

A Word's Worth of News

Department of English
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CHAIR CHAT

O hushed October morning mild,
Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.¹

There's no one quite like Frost to put one in an elegiac frame of mind when the leaves begin to turn, is there?

Of course, as we struggle for just the right words during this month of midterms and papers, when answers can seem in short supply, there is comfort in the fact that the most recent Nobel laureate for literature would have us believe that there's an answer or two blowin' in that very same wind that threatens to denude our trees....²

As your Humble Chair types these words, however, a mid-October heat wave promises to stave off winter, at least for the nonce, so there's some hope yet for Frost's grapes along the wall, if only for a short while....

In any case, autumn is the season of rebirth and renewal in the academic calendar, and we see many new (or renewed!) faces bathing in the light of the autumn sun outside our windows, as well as basking in the warm glow of literary genius in our classrooms. Welcome to all our new & returning majors, minors, and fellow travelers on the road to critical enlightenment & poetic inspiration!

While we are all feeling the love, please also welcome to our little home in Breidenbaugh Hall a brace of new faculty:

Christopher Kempf, a winner of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Wallace Stegner Fellowship, just blew in from the Windy City to join us in the English department as this year's Emerging Writer Lecturer, while Victoria Reuter comes to us from extensive studies in England and Greece.

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 sketchy head-shots in the Rogue's Gallery on the hallway bulletin board regularly to ensure that you recognize all the members of our beloved faculty, and would thus know to avoid them in a darkened alleyway; 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 references Darren Spirk '15. Darren spent the summer in Palestine teaching and is now in Cairo teaching English to Syrian refugees. Read more about Darren's life and adventures after college inside!

Finally, 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 beleaguered Departmental Chair.

Christopher Fee

Chair, Department of English

¹ "October," by Robert Frost, 1915.

² "Blowin' in the Wind," by Bob Dylan, 1962.

NEW ENGLISH FACULTY



Victoria Reuter joins us at Gettysburg College as an adjunct professor. She's been stateside for a year following two years' time in Greece at the Academy of Athens translating Greek literature. She received her PhD from Oxford University in Comparative Literature. Currently she's teaching three sections of ENG 101, incorporating the subversive and dystopic novel *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood, a novel Reuter hopes will charge her students with critical thought and illustrates how "fiction can speak to reality." She anticipates classes with the Experiential Education department to continue challenging student awareness and expectation in learning. So far, she's enjoying picturesque Pennsylvania and Gettysburg's small town personality.



Christopher Kempf galvanizes the English Department as this year's Emerging Writing Lecturer. Fortunately, Kempf is already a creative writing veteran having received his MFA from Cornell University and having written an award-winning (forthcoming) poetry collection, *Late in the Empire of Men*. Currently, he teaches "Introduction to Creative Writing" and a *poetry-only* "Topics in Writing" course. In his Topics course, he's grateful to explore narrative lyric and experiment by meditating on *The Stick Soldiers*, written by previous Emerging Writing Lecturer Hugh Martin. Gettysburg is a welcome break for Kempf from his PhD studies at the University of Chicago in English Literature. He's very fond of Gettysburg's close-knit community and hopes to immerse himself in the college town's events.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Yasmine Perry '17 *English Major, Mathematics Minor*

1. What was your internship this summer?

I interned at DoughMain Education Foundation in Prince, NJ. DoughMain Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that develops financial literacy curriculum for high school students. Their mission is to strive for financial responsibility for every student, every classroom, and every day. I was a Grant Research/Writing Intern, and I was also responsible for organization outreach.



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

The best part of my experience was going beyond my comfort zone to outreach to potential donors, as well as progressing in my communication skills and work ethics.

3. Did your experiences with English studies at Gettysburg aid you in your internship?

Through my English studies at Gettysburg, I was able to write effective grant applications/letter of intent to foundations and organization. I also was able to research and provide great information to be used in an organization presentation.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT

What text are you yearning to see adapted onto the silver screen?

- ◆ Jo. Myers: *Paradise Lost* by John Milton / *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift
- ◆ Lane: "Song of Myself" by Walt Whitman
- ◆ Berg: *Shirley* by Charlotte Brontë
- ◆ Mulligan: "Faint Music" by Robert Hass
- ◆ Fee: *Straight Man* by Richard Russo
- ◆ Sillin: *Wieland* by Charles Brockden Brown
- ◆ Melton: *Mama's Day* by Gloria Naylor
- ◆ Kempf: "Directive" by Robert Frost
- ◆ Clarke: *Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov
- ◆ Sellers: *Ceremony* by Leslie Silko
- ◆ Sobelle: *Manhattan Transfer* by John Dos Passos
- ◆ "Dusty:" *Stoner* by John Williams
- ◆ D'Addario: *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* by Michael Chabon

ALUMNI NEWS

Darren Spirk '16

English major



What have you been up to since you graduated Gettysburg College?

This past summer, Darren Spirk '16 joined Tomorrow's Youth Organization for an English Teaching Fellowship in Nablus, Palestine. There he taught intensive English classes to university-aged students. He notes that he felt incredibly fortunate that the organization gave him the time and resources to navigate daily life in Palestine and the omnipresence of occupation with any sense of tact.

Following his fellowship, he hopped countries to Cairo, Egypt with St. Andrew's Refugee Organization, which provides educational, psycho-social and legal support to refugees in the area. As the Syrian Community Teacher, he teaches five classes a week to Syrian refugees in downtown Cairo and its neighboring city while also coordinating program logistics and serving as a point of contact between the organization and the Syrian community.

Did you always know the direction you wanted to go in with your career?

While he'd always hoped to teach English following his undergraduate experience, he's grateful that he does so now in a holistic capacity that incorporates community development alongside English instruction.

How do you think you're degree helped you in your endeavors after Gettysburg?

He cites his experience at Gettysburg College as a source of strength and wisdom. Had he not studied abroad in the Middle East, worked among the local Gettysburg community through CPS, or learned to read the world, not just literature, with the critical eye of an English student, he doesn't believe he could be doing what he does now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

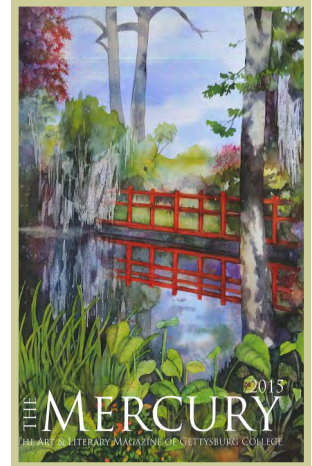
Rhymes and Revelations Spoken Word Series

Experience the poetry of Danez Smith, Mahogany Brown, Nate Marshall, and Dominique Cristina.

The work of these poets encompasses themes of identity and self expression, activism and social justice, artistic power and responsibility, and celebrates the beauty of language and the unique power of speech to impel audiences into action.

Submit to *The Mercury!* Art & Literary Magazine of Gettysburg College

- **Accepting Submissions in:**
Art, Poetry, Short Fiction, and Creative Nonfiction
- **Email Submissions to:**
gburgmercuryart@gmail.com
gburgmercurypoetry@gmail.com
gburgmercuryfiction@gmail.com
gburgmercurynonfiction@gmail.com
- **Email Questions to:**
Celina Harris at
harrce02@gettysburg.edu



ON THE CALENDAR

- **Spoken Word by Nate Marshall**
Wed, Oct 26 7:00 pm The Attic
- **Memoirist Reading by Paul Lisicky**
Wed, Nov 2 8:00 pm Lyceum (Paul Hall)
- **Spoken Word by Dominique Christina**
Thurs, Nov 8 7:00 pm The Attic

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WRITTEN BY
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