

Today was our last "formal" meeting of the semester. We are planning an end of the year party. (More information on that later. . .)

1. Elections for next year's officers were held today.

Congratulations to Dave King (President), Shane Hill (Vice President), and Lindsay Miller (Secretary/Treasurer)!

2. Academic Conference

Dave said that there is a speaker in the works for next fall's academic conference. He is from the University of Illinois. There will be more information about this next school year.

3. Summer Opportunity

The new book for the Freshman Summer Reading program has been selected, *Class Matters*. The library will once again be creating a web site to support the reading and teaching of this book. If anyone want to help with the web site, please contact William (Bill) Thompson. He works in the Reference Department at the WIU Library and can be reached at 298-2159 or wat100@wiu.edu. English graduate students are invited to contact Bill about this opportunity.

The book is available in the campus bookstore for \$14. The New York Times originally published the book as a series (and the entire book is online).

4. The Conger Award (Has already been awarded as of April 2006)

All graduate students are encouraged to apply for the Syndy M. Conger Award, which recognizes the best academic writing in our Master of Arts program. The award is given to the best formal academic paper written by a Western graduate student for a course in the Department. The award includes a cash stipend.

To apply, submit your essay to the English Graduate Office. For the 2006 award, the essay must have been written for a course taken in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2005 or Spring 2006.

If you have questions about the award, contact David Stevenson at dd-stevenson@wiu.edu or 298-1588.

The website for this award is [here](#). It states that the deadline was April 1, but it has been extended (for an unstated amount of time) because there were not enough entries.

5. The Mahoney Research Fellowship

The John Mahoney Research Fellowship is given once each semester to students for the purposes of conducting off-campus research. Past recipients have used the Mahoney Fellowship to take a creative writing workshop out of state and to study abroad. Two awards of \$500 each will be given each year.

To apply, write a letter explaining your desire to perform off-campus research and a rationale which explains what the funds will be used for. If you have an idea for research, but aren't sure if it is appropriate, please see David Stevenson for clarification. The parameters are quite broad, and your skills at constructing an argument for your project will weight heavily on the awards committee.

An application form will soon be available [here](#): Submit the form and your proposal to the English Graduate Office. Application deadlines are April 15 and November 15, but you can ask if they had any applications and/or if they have extended the deadline for this as well. For questions, please contact David Stevenson at dd-stevenson@wiu.edu or 298-1588.