



Properly, we should read for power. Man reading should be man intensely alive. The book should be a ball of light in one's hand.

—Ezra Pound (1885-1972)

***Works Cited* . . . Introducing the English Department Newsletter**

To everyone—English majors, English minors, graduate students, students at large, faculty, and friends of the English Department—a warm welcome back from what I hope proved a very restful and enjoyable winter vacation.

What you have before you is the first issue of the new English Department newsletter. As most of you know already, ours is a large, vibrant, and active department. In any given week there is lots going on, but up until now, we have relied on some very imperfect means to advertise events and to keep in contact with our students and friends. It's our hope that *Works Cited*, which we plan to publish approximately four times per semester, will go a long way toward keeping us all in touch with departmental news and events.

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Since I have the luxury of a few column inches, let me fill you in a little on the format of *Works Cited*. In this issue (see pages 2 and 3) we profile two of our newest faculty members. In future issues we will have more profiles and lots more news and notices. If you think you have something to contribute to future issues, Professor Mary Holland, whose energy and skill helped to make this first newsletter a reality, will be very happy to hear

from you (see the contact information on page 4).

And as for news, the most exciting surely is the way our faculty is rapidly growing and diversifying. In addition to Professors Holland, Mulready, and Schonebaum, who began with us this autumn, last month we hired Professors Vicki Tromanhauser and Michelle Woods as full-time faculty members. Dr. Tromanhauser is a specialist in twentieth-century British literature, great books of the Western tradition, and literature by women. Professor Woods works in the fields of Irish literature, contemporary European and world literatures, and the novel as a genre.

In the coming weeks we will be seeking to conclude three more searches (Composition and Rhetoric, Romantic literature, and Victorian literature). If you would like to meet any candidates or hear their public presentations, just ask Ethel Wesdorp (257-2720) for the schedule of visits and presentations.

I wish you all a very stimulating, productive, and enjoyable spring semester.

—Thomas G. Olsen, Chair of English

Upcoming Events

- *Incognito* performance
February 1 in McKenna Theatre
- *The Promise Keeper* at Parker Theatre opens February 28
- Francine Prose on campus
April 17
- *Our Town* at McKenna Theatre opens April 24
- Graduate Symposium April 28

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New Faculty Introduction: Professor Mary Holland

If you think “contemporary literature” means the latest bestseller from Oprah’s book club, think again: SUNY New Paltz’s new assistant professor of contemporary British and American literature, Mary Holland, will quickly dispel any such myths. Certainly some well known names appear on her syllabi—like Ian McEwan, author of the novel *Atonement*, on which the recent hit film is based. But her courses on post-1945 literature also show the influence of her research, featuring novels, poetry, and plays that investigate how language works and even ask whether it works at all. This combination of culturally hip and linguistically mind-bending reading made for an exciting class last fall, just as it will, she expects, both thrill and challenge a new batch of readers this spring.



Professor Holland comes to us from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where she had been teaching in the English department since completing her Ph.D. at UCLA in 2004. Texas is in fact her home state; she earned her B.A. in English from Rice University in Houston. But in the four years between completing an M.A. in English at the University of Maryland and begin-

ning her Ph.D. at UCLA, she worked and traveled all over the world, teaching college English to American soldiers working on their undergraduate degrees in South Korea, Germany, and Bosnia. Particularly memorable was the work in Bosnia, where she lived fully integrated into the Army—wearing a uniform, accompanied to bases by big vehicles with bigger guns, and tripping in tent-classrooms over tangled mounds of her students’ shucked M-16s.

So leaving behind nine years of sunshine states for the dark cold winters of upstate New York is not the most adventurous thing she’s ever done. In fact, she, her husband, and her two boys (Evan, age 6 and Camden, age 4) have fallen hard and fast for the New Paltz area, making the most of its varied offerings: from berry picking, corn-maze navigating, and snowshoeing with the kids, to a glorious 20k fall race around Lake Minne-waska with her husband. She looks forward to finding fellow outdoor and New Paltz enthusiasts with outing suggestions in her office, and fellow literature enthusiasts (contemporary and otherwise) in her classroom.

Writing Tip: Avoiding Comma Splices

A comma splice is a serious grammatical error, and, sadly, a common one to boot. It results from improperly combining two sentences, or independent clauses (each containing a subject and verb). An example of a comma splice: Interesting ideas are not enough to make an impressive paper, good writing requires proper grammar as well.

When combining two sentences, make sure you use one of only two correct strategies:

1. a **comma followed by a coordinating conjunction** (ONLY these seven: *and, but, so, for, nor, or, yet*). For example: “People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading.” (Logan Pearsall Smith)
2. a **semicolon**. For example: “Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend; inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.” (Groucho Marx)

If you combine two sentences with a word like *however, therefore, moreover, or then* (these are called conjunctive adverbs; see any grammar book for a full list of them—and get to know them!), you **MUST** use a semicolon. For example: “They always say time changes things; however, you have to change them yourself.” (Andy Warhol)

One Night Only: Come See *Incognito*

Imagine discovering you are not the person you thought you were—that you have a family, a history, an ethnicity you never knew about! How would this discovery impact your life, the lives of those around you, your vision of yourself and society? This is the issue that confronted Chicago-based writer-performer Michael Fosberg in 1992, when after thirty-two years of believing himself to be the product of a middle-class white

family, he discovered he is also black.

Incognito is Fosberg's one-man show chronicling his coming to terms with his true identity.

The performance **Friday, February 1 at 8 p.m. in McKenna Theatre** is free to all, but tickets are required. Advance tickets are available in the English Department office, or you can take your chances for tickets at the door beginning at 7:15 p.m. the night of the show.



19 Edgar Allan Poe

Authors' Birthdays in January

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Isaac Asimov | 25 Robert Burns |
| 3 J. R. R. Tolkien | 27 Lewis Carroll |
| 6 Carl Sandburg | 28 Susan Sontag |
| 11 Mary Rodgers | 29 Anton Chekov |
| 12 Jack London | 30 Shirley Hazzard |
| 18 A. A. Milne | 31 Norman Mailer |



25 Virginia Woolf

New Faculty Introduction: Professor Cyrus Mulready

“Did you grow up on a farm?” is a question Professor Cyrus Mulready often hears when people learn he is originally from Nebraska. But Professor Mulready considers his upbringing in central Omaha, a city of roughly a half million residents, decidedly urban. He likes to remind people that Omaha also produced Fred Astaire, Marlon Brando, and Henry Fonda, the last of whom helped develop a community theater that remains one of the nation's most successful local acting companies. It was at that community playhouse that, at age fourteen, Professor Mulready saw his first Shakespeare play, *Twelfth Night*, an experience that helped spark an interest in theater and literature that carried through high school and ultimately led him to pursue a Ph.D., specializing in Renaissance Drama.

Professor Mulready began to think that perhaps drama is in his blood when he recently learned that his great grandmother wrote and

produced plays for the people in her small farming community of Hope, North Dakota. He proudly keeps her early twentieth-century collection of Shakespeare plays in his office



After completing his B.A. at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, Professor Mulready left the Midwest for Philadelphia, where he earned his Ph.D. in English Literature at the University of Pennsylvania in 2006. Students should know that although he teaches courses in Shakespeare and some of the oldest literature in the English department, Professor Mulready integrates new technology into all of his courses, including film clips, course blogs and other online resources to enhance the study of this early literature.

Aside from dispelling myths about the Midwest, Professor Mulready enjoys cooking, watching films with his wife and playing with his two kids, Maureen (four) and Desmond (four months).



Around the Department

Graduate Comprehensive Exam and Other News

Professor Daniel Kempton, Graduate Director, will soon be calling a meeting to discuss the format of the Spring 2008 Comprehensive Exam, which begins at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 5 in JFT 1010. Please keep an eye out for additional information by e-mail and in a subsequent issue of *Works Cited*. Those planning to sit the exam this spring must register with Dr. Kempton (JFT 712, 257-2728, or kemptond@newpaltz.edu). Graduate students should also check the Graduate Bulletin Board outside JFT 712, where several calls for papers and other important notices are posted.

Holocaust Lit: History, Memory, Representation

Marianne Hirsch, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, will be the keynote speaker for the twentieth annual Graduate Symposium on April 28. Professor Jan Schmidt is accepting graduate papers on the symposium theme through Monday, January 28.

Incompletes

If you finished the Fall 2007 semester with an Incomplete (I) grade, you must complete the outstanding work and be assigned a final grade no later than the midterm of this semester. Make sure to contact your professor right away to discuss a plan for completing your work.

Are You Close to Graduating?

If you are getting close to graduation, be sure to make an appointment with your English advisor (and also your education advisor if applicable) to review your major plan and make sure that you are on track to meet all requirements for graduation. Candidates for May 2008 graduation should already have filed with the Registrar. If you did not file, go to the Registrar today!

Summer English Courses

The Summer 2008 schedule of classes is now online at www.newpaltz.edu/summer. The English Department is offering a total of 30 courses over the summer: 14 online, 9 during Session I (May 27-June 29) and 7 during Session II (July 7-August 8). Be sure to register early, as many summer classes close very quickly.

New Databases at the Library

Sojourner Truth Library has just added two excellent new databases of particular interest to English students. Check out **Project Muse**, which is similar to JStor in that it contains full text articles for viewing and download, and also **Theatre in Video**, which contains over 250 full-length plays and over 100 video documentaries, all available for streaming.

Footnotes

1. **At press time, the following courses were still available for enrollment:**
undergraduate: ENG 160, 180, 206, 210, 211, 224, 226, 230, 231, 255, 293, 299, 302, 308, 331, 332, 345, 356, 361, 406, 407, 414, 426, 445, 453, 455, 470, 493, LIN 493
graduate: ENG 539, 572, 581
2. Don't forget that the no-fee **add/drop period ends on January 29th**.
3. A thorough **revision of our departmental website** is in the works! Please contact Mary Holland (hollandm@newpaltz.edu) with any ideas you have for a new, improved website.

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 SUNY New Paltz
 JFT 714
 600 Hawk Drive
 New Paltz, NY 12561

It is also available online:
www.newpaltz.edu/english/workscited.

For questions, ideas, and contributions, please contact Mary Holland at workscited@newpaltz.edu or in JFT 206.

Next issue: February 20
 Submission deadline: February 13