

# The Exact Right Word

The Official Newsletter of William Jewell College's English Department



Dr. Ruth Williams

## A Word From the Chair

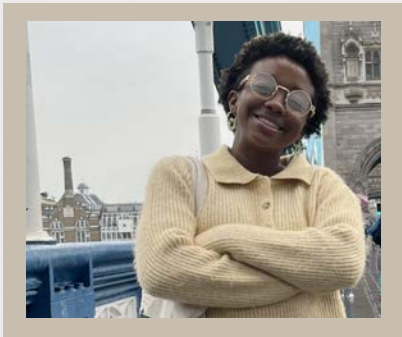
Welcome to the new English Department newsletter! We hope The Exact Right Word will connect our students, faculty, alumni, and others, fostering a sense of community among us as we celebrate our love of literature and language. In each issue, we'll share highlights from our current students and faculty, but we also hope to hear from you too.

## Faculty Highlight: Dr. Sara Morrison

Dr. Sara Morrison is William Jewell's associate dean for the Core Curriculum. During this academic year, she has been working with the CTI 100 faculty team on revisions to the Responsible Self curriculum, and with another team to create a bridge program for students matriculating at William Jewell. This program will be piloted in Fall 2024 along with several new Core courses in Level 2, including A Life Worth Living, Monuments and Memory, and The Science and Practice of Wellbeing. Dr. Morrison taught the English major Capstone in British literature in Fall 2023, which focused on Shakespeare and contemporary adaptations. This topic aligns with her research as well; her most recent publication, "I will not be a frozen example, a statued monument': Self-Actualization After Trauma in Pandosto, The Winter's Tale, and Exit, Pursued by a Bear," is part of an edited collection *Liberating Shakespeare: Adaptation and Empowerment for Young Adult Audiences*, published by Arden Press in 2023. Dr. Morrison is currently completing an essay, "Suit the action to the word, the word to the action': Performance and Promotion of the Humanities in Higher Education," that will be included in *Applied Shakespeare*, an edited collection on Shakespeare and leadership forthcoming from Routledge Press.



*Inscape*, Jewell's student arts magazine, is sponsored by the English Department. Each year, its web and print issues feature creative writing and art by students from across campus; however, not only do many majors contribute their writing and art, English majors often serve as readers and editors. This year, under the leadership of Chief Editor, Baylee Sidden, and Managing Editor, Allie Hillman, *Inscape* organized several events, including a "Bad Art" Night and the 2nd annual release party open mic. Check out the 2023-2024 edition of *Inscape* at [www.wjcinscape.com](http://www.wjcinscape.com).



## Student Highlight: Morgan Mayo, '26



I am an English and Spanish double major. However, after graduating, I plan to attend an accelerated nursing program. With these degrees and experience I plan to become a travel nurse that participates in missions work as well. For example, there are organizations that provide health services to third world countries, and I think that

both English and Spanish are useful for that because I can communicate with people more effectively. Languages are important for connecting people and making people feel seen and heard. The best thing about the major is having similar groups of people in each class because it has helped me build relationships. Being a member of Delta Zeta and the track team has broadened the groups of people I know and am friends with, but being an English major and bonding with the people I have several classes with has enhanced the diversity of my friendships as well.



Our chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, inducted 7 students this year: Ivan Calderon, Simone Collins, Tarryn Fredde, Gunnar Gudehus, Hope Peck, Kaleah Petersen, and Baylee Sidden. This year, under the leadership of Abigail Clifton, Sigma Tau Delta held an erasure poetry event and co-sponsored the *Inscape* release open mic.

### To Incoming English Majors

“To all future students, I would like to say that it is important to strive to understand what you currently do not. It is okay to be ignorant about some things, as long as you intend to keep learning. Expect to change as a person and never fear what is to come.”

- Gunnar Gudehus, '24

“An English degree is about more than reading the classics. It's about media literacy, critical thinking, and understanding humanity. Getting an English degree, especially with the faculty we have here at Jewell, teaches you to be resourceful and imaginative.”

- Samantha Bard, '24

“I would tell incoming students to consider the English major to become better writers, readers, and thinkers. Knowing how to write and read are fundamental skills, and to be truly good at either takes practice. People often think that very few people are good at math, but equally so, very few people are truly good at reading and writing. They are all admirable skills to develop. Use your time at Jewell to pursue things simply for the pursuit of knowledge.”

- Hope Peck, '24



## Achievements

▶ Abigail Clifton, Senior, English and Psychology major, completed an honors project “Rewashing Feminism: An Intersectional and Interlocking Feminist Critique.” She will graduate with honors in May.

▶ Hope Peck, Senior, English and Math major, was a 2023-2024 Faculty Award finalist.

▶ Tarryn Fredde, Junior, English major, placed 2nd in the “entertainment review” category of the 2023 Missouri College Media Association Contest.

▶ Numerous English and OXE majors, including Samantha Bard, Abigail Clifton, Jackson Cooper, Tarryn Fredde, Morgan Mayo, Hope Peck, and Kaleah Petersen presented their creative and scholarly work at the 2023 Duke Colloquium.

“The best thing about being an English major is getting to participate in intense classroom discussions with wonderful and extremely intelligent people. The discussions I have had with my peers, both academically and casually, have been some of the most enlightening, honest, and exciting conversations I have had at Jewell. There is something unexplainable about having conversations with people who love what they are learning about and have diverse experiences and perspectives to bring to the table. These discussions have made a large impact on my life and will continue to influence the way that I see the world.”  
- Abigail Clifton, ‘24

## Alum Highlight: Jonathan Simcosky, ‘06

Jonathan is the Senior Acquiring Editor for Quarry Books and Rockport Publishers, imprints of the Quarto Group. His job is “to find ideas for books that I think my Publisher should publish, convince my Publisher of the same, and then work with authors to develop those ideas into coherent, effective (and hopefully bestselling!) books.” This means he needs to “read widely, be sensitive to distinctive authorial voices, advocate for readers, and try to keep information clearly organized.”



“Like any good story, no one's path is straight and predictable: pursue the opportunities that come to you (especially the weird ones), ask for help when something's hard (don't assume you should be able to do it yourself), and cultivate your own voice and expertise (which are the most valuable assets you can bring to any project).”

## Alum Highlight: Laura Bramon Hassan, ‘00

“As you develop your professional life, keep your creative life going: read, write, and befriend people who are grappling with transcendent questions. Your heart and mind will mature and deepen, and you will develop an intellectual intuition, creativity, and agility that prepares you to lead among your peers.”



Laura serves as a Principal Consultant for Ascend, a human rights-focused government relations agency in Washington, DC. She has spent nearly twenty years working in global development and humanitarian issues, focusing on child protection, education, and human trafficking. She began her career as a journalist at BBC-Cambridgeshire and KCUR-FM, Kansas City's NPR station, and has worked in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Middle East, and the United States. She now lives in the Washington, D. C. area with her family.

**Student Book Recommendations**

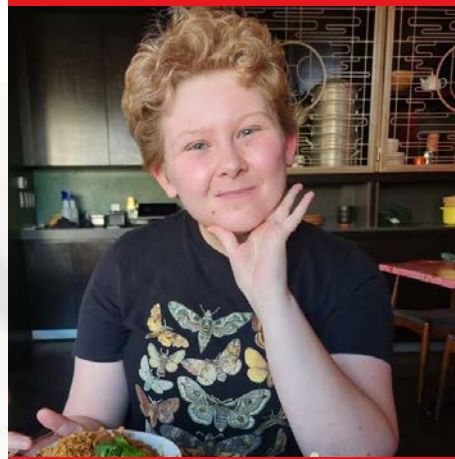
"I enjoy *The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection* by Arthur Conan Doyle. The stories are short but captivating, with an amazing amount of detail and creativity in the crimes and how Holmes solves them using simple deductions." - Jackson Cooper, '25

"*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr is a historical fiction novel about WWII. Doerr tells a beautiful story about a blind girl in France who reads "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" which is a code to aid in the war effort. This is an incredible story that keeps you hooked from the beginning." - Clare Benton, '25



"The best thing about being an English major is being able to pick out subtle rhetorical things from movies and media. It's a wonderful party trick. I also love being exposed to a plethora of diverse texts when I'm not sure where to find them."

**Allie Hillman, '25**



**Aspiring Librarian**

**Aspiring PR or Marketing Professional**

**Gunnar Gudehus, '24**



"One of the great things about being a part of the English program is getting a deeper look at the intellectual canon that has developed global societies into what they are today. There is a real focus on understanding a variety of perspectives that make up a tapestry of expression."

**Cool Books You'll Get to Read as an English Major**

- The Complete Persopolis* (World Literature)
- Never Let Me Go* (Introduction to Textual Studies)
- Titus Andronicus* (Advanced English Literature)
- Dracula* (Introduction to Textual Studies)
- Savage Conversations* (US Minority Literature)
- Slouching Towards Bethlehem* (US Literature)

Questions about the English major?  
Contact Dr. Ruth Williams  
williamsr@william.jewell.edu

