

## Comparing Samhain and Halloween

by Mackenzie Egan

Pumpkins, ghosts, and goblins! Halloween, October 31st, is approaching, following the sudden drop in temperature and the changing of the leaves, grass, and other outside plants. In popular culture today, Halloween is the time to dress up and hang out with friends, consume thousands of pounds of candy and other sweet snacks, and scare the daylight out of each other. A couple hundred years ago, however, this wasn't the case.

Historically, Halloween, derived from All Hollow's Eve, is actually the night before All Saints Day, a holiday celebrating the saints and martyrs of the Christian faith. November 2nd, All Souls Day, celebrates the dead and the memory left behind. All three can be seen as religious, but none of them reflect Samhain, the Pagan holiday from which Halloween gets its roots.

Samhain began in Europe as a Celtic holiday that celebrated the dead and marked the harvest and the end of summer. Holiday by name, Samhain was a religious event where ceremonies took place anywhere between October 31st and November 6th, and ranged from simple feasts to rituals of sacrifice in honor of deities. Samhain also marks the beginning of

the spiritual new year for Pagans, and thus was held in high regard as a major holiday: the one night Pagans believed the bridge between the world of the living and the world of the dead was weakest. Much of what the Pagans did and still do in some parts of the world to celebrate Samhain is to ward off evil spirits while celebrating the spirits of loved ones.

Samhain was also one of the names the Pagans had for their god of the dead, much of pop-culture Halloween today is derived from the fact that Samhain dealt with death and the dead, not the harvest.

Some of what pop-culture has derived from Samhain, in order to form the Halloween we know today, includes jack-o-lanterns. A jack-o-lantern's place in the Samhain ritual was to guide home the spirits of the dead by being a light in the darkness of night, as well as keeping away the bad supernatural forces lurking. Commonly made out of turnips or sugar beets, it wasn't until the New World came in contact with Ireland that the vegetable of choice for jack-o-lanterns became the pumpkin.

Another thing pop-culture has taken from the practice of Samhain is the

Halloween costume, which can range from simple to gorey. Practitioners of Samhain believed that dressing, mainly as ghosts, goblins, or other spooky beings, would keep people anonymous from the spirits walking the earth on Samhain. Masks and elaborate outfits, not unlike today, were made solely for the celebration, and were often times gruesome to look at. Today, while many costumes are taken to the side

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## MANUSCRIPT UPDATE

The Wilkes University Manuscript Society is now accepting submissions for its 2016-17 edition. The deadline for fall submissions is Friday, November 11th by midnight. Submit your written or visual pieces to [magazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:magazine@wilkes.edu). In addition, the Manuscript Society will be hosting its annual Halloween Reading on Wednesday, October 26th at 6 p.m. in the Kirby salon; costumes are encouraged. Any additional questions can be sent to the Manuscript Executive Editor, Elyse Guzewicz, at: [elyse.guzewicz@wilkes.edu](mailto:elyse.guzewicz@wilkes.edu).

## Writing Center Hours

The Writing Center, located in the Alden Learning Commons, is open and offering support to student writers across the Wilkes curriculum.

Our Fall 2016 schedule is:  
Monday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,  
4:00 p.m.-5 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

The Online Writing Center is available at: <http://wilkes.edu/pages766.asp>

For more information, contact:  
Dr. Chad Stanley

## Faculty Update

by Dr. Sean Kelly

On my sabbatical, I worked on several writing projects, including revisions for my article "Staging Nothing: The Figure of Das Ding in Poe's 'The Raven'" for *The Edgar Allan Poe Review* (to be published this fall), a review of Kevin Hayes's book *The Annotated Poe* (2015) for *The Edgar Allan Poe Review*



Dr. Kelly's home office—the location of his work through the winter and spring. | Photo Credit: Dr. Kelly

(Spring 2015), and a new article on Walt Whitman's poem "Reconciliation" that was published in *The Explicator* in August. Much of my time was spent conducting research for a new project that considers how Jacques Lacan's theories of discourse and sexuation can shed new light on Nathaniel Hawthorne's tale "The Birth-mark." To this end, I read several works (by Elizabeth Wright, Joan Copjec, Paul Verhaeghe, and Tim Dean) that examine the implications of Lacan's theory of sexuation on traditional theories of gender. I hope to have a version of this piece accepted by the joint Edgar Allan Poe Society and Nathaniel Hawthorne Society conference to be held in Kyoto, Japan in 2018. I especially enjoyed the sabbatical because it afforded me the opportunity to think and read broadly in a way that is sometimes difficult to do in the midst of the typical semester of course prep and grading.

## English Department Picnic

On Wednesday, October 5th, the English Department held their annual fall picnic on the Kirby Lawn.

Dr. Hamill and his daughter June enjoy having their photo taken at the picnic as Dr. Hamill avoids doing his usual "Hamill's Hunches" article. | Photo Credit: Tara Giarratano



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# Another November, Another NaNoWriMo

by Madeline Powell

Every November thousands of writers participate in a month-long challenge to produce a 50,000-word novel. National Novel Writing Month is described as a “fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing” (nanowrimo.org). Writers begin November 1st and have until 11:59 PM on November 30th to submit their work to the NaNoWriMo website. If the task were spread out evenly over the thirty-day period, one would write approximately 1,666 words per day. As a fellow extreme to moderate participant in procrastination, I was surprised I had only recently learned about the NaNoWriMo challenge. However, my own novel-writing experience is limited, as my sole attempts have been a two-page, handwritten story about kittens

riddled with improper apostrophe usage and my later attempt in 2002 to construct a story about estranged twins, which was quickly foiled when my piano teacher addressed the fact that I had merely plagiarized the 1998 film version of *The Parent Trap*.

The NaNoWriMo culture encourages anyone to share his or her story via the novel-writing challenge. To begin, one must create a profile on the NaNoWriMo site, which allows participants to connect with other writers, and possibly purchase some merchandise if he or she is feeling particularly prideful. Their website also offers writers access to support throughout the month on provided forums, which have a wide range of specific places for writers to

discuss their experiences. Some of the best forums I discovered were “NaNoWriMo Ate My Soul,” which is described as “the premier support group for novelists in distress,” and “This is Going Better Than I’d Hoped,” labeled as “unexpected success stories from the frantic novel-writing front.” “Shout Outs” is the designated place for writers to share their victories and express gratitude to others. In addition, there are a variety of other forums that cater to specific genres, age groups, and communities, as well as a spot to pick up other’s abandoned plots. Writers can collect participation and writing badges for their achievements during the month. On November 20th, NaNoWriMo writers will be able to begin uploading their completed works to win.

## Ask the Editorial Staff:

*If You Could Be a Literary Character, Who Would You Be?*

*I would be either Sara Stanley from L. M. Montgomery’s *The Story Girl* or Nonnie from Laurens van der Post’s *A Story Like the Wind* and *A Far Off Place*.*

*-Dr. Farrell*

*If I had to choose a literary character to be, it would probably be Hermione Granger. She has always been one of my favorite characters because she is a total badass, and if I were her I’d be able to go to Hogwarts!*

*-Grace Graham*

*If I could be any literary character I would be Hermione Granger, because I’ve already got her frizzy hair covered!*

*-Tara Giarratano*

*Although I don’t agree with everything she does and I wouldn’t wanted to be in her position most of the time, it would be cool to be Lisbeth Salander from *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* because she’s pretty awesome and I’ve always secretly wanted to learn how to hack computers.*

*-Nicole Kutos*

## Contemporary Author Update

by Grace Graham

Fantasy fans will love the newest release of HarperCollins, *Three Dark Crowns* by Kendare Blake, which hit the shelves late September. The novel follows three sisters, born with incredible powers, who must battle to the death in order to win the throne and become queen. Those who have read Anna *Dressed in Blood*, another of the author's books and a Cybils Awards finalist, will relish a similarly inventive and dark storyline.

Bruce Springsteen has released his much anticipated *Born to Run* autobiography through publisher Simon & Schuster. After performing with the E Street Band at the Super

Bowl's halftime show in 2009, Springsteen was inspired to write about the exhilarating experience, which subsequently led him to delve into the rest of his life. According to Simon & Schuster, "Bruce Springsteen's autobiography is written with the lyricism of a singular songwriter and the wisdom of a man who has thought deeply about his experiences."

The winner of the 2016 Press 53 award for Short Fiction goes to Dennis McFadden, author of *Jimtown Road: A Novel in Stories*. Born in a small town in western Pennsylvania, McFadden is a graduate of Allegheny College and has had stories appear

in dozens of publications, including *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, *New England Review*, and *The Best American Mystery Stories*.

The newest installment in the Ryder Creed series from Penguin Publishing, *Reckless Creed*, has received praise and acclaim from countless critics. Written by *New York Times* best-selling author Alex Kava, this thriller will keep mystery fans on the edge of their seats. The fast paced plot uncovers the link between seemingly ominous and unrelated deaths and phenomenon, with the help of K-9 search and rescue dogs. The book follows protagonist Ryder Creed after his adventures in *Breaking Creed* and *Silent Creed*.

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## Call for Student Application Letters:

### *The Patricia Boyle Heaman and Robert J. Heaman Scholarship*

by Elissa McPherson

The Patricia Boyle Heaman and Robert J. Heaman Scholarship is a scholarship that is awarded annually to a junior or senior student majoring in English with a literature concentration. The recipient of this supplementary award is selected by a committee of English faculty members based on demonstrated excellence in English studies, potential for advanced study in English, scholarship, and financial need. Preference will be given to students from the Wyoming Valley.

To apply, please forward your application letter electronically to Dr. Larry Kuhar at [Lawrence.Kuhar@Wilkes.edu](mailto:Lawrence.Kuhar@Wilkes.edu) by November 11, 2016. In your application letter, you should include academic accomplishments and any other information that you would like the committee to review. The decision will be announced by the end of the semester.

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## Comparing Samhain and Halloween

Story Continued from Page 1

of the grotesque, dressing up is more a staple for the American Halloween celebration, and not a ritualistic endeavor.

Halloween has its similarities with the ritualistic celebration of Samhain, but of the two, Halloween is relatively new and revolves around culture and not religion. As the nights grow colder, it

is important to remember the religious roots of one of America's most consumerized holidays, if only to hold onto a piece of world history.

## Freshman

by Erin Michalek



## Freshman Faces

by Erin Michael



Emily Banks

**Q: Where are you from?**

A: Taylor, Pennsylvania.

**Q: How did you find Wilkes?**

A: I found out about Wilkes when I received a letter in the mail about an upcoming open house.

**Q: What made you decide to decide to be an English major?**

A: I chose to major in English because I want to be a lawyer and I feel it will help me with the analytical writing skills I need.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

A: My favorite books is probably *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. My teacher really analyzed this book and made sure we understood every little detail. I also really enjoyed the plot.

**Q: Where is your favorite place to read?**

A: My favorite place to read is in my bed, under a fuzzy blanket, in complete silence.



Kendra Mase

**Q: Where are you from?**

A: Palmyra, Pennsylvania

**Q: How did you find Wilkes?**

A: After looking at a few other universities for English and creative writing I found Wilkes. The gorgeous older buildings won me over.

**Q: What made you decide to be an English Major?**

A: I decided to become an English Major since I fell in love with reading, and there was no turning back. I hope to write as well in the future, so while creating great stories of my own, getting a degree in something I enjoy sounded like the right route for me.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

A: One of my favorite books has to be *The Saint* by Tiffany Reisz.

**Q: Where is your favorite place to read?**

A: My favorite place to read is wrapped in a blanket--preferably for as long as it takes me to finish a really good book.

## ENG 398: Horror and Science Fiction Literature

by Michael Morrison

Dr Stanley's Horror and Sci-fi literature class is every bit as interesting as it sounds. The class syllabus divides the semester evenly between the horror section and the sci-fi section, spending the first 7 weeks on a few short stories and several recently published horror novels, including Joe Hill's *Horns*, a love-story/tragedy/horror novel which incorporates elements from several different genres and movements (e.g. Gothic fiction, fantasy fiction, religious fiction); John Langan's *The Fisherman*, which follows the haunting story of two men that come together through shared loss and shared interest, and subsequently encounter an otherworldly force that uses both loss

and interest against them; and Adam Nevill's *Last Days*, which tells the story of a filmmaker and his cameraman who, in telling their own story through a documentary, become involved in a supernatural horror of their own. So far, class discussion topics covered a range of topics related to the content, forms, and evolution of horror as a sub-genre of literature. Some of these topics included the effect of the Cold War and 9/11, fear of change in terms of technological development, religious allusions, and the history of the cult.

The second half of the semester will be spent on the Sci-fi subgenre, which, if class discussion continues in a similar

manner, will be closely related to that of the horror subgenre. Assigned novels include *Fail-Safe* by Eugene Burdick and Harvey Wheeler, *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card, and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K. Dick. Although the Sci-Fi section of the class has not begun yet, the second semester will likely consist of several of the same themes from the horror subgenre. The plot of *Fail-Safe*, for example, revolves around the fear and potential manifestation of nuclear war, which class discussion traced back to Americans' emotions during the Cold War.

### INKWELL STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief:** Tara Giarratano  
**Managing Editor:** Grace Graham  
**Copy-Editor:** Michael Morrison  
**Layout Editor:** Nicole Kutos  
**Faculty Advisor:** Dr. Marcia Farrell  
**Staff Writers:** Tara Giarratano, Grace Graham, Elissa McPherson, Erin Michael, Michael Morrison, Madeline Powell

If you're interested in joining Inkwell, please email Grace at [grace.graham@wilkes.edu](mailto:grace.graham@wilkes.edu) for more information!

## Sigma Tau Delta Updates

by Nicole Kutos

Sigma Tau Delta held their first meeting of the semester in September to plan for upcoming events. At the meeting, officers were nominated; they are as followed: Nicole Kutos, President, Andrea Circelli, Vice President, Christie O'Brien, Treasurer, Dian McKinney, Secretary, Tara Giarrantano, Fall Semester Historian, Erin Michael, Spring Semester Historian, and Michael Morrison, Ambassador of Goodwill.

On September 27th, Sigma Tau Delta held a reading from the Farley Library steps in honor of Banned Book Week. The chapter is currently working on organizing a community service event for the fall semester.



Members of Sigma Tau Delta pose for a photo at the end of the event. Top row: Erin Michael, Christopher Santos, Michael Morrison, Christie O'Brien, Andrea Circelli. Bottom row: Mary Cordisco, unnamed guest, Kendra Mase, Nicole Kutos, Tara Giarratano, Dr. Anthony. | Photo Credit: Nicole Kutos

## Tenth /

by Mackenzie

To celebrate the release of the new edition of *Vampire Academy*, we are releasing a special edition this November. Year early, Mead move to keep into vampiric series a reader interest in adaptation possi

*Vampire Academy* published in 200 lives of Moroi (the princess Lissa D friend - and soon life - Rose Hatha the all vampire-c St. Vladimir's. Th the two on the r sworn to protect having left the sc due to threats m; Rose, a half-hum little impulse cor preservation, has from both Strigo

## Theatr

Submitted b

Be sure to catch University Theat

*Little Shop of Ho*  
Nov. 11, 12, 18, 1  
Nov. 13, 20 at 2 p

*You're a Good M*  
Feb. 17, 18, 24,  
Feb. 19, 26 at 2

*We Shot JFK:*  
April 6, 7, 8 at  
April 9 at 2 p.n

## Tenth Anniversary Edition of *Vampire Academy*

by Mackenzie Egan

To celebrate the upcoming anniversary for the release date of her novel, *Vampire Academy*, Richelle Mead is releasing a special tenth anniversary edition this November. While it is a year early, Mead's making the right move to keep interest in her beloved vampiric series alive and to spark new reader interest in lieu of a second movie adaptation possibly in the works.

*Vampire Academy* was originally published in 2007 and follows the lives of Moroi (the good vampires) princess Lissa Dragomir and her best friend - and soon to be protector for life - Rose Hathaway as they navigate the all vampire-dhampir private school St. Vladimir's. The novel begins with the two on the run from the people sworn to protect and teach them, having left the school two years prior due to threats made on Lissa's life. Rose, a half-human half-vampire with little impulse control and no self-preservation, has been protecting Lissa from both Strigoi (the bad vampires)

and Moroi alike up until this point. Upon returning to St. Vladimir's, her ability to protect Lissa is thrown into question and Rose is put on probation. Enter Dmitri, Lissa's present guardian and Rose's new instructor. That should have been the end of it, right? Wrong. The rest of the novel follows Rose and Lissa as they learn to re-navigate the school they ran from and battle together for both Rose's right to protect Lissa and to love whom she wishes.

*Vampire Academy* is the first in a six book series, and has been adapted into a movie that did okay, but not fantastic, in the box office. Mead's tenth anniversary edition takes a closer look at the series' key players, from the mysterious and tragic past of Christian Ozera, the man who Lissa comes to marry, to the very first encounter between Rose and Dimitri. Lissa's private thoughts and a mischievous scavenger hunt also add to the bonus content that takes the original novel, at 79,000 words, and doubles the length.

Mead posted on her blog that the stories were prequels, only delving into the characters of the *Vampire Academy* series. Not a spin-off nor a bridge between VA and it's spin-off series *Bloodlines*, the stories are meant to add substance to already amazing characters and give insight as to how the world Mead created works.

Anyone interested in preordering the book before the release date, November 29th, 2016, can do so on Richelle Mead's website, [richellemead.com](http://richellemead.com), or through sites like Amazon and Google Play. The book will also be available at major retailers - Wal-Mart, Target, etc. - and small book stores. Autographed copies are available through Mead's website and U Books, an indie book retailer that has worked with Mead to mass-distribute her work for years. More information about the sale and distribution is posted on Richelle Mead's blog, which can be accessed through her website.

## Theatre Updates

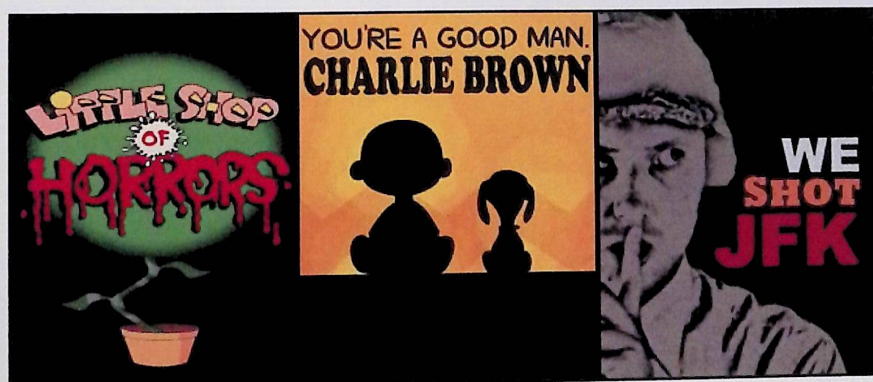
Submitted by Nicole Kutos

Be sure to catch a show by the Wilkes University Theatre this season!

*Little Shop of Horrors:*  
Nov. 11, 12, 18, 19 at 8 p.m.  
Nov. 13, 20 at 2 p.m.

*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown:*  
Feb. 17, 18, 24, 25 at 8 p.m.  
Feb. 19, 26 at 2 p.m.

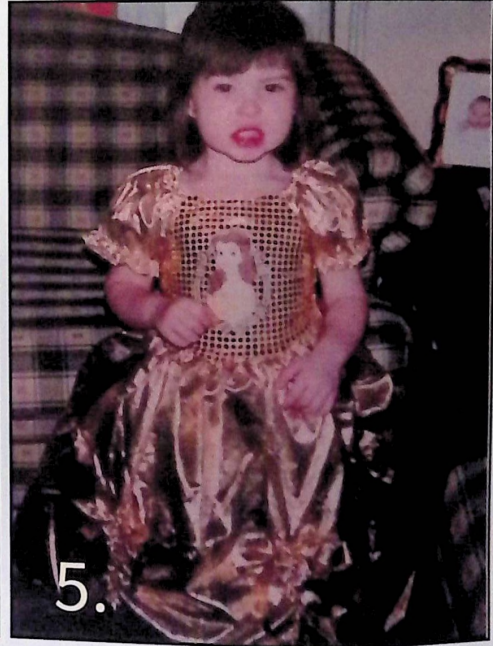
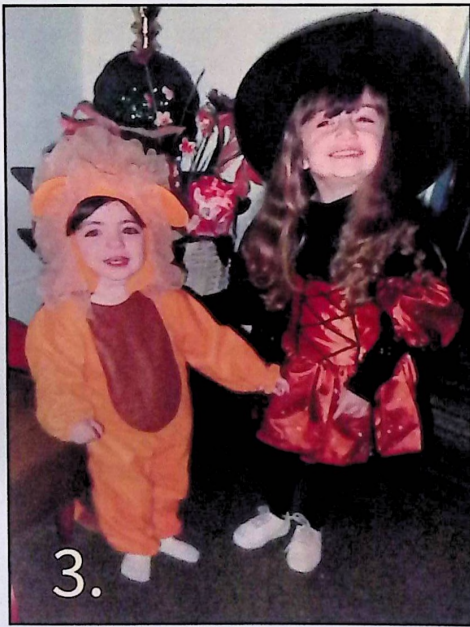
*We Shot JFK:*  
April 6, 7, 8 at 8 p.m.  
April 9 at 2 p.m.



Photos of this season's various show posters. | Photo Credit: Wilkes University Website

## HALLOWEEN GAME

Match the Inkwell staff members and the English Department faculty members to their Halloween picture!  
Answers on page 4.



- CHOICES:**
- A. Tara Giarratano
  - B. Madeline Powell
  - C. Nicole Kutos
  - D. Dr. Anthony
  - E. Dr. Farrell