

# English Department Newsletter

Wake Forest University

Volume 2, No. 2

Spring, 2003

## Professors Discover Joys of Parenthood

There's nothing an English professor loathes more than cliché. Yet first-time parents Lisa Eck, Michael Hill and Eric Wilson have abandoned ironic distance in favor of the unadulterated joy their new babies have brought them.

"Just when you think you don't need the adjective cute, you need it every day," Eck said about her 4-month-old twins Fiona and Isaac. "You go around sounding like a Hallmark card." Eck says life with her daughter and son is surprisingly unchaotic. She has managed to set aside time each day for scholarly work; another portion of the day is devoted to "naked time," a favorite of the twins. "I would say that motherhood makes you a good Buddhist; it really puts you in the moment," she said.

Michael Hill relishes the newfound spontaneity that his nearly 2-month-old daughter Caitlyn has brought. "I appreciate the insights that are offered by her speechlessness; the freedom that it offers me to be hokey," he said. "You can completely indulge whatever whimsical notions or ideas are circulating in your head." He most enjoys sharing Dr. Seuss with Caitlyn, a far cry from the more "dour, skeptical" aspects of academia. Her excitement at hearing music and rhyme inspires Hill with a renewed energy in the classroom. "My students and the alchemy of interacting with students probably prepared me for fatherhood," Hill said.

Late nights up with one-year-old Una put a strain on Eric Wilson's classroom lectures last year: "Facts and ideas that would pop into my head would sink down into some hazy, sleepy netherworld," he said. "My teaching became a lot less dense than it had been before." But Una (a name drawn from Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* and shared by Nathaniel Hawthorne's daughter) also brought Wilson closer to the romantic poetry he teaches. "Wordsworth places intense value on childhood; he believes children are somehow closer to truth and energy than adults," Wilson said. "What before was just sort of a literary convention that I could explain intellectually became a psychological truth that I could apprehend viscerally." He remembers taking a 6-month-old Una outside at dawn to calm her crying. Wilson placed her hands on the leaves of trees and Una quieted, fascinated. "I saw the leaves differently thinking about how she saw those leaves," he said. "It refreshed my relationship to the world, try to see the world through the child's eye, sort of a double vision."

Eck and Hill, too, are humbled by what he calls the "awesome responsibility" of parenthood. Eck remembers the advice of Dean Franco: "When you have your kids you're going to be a cliché — just let it happen."

-Susannah Rosenblatt, '03

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## Prof. Anne Boyle Dons a Second Hat

An interview with Prof. Boyle by Fielding Randall, '03



### Recommended Reading

If you are looking for some fascinating reading this year, think about the new books published by your WFU English professors: Prof. Anne Boyle's *Strange and Lurid Bloom: The Writing of Caroline Gordon*; Prof. James Hans' *The Sovereignty of Taste in Everyday Life*; Prof. Gillian Overing's *Double Agents: Women and Clerical Culture in Anglo-Saxon England*; Prof. Lisa Sternlieb's *Hidden Agendas: The Female Narrator in the Novel*; or Prof. Eric Wilson's *The Spiritual History of Ice: Romanticism, Science, and the Imagination*. If you enjoy fiction or poetry, try Prof. John McNally's collection of humorous stories by writers of color, *Humor Me*, or, his new anthology, *Bottom of the Ninth: Great Contemporary Baseball Short Stories*, or take a look at Prof. Evie Shockley's *The Gorgon Goddess*. Coming out this summer will be Prof. Olga Valbuena's *Subjects to Divorce: Equivocation and Allegiance in Early Modern England*, and, by Prof. Dennis Sampson, *Needlegrass and For My Father Falling Asleep at St. Mary's Hospital*.

If you wish to find Dr. Anne Boyle, you now have two offices from which to choose. You may still find her in her familiar office in the English Department, Tribble C203. However, given her recent appointment to the position of Director of Women's Studies, you also may now find her in the Women's Studies Department Office in Tribble A106. Recently, I met with Dr. Boyle to chat with her about her newly acquired position.

### What drew you to Women's Studies and how did you receive this appointment?

I have always been interested in Women's Studies. I think that it is especially important to have Women's Studies Programs at universities in the South where—though there *are* female role models—there are few female role models within the academy. Additionally, I have a deep love of women's literature. In fact, my experience teaching the Women in Literature class—especially the energy and interest I witnessed in the students—was one of the motivating factors that led me toward this position. I have also been the faculty advisor for Women's Initiative for Support and Empowerment (WISE) since 1992, which has kept me in a close relationship with the Women's Studies Department as well. So, when Dean Escott invited faculty to apply for the position after Dr. Leggone, the previous director, left Wake Forest to take a position at Georgia Tech., I decided that the nature of this opportunity (and the timing of it as well) were right for me and I applied. I found out in late December that I had received the appointment and would become the director, effective January 1, 2003.

### What are some upcoming events within the Department?

Well, just two weeks after I began my work as Director, Dr. Carole Browne, a professor in the Biology Department, found out that she had received a National Science Foundation grant to fund a Center for Family and Work and to begin a mentoring program for young female faculty in the sciences. The Center for Family and Work will provide a daycare and perhaps elderly care for working couples as well as providing and performing various other projects as well.

### What are some additions or changes that you would like to see occur within the Women's Studies Department?

I would like to begin having a rotating visiting professor in the department. In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the department, I would like to have a mixture of professors from a variety of disciplines as well as some activists. Also, we are already working on changing the structure of the department from one run mainly by a Steering Committee to one based on several committees focused on various aspects of the department and an advisory board, comprised of the chairmen of these committees. Finally, we are also in the process of changing the name of the department from "Women's Studies" to "Women's and Gender Studies."

## Department News



Some current faculty and staff, gathered to celebrate Connie Green's ten-year anniversary with the department. Pictured **top:** Barry Maine, Victoria Schooler, Dean Franco, Jessica Richard, Jeff Holdridge, Anne Boyle, Lisa Sternlieb, Barb Bennett, Elizabeth Phillips, Jim Hans, Eric Wilson, Gillian Overing, Robert Lovett;

**bottom:** Candide Jones, Gale Sigal, Michael Hill, Alex Garganigo, Madhuparna Mitra, Connie Green, Peggy Barrett, and Bill Moss.

**Not pictured:** Bashir El-Beshti, Justin Cantanoso, Andrew Ettin, Jan Caldwell, Mary DeShazer, Scott Klein, Claudia Kairoff, Wayne King, Phil Kuberski, Allen Mandelbaum, Tom McGohey, John McNally, Jane Mead, Nagesh Rao, Evie Shockley, and Olga Valbuena

### Note from Department Chair Prof. Gale Sigal

Best wishes to you for a great summer. There is always so much going on in the English department, I want to share with you a few items of interest. Some of our visiting professors, who have been with us for three or more years, are leaving for tenure-track positions elsewhere. We applaud the success of Prof. Barb Bennett, who is taking a position at NC State, Prof. Farrell O'Gorman, who is leaving for Mississippi State, and Profs. Garganigo and Mitra, who are leaving for Texas, where Prof. Garganigo will take a position at Austin College, in Sherman, TX.

Other welcome news is that Prof. Eric Wilson is the first WFU professor to be awarded a National Humanities Center fellowship, one of 35 awardees out of nearly 600 applicants; he will be on leave all next year to take up his fellowship in Research Triangle Park. Prof. El-Beshti will be the Acting Director of our Graduate Program while Prof. Wilson is on leave. Prof. Overing will also be on a research sabbatical next year. Our two Writers-in-Residence will be taking a semester each on leave, Prof. Mead in the fall and Prof. McNally in the spring. A fortunate group of students will have the opportunity to join Prof. Philip Kuberski in Japan and to take courses both with him and at a Japanese university. Besides these outgoing activities, we are delighted to welcome back Prof. Mary DeShazer from her year-long research leave.

Our undergraduates are making strides, as well. Fifty-four students were eligible for the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, this year, with twenty-seven joining this spring. The English major program, guided by Prof. William Moss, is strong with more than 220 majors, in addition to 20 minors in English, 45 in journalism, and one in medieval studies!

The English Students Association, under Prof. Franco's guidance, was instrumental this year in helping us bring in the Victorianist writer, James Kincaid, as well as joining with the Sigma Tau Delta in organizing a successful end-of-year banquet for all majors. Our M.A. program is expecting a large incoming class, with thirteen new students to begin their degrees this fall. One of our graduating M.A. candidates, Emily Brewer (editor of this Newsletter), has become the very deserving first English M.A. student to be awarded the Outstanding Master's Student Award by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.



## Graduate Student News

The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences conferred Master's hoods and degrees on commencement weekend to the following second-year students:



**Emily Brewer**

**Emily Brewer** is the recipient of this year's Outstanding Master's Student Award (among Master's-level students of all disciplines on campus). She will begin doctorate study in medieval literature at UNC-CH in the fall with a teaching assistantship.

**Gayle Conover** is moving with her husband to their hometown of Spencer, Iowa, where she will renovate their new home before starting to write fiction full-time.

**John Harkey** will seek employment in a high school as he applies into Ph.D. programs.

**Doug Kennedy** is moving out west.

**Lan Ly** will return to Vietnam by the end of June where she will finish her book on women and literature, write a novel, and work on English-to-Vietnamese and Vietnamese-to-English translation. She invites friends to email her at [hoalan20002000@yahoo.com](mailto:hoalan20002000@yahoo.com).

**Amber McCulloch** will serve for two years as a secondary school teacher for a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico with the Teach for America program.

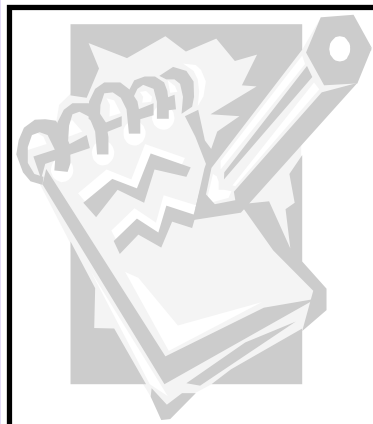
**Murray Reams** will maintain his current position as a Business Analyst with American Express with plans to teach literature at either a community college or a high school.

One first-year student has garnered special recognition for his scholarship this semester. Such recognition will help to open the doors to Ph.D. admissions.

**Jon Elmore**, a rising second-year student in the program, will be traveling to Tulsa, Oklahoma this summer on Bloomsday (June 16) to present a paper at The North American Joyce Conference. His paper, "I'll say a Hail Mary for You: Commodity, Exchange and Paralysis in 'Counterparts,'" has been accepted at the conference, which will be held this year at the University of Tulsa.



**Jon Elmore**



### Newsletter Feedback

We will happily announce the accolades and good work of our alumni/ae, current students, and faculty.

Please email comments, suggestions, and item ideas to [english@wfu.edu](mailto:english@wfu.edu), or address your letter to:

English Department Newsletter

Box 7387

Winston-Salem, NC 27109

## 2002-2003 Departmental Awards to Outstanding Undergraduate English Students

At its annual spring awards dinner and ceremony, the department proudly recognized the shining stars of the 2002-2003 academic year:

**H. Broadus Jones Memorial Scholars**

SINEAD NOELLE O'DOHERTY  
ETHAN KENDRICK DOUGHERTY

**H. Broadus Jones Shakespeare Prize**

JOEL ANDREW GLADD

**D.A. Brown Award for Excellence in Writing**

SINEAD NOELLE O'DOHERTY (300-LEVEL)

**Freshman D.A. Brown Award for Excellence in Writing**

SARA KATHRYN SHERMAN (111)  
BLAKE HARRIS BRANDES (DIVISION II)

**Justus and Elizabeth C. Drake Scholarship**

AMANDA JOYCE SNYDER

**Emily Crandall Shaw Scholarship in Liberal Arts**

LINDSEY MICHELLE GRAHAM  
KATHERINE CULLEN ROBERTS

**The Bynum G. Shaw Prize in Journalism**

WILLIAM TERRELL WINGFIELD III  
LISA SUZANNE HOPPENJANS

**The Beulah Lassiter Raynor Scholarship**

MARY KATHERINE HURLEY

**Senior Excellence in English Award**

BLAIR JORDAN BROWN

**Robert N. Shorter Medieval Prize**

JEFFREY SCOTT KRAMER

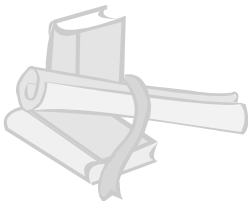
## Getting to Know Peggy Barrett

To many undergrad and grad students in the English Department, Peggy Barrett is more than a star administrative assistant: she lords the department office like a gentle den mother. Her presence, affability, and genuine interestedness have helped to make Tribble C201 an efficient and welcoming place. From organizing registration, advertising for new faculty, and easing course transfers to arranging visits for prospective grad students, Peggy helps to keep the English department up and running.



She grew up on a poultry farm in central Virginia in the house in which her father was born. After graduating from Virginia Tech, Peggy married Kelly Barrett, and they lived in D.C. for twelve years while Peggy worked for the federal government in the department of Health and Human Services, before coming to Winston-Salem. Peggy enjoys spending time with Kelly and their three children, cross-stitching, beach or mountain tripping, and being involved in women's ministries.

-Jane Bianchi, '05





## English Majors at Work

A flood of emails poured in after the fall newsletter, and it has been such a delight to learn what our alumni/ae are up to and how they are putting their English degrees to work. Do continue to keep us abreast of your news! Please send notes and comments to [english@wfu.edu](mailto:english@wfu.edu).

**Doug Stokes ('68)**, a general contractor in Albemarle, NC, says he values his English degree especially in his line of work, in which most people have degrees in vastly different fields.

**Beth Bowen Dillinger Howell ('77)** has served as a Program Manager for several research groups at Virginia Tech since 1979. She works for Tech's Center for Intelligent Material Systems and Structures and regularly interacts with Wake Forest faculty through the Virginia Tech-WFU Biomedical Engineering Partnership.

**John York ('77)** recently won first prize in the Charlotte Writers Club Creative Nonfiction contest. His poetry has recently appeared in *Pembroke Magazine* and in *Appalachian Journal*. In 1994, The Hummingbird Press, owned and operated by Charlotte Shaw and the late Bynum Shaw, published his chapbook, *Johnny's Cosmology*.

**Mark Leuchtenberger ('78)** is president and CEO of Therion Biolics Corporation in Cambridge, MA, a biotech company that develops therapeutic cancer vaccines and preventative AIDS and smallpox vaccines.

**David Highfill ('80)** is a Senior Editor at G.P. Putnam's Sons (an imprint of Penguin Groups, USA, Inc.) where he works on suspense and mystery fiction and narrative non-fiction, history, and journalism.

**Michael Kilby, MD ('86)** is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama in Birmingham where he focuses on infectious diseases and HIV research. He puts his Wake Forest English training to use primarily in writing grants and scientific papers. However, he still tries to publish a poem once in a while and attempts to write fiction.

**Martha Greene Eads ('87)** is a Lily Fellow in Humanities and the Arts at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

**Eric Stevens ('87)** is a partner in the firm Poyner & Spruill in Raleigh, NC.

**Tim Leedom ('92)** has been working in the media/publishing business for *Sports Illustrated* for the last five years, both in New York and on the West Coast. He is now Northwest Advertising Manager with *Sports Illustrated* in San Francisco.

**Betsy Jensen Chapman ('92, MA, '94)** works in the alumni office at Wake Forest University.

**Elizabeth Deuer ('96)** is a high school English teacher in Goshen, OH.

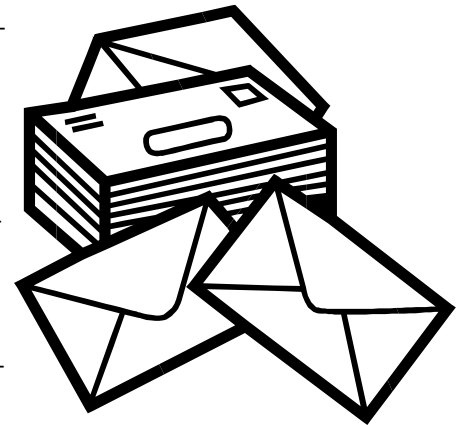
**Beth Timmer Doty ('96)** is an editor of nonfiction at Workman Publishing. She previously worked at Scholastic, a company for whose website she now still writes freelance materials.

**Patrick McDonough ('97)** is working on an MA in city and regional planning at UNC-CH and is the transportation planner for the Triangle Transit Authority. He is marrying **Emily Brewer ('98, MA, '03)** this summer.

**Paul Lundberg ('99)** is teaching high school and has been accepted into the NEH Chaucer Seminar at Yale.

**Betsy Phillips ('99)** works with the acquisitions editor at the Vanderbilt University Press.

**Daniel Keefe ('00)** has been accepted into the UP dual masters program in education and English.



**David Rowe ('00)** is working for the Peter D. Hart Research Associates, a national polling firm located in Washington.

**Brandy Smith ('98)** is receiving her M.A. in Applied Linguistics and English as a Second Language from Georgia State University. She is finishing up a Master's in Italian from Middlebury College. Email her at brandyjsmith@hotmail.com.

**Aaron Stoller ('00)** married **Catherine Earnhardt ('02)** in July. They live in Tucson, where Aaron is working on his Master's Degree in Fine Arts in Poetry at the University of Arizona.

**Lisa Biedrzycki ('01)** plans to enter Temple Law School in the fall.

**Anne Marie Wesoslawski ('02)** will begin her a Master's in teaching at UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall.

## Department's New Grads Share their Plans

**John Bruns**—John will probably be a Marketing and Graphic designer at NeighborCare in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Jessamine Buck**—Jessamine will begin her Ph.D. in literature at Vanderbilt University..

**Katie Collins**—You can see Katie and her news reports on WKAG-TV in Clarksville, TN.

**Ann Curby**—Ann plans to seek employment in Australia, hopefully in the field of conservation.

**Emily Dolim**—Emily has accepted an English Assistantship in Grenoble, France to teach for at least a year in primary or secondary schools, through a program established by the French Embassy.

**Jessica Fegan**—After taking a year off, Jessica plans to apply to law school.

**Lisa Gargiulo**—Lisa plans to return to New York to teach high school English and eventually to pursue an M.A. Ed.

**Phil Glynn**—Phil hopes to teach English in a French high school.

**Sidney Hawkins**—Sidney will be working in NYC as a research assistant/analyst for the investment management firm Hawkshaw Capital Management, LLC.

**Collin Jacobson**—Collin will be the legislative correspondent for Congressman Jeb Bradley (R-NH) in Washington, D.C.

**Kelli Karasiewicz**—After finding a job and taking a year off from school, Kelli will pursue a degree in nursing.

**Taylor Kennamar**—Taylor is pursuing an M.A. in Italian at Middlebury College (VT). After six weeks of intensive study she begins an academic year in Florence. Next year she plans to apply into M.A. or Ph.D. programs in English.

**Mariah Lee**—Mariah is beginning a graduate degree in special education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Derrick Lewis**—Derrick will enroll in the M.A. in English program at Georgetown University.

**Frank MacPherson**—Frank will be working for the Corporate Executive Board in Washington as a Marketing Associate.

**Lauren Magnetti**—Lauren has accepted a position with PR21 in NYC as an assistant account executive.

**Ellen Mooney**—Ellen will put her English minor to use as a paralegal in NYC. She hopes to begin law school in 2004.

**Nicole Patterson**—As of July, Nicole will be working as a news reporter for the *Asheville Citizen-Times*.

**Liz Reidy**—In the fall Liz will attend the Washington College of Law at American University.

**Susannah Rosenblatt**—During her summer internship in the newsroom at the Washington bureau of the Los Angeles Times, Susannah will be seeking a full-time reporting job at a daily to begin after a late-summer visit to South America.

**Adam Rutledge**—Adam will be teaching English in Japan with the JET program for the next year.

**Ashley True**—will attend law school at George Washington University.



Wake Forest University

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## Rallying Support for the Edwin G. Wilson Chair in English Literature

Surely the walls in Tribble C-216 will long recall the poetry of the British Romantics as vivified by Provost Emeritus and beloved Professor of English Ed Wilson. Many alumni/ae of the English Department, now teachers in primary, secondary schools, and in colleges, wrote in on his eightieth birthday in February to share stories of how his teaching has influenced their own. Certainly there can be no greater tribute to a professor than the gift of such a legacy.

To honor Dr. Ed Wilson and his monumental gifts to Wake Forest, the university is collecting financial gifts to create an Edwin G. Wilson Chair in English Literature. This special Chair will fund a distinguished senior scholar in any field of English literature. In The Campaign for Wake Forest, please consider contributing and earmarking your money to help honor Dr. Wilson and, in Professor Emeritus Bob Shorter's words, his "lifetime impact and value as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and, in many ways, conscience of Wake Forest University."

There are many ways to support the English department in this Campaign. Designated funds to which you can contribute include:

- COP20 Journalism Workshop
- COP 56 D.A. Brown Scholarship
- COP 163 E.E. Folk Endowment Fund
- COP 167 Edwin G. Wilson Chair in English Literature
- COP 302 English Department Enrichment Fund
- COP 93 English Department
- COS 161 Wait-Tribble Fund
- COS 192 Bynum Shaw Prize for Excellence
- COS22 Emily C. Shaw Scholarship
- COS64 Justus & Elizabeth Drake Scholarship
- GSP12 English Graduate Program

For more information about how to honor Ed Wilson and to support the English Department in the Campaign for Wake Forest, contact:

Office of University Advancement  
P.O. Box 7227 Reynolda Station  
Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7227

Thank you,

Emily Brewer, '98, MA, '03 and Catherine Frier Korzen, '82



Ed Wilson first came to Wake Forest as an undergraduate on the Old Campus, in the town of Wake Forest. Besides serving in the Navy during WWII and pursuing doctoral study at Harvard, Dr. Wilson has spent his entire adult life at Wake Forest, influencing and inspiring countless students and colleagues with his passion for the British Romantics, his devotion to and belief in the ideals of the university, and his contribution to campus and the Winston-Salem community. Among many other achievements, Dr. Wilson was instrumental in starting the Irish University Press and the annual Irish Festival each March.