

A Word's Worth of News

Department of English
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CHAIR CHAT

Well, as I look out my window the weather has changed from white to grey, and a long, hard winter seems finally behind us, replaced of late by an onslaught of spring rains of nearly Biblical proportions. As a beloved Middle English playwright famously put it, "behold to the heavens/the cateractes all,/That are open full even,/grete and small/...Full sharp ar thise showers,/That rennes aboute...." (Townley Noah II. 343-351). Indeed, long before Russell Crowe felt moved to reinterpret the Biblical diluvian epic, the Wakefield Master's *Noah* re-envisioned the story as a comedic tour de force which challenges us to laugh at the fears and anxieties which hold us back from fully embracing new beginnings.

Spring time is always a bitter-sweet time in an academic department, as it is just such a time of painful endings and exciting new beginnings: Our seniors are preparing to graduate, and some faculty will be leaving us soon, as well. Linda has left us and Jody, profiled in this issue, has taken her place at the helm of the Ark of the English Department. Two fine teachers, Kate Haffey and Emilia Phillips, who have given so much to our students, also are leaving, while Kate Landis, long a stalwart presence in the office, is graduating. Meanwhile, Sean Grattan will be moving over to the WGS Department. Many thanks to them all!

To those of you who depart soon for greener pastures, we wish you good luck, we bid you to keep in touch, and we implore you to bear down for the last few weeks of the term!

This brings us back to the hazards of the South Central Pennsylvania spring: Wet weather may annoy us, but warm, sunny days have pitfalls of their own. Rain, in fact, can be good for studying; indeed, be wary of the beautiful weather just around the corner! As I for decades have endeav-

ored very hard to impress upon my students, don't be lured into leaving the sanctuary of the cool, cavernous library for the dangers of the warm, perfumed zephyrs of the great outdoors "in þe comessing of May,/when miri & hot is þe day,/ & oway beþ winter-schours,/ & eueri feld us ful of flours..." (*Sir Orfeo* II. 57-60). For Lord's sake, especially avoid noon-time naps in the orchards.... As the author of the Middle English Romance *Sir Orfeo* tries so desperately to teach us, such behavior simply invites abduction by the Fairies, who in Medieval texts are not the spunky, sprightly Tinkerbell nor the sweet and indulgent Fairy Godmothers of the Disney oeuvre... in fact, their terrible beauty much more closely resembles that of Galadrial when Frodo offers her the Ring.... As Lear said of the gods, we are to the fairies like "flies to wanton boys" (*King Lear* IV, i, l. 40); don't give 'em the opportunity: Avoid the temptations out of doors, and study, study, study!

Christopher Fee Chair, Department of English

ON THE CALENDAR

• Senior Reading

READING BY SENIOR WRITING MAJORS AND MINORS.
CAMPUS COMMUNITY INVITED.
Thurs, April 17 7:00 PM Lyceum, Penn Hall

• English Department Reception for Seniors

BY INVITATION—SENIORS ONLY
Tues, April 22 5:00 PM Alumni House

• Sigma Tau Delta Induction Ceremony

FOR MEMBERS OF SIGMA TAU DELTA ONLY
Wed, April 22 6:30 PM CUB 260

• MLK Lecture, Gettysburg Seminary's Spring Academy

Tues, April 29 1:30 PM Seminary Chapel

FACULTY NEWS



Welcome to Jody Rosensteel

Jody Rosenteel has joined the Department of English as its new Academic Administrative Assistant. Jody, who has been with the College for 15 years, comes to the Department from Facilities, where she worked in events to organize summer conferences for the College. Prior to her position in Facilities, Jody worked for the Bookstore for five years as a buyer for everything but books, such as school supplies, gifts, and clothing. Jody is most looking forward to working with students in her new position, as she was not able to have much contact with students in Facilities. It is a nice change, she believes, to work with them. The Department is delighted to welcome Jody on board!



So Long to Emilia Phillips

Professor Emilia Phillips is currently wrapping up her one-year position as the Department of English's 2013-2014 Emerging Writer Lecturer. While at Gettysburg, Emilia has taught introductory creative writing classes, a Literary Editing and Publishing course, as well as a creative writing class on magical realism. In March, the campus community was able to attend a reading by Emilia. She has recently completed her second book of poetry; her first book, *Signalitics*, is out now.



Farewell to Kate Haffey

Professor Kate Haffey will also be leaving Gettysburg College following her one-year position as a visiting professor. During her time at Gettysburg, Kate taught ENG 370 Time and Modernism. She was also able to realize her interest in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies by teaching an Intro to WGS course, and the cross-listed ENG 253/WGS 253 Images of Women in Literature.



Sean Grattan Joins WGS Department

Professor Sean Grattan is finishing up his appointment as a one-year visiting professor in the Department of English, but he will be staying put in Gettysburg; Sean is joining the WGS Department as a visiting assistant professor in time for the Fall semester. In the English Department, Sean taught a World Literature course and comp classes.

The English Department and all their students would like to thank Emilia, Kate, and Sean for their time in the Department, as well as wish them the best of luck in the future!

HONORS PRESENTATIONS

Senior honors theses were presented by the Department of English Tuesday, April 8, in the Lyceum. Friends and family of the presenting seniors, all English majors and minors, and the entire campus community were welcome to attend the celebration.

The road to presenting a research or creative writing thesis includes conducting research for, writing, and then producing the thesis, which comprises 50-100 pages.

- **Rachel Barber**

Revealing God in the Mundane: Sacramentality and Incarnation in the Poetry of Christopher Smart

- **Kathryn Bucolo**

Wilderness

- **Scott DuBree**

Dionysus Torn to Pieces: An examination of *The Sound and the Fury* in light of the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche

- **Emily Francisco**

Artemisia in the Metro

- **Kathleen Hoffman**

Virginia Woolf and the War of Self-Expression: The Great War and the Space-time Continuum in Mrs. Dalloway and *To the Lighthouse*

- **Joseph Kirkenir**

I AM WHO I AM: The Book of Exodus and African-American Individuality

- **Casey Kramer**

A "Disastrous Union": The Entrapment of the "Larger" Nature by the "Meaner" Nature in Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, *Ethan Frome*, *The Custom of the Country* & *The Age of Innocence*

- **Kathleen Landis**

"I Don't Know! I Don't Know!": Judging the Moral Instability of Howells' Realism in *A Modern Instance*

- **Robin Miller**

"An Imperialism of the Imagination": Muslim Characters and Western Authors in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

- **Katelyn Quirin**

Of Love, Of Money, Of Unquestionable Practicality: The Choices of F. Scott Fitzgerald's Early Heroines

SIGMA TAU DELTA NEWS

The Department of English at Gettysburg College is home to the Alpha Pi Nu chapter of the Sigma Tau Delta English honor society. Since its inception, more than 160 students have joined the Alpha Pi Nu chapter of the organization. Professors McKinley Melton and Christopher D'Addario serve as the faculty advisors.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, the following students met the criteria for membership and were inducted into Sigma Tau Delta: Danielle Dattolo, Holly Mercer, Tara MacMahon, Drew Ciminera, Taylor Andrews, Christina Bassler, Erin McGeldrick, Sarah Connelly, Erin Gallagher, Maureen Weidman, Nancy Clark, Anna Baldassarre, Laura Ann Meyer, Dayna Seeger, Rebecca Fisher, Darren Spirk, Morgan Marianelli, Jackson Davis, and Macy Collins.

The induction ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd at 6:30 PM in CUB 260. At the end of the semester, Sigma Tau Delta will be hosting the Better World Books book drive, which allows students to donate their unwanted textbooks to a good cause. In addition, Sigma Tau Delta will also be sponsoring a campus visit from Random Acts of Theater Company (RATCo.), a performance troop from Selma, AL.

ALUMNI NEWS



Cheryl Tevlin, '10

*English major, History
minor*

Recently, *Elizabeth Stuart Phelps: Selected Tales, Essays, and Poems*, a book co-edited by Cheryl Tevlin '10 and Professor Betsy Duquette, was released through University of Nebraska Press. This project came about during Tevlin's time at Gettysburg College. She had taken a couple of classes with Duquette, who offered her a research position for the summer before her senior year. Tevlin worked on compiling an extensive bibliography of Phelps' works. Prior to Tevlin's research, there hadn't been a complete bibliography of all 500 of Phelps' short stories, poems, and essays. The book itself stemmed from Duquette's chance run-in at a conference with someone who was working on 19th century American women authors.

Tevlin currently works in Enrolling Management at Drexel University in Philadelphia, a job she credits to the College's connections. While looking for jobs in higher education, Cheryl attended the senior networking dinner on campus. Serendipitously, Charlie Scott, the head of the alumni association, was sitting at her table. They communicated back and forth, and Scott put her in touch with several universities in Philadelphia, leading her to the position at Drexel.

At her job, Tevlin frequently draws upon her experience as an English major. Tevlin says that being an English major gave her the confidence to speak her mind, while her English classes taught her the attribute of formulating a basis for her arguments. She found that the skills she learned in her English classes at Gettysburg College were transferrable into the work force.

GETTIN' ALL MEDIEVAL ON GENDER



Professor Chris Fee's Medieval Romance class read and acted out various scenes from the fifteenth century text, *The Wedding of Syr Gawen and Dame Ragnell for Helpyng of King Arthoure*. In this piece, a beautiful young woman is bewitched by fairies into a hideous old hag, whom Sir Gawain marries to save King Arthur's life. Given the choice to have his bride be old and ugly in front of others and young and beautiful in private or the other way around, Sir Gawain breaks the spell by giving the choice to the woman herself. This story bears marked resemblances to Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, and gives us a lot to think about concerning gender roles and expectations, both medieval and modern. The students underscored some of the tensions involved by utilizing a little gender-bending in the casting of the major parts. The class was split into groups and given a scene in the story to analyze, and when it was their turn to share, the group had to first read the scene in Middle English then perform the scene using props and modern English.

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WAS WRITTEN AND CREATED BY

Danielle Dattolo '15