



Works Cited

English Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Spring 2004

Curry, Recent Grad, at Top Publisher

Brendan Curry, English/SJLA '01, describes his job in Manhattan as "traffic cop, firefighter, diplomat, and hand-holder," but the truth is he's Editorial Assistant to Robert Weil, Executive Editor and Vice President of W. W. Norton & Company, one of the nation's leading commercial publishing houses. "In the old days," he explains, "which may or may not have been the golden days, my job would have been shared-out by several manuscript readers and office secretaries, but now, essentially for economic reasons, it's all been conflated into the editorial assistant position. It keeps me scrambling." Although Curry's modesty comes to the fore as he describes his day-to-day tasks, the job of editorial assistant at a distinguished house such as Norton is a fiercely-coveted position for young people who dream of moving up the career ladder to become editors. Something of an informal tradition has these plum positions going to graduates of Harvard, Princeton, and other brand-name institutions.

Editorial assistants interact with all parties relevant to the publishing business, Curry explains. "That means the editor, the author, the agent, the contracts

manager, the production department, the sales reps, the publicity department, the royalties department and on and on. Essentially, I'm the person 'between' my editor, Bob Weil, and everyone else, and it's my job to try to see that everyone's working together to produce a worthy book." One of America's top editors, Weil publishes seasonal lists of nonfiction in history, political science, current affairs, literary criticism and other fields as well as fiction. "We've just signed up an edition of the complete works of Primo Levi," Curry reports.

Curry says his writing abilities got him the job. "That's what I've been told, and it makes sense to me. I'm in publishing, after all, and my editor values good writing above all else. Bob is known and respected for being one of the few big house editors who still line-edits every book he puts out."

During his years at Scranton Curry had ample opportunity to hone his writing and editing skills at both *Esprit* and *The Aquinas* and in his many courses in the English department and the SJLA program. "I gained valuable writing experience in co-curricular activities at

(Continued on page 2)



Congratulations!

Kristin **Sanner**, lecturer, has accepted a tenure-track teaching position as an assistant professor of English at Mansfield University beginning in Fall '04. In January '04 Sanner received the Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Research from Binghamton University; in March she was nominated for the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Sanner will serve as Student Marshal at Binghamton's graduation ceremonies in May. William **Black**, adjunct professor, has accepted a teaching position in the Johns Hopkins University Graduate Writing Program beginning in June. He will direct several graduate fiction workshops and a series of seminars on masterworks of the 20th century. John Meredith **Hill**, professor, had a poem, "The Wind-up, the Delivery" chosen as finalist in the annual 'best poem' competition at **Dogwood**, a national literary journal published by Fairfield University. The poem appears in the current issue.



The Chairman's Office (with apologies to J. Swift)

Five hours (without a single blowup)
 Maria waits for the chair to show up;
 At last, because a deadline looms,
 She saunters out, unlocks his room,
 And enters that untidy place,
 With resignation on her face.
 In search of papers yet unsigned,
 She scavenges, but does not find;
 At length exclaims, with narrowed eyes,
 "Why can't this guy get organized?
 I'll never find them at this rate;

There's paper here from ninety-eight!
 This mess should not have got this far—
 He'll catch it from the registrar."
 I pity poor Maria, peeved,
 Because of papers unretrieved,
 And promise to do better soon.
 (I'm planning to clean up in June.)
 And yet, if order's like to spring
 From this confusion, here's the thing:
 To make my space less pigpen-esque,
 I'm going to need a bigger desk.

- Jody DeRitter, Chair

Curry, Recent Grad

(Continued from page 1)

Scranton, and I was able to work closely with a number of professors on all kinds of writing, critical, creative, and applied." Curry speaks of Stephen Whittaker, professor, as his "mentor" and says other professors such as DeRitter, Friedman, and Hill "demanded the highest quality writing I could produce."

As to the future, the recent Scranton graduate is uncertain, but would like to have the opportunity to edit his

own books some day. "As it stands, I participate in certain editorial functions. For example, I sometimes read book proposals and book manuscripts that come to Norton and write-up evaluative reports for my editor. I also get to draft promotional copy about some of our books. Of course, it would be great to have even more say and more hands-on responsibility for the editorial side of things, and that may come. In the meantime, I'm very happy to be here—and very busy." 📖

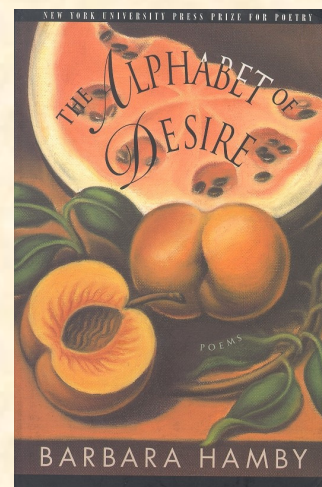
With sorrow the Department notes the death of Rev. J.J. Quinn, S.J., Professor Emeritus. Arriving on our campus in late summer of 1956, Father Quinn immediately displayed his talents as an inspiring teacher and engaging colleague and served the department and the university with dedication and memorable *savoir-faire* for more than four decades.

Poet Barbara Hamby to Read

Barbara Hamby, Writer-in-Residence at Florida State University and a faculty member in FSU's graduate creative writing program, will be the guest of the University Reading Series on Thursday, May 6. Hamby will give a free public reading at 8 pm in the Studio Theatre of the McDade Center for the Literary and Performing Arts. A brief informal reception and book-signing will follow. "She's writing some awfully compelling poems that engage with the real world," says John Meredith Hill, professor. "Insofar as we're concerned to help our students become "real world ready," Barbara's poems are quite relevant—and witty and wise. Her poems have a distinctive voice, no small achievement in this noisy world, and her succession of prize-winning collections suggests that many other people agree."

Hamby will also meet with interested students, staff, and faculty for an informal question-and-answer session about the craft of poetry on Thursday afternoon. (Please contact Hill for details on where and when.) Hamby's second book, *The Alphabet of Desire*, won the New York

University Poetry Prize in 1998 and is available for purchase in our university bookstore. Her first book, *Delirium*, won the 1994 Vassar Miller Prize from the University of North Texas Press, the 1996 Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award. Her most recent book, *Babel*, won the distinguished AWP Poetry Prize, an annual award from the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, and will be published in September.



This collection of poems was selected from more than 2,000 manuscript submissions. 📖

Esprit Spring Issue & Public Reading

Esprit, the university's review of arts and letters, will issue its Spring '04 edition in late April, reports editor-in-chief Ron Spalletta. "With a new format and a generous selection of photography and art work in addition to the usual solid poetry and fiction selections, it should be a worthy issue," he says. "It's a pleasure to be able to showcase the work of outstanding student practitioners of the literary and graphic arts."

Stephen Whittaker, professor and Moderator of the journal, notes that the showcase of talent will take on an additional dimension with a free public reading by contributors to the issue on Thursday, May 13, at 8 pm in the Studio Theatre of the McDade Center for the Literary and Performing Arts. At that time Whittaker will present certificates and monetary awards, known as the Berrier Awards, for prize-winning works in prose, poetry, art, and photography. 📖

CLOSE READING

Ellen Casey, professor, gave a paper entitled "Highly Flavored Dishes' and 'Highly Seasoned Garbage': Sensation in the *Athenaeum*" at the Northeast Modern Language Association annual convention in Pittsburgh in early March. The paper was part of a panel on the Victorian sensation novel called "Sensational Subversions: The Genre in Context." Sean Meehan, English '97, is currently under contract at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre for the months of April and May. Sean is playing the part of Billy in "The Cripple of Inishmaan," by Martin McDonagh, author of "The Beauty Queen of Leenane"; the production is directed by Marshall Mason. Joan Robbins, former Director of Theatre at Scranton, has recently directed a production of "The Cripple of Inishmaan" at Ohio Northern University. Kelly Minerva, English '02, is completing an MA at the University of Buffalo; she's writing a thesis on London as a revelatory space in the fiction of V.S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie. Kelly has been accepted into the PhD program at the University of Toronto where she intends to pursue her interest in postcolonial studies. She served as the prose judge for *Esprit* in Fall '03 and will judge poetry for the Spring '04 issue. Stephen Whittaker, professor, participated in a plenary roundtable on "Homer in Joyce" at the James Joyce Birthday Conference on the campus of the University of Miami in January '03. His presentation was entitled "Unraveling Penelope." Whittaker will be a member of a panel on "Joyce & Poetry" at the International Joyce Symposium in Dublin in mid-June. He will speak on "Stephen's Villanelle to Penelope in *Portrait*." Timothy Mayers, English/Philosophy/Honors '88, was recently awarded tenure as an assistant professor of English at Millersville University. Mayers is at work on final revisions of a book manuscript, *(Re)Writing Craft: Composition and Creative Writing in the 20th and 21st Centuries*, to be published by University of Pittsburgh Press. Len Gougeon, professor, published an essay, "Emerson in the Twenty-first Century" in the Spring '04 issue of *The Concord Saunterer*, the journal of the Thoreau Society. In June Gougeon will participate in a Liberty Fund Colloquium on "Freedom of the Will and the Democratic State" in Tucson, AZ. In July he will be a panel discussant celebrating the 150th anniversary of the publication of Thoreau's *Walden* at the annual gathering of the Thoreau Society in Concord, MA. In August Gougeon will spend a week in residence at the Eisenhower Collection of Civil War Documents at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Jacki Kubiak, Theatre '01, has been awarded a full scholarship to the MFA in Theatre program at the University of Arizona where Kubiak will pursue her career interests in technical direction. Suzanne Adler, English/French '94, is a member of the teaching faculty at Lycee Francais de New York. Adler took her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and has recent or forthcoming poems in *Poetry Motel*, *Big City Lit*, *7 Carmine*, and the *Boston Review*. In late March, Jody DeRitter, professor, presented a paper at the American Society for 18th-Century Studies conference in Boston. The paper included a detailed comparison involving an early 18th-century stage comedy, Susannah Centlivre's *The Wonder*, and Ridley Scott's 1991 female outlaw movie, *Thelma and Louise*. John Nardone, English '99, has been accepted to graduate creative writing programs at City College of New York, Florida State University, and the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Eileen Tamerlani, English/Honors '02, is advertising coordinator for *Destinations*, a US/Canada travel magazine headquartered in Washington, D.C., and also provides editorial and graphic design support for the publication. William Black, adjunct professor, has a number of recent and forthcoming fiction publications: "Swimmers" in *Hotel Amerika*, "Midnight Thoughts on the Law of Probability" in *Prairie Schooner*, "Looking at Others: On Three Photographs Found in a Secondhand Copy of *Less Than Zero*"



Moon Over Buffalo
by Ken Ludwig

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON PLAYERS

April 23, 24, 30, & May 1 at 8:00 p.m.
April 25 & May 2 at 2:00 p.m.
directed by Michael O'Steen

Royal Theater
McDade Center
for Literary and
Performing Arts

Adult Tickets: \$7
Students, Faculty Staff, Senior Citizens, Children: \$4
Box Office: (570) 941-4318
Web Address: www.scranton.edu/players

2003-04: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN THE ROYAL THEATER

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Alums and Students!

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please send to:

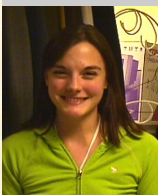
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Scranton, PA 18510

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

CLOSE READING

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in *Chicago Review*, "Out on the Peninsula" in *Black Warrior Review* and "The Sky at Night" in *Ploughshares*. "Swimmers" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Forthcoming nonfiction includes "The Don Wore Red," a review essay on new Russian fiction in translation, and "Another World Within This One," a conversation with novelist Howard Norman; both will appear in *Quarter After Eight*. Bonnie **Markowski**, adjunct professor, presented a hardcopy paper, "E-Papers: Redefining 'The Word' Composition" at the Pennsylvania College English Association Conference hosted by Marywood University in mid-March. Markowski has been accepted as a non-degree graduate student in the PhD program at Binghamton University and is editing a monthly newsletter for Northeast Pleasure Riders. Kathryn **Gordon**, PJ **Scanlon**, and Virginia **Kennedy**, adjunct professors, gave papers at the recent PCEA conference as members of a panel entitled "Towards Social Activism: Awakening Awareness in Writing and Literature Classrooms." Gordon's paper title was "Writing As Witness," Scanlon's paper title was "Excuse me Professor, what's an idiot?" and Kennedy's paper title was "Writing As Activism: The Power of Constructing Language for Constructive Change." Kennedy has been awarded a travel scholarship from the University of Kansas to attend a conference sponsored by KU and Haskell Indian Nations University. Kennedy will participate in a conference session on "The Shifting Borders of Race and Identity: A Research & Teaching Workshop on First Nations and African American Experience." She is also giving a paper entitled "Winning Hearts and Minds: Indigenous Literature as Resistance to Neoconservative Thought" at the National Assn. of Ethnic Studies conference in Philadelphia this April. Kennedy's forthcoming publications are "Native Americans, African Americans and the Space That is America: Indians in the Fiction of Toni Morrison," an essay to appear in *Crossing Waters, Crossing Worlds*, a collection of critical essays to be published by Duke University Press, and "Un-learning the Legacy of Conquest: Possibilities for Leslie Silko's *Ceremony* in the Non-Native Classroom" in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. Kristin **Sanner**, lecturer, gave a paper, "lol—do u really want us to rite that much?": Improving Students' Writing in Web-based Distance Education Courses" at the Pennsylvania College English Association in March. Heidi **Pierson**, English teaching certificate '99, is teaching ESL in a missionary school in Spain. Toni **Glover**, assistant professor and Director of Composition, gave a paper entitled "Underneath the Writing: How We Teach Is As Important As What We Teach" at the PCEA conference. Alison **Hill**, English/Honors '04, presented a paper at PCEA on "Alienation of the Individual in William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Eugene Zamiatin's *We*." Rich **Larsen**, associate professor and Director of Theatre, designed the set for the University Players' Spring '04 production of *Moon Over Buffalo*.



Rachael **Miller**, Theatre '04, designed the costumes for the production. Michael **O'Steen**, assistant professor, directs *Moon Over Buffalo*. In late May O'Steen will direct *Little Shop of Horrors* at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. He recently gave two workshops on musical theatre auditions and audition techniques at the Southeast Theatre Conference in Chattanooga, TN. Aileen **Roginski**, Physical Therapy '02, active in theatre productions while a student at Scranton, is an on-call physical therapist for Broadway productions of "Urinetown" and "The Lion King." Michael **Friedman**, professor, has had an essay "'O, let him marry her!': Matrimony and Recompense in *Measure for Measure*," originally published in *Shakespeare Quarterly* (46), selected for reprint in *Gale Research Yearbook of Shakespearean Criticism* (80). He has two publications forthcoming: "'I won't dance, don't ask me': Branagh's *Love's Labour's Lost* and the American Film Musical" in *Literature/Film Quarterly* and "The Feminist as Shrew in *10 Things I Hate about You*" in April's *Shakespeare Bulletin*.

