

# Footnotes<sup>1</sup>

## *English Department News and Notes*

1. Produced by the Wittenberg University Department of English. Spring 2012.



**3rd Annual Read-A-Thon: Good Poems**  
(selected poems by Garrison Keillor). Junior English majors Wes Schmid-Broome and Ann Tomko read some very, very good poems, indeed!

## Let's Roll: Cinema Studies Hits the Stage at Wittenberg

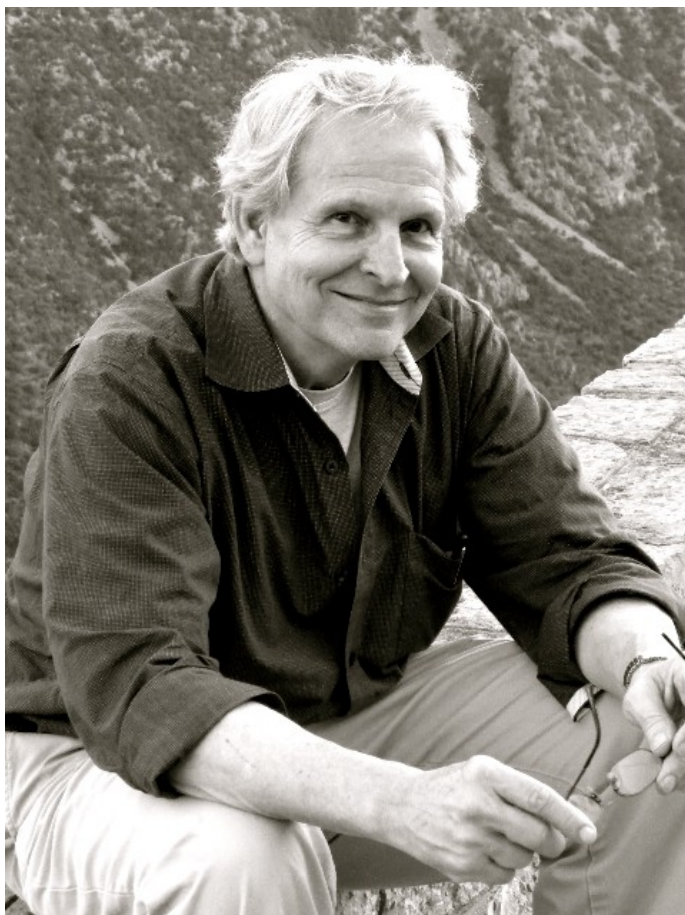
The new Cinema Studies minor is here at long last. After having been bandied about for many years, a proposal was submitted and approved and now it's official. Professors Inboden and Hinson, along with Professor Smith (Communication), Dan McInnis (ART), and Professor Blanco (SPAN) helped write the proposal and will serve on the advisory board. The aims of the CINE minor are to help students better understand and appreciate the technical aspects of film and to see the power of the medium to reflect and shape our cultures. The CINE (cool designation, huh?) minor requires that students complete an introductory to Cinema Studies course, CINE 200, which will be taught for the first time this fall by Professor Hinson and four other film courses. CINE minors can also complete FLIC credits (Film Language In the Curriculum) similar to the CLAC modules, as part of the minor. We encourage students and faculty alike to keep these possibilities in mind. The program has great integrity and students can pull from top-notch courses in film from many departments, including our own, but also Art, History, Spanish, and Communication. We look forward also to linking with film groups and theaters in the region to develop internships. Over time we hope the existence of the minor will encourage faculty with an interest in Cinema Studies to develop new film courses for our students. We would welcome those.

Please send news and notes to Dr. McClelland, at [mmcclelland@wittenberg.edu](mailto:mmcclelland@wittenberg.edu), or mail to Patti McClelland, English Department, Wittenberg University, P.O. Box 720, Springfield, OH 45501. This issue of Footnotes was written by Michael McClelland and Caleb Murray ('13), with contributions from faculty, staff, and alumni. Layout and design by Caleb Murray.

## James Baldwin Scholar Visits Wittenberg

Professor Ernest Gibson III visited Wittenberg on 7 February 2012 as part of our impressive 2011-2012 English Department Colloquia schedule. Gibson, along with Dr. Julius Bailey and Dr. Carmiele Wilkerson engaged students in a Brown bag lunch discussion on W.E. B. Du Bois' *Souls of Black Folk* and James Baldwin's short essay, "Stranger in the Village" during a Black History Month Reading Discussion at Founders. The Wittenberg campus community were invited to join the campus-wide reading event and all were engaged as Gibson quoted from *The Souls of Black Folk*, by Du Bois and discussed his experiences with racism in the Ivory Towers of Academia. Being an intellectual, Gibson stated, does not exempt him from the question that is ever present for Du Bois in *The Souls of Black Folk*, How does it feel to be a problem? Always present in Du Bois' treaty on Black American life in the US is the question of belonging. Gibson discussed racism and exclusion in 21st century US society as "still a struggle." Dr. Wilkerson and Dr. Bailey also discussed Du Bois' work with Professor Gibson and emphasized how James Baldwin's life of exclusivity in the US and abroad during the 1950s mirrored Du Bois' sociological study at the turn of the 20th century. Students and Witt community members left the lunch discussion having feasted on lively discussion, prepared for the next exam in Dr. Bailey's class. At the evening colloquia, Gibson gave a formal presentation on James Baldwin, "At the Margins: The Work of James Baldwin." Gibson's colloquia talk centered on his dissertation in progress, Baldwin's writing, and the themes of manhood and male intimacy in Baldwin's novels and short works. During this talk in front of a riveted audience of English majors, English department faculty and Wittenberg community members, Gibson discussed Baldwin's body of work in relation to the author's private life as a gay man in the early half of the 20th century. Professor Gibson teaches a course on James Baldwin and is the 2011-2012 Dartmouth College Marshall Fellow.

## Dixon Doesn't Disappoint: A Colloquium with Kent



Fiction and photographs, poetry and translations, teaching, family, non-fiction, romance, and yes, kayaking – Prof. Kent Dixon brought a little bit of everything to his January colloquium.

The event was Kent's opening farewell to Wittenberg. Along with his wife and colleague Mimi, Kent will be retiring at the end of 2012, after 32 years at Witt. Kent says he is looking forward to having time to travel, be with his family, and write.

"It feels good," Kent said. "All this fresh energy seems to be pouring into writing, and getting published (about 10 things now, between last fall and June) plus all the other stuff."

Kent built his colloquium presentation around the image of water, a theme that has run through both his writing and his personal life. He read selections from his writing about his childhood along Florida's Biscayne Bay on up to his current obsession with kayaking. Many of those stories were backed by family photographs of Kent projected on the Ness Auditorium screen, many taken by Mimi.

"I think water is my 'element,' or as Greg Frazier used to say, my 'site.' The home turf you're more powerful on," Kent said. "First ten years I was in Springfield, about twice a month I'd have to drive out to the Reservoir, like at night, and look across and lose myself in the sky, stars, dark, moon on the water, sounds, wet air."

Kent suggested young writers find their own site, and write from there. He also borrowed an idea from a Charles Baudelaire poem he had translated, and urged students to "get drunk" on their passion.

"What I'm advocating," Kent said, "is not spirits, but spirit. Do your thing, love your demons, follow your bliss." And, of course, keep on kayaking.



## Incorvati Recognized for Commitment to Community



Award-winner and "progressive hero," Dr. Rick Incorvati

The first annual ProgressOhio Barbara Klass Sokol award went to our own Rick Incorvati, in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of equality, the environment and social justice. The prestigious award was presented to Rick by former Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner on Nov. 19. Also named as a fellow "progressive hero" at the November event was U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown.

Rick is the founder and president of Equality Springfield, an organization dedicated to making our city a more welcoming, accepting place for gays, lesbians and transgendered persons. The organization generated considerable publicity over the past year with its attempt to pass a city ordinance banning discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. A divided city commission eventually rejected that proposal, but Rick and Equality Springfield are not deterred.

"The Equality Springfield organization will continue pushing for equal protection, but that effort will be a long one," Rick said. "Our primary work at this point shifts to protecting the progressive commissioners -- Karen Duncan is up for re-election in 2013 and will have some large churches trying to oust her because of her vote to include "sexual orientation" as a protected category -- and hopefully finding another progressive candidate or two who has a shot at winning a seat in city government."

The late Barbara Sokol was a long-time advocate for progressive issues and the arts, according to ProgressOhio executive director Brian Rothenberg. The group solicited nominees for her namesake award from its 400,000 on-line members around the state, and found just what they were looking for in Rick.

"From Rick's work establishing Equality Springfield and work to help pass the domestic partnership benefits at Wittenberg University, to work in protecting the environment through campus and community programs as well as his commitment to community and his Church, Rick clearly distinguished himself as the honoree," Rothenberg said.

Rick said the Progressive Ohio award is a validation of the work Springfield Equality is doing, and that he felt honored to have been named the first winner.

"That kind of appreciation from other like-minded community activists was deeply moving," Rick said.

## Rambo Granted a Prestigious Win Witt's Resident Poet Wins Ohio Art's Grant

Jody Rambo, the department's resident poet, won a prestigious Ohio Arts Council Grant for her poetry this spring. The grants are awarded every other year, and carry a \$5000 award. This year, more than 125 poets from around the state entered the competition.

The OAC judges described Jody's winning entry as "well-crafted and intelligent work" that featured, among other things, "refreshing and enlivening mastery of the rhythmic line," a "wonderful accumulation of detail," "strong imagery that at times seemed claustrophobic," and a "real sense of mood and atmosphere that is hard to capture."

This is Jody's second OAC grant. She won her first award in 2009.



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## Faculty News

- **Lori Askeland** has just published a review essay in the most recent issue of *Studies in American Naturalism* (Spring 2012), focused on three new books that examine adoption in American literature, particularly during the late 19th/early 20th century. She's on sabbatical this spring, and is going to be very busy. First, she is presenting a paper at a Diversity Conference at Wright State February 25th, on a panel including Dr. Rick Incorvati, under the panel title of "Bringing Activism Home." Her presentation looks at adoption-related activism in an expatriate community of Korean adoptees from all over the world in Seoul, South Korea, and how it arose out of prominent adoption memoirs; Dr. Incorvati will be focusing on his work on LGBT rights here in Springfield. She's presenting on documentaries regarding Vietnamese adoptees to the English department in March, and in April she'll be presenting on how she uses service learning in her adoption course at the Multi-Ethnic Literature in the United States (MELUS) Conference in San Francisco. After that, she's traveling on to Seoul to interview and work with a prominent adoptee activist and memoirist, Jane Jeong Trenka as part of National Adoption / Single Mom's Week activities. She'll also write a review of the book *Outsiders Within* (co-edited by Trenka, 2006) which Dr. Askeland uses in her adoption course, and which is just now being translated into Korean and released there this spring for the first time; Trenka will translate the review into Korean for publication there. Finally, Dr. Askeland will also speak before a university audience about her use of the book in her courses while in Seoul--and plans to eat plenty of bibimbap, kimchi chigai and hangwa!

- **Cynthia Richards:** After five years and countless hours of writing, editing, and long telephone conversations with her co-editor in Manhattan, Dr. Richards' manuscript, *Approaches to Teaching Behn's Oroonoko*, has been accepted for publication! In addition to her work as an editor, Dr. Richards' has authored the Preface and Introduction as well as the essay entitled "Transatlantic Connections: Teaching Oroonoko with The Widow Ranter"

- **Rick Incorvati's** article "Developmental Stages: The Function of the Theater in the Progress of Character in Thomas Holcroft's Early Fiction" is forthcoming in *Reviewing Holcroft*, a collection of essays due out later this year, and his review of a book on sensibility in works by Romantic-era women writers will turn up in the *Keats-Shelley Journal*. He'll address topics related to social activism in a couple upcoming conference presentations, and while he retains his ambition to develop some pretty basic skills on the mandolin, he has, to be perfectly frank, managed precious few victories on that front.

- **Bob Davis** is serving as a consultant for a museum installation in Philadelphia called "Broken Bodies, Suffering Spirits," devoted to Civil War medicine and nursing. He has also been chosen as an Honorary Class Member of this graduating class.

- **Michael McClelland's** novel *Oyster Blues* has been optioned for film by producer Jon Judelson. Judelson's Batterie Productions has completed work on an *Oyster Blues* screenplay and is now seeking financial backing. Mac says the odds of the film actually being produced are still pretty low, but he's excited nonetheless.

- **Bonnie Erwin Erwin** is excited to continue working with the English Department as Visiting Assistant Professor in 2012-2013. Dr. Erwin joined the department in Fall 2011 and is currently teaching an English 180 course on transformation narratives, as well as an English 101 class focused on discourses about food in American culture. In the Fall she will teach English 101 and will also work with Wittenberg's international students in English 100. She reports that teaching at Wittenberg is "exactly the work I dreamed about doing when I decided to go to graduate school," and she looks forward to another great year of working with Wittenberg students.

## Alumni Notes

- **Jesse Steele '09** has been accepted into the master's program in public administration at Virginia Tech.

- **Anne Ford '95** recently published her first book, *Peaceful Places Chicago*. Anne is a freelance writer whose profiles of Chicagoans appear regularly in *The Chicago Reader*.

- **Heather Stucky Bower '02** recently completed her Ph.D in Education: Curriculum, Culture, and Change at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Heather currently teaches at Meredith College.

- **Anna Reilly '09** gets to model cute clothes and name dresses and shoes in her job at ModCloth.com.

- **Carl Miller '98** currently teaches at the University of Alabama and plans a summer wedding to Christie Pagano.

- **Tara Failey '04** is in the master's program in Environmental Health Science and Policy at George Washington University.

- **Jeremy Glazier '97** has been awarded a fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council to spend time this summer at the Fine Arts Works Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts.

- **Martha Sawicki '11** has been accepted into the M.A. program in English at University of Buffalo.

## Alumni Notes

- **Bret Nye** '11 studies fiction writing at Miami University of Ohio.

- **Bryce Thompson** '95 is an Information Security Engineer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

- **Carrie Winteregg** '06 earned her J.D. at University of Dayton Law School and works for the City of Chicago.

- **Chris Gipson** '11 is Assistant Director of Lacrosse at Sports Made Personal in Niles, Illinois.

- **Gretchen Dellner** '10 works at Gannett Digital Ventures in Indianapolis.

- **Heather Otley Moore** '02 is Senior Publicity Manager at Sourcebooks in Naperville, Illinois.

- **Josh Keiter** '04 earned his Ph.D. in English from Binghamton University and teaches at Delaware Valley College.

- **Andy Brooks** '02 is working toward his J.D. at the Charleston School of Law.

- **Anna Michael** '06 works as a writer/editor at Chase Home Lending.

- **Brandy Schillace** '00 teaches English at Winona State University, Minnesota.

- **Amanda Peebels** will begin her MA in Social Work at The Ohio State University this fall.

**Laura McLaughlin** '11 is teaching English to children in Beijing, China.

- **Rhea Jones-Price** '10 is attending law school at the University of Illinois.

- **Adam Schick** '11 works for Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County, Indiana.

- **Alex Throckmorton** '10 is studying divinity at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

- **Alison Davis** '06 is working on her Ph.D. in Religion and Literature from the University of Chicago Divinity School.

## Current Student News

- **Biz Keri** '12 has been accepted into several master's programs in professional writing and editing, and will likely be attending University of Cincinnati this fall.

- **Amy Stamon** '13 will be presenting a paper on Toni Morrison's *Beloved* at NCUR.

- **Kelsey Swindler** '12 is taking her paper "Greif and Sympathy in Walden and Thoreau's Spring of Resurrection" to NCUR.

- **Caleb Murray** '13 will be attending NCUR and the St. Francis Conference on English Language and Literatures, presenting papers on Shakespeare's *Henriad* and *The Tempest*.

- **Craig Osterbrooke** '13 will be presenting his research ("Renaissance Courtship and Marriage: The Edification of a Matrimonial Christ") at the St. Francis Conference on English Language.

- **Adrienne Stout** '14 is presenting her creative work ("Wheels") at the St. Francis Conference on English Language.

- **Leigh Hastings** ('13) and **Kali Almdale** ('13) will be attending the East Central Writing Centers Association Conference, presenting their paper: "Collaborating with Constant Chaos: Evaluating the Effects of Disorder in the Writing Center."

- **Tyler Hall** ('12), **Jordan Hildebrandt** ('12), and **Rebecca Price** ('13) will be presenting their paper "Bogeymen in the Writing Center: Facing Writers' Fears Using Competencies from Other Resource Centers" at the East Central Writing Centers Association Conference.

- **Kelsey Mazur** ('13), **Colin Payton** ('13), and **Claire Carron** ('14) will be presenting their research, "(Just Like) Starting Over (and Over Again): Relationships in the Writing Center," at the East Central Writing Centers Association Conference.

- **Mary Novakovic's** ('12) poem "The King's Hollow" will be published in *The Walrus* undergraduate literary journal.

- **Brittany Wason** '12 will be attending Saint Mary's of California's MFA program, pursuing a degree in Poetry.