

MUSINGS

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Dates to Remember

- Tuesday, November 9th: Wellness Fair.
- Thursday, November 11th: Veteran's Day (Campus Closed)
- Saturday, November 13th: Last day to Withdraw with a "W"
- November 25th-28th: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 5th: End of Fall quarter.
- December 7th: Grades due.
- December 9th-11th: SCC presents *A Christmas Carol*

FROM THE CHAIR: A NEW DIVERSITY



Recently, I was reading the newsletter from the English Department at the University of Michigan. The chair was writing about the faculty and all of their interests so I began to wonder about our English faculty. Some may think that English professors

are only interested in reading Jane Austen and Shakespeare, or spending all of their time evaluating student essays, or being even so jaded as to ignore popular culture altogether. Instead, upon inquiring of the faculty what exactly was on their minds at the time, I discovered a new diversity – a diversity of interests and activities and passions. Who would have guessed at the plethora (I always hate it when I am rating the SAT II essays to find that word over and over again, used as an icon of sophistication and intelligence, but I couldn't resist here) of topics. Here is a list of what I discovered was on the minds of the English faculty:

- Post-modernism (Chaos Theory) and Business Communication (Crisis)
- Writing About Trauma As a Healing Technique
- The Death of the Humanities: The Lost Generation of Humanities Scholars
- Corporate Culture vs. Democracy: Consumer Capitalism
- Bilingualism and Babies: Applied Linguistics
- Rise of the Creative Class: How Do You Promote the Change?
- True Diversity Is Cultural Respect
- Mom and Pop Stores: Supporting the

- Inner City
- Too Much Information? Literacy and Critical Thinking
- Our Global Position and the Iraqi War
- Marginalized Women: Multicultural Concerns, Women's Issues and Africa
- "No New Pain": Heart-Centered Universality vs. the Individual
- The Denial of Racism: The Lack of Knowledge and Race Relations
- Their Frames of Reference: How Young People Process Information
- Classic Intelligence vs. Business Concepts: The Proliferation of Marketing
- Socio-Political Effects of Urban Sprawl
- "The First Step to Knowledge Is to Know That We Are Ignorant": Our Misperceptions and Our Students'

Can you believe the variety of concerns that supposed, staid English professors have? Of course, we read and we write and we grade, but we also think. Can you match the faculty member to the chosen topics of concern? I alone have the answers; I would be glad to think up a prize for the first one to match successfully the concern to the professor. But what's the point? Besides showing ourselves how we incorporate critical thinking into our lives – is that "the good life"? – we can also see that the disciplines are much more interconnected than we might imagine. Now if we could just follow through with those concerns, act upon them, research them, write the paper about them, call a colleague to discuss them, or even find a way to incorporate them into our own teaching and learning and thinking then the diversity will truly spawn something new.

Gary Mitchner

PRINTED AND PRESENTED

Lisa Tyler presented a paper titled "The Loss of Roses: Mother-Daughter Myth and Relationships between Women in *Mrs. Dalloway*" at the Twenty-Ninth Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, Sept. 30-Oct. 2. The theme of the conference was "Constructing and Deconstructing Motherhood in Literature and Film." Her article, "The Bullet that Did Not Kill Me": Jinny in *The Waves*," appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of the *Virginia Woolf Miscellany*, published by the International Virginia Woolf Society. She presented " 'He was pretty good in there today': Reviving the Macho Christ in Ernest Hemingway's 'Today is Friday' and Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*" at the MidEast Conference on Christianity and Literature at the University of Dayton October 22-23.

Chuck Freeland published "The Idea of Two" in the Fall issue of the *Iowa Review*.

Tim Waggoner attended the Bram Stoker Awards banquet in NYC in June, where he presented a session on teaching creative writing and presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to anthologist Martin H. Greenberg. This summer he also attended Origins and Gencon, both gaming conventions, and presented sessions on writing fiction. He was presented at A Celebration of Wright State Writers during the week of October 24-29. With **Chuck Freeland**, Tim attended a work-

shop on using the Ohio Arts Council's new online grant application system called OLGA on October 5. In July, Tim's novel *Temple of the Dragonslayer* came out from Wizards of the Coast. A sequel, *Return of the Sorceress* will be out in November. His novel *Defender: Hyperswarm* came out from I-Books in September, and the mass market trade paperback edition of *Necropolis* will be out this month. Tim's horror novel, *Like Death*, will be out from Leisure Books in January. His new website is up at www.timwaggoner.com.

Carol Nancarrow was a guest facilitator for the Faculty Academy at Madison Area Technical College June 12-14. She also attended the first annual Process Learning Researchers Conference at Elmhurst College in the Chicago area. The three-day conference featured the work of authors of the Pacific Crest Faculty Guidebook, of which Carol is one of three technical editors. Sinclair has purchased the Faculty Guidebook by site license. Contact Carol for details.

Ed Davis recently had a short story, "Roses and Rain," appear in the on-line West Virginia journal mountainechoes.com. Also, he has been asked to present "Writing Autobiographical Fiction" at the annual West Virginia Writers' Conference in Cedar Lakes, WV in June.

Liz Christensen attended the Association for Business Communication convention in Cambridge, MA from October 26 through 31.

"Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree."

—Ezra Pound

FROM THE COMMITTEES

The Literature and Scholarship Team

sponsored a successful Marathon Reading of George Orwell's *1984* on Oct. 27, 2004, in the Lobby of building 7. Twenty-four readers from English, Communication, and Humanities departments—faculty and students—participated. The *Dayton Daily News* ran an article and photo the next day. The reading was held in conjunction with *Project 1984+20*, of the National Council of Teachers of English, and was intended to promote reading or rereading of the novel and discussion about the role of language in politics and culture. The Team's next project will be to support *The Big Read*, a community-wide effort to read and discuss the same book in early 2005, as detailed in the Sunday, Oct. 24, *Dayton Daily News* and supported by Sinclair librarians. The Team is also brainstorming ways to encourage our students to read literature, and will be sharing

tips and current practices in a future issue of this newsletter.

The Assessment Team will focus on developing a class assessment instrument and aiding the review of master syllabi. The team will also continue working on the Self-Assessment Instrument developed collaboratively with the DEV department.

The English / Library Liaison Team, along with Lisa Tyler and other interested English faculty, will preview and evaluate two new electronic reference sources, *The Literature Resource Center* and *Opposing Viewpoints*, and before mid-November will advise LRC Director Doug Kaylor as he makes his decision whether or not to purchase them. The Team is also working on simple, versatile LRC assignment sheets, similar to those used for

MORE FROM THE COMMITTEES

(cont. from p. 2) ENG 112, for use in ENG 113 and 111. In addition, the Team will help facilitate the library's move to temporary quarters in the Ballroom of Building 7 at the end of March. We will make English faculty aware of the resources and services available during the interim and help answer faculty and student questions regarding any changes in conducting library research during that time.

Creative Writing Team

The new issue of *Flights*, SCC's literary arts magazine, is available. Guidelines for both the Annual Creative Writing Contest and the Paul Laurence Dunbar Memorial Poetry prize are available in the English Dept. office. We have several confirmed presenters for spring's Annual Writers' Workshop. Lee K. Abbott will be our keynote presenter, John Drury will present a session on writing poetry, Vickie Stringer will present a session of writing and publishing fiction, and Linda Vaccaricello, editor of *Cincinnati Magazine*, will present a session on writ-

ing for magazines.

University Parallel Team

The University Parallel Team has formulated their primary goals for 2004-2005. These goals include: to review the 2001 department Gap analysis for pertinent issues, and replicate the analysis for current data to draw from; to revise the Master Syllabus for English 113 and have a text for 113 selected by the end of spring quarter 2005; also to organize and facilitate 2 to 3 Brown Bag Collegial Chats during the academic year; and to organize and facilitate 2 faculty development in-services.

Writing Center

The Writing Center is operating full speed this quarter with several new tutors. Since tutorial assistance is an important asset to the operations of the Writing Center, faculty should take time and have their students bring clear assignments. A generic form is being prepared that can be changed to suit instructors' needs, indicating their suggestions for tutors to help them focus on the needs of students who come to

FACULTY FAVORITES: KATE GEISELMAN

The first time I read *Charlotte's Web*, I was six. My first grade teacher had pointed it out to me in the Scholastic Book order form, and when I begged my mom to order it, she smiled, disappeared for a few minutes, and returned with a worn hardback she had been saving for me. I grinned and headed straight for my favorite wingback chair in the living room.

I don't know how long it took me to read it, but one evening not too much later, my mother found me in the same chair sniffing and wiping away tears. I had had no idea that a book could have anything but a happy ending—Charlotte's death was just too much to bear. It was the first time I had been utterly transported by reading. I must have read it half a dozen times over the next few years—my own effort to resurrect my friend Charlotte. I could recite the first three lines from memory.

Almost thirty years later, my four-year-old daughter picked up the animated video of *Charlotte's Web* at the library and wanted to check it out. I couldn't stand the

idea of having her see it on screen before reading the book, so I promised to read it to her instead. Over the next few weeks, I read a chapter to her each night at bedtime. I had forgotten (or had I taken for granted?) how eloquent the prose was and how unsentimental the message. Just like old times, (and much to Ellen's puzzlement), I blubbered through the last two chapters.

Charlotte's Web is a book about friendship, about wonder, and about the power of the written word. Today, it's not the first sentences, but the last that stay with me: "It's not often in life that someone comes along who is a true friend and a great writer. Charlotte was both." Indeed.

Editor's note: Each month, we'll be featuring an English faculty member's reflections about a favorite, memorable, or influential book. This month's feature pays homage to our new literature offering, Children's Lit LIT240. Please contact the editor if you'd like to contribute to this feature for an upcoming issue.

"It's not often that someone comes along who is a true friend and a great writer."

—E.B. White



Faculty and Staff

- Chair:
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- Secretary:
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- Faculty:
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Tim Waggoner
Chuck Wagner
- Tech support:
Doug Greathouse
- Student worker:
Natalie Day
- Newsletter Editor:
Kate Geiselman

NEWS: DECA PARTNERSHIP

visited the Dayton Early College Academy on October 25 and are enthusiastic about Sinclair's role in what appears to be a terrific alternative school. DECA is the result of a partnership between the University of Dayton and Dayton Public Schools, and is funded by the State of Ohio and a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. DECA students attend classes at their campus, located in the old NCR property on Brown Street, and also attend Sinclair to take college courses, chiefly Math and English. The program allows students who may be underserved in a traditional setting to be fully engaged in active learning, as well as earn up to two years of college credit by graduation.

As part of this partnership, a meeting has been scheduled for Friday, Nov. 19 from 2-4pm at DECA. This meeting is a chance for all English and Math faculty to visit DECA and hear more about the students who will be sent here. There will also be an opportunity for Sinclair faculty to exchange ideas with DECA English teachers. We strongly encourage you to attend if your schedule permits. Please contact Tim or Kate if you have any questions.

GRAPEVINE

- Part timer **Lisa Cook** had her second child, Olivia Ann, on June 8, 2004 (a month sooner than expected). Olivia weighed 6lbs. 1oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches. Confident that the due date was a month away, Lisa's husband, Shawn, had left on Monday, June 7 for his annual trip to D.C. with his eighth grade students. Needless to say, all parties were quite surprised. Olivia was also welcomed home by her two-year-old brother, Derrick.
- As if you haven't heard by now, **Liz Christensen** has become a self-described "Nana Geek" as the proud grandmother of Brock Robert Hood who, at 10 weeks of age, was weighing in at double his birth weight: (over 11 lbs. at this writing!). Brock is the son of Liz's daughter, Amanda, and son-in-law, Ryan. Liz's husband Steve is now better known as "Pa." Congratulations to all.
- **Sarah Marie Werner** married Christian Kiewitz on July 3rd, 2004 at St. Leonates Kirche in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Christian is a management professor at the University of Dayton. Miss Werner was a lonely old maid, her only occupation grading compositions, but now she is a part-time happy *Hausfrau* dedicated to learning German verbs, cases, and meticulous dusting methods. She's told that caution is the mother of the porcelain cabinet, and though she's not certain what that means, she's confident she'll learn in time. The couple honeymooned in Turkey, an unsuitable country for the European Union, but a very nice place to vacation, or so the Germans told Frau Kiewitz.
- **Jamey Dunham** and his wife, Laurie, are expecting their second child some time in early December. Already proud parents of a 22-month-old son, Sam, the Dunhams had best get busy painting that nursery pink, as "it's a girl!" this time. Let's hope Miss Zoey is sweet enough to postpone her arrival until after Jamey has his grades turned in.
- **Kay Berg** enjoys tutoring a sixth-grade Van Cleve student in reading, writing, and math one hour a week in the partnership program between Van Cleve Elementary School and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Tutors include both members and non-members of the church, in case anyone else is interested. (Wednesday or Thursday at 4:00 p.m.)
- **Tom Schaefer** is back as a part time instructor this quarter after having taught at Sinclair back in the early 90s and then retiring from Wayne HS three years ago. He belongs to an all-guys writers' group that also does public readings, mostly poetry. The group (all Dickinson fans) calls themselves "Emily's Boys." They have read at the Second Street Public Market, the Aullwood Apple Fest and Bethany Lutheran Village. Emily's Boys are currently working on something special for the poet's birthday on December