

To be shared with recruiting-group@heidelberg.edu on the 3rd Friday of every month.

December 2025

November 2025

Desirae Matherly was one of six invited alumni to speak at the 65th Anniversary of the East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Philosophy and Religious Studies Program in Johnson City, TN on November 15, 2025.

Brooklynn Wharton (2025) received her first Law School acceptance letter from the University of Akron. She has 2 or 3 more applications out that she is waiting to hear from. She's likely to be accepted by them all, but no matter what happens, she knows she is going to law school now!

The James Joyce Society of New York is hosting the first official launch event for Barry's book he co-edited with Ellen Scheible, *Teaching James Joyce in the Twenty-First Century*. The online event is free to members of the society and anyone Barry puts on the guest list. Dec 12, 12:30 PM Eastern [Info Link](#) (don't register, just tell Barry to get on the guest list for free)

Heidelberg's Speech Team was victorious at Marshall University's Memorial Speech Tournament on November 15th. Bringing home individual honors included sophomore primary education major, Rena Burris, from Huron, Ohio. Rena placed 4th in Persuasive Speaking with her speech addressing the decline in reading proficiency of our nation's youth. Placing 5th in Persuasive Speaking was novice speaker Dominick Zaffos from Conway, Missouri. Dominick, an exercise science major (business minor), spoke about "false flagging" for AI in student submitted work at the collegiate level. Rounding out the Berg's strong showing was senior biology major (chemistry minor), with premed concentration, Grant McMaster from Clyde, OH. Grant earned 5th place in Informative Speaking and the designation as Top Novice Informative Speaker with his presentation on Down Syndrome.

Julie O'Reilly has a chapter in the textbook [Communication Theory and Gen Z Popular Culture](#), edited by Kathleen Glenister Roberts and Jonathan Nichols-Pethick and published by Peter Lang (2025). Julie's chapter is titled "Double Vision: Netflix's *Maid* and Feminist Standpoint Theory"; it appears in the "Culture, Power, Identity" section of the textbook.

For October 2025:

Desirae Matherly's essay "In Defense of Navel-Gazing" has been republished in the Fall 2025 issue of *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies*. This piece was originally published in The University of Iowa's *The Essay Review* in 2016, which has since gone offline. Karen Babine and the editors at *Assay* have devoted this issue, and several more to come, toward making these essays available once more. Find the [12.1 issue of Assay here](#).

The School of Humanities hosted a Humanities Hangout for all majors and minors on Wednesday, October 15th. The event was well attended with students playing cornhole, giant Connect 4, and golf putting. The faculty provided snacks and connected with students in an informal and fun environment.

Emily presented her paper "Memefying Shakespeare: Contemporary Fads and Anticipatory Sets for Teaching Gem Z and Gen Alpha" at the annual meeting of the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference (Oct. 16-18)

Richard Talbert presented his work "Cultural Intelligence, Cultural Sensitivity, and Cultural Competence in a Social Media World" at the 85th Pennsylvania Communication Association Conference (September 26-27). Richard completed his two-year term as Member at Large and was elected Publicity Officer for the PCA.

Robin's COM 314: Intercultural Communication class is participating in a Cultural Exchange with students from Lady Brabourne College in Kolkata, India. Students have been paired up in order to communicate to discuss cultural experiences with one another.

The director of the AJY Program in Heidelberg, Germany, Martin Kley, hosted two sessions on our campus on October 7, introducing the American Junior Year Program to interested students. Many first-year German students and study abroad returnees attended.

The Information below was Submitted on September 19th.

8/27/2025

BREAKING NEWS: The Pfeiderer English Suite has a new official Student Publications Office (PFL 305) for both *Morpeus* and *The Rock Creek Review*. The students Editors this year, and in all future years will have 24-7 access to this office for their editorial duties and are also free to use it as their personal work space. Use of this office for the academic year will be a standing benefit for the student Editors. It will allow them to focus on their editorial duties without having to reserve rooms and find space for every meeting. The students have already begun moving in and making the space their own.

Barry has two books coming out this winter. Both are edited collections:

- *Teaching James Joyce in the Twenty-First Century* (University Press of Florida) comes out in December. [Link here](#).
- *Sally Rooney: Perspectives and Approaches* (Bucknell University Press/Rutgers UP) is slated for February 2026. No link yet.

Emma Wright ('23) designed the cover art for the academic book, *Sally Rooney: Perspectives and Approaches* (Bucknell University Press/Rutgers UP).

Sarah Zapola ('22) recently completed her MA in Humanities at Johns Hopkins University and is planning a gap year before pursuing a PhD.

Barry has accepted an invitation from Tiffin Mayor Lee Wilkinson to serve on the Tiffin Civil Service Commission, which oversees the hiring and promotion of city employees, including police and fire departments. The position needs to be voted on by the City Council at the next meeting.

08.28.25

Julie's co-edited collection, *Making Thought Visible: Essays on Neurodiversity on Television* (McFarland), came out in July. She collaborated with Dr. Curt Hersey of Berry College. [This already appeared in This Week under faculty pursuits]

Becky (Rowland) Brown, '08, recently became Vice President of Marketing at Augury, a company that uses AI for "Predictive and Prescriptive Machine Health." Becky was a double major in Communication and Spanish at Heidelberg.

Nathan Davis, '20 (I think...would have to double check on that...he started with the '13 class but then came back and finished later) recently won a regional Emmy (Ohio Valley chapter of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences). He is a Promotions Producer for Cox Media Group in the Dayton area and has his own production company, Soul Gems Productions, LLC.

Nic Dyer, '12 Communication major, is teaching an online course for the Communication and Media program.

9.16.25

Barry was appointed to a position on the City of Tiffin Civil Service Commission by the Tiffin City Council at the Sep 15th meeting. He takes the position vacated by Sarah Lazzari when she moved to Portland last May.

9.16.25

In news close to home.....it looks like we could have NINE students on the Berg Speech Team this season! Many are limited to how/when they can travel due to being typical - super-involved Berg students, but we're excited!

Dan has been invited to speak at the 2nd annual G.R.O.W.T.H. ("Giving Redmen Opportunities to Widen Their Horizons") Sessions at Bellevue High School on October 29, 2025 to a small group of BHS students. Business professionals of a variety of backgrounds will be presenting. Happy to represent the Berg as well at this!

POL alums continue to shine. Isabel Chasney ('23), Gavin Looney ('24), and Cole Renier ('25) all started Law School this semester. Isabel at Boston College, Gavin at Ohio Northern, and Cole at Capital. Gavin Robison ('23) started a Master's in Russian and East European

Studies at Indiana University-Bloomington. Isaiah Young ('24) is now Program & Government Affairs Manager at Youth Success Summit in Akron.