College Literature recently published two issues of the journal College Literature: A Journal of Critical Literary Studies: Issue 40.3 was a special issue on “Human Rights and Cultural Forms” (July 2013); Issue 40.4 was a special issue on “Edward Said: Beginning Again” (October 2013).

The WCU Poetry Conference, held June 5-8, featured keynote speaker Julie Alvarez and celebrated Robert Frost's 50th anniversary, Robert Hayden's centennial, and the life of Daniel Hoffman, former poet laureate and long-time attendee of the conference. The rich diversity of poetry was highlighted with panels on poetry and religion, light verse, invented forms, and libretti. Middle and high school teachers were welcomed with Saturday workshops lead by Rhina P. Espaillat, Catherine Tufariello, and Michael Cirelli. For further information, please contact Jamie Smith, Associate Director or Kim Bridgford, Director at the WCU Poetry Center, 610.436.3235. For more information about the center http://www.wcupa.edu/_ACADEMICS/sch_cas/poetry/.

The Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project’s Young Writers/Young Readers program celebrated its 28th year this past summer. About 720 students in six counties, plus New Jersey participated. The West Chester University site enrolled 296 children in grades K-12. In addition to WCU, public school and private school sites, the program offered specialty Young Writers courses at Longwood Gardens, the historical Highlands Mansion & Gardens, Pennypacker Mills, and Valley Forge National Historical Park. As a result of their work at Valley Forge, WCU and the PAWLP were included in the 2013 National Park Service executive report and received a $2,000 grant from the National Park Foundation. PAWLP continued its collaboration with WCU’s College of Education in placing 18 post-bac students in the Young Writers/Young Readers program so the COE students could fulfill their field
experience hours for their reading practicum. Mary Buckelew, English, is Director of PAWLP.


Kim Bridgford, English and Director of the Poetry Center, has her eighth collection of poetry, Doll, accepted for publication.


Frank Fish and John Beneski, Biology, published the book chapter “Evolution and bio-inspired design: Natural limitations” in Biologically Inspired Design: Computational Methods and Tools. 2014 (A. Goel, D.A. McAdams and R.B. Stone, eds.), Springer-Verlag, London, pp. 287-312. Professor Fish was a co-author on a presentation “Dynamic modeling and gait analysis of batoid swimming” that was presented at the American Control Conference, Washington, D.C., June 2013, along with W. Liu and T. Iwasaki from UCLA. He co-authored the presentation “Aquatic burst locomotion by hydroplaning and running in female Common Eiders (Somateria mollissima)” at the annual meeting of the Society for Experimental Biology in Valencia, Spain, July 3-6--co-authors were William Gough and Stacy Farina from Cornell University. In addition, he and John Beneski, Biology, co-authored the article “Two- and three-dimensional geometries of batoids in relation to locomotor mode” in the Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology 446: 273-281 (2013). The article was also co-authored with Biology undergraduates Janet Fontanella, Elizabeth Barchi, Nicole DiNenno, and WCU biology graduate student Rachel Nichols, and post-doctoral student Regina Campbell-Malone.


Charles Hardy, III, History, gave a four-class workshop on “Oral History for Documentary Film and Beyond” for the Scribe Video Center in Philadelphia. In September he published two “Behind the Marker” essays
on ExplorePAHistory: “Wayne Natatorium,” with Angela Stanert, (History: American Studies BA, Class of 2014), and “Mason Dixon Line,” with Steven Gimber, History. Also, Professor Hardy, and his band The Dill Pickle Old Time Orchestra, played traditional American string band music for a Chester County Historical Society’s “History on Tap” program on July 16; at the Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation on August 31; and at the Woodland Cemetery and Hamilton Mansion on September 21.

Frank Hoffman, Philosophy, was Guest Editor of a journal issue in which a former WCU student, Timothy Bruno, had published a peer reviewed article. Tim Bruno’s article “Buddhist Conceptual Rhyming and T.S. Eliot’s Crisis of Connection in The Waste Land and ‘Burnt Norton” appears in Asian Philosophy, Vol. 23, No. 4, 2013.


Surfaces Gordon Research Conference in Newport, Rhode Island in August 2013.


Rebecca Pauly, Languages and Cultures, traveled to Wiltshire England in August to research the neolithic cultures of the area, in order to include such information in her courses on Francophone Civilization comparative studies of these prehistoric sites with those in Brittany. Her research took her to Avebury, Stonehenge, and Kennet Barrow, to study the techniques of construction of the circles, the sources of the stones and the hypotheses of the transporting of stones weighing up to 50 tones across open land, rivers, and open ocean. The Kennet Barrow as an ancient cairn or burial tomb complex compares to Lacmariaquer in Brittany. In addition, she also explored ancient Roman and later medieval cultures in the area, to compare to similar sites in France.

John Pisciotta, Biology, and William Schultz, undergraduate student, presented WCU research into a
novel "Bioelectochemically Boosted Algal Biofuel Production Platform" during the Engineering and Analysis Section of the Algal Biomass Summit from September 30 to October 3 in Orlando, FL. Professor Pisciotta presented an invited talk on the history and evolution of photovoltaic technology at the Sustainable Energy Community Event hosted by State Representative, Mark Painter on August 8, 2013 in Pottstown, PA.

Denise Polk, Communication Studies, was awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for a food compost pilot initiative. Program partners are West Chester Borough Public Works, Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reduction 9BLUER), Roots Café, Landmark Americana of West Chester, Thornbury Farm, the West Chester Business Improvement District (BID), and Chester County Waste Authority. It involves a local effort to collect and haul food waste from the two restaurants in order to track the benefits. The goal is to set groundwork to move toward a long-term sustainable Borough-wide food waste composting program. The pilot will take place in 2014.

Pauline Schmidt, English, published three articles in *English Journal*: “Tough Talk: Young adult novels to engage our students in the conversation of bullying,” with Emilee Hussack, English graduate student, Vol. 103, No. 5; “Let’s hear it for the girls: Resilient and remarkable women in today’s YA literature,” Vol. 104, No. 4; and “Literary slipstream: Using contemporary YA fiction to connect students with the canon,” Vol. 103, No. 3.

Eleanor Shevlin, English, served on the organizing committee of the 2013 Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing (SHARP) conference, “Geographies of the Book,” that took place at the University of Pennsylvania, July 18-21. As part of the conference, she curated a three-hour, stand-alone digital showcase featuring sixteen projects that represent a rich array of cutting-edge digital humanities work related to book history. A write-up of the showcase can be found at http://wp.me/pxiTA-TV. She was also appointed to the SHARP’s Futures Committee, a strategic planning body.

Janneken Smucker, History, was the keynote speaker at a national conference, “Quilt Stories in the Digital Age, Quilt Alliance” held in Herndon, VA on July 20, 2013. Her talk was entitled “Quilt Stories/Storied Quilts.” She was an international conference seminar leader and led a 1.5 hour session “Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon,” at Amish America: Plain Technology in a Cyber World at Elizabethtown College, Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown, PA, June 7. In addition, she published the book *Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

Geeta Shivde, Psychology, along with M. Muchrikar, V.K. Kumar, A. Reed, and A. Clarke, gave a presentation “State Anxiety is Negatively Correlated with OSpan but Not Digit Span,” at the 35th Annual Association for Psychological Science Convention.

Rosemary Sullivan, Mathematics, and Watling Neil published "Independent Divisibility Pairs on the Set of Integers from 1 to N" in "Integers," 13 (2013). In addition, she gave a talk entitled "Independent Divisibility Pairs on the
Set of Integers from 1 to N" at MathFest in August. MathFest is the Mathematical Association of America's (MAA) summer conference. A paper by the same title has been published in "Integers Electronic Journal of Combinatorial Number Theory.”

Robert Thornton, Physics, was a co-author on the following papers which came out the past several months: “The Atacama Cosmology Telescope: Sunyaev-Zel'dovich selected galaxy clusters at 148 GHz from three seasons of data," which was published this past July in the Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics; and “the Atacama Cosmology Telescope: Dynamical Masses and Scaling Relations for a Sample of Massive Sunyaev-Zel'dovich Effect Selected Galaxy Clusters,” which was also published this past July in the Astrophysical Journal.


Joan Woolfrey, Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies, gave a paper entitled “An Examination of Implicit Bias through an Aristotelian Lens” at the 30th Annual North American Society for Social Philosophy, July 11-13 at Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT.