

Volume 12, Issue 2

Summer-Fall 2017



RUSSELL SAGE COLLEGE

# Carriage House Notes English and Modern Languages

## New President of The Sage Colleges, Dr. Christopher Ames, to Speak at RSC



This talk will open a discussion of the role of race in *The Great Gatsby* in the context of the cultural influences of jazz music and the Harlem Renaissance. This quintessential novel of the jazz age was published in the midst of a struggle between European and African-American approaches to jazz performance and at the time of the flowering of the Harlem Renaissance. The role of Carl Van Vechten in promoting jazz music and Harlem artists provides an intriguing backdrop to Fitzgerald's novel, especially since Van Vechten would go on to write a novel in which the main characters were thinly veiled satirical portraits of Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. The goal of the discussion is to illuminate jazz age whiteness and situate Fitzgerald's novel amidst the changing social, ethnic and racial dynamics of the 1920s. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Ames earned a Ph.D. in English Literature at Stanford University. He has published two books: *The Life of the Party: Festive Vision in Modern Fiction*, and *Movies About the Movies: Hollywood Reflected*.

Visit the English and Modern Languages website at [www.sage.edu/english](http://www.sage.edu/english) for more information and photos!

## The Rev presents: Fall 2017 Poetry Thursdays

This fall, we are launching a new poetry series called "The REV Presents." The REV Presents is a series of poetry readings that will run in conjunction with EML courses (in Creative Writing and Protest Literature). The theme explored this fall will be "truth to power." Featured readers include: Cara Benson, Sueyeun Juliette Lee, Iris Cushing, Travis Macdonald, Mel Bentley, and Erica Mena. The events are co-sponsored by The REV, The Russell Sage Review, the Department of Arts & Letters, and The Sage Colleges Libraries, and supported by the Carol Ann Donahue Poetry Fund. They will occur on the last Thursday of each month, at 7:30pm, in Shea (2nd floor).

- September 28: Cara Benson & Sueyeun Juliette Lee
- October 26: Iris Cushing & Travis Macdonald
- November 30: Mel Bentley & Erica Mena

### Dr. Shealeen Meaney Receives Fulbright Teaching Award

Dr. Meaney has been awarded a Fulbright-Nehru award for a teaching project entitled "Re-Mapping Identities: American Literatures of Encounter, Place, Community and Self." In the winter of 2017-18 she will travel to Goa, India where she will spend 5 months teaching graduate courses in American Literature and Women's Studies at Goa University. Goa is a coastal state in Western India, and has a unique blend of Portuguese and Indian cultures stemming from its long history as a Portuguese fishing port. While she has read and written about India in her studies of travel writing, Dr. Meaney has never visited the country before, so she is excited (and just a little bit nervous) to have the opportunity to live and work there. She hopes to travel throughout the region following her time in Goa.



### First-year & New Transfer Students— Save the Date!

The annual EML Welcome Back Picnic will be on **Monday, September 18th, from 5-6pm** in the Lafayette Courtyard, just outside of French House Annex. This is a required event for all 1st-year and New Transfer Students. Come for information, FREE pizza from DeFazzio's, and raffle prizes! We look forward to seeing you there!

It is the program faculty's expectation that every English and Modern Languages major attend program-sponsored events. It is vital that you show your support for our events.

The Sage Colleges

Russell Sage College  
Sage College of Albany  
Sage Graduate School

## 17-18 Program Club Leaders

**The Russell Sage Review:** Editor, Hajar Hussaini, hussah2@sage.edu

**Medusa: The Writer's Community:** Faculty advisor, Dr. Kelley, kellee@sage.edu

**Sigma Tau Delta:** If you are interested in the office of President of Sigma Tau Delta, please contact faculty advisor Dr. Moutray at moutrt@sage.edu

**Spanish Club:** President, Kelly Clinton, clintk@sage.edu

**The Quill:** Editor-in-Chief: Sofia Berry, berrys@sage.edu

Get Involved! Contact these club leaders for details.  
New members are especially welcome.



On October 4, author James Grissom will give a WORLD Series Lecture at 1p.m. in Bush Memorial about his recent book, *Follies of God: Tennessee Williams and the Women of the Fog*. His book addresses the figure of the female muse in Williams' life. He will also be joining the THR/ENG 348 course, Tennessee Williams' Women (Honors), to discuss his personal friendship with Williams and the process of writing his new book.

SAGEFEST 2017!

Saturday, September 23

## Fall at Theater Institute at Sage

- October 6—15: *Cabaret*
- November 25—26: *Santaland Diaries*
- December 1—14: *A Christmas Carol*



## Important Dates

- Fall Semester Classes Begin: August 28
- Last Day for Add/Drop: September 1
- Mid-Semester Break: October 7-10
- Last Day to Withdraw from Fall Course: November 20
- Thanksgiving Break: November 22-26
- Last Day of Classes: December 8
- Spring 2017 Classes Begin: January 16

This summer, the EML Department said goodbye to Dr. David Salomon. Dr. Salomon was a professor in English for 13 years, and is best known for his courses in Shakespeare, the Bible as Literature, and Medieval Literature. He was the faculty advisor of Sigma Tau Delta and the *Quill*. He also served as the Chair of the Department of English from 2005 to 2011, and was an active member of the RSC community. We wish him well in his future endeavors!



Spring 2017 Sigma Tau Delta induction ceremony.  
Congratulations to all new members!

# English and Modern Languages Faculty: What We Did With Our Summers

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## Prof. Matthew Klane

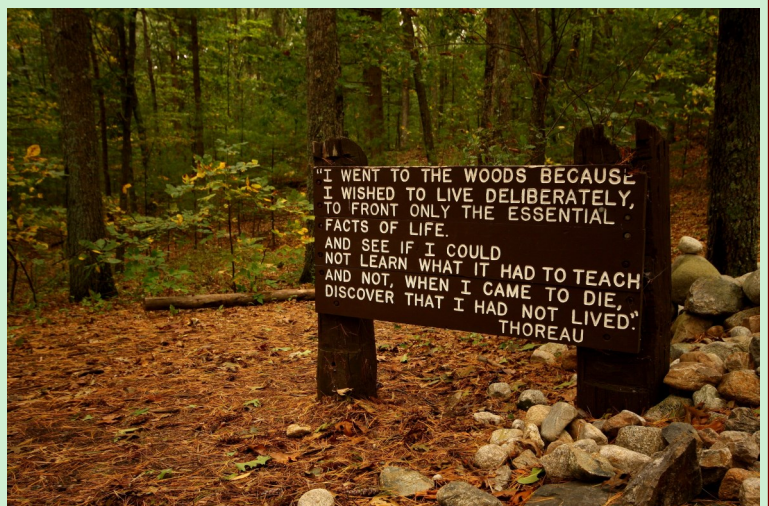
Hello, friends. In June, post-semester, I took off to half-hippie, half-hipster Asheville, NC, for a yearly self-made writing retreat. I spent my time there café-hopping, hiking, sketching poems, and meandering my way through the canon, prepping to teach American Lit 1. July was quiet, but in August, I traveled to Lake Tahoe for my sister's wedding. And then Seattle. And then on a hiking tour of the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska to celebrate my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you see me in the Fall, that means I avoided any deathly whims and/or bear attacks, have returned to New York safely, and am happy to see you.



## Dr. Shealeen Meaney

Professor Meaney started her summer off in Boston, where she attended the American Literature Association Conference and presented a paper on American travel writing. After spending time with friends and family in California she returned to Massachusetts where she spent two weeks studying “Transcendentalism and Reform” as a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer scholar. She visited the homes of Concord writers including Louisa May Alcott, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Ralph Waldo Emerson, attended seminars by Pulitzer Prize winning writers, and carried out research in the Massachusetts Historical Society archives. Along with 23 other scholars she studied the anti-slavery, environmental justice, and women's rights work carried out by 19<sup>th</sup> century authors like Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Lucy Larcom, and others. Thanks to the grant she received from the NEH and the scholars she met through this program she has a new passion for the literature and culture of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and she is excited to be offering a class on this period when she returns to Russell Sage College in fall of 2018.

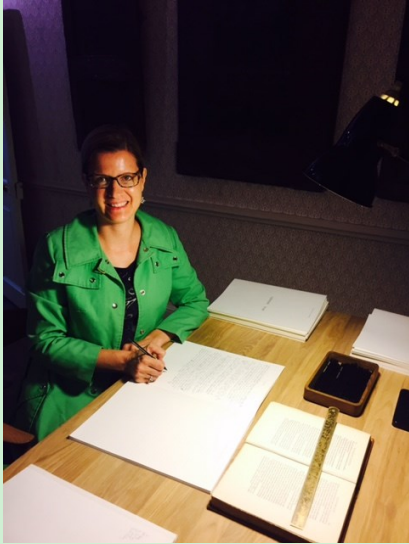
After her time in Concord, Dr. Meaney continued her readings on 19<sup>th</sup> century American culture and began to work with Goa University in India on a revision of their American literature curriculum for Master's level students. Dr. Meaney will be visiting Goa University this winter as a Fulbright scholar, so some of her summer has been spent planning for that adventure. In July and August she spent time kayaking and camping in the Adirondacks, Massachusetts and Maine before heading south to kayak some of the beaches of the Carolinas and view the Solar Eclipse in Charleston, SC.



Famous quote by Henry David Thoreau, which can be found near his cabin & campsite at Walden Pond State Reservation in Massachusetts.



## Dr. Tonya Moutray's Adventures Abroad



Bronte Parsonage Museum. Dr. Moutray contributing to a collaborative handwritten edition of *Wuthering Heights*



Chawton House Library



Haworth Village: Home of the Brontes



Top Withens—possible inspiration for *Wuthering Heights*

This last June, I had the honor of being a Chawton House Library Fellow, located in the village of Chawton, the home of Jane Austen. This year marks the bicentennial of her death so Chawton village and most of Hampshire was alive with Regency fairs, Austen tours, and plenty of visitors. With access to family archives, Austen manuscripts, and works from other 18th- and 19th-century writers, there was much to keep me occupied. I worked on two projects here: Regency-era fashion illustrations and Austen's relationship to English abbeys. With rigorous 7-hour work days, there was still time to visit some local sites, including Netley Abbey (the only abbey we know that Austen visited), the town of Winchester (Austen's burial site), and London.

There is a surge of academic conferences that take place in the UK and Ireland over the summer. I was lucky to be involved in two of them. The first was at the University College Dublin, Ireland. Here I gave a paper on the English novelist and poet Jane Barker (1652-1732). The second was a conference co-sponsored by the University of Notre Dame's Global Gateway Center in London and Durham University. While I did not give a paper here, I had the opportunity to learn more about monastic orders in Europe, meet scholars in my field, and promote my book!



Jane Austen's writing table at the Austen House Museum.



Dr. Moutray's study space at Chawton House Library

My final two days in England were spent at Haworth village, home of the Bronte family. Charlotte and Emily wrote their most famous novels in the Bronte Parsonage in Haworth, where their father served as rector and their infamously rebellious brother, Branwell, caused financial and emotional unrest. It was here that I walked the 6 miles across open moor fields to Top Withens, the ruin fancied to be the inspiration for Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*. The hike to the ruin led me past the famous Bronte rock (with their names engraved), and a waterfall that the sisters often visited. I'm hoping the sisters will forgive me for staying at the Black Bull, the local pub that Branwell frequented! It was haunted, I think, and I let out a sigh of relief when I left.

# English and Modern Languages Faculty: What We Did With Our Summers (con't)

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## Dr. Kate Kagan

Summer is a busiest time of the year. I try to catch up on reading, research, and, of course, spend more time with my family. At the beginning of June, I participated in two Webinars. One was focused on the assessment of the courses and the programs, and another one discussed the use of technology and online tools that can be used for successful learning of the foreign language. The use of them in the classroom represents a significant departure from traditional teaching methods, conducting research, assessing student performance, and learning assurance.

I also was able to spend some quality time on my research to prepare for the conferences where I am going to present. I started to prepare work on the syllabi and Fall courses' curricular. No two classrooms are alike. Summer time provides the important opportunity to look back at the highs and lows of the previous school year. I try to "retool" and "recalibrate" my methods for teaching and assessing student work in ways that best attend to their needs.

Finally, on June, 21 we went to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. The weather was wonderful. We enjoyed every single second there. We swam, played, danced, and ate a lot. We visited Mount Isabel de Torres. The views are absolutely fantastic and it feels like walking in the clouds. We also had a tour around the gardens, forest and looked at the Dominican plant life. A very beautiful statue of Christ the Redeemer is mounted on top of a platform at this location. Another tour was to Damajaqua Cascades (27 Waterfalls). We had many breathtaking moments. You not only see the waterfalls but you become part of them by jumping through them and sliding through them. We saw 12 waterfalls in all.

When we came back on July, 5, we decided to do something exciting every day, so we hiked, had a camp fire, picnicked in Adirondacks, baked, played, visited museums, took a trip to Boston, watched the whales. Every place we visited had something fun and unique to offer.





## Matthew Klane's new E-book!



We are proud to announce that Matthew Klane has published a new e-book, a collection of poems entitled, "My" (published by Fence Digital). Matthew calls it a "A little collection of pressed flowers spritzed with Spirituelles." The e-book was launched in July, and Matthew performed a reading of it in Hudson, NY. He plans on

scheduling further readings in the next few months. We will keep you posted on the details through our EML Facebook page. Congratulations, Matthew!



## WORLD Series

The WORLD Series schedule for Fall 2017 is posted below. All events are on Wednesdays at 1pm in Bush Memorial, and are free and open to all.

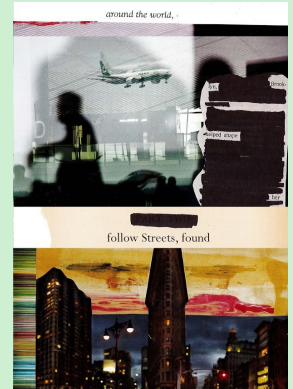
- September 13: "Constitution Day" with Stephanie Batcheller, NYSDA Staff Attorney.
- October 4: Author James Grissom reading from his book, *Follies of God: Tennessee Williams and the Women of the Fog*.
- October 11: "Eyes Wide Open: Human Trafficking in the Capital Region," with Debbie Fowler & Patricia Carley.
- November 8: 2017 Grace Van DerVoort Lecture, "The Role of Green Chemistry in Sustainability" with Mary Kirschhoff, Ph.D.
- November 15: President Christopher Ames will present "White Jazz: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Carl Van Vechten and Race."
- November 29: Film: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

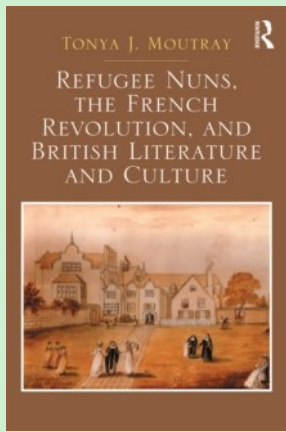
We had three recipients of the Carriage House Award this past spring! Congrats to Courtney Rolnick, Allison Ford, and Katia Davies. Thank you for your contributions to the EML program!

## Medusa

Medusa is Russell Sage's campus-wide creative writing and poetry club. They meet each week to discuss both student and faculty produced work, as well as the poetry of published authors. Meetings take place in the Poetry Room of the library, which affords the opportunity to explore the works of many poets, and to further an understanding of poetry. Under the guidance of Dr. Kelley, members learn to critique their work and share it with other creative writers in a relaxed and encouraging environment. As a community of writers, they participate in the EML Spring Poetry Blitz, and present "Wild Women of Poetry," which supports the annual "Girl Stuff" drive for the YWCA in Troy. Medusa is currently looking for new members and executive council leaders! Questions? Interested in joining? Please contact Dr. Kelley at: [kellee@sage.edu](mailto:kellee@sage.edu).

In April 2016, students, faculty and staff at the Sage Colleges gathered together to create a blackout poetry collection to celebrate National Poetry Month. The resulting work was so amazing that the Sage Colleges Libraries decided to publish some of the poetry from that special event (see image below). This past April (2017), students, faculty and staff gathered in Buchman to create Cento poems (poems using lines built from other poems) and decorated them with images from magazines. These Cento poems have been collected and will be published in a book in the next few months. We can't wait to see how it turns out! (Thanks to Matthew Klane and Amy Pass for their hard work collecting lines and organizing the event!)





Dr. Tonya Moutray's book, *Refugee Nuns, the French Revolution, and British Literature and Culture*, has been published by Routledge. In the study, Moutray shows how writers and the media negotiated the multivalent figure of

the nun during the 1790s, shaping British perceptions of nuns and convents during a time critical to their survival. The RSC library has a copy, or it can be purchased through the M.O.S.S. Bookstore or on Amazon. Congrats, Dr. Moutray!



**Internships can be a vital part of your education and can often lead to a permanent job upon graduation. Contact Dr. Tonya Moutray for more information!**  
**moutrt@sage.edu**

**The New York State Writer's Institute** at the University at Albany features a dynamic list of authors, readings, and films. See the complete Spring schedule at:

<http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst/>



Ever wonder what your professors do

when they're not teaching you in class? Our EML faculty are always hard at work researching and writing, among other things, to learn more about their craft and how to better inform you, the student. Come to French House Annex and take a look at our EML Faculty Publications board, and be sure to congratulate your professors on their amazing accomplishments!

*The Quill* is Russell Sage College's student newspaper. It is currently looking for writers and other staff members. If interested, please contact the current Editor-in-Chief, Sofia Berry, at [berrys@sage.edu](mailto:berrys@sage.edu).

**Who am I? Turn the page for answer.**



## Language Study at Sage

Sage's Culture and Language Acquisition Program (CLAS), in an agreement with and with the support of Rosetta Stone, offers French, German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Portuguese. Please contact Dr. Kate Kagan ([kagane@sage.edu](mailto:kagane@sage.edu)) for more information, or visit:

<https://www.sage.edu/academics/russell-sage-college/culture-and-language-acquisition-at-sage/>

RPI's EMPAC is just up the road from RSC on the corner of 8th St and Congress. They offer a wide variety of lectures, films, and performances, and most are free. See the Fall 2017 Preview Schedule at:

<http://empac.rpi.edu/events/2017/fall>



## Facebook Groups

Current EML students at RSC should join the Facebook group: "English and Modern Languages at Russell Sage College."

Alumni of the Russell Sage College EML programs should join the "Russell Sage College English Alums" group.

**Who am I?** Many of the buildings at RSC and SCA are named after people who played a role in the history of The Sage Colleges. This edition of "Who am I?" is **Helen McKinstry**. Helen McKinstry was the third president of Russell Sage College, serving from 1942-1946. Before acting as president, McKinstry was instrumental in the development of RSC's Physical Education program in the 1930s. The School of Physical Education was an offshoot of New York City's Central School of Hygiene and Physical Education, which was headed by McKinstry and absorbed by Russell Sage College in 1930. McKinstry was close with students, who affectionately nicknamed her "Mother Mac" for her gentle, nurturing personality. This portrait of McKinstry appears in the scrapbook of Eloise Becker, who graduated from RSC in 1941.

Carriage House Notes (unless otherwise noted) is written and designed by Liz Romero, to whom any questions or comments should be directed. Contact her at 518-244-2237 or [romere@sage.edu](mailto:romere@sage.edu).

Last spring, Russell Sage College welcomed Sandra Beasley as the 2017 Carol Ann Donahue Poet. Beasley, a poet and non-fiction writer, is the author of three poetry collections, most recently *Count the Waves* (WW Norton, 2016). Her 2012 book *Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life*, mixes memoir, cultural history, and science. It was a great reading and a great visit for all involved. Thank you, Sandra!



## Writing Studio

REMINDER: The Writing Studio is available for any kind of writing assistance. Relocated to the third floor of the new Shea Library, the Studio has posted hours and tutor schedules outside the office. The Writing Studio will reopen after classes resume. To make an appointment, call 244-6737 or stop by.

Visit them on the web at:

<https://www.sage.edu/academics/academic-advising/> OR

<https://hub.sage.edu/document/academic-support>



## 17-18 Program Directory

- Dr. Kate Kagan, Modern Languages Program Director ([kagane](#), x2238, Carriage House #3)
- Dr. Elizabeth Kelley ([kellee](#), x 4586 Carriage House #7)
- Mr. Matthew Klane ([klanem](#), x4559 French House Annex)
- Dr. Tonya Moutray, English Program Director and Department Chair ([moutrt](#), x2406, Carriage House #5)
- Dr. Shealeen Meaney ([meanes](#), x2404, Carriage House #1)
- Ms. Liz Romero, Department Secretary ([romere](#), x2237, Carriage House #2)