Greetings at the start of what I hope will be an excellent new year for all. The UAB English Department is as busy as ever, with many new faces among both faculty and students.

Peter Bellis, Department Chair

Friends of the Department

Events

**UAB English Department Writers Series, Spring 2014**

- Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in Hulsey Recital Hall
  - **February 12** Michael Sowder  
  - **March 12** Margaret Wrinkle
  - Wednesday at 6:00 pm in Spencer Honor House
  - **April 16** Student reading

**Book Talk**

- Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the Henley Room, Sterne Library
  - **February 4** Danny Siegel leads a discussion of *NW* by Zadie Smith
  - **March 4** Cassandra Ellis leads a discussion of *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach
  - **April 1** Randa Graves leads a discussion of *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
  - **May 6** Bill Hutchings leads a discussion of *Talking it Over* by Julian Barnes

**New Faculty**

Four new faculty members joined us this past fall.

- **Melissa Daniels**, a specialist in 19th-century African American Literature, came to us from Northwestern University.
- **Jessie Dunbar**, whose research focuses on 19th- and 20th-century African American Culture, joined the department after receiving her PhD from Emory University and completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Penn State.
- **Margaret Jay Jessee**, a specialist in 19th- and 20th-century American literature and gender studies, joined us from the University of Arizona.
- **Jaclyn Wells**, a Rhetoric and Composition specialist from Purdue University, is the new Director of the University Writing Center.
In the coming year, we will continue to expand the services offered by the University Writing Center, now located in Sterne Library. We also plan to expand and redesign the department website, to offer better information and access for both students and alumni. The best way to keep track of us and our activities is online, at http://www.uab.edu/cas/english/.

Faculty Honors

A number of faculty received honors in 2013:

Eugene Cuevas received the department’s Core Teaching Award.

Kieran Quinlan’s essay "Kirwan Street, In Memory" was named a Notable Essay in the volume Best American Essays of 2013, edited by Cheryl Strayed.

Cynthia Ryan won both the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Sam Brown Bridge Builder Award for collaboration with faculty across the university.

Student Honors

Mohammad Abbasi won the department’s The Grace Lindsley Waits scholarship.

Sarah Patterson won the Phillips High School Scholarship.

Lauren Poyer was named the department’s Outstanding Undergraduate Student.

Brelan Van Wooten won both the Howton Scholarship in Creative Writing and the Thomas H. Brown Award for creative nonfiction.

Shelly Cato won the Barksdale Maynard Award for Poetry.

Bethany Mitchell won the Barksdale Maynard Award for Fiction.

Cynthia Mwenja and Nancy Glaub shared the Coley Award for outstanding graduate student in the Department of English.

Twenty-nine of our majors and graduate students were inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the national English Honorary Society.

As always, our thanks go out to those donors whose generosity underwrites these prizes and awards.