

Hello/Hola/Salut/こんにちは from the Department of Language, Literature, & Cultural Studies!

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1) STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

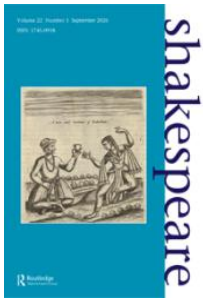


English Major Kevin Lopez Cruz and Folger Institute Director Dr. Patricia Akhimie

This spring, English major **Kevin Lopez Cruz** completed a paid internship at the Folger Shakespeare Library under the supervision of Director of Learning and Education Programs, David Kilpatrick, thanks to the Internship Placement of **Dr. Horacio Sierra**. While at the Folger, Kevin assisted with event production, public education events, and acting workshops offered to K-12 students in the Folger Theater.

In August, **Kevin Lopez Cruz** published an essay in Sigma Tau Delta's *Wordy*. The essay discusses how the skills he has perfected as an English Major have prepared him for various internships as well as the duties and responsibilities of working in public service. You can read his essay here: <https://english.org/wordy-by-nature/what-my-english-degree-has-taught-me-about-public-service/>

2) FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Dr. Horacio Sierra's essay "No One Mourns the Innocent: Trauma, Child Death, and Dynastic Consolidation in Shakespeare" was recently published in *Shakespeare*, the peer-reviewed journal of the British Shakespeare Association.

The article examines how Shakespeare's *King John*, *Richard III*, and *Macbeth* position children as instruments of dynastic consolidation and as subjects whose suffering generates traumatic afterlives. It argues that while the elimination of children serves immediate political ends by removing rival claimants and stabilizing contested regimes, Shakespeare refuses to contain such violence within the paradigm of political necessity. Instead, the plays expose a paradox: regimes seeking to secure the future depend upon destroying those who most fully embody it, thereby undermining their own moral and political legitimacy. You can read Dr. Sierra's article here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17450918.2026.2696381>



Dr. Monifa Love is the winner of the 2026 Nicholas Schaffner Award for Music in Literature. As a result, her poetry collection *After the Rain* will be published in 2027 by Schaffner Press. The Award celebrates the life of Publisher Tim Schaffner's brother: a poet, musician, biographer, and esteemed music critic. Speaking of *After the Rain*, publisher Tim Schaffner said, "I was deeply moved by this collection that encompasses a broad variety of themes and experiences in a manner that is lyrical and deeply considered. Moreover, in its explorations of various forms of music and musicality, Monifa Love has beautifully exemplified the award's aim and themes."



Dr. Latifa Zoulagh's essay "Writing the Body, Writing for the Body: Does the Tattoo Emerge as an Emblem of Defiance or a Manifestation of Reluctance?" was recently published in *Alternative Francophone*.

The article delves into the intricate landscape of Moroccan society, a traditional Arab-Muslim milieu often perceived as a realm where women are confined. Yet, within this cloistered existence, the emergence of the female voice manifests a rich tapestry of women's writing. This literary production is deeply woven into

collective feminine traditions, such as the enduring practices of tattooing and henna calligraphy, which serve as the foundation for a contemporary artistic and literary expression. By illuminating the female body as a canvas of liberation, these archaic forms of writing emerge as vital markers in the reclamation of feminine identity, reflecting the resolute spirit of Moroccan women in their quest for empowerment. You can read Dr. Zoulagh's article here: <https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/af/index.php/af/en/article/view/29554>



Professor Shelagh Johnson's short story "Lovegrove" was published in the July issue of *Ghost Parachute*. You can read it here: <https://ghostparachute.com/issue/july-2026-issue/lovegrove/>. Professor Johnson will appear on the PEN/Faulker Lit Show with National Book Award winner Alice McDermott at the Keegan Theater on October 27th. You can learn more about it here: <https://www.penfaulkner.org/literary-programs/the-lit-show/>

Professor Christopher Murray was a panelist at the National Association of Black Journalists Convention on August 15, where he took part in a discussion about the increase in the number of Black sportswriters covering Major League Baseball despite the lack of African-American players. Professor Murray also wrote an article for *The Philadelphia Sun*, "Story of a People," that focused on how teams and players from Africa and the African Diaspora defined the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

3) BSU'S *THE SPECTRUM*

The Spectrum is Bowie State's student-led independent newspaper since 1979. *The Spectrum* is currently hiring writers, contributors, social media, and videographers. Interest meetings will be held September 9th and 14th from 12pm-1pm in MLK 2307. English majors and minors are encouraged to contribute or write. Please fill out the interest form here: <https://forms.gle/x375YxSmZqkQNRJu7>

4) VERMONT STUDIO CENTER RESIDENCY



VSC WRITING RESIDENCIES

Vermont Studio Center offers writers residencies in an inclusive, international community, honoring creative work as the communication of spirit through form. Nestled in the Green Mountains of Vermont, VSC provides private lodging, studios, fresh meals, and a vibrant Visiting Writers Program for varying residency lengths.

Open Call for Applications: February 15 to March 31 • August 15 to September 30

WRITING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT VERMONT STUDIO CENTER

VSC Full and Partial Fellowships Designated for exceptional writers, based on the merit of their work.	Poets & Writers Fellowship Recent participants in Poets & Writers' publicity incubator, Get the Word Out (GTWO), are invited to apply for a fully funded three-week residency. This award includes a \$1,000 stipend. The fellowship will be available to fiction writers and poets in alternate years. The 2027 Poets & Writers Fellowship will be offered to a poet.	Trout Lily Fellowship Supports a writer with financial need attending a three-week residency. This fellowship includes a \$1000 stipend.
Civil Society Institute Fellowship Supports a US writer of color with demonstrable financial need.	Susanna Colloredo Fellowship Established in honor of Susanna Colloredo for a writer whose creative work directly engages environmental issues, awareness, and the planet's complex challenges. This is a fellowship for a writer whose creative work directly engages environmental issues.	Voices Rising Fellowship Honors and supports Black American women fiction writers. Each award includes a \$2,000 stipend.
First Timer Fellowship Supports a writer who is attending VSC for the first time. This Fellowship was started by past Visiting Artist, David Humphrey with support from alumni.	The Brown University MFA Fellowship This partnership with Brown University's Literary Arts MFA offers one fully funded three-week residency for a currently enrolled writer.	Helen Zell Writers' Program Fellowship Supports one poet in their first-year currently enrolled in the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program for a four-week residency.

Explore residency and fellowship offerings at [VERMONTSTUDIOCENTER.ORG/FELLOWSHIPS](https://vermontstudiocenter.org/fellowships) or for more information email info@vermontstudiocenter.org or call 802-635-2727

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Artists and writers are invited to apply for a Vermont Studio Center residency. Sessions run for two, three, and four weeks, and include resident presentations, open studios, and an acclaimed Visiting Artists & Writers program. Applications will be accepted through September 30, 2026. This Open call will fill session from July 2027 to December 2027. Click here to learn more: <https://vermontstudiocenter.org/apply>

5) JAPANESE CULTURE APPRECIATION DAY: OCTOBER 28



JAPANESE CULTURE APPRECIATION DAY
OCTOBER 28, 2026
THE BEACON ROOM
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Email Dr. Horacio Sierra: hsierra@bowiestate.edu

- Anime Screening & Panel
- Embassy of Japan Presentation
- JET Program Presentation
- Origami Workshop
- Traditional Japanese Music Performance
- Haiku Workshop
- Tea Ceremony

BOWIE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Thanks to a Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission grant received by **Dr. Horacio Sierra**, BSU will host its second Japanese Culture Appreciation Day on October 28 in the Beacon Room. The day will feature discussion of anime, a presentation from Japanese Embassy Education Counsellor Hiroshi Ando, a presentation from the JET Program (which allows recent college graduates to teach in Japan), a traditional Japanese music performance, an origami workshop, a haiku workshop, an ongiri workshop, a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, and lunch.

6) 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. The department can help you pay for your fees.

Email **Dr. Horacio Sierra** for more information: hsierra@bowiestate.edu

To learn more about Membership Benefits, please click here: <https://english.org/join-us/membership-benefits/>