**Upcoming Events**

- April 18: Chicago Shakespeare Trip
- April 22: A&S Honors Banquet
- May 13: Graduation
- June - July: Appleseed Writing Project Events
- August 24: Fall classes begin

**The Chair’s Compass**

I originally planned to craft the introduction for the spring 2009 newsletter in late January, and my thoughts turned to Frost, Robert Frost that is, whose “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” was an appropriate ice-breaker (no pun intended) for a spring newsletter written during the dead of winter. Frost’s description of a nocturnal journey in the pitch dark with “miles to go” before he sleeps was an evocative message for the beginning of our spring semester and the miles we as a department travel to reach semester’s end.

By good fortune, my inertia and the intervention of annual reports gave me pause—and time. The passage of time and the appearance of spring urged on me a Chaucerian state of mind, his “Prologue” to the Canterbury Tales setting the right mood for the newsletter as it makes its spring pilgrimage to your awaiting grasp. In many ways the Department of English and Linguistics is a group of “sondry folk” who “by aventure yfalle in felaweshipe”: we are all “pilgrimes” on this journey, and you are all part of this community. Please share with us your own tales and re-establish your connection with this community that we hope you call your second home.

Warmest regards,
Hardin

**Contact:** aasandh@ipfw.edu

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**Congratulations Are in Order!**

The 2009 A&S Annual Honors Banquet will be held on April 22nd. The English Department will honor the following students:

- Outstanding English Major: Erin St. Myers;
- Hollander Scholarship: Patrick Kessler;
- Rainn Malis McPhail Scholarship: Meghann Basset;
- Psi Iota Xi Scholarship: Paul Sade, Sr..

We congratulate these students for their outstanding work!

We’d also like to congratulate John Merhar and Millicent Lawrence for being accepted to present at the 17th Annual Clement S. Stacy Undergraduate Research Conference.

John’s paper was titled “J.R.R. Tolkien’s Process for Creating Middle-Earth and Personal Fantasy World Setting Creation.” Millicent’s paper was called "The Two Faces of Edith Wharton’s Feminism."

Check our website for details about scholarships: [http://ipfw.edu/engl/opportunities/contests.shtml](http://ipfw.edu/engl/opportunities/contests.shtml).
A Regional Gem: IPFW offers TENL Program

Story by Cathleen Carosella

As in other areas, Northeast Indiana has witnessed a rise in its immigrant population. From Bosnia and Burmese asylum seekers to Hispanic migrant workers, new immigrants and their families have brought their own cultures and languages to our community. However, these new neighbors often need help—especially with regard to learning English. While language programs for non-native speakers of English can be found throughout the region, training for those who teach English as a New Language (what many of us used to call English as a Second Language) are far less prevalent. However, IPFW’s Department of English and Linguistics proudly houses one of the few Teaching English as a New Language (TENL) programs in this region.

IPFW’s TENL program is designed to prepare students for teaching English to speakers of other languages. The program can aid public school teachers, people who want to teach English abroad, business people who work for international corporations, or those who work with non-native English speakers. The 18-credit-hour program familiarizes students with the major theoretical perspectives, pedagogies, and resources of teaching English as a new or additional language. The capstone Practicum provides students with real-world experience through teaching English language learners in classroom settings.

The TENL program offers both undergraduate and graduate levels of study. Those who complete the requirements have two career goal options: a certificate in TENL or, for students pursuing an education degree through IPFW’s School of Education, a license in English as a New Language, which will complement their other teaching licensures and degrees.

Students may apply to the TENL program at any time. For additional information about the prerequisite, courses, career goals, and more, please contact the department office at 260-481-6841, drop by Classroom-Medical Building, room 145 during regular office hours, or go to the TENL program’s website at http://www.ipfw.edu/engl/tenl/

Troy Bigelow, Una Estrella in the Making

Story by Cathleen Carosella

A first generation college student and graduate student 11 years in the making, Troy Bigelow received his BA in 2005. For those years, he took 6-credits per term while working various factory and manufacturing jobs. Troy hails from Dekalb County but he’s moved around a bit. And although the jobs that supported him changed, writing always has been a constant. Troy began writing creative pieces in the 7th grade and has not stopped since then, but his repertoire has expanded to include work ranging from editing a UAW newsletter to multigenre works like his thesis, “Inventing University.”

Right now, Troy takes one class at IPFW and teaches five. He will complete his MA in May 2009; in his thesis, he analyzes identity and genre through a creative writing lens. In this piece, his invention process is a river, with the east

Estrellas

The Spanish word for “stars” is much prettier than ours:
it rolls from the tongue, long and soft with lethargic gravity.
The English word “stars” is hard and bright as pricks in the night:
it drops, quick, a small hiss like hydrogen trailing.
The sky stutters with stars. The sky lolls with estrellas.

By Troy Bigelow

Note: This poem first appeared in White Pelican Review, 2007.
Hey, Alumni! We Want to Hear from You!

We’d love to hear from our alumni about where your lives have taken you. You may clip this portion of the newsletter and mail it with your responses, or you may email us at newsletter-engl@ipfw.edu. Here are a few things we’d like to know:

- Is there something you’d like to see in this newsletter?
- What direction did your English degree from IPFW take you?
- Have you continued to write creatively? Would you be interested in having your work in our newsletter?
- Are there updates to your career or life you’d like us to know about?
- What is your fondest memory of your time in the English Department here at IPFW?
- What advice would you give current students?

IPFW’s Appleseed Writing Project Has Summer Programs Available

FOUR-WEEK INVITATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE

IPFW’s Appleseed Writing Project, an affiliate of the National Writing Project, will offer its 7th Annual Invitational Summer Institute on campus (June 15-July 10).

Eighteen outstanding area teachers have already been chosen to participate in this intensive writing workshop offering professional development opportunities for teachers K-16 (including English & Linguistics’ Irene Anders and Susan Howard).

Invited Fellows will increase their individual knowledge and enjoyment of writing, present a demonstration of a successful teaching approach, participate in writing groups, discuss applications of current research and curricular movements in writing and share “best practices” that will empower their students to write more effectively.

Six graduate credits in Education or English are earned by participants.

TWO-WEEK OPEN INSTITUTE

This teacher workshop is an abbreviated version of the four-week invitational and is open to the public, earning participants three graduate credits. Students register through DCS (09UPER480). The workshop runs from June 15-June 26.

For more information on these institutes, go to www.ipfw.edu/awp or http://teacherworkshops.ipfw.edu.

YOUTH and KIDS’ WRITING CAMPS

These camps are designed for elementary and middle school students who enjoy the experience of writing in a non-competitive, non-judgmental environment, providing a learning place where students can improve their writing skills. Students will write using a variety of genres including poetry, story writing and narratives.

Both camps are held on campus from June 15-26.

Registration fee is $75.

Contact the AWP Youth Camp Coordinator Cookye Rutledge at 467-2960 or jcookye.rutledge@fwcs.k12.in.us.
Confluence 2009 is Available!

The 2009 issue of Confluence, the English Department's student literary magazine, is now complete. Thanks to all who submitted photography, poetry, fiction, essays, drama, memoir, creative non-fiction, and artwork. We had a terrific turnout, and this year's issue is excellent.

Copies of the 2009 issue are available in the English Office, Classroom Medical Building 145, for $5.00. You can also order your copy online at http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/confluence-2009/6501427.

Look for our call for 2010 submissions in the fall edition of the newsletter. For more information, see Andrew Johnson, this year's editor, who is the Writing Center Graduate Assistant, or Dr. Stevens Amidon, the magazine's faculty advisor.
Curtis Crisler: An Eclectic Poet and Teacher

Curtis Crisler, another of the English Department’s newest professors, didn’t ever plan on becoming a teacher. He figured he’d be big in sports or music. In fact, he used to have a dance group and was in a singing group “back in the day.” When looking at Curtis’ varied work and life experiences as well as his educational degrees, we begin to understand why he has so much to offer to our students.

Curtis has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a Bachelor of Arts degree with a minor in theatre from IPFW, and an Associate of Applied Science in Architecture from ITT. Curtis worked for ITT/ACD, and he worked with the coordinator of the Young Writer’s Workshop, but all the while he was developing as a poet.

After years of his poetry being published extensively in journals, in 2007, Curtis’ first book of poetry was published. Tough Boy Sonatas has been widely praised by critics. The collection offers a view about growing up in Gary, Indiana.

When asked to expand upon his poetic style, Curtis’ response was, “I am a contemporary poet who is enthralled and continually addressing our relationship to each other and our environments.”

Another statement by Curtis speaks of his approach to writing poetry. “I play in the pool of the three tenets of poetry: lyrical, narrative, and dramatic, as well as dip my foot into the blurring or multi/mixed genre of writing forms. It is also nice to use persona in addressing history, as well as veiling one’s self in the shadows.”

What do students of his classes have to look forward to? Students will focus on reading and writing and learning to apply their own point of view as a writer to a specific genre or audience. Curtis will bring his own unique talents and passions to the classroom. “I am concerned with getting students interested early on in poetry, as well as other art forms, as a way for them to connect to their surroundings and the world outside of their surroundings. I use persona, epistolaries, and journaling as a bridge for them to address writing. By doing this, and by being a member of the university, students can see viable ways of addressing their passions beyond high school. I want them to understand that IPFW (or other colleges and universities) can give them a future for their aspirations.”

Currently, Curtis teaches introductory composition, technical writing, and creative writing courses and hopes to develop upper-level courses with intriguing titles such as “Writing for Young Adults,” “The Performance of Poetry,” and “Writing Our Relation to Place.”

He and his wife Arana of two years have two children, Shanaid and Malcolm and his mother lives near Gary, Indiana.

Saturday, a rabbit secreted outside the window of IPFW’s campus, fatter, much bigger, than my rabbit.

I wonder if it knows the rabbit in my yard, on Paulding Road? Maybe they argue about the college students, how the school continues to add building after building: the science building, the engineering building, the plans for a bridge. And maybe they don’t know one another, like the rabbit outside my office window doesn’t know her parents left her, had to relocate when construction took over the wooded areas that are now flat and paved and walked on by flip-flopping students looking for the future in the index and eyes of rites-to-passage, or doorways swinging in and out to let them in and out of the horror of obligation, how one must go on beyond the sweet clover and breasts of an overbearing mother—to press on into tomorrow.

The pop-eyed rabbit—tagged Lily, shakes at a field mouse, begins nibbling and preening, a WTF as to why 2-legged mammals have it so easy, don’t want to accept their trails, when she has to survey a new approach out each day for nature’s strict rebuff.

By Curtis Crisler
Fall’s Fabulous Courses Featuring…

There are a number of interesting course offerings this coming Fall 2009 semester. Here are just a few:

Critical Theory, ENG B605-01, is being taught by the department chair, Dr. Hardin Aasand, T / Th from 10:30 to 11:45. This course introduces students to the use of critical theory as a research tool in English studies. Students will study original texts in five major theoretical trajectories: (1) Structuralism, (2) Post-structuralism, (3) Marxism, (4) Phenomenology, (5) Feminist and Gender criticism. Students will also read two novels and use critical methods adopted from these theories to interrogate the production and consumption of these and other texts.

Dr. Troy Bassett is teaching Native American Literature, ENG B675-01 or ENG L364-01, which is offered T / Th from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. The purpose of this course is to give a survey of the important authors, works, genres, and movements of Native American literature from the nineteenth century to the present. Woven throughout are questions of Indian identity, indigenous culture versus European culture, language, and authority. Students will read a variety of prose, poetry, and drama, including Apess’s A Son of the Forest, Silko’s Ceremony, Erdrich’s Love Medicine, and Alexie’s Ten Little Indians.

Publications Management is being taught by Dr. Stevens Amidon. ENG B620-01 or ENG W364-01, is offered on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:45 p.m. This course introduces students to the basic elements of publishing and publications management. Students will learn about the publishing industry, book design, and writing project management. Students will work on individual and/or collaborative projects which may involve the production of a book, or other text.

Dr. Suzanne Rumsey is teaching a new course, Introduction to Web Authoring. ENG W235 is offered M / W from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. This course is designed to help students read, analyze, evaluate, and author web sites from a variety of perspectives (e.g. historically, usability, rhetorically, and technically). Students will design their own web spaces by working in raw code and composing with HTML editors, and by capturing, creating, and manipulating graphics.

Other courses for Fall 2009 are listed at http://ipfw.edu/engl-dev/courses/Fall2009.pdf.