



THE INKWELL QUARTERLY

English Majors and the Terror of the Book Club

By Daniel Stish

So, I figured I'd bloviate for a while about something which I'm now dubbing "the terror of the book club." As an English major, I've run into something (which I'm sure we've all come face to face with at some point) which I'll call the "weight of expectations." This great horned beast manifests itself in many ways—the glazed over look, the "Oh, that's nice", even the perfidious, "As long as you're happy." What I mean to say is that amongst the "uninitiated" (the parent, the relative, the friend), the idea of an English major finds itself occupying a singular sort of reference. This "reference"—meant in the way one might construct a thought—finds itself crafting (as Yaldabaoth might) the image of a book club, and the singular destruction of ambitions that one may imagine goes along with it, that is to say, a self-indulgent intellectualism. Rendered in simpler terms, this may be summed up as the question, which I've been asked, and which I would have no doubts some among you have been asked also: "Why not pick a different major, and just read books in your free time?"

I must now say how

singularly glad I am that I didn't follow in the prodding direction of this question, and I hope the rest of you are as well. I answered instead with my own form of bourgeois rebellion, that very loud yet resoundingly silent suggestion to do whatever makes you happy. I must say I've had my doubts—have wrestled with that self same question dangling at the end of the previous paragraph. I had danced along with other advisors in other majors (great people, all!) but my heart never quite found its rhythm. So, as alluded to, I took the plunge into English, wondering what I'd gotten myself into all the while. One of the reasons I decided to write this shanty article (besides personal indulgence and serious writers' block) was because I've been genuinely impressed with what I've studied so far. My only real exposure to the study of literature was the two gen-eds I took in my freshman year, and my first taste of the upper level courses (201 and 282 this semester) has been very positive. My point here is that, before my eyes and despite my presumptions, I've seen my study of English move from personal indulgence to a genuine

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task of intellect.

Now, I'm not saying this in order to be conceited, but rather to celebrate English and its study. In much the same respect, I'd encourage anyone out there, whatever their major, to celebrate their own field and the work they're doing. It may seem somewhat callow to suggest that people should take account of the things they're thankful for. However, at times like these when the world finds itself on fire—both literally and figuratively—I find it useful to put things in perspective. College, in many respects, appears to me to position itself as a sort of oasis. It can be hard to realize how important these four (or more, bless you!) years in college are, with your nose buried in a book studying—doubly hard with the added stresses of an atypical

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semester, and yes, the world as a whole is perhaps on shaky ground at this point. But, all the more this should allow us to take pride in the work we're doing. Like it or not, we're going to be out in this wide world of ours some day. This fact only serves to make the work we're doing more important—the skills we're building and the knowledge we're acquiring. When we leave we'll carry these things with us. I'll end this proselytizing here before this ends up sounding like propaganda from the college board. If nothing else, especially in trying times like these, you, as college majors, are doing good work. For myself, an English major allows me to be able to study literature and therefore the minds of the societies which created it. It allows me to have the tools to interpret and interface with that society. That's good work. So yes, even the little book club has value. And from this position, I'm sure that whatever your major and wherever you're going in life has value as well. As you, the reader, continue your work, your studies, throughout this hectic year, I hope you can remember that.

Black Lives Matter Silent Protest: An Interview with Morgan Burton

By Veronica Romanelli

On Friday, September 25, Wilkes University's Multicultural Student Coalition (MSC) organized a Black Lives Matter (BLM) silent protest. Throughout the day, students were stationed all around campus in an effort to make their voices heard on a very important and relevant subject: the Black Lives Matter Movement. More than 200 students, faculty, and staff gathered to support the cause, and protesters made their voices heard in the SUB, on the Greenway, and in the lobby of Stark. Although the protest was silent, meaning protesters did not recite chants or give speeches, the message was heard loud and clear. I talked with Morgan Burton, MSC's Vice President, and asked her to share her thoughts on the event.

What made you want to get involved in organizing a BLM silent protest?

My biggest motivation for this silent protest is to bring change and to educate my Wilkes-Barre friends and community about the social injustices that people of color face on a daily basis. This is something that affects thousands of African Americans and I want to use my platform to make sure my people are being heard and seen.

Why is it important to hold an event like this on campus? Why should people get involved?

I think this event shows the University's stance on the BLM movement and support for our Black community on campus. Although Wilkes is a predominantly White institution (PWI) I believe hosting events like this remind everyone that diversity is a pillar of our University and that we stand by this especially with the increase in racial tensions and divides within the nation. Colonels need to support our Black community more now than ever as we are constantly under attack.

How do you feel about the outcome of the event? Are there any noteworthy details/moments you'd like to share?

I was very pleased with the turn out of the event. We had over 220 people participate. I was thrilled to see the Wilkes community come together in such a beautiful way. At one point I had to make more signs for participants to hold because we ran out. I also loved that some students just came for a few minutes in between classes to show their support. I also saw many students wearing black to show their support. I appreciated this, as people were showing their

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support in whatever way they were able to.

What type of work does MSC do? Do you have any advice/tips for people who want to get involved with MSC and don't know how?

The Multicultural Student Cultural is a group of students dedicated to spreading diversity here on campus and in the Wilkes-Barre community. We look to get students more involved in campus activities. I would recommend students visit the Max Roth Center, which is across from the library, or they can reach out to me (morgan.burton@wilkes.edu) or Erica Acosta (erica.acosta@wilkes.edu)

Experience the PA Renaissance Faire

By Juliana Lueders

Fall is without a doubt my favorite season. Besides the chilly sweater weather and the beautiful colors of the leaves, fall has some of the best activities to enjoy together with friends. Regular staples include apple picking, pumpkin carving, and watching horror movies in preparation for Halloween. But a few years back I was introduced to something new, or should I say something old: the PA Renaissance Faire.

For those of you who don't know, a Ren Faire is a festival that allows people to experience the best of what the ye old days had to offer without all of the things that made the time a living nightmare. The PA Ren Faire is one of the largest of its kind and has been a seasonal staple since 1980. A reason for its success is all the care that is put into every square inch of the park. The Faire itself is located in Manheim at the Mount Hope Estate and Winery. The 35 acres of land include these buildings, two thematic amphitheaters, a life-sized chess board, a jousting arena, and all of the tiny authentic shops situated

amongst the paved walking trails.

All these sights are just the beginning, there are so many things a person could do at the Ren Faire. After entering through the castle gate one is immediately bombarded with colors, sights, and smells. The paths that run through the park are all connected in one way or another so there's no wrong direction to go. There are certain areas designated for certain activities, such as the carnival section where all the games are located. People can play an array of strength or shooting games. Or one could pay to smash glass bottles against a wall if one is into that sort of thing. Continuing down the path, there are large stages that showcase talents like singing, comedy, and whip-cracking. Performances are happening around the park constantly, and there is never a dull moment. But the performance that attracts the most attention is the joust. In the back of the park, there is an area set up with a track for the knights to fight on horseback, a stage for the queen to declare a winner, and benches so the public

can watch it all unfold. These knights are put through trials to test their skills and to gain the queen's favor. At the end of the program, there is a battle amongst the remaining knights, and the last one standing is declared the champion. This event is typically the last of the day and is commemorated with a firework display.

Personally, my favorite thing to do when at the Faire is wander through the tiny shops that make up a majority of the Faire. The Ren Faire provides a great opportunity for smaller businesses to access to the public and it allows them to get the recognition they don't find in regular markets. There are so many items, most of them being genuine handcrafted products that would be impossible to find anywhere else. Things like real forged swords and knives (if you are over the age of 18), leather clothing, incense, candles, and handcrafted jewelry. There are also places that provide services instead of goods like fortune-telling, hair braiding, and henna art. All of these products

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and even their sellers help add to the aesthetic and atmosphere of the faire.

Now, I can't talk about atmosphere without mentioning the real stars of the faire; the actors. The small army of hired performers that roam around the entirety of the park to cause mischief wherever they go. Some of them have designated roles like the queen and her court, they're specific in their locations and skits. But if you are lucky you'll be able to catch them walking through the main streets in all their grandeur. Other actors are townspeople. They interact with anyone that they come across and wield enough obscure old-timey language that would make Shakespeare proud.

Normally, for such events, it would be easy to point out the performers by the outfits they're wearing. All the actors there are in full costume, some are more elaborate than others, but all are very fitting for the time. But a key element to the Ren Faire is that not just the actors can be in costume. Regular people are encouraged to wear costumes as well. This leads to some people building entire outfits so they can be whomever they want at the Faire. I have seen suits of armor, ball gowns, fairy wings, and cloaks of every shape and color. A favorite costume of mine, and one my friends would always get very excited about whenever we would see them, was a group of Vikings. Not exactly Renaissance but it's all in the spirit of expressing oneself and the people at the Faire use this medium to interact and

experience a bit of the past in a way they never thought possible. These costumes connect all the Faire goers together through their mutual appreciation for the past.



Photo Credit: PA Renaissance Faire

The dedication that goes into every costume creates an environment that is open and accepting of all the mythical fantasies one would want to recreate. And for someone who has a certain fondness for historical fantasy books like me, it is like a fairy-tale dream come true. The costumes are always a highlight of my trip, seeing so many people that passionate about an event really illustrates how much it means to them. The Faire helps to establish a community between these people, one that would be impossible to find anywhere else.

But an adjustment that had to be made to everyone's costume this year was the addition of a mask. Since the pandemic began at the beginning of this year and then the following shut down of many events, people were scared that

the Faire would be canceled this year. I think that this Faire is very fortunate to have physical buildings instead of tents, meaning that they have real bathrooms for people to wash their hands. This factor combined with its large size and the outdoor location definitely helps to protect people. Of course, the owners are still taking precautions like mandatory masks and they are limiting the number of people allowed in per day to cut down crowding. All the Faire goers take these precautions in stride, some even decorate their masks to match their costumes. Not to mention all of the plague doctors roaming around the grounds in good spirit. Everyone is trying their best to make the most out of these more difficult times.

The Ren Faire runs from 05 September to 01 November, so there are only a few weekends left to go visit. Every weekend the Faire has a certain theme for people to dress up accordingly, and in honor of the scariest holiday coming up the last three weekends are all spooky-themed! So even if trick or treating is not allowed due to the pandemic this year you can still wear your costume to the Ren Faire. This event has quickly become the highlight of my fall and I hope you will get a chance to experience the fantasy for yourself.

Ace Attorney Apollo Justice Review

Caution: Potential Spoilers

By Darren Martinez

Over the summer, there's a good chance quarantine gave you a bit of extra free time. Maybe you learned a new skill, caught up on your Netflix backlog, or doomscrolled on Twitter (guilty). I also learned how to be a lawyer! The *Ace Attorney* universe has a version of Los Angeles, also dubbed "Japanifornia," where murders occur every three days. The services of lawyers are desperately needed.

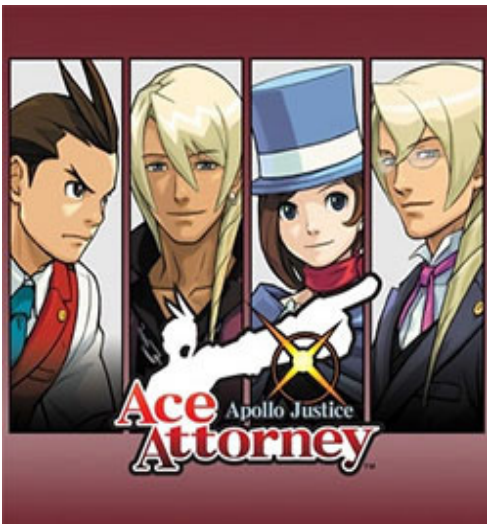


Photo Credit: Nintendo

In the original trilogy, you play as Phoenix Wright, the ace attorney. Over the course of these three games, Wright builds his reputation by taking on nigh unwinnable cases and bringing down the most cutthroat prosecutors. His philosophy is to believe in his client's innocence, despite how stacked the evidence is against them. Outside of special circumstances, Wright defends all of his clients to 'not guilty' verdicts. This makes the beginning

of *Apollo Justice* that much more interesting, as Wright appears to you in a hoodie and a beanie. He's accused of murder, and happens to be your first client as a new defense attorney. It's been seven years since he lost his attorney's badge, but his reputation as an ace attorney is still intact. The mystery surrounding Wright's circumstances bleeds into every case in the game, and ultimately creates a new tonal direction for the series.

While dressed as a bum and accused of murder, Phoenix has protagonist Apollo Justice essentially play into his hand. It turns out Phoenix was framed by his friend and fellow defense attorney, Kristoph Gavin. Apollo is Kristoph's understudy, and Phoenix requests Apollo specifically to make sure Kristoph can be incriminated. Gears are turning on plots not visible to the player, as Phoenix promises all will become clear later. It's admittedly jarring! The great Phoenix Wright is brought back without even a hint of fanservice. He is aloof, yet cunning. He has an adopted daughter who is a practicing magician. His law office is now the Wright Anything Agency. Everything familiar about his character from the first three games is flipped on its head. He was once the player character, which makes his transformation even more alienating for players familiar with the franchise.

Gameplay wise, very little

deviates from the *Ace Attorney* formula. Explore crime scenes, conduct interviews, and defend your clients in court. The defining difference is the game's tone and art direction. Characters are a lot livelier and some have idle animations. Trucy Wright bounces slightly, ever eager to assist Apollo in his work. Prosecutor Klavier Gavin (Kristoph's younger brother and frontman of a rock band) snaps his fingers in court. While still adhering to limited animation, the characters emote just enough to show growth from the first three games. The contrast is especially noteworthy when the final case brings back Phoenix's old sprite. For backstory purposes, we learn how Phoenix lost his attorney's badge. His sprite is stiff and oddly proportioned when juxtaposed with a younger Klavier, as well as the magicians that serve as defendant and witness. The sprites are so visually advanced that I can't help but think it is an intentionally drawn comparison.

The game's meta commentary wants to say that Phoenix's attorney identity is shelved. Phoenix himself admits his limits, wanting to pass the torch to new blood with abilities to survive in a new era of court. Apollo's defining courtroom ability is Perception. On certain testimonies, Apollo's bracelet alerts him to the tenseness of the witness. You might not have evidence that proves a contraction, but you

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Caution: Potential Spoilers

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can see your witness's tells. On a certain line, perhaps their eyes dart away or they play with their fingers. Identifying these lies is what Phoenix believes sets Apollo apart from all other defense attorneys.

The game's soundtrack compliments the transition to surrealism. The original trilogy is centered around the Fey clan and their ability to channel spirits. In *Apollo Justice*, Apollo's aide is a practicing magician and the prosecutor he faces is a rock god. His mentor is a disgraced attorney, "pianist that can't play a lick," and poker player on the side. All of this is delivered with absolute sincerity. The soundtrack is a bit like being sentient in a dream. A few of the themes relating to

Apollo's abilities have instruments that play to the beating of a heart. As the player reveals the witness's secrets, the soundtrack is making you aware of the beating of your own heart. Themes like the courthouse introduction feel familiar, but not too familiar that they don't feel new. The remixes evoke distance, as if yesterday was summer and today you woke up to fall's cool air drifting through your bedroom window. An entire case revolves around the rock music Prosecutor Gavin plays as well. The soundtrack is varied enough that the player is never bored. Altogether, it's a hauntingly beautiful arrangement that somehow evokes nostalgia on the first playthrough.

Apollo Justice was a very fun game for me. I get hyperfixations where I tend to hone in on certain franchises or media properties for a distinct period of time. It happened to me with *Pokémon*, *Animal Crossing*, and *Dark Souls*, to name a few. I still cannot stop thinking about *Apollo Justice*, even though it's the kind of game where once you know the story, you'll likely never be able to replay the game. However, you have made it this far (hopefully). I would urge you to play the game for yourself if you have not already, because I don't believe I spoiled too much. I give *Ace Attorney: Apollo Justice* a firm **9/10**.

Transferring Into a New Way of Learning

By Ryan Zaruta

COVID-19 has changed many aspects of our lives, forcing us to adapt to the chaos it has created. Store closures, government shut-downs, mandatory mask policies, social distancing. Even our typical means of education came to a halt as the pandemic reigned havoc on the world.

I took two years off from my educational experience, after completing two degrees from Luzerne County Community College and a semester at Temple University. Like many, I was

conflicted - I have a whole lifetime ahead of me, wanting to gain a further education but afraid of not succeeding in the field I chose to study and practice in for the remainder of my life. During those two years, I took a class or two at a time, some in the classroom and others virtually as I continued to reflect on my passions, skills and talents, and on how I could use them to have a successful and delightful career.

During my transition into Wilkes, I thought it would be a

piece of cake. After many years of experience enrolling and partaking in college courses, I thought to myself it would be the same experience as my other semesters. Boy was I wrong.

It took less than a week to experience the issues many of my collegiate friends faced in the recent Spring semester this year. Zoom quit during a second meeting for one of my courses and I was unable to join again (which happened again a few times after that). I began to worry about a

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completely new way of learning, and I felt astonished with the amount of reading and assignments required. Going through whole chapters and modules one week at a time, struggling to remember the overabundance of due dates, I began to panic.

One of my weaknesses is the ability to keep track of the time frame I have to complete tasks and requirements, between my full time work schedule as a Night Shift Supervisor / Second Level Operations Technology Person at a small town McDonald's in Kentucky (you read that right - this current semester I am spending away from Wilkes-Barre and residing in the Louisville area briefly), to the full time school schedule I have devoted so much time and effort to get a great education, and the other contributions I indulge myself into. I have attempted time and time again each semester to jot everything down in a planner, but I

never kept up with it. To me, it was too time consuming.

Here's the odd thing about my inability to maintain an agenda planner and my new education experience. I began to become more organized. In-person courses made it much easier to remember due dates, between having several reminders through email and virtual classroom sessions, and setting time aside on the very first day of the semester to comb through every syllabus I had to write down every due date for each class.

We are halfway through the semester, and each day and month in my planner has due dates and reminders scribbled throughout. For once, I finally feel organized. Not only benefiting in my academic learning, but in my personal life as well. I have been more attentive to note taking which I have applied toward my current occupation (such as writing down suggestions and ideas to discuss

with my boss and the night shift managers I supervise, to keeping track of tasks assigned to the crew members), allowing myself to be more aware of the day-to-day tasks required. Since the beginning of my organization efforts, I have lost that feeling of frantically hoping I could miraculously remember when my assignments were due and complete them in time. My professors have been impressed with my ability to keep track of due dates and my ability to reach out to them with concerns regarding possible confusions or confusions that might arise, and the superiors I report to at my establishment of employment have praised my growth with the company.

COVID-19 may have changed many aspects of our lives negatively, yet this transition into a different style of learning has impacted me in many positive aspects, which will change the way I organize myself for years to come.

The Poetic Nature of Pence's Fly

By Nicole McNelis

Like many Americans, I tuned in at 9:00 PM on 07 October to watch Vice President Mike Pence and Vice Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris in their first and only debate. I had hoped it would be more productive than the Presidential Debate that happened last Tuesday, which it was. Important issues were discussed, and both candidates addressed their values in a clear, concise manner (for the most part). The one moment that stuck out to me and probably everyone watching was the 30-ish seconds that a fly landed on top of Mike Pence's hair. His hair is a bright white color, so it definitely stood out and stole the entire show.

Once I had realized what was going on, that there was actually a fly on the Vice President's head, I thought to myself, "how symbolic." On a non-metaphorical level, flies are attracted to and commonly associated with garbage, feces, decay, and other things of that nature. On a symbolic level, flies (and all insects) in literature are usually associated with a similar connotation. In *Lord of the Flies*, for example, flies swarm the

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sacrificial pig's head after death, representing their attraction to decay as well as the savagery and instinctual drives of the group that caused them to kill the pig. In short, flies do not normally have a good reputation in reality or in literature.

Since Pence is a widely-disliked candidate, in favor of harmful prospects such as supporting homosexual conversion therapy and defunding Planned Parenthood, it seemed appropriate that the fly landed on him last night. Social media users pointed out that a fly also landed on another widely-disliked candidate, Hillary Clinton, during one of her Presidential Debates in 2016. Clinton then went on to lose the election, so people were making jokes that maybe the fly picks the loser of the subsequent election. As of last night, the fly has spoken!

Mike Pence also happens to be the head of the White House Coronavirus task force, which has failed the millions of Americans infected with COVID and the 200,000+ that have died due to the virus. The fly landing on his head last night seems almost representative of those lives America has lost due to a lack of leadership and effort to contain the virus coming from the White House. After all, the first poem that comes to my head when discussing flies in Emily Dickinson's, "I heard a Fly buzz--when I died," which discusses the stillness of death compared to a buzzing fly in the air. Again, not a beautiful or uplifting connotation to the fly, but a more dark insinuation associated with death and decay.

The fly that stole the show in last night's debate was not only funny to watch (it stayed there for so long!), but it could also be deconstructed to mean something dark and twisted for the future of Mike Pence, and the future of this country as a whole. This election is pivotal to the course of American politics and American life in general, and the fly on Pence's head reflects the dark prospect we face in four more years of a Trump administration. What a strange reality we are living in!



Lord of the Flies Pig Photo Credit: Lenox Artist - Etsy



Photo Credit: NYTimes

First-Year Faces

By Emily Cherkauskas

Juliana Lueders

Q: Where are you from?

I am from Lancaster, PA.

Q: Why did you choose Wilkes?

I chose Wilkes because I fell in love with the campus during a visit senior year. This school is everything I want from a college; the size isn't too large, the location's beautiful but not in the middle of nowhere, and it has a wonderful English department with a lot of flexibility major and class wise.

Q: What made you decide to major/minor in English?

I've always enjoyed reading, I used to demolish books as a kid and I still try to now in my free time. Besides that, growing up, English was one of the only classes I enjoyed during high school, nothing else clicked for me like writing did. So now going forward with this major, I'm hoping to make writing a permanent part of my life.

Q: What is your area of concentration (Writing, Literature, Digital Humanities, or Teaching)?

My concentration is in writing, I'm hoping to complete business and creative writing courses.

Q: What is your favorite book? Why?

My favorite book is *Howl's Moving Castle* by Diana Wynne Jones. It's a sort of adventure story with amazing, diverse, and funny

characters that go on a magical adventure. To me, it's the kind of book that you read through once, and as soon as you're done all you want to do is read it over again. It will always hold a special place in my heart.

Q: What are you most excited about as you look ahead to being a part of the English program this year and over the next few years?

I'm looking forward to taking part in the experiences that the program offers. There's so much one could do with a writing education and honestly, I have no idea what I want to do with mine. I'm hoping that being a part of the English program over the next few years will give me some perspective on potential options for the future while learning and having some fun along the way.

Anmarie Lebron



Photo Credit: Anmarie Lebron

Q: Where are you from?

I am from Pennsauken New Jersey which is about three minutes from Philly.

Q: Why did you choose Wilkes?

I chose Wilkes because it was far enough from home that I could experience college life for myself, but am still able to get home easily if needed.

Q: What made you decide to major/minor in English?

I have always been a big writer. Oftentimes as a child I didn't quite feel connected to my family and writing was a way to express myself along with other things such as sports.

Q: What is your area of concentration?

I am focusing on creative writing.

Q: What is your favorite book? Why?

My favorite book is *House Rules* by Jodi Picoult. I love all of her books. I think she is an exquisite author who has a unique way of bringing life to her characters.

Q: What are you most excited about as you look ahead to being a part of the English program this year and over the next few years?

A lot of people are shocked when I mention that I am an English major, and it gives me this rushing feeling that they know something is coming that I don't. I'm super excited to learn more and enhance my roles as a writer and a person in society as a whole.

Inkwell Quarterly Staff

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Harry Potter Cake

By Grace Hamill

This cake combines two recipes taken directly from Lindsay Conchar's *Simply Beautiful Homemade Cakes*. The Harry Potter design is my own.

Chocolate Cake:

2 cups all-purpose flour	1 cup hot coffee
2 cups sugar	3/4 cup milk, room temperature
3/4 cup dark cocoa powder	3/4 cup vegetable oil
1 tbsp baking soda	1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp salt	3 large eggs, room temperature

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two cake pan bottoms with parchment & grease the sides. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt. In another (medium) bowl, combine the hot coffee, milk, vegetable oil and vanilla extract. Add the eggs and whisk until combined. Pour the coffee mixture into the flour mixture and mix until smooth. The batter will be thin.

Divide the batter evenly between the cake pans. Bake the cakes for 22 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the cakes comes out with a few crumbs. Remove the cakes from the oven and allow them to cool in pans for 2 to 3 minutes, then remove the cakes from the pans, flipping them onto a cooling rack so that they can cool completely.

Vanilla Frosting:

1 1/2 cups salted butter, room temperature
1 1/2 cups vegetable shortening
12 cups powdered sugar
1 tbsp vanilla extract
1/4 cup water or milk, room temperature* [*& food coloring as preferred]



The finished product, baked in celebration of Dr. Hamill (with Grace's crucial motivation and direction) finally finishing the Harry Potter book series.

Vanilla Frosting, continued

To make the frosting, mix together the butter and shortening until combined. Slowly add 6 cups of the powdered sugar, mixing between additions until smooth. Mix in the vanilla extract and the water or milk until smooth. Slowly add the remaining 6 cups of powdered sugar and mix until smooth. For the hair and glasses, add cocoa powder until desired shade is reached. (Note that you probably won't be able to get the hair completely black.) Use the food coloring also to create the desired shade. Frost the cake as desired. Enjoy!

Hamill's Hunches

By Thomas A. Hamill

As we all navigate the markedly complex dynamics of this Fall 2020 semester, I'm struck in particular, from my own narrow vantage point, by the unique mix of what I'll call, for the sake of alliteration (and slight morphological straining), the wonderments and weirdnesses it has thus far offered forth. The wonderments are perhaps the easiest to both identify and articulate—at least for me: Our students negotiating the no-doubt unprecedented balance of in-person and remote-access classes (and their proliferating acronyms as *F2F* and *SOL*, and *OL*, and the abbreviation-as-acronym *HYB*, not to mention the oddly clipped, almost non-acronymic *FLX*, better known by that buzzwordy (but never sufficiently conceptualized or realized) reification, *Hyflex*). Our faculty reinventing their teaching styles and course content to accommodate the range of delivery modalities required to keep the campus community (and its extended community) safe. Our campus staff in all areas of the University, from Facilities, to OTTL, to ITS, to Farley Library, to all Academic Programs and Academic Support offices, working tirelessly to help keep campus running—and thriving. Our campus administration endeavoring to coordinate one of the most logistically challenging and variable semesters in Wilkes's (or any campus's) history.

In short, then, I suppose the wonderments all come down to one or two simple words. *Us. Our people.* Whether from our living rooms or from the Halls of Kirby (or anywhere else on campus), we're hanging in there, which is more than enough. And we're doing well more than that too, as we all know. And I, for one, and impressed. And grateful.

The weirdnesses are somewhat more challenging to enumerate and—barring the most immediate and unreleting (the masks, the fogged up glasses (which are f*ggged up), the constant sanitization, the “if-it's-at-least- 60%” alcohol absolution)—they are certainly more personal and idiosyncratic in their manifestation and thus their enumeration. For instance, walking the aforementioned Halls of Kirby has, for 18 years, been one of the more enjoyable social aspects of my work at Wilkes. And don't get me wrong, I still love them Halls. But adjusting to the quieter, more empty realities of the Fall 2020 version of Kirby, where there are, of necessity, fewer classes held and fewer students and colleagues around—and where, again of necessity, interactions are distanced and brief—is, well, weird. And not seeing the staff at the cafeteria, where I've gone for lunch almost religiously every day since I've been on campus these past 18 years, but instead eating alone, in my office, with my homemade lunch, obsessively (even if logically) meted out in reusable containers, is, yes, just as it sounds: weird. And is it me or is the *Alma Mater* chiming through the Burns Clocktower each day at noon not, well, suddenly weird, given the newly elegiac lilt the recording, always already layered with nostalgia-as-reverb, has seemingly accrued? That *ubi sunt* pathos, now more immediate and forboding, is almost too much, no? For those of us who are here to hear it at least—and for those of us who are actually listening? And, indeed, for those of us who know why it (now) haunts us so?

I told you the weirdnesses were idiosyncratic....

But maybe not so much. Maybe the weirdnesses just point back to the importance of the wonderments, putting them in a sort of Covid-era relief. Maybe what's weird about the semester is simply all the ways we can't be us, the Wilkes Community, at least not right now. And maybe all these weirdnesses are also a reminder, weirdly, of the many new ways that we can.

Wondrously. If weirdly.

In wonderment.

As I've already said, I'm impressed. And grateful.

I hope we all are.

And I hope we all keep hanging in there....

I trust we will.

MANUSCRIPT UPDATE

The *Manuscript* Society will be publishing two issues of *The Manuscript* this 2020-2021 Academic Year.

The submission period for the general issue will be open through 02 April 2021.

The submission period for the Black History Month issue will be open until 04 February 2021.

If you're interested, please submit your work to magazine@wilkes.edu with your Wilkes email, and specify which issue, if not both, you want to be a part of.

If you would like to learn more about The *Manuscript* Society or about upcoming *Manuscript* events, please contact magazine@wilkes.edu. You can also stay connected to *Manuscript* by following our social media on Facebook (Mauscript @ Wilkes University), Twitter (@WilkesMag), and Instagram (@wilkes_manuscript_).

Writing Center Hours

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

Throughout the Fall 2020 semester The Writing Center is hosting virtual drop-in hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, for any member of the Wilkes community who needs writing assistance.

To access the Zoom links, please go to the Student Services tab in the Wilkes Portal.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Chad Stanley
email: chad.stanley@wilkes.edu

Spring 2021 Upper-Level Class Listings

<i>Course Number/Name</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
ENG 202: Technical Writing	MWF 9:00-9:50	Prof. Lobb
ENG 222: Intr. to Digital Humanities/DH	MWF 1:00-1:50	Dr. Hamill
ENG 234: English Lit. II/WGS/&H	TR 9:30-10:45	Dr. Davis
ENG 281: American Lit. I/WGS	TR 2:30-3:45	Dr. Kelly
ENG 298: Adv. Workshop in Screenwriting	MWF 11:00-11:50	Prof. Kovacs
ENG 324: History of the English Language	MWF 2:00-2:50	Dr. Hamill
ENG 376: Modern Amer. Poetry/WGS/&H	MWF 10:00-10:50	Dr. Anthony
ENG 397: S: Postmodernism	TR 1:00-2:15	Dr. Kuhar