

English Department News

Volume I No. 2 Spring 2002

English Students Association already planning new events



Dr. Franco organized the first informal meeting of the ESA in February. Approximately 12 students attended.

This semester marks the foundation of the English Students Association under the sponsorship of Dr. Dean Franco.

The club held its first meeting in February, and is being headed by a student committee until a formal organization can be established. Will Woodlee is seeking help designing a charter and constitution so the club can get SBCA funding for next fall. Contact him at

woodjw0@wfu.edu

The club plans to host a pre-finals English Department get-together, and a charity book drive on May 8 and 9. Look for the table between Tribble and Benson to donate books for local high schools, or drop them off at Dr. Franco's office in Tribble C-5D. The ESA is open to any English majors or minors. See Dr. Franco for meeting times and other announcements.

Medieval conference lures trio to Michigan

Three English students will be attending the 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University May 2-5.

Sophomore Mary Kate Hurley, Senior Dorothy Kuykendal, and graduate student Emily Brewer will be participating in the four day Congress in Kalamazoo, Mich.

This year's meeting includes such events as film screenings, theater, music, and, of course, lectures. "The *Beowulf* Poet: Protonominalist? Or Covert Platonist?," "Re-Envisioning Camelot in *Babylon 5*," and

"Monstrous Fishes and Medieval Mariners: The Unnatural History of Medieval Wales," are a small sample of the hundreds of lectures that will be given at this year's Congress.

The musical group Trefoil will play some "very rarely heard and thoroughly delightful 14th century *ars subtilior* songs" in a performance on May 3.

The Society for Old Music will present "The Play of Daniel," a medieval musical drama, on May 2.

Participants will stay on Western Michigan University campus in dormitory housing.

Inside this edition...

❖ **Jane Mead awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship: other faculty awards**

❖ **Despite a tough job market, many seniors have great post-graduation plans**

❖ ***Philomathesian*, 3-4 oz. announce spring contributors: readings planned**

❖ **No, it's not homework! Summer reading recommendations by people you can trust**

Philo, 3-4oz. spring contributors

The Philomathesian is edited by senior English major John Bowman and senior Communication major Andy Whitacre. The spring issue comes out on Monday, April 29th.

This spring's magazine features pieces by Lindsey Randolph (on Nike advertising), Dustin Hillsley (on ethics & sociobiology), Adam Ployd (on Beat spirituality), Mark Jones (on the Foxfire Magazine), Tim Williams (on the *Philomathesian* & Euzelian societies and their roles in Wake Forest history),

and senior English major Justin Jennings (on Joyce's *Ulysses*).

Fittingly, Wake Forest's literary magazine, *3-4 oz.*, includes several English majors and minors on its staff, including Chief Editor Brian Melton.

This spring's contributors are senior English majors Paul Bullock, Nicole Guippone, and Justin Jennings, as well as English graduate student John Harkey, and Annie Gedicks, Beth Hurtt, Erica Grace, Chad Pugh, Julia Roberts, and Jennifer Ryf.



Freshman Jane Bianchi gets advice from Department Chair Dr. Gale Sigal at a $\Sigma\Delta$ reception held in February. photo by Rachel Venuti

$\Sigma\Delta$ ranks swell with new initiates

Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, initiated 19 new members this April. With so many new members, the chapter hopes to be much more active next year. This semester Sigma Tau Delta hosted a departmental reception to help new and prospective English majors meet faculty and other English students.

Sigma Tau Delta is hosting the annual departmental awards banquet, held on May 1 this year. Next year's officers will be announced at the banquet.

Sigma Tau Delta members are selected based on outstanding academic performance in the area of English.

New members are: Danielle Berti, Blair Brown, John Bruns, Katherine Fisher, Sidney Hawkins, Tiffany Hudgins, Lauren Jensen, Taylor Kennamer, Kody Kleber, Derrick Lewis, Ashley McClelland, Sarah Miller, J. Fielding Randall, Jennifer Anne Robinson, Katherine Robertson, Adam Rutledge, Caroline Stetler, Dean Taylor, and April Yount.

Alumni write

Graduates respond to newsletter website with praise, updates

"I was happy to hear about the new website. My English classes at Wake Forest are some of the fondest memories I have. My favorite was the seminar on the Henry James family that I took with Drs. Maine and Barefield.

I am currently in my second year of residency in a combined program, doing Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, at Baylor. I miss my literature classes, and now that I'm through with internship I am trying to start a book club with some of my other residents."

-Jenny Hinson, '95

"I am excited to have received the first English newsletter. I am currently working at the University of Toledo as the Undergraduate Admission and Scholarship Coordinator. I'll be leaving this summer to pursue my Masters in Higher Education. Please tell everyone in the English Department I send a fond Midwestern 'Hello!'"

-Sarah Brewer '00

"Thanks for the note and link to the new website. It looks terrific, and I was glad to get an update on the various professors who shaped my experience as an undergraduate. It would appear that the Department continues to field a strong team. I'm particularly interested in the university's initiative with creative writing and poetry."

-Brad Hips '93

"Thanks for sending the newsletter. It's great to hear what's going on at Wake. I'm now working on a Ph.D. at Harvard in American Religion, focusing on the 17th century."

-Adrian Chastain Weimer '99

Faculty receive awards, look forward to publications

Several English professors have received awards this semester. Many others have had books published recently. Congratulations to all of them!

Dr. Anne Boyle has "*Strange and Lurid Bloom: A Study of the Fiction of Caroline Gordon*" forthcoming from Fairleigh Dickinson Press. **Dr. Bashir El-Beshti** anticipates the publication of his book, *Visages in the Mind: Orientalism and the Construction of English Renaissance Culture*.

Dr. Dean Franco received a 2002 Archie Grant for Summer Research. **Dr. James Hans**'s 11th book, *The Sovereignty of Taste*, is

forthcoming from the University of Illinois Press.

Dr. Michael Strynick edited a book, *The Politics of Community*, that is just out from Davies Press. **Dr. Olga Valbuena**'s *Subjects to Divorce: Strategies of Resistance in Early Modern English Writing* is forthcoming from Indiana University Press.

Dr. Eric Wilson received Wake Forest University's Award for Excellence in Research at convocation in February. His next book, *The Spiritual History of Ice: Romantic Visions of Crystals, Glaciers, and the Poles*, will be from St. Martin's Press.

Success! Not *all* seniors will be jobless, homeless; only most

Despite the fact that an estimated 30% fewer jobs are available for the class of 2002 compared to the class of 2001, fortunately some senior English majors have found success with their post-graduation job search or school application process.

Maura Proulx will spend a year in Denver, Colorado with the Vincentian Volunteers. Caroline Tyson has been hired as a two-year Young Life intern in mentoring and ministry for high school students.

Lauren Jensen has been student teaching at Mt. Tabor High School and plans to teach high school English next year. Kyle Cutts received a Fulbright scholarship to teach in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

Nick Spruill has been accepted into the Counselor Education Program, and Joan Ferran into the

Master Teacher Fellows Program, both at Wake Forest.

Hope Walters plans to attend the New York University Summer Publishing Institute. Sarah Dixon will work for Covington and Burling law firm in Washington for two years, and hopes to attend law school after that.

Brian Melton will attend the North Carolina School of the Arts School of Filmmaking, and Sara Busch will attend law school at Case Western Reserve University, while Greg Lansdale will attend George Washington University Law School.

Elizabeth Koyiades was accepted for the Masters program in English at the University of Richmond, and Dorothy Kuykendal will pursue English at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Good luck to all the seniors!



Jane Mead reads from her work in April at the Huffman House lecture series. photo by Jessamine Buck

For she's a jolly good Fellow

A Guggenheim Fellow, that is

Wake Forest News Service

Jane Mead, Wake Forest University's poet-in-residence, has won a 2002 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. The foundation annually awards the prestigious fellowships to artists, scholars and scientists to support their work.

Past authors who have been Guggenheim Fellows include Eudora Welty, Langston Hughes and Vladimir Nabakov. The fellowship was created to "promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding, and the appreciation of beauty," wrote John Guggenheim.

Mead is an assistant professor of English, and coordinates the Writers Reading Series. She teaches poetry workshops and theory of poetry writing.

Two collections of Mead's poetry, *House of Poured-Out Waters* and *The Lord and the General Din of the World*, have been published.

Mead previously won a grant from the Lannan Foundation in 1999, the Kathryn A. Morton Prize from Sarabande Books in 1995 and the Whiting Writer's Award in 1992.

Summer reading: your personal guide

Looking for something to read this summer that you might not pick up for yourself? Here are a few suggestions from people in the know. From poetry to biography to drama, there should be something for everyone in this hodgepodge of genres, styles, and eras.

Journalism guru Wayne King wants you to know that “the biography of John Adams by David McCullough is a great read; Adams himself is fascinating (to my surprise, actually) and his relationship with the rather devious Jefferson even more so.”

Nancy Cotton suggests a new play by Neil LaBute called *The Shape of Things*. “If you read it,” she says, “you won’t forget it.”

Evie Shockley says, “I’ve just finished the latest poetry collection by Harryette Mullen, a California poet with an interesting, evocative, intellectual poetics. It’s called *Sleeping with the Dictionary*.”

Andrew Ettin offers three works. “Jose Saramago’s witty and stimulating novel *The Stone Raft* is a brilliant fantasy by the Portuguese winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.”

“*Thirst*, by the Israeli writer Shulamit Hareven, is a collection of three novellas. She has taken familiar biblical episodes and treated them from the viewpoints of strangers and

outsiders in austere, well crafted (and well translated), unsentimental prose. The result is both imaginative and unsettling,” says Ettin.

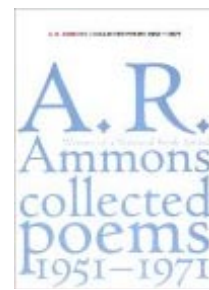
Finally, he recommends Yehuda Amichai’s *Poems of Jerusalem and Love Poems*, a “treasurable collection of timely and timeless work by a great and humane Israeli poet.”

Jim Hans recommends the short novels *The Center of Things*, by Jenny McPhee and *LaTour Dreams of Wolf Girl*, by David Huddle. He also likes *Schooling*, by Heather McGowan and *The Song of the Earth*, by Hugh Nissenson.

And where would Dr. Hans be without his Czeslaw Milosz? Check out *Collected Poems*, and also *The Seven Ages*, by Louise Gluck.

Michael Strynick proposes *Letters to a Young Poet* and *Duino Elegies*, by Rainer Maria Rilke, as well as *Indian Killer*, by Sherman Alexie, Aristotle’s *Poetics* (Malcom Heath’s translation), Friedrich Holderlin’s *Hymns and Fragments* (esp. “In Lovely Blueness”), and *Without End: New and Selected Poems* by Adam Zagajewski.

Robert West reminds us of the reissue of A.R. Ammons’ *Collected Poems 1951-1971*, which he says is



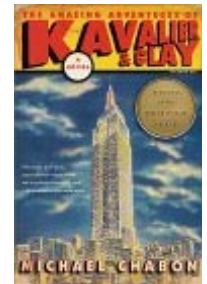
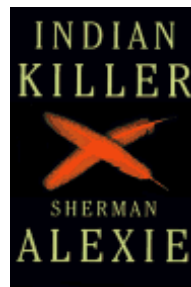
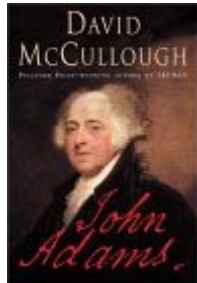
“worth every penny.” Gale Sigal says, “*Possession* by A.S. Byatt is a fun summer read. I’d highly recommend the *Lais of Marie de France*, Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, and *The Egoist*, by George Meredith.”

Dean Franco recently read the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Michael Chabon, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. He called it “very funny and (cliche, I know) heartbreaking too.”

“Here he [Chabon] takes on complex issues regarding WWII, the holocaust, ethnic identity, gender roles, and the rise of suburbia, postwar. The novel has a lot to do with the comic book biz. during the 40’s and 50’s and I’ve heard it suggested that men might enjoy the book more than women, but others will have to determine that.”

Here’s hoping these ideas get you started on a summer of leisurely lounging by the pool, the beach, or in front of the air conditioner.

- Book jackets graphics are from www.amazon.com. All stories and photographs in this edition are the work of the Editor, except where otherwise noted.



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