

A Word's Worth of News

Department of English
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CHAIR CHAT

As we go into the fourth week of the spring semester, I'm having an unshakeable sense of *déjà vu*. It's been nearly three years since I completed my four-year term as department chair, but since Professor Fee has taken himself (and his family) off for a sabbatical semester in Denmark, I find myself once again ensconced in the chair's cozy corner office of Breidenbaugh 314-E. When I was last here, the walls were covered with prints of lovely Victorian paintings; now I'm surrounded by all things medieval.

One thing that I missed after handing the chair's job over to Professor Fee is the chance to meet with students who are ready to declare a major in English or English with a Writing Concentration. It's a great pleasure to talk to each student who joins "Team English" – to learn about their experiences thus far and to discuss their plans for the future. I'm also happy once again to be meeting with English majors as they plan their semesters (or year) off campus. Helping students choose courses in Italy, France, Denmark, South Africa, etc. offers me the chance to share (vicariously) in their excitement about their travels. Over 60% of English and English w/Writing majors spend at least a semester abroad; I hope every student takes advantage of this great opportunity to study overseas. As you plan for that semester or year abroad, keep in mind that in most cases two courses (one 200-level literature and one 300-level literature, or one 300-level writing and one 300-level literature) from a semester-abroad program may count toward an English major or minor, while a third course (200- or 300-level literature) may count for a full-year abroad.

One bit of awesome news I'm thrilled to pass along: our very own, much-loved Professor McKinley Melton has been awarded a prestigious Woodrow Wilson fellowship for next year. The sad side of this great news is that it means that Professor McKinley will be away from us the entire year working on his scholarship and writing, but we're all very proud of him.

January and February weather is often bleak, and that's been true these first few weeks of the semester, but spring break is just around the corner, and once back from that hiatus, we'll be seeing daffodils pushing up out of the ground all around campus. As the days lengthen and the temperatures rise, seniors will be stressing about what lies beyond Gettysburg College while the rest of you will be thinking about what courses to pre-register for next year. In either case, stop by for some good old fashioned advising and mentoring from your English professors; we live to serve!

Suzanne Flynn (Acting) Chair, Department of English

ON THE CALENDAR

- **Emily Fox Gordon Reading**
Thurs, Feb 19 Lyceum 8 pm
- **Oliver de la Paz & Jon Pineda Reading**
Tues, March 17 Location & Time TBA
- **John Hampsey Reading**
Thurs, March 24 Lyceum 8 pm

Writing Center Hours

Sun	6-10 pm
Mon-Thurs	2-10 pm
Fri & Sat	Closed

*The Writing Center is located
on the ground floor of
Breidenbaugh Hall.*

A Word's Worth of News

WAS WRITTEN AND CREATED BY

Danielle Dattolo '15

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Write Night celebrated its third event last semester. Students of any discipline have the opportunity to read their own work, or a piece of their favorite writing, in front of an audience of like-minded writers.

It was started three years ago by Liz Williams '13, who approached Greg Scheiber '13, the founder of Live Poets' Society, with the idea. It was intended to help boost PR for submissions to the *Mercury* in the Fall semester, as well as bringing the student-run publication together with Live Poets' Society, which is held every other Wednesday at 9 pm in Brua Hall's Green Room. Kate Gulden '15, English



Martinnelli from last year's reading.

and Theatre Arts double major and current co-president of Live Poets' Society, was selected to serve as representative for the poetry club to help Williams plan the first Write Night.

"I think this year's Write Night was the best we've had!" said Gulden. "We had an increased interest in both organization as a direct result of it, and we've had a lot of requests for more events like it."

In addition to Williams, Julie Day '16 and Sydney Braat '18 have been involved with Write Night through the *Mercury*. Rachel Martinnelli '15 serves as chair of PR for the event, and she, along with Gulden, are involved on both the *Mercury* and Live Po-

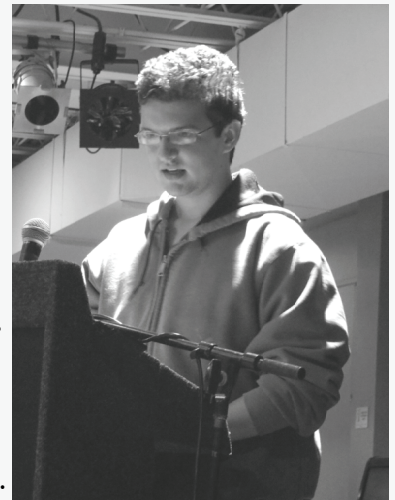
ets' Society sides. Gulden noted, "There are plenty of other open mic events in the spring we participate in with other organizations."

She added that the Live Poets' Society has an Annual Outdoor Reading every April for National Poetry Month, and this year will be the event's fifth anniversary. "The Live Poets' Society is also looking into doing an open mic night for slam poetry with SASA [Students Against Sexual Assault] this semester, or other events with the *Mercury*, Writing House, and Storytellers' Circle," Gulden said.

Angelo D'Amato '16 last year.



Ela Thompson '16 reading at last year's Write Night.



DEPARTMENT NEWS



Nancy Clark '15 and
Isabelle Punctatz '15

On Saturday, November 15, Kathryn Rhett took fifteen students to Towson University for the Baltimore Writer's Conference.

Leaving campus at seven am, the group arrived in time for a riveting keynote address by MK Asante, hip-hop artist, filmmaker, professor at Morgan State University, and author of the new memoir *Buck*. Asante read excerpts, punctuated by riffs on the book's title, his reasons for writing, the experience of re-inhabiting his younger perspective, and advice he was given by mentor Dr. Maya Angelou.

After that, the conference broke into sessions about the writing-oriented topics in publishing and arts administration.

Angelo D'Amato, Taylor Andrews, Pete Barrett, Victoria Blaisdell, Lexi Casella, Nancy Clark, Ola Czajkowski, James Lincoln, Morgan Marianelli, Kris McCormick, Isabelle Punctatz, Victoria Reynolds, Niki Rokicki, Shannon Viola, and Kendall Wright attended.

Rokicki is an English Major with a Writing Concentration and co-editor of the *Mercury*. She said the conference "was really interesting to experience. We all got to meet such a variety of people from all ages and walks of life, but we were all there for the same thing, so that was really cool to have all these people coming together and meeting on the same level of interest." She attended sessions ranging from poetry, writing good dialogue, and literary journalism.

She cited the session on writing good dialogue as her favorite "because as a writer you can get so caught up on little things like dialogue tags and the way you describe someone talking and it made me realize that you really don't need to get so caught up on that kind of stuff because readers typically gloss over it. I feel like I've gained a better understanding of what good, well-written dialogue is and hopefully that will help me with my writing."



L-R: James Lincoln '15, Taylor Andrews '15, Niki Rokicki '15, and Tori Reynolds '15



Justin Harlacher is excited for his return to the Gettysburg English Department. He spent the last semester teaching film studies and literature at York College, as well as spending the summer as a test developer at Educational Testing Service. Currently working as a freelance developer for the GRE and teaching at York College, Justin is more than excited to be teaching English 101 here at Gettysburg. Hoping to start teaching some film courses in the fall, he can't wait to get to know students in his first year writing classes.

SNAPSHOTS FROM ABROAD

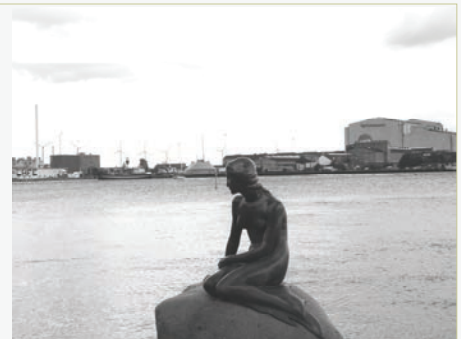


Maggie Stein '16

Majors: English, Individualized
Program: Copenhagen, Denmark

I had the great opportunity this past semester to study in Copenhagen, Denmark through the DIS program. While there I focused on Global Education and Nordic Literature. I able

to take classes specifically about Danish storytelling that focused on Danish authors (like Hans Christian Anderson) and also a slightly wider focus with the Education component. I had the chance to explore Denmark with class trips that included going sailing on Viking ships, visiting Hamlet's castle, and a trip to Istanbul, Turkey!



Little Mermaid Statue in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Blue Mosque in Istanbul

WRITING PRIZES

The Department of English is pleased to announce the annual writing prizes for Gettysburg College students: The Marion Zulauf Poetry Prize, the Stephen Crane Fiction Prizes, and the Virginia Woolf Essay Prizes. These creative writing competitions are open to all Gettysburg College students, with cash prizes offered to the winners. **Deadline for submissions is FRI MAR 6, 2015.** Visit the English Department website for details.

<http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/english/student/prizes.dot>

Marion Zulauf Poetry Prize

- \$100 award.
- Submit up to three poems.
- No line or subject restrictions.
- Provide cover letter to include: name, class year, email, phone.
- Submissions will be reviewed by an outside judge.
- Send submissions to Professor Nadine Meyer, Box 397, or drop off at the English Department, Breidenbaugh 314.

Stephen Crane Fiction Prizes

- \$250 First; \$125 Second; \$125 Third.
- Submit one short story of any length and any genre, double-spaced, typed, single sided.
- Provide cover letter to include: name, class year, email, phone.
- Submissions will be reviewed by an outside judge.
- Send submissions to Professor Fred Leebron, Box 397, or drop off at the English Department,

Virginia Woolf Essay Prizes

- \$100 First; \$75 Second; and \$50 Third.
- Submit one work of literary nonfiction on any subject.
- Limit of 5,000 words per essay.
- Provide cover letter to include: name, class year, email, phone.
- Submissions will be reviewed by an outside judge.
- Send submissions to Professor Kathryn Rhett, Box 397, or drop off at the English Department,