The Chair’s Compass

During a period in which death seemed imminent, wrapped prematurely in his death shroud in preparation for what seemed to be death’s approach, John Donne composed some of his most eloquent meditations on mortality and the probability of a life hereafter. Meditation XVII provided us with one of his most profoundly resonating sentiments:

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . .

The connectiveness of soul to soul, life to life, that Donne espouses here remains relevant and no less true today.

During this past week I was reminded of Donne’s eloquent rejoinder to his illness as the department began its process of weighing scholarship recommendations for students for the next academic year. We are especially blessed to have had recent gifts bestowed on our scholarship fund by Nancy Malis in memory of her daughter, Rainn McPhail, and by Kathy Carrier in honor of her mother, Georgiana Krzyminski. Both awards reflected the commitment by two individuals to honor their family members.

These scholarships are a significant reminder of Donne’s argument: we are all connected and part of a larger community.

You are all part of our community, and I hope to hear from you to let us know how you are faring in these final weeks of winter and the approach of spring’s promise.

- Hardin

International English Honor Society

Last spring a petition was signed by students to begin a chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at IPFW. Enough signatures were collected that nine members were inducted as members, receiving honor certificates, cords, and pins symbolizing their academic achievement.

The purpose of the society is not only to confer distinction to students with high academic standing, but to encourage its members to promote literacy in their communities and to cultivate all disciplines of the English language.

The faculty advisor, Dr. Aasand says, “The society should provide students with an opportunity to become part of the national organization, go to the national conference, compete for national scholarships, and participate in the critical/creative publications from the organization.”

The society is still in the beginning stages, but Dr. Aasand hopes, “that the society, as it inducts new members will be fully integrated into the English Coterie and do things that promote its welfare (academically, socially, etc.).”

Planning for the spring induction ceremony and events is underway. For more information about the international society please visit: http://www.english.org/sgmatd/
Featured LTL : Thomas Sabel

In the English Department, we have many full-time professors, but we also have several Limited Term Lecturers. Dr. Steven Amadon, director of the LTLs, named Thomas Sabel as his choice for this feature.

Short Biography-

Thomas Sabel grew up on a farm in Plymouth, Indiana. He served active service in the army for four years and on reserve for three. He worked as an army journalist and later an editor of an army newspaper in Fort Benning, Georgia. He has an undergraduate degree in Liberal Studies, taking classes at many different universities including his favorite, Ancilla. He has a Master's Degree in Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and in Sacred Theology from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He plans to finish a Master's degree in Liberal Studies from IPFW at the end of this semester. He teaches W131 and W233 here at IPFW and Philosophy classes at Ivy Tech. He has been teaching for six years.

Interests -

When asked what his field of interest was, he pondered for a moment and answered "I am interested in too many things, [but] I like to cook. Actually, I am a very good cook." His hobby is building row boats. His current project is one that is 17 feet long. He's discovered a wonderful echo chamber under Parnell. He likes to travel anywhere "near water", especially the Upper Peninsula of Michigan near Lake Superior.

Though he does not have much free time, he does enjoy curling up with a good book. He thinks that it is a pity that people do not explore the libraries as much any-

more. In his opinion, the internet almost thinks for you. When you plug in your questions, it brings up sites and ideas that it thinks you are looking for or have. However, he says that browsing the library allows for the serendipity of stumbling upon a good book, one you had never thought to read. He also enjoys old bookstores for the same reason. To him, reading, even novels, is not just a form of entertainment but a chance to learn a greater truth and gain a better understanding of human beings. He thinks that is impossible to own too many books.

When he has time, he also enjoys watching older movies, particularly those with Humphrey Bogart. The Artist, a modern black and white silent film, is a recent favorite of his. Of his favorite book he says, "One's favorite book depends on where one is in one's life." We can read novels when we are young and not be very interested, but revisiting them later, we can find that changed. He has recently been very interested in Faulkner's work, "I feel with him that I am in the hands of a master. He knows what he is doing. I trust him."

Teaching -

Sabel decided to teach because he enjoys interaction with the students. He also enjoys the varying levels of talent, mentoring students, and, most of all, changing the minds of those who think that they have no ability to write or who do not like to write. His perspective towards teaching is, "there is a strong place for humor in the classroom" to form "a certain level of comfort." He understands the very personal nature of writing, of putting a part of yourself out there for others to read and analyze. "To express one idea, there's a lot of ways to do it... All of us want to be loved. It takes a lot of courage... courage to get out there and say what needs said."

He hopes students will take away from his classes a better ability to write and to take writing seriously, while also enjoying it. There is joy, "believe it or not, in a well written sentence." He likes when students are really interested in learning and are not just "hoop-jumpers" who are in class because they have to be.

Projects -

Sabel does not just teach writing, but he has also published a few novels and poems, one being Legends of Luterna: the prince decides (a young adult fantasy available at the bookstore). He is currently writing a novel based on experiences living in West Virginia, the working title being Century Farm. He would like to publish a book of poetry as one of his future projects.

Inspiration -

His inspiration to write came when he was in 4th or 5th grade. He was at an old farmhouse where the ceilings were slanted like the roof, the plaster was not in good shape, and the walls had many layers of wallpaper covered with many layers of paint. He remembered, "I said something that was beautiful. I will never remember what it was. I remember the feeling of creating beauty with words." A colleague of his, put on the spot, described his voice as "Tom Sable-lish. It is vivid description that creates the sense of place. He has found his writer's voice." He loves the beauty that words can form.

He is passionate about the beauty and truth of writing and reading. He understands the benefits of digging deeper into texts to get meaning and hopes his students will learn the power of the written word. He says, "One well written sentence might go out into the whole world."
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 rumseys@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 professionally or 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?

Mail your responses back to:
Dr. Suzanne Rumsey
English Department Newsletter
Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Clio: A Journal of Literature History, and the Philosophy of History

Clio: A Journal of Literature History, and the Philosophy of History, an international triennial journal, publishes scholarly essays on three interrelated topics: literature as informed by historical understandings, historical writings considered as literature, and philosophy of history, with a special interest in Hegel.

Clio seeks essays that are interdisciplinary in their arguments. We publish researched essays at the intersections of our three disciplines of emphasis. Our focus is historiography, in reference to any time period and literatures, especially those that reflect contemporary theoretical approaches to our traditional focus.

Email: clio@ipfw.edu
Website: http://new.ipfw.edu/clio/

Clip here and tell us your news!

Name: ____________________________________________
Maiden Name (if applicable): ________________________
Year of Graduation: _______________________

Responses to questions on previous page:

Marlowe Studies: An Annual

M.L. Stapleton, Editor
Sarah K. Scott, Associate Editor
Cathleen M. Carosella, Managing Editor
Kendra A. Morris, Editorial Assistant

Marlowe Studies: An Annual is dedicated to the study of Christopher Marlowe and his role in the literary culture of his time.

For full details, visit our website at ipfw.edu/marlowe or email us at mstudies@ipfw.edu.
New Director of Graduate Studies: Dr. Lewis Roberts

This past August, Dr. Lewis Roberts was appointed as the new Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of English and Linguistics.

For anyone who has had the good fortune to take one of Dr. Roberts’ classes, they know him to be an excellent teacher. He has the ability to combine an effective amount of lecturing and discussion to give insights into the meaning of the text and to enable students to uncover ideas and themes that before seemed insignificant. Providing historical information, he allows students to contextualize the novels within the societies for which they were written and learn how they influenced, followed, or changed the movements and ideas of the time period.

Above all of this, he makes literature interesting. Through combining his expertise with his humorous personality, he makes class time not only educational but enjoyable. He has the gift to ask just the right questions to dig deeper into each text. He does not just ask a question and wait for an answer, but he participates in finding the answers, leading the way with additional information and questions.

The following is a little about him in his own words.

Academic History -
I have a B.A. and an M.A. in English, and a Ph.D. in Literacy, Language, and Literature, all from Indiana University Bloomington.

Favorite Class to Teach -
The Children’s Literature courses are my favorite classes to teach. Many students, whether or not they are English majors, often enter such courses with the assumption that literature for children is somehow less literary or complex than other literature, and I enjoy helping them to discover how rewarding and significant this literary field can be.

About Teaching -
Teaching reading and writing involves fundamentally teaching students to pay close attention to language. I find this especially rewarding because so much of our language use today is abrupt and abbreviated, and consequently, I think, lacks the kind of insight and careful thought that understanding works of literature requires. I hope that students take away from my classes an appreciation of a more deliberate way of reading and writing, as well as a greater enjoyment for ambiguity, paradox, subtlety - in other words - an understanding that it’s okay to be puzzled or confused by something, and that this can often lead to much greater levels of understanding than simply accepting or rejecting a text at face value.

Current projects -
I am currently working on a book length project about children’s animated films from the last 20 years (Shrek, Toy Story, Finding Nemo etc.), and their role in consumer culture. This is the first large-scale project I’ve done with film as opposed to literature, and I’m finding it challenging and exciting.

Plans and Advice Concerning the Graduate Program -
Since I began as director last August, I’ve mainly been trying to get a sense of how the graduate program can best serve the needs of our students. Toward that end, I have begun to make some changes in the ways we assess how well we are meeting those needs. Starting next year, I hope to implement some workshops to help new graduate students understand the program and to increase the sense of community among graduate students in our department.

Anyone who wishes to apply to our graduate program should make sure that they have at the very least a minor in English and that they prepare to take the GRE. I would also recommend that they spend time on their academic writing by taking plenty of courses in rhetoric and composition, because writing will be the main way they will be evaluated in grad school.

Favorite book/author -
[The question of my book] is too big a question for me to answer with any accuracy. I can say that I do return to several books over and over again: Catcher in the Rye, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, Middlemarch, Great Expectations (anything by Dickens, really).

More information about the English Master degrees offered at IPFW and resources for Graduate students can be found by visiting http://new.ipfw.edu/departments/coas/depts/english/index.html
Crossword Puzzle: English Novels by Their Locations

Across
6. Hartfield
8. Tipton Grange
10. Verona
12. Saint Antoine
19. Seven Isles
20. Rohan
22. Thornfield
23. Hogwarts

Down
1. Cavendish Square
2. Pemberley
3. Carfax
4. The Blue Boar
5. Ingolstadt
7. The plains of Philippi
9. Lantern Yard
11. The Shire
13. Asby-de-la-Zouche
14. Pandemonium
15. Thrushcross Grange
16. Elsinore
17. The Spouter-Inn
18. Forres
21. Telmar
The current job market is very competitive and the number of available entry level jobs is limited. This makes it increasingly important for job searchers to do all that they can to get ahead of their competitors.

The following are a few tips from members of our Advisory Council. The first, William A. Ramsey, who was a former English Literature Major, is an attorney for Murphy Ice Koeneman, LLP, a litigation law firm in Fort Wayne. The second, Chris Harris, is the Visitor Services & Volunteer Manager for Science Central.

Here are their ten tips:

1. **Spend** the time making sure your résumé, cover letter, and other written materials are well-written and error-free. Your most marketable skill is writing and, therefore, these materials are particularly important as examples of this skill. The following are additional tips for your résumé and cover letter:
   a. ALWAYS include both with application materials.
   b. Personalize the cover letter to the company.
   c. Think about how your résumé & cover letter look visually on the page. Are they appealing to the eye?
   d. Whenever possible, include results and percentages. I heard this somewhere and have always liked it..."Education helps get your first job; results get you the rest."

2. **Emphasize** your research skills in interviews. You likely have very strong research skills from the course work you have done for your classes.

3. **Participate** in at least one internship. Too many reasons exist to list completely here, but the highlights are as follows:
   a. An internship will give you an idea about what sort of work you may enjoy.
   b. The company you work for may later be in a position to offer you a job. If you worked well with them in the internship, you will be high on the list of potential applicants when they next look to fill a position.
   c. The company can be an excellent reference.
   d. It adds an important line on your resume.

4. **Consider** graduate school. English majors are particularly well-prepared for careers in law and business, to name a few. Make this decision carefully. Talk to people who have completed the graduate program in which you are interested. A master’s degree can open many more career possibilities to you.

5. **Be** open-minded. Too many people don’t explore job opportunities in certain fields because they "don't want to work in _______" (advertising, law, etc.). Writing and research is a process. Many people are surprised to find that they enjoy, for example, working as a paralegal.

6. **Find** ways to network. Easy ways for a college student to make connections include:
   a. Attending campus events
   b. Volunteering
   c. Career services
   d. (again) Internships

You have probably heard it countless times, but it is still true. Who you know is important.

7. **Publish** something. Having something published looks incredibly impressive on a resume.

8. **Enter** writing contests. See tip 7.

9. **Compile** a portfolio of your best writing. Many employers will ask for a writing sample. One sample will not be appropriate for all potential employers. Having easy access to your best work will help you quickly provide a potential employer with your best writing sample appropriate for that job.

10. **Cast** a wide net. This advice works for anyone in the job market. Very few people get their dream job right out of college. If your goal is to write editorials for the New Review of Books, starting as a copyeditor for a local magazine is not a bad place to be.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT INTERNSHIP OPENING**

The IPFW English Department is Seeking an intern for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters! We need self motivated students with solid writing and organizational skills who will be responsible for the departmental newsletter and other projects. Applicants must be able to enroll in W398 for course credit. This paid internship will require 5 to 10 hours of work each week.

To apply for this internship, send a résumé and cover letter to Dr. Suzanne Rumsey, rumseyse@ipfw.edu. You also need one letter of reference from an IPFW professor, preferably an English and Linguistics professor. This letter can be an informal email sent explaining your aptitude as a student and a writer.
Department of English and Linguistics Scholarships

**Sylvia E. Bowman Award:** Award of $750 given to an undergraduate or graduate author of the best essay on literature or the teaching of literature. Winner’s name is also added to a wall plaque displayed near the English department office.

**Psi Iota Award for Writing:** Award of $300 for the best short story by an undergraduate with at least a 3.0 GPA in English courses. Winner may also have their piece published in Confluence. Funded by the Psi Iota Chapter.

**The Henry Kozicki Graduate Award:** established in January of 2011, was created to benefit graduate students pursuing students within the Department of English and Linguistics at IPPW. This award is dedicated in the fond memory of Dr. Henry Kozicki, and was established by faculty members of the Department of English and Linguistics to honor him and acknowledge his contributions to his profession and to this university. An award of $750 will be given to the author of the best scholarly essay on literature, linguistics, folklore, or rhetoric written by a graduate student. The winner’s name will be added to a wall plaque displayed near the English Department office.

**Scholarships by faculty nomination to the English Department Chair:**

**Hollander Scholarship:** $750 scholarship for tuition for undergraduates of junior standing or higher who submit the best portfolio of professional writing.

**Rainn McPahil Memorial Scholarship:** Available to undergraduate or graduate students. All nominees will be asked to submit a significant project that demonstrates strong interdisciplinary or intra-disciplinary merit. Scholarship is $1000 paid out over two full-time semesters.

**Outstanding English Major Award:** An cash award of $750 for a junior or senior major with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Can be based on GPA, publications, research-oriented presentations, attendance at seminars, or other extracurricular academic activities. Students are honored on a wall plaque displayed in the English department office.

**Arlene R. Standley Scholarship:** A tuition scholarship of $750 that goes to a student whose overall GPA is at least 3.0, whose GPA in the major is at least 3.5, who has a record of extracurricular activity, and who will be enrolled as a senior in the summer or fall following the award.