

A Word's Worth of News

Department of English
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Chair Chat

April is the cruelest month: The revels of Spring Break are well behind us, but a war-band of academic monsters still stand between us and the treasures of summer.

This is also a time when some of us prepare for further academic adventures here, while others of us prepare for new and different quests further afield.

To that end, it is important to remember that pre-registration is just around the corner. You must see your advisor to review your planned schedule and have your pre-registration forms signed before you can go online. Don't wait until the last minute; contact your advisor soon to set up an appointment. As well, keep in mind that rising sophomores who have had several English courses should consider taking ENG 299 in the spring semester. Rising juniors who haven't yet taken ENG 299 should definitely take it next year, preferably in the fall.

Springtime is always a bitter-sweet time in an academic department. Our seniors prepare to graduate, and some faculty depart these hallowed halls. We bid a fond farewell this year to Charles "Bowtie" Saltzman, our long-time Laird of composition who is profiled in this issue by our own Liz Williams, who is herself soon to leave us. Ryan Teitman, meanwhile, is completing a great year as our Emerging Writer Lecturer. Our best wishes go with both of them.

We will be joined in the fall by another exciting young writer, Emilia Phillips, whose first collection of poetry, *Signaletics*, was selected as the Editor's Choice for the 2012 Akron Poetry Prize. The University of Akron Press will release the book in August 2013. With a 2012 MFA in Poetry Writing from Virginia Commonwealth University, Emilia earned her BA from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2009.

When you are planning your courses for next year, be aware that Professor Phillips will be teaching two upper-level ENG 309 courses: *Literary Editing and Publishing* in the fall, and *Writing Out of the Ordinary* in the spring. Both these courses will be taught MW 2:10-3:25 pm, and both require ENG 205 as a pre-requisite.

To those of you who depart soon for greener pastures, we wish you good luck, we bid you to keep in touch, and we leave you with a timely bit of sage advice culled from the wisdom of the Norse sagas: In case of Zombie attack, follow the example of Grettir "the Strong" Amundarson; remove the head of the attacking revenant and place said item between the buttocks of the offending monster...that's the only way to put it down for sure.

Christopher Fee Chair, Department of English

ON THE CALENDAR

- **Dorothy Barresi Reading**
Tues, April 2 8:00 pm Lyceum, Penn Hall
- **English Honors Presentations, Class of 2013**
Tues, April 9 4:30 pm Lyceum, Penn Hall
- **English Department Reception for Seniors**
BY INVITATION -- SENIORS ONLY
Tues, April 16 4:00 pm Alumni House
- **The Mercury Release and Reception**
Thurs, April 18 11:30 - 1:00 pm Glatfelter Lodge
- **Tracy Crow Reading**
Thurs, April 18 8:00 pm Location TBD
- **Senior Reading**
READING BY SENIOR WRITING MAJORS AND MINORS.
CAMPUS COMMUNITY INVITED.
Thurs, April 25 7:00 pm Lyceum, Penn Hall

FACULTY NEWS

Charles Saltzman Retires after 25 Years

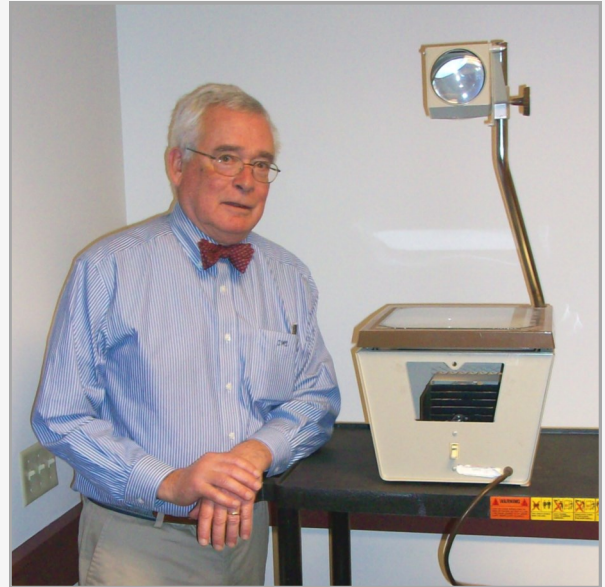
When Professor Charles Saltzman joined the faculty of the English Department in 1988, he had no idea he would remain at Gettysburg College for 25 years. During his time here, he has primarily taught English 101, an introductory English class that exposes students to writing across several genres.

"I enjoy teaching 101 because of how much it matters to the students. The ability to write well is important for so many professions," said Saltzman.

After graduating from Harvard University, where he received both his Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees, Saltzman became an officer with the U.S. Army and later entered the field of education. Before coming to Gettysburg, Saltzman served as the headmaster of several schools throughout the United States, including the Metairie Park Country Day School in New Orleans and the Madeira School, located outside of Washington, DC.

Upon retirement, Professor Saltzman is looking forward to reading something other than his students' essays. Some of his favorite authors are Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Ben Jonson (he concentrated on Renaissance literature as an undergraduate). He also hopes to do some writing upon retirement, and is considering composing a memoir similar to the autobiography his father released upon his own retirement.

"It's a real pleasure to be around young people," said Professor Saltzman, commenting on his time at Gettysburg.



For years, Professor Saltzman has been known for his use of old-school technology, specifically an overhead projector in the classroom. While other professors have switched over to PowerPoints and Moodle, he has stuck with his trusty overhead projector. We'll miss them both!

Students and faculty agree that it's been a pleasure having Charles Saltzman around — bowties, overhead projectors, and all. We wish him, and his lovely wife Cornelia, all the best in this, his official retirement.



Farewell to Ryan Teitman

As the school year comes to a close, Professor Ryan Teitman is finishing up his one-year appointment as the English Department's 2012-2013 Emerging Writer Lecturer. Teitman came to us from Stanford University where he had just completed a two-year fellowship. Over the course of this academic year, Professor Teitman has taught creative writing classes and a course on writing about place in poetry and prose. This spring he has been teaching a course on literary editing and publishing, and has worked with his class and the staff of *The Mercury* to develop and sharpen their proofreading skills. Colleagues and students were treated to a reading of his poetry in February. We thank Ryan for his time and contribution to the department and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORS PRESENTATIONS

The English Department is pleased to present senior honors theses on **Tuesday, April 9, at 4:30 pm** in the Lyceum, third floor Penn Hall. Friends, family, majors/minors, and the campus community are invited to attend this celebration.

Rising juniors are invited into the English Honors Program based on their major and overall GPAs. They set forth on a journey of research and writing, producing theses totaling 50-100 pages in length, and present research and creative writing theses.

As our seniors tie up loose ends and put the final touches on their theses, here are the topics on which they will present.

- **Joshua Carmel**

“Under the Seams Runs the Pain”: Four Greek Sources for Contemporary Monster in Anne Carson’s *Autobiography of Red*

- **Tina Cochran**

Romantic Love Yet Another Ploy: Humanity in Zamyatin’s *We*, Huxley’s *Brave New World*, and Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

- **Amelia Grabowski**

She’s a Brick House: August Wilson and the Maternal Stereotype of Black Womanhood

- **Julia Heilakka**

The Road to Hell: A Journey through the Afterlife

- **Sarah Parker**

If It Were a Snake, It Would Have Bit You

- **Veronica Rosenberger**

What Makes a Monster and What Makes a Man? Exploring the Relationship between the Creator and the Creation in Three Gothic Novels

- **Liz Williams**

Pinning the Daffodil and Singing Proudly: An American’s Search for Modern Meaning in Ancestral Ties

SIGMA TAU DELTA NEWS

In December 2008, the English Department became home to the Alpha Pi Nu chapter of the English honors society, Sigma Tau Delta. Since that time, 159 Gettysburg College students have joined the organization. This year, we welcome two new faculty advisors: Professor McKinley Melton and Professor Christopher D’Addario.

Recently, the following students met the criteria for membership and were inducted for the 2012-2013 academic year: Joshua Carmel,

Casey Kramer, Kathleen Landis, Ciara O’Connor, Mariah Wirth, Rachel Schranck, Hannah Bollinger, Katelynn Storm, James Garrett, Tricia Runzel, Elizabeth Elliott, Brianna Hare, Eleni Brenner, Kelly Hagerty, Cara Dochat, William Marple, Nancy Chambers, Isabella Baxter, Kelsey Boyce, Katelyn Quirin, Alexandra Czajkowski, Kathleen Hoffman, Elizabeth Kuhn, Jacqueline Marotto, and Amanda Sreere.

On April 16, Sigma Tau Delta will host a grad school panel where students, faculty, and recent graduates will offer their advice about MFAs and other graduate school programs. In May, the Better World Books book drive will allow students to donate their unwanted textbooks to a great cause.



Inductees to Sigma Tau Delta, 12-13

ENG 312: A MEDIEVAL DRAMA

Courtney Walton '13, PLA for ENG 312

The Department of English breaks down the mental barriers that limit students' creativity and inspires them to become innovative writers. In ENG 312 Medieval Drama, this process is accomplished with a bit less sentimentality and a bit more pyrotechnics.

As the class begins preparation for their main production, *You're Outta Here: The Story of Adam and Eve*, they have worked diligently to bring the old English translation up to modern times. Beginning and ending with a comic narration by Cain's right-hand man, Garcio, the play starts with The Fall of the Angels, segues into the story of Adam and Eve, and concludes with a more humorous retelling of the Cain and Abel story. While each story remains (for the most part) faithful to the original Biblical passages, the beauty of the plays stems from their combination of religious doctrine and the crassness of humanity. Moments range from Cain lamenting the taxation of the Church to Eve commentating on the insipidness of her better half; these medieval plays display an acknowledgement of the concerns within society and manage to encourage proper behavior through exaggeration and satire.

The class is now pulling together the loose ends of the performance. The students were divided into four major groups: translation, staging, props, and direction. They have completed the research element of the course and are now diving into the production of the play! Casting has begun, poster designs are getting ready for print, and the final vision is beginning to come into light.

While I am not at liberty to discuss all of the adaptations made to the plays, I suggest you be on the look out for a certain well-informed tree. As well, no students were harmed in the making of this production, no matter how it looks. If that's too vague, you will just have to come to the show and see what I mean!

Going live

FRI MAY 3 at 4:00 pm

on the steps of Breidenbaugh Hall.

*You're Outta Here:
The Story of Adam and Eve*

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WAS WRITTEN AND CREATED BY

Liz Williams '13