

# A Word's Worth of News

Department of English  
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

## CHAIR CHAT

The season of Spring Break is one of travel and respite, and, as Chaucer notes wryly, "thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages...." (*Canterbury Tales*, "General Prologue," l. 12) As a medievalist, however, your humble correspondent feels duty-bound to warn his dear readers that such excursions are meant to invigorate the soul more than to rest (or to debilitate) the body.

Indeed, in such close proximity to St. Patrick's Day, this writer finds himself meditating upon—not the white sands of Spring Break, nor yet the green beer of a commercialized St. Patrick's Day—but the *Espurgatoire Saint Patriz* of Marie de France, a translation of Henry of Saltrey's *Tractatus de Purgatorio Sancti Patricii*, better known as the *Purgatory of Saint Patrick*. According to this legend, one may visit the metaphysical realm of purgation from sin through a physical portal in the real world.

Just a word to the wise in a season of excess....

This is also a time when some of us prepare for further academic adventures here, while others of us prepare for new and different quests further afield.

To that end, it's important to remember that pre-registration is just around the corner. You must see your advisor to review your planned schedule and to have your pre-registration forms signed before you can go online. Don't wait until the last minute; contact your advisor soon to set up an appointment. Please also keep in mind that rising sophomores who have had several English courses should consider taking ENG 299 in the spring semester. Rising juniors who haven't yet taken ENG 299 should definitely take it next year, preferably in the fall.

Spring time is always a bitter-sweet time in an academic department, as our seniors prepare to graduate, and some faculty leave as we prepare to welcome a new class of students and new colleagues, as well. To those of you who depart soon for greener pastures, we wish you all the best; don't forget us. Ya'll come back now, ya hear?

By the way, the interested reader may wish to know that the entrance to St. Patrick's Purgatory is said to be the sacred Sanctuary of St. Patrick located on Station Island in Lough Derg, in County Donegal, Ireland. A popular site of pilgrimages during the Middle Ages, Lough Derg welcomes pilgrims to this day.

Just sayin'.

Best of luck!

*Chris Fee* Chair, Department of English

## UPCOMING

- **Fiction Reading: Alexandra Kleeman**  
Mon, March 21 5:00 PM Joseph Theatre
- **Alumni Lecture: Cara McClintock-Walsh**  
Wed, March 23 4:30 PM Joseph Theatre
- **English Honors Presentations**  
Tues, April 5 4:30 PM Penn Hall Lyceum
- **Journalist Reading: Maura Kelly**  
Thurs, April 7 5:00 PM Joseph Theatre
- **Nonfiction Reading: Carter Sickels**  
Tues, April 12 5:00 PM Joseph Theatre
- **Senior Reading**  
Thurs, April 14 7:00 PM Penn Hall Lyceum
- **Poetry Reading: Philip Schultz**  
Mon, April 18 5:00 PM Mara Auditorium
- **Medieval Drama Production**  
Fri, April 29 3:00 PM Briedenbaugh Steps

## GOOD LUCK!

- **Spring Honors Day**  
Sat, May 14 1:00 PM Christ Chapel
- **Baccalaureate**  
Sat, May 14 4:00 PM Christ Chapel
- **Commencement**  
Sun, May 15 11:00 AM Beachem Portico

# A FOND FAREWELL TO THESE FACULTY

## So Long to Meredith Malburne-Wade



During her year of teaching at Gettysburg, Dr. Malburne-Wade has enjoyed the people at Gettysburg more than anything else. She has most loved the students finding them very driven, responsive, and interested in growing as students and scholars. Officially, she will miss the people at Gettysburg, especially the students; unofficially, she will miss Dr. Melton's amazing office! She feels incredibly lucky to be in such a great space this year. Meredith is currently on the market and interviewing for a new position, and she is excited for new adventures. We wish her all the best in whatever position she accepts.

## Farewell to Corey Van Landingham



Professor Van Landingham has most enjoyed getting to know the fabulous students here at Gettysburg, and seeing what they're excited about when it comes to Creative Writing. The scope of student projects, along with the skill and enthusiasm that go into them, has been inspiring for her, as both a teacher and a writer. Attached to the sense of community here at Gettysburg College, she will miss this wonderfully weird, gorgeous town, long battlefield runs, Blue & Gray, and Joyce's morning greetings. Corey is headed to begin a PhD at the University of Cincinnati, where she'll be teaching, too. We wish her all the best on her Midwest adventure, go O-H!

## Good luck to Karen McElmurray



Professor McElmurray has thoroughly enjoyed her time here as a Creative Writing professor. Proud to work with smart and fearless writers, she has most enjoyed working with articulate students who have grown in their memoir writing. After leaving Gettysburg, she will spend the summer as a guest faculty at the Appalachian Writer's Conference in Hindman, Kentucky, and as a Writer in Residence at Lincoln Memorial University's Mountain Heritage Writer's Festival. Joining the Core Faculty of Reinhardt University's Etowah Valley Low Residency MFA this fall, Karen is excited to participate in a new program that focuses on the writing of the New South and literature that is story-driven and grounded in place. We wish her luck in these new opportunities, as well as with her continuing work on her new novel and collection of lyric essays.

## BEST OF LUCK ON SABBATICAL



### See you soon to Nadine Meyer

Taking the Fall semester to work on her third book of poems, Professor Meyer will do research to grapple with issues of the very disturbing Nazi "racial science," and will delve into her family's experiences fleeing Europe as a French Jew before France fell under Nazi control. She will continue to do research on her family and the Holocaust, as well as take a course at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

### Goodbye for now, Len Goldberg



On his year sabbatical, Professor Goldberg will finish up a few essays that he has been working on since his last sabbatical, but he is also looking forwards to starting some new things as well. Len has become interested in the way the British romantic poets use ekphrasis--the representation of art in literature--in unexpected ways: sometimes to distort the reality before them to bring out symbolically interesting or expressive features of it, and sometimes to figure out the use a particular speaker might have for a work he or she encounters. Focusing on Shelly's *Prometheus Unbound*, Len is excited to explore these ventures.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING BACK:**

**McKinley Melton**

**Rob Garnett**

**Fred Leebron**

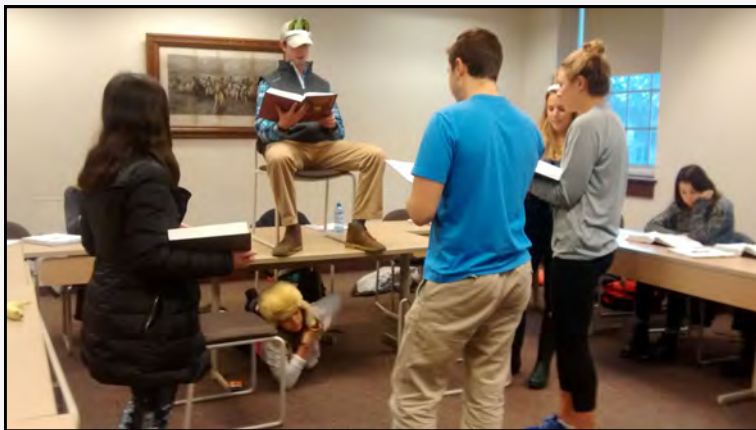
**Kathryn Rhett**

**CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO!**

# Gettin' All Medieval

## Medieval Drama 312

Professor Fee's Medieval Drama (English 312) is currently studying a number of theatrical productions, looking at pageants from the Chester, N-Town, Wakefield, and York cycles. Familiarizing themselves with all of this background information is preparing the class for its traditional end-of-the-year production on the steps of Breidenbaugh, which is always an entertaining experience (free and open to the public!). This spring, the class will be performing *Robin Hood*, based on Knight & Olgrhen's *Robin Hood and Other Outlaw Tales*. In preparing for this production, the class has broken up into different groups to work on translating the text into a modern-day script, casting roles, designing costumes, creating the set, and running rehearsals. While still in the beginning stages, students are becoming more familiar with details and performance techniques of theatrical productions, and have even been able to experience the joy of outdoor performances.



Mark your calendars for the  
*Robin Hood* performance on  
April 29th at 3:00pm!



## EXCITING NEWS FOR FACULTY

Congrats to Professor Nadine Meyer for winning the **2016 Green Rose Prize** for Poetry. She is awarded a \$2,000 prize for the publication of her manuscript, *Chrysanthemum, Chrysanthemum* in the Spring of 2017.

### Fred Leebron, *Welcome to Christiania*

A Pusher Street regular in Copenhagen's anarchist village nears the end of the line. Through many trials, he still believes a grimy commune can be heaven on earth.

### Chris Fee and David Leeming, *The Goddess: Myths of the Great Mother*

The Goddess is all around us. The Goddess is with us in the everyday miracles of life, through such power and through its workings we may occasionally catch a glimpse of the divine.

### Kent Gramm, *Sharpsburg: A Civil War Narrative*

America's bloodiest day was the Battle of Antietam, or Sharpsburg,. The battle's story is told here by two Soldiers, both voices still haunt today's struggles over race, rights, and the flag.

### Will Lane, *Trust Rust*

These poems, closely informed by carpentry, songwriting, political activism, family, and teaching engage with what grows from experience while, in a greater sense, getting beyond the self.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:gburgmercuryart@gmail.com)  
[gburgmercurypoetry@gmail.com](mailto:gburgmercurypoetry@gmail.com)  
[gburgmercuryfiction@gmail.com](mailto:gburgmercuryfiction@gmail.com)  
[gburgmercurynonfiction@gmail.com](mailto:gburgmercurynonfiction@gmail.com)
- **Email Questions to:**  
 Celina Harris at  
[harrce02@gettysburg.edu](mailto:harrce02@gettysburg.edu)



# ALUMNI NEWS



## Heidi Gillis '97

After graduating from Gettysburg, Heidi worked as the Assistant Director of Development and Public Relations at a nonprofit health clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee. As she and her husband moved around a lot the next few years, Heidi was hired as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations and then as the Associate Director of Development at two different community colleges in Virginia. These jobs called upon the excellent writing skills, communication skills, and critical thinking skills Heidi developed as an English major at Gettysburg. During this time, Heidi worked full-time while pursuing a M.S. in Information Science at the University of Tennessee. Two years after her graduation, Heidi had an opportunity to apply both of her degrees when she became the Marketing and Development Manager for Baltimore County Public Library in 2007. Finally, Heidi and her husband moved to Gettysburg in 2013 where she now works part-time as a librarian at Musselman Library and at Harrisburg Area Community College. Heidi maintains that her ability to plan events, track deadlines, supervise people, practice active listening and take effective notes were honed at

Gettysburg and were crucial to her success at all of her jobs, particularly her managerial positions.

For Heidi, the job-search process has looked different for each job she has had because she has found them through newspaper advertisements, online advertisements, and personal connections. She stresses that “keeping [her] resume up-to-date allowed [her] to pursue opportunities that arose unexpectedly!” Heidi wants current students to know that even though it may seem impossible to get everything done during some weeks in college, “you will finish everything and, in all likelihood, you’ll do well.” She maintains that Gettysburg is a great preparation for life after college, and specifically thanks Professor Temma Berg who taught her to read thoughtfully and critically. Other professors who have had a huge impact on her life include Professor Elizabeth Lambert and Professor Robert Garnett. According to Heidi, Professor Lambert left her love of Jane Austen with Heidi, who now has “two Newfoundlands who are named Mister Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet.”

Finally, Heidi suggests that current students to embrace change, embrace feeling uncomfortable, and read! It can lead to unexpected places and experiences.

## FUTURE ALUMS!

To all those graduating we at the English Department would like to wish you the best of luck with all of your future endeavors! We would love to hear what you have planned for after graduation, whether it be an exciting new job, an internship, or off to Graduate school, we would love to keep in touch.

Write to your favorite professor or to Jody Rosensteel (jrosenst@gettysburg.edu) and let us know what you’ve been up to!

## A Word's Worth of News

WAS WRITTEN AND CREATED BY

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*Carolyn Kirsch '18*