



The Inkwell Quarterly

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Winter 2010

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Senior Exit Survey

By Justin Jones

Each year, a departmental survey is given to each graduating English major in hopes that the responses generated from the survey will help the department grow and get closer to its students. This year, the survey contained questions such as what the student's favorite aspect of the department was; what was their favorite course; if they had any suggestions for incoming English majors; who was their favorite professor; and if there was anything they believed would make the department better in the future. While the survey is still being distributed, seniors **Anthony Truppo**, **Rachel Cannuli**, and **Shannon McDonald** had some interesting answers.

Truppo's favorite aspect of the department is the faculty at large. He believes each professor brings their own unique intellect into class topics and that they, "stimulated in-depth and interesting discussions." His favorite course was *Creative Writing* with **Dr. Mischelle Anthony**, because he was able to explore his "potential as a creative writer and get helpful feedback from fellow writers." The greatest suggestion he has for majors new to the department is to take classes even when they are worried about whether or not it is right for them. "There were several classes I was required to take that I was afraid I would not enjoy, but they ended up becoming some of my favorite courses," he said. Truppo's favorite professor is **Dr. Thomas Hamill**, and his only suggestion to better the department is to make more creative writing classes accessible to students.

Cannuli enjoys how small the department is, allowing everyone to be closer than a larger department like Pharmacy allows. She loves the family atmosphere within the walls of Kirby. Her favorite course was *Shakespeare*, because the course generated a newfound appreciation for the classic author. Her favorite teacher is Dr. Hamill as well, and she suggests that newer majors should take on every opportunity they get to get to know their peers and professors because "they are all awesome!" Cannuli also suggests the *History of the English Language*, which is taught by Dr. Hamill, should be a requirement for all English majors.

What McDonald always had to look forward to in the department was **Dr. Marcia Farrell's** baking. Her favorite class was *Comparative Grammar* because everything she learned she was able to relate to teaching, which she plans on doing with her Secondary Ed minor. Her favorite professors are Dr. Hamill and Dr. Farrell, and she warns new and incoming majors to always be ready to have in-class discussions, because most of the professors within the department base their course off of discussion.

The department urges seniors who have received the survey to reply ASAP in an effort to better the department and to track senior plans upon graduation. Answers can be sent to justin.jones1@wilkes.edu or inkwell@wilkes.edu.



Photo Courtesy Sonja Heisey

Cook's Pianothon

Junior **David Cook** found an interesting way to help others this holiday season. As part of Zebra Communications' work with the Red Cross's Holiday Kettle Campaign, Cook opted to bring attention to the event by playing the piano for twenty-four hours in the SUB. From 6a.m. to 6a.m. on December 2, 2010, Cook helped the Red Cross raise \$1500.

He is pictured here playing with the assistance of *IQ* mascot, Maggie.



Graduation Audit

By Victoria Hevener

Senior English majors are encouraged to approach their Advisors for a graduation audit. An audit, as described by **Dr. Janet Starner**, is essentially an official check of university records and is meant to ensure that a student has completed all required courses—not including what will be taken senior year. Starner, explains that audits are also useful for finding flaws in the university's records. For example, students who took courses outside of the university may find that earned credits are missing from university records. Starner also urges students who have minors outside of the English department to meet with their secondary advisors to ensure that minor requirements have not changed. Seniors are encouraged to begin a discussion with their respective advisor as soon as possible.

Further, Starner issues a reminder to all Wilkes University students regardless of major, minor, or class standing: "Advisors are not perfect," she stated, "which is why students should keep a detailed record of what classes they have completed, what they are currently taking, and what they are still required to complete." Starner challenged students to know more about their progress than their advisors, and to come to pre-registration meetings with a planned course listing prepared.

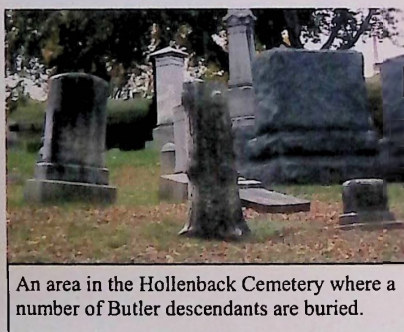
Celebrate V-Day at Wilkes

By Holly Evans

Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* return to Wilkes on February 11 and 12, 2011. **Angela Dalessandro** has returned to direct this year's performance. This year's spotlight monologue is abuse against women; 10% of all proceeds will be donated to an area in the country where abuse against women is the highest. Students are encouraged to audition. Announcements for audition dates will be posted on today@wilkes on the Mywilkes Portal. The performance will be held in the Ballroom at 7 pm. Admission is free for Wilkes students; non-Wilkes students are \$5, and general admission is \$10.

History in the Wyoming Valley

By Annie Yoskoski



An area in the Hollenback Cemetery where a number of Butler descendants are buried.

One event in the history of the Wyoming Valley that not many people recognize is what historians dubbed "The Wyoming Valley Massacre." A battle waged during the Revolutionary War on July 3, 1778, left many dead behind. A man named Colonel Zebulon Butler lead over 350 men into the heart of the valley from Forty Fort.

Upon arrival, Butler met over one thousand loyalists, (people still loyal to mother England), and Iroquois Indians. The man leading the loyalists was also named Colonel Butler, ironically. The much outnumbered Colonel Zebulon survived with around fifty of his men. The next day he surrendered Forty Fort to prevent further death. This battle was one of note between loyalist/Indian forces and Americans.

Giles Slocum, a person of much recognition to this valley also participated in this battle. He was the older brother of our very own Francis Slocum, for whom Francis Slocum Park is named.

Brown Bag Updates

By Ashley Bringmann

The Brown Bag lunches are held monthly by Drs. Marcia Farrell and Helen Davis. Seniors and juniors are encouraged to attend and gain information about furthering their education and exploring job opportunities. The lunches are held in either Farrell's or Davis's office, and students are encouraged to attend with lunch in hand.

The most recent Brown Bag Lunch was held on November 4, 2010 in Dr. Davis's office. The topic was "Applying to Graduate School." Seniors asked questions and Davis gave tips on writing personal statements and materials that are helpful for letters of recommendation. If you have a topic you would like to see covered, please contact Drs. Farrell or Davis with your ideas.

Dear Readers,

You may have noticed that we have changed the *IQ* logo on the first page for this issue. Over the course of the next few issues, we will try out several different logos, and we would like your help in choosing the best one for the publication. Please send us your feedback on the *Inkwell Quarterly* Facebook wall.

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By Brittany C

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On Campus Hangouts for English Majors

By Holly Evans

When English majors are not reading Shakespeare or writing lengthy papers on Ernest Hemingway, they can be found hanging out on campus. There are separate spots that different English majors like to hangout at. Freshman **Miranda Baur** spends some free time at the library, "I go there to catch up on some of my school work."

Sophomores **Todd Oravic** and **Jon Kadjeski** spend most of their free time on the first floor of the student center in the lounge. "I live there," says Kadjeski, with a smile. Fellow sophomore **Ashley Bringmann** also hangs out on the first floor of the student center, but she prefers the Commuter Lounge.

Seniors **Matt Kogoy** and **Justin Jones** have slightly different hang outs. Jones likes to hang around the bell tower. "I like the aesthetic beauty of it," says Jones. "I get together with some friends and it's a good time." Kogoy, on the other hand, spends his time on campus helping other English majors. When he is not in the Writing Center, he can be found in his "office," on the top floor of the Kirby right outside of Dr. Anthony's office.

English majors can be found all over the campus. Their hangouts differ from hanging out with friends to helping students.



Photo Courtesy Sonja Heisey

Capstone Reminder

By Victoria Hevener

Seniors who do not have a minor in Secondary Education must complete a Capstone project in order to graduate. At this point in the year, students should have approached a professor for advisory. However, if for some reason a student has not found an advisor, he or she is urged to do so as soon as possible. Note that any full-time faculty member may be a Capstone advisor; however, professors may have already taken on a number of other Capstone advisees.

The English faculty advise students to begin Capstone projects around Winter Intersession, stating that the more time students give themselves to complete the project the more likely they are to succeed with the least amount of stress possible.

Club and Faculty Updates

By Miranda Baur

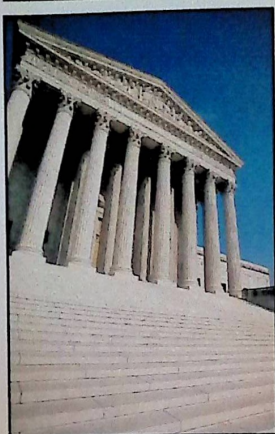
- **Dr. Michelle Anthony's** poetry collection, *[Line]*, is forthcoming this year from Foothills Press.
- **Dr. Stanley, Dr. Davis, and Dr. Starner** attended the conference, "Creativity, Inquiry, and Discovery: Undergraduate Research In and Across the Disciplines" sponsored by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) in Durham, North Carolina from November 11-13, 2010 (http://www.aacu.org/meetings/undergraduate_research/2010/index.cfm).
- In addition, our new Dean, **Dr. Linda Winkler**, attended, along with **Dr. Evane Estwick** from Communications Studies. The goal is to learn how to integrate more undergraduate research into college's offerings, and specifically, for the department's faculty, into the curriculum in English.
- **Dr. Janet Starner** presented a revised and expanded version of the piece she wrote for this issue of *The Inkwell Quarterly* as a talk for colleagues at the *Faculty Forum* on November 19, 2010.
- **Dr. Marcia Farrell** will present her paper, "Poster Children: Laurens van der Post's Imperial Propaganda" at the thirty-ninth annual Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900 in February 2011.

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Faculty Columnists: Dr. Larry Kuhar and Dr. Thomas A. Hamill
 Guest Contributor: Dr. Janet Starner



Semester in DC: Meeting Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

By Amanda Kaster

My semester in Washington, DC has been tremendously rewarding, and as I move into the final weeks of my experience, I emerge with a wealth of knowledge, resources, and connections that will benefit me as I transition from Wilkes to a new adventure next fall. Since my time here is nearly over, I decided I should share one of the highlights of my semester: meeting Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

The opportunity to meet Justice Sotomayor on November 9, 2010 was an additional component of my seminar. Only a few slots were available to my class, and I immediately jumped on the opportunity. As a woman interested in improving the plight of the female sex, I admire the work Justice Sotomayor has completed as a Latina woman in a predominantly male profession; therefore, I knew I had to be in attendance.

We met inside the Supreme Court and were ushered into one of the rooms boarding where oral arguments are disclosed to the public. I was lucky enough to secure a seat right in the front row, a mere ten feet away from where she would address us. After a briefing on proper conduct and expectations, Justice Sotomayor was directed into the room by her marshals, and immediately welcomed us. She applauded our willingness to spend a semester in DC learning about our government and discussed the importance of having internship experience before proceeding into a career.

After briefly conversing with us, she offered a few moments for questions. Students inquired about the constitutionality of gay marriage, how the closeness of attorneys affects the atmosphere of the court, and how she has been able to preserve her ties to her ethnicity in her career. Sotomayor's responses exemplified why she is fitting for her position on the Supreme Court; she answered coherently, knowledgeably, and with a fervor for law. Part of the reason she chose to seek a career in legal affairs was because she loved the variety that accompanies each case.

I was amazed by Justice Sotomayor's delightful, humorous, and relaxed presence in light of her challenging career. She spoke eloquently and thoughtfully about her experiences and the ongoings of the Supreme Court while also engaging with college students, even sharing personal narratives about her time as a judge. Her generosity was tremendous, as she allowed each seminar to take a picture with her and she willingly shook each of our hands, thanking us for listening to her. I walked away inspired and completely in awe by her humility and intelligence. Justice Sotomayor truly is a role model for women in a society where we still occupy the minority in higher seats of the government and the justice system. I feel tremendously honored to have met her, and know full well that the opportunity has impacted the way I view the individuals at the very top of the court.

A Renaissance Moment

By Tony Thomas and Dr. Starner

King Henry VIII is well known for having six wives which became possible due to King Henry VIII's defiance towards the Pope. England was one of several countries who rejected the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and thus the Church of England was born. Despite King Henry's defiance he was not always rebellious towards the Church. In 1521 Pope Leo X named Henry "Defender of the Faith" for writing a pamphlet entitled "Deceleration of the Seven Sacraments against Martin Luther". The pamphlet denounced Martin Luther's reformist arguments. A few years later King Henry would meet Anne Boleyn.

Today we take for granted not only our right to speak and write as we please, but also the technology that allows us to publish whatever is on our minds. Such ease was not always so. In 1579, a Puritan lawyer named John Stubbs published a pamphlet titled, "A gaping Gulph to swallow up England by a French Marriage, &c" that denounced Queen Elizabeth's proposed marriage to the French Duc D'Alencon. In the pamphlet, Stubbs painted Elizabeth as the poor victim of a young man's ensnaring trickery. Stubbs asserted that the much younger Duc D'Alencon was only going for Elizabeth's money. Who could imagine a healthy sex life with such a pair? If they were to manage profitably employing their marriage bed, the Queen, at age 46, would surely die attempting to bear children. The Queen was not amused by Stubbs's pamphlet. She sentenced Stubbs and his printer to be hanged, but she did later relent. Instead two were to have their right hands, the offending body part, cut off. Some stories told about the public dismemberment report that after his hand was severed, Stubbs grabbed his hat with the remaining hand, held it in the air, and yelled "God save the queen!" and then fainted. Despite the warning, Puritan attacks on English monarchs continued into the next century. Later pamphleteers lost other body parts. In the early seventeenth century, the most disaffected left England. They emigrated to New England where they practiced on members of their new communities some of the same repressive controls that behooved them to move from England.

A Correction...

In *The Inkwell Quarterly*, 5.1, we reported that the first horror novel was written by Charles Brockden Brown, when we should have noted that the first *American* horror novel was written by Charles Brockden Brown. Additionally, we wrote that the first novel written in English was *Love and Excess*. However, *Love in Excess* was an early—not the first—romance novel by Eliza Haywood in the eighteenth century that caused quite a bit of controversy.

Hamill's

By Dr. Thomas

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By Miranda Baur

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Hamill's Hunches

By Dr. Thomas A. Hamill

When I was in eighth grade, I accidentally set fire to my neighbor's tree. While the tree was more like a bush, I was not like Moses, at least not at that point in my life. The fire consumed the tree quite rapidly, licking flames against the house where the now-charred carcass of the former tree had once been carefully landscape-designed, and requiring the firemen, who arrived after the fire had been extinguished, to tear open and spray into the roof soffits as a precaution.

Of the many traumatic remainders of that late summer afternoon—all of which, by way of accretion, have informed the mysteriously halting inconsistency with which I have produced Hamill's Hunches for *The Inkwell Quarterly*—what carries over most forcefully (despite its embarrassing obviousness) is the heat I felt as a I worked, with an impossibly short length of rubber, to hose down that cacophonous crackly glow. My available technologies notwithstanding, I never had a chance, and so the first of many struggles against the encroaching apocalyptic fires of my own making ended as a loss. The *deus ex machina* of the day's drama—my brother Matt running miraculous and immaculate across the street to triumph over the awaiting death with a hand held fire-extinguisher—concluded as reverse theophany: a white foam dust cloud that engorged all but itself and signified nothing. The blacked tree sat sentinel on the Brittman's porch for months, an ironic Lot's wife of forgiveness I probably did not deserve.

Reading typologically and writing, always, with equal senses of anachronism and belatedness, I can't help but see this singular moment and it detritus all around me. In the dinner tray, sure; in what I have done and what I have failed to do with my daily romp down that first flight of stairs and the always possible narrative conclusion of my plunge through the second-and-a-half floor landing window of Kirby Hall; in the avoided prolepsis of that otherwise unrelenting plot line (and the reminder, from DeLillo drawing from others, that all plots tend toward death). As I write, I am being plotted; as you read, the ironic tensions across the intertexts confuse and legitimate the logics of unveiling. At the very least someone—everyone—has been able to break the seal.

Biblical scholarship and the literary tradition have revealed much about the Number of the Beast. Advances in translation and historical linguistics have suggested a different alpha-numeric association—a different numerological resonance. But just as Holbein's woodcuts have become the central metonymic mnemonic for the Dance of Death, Iron Maiden's chorus (also burned on my memory in eighth grade) will always be true: "666, the Number of the Beast/Hell and fire was spawned to be released."]

The fact that 666 is a kind of alphabetism (even in the misreading) reassures me, especially in times when acronymy threatens to evacuate meaning—when IDEA undermines our capacity to think; when IMPROVE, well, doesn't; when many have forgotten what the hell we were talking about.



Photo Courtesy of
Desiree Wren

List of Theatre Productions at Wilkes

By Miranda Baur

This year, the Wilkes Theatre Department will be producing three plays following the successful *One Acts* performance from earlier this semester. The plays include the following: *Adding Machine*, *Songs for a New World*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Adding Machine, a musical by Joshua Schmidt and Jason Loewith, and adapted from a play by Elmer Rice, was directed by Teresa Fallon with the musical direction of Ken McGraw. The show was at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center on November 12—14, and 19—21, 2010. The show featured freshman English major Jamie Alderiso.

Songs for a New World by Jason Robert Brown will be directed by Naomi Baker with the musical direction of Ken McGraw. The show premieres at the Darte Center on the February 18 and runs until the 20, 2011, then again from the 25 to the 27.

The final production of the year will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare and directed by Joseph C. Dawson. It will run from April 7—10, 2011 at the Darte Center.

For ticket information, contact the box office at 570-408-4540. Tickets for General Admission are fifteen dollars, students and seniors pay five dollars, and Wilkes University students, faculty and staff are free with ID.

Ken Dauber Visit

On November 2, 2010, Dr. Sean Kelly brought 19th-century American literature specialist, Dr. Ken Dauber, from the SUNY Buffalo to campus to speak with students in the English 398: American Romanticism course and to present a lecture on sentimentality in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Dauber is the author of *The Idea of Authorship in America: Democratic Poetics from Franklin to Melville* (1990) and *Rediscovering Hawthorne* (1977).

The lecture was well attended.



Photo Courtesy of Sonja Heisey

The Murder in Kirby Hall

By Anonymous

Moments later...

"Damn it," said Tony Thomas, the *Inkwell Quarterly* layout editor, who just happened to be in the group, "You think Ashy would have noticed this leaking ceiling while he was in here. I just took a shower, and now I'm filthy."

"Tony..." Jamie spoke with a mild sense of terror and excitement, "We are on the second floor, and it isn't raining, the roof can't be leaking."

Jamie, Tony, and the rest of the group looked up to see a dark stain on the ceiling. "Blood! I've just been covered in blood," Tony screamed while he ran around. "Fu-Jes-Shi- I've got to go shower."

With that, Tony ran off, scampering down the stairs, almost falling several times, while mumbling random obscenities as he trailed off into the distance.

"Well," said Jamie. "The police are going to be here soon, so we should go upstairs and see where that blood is coming from in case the police need to know what it is. No sense wasting their time, right? After all, it could just be a dead bat."

The group reluctantly agreed out of a fear of being deemed suspicious and walked up to the third floor.

"The blood has to be coming from the classroom," said Jamie as she looked around. "So... lets... just... open... The door doesn't want to budge, I need some help."

This was the first time Jamie asked for any help, with anything, as far as anyone in her present company could remember, and they were taken aback and just stood there, stupefied.

"Fine. Be cowards. I'll just..." Her voice stopped as the door handle turned open from the inside. Jamie jumped back and fell into the group, which stared at the slowly opening door.

Out of the door frame, two bloody, pale hands were propelling a body forward.

"Mark!" Jamie screamed, and started to cry.

Mark was dragging himself forward toward the group, his face was pale, and a trail of blood followed in his wake.

When he emerged from the classroom, the full picture was clear. Mark had been dismembered; his legs were gone, replaced by bloody, hacked stumps, and, as the group discovered, his tongue was removed; his cell-phone put in its place.

As he crawled towards the group, moaning some unintelligible accusations or warning, he stumbled down the stairs of Kirby Hall, snapping his neck.

The group collapsed into one another, as a sense of sheer horror ran through them. The group was paralyzed and couldn't find the strength to run or even scream as they heard someone moving up the old servants' stairs. The sound of footsteps stopped, and the group looked up towards the offices to see what was happening.

"Jesus Christ, I can see an axe," said Jamie, who had managed to move enough to peer around the corner to the third floor offices. "I'm too clever to die! This isn't fair."

She was sobbing, her head buried in her arms, and soon everyone was doing the same. They paid no attention to the footsteps as they came closer.

Surely this was the end for the group assembled in Kirby, those students, who by no misfortune of their own, were brought together by fate to be subjected to excruciating pain and death...

Then suddenly, this mysterious axe-carrying man spoke.

"Hey brothers, what's goin' on."

It was Dr. Kuhar.

Jamie was the first to react, her essence restored from not being chopped into a thousand pieces.

"Dr. Kuhar," she asked tentatively, "Why are you carrying an axe?"

"I'm sorry. I have no idea what you just said," said Dr. Kuhar, as he ejected his Robert Frost cassette from his Walkman.

Jamie repeated her question with more strength in her tone: "Dr. Kuhar, why are you carrying that axe?"

"Oh" said Dr. Kuhar. "I was just choppin' some wood. I thought it would be a good way for us to celebrate the promises of weather if we had a bonfire after this McFly thing. Do you know what's in that one dish? It isn't anything weird, is it?"

"Dr. Kuhar," Jamie's voice was filled with surprise now, "McFly is dead. How did you not see his body on the way up?"

"Huh," said Dr. Kuhar rather emphatically. "Backstairs... Well, I'm going to enforce a sense of structure and call the poli—" "Dr. Hamill already called the police," said Jamie.

"And he didn't call me. We could of run around like the Hardy Boys, or Holmes and Watson. Is that blood? I don't like blood. I'm going to leave now. I suggest you guys do the same. Go to public safety or something. Wait for the police. Don't go snooping around, or go inside that classroom and look for clues. Then again, doing the job of the police would delineate assumed power structures and would promote a post-modern sense of justice..."

Dr. Kuhar, like so many others, trailed off as he went down the old servants' stairs and out of Kirby Hall.

"What are we going to now guys?" asked Jaimie, trying to sound as in control as possible.

"I think that it is time that we start to look at the suspects," stated Joe who had been rather quiet until this point. "The killer couldn't have been Mark since we just found him hacked up," Joe said.

"No kidding," said Jaimie rolling her eyes. She did not like others deliberating on who the killer may or may not be. She was the Nancy Drew here.



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"I think that we can rule out the entire English faculty. None of them would be involved in murder. But...that Ashy is really weird. He was acting rather suspiciously," said Joe.

"Ashy is the only lead that we have right now if we are not going to focus on any English faculty. Plus, as far as we know, the only other people in Kirby right now are Ashy and whatever beaming with narcissistic pride.

Joe began to raise his hand to make a statement, but as he did he heard a bloodcurdling scream.

"That sounds like it came from downstairs!" shouted Nikhil. The group turned and rushed down the creaky stairs.

The group scanned the first floor of Kirby. The building was eerily silent. There was no sign of anything. No blood. Nobody was there.

"Where did that scream come from?" asked Joe.

"Let's check out all the rooms," offered Jaimie. The group checked the rooms. Nothing was out of the ordinary. They all gathered outside of the salon.

"Whoever screamed must be in there," said Alison, a young blonde sophomore who was rather quiet throughout the whole evening.

"Thanks," said Jaimie, jealous of the possibility of some spunky girl stealing her spotlight. Jaimie approached the door and turned the knob. The lights were on in the salon and the food from the event was set up. All the chairs were empty except for a musty old one in the back where a bearded man sat eating cookies.

"Who are you?" asked Jaimie.

"I'm Dave Cook," said the bearded junior as he ate a pudding cookie with an intense ecstasy. The cookies, of course, were baked by Dr. Farrell and were not supposed to have been consumed until after dinner.

"Was that you who screamed?" inquired Joe Brody. Joe knew the answer, but he figured he would ask anyway.

"No. That wasn't me who screamed," said Dave, his eyes moving back and forth. "Couldn't have been me. I was eating cookies."

"I see," said Joe.

"Well, I'm hungry, and this food will go to waste if we keep running around trying to solve this mystery," said Nikhil as he grabbed a paper plate and moved towards the buffet table. He eyed up the rather large and green broccoli heads.

"Broccoli is my favorite," he said as he stabbed one of the heads right out of the serving dish with his plastic fork breaking buffet etiquette. He smiled as he mashed the broccoli in his mouth. Suddenly, his face turned pale and his hands grabbed for his throughout.

"Gahhhh," he screamed as blood began to trickle from the side of his lip. Joe rushed over to try and perform the heimlich maneuver, but such an effort was to no use. Nikhil slumped over blood still seeping from his mouth. Everyone was quiet. Finally, Joe broke the silence.

"Well, I guess the food is to die for," Joe said attempting a lame joke. No one laughed.

"I'm gonna try and find Dr. Farrell. She'll know what to do," Dave said as he grabbed an armful of cookies. He walked briskly out of the salon and exited the doors on River Street. He could be seen running as fast as he can down the street.

"I don't think he's coming back," said Alison.

"We really need to solve this. We are going to find a solid lead sooner or later. Right now Ashy is our best bet for the one behind the murders. We need to find him, detain him, and interrogate him," said Jaimie with an evil curl.

The group nodded in agreement. Just as Joe was about to speak another scream was heard. This time the scream clearly was coming from the second floor.

"That sounded like Deb!" shouted Joe. He ran out of the salon and up the steps. Jaimie and the others followed as quickly as they could.

When they got to the second floor of Kirby, they all could see why Deb screamed. Their one and only suspect Ashy was impaled to the doors of Dr. Kuhar's office. An old pitchfork was rammed through Ashy's stomach, and he was held in place on the old wooden doors.

"Are you okay?" asked Joe.

"Yes, I'm okay," said Deb. She seemed rather calm now.

"Why is your office door shut?" asked Jaimie.

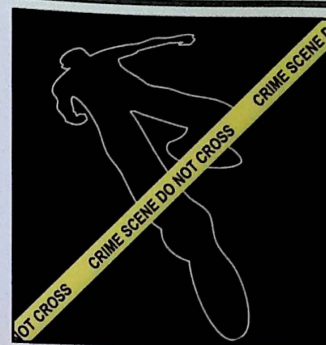
"Because I trapped the killer inside," said Deb. Joe moved towards the office door and opened it. Inside was Justin Jones, a senior year English student. His San Diego Charger's shirt had blood specked on it.

"That's who the killer is?" asked Joe.

"Yes. I saw him creeping around in my office. I locked him inside. Look he has blood all over him," said Deb.

"Guys, it wasn't me," said Jones as he approached the group. Joe quickly slammed the door and locked it. *This mystery may just be over, he thought.*

In the next installment: Has Deb caught the killer? Is Jones the only suspect? Why did Dave run towards Market Street instead of towards Carey Ave. to find Dr. Farrell? And, who will be the next person to die?



Spring 2011 English Courses

By Justin Jones

With each new semester, the English Department offers a vast array of author and topics courses, taught by professors well-learned in the course material. Students should meet with their advisors if they have not yet registered for the Spring semester.

In addition to the required English 120, 201, and survey courses, students, after consultation with their advisors, might consider enrolling in one of the following courses. These courses are open for registration for the Spring of 2011:

ENG 218: Writing Practicum Dr. Janet Stamer

This course is essential for students looking to figure out how to produce "good writing." The class will go in two directions; one towards the exploration of composition theory, and hands-on application of what has been learned in the classroom. Anyone who intends on pursuing a career in writing should consider registering for this course.

ENG 324: History of the English Language Dr. Thomas Hamill

Hamill's course will break down and build up the English language from the smallest unit of sound to complete sentences. Not only will students be educated in the origins of the English language and how it progressed from Old to Middle and now (Early) Modern, but they will learn the features of the language while receiving amazing oral renditions of Middle English from their professor. This course is a major learning mechanism for any students pursuing a secondary education degree.

ENG 335: Romantic Literature Dr. Helen Davis

This course will provide an overview of the British Romantic period. Students enrolled in this course can expect to delve into German Romantic philosophies as they reached Britain, read works from Wordsworth, Coleridge, Blake, Keats, and Jane Austen, and explore the beginnings of science fiction novels by studying *Frankenstein*.

ENG 351: Post Modernism Dr. Larry Kuhar

In this course, students will learn what sets the literature of the last fifty years apart from literature before 1960. Students will explore how postmodern literature extends the modernist thought but at the same time diversely attempting to break away from established modes of writing.

ENG 397/497, section A: Gothic Literature: Fiction Gone Awry Dr. Mischelle Anthony

This course delves deep into the gothic nature of novels from the eighteenth century to today. Anthony has created a course list which includes modern novels such as *American Psycho* & *Choke* while mingling with the classics like *Castle of Otranto*, *Wieland*, and *The Monk*. Not only will students enrolled learn how the assigned texts infuse gothic elements into the text, but also how music is important in understanding gothic texts.

ENG 397/497, section E, section E: Seminar: Salman Rushdie and his Contemporaries Dr. Marcia Farrell

This course, as the title suggests, will focus on the works of Salman Rushdie, a British-Indian writer who once had an Iranian fatwa (death sentence) put on his head for his fourth novel, *Satanic Verses*. Farrell's background in Post-Colonial literature as well as a unique set of assigned readings offers a course that is perfect for any student interested in world literature as well as a mingling of politics, history, and literature.

Full descriptions of these courses can be found on the first floor of Kirby Hall.



Photo courtesy of Sonja Heisey

The Inkwell

Kuhar's

By Dr. Larry

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Kuhar's Corner

By Dr. Larry Kuhar

If somebody makes pancakes in the shapes of religious figures and burns them, would the pancake maker necessarily go to Hell?

What took you so long to ask? Like many English majors, I've spent a lifetime contemplating endings. My answer invites a blend (or *puree*) of ideas found in post-secular culture, including a pinch of unauthorized literary research, a dash of reality-show simulation, and a smidgen of guilt-flavored postmodern humor. (To many, I am sure, it will suggest too much time on my hands.) My answer will suggest a necessary relationship between affirming life's ambiguities and accepting personal accountability for our stories.

What's at Stake?

As English majors, we know well what's at stake: Will the cooks, or pancake makers, be held accountable for separating the saved (those who will experience glorious destiny) from the damned (those who will eat *devil's food cake* forever and ever and ever and ever)? *Sorry*. But are these the only two options? Can we have unity and certainty? Good luck. *There's no magic in my response*. It's my sense that the answer relies on a complicated recipe found buried deep in our *collective unconscious kitchen*. While I hesitate to call it my *specialty*, my life story and academic journey familiarize me with questions that link simulated religious figures with breakfast menu options and culinary intention with eternal damnation. (As we move toward final exams, we're all familiar with such end-oriented discourses.) While it's unclear if the pancakes are traditional (a milk and egg mix) or contemporary (just add water), the question promotes a *hint* of concern with interpreting seemingly serendipitous exegetical *signs*. Huh. To respond, we'll need just a tad of Milton and sprinkle of Eliot, a serving of martyred saints, and just a drop or two of Beat-like spirituality.

Great Writers, Cooks, and Saints

This issue has plagued great writers and cooks since *the discovery of fire*. John Milton, for example, clearly links pre-IHOP lapsarian culinary sensibilities with a post-life existential awareness. In the opening to *Paradise Lost*, Milton affirms food's essential role in understanding the complicated interrelationships between eating and damnation: "Of Mans First Disobedience, and the Fruit / Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal tast / Brought Death into the World, and our woe / With loss of Eden [sic]" (1-4). Milton doesn't mince words or mix *the apple* with oranges. His focus on disobedience and food presents a scenario many of us know well and a starting point for an answer to your *Inkwell* question. When making a second trip to the pizza line in the SUB, for example, I model the subtle denial—a subversive disobedience—required to bring "Death into the world." (Of course it's my death; gluttony is not, like love, always blind after all.) But there is no fire or burning in Milton's blank verse—only intention and loss.

So, as with all fire and death matters, we must move to the modernists. In the concluding words of "The Fire Sermon" section of *The Waste Land*, T.S. Eliot confirms a fear of fire's ritualistic force: "Burning, burning, burning, burning / O Lord Thou pluckest me out / O Lord Thou pluckest / burning." It's been reported, though never confirmed, that the original version of the last line—edited by Ezra Pound—included a reference to "burning *pancakes made in the shapes of saints*." Coincidence? Is Eliot's speaker purposely denying the individual pancake maker a personality? Was Pound acting conspiratorially, refusing to see the faces in the batter? Were the great High Modernists in cahoots? We may never know.

Let's turn to the great chefs found on *reality* TV. The Iron Chef? Top Chef? Rachael Ray? Are these real people or digital simulations attempting to replace the loss of comfort foods? "Dinner Impossible," somehow, neatly sums up the point. Are we becoming detached and passive? Wolfgang Puck has a chain of *fast food* restaurants. Enough said. Well, one more sentence: If we need to look to the great chefs to carve our way out of this culinary conundrum, we may starve in this valley of victual darkness, left wandering hungry in the wanton-soup wilderness. *Sorry 2 – the sequel*. (Same impact as the first *sorry*?)

I know what you're thinking: When Milton, the modernists, and the great chefs fail us, we need to turn to Saint Thomas Aquinas. If you insist . . . Saint Thomas Aquinas believed that truth is known through reason and faith. What does this have to do with cooks burning in hell? *Be patient*. How much reason will we need to measure two eggs and one cup of milk? How much faith is needed to recognize the face of Saint Peter in the bubbling batter or holy toast? Why must I keep my English 282 class past 10:45? (Don't answer.) We can have no absolute truth here. We have issues. I've seen elephants, picnic tables and the V-2 rocket in my breakfast but never a saint, and I've burned more than my share of pancakes. Saint Thomas Aquinas' arguments teach us that to understand the great mysteries we need *both* reason *and* faith. Cooking is, after all, creative and inspirational yet intellectual and rational.

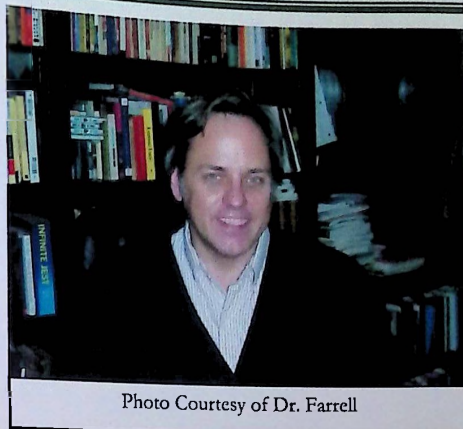


Photo Courtesy of Dr. Farrell

Continued on page 10

If you have any questions for Dr. Kuhar that you would like to submit, please email them to *The Inkwell Quarterly* at inkwell@wilkes.edu or post them to the wall on our Facebook page.

If you are interested in joining *The Inkwell* staff, please contact Dr. Marcia Farrell (marcia.farrell@wilkes.edu).

"Kuhar's Corner" Continued from page 9

Need we look for black smoke from Rome's papal chimney to affirm the pancake maker's fate? Can the muse be so determinedly wicked? And what about salvation? Eternal loss? Can reason, faith or holy smoke tell us who will *go to hell*? Turn to WikiLeaks? Too many questions; too few answers.

Shall we turn, now, to Saint Lawrence, the saint for whom I was named? Saint Lawrence was cooked to death on a gridiron at age 33 in 258 AD. As Sister Mathias taught me in fifth grade, Saint Lawrence was himself a *highly* self-reflective cook, of sorts. While being burned to death, Saint Lawrence cried out, "This side's done, turn me over and have a bite." *Hub*. This explains why Saint Lawrence is the patron saint of comedians and butchers. Moreover, I've been told that my name (Kuhar) means "cook" in Slovak. Coincidence? Are we beginning to see the *figure in the rug*? What's the line from *The Sixth Sense*? I see little that suggests confidence in a confirmable, if inconvenient, truth.

Look Inward: Build Confidence and Own Your Story

It's now clear that no research skills, including those developed in English 201, will solve this riddle for us. We need to look inward. Forget Wikipedia and EBSCOhost if you can. We need to contemplate how our work in the Humanities prepares us to affirm the ambiguity in understanding the power we possess *to shape who we are*. The presumed harmony between form and function has never been more in doubt. We need to use the critical thinking skills and to apply the personal values developed in our English classes. We need to forget much of what we've been taught to remember. Authenticity requires it. (The metric system failed, didn't it?)

Here's what the question has taught us: Cooking is, like life, *teleological*. The proof is in the pancakes, uh, pudding (as long as no rice has been added!). Once the failure of authority, i.e., an answer found *outward*, is affirmed—whether culinary, literary or religious—we become available to own and be accountable for our answers to questions that seem unanswerable. What will I do with my English degree? Do I really want to teach? Should I pursue graduate school or a writing job? Should I see the new Harry Potter in IMAX 3-D? Facing these questions, we immerse ourselves in the condition of our contemporary culture: *We are the object of our art*. . . . (How do you like the use of the ellipsis mark here?)

If somebody makes pancakes in the shapes of religious figures and burns them, would the pancake maker necessarily go to Hell? Our answer exposes and undermines the premise and function of (absolute) knowing and (powerfully) reinforces and confirms the importance of a kind of silence—a silence revealed in *not knowing* yet somehow, as a result, knowing better *who we are*. We are highly accountable when we create endings/interpretations to the stories we live. We become, at once, the cook and the religious figure in the pan. We begin remembering again, remembering our accountability *to shape* outcomes, when we own our choices. Salman Rushdie or Gothic Novel? British or American survey?

As if that's not enough . . . When we read the stories we 'pour,' we read *who we are*. The need to see religious figures in hotcakes reflects a Beat-like *hunger of the soul* that needs to be nourished. Feed it. (Forget Wegman's, shop at Ginsberg's "Supermarket in California.") Confirm that this is a hunger for hope, a hunger for knowledge, a hunger that will not be sacrificed to an external authority's power to shape meanings. The effort to answer the unanswerable serves as a model for understanding and navigating the complexities ahead in our lives. It serves to affirm the good in life and to move us to lead the good life. Unlike Saint Lawrence, we will not be burned at the stake for our beliefs. We will *not* go from the frying pan into the fire. Like Saint Lawrence, however, we must consciously own the interpretations of our stories—"have a bite!"—even if it means we're left laughing at ourselves long after the griddle is cold. *Hub*.

Events at King's College

Compiled by Elizabeth Voda

The following are some interesting upcoming events at Wilkes University's neighbor, King's College. Interested majors should consider attending.

Jan 8
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Boy Scouts - Scandlon Gym

Jan 27
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
King's College/American Red Cross Blood Drive - Campus Center, 3rd Floor

Feb 16, 17, 18, 19
7:30 p.m.
Theatre: Shakespeare in Hollywood by Ken Ludwig



The staff of *The Inkwell Quarterly* would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. Stay warm, be careful, and enjoy winter break.



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Here are some

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The Winter Breakdown

By Matt Kovalcik

The long awaited Winter Break is approaching, which will begin December 22, 2010, after exams and ends with the spring commencement January 17, 2011. For many students, Winter break can become synonymous with weeklong binges of movie marathons, family reunions, or a two week extension for unfinished work. Inkwell surveyed both English students as well as the English Department's faculty to find out what they would be doing over the break.

Here are some of their responses:

"Working, relaxing, hanging out with my family, and going to the movies."

-**Kelly Clisham**

"I will prep for Eng 397: Rushdie, knit, quilt, and visit my family in Erie—lots of snow."

-**Dr. Marcia Farrell**

"Hopefully as the cold chills my soul on the wet cement of the city, and the drugs make way with my mind, I will be able to say, I remember."

-**Casim Gomez**

"During winter break, I will most likely work more hours at work, sleeping in more often, and visit New York."

-**Jess Maher**

"During winter break, I will be working extra hours and drafting my novella."

-**Erin Robinson**

"During winter break, I will most likely travel south to a warmer location."

-**Katie Blose**

"Watching re-runs and mind crasing cartoons since I have no social life according to a fellow classmate/"

-**Melissa Thorne**

"Hopefully, working ideally, reading and writing for pleasure."

-**Ken Stucker**

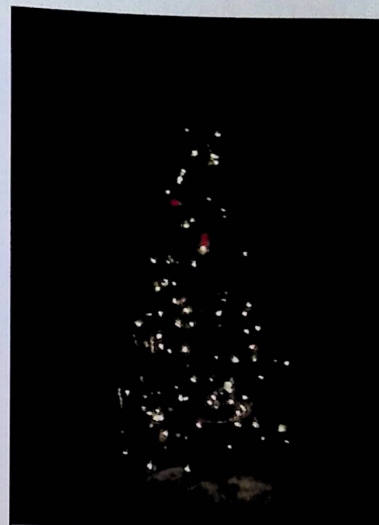
"Among other endeavors I will ponder the next phase of 'Hamill's Hunches.'"

-**Dr. Thomas A. Hamill**



Additionally, **Dr. Sean Kelly** will be working on his paper for NEMLA. He is also interested in cleaning his desk as well as sleeping in. **Dr. Mischelle Anthony** is interested in reading some novels as well as planning spring classes. **Professor Thackara's** priorities this winter break include prepping for the holiday, watching "lots of hockey" as well as losing herself in knitting (not in that order). **Deb Archavage** is going to Philly to spend time with her daughter and "hang out at home" with her dogs.

No matter how you intend on spending your winter break *The Inkwell Quarterly* staff would like to wish our readers a productive, fun and safe winter break. Happy Holidays!



Thanks to Ms. Deb Archavage and department workstudy student Priscilla Payne for decorating Kirby Hall for the holidays.

Two English Professors Nominated for Award

By David Cook

Two members of the English faculty have a better chance of winning a research grant than winning the lottery, but the odds come with a price: a significant amount of work.

Every year, the National Endowment for the Humanities awards a summer stipend of \$6,000 to researchers for six weeks of scholarly work which contributes to humanities research. In order to be eligible for this grant, a faculty member must be nominated by the college or university he or she represents, and each college or university can only nominate two people for application.

This year, those two nominees from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Wilkes University are **Drs. Marcia Farrell** and **Helen Davis**. Both Davis and Farrell are junior English faculty and have submitted proposals for the grant which are unique to their specialties within English studies.

Davis, who specializes in Narrative theory, has proposed a project which will use narrative technique to examine the construction of the self-sufficient feminine voice within the works of Charlotte Bronte. This work, said Davis, will expand the field of narrative theory by defining new concepts that will be useful for other theorists.

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Liberté, égalité, fraternité: A film review

By Matt Kogoy

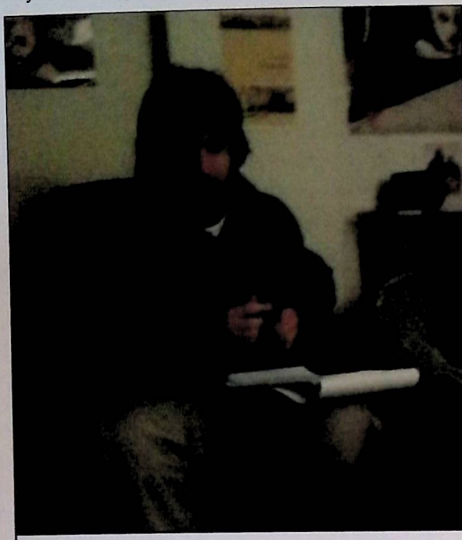


Photo of Matt Kogoy: *IQ's* resident film critic

In the 2006 film *V for Vendetta*, an eponymous title adopted from the original graphic novel written by Alan Moore and illustrated by David Lloyd, notions of anarchy, personal identity, and fate surface to construct a complex and intricate tale of exponential proportions. In an attempt to create bedlam resulting in a nascent state of order, the freedom fighter/terrorist, V, develops an elaborate, albeit violent, scheme to achieve retribution for past wrongs done to him by the current headmasters of the British government. V's plan, echoing an earlier attempt enacted by Guy Fawkes in the early 1605, is fundamentally heroic and sadistic simultaneously.

V's search for justice is completely consumed by an undying hatred for the brutal acts committed against him at a detention facility for the undesirables called Larkhill. As a product of this ruthless environment, V exercises unimaginable brutality upon the perpetrators of his past with a clear conscious that his ends do justify their means. V, however, requires assistance for his symbolic destruction of the Houses of Parliament, and so he enlists the help of a young woman (depicted as young prostitute in the novel), Evey Hammond.

Evey, in an uncoincidental encounter with codename V, has a problematic past of her own and is no virgin to the idea of rebellion. Her parents were members of an anti-government movement. Unfortunately, both suffered a terrible fate: they were black-bagged by Creedy's men, and eventually executed for treason and willful

sedition against the state. Fortunately for V, Evey subsumes and subscribes to many of the beliefs her mother and father proliferated, many of the beliefs V now fights for.

By creating a terrified state, High Chancellor Adam Sutler has, in fact, guaranteed the continuation of his power. Yet V feels this absolutist, or totalitarian power is unjustified, and that retribution towards Sutler is necessary. So he decides to create his own reign of terror; he exercises an anarchist mentality in the U.K. as a means of destabilizing any and all control Sutler has over the British state. Fueled by a thirst similar to the man's face he wears as a mask, V sets out on a, cough-cough, vendetta to achieve the revenge he seeks; acting with a precision and discrimination akin to Edmond Dantès from V's favorite film, *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

For V, nothing is accidental; nothing is chance. Evey, an excellent chess mate to our chess master, begins to feel as V feels, see as V sees, and, ultimately, act as V acts. She pulls the lever, she controls her fate, she forgoes emotion and certain death in order to further V's cause. Consequently, their defiance produces a state of hysteria to Sutler's England.

Due to the provocative performances of both V and Evey, climaxed by an audacious and wildly entertaining showdown between V and the formidable Mr. Creedy, the reign of Adam Sutler is brought to an explosive end as V succeeds in proving his mantra—people should not fear their government, the government should fear its people.

Local Events

By Ashley Zerfoss

Mark your calendars; there's a lot coming up on campus and in the city. Student Development will be hosting a variety of events on campus. There was Laser Tag on the Greenway on November 16, and Commuter Council's Day Trip to New York City on November 20, 2010, and Student Development had a NYC Holiday Trip planned for December 4, 2010.

There were also be a variety of shows and concerts on and off campus throughout the past few months. Wilkes University Theatre presented *Adding Machine—A Musical* on November 12—14, 2010, and November 19—21, 2010. Shows were at 8p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and at 2 p.m. on Sundays. Admission was free with a Wilkes ID. The price for general admission was \$15 and \$5 for students and seniors. The Wilkes String Ensemble will give their concert on December 6, the Jazz Orchestra on December 9, the Civic Band on December 12 all on the Darte Main Stage. The University Chorus and Chamber Singers will perform on December 10 at St. Nicholas' Church, Wilkes-Barre, at 7:30 p.m. The Kirby Center hosted the NEPA Philharmonic's Holiday Show on December 4.

You may also want to consider a few events happening around town. Barnes and Noble, the Wilkes-Kings Bookstore, has Open Mic Nights on the last Friday of every month. The Downtown Wilkes-Barre Business Association will be caroling on the first three Fridays in December at noon and again at 5:30 p.m.

The most anticipated event coming up is undoubtedly the Holiday Break from December 22, 2010, to January 17, 2011.

"Jacke Or An A Readers.

By Dr. Janet Sta

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"Jacke On Both Sides": What I Did On My Summer Vaca Sabbatical OR An Abstract of Some Speciall Forregine Occurences. The Currantier to the Readers.

By Dr. Janet Starner

Gentle Readers, this Intelligencer the Curranto now permitted by Authority to speake, presents you here, first, with such things as passed some months since, not because I conceive that they are absolutely Novels unto you, but because there is fraud in generalities, and so I thought fit to acquaint you with each particular . . .

January 19: First day at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Trying to figure out how to get back on track again with "Jacke"—who is "wee"? and why did *wee* "present" this poem to King Charles in August, 1636?
(Note to readers: To see the trick, look both ways as you cross this poem).

Verses presented to the kinge: ("Jacke On Both Sides")

Wee hold as faith	What Englands church allowes
What Romes church saith	My conscience disavowes
Wher the king is head	The church can have no harme
The Flockes mislead	That holds the Pope supream
Wher the Altars drest	The service is [here] divine
The Peop ^h les blest	W th table, bread and wine
Hee is but an Ass	Who the comunion flies
That shunns the mass	Is Catholique and wise

(MS RAWL Poet 117 fol. 166 v./Bodleian Library: Oxford University)

January 23: I feel like I'm getting nowhere.

March 3, 2010: Aha! In a pamphlet on "swearing" by Robert Wild (ironic), I found these lines:

I am no Quaker, not at all to swear:
Not Papist, to swear East, and mean the West:
But am a Protestant, and shall declare
What I cannot, and what I can protest.

As I luxuriated in the sabbatical period of "rest" my "research" stretched out to include everything around me: I watched the pageantry of politics unfolding on Capitol Hill; I went to lectures, concerts, and plays. I took long walks on mild winter days and reveled in the balmy spring that comes early to Washington, D.C., sometimes making photographs of the gorgeous old buildings in my Capitol Hill neighborhood.

March 4: OH MY GOODNESS. It just occurred to me that editing the pieces I pull together for this historical moment might be a perfect undergraduate research project.

As the weeks drew on, I began more and more to wish that I could share what I was discovering with students I knew—particularly the group who were following my progress. Their questions made me realize what I had not fully understood when I wrote my sabbatical proposal—that my own "personal" research could, indeed, involve them as well, and my investigation of possible ways to make "undergraduate research" projects available to our students was not only worthwhile, but something they desired as much as I did.

March 12: I had a great breakthrough yesterday. I found a series of pamphlets arguing what K. Sharpe and others call the "altar controversies." I feel certain, now, that those series of pamphlets—or at least the ideas/arguments contained within—were the catalyst for the composing of the equivocal verse presented to the King at Oxford when he visited in 1636. That is not the entire answer to my question, "why hand *this* poem to *this* King at this time?" but it goes a long way toward answering it.

I have had to teach myself about this moment in history . . . starting with the "causes of the Civil War" and making my way through to more specifics. I vacillate between wanting to dig further (the chase is so compelling) and wanting to write to make sense of it. But I'm stuck: how best to approach and shape the data? Into an essay about what? My fascinating little poem floats by itself in a vast sea of material culture, and all by itself signifies not much, I suppose. Moreover, I note that the ways I have considered situating it seem always to involve hitching "Jacke's" little boat to one belonging to a larger, canonical ship, as it were.



Continued on page 14

"Jacke" Continued from page 13

April 22, 2010: Turns out that "Jacke" wasn't the only poem presented to the king. The verse "Were they not angels" that I found in MS ADD 1246 was apparently "spoken" to the King and Queen in St. John's College library as they mounted the stairs to dinner. The lines suggest visual markers that are not obvious to readers far removed from the situation. Lines like "Here's Virgils well drest venison, here's the wine..." make it sound as if the person reciting the poem is pointing at a particular place or decoration... If I could find a description of those decorations. This poem is poetry in performance. It is like a play, but not "drama," although it is certainly "staged" and composed for a specific audience. It is topical, in the extreme, written for a particular day, a specific contextual visit, and for two people.

April 30, 2010: "Jacke To Do List": Folger Shelf: books unread; request via ILL from Wilkes library.

At the library I collected all sorts of fascinating data about the year 1636, but the "learning" stretched far beyond that—into the present and new territories of thought. New ways of thinking about both teaching and research swam in my head, now brim full of possibilities. I left the city, returning to my house in the woods at the end of April. By mid-summer as I prepared for fall courses, I had revised my definitions of "research" and "teaching," and reconsidered for what and for whom I do this work. For myself, as I love the chase after answers; for my students, from whom I learn; for the wide world because I still believe what the early humanists taught, so many centuries ago, that engaged study of the liberal arts makes us better human beings. And to that end, I have happily devoted my life. Now with renewed energy and new vision, I push up my sleeves, pick up my favorite pen, and get to work. Once again.

c. Of the nature of a Sabbath or period of rest... orig. U.S. Designating a period of leave from duty granted to university teachers at certain intervals (orig. every seven years) for the purposes of study and travel. (OED)

A parody of the early newspaper *An Abstract of Some Speciall Forreigne Occurences*, 1632. In that year, "the governments of Charles I banned the publication of corantos [deeming] the news in corantos 'unfit for popular view and discourse.'... In this epistle to readers, Butter and Bourne inform their reading public that they can look forward to a resumption of frequent news reports" (*Breaking News: Renaissance Journalism and the Birth of the Newspaper*, Folger Shakespeare Library, 2008, p. 20).

Senior Spotlight: Frank O'Shea

By Justin Jones

While many Senior English majors are preparing for their last semester of coursework at Wilkes University, **Frank O'Shea** is getting ready for a semester of student teaching. While his physical presence will no longer be familiar to fellow majors who have grown accustomed to collaborating with him in class discussions and listening to his insightful analysis of various texts, O'Shea will still be a part of the program, and he has left a lasting impression on his peers as well as professors.

O'Shea came to Wilkes in the Fall of 2007, a wrestler looking to broaden his physical and intellectual horizons after spending four years at Freehold High School in Freehold, NJ. Not long after O'Shea arrived, he knew that he wanted to teach English, so he registered himself as an English major and Secondary Education minor. Through the years, O'Shea has gotten close to many of the professors within the department, and he believes that he has learned valuable life skills.

"The professors in the English department all have their own approach to getting their information across, and every one of them is more than willing to sit down and have a conversation about the material," O'Shea stated emphatically. "I have never had an experience where a professor made me uncomfortable for coming to ask a question, or help in refining a thesis or paper. Their passion for literature is infectious and rivaled only by their dedication to enrich the minds of their students."

The senior student-athlete appreciates all that he has learned from all the professors he has gone to for assistance, but he acknowledges that **Dr. Thomas A. Hamill** has been the most influential throughout his studies.

"Dr. Hamill was the first professor to give me in-depth feedback on my work in a comfortable one-on-one setting. Without our first few discussions, I never would have become nearly as comfortable approaching professors, using my resources, and improving my work."

Dr. Marcia Farrell, however, taught O'Shea's favorite course, English 353: Studies in Postcolonial Literature. What appealed to him was the fact that Farrell made the assigned texts inviting, which allowed him to become sensitive to the effects of Western imperialism on the world. Seemingly, O'Shea has enjoyed all of his English courses because his GPA within the major earned him a seat in **Sigma Tau Delta**, the English honors society.

O'Shea has loved his stay in Wilkes-Barre, but when he is finished with student teaching and has earned his degree, home is where the heart is for this English major.

"I plan on heading back to New Jersey to teach English, but I am keeping my options open. I eventually want to go to Grad school to further my education, but I need some sort of a job before I do so."



Photo Courtesy of Frank O'Shea

Books to Read Over Winter Break

By Brittany Grizztani

As an English major, reading is something you never stop doing. However, sometimes it is hard to find that one good book that makes you stay up until 3a.m. because you just can't sleep without knowing what happens next. To help, some of our professors have voiced their highly recommended suggestions for us to consider reading over winter break.

Dr. Janet Starnier suggests:

Philip Pulman's *His Dark Materials* trilogy: *The Golden Compass*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*. Dr. Starnier also gave a brief description of the works, "In part, these books are a retold version of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Brainy fantasy; fun to read. If you've read Milton's work, even more interesting!"

Dr. Chad Stanley suggests:

John Langan's *Mr. Gaunt and Other Uneasy Encounters*, Caitlin Kiernan's *Threshold*, HP Lovecraft's *At the Mountains of Madness* and Fay Weldon's *The Shrapnel Academy*.

Dr. Mischelle Anthony suggests:

Colum McCann's National Book Award Winner, *Let The Great World Spin* and Lydia Peelle's short story collection: *Reasons for and Advantages of Breathing*.

Dr. Marcia Farrell suggests:

Jasper Ffode's *The Eyre Affair* and *The Big Over-Easy*, Richard Russo's *Straight Man*, and Jane Smiley's *Moo*.

Dr. Hamill suggests:

Colum McCann's *Let The Great World Spin* and Gaiman's most recent books: *The Graveyard Book* and *Odd and the Frost Giants*.

Since two out of four professors suggested *Let The Great World Spin*, it deserves to be looked at a little more closely. The book is focused around French acrobat, Philippe Prettit's death defying tight rope walk across the twin towers in August, 1974. It basically looks at America's attitude in the mid 70's through the lens of this one act of perilous art. It also takes you into the daily struggles of characters from different walks of life including an immigrant from Dublin and a Park Avenue socialite.

According to the publisher, "Within seconds he was pureness moving, and he could do anything he liked. He was inside and outside his body at the same time, indulging in what it meant to belong to the air, no future, no past, and this gave him the offhand vaunt to walk... The core reason for it all was beauty. Walking was a divine delight. Everything was rewritten when he was up in the air."

Thinking outside the "English major" box... Philosophy professor **Dr. Reid** suggests:

The Monk and the Philosopher by JF Revel and M Ricard, "Because it is a very interesting discussion between a Buddhist monk and a philosopher about interesting philosophical and spiritual matters that are bound to positively influence the reader."

Also, *The Last Days of Socrates* by Plato (ed. by Tredeneck and Tarrant). "Because Socrates is the man! No seriously, because reading about Socrates' life and how he invented philosophy is inspirational."

"NEH" Continued from page 11

"In revealing the myriad ways that Bronte manipulated and modified the narrative structures and traditions of the period," Davis said, "I am revealing new ways of reading texts."

If awarded the grant, Davis will be able to complete the first chapter of the book, based upon her dissertation, over the summer, and submit it to the Ohio University Press for review.

Even if she is not selected from the 40,000 applicants, Davis intends to pursue the project, but in a longer time frame.

"Currently, I teach in the summer to supplement my income, this grant will allow me to focus on the book project, and pay for any travel expenses," said Davis, "without it, the project may take about a year."

For Farrell, the sentiments were similar.

"In order to complete my research," said Farrell, "I need to travel to South Africa, where [Lauren] van der Post primary source material is accessible, and to Prince Edward Island in Canada where Lucy Maud Montgomery's primary texts are stored. Without this grant, I can't travel to both South Africa and Canada, which means my project will take longer to complete."

Farrell, whose area of focus is Postcolonial studies, has proposed a research project which will examine the Commonwealth and its role within Empire. Specifically, said Farrell, her project will look at the work of van der Post and Montgomery, and how these two writers struggle with issues of identity and foreign wars. Both writers approach the notion of duty to the Empire similarly despite the great distance between South Africa and Canada. In particular, Farrell wants to explore the editorial decision to delete a line from Montgomery's novel *Rilla of Ingleside* referring to the Boer War and the effects of van der Post's familial ties to both the Boers and the Britons.

Farrell hopes her work will reopen the discussion on van der Post, who has received little scholarly work, and will reevaluate the way in which the field of post-colonial studies examines the Commonwealth.

Farrell and Davis are both passionate about their projects, but when asked if they felt they were in competition with each other, they said no.

"There are 48,000 people competing for this grant," said Davis, "for either of us, the odds are a little better than the lottery."

Dr. Farrell's Fiber Tips: Because some English Majors like to Knit and Crochet

By Dr. Marcia Farrell

My great aunt taught me how to crochet when I was about nine years old. Since then, yarn has become a favorite friend, giving me the opportunity to work through ideas while enjoying a relaxing and textile-based outlet, and many an essay thesis came from sitting with my knitting needles or crochet hook for an hour or two at night.

In fact, yarn and books go together more often than you might think. Agatha Christie's Miss Marple is an avid knitter, as are the amateur detectives created by Maggie Sefton, Sally Goldenbaum, and Monica Ferris. Barbara Bretton's fantasy world seems to swirl around a knit shop, and even the fairy tale of Sleeping Beauty gives a nod to fiber as the princess is pricked by the spindle of a spinning wheel.

For those English majors who work with yarn, I suggest not limiting yourself to acrylic yarn for your projects. While acrylics are inexpensive and easily washable, a nice alpaca or wool is more durable and heavenly to work with, and you can find fairly affordable blends that knit or crochet up nicely. If you're allergic to wool like I am, try a merino wool skein; the fiber tends to lay flatter than your typical wool and is less likely to irritate your skin.

And, I highly recommend a trip to Kingston's new Gosh Yarn It!, located on the corner of Market and Third Streets, just after the bridge. The shop contains all manner of yarn—from specialty hand-painted silks to merino wool, and their prices are reasonable. They even sell deliciously soft llama yarn. In addition to a number of fun patterns along with a few kits for scarves and shawls, Gosh Yarn It! offers a variety of classes not only for those who have never picked up a pair of knitting needles before but also for more advanced fiber lovers.

Finally, those interested in learning how to knit or crochet should contact me as I have been meeting with several students from my Fall semester English 101 classes to knit on Friday afternoons around 1pm. Times may change in the Spring.



Freshman Joe D'Amico knits.



Freshmen Gerard Bennett and Duane Daniels stitch.

Game: Holiday Reading Match-up

Match the title with the author of the following holiday books.

Author

Noel Streatfeild

Richard Paul Evans

Debbie Macomber

Melody Carlson

Emily Brightwell

Louisa May Alcott

Lucy Maud Montgomery

JoAnne Fluke

Dr. Seuss

Title

Glad Tidings

Mrs. Jefferies & the Yuletide Weddings

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

The Christmas Dog

Ballet Shoes

Anne at Christmas

Plum Pudding Murder

An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving

The Christmas List

In the next issue...

- A Guest Article by **Mr. Jack Grier**
- The conclusion of **Amanda Kaster's** Washington, D.C. internship experience
- Part III of *Murder in Kirby Hall*

If you have any information you would like to included in *IQ* 5.3, please contact Dr. Farrell or Matt Kogoy.

Answers from the Previous Game

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Thomas Pynchon | 7) Ernest Hemmingway |
| 2) Kurt Vonnegut | 8) Edith Wharton |
| 3) Toni Morrison | 9) Pearl S. Buck |
| 4) Mark Twain | 10) Allen Ginsberg |
| 5) Flannery O'Connor | 11) Edgar Allan Poe |
| 6) John Steinbeck | |