

Footnotes

English Department News and Notes

A Message from Department Chair Robin Inboden

Springtime, in so many poems and in so many ways, means new beginnings, but in academia, it means the end of some things as well. The end of another year, a year full of trials and triumphs alike for us, and the end of college days for our seniors.

Looking back, there have been some very rough patches for the department this year. Mac's heart surgery concerned us all, but looking at him now, it's hard to believe that crisis was such a short time ago! Other students and faculty members this year have lost loved ones and had family crises, but we've all pulled together, and everyone has been thoughtful and supportive in those rough times.

We have had happy times, too: many students, alumni, and faculty members have received good news, won honors, accomplished great things—you will read about some of those very things in the rest of the newsletter. The WittLit Society has become a force of nature, and the energy is terrific! And we were honored to have one of our most adventuresome and accomplished alumni, **Lois Raimondo (81)**, deliver a rousing address as the Class of 2005's Commencement speaker.

And, as we contemplate these spring changes, there are both endings and beginnings. The Class of 2005 will soon be making their way in the world beyond Witt, and **Prof. Kim Dillon Shiveley** will be leaving at the end of her three-year visiting position; we will miss her smile, her style, and her energy. But there will be beginnings as well—we are all looking forward to welcoming the new baby expected by **Dr. Hinson** and his wife, **Amy Korpieski**, in early June. And we'll have a whole new batch of seniors next year with their own adventures waiting to happen! Have a great summer!

Please send news and notes to English Department Secretary Patti Birt, at pbirt@wittenberg.edu, or mail to Patti Birt, English Department, Wittenberg University, P.O. Box 720, Springfield, OH 45501. This issue of *Footnotes* was edited by **Callon Holloway (06)** and **Ty Buckman**.

The Literary Society

This has been a very active year for the ever-growing Wittenberg Literary Society. Of course, they kicked the year off right away with weekly meetings in the Morris Lounge each Thursday night. While most of these meetings were spent purely discussing literature, some time went into preparations for larger events. In October, for example, they held a Halloween Party at LS President **Melissa Barrett's (05)** house. Also in the fall, members enjoyed the movie *Hamlet* with the English Department.

Each time the Wittenberg Theatre Department performs its plays, the LS generally organizes a group of interested members to go watch it together, and then go out to dinner afterwards. On one festive evening in February, they held a potluck dinner, again at Barrett's house. Of particular note were **Torren Stanley's (06)** famous grilled cheese sandwiches, among a wide variety of other delicacies.

Often seen in Hollenbeck and across campus are the all-black LS t-shirts that read simply, "Discourse." on the front, and "We rush the House of Usher" on the back.

March's spotlight event was a "Party Like It's 1599" Party, graciously hosted by professors **Ty Buckman** and **Jody Rambo**. Both faculty and students were in attendance, and enjoyed homemade cuisine from the time period. LS members also performed a sixteenth-century morality play, *The Marriage of Wit and Wisdom*, as directed by member **Elizabeth Eshelman (06)**. **Bret Olson (05)** answered half of the Early Modern Trivia questions correctly, and for his efforts won this mention.

April also stood out for LS members. LS co-sponsored the 2nd Annual Wittenberg Poetry Festival, in recognition of National Poetry Month. Dr. **Rick Incorvati** and LS member **Ted Trautman (07)** shared the role of Master of Ceremonies. Many students and faculty came forward to read favorite and original work, including a translation of a famous Bosnian poet's work by Dr. Keith Doubt of the Sociology Department.

Professors Kent and **Mimi Dixon** have invited the LS to hold a meeting in their garden this spring and kick off its exploration of poet William Blake. Continuing into next fall, the LS plan to self-publish members' own writing in the spirit of Blake, as well as read Milton's *Paradise Lost* as a society together, completely in the nude, to imitate one idiosyncratic pastime of Blake and his wife... as soon as a suitable location can be found.

Most significantly of all, though, may be the news that the Literary Society received a Freeman Grant to travel to Japan this summer. Admissions counselor Susan Welker will be leading our trip and serving as translator, along with our faculty chaperone Professor **D'Arcy Fallon** and her assistant **Melissa Barrett (05)**. From July 20 to 30, we will travel in Tokyo and Kyoto, primarily, taking in sights and culture, and developing our creative writing portfolios. In preparation for the trip, trip participants are reading a survey of Japanese literature in translation, watching popular Japanese cinema, and sampling cuisine they are likely to encounter once there.

The Writing Center

This past fall semester was our busiest ever in the writing center – 1819 individual visits and 22 classes!! It was a bit more quiet this spring, but once the flu-that-was-not-really-the-flu had run its course, things picked up.

Thank you, students and faculty alike, for your support this year. And special thanks—with sad goodbyes—to our senior writing advisors: **Aubrey Anderson**, **Arnie Aurellano**, **Melissa Barrett**, **Andy Berger**, **Kristin Fox**, **Laura Kinnaman**, **Andy Klosky**, **Sarah Myers**, and **David Wilson**. We'll miss you all!

English Department Colloquium Series

A presentation on *The Sun Also Rises* by visiting Asst. Prof. **Dave Savola** took place on Thursday, February 3 in Ness Auditorium.

Rosanna Warren, a poet who teaches at Boston University, read from her work on Thursday, February 17 in Ness Auditorium. Her visit was sponsored by the Ohio Poetry Circuit.

Writer in Residence and best-selling author Gus Lee discussed the writing life on Tuesday, March 22 in Ness Auditorium.

English Department Writing Awards

Congratulations to the following students whose work was honored at the Department Awards Colloquium on Thursday, April 21 in Ness Auditorium. Each award winner received a certificate and a cash prize.

Sophomore Writing Award: **Allison Helmuth**

Junior Writing Award: **Elizabeth Eshelman**

Senior Writing Award: **Mike Budney** and **Sarah Leavens**

Poetry Award: **Melissa Barrett**

Fiction Award: **Chris Schirr**

Non-Fiction Award: **Elizabeth Eshelman** and **Sarah Leavens**

Creativity Award: **Sarah Leavens**

Koppenhaver Award: **Melissa Barrett**

Excellence in Literary Studies Award: **Katie Baumgardner** and **Sarah Myers**

Oral Comprehensive Examinations

The following senior English majors passed their oral comprehensive examinations with distinction:

Arnie Aurellano

Melissa Barrett

Katie Baumgardner

Meredith Belser

Craig Buckley

Norah Gillam

Andrew Klosky

Sarah Leavens

Therese Lehman

Sarah Myers

Maria Nader

Bret Olson

Departmental Honors

The following students will graduate with Department Honors this year:

Darcy Ark

Melissa Barrett

Michael Budney

Maria Nader

Bret Olson

Faculty Promotions

The department is pleased to announce that three of its members have officially been granted promotions at the May meeting of the Board of Directors. **Dr. Robert Leigh Davis** and **Dr. Robin L. Inboden** have been named Professors; **Dr. Carmiele Wilkerson** has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

Eligibility for promotions is based on achievement of the appropriate terminal degree and minimum numbers of years served in each rank; once eligible, a candidate earns promotion through demonstrated achievement in the above-named three areas. Each case is reviewed by the department, the Faculty Personnel Board, the Provost, and the President, who finally presents his recommendations to the Board of Directors, who then vote to confer the promotions.

The process for these promotions began last year with the gathering of letters and other materials relating to the three areas of teaching, professional activity, and service to the university. Many present and former students and colleagues contributed to the promotion files; their input was invaluable. Thanks to all those who contributed to the case files, and congratulations to our colleagues!

Two English Professors Win Teaching Awards

Congratulations to **Professor Bob Davis**, who received the 2005 Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, and to **Professor Carmiele Wilkerson**, who received the 2005 Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education.

Second Annual Poetry Festival Celebrates National Poetry Month

On April 14th in Ness Family Auditorium, the lights were dimmed, the microphone was turned up, and the room was filled with students, faculty, and staff who had come together for one reason: poetry. Reciting it, hearing it, enjoying it. For the second year running, the English Department combined forces with the Wittenberg Literary Society to assemble a generous lineup of readers in order to celebrate National Poetry Month, and celebrate they did with an invigorating mix of classical verse (read by **Dr. Tim Wilkerson**), modernist poetry (offered by **Liz Powers** and **Lenore Bamberger**), twentieth-century balladry (provided by **Mac MacClelland**), contemporary lyric poetry (read by **D'Arcy Fallon**), Bosnian verse (translated by **Dr. Keith Doubt**), and slam poetry (read with all due vigor by **Bret Olson** and **Kathleen Soler**). The event also enjoyed a healthy offering of original poems, including those by **Arundati Dandapani**, **Sean Golden**, **A. J. Kessler**, **Julia Moran**, **Sam McCable**, **Melissa Barrett**, and **Professors Jody Rambo**, **Kent Dixon**, and **Mimi Dixon**. The success of the event over the last two years makes its reappearance in 2006 a near certainty, and anyone interested in organizing or reading at the festival should contact **Liz Powers** or any member of the Wittenberg Literary Society.

WittFree

The spring semester saw the debut of the faculty rock band sensation WittFree. Along with **Profs. Tim Bennett (Languages)**, **Steve Broidy (Education)**, **Ruth Lewis (Biology)**, **Tom Taylor (History)**, and alumnus **Tom Stafford** (a columnist for the Springfield News-Sun), the group also boasts two members of our English department in **Drs. Lori Askeland** and **Rick Incorvati**. After the group's initial concert, an all-Beatles show in January, they were invited to play again for the Benjamin Prince Society (a group of generous donors), and they most recently took to the stage at Wittfest '05. Shortly after this latest show, *Footnotes* caught up with **Drs. Askeland** and **Incorvati** to ask them a few questions about their newfound success.

Footnotes: Dr. Askeland, you really seemed to channel the spirit of Janis Joplin in your rendition of "Piece of My Heart." Do you have a particular affinity with this singer?

Dr. Askeland: Well, like many people of my generation, I was actually conceived at Woodstock, so I feel this very deep prenatal connection to the great one, and that deep, deep bond comes out whenever I sing her songs. It also occasionally shows up when I recite Emily Dickinson poems: "Tell all the truth-- / But tell it slant / I say mamma you / Gotta gotta / Tell the truth-- / But tell it slant." See, there it is.

Footnotes: Does life in a rock band bring you in contact with the vices of living in the fast lane, vices like drugs?

Dr. Incorvati: Hey, it's a rock band, and while no one has gone over the edge just yet, you're bound to come into contact with some substances when you're hanging around with people like this. There's a bit of Lipitor, some Celebrex, and then there's the Allegra. Man, that stuff will open your head wide up. I'm glad you asked this question because it gives me the chance to put the kibosh on all those stories about Viagra parties. I'm pretty sure that nasty little rumor was started by Wittmen Crew. You soon learn that the music business is full of its petty jealousies.

Footnotes: Does your training in British literature have any effect on your playing?

Dr. Incorvati: Sure. There's little question, for instance, that Eric Clapton was playing around with the sonnet form in his first solo on "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." Everyone knows that. The only argument is over whether it was a Petrarchan or Shakespearean sonnet. And if you ask me, there's just no question. If you can't hear the couplet at the end, your ears are pudding. It's Shakespearean all the way, man.

Footnotes: So what can we expect in the future from the band?

Dr. Askeland: Of course contractual obligations won't allow me to disclose too much, but let's just say that a tour is in the works, and it's a pretty safe bet that we'll be touching down in Springfield at some point next year, maybe more than once.

Footnotes: Cool. Rock on, Wittfree.

Drs. Askeland and Incorvati: Rock on, *Footnotes*.

Faculty Notes

Lori Askeland gave a presentation at the American Association of Colleges and Universities annual Engaged Pedagogy Conference on April 16, with her Spanish Department colleague, Chris McIntyre. Their presentation was called "Examining Teachable Moments: How to Engage Student Identity with Course Content." She's also had a personal essay, entitled "Grafting: A Love Story,"

accepted for publication in a forthcoming collection, *Encountering Motherhood*. She'll be reading from this essay and chairing a panel at the Adoption and Culture International Conference in Tampa, Florida, this November. And, having completed a draft of her edited volume, *Children and Youth in Adoption and Foster Care*, she's off to Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong, China, to visit the family of her newest "adopted" child (actually, a high-school age exchange student), and to study foster care programs for abandoned and disabled children under a grant from the Freeman Foundation.

Ty Buckman presented a paper, "Gathering the Whole Intention of the Conceit: Pre-emptive Coherence in Spenser's Letter to Raleigh," at the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference in Toronto in October. His review of William West's *Theatres and Encyclopedias in Early Modern Europe* appeared in the most recent issue of the journal *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in English*.

Bob Davis gave the honorary "Last Lecture" for Mortar Board in April and was promoted to the rank of full professor at the Board of Directors' meeting in May. Also, at the Honors Convocation, Dr. Davis received the 2005 Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award. Laurie and he celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on March 22, where they may have toasted the news that their eldest daughter Emily will begin studies at Stanford University in the fall.

Mimi Dixon's essay "Waiting: Theme and Variations" has won the William Allen Prize for Creative Non-Fiction of *The Journal*, a major journal of creative writing in the Department of Creative Writing at Ohio State University. *The Journal* publishes the best work by emerging and established writers around Ohio and the nation. Dr. Dixon's essay will be published in the May issue of *The Journal*.

Maureen Fry has won Honorable Mention in the Akron Art Museum's New Words 2005 poetry contest for her poem, "Picking Rocks." She read her poem at the awards ceremony in Akron on April 24th.

Karen Hayes presented a paper, "Meeting on the Margins: The Work of the Writing Center with ESL Students," for the College English Association of Ohio at the Pontifical College Josephinum on April 8. The paper, originally drawn from conversations with Wittenberg's Writing Center, grew to cover areas of concern to composition teachers working with international students.

Rick Incorvati is finishing his first year as Director of the Writing Program, he has an article on Walter Scott which will surface at *Romanticism on the Net* (<http://www.ron.umontreal.ca/>) in May, and he was recognized this spring by the Concerned Black Students for his efforts to encourage diversity on campus. He plans to spend part of his summer at the British Library in London doing more research for an edition of two novels, *Manthorn, or the Enthusiast* (1778-9) and *Alwyn, or the Gentleman Comedian* (1780), by Thomas Holcroft, and he hopes to spend another part of the summer camping in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota where he aims to learn something about fishing with a fly rod. He also very recently acquired a mandolin and is still making valiant efforts to figure out how to play the thing.

Jody Rambo's poem "Landscape Returning" will be appear in the spring 2005 issue of *Blackbird: an online journal of literature and the arts*, published by Virginia Commonwealth University and New Virginia Review.

Visiting Assistant Professor David Savola is presenting a paper at the biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment in Eugene, Oregon this June. His paper is titled "A Very Sinister Book': *The Sun Also Rises* as a Version of Pastoral." The paper is a further development of ideas Professor Savola presented in the English Department colloquium in February.

Newly-minted **Associate Professor Carmiele Wilkerson** recently received the 2005 Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award by the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE).

Student Notes

Katie Baumgardner (05) presented a paper at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) on April 21-23, 2005. The paper was titled "A Real Ghostly Story': A Gothic Expression of the Female Experience" and explored the Gothic themes adopted by Charlotte Perkins Gilman in her 1890 short story *The Giant Wisteria*. The paper will also be published in NCUR's *Proceedings*. After the completion of a summer class, Katie is planning to spend the summer traveling to Chicago, Washington, D.C., New York, and Denver to visit friends and pursue positions in the publishing industry.

Elizabeth Eshelman (06) received a summer research grant to continue her work on English morality plays. She completed an independent study on the project by presenting her research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Lexington, Virginia in April.

It is with much sadness that **Robyn Kistemaker (05)** bids farewell to her position as Patti's student worker. After graduating in May, Robyn will be heading home to work until the beginning of July. In July she will be heading to Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus to begin her studies for a Master of Divinity.

As a result of her positive experiences working in the Writing Center and editing *Spectrum*, **Sarah Meyers (05)** will be attending the Denver Publishing Institute this summer. After graduating from the Institute, she will move to Atlanta in search of a job so she can enjoy two of her favorite things—editing and sunshine.

In February, **Maria Nader (05)** presented her honors thesis, "Creating Spaces for Literary 'Creeping': The Diaries of Charlotte Perkins Gilman," at the undergraduate research conference at Cedarville University, and again in March at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois.

Bret Olson (05) presented his paper on Harlem Renaissance photographer James Van Der Zee at the undergraduate conference: Race, Nation, and the Humanities at Austin College in Sherman, Texas in April. Olson wrote the paper in his English 315: Harlem Renaissance course.

Ted Trautman (07) presented his paper, "Marxist Foundation and Shortcomings in Shelley's 'Frankenstein'" at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference at Weber State University, in Ogden, Utah, in March. The same paper has also been accepted for publication in Weber State's literary journal, *Metaphor*.

After graduating in May, **Tina Valerius (05)** will be working at the world's longest bar in Put-in-Bay. In the fall, she will get down to business by pursuing her Master's of Library and Information Science at Kent State University, where she hopes to specialize in historical and government documents.

Alumni/ae Notes

Drew Heverin (04) will be teaching English just outside Seoul, South Korea next year.

Heather Stansfield (04) spent this year in Wittenberg, Germany on an internship at the Institute for Language and Culture, where the Wittenberg summer group studies.

Heather Stucky Bower (03) lives in North Carolina with her husband, teaches high school, and has begun work on her master's degree. They have just bought a new house, which provides great new outlets for decorating and gardening.

Aubrey Ludwig (00) took a break from the graduate program at University of Maryland to teach at Langley High School in Virginia.

Johnny Pryor (99) coaches Wittenberg's Mock Trial Team, which on March 18-20, along with 47 other participating teams, competed in the National Mock Trial Tournament. Wittenberg competed against teams from the University of Pittsburgh, California University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, and the University of Chicago. During the awards ceremony, based on our strength of opposition and combined schedule, our team received an "Honorable Mention" trophy.

Jeremy Glazier (97) was recently awarded the *Paris Review* Long Poem Prize for a poem that appeared in issue 170 last summer. He read the poem and accepted the award at a gala dinner in New York City in February. This spring he presented a paper on the poetry of A. R. Ammons at the College English Association conference in Indianapolis. He is on the full-time faculty at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus.

Anne Ford (96) lives in Chicago and has worked at Rand McNally since last June as a travel writer, taking one or two big domestic trips a year. Last year she went to southwestern Colorado and got to clamber around Mesa Verde, go horseback riding (ouch), and eat boar. She also continues to enjoy success as a freelance writer.

Tricia Stegman Dean (95) and her husband Robert Dean welcomed the birth of a daughter, Veronica Rose-Lynn Dean, this spring. Their basenji is reportedly accepting this new member of the pack very well!

Sally Rauber (95) has returned to the Southwest, gotten married, earned a master's degree, and teaches English in middle school—even Shakespeare!

Adrienne Smith (94) works as an Organization Development Senior Consultant for a major health care organization, Kaiser Permanente, as part of an independent team that challenges the fundamental nature of health care delivery. They work hand-in-hand with a design firm called IDEO and their clients include nurses, doctors, health care administrators—anyone concerned with health care delivery.