

Western Illinois University
English & Journalism
Fall 2008 Newsletter



News From The Chair

Chair Position

David Boocker accepted a position as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, beginning July 1, 2008. I have been serving as interim chair of English and Journalism since then. A search for a permanent chair is underway, and the spring newsletter should be able to fill you in on the results of that search. I have taught under three chairs at WIU and several elsewhere, and I hope I have learned enough of the best from each to do justice to the position.

Fall is the Academic New Year, so starting as chair with the new fall semester seems right. There are new classes, new students, new faculty, new events, new books, and new blogs. Color is moving from flowers on the ground to leaves on the trees, and the leaves on the trees are translucent and traced in outline by the autumn sun. It's an auspicious season, a good time for new beginnings. I hope you feel that, too.

—Joan Livingston-Webber, Interim Chair

Outstanding Advisor Award to Ellen Poulter

Ellen Poulter was presented the Provost's Academic Excellence Award for Outstanding Academic Advisor at a ceremony on October 30. Everyone in the Department appreciates all the excellent work she does on behalf of majors and minors in the Department—and the additional work she does helping the interim chair understand the esoterica of the schedule for the whole Department.

Academic Support Center at Riverfront Campus

The US Bank in the Quad Cities gave the Writing Center in the Quad Cities the magnanimous gift of **\$50,000** in a June ceremony on the Quad Cities campus. From this generosity, the department is developing a GAship that will bring the campus and larger community together in summer professional writing workshops for the business and professional communities in the Quad Cities region. It is almost overwhelming that US Bank not only appreciates and values the role of good writing but is willing to invest in it at this level. The Quad Cities Writing Center and the Department of English and Journalism anticipate a great return of value for both the Writing Center and the larger community. Thank you, US Bank!

Students at Work

It is a great pleasure for students to read how their colleagues are engaging with professional events in their lives. Instructors are interested in how students they met earlier are faring.

The newsletter would love to hear from others. It would be great to have a piece from someone in his or her first years beyond graduation.

Katrina Duden will graduate in December. Yes, the English Education students DO finally graduate!

From the Desk of Katrina Duden, Student Teacher at V.I.T.

Ah, Homecoming Week. The week in which students dress up in crazy outfits and drive teachers bonkers with their lack of focus. The week in which it is considered almost a sin to give students too much homework! And, let's not forget, the week in which socializing and sports is at its utmost importance.

Actually, despite students' lack of focus and concentration, Homecoming Week at V.I.T. (Vermont, Ipava, and Table Grove) High School wasn't too terrible. I noticed students' loss of concentration setting in during the last hour on Monday. Last hour (a junior class), students talked with each other and stared at me. Students seemed unmotivated to answer any of my questions, and instead enjoyed conversing with fellow classmates. Needless to say, I left school Monday with a frustrated and defeated attitude. What in the world was going on with my students? Usually, my last hour is motivated and engaged in classroom readings and discussions...what happened today?!? However, the more I thought about the day, the more I realized, "Ah...it's homecoming week." Students have much more on their minds than Miller's *The Crucible* and homework. During Homecoming Week, students are much more focused on dress-up days, school spirit, Friday's class games, the football

game at the end of the week, the dance, and picture taking to capture their memories. My assignments are far from their minds.

Thus, I tried my best to take the week with a grain of salt. I tried to cut students a break with their assignments, not giving them homework every night, but still focused on lesson plans and discussion during class. I feel Homecoming Week is an exciting time for students to act goofy, bond with friends, and create memories. Yet, I feel teachers still have an obligation to lead class discussions and activities. Each period of the day does not come to a standstill for Homecoming events! Students still need to learn and complete assignments (no matter the severity of the assignments during this particular week) even though their minds may be focused elsewhere!

Thinking more about this event, I decided to chaperone the Homecoming Dance Saturday evening, which will be an interesting experience: witnessing mindless antics, high school romances, and carefree attitudes of my students. I volunteered to help with the dance because I think extracurricular activities allow students and teachers to share moments outside the classroom.

This is also the end of my sixth week of student teaching! My mentor teacher, Mrs. Lafary, is set to fill out my midterm evaluation today, and we will review it together. Many thoughts race through my mind at this point...Am I doing well? Does my mentor teacher truly believe I will make a good teacher? What have I learned from this experience thus far? What can I improve on? What did I do well? And finally, I can't believe I'm halfway done!!! Within the past six weeks, I have felt overwhelmed with paperwork and students' bad attitudes. I have been more sleep deprived and overworked than normal—and revised more lesson plan drafts than ever! However, I wouldn't trade the paperwork, rare negative attitudes, planning, or sleep deprivation to be anywhere else at this time in my life.

Teaching is overwhelming and difficult, but teachers don't do what they do for the negative aspects. We teach, motivate, encourage, and interact with children daily for the small, yet wonderful moments; moments in which a student finally understands parts of a sentence, raises his/her hand to participate, or works diligently to raise his/her grade to stay eligible to play sports. These moments and many more are the reasons I am in love with teaching! These are the moments that keep me up late at night grading papers or planning. These are the moments teachers teach for!

—Katrina Duden, WIU Student Teacher

Advising & Student News

Advising Appointments

Advising appointments are going fast!! If you have not yet met with Ellen this semester, you may not be able to register on time. Don't be caught off guard. Call 298-2189 or stop by Simpkins 130 to set up your appointment.

If you have already met with Ellen this semester, but have trouble getting registered due to closed classes, time conflicts, etc., please feel free to stop by the advising office for assistance with these problems any time.

Scholarship Winners for 2008-2009

The Department of English and Journalism proudly recognized several academic scholarship & award winners at our Awards Ceremony last spring. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Scholarship

Paul Blackford
Olive Fite
Irving Garwood
Lila S. Linder
Alfred Lindsey
John Merrett
Beth M. Stiffler
Nai-Tung Ting
Wanninger Foundation
Scholar of the Year
Bill Bradshaw

Recipients

Abigail Klokkenga & Glenna Sabo
Casey Kinson
Andrew Myszka
Kayleigh Kluesner & Eric Anerino
Claire Overton
Kristin Hess
LaTiffanie Jackson
Katherine Schutte
Kristin Dragos
Anna Westermeyer
Tyler Vogler

Fall 2008 Departmental Scholars

We are pleased to announce our English and Journalism Departmental Scholars for Fall 2008. Each semester the Department of English and Journalism selects two students as "Departmental Scholars." These students must be December 2008 graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher. Campus and community involvement is also taken into account in the selection process.

Congratulations to this semester's winners, Adam Szalowski, our departmental scholar for English, and Nora Harrison, our Journalism scholar! The Department is proud of your accomplishments! Adam and Nora will be recognized at the Honors Convocation December 19.

Lois Cordell Bruner Writing Award

Each spring semester all Western Illinois University undergraduates, regardless of major, are invited to submit one personal essay of any length to the Lois C. Bruner Literary Nonfiction contest. Essays should be about life experiences—though these may fit into any of the following categories: travel, memoir, biography, autobiography, nature writing, or cultural critique. The writing should strive for literary qualities; voice and style will be weighed heavily. Several cash prizes and honorable mentions will be awarded.

Three-way

Jeremy Bradley

Split for First Place

Aaron Collie

Michael Cooper

Eula Cordell Larner Writing Award

Each spring semester fiction writers and poets alike are invited to submit stories and poems for the Cordell Larner Award. All Western Illinois University undergraduates, regardless of major, are invited to submit up to 15 poems and/or one short story to the contest. The literary merit of each entry will be weighed heavily. Most important are matters of voice and style. Several cash prizes and honorable mentions will be awarded. Note: writers may submit entries in all three categories—literary nonfiction, fiction, experiences.

First Place

Aaron Collie

Second Place

Rick Pechous

Honorable Mention

Amanda Doyle

Honorable Mention

Micha Heatwole

Honorable Mention

Sarah Zeeck

Journalism Awards

Best In-Class Writing in Journalism

First Place

Ben Snowden

Second Place

Ryan Ferguson

Third Place

Sarah Cash

Best In-Class Graphics Work in Journalism

First Place

Robert Fiore

Second Place

Patrick Pope

Third Place

Kenneth Birdsell

Leland Essay Contest 2008

The Leland Essay Contest rewards the best writers in the Western Writing Program each spring semester. All students in ENG 100, 180, and 280 are eligible to enter. Contest winners are published in *Western Voices*, which is used as a textbook in many composition courses. Winners in each course level receive cash prizes for first, second, and third place.

English 100

First Place

Cameron Bohnstedt

Second Place

Lauren Munson

Third Place

Steven Gryczka

English 180

First Place

Katie M. Stein

Second Place

Tony Felbab

Third Place

Craig Morris

English 280

First Place

Junko Minami

Second Place

Micah Spayer

Third Place

Steven Sommers

Academic Assistance Centers

Academic Services offers monitored study groups and tutoring in many subject areas. Did you receive an early warning grade in one of your general education courses? It's not too late to bring those grades up this semester! Please seek this FREE assistance if you need it. If a course is not listed below, help may still be available. For more information, contact Academic Services in Olson Hall 248 (298-1871). Tutoring is available in the following areas:

ACCT	201 & 202
ANTH	110 & 111
ART	180 & MORE
BIOL	100, 102, 103 & MORE
CHEM	100, 101, 150 & 201
CS	101 & MORE
ECON	100, 231 & 232
FCS	109 & 121
GEOG	100 & 110
GEOL	110, 112, 113 & 115
HE	120, 121, 123 & 250
HIST	105, 106, 125, 126 & MORE
MATH	099, 100, 101, 102, 123 & MORE
MUS	181, 190, 195, 196 & MORE
PHIL	105 & 120
PHYS	100, 101, 114, 124 & 197
POLS	101, 122, 228, 267, 300 & MORE
PSY	100, 221, 250, 251 & MORE
REL	101 & 201
SOC	100
STAT	171

Writing Centers

Call for an appointment. Walk-ins accommodated if tutors are available. E-mail questions to: mwcenter@wiu.edu or visit our website at: www.wiu.edu/uwc.

Simpkins Hall Room 341

Phone: (309) 298-2815

Hours:

Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Wetzel Hall, North Quad 2nd Floor Computer Center

Phone: (309) 298-3477

Hours:

Monday—Thursday 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Thompson Hall, 2nd Floor Across from men's elevator

Phone: (309) 298-3624

Hours:

Monday—Thursday 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Malpass Library, 2nd Floor

Walk-ins only

Hours:

Sunday & Monday 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Quad Cities, Room B14

Phone: (309) 762-9481 Ext. 321

Dates to Remember:

Advance Registration for Spring 2009	Nov. 3-21
Fall Break – NO CLASSES	Nov. 24-28
Classes Resume	Dec. 1
Last Day to Drop a Class or Withdraw from University	Nov. 2
Final Exam Week	Dec. 15-19
Graduate Commencement	Dec. 20
Honors Convocation	Dec. 19
Undergraduate Commencement	Dec. 20
Winter Break	Dec. 22- Jan. 18
Spring Semester Begins	Jan. 20

Fall 2008 Commencement Schedule:

Friday, Dec. 10

ROTC Commissioning 4:00 p.m.

Academic Honors Convocation 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11

Combined Graduate & Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies

Ceremony #1 9:30 a.m.

College of Arts & Sciences (**English Lit., English Ed., and Journalism Majors**)

College of Business and Technology

Board of Trustees

Interdisciplinary Studies

Ceremony #2

College of Education & Human Services

College of Fine Arts & Communication

1:00 p.m.

Student News

Graduate Awards

Syndy M. Conger Essay Award Kay Hamada

John Mahoney Research Fellowship Emily Brackman
Craig Finlay

Ron and Leslie Walker Graduate Fellowships Nan Norcross
Annie Schnarr

Mahoney Award Winners News

Emily Brackman and Craig Finlay both used the John Mahoney Research Fellowship to do significant research this past summer. Emily was able to visit The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Ames, Iowa. At the Center she was able to meet with specialists at Iowa State University, attend and participate in various meetings, and visit the Living Histories

Farm in Urbandale, Iowa. This work will contribute to her thesis project, which is being directed by Dr. Amy Patrick.

With these funds, Craig Finlay was able to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland to read and review a selection of Lord Byron's letters. In this work Craig read several of Byron's letters to John Cam Hobhouse, John Murray, and others, all of which were originally censored by the poet's friend and editor, John Murray. This work will contribute to Craig's thesis project on Byron, orientalism, and sexuality. Craig consulted with Drs. Merrill Cole and Mark Mossman on this work.

Walker Fellowships Support Summer Research

The first two \$1,000 Walker Fellowships were awarded to current graduate students Annie Schnarr and Nanelle Norcross in May 2008. Both students worked with English & Journalism faculty over the summer, completing independent study courses which further their graduate research projects.

A second-year literary studies student, Annie focused her work on contemporary theory and cultural studies, in particular texts by Daniel Chandler, Marshall McLuhan, Jean Baudrillard, Guy DeBord, and Michel Foucault. Nan Norcross, a second-year student in the Quad Cities, investigated the potential for tutors in the Writing Center to support Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) initiatives. Annie and Nan were able to work with Drs. Banash and Dilger respectively on this important summer activity.

Graduate Students Receive Funding from The School of Graduate Studies

Our graduate students continue to gain recognition across the University. This past Spring Katherine Schutte and Kathleen MacLennon received funding from the School of Graduate Studies for upcoming conference presentations of their research on technology and writing.

Spring award winners were Lami Adama, Emily Brackman, and Annie Schnarr.

For information on these awards, please see:
<http://www.wiu.edu/grad/resources/StudentFund.php>

Illinois High School Association Journalism Sectional (IHSA)

The journalism faculty coordinated a high school competition in April for newspaper and yearbook students on behalf of the Illinois High School Association. Bill Knight did much of the advance planning. Mark Butzow ran the event on April 19. All of the other journalism faculty—Lisa Barr, Lisa Kernek, Rich Moreno, Mohammad Siddiqi, Teresa Simmons and Pearlie Strother-Adams—served as judges, along with about two dozen working journalists from newspapers and publishers in the region. Together, they toiled so that about 140 students could see how their work stacked up against peers from other schools. Western's sectional served students from Pontiac, Peoria, and Princeton from central Illinois, plus four Rockford-area high schools, along with Galena, LaSalle-Peru, and Moneeka (near Joliet).

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)

Four students, members of the newly formed Western Illinois University chapter of National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ/WIU), traveled to Washington D.C. for a jobs fair on Thursday, October 26, and Friday, October 27. NABJ/WIU President Rob Amaefule, Vice President Dameris Bagwell, and members Darryl Braxton and Shante Gill traveled with advisor Dr. Lisa Barr to the Howard University Communications Fair. The trip also included a tour of C-SPAN facilities on Friday night and sightseeing of monuments at the Washington Mall.

Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)

Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) students meet every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in Simpkins Room 20. They are participating in the statewide public relations campaign competition for DONATE LIFE. PRSSA hosted a Donors Day event in Sandburg Theater on October 29. Guest speakers from Chicago Dr. Jim Lindley and his wife spoke about how an organ transplant saved their newborn daughter's life. Participants also watched the movie "Return to Me" after the speeches. PRSSA Chapter President Megan Yockey and Vice President Kristen Aguirre attended the PRSSA convention in Detroit.

Western Society of Professional Journalists (WSPJ)

Journalism students from the Western Society of Professional Journalists chapter brought to campus guest speaker Kiyoshi Martinez on September 22, when he spoke to almost 100 people about lifelong learning and adapting to a changing media landscape.

On October 8, SPJ went on a short field trip to two newsrooms in Davenport—the NBC affiliated KWQC-TV 6 and the Quad City Times.

SPJ is bringing in a Chicago researcher from the Mutual UFO Network on Nov. 18 in the Union Sandburg Theater to discuss unusual phenomenon and how reporters could accurately cover peculiar events.

Alumni Notes

Zach Baker, 2008 graduate of WIU with a bachelor's degree in Journalism, presented a poster session at the Spring 2008 Undergraduate Research Fair, entitled: "News Media Compliance with Bush Administration's Saber Rattling Against Iran: A Limited Content Analysis ." His faculty mentor was Dr. Lisa Barr of the Department of English and Journalism.

Chris Bryson, 2004 graduate of WIU with a bachelor's degree in English, went on to finish an MFA in fiction at Southern Illinois University, and is now the editor of Narrative Magazine.

Aaron Collie, 2008 graduate of WIU with a bachelor's degree in English, presented a poster at the Spring 2008 Undergraduate Research Fair, entitled "Macomb Green Guide for Macomb and the Surrounding Area." His faculty mentor was

Dr. Amy Patrick. Aaron also won the Arts and Sciences Student/Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award, established by George Barnes and Inessa Levi. He was awarded with a certificate and \$500 at the College of Arts and Sciences Spring Awards Ceremony May 2, 2008.

Caroline Rohner, former teaching assistant and 2008 graduate of WIU with an MA in English, received a full assistantship from St. Louis University for their Ph.D. program in English.

Special Events

Lit Critic Turns to the Dark (Quantitative) Side

A few weeks ago I took my students in ENG 348, "Ethnic Literatures of the United States: Race, Religion, and Election '08," to a weekend multicultural festival in Davenport. We spent an afternoon and evening surveying attendees on twenty Gallup questions ranging from likely choices for president to assessments of local race relations to beliefs about evolution and creation. This is not my usual methodology, but after reading autobiographies by Obama and McCain, and before launching into novels about civil rights and Vietnam, I wanted my students to get outside the classroom and into conversations with others of very different racial backgrounds, political persuasions, and religious traditions. 252 such discussions later, we ended up with data that was suggestive if not conclusive, a number of eye-opening personal encounters, a broader appreciation of each other as human beings, and—to my knowledge—not a single sunburn.

Aside from noting how lopsided were the presidential results (80% Obama, 13% McCain, and 7% other/undecided), I'll skip the statistical analysis and just add a word about the pedagogical impact: this was quite time-consuming, but also very rewarding. Because the students were involved at all stages, from choosing questions to administering surveys and analyzing responses, I think they became more thoughtful critics of the "fast facts" contemporary media constantly offers. Equally importantly, they got to know me and each other in a setting where we were clearly all on the same team, working together toward a common goal and without a large gap between "professor" and "student." Approximately half of my students observed in their write-ups that the excuse of completing a survey enabled more extensive and personal conversations with members of other ethnic, socioeconomic, and religious groups than they had ever before experienced, and several even said these experiences strongly challenged stereotypes they had unconsciously maintained. For those reasons alone—and whether our data "proves" anything or not—I'll attempt this kind of project again, and I'd be glad to share more with anyone interested in trying something similar. For more info, you can also google "quadsville unity fest" or look under "everett's posts" at usreligion.blogspot.com.

—Dr. Everett Hamner

Fall 2008 Journalism Day

Journalism Day October 15th, 2008 95 students from 7 schools attended this year's recruitment event, featuring guest speaker Bob Hercules, Co-Producer of the 2006 Heartland Award-winning documentary, "Forgiving Dr. Mengele." Dr. Lisa

Barr was this year's coordinator. Journalism faculty and Hercules offered mid-morning educational sessions around the theme of "Preparing for Multimedia Story-telling in an Age of War and its Aftermath." These more intimate sessions included: "Evolution of U.S. Administrations' Rules for Modern Press Coverage During War (WW2-Present)," by Lisa Barr; "Faces of the Enemy: Media Scapegoating and War," by Mark Butzow; "Go There: Mobile Backpack Journalism," by Bill Knight; "Media and the Walking Wounded: Telling a Survivor's Story," by Bob Hercules; "War and the Still Image," by Lisa Kernek; "Big Wars Need Big PR: Selling the 2003 Invasion of Iraq," by Mohammad Siddiqi, and "From Idea to Advertisement: How Creative Concepts Become Breakthrough Ads," by Terri Simmons.

Before dining on pizza and touring campus media outlets the Courier and WIU-TV and WIUM, the Journalism Day guests watched *Forgiving Dr. Mengele* and discussed it with Hercules. Afternoon and evening screenings featured discussion with holocaust survivor Eva Kor and Bob Hercules. In all, about 350 people saw the documentary as part of Journalism Day.

2008 English Graduate Organization

EGO's Poetry/Open Mic Night was a huge success—in addition to the excellent readings, an additional \$75 in donations was collected for Nothing But Nets. With the \$240 total in donations to the NBN/EGO team fundraiser, \$240 has been matched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This means that 48 nets have been sent to places that are at highest risk for malaria. That's potentially 192 lives that have been saved for the next 5 years (the product life of the net).

On behalf of EGO and Nothing But Nets, thank you very much to those who participated in Poetry/Open Mic Night as well as those who donated their time and money to the campaign.

—Kay Hamada, April 12, 2008

The fifth annual English Graduate Organization conference will be taking place on November 8 and 9 in the University Union's Cardinal/Oak and Lincoln rooms. This year's conference is titled "The Body: Images, Perceptions, and Representations" and has drawn a variety of speakers from Western as well as other universities both here and abroad to give presentations on a multitude of themes all relating to the body. The keynote speaker for this event is Dr. Martha Stoddard Holmes, Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor at California State University—San Marcos. Her keynote address, "Cancer Comix: Narrating Cancer Through Sequential Art," will serve as the capstone for the weekend's presentations.

Panel sessions will begin on Saturday at 10 a.m. and will continue throughout the day until 4:45 p.m. The faculty of the Department of English and Journalism will be sponsoring a reception that evening from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Winesellers on the square. On Sunday, panel sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will last until 12:15 p.m. Dr. Holmes' presentation will take place at 2 p.m. in the Lincoln room following a luncheon dinner in the Union's Lamoine Room. Registration for this event is \$15 prior to the conference and \$20 on the day of the event.

A full schedule as well as panel topics and participant presentations may be found at the EGO website, www.wiu.edu/ego.

This event is sponsored by the English Graduate Organization, The Department of English and Journalism, The University Theme Committee, The Visiting Lecturer's Committee, and the Provost's Office.

2008 Magliocco Lecture

This October saw the 3rd annual Maurine Magliocco lecture. With the generous support of Dr. Magliocco, the Department was able to bring Reed Way Dasenbrock, a specialist in modernist poetry, and current Secretary of Higher Education for the State of New Mexico. Secretary Dasenbrock met with faculty to discuss the current state of English studies and plans for the continuing revision of our English studies program. He also delivered a talk on the impact of administrative policy for both high school and university faculty. His talk was attended by faculty, our Provost Jack Thomas (also a member of the Department of English and Journalism), and many of the English Education students and graduate students in English.

2008 Fred Ewing Case & Lola Austin Case Writer-in-Residence

Canadian author Eden Robinson came the last week in October for the Lola Austin Case and Fred Ewing Case writer-in-Residence program and gave a reading, a question and answer, and visited several classes on campus. Robinson is author of *Traplines*, *Monkey Beach*, and *Blood Sports*.

2009 Creative Writing Festival

The 2009 Creative Writing Festival will be held on Monday, April 20, 2009. The Festival is designed to encourage and recognize student writers, to introduce students and faculty to exemplary writers, to offer students an opportunity to visit the WIU campus as well as explore career opportunities in English and Journalism, and to foster collegial relationships between high school and university faculty. This year we will be featuring three authors, Tama Baldwin, from our own department; Tracy Knight, from Psychology; and Shannon Keith Kelly, from Glenwood High School, who has participated as a high school teacher for many years. More information about the CWF can be found at www.wiu.edu/english/cwf or you can email Kathie Zemke with questions at KA-Zemke@wiu.edu.

College of Arts and Sciences Holiday Awards Reception

Faculty and staff are invited to the College of Arts and Sciences Holiday Awards Reception on Friday, December 5, 2008 in the Lamoine Room at the University Union, 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The College will honor retiring faculty and the College Civil Service Employee Award recipient.

Faculty News

Tama Baldwin

Tama Baldwin has a very long and extremely lyrical critique of Christian fundamentalism appearing in the next issue of *Fourth Genre* due out this December. Another of her essays, "Jane," a revision of the autobiography of Calamity Jane, appeared in the most recent issue of *Queens' Quarterly*. She was invited to read her nonfiction recently at the Bowery Poetry

Club in New York City and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. As a finalist for the Goldfarb Fellowship for Nonfiction she was awarded a month-long residency at V.C.C.A. during this coming winter break.

Lisa Barr

Lisa Barr's research activity includes 2 refereed papers: "Stacking the Deck and Ignoring Those 'Wild' Cards (Citizens, Public Interest Advocates): FCC Hearings in Chicago, September, 2007)," to Academic Research for Media Reform: A Symposium for Scholars (Part of National Conference for Media Reform) in Minneapolis, MN June 5, 2008. "When 'Liberal' Newspaper Columnists Attack Female Candidates: 'Travels with Uncle Chet' and Hillary Bashing in Primary 2008," to Women and Power: A Conference for Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activity on, by, and for Women." October 3 - 4 2008, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, S.D.

Lisa will also be presenting a forthcoming paper, "Is 'Pro-Obama' 'Anti-Muslim?': The Nature of a Campaign to Contradict an Internet Rumor," at the 13 Annual Arab-U.S. Association for Communication Educators in Richmond, Virginia. Hosted by the Virginia Commonwealth University. Friday, November 14 – Monday, November 17, 2008.

Mark Butzow

On Oct. 30, Mark Butzow presented a paper titled "Web Writing Blows Chunks" (on writing stories for newspaper web sites) at the National College Media Convention in Kansas City. In August, Mark was invited to become a member of the journalism education committee of SPJ, the Society of Professional Journalists. As a member, he'll be expected to contribute an article or column to *Quill*, SPJ's member magazine, and to help plan sessions for next fall's national convention. In September, *College Media Review* published "The Hosty Ruling: Predictions of its chilling effect are so far exaggerated," Mark's 2007 study looking for evidence of interference at college papers after a controversial 2005 court ruling.

Merrill Cole

Merrill Cole is headed for the Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference in Memphis this November, where he will present "Lust Murder Sex Dolls and Other Weimar Monstrosities," as well as chair a panel he designed, "Expatriate American Women Modernists Revisited." He will also serve as the Respondent for a Black Studies panel at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention in San Francisco this December. His essay,

"Remaking Sense: Gertrude Stein and the Names of the Father," was recently accepted for publication by *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Jim Courter

Jim Courter had a column entitled, "Follow Lincoln's Lead on Facial Hair" on the Sunday op-ed page of the *Peoria Journal Star* in July. His essay "High Theory, Daffy Duck and the Blues Sensibility" is forthcoming in the *Chronicle Review* section of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Amelia Lindley Dilger

Bradley Dilger and Erin Easterling are proud parents of a new girl, Amelia Lindley. 9 lbs and 6 oz. Born October 27, 2008 at 2:01a.m.

Amelia shares her birthday with her three-year-old sister, Madelyn.

Read more about the girl's shared birthday at:



<http://wrecking.org/cbd/2008/10/27/three-for-madelyn-a-sister/>.

Penny Kelsey

This July Penny Kelsey's book, *Tribal Theory in Native American Literature: Dakota and Handenosaunee Writing and Indigenous Worldviews*, appeared with University of Nebraska Press. In October, Kelsey gave guest lectures in Native American film and autobiography at the University of Iowa and Augustana College. In December, she will deliver a paper, "Diaspora and Dissemination of Native Knowledges: Reading the Wampum in the Eighteenth Century," at the Modern Language Association convention in San Francisco.

Bill Knight

Professor Bill Knight this semester has published a new book, *Horse Shoe Bottoms*. Knight edited the novel and wrote a biographical introduction of its author, Tom Tippet, a west-central Illinois native who was a miner, journalist, playwright, Guggenheim fellow, union organizer, New Deal government worker and labor educator. Knight will appear at book-release events at Macomb's New Copperfield Book Service Nov. 15 and the Peoria Historical Society on Nov. 16.

Knight also is scheduled to moderate an afternoon panel discussion Nov. 12 at the University Art Gallery with editorial cartoonists held in conjunction with an exhibit, "Political Cartoons Past and Present," at the gallery through November 20.

Organized by former WIU art faculty member and syndicated cartoonist Jim Allen, the panel will feature Omaha *World Herald* cartoonist Jeff Koterba, who's distributed by King Features; *Belleville News Democrat* cartoonist, Glenn McCoy, who does the "Duplex" comic strip and "Flying McCoys" syndicated by Universal Press; *St. Louis Suburban Journals* cartoonist Gary McCoy, who does "Flying McCoys" with his brother Glenn; and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* cartoonist R.J. Matson, who also contributes to *Roll Call*, the *New York Observer*, *Mad magazine*, the *New Yorker*, and *The Nation*.

Dan Malachuk

May 15, 2008, Dan Malachuk, assistant professor of English at WIU's Quad Cities campus, was appointed the Director of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Shazia Rahman

Shazia Rahman's Research Development Activities entitled "Cosmopolitan Sensibilities: Globalization, Nationalisms, and Pakistani Narratives" was accepted for presentation at the 3rd Annual Faculty Research Symposium to be held November 14, 2008.

Mohammad Siddiqi

Mohammad Siddiqi presented, "Islamophobia, war on terrorism and U. S. Presidential elections" at the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) World Congress held in Stockholm, Sweden, July 20-25, 2008. He also chaired two sessions, one on media and global divides in Arab countries and the other on the the emerging public sphere and the legal frameworks of politics and media in Muslim countries. Siddiqi also gave a public lecture, hosted at WIU on October 22, on Islam and Democracy. He also attended, along with PRSSA students, the PRSSA/PRSA national convention held in Detroit, October 24-28, 2008.

Pearlie Strother-Adams

Pearlie Strother-Adams edited the second edition of *Dealing with Diversity II: the Anthology* (2008), Kendal Hunt Publishers. The book is a nationally distributed reader.

Strother-Adams also presented three papers during this period, one at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) National Conference in Chicago in August on the impact of the publication of the photograph of Emmett Till's mutilated body in his coffin after the fourteen-year-old was lynched in Money, Mississippi forty years ago. Strother-Adams shared the stage with three other presenters, one Dr. Christopher Benson, author of best-selling book, *The Killing of Innocence*, written in collaboration with Till's mother Mamie Till-Mobley. As part of her research, Strother-Adams interviewed Rev. Wheeler Parker, Till's cousin, who, forty years ago, was actually present when Till was taken and murdered.

She presented a second paper at the African Literature Association (ALA) International Conference, held in April here at Western, on Nobel Prize winning laureate Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. She also chaired this panel session. Strother-Adams joined more than 350 participants, many who journeyed from as far as Africa.

Strother-Adam's third paper focused on the representation of African Americans in the media and was presented in March at the National Popular Culture Association (PCA) Conference in San Francisco. She chaired the same panel.

She also edited and submitted to publishers twenty of her fifty short stories.

Jacque Wilson-Jordan

Jacque Wilson-Jordan's article, "Terror of the Modern World: Edith Wharton's 'All Souls' as a Revisionist Gothic Tale" will appear in the Fall, 2008 issue of *Eureka Studies in the Teaching of Short Fiction*.

Faculty Emeritus

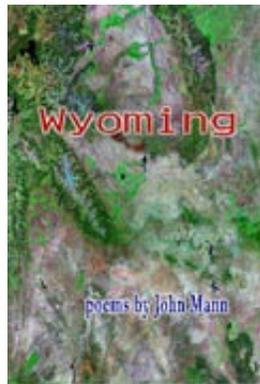
John Mann

Finishing Line Press proudly announces the publication of *Wyoming*, by John Mann.

To read these poems is to accompany the poet on a wide-eyed road trip through the high desert and mountains, each moment a destination, every destination the scene of the marvelous. Our tour guide, John Mann, is heir to Basho and Dickinson. In these distillations we find poems and prayers, offerings to landscape and experience, each of them a jewel, an object of wonder.

—David Stevenson, Director of Creative Writing and Literary Arts, University of Alaska, Anchorage

Order online at www.finishinglinepress.com. Click on “New Releases.”



Ron Walker

Ron Walker has published: “Stephen Greenleaf” an article about the career of Greenleaf, author of a highly regarded series of “hard-boiled” detective novels featuring San Francisco based private eye, Marshall Tanner. The article appeared in *Critical Survey of Mystery and Detective Fiction*, revised edition (Salem Press, 2008).

“Innovations” is a longer article providing an overview of the many creative changes that have altered and enriched the genre of detective fiction from its inception in the mid-19th century to the present day. This article also appeared in *Critical Survey of Mystery and Detective Fiction* (Salem Press, 2008).

Finally, “‘Something from Beyond’: The Vulpine Voice of The Fox,” an article about the experience of teaching the novella of that name by D.H. Lawrence to undergraduates, appeared in the Spring 2008 issue (Vol. 9, No. 2) of *Eureka Studies in Teaching Short Fiction*, pp. 16-45.

New Faculty

Neil Baird

Neil P. Baird’s current research focuses on the relationship between social constructions of the body and textual practices. He is currently working on publishing chapters from his dissertation entitled “The Embodied

Literacies of Collegiate Football Players,” which examines the relationship between the football body and the textual practices of collegiate football players writing in classrooms across the disciplines. His essay “Virtual Vietnam Veterans Memorials as Image Events: Exorcising the Specter of Vietnam,” which examines how virtual Vietnam Veterans Memorials construct the



identity of Vietnam veterans, has been recently accepted into a volume of essays entitled *Thirty Years After: New Essays on Vietnam Literature, Film, and Art* and is moving toward publication. His other research interests include writing center theory and practice, qualitative research method with a specific emphasis on ethnography, and the negotiation of identity in electronic environments.

Everett Hamner

Everett Hamner received his Ph.D. in English in 2008 from the University of Iowa, where his dissertation was entitled, “Spectacles of Faith: Technology, Religion, and Modern American Fictions.”

Incorporating questions of race, gender, place, and narrative theory, his main project is an examination of America’s ongoing struggles between science and religion through the lenses of contemporary fiction and film.



Timothy Helwig

Timothy Helwig, an assistant professor in the Department of English and Journalism, teaches American literature and fiction. He completed his dissertation, “Race, Nativism, and the Making of Class in Antebellum City-Mysteries,” at the University of Maryland in 2006. His research focuses on the intersections of class, race, and ethnicity in nineteenth century popular print culture.

Peggy Otto

Peggy Otto teaches courses in English Education in the English and Journalism Department. Her dissertation at the University of Louisville analyzes the literacy practices of a group of women who worked at a sewing factory during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. Her current research interests include ethnography, women’s studies, working class literature, and rhetorics of place.



Staff News

2008 - 2009 English and Journalism Student Assistants

Receptionists: Rachel Kallenbach, Paige Podbelsek, Leeanna Sandberg, Lindsey Holden, and Jami Babb, Monique Campbell, and Technology Assistant: Larry Madlock.

Leeanna, Jami, and Lindsey will be leaving us at the end of this semester as they will be student teaching during the spring 2009 semester. Please stop by and thank them for all their hard work.

University Writing Center Secretary

Lisa Rutledge joined the Department of English and Journalism in May of 2008 as the University Writing Center secretary. Lisa also works half-time in the Infant and Pre-school center in Horrabin Hall. Lisa is married and has three grown children. She enjoys traveling whenever she has the opportunity. Welcome Lisa!



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY