



Works Cited

English Department Newsletter

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Spring 2005

Majors Study, Travel, Succeed

What may you do with an English or Theatre major? Enjoy a rich variety of experiences and leadership opportunities -- if the activities of current and recent grads are indicative. An informal and very incomplete survey of majors about to exit the McDade Center for life in the fast lane suggests a range of exciting and challenging possibilities. Nicole Aloise, English/Honors '05, will matriculate at St. John's University law school in NYC in the fall, having won the full-tuition St. Thomas More Scholarship for her three year program of study. "The writing and critical analysis skills I gained in my English classes helped me immensely while studying for and taking the LSATs," she says. "I think I'm well-prepared for the writing challenges of law school and after." Aloise hopes to pursue a career in criminal law and someday perhaps follow in the footsteps of her father, a New York State Supreme Court Justice.

Emilie Brancato, English/Honors '05, will head north to Canada come autumn to begin the Master's degree program at the Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. Looking forward to a steady dose of sunshine is Brianna Noll, English/Honors '05, who will pursue her apprenticeship to the Muse in the

(Continued on page 3)



*From left to right Marie Sullivan, Nicole Aloise and Maria Hundersmarck
— off to new adventures!*

Congratulations!

Maria **Hundersmarck**, English/Honors '05, has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship to Korea where she will teach English as a second language. Joe **Kraus**, visiting lecturer in the department for AY 04-05, has won the inaugural Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prizes Competition for his poem, "Seventeen Snowmen." Kraus's poem was chosen from more than 400 entries submitted by 154 writers. The competition was established by Marvin Rosenberg in memory of his wife, and Kraus will donate a portion of the \$1,000 prize to the American Cancer Society in honor of the student who inspired him to write the poem and in memory of his own father who died of cancer several years ago. Stephen **Whittaker**, professor, and Jenny Newsome Whittaker welcomed Finnbar Declan Whittaker to the world on 30 December 2004. In addition to his new parental privilege, Whittaker will serve as President-Elect of the Faculty Senate beginning in September, having been selected as future President in February. Michael **Friedman**, professor, has been elected to preside as Chair of the Faculty Affairs Council for the upcoming three year term. Lynn **Springer** joined the Department of English and Theatre as the department's secretary in January 2005. 📖



Notes from the Chair

*I am his Highness' dog at Kew;
Pray tell me, sir, whose dog are you?*

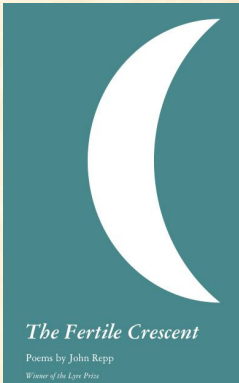
—Alexander Pope

We have two Scottish terriers at home, and as far as I can tell, they have no interest in books, politics, or American culture in general. Though we leave the radio on for them when we go to work, more than a decade's worth of NPR's *Morning Edition* seems to have done little to elevate their taste or judgment. Though they frequently produce rude noises, they never (as I sometimes do) snort with derision or grunt approvingly in response to op-ed pieces in the *New York Times* or *The Economist*. Though they possess incredibly subtle olfactory senses, they use these gifts to—well, you know

what dogs use their gifts for. They seem to prefer repetitive and often fruitless explorations of their immediate surroundings to more intellectual pursuits, and if their body language is any indication, they find thinking about things they cannot see to be a stressful and unrewarding activity. Poetry bores them, unless the poem in question happens to contain the word “treat” or something that sounds like one of their names. They never attend plays or concerts, either because they think it's too much trouble to go out or because they can't figure out how to get there, and they fall asleep when we watch movies at home unless the soundtrack is really loud. I love my dogs, and I enjoy spending quality time with them, but I am frequently very grateful to discover that most of my students are nothing like them.

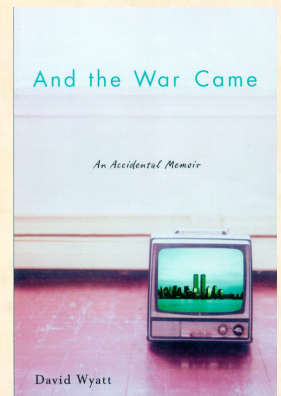
- Jody DeRitter, Chair

URS Welcomes Poet & Memoirist



On Thursday, May 5, the University Reading Series will host visiting writer John Repp, prize-winning poet and associate professor of English at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He will give a free public reading from his new collection of poems, *The Fertile Crescent*, published by Cherry Grove Collections, at 8 pm in the Studio Theatre of the McDade Center for the Literary and Performing Arts. A brief reception and book-signing will follow. Copies of *The Fertile Crescent* are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. Repp's book won the 2003 Lyre Poetry Prize and has been hailed by poet and critic Albert Goldbarth as “a comprehensive collection of poems, heartfelt and smart about our human condition.” Repp's other collections include *Thirst Like This*, winner of the Devins Prize from the University of Missouri Press (1990) and the recent *White Doe*, published by Mayapple Press (2004). In addition to the public reading, Repp will meet with students in Jay Hill's WRTG 316 (Poetry Writing 2) for an informal question & answer session.

On Thursday, April 14, the University Reading Series welcomed David Wyatt to campus to give a public reading from his recent *And the War Came: An Accidental Memoir*. Begun in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, Wyatt records in day-to-day journal entries his response to the historic event as he pursues the demands and privileges of his personal and professional lives. This activity leads him into an unplanned but compelling meditation on American cultural history and the often riddling dynamic of his own family's successes and sorrows in mid- and late twentieth America. A professor of American literature at the University of Maryland and author of several books of literary and cultural criticism, Wyatt read from his new book in the Studio Theatre of the McDade Center for the Literary and Performing Arts. Earlier that day Wyatt attended Joe Kraus's WRTG 214 (Creative Nonfiction 1) workshop to talk with students and other interested members of the Writing program and English department faculty about creative nonfiction as a literary genre. 📖



Majors Study, Travel, Succeed


(Continued from page 1)

Florida State University's graduate English program. A frequent contributor to *Esprit*, Scranton's semi-annual review of literature and the arts, Noll was a finalist in the national undergraduate poetry contest sponsored by Hollins University at its forty-fifth annual literary festival in Roanoke, VA, in mid-March. She is putting finishing touches on her Honors thesis, a collection of poems with a critical preface.

In September recent Theatre grad Kate Brennan, '04, will begin study in the University of Virginia's Theatre department where she will pursue an MFA in acting. Maria Hundersmarck, English/Honors '05, jets off to Korea in late summer for a year of international experience as a Fulbright Fellow. "I decided early in my college career that I wanted to travel and experience other cultures and the way others live. The Fulbright program in Korea allows me to live with a family. I'm really looking forward to that." Hundersmarck cites Ellen Casey, professor of English and director of the University's Honors Program, as an inspiration. "I look to her as a model for the type of English professor

I someday hope to be."

Marie Sullivan, '05, has been accepted by the University of Pittsburgh's graduate program in Library and Information Science. "I've decided to pursue the MLIS for a couple of reasons. It's a graying profession, but more importantly, I really like looking stuff up. I like making connections."

For the past dozen years, Laurence Duffy, English/Philosophy/Communication '91, has exercised his impressive range of talents and interests at Gonzaga College, SJ, in "the leafy suburbs of Dublin" where, he also reports, he serves as senior English teacher, sole member of the Rhetoric department, and coordinator of the Transition Year program. In addition to editing the *Gonzaga Record*, the school's annual, Duffy coaches the senior Debating team. In his free time, he polishes the opening line of his novel-in-progress and derives nourishment from living next door to the former residence of Bram Stoker. Says Duffy, "I hope all is well with the English department at Scranton and that it continues to thrive in its production of Sons and Daughters for the King." 




Brianna Noll

Emilie Brancato

Esprit Public Reading, May 12

On Thursday, May 12 at 8 pm in the Heritage Room (5th flr.) of Weinberg Memorial Library, Editor-in-chief Rebecca Martin will welcome the University community to the semi-annual free public reading of poems and short fiction by students featured in the Spring '05 issue of *Esprit*. "It's a generous issue in terms of size and scope and style," Martin says, "with good writing and some wonderful graphics. I'm glad to have had the chance to oversee the publication of this issue and to have been a member of the *Esprit* during my time at Scranton. I'll miss working on the review,

but please don't you all miss the reading!"

Stephen Whittaker, professor and faculty moderator of the magazine, will present certificates and monetary prizes, known as the Berrier Awards, for outstanding works of prose, poetry, art, and photography. Prize-winning work is evaluated in a "blind" review process by former editors of the journal, past award winners or otherwise credentialed judges. Fall '04 Berrier Award winners were Pearl Brilmyer (poetry), Christopher Longo (prose), and Brian Zywicki (photography). 

Friedman Featured Speaker at Shakespeare Festival

On April 7, the University of Akron's "Shakespeare in the Spring" festival, funded by UAkron benefactor Cathryn Carroll Taliaferro, celebrated the poet's 441st birthday by welcoming Michael Friedman to the northeast Ohio campus as featured speaker. Scranton's resident Shakespeare scholar, Friedman was invited to deliver two lectures at the day-long gathering attended by more than 150 undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.



"I enjoyed the opportunity to put together a presentation using current media technology as I had dozens of photos of my recent production of *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Actors Circle in Scranton," Friedman reports. "The hospitality was first-rate and the honorarium generous, and I'm always happy to talk with interested students and colleagues about the challenges of staging Shakespeare's work."

His invitation, according to festival director Joseph F.

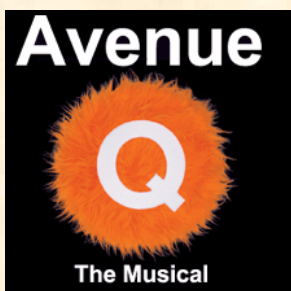
Ceccio, professor of English at Akron, was occasioned by on-campus interest in Friedman's recent book, *"The World Must Be Peopled": Shakespeare and the Comedy of Forgiveness (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2002)* and by favorable response to Friedman's participation as a workshop leader at the 1999 festival. As keynote speaker this year, the ninth annual celebration, Friedman gave two talks, one titled "Staging *The Taming of the Shrew* in the Twenty-first Century," based on his recent experience directing that play, and a second derived from the essential argument of his book-length study, with a particular focus on *Alls Well that Ends Well* and *Measure for Measure*. 📖

"...I'm always happy to talk with interested students and colleagues about the challenges of staging Shakespeare's work."

Avenue Q Trip A Success

On Saturday, April 9th, the Department of English and the University Players sponsored a bus trip for members of the University community to attend a performance of "Avenue Q" at the John Golden Theatre on Broadway. In addition to enjoying the Tony Award-winning production, group members found time to take in an art exhibit, do some shopping, and/or simply relax on a beautiful day in mid-town Manhattan.

The department hopes to schedule similar trips for the upcoming fall and spring semesters. Please convey your interest and ideas to Lynn Springer, event coordinator and department secretary. 📖



Jordan Gelber, Natalie Venetia Belcon, Nicky, Rick Lyon (behind Nicky), Princeton, John Tartaglia, Kate Monster, Jennifer Barnhart (behind Kate), Stephanie D'Abruzzo, Rod (behind Stephanie D'Abruzzo), and Ann Harada photo by Carol Rosegg

Visiting Fulbright Scholar Update

Sarah Anyang Agbor, the department's Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence for AY 04-05, maintains her fast pace of activities, both on campus and off. In mid-February Anyang Agbor flew to Houston to deliver a paper at the National Association for African-American Studies conference on "Autobiography in African, Afro-American and Caribbean Novels: Comparative Perspectives." Her paper addressed depictions of women in novels by Alice Walker, Bessie Head, Buchi Emecheta, and Jamaica Kincaid. "I was especially interested to assess works by these authors that might be characterized as *Bildungsroman*, that is, a novel which follows the growth and development of the protagonist from childhood to early adulthood," Anyang Agbor explains.

In mid-March, Anyang Agbor was the invited speaker at the Multidisciplinary Research Seminars sponsored by the Office of Research Services. She spoke on "Death and Dirge Culture in Cameroon," the subject of her PhD. dissertation defended at Ibadan University, Nigeria, in 1998. A few days later in March she spoke to kindergarten students at St. Gregory's School on Western Africa, its people, food, and dress.

March also saw the curtain rise on the University Players' production of Wole Soyinka's "Madmen & Specialists," directed by Anyang Agbor and co-directed with her friend and colleague, Anne Tanyi-Tang, a Fulbright Research Fellow at CUNY this year. "Sarah's presence in the McDade Center for the Literary and Performing Arts has been a real plus for our Theatre program," says Rich Larsen, associate professor and



Sarah Anyang Agbor and Anne Tanyi-Tang in traditional African dress on opening night of "Madmen & Specialists"

director of Theatre. "In addition to the course she's teaching this term on Modern African Drama, her direction of Soyinka's play is exactly the kind of opportunity for global awareness the University is committed to providing its students today and in the years ahead."

After the March 11 evening performance, a "Talk Back" session arranged by the Study Abroad Office and the Theatre program drew a large audience and sparked spirited discussion. Joining Sarah and Anne as discussion leaders were Darla Germeroth, associate dean of CAS, and Moses Ikiugu, assistant professor of occupational therapy. Anyang Agbor also gave a presentation on Soyinka's play, its social-cultural and political background, at the Interna-

(Continued on page 8)



Seventeen Snowmen

for Joseph Malecki III

Summer died that April day they found the tumor.
 Nine months dripped from saline bag to tube,
 and I wrestled the cancer,
 that appetite without a mouth,
 'til at last they came to me with smiles
 and spoke to me of "remission",
 and they promised me my life.

They bundled me for February cold
 and I rode, a passenger, through streets
 less substantial than hospital linen
 and blackened already with sand and soot.

Two days before, they said, was the snowfall
 of the season, eight inches in the valley,
 more on either mountain, and father drove
 as if it were new-fallen,
 each almost familiar block a different verse
 in a song too slow for dancing.

When we made the turn into the subdivision,
 I was myself again,

or,

I was those parts of me

the surgeons had not taken,
 and I felt those nine months like a phantom limb,
 as I looked outside the fogging window

willing myself to see the wading pools and training wheels,
 the dandelions and roller skates,
 the chalk drawings and maple helicopters,
 and ice cream dripping down the cone onto a small boy's wrist.

So, it wasn't until mother's gasp that I saw them:
 snowmen watching us from yard after yard,
 mustering denser as we neared our home.
 Some held signs of "welcome home",
 two wore jerseys of my little league team,
 and several wore yellow scarves that hung limp in the cold.
 "Seventeen in all," friends reported to us later,
 "every house in the neighborhood"
 except the three who wintered in Florida.

A snowman's just a thing of ice and sun;
 its arms are fallen branches, and it hasn't any legs.
 So, to say I saw them clap and dance is fantasy
 I know, born of the ache in the long bones of my legs,
 but this much I know too:
 there is a hunger for spring deeper than scalpels dig,
 and snowmen slouching in their melt
 grin answer to icicle despair.

-- Joe Kraus

DATEBOOK

The annual Sigma Tau Delta Induction and Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 15, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on the fifth floor of Brennan Hall. At that time, STD will also celebrate the completion of the English Department's new Advising Handbook.

The annual, by-invitation-only, reception for graduating seniors in the Honors program and their advisors will be held on Wednesday, May 25, at 11:00 am on the fifth floor of Brennan Hall.

CLOSE READING

Tim **Gabrielli**, English/Theology '04, is completing his first year of graduate student in the Master of Theological Studies program at the University of Dayton and working as a graduate assistant in the Department of Religious Studies. Toni **Glover**, assistant professor, served as a reviewer at the annual Conference on College



Composition & Communication held in San Francisco in March. On April 16, John **McInerney**, professor, had a staged reading of his play, "Ellie's Funeral," produced at Philadelphia's University of the Arts; the producer was Gene **Terruso**, head of the drama program there, who took his English BA/MA at Scranton in the 1970s. Three of McInerney's students in his Fall '04 WRTG 215 (Playwriting 1), Matthew **DeSciscio**, English '06, Sarah **Cunningham**, English '06, and Vincent **Solomeno**, won the 2005 New Playwrights' Festival; the award entailed performance of the students' one-act plays in the Studio Theatre of the

McDade Center for the Literary and Performing Arts in early February. On February 11, Joe **Kraus**, lecturer, gave an invited talk, "The Jewish Gangster: Reflections in a Criminal Mirror," at Temple Sinai in Stamford, CT. Kraus also delivered a paper titled "Ethnic Succession in the Literature of the Gangster: The Case of Ernesto Quinonez's *Bodega Dreams*" at the annual Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States conference held in April at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Stephen **Whittaker**, professor, published an essay, "A Reader above Suspicion," in the *James Joyce Literary Supplement*, Volume 18, No. 2, Fall 2004. In June he will present a paper, "Who's Molly When She's at Homer?" at the North American James

Joyce conference hosted by Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Ellen **Casey**, professor, attended the Middle States Commission on Higher Education meetings in San Juan, PR, in March. As one of her duties as a commissioner she is serving as a member of the Follow-up Activities/Candidate Institutions committee of MSCHE. Kate **Brennan**, Theatre '04, had the role of Harper in a production of "Angels in America" at the Society Hill Playhouse in Philadelphia in March. Also in March, Liesbet **Higham**, Theatre '03, had a role in a production of



"Macbeth" at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison, NJ. Michael **Friedman**, professor, presented a paper entitled "'I'm not a feminist director, but . . .': Recent Feminist Productions of *The Taming of the Shrew*" at the annual Shakespeare Assn. of America conference in Bermuda in March. An expanded version of the paper will be published in a book of essays, *Acts of Criticism: Performance Matters in Shakespeare and His Contemporaries*, forthcoming from Fairleigh Dickinson UP. Friedman also published a review of five volumes of the Arden "Shakespeare at Stratford" series in a recent issue of *Shakespeare Quarterly*. Len **Gougeon**, professor, recently served as a manuscript reviewer for *Portal: A Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies* and also reviewed a book manuscript on Thoreau and the antislavery movement for Cornell UP. Currently serving on the advisory board of *The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies*, which is pursuing a project on the activities of the Underground Railroad in northeast PA, Gougeon is also participating in the



"Royal Biography Project" which seeks to relate the history of our university through the lives and experiences of ten longtime faculty members. He also participated in the recent panel discussion on "Involving Students in Your Research" sponsored by the Office of Research Services. Gougeon's essay, "The Education of Henry Adams," will be included in a volume titled *American History Through Literature: 1870-1920*, to be published by Scribner's in late 2005. Rich **Larsen**, director of Theatre and associate professor, reviewed theatre major portfolios at the annual U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology meetings, held this March in Toronto. Larsen also designed the set, lighting and sound for the mid-March Players production of Wole Soyinka's "Madmen & Specialists" staged on the Royal Theatre and for the current production of Stephen Metcalfe's "Strange Snow." Beth **Gallagher**, English '05, was production stage manager for "Madmen" and Jennifer **Glenn**, Theatre '05, was costume shop manager. Je **Tellier**, adjunct professor of Theatre designed the costumes and Pat **Toomey** was technical director for the production. Tellier also did set design and painting for the Scranton Public Theatre's recent production of Neil Simon's "Hotel Suites."

(Continued on page 8)

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380

Alums and Students!

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Production Manager: Lynn Springer

CLOSE READING

(Continued from page 7)



Michael **O'Steen**, assistant professor, directs the current "Strange Snow." Jeff **Trainor**, Theatre '06, is stage manager and Rachel **Miller**, Theatre '04, is costume designer. Steven **Ranton**, Theatre '07, has the lead role and is supported by Anthony **DeScipio**, History/Theatre, '07, and Sarah **Heisman**. Judith **Hicks**, English Ed., '05, presented a paper titled "Grammar By Ear: Teaching Grammar Skills by Immersion and Imitation" at the Pennsylvania College English Assn. 2005 annual conference hosted by Gettysburg College in early April. Shannon **Muklewicz**, MA English '05, gave a paper on "The Presence and Absence of Power through Injury in Stephen Crane's *An Episode of War*." Virginia **Kennedy**, adjunct professor, chaired a session on "Representing the Indigenous Persona" and read a paper on "Representation of Indigenes in America's War Machine." She and Sarah **Anyang Agbor**, the department's Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from Yaounde University in Cameroon, co-wrote and presented a paper titled "The Story is Survival: The Ethic of Resistance in Native American and African Literature" at the National Assn. of Ethnic Studies annual conference in Chicago in late March. 📖



Fulbright Scholar Update

(Continued from page 5)

tional Forum sponsored by the Associate Provost and the Office of International Programs and Services.

"Sarah's possessed of great energy," says John Meredith Hill, professor and contact person during her stay at the University, "and it's a challenge to keep abreast of her week-to-week engagements. I think she was in Texas again for a conference in April, then she's off to other national meetings around the country in May, June and July. She's a fine scholar-in-residence, and many other academic communities around the country have also had the benefit of her enthusiasm and energy. I'm delighted she was able to be with us at Scranton this year." 📖

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