

English News
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“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.” ~Charles Dickens

Department News

The Paul W. Nisly Endowment for Literature, Vocation, and Reconciliation.

In recognition of Professor Paul Nisly’s distinguished career, the English Department is proud to report that we are halfway towards our goal on the Paul W. Nisly Endowment. 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. For more information please contact Bob Brown at BBrown@messiah.edu.

Crystal Downing was recently offered a contract on her third book, with the working title *(Re)signing Christian Truth: Communication on the Edge*. She also had an essay on Petrarchan clichés in *Romeo and Juliet* recently published in a critical edition of Shakespeare's play.

Alumni News

Lamar Nisly '90, professor of English at Bluffton University, recently had a book published by Mercer University Press: *Wingless Chickens, Bayou Catholics, and Pilgrim Wayfarers: Constructions of Audience and Tone in O'Connor, Gautreaux, and Percy*.

Deborah DeGeorge Harbin '03 has authored *RUR: Reboot*, a reimagining of Karl Capek’s classic drama, *Rossum’s Universal Robots*. The play will be presented by the Run of the Mill Theatre in Baltimore, MD, from February 17-27, 2011.



Kayla Smyers '05 currently teaches and coaches at Fairfield High School in Pennsylvania and completed her Master's Degree in Educational Strategies and Development from Wilkes University in January 2011.

Three years ago, **Ben Hodge '02**, an English teacher in York, had his students write stories about the real issues faced by 21st century teens. Believing that "theater is community based," he crafted these stories into monologues and compiled them into a play entitled *Reach: There Is A Better Way*. The play, "a celebration of the transformative power of the written word," was then further developed into a mentoring program, which has served as a call to action in raising awareness about the struggles in the lives of people we encounter every day. See <http://www.witf.org/education/educational-resources/6069-reach-there-is-a-better-way> for inspirational interviews about the program and

its impact on students, teachers, and parents.



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

Opportunities

Review sessions are here again! The Minnemingo Review just wouldn't be the same without students commenting on and discussing other student's work. So, you want to join the fun? Review sessions will be:

- **Thursday, March 24th from 8pm to 10pm** (this is **prose** night, so be prepared for

memoirs and short stories! etc.)

- **Friday, March 25th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm** (**poetry!!!** so good.)
- **Saturday, March 26th from 1pm to 4pm** (finishing up **poetry** and **critiquing photos!**)

All review sessions will be held in **Boyer 102** (that's the room right inside the front entrance and to the right, 'cuz we're super classy like that). **FREE FOOD** will be provided (anyone for baked goods?). Please take time to look through the binders of prose, poetry, and photos which will be in the English dept. study room on Boyer 2nd, before coming to review sessions. (it's not like we'll shun you if you don't have time, but...) Any questions? Contact the editors at minnemingo@messiah.edu.

A beautiful event!

On March 28, the English Department will co-sponsor Teyvyn East's *Leaps and Bounds*, the one-woman show about "personal, ecological, and economic transformation."

Get excited early!

Our *English Department Only* variety show is on April 28th. There will be exotic foods, some made by 'chefs-extraordinaire-English-major people.' But the BIG THING is experiencing the OTHER side of people we sit in class with- the talents and fun-lovingness of students and faculty we mostly know as readers and writers of literature. So mark the date: April 28th at 6:30 PM!



Call for Submissions!

The Missional Press National Short Story Contest is now accepting entries from "authors with great stories just waiting to be brought to an audience." Authors have a chance at winning the grand prize of \$250 and the opportunity to have their work featured in "The Missional Press 2011 National Short Stories." Submissions are due on April 30th, along with a \$12 fee. See missionalpress.com/contest for more information, including important rules and conditions.

More Submissions!

"*Susquehanna Review*, the national undergraduate journal of Susquehanna University, is now accepting entries in fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from students across the country. So send them your best stories, your quirkiest characters, details that pierce, and writing that's innovative and brave. They are looking for fresh language that excites both readers and



writers and hones in on the depth and variety of human experience." One exemplary piece of prose and one of poetry will appear in their print and online journal, and the winning authors will be awarded the Gary Fincke Creative Writing Prize, which includes a \$100 check. Submissions are due on March 15th at <http://susquehannareview.submishmash.com/Submit>. For any questions, email sureview@susqu.edu.

A Public Reading!

Rhoda Janzen will be joining us on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 pm in Hostetter Chapel for a reading of her book *A Memoir of Going Home: Mennonite in a Little Black Dress*. Admission is free, and a book signing and reception will follow.