

Western Illinois University English & Journalism

Spring 2009 Newsletter



News From The Chair

The online *New York Times* recently published an article titled, “In Tough Times, the Humanities Must Justify Their Worth” by Patricia Cohen (February 24, 2009). Ms. Cohen brings together information from sources showing the loss of importance of the humanities in higher education—numbers of majors, numbers of tenured faculty, number of job advertisements. She also quotes Professor Delbanco, Director of American Studies at Columbia University, who believes “the person who has done the best job of articulating the benefits [of the humanities] is [President Obama](#)... a president who invokes Shakespeare and Faulkner, Lincoln and W. E. B. Du Bois. He makes people feel there is some kind of a common enterprise, that history, with its tragedies and travesties, belongs to all of us, that we have something in common as Americans.”

The “common enterprise” of the nation, Mr. Delbanco implies, arises from a common heritage that the humanities keep alive. The study of language and literature teaches us how to put ourselves in someone else’s shoes and walk in those shoes into

another time and culture—at least as far as we’re able to. And the time and culture of the contemporary life of the *polis* is the air that Journalism breathes. English and Journalism bring together the texts and practices, the inspiration and the drive, the incisive thinking and the ability to identify with others that characterize the humanities at their best.

In these tough times, remember the value of the insight and knowledge that you worked so hard for during your schooling in English and Journalism. Don’t minimize or belittle the value of what you know. Help others to understand its value. Without study rooted in the humanities, as English and Journalism are, society would be less social and community, less communal.

While recognizing that times are tough for the humanities as they are for everyone, this newsletter celebrates what’s worthy and valuable and what helps hold us all together to a common purpose.

—Joan Livingston-Webber, Interim Chair

Students at Work

Jennifer (Kallenbach) Zimmerman was awarded the English Departmental Scholar and graduated Summa Cum Laude in May of 2007. During her time in the English Education Program, she served as NCTE president and writes that she still looks forward to receiving her NCTE Inbox and English Journal. She began teaching in August 2007 at Brown County High School, where she currently teaches Composition, English I, and English IV. In the past two years she has served on the Instructional Leadership Team, school improvement committee, and the scheduling and curriculum committee. She also sponsors the sophomore class, National Honor Society, and The Journey (BCHS's literary magazine). Sounds like she is as busy as ever and we miss her!

—Bonnie Sonnek, English Education Coordinator

From the Desk of Jenny (Kallenbach) Zimmerman, Brown County High School English Teacher

"I am not sure if I will be able to go. I understand that this will be an excellent opportunity, but I am nervous about leaving my kids. I have never left them before, and this would mean leaving them with someone else for three days." This was a conversation I had with my principal a year ago. He was asking me to attend a training session in California and trying to work against my reluctance. I was not worried about leaving my husband for the first time in our marriage. I was not even that worried about flying, which is certainly not my preferred method of travel. I was, however, extremely apprehensive about leaving my kids. By the way, I am not a parent. The kids I was referring to were my 108 high school students.

I cannot pinpoint exactly when they went from being my students to being my kids, but I know that it happened quickly. I had been teaching for only a short time when my husband noticed my possessive tendencies. Apparently I was prone to bragging about the excellent ideas that "my kids" would bring out in their writing and during class discussions. I got upset if "my kids" did poorly on an assignment that I knew they should have been about to complete with a great deal of success. I became nervous if I saw one of "my kids" hanging out with a rough crowd uptown on weekends.

As prospective teachers we are taught to always refer to students as just that – students. I prided myself on not using the word "kids" while I was still in college. It seemed to be such an elementary term. Referring to a teenage high school student as a "kid" would never be acceptable. They are young adults. Calling them kids is just disrespectful. Some of my first students were only four years younger than I was at the time. Who was I to refer to them as kids? However, there I was, calling them kids. I am sure the undergraduate version of me would have a fit about this.

After much consideration, I think I have come to terms with my semantic transformation. They are obviously my students, but that seems too impersonal. They mean more to me than just minds that come into my room for forty-nine minutes each day. I spend my time working desperately to help them succeed. I rejoice in their simple and major successes. I mourn their difficulties and failures.

Thinking of my students as my kids also helps me to navigate that difficult concept of maintaining a professional distance from my students. Maintaining a professional distance

does not mean that I do not take an interest in their lives. We frequently talk about what is going on outside of school. However, I make sure that they understand where to draw the line. As their teacher, I care about their well-being and their success, but there are some things they simply should not discuss with me. I let them know when they are getting too close to crossing the line, when they are crossing it, and when they have pole-vaulted across it (some students like to operate in extremes). This helps to remind them that while I am not that much older than they are, I am still their teacher and the authority in the classroom.

Despite my initial reluctance, I did wind up going on the training trip to California. Although it is almost embarrassing to admit, I spent a disproportionate amount of the trip worrying about my kids. Were they behaving? Was the sub teaching the lessons according to the plans I had left? Were my kids okay without me? As was to be expected, my fears were unfounded. Their learning continued in my absence. Even with that knowledge, I still hate it when I have to leave them. What if I miss the day when one of them grasps a difficult concept for the first time? My students are not perfect. Some of them challenge me on a daily basis. However, they are *my* kids. I just hope that their parents do not mind sharing them with me.

—Jenny Zimmerman, WIU English Education Alumni

Advising & Student News

Registration for Summer and Fall

Have you met with your advisor yet this semester? If not, time is running out. Pre-registration begins in April. If you have not yet made your advising appointment with Ellen for this semester, call 298-2189 or stop by 130 Simpkins Hall to set up your appointment. Summer and Fall 2009 schedules are available on-line through STARS.

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 e-mail her or stop by the advising office, in 130 Simpkins Hall, for assistance with these problems anytime.

Summer Courses Offered in English & Journalism

English – Macomb Campus	
Pre-session (May 18 – Jun. 5)	
ENG 300 Short Story	9:00 – 11:55 MTWTHF
ENG 301 Women & Literature	9:00 – 11:55 MTWTHF
First 4-week session (Jun. 8 – Jul. 2)	
ENG 400 Topic in Literature	9:00 – 11:45 MTWTH
Second 4-week session (Jul. 6 – Jul. 31)	
ENG 301 Women & Literature	9:00 – 11:45 MTWTH
Arranged Courses	
ENG 409 Independent Study	
ENG 495 Internship	
ENG 620 Independent Study	
ENG 622 Internship	
ENG 690 Thesis	
English – Quad Cities Campus	
First 4-week session (Jun. 8 – Jul. 2)	
ENG 552 Pedagogical Issues in	1:00 – 3:45 MTWTH

English Studies	
Second 4-week session (Jul. 6 – Jul. 31)	
ENG 559 Issues in Disciplinary Studies	1:00 – 3:45 MTWTH
Journalism – Macomb Campus	
First 4-week session (Jun. 8 – Jul. 2)	
JOUR 428 Press & Popular Culture	9:00 – 11:45 MTWTH
Arranged Courses	
JOUR 404 Field Work in Journalism	
JOUR 425 Directed Study	

Grad Prep Day

Attention Seniors! Grad Prep Day will be held on Friday, April 10th, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the University Union concourse. Sponsored by the Alumni Association, Grad Prep Day gives graduating seniors the chance to order caps and gowns, graduation announcements, class rings and graduation photos. It also gives you the opportunity to learn about the benefits of the Alumni Association!

Note: Caps and gowns will be available from the University Union Bookstore beginning March 23, 2009 if you want to order before grad prep day. The cost is \$30. For more information about graduation, go to www.wiu.edu/commencement.

Spring 2009 Departmental Scholars

We are pleased to announce our English and Journalism Departmental Scholars for Spring 2009. Each semester the Department of English and Journalism selects two students as “Departmental Scholars.” These students must be May or August 2009 graduates with a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher. Campus and community involvement are also taken into account in the selection process.

Congratulations to this semester’s winners, Rachel Waters, our departmental scholar for English, and Alisha Cowan, our Journalism scholar! The Department is proud of your accomplishments! Rachel and Alisha will be recognized at the Honor’s Convocation May 15. As Departmental Scholars, both of them have also been placed into nomination for the Cecile A. Christison Sterrett College Scholar Award in the College of Arts & Sciences. The winner of that award will be announced soon.

Leland Essay Contest 2009

We had 80 submissions for the 2008-09 Bruce H. Leland Composition Essay Contest from students in English 100, 180, and 280 during spring and fall 2008. Congratulations to the winners!

English 100

1st: Alex Crivolio, “Trophies of Hockey” (instructor: Jacque Wilson-Jordan)

2nd: Donovan Lowry, “Life-Long Memories” (instructor: Jacque Wilson-Jordan)

3rd: Madeline Swanson, “A Breath of Fresh Air” (instructor: Jim Courter)

English 180

1st: Tyler Gordon, “Losing the ‘Real’ in Reality” (instructor: Penny Rigg)

2nd: Jackson Courter, “Making the Cut” (instructor: Erin Waters)

3rd: William Steele, “Russia’s Wrongful Invasion of Georgia” (instructor: Emily Brackman)

English 280

1st: Michael Pearce, “From the Classrooms to the Camps; Doctors in Nazi Germany” (instructor: Rick Clemons)

2nd: Keri Plica, “Can I Have a Plus with That?” (instructor: Kathleen O'Donnell Brown)

3rd: James Carrell, “Homeschooling” (instructor: Kathleen O'Donnell Brown)

Want to use *Western Voices* in your classroom?

The students in English 483G: Professional Editing are working on the 2009 issue of *Western Voices* where these essays will be published. The publication will be ready by the end of May. If you would like to use *Western Voices 2009* as a text in your classes during 2009-10, please place your order with the bookstore:

Title: *Western Voices 2009*. Author: Western Writing Program. Cost to students depends on number of copies printed, but is usually minimal.

Deadline for the 2009-10 Essay Contest: Monday January 25, 2010 4:00 p.m. (129 Simpkins Hall).

For more information, visit <http://www.wiu.edu/english/writing/contest/>

Academic Assistance Centers

WIU Academic Services offers monitored study groups and tutoring in many subject areas. If you are having trouble in one or more of your courses it's not too late to bring those grades up this semester! Please seek this FREE assistance if you need it. Tutoring is available in the following areas:

ACCT	201 & 202
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

If a course is not listed, help may still be available. For more information, contact Academic Services in Olson Hall 248 (298-1871).

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.

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 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Malpass Library, 2nd Floor Walk-ins only

Hours:

Sunday & Monday 6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Quad Cities, Room B14
Phone: (309) 762-9481 Ext. 321

Dates to Remember

Advance Registration for Summer & Fall 2009	Apr 1-17
Last Day to Drop 16-week class or for a total University withdraw	Apr 5
Final Exam Week	May 11-15
Graduate Commencement	May 15
Honors Convocation	May 15
Undergraduate Commencement	May 16
Summer 2009 Pre-Session Begins	May 18
Spring grades available on STARS	May 20
Pre-Session Ends	Jun 5
Summer 2009 8-week & 1 st 4-week sessions begin	Jun 8
Summer 2009 6-week session begins	Jun 22
1 st 4-week summer session ends	Jul 2
University closed for Independence Day	Jul 3
Summer 2009 2 nd 4-week session begins	Jul 6
All summer 2009 sessions end	Jul 31
Fall 2009 classes begin	Aug 24

Spring 2009 Commencement Schedule

Friday, May 15

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

Saturday, May 16

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies

Ceremony #1 9:00 a.m.

College of Fine Arts and Communication

College of Business and Technology

Ceremony #2 1:00 p.m.

College of Arts & Sciences (**English Lit., English Ed., and Journalism Majors**)

Board of Trustees

Interdisciplinary Studies

Ceremony #3 4:00 p.m.

College of Education & Human Services

Sunday, May 17

WIU Quad Cities, Graduate & Undergraduate Ceremony

The i-wireless Center, Moline, IL 1:00 p.m.

Lois C. Bruner Literary Nonfiction Award

All Western Illinois University undergraduates are welcome to submit one personal essay of any length to the Lois C. Bruner Literary Nonfiction contest. Essays should be about life experiences—though these may fit into any of the following categories: travelogue, memoir, biography, autobiography, nature writing, or cultural critique. The writing should strive toward literary qualities; voice and style will be weighed heavily. Several cash prizes and honorable mentions will be awarded. Submissions should be presented to the Department of English and Journalism in 124 Simpkins Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 15. See submission guidelines below.

Cordell Lerner Award in Fiction or Poetry

Fiction writers and poets alike are invited to submit stories and poems for the Cordell Lerner Award. All 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. Submissions should be presented to the Department of English and Journalism in 124 Simpkins Hall no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 15. See submission guidelines below.

Submission Guidelines for Both Awards

Entries must be typed, double-spaced. Please write or type your name, your local address, and phone number on the back of the first page of your entry so the judging can be anonymous. 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.

Student News

Graduate Program

English graduate students Sara Naslund and Craig Finlay are undertaking a service project in Galesburg secondary schools to develop an interdisciplinary unit on Native Americans to be implemented by Galesburg high school teachers. They are doing this in conjunction with Penny Kelsey's English 599: Issues in Disciplinary Studies.

Film Students Club at WIU

NEW! Film Student's Club at WIU. The student's organization will be scheduling film screenings and films related events on campus. All students interested in films are welcome to participate (Brian Lyons, the President and Kate Schmidt, the Treasurer, welcome any suggestion). Dr. Roberta Di Carmine is the Faculty advisor

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)

With assistance from the Journalism Program, African American Studies Department, the Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, and the College of Arts and Sciences, the student chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists hosted a campus-wide conference February 18th, featuring *Ebony* magazine editors, Sylvester Monroe, Senior Editor, and Mira Lowe, Assistant Managing Editor. *Ebony* was granted the first interview and photo shoot with the Obama family after the November election win.

The one-day conference was entitled: "The Past, Present, and Future of Minority Media." The day consisted of two panels featuring Sylvester and Lowe and meeting individually with students. The two talked about their own career paths and told students that they should build up clips now.

They advised students on how to get an internship and recommended they be persistent working toward their journalism goals. Later in the day, students gathered for an evening reception with the editors. Journalism major and Courier Editor-in-Chief Alisha Cowan had had a successful internship last summer at *Ebony* and helped bring the *Ebony* editors to WIU.

Native American Student Association (NASA)

This December a collaborative group of Native American students and faculty, including English grad student Craig Finlay and professors Kelsey and Wurth, gained official recognition for the Native American Student Association, the first student organization of its kind in WIU's history. NASA plans to support Native American students and host indigenous events on campus, and it is open to students of all ethnicities. Interested parties should contact Craig Finlay at SC-Finlay@wiu.edu or Penny Kelsey at P-Kelsey@wiu.edu.

The National Council of the Teachers of English (NCTE)



Photo Left to Right: Glenna Sabo (treasurer), Kristin Dragos (vice president), Kristina Pedroni (president), Lydia Loehner (social chair), Abigail Klokkenga (secretary).

NCTE is creating many new avenues for the organization this semester. First, we would like to welcome Kristin Dragos (vice president), Abigail Klokkenga (secretary), Lydia Loehner (social chair), and Glenna Sabo (treasurer) to the executive board as replacements for Claire Overton (vice president), Kayleigh Kluessner (secretary), Lauren Anderson (social chair), and Andrew Elliot (treasurer). This semester, NCTE is holding its First Annual NCTE Conference on April 4th (8:00 - 9:20 a.m. continental breakfast and 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. conference). The registration fee will be \$10 (\$5 refund with two book donations for the April 13-17 book sale). The conference is open to all WIU students and Instructors. There will be three sessions containing two presentations per session. Kathryn Rittenhouse and Sue Rausch (from Industry Middle School) will be leading a presentation on using an Advanced Reading Program in the classroom, Danielle Brush will be leading a presentation on using technology in the classroom, Kellee Sullivan (Principal of Industry Middle School) will be conducting a presentation on preparing for interviews, Dr. Marjorie Allison will be leading a presentation on developing and controlling in-depth discussions, student teachers will be leading a Q&A (based on preparing to student teach and what they've learned), and there will be a volunteer panel promoting students to become involved in the community. Funds made from the conference and book sale will help students pay for registration and hotel costs at the IATE conference in Rockford, IL October 16th and 17th. Feel free to come and participate in our conference and book sale! It's a great way to bring the English Department together! Hope to see you there!

Western Society of Professional Journalists (WSPJ)

The Western Society of Professional Journalists chapter is combining SPJ's annual "Sunshine Week" and Western's Spring Journalism Day to host Illinois State Rep. David Leitch for a presentation and Q&A session with students on March 9. The Republican lawmaker is a former reporter and activist with a local of The Newspaper Guild labor union.

SPJ also is going on a field trip to Chicago that will include a tour of the Chicago Tribune newsroom and a visit with Chicago Sun-Times feature writer Dave Hoekstra.

Alumni Notes

Spring 2009 Fred Ewing Case & Lola Austin Case Writer-in-Residence

Poet Albert Goldbarth is the Spring 2009 Fred Ewing Case and Lola Austin Case Writer-in-Residence. Events include a poetry reading on Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the WIU Art Gallery, with a reception to follow, and a question and answer session on Wednesday, April 8th at 4:30 p.m. in the University Writing Center, 341 Simpkins Hall. Both events are free and open to the public. Goldbarth will also meet with the advanced creative writing students to provide them with personal critiques. Goldbarth is an award winning essayist and the author of over twenty-five collections of poetry including, *The Kitchen Sink: New and Selected Poems 1972-2007* (Graywolf Press, 2007); *Saving Lives* (2001) and *Heaven and Earth: A Cosmology* (1991). Those students who have completed the workshop sequence in poetry or nonfiction are more than welcome to inquire about the possibility of a conference with Albert Goldbarth. Those who are interested should contact Tama Baldwin at TJ-Baldwin@wiu.edu.

Zachary Waggoner

Zach Waggoner, '97 graduate with an MA in English, earned his PhD at Arizona State University where he now teaches courses for ASU's writing program. His book, *My Avatar, My Self: Identity in Video Role-Playing Games*, will be published this year. It is currently available for pre-order on Amazon.

Lora Wolff

The Keokuk School Board voted on February 23, 2009, to hire Lora Wolff, '92 graduate with an MA in English, as the new superintendent of Keokuk area schools.

Faculty News

Roberta Di Carmine

Roberta Di Carmine's book review, "Imaging Blackness. Race and Racial Representation in Film Poster Art" (edited by Audrey Thomas McCluskey), will appear on "Film International" (July 1, 2009)

Penny Kelsey

In late February, Penny Kelsey delivered a paper, "Disability and Native North American Boarding School Narratives: Madonna Swan and Decolonizing Bodies," at the 2009 Native American Literature Symposium at the Isleta Pueblo.

Bill Knight

Journalism professor Bill Knight wrote a news feature for the Illinois Press Association's *Presslines* monthly on trends in newspaper design that seem to seek favor with an audience that doesn't read: online viewers.

This spring, Knight is delivering presentations on censorship at Carl Sandburg Community College, on journalism

and democracy at the Popular Culture Association conference in New Orleans, and on west-central Illinois journalist and author Tom Tippet at the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature conference in East Lansing, Michigan.

Knight this year edited, wrote an introduction for and published a new edition of Tippet's 1935 novel *Horse Shoe Bottoms*.

Mark Mossman

Mark Mossman's book *Ireland, the Body, and a New Disability Studies*, has been accepted by Palgrave Macmillan and will appear in September 2009.

Kathleen O'Donnell-Brown

Kathleen O'Donnell-Brown has again been invited by the College Board to read Advanced Placement English Language Exams.

Alice Robertson

Alice Robertson's book *Writing from Private Places to Public Spaces*, will be displayed by Kendall Hunt Publishers at the book exhibit during the Conference on College Composition and Communication on March 12-14, 2009 in San Francisco, California.

Faculty Emeritus

Dr. Arnold Chandler

Dr. Arnold Chandler began his teaching career at Western Illinois University in 1969. After more than twenty-five years of service to the English and Journalism Department, he retired and moved to West Palm Beach, Florida to be near his son. Dr. Chandler passed away in September 2008.

Staff News

2008 - 2009 English and Journalism Student Assistants

We have new additions to our staff. Receptionists: Lindsey Urbaszewski, Angie Zaba, Kasey Russo, and Receptionist/Technology Assistant: Joe Coffman.



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