

# English News

February 2005  
Volume 3, Issue 4

Messiah College English Department

Contact Rachel deVitry: rd1194@messiah.edu

## Department News

### Candidate Search

Over Christmas, Professors Powers, Smith, Roth, and Walker traveled to Philadelphia for the annual convention of the Modern Language Association. While there they interviewed candidates for the open position in Anglophone World Literature. Also in attendance at MLA were alumni Tiffany Eberle Kriner (1998), Joy Wang (1998), and Melissa Goldthwaite (1994). The department is currently in the process of interviewing promising candidates on campus and hopes to make a hire later this spring.

### Spring Readings

Matthew Roth, Professor of English at Messiah College, will be giving a reading at Messiah College on March 2 at 7:30 in Frey 110. Dr. Roth's poems have appeared in many journals, including *Fence*, *Verse*, and *Antioch Review*.

On March 31 at 7:30, Poet Julia Kasdorf will be giving a reading. Kasdorf's recent work includes *Eve's Striptease* (1998), *The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life, 1991-1999* (2001), and *Fixing Tradition: Joseph W. Yoder, Amish American* (2003). Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, and several anthologies. The reading will take place in Frey 110.

### Faculty Bookends

This spring's seminar and reception will feature *Writing Performances: The Stages of Dorothy L. Sayers* by Crystal Downing. Following Dr. Downing's introduction, Lauren Winner, author of *Girl Meets God*, and Dr. Tim Schoettle will respond to the book.

### Presidential Scholars Lecture

Paul Nisly will be giving a Presidential Scholars lecture on February 24 during chapel time. The title of his talk is "Moments of Grace, or the Academic Musings of a Kansas Farm Boy."

## Faculty News

Crystal Downing's most recent essay on film, "A Pearl of Great Price" (discussing *Girl With A Pearl Earring*), was published in the December issue of *Cresset*.

Crystal Downing has an essay in the December issue of *Brethren in Christ History and Life* called "The Limits of Perception: How Postmodernism Saved (My) Faith."

"The  
characteristic  
common to  
God  
and  
man  
is apparently that:  
the desire  
and  
the ability  
to  
make  
things  
up."

- Dorothy Sayers,

## Alumni News

### Stephanie Zugates Major, Class of 2001

To return to school to get certification to teach English at the secondary level, Stephanie took the English Content and English Essay PRAXIS in November, which measures knowledge about literature, poetry, literary terms and basic linguistics that English teachers should know. Besides passing both for the states of KY and PA, she received the highest score possible (200) on the Content Test as well.

### Coral (Butler) Brooks, Class of 1998

Coral is the Director of Annual Giving at the Pingry School, a private school in New Jersey, where she has been for about six years.

### Steve Brooks, Class of 2000

Inspired by a brief tenure as a high school English teacher, Steve recently wrote an article about the trials of teaching which can be found at <http://www.relevantmagazine.com/article.php?sid=5261>.

### Sally Higbee, Class of 2000

Sally is working with Covenant Players as an actress and teacher and is the team leader for the Pacific Northwest. She has been with the ministry for four and a half years.

### Tiffany Eberle Kriner, Class of 1998

The October issue of the English News saw Tiffany preparing to defend her dissertation on October 15. She has since passed and plans to do a few revisions and finish in May, and is also applying to the Lilly Fellows post-doctorate program.

### Julie Barko, Class of 2001

Julie is presently the Deputy Director for the Institute for Politics, Democracy, and the Internet at George Washington University and responsible for day-to-day operations. She has also authored and served as editor for a book. Besides becoming an expert in the political arena, she has helped co-found a national non-profit organization that will be involved in youth health and fitness.

### Tasha Books, Class of 2002

Tasha recently visited Greece to cover the Paralympic Games for radio broadcast. Since graduating, she has pursued accounting, journalism, and currently radio broadcasting.

### Tessa Silvestri, Class of 2003

After spending a year teaching English to college freshman at a language institute in China, Tessa returned to the U.S. and secured a position as a Research Intern for the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

### Liz Miller, Class of 1999

Recently Liz accepted a position as an advisor in the Disability Resource Center at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

### Carmen McCain, Class of 1999

Carmen is finishing her third semester in the three year master's program at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. She is currently on a FLAS scholarship and may be teaching a language class on Hausa in the near future.

### Jenny Dodson, Class of 2004

Jenny is currently working no less than five part time jobs, the majority of these utilizing her Spanish language skills and TESOL minor.

Melissa Goldthwaite, Class of 1994

Melissa is an assistant professor of English at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, and recently presented a paper entitled "Correspondences" at the MLA conference, which is a shorter version of an essay by the same name that will be published in *Dialogue* this spring.

## Opportunities

Media General, Inc., an independent communications company situated primarily in the southeast, will offer post-graduate internships in four of its converged markets. The program will give college graduates the opportunity to develop the skills required in today's transforming newsrooms while working for nine months as multimedia journalists.

Graduates selected for the program will work in one of four markets where Media General owns a television station, a newspaper, and a Web site. They will spend an equal amount of time at each property in the market to obtain a wide range of experience and will primarily produce content that will be presented on more than one platform. Contact Donna M. Reed at (804) 649-6107 or [dreed@mediateneral.com](mailto:dreed@mediateneral.com)

Campus Voices: Giving Students the Last Word presents an opportunity for college students to submit devotionals related to their college experience for publication in a devotional guide written by college students for college students. Submissions should be comprised of a title, scriptural reference, personal experience or lesson, and closing thought, and should be between 350 and 450 words in length. The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2005. For guidelines, send requests to [studentwriters@biola.edu](mailto:studentwriters@biola.edu).

The Conference on Christianity and Literature seeks submissions of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction for their 2004 Student Writing Contest. The contest is open to all regularly enrolled undergraduates and will award prizes for first, second, and third places. Up to three typed, double-spaced entries may be submitted by each student; poems should be no more than two pages long and prose entries may not exceed 15 pages. Entries must be received by March 10, 2005, and can be sent to Rhonda Janzen, English Christianity and Literature Contest, Hope College, PO Box 9000, Holland, MI 49422-9000. For complete information visit the English Department Announcement Board on the second floor of Boyer.

Delos National Undergraduate Literary Magazine is the first truly national undergraduate literary magazine, and is seeking submissions for the next issue due out July 1, 2005. With a completely undergraduate staff, the mission of the magazine is to publish the best undergraduate work in the nation and expose these authors to the national publishing market. To submit, visit [http://www.delosliterary.org/su\\_home.html](http://www.delosliterary.org/su_home.html). Information about joining their staff as a reader or editor is also available on their site.

Consider the New York State Summer Writer's Institute 2005, from June 27 to July 22. A variety of faculty with experience in fiction, poetry, and non-fiction will be joined by multiple visiting writers. For information, contact the office of the Dean of Special Programs, (518) 580-5590, or visit [www.skidmore.edu/summer](http://www.skidmore.edu/summer).

The Patriot-News is adding a new edition and has positions available immediately. An internship position of 40 hours a week and a part-time position for 24-30 hours a week are available; both will be evening work and publication experience is preferred. See Mike True in the internship office for further information.