

English News

A Message from Our Department Chair

In our last newsletter, the English Department was proud to report that we were four-fifths towards our goal on the Paul W. Nisly Endowment for Literature, Vocation, and Reconciliation. Since then, we have been informed of an individual who is willing to match dollar-for-dollar (up to \$2000) any new gift that is made between now and December 31, 2011.

This is great news! By meeting this challenge, we would achieve the funding goal for the Paul W. Nisly Endowment. As a result, the endowment would begin to provide the needed resources for the department to launch its very first program in honor of Dr. Nisly.

I want to personally thank you for your past support of this effort. Without your help and the help of other alumni and friends, we could not make this endowment a reality. Now given this new opportunity to reach our goal, I urge you to consider an additional gift to help us meet this

challenge gift.

Thank you for considering this request. Please know that all gifts are greatly appreciated. For questions about this challenge gift or for more information, please contact Bob Brown in the development office at 717-796-5051 or bbrown@messiah.edu.

Regards,
Samuel Smith

“The purpose of this fund is to promote further understanding of the writing and study of literature as a form of Christian vocation. It especially promotes activities that encourage inquiry into how this vocation is related to the task of peacemaking, the quest for social justice, and the work of reconciliation of human beings to one another and to God. The following are the programs involved: Symposium on Literature, Peacemaking and Social Justice, the Paul W. Nisly Writer-in-Residence Program, and a Student Scholarship.”

Department News

On October 14 and 15, **Paul Nisly** attended a Walker Percy conference at Loyola University in New Orleans. The theme of the conference was “*The Moviegoer* at 50.” His son Lamar Nisly, who teaches at Bluffton University, presented a paper comparing *The Moviegoer* with Tim Gautreaux’s *The Missing*.



Samuel Smith's essay, "The Son's Bounded Solitude in *Paradise Regained*," was published in *Their Maker's Image: New Essays on John Milton*, ed. by Mary C. Fenton and Louis Schwartz, Susquehanna University Press, 2011: 161-76. Samuel also presented a paper, "Milton's Theology of the Cross," at the 2011 Conference on John Milton at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN on October 14.

Christine Perrin's YAL class enjoyed attending *Hamlet* together at The Harrisburg Shakespeare Company after studying it in class and talking to Valerie Smith about using drama and dramatic literature and practices in the literature classroom. They also had the opportunity to hear Annette Spahr, Leigh Ann Chow, and David Kemper talk about their best practices in the 7-12th grade English classroom.

Alumni News

Joe McClure '04 is pursuing a master's degree in American studies at Penn State Harrisburg.

Rebecca Buckham '05 presented a paper, "The Eco-Political Implications of Milton's Lucretian Creation," at the 2011 Conference on John Milton on October 14. Rebecca continues full-time in the Ph.D. English program at Johns Hopkins University.

Please forward any additional alumni news to Marialana Gaetano, mg1243@messiah.edu, under the subject heading "Alumni News."

Opportunities

Image is looking for a summer Luci Shaw Fellow. This individual must be a brilliant, motivated undergraduate student who shares their vision for the place art has in the life of faith, and who is also diligent, meticulous, and responsible about the daily details.

Check out the English Department's very own Facebook page! Get the latest news on alumni and our irreplaceable professors! Connect with prospective students! Help get it rolling by inviting your friends, uploading pictures from department events, and linking your own blogs!



In exchange for 30 hours of work a week, the Shaw Fellow lives rent-free in an apartment in Seattle's nearby Queen Anne neighborhood, learns the daily work of literary publishing at a nonprofit arts organization, and is immersed in the dialogue about art and faith that surrounds *Image* and its programs. The Shaw Fellow also has a free ride to their Glen Workshop, individual may take a class of his or her choosing.

Check out the following links to read about experiences of past Fellows-<http://imagejournal.org/page/fellowships/the-luci-shaw-fellowship/how-would-you-spend-a-summer-with-image> – and complete an application-
<http://imagejournal.org/page/fellowships/the-luci-shaw-fellowship/the-luci-shaw-fellowship-at-emimageem> .