



The Inkwell Quarterly

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Semester in DC: A Final Update

By Amanda Kaster

Returning to Wilkes-Barre after my semester in our nation's capitol has been a positive readjustment. Possessing the ability to unwind from the chaos of the city has been much appreciated, but I do miss the places I experienced, the people I met, and the events I witnessed over the course of nearly five months. However, the one thing I truly miss is my internship; working to engage young women in politics was extremely gratifying, relevant, and more importantly, enjoyable.

I had the incredible experience of partaking in activities that strayed beyond the stereotypical tasks typically designated for interns to complete. As opposed to answering phones and filing, opportunities arose for us to assist in the campaign efforts of two extraordinary women under the age of forty, one of whom was seeking a seat in the Prince George's County, Maryland school board, the other for a coveted seat in the House of Representatives representing the state of Virginia.

The process of campaigning is extremely vigorous and dissatisfying at times, which I quickly learned an hour into distributing pamphlets to potential supporters on voting day for the school board contestant. People verbally berated us for merely offering a piece of literature, something I had naively not anticipated. Thankfully I was paired with an expert campaigner, and she worked with me to develop a few skills to properly communicate with constituents. By noon I was well versed in how to get the most important points out as quickly as possible and my timid nature had slightly subsided when engaging with voters.

While campaigning in Virginia, we participated in lit-drops, door-to-door canvassing, and phone banking, all of which took place in counties that were predominantly in opposition of the candidate we were endorsing. We were dropping off literature and ringing door bells during the time frame when most people were working, and our maps marking the homes of supporters were outdated, which nearly cut our projected campaigning time in half. Nevertheless, we drove on, making stops at the local Walmart to engage with voters as soon as they exited the store and slipping pamphlets on the windshields of cars in the parking lot.

Both women lost their races, which on a personal level was quite devastating. Nevertheless, they both remain active in their communities and intend to run for office in the near future, a reassuring fact for potential candidates. Engaging politics first hand reaffirmed my desire to aid women in their pursuits for office, and made me appreciative of the individuals who make a career out of such difficult work. I emerged from the process with knowledge of some of the tasks needed to run for office, as well as the confidence to converse with voters about their needs.

I am grateful for my all of experiences in DC and strongly suggest that any and all students who wish to participate in the Washington Semester Program as an opportunity to strengthen their resume and develop their skills as English majors do so. You will emerge enlightened, informed, and prepared for a competitive job market, and most importantly, you may come redefine your future aspirations. I know I did.



Photo Courtesy of Amanda Kaster

Faculty and Club Updates

By Miranda Baur

Dr. Helen Davis will present a paper titled, "ORuled by espionage': Repetition of the Directress character in Brontë's *The Professor* and *Villette*," at the International Conference on Narrative. The conference will be held April 7-10 in St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Sean Kelly will have an article forthcoming in the journal *Papers on Language and Literature* (PLL) this spring. The article is titled "Hawthorne's Material Ghosts: Photographic Realism and Liminal Selfhood in *The House of Seven Gables*."

Also, from April 7 to the 10, **Kelly** will be chairing and presenting a paper on a panel called "Savages we call them': Imagining the Native in Early American Literature." The paper is entitled "American Idle: Irving, Authorship, and the Appropriation of Native American Myth in "Rip Van Winkle."

Dr. Marcia Farrell presented her paper, "Poster Children and Duty: Home and the Empire in Lucy Maud Montgomery and *Laurens van der Post*" at the Faculty Forum on March 25, 2011.

The **Sigma Tau Delta** induction ceremony will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 2:00 pm. The event will take place in the Henry Miller Conference Room. The featured speaker this year will be **Dr. Helen Davis**.

Humanities Honor Awards and Scholarship Opportunities

Applications for the **Commonwealth Good Citizenship Scholarship** are due on April 18, 2011. Please contact Humanities Administrative Assistant, **Deb Archavage** for more information.

The **UPS Scholarship** application is also due April 18, 2011. Again, please contact **Archavage** for more information.

Applications for the **Patricia and Robert Heaman Award** are presented annually to student demonstrating excellence in English. Applications include a letter by the student concerning his or her work within the English major. Please submit applications for this award to Dr. Larry Kuhar by May 1, 2011.

Undergraduate Research Update

By Amanda Kaster

Students enrolled in science and engineering courses typically have the upper hand in terms of engaging in undergraduate research opportunities in collaboration with their course load. **Dr. Janet Starnier** recognizes this reality, and has been working diligently to create similarly valuable experiences for English majors by enabling students to engage in conference settings.

Such learning opportunities outside the classroom are life changing. Not only does the opportunity mimic professional experience, but the act of presenting research increases confidence and preparedness among participants. Dr. Starnier is currently in the developing stages of incorporating a conference inspired undergraduate interdisciplinary project for students to become a component of the research process. The work would ideally be carved into course schedules and folded into the tuition load for students and faculty as an additional method for English majors to learn and grow in their degree.

Important Addition to ENG 397/497: Senior Seminar

By Ashley Zerfoss

The Senior Seminar, ENG 397/497, will now include a short conference presentation, where students will present some of their research to a public audience. The presentation will be a part of a miniature conference, with panels, a program, and all other conference essentials. Featuring students from both English 397.A: Studies in Gothic Literature and English 397/497.E: Salman Rushdie and his Contemporaries, the inaugural conference will take place on Friday, April 1, 2011, from 4:30—7pm. The panels will be held in the Kirby Salon, Kirby 108, and Kirby 103. Light refreshments will be served.

The changes aim to both set the seminar apart from other 300-level courses by elevating the experience. This format will allow students to benefit from outside commentary on their work so that their final essays may be more informed by a greater attention to academic discourse.

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

Expanding I

By Holly Evans

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By Kristina Spaul

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By Holly Evans

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Expanding Library Databases

By Holly Evans

The Farley Library has recently added a new database to its already numerous collection. Sage Journals Online is now available for students to use. This database allows students and faculty to access over 560 full electronic journals of Sage Publications. Features of this database include journal and society branding, tag-along navigation, a popular-articles list, and abstract preview.

Dr. John C. Stachacz, Dean of Library Services is optimistic of the new database, saying, "These are all great scholarly, peer review journals available 24/7. They represent most disciplines taught at Wilkes and significantly enhance students' abilities to get to good research materials."

Upcoming Events on Local Campuses

By Kristina Spaulding

On March 4, 2011 **King's College** debuted **Jeff Katra's** photography in an exhibit called "Perspectives of Nature." The exhibit took place in the Waldmann Gallery, Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center, which is located between North Franklin and North Main Street where Katra discussed his work between 6—8 pm.

Misericordia University will be celebrating National Women's History Month with a "Women in Poetry" event, which will be led by **Dr. Rebecca Steinberger** and **Dr. Amanda Caleb** on March 22, 2011 at 8:30 pm. Misericordia will also be hosting a Gender Wars Conference on April 2, 2011 from 8—4:30 pm.

The University of Scranton, on April 15, 2011, will be previewing **Bond, Talwan Bangzi's** opera adaptation of **William Shakespeare's** *The Merchant of Venice*, at the Scranton Cultural Center at 7:30 pm. Tickets are required.

The Vagina Monologues

By Holly Evans

On February 4, 2011 Wilkes University held their annual performance of the *Vagina Monologues*, a play by **Eve Ensler**. The play was directed by Angela D'Alessandro and advised by **Drs. Michelle Anthony** and **Helen Davis**. This performance celebrates woman and their sexuality with real-life stories of female genital mutilation, incest, and rape to self-discovery, intimacy, pleasure, and vulnerability.

Anthony, who also performed, recalls the first time she saw a performance of *The Vagina Monologues*; "I first saw the Vagina Monologues when I was teaching part-time at Oklahoma State, after I had my Ph.D. It changed my life." She described her emotions attached to the performance: "I felt more powerful, more understand, and wanted to help women in the world more after I saw it. I laughed; I cried; I got angry and happy all at once."

Upon arriving to Wilkes University she was asked to advise the 2004 performance of the show and humbly accepted the offer. "I was honored and taken aback. How could I help out with such a tremendous effort?" Anthony said.

Anthony has been advising these performances every year since then. She also performs and encourages students to get involved. This year, English majors **Sara Crolick**, **Amanda Kaster**, and **Kyriel Manzo** participated in the performance.

Additional performers included **Dr. Ebonie Cunningham Stringer**, Director of Women's. Stringer chose to perform because, "it is an empowering event for and by women. It's a space where women's voices are heard as they speak about the joys and challenges of their lives. Further, I am very much concerned with violence against women."

The Vagina Monologues are a part of the V-Day campaign. V-day is a movement to spread awareness about violence committed against women and girls all over the world. All of the proceeds benefit local organizations such as the Domestic Violence Center, Planned Parenthood, and the Victims Resource Center.

The Inkwell Staff

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Senior Spotlight: Kristen Pechulis

By Annie Yoskoski

Where are you from?

I am from this area. I live in Plymouth, Pa.

What made you want to be an English major?

I've always loved my English courses in school and I am completely fascinated by the power of words and language.

What is your favorite book?

Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. *Walden* is great because it is a book that you can read and reread and you still find things that you did not notice, and I think the message Thoreau urges is still practical today. I also like Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* and Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

What do you want to go on to do with a degree in English from Wilkes?

After graduating I will take a position as a high school English teacher, preferably teaching American Literature. After completing my MA I would eventually like to obtain my doctorate as well and eventually teach at the college level.

Do you feel ready to leave the university?

I feel as though the experience at Wilkes had definitely prepared me to move forward; however, I will miss everything about Wilkes. I have met great people, amazing faculty, and truly learned a great deal about myself.

What do you love most about Wilkes?

I love the freedom Wilkes provides students and I was initially attracted to the beautiful buildings on campus. Attending classes in Kirby especially is an aspect of Wilkes that I have always enjoyed. The atmosphere adds to the whole experience.

What do you do for fun?

I love being outside, doing any kind of activity outdoors. I also enjoy painting and traveling.

Any words of advice to current English majors?

I would advise English majors to take many different English courses. I feel that by studying many different genres, authors, and time periods, students learn more about what they like and what literature is all about.

Is there anything you would like to say to the English department?

The English department has truly made my experience at Wilkes completely worth-while. Each faculty member that I have had in class has been helpful and it is clear that all of the staff is passionate about literature and about what they do.



Photo Courtesy of Kristen Pechulis

Jon Kadjeski Visits Big Ben

By Ashley Bringmann

While most students were sitting back at home over winter break, **Jon Kadjeski** was experiencing the wonders of London. He was the only English major on the study abroad program led by **Dr. Mark Stine**, Communications. As part of the program Kadjeski was busy with academic activities from 3—4 pm every day, but he still had time to sightsee.

One of his best experiences was being able to see a performance of *Les Miserables*; a West End production. Kadjeski says, "it was absolutely wonderful and beyond expectations."

He also got to visit the British museum, known for housing, among other artifacts, the Rosetta Stone. Additionally, Kadjeski was able to enjoy the cuisine at local pubs. Kadjeski, being a lover of literature, visited the British Library. Kadjeski was particularly impressed by the contemporary sound archive and noted that *Churchill* and *Cat in Hat* were in the same display case. He had time to visit what he calls the "labyrinth" of the National Gallery, which houses a great number of art pieces. According to him Da Vinci does not disappoint in person.

Even though he only had one day without rain, Kadjeski had a splendid time in London over the break.



Photo Courtesy of Jon Kadjeski



Photo Courtesy of Jon Kadjeski

Spring Break

By Viktoria Wojciechowski

Spring break is a perfect time to go birdwatching, if your name is **Caevaun DuBarry**. DuBarry eagerly described his plans to track down the male downy woodpecker over break. "The male specimen sports a red-capped head," he whispered to me as we crouch in a bush outside of the abandoned Slocum Hall. This spring break, DuBarry continued to embrace his passion for the creatures of the sky.

Garrett Schrader planned to spend his break making the "largest hopscotch game that anyone has ever played." In addition to

Continued on page 5

Dear Inkwell

I thought I like to bring to you realize that you cannot help but dip their quills into are constantly dre inkwell as well.

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Majors Att

By Ashley Zerf

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Dear Inkwell,

I thought that I would drop you a line today because I have a few things on my mind that I would like to bring to your attention. Perhaps once you review them, we could both ponder them for awhile. I realize that you are a journalistic forum, yet every time I pick you up and read the articles that you present, I cannot help but think of your name's origin and how much that inkwell must be there for those who love to dip their quills into the precious liquid - that inkwell that is necessary to complete the ideas that your readers are constantly dreaming and formulating and without which may never be shared. Allow me to speak to that inkwell as well.

Without you, inkwell, what would happen to individuals' ideas, dreams, and thoughts? Would they stay forever in the minds of their creators? Oh, parish that thought!

Some ideas that I am so happy to have seen preserved by you, inkwell, would include the writings of Walt Whitman. To read and reread and ponder the musings of *Leaves of Grass* especially "Song of Myself," "I Sing the Body Electric," and "There Was a Child Went Forth" from the original 1855 edition will bring insight and pleasure to any partaker. To experience the joys of later added selections from *Children of Adam*, *Calamus* and *Sea-Drift* is a pleasure that should be celebrated by everyone who longs to learn and grow. Your precious drops of ink have preserved the writings of Emily Dickinson and many other great American poets (Some of my personal favorites are Poe, Frost and Hughes.) and have provided enjoyment for generations of readers.

However, the greatness of ideas and truths that you preserve is not found just in poetry but also in the various genres of short stories, essays, novels and Drama and in many other documents. (I could list so many, many here, and I would secretly love to but that would be exposing you to only my experiences and prejudices so I will just mention one, *Jonathon Livingston Seagull*. What I really believe is important is for each person to prepare his or her own list developed throughout a life time of reading experiences.) You, inkwell, have saved and shared the thoughts, insights, truths, and teachings of individuals throughout the ages. You have allowed us to build on what others have discovered and learned before us so that we can become wiser. The question may then become, "What will we do with what you have given us?" Will we study the great philosophers of the past (and present)? Will we incorporate into ourselves that which can indeed help us intellectually so that we can each become as much as we are capable of being?

Oh, inkwell, as I sit here composing, taking from you drop by drop (though you never will run dry), I thank you for allowing me to use you. I thank you for the images you have shared with me that have made me, in many respects, what I am today. Many lines of your precious fluid have instructed me. I only hope that as others also read what you have preserved that they will learn. And if they, as well, construct new compositions by dipping their quills in you, may their writings teach those who follow after them. Perhaps by being exposed to writings composed from your precious fluid and learning from them, we each will be able to say at least once in a lifetime, "It is a far, far better thing I do [this time] than I have ever done." Hopefully we will never say, "It is a tale. Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing." Ah Inkwell! Ah Humanity!

Sincerely, Mr. Jack Grier



Photo Courtesy of Wilkes University

Majors Attend Conference on Medieval & Early Modern Studies

By Ashley Zerfoss

On December 4, 2010, several of Dr. Thomas Hamill's ENG 331 students presented papers at the Fifth Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The conference took place at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and schools from almost every part of Pennsylvania were in attendance. The conference included various student paper presentations, a presentation by Professor Emma Dillon (University of Pennsylvania), a performance of early music by Cambiata, demonstrations and exhibits, and a reception. Sara Crolick, Frank O'Shea, Matt Kogoy, Buddy Gouger, and Kyriel Manzo each received the opportunity to present their work at the conference.

There were several students who did not present their work at the conference, but instead edited short sections of medieval manuscripts. Anthony Truppo, Cassandra Colwell, and Kristina Spaulding completed their Editing Projects by working from digital facsimiles of an original medieval manuscript. According to Hamill, the work of both presenting papers at the conference and editing the manuscripts "gave them hands on experience practicing the kinds of professional activities that scholars in the field of English Literary Studies engage in."

Continued from page 4

being a star player on Wilkes' Ultimate Frisbee team, Schrader is skilled at hopscotch and is known to challenge people on the street to an intense pick-up game.

Sophomore Jesse Villella kicked back over break. He found solace in a unique activity: "I'm making tissue paper crafts. Lots of them!"

Other crafters include Brittney Grizzanti, who is an arduous rock painter. Grizzanti spent her break fashioning art out of rocks in the forest near her humble home. "It's such a natural experience," she gushed, while gently stroking a small stone she found outside of Breiseth.

Michelle Dubbs' Trip to Tanzania

By Matthew Kogoy



Photo Courtesy of Michelle Dubbs

Last summer, senior **Michelle Dubbs** spent time in Pommern, Tanzania, in Southeast Africa as part of the Global Volunteers organization. Dubbs was sent to Tanzania for three weeks where she taught English and Math to Tanzanian children. While in Tanzania, Dubbs' participation outside the classroom included the construction of a new kitchen for the school, as well as other projects meant to promote sustainable development for Tanzanians.

As part of the group's larger purpose, projects, such as the construction of the kitchen, were the central foci during Dubbs' trip. Although she did not feel like she was in poverty while over in Pommern, the city to which she was assigned, the Pommerns were faced with conditions unfit for their hands, alone. Bartering is not foreign to Pommerns, and all-sustenance farming exists as a provision of basic foodstuffs. Still, during Dubbs' experience, she encountered many whom were full of happiness, love, and faith.

In terms of activities, a typical day for Dubbs would entail classes in the morning running through to the afternoon. The morning session consisted of her math class, where she would instruct approximately 89 students in the methods of basic math. In the afternoon, Dubbs would either play with kindergarteners, or occupy her time in the secondary schools. According to Dubbs, "education is their one chance to go anywhere; kids realize they're poor, and so they strive towards education and a better life."

In Pommern, the school system is divided into two tiers—a primary school and a secondary school. The primary school consists of grades 1-7, while the secondary school encompasses "forms" 1-4 (i.e. grades 8-12). Advanced levels of education are available according to student proficiency. A typical (small) class may contain 89 students; the size of the classroom can range, and can exceed or fall below 89. As policy of a private school sanctioned by a local church, students are required to wear uniforms to class. During her time as a teacher, Dubbs encountered no behavioral problems from the students "because they all wanted to be there; they understood the importance of education."

Reminiscing about her journey to Pommern, Dubbs feels a piece of her remains in Africa. She plans on returning to Africa, and hopes to travel to impoverished or underdeveloped areas as a teacher to further her efforts in global education. Fortunately, Dubbs did such a remarkable job while in Pommern, that she was offered a job to teach in Tanzania after she completed her studies. For Dubbs, Pommern was a life-changing experience because it illustrated a different side of education. Dubbs has established a plan to fulfill her goal concerning education—she plans to receive her Masters in Global Education in hopes of working towards globalizing education. With her work in Tanzania as proof, Dubbs is rapidly increasing her chances of meeting this goal.



Photo Courtesy of Michelle Dubbs

An American Romantic Moment

By Dr. Sean Kelly

1831: **Ralph Waldo Emerson's** first wife and true love, **Ellen Tucker**, dies from tuberculosis. Devastated by his loss, Emerson visits her grave often, even opening her coffin to examine her body. Emerson would later observe in *Nature* (1836), "even the corpse has its own beauty." It would be Tucker's wealth that would support Emerson's intellectual efforts in Concord, and, indirectly, those of **Henry David Thoreau**, **Nathaniel Hawthorne**, and **Bronson Alcott**.

1844: While camping with his friend, **Edward Hoar**, Henry David Thoreau inadvertently sets fire to over 300 acres of woods and pasture lands around Concord (Cheever 75). Even before he commences his famous experiment in 'living deliberately,' building a cabin and living alone on a tract of Emerson's land by Walden Pond, Thoreau is already viewed with suspicion by the townspeople.

1850: **Margaret Fuller** dies when the *Elizabeth*, the ship that she, her Italian husband, and their infant son have taken from Italy, sinks off the coast of Fire Island, NY after striking a sandbar. Emerson sends Thoreau to retrieve Fuller's papers from the beach. **Henry James** would later describe the effect of Fuller's death on Nathaniel Hawthorne—who grappled with the meaning of a strong, intellectually-adventurous, and sexually-threatening woman in virtually all of his novels—as the 'Margaret ghost.'

The History of

By Tony Thomas

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The Murder in

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The History of Wyoming Valley

By Tony Thomas

The Wyoming Valley is rich in history and tradition and that richness extends beyond coal mining and Eastern Europe. The Wyoming Valley may be one of the few, if the only county, in the United States to have an epic poem written about her.

During the American Revolution a battle took place in the Wyoming Valley on July 3rd 1778. British and Iroquois forces led by Colonel John Butler attacked American forces at Forty Fort which resulted in over 300 Americans being killed in the attack.

The Battle of Wyoming was depicted in an epic poem written in 1809 by Scottish poet Thomas Campbell entitled "Gertrude of Wyoming." The poem depicts the battle and massacre, but has been criticized for being historically inaccurate. The poem accused Joseph Brant, a Mohawk military and political leader allied with Great Britain, of leading the attack and massacre against the Americans. Campbell famously called Brant, "Monster Brant" in the poem and the name became popular amongst Colonists whenever they referred to Brant. However, Joseph Brant was not present at the Battle of Wyoming.

The poem was popular in its time and was so popular that some claim that the poem was the reason behind the naming of the state Wyoming and a suburb in Australia. A digital copy of the original book the poem is available on Google Books along with an illustrated version of the epic.

The Murder in Kirby Hall: Part three

"Deb, can you please open the door. I have no idea what's going on here. Besides, think about it, even if I was the killer, which, I'm not saying I am, what could I do in this situation?" Jones called.

After some hesitation, Deb unlocked the door.

"So, it was you, Jones. You're the killer," exclaimed Joe.

"Whoa, dude, what's your glitch? I didn't kill anyone," said Jones.

"Enough chit-chat, Jones. You impaled the maintenance man, Ashy, with a bloody pitchfork," declared Jamie.

"Why would I do that? And would it have just been a normal pitchfork? I don't think it would have been bloody to begin with. But, wait, that's not the point. Why, or even how, would I have killed someone. Besides, I read *The Monk*. If I killed someone, I'd know not to hide around where I committed the crime. I know the gothic conventions!" cried Jones.

"Likely story, trying to play the whole, if this were a story, I wouldn't do it this way, so why would I do it this way in real life game. Very clever, Jones, very clever," snarled Jamie.

"I think you're making a big mistake, man. I had nothing to do with that... Can I check out what this dude looks like, the description might inspire my novel. Dude, that's wicked."

"You're not making your case any more convincing, Jones," Joe barked.

"Why were you in my office just a few feet away from the killing, Justin?" wondered Deb, trying to bring the conversation back to some sense of reality.

"I was in your office because I was using your computer to search for articles for a research paper for Dr. Anthony."

"What would be the 10 best ways to kill a custodian?" sneered Joe.

"No, actually, it was about the usage of poison in Gothic literature," said Jones.

"Poison? Why don't you just confess already? Your alibi isn't exactly iron clad," Jamie rebutted.

"What's with all these accusations?" cried Jones, "Dr. Anthony suggested the topic for me because I couldn't decide on one; and she wasn't willing to grade another paper on the psychological treatise of 'The Yellow Wallpaper.'"

Before anyone could respond to Justin's defense, Matt Kovalcik entered Deb's office to ask for a washcloth. Dressed in a red and black long-sleeved flannel shirt, Koval strolled into Deb's office with a look of naiveté.

"What's a treatise?" he inquired.

"Actually, I'm not really sure. I read about it, or, no, I heard about it," said Jones.



Continued on page 8

Only two more installments of *The Murder in Kirby Hall* remain!
Remember to enter your guesses for the identities of the murder and the writer on *The Inkwell* Quarterly Facebook page for a chance to win homemade pastries from Dr. Farrell.

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"Good grief, man! Your clothes are splattered with blood! How do you explain that?!" exclaimed Joe.

"Uh, I highly doubt that Smuckers will be releasing their plasma spread this early in the year," snarked Koval.

"What are you talking about?" asked Deb.

"Jelly, my dudes. It's just strawberry jelly," laughed Jones.

"Yeah, it's from the jelly party we had about an hour ago," said Kovalcik.

"Hmm, Koval's covered in it, too," said Jamie.

Joe, perplexed by the situation, wondered, "Why would anybody...?" but before he could finish his thought, Jones and Koval chimed in, "We love jelly, although Dr. Farrell's spiced blueberry jam is better than store-bought strawberry."

The group rolled its eyes at the two as the printer suddenly came to life, startling everyone.

"Oh sure. Now it starts," sneered Jones.

"What are you printing out, Jones?" asked Jamie.

"I told you: the articles I need for Dr. Anthony's assignment," answered Jones.

"Pfft, just beginning that now? Such a procrastinator," sneered Joe.

"Bite me," said Jones.

"Jones!" warned Deb. "And boys, there are much more serious things to worry about right now."

"Sorry," said Jones. He grabbed the articles for Dr. Anthony and headed up to her office, followed closely by the Jamie, Joe, and the rest of the gang.

"Dr. Anthony, I have that assignment for you," said Jones, handing Dr. Anthony the jelly splattered essay.

"Thank you. At least you got me this paper to me in less than two years. It seems getting a paper from you is like getting 'Hamill's Hunches'—it's all promises-promises, and then no results, or so the *Inkwell* staff says," replied Dr. Anthony as she quickly folded the essay into her pocket.

Before anyone could even wonder why Dr. Anthony had hastily hidden the paper instead of placing it on her desk, a strange melody was heard ascending the staircase to filter throughout the entire building.

"Did you hear that?" asked Matthew Kogoy, who had been drinking green tea in his "office" outside of Dr. Anthony's.

"What is that sound?" asked Dr. Anthony.

"It sounds like a swing jazz number."

"I suspect we should follow our ears," said Jamie, rather snidely. "Dr. Anthony, will you be joining us?"

"I can't. I need to grade this essay for Jones."

With that, the group left Dr. Anthony alone to read. As they reached the main floor, Kogoy remarked, "Was that a number by Charlie Parker? I enjoy Gillespie more."

"Hey man, who cares who they're playing? I wanna know *why* they're playing, especially with so many dead people in the building," said Joe, who was somewhat frustrated with Kogoy's overreaching apathy. "And, where are the police? I thought Dr. Hamill said he was going to call them?"

The band leader, a man named Billy Joe Coolcat, replied, "Hey daddy-o's and cool cats, imagine that. We were just here to lay down a few numbers for tonight's little party, you know, play some jazz from the past." Coolcat's voice was long and drawn-out, much like Bob Dylan's in the '70s. "We was just practicing some Coltrane, his A-train, actually for tonight. Why? Is that not right? Did we miss the date, or eat from wrong plates?"

Clearing her throat, Jamie said, "Right, well, see, I'm conducting an investigation into several murders that occurred this evening."

"Oh! Like a murder mystery dinner! I get it."

"Anyway!" Jamie persisted. "We—hey is your clarinetist alright?"

Coolcat turned around to see his clarinetist, Benette Goodwoman, coughing and writhing on the floor.

"What's wrong with her?" asked Koval.

"Maybe she's just really feelin' the music, my man," Coolcat said without so much surprise for her condition. "Hey Benette, you are alright for tonight, right?"

Benette opened her mouth, and drew a breath, but instead of words, a white froth flowed from her mouth, and she stopped twitching and died.

"It looks like her 'Sing Sing Sing,' has 'Sing Sang Sung,'" said Coolcat, wiping a tear away from his only slightly hazy eyes.

The group immediately surrounded her motionless body and noticed a green tinge to her lips.

"Dude, she's dead," said Jones. His calm, almost stoic manner, the group knew, was a shell for the true horror he felt inside, or perhaps, as a budding gothic novelist, he just knows how to lead on his friends.

In the next installment:

Who's next on the killer's hit list?

Will the gang be led astray by more strawberry jam?

Will *IQ* run a game?

And, most importantly, will Hamill hunch or Kuhar corner?

