

# A Word's Worth of News

Department of English  
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello All, and welcome back from Reading Days for the rest of fall semester!

I'd like to welcome Taylor Brorby, our Emerging Writer Lecturer this year, who is enlivening our department with wit, warmth, and excellent creative writing courses. (See the interview with him inside.)

Our esteemed and beloved colleague Professor Temma Berg is teaching for her last semester before taking a pre-retirement leave in the spring. We thank her for her 32 years of service, during which she sustained and strengthened our department and curriculum. (See the story inside.)

My thanks to students who have chosen to major and minor in the department for your dedication to creative writing and literature, which is so vital to our ability to parse a complicated world. Does the precision of our language matter? As Mark Twain once wrote, "The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."

As you consider your courses for spring semester, please note that beginning November 9<sup>th</sup> (at one minute after midnight), all students can go to the Student Center and make adjustments to spring schedules.

Many of you are currently off campus, or planning to go. If you are planning study abroad in England, your advisor will work with you to approve courses, and if you're going anywhere else, I'll work with you. Remember that two literature courses (one 200-level and one 300-level) from an off-

campus program may count toward the English major or minor, so I suggest that you reserve a 200-level course for that off-campus semester. For those who have just returned, welcome back to your campus home, and thank you for bringing your experiences back to us.

As new chair, I thank our outgoing chair, Professor Chris Fee, for his advice and help, and I also thank our other former department chairs who are colleagues—Professors Suzanne Flynn, Len Goldberg, and Jack Ryan—for wise counsel. The life of this department is kept humming and happy by Jody Rosensteel at the front desk, and by student assistants Carolyn Kirsch and Lisa Maeyer—my gratitude to you.

Alumni, we love to hear from you and learn how your work in the English department has impacted post-grad life. (See our alumni profile inside.) Thanks to those of you who write to us and stop by when you're on campus!

*Kathryn Rhett*

Chair, Department of English



## NEW ENGLISH FACULTY



**Taylor Brorby** joins the English Department as this year's Emerging Writing Lecturer. This semester, he is teaching two sections of "Introduction to Creative Writing" and his "Topics in Writing" course, an advanced workshop on the essay and lyrical poetry. Professor Brorby received his MFA in Creative Writing. When asked what he did before Gettysburg, Professor Brorby explained that his passions for both writing and the environment came together during graduate school as he responded to hydraulic fracking and the Bakken oil boom.

He "edited the country's first anthology of creative writing about hydraulic fracking, *Fracture: Essays, Poems, and Stories on Fracking in America*, published his first poetry collection, *Crude*, which deals with [his] home of western North Dakota and the Bakken oil boom, and a book-length essay, *Coming Alive: Action and Civil Disobedience*, about the Dakota Access Pipeline."

Professor Brorby traveled around the country to lecture about fracking and the Bakken oil boom, and was even arrested for protesting the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Fortunately, Professor Brorby "still found time to eat pie, on occasion," during his many travels. Now, Professor Brorby is settling in to Gettysburg, and looking forward to fly fishing in the trout streams. He is grateful to already have received warm welcomes from colleagues and students, which have made his adjustment to a new part of the country easy and enjoyable.

## FROM THE DEPARTMENT

### Name an author or poet with whom you wish to collaborate:

- ◆ **Karen McElmurray:** Leslie Marmon Silko, author of *Ceremony*
- ◆ **William Lane** would like to take gardening lessons from Emily Dickinson
- ◆ **Victoria Reuter:** Freddie Mercury, songwriter and lead singer of Queen
- ◆ **Taylor Brorby:** Terry Tempest Williams, author of *Refuge*, a memoir



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Marina Crouse '13

*French major, Writing minor*



### **What have you been up to since graduating from Gettysburg?**

After graduating in 2013, Marina worked for two years as a Customer Experience Associate for Warby Parker. She valued her time there because it taught her a lot about human behavior, and it enlightened her to the significance of kindness, both to and from strangers. Marina currently attends Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles in pursuit of an MFA in Creative Writing. She also works part-time in Summerland, California in the editorial department of a tech company.

### **While at Gettysburg, were you involved with any activities outside of the classroom that helped you gain valuable experience?**

Marina was involved with the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, where she learned great leadership skills as Vice President. She was also a Campus Tour Guide, which she says helped her gain confidence when meeting new people, and provided her with great opportunities to work with multitudes of different people.

### **How do you think your Gettysburg degree helped you in your endeavors?**

Marina feels that her degrees in French and writing have helped her immensely with both written and verbal forms of communication, and have also helped her learn the importance of constructive feedback. Her experience at Gettysburg helped her learn the value of opening up to criticism and praise, but most importantly, the usefulness of practice! Her language skills have also helped her become a very creative problem solver.

### **Were any of your English classes at Gettysburg particularly impactful, or any of your English professors particularly influential?**

She especially remembers two of her English classes: Poetry with Professor Nadine Meyer, and Memoir and Travel Writing with Professor Kathryn Rhett. Marina values how Professor Meyer taught her the beauty of words that seem mundane, and the exciting aspects of making words turn into emotions. Professor Rhett inspired her to explore her own stories, and to look for the interesting and curious aspects in even the smallest of situations. Marina is grateful to have both women as great cheerleaders and advisors and is extremely thankful to have their guidance and encouragement.

### **Words to the Wise, from Marina to English majors:**

*"Figure out what you like to do, what gives you satisfaction as you do it, and if it could be a job."*

Marina realized that she loved to write, communicate, and learn new things (like languages)—working as a Data Analyst allows her to do all of those things! As a bonus, she gets to work while pursuing her graduate degree. She hopes her hard work thus far will lead to getting her own work published, working in publishing houses, and continuing to work in fields where she writes and thinks creatively.

# A FOND FAREWELL TO TEMMA BERG

After 32 years of teaching at Gettysburg College, Professor Temma Berg prepares to retire at the end of this semester.

Berg always wanted to teach English literature because she loves connecting literary works to the world. If she had not become a professor, she says she most likely would have become a librarian, so she could be around books all day.

She is very grateful for her opportunity to work at Gettysburg, and she will sincerely miss teaching the students here. While she has received great joy from teaching here, it is important to note that her work has tremendously impacted the college. In her decades at the College, Berg has taught many courses that often draw connections across the disciplines. One particular favorite has been "Identity and Imagination: Jewish American Women Writers."

In addition to working in the English department, Berg has helped foster the growth of many other disciplines that were once unstudied, such as Africana Studies, Judaic Studies, and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. Berg is proud of the work that she and her colleagues have done to bring these studies to light because it is vitally important that we "pay attention to all the differences that exist among us" because "differences are very generative" and "they help us see from many different perspectives . . . they help us see other worlds that are otherwise invisible."

She is proud to have been a "foremother of WGS" and to have "fostered the growth of African Studies." She also recognizes the importance of Gettysburg's increased openness and receptiveness of courses and individuals, expressing that we are "living in a global world." She is proud that Gettysburg has evolved to embrace "the world" in many ways that "I would have envisioned when I came here and hoped...would happen." Yet, Berg also acknowledges that "we're not there, we're never there, but we're always working towards something."

Berg encourages students to use their time as fully as they can, viewing college as "the only four years you have to really think things through, and it just takes time." When she was in college, she loved being in classes and meeting with her peers afterwards to discuss what they learned. It is also "important to have that down time, where you are just inside your own head."

She says it is imperative that we slow down to read things, take time to draw out "the richness" in texts. This is a lesson that she emphasizes often, with texts such as *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, a novel that she has always enjoyed teaching because of the way it deals with issues of gender and otherizing. We "need to think about all the different writers who have helped us grow as people" in order to appreciate their influence on our learning, and, in turn, the influence of our learning on our teaching.

In her retirement, Professor Berg is looking forward to spending quality time writing and keeping involved in her fields of interest. She is currently looking to extend her research by investigating the history of second-wave feminism and the history of black Jews in Ghana and Kenya from the Judaic perspective.

Berg will miss the "rich" discussions with her students, but is interested in starting a "life-long learning experience" organization at Gettysburg. She explains that participants in this group would meet with other adults from all different disciplines, and they could be both student and teacher. Everyone would come with their specialty and share their knowledge with the community. Berg wants to "continue that nourishing interaction, which without [she] would feel at a great loss." The sharing of experiences is something Berg feels is a key component in both education and in life.

Berg hopes that professors will continue to grow with their students because "Who we become as we read and study and learn...and grow" circulates through culture. She strongly encourages students and faculty to "Keep fighting to make community real and not just a word."

Professor Berg, it is with immeasurable appreciation for your dedication to Gettysburg College and literary studies that we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Thank you for inspiring students to challenge and improve themselves as learners, as individuals, and as members of this greatly unique community. With your wise words of insight and encouragement fondly remembered, you will be missed!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Writing Center Hours

<b>Sun.</b>	4-10 p.m.
<b>Mon. - Thurs.</b>	4-10 p.m.
<b>Fri. &amp; Sat.</b>	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.



Seven of the fifteen current tutors, from left to right: Jessica Hubert, Colby Sites, Katie Bolger, Vera Ekhtator, Madison Cramer, Jessie Shircliff, and Aubrey Link

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

- **Accepting Submissions in:**  
Art, Poetry, Short Fiction, and Creative Nonfiction

Submissions for the 2017-18 edition of *The Mercury* are now open! Students are encouraged to submit any work that has not previously been published. Work for class (creative writing, art) is fair game. *The Mercury* has non-exclusive copyright, so while you are allowing us to print your work, you still own the rights; this means you can publish your piece elsewhere after it has been published in *The Mercury*. Reviewing is double-blind, so it will be an anonymous process.

We have updated our submission guidelines, so please read them carefully here: [http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury/submission\\_guidelines.html](http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury/submission_guidelines.html)  
The most important things to note are:

- Once pieces are published they cannot be amended or removed from the Cupola.
- Accepted authors will have a chance to review their final work before it goes to print. We will not print anything without your final consent. Anonymous submissions are strongly discouraged.

Get started here: <http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/mercury/>

- **Email Questions to:**  
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## A Word's Worth of News

WRITTEN BY  
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*Carolyn Kirsch '18*

## ON THE CALENDAR

- **Novelist Jonathan Dee**  
*Mon, Oct 16* 8:00 pm The Lyceum
- **Fall Honors Day**  
*Fri, Oct 27* 4:00 pm Christ Chapel
- **Poet Shara McCallum**  
*Wed, Nov 1* 8:00 pm Mara Auditorium
- **Novelist Susan Perabo**  
*Tues, Nov 28* 8:00 pm The Lyceum