A Word’s Worth of News
Department of English
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

October 2010

Sigma Tau Delta Announcements

Membership. Sigma Tau Delta is the National English Honors Society. We hold an annual initiation ceremony, to be scheduled for the late winter or early spring. Students eligible for membership will be contacted in November. Eligibility is as follows:

- Have declared an English major or minor (including majors or minors in Writing);
- Have taken a minimum of four English courses above the 100-level through the department for credit;
- Have a 3.5 G.P.A. in these courses;
- Have a 3.0 G.P.A. overall; and
- Be in the top 35% of their class.

Questions about eligibility can be directed to Professor Joanne Myers, faculty sponsor, jemyers@gettysburg.edu, (Breidenbaugh 314 F, x 6763).

Book Drive. Sigma Tau Delta will be hosting the Better World Books Drive, which provides quality used books to a number of charity organizations both in the United States and abroad. Keep an eye out for the book bins between now and Thanksgiving, if you’re interested in making a contribution of any textbooks you can spare.

NCUR Conference. The deadline for submitting an abstract to this year’s National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) is November 19. If you have an honors thesis in progress, a seminar paper in progress, or a paper from a previous class in which you take particular pride, consider submitting an abstract and sharing your work with a wider audience!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: http://www.ithaca.edu/ncur2011/

A Note from the Chair

Reading Days are behind us; Thanksgiving is just a month away. It may seem hard to believe, but we’re already more than halfway through the fall semester.

In a few days, first-year students will be able to register for their spring classes, and beginning November 16, all students can go to the Student Center and make adjustments to their spring schedules. A number of 200-level and some 300-level literature classes still have openings. If you’re a sophomore planning to study abroad next year, keep in mind that while two courses taken abroad can count towards the major, only one of those courses can count at the 300-level. So you may want to “save” a 200-level or elective slot for your semester abroad.

Writing minors should take note of a recent change the department has made to the minor’s requirement. Students may now take a 200 or 300-level ENG literature course as one of their two electives for the writing minor. We hope this change gives writing minors a bit more flexibility as they schedule their courses.

In the English Department, we’re happy to welcome four new visiting faculty members this year. You can read a little more about each of these professors inside the newsletter. Best wishes for a great fall semester.

Suzanne J. Flynn
Chair, Department of English
**Student Spotlights**

**Devan Grote ’11**  
*English w/Writing Concentration Major and Business Minor*

**How did you become an English Major with a Writing Concentration?**  
Jack Ryan taught my first year seminar, American Sport in Literature and Film. We wrote sports columns every week, and I had a blast. I realized I liked creative writing and talked to him about it. I started working at the Office of Communications and Public Relations on campus and asked them what skills were the most important in this field. They said writing, so the major seemed natural for me.”

**What can you tell us about the English honors thesis on which you are working?**  
This is the first year that honors students can write a creative writing thesis. I knew I wanted to do non-fiction, as it’s always been my favorite type of writing. I talked over some ideas with my thesis advisor, Professor Kathryn Rhett. The thesis is based on my hometown in Uniontown, PA. I come from four generations of coal miners, so my experience growing up in southwestern PA coal region is unique. I have a different perspective to offer. I’m using oral histories and hard facts to tell personal stories in a creative way, so my thesis is not a textbook. I’m trying to bring the audience along with me.

Devan’s goal is to have her first draft completed by January 1. She will edit her work until it is due in March.

**Kyla Rodgers ’11**  
*Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major & English Minor*

**How did you acquire such an interesting major/minor combination?**  
I had a hard time deciding what I was going to do in college. It was hard to pick something with which to make a difference in the world. I had a really good English teacher in high school and wanted to be an author when I was younger, but particularly, I want to work with biology and do cancer research. It’s fun taking English courses in between the science and Gettysburg requirements.

**What has been your favorite part of being an English minor?**  
There is not a lot I have disliked. Faulkner was a bit out there, and Shakespeare was hard. I love British Literature -- *Beowulf* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

I studied abroad in Denmark and got to see where Herot was. It’s just an outline in the ground now, but I was so excited. Poetry is a favorite too.

**Would you say that your time abroad was a great experience for you?**  
It is the best thing I could have done for myself. It was not as academically intense as Gettysburg, but in terms of real life value, it taught me a lot about relating to others. Cultural differences made me so much more able to see from another angle. While in Denmark, I took a Nordic Mythology class, and we got to view ancient manuscripts. I wish I were in Professor Fee’s Viking seminar right now!

Kyla’s plans for the future include going to graduate school for cancer biology and eventually working in the cancer research field. In the event that graduate school doesn’t happen immediately, she is applying for an internship with her study abroad program in Denmark, and she is considering work in a lab.
New English Faculty

**Nick Lantz.** This year’s Emerging Writer Lecturer, Nick Lantz, graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Oregon and received his M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is currently teaching Intro to Creative Writing, Experiment and Tradition, and Poetry and Playwriting. The spring will find him teaching Intro to Creative Writing and Writing the Energetic Short Play. Originally from Berkeley CA, he is enjoying his time in Pennsylvania and regards the College as his favorite aspect of Gettysburg. Lantz’s first two books of poems were published this past spring, and he is currently working on his third collection. In addition to poetry, he enjoys writing plays, one of which was produced this fall at the University of Wisconsin. His favorite part of teaching at Gettysburg is the students, noting their expressive creativity and high quality of writing.

**Kent Gramm.** This fall, Kent Gramm is teaching two sections of Creative Writing and will teach ENG 101 in the spring. He graduated from Carroll College in Wisconsin and went on to receive his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Before coming to Gettysburg, Professor Gramm taught at Wheaton College in Illinois and at the University of Giessen in Germany. He has several books published on Gettysburg’s role in the Civil War and cites the battlefield as his favorite part of living in the area. In addition to his works on Gettysburg, Professor Gramm is currently awaiting publication of another book, Bitterroot, which discusses the Nez Perce War of 1877. As for the College, his favorite aspect is the students, with whom he enjoys sharing his experiences as a writer.

**Victoria Lantz.** Originally from Portland, Oregon, Victoria Lantz is enjoying her time on the East Coast. She graduated from Lewis & Clark College in Oregon and went on to receive her Masters and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with a focus in Theater and Drama. This fall, Professor Lantz is teaching ENG 250 Post-Colonial Drama and Literature, with plans to teach ENG 101 in the spring. Coming from a big university with large class sizes, she especially enjoys the close-knit community at Gettysburg College and is impressed by the level of preparedness her students bring to class. Her favorite part about Gettysburg is the excitement about history so evident in the town. As one who loves the theater, she is particularly fascinated by the Civil War re-enactors.

**Matthew Sandler.** In his first semester at Gettysburg College, Matthew Sandler is teaching two sections of ENG 101. He graduated from the University of Virginia and received his Ph.D. in English from Columbia University. Professor Sandler is originally from Miami, Florida, and recently taught at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He is currently working on a paper discussing Walt Whitman’s time spent in New Orleans. Professor Sandler enjoys the nature of his introductory writing classes as an opportunity to share personal experiences with his students. He describes his students this semester as motivated and engaged, and looks forward to teaching more Intro to College Writing classes in the spring. Listing his favorite aspects of Gettysburg, Professor Sandler includes the College’s Adirondack chairs, the Civil War Chapel, and Mummasburg Street.
**Alumni News**

Cheryl Tevlin ‘10 is working alongside Professor Elizabeth Duquette to produce the first anthology of the work of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, who wrote prolifically during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Cheryl’s work on this project includes compiling primary and secondary sources and traveling to Salem, MA, to conduct archival research on letters hand-written by Phelps. According to Duquette, Phelps was widely read during her heyday, but the fact that her style is not ground-breaking or experimental often excludes her from most major compilations. Her most famous work is a Post-Bellum piece, *The Gates Ajar*, which placed a mourning female protagonist in a position to re-evaluate the contemporary concept of the afterlife. The present anthology aims to resurrect an author who, although hardly acknowledged in recent years, was an international best-seller in her times. The English Department wishes Cheryl and Professor Duquette the very best in their continued collaborative research.

**Berg On Leave**

Congratulations to Professor Temma Berg for receiving the David Julian and Virginia Suther Whichard Distinguished Professorship in Humanities at East Carolina University. Professor Berg is spending the 10-11 academic year in Greenville, North Carolina, teaching courses on the Brontë sisters, as well as on Jewish women writers. On September 15, Dr. Berg presented “Reading in Circles: The Reading Habits of an Eighteenth-Century Epistolary Community” as part of the Women’s Studies Program Gender to a Tea series. She will also give a special lecture on November 2 entitled "Frankenstein: Engendering a Text, Embodying a Text." For all of those who miss her, fear not! Professor Berg will be coming home to Gettysburg College for the fall semester of 2011.

**Writing Center Hours**

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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>7:00 - 10:00 pm</td>
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<td>Mon - Thurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri &amp; Sat</td>
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*The Writing Center is located on the ground floor of Breidenbaugh Hall.*

**Submit to The Mercury!**

Art & Literary Magazine of Gettysburg College

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

- **First Submissions Deadline:**
  - Thursday, November 18.

- **Email Submissions to:**
  - gburgmercuryart@gmail.com
  - gburgmercurypoetry@gmail.com
  - gburgmercuryfiction@gmail.com
  - gburgmercyronfiction@gmail.com

- **Email Questions to:**
  - Sara Thomas at thomsa01@gettysburg.edu
  - Kathleen Flynn at flynnka01@gettysburg.edu

**Contributions to A Word's Worth of News**

were made by Eric Kozlik ’11, Mary Roll ’12, and Liz Williams ’13.