



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

ENGLISH and JOURNALISM

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SPRING 2006

From the Chair's Desk



Dr. David Boocker

Reading and Writing are Controversial Issues

I am not a journalist, but I read enough newspapers and magazines to know that editors of newspapers and magazines often use somewhat misleading or provocative headlines and titles to capture the attention of their readers. Well, I hope my title captured your attention, but let me make it clear up front that it speaks directly to the point of my essay—that, indeed, the acts of reading and writing have become controversial, even dangerous, activities. And given that this is the Department of English & Journalism, which has as its primary mission to teach you how to be better readers and writers, I thought I should warn you of the dangers that confront those of you studying in our department!

- The Arizona State Legislature is considering a bill that would allow students to opt out of required reading assignments that they consider personally offensive. As reported in the February 17 online edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the bill “would allow students to decline

assignments that ‘conflict with the student’s beliefs or practices in sex, morality, or religion.’”

- The United States Supreme Court refused “to hear the appeal of student journalists whose dean had insisted on reviewing their newspaper before publication.” The case, *Hosty v. Carter*, No. 05-377, involved student reporters at Governors State University in Illinois. In 2000, the students wrote articles for their student newspaper, *The Innovator*, that criticized the university’s administration. One of the deans demanded to review future issues prior to publishing. The students refused that demand and then sued the university.

Both of these examples represent a chilling form of censorship. In the first, students who can choose self-censorship to opt out of required reading assignments they find personally offensive will opt out of the very kinds of assignments they should be reading to prepare them to live in a diverse and complex society. But the long-term impact of such legislation will be that university professors will eventually censor what they teach to avoid these kinds of conflicts. And in the case of *Hosty v. Carter*, some university administrations will no doubt see the decision as an opportunity to crack down on their student newspapers.

As students of English and Journalism, you either have confronted these issues, or you will. And certainly those of you who will be teachers will find out very soon how restrictive the high school environment is concerning the decisions you make about what you teach. Still, as readers, you need to try to be open-minded enough to believe that reading something that you find personally offensive can be a very rewarding learning experience. And as students and teachers, we all have a responsibility to make sure that censorship does not become a way of life on this or any other campus.

Advising & Student News

Your Advisor Gone In April

Ellen will be out of the office for approximately four weeks beginning Tuesday, April 4 on a medical leave of absence. If you have not yet made your advising appointment for this semester, **you are running out of time!** Call 298-2189 or stop by Simpkins 130 to set up your appointment. If you have not seen Ellen prior to April 1, you will have to wait until May to discuss your fall schedule, which will delay your registration. Fall 2006 schedule books are available in the advising office. You can also access the information on-line at www.wiu.edu/Registrar.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If any of your English or Journalism courses are closed when you register in April, contact Amy, Jenny or Heidi in the advising office. They will keep a waiting list, and when Ellen returns in May, she will begin putting students into closed classes as seats become available. Also, if you have trouble getting registered on STARS, Jenny and Heidi will be available to assist students with the STARS program. All other problems or questions that cannot wait until Ellen returns in May should be directed to our department chair, Dr. Boocker.

Grad Prep Day

Take care of all those last minute graduation details at Grad Prep Day on Monday, April 3, 9am-2pm in the University Union concourse. Sponsored by the Alumni Association, Grad Prep Day gives graduating seniors the chance to order caps and gowns for the ceremony, along with graduation announcements and class rings.

Spring 2006 Commencement Schedule

Friday May 12

- 2:00 p.m. -- Honors Convocation, Western Hall
- 4:00 p.m. -- ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, Heritage Rooms
- 5:30 p.m. -- Graduate Ceremony, Western Hall

Saturday, May 13

- 9:30 a.m. - Undergraduate Ceremony #1
Board of Trustees/Bachelor of Arts,
Interdisciplinary Studies, and College of
Business and Technology
- 1:00 p.m. - Undergraduate Ceremony #2
College of Education and Human Services
- 4:00 p.m. - Undergraduate Ceremony #3
College of Arts and Sciences and College of
Fine Arts and Communication

Spring 2006 Departmental Scholars

We are pleased to announce our English and Journalism Departmental Scholars for Spring 2006. Each semester the Department of English and Journalism selects two students as "Departmental Scholars." Congratulations to this semester's winners, Erin DeBlass, our departmental scholar for English, and Sara Blair, our Journalism scholar! The Department is proud of your accomplishments! Erin and Sara will be recognized at the Honors Convocation May 12.

Academic Assistance Centers

Academic Services offers monitored study groups and tutoring in many subject areas. It's not too late to bring those grades up this semester! Please seek this FREE assistance if you need it. Tutoring is available in the following areas:

ACCT 201 & 202
AAS 100 & MORE
ANTH 110 & 111
ART 180 & MORE
BIOL 100, 102, 103 & MORE
CHEM 100, 101, 150 & 201
CS 101 & MORE
ECON 231 & 232
FCS 109 & 121
GEOG 100, 110, 120 & 121
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, 223, 250, 251, 323 & MORE
REL 101 & 201
SOC 100, 200, 250 & MORE
STAT 171

For more information, contact Academic Services in Memorial 100 (298-1871).

Dates to Remember:

Last Day to Drop a Regular 16-wk class. Mar. 24
Advance Registration for Fall 2006. Apr. 3-21
Grad Prep Day. Apr. 3
Final Exam Week. May 8-12
Graduate Commencement. May 12
Honors Convocation. May 12
Undergraduate Commencement. May 13
Summer School Pre-Session Begins. May 15
Summer School Regular Session Begins. June 5

Lois C. Bruner Literary Nonfiction Award

All Western Illinois University undergraduates are welcome 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: travelogue, 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. [See submission guidelines below.](#)

Cordell Lerner Award in Fiction or Poetry

Fiction writers and poets alike are invited to submit stories and poems for the Cordell Lerner Award. All WIU undergraduates 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. [See submission guidelines below.](#)

Submission Guidelines

Submissions for both contests should be presented to the English and Journalism Department, 124 Simpkins, no later than 4:00pm on Friday, April 7. Entries must typed, doubled-spaced. Please write or type your local address and phone number on the **back** of the first page of your entry, as the judging will be anonymous. In addition, please also write or type the exact name of the contest you are entering on the first page of your entry. Paperclip or staple the pages of your entry; no additional binding, folders or envelopes are required. Do not submit the original copy of your work – entries will not be returned. Note: writers may submit entries in all three categories – literary nonfiction, fiction or poetry.

There will be an awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 19 at 4:30pm in the Writing Center (Simpkins 341). Winning authors will be notified prior to the ceremony. All entrants are invited to participate in the celebration; refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Tama Baldwin at 298-1419 or e-mail her at TJ-Baldwin@wiu.edu.

Student Association News PRSSA

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is in high gear this semester. Membership has reached 31, the highest ever since it began in 1992. Members are working on a public relations campaign for Relay for Life. They are also planning to attend the public relations regional conference at ISU, Bloomington March 31 - April 2. PRSSA meetings are held every Wednesday at 4:00 in Simpkins 327. For more information, contact Courtney Pearson at 630-361-2495 or Mohammad Siddiqi at 298-1326.

SPJ

The Western Society of Professional Journalists is co-sponsoring the department's Spring Journalism Day on March 24, when author Jim Pumarlo will speak about journalism at small newspapers and small towns.

In addition, SPJ student members are touring Copley Press's *Galesburg Register-Mail* this semester.

WAF

The Western Advertising Federation is meeting this semester on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in the Algonquin Room of the University Union. The club is working on a national YPPA competition and will also hold a resume workshop during the spring semester. Three WAF members have been accepted into Alpha Delta Sigma, the advertising industry's only honorary society.

NCTE

The National Council of Teachers of English (N.C.T.E.) started its year out strong last semester with their new officers: Kristin David—President, Darlene Roberts—Vice President, Jarett Reinwald—Treasurer, and Jennifer Kallenbach—Secretary. With a few small changes to the organization, N.C.T.E. began its year fundraising to help pay the costs for eight members to take a trip to the annual N.C.T.E. convention held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania last November. The trip was a huge success thanks in part to a generous donation by the English & Journalism Department and N.C.T.E.'s efforts in fundraising. They held their book sale and also reached out to the community by volunteering at the annual Corn Maze at Horn Field in October.

This semester the council will be keeping with tradition and holding another book sale in April—tentatively scheduled for the 12 and 13 of the month. Please help them in their efforts to raise money, so they can send more students to the annual N.C.T.E. convention in Tennessee next fall. Donation boxes are scattered throughout Simpkins Hall, so please, clear your bookshelves and help our future teachers! This semester, N.C.T.E. will also be holding monthly

meetings with opportunities like resume workshops, movie showings, and possibly even a bowling night. The last meeting of the semester will be April 26 in Simpkins 014 at 4:30pm. At the meeting, this year's officers will be honored, and elections for next year will take place. If you are an English Education major and would like to discuss a potential officer position for next semester, please contact Kristin David at KJ-David@wiu.edu with any questions. NCTE looks forward to seeing you around campus and at their meetings!



Five of the eight students who attended last November's Annual NCTE Convention in Pittsburgh. Top Row: Ryan Koczorowski, Jen Stolting, Haley Coop. Bottom Row: Darlene Roberts (NCTE Vice-President), Kristin David (NCTE President)

On-line Course Descriptions

Summer and Fall 2006 course descriptions are now available on the English and Journalism website – www.wiu.edu/english. Find out what faculty will expect you to be reading and doing in each of your classes BEFORE you register.

WIU E-mail Accounts

If you are STILL not checking your WIU e-mail account on a regular basis, you are missing out on WAY too much important information. The Advising, Financial Aid, & Registrar's offices send you extremely valuable information via that account, and if you aren't checking it, you're simply missing out. Please check that account at LEAST weekly!!

Special Events

Mann, McLean and Welsch Retire From WIU

This year, the Department of English & Journalism is losing three of its finest. This past December, Drs. Karen Mann and Jan Welsch retired from the University. This May, it will be Professor Deckle McLean's turn. Three of their colleagues shared some of their thoughts about each of these individuals who have left their mark upon WIU.

Karen Mann Retires by Thomas Joswick

There's a phrase in a poem by Wallace Stevens that strikes me as fitting for a short review of Karen Mann's long career. In the poem, Stevens celebrates the power of the imagination and says that at its best this power often makes "widows wince." I take this phrase to mean that works of the imagination can be unsettling forces, especially for those who would rather have things comfortable, routine, and secure.

A similar unsettling force is the legacy I'll remember of Karen Mann's work in the classroom, in her scholarship, and in university governance. Her whole career can be called a celebration of the self-reliance of mind and imagination that faculty must have and must encourage in their students and colleagues. If that independence and courage of mind at times make the guardians of the status quo wince, so much the better. And believe me, I have seen over the years many pained expressions on administrators' faces when Karen has stood up to speak on behalf of faculty rights or to critique academic programs for their lack of rigor, coherent design, or practical logistics. There are few faculty who have contributed more to secure faculty involvement in university governance than Karen has.

For evidence of her independence of mind, read her book *The Language that Makes George Eliot's Fiction*, published by John Hopkins University Press. For evidence of her capacity (if not waywardness) of imagination, read her published studies on *The Terminator* or *The Silence of the Lambs*. (Look 'em up on the MLA database. Read all the other articles by her listed there too, and while you're at it, look up her award on the WIU pages as the 2005 Liberal Arts Lecturer.)

For evidence of her teaching, I counted 30 different courses that she taught and at times independently designed during her years at WIU. She also wrote and starred in a television course on women in literature -- a subject close to her heart as well as to her intellectual curiosity.

Speaking of television (which is what I really wanted to get to), Karen Mann knows more about *Buffy*

the Vampire Slayer than you'd think humanly possible. Honestly. She's also a master gardener of shrubs and flowers, a great cook, a wonderful hostess of parties. First and last, she has been a generous colleague. It's now back to the future for her – with all our best wishes.

Thoughts From Deckle McLean

by Bill Knight

Key in “Deckle McLean” to a Google search, and 325 results return, but that's a mere fraction of the number of students he's touched in his 24 years at WIU.

“Basically, it's been a blur,” said McLean, preparing to retire at the end of the semester. “Twenty-four years went by in about a month.”

The graduate of Harvard University and Boston College Law School worked at the *Providence Journal*, *Ebony* magazine and the *Boston Globe* and taught at Boston University and Syracuse University before the late Jai Lee, longtime director of the Journalism program, talked him into coming to Western and Macomb.

As he prepares to retire, McLean was somewhat reluctant to reflect on his time here, quoting baseball legend Satchel Paige's memorable line, “Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you.”

Responding to a question, McLean said, “To elaborate the point I'll quote Jacques Cousteau: ‘The past for me is absolutely disgusting. When very rarely I have recurrence of feeling, I'm overwhelmed with a desire to vomit.’

“Okay, the truth is I'm not that bad,” he continued. “But I do understand what he was talking about. As a result, I find retrospectives on the occasion of retirement to be uncomfortable. In my household, looking backward is called ‘life review,’ and my wife knows it makes me morose. An exit with minimum fuss – that's what I want.”

HISTORY

“I drove a U-Haul truck into town from the north on a two-lane road, two kids and one cat in the cab, wife trailing in a green Ford with another kid aboard and a canoe strapped to top,” he recalled. “The year was 1982. She was wondering what she was doing in such a place. Sensitive to actinic radiation, I knew I was close to home: If you draw Macomb's line of latitude east, you'll find that it passes through Bayonne, N.J., just a few miles south of where I grew up in Jersey City, N.J., and continues on through Coney Island, N.Y. In other words, the angle of the sunlight in Macomb was right.

“In that first year, colleagues posed cautious questions, uncertain whether I intended to move away soon,” he continued. “This surprised me. The light was right; I'd bought a house; I'd come to stay.

“Quickly I was caught in a round of activities. Since then it's been a blur. Good department chairs.

Good fellow faculty with whom to do governance work. A good place for research and writing. Lots of articles and a few books, the work filling winter and summer breaks without creating any sense of strain.

“One constant has been crisis in the journalism unit. I recall new hires that died shortly after arriving or just before they were scheduled to arrive. A temporary who had a heart attack. Faculty who fled after a few years. It was tough to field a team with no bench. It still is. Several times, starting in the 1980s, the other college and the other program sought to draw us into combination: another headache. We made three tries, beginning in the '80s, to create a journalism graduate program. All ran into snags. Maybe a fourth will work. A glorious swelling of J enrollment from '82 to '92 promised a booming j program, but it vanished in '93 and '94 as enrollment of majors plummeted from 125 to fewer than 60. What happened? What to do? At that time it was good to be buffered inside a big department with clout. Now magically – but also as a result of our own efforts – J enrollment is up again. We have over 130 majors, and prospective new J students consistently show up for Discover Westerns, I'm told. Journalism was the largest single major in the department at the latest count. It was also the largest single minor. The Department of Journalism and English? Sounds like another crisis.

“I'm glad I found Western, and I'm glad WIU found me,” he adds. “One feature I liked was that so many students were the first in their families to attend college. But the campus is changing in this regard: economic pressures. Another great feature was the old “WIU family.” The place really has had a spirit, and the spirit has called forth a patriotism even from low-sentimentality, future-oriented types. I hope the university can retain this spirit as it confronts budgetary and technological pressures that threaten to hammer it into some other less humane shape.

BENCHMARKS

There have been highs and lows, of course, he conceded.

“High points: Seeing J enrollment rise after the crash of the early '90s. Fleshing out J curriculum through the stealth method of first offering courses experimentally then going for permanent status with a track record. Rationalizing the once confusing J prerequisites. Getting rid of the department's old DPC of the whole, which most faculty now don't know anything about (yes, the entire tenured faculty was the DPC and voted on every personnel decision, in a procedure orchestrated by an executive committee). I made that change happen; I think I'll take some credit. But these developments hardly get to the root. The real good stuff is in the nuts and bolts: We in the journalism group make good writers and at least semi-confident journalists out of most of our students – even those who become

lawyers, teachers or salespeople – and we send them on their way with at least a little of the liberal arts breadth and interests without which journalists aren't worth a hoot. I'm talking here like a news-ed guy, but that's what I am. In fact, something similar can be said of our PR and ADV graduates. Why is this? It's because the faculty have managed to keep their focus on essentials. We do better than plenty of other schools – and that includes fancy ones and the many where journalism has no A&S or English affiliation. In fact, these affiliations probably have contributed to our doing a good job on the writing end, and may determine in part what kind of J students we get. I'm referring here to those students who enter the field because they like to write and who view journalism as a way to write and actually get paid for it -- in other words, those pulled in by writing hunger rather than news hunger.

“Low points? I'll keep these to myself.”

FUTURE(S)

The specialist in communications law, magazine and feature writing, and program administration - taking over after Lee's retirement - anticipates a mixture of research, writing and relaxation in the years to come. "Mainly what I see now is not what's gone before but instead an opportunity ahead to get more writing done," he said. "I have a list of projects - more pop mystery books like the one published a couple of years ago, more articles and books related to comm. law. I have an old manuscript on Toynbee's view of history that needs updating and other attention. Maybe I'll get to it. Then there's the challenge of finding an agent for the pop books, if possible. I also see ahead some agitating on behalf of the annuitant's organization, weekend trips to distant locations inhabited by grandkids, and service of some kind locally. If I get antsy, I'll look for part-time teaching. I'll frequently be found in the WIU library, exploiting emeritus status.

"If I ask myself what I will miss, then I come up with (of all things) faculty governance work in the department - the people with whom I've done the work and the doing of the work with them," he said. "I mean committee work, which, of course, often is wearing and distracting. By department, I mean the whole department, not just the journalism group. The journalism group has been too small a community for me, and on some level I may sometimes on some matters have had more in common with some others in the department than with my J colleagues. The department has been the right size. If I hadn't had it, I suppose I might have been more involved at the college level. The department is practically a college in itself. (The College of English and Journalism? The College of English, Journalism and Film? A college with a decent 65-hour gen. ed. requirement?)

"The reason why committee activity has appealed must be hard wired," he continued. "I was involved in a lot of committees in high school. So I'll miss the governance work unless or until I find something comparable. I won't miss the teaching right away. I've taught for too long without any sabbaticals. I need a break."

Janice Welsch: “Builder of Bridges” by Maurine Magliocco

At the end of December 2005, Professor Janice Welsch retired from the department. To recognize her contributions to the WIU and Macomb communities, Jeff Biggers, a local writer and commentator for National Public Radio, dedicated an entire commentary to Jan, calling her a “builder of bridges.” He focused on the way in which she brings people together, describing how she had phoned him soon after his arrival in Macomb and arranged for him to meet and have lunch with like-minded people in the community. Biggers then applied the bridge building metaphor to Jan's impressive work on multi-culturalism.

When Jan arrived in the department to teach film in 1975, multi-culturalism was a term not yet invented. Jan's goal then was to develop the best film program possible. In doing that, she demonstrated several of the qualities that made her career at Western so successful. She worked tirelessly to create and develop new courses, among them History of Film I & II, Documentary Film & Video, Film Criticism, Film Style Analysis, and Film Theory and Practice. In collaboration with her close friend and colleague, John Orlandello, she revised courses, built the program, and made it a success. At the same time, she established herself nationally as a highly respected professional, working actively in the Society for Cinema and Media Studies and publishing several articles and books, including *Narrative Strategies: Original Essays in Film and Literature* with Syndy Conger and *Multiple Voices in Feminist Film Criticism* with Diane Carson and Linda Dittmar. The high esteem in which she has been held by her film colleagues across the country is demonstrated by her 2004 Award for Outstanding Service from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies.

Jan's book on Feminist Film Criticism was a natural outgrowth of her interest in the portrayal of women in film, an interest she had had since her Ph.D studies at Northwestern University where her doctoral dissertation was entitled *Film Archetypes: Sisters, Mistresses, Mothers, and Daughters*. Her developing feminism led her to become active at Western in the Western Organization for Women (WOW) during those exhilarating days of Women's Liberation when all things seemed possible. She took advantage of those possibilities to write the “White Paper” leading to the creation of the WIU Women's Center in 1986. Around

the same time, she and other faculty women were in the process of developing the Women's Studies Program, and she became the first and longest serving director, working tirelessly to promote the program and to recruit students and faculty from throughout the university. Her contributions and success were recognized and praised when she was given the WOW Achievement Award in 1985 and when she was one of the women honored by having her photographic portrait hung in the University Gallery as part of Western's Centennial celebrations in 2000.

Never content with the *status quo*, Jan soon saw how feminism was intertwined with multi-culturalism, and she took advantage of her connections with the Faculty Development Office to begin to develop more multi-cultural awareness at the university. She was a woman with a mission as well as a vision, and she used her extensive network throughout the university to develop programs and to change curricula. She found an able colleague in J.Q. Adams, and together they published a series of books and launched an annual Diversity Institute that continues today. Their publications include several volumes of *A Multicultural Prism: Voices from the Field* and *Multicultural Education: Strategies for Implementation in Colleges and Universities*, as well as *Cultural Diversity: Curriculum, Classroom and Climate Issues* and *Multicultural Films: A Reference Guide*. Their highly esteemed "Dealing with Difference" Institutes have become well known around the state and across the country, as they bring in nationally acclaimed speakers such as Canadian Henry Giroux. Jan has directed the Institute since 1994 and will continue doing so in retirement.

By bringing together a variety of people, including educators at all levels, these Institutes demonstrate clearly the truth of Jeff Biggers' accolade that Jan is truly a builder of bridges. Her colleagues throughout the university recognize her as such, as do the women she has introduced over the years in the "town/gown" dinner group she founded in the mid-1980s, and the many new faculty and community members she has befriended. In the courses she has team-taught, in the disciplines she has linked, in her recent creation, along with Judy Kohler, of the Macomb Feminist Network, in her tireless work on behalf of social justice, Janice Welsch continues not only to build bridges but to prove that an individual can indeed make a difference.

Department Donates Books to a High School in Need

In the aftermath of the fire that ravaged Southeastern High School on Friday, March 3, English teachers, Kathy Holst and Janet Hopper, were left with no teaching materials. The WIU English and Journalism

Department has assisted them in recouping some of their losses by donating a few of the classics. On Monday, March 13, Department Chair, Dr. David Boocker along with Director of Writing, Dr. Alice Robertson and Dean of the College of Arts & Science, Dr. Inessa Levi, traveled to Bowen to present the teachers and their students with new copies of *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Grapes of Wrath*. In the words of Carol Bollin, WIU composition instructor and graduate of Southeastern High School, after the heartbreak of seeing what's happened to her school, the book donation "is truly exciting and gratifying."

Case Writer-In-Residence

Jon Billman author of *When We Were Wolves* and the Fred Ewing Case and Lola Austin Case Writer in Residence for Spring 2006 visited the Department of English and Journalism the week of February 27, 2006. Billman spoke about Writing and the Environment at a Q & A session held in Simpkins Hall on February 27. He also read from his current work on March 1 in the Sandburg Theater in the Union. followed by a reception in his honor in the Lincoln Room hosted by The WIU Institute for Environmental Studies, College of Arts and Sciences.

Billman has worked as a wildland firefighter and a seventh grade teacher. He is currently a visiting professor of English at Iowa State University where he is helping to design a "Writing and the Environment" component in their MFA program. His short fiction has been published in *Esquire*, *The Paris Review*, and *Zoetrope* and collected in the book, *When We Were Wolves*. Larry McMurtry called it "the best collection of stories to come out of the American West in some time." And *The New York Times Book Review* labeled Billman as possessing "an eye for the irony and humor that sometimes flourishes because so little else can." When not in Iowa, he lives in Kemmerer, Wyoming and is at work on a novel.

Creative Writing Gala

The English Graduate Organization (EGO) will hold the First Creative Writing Gala April 1, 2006 8:30am to 5:00pm in the University Writing Center, Simpkins 341. The Creative Writing Gala is open to all WIU students who are interested in sharing/workshopping their creative work in fiction, non-fiction, poetry and screenwriting. Each participant will workshop their piece during the day and will be given the chance to read some of their work in the evening.

Send submissions by March 22 to Sarah Williams (sa-williams@wiu.edu) or deliver them to the box in the English & Journalism mailroom (Simpkins 122). Five pages maximum (five pages of prose or five

poems no longer than a page). Please indicate the genre you wish to enter. If you wish to participate in the evening reading, attach a biography of less than one paragraph.

Please prioritize the material you want to workshop and make multiple copies of your work for work-shopping purposes. The work will be distributed to all participants prior to April 1 to read before attending the gala.

For more information contact Sarah Williams, April Nelson Camden, Julie Veile, or Christine Kienol-Berlett, 309-298-2814.

Graduate Students' Spring Reading

On April 12, Douglass Bourne, Christine Kienol-Berlett and Brent Robinson, all graduating MA students doing creative writing theses, will read from their work in Morgan Hall 101B at 7:30pm.

Faculty News

Tama Baldwin

Tama Baldwin has new poems forthcoming from *Poetry International* and *Heliotrope*. Her chapbook of poems, *Garden*, will be released this summer.

Anyone who would like to be on her mailing list should send their late-spring/summer mailing addresses to TJ-Baldwin@wiu.edu.

Mark Butzow

Mark Butzow presented "Journamorphosis: Convergence in the Print, Broadcast and Online News Media" during a faculty colloquium in February. In April, Mark will bring the newspaper perspective to a discussion of small market journalism convergence in a panel he organized with Sharon Evans (Broadcasting Department) for the Broadcast Education Association convention in Las Vegas.

Jim Courter

In a new regional health magazine called *Radish*, Jim Courter recently published three pieces: a feature on Middle Earth and the Vitamin Lady® here in Macomb, an essay on walking, and an outburst of sudden slash flash *nonfiction* about beating the winter blues. He's also hard at work on a so far untitled epic saga in which Theory Man joins forces with the Queen of Darkness to do battle with the Christian Empire and on an autobiography with the working title, *I'm Not as Dumb as I Look*.

Chris Iwanicki

Chris Iwanicki, associate professor of English, has had her essay "The Revelations of 'Logology': Secular and Religious Tensions in Burke's Views of Language, Literature, and Hermeneutics" accepted for publication in the forthcoming volume, *Kenneth Burke and His Circles*, to be published in conjunction with papers delivered at the 19th Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition and the Triennial Conference of the Kenneth Burke Society, which took place during the summer of 2005 at The Pennsylvania State University.

Bill Knight

Associate professor Bill Knight gave a March 3 presentation, "Muckrakers: Fast Food Nation from the Perspective of a Journalist," as part of the First-Year Experience.

Students in Knight's Journalism 332 "Sportswriting" class did a content analysis of the sports section of the *Galesburg Register-Mail* daily newspaper.

John Mann

John Mann has published poems recently in *The Christian Century*, *Vallum*, *American Letters & Commentary*, and *Poetry International*. Poems are forthcoming in *Mid-American Review*.

Alice Robertson

Alice Robertson has published an article, "'Barn Burning': Faulkner's World and Welcome to It," in the Spring 2005 issue of *Eureka Studies In Teaching Short Fiction*. The essay focuses on the role of community in Faulkner's fiction, particularly the part it plays in developing individual communal identity.

Mohammad Siddiqi

Mohammad Siddiqi reviewed a manuscript titled, "Wordsmithing: the Art & Craft of Writing for Public Relations," for Prentice Hall publishing company. He chaired a session on "Beyond Charitable Racism: Reinterpreting Cultural Diversity," during the Dealing with Difference Institute fall conference. Mohammad also visited with several cultural diversity classes on campus and gave a presentation on Islam. He presented a lecture on "Beliefs and Believers: Exploring the World's Religions," organized by L. I. F. E. He also presented a campus dialogue in fall on "Contemporary Media, Democracy, and Freedom in the Age of Globalization," and another one this spring with WIU President Al Goldfarb and Rev. Ron Green on "Building Bridges: A Judeo, Christian, and Islamic Perspective."

Teri Simmons

Terri Simmons was invited to judge for the regional ADDY® advertising competition in January. The ADDY awards are creative awards sponsored by the American Advertising Federation to honor excellence in advertising and cultivate the highest creative standards in the industry. The competition begins at the local level with the 210 AAF member clubs nationwide from which local winners proceed to 14 regional competitions, and those winners proceed to the national finals.

David Stevenson

From the "a little bird told me" file...

David Stevenson has recently taken up the sport of downhill ski racing. Thus far, he is rated 209th in the U.S. and 15th in Illinois. Interviewed recently after winning a bronze medal, he commented on the rigors of the slalom course, "It's not as hard on the knees as mountain climbing."

Pearlie Strother-Adams

Assoc. Prof. Pearlie Strother-Adams has been awarded a 2006 American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) "Institute for Journalists Fellowship," a prestigious six-week program that allows a select group of outstanding, university journalism professors to get hands-on experience in one of the nation's newsrooms.

The Institute, which takes place during the months of May and June, will provide a generous stipend as well as pay travel expenses to an API orientation seminar in Reston, Va. and a debriefing Seminar at the end of the program in San Francisco. Living expenses will also be covered by the Institute, and the newspaper that Strother-Adams is assigned to will pay her a weekly salary. Assignments will not be given until mid-March. Strother-Adams is hoping for something in the Mid-West, preferably the Chicago area.

ASNE is affiliated with the journalism and mass communication's scholarly organization, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).

Barbara Ashwood, Kristen Bivens, Douglass Bourne, Rick Clemons, Hallie Lemon, Joan Livingston-Webber, Penny Rigg, Alice Robertson and Jacque Wilson-Jordan

The writing program conducted two two-hour workshops on February 14 and 15 in the University Union Sandburg Lounge. The workshop topics were "Responding to Writing" and "Grading Writing" for FYE teachers through Faculty Development. Those participating were Barbara Ashwood, Kristen Bivens, Douglass Bourne, Rick Clemons, Hallie Lemon, Joan

Livingston-Webber, Penny Rigg, Alice Robertson and Jacque Wilson-Jordan.

Tama Baldwin, John Mann, David Stevenson and Erika Wurth

On March 29, the Creative Writing Faculty, Tama Baldwin, John Mann, David Stevenson and Erika Wurth, will read from their works at 7:30pm in Morgan 101B.

Mark Butzow and Bill Knight

Assistant professor Mark Butzow and associate professor Bill Knight are presenting a Rural Press Workshop for area professionals on March 25.

Kristin Bivens, Carol Bollin, Bradley Dilger, Chris Iwanicki, Hallie Lemon, Maurine Magliocco, Kathleen O'Donnell-Brown, Alice Robertson, and Therese Trotochaud

In March, nine faculty members attended the 2006 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Annual Convention in Chicago. Bradley Dilger, Chris Iwanicki, Hallie Lemon, Maurine Magliocco, Kathleen O'Donnell-Brown, Alice Robertson and Therese Trotochaud each presented at the conference. Presentations included:

Bradley Dilger: "Thirty Minutes to Better Web Accessibility"

Chris Iwanicki: "'The Center Cannot Hold': Kenneth Burke at the Intersection of God and Language"

Hallie Lemon: "A Permanent-Temp's Swan Song: The Story of a Non-tenured Career in Academia" - Lemon also served as Chair of the CCCC Feminist Workshop.

Maurine Magliocco (Professor Emeritus) "The Language of Angry Academic Mail: A Faculty Union President Writes (Fights) Back"

Kathleen O'Donnell-Brown: "Developing a Community in an Online Composition Course"

Alice Robertson: "Real Writing in the Real World"

Therese Trotochaud: "Building Community Across Generations: A Feminist Reflection on a Lifewriting Project"

Kristin Bivens & Carol Bollin both chaired sessions.



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