

Hello/Hola/Salut from the Department of Language, Literature, & Cultural Studies!

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1) STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



On Monday, December 2, English BA Major **Kevin Lopez-Cruz** was appointed to serve a two-year term on the City of Bowie's Diversity Committee. Acting on behalf of the City Council, Kevin is tasked with advising city diversity and cultural issues, promoting inclusivity in city practices, and helping to plan cultural events such as the Martin Luther King Jr. Art Contest and Bowie's International Festival. Additionally, he will serve as a liaison between the Latino community and the Diversity Committee.

2) SIGMA TAU DELTA CEREMONY



The Bowie State University Nu Nu Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta inducted six new members on Monday, December 9: English majors **Imani Burke**, **Iliana Mays**, and **Faith Nwachuku** and English Master of Arts students **Cierra Gamble**, **Rachel Keeyes**, and **Sherena Willford**. Founded in 1924, Sigma Tau Delta celebrates its hundredth anniversary this year; chapter advisors **Dr. Kim Evelyn** and **Dr. Sabah Uddin** are pleased to recognize the accomplishments of these centennial inductees. Congratulations to the new members!

3) FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professor Shelagh Johnson's short story collection *A History of Existing Life* was shortlisted for the Broken Tribe Press 2024 Fiction Prize.

Dr. Horacio Sierra's latest article, "[An Interview with National Leaders in the Arts and the Humanities,](#)" was published in the inaugural issue of *Public Humanities* – an open-access scholarly journal published by Cambridge University Press. On November 19, Dr. Sierra provided the Keynote Address at the National Student Poets Program Ceremony at the Kennedy Center.

Professor Christopher Murray used his book *First Draft: A Collection of Stories Chronicling Race, Sports, and Social Justice* to give the presentation, "Black Girl Magic in Sports in the Diaspora" on November 7 at the CSMN Beacon Room. The presentation, which was sponsored by BSU's Department of History and Government's DuBois Center discussed the outstanding performances and challenges of Black women around the world at the Olympics from 2016 in Brazil to 2024 in Paris. On December 7, Professor Murray had a book signing at the Enon Baptist Tabernacle Church's Community Empowerment Day in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. The event was sponsored by WURD Radio, the only Black-owned News Talk in the state of Pennsylvania.

4) THE TORCH – FALL 2024 ISSUE



BSU's creative writing journal, *The Torch*, has just released its latest issue. You can read it here and learn how to contribute to the next issue here: <https://bowiestate.edu/academics/colleges/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/language-literature-and-cultural-studies/the-torch/index.php>

For our Fall 2024 issue, we decided to move away from a set theme, instead inviting contributors to create freely and without constraints. The result is a beautifully varied array of pieces capturing the diversity of artistic ideas and expression. At the same time, this issue also illuminates the unity of human experiences and the commonalities shared within this open space. Not surprisingly, the guiding principle that seems to weave these different works together is love in all its complex forms.

From poems that muse on the search for love and the landscapes of heartbreak, to photographs showing moments of tenderness and connection, art exploring the love that stems from cultural and communal identity, and prose that examines new love, platonic love, lost love, and enduring love, this issue reminds us of that which connects us. It is a celebration of both the boundless creativity that arises from individuality, and the unifying power of art in a world that often seeks to divide. We hope it will serve as a reminder to our readers to keep creating and keep connecting.

5) SPRING 2025 COURSES

Meet with your Academic Advisor ASAP so you can register for your Spring 2025 courses.

ENGL 210: Intro to English Grammar - T/R 11:00 - Dr. Basena

ENGL 210: Intro to English Grammar - T/R 12:30 - Dr. Basena

ENGL 211: Literatures of the World - Online Asynchronous 2nd Seven Weeks - Dr. Sierra

ENGL 212: African American Literary Imagination - T/R 11:00 - Dr. Love

ENGL 256: Intro to Creative Writing - T/R 11:00
 ENGL 261: Gender, Culture, & Identity - T/R 11:00 Hybrid - Dr. Uddin
 ENGL 302: British Literature II - MWF 11:00 - Dr. Kaloustian
 ENGL 317: American Literature II - T/R 3:30 - Prof. Johnson
 ENGL 325: African American Literature II - T/R 9:30 - Dr. Love
 ENGL 333: Graphic Novels - MWF 10:00 - Hybrid 1st Seven Weeks - Dr. Sierra
 ENGL 337: Literature for Adolescents - W 5:30 - Dr. Gross
 ENGL 357: Creative Writing III: Fiction - T/R 2:00
 ENGL 358: Creative Writing III: Poetry - MWF 11:00
 ENGL 380: Identity & Social Media - MWF 12:00 - Dr. Uddin
 ENGL 408: Shakespeare & Film - MW 12:00 Hybrid - Dr. Sierra
 ENGL 437: History of Literary Criticism and Theory - M 5:30 - Dr. Kaloustian
 ENGL 438: Seminar for Majors and Minors - T/R 2:00 - Dr. Kaloustian
 ENGL 445: Advanced Grammar - T 5:30 - Dr. Basena
 ENGL 455: Advanced Creative Writing I - T 5:30 - Dr. Love
 JAPN 101: Intro to Japanese Language & Culture I – MWF 12:00 – Prof. Seat
 JAPN102: Intro to Japanese Language & Culture II – MWF 1:00 – Prof. Seat

6) JOB OPPORTUNITY: LOUDOUN COUNTY SPECIAL ED TEACHER PATHWAY




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7) SIGMA TAU DELTA



Sigma Tau Delta welcomes new members.

Membership Requirements:

- Candidates for undergraduate membership must have completed a minimum of two college courses in English language or literature beyond the usual requirements in freshman English. The candidate must have a minimum of a B or equivalent average in English and in general scholarship and must have completed at least three semesters or five quarters of college course work. Candidates for undergraduate membership need not be majoring or minoring in the discipline of English.
- Candidates for graduate membership who did not hold undergraduate membership must be enrolled in a graduate program in English or one of its specializations, have completed six semester hours of graduate work or the equivalent, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale.
- Lifetime Membership Fee: \$80. \$40 goes to the Nu Nu chapter, which will bestow you with Honor Cords and a Medallion at your Induction Ceremony that you can wear during graduation. The other \$40 goes to Sigma Tau Delta's national office, which will supply you with your Sigma Tau Delta society pin and certificate. **LLCS can help pay for your membership fees.**

Email Dr. Kim Evelyn for more information: kevelyn@bowiestate.edu

To learn more about Membership Benefits, please click here: <http://english.org/members/benefits.shtml>