Greetings to all and welcome to Spring—finally! After this long winter of our discontent, these warmer days and longer afternoons are a true blessing. With registration behind us and Easter on the horizon, our semester is rapidly coming to a close. It is perhaps not too early to congratulate our graduating seniors, a truly exceptional class many of whom are going on to graduate and professional studies, a year of service, or entering a wide range of professional careers! For those of you completing your sophomore and junior years, it is not too early to start planning your next steps. Study abroad, internships, service immersion programs and Honors thesis projects are often great opportunities to develop and reflect on your future career goals. In the pages that follow we highlight some of the experiences our current majors have had this year, and we hope you will follow-up with your faculty adviser to discuss your plans for the coming year. While the university has faced some challenges this semester, the opportunities for your growth and learning are as rich as ever!

Happy Spring and a joyous Easter season to all,

Dr. Peter Norberg
Dr. Valerie Sayers is currently the chair of the English Department at the University of Notre Dame, a former director of the Creative Writing program, and a recipient of the prestigious Sheedy Award from the University of Notre Dame for excellence in teaching. Born and raised in Beaufort, South Carolina, Valerie was educated in New York, where she lived for many years. She is the author of six novels, including *The Powers*, *Who Do You Love* and *Brain Fever*, the latter two both named "Notable Books of the Year" by the New York Times Book Review. Her literary awards include a Pushcart Prize for fiction and a National Endowment for the Arts literature fellowship.

Q: Your most recent novel, *The Powers*, intertwines history and fiction. The 1940s were undoubtedly an influential decade in American history. Why portray this specific time period in your book?

A: The idea for the book started when my sons, home for a visit after 9/11, sat at our dinner table and debated what they’d do if the U.S. went to war with Iraq. Both sons were opposed to a war, but one thought he might be a pacifist, and the other was sure he was not opposed to all wars, only that one. The book started with that image--of two young men, having an intelligent and fierce debate about pacifism. Their discussion, as such discussions almost inevitably must, worked itself around to World War II, and whether there were any decent arguments against waging that war. I remember thinking, "Oh no! I don’t want to write about World War II." But there it was, an idea that stuck in my head for several years. After a while a young woman sat herself down between the two young men, and the book was born with a short story about the three of them taking a subway ride.

Q: What attracted you to your character Joe DiMaggio? What makes him so iconic?

A: After I realized that I had to write about World War II, I began some serious research about the period of debate leading to our declaring war, and soon realized that it made the most narrative sense to focus on 1941. When I realized that Walker Evans was taking his famous surreptitious subway photographs in ’41, I got excited about constructing a parallel narrative, a “different way of telling,” as the critic John Berger calls photography, in photographs of WWII refugees. I was equally excited when I realized that 1941 was the year of DiMaggio’s unsurpassed-to-this-day hitting streak. I grew up under the spell of his legend, but I also saw that the kind of hero worship this country gives a sports hero is similar to the hero worship (and hatred) we give our political leaders. We project our dreams and our longing, but also our worst impulses, onto our cultural heroes. DiMaggio’s iconic partly because he was so physically graceful, partly because he was so steadfast. He appeared utterly unruffled by all the attention—but everything I read suggested that he was absolutely tormented during his streak season.

Q: Finally, what advice would you give to aspiring writers here at SJU?

A: Three happy pieces of advice, since they all involve pleasure: first, read and read and read. Read promiscuously, with abandon. Borrow, steal, appropriate, and pay homage to writers you love. Second, give yourself some time—in college, sometimes it’s only a little bit of time—every day, or at least Monday through Friday, to write. Strap yourself into the chair and just stare at the screen if you have to. Third, have fun. Sometimes that’s the hardest part, because we writers tend to take ourselves too seriously, but if you want a reader to have fun, you’ll just have to have some yourself.


Dr. Owen Gilman will present a paper, "Going 'Wild': Who Could Have Seen This Coming?", at the 2014 College English Association Conference in Baltimore on March 27-29. The paper explores the extraordinary success of Cheryl Strayed's "Wild" in the evolution of the memoir genre over the past 30 years.

Dr. Melissa Goldthwaite presented a paper entitled "Remix, Rewrite, Recite: Responsible Practices for Teaching Multimodal and Multi-genre Writing" at The Conference on College Composition and Communication, where she also co-chaired (with Dr. Spinner) The Creative Nonfiction Special Interest Group. Additionally, Dr. Goldthwaite's essay, "Rhetorics of Silence: A Pedagogy of Contemplation, Empathy, and Action," was recently published in *Becoming Beholders: Cultivating Sacramental Imagination and Actions in College Classrooms*, edited by Karen E. Eifler and Thomas M. Landy.

Dr. Richard Haslam presented the paper "Negotiating the Poetics of Irish Gothic via Casuistry (Yes—Really—Casuistry)" in December 2013 at The Irish Gothic Conference, which was jointly held in the Università degli Studi di Perugia and the Università per Stranieri di Perugia, Italy. In addition, his essay "The Hermeneutic Hazards of Hibernicizing Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*" was recently published in *English Literature in Transition 57. 1* (January 2014): 37-58.
Dr. Peter Norberg has completed several new volumes for Melville's Marginalia Online (including Melville's copy of Johann von Goethe's Autobiography). He has also been selected as a crewmember for the 38th Voyage of the Charles W. Morgan, the last wooden whaling vessel in the world. During the voyage from Newport, RI to Vineyard Haven, MA this June, he will create a series of interactive videos that will use the Morgan to make Melville's Moby-Dick more accessible to first time readers.

Dr. Jo Alyson Parker has assumed the position of Managing Editor for KronoScope: Journal for the Study of Time. Published by Brill Academic Publishers since 2001, the biannual journal explores the nature of time from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Dr. Laura Pattillo participated as an actor/reader in the annual Philadelphia Dramatists Center's "Spring Forward" Playwriting "Bake-Off." Sixteen playwrights wrote one-act plays over a three-day period, all of which included the same three "ingredients" (a twisted child, a Diet Coke can from 1993, and a search for a loved one or other person) supplied by three award-winning famous playwrights. On March 9, the plays were performed in a closed-door all-day marathon.

Dr. Paul Patterson presented in a colloquium at the University of Pennsylvania on April 4, 2014. The colloquium was titled Medieval Female Writers in the Germanic Regions and my paper was titled ‘When we spake laste togyderys’: Carthusians, Birgittines, and Religious Mentoring'.

Fr. Patrick Samway, S.J. has recently edited and annotated a volume of letters entitled, The Letters of Robert Giroux and Thomas Merton, which will be published by the University of Notre Dame Press sometime in the coming months. In addition, he was invited to be part of a panel honoring Louis Rubin, former Professor of American Literature at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, at a conference of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, held in mid-March at George Mason University.

Dr. Grace Wetzel recently published an article, “Winifred Black’s Teacherly Ethos: The Role of Journalism in Late Nineteenth-Century Rhetorical Education" in Rhetoric Society Quarterly in February 2014. She also chaired a conference panel entitled "Pen and the Press: Civic Literacy and Social Action in American Women’s Journalism" at Northeast Modern Language Association Conference from April 3-6, 2014 in Harrisburg, PA.
Exciting Internships within the English Major:

Nicole Hoffman ‘14

My name is Nicole Hoffmann and I am an English major with a minor in Communications from Cape May County, New Jersey. I was initially an Education major until my first semester junior year of college when I realized it was not for me. I knew I had to act fast to catch up, so I jumped right into second semester with a new major, minor, and internship experience.

My first internship was with a PR/Fashion Showroom Skai Blue Show. I was responsible for researching boutiques that would be compatible with our designer cliental and facilitated relationships between the buyers and our designers. I also was involved with general show room maintenance, photoshoots, client parties, etc.

The next summer I moved to Pittsburgh and got involved with a movie studio, 31st Street Studios, and a supply chain company, Plan4Demand. With 31st Street Studios, I acted as a liaison between the studio and productions filming on the studio premise. Plan4Demand required me to work in the Marketing Department and primarily put me in charge of generating and editing video/digital work for social media use.

This fall I got involved with the Philadelphia Flyers Charities Department. This was an absolute blast! I was involved with planning and executing charities events, such as Flyers Charities Halloween 5k and the Flyers Wives Carnival. I also was required to coordinate the Charities kiosk for all Flyers home games and assist all Flyers Charities auctions.

Currently, I am interning with Fox 29. This internship has definitely been a huge learning experience. My day to day work can range from answering calls at the news desk, writing articles for the web, going out with a photographer and interviewing people for news packages, and even changing the traffic cams during a live news segment. It has been crazy! I never know what to expect walking in the doors and it has been a truly unique and rewarding experience.

I have used a lot of different methods to find these internships. I have used the Saint Joseph’s Career Development site, my own Google research, and social networking. Each internship has opened new doors of possibility because the more experience you have, the better able you can sell yourself to future employers.

If I could give any advice to underclassmen it would be that it’s never too late! I was an education major until second semester junior year and am graduating with five different internship experiences as an English major. Also, if you are not sure what you want to do, don’t worry either! I did something different in every internship in order to gain exposure to all kinds of different career options. You don’t need to do a journalism related internship in order to intern at a news station. I was more involved in marketing/PR fields before, but I showed the employers how much responsibility I was given and that I could handle anything. So if you are not centered on one single career path, explore! This is the best time to do it.

After graduating I am planning on pursuing a career within the entertainment field that will allow me to be as creative as possible. With all the different kinds of experiences I have had, I definitely need a moment to reflect and decide what exactly felt best for me and I will then throw my energy into finding jobs of that realm. While I figure it out, I plan on traveling the world!
The friendship of Robert Giroux, the editor-in-chief of the publishing house of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, and Thomas Merton, the prolific Trappist monk, began when they were classmates in the mid-1930’s at Columbia University. Merton’s *The Seven Storey Mountain* (1948), an account of his life leading up to his entrance into Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky, which Giroux edited, has remained a classic of both autobiography and spiritual writing. For his part, Giroux was the editor of 20 writers who won the Nobel Prize in Literature; he is considered one of the best, if not the best, editor America has ever produced. The correspondence between these two men reveals not only the tug and pull of the particular as Merton wrote day in and day out under the watchful eyes of his religious superiors, but of the professional advice Giroux gave his friend as he edited one text after another.

Father Anthony J. Berret, S.J. recently celebrated the publication of his book, *Music in the Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2013). The book was first inspired by an inter-art approach to teaching here at St. Joseph’s. Songs cited in books like *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender Is the Night*, part of the reading list for the course American Authors: Fitzgerald and Hemingway, were played in class and interpreted according to their context in the novels. This practice led to professional conference papers illustrating how certain songs functioned in scenes of fiction. Fitzgerald became a special focus of this study because his novels and short stories contain references to over 200 popular songs. Music provided a fitting and stimulating accompaniment to the spirit of his times, the 1920s and 1930s, which he called The Jazz Age. One special feature of the book is a music bibliography that identifies web sites for period recordings of songs mentioned by Fitzgerald. With this resource, fans of Fitzgerald can read the books and hear the songs, and transport themselves back to another time like the characters in the film *Midnight in Paris*. 
This Spring semester, one of our very own English majors, Dara Driscoll ’15, is spending her time exploring Europe by studying in Galway, Ireland. In the following excerpt from the blog she is maintaining while abroad, Dara ponders the gift and rewarding experience of studying in another country.

“Risk is an important element of daily life; there are small risks, like sleeping in a few minutes more, and there are bigger risks, like moving to a country where you know no one. I’ll admit that transitioning to Galway, Ireland, has been difficult at times, but the risk of studying here for a semester has been rewarding in more ways than one. Living abroad has allowed me the opportunity to visit Paris, France and London, England. I have future plans to visit other countries and fellow Hawks abroad. Galway is a cute little city, with a weekend market I look forward to each week, and kind, go-with-the-flow residents. The university is huge and all of my classes are interesting. I’ve managed to enroll in three seminars, which are smaller in size and more specialized in topic, and they remind me of Saint Joe’s. Irish students are less vocal in the classroom, which has been an adjustment because I am so used to active conversation in small classes. Despite the constant rain, and lack of familiarity, I’ve found a home away from home in Galway I didn’t know I could have.”

Ms. Darby Rourick, member of the Saint Joseph’s University Class of 2016, has been awarded a $20,000 scholarship from the St. Andrew’s Society of Philadelphia to spend her Junior year studying abroad at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Originally from Ankeny, Iowa, Ms. Darby is a member of the Honors Program and is currently tournament director for the Villiger Speech & Debate Society. In addition to her English major, Ms. Rourick plans to complete a second major in Philosophy, and a minor in Medieval, Renaissance and Reformation Studies. At Aberdeen, she intends to continue her study of classical and modern rhetoric, with a focus on women’s rhetoric, and hopes to compete in speech and debate competitions while abroad. Please join us in congratulating Darby!

Darby ’16 is all smiles in front of The Union League of Philadelphia, where the St. Andrew’s Society competition is held.
Saint Joseph University’s Writing Series is a forthcoming program that invites authors to speak with students and educate them about careers and opportunities in the writing field. Students also engage with one another and read their creative works in a Literary Open Microphone night in Spring 2014.

**FALL 2013/SPRING 2014 SPEAKERS AND EVENTS:**

- **Tenaya Darlington** - September 18, 2013 12:00 pm Drexel Library
- **Eleanor Stanford** - September 26, 2013 6:30 pm Foley Center
- **Tom Wilbur** - October 16, 2013 3:35 pm Banquet Hall North
- **Wally Lamb** - October 24, 2013 7:00 pm Haub Teletorium
- **Elizabeth Silver** - November 7, 2013 6:30 pm Foley Center
- **Valerie Sayers** - April 24, 2014 6:30 pm Foley Center

**AFRICANA STUDIES**

A minor in Africana Studies sets you apart from the crowd, showing future employers, graduate schools and fellowships that you’ve worked across disciplines to concentrate your studies on an unusual and challenging subject. Several recent graduates have gone on to jobs in fields related to the minor, including the Peace Corps. You may even be able to complete the minor without using electives: contact Dr. Aisha Lockridge for more information.

**SIGMA TAU DELTA CEREMONY/ ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AWARDS CEREMONY**

The English Department Awards Ceremony and Sigma Tau Delta Induction Ceremony will be held on April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room in McShain Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Paul Patterson.
**ENG 201 Major American Writers** (Dr. Gilman)

This course will consist of readings from Emerson, Hawthorne, Whitman, Dickinson, Twain, Hemingway, Faulkner, Toni Morrison, Rita Dove, and Junot Diaz in an effort to discern key themes and developments in the story of America as shaped by writers.

**ENG 222 Sophomore Seminar** (Dr. Haslam)

This course investigates a group of "significant" literary texts “from diverse critical perspectives." We shall discuss the distinctive qualities of both literature and theories of literary criticism by tracking significant aesthetic, cultural, historical, and political dimensions in Jane Austen's *Emma*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, to name a few.

**ENG 241 Creative Writing** (Prof. Coyne)

This is a class about how we process and pass along our experience of the world. More specifically, it is an introductory creative writing class with an emphasis on the genres of creative nonfiction, poetry, fiction, and drama. We will spend the first half of the semester discussing and practicing a number of fundamental creative writing concepts (image, voice, setting, etc.) and in the second half of the class, we will apply that preparation to projects in each of the four genres.

**ENG 261 Intro to Reporting & Writing** (Dr. Spinner)

This course is about journalism basics: getting it right and writing it well. Through a combination of exercises and field reporting, you will learn how to interview, research, write, shoot photos, capture and edit audio, and use social media tools. All major assignments will be written for the Hawk student newspaper, providing you with invaluable hands-on experience as you learn the art and craft of journalism.

**ENG 261 Introduction to Reporting and Writing** (Dr. Reimold)

This course introduces students to the practice of reporting and writing for the news media. Elements of news, the style and structure of news and feature stories, newsgathering methods and copy editing skills will be emphasized. In

**ENG 328 The Beat Rebellion** (Fr. Berret)

This course will examine an American literary movement of the 1950s and 1960s that revolted against social conformism and experimented with lifestyle, travel, drugs, sexual identity, and Asian spirituality. Among the authors studied will be Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Diane di Prima, William S. Burroughs, Hattie Jones, and Gregory Corso.
ENG 332 Playwriting (Dr. Patillo)

NO THEATRE EXPERIENCE IS EXPECTED. We work on finding a truly dramatic voice over the course of the semester, beginning with monologue, then progressing to dialogue, and finally to short plays. Students have had success producing the plays written in this class both on and off campus, and the skills they develop also enhance their writing in other genres.

ENG 341 Poetry Workshop (Dr. Lindner)

A significant portion of this class will be spent workshopping student poems, i.e., constructively critiquing them. You will also read the work of contemporary poets and apply what you learn from them to your own writing. As a way of internalizing a poem’s rhythm and music, getting to know it from the inside, you also will be writing poetic imitations over the course of the semester.

ENG 345 Writing Fellows (Dr. Spinner)

We will combine intellectual inquiry and hands-on experience meant to train you to be a tutor in the Saint Joseph’s University Writing Center but also to familiarize you with theories of writing and tutoring. All course participants will be required to observe/tutor two hours per week in the Writing Center. Students who successfully complete the course are eligible to be hired as tutors the following semester in the Writing Center.

ENG 422 20th-Century American Novel (Fr. Samway)

This course will focus on some of the major American novels of the 20th century that have long been considered classics of American literature. The overall aim of the course will be to have students enjoy these works of fiction and come to a critical awareness of their importance, both in the time they were written and in the present.

ENG 450:SLR Hospital Stories: Narratives of Illness, Medicine and Hope (Dr. Green)

This course will explore how race, class, gender, and sexuality are depicted through the writing of caregivers, medical professionals, and patients in essays, memoirs, and fiction. While reading accounts of illness, health, healing, death and dying, students will perform three hours of service per week at a hospital, nursing home, hospice or clinic.

ENG 465 Special Topics in Journalism: College Media Matters (Dr. Reimold)

This seminar course explores the history, diversity and rising influence of college media worldwide -- from campus newspapers and college radio stations to online student start-ups and undergraduate humor magazines. In addition, the endless ethical challenges faced by student journalists will be examined and college media's ongoing evolution in the digital and mobile eras will be discussed.
Thinking about adding a Master’s Degree to

If you are interested in continuing your education here at Saint Joseph’s beyond your undergraduate degree, you might want to consider the M.A. in Writing Studies program, which offers an excellent opportunity to develop your expertise further in the writing field. Seniors are invited to apply early in the spring semester.

Once accepted, you could start taking classes in the summer immediately following your undergraduate commencement exercises. If you should choose to matriculate as a full-time student, you could expect to finish the 30 credits for the degree in about 18 months. Alternatively, it is also possible to get a job and complete the program on a part-time basis, easily done in 2-3 years. The student population in Writing Studies every year is a mix of full-time students (often recent college graduates) and part-time students (often with considerable work experience after college).

Application materials and brochures can be obtained from the Department of English office, and you are encouraged to talk with the program director Dr. Green (agreen@sju.edu), to get additional perspective on the way the program might fit into your career plans and goals. To get an overall picture of the Writing Studies program, either pick up a copy of the Graduate Program catalog in Graduate Admissions (Saint Albert’s Annex, off Lapsley Lane) or review information on the Writing Studies web page:

http://www.sju.edu/academics/cas/grad/writingstudies/