



Works Cited

English Department Newsletter

Casey, Gougeon Distinguished Fellows

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2003

Ellen Miller Casey and Len Gougeon, professors of English, have been named Distinguished University Fellows, a new designation that honors outstanding faculty members and provides them with financial support for continued teaching, research and publication excellence. University President Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. presented certificates confirming their status as Distinguished University Fellows at the Fall Convocation on September 5, 2003. Casey and Gougeon will each receive a stipend of \$5,000 for five years in support of their teaching and research endeavors.

"That Ellen and Len were two of the three Distinguished Fellows so-named from throughout the university faculty is a signal honor for the English department," says Jody DeRitter, professor and department chair. "This recognition accords with a long-time recognition within the department of the exceptional work they do as teachers and scholars. Students enrolled in our English courses know how dedicated Casey and Gougeon are as professors, and it's a privilege for all of us in the building to have Ellen and Len as colleagues."

With a Ph.D. from the University of

Wisconsin in Madison, Ellen Casey joined the faculty as an assistant professor of English in 1969 when Scranton was a men's university. A native of Chicago and loyal fan of the Cubs and White Sox, she has seniority as a woman faculty member at the university. "Several women professors came to Scranton when I did, but I'm the only one from the original group still here," she notes. In 1976, Casey assumed direction of the University Honors Program, a program she continues to guide. She intends to use her DUF monies to pursue on-going research on the reception of the Victorian novel, the "sensation novel" in particular, in the pages of *The Athenaeum*, a leading literary review in 19th century Great Britain. "I can't determine exactly how the money will be allocated just yet," Casey says, "but it will go towards archival research costs and travel expenses and books, of course, and I'll be able to attend a number of conferences relevant to my interests."

"I'm going to establish memberships in various scholarly organizations pertinent to my research and purchase new books and monographs that deal with the

(Continued on page 4)



Congratulations!

The University Players celebrate 10 years of "Royal" Theatre! The McDade Center for Literary & Performing Arts opened in 1993 and, 35 productions later, the Players are in the midst of a four-show celebratory season of music, drama and comedy. There are alumni events being planned for *Some Enchanted Evening* on February 13 & 14, 2004. Please visit our website at www.scranton.edu/players for more theatre season information. The growth of the theatre program in the McDade CLP continues with increased interest in our 6 year old academic theatre major, as well as our traditional support of students looking for a substantial creative outlet within a co-curricular environment. Many participants in the Players, majors and non-majors, have gone on to careers in the arts or to graduate studies in theatre.



What to Read First

Everyone knows that if you read nothing but good books all the time, sooner or later your brain will seize up and stop working. To protect against this, every serious reader learns to mix a little trash in with the treasures. Unfortunately, for most 21st-century American readers, “a little trash” means another bad novel by Stephen King. What should you read instead? I’m glad you asked:

17 Things You Should Read Before You Read Another Stephen King Novel: the collected comic strips of Walt Kelly (*Pogo*) and George Herriman (*Krazy Kat*). *American Splendor*. Baseball books by Jim Bouton, Bill James, and Allen Barra. Mysteries by Sara Paretsky, George Pelecanos, Walter Mosley, and Tony Hillerman. *Dr. Tatiana’s Sex Advice to All Creation*. Political satire by Al Franken, Molly Ivins, and Michael Moore. *The Onion*. *Miss Manners’ Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior* and Ring Lardner’s *The Young Immigrants*.

This approach can be adapted to suit almost any possibility. For example, my daughter got a letter this summer from her high school English teacher telling her to read John Knowles’ *A Separate Peace* before school started. And another list is born:

17 Things You Should Read Before You Read *A Separate Peace*: commemorative anthologies of *Garfield* and *The Family Circle*. Sports books (allegedly) by Keyshawn Johnson and David Wells. Mail-order catalogues by Brookstone, Levenger, and The Sharper Image. Thrillers by Michael Crichton, Patricia Cornwell, and Scott Turow. Vampire novels and PTA newsletters. The warranty information on that set of tires you bought. Ann Landers’ *Dating Do’s and Don’ts*. The warnings on the Desenex container. The instructions on an air-sickness bag. Anything by Stephen King.

See how this works? You can go up the ladder, in which case you’ll eventually discover writers like Thomas Pynchon and Virginia Woolf. Or you can work your way down, through the bad adolescent literature and past the inspirational desk calendars until you find yourself reading something like this.

- Jody DeRitter, Chair

Burkhart Helms Writing Center

Mary Burkhart, adjunct professor of English, oversees the university’s Writing Center and reports that student response to the center’s services is “very favorable.” Staffed by writing consultants who provide students with counsel and instruction on a wide variety of written communication skills, the Center has recently become a part of the new Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. Its suite of offices are located on the fifth floor of the Harper-McGinness Wing of St. Thomas Hall.

“We’re not a “fix-it shop” in any superficial sense,” says Burkhart, the Center’s Coordinator and Writing Specialist. “It’s not like going to Jiffy Lube. Students who use the Center’s services quickly understand that responsibility for their writing efforts and ultimate success remains with them. We’re here to assist motivated writers in any way we can and that entails advice on drafting papers, organizing arguments, researching information, referencing it properly and so on.” The Center also helps students with “brain-storming,” Burkhart notes. “That’s a service we’re gotten a lot of favorable feedback on. Sometimes it really helps writers to have someone hear their preliminary ideas about a writing project, a person who listens and says, ‘Okay, that’s good, but have you considered this or that or



the other thing?”

Student feedback on their experience with the Writing Center is deemed crucial to the on-going success of the service, Burkhart reports. “We want to know what we’re doing or not doing well, and people who use our services are encouraged to give us feedback. They can tell us face-to-face or they can offer written response at our Website (<http://www.scranton.edu/ctle/>).

Students interested in taking advantage of the Writing Center’s services can make an appointment over the Web or the telephone (x6147) or simply walk-in. “We get a lot of walk-ins” Burkhart says, “and that’s fine.” For optimal efficiency in terms of students’ time management, it may be best to make an appointment. So far this year, the Writing Center has worked with more than one hundred students. Burkhart expects that number to grow as deadlines for research papers and lab reports approach. “One of the good things we’ve encountered is that some students return to work on new projects with us. We’re able to see incremental improvement in their writing skills—and that’s our reason for being.”

The Writing Center staff includes faculty and student writing consultants, and clients of the Center may request either a faculty member or a fellow student. The Writing Center’s hours are: M & W, 9 am to 6 pm; T & R, 10 am to 6 pm; F, 9 am to 4:30 pm. 📖

Welcome Back, Kristin Sanner

Kristin Sanner, English MA '98, has joined the department faculty for AY 03-04 as Lecturer. "It's great to be back at Scranton," Sanner says, "and it's both a pleasure and a challenge to be on the other side of the desk here in CLP." A native of Spring Mills, PA, Sanner wrote an MA thesis, "L'Ecriture Feminine of James Joyce and Margaret Fuller," while a graduate student in the mid-90s. Written under the direction of Stephen Whittaker, professor, Sanner's thesis won the Pennsylvania Association of Graduate Schools 'Outstanding Thesis Award," a cross-disciplinary competition, in '98. Sanner has recently defended her Ph.D. dissertation, "'A very different type of maternity': The Transformation of Familial and Gender Roles in Nineteenth-Century American Literature" at Binghamton University. Recent and forthcoming publications include "Exchanging Letters & Silence: Moments of Empowerment in Exiles" in *James Joyce Quarterly*, Winter 2002. "The Abolitionists and Masculinity" in *Men and Masculinities*, a two-volume encyclopedia, and "'Wasn't all history full of the destruction of precious things?': Missing Mothers, Feminized Fathers and the Purchase of Freedom in Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady*" in *The Henry James Review*. Sanner also gave a paper on "Searching for Identity in *The Red Badge of Courage*: Henry Fleming's Battle with Gender" at the American Literature Association Conference in Boston in May 2003.



CLOSE READING

Liesbet **Higham**, Theatre '03, pursues graduate study at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. Adjunct professor Colleen **Graff**, English '93, is teaching Theatre History for the university this academic year; she hold an MA from the University of Sydney, Australia. Brianna **Noll**, English '05, was the Writing program's 2003 Nominee for the Modern Poetry Association's Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship. Will **Hall**, English & Writing Minor '00, has begun his second year in the MFA writing program at Brooklyn College and teaches undergraduates there. Elizabeth **Aldridge**, English '97, was named assistant principal at Pennsbury High School West Campus in Bucks County; she's also a Ph.D. Candidate in the University of Pennsylvania's Program for Teaching, Learning and Curriculum. Brendan Curry, English '01, and a former editor of *Esprit*, is Assistant to Editor Robert Weil in the Trade Division of W. W. Norton, a leading book publishing company headquartered in Manhattan. Emilie **Brancato**, English/Honors '05, studies at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, this fall term. Jessica **Grizzanti**, also English/Honors '05, will be a student at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, for the academic year. Ron **Spalletta**, English '04, and Art **Posocco**, English/Honors '04, serve as



Editor and Production Manager, respectively, of *Esprit*, the university's review of arts and letter, for AY '03-'04. The Fall '04 issue of *Esprit* will be available to all university community members in early December; look for announcements of a free public reading of fiction and poetry by contributors to the issue—and plan to attend! Rich **Larsen**, associate professor and Director of Theatre, was Scenic & Lighting Designer for the University Players' production of "High Society" in Spring 2003. He undertook the same design responsibilities for "The Fantasticks" and "Our Country's Good," two productions of the '03-'04 Players season. During Summer '03 Larsen designed a new set for the university's television studio in St. Thomas Hall. He designed the set for a production of "Peter Pan" at Marywood University. In March '04 Larsen, with colleagues Janice **Tellier** and Heidi **Hoffer**, will make a presentation on "Turning Trash into Treasure: Recycled Material as Scenic Art" at the annual meeting of the Institute of Theatre Technology in Long Beach, CA. Paul **Favini**, Marketing, '87, is assistant professor of costume design in the Theatre Department at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Favini designed costumes for the first production held in the Royal Theatre, "The Time of Your Life," ten years ago. To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the theatre's opening, Paul returned to campus to design costumes for "The Fantasticks." Kim **Bochicchio**, English Education '03, teaches tenth grade English at Dunmore High School. Jackie **Kubiak**, Theatre '01, was production stage manager for Theatre on the Square in Memphis, TN, during Summer '03. Kubiak is assistant Technical Director at Bucknell University. Megan **Smithling**, English & Philosophy, Theatre Minor '99, received an MFA in Dramaturgy from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in June '03. Len **Gougeon**, professor, was interviewed for a broadcast titled "Remembering Emerson," National Public Radio, WVIA, Wilkes-Barre, which aired on May 22 & 25 and June 26 & 29, 2003. Gougeon has also been selected as a peer reviewer for the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program of the Center for International Exchange of Scholars. In September he addressed the Hazleton Art League on "Impressionism in Art, Literature, and Life" under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's Commonwealth Speakers Program. In Summer '03 Gougeon journeyed to the Cooper Library of the University of South Carolina to research archival materials on Fre-

(Continued on page 4)

Department of English
 McDade Center for Literary and Performing
 Arts
 Scranton, Pennsylvania 18510

Phone: 570/941-7619
 Fax: 570/941-6657

380

The University of Scranton
 A Jesuit University

*A Community of Scholars
 A Culture of Excellence*

Visit us on the Web!
[http://academic.scranton.edu/
 department/english/
 english.htm](http://academic.scranton.edu/department/english/english.htm)

Works Cited's published Fall and Spring by
 the Department of English
 Editor: John Meredith Hill
 Production Manager: Maria Landis

Alums and Students!


If you have information for the newsletter,
 please send to:

Works Cited
 c/o Department of English
 University of Scranton
 Scranton, PA 18510

or as an attachment in Word format to:
LandisM2@scranton.edu

CLOSE READING

(Continued from page 3)

derick Douglass. Rachael **Miller**, Theatre '04, won the Bagdzinski Memorial Scholarship for AY '03-'04. University President Scott **Pilarz**, S.J., made a public presentation of the award to Miller at a recent performance of "The Fantasticks." During Summer '03 Miller worked in the costume shop at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales College in Allentown, PA. She designed costumes for the Players' production of "The Foreigner" last year. This year she will design costumes for "Our Country's Good." Rachel **Henry**, English '03, serves as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and teaches elementary and middle school on the Lakota Sioux Reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Writing Consultants in the Writing Center, a component of the university's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, include adjunct English professors Pat **Lawhon**, Diane **Glynn**, Kathryn **Gordon**, William **Black**, Bonnie **Markowski**, P.J. **Scanlon**, and Christopher **Wendt**, as well as Chris **Cipriani**, English & Philosophy '04, Angela **Ostrowski**, English '04, and Ron **Spalletta**, English '04. 



TO TU FU from Shantung

You ask how I spend my time:
 I nestle against a tree trunk,

 listening to autumn winds
 in the pines all day and night.

Shantung wine can't get me drunk.
 The local poets bore me.

My thoughts head south with you,
 like the Wen River, endlessly flowing.

— Li Po
 trans. by Sam Hamill

Casey, Gougeon

(Continued from page 1)

Transcendentalists, reform, the Civil War, and related historical developments that touch upon political and literary matters," Gougeon reports. "Additionally, I will travel to research archives. In June 2004, for example, I'll be at the Eisenhower Library of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore to examine their antislavery and Civil War holdings." A Massachusetts native, Gougeon came to the university as an

assistant professor of English in 1974, having taken a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. A literary historian of national reputation with an extensive publication record on the career and writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Gougeon also intends to use his award monies to attend upcoming conferences, including the American Literature Association in San Francisco in May and the Thoreau Society Gathering in Concord in July. 