



# The Inkwell Quarterly

Volume 4

Issue 4

Spring 2010

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Dr. Thomas Hamill  
Dr. Larry Kuhar

## SENIOR CAPSTONE SCHEDULE

May 3, 2010:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Faculty Advisor</u>	<u>Time</u>
Desiree Wren	Mischelle Anthony	5:00
Jaclyn Butwinski	Marcia Farrell	5:30
Jason Sutton	Mischelle Anthony	6:00
Zachary Sobota	Marcia Farrell	6:30

May 5, 2010:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Faculty Advisor</u>	<u>Time</u>
Catherine Janacek	Linda Paul	4:00
Gus Beil	Linda Paul	4:30
Erin Guydish	Larry Kuhar	5:00
Sabrina Hannon	Chad Stanley	5:30
Sarah Hartman	Larry Kuhar	6:00
Melissa Leet	Marcia Farrell	6:30

May 6, 2010:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Faculty Advisor</u>	<u>Time</u>
Jami Butczynski	Larry Kuhar	2:00
Lauren Mannion	Chad Stanley	2:30
Joseph Castiglia	Thomas Hamill	3:00
Bianca Sabia	Chad Stanley	3:30
Samantha Bartolomei	Chad Stanley	4:00

## SENIOR EXIT SURVEY

By Justin Jones

As another school year comes to an end, *The Inkwell Quarterly* must bid farewell to the English Majors of the Class of 2010. In an effort to allow these seniors' feedback to pave the way for how future English majors at Wilkes experience the English Department, *IQ* conducted a survey. The survey consisted of five basic questions about the seniors' feelings looking back on their time at Wilkes. The following questions and answers are examples of the answers which will be filed by the department for future reference.

**Q: What are your plans after graduation? (Graduate School? Have a job lined up already? An area you are going to try to pursue, etc.?)**

**A: (Desiree Wren)** After graduation, I am planning on working as a TSS worker or a case worker for children. I have applied to a few places already and have gone on interviews and am hoping to hear about something permanent soon. After working I want to pursue my Masters in child psychology and go to law school. My eventual goal is to be a court guardian.

**Q: What courses/events do you believe prepared you the most for your future pursuits?**

**A: (Jessica McMahon)** Since starting with my Student Teaching experience, I feel that the courses that have helped me the most were The History of the English Language, Comparative Grammar, and the Science Fiction/ Horror course I took. These have helped me primarily because they are so relatable to what I am teaching in the school district and because they are the easiest to adapt into my own curriculum. I do, however, hope to utilize all my course work that is appropriate for the high school level and adapt it into my classes.

**Q: What will you miss most about Wilkes?**

**A: (Ashley Filipek)** I'll miss the community I am absorbed within. I never imagined so many people

Continued on Page 3



## KUHAR'S CORNER

By Dr. Larry Kuhar

If your dogs, Nova and Nala, could talk, what would they say?

Both dogs, of course, speak (duh!). As a 14-year old German Shepherd with "AKC" worldly experience and Schutten 2 training, **Nova** tells a far different story than **Nala**, a 3 year-old dog of mixed "SPCA" bloodlines. Aware that every dog will have its day and that this day – answering this question – should belong to Nova, Nala quickly deferred to Nova's experience, judgment, and insight. As a result, I only have Nova's response to share for now.

When I asked Nova to share her insights as a talking dog with English majors, she paused, thought a bit, and began to spin a tale not unlike **Simon Wheeler's** work in **Mark Twain's** "Jumping Frog" story. Unlike Twain, however, I was lucky enough to have an iPod phone remote desktop 2C/Real VNC recording device nearby.

In Nova's words, transcribed directly and without change from the tape . . . "Well, to begin at the beginning, I was born on September 27, 1996, just outside a small Jack Russell kennel in central Germany. My full name is really Nova vom Hasenborn, I'm a Schutzhund, and my sire and dam are well known throughout the foothills of Oberammergau, Germany. (I loved to chase the passion play wagons that rolled through town every fall!)

But let's not get enamored by the nitty-gritty of all this class structure stuff. My story begins when I was shipped to America. It's a simple story, really, that reveals the value of being an English major, the importance of helping humans understand themselves better, and the essential role we can play as English majors in today's world.

To keep things simple, let me break this down into "Five Rules for A Great Life as an English Major as Told by an Old Dog."

1. Study writers from different cultures: Learn about other cultures. I have a broad multicultural background and extensive diversity experience, I speak three languages (English, German, and Dog), and I've trained many humans along my journey. My favorite poets are German (**Rilke** and **Brecht**) and, on the American scene, I like **Robert Frost's** and **Jeffers'** nature poems. This education has helped me live a long, fulfilled life. It's helped me experience the world in ways most dogs will never know. I've been able to reflect on the significance of stopping in woods on snowy evenings (even as that silly horse tried to pull us along without stopping for deep contemplation of life's mysteries, truth be told). How many dogs will contemplate the deep snow?
2. Be compassionate for those who are left out in the cold: My English education has helped me understand how lucky I've been to be loved by nearly all with whom I've crossed trails. Sadly, this is not the case for many of society's curs and preterit. Show compassion for the abused, the victims, the have-nots, and mongrels. No one wants to be a junkyard dog chained with a short leash to an old tree. The stories you read often focus on the importance of dignity, character, and love – uncovered through stories about loss, isolation and hate. Live the lessons: Make it a point to help others as your stories move out beyond the confines of Kirby Hall.
3. Value the importance of ideas and good critical thinking: You need to make your own choices about who you will become. Your education prepares you to do this. Bred for conformity and trainability, I never really bought into the "world class pedigree" thing that was pushed down my throat. AKC, BKC, DVD, CD . . . it's all the same to me. One reason is because I studied literary theory. These ideas have helped me to understand something about class structure, about how not everyone is fed the most expensive dog food. They've made me a better thinker. I'm able to compare the dry foods with the wet foods, leather collars and nylon ones, and generic rawhide with the expensive stuff. I'm not subject to the whims of advertisers trying to sell a "need," and then a product. (Read **David Foster Wallace's** "Mr. Squishy" for more on this!) As English majors, you're prepared to think critically, to write well, and to share the value of ideas with others.
4. You don't have to be the 'alpha' dog to be a leader: Some of the best lessons I've learned have come about because I was "in the pack" – collaborating, negotiating, forming teams with other breeds – not because I was the "Big Dawg." I've seen too many alpha dogs come and go. Learn from writers who have used their "Inkwell" to find their voices while struggling inside structures that marginalized their race, gender, or ethnicity. You will find power in your words. You will find power in your ability to articulate a complex understanding of your life, world, and experiences. You don't need to be the lead dog pulling the sled (or the winner of the race) to help your team understand the importance of the running the Iditarod.
5. Shape the narrative of your life: You are your stories, as I like to say. Take charge of your stories and pursue your passions. As an English major you are uniquely positioned to understand how this works and why it matters. All life is a kind of narrative, even when it seems like time is moving too quickly or chaotically for you to see the plot. For me, one year sometimes passes so fast that it seems as if seven years have passed! Don't be confined by the length of your leash. Now and then, remove your leash and collar. As a magnet on my coop's refrigerator says, "You have greatness inside of you." Remember what the controversial modernist dog, **Ezra Poundpuppy**, once said, "By 21 dog years I will know more about poetry than any dog alive." He did it. Born in Idaho, Poundpuppy was raised in Pennsylvania. He broke free from his leash, became an expatriate, and shaped the form and voice of the literature of his time. You do not need to be a great leader recognized by many to lead your story to fulfillment and success. Your English education prepares you to see this and to achieve *this* greatness."



Photo Courtesy of Stefanie McHugh

## RYAN I

By Philip Mul

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## RYAN HOLMES INTERVIEW

By Philip Muhlenberg

**Ryan Holmes** is a success story. In an unsteady economic climate and with a degree that many dismiss as "useless," Holmes used his education and experiences at Wilkes University and turned them into a career.

Vice President of Public Relations for Waterbucket Media, a public relations firm based out of Easton, PA, Holmes' responsibilities vary from drafting and issuing press releases to conducting conferences and seminars. He even holds the occasional televised interview.

"My job demands that I always be coming up with ways to put the client's name out there, and our company out there as well," remarks Holmes.

Although it may not be obvious, Holmes uses his major in English writing and minor in Communications and Journalism from Wilkes on a daily basis. Courses in professional writing and writing-intensive English literature, Holmes cites, aided him greatly in establishing himself at his current position at the public relations firm. Even writing for Wilkes' own *Beacon* newspaper helped prepare him for his eventual duties at Waterbucket.

"Everyday I'm using a new writing format, whether it be in press releases, conference outlines or e-mails," says Holmes.

Keeping a similarly varied background in writing, Holmes suggests, is the best way to pursue occupations in the job market after graduation. Avoiding limitations on specific forms of writing as well as occupational duties and job location served as key factors in Holmes acquiring his position as VP of PR.

"Keep your options open," advises Holmes. "Something as simple as writing for a radio station is still experience you can use in the future." Following his own advice is exactly what turned Holmes from just another Wilkes University graduate into a success.



Photo Courtesy of Ryan Holmes

## ENGLISH HONOR AWARDS

By David Cook and Justin Jones

On behalf of the department, the *IQ* would like to congratulate the following seniors who have been chosen to receive English Honor Awards.

**Frank J.J. Davies Award:** presented to graduating English majors in recognition of outstanding achievement in English studies. Recipients: **Erin Gudyish, Samantha Bartolomei, and Megan Smith**

**Annette Evans Humanities Award:** honors the senior student who has demonstrated outstanding scholarship in the humanities and has participated constructively in cultural affairs. Recipient: **Erin Gudyish**

## REMINDER: ENGLISH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

By Justin Jones

The **Patricia Boyle Heaman** and **Robert J. Heaman** Scholarship is awarded annually to a junior or senior student on the literature track. The recipient of this 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. Applications for these scholarships are to be sent to **Dr. Larry Kuhar** no later than May 6, 2010.

...Continued from Page 1

would care about my student teaching experience. Not only does the English Department REMEMBER that I'm currently student teaching, but they take the time to stop and ask me how I'm doing, what I'm teaching and so on. It's a community that I've grown to love. I appreciate the stability and the kindness ... and I'm not looking forward to having to leave it behind.

**Q: Do you feel you have been sufficiently prepared for what lies ahead?**

**A: (Jaclyn Butwinski)** Are we ever prepared for the future? I feel prepared for taking on new challenges based on what I have learned at Wilkes, to which I owe a huge thanks to faculty and friends! Changing my whole lifestyle and moving away from a place that I have called "home" for 4 years will be much, much harder--I don't think anything really prepares you for "moving on," but I think my experience at Wilkes has definitely prepared me for "moving forward."

**Q: Anything else you'd like to say, you may say here.**

**A: (Erin Wimer)** **Dr. Hamill** is one of the best teachers I have ever had in my life. I hope the English department realizes how much he cares about his students and is willing to work with them on assignments. He is a great asset to the English department.

**Final Tallies:** Out of the eight that responded to the survey, two seniors have been accepted to graduate school, three intend to go straight into the work force, and two will pursue teaching jobs in the field of English. Nearly all agreed that one can never be sufficiently prepared for life, but the English department has guided them to prepare themselves for the unexpected the best way possible. As we close with this final issue of Spring 2010, the *IQ* and the English department at large would like to wish the best to the English major class of 2010 in their future endeavors. You will not be forgotten!





Photo Courtesy of  
Desiree Wren

## HAMILL'S HUNCHES

By Dr. Thomas Hamill

I know I promised ruminations on *Die Hard*, orthotics, and the *OED*, but my sense is that the belated identities of late semester selves require a slightly different focus, a more alchemic mix of structure, nostalgia, and hope. Deadlines, record stores, and "Best of" albums seem more appropriate, especially with this week's Wednesday's Friday-ness and spring and all.

The 15<sup>th</sup> of April matters, it seems, only if one must make another offering. Returns (or at least their promise via form) afford more time. As my accountant revealed that even the IRS (unofficially) courts the possible mythologies of deadlines, I smiled at the familiarity of the truth—at the fact that I could believe in (and preach) Frost's "miles" even as I meted out the (failed) measure in shifting dates. "OK. Take our your syllabuses, everyone." The Final Exam Schedule—that theophany of our Registrar's infallible authority—assures that things will not, in the end, fall apart. Thankfully, though, it provides a framing for re-arrangement, making still possible, even underneath an absolutist architecture, the question, "Is the paper still due on the 4<sup>th</sup>?" and the pedagogical principle that a later deadline would, in fact, better serve course

outcomes. Quarterly logics help, too—even if we arrive at semesterly time only to divide, again, in two.

And with all this time on our hands, why not visit The Gallery of Sound? If holding the warm printed paper reminds us that we are real and that time does matter, perhaps the material-spatial layers (Main Street, record [sic] store, disc, liner notes) might also affirm that zeros and ones and locatable spaces and rooms we walk into to hold and to read and listen, even if we insist on anachronized mis-naming, might still hold us up. Digitalization is wonderful, and I too partake (with increasing frequency), but I also appreciate urban density and the gravitational roles and obligations we serve in sustaining it.

Indeed, while I was close to buying Jeff Beck's latest album on iTunes, I remembered my love of Main Street and so bought the actual object instead. (Another local treasure, btw, is WVIA's George Graham, whose member-supported program(ing) brought Beck's fabulous new release to my attention.) And while I wish that *Emotion & Commotion* were less ecologically catastrophic in its CD-ness (I mean, is a cardboard fold really too much to ask?), the album cover is, as I like to say, a triumph. I will probably never produce an album or need an album cover, but I can't say I don't covet a distant future wherein "The Best of Hamill's Hunches" will not be premature. (The penultimate Hamill's Hunches before the first "Best of" will probably address the differences between "Best of's" and "Very Best of's"—the critical apotheosis that Kuhar's Corner will no doubt have reached by then.) On that available some day, I will try to be as honest, ironic, and iconologically self-aware as that allegorical eagle with the white Stratocaster in its clasp. But I probably won't be.

## FACULTY AND CLUB UPDATES

Compiled by Amanda Kaster

- **Dr. Mischelle Anthony's** poetry manuscript, *Fracture*, is currently under review at Foothills Publishing in New York.
- **Dr. Helen Davis** organized and chaired a panel and presented a paper for the International Narrative Conference, which was held April 8-11 in Cleveland, OH. The panel was titled, "Focalization Patterns, Gender Performativity, and Transgressive Women" and her paper, "A touch of manhood: Gender Performativity, Focalization, and Narrative Power in Charlotte Brontë's *Shirley*," analyzed the correlation between focalization and gender performativity in the character of Shirley.
- Graduate Assistant **Lili Dibai** is currently working to conduct a study and develop a publication focused on student writers at Wilkes University who are English Language Learners and their experiences with Writing Across the Disciplines. She has also been teaching ESL classes for adults at Luzerne County Community College.
- **Drs. Thomas Hamill** and **Chad Stanley** sat on a panel discussing the male perspective on Gender Studies on April 9, 2010, in conjunction with Wilkes University's Women's Studies Conference. In addition, Stanley worked with **Amanda Kaster** to construct her panel which focused upon the "Purity Myth" and how society's fascination with virtue and purity harms men and women.
- **Dr. Sean Kelly** organized two panels at the recent North East Modern Language Convention (NeMLA) in Montreal, which were "Romancing America: Authorship, National Identity, and the Writing of Historical Romance" and "Re-Reading American Romance: Text, Context, and Meta-text." The second panel was chaired by Stanley.
- **Drs. Godlove Fonjweng**, and **Jim Merryman**, along with **Matt Kogoy**, spoke at an African Studies lecture entitled "An Evening with African Scholars" on April 28, 2010 in the Ballroom.
- **Poetry in Transit** has extended its deadline for poetry submissions until May 15, 2010. Please email poems of eight lines or less with an environmental theme to **Dr. Mischelle Anthony** at [mischelle.anthony@wilkes.edu](mailto:mischelle.anthony@wilkes.edu).
- The Humanities Picnic will occur on May 4, 2010 on the Kirby Lawn.

Dr. Farrell would like to express her deepest gratitude to the graduating staff members of *The Inkwell Quarterly*: Assistant Managing Editor – Jackie Butwinski, Senior Copy Editor – Melissa Leet, Copy Editors – Sabrina Hannon & Lauren Mannion, & Staff Writer/Photographer Desiree Wren.  
Best of luck in your future endeavors; we will miss you!

## AN EVENING

By Dr. Marcia

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## AN EVENING WITH AFRICAN STUDIES SCHOLARS

By Dr. Marcia Farrell

This semester, *IQ*'s managing editor, **Matt Kogoy**, completed an independent study on Imperial Literature and Film about Africa during which he studied a number texts, including *The Constant Gardener*, *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, poetry by Christopher Okigbo and Wole Soyinka, and *The Four Feathers*. When we designed the course, I gave Kogoy several options for a final project, and he chose to headline a public presentation. That public presentation evolved into the Evening with African Studies Scholars, an event tied to the English 353: Studies in Postcolonial Literature course that featured not only Kogoy but also **Drs. Godlove Fonjweng** and **Jim Merryman**. The event was held on April 28, 2010.

Modeled on the Evening with Indian Scholars from the spring 2008 semester, An Evening with African Studies Scholars began with an invitation-only dinner, planned by junior English Education major, **Kyriel Manzo**. Catering to students in English 353, the speakers, their guests, and English faculty and staff, the dinner included authentic African cuisine, such as chakalaka (a vegetable stir-fry), spiced artichoke chicken, the best banana bread most of us have ever eaten, mango iced tea, and Herzog cookies (courtesy of senior **Bianca Sabia**). During dinner, everyone was entertained by contemporary African music, courtesy of sophomore **Tony Thomas**.

After dinner, the well-attended panel presentation was open to the public. Kogoy, Fonjweng, and Merryman introduced attendees to the varied areas of scholarship and work surrounding African studies, including literary analysis, anthropology, economics, communications, gender studies, sociology, and charity work.

Kogoy's presentation focused on questions of an evolving African identity, tackling the difficult and complicated issues surrounding imperial guilt in the works of J. M. Coetzee, the struggle for indigenous survival in Laurens van der Post's *A Far Off Place*, and the development of "a shifting and shining attitude in African culture" in texts such as the *No. 1 Ladies*



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Marcia Farrell

*Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith. Leading with the argument that "For over two centuries, the African has been subjugated by literature and film, particularly literature and film of Europeans and Americans," Kogoy attacked the image of "an Africa plagued with misconceptions and misrecognitions leading to a universal pessimism which threatens the value of African culture" as he examined the complexities surrounding the question "What is African?"

Fonjweng's presentation on water issues in Africa led with a number of sobering statistics. For example, he noted that the production and brewing of one cup of coffee takes 37 gallons of water and that the average American uses about 100 gallons of water per day, while a number of people in the world are only able to procure about five gallons of water a day for the needs of their families, and most of them walk approximately 3.7 miles per day in order to retrieve that water. To emphasize "the impact of the water problems on health, education and women's empowerment," Fonjweng unpacked the myriad of issues surrounding water in Africa and urged students to look into the Global Water Initiative based in Philadelphia, as the organization is examining long term sustainability of clean water projects within African nations.

Merryman concluded the evening with his presentation, "Ethics and Economic Development in Africa: the Context of a Large Scale Water Project." Merryman shared the story of how he became interested in Africa via work in the Peace Corps while also examining the web of political and economic policies that are often at the root of water distribution and procurement. Illustrating the difficulties surrounding clean water with an account of his experiences in northern Kenya and Somalia, Merryman noted that the most successful types of development occur from "the ground up."

During the question and answer period, Sabia noted that the experience was "eye-opening" for her as she and those present were exposed to different avenues in answer to the question "what do you do with an English degree?"

Those curious about African literature and film and looking for substantive summer reading are welcome to contact me for a copy of Kogoy's reading and viewing list.



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Marcia Farrell

### Inkwell Quarterly Goes Global

Next time you are on Facebook, search for "Inkwell Quarterly" and join the group with our last issue as the group photo!



# POSTMODERN AUTHOR WORD SCRAMBLE!

By Phil Muhlenberg

Unscramble the author's names, and then match them to their works.

First Name	Last Name	Work
1. LAAN MS _____	UDSIERH _____	a. ELBVODE _____
2. HASTMO _____	NHCPONY _____	b. TECHRALD _____
3. YDAMNRO _____	VRREAC _____	c. MSAEH _____
4. AELICMH _____	REHR _____	d. NDNIAEVL _____
5. INTO _____	ONRIMSRO _____	e. CSIPSHTDAE _____

\*Bonus: Find the swear word!

Answers from the Previous Game:

1. Marginalism
2. Ambivalence
3. Glocalization
4. Othering
5. Hybridity

## A POCO MOMENT...

By Tony Thomas, Dave Cook, and Dr. Marcia Farrell

*IQ* will be instituting a new featurette of moments in literary inquiry.

Did you know: The musical *South Pacific* is based on James Michener's 1948 book, *Tales of the South Pacific*, also set on the islands of Vanuatu. In the musical, Emile, Nellie Forbush's French lover, is a widower with two half-Polynesian children. However, in the book, the character on whom Emile is based was unmarried and had eight children by four different Polynesian women.

Next issue: An Enlightenment Moment...

## CHANGES TO LOOK FOR IN VOLUME FIVE

In continuation of *IQ*'s changing focus, volume five will include a serialized mystery written by a to-be-revealed guest writer. The story will be a pulp murder mystery. Our readers will get to participate in the **ultimate game**...guessing who the murderer is and the secret identity of the writer. The tale will feature many familiar Wilkes campus locales and some of your favorite professors....no one is safe until the final word is written....watch your back. Muhahaha!!!

