

# Footnotes

2013 - 2014

## Witt's Happening:

A Creative Opportunity: the Kent and Mimi Dixon Professorship

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The Kent and Mimi Dixon Professorship of Creative Writing was announced as an endowment program last spring (2013) with the hopes of bringing more breadth and innovation to Wittenberg's Creative Writing Program. With a \$75,000 donation to start the program's \$500,000 endowment goal, a search for the first face of the professorship began.

Out of ninety-seven total applications, Wittenberg faculty worked to narrow the pool down to the selection of one writer in residence, ultimately choosing fiction author R. Clifton Spargo to help the department pioneer the program.

With a recent publication in historical fiction, *Beautiful Fools*, Spargo exemplifies several desirable aspects for the program. From his work with victims of trauma, teaching writing as a source of reflection and transition to those in need, he demonstrates not only a passion for his craft, but also his community.

Innovative in his approach to writing, Spargo writes in a variety of genres: he has a regular column in The Huffington Post and writes frequently on issues of popular interest in a variety of top-line journals. His new and well-received novel, *Beautiful Fools*, imagines Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's eight "lost days" in Cuba. He also has published two books on trauma through Johns Hopkins, and has an educational track record of Yale and Edinburgh, teaching creative writing courses at Yale and been a visiting writer at the Iowa Writer's Workshop (where he also received his MFA) before coming to Wittenberg.

Department chair, Cynthia Richards describes Spargo as:

"[s]o ideal as our first recipient. So much in his vita reminds me of the creative choices Kent and Mimi Dixon have made, combining a love of writing with a love of literature, and being able to repeatedly reimagine their professional lives in exciting and innovative ways. Students responded well to his intelligence, his creativity, and his passion. They knew that working with him would push them to become more creative too."

We have been excited to see how he teaches the Intro to Creative Writing and an Advanced Historical Fiction course this fall. The excitement over his presence is just the beginning of the good things to come from Spargo's time here.



# Colloquia:

& Guest Speakers (F13 - S14)

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## Fall 2013

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- Sep. 19** Workshop with **Audrey Bilger**, scholar and public intellectual
- Sep. 26** **Caryl Phillips**, playwright, novelist and public intellectual
- Oct. 17** **Dave Barry**, humorist, journalist, winner of Pulitzer Prize and author of several NY Times Bestsellers.
- Nov. 4** Graphic Fiction Event, “Race in American Comics: Interdisciplinary Perspectives”
- Nov. 11** The List Colloquium
- Dec. 5** What Can You Do With an English Major? Discussion with alumnae **Anna Reilly** and **Catie Stipe**

## Spring 2014

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- Jan. 22** Read-a-Thon.
- Feb. 11-13** **Dennis Greene** “The Rise and Fall of Blaxploitation Film”
- Mar. 20-21** **Dana Norris**, Wittenberg Alumna, Storytelling and Live Lit Performance
- Mar. 25** Literary Pub Fest: Department and Student Writing Awards
- Apr. 8** Alumnus **Eric Shonkwiler** read from his novel, “Above All Men”
- Apr. 14** Matchbook Poetry Reading
- Apr. 25** Senior Presentations

## Faculty Notes:

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### **Cynthia Richards** (*Department Chair*)

Dr. Richards' book *Approaches to Teaching Behn's Oroonoko* released in mid-December. Cynthia was voted Wittenberg's Woman of the Year, and received the Edith B. and Frank C. Matthies Award for 2014 to further develop her digital editing skills in order to provide a more enriched and practical classroom experience for her students.

### **Jody Rambo** (*Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing*)

Jody Rambo received her fourth grant from the Ohio Arts Council—an Individual Excellence award in Poetry! It is an incredible accomplishment, and very well-deserved.

## Student Notes:

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### **GENEROUS ALUMNI GRANT INTERNSHIPS TO STUDENTS**

**Jared Crum** interned with alumna Dana Norris and the Story Club in Chicago this past summer as a marketing representative and performer.

### **TO DENVER AND BEYOND<sup>1</sup>**

Three seniors (**Taylor Burmeister**, **Elizabeth Boyer**, and **Adrienne Stout**) were accepted into summer publishing programs. Taylor and Elizabeth spent their summers in Colorado for graduate studies at the Denver Publishing Institute.

**Adrienne Stout** accepted a position in the Writing Center at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

**Megan Conkle** is working as an Americorps VISTA at Rural Action, a sustainable agriculture initiative in Athens, OH.

**Ashley Milliner** joined the US Air Force and aspires to enter Judge Advocate General officer training and go to law school.

**Shannon Kelleher** is studying at Boston University to get her masters in science journalism.

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<sup>1</sup> To the Class of 2014:

Congratulations on all you have accomplished. It's been a wonderful experience to get to know you. Your literary insight and fun attitude have helped us all become better readers and more interesting people. These few words cannot convey all I have learned from you. Best wishes in all your upcoming plans.

From **Pam Deselem**, English SCE student.

## Literary Awards: & Department Honors

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### **OSTROM EXPOSITORY AWARDS:**

*English 101 Prize:* Camila Quiñones

*Junior Prize:* Savannah Fox

*Senior Prize:* Jonathan Drewsen

### **CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS:**

*Poetry:* Kelsey Matson '14

*Fiction:* Adrienne Stout '14

*Non-Fiction Prose:* Megan Conkle '14

*Playwriting:* Taylor Burmeister '14

*Crowl Creativity:* Adrienne Stout '14

### **EXCELLENCE IN LITERARY STUDIES:**

Taylor Burmeister & Shannon Kelleher '14

### **KOPPENHAVER AWARD:**

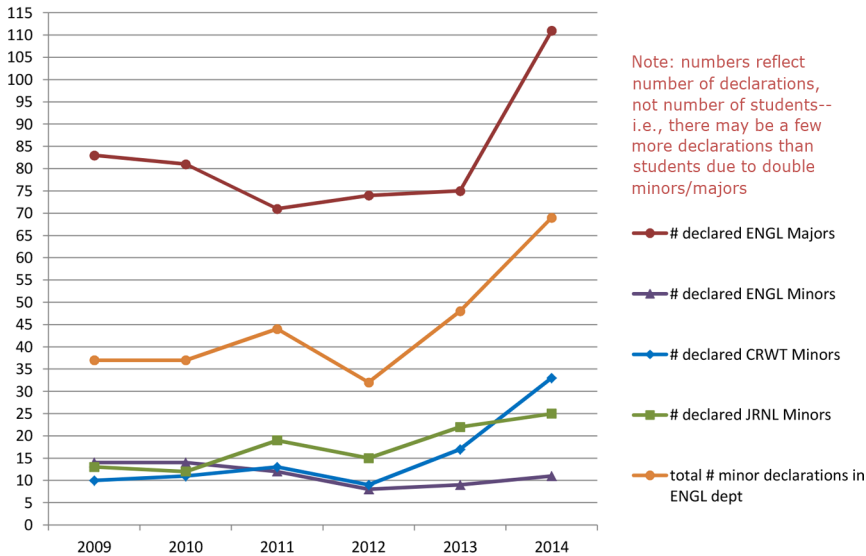
Dorri Jones '14 & Adrienne Stout

# Department Growth: Numbers Jump in Declarations for 2014

## English Department Enrollment Stats\* 2013-2014 Academic Year

current number of students declared in ENGL dept: 142	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014 Growth% since 2013 Fact Book	2013 Growth% from 2012 Fact Book	declarations since Aug. 2013:	class of 2014	class of 2015	class of 2016	class of 2017	SCE
# declared ENGL Majors	83	81	71	74	75	111	48.00%	1.35%	MAJORS*: 38	0	5	15	16	2
# declared ENGL Minors	14	14	12	8	9	11	22.22%	12.50%	ENGL MINORS: 4	0	1	3	0	0
# declared CRWT Minors	10	11	13	9	17	33	94.12%	88.89%	CRWT MINORS: 19	6	3	5	2	3
# declared JRNL Minors	13	12	19	15	22	25	13.64%	46.67%	JRNL MINORS: 6	2	1	2	0	1
total # declarations in ENGL dept	120	118	115	106	123	180	46.34%	16.04%	TOTAL DEPT-WIDE: 67	8	10	25	18	6
total # minor declarations in ENGL dept	37	37	44	32	48	69	43.75%	50.00%	TOTAL MINORS: 29	8	5	10	2	4
total # declared majors at Witt	1087	1125	1096	1125	1190			5.78%						
total # declared minors at Witt	448	476	494	397	540			36.02%						

## English Department Declaration Trends



\*all pre-2014 numbers are according to Wittenberg's annual Fact Book, 2014 numbers are according to dept. declarations as of 5/9/14

### Major Growth Stats:

Highest number of English majors in the last decade, only 1 short of 2003 record of 112 majors, and 2003's overall enrollment was higher than any year since.  
**56.34% increase** from 2011's number of declared majors. We grew **35.8%** over 254 days  
Average growth rate of **3.64%/month** from 8/13-4/14

### CRWT growth stats:

More than double the largest number of minors since the program began in 2006 (560% growth since 2006)  
**100% growth over 254 days** (16 on 8/19/13, 32 on 4/30/14)  
Average growth rate of **8.006%/mo** from 8/13-4/14  
Only two dropped, and the size of minor still doubled from the beginning of the year - more declared throughout the year than were declared in August.

### JRNL stats:

Largest number of minors since the program began (333.3% growth since 2006)  
**23.8% growth over 254 days**  
Average growth rate of **2.401%/mo** from 8/13-4/14  
Only one student dropped

### Minor stats:

Only two short of the highest number in the last 10 years  
**20% growth over 254 days**  
Average growth rate of **2.046%/mo** from 8/13-4/14  
Only two students dropped.

# Alumni Notes:

Wittenberg alumnus **L.S. Klatt** was named Poet Laureate of the greater Grand Rapids, Michigan in February.

2012 alumna, **Brittany Wason**, is the poetry editor of *Mary: A Journal of New Writing*, an online journal run by graduate students at Saint Mary's College of California.

English and Philosophy major, **Ronnie Ross**, 2009 alumnus, is the English Department chair in Warrenton, Virginia, where he has been teaching, starting in the fall of 2014.

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## Got News?

Send your notes to Christina Reynolds:

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## Credits:

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Thanks to the faculty, staff, students, and alumni for their contributions. © 2014