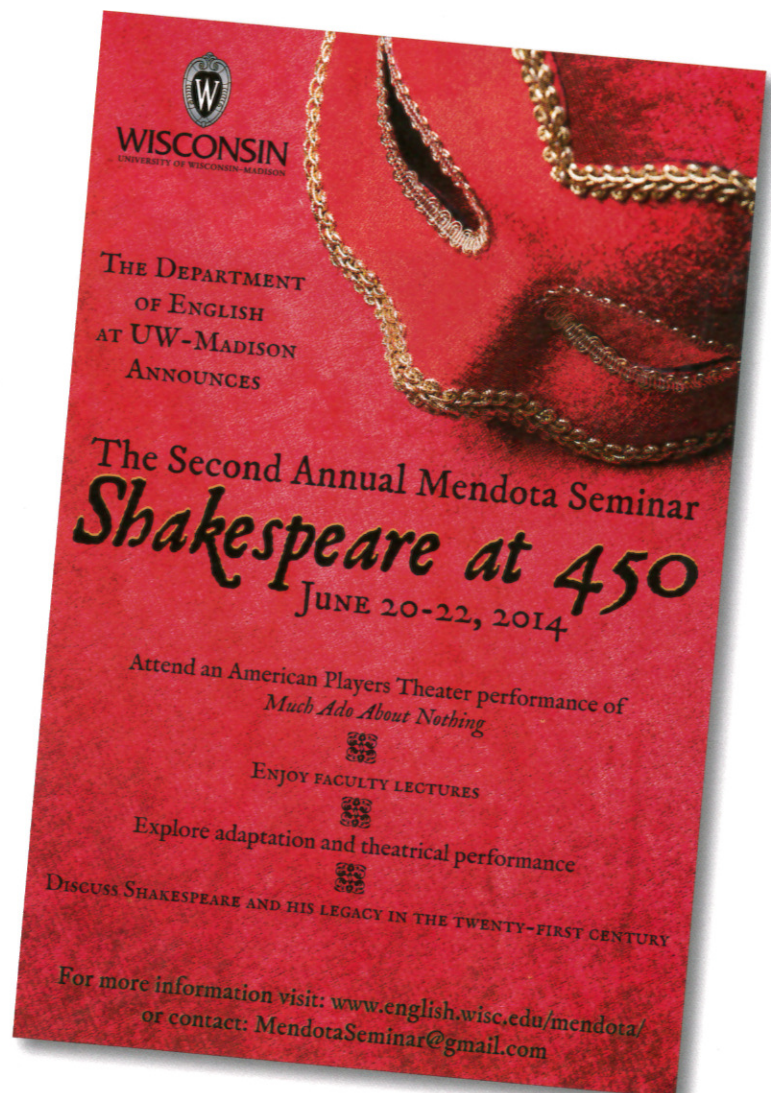
## Alumni Gift Nook

Your gifts, large and small, are crucial to maintaining our reputation as a leading national humanities department. We are so thankful for the many alumni gifts that, among other things, assist undergraduates, support top faculty and graduate students, and fund visiting speakers and events.

If you wish to contribute online, you may do so with our automated form through the University Foundation at [www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=2597](http://www.supportuw.org/giving?seq=2597)

If you would like to mail a contribution, please make your check payable to University of Wisconsin Foundation – Department of English and send it to: University of Wisconsin Foundation, U.S. Bank Lockbox, P.O. Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

*You will receive a receipt and a note of thanks for your contribution.*







DEPARTMENT OF  
**English**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of English  
Helen C. White Hall  
600 North Park Street  
Madison, WI 53706



Some Things Never Change:  
A 1964 English Department Class  
Meets on Bascom Hill