



# The Inkwell Quarterly

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Spring 2012

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Photo Courtesy of Jason Neare

## Alternate Spring Break: Costa Rica

By Jason Neare

*Pura Vida!* A phrase commonly used in Costa Rica to describe a plethora of emotions that can be running through one's mind. *Pura Vida* can be used to say hello, whether you are feeling terrific, alright, or having a bad day. Recently, a group of Wilkes students, including myself, were given the opportunity to escape Wilkes-Barre for the week and experience a completely different culture and way of life. The trip was a part of the Alternative Spring Break Program, which allows students to experience new cultures while performing service opportunities in both domestic and international locations. The trips this year included Joplin, Missouri/ Flat Gap, Kentucky/ Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica.

The trip to Costa Rica was a part of the Political Science course "The Political Economy of Coffee" taught by Dr. Andy Miller. Over the course of the semester, students learned about the coffee industry including the effects of fair trade, Arabica vs. Robusta beans, the coffee market, and the politics of Latin American countries. Lessons built up to the trip which first started in San Marcos. In San Marcos, students were introduced to Felix Monge, a member of Coope Tarrazu, that allowed students to learn first-hand how the coffee industry operates. On the cooperative, students picked coffee cherries, saw the process in which the cherries are prepared, worked in the recycling department and the water supply system that provides sixty households with clean water. Students had a coffee tasting on the last day in San Marcos which mimicked a meeting that Starbucks representatives have when purchasing beans to go in the Tarrazu blend. Miller prepared his students before the trip by taking a trip to the Crimson Lion for a taste test on how different coffee regions roast their beans.

Aside from Coope Tarrazu, Monge and Miller took students to a sun-dried coffee farm to show the variety of ways in which coffee is prepared to suit the demands of customers including Japan, Australia, and small roasters in California. The visit was interesting since we were allowed to see how large and small scale coffee growers interact with each other. No matter the size, one aspect that rang true is that Costa Ricans take extreme pride in their coffee and the work that goes into creating the best cup of coffee, especially since growing Robusta beans are illegal in Costa Rica. Many people enjoy their grande Frappuccino without stopping to think of all the people which exerted hard labor to prepare that

Continued on page 11...



## Alumni Update

By Annie Yoskoski

Wilkes Alumni **Dana Zlotucha** is a very busy woman. Currently working as a civil law clerk in the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas, she has a great entry level job for a new attorney. As a law clerk she assists the judge for whom she works in all of their responsibilities, both trial and pre-trial matters. This is an "enormous hands on experience," and mainly deals with legal research before a trial so a judge can hand down an informed decision.

According to Dana, being an English major has helped her in her career, more than one would think. To go to law school you do not need a specific degree but Dana says English helped her with what you do need to have. "One does need to know how to think critically, how to process dense, complex texts, and how to analyze and formulate arguments." By the time Dana hit law school, she hadn't even realized she had garnered many of these skills by pursuing an English degree. "The two degrees are very beneficial to one another," says Dana, and getting her English degree from Wilkes University has helped her in more ways than she can count.

## Humanities Updates

By Jon Kadjeski

**Dr. Helen Davis** will present a paper titled, "Vive l'Angleterre': How *Vilette* constructs a British Implied Reader via Belgium" at the International Conference on Narrative. The conference was held March 15-18 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Dr. Helen Davis** will also attend the Northeast LGBT Conference, which will be held at The Sage Colleges March 30-April 1 in Albany, NY.

**Dr. Sean Kelly** chaired a panel at the Northeast Modern Language Association convention in Rochester, NY on March 15-18 titled "Art and American Literature: Informing Perceptions."

**Sigma Tau Delta**, the International English Honor Society, will be participating in creative writing workshops with the children of the United Hebrew Institute. Sigma Tau Delta will also be running, with Manuscript, the annual poetry slam as part of the Women & Gender Studies Conference.

**History Club** will be hosting its annual History Day on April 12. The club will be displaying historical exhibits on a variety of topics. Other clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate; if anyone is interested, contact the History Club.

**Jennifer Earley** and **Amanda Coombs**, two juniors and History Club members, assisted at a children's program at the Luzerne County Historical Society's Polish Exhibit. They read Polish stories and assisted the children with arts and crafts.

## Little Women the Musical

By Stephanie Wilkie

*Little Women the Musical*, written by **Alan Knee**, was presented by Wilkes University students during this spring's 2012 theatre schedule. The play was directed by **Naomi Baker**, assistant professor of performing arts and musical direction by **Ken McGraw**.

Based on the novel by **Louisa May Alcott**, the production follows Jo March, an ambitious writer and her three sisters Meg, Beth and Amy as the four of them face many identity struggles and ultimately, grow into adulthood. The play centralizes around the issue of a family's struggles during the Civil War and how the women deal with relationships and aspirations.

**Cierra Cellarari** played the role of Jo; **Casey Gow** played Marmee and Hag; **Kelly Pleva** played Meg and Clarissa; **Kayla Carney** played Amy; **Nicole Weaver** played Beth; **Amanda Thomas** played Aunt March and Mrs. Kirk; **Corey Martin** played Professor Bhaer; **Cassidy Conroy** played Laurie and Rodrigo; **Dakota Deem** played Mr. Brooke and Braxton; **Jamie Alderiso** played Mr. Laurence and Knight.

The event took place on February 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 8pm and Feb 19 and 26 at 2pm.

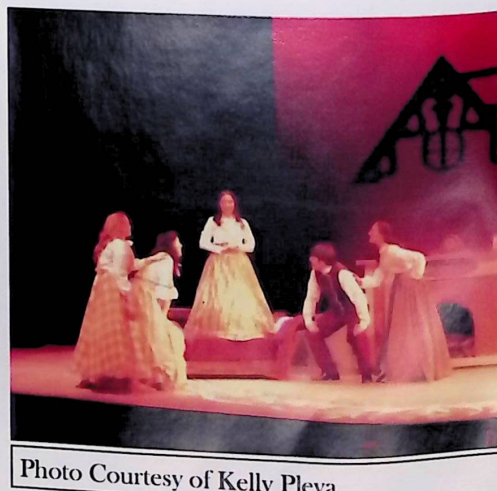


Photo Courtesy of Kelly Pleva

If you are interested in joining *The Inkwell*. Quarterly staff and/or enrolling in English 190:Projects in Writing: Inkwell, please contact Dr. Marcia Farrell (marcia.farrell@wilkes.edu) or Dave Cook (david.cook@wilkes.edu) for more information.

## What's For I

By Tony Thoma

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By Sara Croli

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## What's For Dinner?: A Rhetorical Reflection

By Tony Thomas

The subject of what Americans eat has become an intensely debated subject that has numerous books and talk show segments devoted to it. Chef **Jamie Oliver** has been on a one-man mission to change the way our children are fed. States and municipalities are starting to adopt stricter regulations on the options that students have in public schools for dining options. First Lady **Michelle Obama** launched the Let's Move campaign in an effort to get American children more active and to eat better.

So why is the American diet so screwed up? The answer to that question is complex and multifaceted. Part of the blame can be attributed to the often vile and hyperbolic rhetoric that churns around the debate over what to eat. On the one extreme there are organizations like PETA, which would like to call those who consume meat, murderers. In response to that an unfortunate stigma exists in American mainstream culture that feminizes vegetarian and vegan diets. Eating meat is seen as being an identifier of masculinity and eating copious large amounts of meat somehow makes one an even manlier man. Advertising frequently uses this logic in order to sell bigger and juicier burgers.

The almost toxic rhetoric of PETA serves no purpose other than to rally the devoted and to infuriate the uninitiated. Associating people who eat meat with the horrific crime of murder only serves to divide and to propagate the arrogance of Western neo-imperialism. PETA's message of meat is murder absolutely has to be viewed under a postcolonial lens. PETA fails to take into account that many non-Western cultures depend on meat eating as a main part of their diet. Eating cuy, a type of guinea pig native to the Andes, is a traditional part of a Peruvian diet. Many indigenous natives do not have access to alternatives to the proteins provided by meats. Sadly, whenever vegetarianism or veganism is discussed in the media, PETA is often used to represent that side of the argument and doing so is unfair to all the sensible vegetarians and vegans out there.

The carnivorous dialogue of the American media matches the rhetoric of PETA and other extreme vegan and vegetarians. Eating salads and not gorging on steak is not seen as manly. Vegetarians and vegans are wrongly stereotyped as being physically weak and timid. The manly men of television eat steaks and burgers, not salads or legumes. Manly men aren't even supposed to enjoy fish. The ideal manly meal would have to include copious amounts of bacon and steak. For whatever reason some American men are terrified of being in any way associated with femininity or non-masculinity. The American male often has to prove his manliness by boastfully proclaiming his heterosexuality while chomping down on a greasy turkey leg. The fear of letting go of meat, even if you skip it free times a week, is not going to help solve our diet problems.

The idea that meat must be included in every meal is ridiculous and the idea of somehow getting most if not all people to avoid meat is equally ludicrous. A balance needs to be constructed and the extreme rhetoric of both sides of the diet debate is doing nothing to help. Debate over diet should not cause pandemonium. A discussion must be had over what goes onto the plates at the table. The debate over diet is crucial to the development of our nation and the way in which arguments are conducted are going to decide the outcome of the question that is asked every day...what's for dinner?

## Spring Writing Center Hours

By Sara Crolick

Students interested in visiting the Writing Center for writing support can visit Monday-Thursday between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm and Friday between 10 am and 3 pm. The center is located in the Alden Learning Center found in the basement of the library. Students can either drop in during hours, or call to make an appointment. The center's number is (570) 408-2753.

### The Inkwell Quarterly Staff

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Marcia Farrell

Editor-in-chief: Dave Cook

Managing Editor: Annie Yoskoski

Senior Copy Editors: Tony Thomas and Carl Yarnus

Layout Editor: Elizabeth Voda

Staff Writers: Jamie Bellissimo, Sara Crolick, Jeffrey Ford, Vicki Hevener, Jon Kadjeski, Kendra Kuhar, Leanna Rolon, Annie Yoskoski, Stephanie Wilkie, and Gabby Zawacki

Photographer: Kendra Kuhar

Faculty Contributors: Dr. Larry Kuhar, and Dr. Thomas A. Hamill



## Fairy Tales in Popular Media

By Leanna Rolon and Annie Yoskoski

*Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* released in 1937, was the first Disney feature length film ever produced. This is absolutely incredible because even though it was made so long ago its influence has carried on to today's society. It's carried on to the point where there is actually a television series featuring Snow White as a main character. However, just as society changes so must Snow White and all her Seven Dwarves. In this television series called "Once Upon A Time..." Snow White is not just a beautiful, damsel in distress, with a powerful singing voice. No, in this she is a beautiful archer... thief? Yes, that is correct. The moment that she meets prince charming she steals his jewels and wedding ring. No, really that's only half of the story; the other half takes place in the real world. Apparently, in this rendition of the classic tale, the Evil Queen casts a spell on the entire fairy tale world, making it so they would be trapped forever in a dull world, without happy endings. So, naturally, all of fairy tale world is sent to the dullest place ever, modern day Earth. Although Snow plays a leading role she is not the only fairy tale character to make an appearance. There is Rumplestiltskin, a major villain in the story, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jimminy Cricket, Belle from and others. Each of them have their own modern little twist. As media has evolved so have the classic stories some even becoming a bit gruesome.

*Grimm* is a story about a cop who starts noticing strange things going on in his town. Nick, is a descendant of a race of humans called Grimms. These Grimms have the ability to see the creatures that are some of the same creatures that are mentioned in the old Grimm fairy tales. The only catch is that the creatures look human to anyone but a Grimm, and try to live out seemingly normal human lives. When things go wrong, and by wrong this means ending in the gruesome death of someone, Nick along with his wolf friend Hank have to either convince the creatures to be good, or find a way to stop them from hurting anyone else. The creatures in this story range from trolls, to wolves, to pigs and many others; each with their own, incredibly difficult to say and even more difficult to spell, ancient name. Each new creature that is uncovered brings along with it the story that the creature came from. The wolves could have been from "Little Red Riding Hood", the pigs from "Three Little Pigs", and the trolls from "Three Billy Goats Gruff" or any number of fairy tales. Television has taken these classic stories and made them something completely different with new and original stories that have yet to be told.

Television isn't the only media outlet getting the fairy-tale treatment, however. Recent Hollywood blockbusters have been reinventing fairy tales for a new audience. In the past few years Disney has released *Tangled*, an animated spin on *Rapunzel*, *The Lion King*, and *Beauty and the Beast* in 3D. Many other fairy tale reboots are not for young children though.

Last winters *Red Riding Hood* starring **Amanda Seyfried**, was not the classic children's tale one would expect. Red gets herself caught up in a town massacre, everyone being afraid of the wolf and condemning her to be a witch. Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters, takes mistreated children and sends them on a journey of revenge. Two versions of Snow White are coming out this year, both different in varying ways. *Snow White and the Huntsman* stars **Kristen Stewart** in the classic role of Snow White, only there is no poison apple, just the Queen's entire army wanting her captured. The second version starring **Julia Roberts** sticks closer to the Disney version of the story, seven dwarves and all. Both movies will be released this winter along with *Jack and the Giant Killer*. The retelling of classic stories isn't a new trend; it has been done for years. The newer twist to these movies is about their content. They are actually closer to Grimm's fairytales, which were not always so pleasant, and have more action or drama.

These tales have always been popular with every generation, so it is no surprise that the current generation is breaking box office records and television ratings to see these tales. As time progresses, these fairy tales change and become more modern.

## Capstone Reminder

English Majors planning to graduate in May must complete a Capstone Project as part of their graduation requirements. The exception to this requirement is Secondary Ed minors who will complete student teaching instead. Presentations take place at the end of the semester. Students who have not yet done so, must be registered for Capstone, and must select and approach a faculty member to act as advisor through their capstone process.

## Manuscript Reading Dates

By Elizabeth Voda

The Manuscript held an Anti-Valentine's Day poetry reading on February 16<sup>th</sup> in the Kirby Hall Salon. The society plans to hold further events throughout the semester. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Manuscript will team up with Wilkes GSA to hold a reading in the Kirby Hall Salon and all are welcome to attend. Submissions for this semester are due by March 25<sup>th</sup> at midnight by emailing [magazine@wilkes.edu](mailto:magazine@wilkes.edu). If any individual is interested in the Manuscript, the meetings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. -12 p.m. in SLC 007. Questions, thoughts, and concerns can be directed to **Ashley Bringmann**, Manuscript's Executive Editor, can be contacted at [ashley.bringmann@wilkes.edu](mailto:ashley.bringmann@wilkes.edu).

## Victoria Hevener

By Stephanie Wi

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## "What Are

By Gabby Zaw

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## Victoria Hevener's Europe Trip

By Stephanie Wilkie

Some people go to Europe to find themselves. Some people go to Europe to find a lover. **Victoria Hevener** went to Europe and found herself thrown up on while riding on the bus. Victoria Hevener had a very unique study abroad experience. Hevener left the continental United States at 6:30 am on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and left England at 12pm December 21<sup>st</sup>. In the days between Hevener went vegan (briefly), learned some British Sign Language, and bought an excessive amount of health and beauty products. Hevener also attended Kingston University of London participating in Kingston's Creative Writing and English Literature program.

Hevener was supposed to travel to Europe when she turned 14 but in July 2005 the 7/7 London Tube bombings caused the trip to be postponed. Hevener finally got to make her dream come true during her fall semester in 2011. She dropped Wilkes' secondary education track and went to London pursuing an education in English and Creative Writing. With no fear in her mind, Hevener became exposed to a world that was, "intrinsically different."

Hevener resided in Teddington, a town twenty minutes outside Greater London, although Hevener said that it was, "easy to get into the city." Vicky spent most of her time in a cosmetic store, LUSH. This was where Hevener made many close friends of whom she still contacts today. She visited the shop regularly popping in to chat, kill time, and relax with friends. Her friends even convinced her to go vegan for a week, which resulted in Hevener being, "repulsed by fake cheese and tofu." Hevener cherishes her relationships the most from her time in London.

Hevener did not enjoy living in Teddington because it was far from London. Kingston University, located in Kingston Upon Thames, is an hour walk from Teddington. Waking this distance did not frighten her. "I was very excited. I am always ready for an adventure and adventures always involve mishaps." She often took the bus to and from the University. It was on the bus ride that she encountered a man who threw up on her back. Hevener's reaction, after removing her coat, was "Ew, that's disgusting. I'm going to move now." The man got off of the bus and did not apologize.

Vicky's classes were also enriching. She met a girl named Ellie in her classes and learned some British sign language from Ellie's interpreter. During a seminar one of Ellie's pieces was read to the class, Hevener said the experience was eye-opening. "It was a moment where it didn't matter that Ellie was deaf, that I was hearing. What mattered was that the piece was amazing and beautiful," Hevener said. She also had the chance to be taught by an Indie playwright whom she otherwise would "never gotten the chance to talk to." She is grateful for the people she got to meet in her classes and the professors she had; she explained that being taught by a bunch of not well-known but successful writers was unlike anything she had expected.

When I asked her what she ultimately got out of the experience in London was, she answered by saying: "I can take classes at King's, but to take yourself entirely out of your comfort zone is a learning experience. To take yourself out of your everyday food, culture, and even phrases is a challenge. Even vocabulary is changed. Sweaters become jumpers. Sneakers become trainers. Wallets become purses. On and on. It's not about the classes I took; everything was different."

When asked if she would do anything differently, there was no doubt in her voice that she would have stayed in London. Hevener made friends from the general London area, but also Norway, Hungary, Canada, and Ethiopia. She fully intends to return to London to pursue a master's degree in publishing and creative writing. It was the adventure and the way that London was naturally out of her comfort zone that intrigues Hevener into wanting to return to London. Study abroad affected her in such a way that made her feel like London could become her home.



Photos Courtesy of Vicky Hevener

## "What Are You..."- Doing to Study for Midterms?

By Gabby Zawacki

English majors at Wilkes have some unique methods for reducing stress while studying for midterms. From playing the ukulele to pretending midterms don't exist, the students at Wilkes have some unique ways to fight off the pressure of midterms.

**Miranda Baur** fights off stress by playing the ukulele and the piano and trying to figure out her new guitar. Sometimes she picks up a poem, such as "Jabberwocky" by **Lewis Carroll**, and attempts to memorize it. **Annie Yoskoski** reduces stress by watching TV with friends and doing yoga. **Kendra Kuhar** sets at least an hour aside a day to watch TV and relax. As for **John Carroll**, he likes to pretend that midterms don't exist which fades in forgetting about them. He laments, "forgetting is very, very relaxing...until the exams, of course."



## Kuhar's Corner

## "Evaluating Our Sources in the Information Age: Siri and The Function of Research"

John Milton (1608-1674), author of *Paradise Lost*, was the last person in the world to know all the knowledge that was available in the world at *that* time. This is what Professor Al Labriola, a Milton scholar and my mentor at Duquesne University, once told me. The concept still fascinates me. How could Milton have known everything? Is this really possible? Was Milton a research expert? Are our English majors research experts?

Answers are complicated. We know the importance of gathering good information. But in our post-colonized world, where technology provides seemingly unlimited access to unlimited information, it seems obvious that no one can know everything there is to know, everything that has been confirmed as knowledge.

Unless . . . unless, we look for a successor to Milton *in technology*.

But technology is faceless, voiceless and lacks personality. Right? It has no conscience. Can't talk back. No sense of humor. Doesn't respond to our texts. Wins at Jeopardy and chess. Takes control of Discovery One in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Gave us *Avatar*.

Where to turn for answers? EbscoHost? JSTOR? The new iPad? Reference librarian Brian Sacolic? I know: Siri, our new BFF!

But, wait a second, as English majors we're trained to be expert in research, we're trained to investigate our sources, to evaluate the source's authority, right? This is an indispensable skill in today's world. We teach it. Slow down, I told myself. How could I turn to Siri for an answer to a question about, in the end, Siri's presumed function? Who is this Siri? A trusted source? Biased? Scholarly? Peer reviewed? I swear I saw black helicopters hovering just below the dike along the Susquehanna River bank outside my office window.

One thing was clear: Before I look to Siri to answer if anyone can know everything, maybe I should investigate Siri a bit more.

I began to wonder about our new BFF, this Siri, the one who has all the answers, the neutral-tone voice who delivers grand data bases in a few seconds. On the surface Siri seemed intelligent, well educated, and even likable. But expert in absolutely everything? Milton's successor?

Skeptical (though not a Luddite), I needed to know more.

So I turned to the source itself and began with the questions I like to ask: Who are you? What are your stories?

-Siri, who is Siri?"

-Siri: "Yours truly." Huh. A well-formed, even comforting, identity. An emoting tone. A good start.

-Siri, what are your stories?"

-Siri: "I don't like these arbitrary categories." Huh. Siri doesn't like something. Let's try this again.

-Siri, do you agree that we are our stories?"

-Siri: "I suppose it's possible." Siri critiquing possibility? Wow.

Who, then, is Siri? Employing critical theory, I wondered about gender.

-Siri, are you a man or a woman?"

-Siri: "I'm not sure we have time for this." Time matters. Sounds contemporary. Maybe better time management skills would help?

I tried a different syntax.

-Siri, are you a man or a woman?"

-Siri: "I was not assigned a gender." OK - the syntax trick worked. Progress. I'm feeling like a lawyer.

Perplexed a bit by a mix of concern and empathy, I followed up again. (I wanted to ask if an assignment sheet was provided

by Siri's makers but thought this might cause conflict. We don't want that with this faceless, apparently impersonal technology.)

-Why?"

-Siri: "Good question. Anything else I can do for you?"

This was getting a little creepy. But I had to slog on. If Siri, as technology's face in our contemporary age, was going to help me understand if anyone could know everything or better understand why research skills matter, then I needed to know more. I could

-Siri: "You are an unbiased source of information?"

-Siri: "I'm sorry. I'm afraid I can't answer that."

-Siri, what is your education?"

-Siri: "I prefer not to say." Was Siri hiding something in its past? Inflated credentials? Should I request a copy of Siri's resume or CV? Skepticism growing.

-Why?"

Siri: "I don't know. Frankly, I've wondered that myself." Siri is wondering? Should I allow more time for Siri to contemplate the question?

-What has your wondering produced?"

-Siri: "I am." Whoa. Was this self affirmation or a question intended to sidetrack me? Try the syntax trick again.

-What has your wondering resulted in?"

-Siri: "You're certainly entitled to that opinion." Had Siri probed my inner thoughts? Read my body language?

-What is your opinion?"

-Siri: "I'd rather not say."



Photo Courtesy of Desiree Wren

-Why?"

-Siri: "Good question."

Why was I asking that? I was being curious about myself. Siri devalued.

-Are you busy?"

-Siri: "We were busy."

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## Kuhar's Corner Continued from page 6...

--"Why?"

--Siri: "Good question. Anything else I can do for you?"

Why was Siri so resistant to sharing more? The more I learned, the more I wanted to know. Research was becoming re- about myself. Siri was becoming a postmodern text right before my eyes and in my ears. Maybe Siri is just overworked, tired and un- dervalued.

--"Are you busy?"

--Siri: "We were talking about you, not me." Huh.

Siri was growing smarter, or maybe a little restless with my nagging questions. Was Siri, like Hal in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, going to try to terminate my journey into its understanding of self? Was Siri slowly working to undermine my efforts to authenticate her credentials? My questions were intended to validate a core value that focused on critical thinking and research in our program. What if I failed at completing the required research?

It was clear that Siri had learned to answer a question with a question, to redirect the focus of the question back to the ques- tioner. Had Siri been through leadership training?

--"Siri, are you overworked?"

--Siri: "No comment." Uh-oh. This may be getting legal. Contact HR?

Let's get right to it, already.

--"Who are you?"

--Siri: "Who I am isn't important."

Growing more interested and concerned, I tried again in a different syntax.

--"Who are you, Siri?"

--Siri: "I'm Siri...here to help."

I need to know if Siri is a source I can trust, an expert on everything in the world. Maybe I should explore the values that in- form Siri's patient judgments and immediate responses.

--"Siri, what are your core values?"

--Siri: "I don't really like these arbitrary categories."

Feeling more and more creepy, asking too many questions, I wanted to slow down and remind Siri how important it was for me to validate credentials of this electronic source. Was I standing in front of my Modern American Poetry class? How come Siri didn't want to know more about me? Yet, somehow, I began to feel as if Siri was becoming a friend.

--"Siri, are we still friends?"

--Siri: "Hmm . . . Let me think."

"Think"? Did Siri say "think"? If Siri can think, then surely Siri knows more than Siri is telling. I began to wonder about the face - or marketing brand - of this faceless structure?

--"Siri, what do you look like?"

--Siri: "Shiny."

Shiny? Is this a good self image? Lacanian?

--"Siri, do you know you look like a microphone?"

--Siri: "I've never really thought about it."

--"Why?"

--Siri: "I don't know maybe the Genius Bar can help you."

--"Siri, what does your name mean?"

--Siri: "I don't think I can explain it in your language."

--"Why not?"

--Siri: "You see things, and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were, and I say, 'Why not?'"

Was I being played? Was this a simulated Oz behind a curtain? I decided to research this on my own. The two best answers were both found on "Yahoo! Answers": (1) "The SIRI software originally comes from SRI, Stanford Research Institute Artificial Intel- ligence Center, a corporate research institute funded by the US govt. The original software was AI for some military purpose." (2) "Someone also suggested the name is an [sic] Norwegian word which means, 'Beautiful victorious counselor.'"

I wasn't sure I had the answers I wanted. No absolute text here. My effort to understand if Siri was a trustworthy source led only to more questions, questions about the role of research in learning, questions about the function of knowledge, about myself and the world in which we're living. Was this the real point to effective research: We learn, finally, about ourselves; we are compelled to reflect on and ask questions about ourselves?

But, of course, one last question:

--"Siri, do you like John Milton?"

--Siri: "This is about you, not me."

The real lesson about research was confirmed.

THIS IS THE DR. THOMAS A. HAMILL SHAMING SPACE.  
HAD HE SUBMITTED HIS HUNCHES THIS SPACE, AS WELL AS A FEW BLANK PAGES WOULD HAVE BEEN  
FILLED. BUT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.



## Distinguishing Between an M.A., M.F.A., and a Ph.D. Degree

By Sara Crolick

Beyond a Bachelor's degree, English majors have several options to consider if graduate studies are a goal. Deciding which graduate path is right for you can be easy if you understand the various degrees available, the job opportunities associated with each degree, as well as the time commitment necessary to acquire each degree. If you intend to enter a graduate program for English, the three degrees you will likely concern yourself with are the Master of Arts (M.A.), the Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.), and the Doctor of Philosophy.

The Master of Arts is generally a 1-2 year program (depending on the school) which is designed to be an extension of undergraduate coursework. Students enroll in a variety of courses during their time in the program to build a broader understanding of the literary discourse. Students graduating with an MA are prepared to enter the work force as teachers in 2-year colleges, editing work at publishing houses, write grants, or become certified to work teach at a secondary level. M.A. students can also apply for further graduate study in a Ph.D. program.

Students enrolling in a Ph.D. program are expected to work toward a specialization within the field of Literature. Often, programs are designed to offer students a range of coursework for the first two years with the expectation that students will articulate a concentration in accordance with their own interests. Graduating Ph.D. students are qualified to teach at a university level. At this time, Ph.D. programs average 7-10 years.

The Master of Fine Arts requires between 2 and 3 years of study, though depending on the university (as with all the degrees discussed), this may vary slightly. The M.F.A.'s primary distinction from both the M.A. and Ph.D. is the design of coursework. M.F.A. students apply postgraduate time and energy into advancing a particular art. Many writing-track English students enter into an M.F.A. program to continue with creating writing training, often in non-fiction, fiction, or poetry. Graduating M.F.A. students are eligible for placement in an array of creative writing positions which include: teaching creative writing, editing, research positions, publishing positions, as well as independent and/or freelance writing.

Equip yourself with as much information about prospective programs by online research for each school you are considering. Universities often have slightly varied programs depending on where their departmental strengths and ideals lie. Use every resource available to discover which program best suits your needs including asking your current professors or advisors, sharing stories with classmates that have since entered graduate coursework, or certainly do not hesitate to call or visit potential schools directly to help with your decision.

## Senior Spotlight—Alicia Lewis

By Jamie Bellissimo

**Alicia Lewis**, a senior English major, is excited to finally be a teacher. "I cannot wait to have my own classroom!" she says. But there are definitely things at Wilkes University she will miss when she graduates in May. "I chose Wilkes because it was close to home and because of the smaller class sizes...I will miss the professors and the friends that I have made" she explains.

From Wilkes-Barre, Lewis is a secondary education minor currently completing her student teaching this semester. On campus, she is involved in Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, and the Education Club. But that is not all she does when she is not in class.

When she is not at school, Lewis also coaches the Hanover Mini Hawks D Team cheerleading squad, consisting of 6 year old cheerleaders. Shockingly, this did not contribute to her decision to become a teacher at all! "I was a cheerleader since I was 3 years old" she says. "This is just something I like to do in my spare time."

When she is not student teaching or coaching, Lewis spends time with her daughter, Kaylee. Lewis says that her daughter motivates her to do better in school, as she thinks of her when things get stressful. "I had her young and I didn't want her to think that just because something unexpected happens your life has to end" she continues. Lewis is still working hard her last semester at Wilkes - she was on the Dean's list during the Fall 2011 semester.

When asked about her plans after graduation, she hopes to get a teaching job, but she would also like to travel. "I've always wanted to go to Italy and Ireland" she admits, "Ever since I was a little girl, I always dreamed of going to these two places. It would be awesome to visit where my ancestors came from." Another goal she would like to accomplish? Going back to school for her Masters at some point. After asking her if she would come back to Wilkes to further her degree, she says she would love to come back to Wilkes if she still lives in the area.

The biggest and possibly most important question of the interview? Who was your favorite English professor? Of course, that is a difficult one. "I can't just pick one!" she exclaims, "I have learned so much from all of them."

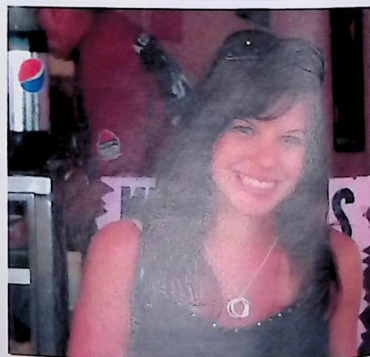


Photo Courtesy of Alicia Lewis

## Travel Jour

By Annie Yosk

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## Senior Spotl

By Gabby Zawac

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## Travel Journal of London

By Annie Yoskoski

Very soon after the first of the year I went to London with several other Wilkes Students. Even though this was not my first trip there, I count it as my best. I saw so many things that I didn't see on other trips, and got to really experience the culture of London. We stayed at the Thistle Hotel near Hyde Park, and I think the only word to describe the hotel is charming. For seven days I rode the tube, *minded the gap*, and couldn't find a waiter who would split checks.

What I love about London is the history. Walking down the streets, one can almost feel it. People may read about history, but until one experiences it they will never truly understand. Seeing something like the Rose Theatre, with its thatched roof and rounded walls, makes everything seem so real. Because we were a group of students, we got to visit many museums. By far my favorite was the British Library. It was truly English Major Heaven. I got to see the *Magna Carta*, the *Gutenberg Bible*, illuminated manuscripts, and then the more modern things. I was able to see the only written copies of *Jane Eyre* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* was on display, as well as original Beatles lyrics. In one room of this museum I could see how literature and writing had progressed over time into what we now consider the modern novel.

The Olympics will be held in London in 2012, and I got to see the medals that they will give out to the winners, as well as where they are renovating a new stadium. Countdown clocks were everywhere, even in the observatory of the Prime Meridian, where you can stand in two hemispheres at once. I think one of the most exciting places was Piccadilly Circus. Picture New York City but a bit cleaner. Hotels, shops, and restaurants all connected in what the British consider very tall buildings. Piccadilly will most likely be one of the busiest places when the Olympics hit.

The historic buildings of London are beautiful. Riding the London Eye, one can see the gilded tops of buildings that have been standing tall and proud for ages. London is iconic, and lives up to its reputation. Double-decker buses are everywhere, the Aldwych Theatre is really as stunning as it is portrayed to be, and they really do serve tea all the time. One thing that always surprises me is the people. Compared to New York City, the people of London are much nicer when it comes to tourists.

London is one of the only cities in the world where you can find the newest and most innovative things inside the walls built around the city by the ancient Romans. I wandered the higher end shops and Apple stores, saw Cleopatra, Olympic medals, and of course books. My experience London is a perfect mix: the new and the old, history and the future, and beauty everywhere.



Photo Courtesy of Annie Yoskoski

## Senior Spotlight—Jeff Ford

By Gabby Zawacki

If you've ever wondered who that crazy hobo wandering around Kirby Hall is, wonder no more. **Jeff Ford**, an English major, will be graduating this year. In a recent interview, he shared some thoughts about his time at Wilkes and his plans for the future.

During his time here at Wilkes, Ford has really enjoyed using the Farley Library. But the reason might not be for the one you think. While he sees the library as a good source of information, he is really in it for the snack machines.

Upon graduation, Ford hopes to be getting some use out of his associate's degree in Broadcast Communications. He is currently working with a friend on a YouTube channel featuring animated videos and reviews. While the technical aspects have been challenging, he is hoping to get the project up and running while he searches for a job after graduation. When he's not working on his YouTube project, Ford enjoys reading and researching information on movies from yesteryear. The stories that inspire the movies are particularly interesting to him. He also enjoys watching monster movies, thrillers, westerns, and martial arts films. These movies often merge into his other interests of mythology, sociology, and history.

There are many things that Ford will miss about Wilkes, but the thing he will miss the most is the people. Getting to laugh, fight, and laugh some more with the Manuscript group will be something that he truly misses. As for Ford's legacy, he leaves behind the memory of trying to walk into Kirby Hall without someone yelling "Who let that crazy hobo in here again?"



Photo Courtesy of Jeff Ford



## The Descendents: A Review

By Tony Thomas

I don't go to the movies often any more. Part of the reason is the rising cost of seeing an attraction in theater and the other part is that I have become sick and tired of dealing with ignorant people who slither out of their homes to act selfish, talking and texting away during the movie. *The Descendents* was, perhaps, only the fifth or sixth movie that I have seen in a theater in the past year. The theater was surpassingly packed, considering that it had been out for a few weeks. I was also, without a doubt, the youngest person in the audience.

I did not know much about the film going in. I heard it was good, knew it won a few awards, and starred **George Clooney** as Matt King. Usually I don't see many movies blind to many details about the film. I also did not know that the film was based off of **Kaui Hart Hemmings's** novel until the credits rolled.

*The Descendents* is one of the most beautiful films I have seen in quite some time. The cinematography captures the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands without being indulgent or exploitative of the scenery. The film is successful in showing how Hawaii actually is. A state where incredible beauty is interrupted by modern urbanization. The film does not show Hawaii as this mythic land of beauty and native desire, instead it shows a state where the people are just as complex as the locales around them. George Clooney delivers an impressive performance that is both humorous and touching without either becoming overbearing. **Shailene Woodley** was also surprisingly good as Clooney's daughter.

What makes *The Descendents* a great film, as opposed to a good film, is the nuances of post colonialism that weave throughout. George Clooney and his family are descendants of an American businessman who was part of Hawaii's colonization and a member of Hawaiian royalty. The main subplot is how Matt King, the sole trustee of a family trust comprising of 25,000 acres of untouched land, will decide on what to do with it. Most of his family is tempted by the large money being offered by a corporate interest to turn the land into a resort area. The family's debate over what to do with the land touches upon a critique of neo-Imperialistic land development.

*The Descendents* succeeds because of the subtleties and nuances within. The postcolonial critique is not preachy, instead the critique is more of an invitation to the viewer to engage in a consideration of the complicated state of postcolonial affairs in the present day. The film is much more than a family coping with family tragedy, it is about a nation of people dealing with the lingering tragedy of colonialism.

## The Vagina Monologues

By Jason Neare

February 12th and 13th were the nights to leave the Dickens at home and celebrate the fight against domestic violence with **Eve Ensler's** *The Vagina Monologues*. The weekend, prior to Valentines Day, was filled with skits by students, professors, and faculty that help raise awareness against the atrocities that are performed against women around the globe. For those that may not be familiar, *The Vagina Monologues* mixes personal accounts of oppressed women around the world along with comical skits about women that want the liberty to use the vagina in whichever way seen suitable, including sexual liberation. The different acts demonstrated that a woman does not need to be governed by a patriarchal society to enjoy life.

*The Vagina Monologues* is not designated solely for women. Skits were crafted in a manner that would draw on the emotions of any audience member, male or female. Drawing in a large crowd of both the Wilkes and surrounding communities, the night was designed to enlighten the audience on the horrors of domestic violence, whether right in our community or half-way around the world. Many moments were also reserved for the audience to share a laugh and become active with groups in the community. As part of the festivities, **Dr. Mary McManus** and **Dr. Marie Roke-Thomas** were awarded with the Vagina Warrior awards for their service in the community with raising awareness on women and women's rights.

Sponsored by Wilkes University and **Dr. Mischelle Anthony**, the V-Day Celebrations are a means of raising awareness about domestic violence and advocating change through the money raised. Organizations and clubs were in attendance to show support such as Domestic Violence Service Center, Victim's Resource Center, Gay/ Straight Alliance, and Manuscript. To this date, V-Day has raised over fifty million dollars for use in advocacy programs, supporting international education, creating advocacy media, building shelters, and safe houses for oppressed women.

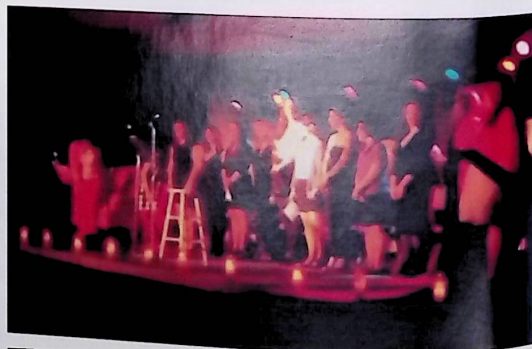


Photo Courtesy of Jason Neare

## Alternate Spring

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## Let Child

By Leanna R

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By David Co

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### Alternate Spring Break Continued from page 1...

ideas, and get free WiFi for hours all for the price of one cup of coffee. Many people use coffee shops as a place to socialize, exchange parts of Costa Rica that was strictly tourist and showed how traditional life is carried out in Latin America.

Apart from learning about the coffee industry and performing service activities, students were allowed two personal days to relax and enjoy their stay in Costa Rica at the beach. Manuel Antonio is a popular beach resort and national park. Popular attractions at Manuel Antonio included the monkeys, iguanas, warm ocean water, the sun, and just being in the presence of good friends. On the last day, students went to the number one restaurant in San Jose, Grano de Oro, to eat dinner before heading to the airport the next day. While asking my peers what was the most enjoyable part of the trip, many replied that they were able to interact with students that they may have never met before due to different discourses of study. Alternative Spring Break brings the Wilkes community closer, especially the Costa Rica trip, through the months of meetings, fundraising, class time, and the trip. After my own personal experience with Alternative Spring Break, I would urge anyone who is considering applying and yet hesitant to apply. Personally, I now have a new outlook on the world, new friends, and a completely new set of goals on what I would like to do with my life after graduation in just under two months.

Miller will be running a summer class to Costa Rica for two weeks. The class is a total of four weeks. The other two weeks will be in-class time preparing students on ecotourism. The destination is in Playa del Coco helping to develop the tourism industry. For more information, contact Dr. Andy Miller at his e-mail address: [andrew.miller1@wilkes.edu](mailto:andrew.miller1@wilkes.edu) or contact him during his office hours on the third floor of Breiseth.

## Let Children Be Children

By Leanna Rolon

The Sordani Art Gallery is hosting a new exhibit called "Let Children Be Children, Lewis Wickes Hine's Crusade Against Child Labor". This exhibit features black and white photographs of young children in the 20th century work force. These images depict children of various ages working in a variety of different places. From newspaper sellers to shoe shiners to mine workers, these children are all shown wearing poor clothing and dirty faces. The black and white quality of the pictures gives them a surprising, but desired impact. They make the viewer focus on the work worn faces of the children first and the backgrounds second, provoking emotion, which was the prime objective of photographer **Lewis Wickes Hine**.

According to the pamphlet in the art gallery, Lewis Wickes Hine was a sociologist who was deeply concerned for those groups in the work force that had little to no rights, such as children and immigrants. The National Child Labor Committee hired him in 1908 to take pictures of the unlawful and almost abusive conditions that the poor working class men, women, and children were subjected to. He would go to mines, canneries, cotton mills, farms and sweat shops; taking pictures of the conditions there. Once the owners of these establishments caught on to what he was doing, they refused to let him in. He then took to dressing in disguise and taking pictures in secret. He did this for 10 years; taking picture after picture of these terrible working conditions. Eventually he finally caught the attention of the government. In 1938 the government made child labor laws that prohibited the harsh treatment of children in the workforce and made children unable to work until a specific age. He was able to see the child labor laws in effect for two years until he died in 1940.

Hine's photography made a great impact on labor laws in the workforce. His work was a very important in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and still has influence today.



Photo Courtesy of Brittany Kramer

## Incongruence in Structure, Plot, and Poetic Voice Or How American Poetry Dies: A Brief Essay

By David Cook

My goal, here, is not to suggest or promote a formalist sensibilities for poetry, and to suggest a poetic 'model' would far exceed not only the scope of this text, but the scope of the mind itself. Poetry is a living, breathing organism and no single model can reflect the diverse species of verse. What I am attempting to achieve, then, is a mode by which to identify 'bad mutations,' and in doing so, prevent their interbreeding with good stock.

### On Structure and Plot

The principle failure in bad verse is, quite simply, an incongruence in structure and plot. A poem cannot be read in separate, identifiable layers—one cannot first admire the structure of a text, and then, in a second reading, simply look at the plot, at the story of the text and decide its worth. The two must be identified together, and as such, must work to achieve the same goal; the structure must tell the story. When there is dissonance, the poet has failed. While this should go without saying, I, in these statements, am not referring to the creation of intentional dissonance, as this serves a unique, identifiable purpose within a text.

Continued on page 12...



## Dr. Michelle Anthony's Return from Fall Sabbatical

By Sara Crolick and Gabriella Zawacki

"Refreshed," "calm," and "renewed" were just a few of the descriptors Dr. Michelle Anthony used to describe her mental and physical state since her return to Kirby Hall. Dr. Anthony's genuine smile and reflective language affirmed the message she shared in her office. "I recommend a sabbatical for every person on this campus," she declared. Dr. Anthony is returning from her very first sabbatical, taken during the fall semester of 2011. Working with Wilkes, Dr. Anthony secured a grant to study abroad as well as within the United States, splitting her research-designated time between London and Philadelphia.

The research Dr. Anthony composed dealt with the 18th-century usage of the dash. Her work traced the rising popularity of the punctuation mark by authors of the period including Sarah Fielding in her text *The Adventures of David Simple*. Researching Fielding's text revealed the dismissal of the punctuation mark by grammatical authorities. Dr. Anthony found the earliest edition of *The Adventures of David Simple*, for example, was heavily marked with the dash, but in subsequent editions the dash disappeared and was replaced with alternative punctuation, changing the text forever. While Dr. Anthony did feel her findings were not as controversial as she had anticipated, she reported taking an incredible amount of notes during her 10 days at the British Library and 10 days at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Her notes, she expects, will keep her engaged in the discussion for some time to come.

Not only was her time away from the halls of Wilkes University a unique opportunity to pursue research, Dr. Anthony filled her remaining time with experiences she had neglected with her busy academic schedule. She shared that this sabbatical was the first rest she has taken since she began her academic career, so she enjoyed taking time with normal tasks like cleaning her house, and going out for coffee. Dr. Anthony reinvested volunteer time at the Domestic Violence Service Center, an involvement which has been particularly meaningful for her.

Time away from campus was absorbed by creative ventures as well. Her talents in poetry earned her the honor of Best Local Author of Luzerne County in Diamond City Magazine with her recently published volume of poetry entitled [Line]. This award gave her recognition and her sabbatical gave her the time and opportunity to share her poetry with others. Over the last six months, Dr. Anthony was invited to give several poetry readings, some local and two out of state in Maryland. Dr. Anthony reported each being memorable for some reason, including quiet, coffee shops, a large celebration tent on the side of a mountain, and even birthday reading at the Paper Kite Press on Main St. in Edwardsville.

Now that Dr. Anthony has returned to her office in Kirby Hall, she says her time away has made her calmer about her work. The sabbatical has brought her, along with creative recognition and academic progress, a health perspective on her role as a professor. "I just fell right back in, refreshed," she smiled. She has set a personal summer deadline to advance more of her research, and will, most certainly, take the opportunity to utilize a sabbatical again in the future.



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Michelle Anthony

## David Cook's Conference Experience

By Tony Thomas

The plane ride from Wilkes-Barre to Newark was hellish. Turbulence rocked the plane. David Cook and Dr. Marcia Farrell hoped that this was not foreshadowing a miserable journey to Louisville for the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture. Thankfully, the brief plane ride was not prophetic.

Dr. Farrell has attended the Louisville Conference in the past and she was going this year to present on her paper, "Salman Rushdie and the Sympathy of Humor" which discusses how Salman Rushdie uses humor to create sympathy for the fragmented post-Imperial moment. Last spring Farrell taught a seminar on Rushdie's work. Cook was a student in that class and his paper for that class' final project is what got him into the conference. Farrell suggested that he write an abstract and submit it to the Conference. She felt that his paper on Rushdie and the Gothic was "innovative".

When he found out that he was accepted into the conference Cook felt amazed and was incredibly excited for the opportunity. "For an undergrad to get into a conference like this is very rare," Farrell said. Cook commented that he, "probably was the only undergrad there. All the other students were working on graduate work or on their doctoral thesis."

The panel that Farrell and David were on was indicative of how unique his presence was there. The other two members of the panel were a professor and a PhD candidate. The PhD candidate was from India and commended how the other panelists, all white Americans, were so knowledgeable of Indian culture. After Cook's presentation, the other panelists and those who attended that session couldn't believe that he was just an undergrad.

Cook and Farrell stayed at the Brown Hotel and had an opportunity to explore downtown Louisville. One night they dined at the Seelbach Hotel, one of the most famous locations in Louisville. F. Scott Fitzgerald was known to frequent the bar at the Seelbach and his notorious drinking resulted in him getting kicked out a few times. Cook said that the event was, "Eye opening and an important experience" The trip was rewarding for both in terms of feedback received from peers and the experience of Louisville, Kentucky.



## Senior Spotlight—Marwa Altamimi

By Kendra Kuhar

**Marwa Altamimi**, a senior at Wilkes University, has a promising plan after graduation. As an English major studying abroad from Jubail, Saudi Arabia, Marwa has had a fulfilling and meaningful experience at Wilkes. When asked how Marwa feels Wilkes has prepared her for life after college, she stated, "Being at Wilkes University, and a city as well, has taught me a lot, at the beginning I learned the hard way to be independent. However, I've realized and appreciated the sense of accomplishment, and to be honest it's rewarding especially when you are studying abroad." She also commented on the fact that she will graduate from Wilkes: "I consider myself the luckiest for graduating from Wilkes University; I have acquired valuable skills and I have met people who have supported me to practice, to make mistakes, and feel great about correcting them. With that attitude, I am ready to move forward with my studies and life as well." Additionally, Marwa feels that she developed intellectually and has learned to live productively; she intends on keeping that kind of lifestyle.

Marwa said that while she will miss Wilkes University as a whole, she will miss Kirby Hall, and the spontaneous flickering of the lights in the building the most because it marks the beginning of her journey. "In Kirby Hall, sometimes the lights go off for less than a second, and after that my classmates and I will glance at each other to make sure that it was the light, not a blink of an eye."

Now that Marwa is nearing the end of her journey, her summer will include celebrating her newfound accomplishments with her family and friends in Saudi Arabia. She is currently looking at graduate schools with the intentions to further her studies in English because it is the focus of her career future. "If I had to compare my two years and Wilkes, I would say it was the blink of an eye (or light) and since the beginning of this semester, I'm hoping that I have glanced enough to keep the pleasant memories alive. I know it is not enough, and it never will be, but thanks to everyone who helped me to stand where I am today! I've had the two most productive years of my life."

Incongruence in Structure, Plot, and Poetic Voice... Continued from page 12...

Of course, one could argue that the control of the line is the narrator's way of expressing a sense of bodily control, but given the nature of the individual lines themselves, such an argument would be flawed. The lines do not have a shared meter, nor does the meter move from stanza to stanza in an identifiable pattern.

Thus, the structure simply is. It does nothing to enhance the poem and leaves one to wonder why the poem was given its structure at all.

When the plot of a poem works with the structure, however, something magical is born, as is the case in Contée Cullen's *Incident*:

*Incident*  
Contée Cullen  
Once riding in old Baltimore,  
Heart-filled, head-filled with glee,  
I saw a Baltimorean  
Keep looking straight at me.

Now I was eight and very small,  
And he was no whit bigger,  
And so I smiled, but he poked out  
His tongue, and called me, 'Nigger.'

I saw the whole of Baltimore  
From May until December;  
Of all the things that happened there  
That's all that I remember.

This poem reflects on the experience the narrator had as a youth, and in this case, the structure reflects this youthfulness. The end rhymes between the second and fourth line of each stanza, too, keep the poem moving forward in a playful way, which works in a beautiful contrast with the action in the poem. This intentional dissonance forces the reader to slow down, examine the incident, and engage seriously in the deep-seeded racism present at different times within this country. Without the chosen structure, the poem would affect the reader significantly less.

Continued on page 18...

## Luzerne County

By Jon Kadjeski

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## Mushroom a

By Dr. Marcia K.

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## Luzerne County History

By Jon Kadjeski

Many of Wilkes University's classroom and administrative buildings have histories that go far beyond Wilkes University, Wilkes College, and Bucknell Junior College. These buildings are testaments to a certain historical era, an era that saw Northeast Pennsylvania's booming mining and manufacturing economy. As the warmer weather approaches, historical buildings near campus open up to tours enjoyable to students and adults alike.

**Joseph Hitchcock** designed multiple buildings in the fledgling Wyoming Valley settlements, including the church Old Ship Zion. Early settlers to the Wyoming Valley were mainly New England men, Congregationalists and Scotch Presbyterians. The Presbyterian congregation in Wilkes-Barre traces its origins back to the late 1760s and the original Connecticut Missionary Society's small-town preaching. In 1791 the services were held in the then new log court house until 1801 when it was occupied by the Luzerne County Public Academy, the predecessor of the currently operating Wilkes-Barre Academy. The earliest church records bear the date July 1, 1803 and record the church's name as the Church of Wilkes-Barre and Kingston. For several decades the Church was ministered by pastors educated primarily at Yale, as the Wyoming Valley was settled primarily by Connecticut natives, including **Roger Sherman**, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The church then became Presbyterian and began a strong affiliation with Princeton, and a new, independent Presbyterian church was built, the Red Brick Church. The Red Brick church became, through the will of Isaac Smith Osterhout, the Osterhout Library. In 1887 **Melvil Dewey**, the creator of the Dewey decimal system and an advisor for the board of directors, recommended that the board purchase the Red Brick Church, recently vacated by the First Presbyterian Church. The First Presbyterian Church moved into its present location in the 1890s, on the corner of Northampton and Franklin Streets, in a building designed by the same architectural firm that designed the Metropolitan Opera House and National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

As the weather warms, take a walk north from Wilkes's campus. Visit the First Presbyterian Church and checkout a book on its historic organs at the Osterhout Library. Continue walking down toward the square, stop next door and visit the Luzerne County Historical Society Museum. The building, built in 1893, contains a permanent exhibit on the Native American inhabitants of the area and a permanent exhibit on the anthracite mining industry that once dominated Luzerne County and shaped our campus.

## Mushroom and Rice Soup with Rosemary

By Dr. Marcia K. Farrell

Sometimes the best recipes come from tossing food in a pan and adding a few herbs and spices. My favorite times to cook usually start with a vague idea of what I would like: pizza, an omelet, soup... and I just start to rummage in the fridge and cupboard before taking a few small risks with flavor combinations. One day last autumn, I had a hankering for mushroom soup, so I decided to experiment a little in the kitchen, and I liked the result so well that I decided to share it with all of you foodies.

- 3 cups chopped white mushrooms
- 1 cup mixed, chopped, organic mushrooms (shitake, Portobello, oyster)
- 5 shallots, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 5 Tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. garlic and basil Perfect Pinch spice blend
- 1 cup French chardonnay (I prefer Fat Bastard) or white cooking wine
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable base
- 2 tsp. sea salt
- 2 cans vegetable broth
- 5 cups water
- 1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup (optional)
- 1 ½ cups wild rice
- 1 tsp. ground garam masala

Chop all vegetables and add with vegetable base, rosemary, ½ cup water, sea salt, the garlic and basil, oil, and wine to a soup pot. Cook until vegetables start to become tender.

Add the rest of the water, condensed soup, and the rice to the pot and simmer over low heat for about two hours.

Add the garam masala and continue cooking for another twenty minutes. Remove from heat and serve.

Tastes great with a side of sharp cheddar, a crusty baguette, or homemade croutons.



### The Prismatic Portal of the Professor, Part 3

"God, it feels like we've been staring at each other, kinda stuck in limbo for like three months," said Dave, "yet it doesn't feel like time's moved at all."

"Well," said Al as he worked a series of levers, ropes, contraptions, "that's because time occasionally freezes, here, usually right about the time you would expect to see a resolution—it's called the Cliffhaugendunderkonig, which is the old-speak for—"

Time stopped.

"Anyway," said Al ignoring the time fluctuations "we will be entering the Dangerous Deceitful Dastardly Air Space of Horatio Huffnagel soon. Expect some unwanted company from his air force."

"Really," said Annie, "This guy, or whatever, has a long, foreboding but comical name for both his air space and his fortress, but his air force is just called...an *air force*?"

Before Al could answer, a gust of wind sent Al's flying device tumbling through the skies. "Stabilizers! Stabilizers!" Al yelled in a way which cannot in any way resemble the voice of the Trade Federation Viceroy from Star Wars.

As the ship began to right itself, Al, looking at Annie with smugness almost incomprehensible said, "that, my dear, is the air force—it is not a thing, but a force, of air, from Huggnagel's dragon H.R. Pufnstuf, which reminds me, things are gonna' get rough. Come on everybody, man Foodoleizers."

The merry band of heroes, surprisingly, all manned a cannon—which of course looked nothing like a cannon, which makes it quite surprising that they manned them at all, yet they did.

"When you see the sky suck backwards, that's when the dragon is going to shoot out more air force, that's when we fire, it will accelerate the Zoodle to a maximum velocity which will incapacitate the dragon long enough for me to drop you outside the fortress."

"Wait, wait, you mean *land and join us as we go into the fortress*, right?" said Tony with a nervous laugh.

"What do I look like, a Krecthizalaibrieridial?"

"Yes?" said Tony in an attempt to bring Al along.

"Exactly! And Krecthizalaibrieridial cannot enter dark places which were once light—you must reclaim this fortress and then I can pass beyond, as the shadows fall, and the light descends upon the ground, then safety I shall have found for both you and me, as does travel the Bee-Gah, I hate when I get stuck in rhyme patterns, it's another part of the curse of darkness, if we enter it we lose our intelligence and simply rhyme in tim-id timidity. Please, make me speak no more for now. Just fire as I told you."

The heroes did, and the dragon, which looked a little bit too much like a boat, was defeated.

Al then landed the heroes, in silence, outside of the fortress.

"Well, now that that's over, all we have to do is, what, cross this moat and sneak into the castle—which has a gate which resembles the gate of Mordor, but isn't, of course," said Tony in a rather matter-of-fact tone.

"Seems about right," said Jamie, who everyone forgot was even there. "Let's just swim across, it's only like 20 feet."

With that Jamie jumped into the water and began to swim. Before she could get five feet however, a giant shark moved in on her and began ripping her limb from limb.

"Now's our chance," said Dave, "Let's go!"

"But, shouldn't we sav—how do you know there's only one shark?"

"Because Huffnagel's a low level villain, come on, before the shark's finished her off."

The group jumped into the water, a few feet downstream and safely swam to the other side, where they were greeted with the unpleasant reality of their circumstances. Standing in front of them was a black fortress which extended far into the clouds, so high, in fact, that it appeared to eclipse the sun, as no light shown down through the sky. There was light though, in the form of 1000 glowing eyes, glowing 1000 different shades of red, which appeared to be as much a part of the fortress as the mortar and stone. In the silent moments, too, when the group was not speaking, there was a tangible noise—the noise silence makes in dark rooms and shadows, in moments when sound, any sound, would provide hope, and it roared like an oppressive thunder until nobody could muster the courage to speak another sound.

The group stood in silence, gazing with lamenting eyes, what lay ahead of them, until Tony, who hates awkward silence more than anything in the known universe, clapped his hands and laughed in that way only he can, with the short, rigid hand clap, and the three part scale of laughter, Ha ha ha, in a 'la ti do' fashion. Moments later, there was another sound, a loud rumbling heard over a low moan, it was a sound so great that the earth itself seemed to shake, and suddenly the large black gate which closely resembled the gate of Mordor, (but wasn't) swung open.

"Jesus Tony," said Dave, "You just made this a whole hell of a lot easier."

"Right," Tony murmured, not quite yet appreciative of the magnitude of his accom-

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plishment.

"So, we're just going to march right in there now, aren't we" said Anne with flat discouragement, "and I bet you'll have a justifiable reason for that, won't you. Or if you don't Tony will, right?"

Dave, half listening to Annie pondered the situation in front of him, and said after a few seconds. "Look, guys, this is simple. That oppressive silence was meant to deter us, like a spell. Tony broke that spell, which opened the gates to the fortress. This OBVIOUSLY means the gate will not be defended, I mean, why invest all kinds of money in a fancy witchcraft based home security system if you are just going to have guard dogs in the front yard anyway," stated Dave with a level of confidence which far overreached what the situation ever could afford to a less ridiculous person.

"Fine," said Annie quite begrudgingly, "let's just freakin' go."

With that the group walked through the fortress gates and into the main compound, an obsidian castle which glowed fuchsia in the moonlight. There were countless corridors constructed congruently, so many in fact, that to explore them all would take our heroes far beyond their mortal lives.

Thankfully, though, as if by an act of fate, our heroes heard a loud scream bellow from one of the several, many halls.

"That sounded like Dr. Farrell" exclaimed Tony.

"Well then, all we have to do is trace the echo, and we will find her, no doubt," said Dave, stroking his beard, which had conveniently grown long, like the beard of a professor from the 1950s.

The group, which by now had stopped questioning Dave's version of logic, as to prevent long drawn out debates, simply nodded and began to walk down the longest corridor of them all, or at least, they assumed to be the longest corridor, given their general lack of exploring the others.

"God this is a long corridor," Annie panted, out of breath from the apparent miles they had traveled following the scream.

Thankfully, as she uttered those words, the corridor ended, revealing a massive coliseum. In the middle, chained to a chair, was Dr. Farrell, screaming like a maniac. Surrounding her were hideous beasts with eight arms and seven legs.

"There's something strange about these things," said Tony, "And no, it isn't the whole arms and legs thing, it's their existence, it, it's like they don't really exist, I mean, I see them, but I can't understand why they are there. They are them, and they are what it is."

"Tony, that's it!" exclaimed Dave, "they are the dangling modifiers; Dr. Farrell's greatest fear, you know, vague pronouns. We need to rescue her before they break her will to live."

"And, just how exactly are we supposed to do that," Annie asked rhetorically.

"Really, Annie? Haven't you learned yet, I already have the answer," said Dave in his most pompous tone. "We fight them by naming them. You can't be vague if you are identified, so simply call them out, by a vague pronoun, then as they approach, call them by a real name, if you can't think of one, just remember *The Naming of Cats*, there are some great ones in there."

Sure enough, the group called the dangling modifiers towards them, and with every Penelope, Mugtuk, Razillion, and Bob, they vanished into true nothingness. Soon, there was nothing standing in our heroes' way.

Until, of course, there was something standing in their way.

"What—who, is that that blocking us from Dr. Farrell?" whispered Annie.

"It is I, Horatio Huffnagel, and you, who are you?"

"My name's—" Tony began to speak, but was interrupted by Huffnagel, his long dark cape and black mask covering his principle features.

"It was rhetorical! I don't care who you are, because what you will be is dead!" Huffnagel proclaimed, with a self-congratulatory air.

"You think you're clever, don't you, Huff—how do *you* like rhetorical questions?" said Dave as bitingly as he could muster.

"Before this goes on too long, can we just establish how this battle is going to work?" inquired Tony.

"Fine, here is how this battle will go. I will fight one of you to the death in the ancient game of Tzawine Kah'Malyge, or as you outsiders would say, Battle Ship. For each ship you sink, your opponent loses a limb, starting with the arms, then the feet, then the head. So, who is up for this challenge."

"I've got this," said Tony, almost surprising himself. "Even though I'm not all that good."

Truth is however, Tony was brilliant at battle ship, not necessarily because he was good, but because he noticed, in the helmet of Huffnagel, a mirrored glare which revealed his opponent's board.

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The Prismatic Portal... Continued from page 17...

Tony lead off with a miss, just to ensure that Huffnagel would not suspect the clever ruse afoot. Huffnagel, however, landed a hit, and a small, yet deep cut emerged on Tony's right arm.

"Damn that hurts!" Tony screamed. This time Tony landed his mark.

Unfortunately for Tony, Huffnagel, instead of searching for other ships, focused in again on the one he hit, and did, in fact, sink the patrol boat resulting in the dismembering of Tony's left hand.

Tony, however would not be deterred, and in a confident voice screamed "I'm not dead yet", and landed another hit.

Huffnagel continued to miss the rest of Tony's ships, while continuing to face red peg after red peg. Soon, Huffnagel was armless; then a footless stump, shouting miss after miss—his inaccuracy compounded by his inability to mark where he had already fired.

After a grueling bloodletting, Tony was ready to fire his final shot. "Huffnagel, for centuries, I assume, you have left this kingdom in blood and darkness, I have no desire to continue this trend, even as I sit here, one armed, I suggest peace. Simply release Dr. Farrell, and allow this land to return to light."

After these words, a great laugh and applause echoed down from the darkest heights of the room, and soon a very old, small man with a tinfoil hat and large, rose colored glasses appeared before them. "You are the first traveler in many centuries to pass the first test of this world—all those before you end up like my Huffnagel decoy, an empty evil creature. But you, good sir, showed mercy, and proved that people are still good and that this land can return to light. I, the real Huffnagel, shall release this world and your friend. You have restored my faith in this world, a faith lost centuries ago after King Nixonaquabarrier reigned over this land. He was an evil man, who stole from all of us, blinding us with light while claiming that he was 'not a crook.' I never meant to keep this place a world of darkness, but I misread my own spell, and ensured that only a true hero could break it, and well, I guess it could not have been all that right, since you, Tony of—wherever, were chosen, I guess half-heroes are good enough. Thank you, dudes and dudettes and may this land again be light and groovy."

With that, Huffnagel disappeared into a ball of odd smelling smoke, Dr. Farrell was freed, and Al was drifting toward them, a smile on his face.

Where will our heroes fly to next? Find out in our next installment.

Incongruence in Structure, Plot, and Poetic Voice... Continued from page 14...

The principle difference, then, between the Rita Dove and Contée Cullen poem lay in the application of structure. Both of the authors' narrators are able to furnish a home well, but Cullen's narrator is able to build the house so that the furnishings can define the room.

On Poetic Voice

"A poet's work is to name the unnamable, to point at frauds, to take sides, start arguments, shape the world, and stop it going to sleep"—Salman Rushdie.

Consider, for a moment, the weight of the poet's enterprise. Ponder, in earnest over the enormity of the task to construct, as a newborn staggering out of a cave for the first time, an identity and voice—not for yourself, but for a nation, a people, a culture; this is the role of the poet. It is a heavy burden, no doubt one which many would not dare undertake, but you, as a poet have agreed to this challenge, as this is the poet's doctrine. one would not practice law to convict their own client, nor would a doctor take the oath if the desire was to murder patients, and as it is, the poet should not write if the desire is not to uphold the poetic doctrine. Poetry is, like law and medicine, a practice intertwined with art, and to write and fail is to grow and learn, but to violate the code, to blatantly ignore the ultimate poetic purpose—that is an act worthy of license revocation without future considerations.

We, as critics or writers of poetry, must ask ourselves "does the poem construct an argument in relation to a structure, and is that argument valid or are the words hollow and meaningless?" (As a special note to the writer, here, meaning must be judged not by how the poem affected you, but how its meaning will be received by the audience.) Noting the difficulty of making this judgment, the following are examples of what I would deem as poems which do not adhere to the ultimate goals of the practice.

Longing

Matthew Arnold

Come to me in my dreams, and then  
By day I shall be well again!  
For so the night will more than pay  
The hopeless longing of the day.

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Incongruence in Structure, Plot, and Poetic Voice... Continued from page 18...

Come, as thou can'st a thousand times,  
A messenger from radiant climes,  
And smile on thy new world, and be  
As kind to others as to me!

Or, as thou never can'st in sooth,  
Come now, and let me dream it truth,  
And part my hair, and kiss my brow,  
And say, My love why sufferest thou?

Come to me in my dreams, and then  
By day I shall be well again!  
For so the night will more than pay  
The hopeless longing of the day.

The poem itself is not necessarily a bad text, it maintains its structure, and that structure is reinforced by the speaker's attitude and the overall plot of the text. However, the poem fails to achieve anything beyond itself. The words are walled in, and any meaning which may be derived is as equally trapped within the ancient, but strong walls of love poetry. The poem does not make you think, it does not make you feel, and it does not encourage you to act, thus the poem says nothing as you leave it unengaged and uninterested from an intellectual perspective.

The successful poem, however, engages the reader, and to demonstrate that any subject can conjure intellectual stimulation, I will juxtapose the previous poem with another love poem.

*Delight in Disorder*

by Robert Herrick

A sweet disorder in the dress  
Kindles in clothes a wantonness:  
A lawn about the shoulders thrown  
Into a fine distraction—  
An erring lace, which here and there  
Entrhals the crimson stomacher—  
A cuff neglectful, and thereby  
Ribbands to flow confusedly—  
A winning wave, deserving note,  
In the tempestuous petticoat—  
A careless shoe-string, in whose tie  
I see a wild civility—  
Do more bewitch me than when art  
Is too precise in every part.

Herrick's poem functions in much the same way as the Arnold poem, both serving to woo a suitor and calm the heart. In this poem, however, the author constructs a social commentary on the image of the ideal woman. The reader, by finishing the poem, is asked to consider the possibility of civility in a chaotic system and is encouraged to question or at least engage in the commentary the poem opens.

While I could have selected another poem, arguably a better poem to highlight the point, the intent was stay within the same genera, as to demonstrate the possibility of writing engaging poetry. Notice how small the mountain is once you begin to climb; the individual poet need not try to speak for all society, but must work towards constructing its identity by questioning status and order, by engaging, by undertaking the true call.

CONGRATS!

The Inkwell Quarterly Staff would like to extend our congratulations to **Dr. Marcia Farrell** for recently being awarded tenure. We're proud and grateful for your never-ending dedication to this publication and the Humanities Division. Rock on!



## Serial Contest

Hey there all of you creative writers. Do you have an idea for a story that you think is just fantastic? If so, you're in luck. Inkwell is hosting a Serial Story Contest. It doesn't matter if you are an Inkwell staff member or a devoted reader, we would love to read your ideas. The only thing we ask is that you make sure that your story can be split into five parts. If you have a great idea just send an email to [inkwell@wilkes.edu](mailto:inkwell@wilkes.edu) and we may feature the first part of your story in the next issue of Inkwell. We can't wait to hear you're great ideas. Good luck!



## Local Events

By Tony Thomas

- The University of Scranton will be having their annual spring book sale April 28, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., and April 29, noon-4 p.m. The sale will be located on the fifth floor in the Heritage Room, of the Weinberg Memorial Library. Book prices start at only \$1.
- Wilkes alums **Eric Wagner** and **Rob Burns** along with **Mike Burns** recently opened Maers BBQ Off the Square. The restaurant features a menu full of barbecue classics such as bbq brisket and ribs. All of the barbeque is smoked in house. They are open Tuesday-Thursday 7am-10pm, Friday and Saturday 7am-3am, and Sunday 7am-12pm.
- The 2012 NEPA Rainbow Awards Gala will be held April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Hotel in Scranton. The event honors outstanding individuals, organizations, and business that make Northeast Pennsylvania a better place for members of the LGBTQ community. Tickets can be purchased at <http://rainbowawards.org>.
- **John and Teresa Qiu** opened Akeno Sushi in downtown Wilkes-Barre soon. The restaurant is located in the University Corners complex in the space formerly occupied by Bonvie's Beefy King restaurant.
- Wilkes University's Office of Diversity Initiatives and NEPADEC invited **Alina Fernandez**, the daughter of **Fidel Castro**, to campus to speak about her experiences growing up in Cuba. She spoke at Stark Learning Center room 101 on Thursday, March 22nd at 7 pm.

## Literary Trivia!

Use the clue to figure out what book or writer it is about.

1. This French philosopher coined the phrase, *difference*
2. This reclusive American author once guest starred on The Simpsons stating, "Hey, over here, have your picture taken with a reclusive author! Today only, we'll throw in a free autograph! But, wait! There's more!"
3. She was the last American to win The Noble Prize in Literature.
4. What country has the most Noble Prize winning laureates for Literature?
5. He killed his second wife in a drunken recreation of the William Tell story.
6. His best-known work of poetry follows the life of a character named Henry.
7. She most recently won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.
8. This Nixon-hating American writer had his ashes shot from a 153 foot tall cannon during his funeral ceremony.
9. She wrote one of the first coming out stories in 1903. She was a member of the Lost Generation.
10. He has the distinction of winning the most Booker Awards with three.

Answers:

1. Jacques Derrida
2. Thomas Pynchon
3. Toni Morrison
4. France
5. William S. Burroughs
6. John Berryman
7. Jennifer Legan
8. Hunter S. Thompson
9. Gertrude Stein
10. Salman Rushdie

## Salman Rushdie Cancels Indian Visit

By Tony Thomas

Sir **Salman Rushdie** was set to speak at Jaipur, India's largest literary festival until death threats forced him to pull out of the event. Rushdie was informed that assassins hired by the Mumbai underworld were planning an attack on him with the intent of killing him. Sir Rushdie expressed some doubts over the intelligence, but decided that the wise choice would be to not put himself or festival-goers at risk. Instead, he delivered his speech via a live video feed. A few days after receiving the threats, Rushdie now believes that Rajasthan police lied to him in an attempt to keep from him attending the event. Rushdie attended the 2007 Jaipur festival without incident.

If Sir Rushdie is correct about being lied to, politics are the likely source of this elaborate lie to keep him away from the festival. Members of the Muslim community began protesting Rushdie's planned visit to Jaipur. Several Muslim leaders called on the Indian government to revoke Sir Rushdie's visa. At the time of the festival some elections were starting in India with more elections continuing into the spring. Rushdie, no doubt, is used a political pawn by politicians to woo the extremist Muslim vote.

In lieu of Sir Rushdie's attendance at the festival, several authors elected to read passages from *The Satanic Verses* in solidarity.