

A Word's Worth of News

Department of English
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CHAIR CHAT

"Welcome back, your dreams were your ticket out...." Sorry...Your Humble Correspondent's misspent '70's youth sometimes flashes back on him.... In any case, welcome back, Dear Readers, to another fun-filled fall in Breidenbaugh Hall! Please do your part to give the gift that keeps on giving by welcoming any new faces you may see wandering our floors!

To that end, please join me in extending a warm English Department welcome to some new professors: Sarah Sillin joins us from the University of Maryland to teach a range of American literature courses for the next three years, filling a position vacated by our own Jack Ryan, who remains shackled in a dungeon in Penn Hall under mysterious circumstances.* Our Emerging Writer Lecturer for 2014-2015 is Hugh Martin, whose experiences in Iraq provided the bases for his poetry collections *The Stick Soldiers* and *So, How Was the War?* Jess Lavolette, meanwhile, comes to Gettysburg College as a new adjunct assistant professor of English via Hawaii and Japan.

You can read much more about each of these great teachers (and warm and engaging people!) elsewhere within these vibrant and fun-filled pages! Check the mug-shots from the FBI's Most Wanted List on the hallway bulletin board regularly to ensure that you recognize all the members of our beloved faculty, and could pick each out of a line-up; you can also check out an array of beautiful posters designed by our own multi-talented Departmental Artistic Director Jody Rosensteel. Celebrate the latest achievements of our students and faculty, and remember, there IS life after the English major!

As evidence for such a bold claim, Your Humble Correspondent offers a hearty "Welcome Back!" to Patrick Quinlan, English major from the Gettysburg College class of 2006, who has joined the Washington Street WellSpan Internal Medicine office and thus—as Dame Fortuna's spinning Wheel of Fortune would have it—is YHC's new doctor. Read all about Doc Quinlan, Medicine Man, further in these pages; meanwhile, Your

Humble Correspondent plans to look up his comments on Pat's old papers, heartily hoping all the while that one was not TOO salty in one's comments.... Ah, well, even as the Aesir must abide by the whim of the Norns, so, too, must old Medievalists abide by the determination of their Leeches...although one hopes Pat will keep the leeches and bleeding to a minimum, and that he does NOT, like the Physician from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, think that "gold in phisik is a cordial" (*General Prologue* 445).

Also plan to welcome Frank X Walker, Kentucky Poet Laureate and this year's Croll lecturer, to campus on Thursday, October 30th, at 4:30pm in the Joseph Theater. Please make every effort to attend; you'll be glad you did!

Finally, welcome back to all our returning majors and minors, and welcome aboard to all the new majors I've been meeting in the opening weeks of the term! I'd like to offer an especially hearty welcome home to our many majors and minors who studied Off Campus last year! For those of you considering following in their footsteps, please keep in mind that, in general, only one 200- and one 300-level course from abroad may count towards departmental requirements; see the *Department of English Handbook* for details, or (better yet!) schedule an appointment with your beloved Departmental Chair.

Christopher Fee

Chair, Department of English

* Following the plotlines suggested by Voltaire and Dumas, Your Humble Correspondent fears that our own *L'Homme au Masque de Fer* might be imprisoned for the crime of resembling too greatly the reigning monarch, in this case Provost Zappe, who is—after all—our own Sun King...one only hopes that Leonardo DiCaprio will reprise his role for the film version, playing both Jack and Chris.

NEW ENGLISH FACULTY



Hugh Martin serves as this year's Emerging Writer Lecturer. Martin, a native of Macedonia, OH, attended Muskingum University in southeast Ohio for his Bachelor's degree and received his MFA at Arizona State University. He served in the National Guard for six years and, in 2004, was deployed to Iraq for eleven months. A recipient of a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, he has written *The Stick Soldiers* and *So, How Was the War?*, and he has another manuscript of poems. This semester, he is teaching two Introduction to Creative Writing courses and one 309 course, *Writing About Public Conflict*, which takes a look at writing about traumatic events. Martin is impressed with the smart, engaged, and talkative students. In regards to Gettysburg, he loves coming to campus—and his huge office, in particular—as well as having everything at his fingertips, such as the library, resources, and gym.



Sarah Sillin joins the English department as a three-year visiting professor and is settling quite comfortably in Gettysburg. The New York native received her Bachelor's degree at Colgate University before entering the grueling consulting industry. While preparing interesting gigs for both private corporations and the government, she reaffirmed her love of intellectual work and dialogue. She eventually became a graduate student at the University of Maryland, where she earned her Ph.D. Sillin is excited to engage Gettysburg students on current controversies of the Young Adult Literature genre in her 101 course. She is also teaching a methods course and a 19th-Century Literature course. Currently, she is at work on a manuscript called *Global Sympathy: Representing Nineteenth-Century Americans' Foreign Relations*.



Jess Lavolette comes to Gettysburg College as a new adjunct assistant professor of English. From Charlotte, Michigan, he went to undergrad at Michigan State and went to grad school at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. His wife, Betsy, is the new director of the Language Resource Center. The two have lived all over the world. In Japan, Lavolette taught ESL to private business clients, such as IBM and Nissan, and engineering grad students at Tokyo University. When his wife began school at the University of Hawaii, Lavolette worked for insurance companies and a large private school. Prior to moving here, they had returned to Michigan State, where Betsy received her Ph.D. This semester, Lavolette is teaching an Intro to College Writing Course and an Intro to Creative Writing class. He has enjoyed meeting and teaching students and getting to see a part of the country more familiar to his Central Michigan upbringing.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Mila Whiteley '15 *English Major with Writing Concentration, Spanish and Film Studies Minors*

1. What was your internship this summer?

My internship this summer was a writing internship for the online publication of The CelebrityCafe.com, an entertainment news site that focuses on celebrity, television, music and film news.

2. How did you get this internship?

I actually saw my internship position on Gettysburg Works. As it was a subject I was interested in, I followed the link to their website, where I filled out an application and hoped for the best. The CelebrityCafe.com later got back to me with a try-out article and I got the position for a 12-week online internship over the summer.

3. What was one of the best parts of your experience?

The best part of my internship was the opportunity to publish my own stories online and get some experience in the self promotion and social media use that is such a part of online journalism. So much of who reads your work is determined by the way that you promote and brand yourself. This was a good way to learn those skills, and to learn about the countless social media platforms that are available to you.



David King '15 *English Major with Writing Concentration*

1. What was your internship this summer?

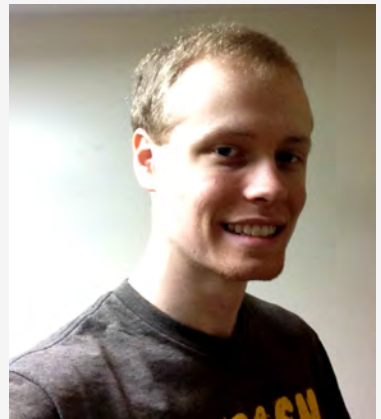
My internship was with Luminary Publishing, a small company located in New York up where I live. Their big publication is a magazine called *Chronogram*. It comes out once a month with a listing of all the events happening in the region and also profiles of bands and artists whose shows are opening, house profiles, a horoscope, stuff like that. I contributed a few articles, and also worked on their website, updated their blog, and put together a weekly e-newsletter that listed the big events happening that week. They kept me working and I never had to get anyone coffee, which was appreciated.

2. How did you get this internship?

The old fashioned way: I sent in my resume and had to do an interview over Skype with the editor, Brian Mahoney, and then a week later he emailed me offering me the internship.

3. What was one of the best parts of your experience?

The experience as a whole was very reaffirming to me. I mean, don't get me wrong, I hated not being able to sleep in all summer, and the commute was stressful, but there is something supremely satisfying about seeing something you wrote in print, or online. At college, for me anyway, there's always this nagging existential crisis that tends to rear its ugly head in the middle of an all-nighter for that 15-page research paper on Victorian Lit, or whatever it is this semester, where basically, somewhere in the middle of a paragraph, I'm suddenly asking myself whether this is worth the stress now and the endless debt payments later. So it was helpful for me to get outside the college bubble and remind myself that yes, I am a good writer, I like to write, and I could make some money doing this.



WELCOME BACK



Professor Berg in Turkey with the Brontës.

Temma Berg returns for her 29th year teaching at Gettysburg after taking a yearlong sabbatical. During her sabbatical, she visited Halifax in West Yorkshire, as well as the National Archives in London, to research both the famed diarist Anne Lister and the Brontë sisters. She was particularly interested in how the Brontës interacted as sister writers, and what makes certain books of theirs more adaptable for cinema and play productions. These research topics were inspired by ideas from her former students at Gettysburg. The Graeff Professor of English Literature received her undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees from Temple University in Philadelphia. Berg is currently teaching the Images of Women in Literature course as well as two methods courses in both English and WGS. She looks forward to another year at Gettysburg in addition to spending time with her rescued dog, Jazz.



Professor Stefanie Sobelle

Stefanie Sobelle returns to Gettysburg from California, where she spent her time last year after winning a Fellowship at the Huntington Library and at Caltech in Pasadena to conduct research on her book project on literature and architecture. Sobelle, from Los Angeles, CA, received her Ph.D. from Columbia University and her B.A. from Stanford University. Previously she taught in New York City at Sarah Lawrence College, Barnard College, Columbia, and Cooper Union. Her current research projects include an examination of the architecture in and of American fiction and a study of American literature written by authors outside the U.S. This semester, she is teaching ENG 350 A, Amerika, and the senior seminar ENG 404 A, Space in American Imagination. She is looking forward to meeting new students and advisees this year.

Medieval Drama 312

The class you wish you were in

On Friday, September 12th, while the students of Gettysburg College were preparing to partake in myriad pagan festivi, the liturgical scholars of Professor Chris Fee's Medieval Drama class were busying themselves with a fine interpretation of the 12th-century classic "The Service for Representing Herod."

The scholars put on a play rife with daring stunts (see Herod propped dangerously on the table!), a professor far too educated to play a star (get the Chair to sign your declaration of major forms while you can—this blackmail won't last long!), and singing angels in white sacks (yes, recycled from last year's production). You wish you could have this much fun in a Friday afternoon class!

This is only the beginning—come out and see this hard-working bunch perform the *Chester Nativity Play* and *Play of the Shepherds* in Christ Chapel on the last day of classes.



Prof. Fee as the "star."



King Herod giving orders and taking names.

L-R: Meredith Tombs '16, Haley Weaver '15, Kara VanBlargan '15, Hannah Leone '14.



Singing angels opening the play.

Andrew Gorelick '16, Alexa Comeau '15, Stephanie Buff '15.



The angels showing off their costumes.



The entirety of the cast.

ALUMNI NEWS

Patrick Quinlan, DO '06

English major



Until his second semester of sophomore year, Patrick Quinlan was undecided, though his interests were diverse. He declared an English major, due to his already established English credits and his enjoyment of the discipline. He considered English a good base with which to hone his skills of reading and writing persuasively. He believed an English major, while pursuing pre-med, was a good way to diversify his Gettysburg College education. Quinlan likened this to cross-training, such as when a runner lifts weights—it stimulated both halves of his brain.

After taking a year off between college and med school, when he transported patients as a hospital orderly, he attended the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Currently, he is working at Gettysburg's WellSpan Internal Medicine. Quinlan doesn't boast the typical medical degree—a DO focuses on more hands-on medicine, he said, explaining the education differs from that of an MD, but the practice is the same.

Quinlan admitted that translating an English major into a successful career is challenging, but if you're passionate about writing, you can make it work. He attributes success to developing real-world skills, which don't always come with a college education, citing organizational skills as critical, along with time management ("Hear it from me or learn it the hard way," he joked). Additionally, he mentioned the importance of being goal-oriented and eloquent, a skill that English majors would be well-acquainted through the practice of writing and giving speeches.

The creativity that comes with an English major also crossed over into his career: learning to say something and getting comfortable with your style are important, he said, and this figured into his own style of practicing medicine. People will buy what you're selling as long as you like your style and are proud, Quinlan observed.

He loves Professor Rob Garnett and credits his ability to sit in front of books during med school to Professor Chris Fee, many thanks to assignments wherein the class would have to read a novel in a weekend. Professor Will Lane had the biggest impact on him, serving as Quinlan's advisor and the professor of his First Year Seminar.

Quinlan couldn't stay away from Gettysburg long; it's the ideal location for this Scranton, PA, native. He is thrilled to be back and returned because he loved the town. Quinlan concluded that he looks back on his education at Gettysburg College with fond memories.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ON THE CALENDAR

- **Reading by Kathryn Rhett**
Tues, Oct 21 8:00 pm Location TBD
- **Croll Lecture by Frank X Walker**
Thurs, Oct 30 4:30 pm Joseph Theater
- **Reading by Dana Spiotta**
Mon, Nov 3 8:00 pm Location TBD

Writing Center Hours

Sun.	4-10 p.m.
Mon. - Thurs.	4-10 p.m.
Fri. & Sat.	Closed

The Writing Center is located on the ground floor of Breidenbaugh Hall and offers one-on-one writing assistance to all disciplines. Peer tutors work to emphasize the approach to writing as a process and provide help in such areas as organization and style, as well as working to resolve grammatical errors.

A Word's Worth of News

WRITTEN BY
Danielle Dattolo '15
Jerome Clarke '17

Croll Lecture: Frank X Walker "Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers."

Thursday, October 30th 4:30pm Joseph Theater



The 2014 Croll Lecture will be given by Multidisciplinary artist and Kentucky Poet Laureate, Frank X Walker. Walker is a Full Professor in the departments of English and African American and Africana Studies at the University of Kentucky and the founding editor of *Pluck! The Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture*. A Cave Canem Fellow and co-founder of the Affrilachian Poets,

he is the author of six collections of poetry including, *Turn Me Loose: The Unghosting of Medgar Evers*, winner of the 2014 NAACP Imagine Award for Outstanding Poetry; and *Buffalo Dance: The Journey of York*, winner of the Lillian Smith Book Award. Voted one of the most creative professors in the south, he is the originator of the word Affrilachia, and is dedicated to deconstructing and forcing a new definition of what it means to be Appalachian. The Lannan Poetry Fellowship Award recipient has degrees from the University of Kentucky and Spalding University as well as two honorary doctorates from the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University.

Cosponsored with: EPACC, The Office of Intercultural Advancement, The Center for Public Service, and The Garthwait Leadership Center.

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