

2014 ENG Phonathon

Alumni should contact the department head for the department of their degree:

English (ENG):

WD Blackmon, 836-5155

SCRIPTING INFORMATION

What this year's gifts will support, and why support/funding for those things is important:

English

- Supports student travel to professional conferences (closely mentored by faculty in that same field) for both graduate and undergraduate students.
- Guest speakers/lecturers: Will continue to bring to campus contemporary nationally renowned fiction and poetry authors, professionals in fields our students are studying in, to campus for readings and presentations and to work with students in groups or even with outstanding individual students, when possible.
- Funds student scholarships.

Last year's Annual Fund gifts were used to...

English

- Funded travel for 13 students to present their work at conferences: Sigma Tau Delta Annual Conference, College Composition and Communication Conference, the Pop Culture Association Annual Conference, The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, and the Rhetoric Society of America Conference.
- Sponsored creative writing authors reading their work: Nancy Allen, Phong Nguyen, George Saunders, Kerry James Evans, William Trowbridge, and Daniel Woodrell. Both Daniel Woodrell and George Saunders are authors noted nationally and internationally, for example, Saunders won the MacArthur "Genius" Grant and was named one of the one hundred most influential people in the world in 2013 by TIME magazine.

Scholarships: How many scholarships were you able to award this year? What percent of your students rely on some kind of financial aid?

English: 28 departmental scholarships, of which 11 are need-based, ranging from \$100 to \$2000.

Study abroad/Study away: How many students are able to study abroad currently? Are there new countries or locations that are now accessible for study abroad? How many more places were students able to travel to (if study abroad program exists already)? How was your study abroad program enhanced?

N/A

Students: What student resources were you able to expand/continue recently? How do these resources enhance a student's education?

English:

- Expanded number of available databases for students to access reference collections and newspapers, also recently acquired reference books for Writing and Literature majors.
- Moon City Press, the press established and operated by the English Department, started a program trading publications with other small presses to be used for an honor-system library.

Equipment: How many new pieces of equipment, technology or resources were purchased for classrooms and labs? What is the significance of these upgrades?

N/A

Community outreach/programs: Have you been able to begin any new initiatives with community outreach? How many people do you affect with your existing programs? What is the goal of these programs? What do you hope these programs can accomplish for the future?

English

Students in the Creative Writing classes go to the Boys & Girls Club several times a semester to work with young students. They work with them to write their own personal stories. The young students are allowed to choose from a number of photo prompts or other writing prompts and asked to write their own stories. It is a valuable and productive opportunity for the Boys & Girls Club students as well as the MSU students. The English Department Community Fiction Group has expanded remarkably this past year.

Attractions: Were you able to offer any guest speakers, visiting professors or exhibits to your students last year? How do those experiences impact your students?

English: Reading series each fall and spring presents the work of faculty and students. Have included creative writing authors reading their work: Nancy Allen, Phong Nguyen, George Saunders, Kerry James Evans, William Trowbridge, and Daniel Woodrell. Both Daniel Woodrell and George Saunders are authors noted nationally and internationally, for example, Saunders won the MacArthur "Genius" Grant and was named one of the one hundred most influential people in the world in 2013 by TIME magazine.

How can the School/College/Department benefit from gifts at the following levels? (For example: \$50 buys a journal subscription for the library, or four gifts of \$250 add up to a scholarship for a student. Please provide as many examples as possible.)

English

- \$50.00 buys a current books we keep on file for our Creative Writing students to find publishers names and addresses used in their classes.
- \$100.00-250.00 provides a scholarship
- \$250.00 provides needed software programs for our Technical Writing students in one of our computer labs.
- \$1,000.00 brings a top-level speaker to campus for our students and the community.

2-3 themes/messages you would like included in your scripts (ideally these would be tied to the Annual Fund):

News from the last year:

English

- The English Department has recently added two Accelerated Masters Programs: The M.S. Ed. Accelerated Masters and the M.A. in Writing-Professional Writing Track Accelerated Masters.
- As one of our dozens of examples of student publications, Natalie Byers, an English Department Graduate Assistant, had a poem published in the 2014 winter edition of *Foothill a Journal of Poetry*.

Points of pride/key talking points (also see above information):

English

- Job placement for Professional Writing (Technical Writing) students remains close to 100%, and the undergraduate degree leads to one of the highest-paying careers of any four-year college degree.
- Our English Education program is the largest and most successful in the state.
- Our Undergraduate Creative Writing Program is one of the largest and most attractive to students in the country.
- The English Department has two of the seven Distinguished Professors on campus (out of roughly 750 MSU faculty members).

Major changes in the past 12 months i.e. prominent faculty or staff retired/departed, building renovations, programs eliminated, organizational changes:

English

- Dr. Rhonda Stanton, recent graduate of the most respected university for Technical Writing in the country began a new appointment in the MSU Professional Writing Program in fall of 2013.
- Newly appointed faculty member, Dr. Catherine English (yes, English in English) has a special research focus on place-based writing, a perfect fit for MSU's Public Affairs Mission.

Upcoming alumni events:

N/A