

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

Table of Contents:

- 1) Student Accomplishments
- 2) Alumni Accomplishments
- 3) Faculty Accomplishments
- 4) Spring 2027 Courses
- 5) Japanese Culture Appreciation Day: October 28
- 6) LGBT Professionals Panel: October 22
- 7) Creative Writing Opportunity: *The Torch*
- 8) Creative Writing Opportunity: *Madison Journal of Literary Criticism*
- 9) BSU Career and Internship Fair: November 4
- 10) Sigma Tau Delta

1) STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



A Case Study from Dowden Chapel

Kevin Lopez Cruz, Maryland State Archives

English major **Kevin Lopez Cruz's** article “Preparing Community Records for Digitization: A Case Study from Dowden Chapel” was published in *Archival Outlook*, a publication of the Society of American Archivists, the oldest and largest national professional association dedicated entirely to the archival profession in North America. Developed through his work as a Special Collections Intern with the Maryland State Archives, Kevin reflects on the Dowden Chapel project, which focuses on digitizing materials connected to a 19th-century Black chapel and cemetery in Nottingham, Maryland, for future digitization and public access. You can read the article on Page 8 here: <https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=865926&p=0&view=issueViewer>

The following English Majors earned a spot on the Spring 2026 Dean’s List thanks to having a GPA of 3.5 or higher:

Amberleigh Curry

Ranesia Duval

Kai Hall

Sean Henderson

Nyela Hendrix

Jordan Hughes

Taylor Johnson

Naomi Morgan

Jessica Myles

Faith Nwachuku Taite

Lynn Obianwu
Sierra Smith

The following students were awarded the \$7,500 James Patterson Scholarship for English Majors:

Amberleigh Curry

Jamond Gholson

Kai Hall

Kevin Lopez-Cruz

Taylor Johnson

Jessica Myles

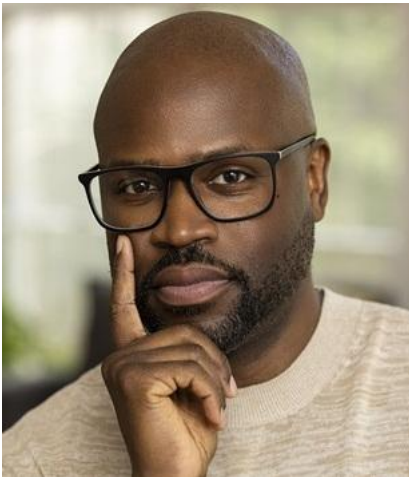
Iliana Mays

Sierra Smith

Naila Trench-Muhammad

Shannon Smith

2) ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



BSU recently published an Alumni Success piece on **Joseph Vivens** (BA English 2023), chronicling his successes as an author and filmmaker. You can read it here: <https://bowiestate.edu/about/news/2026/joseph-vivens-23-creatively-finds-his-way-home-at-bowie-state.php>

3) FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KRAMERS

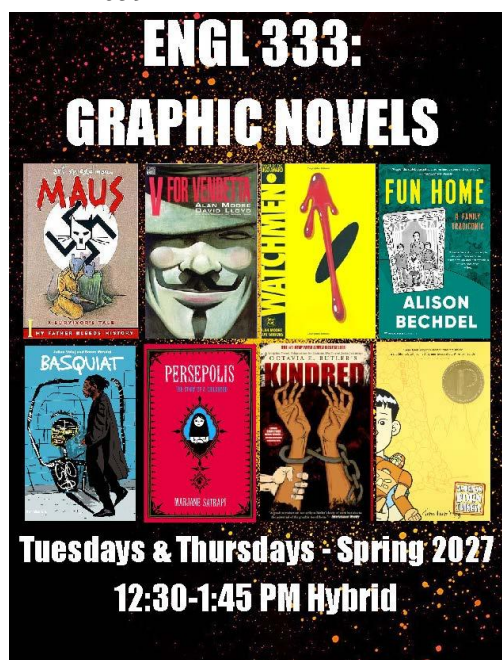
Professor Shelagh Johnson will read from her work and participate in an author talk moderated by Rion Scott at Kramer Books in Washington, D.C. on November 11th. You can learn more about the event here:

<https://kramers.com/events/6035120261111>

4) SPRING 2027 COURSES

Meet with your Academic Advisor so you can review your academic requirements and register for Spring 2027 courses.

ENGL 210 – Introduction to English Grammar — Tue/Thu 12:30–1:50 PM — Latifa Zoulagh
ENGL 211 – Literatures of the World (1st 7 weeks) — Online Asynchronous — Horacio Sierra
ENGL 211 – Literatures of the World (2nd 7 weeks) — Online Asynchronous — Horacio Sierra
ENGL 256 – Introduction to Creative Writing — Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00–10:50 AM — Shelagh Johnson
ENGL 260 – Creative Writing II: Non-Fiction Prose — Tue/Thu 12:30–1:50 PM — Monifa Love
ENGL 302 – British Literature II — Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00–10:50 AM — David Kaloustian
ENGL 317 – American Literature II — Mon/Wed/Fri 11:00–11:50 AM — Shelagh Johnson
ENGL 325 – African American Literature II — Tue/Thu 11:00 AM–12:20 PM — Monifa Love
ENGL 333 – Graphic Novels — Tue/Thu 12:30–1:45 PM Hybrid — Horacio Sierra
ENGL 380 – Identity and Social Media — Tue/Thu 11:00 AM–12:20 PM Hybrid — Sabah Uddin
ENGL 408 – Shakespeare and Film/New Media — Tue/Thu 11:00 AM–12:20 PM — David Kaloustian
ENGL 413 – Perception, Politics, and Pleasure: Film and American Society — TBA — Monifa Love
ENGL 417 – Contemporary American Literature — Tue/Thu 9:30–10:50 AM — Monifa Love
ENGL 437 – History of Literary Criticism and Theory — Tue/Thu 12:30–1:50 PM — David Kaloustian
ENGL 438 – Seminar for Majors and Minors — Mon/Wed/Fri 12:00–12:50 PM — David Kaloustian
ENGL 545 – Advanced Grammar — Thu 5:00–7:30 PM — Latifa Zoulagh
ENGL 615 – Special Topics in Autobiographical Literature — Wed 5:30–8:00 PM — Monifa Love
ENGL 656 – Seminar in British Literature — Tue 5:00–7:30 PM — Horacio Sierra
ENGL 659 – Seminar in World Literature — Wed 5:00–7:30 PM — Sabah Uddin



5) JAPANESE CULTURE APPRECIATION DAY: OCTOBER 28



Japanese Culture Appreciation Day CNSMN | BEACON ROOM

AGENDA

9:00-10:00	Anime Screening & Student Presentation on Anime
10:00-10:30	JAPN 101 & 102 Presentation (Rajio Taiso calisthenics)
10:30-11:00	Japanese Embassy Presentation
11:00-11:30	Traditional Japanese Koto Musical Performance
11:30-12:00	JET Presentation
12:00-1:00	Lunch & Japanese Karaoke hosted by New Blerd Order
1:00-1:30	Onigiri Workshop
1:30-2:30	Origami Workshop
2:30-3:30	Haiku Workshop
3:00-4:00	Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony



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 onigiri workshop, a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, and lunch.

6) LGBT PROFESSIONALS Q&A: OCTOBER 21

LGBT PROFESSIONALS
PANEL Q&A

OCTOBER 22
Dr. Horacio Sierra's
ENGL 333: Queer Cultural Studies



Matt Faiella
Special Counsel for LGBTQIA Rights
New York State Office of the
Attorney General Letitia James



Chris Monge
Political Consultant
and LGBT Advocate

Email **hsierra@bowiestate.edu**
for the Zoom link



Students in **Dr. Horacio Sierra's** ENGL 254: Queer Cultural Studies will participate in a Q&A on Thursday, October 22, at 11:00 AM with two LGBT Professionals: Matt Faeilla, Special Counsel for LGBTQIA Rights in the Office of New York Attorney General Letitia James, and Christopher Monge, a political consultant and LGBT advocate who most recently served as District Director for Florida State Representative Ashley Gantt. Feel free to attend by logging onto this Zoom link: <https://bowiestate.zoom.us/j/99105260711>

7) CREATIVE WRITING OPPORTUNITY: *THE TORCH*



The Torch is throwing a launch party for the Fall 2025/Spring 2026 Anthology print edition that was released this summer. The event will include readings from contributors, as well as a craft chat moderated by **Professor Angela Burrus** and **Professor Shelagh Johnson**.

In addition to its regular call for submissions, *The Torch* will feature haiku written by students (and faculty) on their Instagram page throughout the week of 10/26-10/30, in celebration of Japanese Cultural Appreciation Day (10/28). Please send all submissions directly to me at sbjohnson@bowiestate.edu.

8) CREATIVE WRITING OPPORTUNITY: *MADISON JOURNAL OF LITERARY CRITICISM*

Theme: “Who controls the past, controls the future. Who controls the present, controls the past” - 1984 George Orwell Memory is a powerful thing. It teaches us empathy, love, and care. It forces us to reckon with the pain and mistakes of the past. When considering memory and abolition, we must examine who and what gets remembered, what gets preserved. History can be fickle, not set in stone. Rather, created by the entities and institutions in power, shaping it to tell a story that serves them. It can be rewritten upon the rise of a new power, an accepted truth reworked for that administration which effectively erases decades of known canon. In this edition we hope to reclaim memory and use it to shed light on the stories that matter to us. Whether it is the memory of a loved one, an excavation of something once hidden, or a revelation long overdue, share with us your memories in hopes that they will never again be forgotten.

Categories: We welcome submissions that mix mediums and hope to display work that inspires us, not work that conforms to specific constraints. Please submit your work to the category you feel is most suitable.

Writing: Written works should be font size 12, Times New Roman, and double-spaced (exempting poetry or other stylistic choices.).

- **Poetry:** free verse, rhyming, etc. (up to 3 works)
- **Fiction:** flash fiction, fictionalized accounts, short stories, etc. (15 pages maximum)
- **Nonfiction:** creative nonfiction, journalism, interviews, personal essays, reviews, list-iscles, etc. (10 pages maximum)
- **Academic:** class papers, reports, traditional literary criticism, analytical essays, rhetorical arguments, etc. We accept any of the major citation styles: APA, Chicago, MLA. (15 pages maximum)

Art: Art submissions should be at least 300 PPI. We accept any dimensions.

- Photography, paintings, drawings, media/digital art, etc. (*up to 3 works*)

Submit [here!](#)

9) BSU CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR: NOVEMBER 4



FALL 2026

CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4, 2026 | 1-4 P.M.
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CENTER

Open to current students and alums.
All majors and degree programs are welcome.

FREE ADMISSION | BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED

10) 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/>