The Royal Review: 2017-2018

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The twenty-seventh annual Alumni Supper found the Reception Room of Kellenberg building filled with alumni, faculty, friends, and family. One of the scholarship winners, Mary A.K.T. Gallagher, was also present among the crowd of English lovers. The supper was held on Friday, September 22, 2017, and commenced at five o’clock in the evening. The night began with a brief introduction from Dr. Robert Kinpoitner. Several things were brought up for discussion, and among those were the possibility of becoming a university, possible implementation of a trimester system, and the film festival. Writer-in-Residence, Barbara Novack, also spoke about the various poetry events happening throughout the year, and the dedication of the Shakespeare Garden to honor Father Thomas Catania was also addressed.

As for food and refreshments, as usual, the English Department never disappoints! Provisions were provided by Roger Mehr of Lackman and his chef Tom Schletz. There was a scrumptious spread of pasta primavera, stir-fried oriental beef, broccoli, garden salad, and dinner rolls. Of course, the main event was the cheesecake, all washed down with either water, soda, coffee, or tea.

The supper was a joy to attend; it was wonderful to see old friends mingling and new students gaining advice from those who have already been there and done that. The event raised $2,565 for the Sister Mary Verity McNicholas English Scholarship Fund, and if you could not attend the supper this year, do not fret! There is always the 2018 Alumni Supper to look forward to, and all are welcome.
Father Thomas Catania departed this life on April 29, 2013. He began his work here at Molloy and continued to give his service to the school for thirty years, right until the very end. Father Catania was a beloved professor of English and Theology, as well as an avid lover of the work of Shakespeare. There is no better way to honor his memory than with a Shakespeare garden. Work on the garden began during the summer of 2017. It was the hope of all involved that the Shakespeare Garden would be completed and ready for public enjoyment by the beginning of the fall 2017 semester, and this goal was attained. The Garden is located between the Barbara Hagan Nursing Center and the Kellenberg building, and was designed by President Drew Bogner. The garden consists of multiple plants with a Shakespearean reference for each plant. In addition to the plants and their references, the garden also features a statue of Saint Dominic donated by Patricia O’Neill, and a plaque with Shakespeare’s profile, and a dedication to Father Catania. The plants are identified and given a reference to a Shakespeare quotation. The dedication includes a beautiful verse from scripture, Ecclesiasticus 33:18, which reads, “Consider that I labored not for myself only, but for all them that seek learning.”

On September 20, 2017, at half past three in the afternoon, the Shakespeare Garden Dedication Ceremony commenced. It was held outside in front of the Garden itself and saw a wonderful turnout. Although it was a bit chilly out, the skies were favorable, no doubt because Father Catania was smiling down upon the congregation of well-wishers who came out to partake in the dedication. The ceremony opened with a few words from Edward Thompson, Vice President for Mission and Advancement, followed by an inspiring Invocation from the English Department Chairman, Dr. Robert Kinpoitner. The ceremony moved along nicely with words from Assistant Vice President Dr. Barbara T. Schmidt and the President of Molloy College, Dr. Drew Bogner. A lovely end to the Dedication Ceremony came with a beautiful reflection given by the Dean of the Division of Humanities, Dr. A. Nicholas Fargnoli.

The Shakespeare Garden is now open to the public. All are welcome to walk through and marvel at the different plants and their corresponding Shakespeare references. The Garden will remain an everlasting testament to the kind and dedicated man for whom it was created. The Heart of Molloy College will always have a special place and hold a special fondness for Father Thomas Catania.
As professed by the Film Festival flyers, life does not get much better than free movies and free snacks. This year’s fall film festival showcased two films depicting the theme of war, *Megan Leavey* and *Dunkirk*. Both films featured snacks and refreshments, as well as, a thorough introduction about the story’s history, given to the audience by our own Professor Anthony Price. The events commenced promptly at five o’clock in the evening. *Megan Leavey* was presented on Friday, October 20, and *Dunkirk* on Friday, November 10, both in the Hays Theatre.

Both films pull on the heartstrings of the audience. *Megan Leavey*, directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite, is based on the true life story of a young Marine corporal whose unique discipline and bond with a military combat dog saved many lives during her deployment in Iraq. Leavey is assigned to clean the K-9 unit after a disciplinary hearing. During this time, Leavey meets and starts to identify with Rex, a peculiarly aggressive dog whom she ends up training. Over the course of their service together, Rex and Leavey complete more than 100 missions until an improvised explosive device injures both dog and human, putting their lives in jeopardy.

*Dunkirk* is set in May 1940, as Germany advances into France, cornering Allied troops on the beaches of Dunkirk. Under air and ground cover from British and French forces, the troops were steadily and meticulously evacuated from the beach employing every operational naval and civilian vessel to be found. In the end, because of this heroic mission, 330,000 French, British, Belgian, and Dutch soldiers were safely evacuated.

The English Department also hosted the Spring Film Festival, which featured *Darkest Hour* on Friday, February 16, and *Lady Bird* the following week on Friday, February 23. These two films were also presented in Hays Theatre.

Academy Award nominee Gary Oldman stars as Winston Churchill in our first Spring Film Festival feature, *Darkest Hour*. The film begins during the height of World War II as Churchill faces one of the most difficult challenges he must overcome during his time as Prime Minister. Churchill must choose to either negotiate a peace treaty

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with Nazi Germany or stand and fight for the freedom of the nation.

Laurie Metcalf and Saoirse Ronan act as mother and daughter in the second Spring Festival feature film, Lady Bird. This narrative follows a teenage girl and her journey through her senior year of high school as she struggles with a stormy but loving relationship with her headstrong mother.

At the close of each movie, the floor was opened up for discussion. During the closing conversation, many thoughts and insights were shared amongst those present, which included students, faculty, and alumni. This dialogue gave the film festival an overall wholesome experience, as a way for the group to reflect upon the film in community.

So... Now What?

The best thing about college is that you can explore different fields and see what interests you in a safe and nurturing environment. However, one cannot stay in college forever, which is why it is so important to see what is waiting for graduates out there in the real world. There is no better way to experience what comes after graduation than participating in an internship program. Here, in the Molloy College English Department, securing an internship is a mandatory step each student must take before graduating. Two of the Royal English Department’s brightest students have quite a bit to say about how their internships have broadened their horizons once the threshold of safety and comfort is crossed and those caps are finally tossed in the air with a shout.

Mary A.K.T. Gallagher (Internship with Irish America):

To state the obvious first, my English classes established a firmer basis of literature in me than I would have had otherwise. I referred to something as "Faustian" in a piece for the magazine today, so we can thank Great Writers I for that. In a personal way, the classes also grounded me in an understanding of myself: I know, as well as someone like me can know that I am a good writer, at the very least because I have had the support of several brilliant, dedicated professors doing their level best to help me reach my full potential. Their investment in me is a kindness I will never forget. It has made me the writer I am today.

The internship has helped me become more organized and conscious of my time, just because most of my deadlines are more immediate than I am used to. In terms of writing, I am learning how to write in a journalistic style rather than solely academic. My communication skills have also improved, in the sense that I am better at asking for help when I need it. The responsibility Irish America gives me kind of makes my pride and fear of asking stupid questions pale in comparison. I think
Calling All Film Fanatics!

On an unassuming Thursday afternoon on October 19, 2017 a group of students and faculty gathered in the Larini Room for the Second Annual Book-to-Film Series hosted by Dr. Jeff Massey and sponsored by the Royal English Department. There were, of course, refreshments and popcorn diligently distributed by Trisha O’Neill. An in-depth discussion followed the film and wrapped the event up quite nicely.

The Book-to-Film event this year presented by Dr. Jeffry Massey, featured the beloved film *The Princess Bride*. People of all ages came to watch the movie in the Larini Room of Public Square. The film began promptly at a quarter after three in the afternoon. The event was free, and the snacks and refreshments included enough popcorn to feed a small village. Students and faculty were present, and the alumni were welcomed back home with open arms.

For those unfamiliar with the story, *The Princess Bride* is a fairytale adventure about a beautiful young maiden and her one and only true love. The young woman and her true love are separated, and she falls into a dangerous situation. The maiden’s true love must find her and save her after being separated for so long. They each face trials and must battle the evils of the mythical Kingdom of Florin in order to be reunited with one another. This film is based on the William Goldman novel *The Princess Bride* which supports its own loyal followers.

Following the Film was a discussion accompanied by more popcorn. It was agreed that the book is always better, but it was impossible to doubt that this film was equally as enjoyable! All those present were very glad they attended, for how can one beat free food and a movie? And for those avid fans of *The Princess Bride*, who did not wish for the festivities to end, their wish was granted! A one credit class on *The Princess Bride* and its transition from book to film was offered during the Spring semester, and it was a fantastic time.

Celebrating 50 Years of Being Royally Informed

Let us take a moment to admire the timelessness of the Royal English Department. Though the English Department continues to grow and expand, the Royal Bulletin board will remain forever fixed in the basement of the Kellenberg building. The board is mounted outside the Purchasing office and has been there for fifty years. It was initially put up in 1968 and almost had to be moved due to the relocation of the English Department. However, through the persistence of Dr. Kinpoitner, it was able to remain fixed in its place. Continued on page 6
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The Kellenberg basement has a high amount of foot traffic and is, therefore, a prime location for the Royal Bulletin Board. As the Board is home to all the goings on of the Royal English Department, it is imperative that it can be seen by as many people as possible. The English Department has a very active presence on campus, and we like to show off from time to time.

The royal Bulletin Board is also responsible for keeping English majors up-to-date on the coming meetings and events. Dr. Kinpointner posts information about course schedules, graduate school, Sigma Tau Delta meetings, and minutes of past meetings, as well as other important departmental notifications. It is for this purpose that there is such a great desire to keep the board where it is, and we thank Dr. K for fighting for our Royal English rights.

Unification Through Literature

Each year, for twenty-five years the English department proudly sponsors Molloy’s participation in the annual National African American Read-In Chain. The event has been ongoing around the country since 1990 and was quickly brought into fruition here at Molloy. This year the event was held in the Reception Room of the Kellenberg building at half past noon on February 5, 2018. The Read-In is a marvelous opportunity for students and faculty to come together to explore and appreciate the work of various African American authors. This chain offers participants a chance to grow in their experience of diversity and inclusion. Although it is sponsored by the English department, all are welcome to join in this enlightening academic pursuit to discover the power of literature. The African American Read-In began in 1990 and was established by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English with the goal to promote literature as a significant part of Black History Month.  Continued on page 7
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The Reception Room was packed with students and faculty eager to open their eyes and widen the scope of their understanding of African American culture through the literature of the African American community. Participants took turns reading and analyzing the works presented, in an effort to steal a glance into the struggles and triumphs of the African American cultural experience. Debates became heated and discussions had depth, it was a difficult topic for some, but it was a fulfilling experience for all. This year’s event featured the work of many authors including Gwendolyn Brooks, Lucille Clifton, Audre Lorde, Ruth Forman, and Rita Dove. You do not want to miss the chance to join the Read-In

The Holy Grail of Field Trips

Whoever said that English majors are boring never met the boisterous, fun-loving members of Sigma Tau Delta, Alpha Phi Theta chapter. On Sunday, March 4, 2018, seven members, along with moderator Dr. Jeff Massey, made their way across Manhattan. Adventurers through and through, each moment was an unscripted experience. The trip was centered on a visit to The Morgan Library, which featured a guided tour and quality time spent in the gift shop. The tour at The Morgan commenced at eleven o’clock in the morning, and the day’s festivities continued until well into the evening. After thoroughly exploring The Morgan and all it has to offer, the group went on to have a late lunch at the city’s finest English style café, Tea and Sympathy. After the adventurers had their fill of tea and crumpets, it was off to The Strand Bookstore, where the dire need to buy a good book (or twenty) was fulfilled. When the Sigma members finally exhausted their last bit of energy it was back to Penn Station and back home to the cozy warmth the memories of a day spent in the company of good friends inevitably brings.
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I am slowly evolving into a more professional, self-assured individual.

Irish America produces a bimonthly magazine that keeps readers informed of current events in Ireland, keeps track of the work of Irish Americans, and explores the resonating contribution of the Irish to American history and culture. (We also host events like our Hall of Fame in March, where we honor both Irish Americans and the Irish in America who have had a substantial impact in their fields. This year we honored California Governor Jerry Brown and Tony Award-winner Kelli O'Hara.)

Initially, I asked Dr. Conway for advice about the internship, and she sent me a list of contacts with which Molloy had a good relationship. I saw the word 'Irish', fainted, revived, polished up my resume, and contacted Patricia Harty, the editor-in-chief. Cathy Muscente, who runs the College’s Irish Studies Institute, was also incredibly helpful in making the connection. I do not think I would have been taken on without her recommendation.

I would love to do this kind of work in the future. I am having a blast and learning so much every day, and it’s so great to be working exclusively with subject matter that has fascinated me all my life.

I had a vague idea of being interested in editing when I declared myself as an English Literature major. Mostly, I was still attached to the dream of being a novelist, without any practical plans of support. This is not to say I’ve given up on being a novelist, but I have discovered new talents and affinities as a student here, and learned to open myself up to more than one pursuit.

I chose English Literature because I wanted to learn as much as I could from writers who came before me. I also chose this track because Dr. Conway offered the Jane Austen course in the spring semester of my freshman year, and I did not want to live in a world where I had not taken that course.

The sage advice I can provide from my wealth of 3 months’ experience is: talk to people. In my experience at Molloy College, the faculty have always been willing to listen and give advice. Do not be afraid to ask for help. That has gotten in my way, and, honestly, it’s a waste of time. No reasonable person expects you to have everything figured out all by yourself, certainly not right now.

Erin Toohey (Internship at Northern Parkway Elementary School, Uniondale):

At Northern Parkway Elementary School, I was assigned to a fifth-grade classroom. I acted as a sort of teacher’s assistant, whose main focus was to help students with their reading skills, although I did spend the whole day there on Fridays, which meant I was there for math lessons as well (Ah! Fifth grade fractions!). I would sometimes help them break into small groups with the students or walk around the class and assist the students that needed help. Most of the work they did was in preparation for the state test, so I would help them with reading comprehension passages and ques-
tions. They also read a book together, called *Esperanza Rising*, and they had a packet with short answer style questions about the book that I would help them with.

Sister Alice had mentioned that some students had done their internship at a school and that they had found it rewarding. As I was considering the possibility of becoming a teacher, I thought this would be a good way to test the waters before taking the full plunge into getting my Masters. I met with Sarah Shin from the Office of Experiential Learning (who is incredibly nice and helpful) and she set everything up for me. First, I had to be fingerprinted, so she gave the information I needed for that, and once that was done, she contacted someone from the elementary school who gave me a placement.

My English classes at Molloy have prepared me for this internship by helping me improve my communication skills. Through the many papers I have written for my English classes, as well as the presentations I have had to do, my communication skills have definitely improved. My English classes taught me how to organize my thoughts and get my points across in a clear manner. During my internship, I learned how important it is to explain things in a clear and simple way. My internship often required me either to work one-on-one with the students or in small groups, so being able to answer their questions in a way they could understand and remember was a very important skill.

I would say that I had hoped this experience would further sharpen my communication skills and make me more confident when working with the kids and helping them with their work. Looking back on my experience, I would definitely say I did get better at communicating. I did gain more confidence working with the kids, especially as we got to know each other better. At first, they were a little shy around me, but as they got used to seeing me in the classroom as the year went on

sometimes they would seek me out specifically for help (which always made me feel great!). After this experience, I would say I also got better at leading kids to the right answer rather than just telling them. Early on, I was guilty of sometimes telling them the answer, but later I realized that I have to let them figure it out. I have to try and guide them to the right answer, which could be difficult, but I think I got better at doing this by the end of the internship. A lot of the work I helped them with was for the English Language Arts (ELA) State Test, and when they’re taking the test they have to be able to figure things out on their own by using context clues.

Becoming a teacher is a very real possibility for me. I think it is something that I would enjoy, although I think I would prefer to do Adolescent Education, and that way I can focus on English, which is my favorite subject. While I enjoyed this internship, helping the students with their math work was my least favorite part of the experience. I think this internship helped me realize that if I do become a teacher I would like to be able to focus on English.

I entered Molloy as an Undeclared student. I have always thought about becoming a teacher, but at the start of my college career, I wasn’t even sure what I wanted to major in. I also considered the fact that, if I became a straight English major, I could always pursue a Masters Degree in Education later on. I had no idea what to major in when I started my college career. I didn’t declare English as my major until spring of my Sophomore year. In the end, I decided to go with English because it had always been my favorite subject. I liked all of my high school English teachers, and I liked reading books and then discussing them in class. Looking back, I’m so happy with my decision. I loved all of my English classes here, and the English Faculty here at Molloy are so helpful and

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great! My writing and communication skills have improved immensely, and I have learned so much!

If someone is considering becoming a teacher I would totally recommend my internship. It was a really good way for me to get a feel of working with kids, and I was able to see what it takes to be a good teacher. Everyone at the elementary school is so incredibly nice. I was able to observe my assigned teacher teach lessons, as well as help the students with their work. I was able to get advice about teaching from my teacher. He would often share different computer programs, techniques, and plans for the day with me. Although I still haven’t come to a complete decision as to whether or not I want to pursue teaching, this internship was a great opportunity. It gave me a lot of insight into the teaching profession that will help me in making my decision of whether or not I want to pursue a Master’s Degree in Education.

Where Are They Now?

With over 34 years of teaching experience and more awards for her service in education than she can count, including Molloy’s Distinguished Alumni Award, Ms. Julia O’Keeffe is the epitome of success after graduation. Coming from a small high school with only about 130 students in the entire school, and not wanting to move away from home made Molloy College for Women the perfect fit for Ms. O’Keeffe. Her graduating class only had about 50 students, which made the class sizes small, and ensured that every individual’s experience mattered. Though many of her friends looked into attending Saint John’s University, Julia’s father persuaded her and a few of her classmates to attend college here at Molloy. The religious education provided at Molloy College also enticed Julia to make this campus her number one choice.

Ms. O’Keeffe started her college career as a math major, but later found that she was...
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destined for the liberal arts. Her professors were key instruments in developing Julia’s love of poetry and theater, so much so that she went on to teach drama at the high school level. Another thing Julia picked up from one of her professors was a fondness for detail. Sometimes the wallpaper is just blue, but most of the time it really does mean something. Julia was blessed with professors who made Molloy feel like a family.

The one thing Julia stressed was the value of good work ethic. She insists that all of her success in life is due to the education she got here at Molloy. The girls who graduated from Molloy were always placed after graduation because they had the good reputation of Molloy College on their side, employers knew that they would be hiring hard workers if they came from Molloy. The Molloy ladies were always prepared and never late. They also knew that there was more to teaching than just standing in front of the classroom and talking. Julia says that in order to be a good teacher, one must also be a good secretary and a good actor, in addition to possessing a great sense of humor.

Her advice to incoming freshman is to take advantage of all the opportunities life at Molloy has to offer. Embrace the sense of family you will undoubtedly find here at Molloy, especially in the English Department. Work hard and enjoy every moment, and do not be afraid to explore different paths on your academic journey. She advises each and every one of us to make the most of every moment and opportunity; give 100%, and never be afraid to try new things. Find what is best for you. We could all stand to learn a thing from Ms. Julia O’Keeffe; she’s a living testament to what life at Molloy College can bring you: continual success and everlasting happiness.

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*Articles were written by Pollyana Andrews as part of an internship arranged by S. Alice Byrnes, O.P.*

*Edited by Robert Kinpoitner, PhD. and Trisha O’Neill*

*For information about the English major or English concentration for Education, contact us!*

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*NOTE: Mary A.K.T. Gallagher has been hired as a full-time deputy editor at Irish America*