

A Word's Worth of News

Department of English
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

CHAIR CHAT

As the anonymous author of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* teaches us so well, spring always follows winter, however harsh and grey the season of Lent may seem:

But then the world's weather with winter contends:
The keen cold lessens, the low clouds lift;
Fresh falls the rain in fostering showers
On the face of the fields; flowers appear.
The ground and the groves wear gowns of green.... (ll.504-508)

These days seem almost upon us, and we all breathe a sigh of relief! The Gawain poet, however, has words of warning in equal measure with those of cheer, and so also laments that spring and summer are fleeting, as well, as are all the seasons of our lives:

But harvest with harsher winds follows hard after.... (l. 521)
Wroth winds in the welkin wrestle with the sun,
The leaves launch from the linden and light on the ground,
And the grass turns to gray, that once grew green .
Then all ripens and rots that rose up at first,
And so the year moves on in yesterdays many.... (ll. 525-529)

Be thoughtful of what may come, then; however harsh or inviting the world outside may seem, this, too, shall pass....but let us hope without a verdant giant with a mighty headsman's ax waiting at the end!

Just a word to the wise, especially on the eve of Spring Break, that heady season of debauchery and excess....
This is also a time in the academic year 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 into those rapidly greening pastures, we wish you all the best; don't forget us. Ya'll come back now, ya hear? Best of luck!

Chris Fee Chair, Department of English

UPCOMING

- **Poetry Reading: Jennifer Atkinson and Eric Pankey**

Mon, March 27 8:00 PM Penn Hall Lyceum

- **English Honors Presentations**

Tues, April 4 4:30 PM Penn Hall Lyceum

- **Mercury Reception**

Wed, April 12 6:30 PM Glatfelter Lodge

- **Senior Reading**

Tues, April 18 7:00 PM Penn Hall Lyceum

- **Poetry Reading: Christopher Kempf**

Wed, April 26 8:00 PM Penn Hall Lyceum

GOOD LUCK!

- **Spring Honors Day**

Sat, May 20 1:00 PM Christ Chapel

- **Baccalaureate**

Sat, May 20 4:00 PM Christ Chapel

- **Commencement**

Sun, May 21 11:00 AM Beachem Portico

A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR EWL



Christopher Kempf

In the near future, Kempf will be married to his fiancé, the poet Corey Van Landingham, on the steps of Penn Hall. Then, the couple will be living in Cincinnati as she finishes a Ph.D. in Creative Writing, and he works on his Ph.D. dissertation for the University of Chicago. In addition to being married, Kempf looks forward to working on his own creative and critical writing. He hopes to get a second and third book out in the coming years. Kempf enjoyed so much about Gettysburg—his excellent students, Thursday spin classes with Joe, running the battlefield, and—probably most importantly—getting to know members of the English Department staff, Joyce and Jody, who made Gettysburg feel like home.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING BACK:

Nadine Meyer
Len Goldberg

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

BEST OF LUCK ON SABBATICAL



See you soon to Joanne Myers

In 2017-18, I'll spend my sabbatical in the UK researching the role of Catholicism in the eighteenth-century British imagination. I'm interested in Catholicism's persistence despite the fact that it didn't seem to "fit" into an enlightened, modern British identity. My research pursues two questions: how did eighteenth-century British Catholics experience modernity? And how did certain forms of Catholic ritual get reinvented, albeit in displaced forms, in modern Britain? I'll be doing some archival work and plan to visit Alexander Pope's former home at Twickenham – and of course I'll find time to see family and bits of the UK I've never visited. Anyone studying in Lancaster or Bath is welcome to be in touch!

FROM THE DEPARTMENT

A CURIOUS QUESTION

Who's a writer that you love but wouldn't want to hang out with?

- ◆ **Joanne Myers:** Jonathan Swift
- ◆ **McKinley Melton:** Alice Walker
- ◆ **William Lane:** Elizabeth Bishop
- ◆ **Stefanie Sobelle:** Zadie Smith
- ◆ **Suzanne Flynn:** T.S. Eliot
- ◆ **Sarah Sillin:** Nathaniel Hawthorne
- ◆ **Christopher Kempf:** Robert Frost
- ◆ **Chris D'Addario:** Jonathan Swift

Stephen Crane 2017 FICTION PRIZES

First Prize \$250.00
Second Prize \$125.00
Third Prize \$125.00

Prize winners will be announced at
Spring Honors Day, May 20, 2017.

Submission Deadline:
Friday, March 10

Send submissions to Jody Rosensteel at
box 397 or drop off submissions at the
English Department
in Breidenbaugh 314.

Guidelines

Current Gettysburg College students are eligible. One submission per writer. Short story of any length and any genre accepted. Manuscript should be typed, double-spaced, one-sided, and stapled in upper left corner. Name and contact info should be on a separate cover page. All judging will be done by an outside judge.

Virginia Woolf 2017 ESSAY PRIZES

First Prize \$100
Second Prize \$75
Third Prize \$50

Submission Deadline:
Friday, March 10

Send submissions to Jody Rosensteel at
box 397 or drop off submissions at the
English Department
in Breidenbaugh 314.

Guidelines

Current Gettysburg College students are eligible. One submission per writer. All types of literary non-fiction on any subject will be considered. Limit of 5,000 words per essay. Retain a copy for your records. Manuscript should be typed, double-spaced, one-sided, and stapled in upper left corner. Name and contact info should be on a separate cover page. All judging will be done by an outside judge.

Marion Zulauf 2017 POETRY PRIZE

*Established by Sander Zulauf '68 in memory of
his mother, Marion Zulauf.*

First Prize \$100

Prize winner will be announced on Spring Honors
Day, May 20, 2017.

Submission Deadline:
Friday, March 10

Send submissions to Jody Rosensteel at
box 397 or drop off submissions at the
English Department
in Breidenbaugh 314.

Guidelines

Current Gettysburg College students are eligible. No line or subject matter restrictions. Submit one to three poems. Manuscript should be typed, double-spaced, one-sided, and stapled in upper left corner. Name and contact info should be on a separate cover page. All judging will be done by an outside judge.

English Department Statement of Principles

Words have power, and the power of language is at the center of what we teach in the Department of English at Gettysburg College. Furthermore, literature offers a means by which to approach the moral, ethical, social, cultural, and political complexities of human experience. At the foundation of humanistic inquiry is an unwavering commitment to the equality and dignity of all human beings and a respect for the convictions of others, regardless of political affiliation.

As a powerful rhetoric of bigotry has infiltrated public discourse, and as acts of harassment, hate crimes, and racial terror are on the rise, our department joins together to reconfirm forcefully the goals at the core of our program: exposure to diverse cultures and historical periods; careful interpretation and judgment through close reading, fact-based research, and nuanced critical thinking; consideration of multiple theoretical frameworks to reach conclusions; principled and coherent argumentation; creativity and complexity; critical self-reflection; clear and respectful written and spoken expression; and sustained contemplation and deep focus.

We affirm the rights of all members of the Gettysburg community to pursue knowledge without being hindered because of identity or origin. We therefore oppose any action that, intentionally or not, contributes to the creation of a climate of fear, hostility, and suspicion of our neighbors; and we condemn harassment of all kinds. Racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and other discriminatory ideologies—including those that are anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, or anti-Semitic—contradict our core values as scholars and as citizens and must not be ignored or normalized. We reject all attempts to simplify, dismiss, or debase the values of democracy that underlie the mission of the college.

Our responsibility is to support, to foster, and to challenge each other, and to speak up when we see injustices. Our department recommits to this responsibility now as much as ever.

EXCITING NEWS FOR FACULTY

RECENT RELEASES

Christopher Kempf, *Late in the Empire of Men*

Kempf's *Late in the Empire of Men*, which won the 2015 Levis Prize, was just released from Four Way Books on March 1st.

Stephanie Sellers, *Weaving the Legacy; Remembering Paula Gunn Allen*

Sellers has just released *Weaving the Legacy; Remembering Paula Gunn Allen*, an edited collection on her former mentor, from University of New Mexico's West End Press.

Kathryn Rhett, *Immortal Village*

Rhett's poetry collection, *Immortal Village*, will release under Carnegie Mellon University Press in Spring 2018. Rhett just received the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts fellowship to write a nonfiction manuscript, a chapter of which will be published in the *Harvard Review* this year.

Karen McElmurray, essays and novel

McElmurray's recent work has received high acclaim. Her essay "Hand-Me-Down" won the James Baker Hall Award in Creative Nonfiction, and her essay "Outside the Outside" was included in *Guardians of Mediocrity*. McElmurray is currently working on her novel, *Wanting Inez*.

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.

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:**
 Jessica McManness at
mcmaje03@gettysburg.edu



ALUMNI NEWS



White currently works as a financial planner for a private investment firm in Pittsburgh and Uniontown, PA. After graduating from Gettysburg College, she completed her certificate in financial planning from Duquesne University. When people ask White how an English writing major ended up in finance, she explains that “the beauty of a liberal arts education is that it teaches you to think critically and diversely, allowing you to step into nearly any career.” She also says that her English writing major helped her stand out in the financial field because being able to communicate efficiently and effectively is invaluable.

Devan White ‘11

White’s main duties as a financial planner are to listen and understand her clients so she can help them fulfill their financial goals. She learned to think critically and act compassionately while working with the Center for Public Service (CPS) at Gettysburg College. White applied this philosophy right after graduation while she worked at an economic development council in her hometown. She became convinced that one way to be truly helpful to her community was to learn the intricacies of financial management because understanding money is key to any non-profit organization. White continues to apply this philosophy whether she is working on an investment portfolio or sitting in a non-profit board meeting.

At her job, White frequently draws upon her experience as an English major. She learned a lot about herself while writing personal narratives for her final thesis with Professor Rhett. This class was the most impactful experience she had as an English major because evaluating herself on an uncomfortably deep level taught her how she would like to present her story to others. She often tells her story to clients, but more importantly, she listens to their stories, and is able to understand them better because of her experiences as an English writing major.

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!

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WAS WRITTEN AND CREATED BY

Jerome Clarke '17
Carolyn Kirsch '18