

The Inkwell

Volume 2

Issue 2

Winter 2007

Writing Mentor Program

By Jessica Mahoney

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Since fall 2006, the **Writing Mentor Program**, a part of Writing Across the Curriculum, has been active. Under the direction of **Dr. Chad Stanley**, the program consists of ten writing mentors including English majors and one Political Science major. The program is funded by an internal grant from the Wilkes University Mentoring Task Force.

The Writing Mentor Program is set up to provide close academic support for students taking English 101 and other English courses. Writing mentors act as in-class support systems by attending class meetings, engaging in class work, and joining group discussions. Meetings can also be arranged outside the classroom for additional help and support.

The Writing Mentor Program is designed to meet goals pertaining to academic support. The program helps advance student writing and also generates self-reflection. Students as well as the writing mentors benefit from the program. "For the writing mentors, these experiences serve to meet profound personal and professional development objectives," stated Stanley. Several mentors have used their experiences to further their professional goals.

As well as attending classes and providing assistance, writing mentors attend academic conferences. The Writing Mentor Program has been invited to present at the 2008 Southeastern Writing Center Association (SWCA) Conference. The presentation is entitled "From Axis to Praxis: Reaching out from the (Writing) Center." The panel presenting this piece includes Wilkes faculty and students: Dr. Stanley, **Dr. Thomas Hamill**, **Dr. Janet Starner**, **Patrick Austin**, and **Amanda Flynn**.

In keeping with the concept and practice of Writing Across the Curriculum, Stanley is hoping to introduce writing mentors across the campus. "The idea is to place students who have discipline-specific writing experience and writing consultation skills in support of significant writing courses in various majors," he explained. A strong interest exists in sustaining the program with a developing interest in expanding it within the Humanities and across the curriculum. Stanley concluded, "I hope to see it become a lasting institution at Wilkes, one which represents its strengths in the areas of mentoring and student, faculty, and staff support."

Faculty Updates

- On October 26, 2007, **Dr. Janet Starnet**, along with students currently enrolled in her English 333 class, took a trip to the Van Pelt Dietrich Library at the University of Pennsylvania. The group examined Medieval and Early Modern texts from the rare book and manuscript collection.
- Dr. Kathleen Kemmerer** plans on leading a class centered on a culturally revolutionary group called the bluestockings. The class will consist of discussions pertaining to Eighteenth-Century literature and music. Students will also have a chance to reenact Restoration plays dealing with subjects from the Eighteenth Century.
- Dr. Maria Hebert-Leiter** organized the participation of Wilkes students in the YouthAids "Kick Me!" Campaign. The campaign ran on November 29 and 30, 2007. Hebert-Leiter's class and the Wilkes in the World students participated in the activity to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS.

Club Updates

- Wilkes in the World** sold holiday ornaments and bracelets for the charity "Keep a Child Alive." November and December will focus on AIDS/HIV awareness. Anyone interested should contact **Elizabeth Clark** (elizabeth.clark@wilkes.edu) or **Dr. Marcia Farrell** (marcia.farrell@wilkes.edu).
- Sigma Tau Delta** is holding a book exchange on December 7, 2007, at 1:00pm in the Kirby Salon. Refreshments will be served.
- On Tuesday, October 30, 2007, **The Manuscript Society** hosted its Halloween Poetry Reading. Prizes for best costumes went to **Daniel Rae** for most outrageous and **Sarah Hartman** for most creative. See *The Inkwell* Online for event photos.

The Vagina Monologues Return to Wilkes University

By Elizabeth Clark

In celebration of V-Day, students from Wilkes University are encouraged to participate in the annual staging of Eve Ensler's award winning play, *The Vagina Monologues*. V-Day, founded by Ensler, is a day when men and women unite to end violence against women and celebrate feminine freedom. Devoting her life to halting violence against women, Ensler wrote *The Vagina Monologues* after interviewing over two hundred women, many of whom were victims of violence. Only women may perform, but men are encouraged to help with other aspects of the show, such as staging, coordination, etc. *The Vagina Monologues* will be performed on February 8 and 9, 2008, at 7:00pm in the Henry Student Center Ballroom. Contact **Lauren Carey** (lauren.carey@wilkes.edu) or **Nicole Leader** (nicole.leader@wilkes.edu) for information on how to participate. For additional information on V-day, see www.vday.org. An informational meeting will be held on December 6, 2007, at 12:00pm in the Kirby Salon.

The Inkwell Staff

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Marcia Farrell & Dr. Maria Hebert-Leiter

Managing Editors: Melissa Bugdal & Lauren Carey

Copy Editors: Elizabeth Clark, Ginny Hults, & Kacy Muir

Junior Copy Editors: Jessica Foster & Mary Beth Mostyn

Layout & Design Editor: Stefanie McHugh

Layout Team: Geoff Forman & Jessica Mahoney

Staff Writers: Sam Chiarelli, Catherine Gallagher, Amy Kaspriskie, Matt Kogoy, & Dana Zlotucha

Faculty Contributor: Dr. Larry Kuhar

Spring

By Dana

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Spring 2008 Courses

By Dana Zlotucha

For anyone who has yet to register for spring courses, a variety of courses are being offered. In addition to English 101 Composition and English 120 Literature courses, English 201: Writing about Literature and Culture is being offered. English 201 is the first of the entry-level courses that all majors must take. Mid- and upper-level courses offered include:

- English 202: Technical Writing
- English 218: Writing Practicum
- English 234: Survey of English Literature II
- English 281: Survey of American Literature I
- English 303: Advanced Workshop in Creative Writing: Poetry
- English 324: History of the English Language
- English 342: Studies in Shakespeare

New 300-level courses include:

English 351: Studies in Postmodernism: 3-credit course on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-10:45am, taught by **Dr. Larry Kuhar**.

The term postmodern often refers to postmodernity, a period from about 1960 to the present. In literature, postmodern refers us to a set of varied concepts and ideas, stylistic traits, and thematic preoccupations that set the last 45 years apart from earlier literature. The course will explore how postmodern literature involves not only a continuation of the counter-traditional experiments of modernism, but also diverse attempts to break away from modernist forms. Students will also work to understand how postmodern literature often aims to subvert the foundations of our accepted modes of thought and experience.

English 397: Seminar: Indian Literature: 3-credit course on Thursday from 6:30-9:15pm, taught by **Dr. Marcia Farrell**.

Studies in South Asian literature provide a necessary component to the globalization of literary examination. India, in particular, serves as a unique region of literary production. The seminar will examine the rich textual history of India and the theoretical tracts developed out of India's relationship with the western world.

English 398: The Eighteenth Century Experience: 3-credit course on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11-11:50am, taught by **Dr. Kathleen Kemmerer**.

The course will allow students to experience the culture of the eighteenth century in a bluestocking salon environment that includes music, tea, culture, participatory drama, poetry, literary criticism, biographies, and novels. The class will be hands on, including the opportunity to examine first editions of some important works and a possible field trip to the Museum of Art in Philadelphia.

The Inkwell Online

By Mary Beth Mostyn

The Inkwell recently added an online version in order to make the publication more accessible to both current and future students. After receiving faculty approval for the project, English major **Kacy Muir** began to compile all previous issues of *The Inkwell*. **Craig Thomas**, Assistant Director of Web Services, and his work study student, **Tom Larrabee** were brought in to help with the project. In order to access the page, visit the Humanities Department page on the Wilkes website at www.wilkes.edu/pages/2236.asp. Be sure to check regularly for current updates. The site features contact links, additional photos, and previous issues.

Internship Fair

By Kacy Muir

On Thursday, October 25, 2007, the Cooperative Education department held their second annual **Internship Fair**. Over forty companies located in the greater Wilkes-Barre area offered information for those seeking internships in upcoming semesters. The following companies are seeking English majors for internships: Geisinger Health Systems, Pepperjam, *The Weekender*, WVIA, Solid Cactus, *BabyAge*, and March of Dimes. For more information, please contact the **Student Affairs Office**, at 408-2950.

Kuhar's Corner

By Dr. Larry Kuhar

What profession, other than your own, would you like to attempt and why?
What profession would you not like to attempt, and why?

I'd like to be *Survivor Man* or Bear Grylls on the *Man vs. Wild* TV shows. I'd be dropped off in exotic settings and left to fend for myself with only my duct tape, my model-sized V-2 rocket replica (for an imagined departure), and someone's cell phone/camera/computer/MP3 (See *Inkwell* 2.1). (Is there a word for this career?) Or, I'd like to be an investigative journalist, which was my first choice in possible careers. There are not too many jobs I wouldn't want to try. I guess I'd never want any of the jobs I've seen on the TV show *Dirty Jobs*.

What is the most interesting/unusual thing you've ever done/encountered?

These experiences seem to happen in nature with family and friends. On our honeymoon, my wife and I sailed in heavy winds along the Hawaiian coast. Fun and scary. My son and I hiked to the Havasupai waterfalls in Arizona (southwest end of the Grand Canyon) and climbed backwards down a 300-foot cliff on a kind of chain-link ladder. Fun and dangerous. We learn about ourselves at these fear-wrenching, gut-testing times.

If you could date any literary character, who would you date, and why?

Other than my wife, I've always been enamored by Oedipa Maas in *The Crying of Lot 49* because of her fortitude and courage in going forward into a world of intrigue and threat, a world of knowing and chaos. Or, maybe a speaker or persona from one of Jane Kenyon's poems, a searching, vivid voice of someone who reflects openly on an available past while negotiating the knowledge of ends—all in the effort of living a fulfilled life.

What's your favorite footnote from Eliot's *The Wasteland*, and why?

This is easy, and a topic I've wanted to share with our *Inkwell* readers for some time now. Offhand, I'll go with Eliot's reference in Section III, "The Fire Sermon." Eliot writes, "This music crept by me upon the waters." I've always been a big fan of Eliot's allusive reference here to the exact words in Ariel's song of transformation in *The Tempest*. I'm a fan of this reference because the woman to whom Eliot refers here is lost in translation, if you will, between experience and awareness. Her less-than-subtle immersion in a confused, urbanized identity of isolation from real relationships shapes our sense for the dangers of disconnecting from people we love and value. (This is an easy question to answer for most students in our English 282 class.)

If you could name only three books which are of the utmost importance and necessary to read in life, what would they be, and why?

I'm not sure I possess the authority to recommend three necessary books. But...for our world today, we could do worse than to read Hoff's *The Tao of Pooh*, Ehrlich's *The Solace of Open Spaces*, and your choice of literary text that motivates considerations of connections between spirit, mind and body. (P.S.: Sorry I could not select canonical texts that would reverberate with our acknowledged audiences here.)

Graduate Studies Discussion Group

By Dana Zlotucha

The Graduate Studies Discussion Group is designed for students interested in pursuing graduate education to learn about and discuss different programs. At meetings, students have shared their fears, anxieties, and concerns about the application process and curricula of graduate programs. At the most recent meeting, Dr. Chad Stanley (chad.stanley@wilkes.edu) provided tips on how to maximize one's appeal through a well-designed resume. Anyone interested in joining the group can contact Stanley for meeting times. Students of all majors and in pursuit of all graduate programs are welcome.



Photo Courtesy of Stefanie McHugh

The Faculty

By Melissa Bugdal

The Wilkes American Literature review process, and

Each faculty our faculty possess contain a varying curriculum. The ne

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The Kirby Ca

By Stefanie McHugh

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Dr. Michael L

By Ginny Hults

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The Faculty Hiring Process

By Melissa Bugdal and Stefanie McHugh

The Wilkes English Department is currently searching for two new tenure-track positions: one in Nineteenth century American Literature and one in Nineteenth century British Literature. The new hires will also be critiqued in specializations including Rhetoric and Composition, Drama Studies, or Linguistic Studies. Applications are currently undergoing an initial review process, and the interviewing process will begin in February.

Each faculty member currently on staff specializes in a specific academic area. Faculty areas are flexible, as many of our faculty possess interdisciplinary skills that function to expand the core of the English department. Individual areas contain a varying number of staff members depending on the emphasis placed on each particular field within the English curriculum. The new hiring search has been initiated in order to expand the English department's literary track.

When a university or college is looking to hire a new English faculty member, most applications are filtered through the MLA *Job List*, a database of job listings in the English field at colleges and universities nationally. The process then proceeds to a series of interviews at the annual MLA Convention, to be held this year in Chicago, IL. At the convention, the potential applicants are directed to the Job Center, where most interviews are conducted, and interviewing tips, information, and job postings are also available. The Job Center includes information pertaining to where applicants and interviewers are staying in the city and can be contacted.

In the Job Center, the interviews are conducted with representatives from each respective university or college. Candidates have a thirty-minute interviewing session at each station to which they were granted interviews. Private interviewing sessions can also be conducted in hotel suites.

At the conclusion of the convention, the representatives report their findings to the department, and a decision is reached to bring two or three candidates to campus. This visit is referred to as a "fly back" and usually includes a two-day visit to the school to interact with faculty, students, and campus officials. The candidate also has the opportunity to teach an English course or lecture. If the candidate meets department expectations, his or her references are checked, and the position is offered.

Even though the overall process seems tedious, it is an essential aspect for prospective Wilkes University professors in the English department. The main goal behind the hiring process is to establish a "perfect fit" between the new hire and the University community. Further information will be available in later issues of *The Inkwell*.

The Kirby Canon

By Stefanie McHugh

The Kirby Canon is a collection of winning student essays from the 2006-2007 academic year, in the categories of English 101, 120, 201, 200-level, and 300-level courses. All submissions were either faculty or self-nominated. Each essay was reviewed over the summer by a faculty panel consisting of **Dr. Marcia Farrell** and **Dr. Chad Stanley**. Neither professor judged essays from the classes they taught in order to insure an unbiased opinion of the submissions. **Shannon Curtin**, a 2007 English graduate, reviewed the essays and chose the winners. **Stefanie McHugh** designed the layout. *The Kirby Canon* is not only a place to showcase well-written essays, but will also be used by faculty as a teaching mechanism in the classroom. It will be published once a year and submissions will be taken near the end of every spring semester. An unveiling ceremony will be held for *The Kirby Canon* on December 13, 2007, at 4:30pm in the Kirby Salon.

Dr. Michael Lennon On God

By Ginny Hults

The Barnes and Noble college bookstore hosted a book signing by **Dr. Michael Lennon**, co-founder of the Wilkes University Creative Writing Program, on October 23, 2007, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. During this signing, Lennon shared his thoughts on the creative writing process and signed copies of his newest book, *On God: An Uncommon Conversation*, which was co-authored with the late **Norman Mailer**. *On God: An Uncommon Conversation* offers a unique vision of the world, addressing issues such as organized religion and atheism. Lennon and Mailer relate their views on the possibilities of intelligent design and the idea that the recent foundations of technology is the Devil's most brilliant creation, establishing a unique belief system. Copies of the book are available through Barnes and Noble book distributors.

Professional Tip: Letters of Recommendation

By Catherine Gallagher

Prospective employers look at more than a resume. One of the first things employers look at are letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should be no more than two pages in length and should highlight positive attributes namely in the area of the position one is applying for. The following are a few suggestions to help ensure that you receive the strongest recommendations possible:

1. Be rational: Request letters of recommendation from professors and employers who can write the strongest letters on your behalf.
2. Be proactive: Allow your professors and employers time to write your recommendation. Request letters at least three weeks before you need them.
3. Be over-prepared: If you need a certain number of letters, consider collecting one or two more than necessary just in case.
4. Be organized: Create a portfolio for your recommenders that include the following:
 - A letter of appreciation that includes the due date and a reminder to sign the back of the envelope to make the letter official.
 - An updated curriculum vitae that includes all pertinent information:
 - A writing sample or some other work that reminds them of your abilities.
 - A paragraph on the job/school of your interest with adequate postage.
 - An envelope addressed to the organization requiring the information.
 - If the job or school requires that specific recommendation forms be completed, include those in your portfolio.
5. Be persistent: Politely remind your recommenders of the due date as it approaches.
6. Be resourceful: Your list of recommenders, with contact information, should always be on a separate sheet of paper that you can easily attach to your application if the list is requested. If your application does not require your recommender's information, to protect them make a note at the bottom of your curriculum vitae or resume that states: "References available upon request."
7. Be considerate: Thank your recommenders with a brief note when they have completed the letters.

What About Kirby?

By Amy Kaspriskie

The lack of handicapped accessible entrances to Kirby Hall makes traveling to classes difficult for students with disabilities. Yet, the addition of an elevator or ramp will interfere with Kirby Hall's historical integrity.

Kristal Hernandez, a Freshman Entrepreneurship major, navigates campus with the aid of canes. In general, she suggests that there should be more accessibility for students who need accommodation. Wilkes should have "more ramps, as there are not enough on campus," Hernandez states.

Shauna Strellish, a Junior Communication Studies major, notes that Kirby's history is a determining factor in making additions to benefit the handicapped. She believes that although Kirby is a historical building, it is not fair to people with disabilities because they may have to use the building for classes. Strellish states, "I understand that Kirby is a historical building, but it shouldn't be an issue whether or not to build a handicap accessible entrance. I would work on going to the city and approaching the Mayor's Office if it really becomes an issue."

The transition of the building to accommodate students with disabilities would be difficult, but **Greg Castelli**, a Sophomore Pharmacy major, indicates that the changes to the building should be made. Castelli suggests that a ramp can be added to one of the rear entrances on the door closest to South Street because, "A building rich with history and exceptional interior should be enjoyed by all."

Senior Spotlight: Hank Hunsinger

By Sam Chiarelli

Why English and History? What's the deal?

Well, for me, literature is history so there really isn't much difference. If you can't understand the history behind literature, it doesn't mean much.

You've said in class that the two disciplines co-exist very well. How are you personally bridging the two?

As Xerxes forded the Hellespont, I attempt to ford the intricacies of English Literature in order to fulfill my goal of mastering the Classical Literature of the ancient Hellenic civilization.

Describe your musical tastes.

I am heavily influenced by Black Sabbath, and I will stand against Dr. Kuhar and continue to argue that *Master of Reality* is better than any Led Zeppelin album.

If you could leave a legacy at Wilkes, what would it be?

That one day in the distant future, a student in Dr. Hamill's Reading Classical Literature course will be analyzing my translation of Homer.

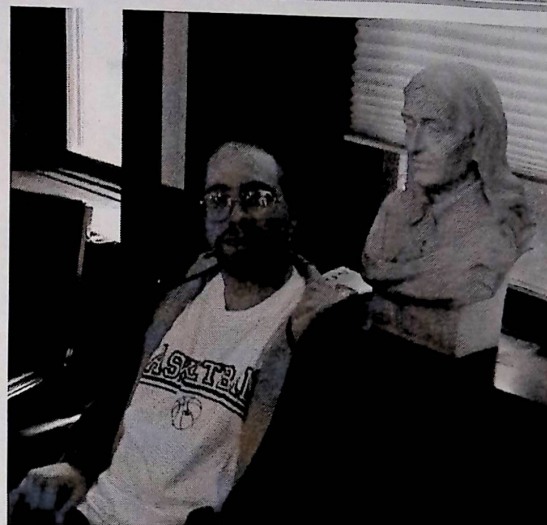


Photo Courtesy of Sam Chiarelli

English Faculty Office Phone Numbers

We apologize for any mistakes that appeared in the last issue of *The Inkwell* regarding the contact list for the English faculty and staff. The amended list contains the correct information. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

Debra Archavage (Admin. Assistant)	Kirby 202	408-4530	debra.archavage@wilkes.edu
Mischelle Anthony	Kirby 302	408-4529	mischelle.anthony@wilkes.edu
Marcia Farrell	Kirby 301	408-4528	marcia.farrell@wilkes.edu
Benjamin Fiester	Bedford 32	408-4531	benjamin.fiester@wilkes.edu
Jack Grier	Kirby 106	408-4517	jbartholomay.grier@wilkes.edu
Thomas Hamill	Kirby 303	408-4539	thomas.hamill@wilkes.edu
Patricia Heaman	Kirby 309	408-4538	patricia.heaman@wilkes.edu
Robert Heaman	Kirby 309	408-4533	robert.heaman@wilkes.edu
Maria Hebert-Leiter	Kirby 206	408-4549	maria.hebertleiter@wilkes.edu
Thomas Jones	(Kirby Mailbox only)		thomas.jones@wilkes.edu
Walter Karpinich	Bedford 33	408-4524	walter.karpinich@wilkes.edu
Kathleen Kemmerer	Kirby 206	408-4548	kathleen.kemmerer@wilkes.edu
Bernie Kovacs	Kirby 205	408-4521	bernard.kovacs@wilkes.edu
Lawrence Kuhar (Division Chair)	Kirby 201	408-4532	lawrence.kuhar@wilkes.edu
Mary Lampman	Kirby 204	408-4172	mary.lampman@wilkes.edu
Marcie Riebe	Passan, 2nd floor	408-4525	marcie.riebe@wilkes.edu
Chad Stanley	Kirby 209	408-4514	chad.stanley@wilkes.edu
Janet Starnier	Kirby 308	408-4536	janet.starnier@wilkes.edu
John Wills	Kirby 204	408-4535 *	john.wills@wilkes.edu
Jill Yurko	Kirby 204	408-4167	jill.yurko1@wilkes.edu

* Email preferred; all staff is available through email.

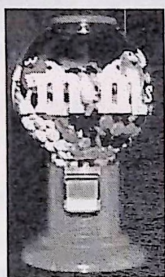
Faculty Office Match-Up

By Lauren Carey

Directions:

The objects in these pictures can be found in faculty offices. Match the letter of the picture with the number of the corresponding faculty member.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dr. Hebert-Leiter | 6. Dr. Anthony |
| 2. Dr. Stanley | 7. Dr. Kuhar |
| 3. Dr. Starner | 8. Dr. Kemmerer |
| 4. Dr. Farrell | 9. Dr. Hamill |
| 5. Wait! That's not an office! | 10. Deb Archavage |



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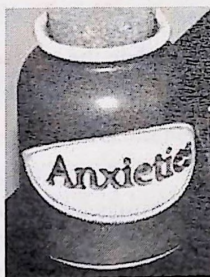
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C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J

Answers From Previous Game (see *The Inkwell* 2.1)

Down:

1. Riebe
2. Grier
3. Starner
4. Stanley
5. Kovacs
6. Anthony

Across:

1. Hebert-Leiter
2. Farrell
3. Archavage
4. Hamill
5. Kuhar