

Western Illinois University
English & Journalism
Fall 2007 Newsletter



A Note From The Chair

In the past, I have written several pieces about the importance of the Liberal Arts. This time, I will let a student do the talking. This essay, written by English Education major Andrew Elliott, was brought to my attention by Dr. Bonnie Sonnek. Andrew presents a student's perspective on the importance of the Liberal Arts based on his experiences and on his response to President Goldfarb's recent Hallwas Lecture.

—Dr. David Boocker

The President and My Hero by Andrew Elliott

It is Tuesday, September 25th, 2007, and I am preparing to see the president; the president of Western Illinois University. President Alvin Goldfarb is the key speaker for The College of Arts and Sciences' 2007 John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture. I have no idea of what to expect, except that he will be explaining the importance of Liberal Arts in higher education.

Immediately after climbing the stairs up to the Union Grand Ballroom, where I can see the crowds of people (students dressed in normal attire and distinguished academics and staff

dressed in proper business attire) are standing and waiting to enter, I become excited and wonder what will be said. There is a table displaying programs, so I grab one.

Fellow classmates start to laugh and giggle at me—they see me underlining facts, circling and numbering his accomplishments and credentials. “Wow, did you know this...?” I ask one my classmates sitting next to me (not noticing that they have already been eyeing my note-taking skills).

“Wow Andy, you must be really impressed, huh?” I did not know anything about our president of the university. It might be because I was a transfer student, and did not go through the First Year Experience. In fact, if I were not forced to go to this speech, I would probably not even be able to tell that he was our president. I find this sad now.

His speech was entitled “The Liberal Arts Shapes a Presidency.” I loved writing down catch phrases and ideas like “the need to learn how to learn,” “making a living is not the equivalent of making a life,” and “the lovely learning.” He described how Liberal Arts impacted both his personal and professional life: he became an educated consumer of pop culture, it gave him a new way to address his understanding of the Holocaust, and he discussed how it has helped in decision making as president. Then came the videos....

He uses *The Simpsons* as a teaching tool in his classes (yeah, he still teaches an intro class). His favorite samples were from the episodes, “Street Car Named Marge” and “Marge vs. Monorail.” After the clips he went on to explain the significance—knowing history, tradition creates/ enhances a greater appreciation for pop culture. The clips showed the references to [A Streetcar Named Desire](#) and the influence of theatre and show tunes. Then he showed a music video (“Hey Ya”) by performer Andre Benjamin. This video referred to the era of “Beatle Mania” and expressed (not explicitly) the contrast of showcasing solo artists of the time (who were African American). He also made the connection between contemporary music, which is usually criticized and seen as subversive, and The Beatles and other music of our parents’ day. Lastly, he showed the connection between a Bruce Springsteen song, “The River,” and a poem by Langston Hughes, “A Dream Deferred.”

President Goldfarb then switched gears; he said that a Liberal Arts education gave him the help to address his understanding of the Holocaust. He described the feeling of having no family, no family heirlooms, and no paper trail—no genealogy. With his Liberal Arts education he continued his studies, gaining insights/ comfort and grew in his appreciation of the remaining family that he did have.

“There was no better preparation,” he stated as he progressed on to how it helped him in his presidency. Apparently, you don’t need to study to become an administrative head. He described that he became naturally curious, having life—long investigation techniques and being a constant student. As president, he needs to compose and recite speeches (much like this one), have social skills to impress potential donors and be able to do math (for the budget and reviewing statistical data). Liberal Arts (according to President Goldfarb) is a catalyst for respect for all human interaction, inquisition and research, acting in an ethical fashion, being open to change and transformation, and inclusiveness and fairness in education. Liberal Arts is the “heart of education,” bringing the basic skills and understanding to students.

Although, he did not appreciate it as an undergraduate himself, he warned students to be patient and continue in their studies. The knowledge and skills acquired will reverberate in the future, like in job interviews.

I could not agree more with my new hero—President Goldfarb. I find myself applying knowledge and skills from my Liberal Arts classes everywhere I turn. The hated phrase, “Why do we need to know this?” still rings in my ear and makes me cringe every time. Students are impatient and only care about what is on the test, or what will be important to their chosen fields of study. I cannot imagine my education without Liberal Arts, I have had fun and challenging experiences—all of which have helped me immensely.

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 anytime.

Scholarship Winners for 2007-2008

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

Recipients

Kristin Hess & Bethany Whitacre
April Bennett
Laura Clark
Kayleigh Kluesner
Sara Cash & Jeff O’Malley
Flannery Scott
Tsugumi Murata
Jessica Makler
Caroline Rohner
Andrew Scott
Doug Brenneman
Annette Glotfelty

Fall 2007 Departmental Scholars

We are pleased to announce our English and Journalism Departmental Scholars for Fall 2007. Each semester the Department of English and Journalism selects two students as “Departmental Scholars.” These students must be December 2006 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, Jessica Makler, our departmental scholar for English, and Kyle Moss, our Journalism scholar! The Department is proud of your accomplishments! Jessica and Kyle will be recognized at the Honors Convocation December 14.

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.

First Place	Amanda Doyle
Honorable Mentions	Jeremy Bradley Mike Cooper Jacob Davis Claire Overton Trisha Stech

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	Emily Coutré
Second Place	Jacob Davis Stephanye Rufenacht
Honorable Mentions	Amanda Doyle Christian Krauspe Tracy Porch

Leland Essay Contest 2007

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	Briana Lynn Williams
Second Place	Sara Foxman
Third Place	Emily Kaiser
Honorable Mentions	Junko Minami Kelly O'Toole

English 180	
First Place	Chelsea Lynn DeRose
Second Place	Amber Brainerd
Third Place	Amie Thurow
Honorable Mentions	Christin M. Hemberger Marianna Vaughan

English 280	
First Place	Nicole Swanson
Second Place	Andrew Wessler
Third Place	Jared Bohland
Honorable Mentions	Andrew Nemeth Lily Simmons

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.
Wednesday	6:00 p.m. — 9:00 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 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Quad Cities, Room B14

Phone: (309) 762-9481 Ext. 321

New Journalism Courses for Spring 2008

JOUR 400 Topics in Journalism

JOUR 414 Ethics in Journalism

Please see Ellen Poulter, English & Journalism Advisor, in Simpkins Hall Room 130 for more information.

New Withdrawal Policy

WIU has changed its university withdrawal policy. The final withdrawal date has been moved to the end of the 10th week.

Sunday, October 28th was the final drop date for the fall 2007 semester. The final drop date for the Spring 2008 semester is

Sunday, March 30th. This includes dropping only one course as well as full University withdrawals. NO late-withdrawal appeals will be heard by CAGAS unless SERIOUS extenuating circumstances apply.

Dates to Remember:

Advance Registration for Spring 2008	Nov. 1-16
Fall Break – NO CLASSES	Nov. 19-23
Classes Resume	Nov. 26
Last Day to Withdraw from University	Oct. 28
Final Exam Week	Dec. 10-14
Graduate Commencement	Dec. 14
Honors Convocation	Dec. 14
Undergraduate Commencement	Dec. 15
Winter Break	Dec. 17-Jan. 13
Spring Semester Begins	Jan. 14

Student News

The National Council of the Teachers of English (NCTE)

NCTE is off to a great start this semester. With new officers, there will be many exciting new activities planned throughout the year. You can check out pictures of the new officers on the first floor of Simpkins Hall. This year's officers are Traci Griffith, President, Kathy Jenkins, Vice President, Amanda Doyle, Secretary, Megan Zylka, Treasurer, and Adam Szalowski, Social Chair. The new office of Social Chair was implemented for this year to ensure that the members of NCTE have a variety of activities to network with fellow members.

The group will be traveling to Peoria to attend the IATE conference on October 12th and 13th. Here, they will listen to various seminars, while also being able to network with

teachers from around the state. Also on the agenda for the month of October is a professional development meeting with former Bushnell – Prairie City Junior High School principal, Ray Krey. He will discuss what is expected of teachers and give possible interview questions. Later in the semester, NCTE members will be collecting books for the semi-annual book sale that will be held on November 13th and 14th from nine to two. The proceeds from this sale fund professional development activities such as conferences and meetings.

Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)

PRSSA students are conducting two public relations campaigns this semester. The first campaign will be on behalf of the WIU Student Government Association. Five PRSSA students have entered for the National Bateman Competition to locally run a campaign on behalf of the GM's Chevy Division. The campaign titled as, "Safe Kids Buckle Up," will specially target area students between 6th and 9th grades to create awareness among themselves and their parents for using seat belts while driving or riding in a car.

Two PRSSA members along with Dr. Siddiqi will be travelling to Philadelphia, October 18-24, to attend PRSSA national convention. Eighteen new students have joined PRSSA so far this semester. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. in Simpkins Hall, Room 20. For more information, contact PRSSA faculty adviser, Dr. Mohammad Siddiqi at m-Siddiqi@wiu.edu or PRSSA President, Erika Lowe at er-Lowe@wiu.edu.

Western Society of Professional Journalists (WSPJ)

WSPJ brought journalist and author Michael Walker to campus on September 19, when he spoke about his book Laurel Canyon: The Inside Story of Rock 'n' Roll's Legendary Neighborhood, shared audio clips and photos from his research, and signed copies of his book.

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference (ASLE)

Over the summer, W. Aaron Collie participated in the College of Arts and Sciences first Summer Institute for Undergraduate Scholarly and Creative Research. Five students participated in the Institute and were paired with a faculty mentor in their major to work on a project relevant to the Western Illinois region. Each student received a scholarship to cover the one-credit independent study tuition fees. Aaron worked with Professor Amy Patrick on developing a Green Guide to Macomb and the Surrounding Area. He will be presenting his work to the university community some time this year.

Mahoney Award

The funding from the Mahoney Award helped four of our graduate students to attend seminars and workshops at the ASLE Conference, held this year in South Carolina.

The students were Tsugumi Murata and Flannery Scott, who each received \$600, and Bridgette Parsons and Any Scott, who each received \$100. Dr. Amy Patrick, who also attended the conference, reports that all of our students were absolutely brilliant in their work. Flannery Scott won an award for the “best work of environmental creative writing.” Her paper entitled “The Highest Places” will be published in the organization’s journal, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* (ISLE).

This is really great work done by these students. Our program is well represented by them. I am sure all of you will join me in offering congratulations to them.

—Mark Mossman

Alumni Notes

Report from Kathleen O’Donnell-Brown

Hey, everybody! I returned from my AP reading in Daytona Beach in June and saw some alumni from here. I will now update you...

Zach Waggoner says “hello” to everyone. He is now Dr. Waggoner with the completion of his dissertation. He will be teaching composition for another year at ASU and looking for a job. His parents are now in New Mexico, so he says he has no desire to work in cold, old Illinois. We’ll see...

From years ago...Lorraine Liverpool, MA-1990, is teaching at a public high school in Florida and doing well. Her son, Jared, who was born while she was a grad student, will graduate from high school next year.

Dan Baldwin, MA-1991, is teaching at one of the Quad Cities community colleges. (I can never remember which one). He went on a trip to China in 2001 to visit writing teachers in three cities. His fondest memory is being surrounded by people in Tianamen Square who asked if he knew a Carpenters’ song, which they all then sang together.

Of course, they all asked about us and the faculty they knew.

The AP people treated us to a photo exhibit and lecture by Jack Mitchell, which was fascinating. Another night Scott Russell Sanders came and read from his new memoir, which was also delightful!

We did work, too. I scored 1200 essays in six days.

—Kathleen O’Donnell-Brown

Special Events

News coverage of WIU’s Presidential Mock Convention

About 50 journalism students will be covering all the angles of WIU’s mock presidential election. On four nights culminating on Nov. 1, the Grand Ballroom will transform into a site for caucuses, primaries and party convention halls with keynote addresses, candidate presentations, delegate balloting and selection of nominees. Then, on Nov. 5, thousands of students will gather in Western Hall to elect the next president.

The university-wide effort in civic engagement and civic education – called “The Road to the White House Starts at Western Illinois University” -- is being organized by Rick Hardy

(political science chair) and John Hemingway (an RPTA professor), but the print and online news coverage is being coordinated by Bill Knight, with help from Lisa Barr, Lisa Kernek and Mark Butzow. Dr. Barr’s “Reporting I” students are the primary information-gathering workforce, and some of Kernek’s “Reporting II” students will report and serve as same-night copy editors. Butzow’s copy-editing students will use some 8 a.m. class periods to further scrub the copy, write headlines and design newspaper pages.

The news coverage will be made available three ways: “Real time updates” will be posted during the evening events on a blog called “Real Time News”

(<http://newsmeisterrealtime.blogspot.com/>). More complete and edited stories will go on a blog called “News-Meister” (<http://news-meister.blogspot.com/>). And students will be creating printed newspapers on a two-day delay to distribute at the start of each subsequent event of the mock presidential election.

The Western Courier is allowing journalism students to design and paginate those on their computers. The Union will help create an on-site newsroom for student journalists by closing the 8 or 9 computers near Burger King to the public during the election events. A lot could go wrong in such a big undertaking, but this also could be a learning opportunity that’ll be a highlight of their college careers for many of our journalism students.

Fall 2007 Journalism Day

High school journalism teachers and newspaper advisers were invited to bring their students to campus Friday, Nov. 2, for Journalism Day, a half-day program through which the English Department’s journalism program offers some good training and good discussion of journalism issues each fall. Faculty members conducting workshops with the visitors were Lisa Barr (interviewing), Lisa Kernek (news photography), Pearlie Strother-Adams (“you be the editor” newsroom simulation) and Bill Knight (headline writing and online newspapers). Our featured speaker was Linda Jones, journalism professor and chair at Roosevelt University, who discussed issues and problems central to “scholastic” (high school) journalism, including but not limited to the battles between students and administrators over controversial stories. The keynote began about 10:45 a.m. in Sandburg Theatre. After the talk, the visiting students were fed lunch and most took a tour either of the Sallee Hall broadcasting facilities or the Western Courier operation.

2007 English Graduate Organization Conference

The university theme this year involves Sustainability. As such, so will the conference theme: **The Future of Sustainability: Social Equality, Economy, and Environment.**

The featured speaker, Scott Slovic, from the University of Nevada, Reno, will present “Living Lightly and Inconsistently on the Campus: Sustainability and the Academic Life” on November 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Morgan Hall 109.

Erika Wurth

American Indian Faculty presented a poetry reading and book signing by Erika Wurth from her book Indian Trains. This event took place at the New Copperfields Book Service, 118 N Side Square, Macomb, on Saturday, November 10, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

2007 Magliocco Lecture

The Maurine Magliocco Lecture Series for 2007 presented Michelle Citron, a Professor and Independent Filmmaker from the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts, Columbia College, Chicago. She presented "Border Crossings: Documentary/Fiction, Linear/Interactive, Film/Digital," a film screening event on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sandburg Theater, WIU Union. There was a reception following in the Capitol Room.

2007 Fred Ewing Case & Lola Austin Case Writer-in-Residence

The 2007 Fred Ewing Case and Lola Austin Case writer-in-residence is Richard Siken, poet. A reading took place on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the WIU Art Gallery with a reception. There was also a craft talk on Wednesday, November 14 at 4:30 p.m. in Simpkins Hall 027.

2008 Creative Writing Festival

The Department of English and Journalism will host the annual Creative Writing Festival on Monday, April 14, 2008, in the Western Illinois University Union.

This spring's featured guest author is poet John Bradley from Northern Illinois University. Bradley's books include "Love-In-Idleness" (1989) which won the Washington Prize; "Terrestrial Music" (2006), a collection of poems that explores issues such as ecology, genocide, hunger, violence, and the nuclear age; and "War on Words" The John Bradley/Tomaz Saluamun* Confusement" (2006), an experimental novel which is structured as a series of imaginary letters between the two poets. Bradley also is the editor of a collection of reflections on the nuclear age, "Atomic Ghost: Poets Respond to the Nuclear Age," and a similarly themed collection of essays, "Learning to Glow: A Nuclear Reader." He is the recipient of a National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship in poetry.

Area high school students will enjoy a reading and Q/A period with Bradley and will participate in two small writing workshops before attending an award ceremony when Garrison Writing Competition winning entries will be read. The day will end with lunch compliments of the Department of English and Journalism.

To access registration materials or find out more about our Creative Writing Festival go to <http://www.wiu.edu/english/cwf/>.

Faculty News

John Mann

John Mann began his teaching career here at Western in 1971 as a scholar of American literature with an expertise Dickinson. He will end his career soon, in December 2007, as a

prolific poet, a *participant* in American literature, the very embodiment of Whitman's famous dictum: "I contain multitudes."

In the contributor's notes of the prestigious literary magazine Confrontation, where he recently published "Serene and Indifferent, Mr. Mann is Born," John describes himself as follows:

"John Mann's one-act play, Mass Destruction was recently produced by New World Theatre in Goshen, Indiana. His poems have appeared recently in The Massachusetts Review, Alaska Quarterly, Mid-American Review, American Letters, and Commentary."

A three line biography leaves a lot out, as will this remembrance. I have only known John for the last third of his years here at Western and these are among the multitudes I have observed: cherished teacher, incessant poet, loving father. Those, of course, are obvious. As his office-mate I have heard students come to him for something more than illumination of a text, for *something* . . . they don't even know what it is they're seeking, *wisdom* probably is the closest word; he gives them that, too. The point isn't necessarily that he's wise (though he is) it's that he's generous. I've seen that generosity every day. His favorite novels are The Scarlet Letter, The Cry of Lot 49, and A.S. Byatt's Possession—doubtless the first time the three titles have been cited in a single sentence. I've been lucky enough to see other sides too: I have seen him beaming with happiness in a cold rain on a rocky trail at ten-thousand feet and carrying a too-heavy pack; I've seen him lift a cold beaded glass of the local brew at the Wolfe Hotel in Saratoga, Wyoming after a long day of solo high mountain rambling in the Snowy Range. If you need someone to ride shotgun, there's no better than John.

Artists usually prefer to let their art speak for itself. And John's work does. The Whitmanesque multitudes that John contains speak to us in the legendary "Mr. Mann" poems, whose numbers are now burgeoning toward two thousand. Two thousand poems! The titles alone might fill eighty or ninety pages. In a perfect world they would all be published, maybe filling twenty volumes. But how to describe them? I have read only dozens of them, but I am struck by their humor, which may be outrageous or subtle, shocking us or sneaking up on us later. They might be characterized by their sense of moral indignation or by the zen-like equanimity with which they greet the world. The reader laughs, weeps, or simply marvels at his powers of observation or the beauty of his language. The Mr. Mann of "Serene and Indifferent, Mr. Mann is Born" opens his poem with the line "Authorities secular and religious converge to ransack his house." This reminds me that every Mr. Mann poem is actually opened by its title, and further reminds me that another salient feature of the work is a healthy distrust of authority and institutions. Such distrust is appropriate to a person who began his career during our national nightmare in Vietnam and who ends it during our debacle in Iraq, and these subjects, too, find their way into poems—the outrage and moral indignation I already mentioned. Darkness notwithstanding, "Serene and Indifferent . . ." ends with the wonderful line "He had marked their foreheads." Mr. Mann sometimes believes in grace, blessing, and forgiveness. And John Mann has marked our foreheads, too.

We'll miss John here in Simpkins, we'll miss seeing him walking to work on winter mornings bundled like the Michelin Man. Whitman said to look for him under our bootsoles. But John won't be under anyone's bootsoles any time soon—he leaves us full of energy and good health. Look for him in the literary magazines and bookshelves. Look for him on the streets

of Iowa City, the backwoods of Vermont, the rocky heights of Colorado.

Thanks, John, for your shining example, your many gifts.
—David Stevenson

Mark Butzow

A department colloquium on newspaper/broadcaster collaboration trends that Mark Butzow presented in 2006 caught the eye of the Illinois News Broadcasters Association, which invited him to speak to the organization at its spring 2007 convention in Galesburg. Mark Butzow discussed writing news stories for the web with a large audience of broadcast news professionals and college students. In October, Mark provided similar lessons in a workshop format for a dozen community college newspaper students.

Over the summer, Mark Butzow completed a survey of Midwest college newspaper advisers and found little negative influence so far from a federal appeals court ruling that seemed to open the door for interference by college administrators. The results will be presented at the National College Media Convention on Oct. 27 in Washington, D.C. The research papers in that session also were peer-reviewed, and Mark learned this month that his article was deemed the best. It wins an award and will be published in the refereed journal "College Media Review." College Media Advisers will present the Don Nordin Award for Research to Mark after he presents his paper Oct. 27.

In August, at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication convention, Mark attended a dozen ethics-related sessions and is now formulating a couple of research projects in that area.

He also is working on an election-related project with senior David Martinez that gauges the impact of the Internet on modern campaign methods, and the two hope the finished product can live beyond Undergraduate Research Day to become a convention presentation.

Jim Courter

An adapted excerpt from Jim Courter's unpublished first novel is in the October issue of *Lunaresity*, an online journal. His second novel wants only final editing to be complete.

Roberta Di Carmine

Roberta Di Carmine submitted a paper titled "Cinema and Colonial Occupation: A Study of Italian Colonial Cinema" in the *Journal of Language and Politics* (John Benjamins Publishing). She also reviewed a book titled Imaging Blackness: Race and Racial Representation in Film Poster Art (edited by Audrey Thomas McCluskey) in *Film International* (October 2007). She will present her paper "Images as Spectacles: Magical Beauty in Akira Kurosawa's *Dreams* (1990)" at the Midwest Modern Language Association conference in Cleveland (9-11 November 2007).

Bill Knight

Associate professor Bill Knight is continuing to research the press in popular culture, finishing articles on the depiction of reporters in different media: "You're No Clark Kent: The Passage of Journalists in Comics" and "Global Media, McLuhan and MacLeish: Poetry on the Press."

Besides his thrice-weekly newspaper column to five area dailies, Bill Knight this summer wrote several pieces for Salem Press, including book reviews of the novels "Con Ed" and "Murdering Americans" and encyclopedia entries on American actor/filmmakers Kevin Costner and Michael Douglas.

In the midst of teaching a Fall General Honors course Citizen Journalism, Bill Knight in October attended citizen media workshops at conventions of the Associated Press Managing Editors and the Society of Professional Journalists and led a session on the topic at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association's fall conference at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Dan Malachuk

Dan Malachuk's presentation for CITR's 2nd Annual Faculty Research Symposium (October 26) was recognized as the best by a new faculty member. The prize was a \$500 stipend for research travel. The title of his presentation was "Conscientious Violence in Antebellum Slave Rescues."

Rich Moreno

Rich Moreno, the director of student publications and a journalism instructor at Western Illinois University, has been selected as a 2007 recipient of the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Silver Pen Award.

The award recognizes emerging or mid-career writers who have shown substantial achievement in their work and a demonstrated connection with Nevada in either their subject matter or by living in the state.

Moreno was publisher of Nevada Magazine for 14 years and is the author of seven Nevada-related books, including The Roadside History of Nevada, Endless Nevads, and The Nevada Trivia Book.

He, along with three other writers, will be honored Thursday, Nov. 8 in Reno. The selection committee cited his "significant work in regards to the state of Nevada," his "obvious interest in writing about Nevada issues/places over the past 25 years" and the "evidence of a commitment to and love for the state of Nevada."

For two decades, Moreno wrote an award-winning weekly history/travel column about Nevada. He is a former journalism instructor at the University of Nevada, Reno Reynolds School of Journalism and former director of advertising and public relations for the Nevada Commission on Tourism, where he created the successful "Highway 50: The Loneliest Road in America" promotion. Moreno joined the WIU faculty in August 2006.

Moreno is currently completing his eighth book, Nevada Curiosities, and maintains a travel blog, "The Backyard Traveler," which spotlights his many travel stories about Nevada.

Copy by: Darcie Shinberger

Mohammad Siddiqi

Mohammad Siddiqi presented, "Journalism ethics, war on terrorism and journalists changing views of ethics and journalism," at the 50th Anniversary Conference of International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) held in Paris, France, July 22-25. He also chaired a session in the conference.

David Stevenson

David Stevenson published “*Axe of Contrition*,” creative nonfiction, in *Alpinist* 20 and a review of Jim Perrin’s in *The American Alpine Journal* 2007. His portfolio of photographs *Dolomiti 2007* was privately printed this fall in a limited edition.

New Faculty

Lisa Barr

Lisa Barr teaches mass media law and journalism topics and writing courses. Research and teaching interests include mass media law and ethics, newsroom socialization and message production of minorities, women, gays, lesbians and transgendered journalists, history of the journalism of the civil rights movement, media silences about various issues—including Central American liberation movements, and media concentration and other media regulation issues. She has extensive teaching experience in journalism and mass communication as well as curriculum review experience. She began an award-winning broadcast journalism career while receiving her Bachelor’s in Business Administration (1981) from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. She has taught mass communication and journalism at various institutions while completing her Master’s degree (1992) at The University of Florida College of Journalism and Mass Communication, her Ph.D. (1999) in False Light Privacy while a Mass Communication student at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. She obtained her J.D. (2001) from The John Marshall College of Law in Chicago. She is the editor of *Communications and the Law*.



Merrill Cole

Merrill Cole comes to WIU from Philadelphia. He teaches poetry and creative writing, and he also has an interest in queer studies. Cole received an MFA in poetry from Cornell University, and a Joint-Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from the University of Washington. His revised dissertation, *The Other Orpheus: A Poetics of Modern Homosexuality*, was published in 2003. He is also a published poet. Cole has two current book projects: one on modernist American expatriate women writers; and the other, a narrative study concerning Twentieth-Century European and American homoerotic male encounters in North Africa.



Lisa Kernek

Lisa Kernek is the daughter of a retired WIU professor who grew up in Macomb and discovered her love for journalism as the editor of the Macomb High School newspaper. She moved away and worked as a newspaper reporter for 17 years, first for small newspapers in Massachusetts and later in Illinois at The State Journal-Register in Springfield. She returned to her hometown in fall 2006 as an instructor of journalism before being hired as an assistant professor of journalism in fall 2007. Kernek has a bachelor’s in history and a master’s in journalism, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Dan Malachuk

Originally from the Washington DC area, Daniel S. Malachuk received his AB from Bowdoin College and his PhD from Rutgers University. He taught writing and humanities at Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire for eight years before teaching political theory at Georgetown and George Washington Universities as an adjunct professor, and literature at American University as a visiting professor. His main area of research is nineteenth-century literature and political theory, and his publications include a book of liberal theory and history, *Perfection, the State, and Victorian Liberalism* (Palgrave 2005). He teaches primarily U.S. literature at the Quad Cities campus.



Christopher Morrow

Christopher L. Morrow teaches Shakespeare and early modern English literature. He received his M.A. and PhD from Texas A&M University and his B.A. from the University of Wyoming. Before joining WIU, he spent three years as Curator for Outreach at the Cushing Memorial Library & Archives at Texas A&M. His primary research interests are early modern English drama and national identity.



Staff News

2007 - 2008 English and Journalism Student Assistants



From left to right: Rachel Kallenbach, Paige Podbelsek, Amy Kallenbach, Leeanna Sandberg, Lindsey Holden, and Jami Babb, Not pictured: Mahogany Baker and Monique Campbell

Student Worker of the Year Award



From left to right: Laurie Harris, writing center secretary; Julie Flynn, Joan Livingston-Webber, writing center director.

Julie Flynn, who was a writing center receptionist for two years, won the Student Worker of the Year Award for Western Illinois University for 2006-07 for her dedicated work. For first place, Julie won \$500 to be applied to her university account or to bookstore purchases. She was also entered in the regional competition. Julie reorganized the paper filing system, made numerous improvements to scheduling procedures, and took on the task of training new receptionists with conscientious and thoughtful leadership. Julie is a BOT student, but the Writing Center always thought of her as an honorary English major.

Journalism Secretary

Gee Min Glauze resigned her position as the Journalism Secretary in July. She will be staying home caring for her baby boy, Kyler.

Clara Carrigan transferred to English & Journalism on October 8th from University Housing/Dining Services. She holds a B.A in Women's Studies and is retired from United States Air Force where she served as an administrative assistant for 17 years. She also prides herself as being a Master Gardener. Welcome Clara!

Writing Center Secretary

Laurie Harris resigned her position as the Writing Center Secretary in October. She will be pursuing her education and spending more time with her family.

Dorothy Davis is currently working as the temporary secretary for the Writing Center. Welcome Dorothy!

A Story For Fall

Haunted Hallways: English and Journalism Building Reads Like a Ghost Story by Sarah Cash

An instructor working late jumps at the whoosh of a door slamming. A supervisor leaving the building breaks into a trot as the shadow of a little girl passes over the glass panels in the door. A student in a night class hears the sound of a typewriter coming from a locked closet.

In Simpkins Hall, the second-oldest building on the Western Illinois University-Macomb campus, there is no telling what will pop up around the next dark corner. For decades, a drafty structure and unexplained giggles have turned into supernatural rumors, leaving students and staff alike to wonder if the ghost stories have a real basis.

Macomb has a history as a haunted hotspot. Books have included the Macomb Poltergeist, spooky country structures and even residence hall rooms with paranormal visitors.

Simpkins Hall, on the other hand, does not have much of a supernatural following. Instead, the rumors are fairly contained within a small community that wonders if the detailed history of the building is what creates the imaginative atmosphere, or if benevolent "visitors" just like to keep things interesting.

Meet the ghosts

Simpkins, which used to be the Lab School, opened as a teachers' training school in 1938, and students from kindergarten through high school levels were taught on all four floors. In 1968, when the Lab School moved to Horrabin Hall, Simpkins was adapted for the English department and has since housed only college students.

Regarding Simpkins, only one book, published in 1996, mentions the hall as supernatural. "Haunted Places: The National Directory" states nighttime "poltergeist effects" such as doors and windows opening and closing, lights going on and off and typewriters operating by themselves have occurred for years.

Broad speculation has only led to a few definitive clues. If they do exist, there are probably two ghosts. One, who is known as Harold, occupies the third floor and is thought to be either a

former janitor or graduate assistant. The other is a young boy or girl who visits the bottom floor of the building.

Randy Smith, instructor at Western for more than 31 years, said, "If there is a Harold or Haroldine, it certainly is benevolent."

In searching for evidence, stories and beliefs have filtered in and out of the system, and many relate to Simpkins' close neighbor, Lake Ruth. Penny Rigg, composition instructor at Western for more than seven years, remembers a story she heard in 1999 from Pauline Wear, a woman who graduated from the training school in 1938 and 1944.

Wear said, according to Rigg, every year the training school would host a family day by the lake. At that time the lake was much larger, and all of the parents would come with their students and have a picnic on its banks. At noon, Rigg said, the bell would ring for a prayer, and then everyone present could start eating.

"(Wear) said one year, the bell rang and a family started screaming," Rigg said. "They lost a young boy. A few minutes later, someone saw him floating in the pond and fished him out. They took him into the training school and up to the top floor, where the librarian workroom was — it's the computer lab now in the Writing Center. The boy died there."

In the winter 2000 Western News, an article by Marla Vizdal stated the lake was also predator to a painter named Ralph English, who jumped in to save a drowning girl but drowned himself in 1917. Vizdal also mentions a young girl who drowned in the lake during the early 1920s after she presumably jumped in.

After these few events, however, there were apparently no other tragedies or resulting ghost stories.

Simply rumors?

According to Judi Hardin, secretary for the English and journalism department and graduate of the Western Lab School, the ghostly claims do not have any historical evidence. Hardin mentioned in an interview that she attended the small Lab School in Simpkins during the 1960s and '70s, and no ghost stories were circulating at that time.

"Everybody knew everybody at that school," she said. "If someone had died or something was going on, we would have heard about it."

Smith also agreed the 1970s were "pre-Harold time." Both Hardin and Smith remember first hearing the ghostly rumors during the early- to mid-1980s.

During this time, one teaching assistant, C.K. Bryant, documented an experience she had on the top floor of Simpkins.

Much of the supernatural activity appears to be centered on the third floor of the building, which includes a fourth-floor writing center. Teaching and graduate assistants are given cubicles in the center for scholarly use, and many assistants work late into the night grading papers.

This was such the case for Bryant, who wrote of her experience on www.saviodsilva.net. Turning off the lights and laying down on the couch early in the morning after grading papers, Bryant wrote she heard the sounds of a "hunt and peck typist." She wrote she was sure she had been alone since midnight, but the sound was coming from a nearby office. As soon as she stood up to investigate, Bryant said the noise stopped. After turning on the lights and looking around, Bryant said she again lay down, but the same thing occurred. Finally, Bryant said she yelled, "Harold, knock it off; I need to get some sleep!" The sound stopped. Writing that she was not sure why

she used the name Harold, but it had worked, perhaps Bryant was the catalyst of the rumor and name of the top floors' ghost.

Smith was able to verify both the name of Bryant and graduate student Dan Bednar, who was also mentioned in Bryant's story.

The evidence

Joan Livingston-Webber, former director of the Writing Center, said she remembers an English graduate student in the late 1990s who held a séance at 10 p.m. in the Center. The student apparently called a group of graduate students from Chicago to film the séance for supernatural activity but, as Livingston-Webber said, "Harold didn't show up."

Rigg, a former teaching assistant in the English department during the same time period, remembers a late-night episode with Harold in the Center. Two other girls were with her working on papers in the Center, Rigg said, and the three decided to leave for a short break. Locking the door behind them and leaving one person to stand guard at all times, the girls used the restroom and purchased sodas from the vending machine. Upon returning to the Center, Rigg said she sat down at her computer and screamed at the sight of the monitor.

"The screen had changed," Rigg said. "The letters 'Aaaa ... Zzzz' and the word 'hi' below them was all that was there. There's no physical explanation."

Luckily, Rigg said, the paper she had been working on was not deleted, just minimized.

"Good thing," she said. "Otherwise I would have killed him again."

Teaching assistants today claim while the "building is creepy" and they have had experiences with wind gusts, they are not sure the rumors are most than just embellished stories.

Building service workers of Simpkins who work during second shift, until midnight, were surprisingly skeptical of Harold's existence as a janitor or otherwise.

Repairman Gary Campbell, who has worked at Simpkins during the night shift for more than a year, said he has been in all crawl spaces and attic spaces the hall has to offer and has never seen a thing.

Charlotte Jones, former second-shift worker in the building, agreed she has been all over the building but never saw anything, either. However, she had heard about the ghost from other staff since the time she began working in the hall.

"Perhaps it's just in a person's mind to be scared," Jones said. "Maybe if I turned the radio down people wouldn't hear things anymore."

Student experiences

Many students asked about Harold had never even heard about the ghost, but others had experiences that made them think twice.

Noelle Ebert, recent English graduate, had a night class last fall in a computer lab. She said she and a fellow student next to her both heard typing coming from a closet but upon looking around could not find any evidence. Ebert clarified that the sound was coming from a direction opposite to that of the other students typing.

Zack Meyer, junior theatre major, said he had several experiences with otherworldly figures in the hall, including one that suggests the presence of a third ghost.

"She was a student who had an affair with a teacher and was humiliated by him," Meyer said. "She supposedly hung herself over the front railing. I was coming out of the theater one time at night and went down the stairs alone."

Something white caught my eye and I looked up, and there was a white face with black eyes staring me down. I looked at it for a good two to three seconds before I ran out of there.”

Meyer also clarified the personality of the young female ghost who visits the lower level of Simpkins. Based on his experiences with past performances in the hall — especially those having to do with child abuse — he said the ghost does not appreciate such topics.

“While no one was in the lighting booth, the lights started to go in ‘techno mode’ with all the lights flicking on and off but at separate times, so it wasn’t like a power surge with all the lights going at once,” he said.

Despite these experiences, many students and staff have only heard the howling of the wind and doors closing as a probable result of drafts. Smith said the doors have always done that, particularly during the springtime, as long as he has been teaching in Simpkins.

“Every year, often in spring, doors flop open,” he said. “It’s probably a matter of it being an older building — perhaps it’s something the building will always do.”

Smith said he has also looked for confirming evidence to the ghost stories, including a trip up a ladder in the Writing Center and above classroom rafters, but Harold has never been there.

Whether the ghosts of Simpkins hall exist or not, one thing is clear — this small community continues to keep things interesting by cultivating an imaginative environment and blaming the building’s structural antics on an easy target. In that case, thanks for being here, Harold.



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