

FROM YOUR GRAD DIRECTOR.....

Welcome to fall semester, 2008, and to the inaugural issue of the Graduate Program Newsletter. I'll be sending out this newsletter on a monthly basis during the regular academic year. In this space, I'll be offering advice, providing information, and—I hope—opening up space for conversation. I'm planning on some regular features: Faculty Profiles, Student Profiles, "What Are You Reading?," and tips about the stages of graduate study and job hunting. I'm also envisioning this newsletter as a place to herald your accomplishments, so if you publish something, present a paper, give a reading, win a prize, get a job, or do something similarly spectacular (in academic terms), let me know! When you look good, the English Department looks good, too. I'll also include upcoming dates and deadlines as well as details on Ball State and Department of English policies and procedures. I'm also hoping to address questions and concerns that you bring to me. So, please, bring me your questions and concerns!

All that said, let's get down to business. First, a big welcome to the new members of our department. You'll find a list of the 29 new students joining our 10 (that's right, 10!) graduate programs this fall. We're also joined by Professor Michael Donnelly, lately of the University of Tampa, who is our new Writing Program Administrator and a member of the rhetoric and composition faculty (check out the profile below). We're welcoming Visiting Assistant Professor Kellie Weiss and some new instructors to our ranks, too. If you see someone you don't recognize, introduce yourself! If you've got the time, invite your new acquaintance to have lunch, to grab a cup of coffee, or just to chat for a bit. Last but not least, a grateful welcome to Robert Habich, who will be serving as our department chair this fall as Professor McBride has taken on the challenge of becoming an Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Pat Collier remains in the assistant chair's office, and Professor Adam Beach will be the undergrad director.

For those of you who are new to the program (and those of you who aren't), there are some important founts of information you need to know about. The first—and most important—is the graduate program assistant, Shawna Sewell. You'll find her in RB 295, and if she can't answer your questions, she'll figure out who can. She's fantastic, and she'll be a great help to you while you're here. The other source of information is the bulletin board outside the Grad Office. We post course descriptions, notices about conferences, job advertisements, and other things you need to know. Check out the board and the clipboards there regularly. Always open (and read!) emails from me and Shawna—we send lots of information out that way. We're also in the process of adding content to the department website. If you've got suggestions for things you wish you could find on the department site, please send them my way.

In the interest of encouraging everyone to take advantage of new opportunities, I'd like to close with some words of advice about making the most of your time at Ball State, advice that goes for students at any stage of any program. First, remember what a luxury grad school really is. Yes, it's a lot of hard work, and no, it won't always be fun. But it's work that puts you in the company of generous, creative, and intellectually engaged people who are passionate about what they're doing. Take advantage of the chances you have to learn with them and from them. Second, remember that your experience depends on your effort. Show up for readings, workshops, presentations, and job talks! Of course you can't come to everything, but everyone can come to something. Similarly, get involved—join the PCM planning committee, attend GSAB meetings, volunteer to help. Again, no one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Third, try to have some fun along the way.

I'm looking forward to a great year with all of you.

—Professor Deborah Mix

NEW THIS YEAR.....

MA

Dua'a Abuamsha (TESOL)
Megan Auffart (CW)
Matt Balk (CW)
Cole Farrell (Gen)
Ellie Isenhardt (CW)
Amanda Kmetz (TESOL)
Naomi Lancaster (Gen)
Kyung-og Lee (Ling/TESOL)
Rehab Morsi (TESOL)

Nathan Neely (CW)
Aaron Nicely (CW)
Craig Olsen (CW)
Jonathan Pierrel (TESOL)
Rikako Pounds (TESOL)
Rachel Ramer (Rhet/Comp)
Levi Rinker (TESOL)
Nick Subtirelu (Ling/TESOL)
Lanlan Xiao (TESOL)

PhD

Michelle Allen (Lit)
Rena Dossett (Rhet/Comp)
Ashley Ellison (Ling)
Elizabeth Imafuji (Rhet/Comp)
Chaeyoung Lee (Ling)
Jason Parks (Lit)
Monica Robison (Lit)
Sarah Sandman (Rhet/Comp)

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!.....

Julie Goodspeed-Chadwick (PhD, Literature, 2007) will join the faculty at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus as a tenure-track member of the Department of English.

Fred Johnson (PhD, Literature, 2006) will join the faculty at Whitworth College as a tenure-track member of the Department of English.

John Prince (PhD, Literature, 2003) will be joining the faculty at North Carolina Central University as a tenure-track member of the Department of English and Mass Communications.

Phil Rudd (PhD, Applied Linguistics, 2008) will join the faculty at Pittsburg State University as a tenure-track member of the Department of English.

Ahyicodae (MA, Creative Writing, 2008) will begin her MFA in Creative Writing at Hamline University.

Nicole Caswell (MA, Rhet/Comp, 2008) will begin doctoral studies in Rhetoric and Composition at Kent State University.

Chaeyoung Lee (MA, Linguistics, 2008) will begin doctoral studies in Applied Linguistics at Ball State.

David McCracken (MA, Creative Writing, 2008) will begin working toward an MFA in Film Production at the University of Southern California.

Cara Miller (MA, Creative Writing, 2008) will be teaching in Anderson University's English Department.

David Miller (MA, Literature, 2008) will begin doctoral studies in literature at Ole Miss.

Shawn Ramsey (MA, General, 2008) will begin doctoral studies in Rhetoric and Composition at Kent State University.

Andrea Powell Wolfe (PhD, Literature) published "Problematizing Polygyny in the Historical Novels of Chinua Achebe: The Role of the Western Feminist Scholar" in *Research in African Literatures* 39.1 (2008).

Michelle Allen (new to the doctoral program in literature this year) has been awarded a University Fellowship.

Rachel Hartley-Smith (MA, Creative Writing) has just launched *CELLA's Round Trip*, an online "literary and visionary journal," which you can check out here: <http://www.cellasroundtrip.com/> She is assisted in this noble effort by Sarah Chavez (MA, Creative Writing, 2007), Sean Lovelace (Assistant Professor of Creative Writing), Ben Bryant (MA, Creative Writing), and Eric Crosier.

FACULTY PROFILE: DR. MICHAEL DONNELLY.....

Dr. Michael Donnelly is joining us this fall as our Writing Program Administrator and a member of the Rhetoric and Composition faculty. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Dr. Donnelly earned his BA in English from St. Francis College, then went on to the University of Toledo for both his MA and PhD, specializing in cultural studies and rhetoric and composition. His dissertation, *Freedom of Speech and the Politics of Silence*, examined how the notion of freedom of speech functions culturally to silence those who are marginalized or disempowered, focusing on literature by black women writers and in composition studies and pedagogy. Since earning his doctorate, Dr. Donnelly spent five years at Temple University, where he was the Associate Director of First-Year Writing, and then moved on to the University of Tampa to direct the First Year Writing Program.

Dr. Donnelly's current research interests are mainly in public discourse, civic literacy, and service learning, and he's also co-editing a volume entitled *Understanding Plagiarism: Discussions for Students and Teachers*. He says the most important issues in rhet/comp right now are public writing and civic engagement, along with issues of technology, and he's particularly interested in students' techno-literacy and its relationship to traditional modes of writing.

In addition to his administrative duties, Dr. Donnelly will be teaching in the Writing Program this fall—103 in the fall and 104 in the spring. In future semesters, he'll be teaching one of the graduate courses for new graduate assistants (either ENG 605 or TPrep), and he also hopes to teach graduate and undergraduate courses in Public Discourse, Politics and/of Language, and Cultural and Literacy Studies.

STUDENT PROFILE: CORBY ROBERSION.....

Corby Jaye Roberson is in her last year of coursework for the PhD in Literature. She received her BS from Ball State in Elementary Education and her M.Div. in Theological Studies from Anderson University. She's planning to take comps in May and begin her dissertation next fall. Her academic interests include American/Transatlantic literature with a focus on African American women's literature, liberation theology, queer theory, fat studies, and body theory, and her dissertation will most likely focus on representations of body and sexuality in Charles Johnson's *Middle Passage*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and *Temple of My Familiar*, and/or Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*. Specifically, she's interested in how trauma to the body or physical appearance of the body impacts a character's sexuality.

Corby admits to several guilty pleasures both academically and in the "real world." She writes creative nonfiction, both memoir and critical essays, and poetry, and she's fascinated with Andy Warhol. In her non-academic world, she loves the outdoors and playing with her many rescued pets. One of her newest loves is riding her motorcycle, a Kawasaki Vulcan 800 Classic named Minerva. This summer she rode to Florida in the rain and says would be happy to tell you all about it. She loves to sample beer, particularly IPA's and Porters. And mostly, she enjoys spending time with her partner in their 100-year-old home. (Side note: If anyone needs something to do, they are in the process of painting its exterior!)

Corby originally came to BSU because it was close to where she lived and worked in Hartford City (about 20 miles from Muncie). She says, "I stayed at BSU for my PhD because of the excellent faculty, the interest they take in our success, and the fact that the program is a great mix of specific and general. I also liked having the option to take creative writing and rhet/comp classes. When I am finished with my PhD, I hope to get a job teaching at a university or elite high school or working for a non-profit social-justice organization."

WHAT ARE YOU READING?: DR. PAUL RANIERI.....

Right now on my desk are five piles of reading materials:

- Three books on the history of Jesuit universities, rhetoric, and liberal education. My chapter, "Standing the Test of Time: Liberal Education in a Jesuit Tradition," is currently planned as the lead chapter in the section "Practicing Rhetoric in a Jesuit University" for the collection tentatively titled *The Jesuit Tradition and Rhetorical Studies: Looking Backward, Looking Forward*. As I write I draw on and feed back to my work with classical rhetoric, my reading from the honors humanities sequence, and my professional work with general and liberal studies, not to mention my background as an undergraduate at Xavier University.
- As Executive Director for the national organization the Association for General and Liberal Studies (<http://www.agls.org>), I also have a pile of clippings from "The Chronicle of Higher Education," two useful websites ("Inside Higher Education" [<http://www.insidehighered.com/>] and "Arts and Letters Daily" [<http://www.aldaily.com/>]), four journals from the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) (*peerReview*, *Liberal Education*, *On Campus with Women*, *Diversity & Democracy*) and the independent journal *The Journal of General Education*.
- During the fall I will be teaching an honors colloquium on "dangerous ideas." I am currently reading for that class *What Is Your Dangerous Idea?—Today's Leading Thinkers on the Unthinkable*. As the book's editor notes, "Many thoughts that resonate today are dangerous not because they are assumed to be false, but because they might turn out to be true." I want to break up the "ruts" many of our best students find themselves in as they become "discipline educated."
- I am also reading a novel by Philip Roth, *The Human Stain*, as I think about another possible future honors colloquium on novels about universities. Undergraduate students are embedded in a life about which they find it difficult to become reflective. I have had a hobby of reading such novels for 20 years and would now like to turn that to an academic purpose.
- Finally I am reading a short book *The Way the World Is: The Christian Perspective of a Scientist*. I am considering using it for my honors humanities sequence, either in the middle class on the Renaissance/Reformation or in the third class that confronts more the modern conflict of science and religion. Its author, John Polkinghorne was a theoretical physicist and Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge University before becoming an Anglican priest.

Such are my summer hours when many think faculty just catch up on their TV shows and movies until students return in the fall. I am not sure what I would do without this “down” time to read, plan, reflect, and write.

ON LEAVE.....

Professor Barbara Bogue (fall)
Professor Frank Felsenstein (fall)

Professor Robert Nowatzki (fall & spring)
Professor Lauren Onkey (fall & spring)

FALL SEMESTER DATES THAT MATTER (PLUS AN IMPORTANT 2009 DATE).....

Friday, August 29: last day for open drop/add
Monday, September 1: Labor Day—no classes
Monday, September 22: last day to apply for fall semester graduation
Friday, October 17-Sunday, October 19: Fall Break—no classes
Tuesday, October 28: course withdrawal period ends
Monday, November 24: last date to submit MA projects and theses and dissertations to the Graduate School for December graduation
Tuesday, November 25: Fruesday
Wednesday, November 26-Sunday, November 29: Thanksgiving Break—no classes
Friday, December 12: last meeting day for fall semester classes
Monday, December 15-Friday, December 19: final exams
Saturday, December 20: fall commencement
Week of January 5, 2009: doctoral comprehensive exams

PEOPLE TO KNOW & HOW TO REACH THEM.....

Grad Director: Debbie Mix (dmmix@bsu.edu; 285-8415; RB 295)
Assistant to Graduate Programs: Shawna Sewell (srsewell@bsu.edu; 285-8415; RB 295)
English Department Chair: Robert Habich (rhabich@bsu.edu; 285-8580; RB 285)
English Department Assistant Chair: Patrick Collier (pccollier@bsu.edu; 285-8580; RB 285)
President of GSAB: Karen Neubauer (ksneubauer@bsu.edu or gsab@bsu.edu; mailbox #100)