MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A Note from the Chair

Dear English Majors and Writing Studies Students,

This new school year is a time of great changes for Saint Joseph’s University and for the English Department. Those of you who are members of the Class of 2014 are the first ones taking courses under the new General Education Program (GEP). Although those of you who are sophomores, juniors, and seniors still take courses under the old General Education Requirements (GER), you and your advisors face the challenge of figuring out which new course numbers and new course titles count for which GER. English faculty faces another big change as we will be moving across the street to Merion Hall on the Maguire Campus during the winter break. Many of us have toured the new facility, and we’re excited about its possibilities—a comfortable gathering place in the front entrance, spacious classrooms and intimate seminar rooms, a new Writing Center, and three wings of faculty offices. Of course, the challenge for English faculty and students alike will be figuring out who is where. Some of you may have noticed that faculty members are already beginning to pack boxes in anticipation for the move (all those books!), and I imagine that many of us will be living out of those boxes for several months as we try to get settled in our new digs.

In the meantime, we are embarked on an eventful fall semester. On August 31, English faculty welcomed students of the Class of 2014 to the major, and on September 9, we welcomed our new cohort of graduate Writing Studies students. On October 21, Dr. April Lindner read from her new novel Jane, a contemporary retelling of Charlotte Brontë’s Jane Eyre—with Jane falling for a rock star. English faculty met with majors on October 28 to discuss spring course offerings and the track system. Forthcoming events include a reading by former graduates of the Writing Studies Program Jamey Gallagher and Bernadette McBride on November 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Forum Theatre and a reading/concert by Wesley Stace (A.K.A. John Wesley Harding), novelist and musician, which will take place on the evening of February 17. More information will follow. In spring, we’ll also be gearing up for the annual English faculty/student softball game, which will take place on a sunny (we hope) April afternoon.

As you can see from the “Faculty News” section of this newsletter, English faculty members spent busy and productive summers, many working on scholarly projects and developing exciting new courses. Fr. Patrick Samway, S.J., is taking a one-year sabbatical in Chad, where he is working on an edition of Flannery O’Connor’s letters. We welcome back Dr. Jason Powell, our Shakespeare and Renaissance expert, who spent last year on a Donald D. Harrington Fellowship at the University of Texas, Austin, where he worked on his
comprehensive edition of the work of Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder. Visiting Assistant Professor Dr. Lisa Walters is continuing with us, teaching first-year courses and courses in British literature in the College of Professional and Liberal Studies. Visiting Writer Mr. Tom Coyne also continues with us, offering a variety of writing courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. We are also joined by Dr. Kersti Powell, who will be teaching the exiting new course “Relativity, Uncertainty, and Contemporary British Literature” in spring.

For undergraduate students, please remember that your advisors are available to help you navigate through the major and the GER or GEP. You should avail yourselves of their expertise as you plan your class schedule, consider possible minors, or ponder what to do after graduation. Furthermore, you should work with your advisor to determine which track (education, literature, writing, or drama) best suits your interests and career plans; generally, you should plan on declaring a track by spring of your sophomore year. All advisors have posted office hours, and faculty members are willing to accommodate you if your schedule does not permit you to meet at those times.

Do keep in mind the various opportunities here on campus to hone your writing, tutoring, and acting skills. The campus newspaper, The Hawk, is a fine venue for majors to develop their journalistic skills; senior Sam Koch is the fall semester editor, and Professors Spinner and Lyons are on the The Hawk Advisory Board. The campus literary magazine, The Crimson and Gray welcomes contributions from those poets, essayists, and short-story writers among you. Senior Kayla Sorbara is this year’s editor, and Dr. Melissa Goldthwaite is the advisor. For more information, see the following website: http://www.sju.edu/crimsonandgray/pages/SubmitNow.htm

For graduate students, Avenue provides a venue for the creative work that you are doing your classes. Lana Morelli is the editor, and Professor Tenaya Darlington serves as faculty advisor. Those of you who are interested in helping others improve their writing may want to consider becoming Writing Fellows and working in the Writing Center. Interviews for potential tutors are held in spring by Writing Center Director Dr. Jenny Spinner, and the Writing Fellows course is offered each fall. If you are interested, you should have a tutorial some time this semester and contact Dr. Spinner in the spring (jspinner@sju.edu). For those of you with dramatic abilities, after its exciting production of Hair, the Cap and Bells Dramatic Arts Society will be presenting two more stimulating plays in the coming season: Sarah Ruhl’s Dead Man’s Cell Phone, a provocative comedy-drama to be directed by Dr. Laura Pattillo of English, and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s wildly popular The Phantom of the Opera, to be directed by Ms. René Dobson of Fine and Performing Arts. For more information, please check the following website: http://www.sju.edu/capandbells/index.html

If you have any questions or concerns about English, please feel free to drop by my office (BE 121 for fall) to introduce yourself. My office hours are Monday 10:00-12:00, Tuesday 1:30-3:00, Wednesday 10:00-12:00, and Thursday 1:30-3:00. If none of these hours work for you, please feel free to call me at 610-660-1884 or email me at jparkersu.edu to set up an appointment. I hope you find that your courses stimulate and engage you, that the extracurricular events excite you, and that you make lasting friendships here in the English Department.

Yours,
Dr. Jo Alyson Parker
Chair, Department of English
Fr. Joseph Feeney
Fr. Joseph Feeney, S.J., spent the summer working on a long article called "Musical Hopkins" about Gerard Manley Hopkins’ knowledge of music, his attempts to learn the violin and the piano, his poetic use of musical instruments, human voices, and birdsong, and the verbal music and rhythms of his poems themselves. Hopkins actually wrote it as a six-part musical suite, with titles and tempo notations for each movement. It all started as a lecture last December to "Theaterwork," a production group in Santa Fe, New Mexico, then developed as a paper given in July at an international Hopkins conference in Spokane, Washington. When finished, it will go off to a journal for publication. Fr. Feeney continues as Co-Editor of The Hopkins Quarterly, and a piece he wrote about the relationship of Hopkins and his father Manley was recently quoted in TLS: The Times Literary Supplement (London, Sept. 3, 2010) in Jude V. Nixon's article "Missing Landmarks," about a literary connection between Hopkins and his amateur-poet father in their poems about ecology.

Tom Coyne
I published "Replaying a Course Called Ireland" in the March issue of Irish America Magazine. I also published the feature "Horses for Courses" in The Irish Times in July. I wrote a Tiger Woods commentary piece for CNN.com in April, and my "My Shot" column in Sports Illustrated won honorable mention at the Golf Writers Association of America awards dinner last spring. I read and lectured at the 43rd Notre Dame Literary Festival last fall, and I gave the talk "Why Sports Stories Work" at the Neumann University conference on “Story, Sport, and Spirit,” in May.

April Lindner Ph.D.
In advance of the October publication of April Lindner's novel Jane, she was interviewed for Angieville, a literary blog. The interview may be found at http://angieville.blogspot.com/2010/09/interview-with-april-lindner-jane.html.

Kersti Powell
I have an article "Life just is like that": Martin McDonagh's Estonian Enigma," forthcoming in the Spring 2011 issue of the New Hibernia Review, and I'm giving a paper, "'Dualism is the word': Wave/Particle Functions in Banville and Stoppard," at the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts annual convention in Indianapolis in October. I was awarded a grant from the Faculty Development Fund to attend the conference.

Tenaya Darlington
Over the summer, Tenaya Darlington was hired as a food blogger for Di Bruno Bros., Philadelphia's largest cheese shop. Her "Madame Fromage" posts appear every Wednesday on the store's site (http://www.dibruno.com/blog/). In August, she led a writing workshop for 18 of the store's cheesemongers. This summer, she also launched a local cheese column for Grid Magazine. The column runs monthly and focuses on an artisanal cheese from the area. In October, she headed to the Midwest to participate in a media tour of the dairy industry, along with writers from Rachel Ray and Oprah Magazine. If you feel peckish, stop by her office for a nibble of cheese.

Ronald Wendling

Dr. Jo Alyson Parker
This summer, my book Time: Limits and Constraints was published by Brill of Leiden. My co-editors were Paul Harris of Loyola Marymount University and Christian Steineck of Zurich University. It includes my essay "David Mitchell's Cloud Atlas of Narrative Constraints and Environmental Limits," and I enthusiastically recommend Cloud Atlas to all English majors. I also participated in the fourteenth triennial conference of the International Society for the Study of Time, held in the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica. In addition to giving the paper "Crusoe's Foe, Foe's Cruso, and the Origins and Future of the Novel," I zip-lined over the canopy and saw Capuchin monkeys in the wild.

Faculty Updates
New Course Information

ENG 482 Relativity, Uncertainty and Contemporary British Literature
Dr. Kersti Tarien Powell

We’ve all heard about the uncertainty principle or encountered statements such as “Einstein made everything relative.” But what do such concepts as uncertainty or relativity mean for literary authors? How did they impact their writing and their thinking?

This course will consider the ways in which contemporary literature reacted to these and other specific ideas. We will study the narrative form and how it encapsulates changes in our perception of the world and our place in it, but also the processes of observation and the influence that the observer can have on the act of narration. Though all aspiring rocket scientists are welcome to join us, this course should be of interest to both literature and science majors alike. The texts will include John Banville’s science tetralogy, John Fowle’s The French Lieutenant’s Woman and The Collector, and plays by Tom Stoppard and Michael Frayn.

ENG 481 Contrasting Styles in 20th Century Poetry
Dr. Francis Morris

Modernism in poetry reached its peak on both sides of the Atlantic during the mid and late 20th Century. Two sharply contrasting styles emerged. On the one hand Robert Frost in America, Philip Larkin in Britain, and Seamus Heaney in Ireland reached large audiences with a low key, accessible and often conversational style. On the other, WB Yeats in Ireland, TS Eliot in Britain and Wallace Stevens in America employed a complex, oblique, and allusive mode of expression that established itself as the signature mode of the modern.

The course will explore prominent examples of both styles as well as their interaction and look to understand the contribution both made to the shaping of the modern imaginative consciousness.

ENG 416: Rebellious Women Writers: Reformers, Slaves, and Suffragists
Dr. Jo Alyson Parker

This honors course, a variation of the team-taught “Women’s Writing as Emancipation” course, explores how British and American women of the late seventeenth to early twentieth centuries used writing to rebel against the status quo. In this course, we will examine a wide variety of women’s texts—narrative fictions, poetry, political polemics, conduct books, letters, autobiographies, social theories, sermons, and protest leaflets—and we will discuss the effects of these different responses to women’s plight. We will look closely at the influences that British and American writers exerted upon one another.

ENG 427 The Catholic Imagination in Contemporary American Literature
Joseph J. Feeney, S.J.

How do writers create? What images and thoughts fill their imaginations? How do they express these in words? What happens when they write on religion? What images do they use? And what are your images of religion? How have they changed over the years since your childhood? We’ll study the creative imagination through psychology and contemporary American Catholic literature (and two films), reading works from 1980 to today, from varied genders, cultures, races, ethnic groups, and regions. After a bow to Flannery O’Connor (Wise Blood, 1952), America’s greatest Catholic writer, we’ll read fictions and plays by Mary Gordon, William Kennedy, Andre Dubus, Jay McInerney, Sandra Cisneros, Don DeLillo, Louise Alice McDermott, and the films Deer Hunter and Dogma. It’ll be intellectual fun.

ENG 150: First-Year Seminar Rules of the Game: Race, Gender and Sports in Films and Literature
Dr. Ann Green

Nothing is more American than our obsession with sports. We play them, watch them, and think about them. We deliberate over coaches’ decisions, referees’ calls, and players’ personal lives. This course will look at how sports are depicted in fiction and film, and particularly consider how race and gender influence our perceptions of sports. In addition to considering artistic representations of sports in film and fiction, we’ll consider the 1972 Title IX decision and how it has changed women’s place in athletics; the integration of college and professional sports; race/racism in athletics today, as well as sexuality and gender in sports. We will look particularly at how women are portrayed in fictional films about sports (Million Dollar Baby, Bend it Like Beckham, Love and Basketball), we’ll consider how the integration of sports is portrayed in films and literature (Glory Road, Pride, Remember the Titans) and think about the role that sports plays in national culture (Invictus, Miracle, Seabiscuit). We’ll write our own accounts of the role that sports has played in our lives, consider the difference between individual athletic events and team sports, and look at how competition is configured in contemporary culture.
Spring Courses 2010

Undergraduate Day
English Offerings

ENG 205 American Voices
ENG 206 Public Speaking and Presentation
ENG 222 Sophomore Seminar
ENG 241 Creative Writing: Introductory Workshop
ENG 261 Intro to Journalism
ENG 306 Victorian Literature
ENG 317 Literature of South Africa
ENG 323 American Literature
ENG 341 Poetry Workshop
ENG 342 Fiction Workshop
ENG 343 Nonfiction Workshop
ENG 362 Literary Journalism
ENG 382 Plato to Poststructuralism
ENG 401 Chaucer and the Medieval World
ENG 403 Shakespeare: Later Works
ENG 416 Rebellious Women Writers
ENG 425 American Drama
ENG 427 The Catholic Imagination in Contemporary American Literature
ENG 428 The Beat Rebellion
ENG 443 Books that Cook: Special Topics in Writing
ENG 472 Digital Storytelling
ENG 482 Relativity, Uncertainty, and Contemporary British Literature
ENG 491 Independent Study: Intern Program

College of Professional & Liberal Studies

ENG 100 Communication Skills
ENG 111 Exposition and Argumentation
ENG 112 Research Based Writing
ENG 113 Literature & Composition
COM 215 Public Presentation: Rhetoric In Modern Practice
COM 261 Introduction to Journalism
COM 265 Public Relations
COM 401 The Newsletter & Brochure
ENG 305 The Writer and his Muse: British Romanticism
ENG 403 Shakespeare Later Works
ENG 423 American Poetry
ENG 481 Contrasting Styles in 20th Century Poetry: Literary Forms and Styles

Writing Studies Courses

Graduate Students Only

ENG 550 Practice of Writing
ENG 560 Rhetoric Then and Now
ENG 620 The Art of Political Violence
ENG 630 Composition Theory
ENG 668 Creative Non-Fiction Workshop
ENG 670 Fiction Writing

Communications Studies

COM 200 Communications Theory & Practice
COM 201 Ethics in Communications
COM 300 Documentary Photojournalism: The Face of Education; Industry Perspective
COM 491 Ind. Study: Intern Program

THINKING ABOUT ADDING A MASTER’S DEGREE TO YOUR RESUME?

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 Dept.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/cas/english/ma_ws/index.html
We celebrate our award-winning students and congratulate them on their achievements.

**Honors Theses and Honors Graduates**

Students who completed Honors theses in 2009-10 included Mary Black, *The Poet: A Lover, A Mother, A Woman* (Dr. April Lindner); Jennifer Burrini, *A Relative to Truth* (Dr. Jo Alyson Parker); Heather Goldsmith, *Binding Descent* (Dr. April Lindner); Andrew LeFever, *De*generation (Fr. Patrick Samway, S.J.,); Nikki Palladino, *A Feminist Memoir* (Dr. Ann Green); Karrin Randle, *Political Functions of Language in Indian Literature in English* (Dr. Ann Green); and Gina Tomaine, *A Real Cool Hand: The story of Two Brothers Overcoming the Odds with Humor, Perseverance, and Poker* (Dr. Jenny Spinner). Jennifer Burrini’s thesis won a Claver House Prize, awarded to the top theses submitted. Honors Graduates included Karrin Randle and Gina Tomaine, and those students completing General Honors included Kathleen Cairo, Mary-Pat Forsyth, James McGraw, Molly Porth, and Victoria Sweeney.

**English Awards**

The Celebration of Student Achievement in English, held on April 22, enabled the Department to recognize the fine work being done by students. Twenty-eight students were inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, joining 39 current members. *Crimson and Gray* Creative Arts Awards went to Sarah Hufnagel (Best in Artwork), Andrew DiPrinzio (Best in Fiction), and Sarah Zolkower (Best in Poetry). *Crimson and Gray* editors Heather Goldsmith and Nikki Palladino were recognized for their fine work by advisor Dr. Melissa Goldthwaite. The First-Year Writing Awards went to Jack d’Epagnier and Kim Nguyen for literary nonfiction, Olgz Dziuba and Eanan Nagle for literary analysis, and Emily Finn for poetry. *The Hawk* Awards were given by *Hawk* advisor Dr. Jenny Spinner to Brad Allen for Rookie of the Year, Matthew DeGeorge for Editor of the Year, and Sarah Quain for Reporter of the Year. Karrin Randle was recognized for her fine work as *Hawk* editor. Writing Fellows and work-study students were also recognized during the Celebration. At Commencement, Karrin Randle received the Daniel J. Dougherty English Award and the Dean’s Award in the College of Arts and Sciences. James McGraw received the Gender Studies Award. CPLS student Kevin Gary received The John and Mary Burke Award in American Studies and Professional Writing. The following English majors were admitted to Phi Beta Kappa: Mary Black, Mary-Pat Forsyth, Rachel Mattos, James McGraw, and Molly Porth, joining Karrin Randle and Gina Tomaine, who had been admitted as juniors. Four majors graduated Summa Cum Laude, seven graduated Magna Cum Laude, and eleven graduated Cum Laude.

**Additional Honors**

Mattie Aguero’s paper, “A Shrew’s Revenge: Taming the Male Rebel through Mutual Education in Marriage” won a Sylvia Clavan Prize for Excellent Work in Gender Studies; it was also accepted for the Geis Student Research Conference at the University of Delaware. On December 5, 2009, Rhianna Brennan under the mentorship of Dr. Paul Patterson, presented her paper “Margery’s Physical and Spiritual Marriage in the *Book of Margery Kempe*” at the Fourth Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Moravian College.