

Western Illinois University English & Journalism

Spring 2008 Newsletter



A Note From The Chair

Giving Back to the Department

This morning I signed thank you notes for over forty alumni and former faculty who, last month, gave generously to the department for scholarships and other funds that allow us to help support student travel to conferences, visiting writers, and other important activities.

Why am I telling you what I did this morning?

Because I think you need to know that Deborah Haza, Susan Grove, Betty Coultas-Hanson, Shirley Veryzer, Loretta Cronin, Pamela Hoffman, and Thomas Zeidel, among many others, look back at the experiences they had in the department and realize that those experiences helped prepare them for the successful lives and careers they have had. Many of them

graduated from WIU in the 60s and 70s, and live across the country in California, Arkansas, Michigan, New Jersey and, of course, throughout Illinois. But for whatever reason, they remember their experiences as students and are willing to help the current generation of students with donations ranging from \$10 to \$250. And believe me, every dollar helps!

This is not a plea for money...yet! But in the future, when you have time to reflect back on your experiences in the Department of English & Journalism, I hope you will remember that many of the exciting and important things that happen in the department could not happen without the generous contributions of our faithful alumni.

—Dr. David Boocker

Student Works

In the English Education Program, students create communities in our classrooms by organizing curriculum, learning teaching theory and pedagogy, and finding practical ways to organize content. And throughout all of these conversations, they reflect...on their learning, their students' learning, each others' learning, and how to effectively teach and make life-long learners of their students. What follows is one student's reflection on an environment she hopes to create.

—Dr. Bonnie Sonnek, English Education Coordinator

Envisioning My Classroom by Traci Griffith

As I am entering my last semester of English Education, preparing to take the reigns of my own classroom very soon, I continue to think about the kind of teacher I will be. In Jim Burke's *The English Teacher's Companion*, Burke says that "if we are to think creatively, critically, or differently about our curriculum, we must have a vocabulary of images and metaphors to help us conceive of these methods." Via Burke's advice, I considered the examples he provided and found that thinking creatively about the realm of my future classroom gave me insight into the type of teacher I aspire to become.

If my course were a spider web, what would it look like and what would each filament represent? The web would be circular and connect to many types of objects to ensure that at least something will hold. The circular design is to prove that not all learning is linear. Sometimes the spiders will wander down a filament and decide that they would like to go back and take another direction. The web will connect to variety of points because although I believe that every connection I make in the classroom is strong and interesting, not all spiders will want to brave every filament, nor will they desire what is at the end of the connection.

Each filament represents a path of knowledge that I want my students to go down to achieve a greater understanding at the end of the connection. As the students go down these paths, I will encourage them to create their own filaments so that with each day, the web grows stronger, and more spiders will be brave enough to venture down the path. Some of my connections will lead to windowsills or different rooms, and these are the paths that I want all of my spiders to be able to go down eventually. At the end of these connections, the students can use the wisdom they have gained from traveling around the classroom web, and venture further on with their own web of knowledge.

If someone connected my class to a machine that translated its action into music, what would it sound like? First, there would be a steady beat of the bass drum that controlled the tempo of the rest of the music. Although the steady bump of the bass provides this guidance, it has the ability to change if it senses that the other instruments are eager to quicken the pace or squeaking and squawking out terrible notes in order to keep up with the beat.

The other instruments in the composition would be quite varied. Some instruments would be what one expects when listening to a composition. There will be the trumpets that lead the way with their bellowing tunes, the flutes that chime in with an expected melody, and the saxophones and clarinets that keep the classroom flowing with their always soothing commentary. Additionally, what music would be complete without the insane

rapping of the snare drum? The drum that always seems to beat three times faster than any other instrument in the room, but would be greatly missed if it was thrown out into the hall yet again. Finally, there would be sprinkles of sound that are not quite as distinguishable as the other instruments. One might hear the low blowing of the didgeridoo or the buzzing of a kazoo and wonder what these strange instruments have to offer to a classroom, yet the music would not be as diverse and rich without them.

Together, the instruments of my classroom will make up a composition like no other. The beat will not be steady, but ever changing to the pace of the classroom. There will be times when even the melody will sound like nails on a chalkboard because all classrooms go through bad measures. But then, there will be the times when every instrument is in perfect tune and hits every note with brilliance. It will be at these times that I will know I have succeeded as the composer of my classroom, and even if it doesn't happen much at first, I will be able to hold on to those moments and build on them until the composition is a master piece. Combined, my web and my music create an image of the culture of my future class. My classroom will be a place of support for my students with me there for guidance, but not complete control. I want my students to have the courage to try new ideas, to be creative, and to work together in their diversity to create new knowledge.

Advising & Student News

Advising Appointments

Advising appointments for summer and fall registration 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 309/298-2189 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.

Grad Prep Day

Take care of all those last minute graduation details at Grad Prep Day on Friday, April 11, 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 2008 Commencement

March 14	Deadline for graduation applications to be turned into the Registrar's Office in order for students to have their names in the commencement booklet.
March 17	Cap and Gown sales begin, University Union Bookstore (309/298-1931 or 800/338-6369)
April 10	WIU-QC Grad Prep Day, 2-6 p.m. Alumni Programs (309/298-1914)
April 11	WIU-Macomb Grad Prep Day, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., University Union Concourse. Alumni Programs (309/298-1914)

Friday, May 9

2:00 p.m.	Academic Honors Convocation, Western Hall
4:00 p.m.	WIU-U.S. Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, Union Heritage Rooms
5:30 p.m.	Graduate Hooding and Commencement Ceremonies, Western Hall

Saturday, May 10 – Western Hall

9:30 a.m. (Ceremony No. 1)	Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony: College of Fine Arts and Communication, College of Business and Technology
1:00 p.m. (Ceremony No. 2)	Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony: Interdisciplinary Studies, Board of Trustees Bachelor of Arts degree program, College of Arts and Sciences
4:00 p.m. (Ceremony No. 3)	Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony: College of Education and Human Services

Sunday, May 11 – i wireless Center, Moline, IL

3:00 p.m.	Combined Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
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Spring 2008 Departmental Scholars

We are pleased to announce our English and Journalism Departmental Scholars for spring 2008. These students must be May or August 2008 graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher. Campus and community involvement is also taken into account in the selection process.

Congratulations to this semester's winners, Annette Glotfelty, our departmental scholar for English, and Ben Snowden, our Journalism scholar; The Department is proud of your accomplishments. Annette and Ben will be recognized at the Honors Convocation May 9.

Lois Cordell Bruner Writing Award

All Western Illinois University undergraduates are welcome to submit their writing to the Lois C. Bruner Creative Nonfiction contest. Creative nonfiction can include essays about life experiences—though these may fit into any of the following categories: travelogue, memoir, biography, autobiography, nature writing, or cultural critique. Both voice and style will be weighed heavily in the judging. You may submit up to 8,000 words—as one long essay or multiple short essays. Several cash prizes and honorable mentions will be awarded. Submissions should be presented to the Department of English and Journalism in Simpkins 124 no later than 4 p.m. on April 16. Entries must be typed, double-spaced. Include on the first page of your manuscript your name, address, email and a phone number where you may be reached. 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. There will be an awards ceremony held on Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the Writing Center (Simpkins 341). Winning authors will be notified prior to this ceremony. All entrants are invited to participate in the celebration; refreshments will be served.

Eula Cordell Lerner Writing Award

Fiction writers and poets alike are invited to submit stories and poems for the Cordell Lerner Award. All Western Illinois University undergraduates, regardless of major, are invited to submit up to 15 poems and/or one short story of any length to the contest. Submissions should be presented to the Department of English and Journalism in Simpkins 124 no later than 4 p.m. on April 16. Entries must be typed, double-spaced. Please also write or type the exact name of the contest you are entering on the first page of your entry. Include on the first page of your manuscript your name, address, email and a phone number where you may be reached. 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. There will be an awards ceremony held on Thursday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in the Writing Center (Simpkins 341). Winning authors will be notified prior to this ceremony. All entrants are invited to participate in the celebration; refreshments will be served.

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 (309/298-1871). 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 consultants are available. E-mail questions to: mwcenter@wiu.edu or visit our website at <http://www.wiu.edu/uwc/>

Simpkins Hall Room 341

Phone: 309/298-2815

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

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

Monday, Wednesday, & 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Thursday evenings

Sunday afternoons 2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Quad Cities, Room B14

Phone: 309/762-9481 Ext. 321

Monday, Wednesday, & 10:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Thursday

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Friday—Saturday 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Dates to Remember:

Advance Registration for Summer and Fall 2008	April 2-18
Final Exam Week	May 5-9
Academic Honors Convocation and Graduate Commencement	May 9
Undergraduate Commencement	May 10
Quad Cities Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement	May 11
Pre-Session Begins	May 12
Memorial Day (No Classes/University Closed)	May 26
Classes Resume	May 27
Pre-Session Ends	May 30
8-Week and 1 st 4-Week Sessions Begin	June 2
6-Week Session Begins	June 16
1 st 4-Week Session Ends	June 27
2 nd 4-Week Sessions Begins	June 30
Independence Day (No Classes/University Closed)	July 4
Classes Resume	July 7
All Summer Sessions End	July 25
Fall 2008 Session Begins	August 25

Summer 2008 Courses Offered in English & Journalism

The department please to offer a wide variety of courses this summer.

Macomb Campus – Pre-session (May 12 – May 30)

ENG 300 Short Story 9:00-11:55 a.m.
MTWThF

ENG 301 Women & Literature 1:00-3:55 p.m.
MTWThF

Macomb Campus – First 4-week session (June 2 – June 27)

ENG 400 Topics in Literature 9:00-11:45 a.m.
MTWTh

JOUR 400 Journalism Topics 1:00-3:45 p.m.
MTWTh

Macomb Campus – 8-week session (June 2 – July 25)

ENG 381 Technical Communication Online

ENG 495 Internship Arranged

ENG 595 Internship Arranged

ENG 599 Reading Language or Literature Arranged

JOUR 330 Magazine & Feature Writing ISP Extension

JOUR 404 Field Work in Journalism Arranged

JOUR 425(G) Directed Study Arranged

Quad Cities Campus – Second 4-week session

(June 30 – July 25)

ENG 585 Advanced Creative Writing – 1:00-3:45 p.m.
Contact Dr. Mark Mossman MTWTh

309/298-1322 MA-Mossman@wiu.edu for more information

Graduate Program News

Mahoney Research Fellowship

The John Mahoney Research Fellowship is given once each semester to students for the purposes of conducting off-campus research. This past fall the fellowship was won by Pat Druckenmiller, a graduate student working on a thesis project that concerns the loss and acquisition of language in Native American communities. Pat used the Mahoney fellowship to research language immersion in preschools in Hawaii.

New Graduate Fellowships

Thanks to the generosity of Ron and Leslie Walker, the Western Illinois University Foundation has established two new graduate fellowships. The fellowships will serve to recognize outstanding academic achievement in literary and writing studies as well as the potential for continued professional accomplishment in the future. The gifts will each equal \$1,000, and will be awarded each spring semester. The graduate program sincerely thanks Ron and Leslie for this gift!

Joe Weinberg

Joe Weinberg, a graduate student in our program now completing a thesis in writing studies, is planning on attending the PhD program at the University of Minnesota this coming fall. Joe was accepted into the program and has been given an assistantship in the department. At Minnesota Joe plans on continuing his work in writing studies.

A Note from the Graduate Director

As this is written, many of our other graduating MA students have applications submitted to PhD and other advanced graduate programs, various academic and otherwise professional positions, and other kinds of post-MA venues. The program and the department wish them the best of luck.

Merrill Cole and Dan Malachuk have both received full graduate faculty status from the Graduate Council. Congratulations to both!

—Dr. Mark Mossman

Student Organizations

The National Council of the Teachers of English (NCTE)

NCTE is as busy as ever this semester. First, we would like to welcome Kristina Pedroni to the executive board as a replacement for Megan Zylka, the former treasurer. This semester, NCTE has planned two professional development meetings. At the beginning of the semester, students were able to discuss Block teaching scenarios with other students. Students will also have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Livingston-Webber to compile a resume and cover letter on Wednesday, March 19. NCTE members are also working hard to raise funds to travel to San Antonio, TX for the annual NCTE convention. Here, students will be able to network with teachers across the nation, listen to other professionals speak, and collect many ideas for their future classrooms. To raise funds to help students pay for registration and hotel costs, NCTE will be holding their semi-annual book sale on April 2nd and 3rd. We will also be participating in the first annual Taste of Macomb on April 5th.

NCTE Officers



(pictured left to right) Amanda Doyle, secretary; Kristina Pedroni, treasurer; Adam Szalowski, social chair; and Traci Griffith, president. Not pictured: Kathy Jenkins, vice president.

Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA)

PRSSA is a strong 25 member organization this semester. Meetings are held on Wednesdays in Simpkins Hall, Room 120, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. PRSSA is hosting a “Shake Your Shamrock” St. Patrick’s Day themed picnic at Everly Park on Saturday, March 29 from 3-5 p.m. The event is a fundraiser on behalf of Best Buddies, a campus organization dedicated to enriching the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Members also raised \$134 from bake sale and plan to organize couple of more fundraisers to raise fund for attending the fall National PRSSA convention to be held in Detroit, Michigan. Deb McCarver, APR has accepted to be the new professional adviser of the PRSSA chapter. Deb is Communication and Public Relations Director of Illinois Chamber of Commerce at Springfield. She is going to be a guest speaker at PRSSA meeting on Wednesday, April 9th. For more information, contact Dr. Mohammad Siddiqi at 309/298-1324 or m-siddiqi@wiu.edu or PRSSA President at erlowe@wiu.edu.

Western Society of Professional Journalists (WSPJ)

Journalism faculty and student members of the Western Society of Professional Journalists are judging the national SPJ’s Regional Essay Contest for Midwest high school students.

JOUR 400—Topics: Environmental Journalism

Journalism 400 Topics: Environmental Journalism, a seminar-format class offered over five weekends at the Quad Cities campus in Spring 2008 has its own weblog showcasing students’ observations about the topic.

<http://qc-green.blogspot.com/>

Special Events

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

The spring 2008 Fred Ewing Case and Lola Austin Case writer-in-residence is Rick Bass; writer and environmental activist. There was a question and answer session on Tuesday, March 19 at 4:00 p.m. in Simpkins 027. He also presented a fiction reading on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the WIU Art Gallery.

Spring 2008 Journalism Day

WIU faculty members Stan Hyman (the Leathernecks’ head baseball coach) and Hank Bordowitz (an assistant professor in the School of Music) will discuss writing about pop music at the spring Journalism Day at 3 p.m. Monday, March 31 at the Union Sandburg Theater. Hyman used to write about rock 'n' roll for Rolling Stone, USA Today, the Philadelphia Inquirer and other publications, and Bordowitz is an author with books about Bob Marley, Billy Joel and other music figures.

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/>

Awards ceremony for the Bruce H. Leland Composition Essay Awards and Department Scholarships

The awards ceremony will be held on Monday, April 21st in 341 Simpkins. All Department Scholarship winners and Leland Contest winners will be recognized and will receive their awards. Please bring family and friends if you wish.

Faculty News

Lisa Barr

Lisa Barr is working with students to start a WIU chapter of National Association of Black Journalists. (You may have seen the fliers). It's interesting to note that one of the Student Activities peoples brother is former national prez of NABJ. Below is from their website:

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is an organization of journalists, students and media-related professionals that provides quality programs and services to and advocates on behalf of black journalists worldwide.

Founded by 44 men and women on December 12, 1975, in Washington, D.C., NABJ is the largest organization of journalists of color in the nation.

Many of NABJ's 3,300 members also belong to one of the dozens of professional and student chapters that serve black journalists nationwide.

NABJ holds an annual convention and careers fair each summer with dozens of plenary sessions and workshops for professional development. The careers fair draws hundreds of recruiters and is among the best means of finding a job in the industry. The annual Salute to Excellence awards and special

recognition honors (Lifetime Achievement, Journalist of the Year, Community Service, etc.) are bestowed at each convention.

Each year, NABJ awards nearly \$100,000 in scholarships and internships to college and high school students nationwide, as well as fellowships for seasoned professionals.

Mark Butzow

Mark has received word that his research, *Hosty Ruling's Reign of Terror Not Even A Sprinkle* (So Far), on the repercussions of a federal appellate ruling on college newspaper freedoms, will be published this year in *College Media Review*, the journal of College Media Advisers Inc. This publication is one of the perks of winning the Ken Nordin Research Award last October at the National College Media Convention in Washington, D.C. (By the way, he called the award by the wrong name in the fall newsletter.) Mark proposed a media ethics panel for the August 2008 convention of AEJMC that didn't make the cut, but it now is being considered as possible content for a pre-convention workshop on teaching media ethics at AEJMC, which is in nearby Chicago this year. Other scholarly work is sort of on hold while Mark recovers at home from February bladder cancer surgery. When he returns in late March, Mark hopes to jump back in and help WIU's journalism program host an IHSA journalism sectional for the region's high school newspaper/yearbook students, an outreach Mark started pursuing last fall in talks with the folks from Eastern Illinois University's journalism department.

Mark Butzow and Bill Knight

Mark Butzow and Bill Knight are co-managers of the Illinois High School Association's IHSA Sectionals for Journalism on Saturday, April 19 in Simpkins Hall. Several undergraduates and area journalists also will take part as monitors and judges.

Merrill Cole

Merrill Cole has been granted a Summer Stipend Grant to conduct research in Berlin, Germany.

Jim Courter

Jim Courter has an essay in the March edition of *Radish* magazine and a short story forthcoming in *Big Pulp*.



Lisa Kernek and Ed Woell, Associate Professor in the History Department, are the proud parents of Julia Clare Woell, born Feb. 21, 7 lbs. 4 oz., 19-3/4 inches.

Bill Knight

Bill Knight this spring is presenting invited papers to the 2008 Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language and Media at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb on Feb. 29, and at the College English Association Annual Conference at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis on March 27, when he's chairing a panel titled "Propriety, Legitimacy, and the Apocalypse: The Fate of 'Civilization' in Popular Culture."

Knight, who teaches Jour. 332 Sportswriting, also is writing biographical entries on Major League Baseball players Mark Grace and Jim Thome for *Great Athletes, Second Revised Edition*, published by Salem Press.

Lastly, his new edition of Illinois journalist and labor activist Tom Tippet's 1935 novel *Horse Shoe Bottoms* is scheduled for publication this summer, with Knight's biographical introduction.

Dan Malachuk

Dan Malachuk is presenting at several conferences this spring, including talks on Victorian liberalism at a colloquium at the University of Notre Dame in March, human rights and slave rescues in the 1850s at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies conference in Milwaukee in April, and Emerson's thoughts about war for the Emerson Society panel at the American Literature Association in San Francisco in May. Dan is also looking forward to visiting Concord, Mass this July to do some research and to attend the Annual Thoreau Gathering; he's presenting on Thoreau's well-known animus against government but less-known commitment to the state.

Chris Morrow

Chris Morrow will present "Free Men of the Sea: Plundering Pirates and Negotiable Nationalisms in Representations of English Pirate, John Ward" at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Chicago, Illinois, April 3-5 2008.

Mark Mossman

Mark Mossman had an article accepted for publication in *Victorian Literature and Culture*. The essay is entitled, "The Abnormal Body in *The Moonstone*." He will present a paper in April entitled "Oscar Wilde's Clothes: Body, Empire, and the Discourses of Normalcy" at the American Conference on Irish Studies.

Shazia Rahman

In December 2007, Shazia Rahman presented "Cosmopolitan Maladies in Jhumpa Lahiri's Short Fiction" on the "Cosmopolitanism and Ethnic Studies" Panel at the MLA convention in Chicago.

In February 2008, Shazia Rahman presented "Cosmopolitans in Crisis: Sabiha Sumar's *Khamosh Pani*" at a panel entitled "Pluralism: In and Out of South Asia" at the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in Savannah, Georgia.

Jacque Wilson-Jordan

Jacque Wilson-Jordan published an article in Fall 2007 called "Teaching a Dangerous Story: Darwinism and Race in Stephen Crane's 'The Monster'" in *Eureka Studies in Teaching Short Fiction*.



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