

# ENGLISH AT RIC

FALL 2019

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Oct 21: Spring 2020 Advising  
Nov 4: Registration for 460  
Nov 12: Spring 2020 Registration  
Nov 11: Veterans' Day  
Nov 28: Thanksgiving  
Dec 9: Classes End

## OPEN BOOKS OPEN MINDS Roundtable Discussion

RIC "Lab Girls: from  
Biology, Chemistry, Physics,  
and Psychology. Wednesday,  
Nov 20, Gage 200  
12:30-2:00 p.m.



## VISIT BY FILMMAKER CHRISTINE VACHON

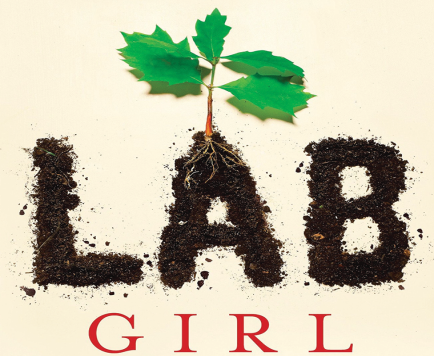
**Christine Vachon** (*Carol*, *Still Alice*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Velvet Goldmine*) talked about her career and presented two early films by Todd Haynes on Oct. 24. This event was run in conjunction with FILM 352: Queer Cinema, a course taught by Dr. Roz Sibielski, and was made possible through support of the RIC Foundation and Committee on College Lectures.

The newest member of the English department, **JANICE OKOOMIAN**, spent four weeks this summer in the Republic of Armenia conducting oral history interviews with feminist activists. It is an exciting time in Armenia, one year after the so-called "Velvet Revolution," a nonviolent mass protest which persuaded a corrupt president to resign. **Dr. Okoomian's** research will form the basis of a scholarly article about feminism in Armenia. She plans to return there in October of 2020 to present her findings at a conference.

## EXPLORE INTERNSHIPS

Internships are a great way to gain practical and professional experience while working on your degree. Especially for English majors, whose career paths are not always so well-defined, internships can provide the opportunity to learn what kinds of work interest you (and what kinds don't!) and to get practical, hands-on experience that will benefit you when it comes time to apply for that first job, following graduation.

If you are interested in an internship, please contact Dr. Michael Michaud ([mmichaud@ric.edu](mailto:mmichaud@ric.edu)) for more information. Don't miss out on this important opportunity to gain professional experience while also completing coursework that will count towards your English major degree.



*Hope Jahren*

2019 - 2020  
SELECTION



# FACULTY NEWS

## SOME RECENT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

**Brittney Donahue**, who graduated with Honors in English in May 2019, has recently begun pursuing her MLIS degree at Simmons University.

**Dionne Irving-Breymer** (M.A. '05) will have her novel *Quint* published in 2021.

**Stephanie Mastrostefano** is working on her dissertation at the University of Oregon.

**Odin Waters**, M.A. in Creative Writing, will present on a panel on Reseeding the City on Sat, Oct 26 at Brown University's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. His presentation is titled: "The Wild Side: Cultivating Eco-Conscious Portrayals of the Metropolis." <https://watson.brown.edu/events/2019/reseeding-city-ethnobotany-urban>

## SHORELINE SUBMISSIONS!

Each October, *Shoreline* runs a contest offering cash prizes in four categories: fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and art/photography. At the beginning of the spring semester, we accept regular submissions for the annual issue, which is launched in April. Please see our new website at <http://www.ric.edu/english/Pages/Shoreline.aspx>

The department congratulates **GARY GRUND**, who has been at RIC for 46 years, on belatedly being presented with RIC's 40-Year Service Award.



**SUE ABBOTSON** was recently the keynote speaker at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Arthur Miller Society Conference, at Ashland University, Ashland, OH, where she presented "Comedy and the Common Man: Arthur Miller's Comedic Chops." She also did a talk-back in October at Central Square Theatre for the Bedlam Theatre production of *The Crucible*.

**JEREMY BENSON** published "'We Don't Care Who You Are': Race, Space, and Dispossession in New York's Charter School Co-Location Reform," in the journal *Policy Futures in Education*. He was also recently interviewed for RIC News on the school-to-prison pipeline: <http://www.ric.edu/news/Pages/Disrupting-the-School-to-Prison-Pipeline.aspx>.

**KAREN BOREN**'s poem, "Lines," is forthcoming in the *American Journal of Poetry*. In November, she will be taking a master class with writer Ann Cleeves at the New England Crimebake conference.

**BRANDON HAWK** published the essay "Modelling Medieval Hands: Practical OCR for Caroline Minuscule," co-authored with Antonia Karaisl and Nick White, in *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 13.1 (2019). He also presented a paper, "Preaching Apocrypha in Anglo-Saxon England: Historiographic Currents," at the 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, in Kalamazoo, MI, in May, and participated in a roundtable talk titled "Performative Networks: Tracing the Afterlives of Old English Preaching Texts."

**JENNIFER HOLL and BRANDON HAWK** co-led the summer Medieval Renaissance Study Abroad trip to London with 23 undergraduate and graduate students, including majors in English, Communication, Elementary Education, and Theatre Performance.

**MICHAEL MICHAUD** has signed a contract with the Writing across the Curriculum (WAC) Press to publish a monograph on the writing theorist and Pulitzer Prize winner Donald M. Murray. The book will examine Murray's contributions to and legacy within the field of composition and rhetoric.

**MAGDA OSTAS** has two forthcoming essays: "Thinking with Austen" in the MLA's *Approaches to Teaching Jane Austen's Persuasion* (ed. Marcia Folsom and John Wiltshire), and "Interiority and Expression in Dickinson's Lyrics," in a volume (ed. Elisabeth Camp) titled *The Poetry of Emily Dickinson: Philosophical Approaches* in the new series Oxford Studies in Philosophy and Literature. She also organized a ten-person seminar for scholars working on fiction, poetry, and film at the annual meeting of the (ACLA) in March at Georgetown University titled "Thinking in Forms: Literature, Philosophy, and the Genres of Our Most Pressing Questions."

**RUSSELL POTTER** spent a September afternoon in a recording studio in Detroit doing an interview for an upcoming episode of the Discovery Channel's "Ocean Mysteries" series, which will focus on new underwater footage of the wrecks of Sir John Franklin's lost Arctic expedition of 1845. The episode will air sometime next spring.

**CARRIE SHIPERS** published "Graceful Exits: The Endings of Five Grief Memoirs" in *The Writer's Chronicle* (Sep. 2019).

**JOE ZORNADO** has a forthcoming book in December, titled *Critical Thinking: Developing the Intellectual Tools for Social Justice* (Routledge), with co-authors Jill Harrison (Sociology) and Daniel Weisman (Social Work, retired).