

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

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## 1) ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Chisom Okeahilamagbara** (BA English) is now a Fifth Grade Teacher at High Bridge Elementary School in Prince George's County.



**Tilar Roberts** (BA English) is now a Lead Litigation Assistant at The Law Offices of Chantal M. Joseph in Greenbelt, Maryland.



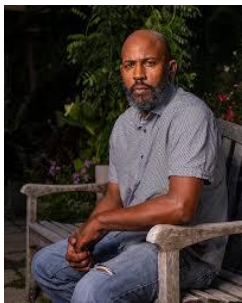
**Joseph Vivens** (MA English) has created a podcast entitled *Wizarding Black Lit* that is available on Spotify. The podcast dives into the magical realm of literature. Joseph reimagines beloved works of Black literature, envisioning their casting and production as epic movies or captivating TV shows. From classic tales to contemporary masterpieces, each episode transports you to a world where imagination knows no bounds.

Joseph has also released two short stories available on the Amazon Kindle: “The S.O.S.” and “The Wave.”

“The S.O.S.”: Delve into a captivating narrative where Evan, a real estate agent facing adversity, encounters ‘The Rapper S.O.S.,’ a mysterious figure of the streets. In his quest for relief from debilitating allergies, Evan stumbles upon what appears to be a miraculous solution. Yet, fueled by the allure of wealth, Evan’s journey takes a dark turn as S.O.S. guards a secret that could shatter his dreams. Explore the complexities of desire and deception in this gripping tale. <https://amzn.to/3ZmG7IF>

“The Wave”’: Join Sam as he bursts with anticipation, eagerly awaiting his first baseball game with his dad. Every detail, from the car ride to the stadium to the heartwarming moments shared between father and son, is etched into his memory. Joseph Vivens masterfully crafts a tale that skillfully blends heartwarming moments with chilling twists, delving deep into the essence of a child’s fear and isolation. Follow Sam’s gripping journey as he navigates the highs and lows of a day that will shape him forever. <https://amzn.to/3Xqsndo>

## 2) FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

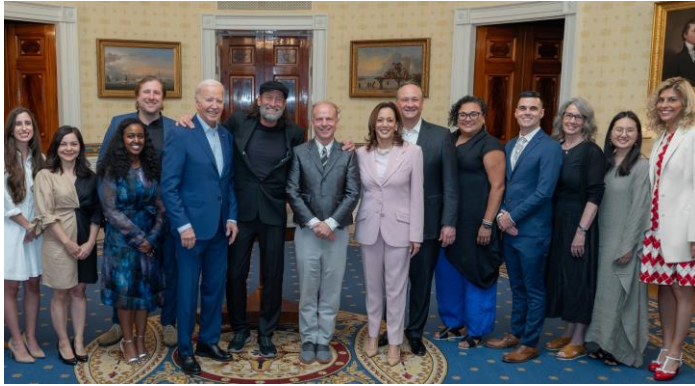


**Professor Hoke Glover** discussed his new book *Crazy As Hell: The Best Little Guide to Black History* along with co-author V. Efuia Prince at DC’s Politics & Prose in June and at DC’s Solid State Books in August.



**Professor Shelagh Johnson** released a TedX Talk entitled “Creative Writing: A Transformational Practice.” The talk centers around the therapeutic power of writing. It explores how honest, vulnerable writing allows people to share experiences and lessen burdens of trauma

and grief, and how joyful writing can serve as refuge. This talk also examines the role of creative writing classes at HBCUs: the need for young, Black voices, the importance of their shared stories, and the value of writing as a healing practice in college classrooms. One of the main takeaways from this talk will be how we all can empower and transform ourselves through writing, gain agency over our experiences by sharing those experiences, and feel emboldened to tell our unique stories. You can view Professor Johnson’s TedX Talk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cEqXN2UbEU>



**Dr. Horacio Sierra** provided the Keynote Address at the Fall Faculty Convocation at Fresno City College in California in August. His talk was entitled “Telling Stories: Nurturing the Budding Intellectual through the Arts & Humanities.”

**Dr. Horacio Sierra** also had the privilege of attending the White House’s Juneteenth Celebration and meeting President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris alongside his fellow members on the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

### 3) FSL CAREERS IN THE HUMANITIES CONVERSATION: SEPTEMBER 18

**FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY**

DISCOVERING

Past, Folger Institute "Whose Democracy?" Fellow

Libraries & Theaters as Locations of Cultural Conversations and Freedom: Learning with Dr. Patricia Akhimie, Director of the Folger Institute

**September 18: 12-1 pm** - "Careers in the Humanities: A Conversation with Dr. Akhimie and Folger staff." Communications and Humanities Bldg., Room 3510

Expand your thoughts about locations of influence and where you might find a professional home.

An event sponsored by the Dept. of Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies, the College of Arts & Sciences, and the Marshall Library. For more information, please call 301.680.3678.


All are invited to join Dr. Sierra’s ENGL 301: British Literature I class on Wednesday, September 18, 12:00-1:00, in MLK 3510 as Dr. Patricia Akhimie, Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library Institute, and her staff talk about the library and the kinds of careers that are available to students in the Humanities.

Dr. Akhimie and her staff will also hold office hours from 11:00-12:00 and 1:00-2:00 in MLK 3402. Stop by to learn about paid internship and job opportunities at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

#### 4) ENGLISH MAJORS BREAKFAST: OCTOBER 9

Join your fellow English Majors and Minors on Wednesday, October 9, 9:30-10:30 am for a breakfast in the LLCS Conference Room, MLK 3320.

#### 5) SIGMA TAU DELTA CONFERENCE IN ST. MARY'S, MARYLAND: OCTOBER 21



**STORY TELLING | NARRATIVE AND HUMANITY**

This Sigma Tau Delta Eastern Regional Conference seeks to explore the idea of storytelling in all its forms, genres, and modes: narrative, prose, poetry, lyric, drama, film, television, new media, and the possibilities go on.

We invite proposals of individual papers or complete panels on any topic or area of inquiry related to "Storytelling: Narrative and Humanity." Possible topics and questions could include but are not limited to:

- Storytelling under the new conditions of AI-generated text.
- Storytelling and emerging digital modalities and publishing platforms.
- A specific writer, form, region, period, or genre's idea of storytelling.
- The purpose, limits, or ethics of storytelling.
- Storytelling as a mode of disclosing and exploring identity, or how storytelling fails to adequately convey identity.
- Is narrative uniquely human? Do non-human stories exist?
- Storytelling amid ongoing ecological devastation.
- The value of storytelling as one value of the English Major.

Conference participants may engage the conference theme specifically, but we also invite broader and more creative interpretations of the topic. Papers and creative writing produced in courses or independent studies are welcome.

Students should send their 200-word proposal as an attachment to [LIT@msmary.edu](mailto:LIT@msmary.edu) and include the following information:

- Author/participant name(s) and academic status, including Sigma Tau Delta membership (membership not necessary)
- Paper/Panel title
- Name of institution

Registration for the conference is free.

**DEADLINES** August 11: Priority Submissions Deadline  
September 1: Final Deadline (papers accepted on a rolling basis until this date)

Sigma Tau Delta Eastern Regional Conference  
**Storytelling  
Narrative and Humanity**  
September 21, 2024, 9 am - 3:30 pm ET  
Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, Maryland  
(Zoom option available)

#### 6) SIGMA TAU DELTA HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH POETRY WRITING CHALLENGE

Sigma Tau Delta is thrilled to partner with the [League of United Latin American Citizens](#) (LULAC) for a dynamic Poetry Writing Challenge in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month 2024.

Join us as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by embracing Diaz's profound exploration of heritage, identity, and human experience. Let your voice be heard through poetry, honoring the spirit of creativity and cultural expression. Together, we're shaping a narrative that echoes the vibrancy and resilience of Hispanic communities and cultural identities across the nation and beyond.

Click here for more

information: <https://www.english.org/events/commonreader/hispanicheritagemonth.shtml>

## 7) *THE TORCH* – SPRING 2024 ISSUE

# THE TORCH



*The Torch* is BSU's official creative writing journal. Housed in LLCS and edited by English Majors, *The Torch* contains poetry, fiction, and visual arts from students at BSU and other universities. Check out the latest issue

here: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/academics/colleges/college-of-arts-and-sciences/departments/language-literature-and-cultural-studies/the-torch/>

## 8) 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](mailto:kevelyn@bowiestate.edu)

To learn more about Membership Benefits, please click here:

<http://english.org/members/benefits.shtml>