

The Canon

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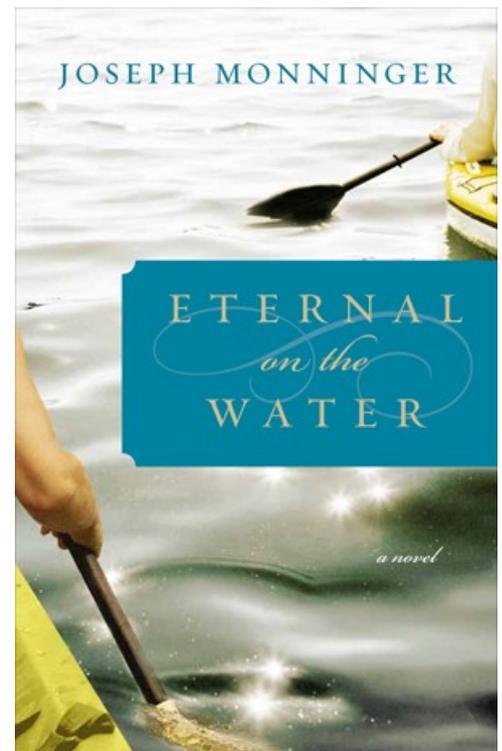
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Eternally Inspired: Joe Monninger's Latest Novel Makes a Splash

By Sarah Clermont

Joseph Monninger is at it again. With its release in February of this year, Monninger's *Eternal on the Water* has been getting rave reviews. This touching love story follows the lives of Mary Fury and Jonathan Cobb. When they first meet on the Allagash River it is love at first sight, but Cobb's feelings for Mary are put to the test when she reveals that she has the gene for Huntington's, an incurable disease which attacks nerves in the brain. Both are determined to live their lives to the fullest. Like the river where they first meet, Mary and Cobb's relationship will take you through twists, turns and unforgiving rough spots. Their journey will lift your spirits, teach you about love, and bring you through the beautiful wilderness of Maine.

If you have ever read one of Monninger's novels then you know you are not just reading a story – you are going on an adventure. Inspiration for a novel, particularly its setting, is never far off from a personal experience. "I took a solo trip down the Allagash several years back," Monninger says. "When I began thinking of a love story, I imagined it on that river." It's the simple touch of realism that truly draws in each and every reader. Monninger's sense of descrip-



tion, especially when it comes to nature, is unlike any other; readers cannot help but feel they are part of the story, and they become invested from beginning to end.

Monninger explains how reading reviews can often be the most difficult part of the writing process. "Nowadays with Goodreads and comments on Amazon, people can say pretty much whatever they like." Monninger has nothing to worry about since the reviews for *Eternal on the Water* are just as encouraging as the

2010 Scholarship Winners Celebrated at Spring Reception

At this year's annual English Department Spring Reception & Reading for graduating seniors, this year's department scholarship recipients were announced and honored. Selected by members of the department faculty each spring, these students demonstrate excellence in and outside of their classes.

Two book awards honor graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence during their time as English majors. Amy LaBarre received the Clarice Clark Parker Book Award, and Karly Gray received the English Department Book Prize.

Also given annually is the Dow Family Trust Scholarship, to provide support for a student majoring in English. Nathan Verry was selected to receive this \$500 award.

The Sally Boland Memorial Scholarship of \$450 honors the memory of English Department Professor Sally Boland. Over the span of 28 years, she taught and contributed to many progressive initiatives and became a prominent leader on campus. This scholarship is awarded to a full-time English major or minor of sophomore or junior status who goes beyond the boundaries of the discipline in pursuing one or more of these areas: environmental issues, writing (especially poetry), women and gender issues, or educational experience via travel. This year's recipient, Bryan Funk, will be working in Uganda this summer and writing about his experiences upon his return. He is also the founder and president of the group "Ending Genocide Around the World."

Rebecca Chappell is this year's winner of the \$600 Carole Anne Soucie Memorial Scholarship, which was established in 1997 to honor the memory of

Carole Anne Soucie (1977-1997). Carole grew up in Wilton, Maine, graduating from Mount Blue High School. She was seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a Writing Option at Plymouth State College at the time of her death in May 1997. During her time at Plymouth, Carole was an active participant in the Poets and Writers Anthology, Biederman's Open Mic Night poetry readings, taking photographs for *The Clock*, coordinating writing for The Continuum, and coordinating the PSC Arts Day. She displayed an enjoyment for learning and an appreciation for music and the performing arts, and she was an active participant in extracurricular activities relating to the arts in general and writing. Carole's professors and classmates remember her as a self-motivated, energetic, sincere, and conscientious student and friend. This scholarship is given to an English major of good academic standing who has financial need, is pursuing either a Writing or Literature Option, and who demonstrates a commitment to writing and the arts, as Carole did. English Department faculty members select the recipient.

A new scholarship of \$500 was also awarded this year: the Mary Rita Hyde '62 Memorial Endowed English Scholarship, which honors a full-time English major planning to become an English teacher, or to a current English teacher pursuing graduate education or certification. This year's recipient is Jessica Murray.

Also recognized at the ceremony was graduating senior Bob Feeny, selected by the faculty to represent the English Department by carrying the gonfalon during the 2010 Commencement Exercises.

If you would like to contribute to one of the English Department Scholarship funds, please contact the Advancement Office at 1-(800)-772-2620

Alumni Updates

Kevin Avery (2005) recently accepted a full-time teaching position at Bowling Green Technical College in Kentucky. Despite being busy with teaching, he has managed to send off some of his work for publication. He has two essays forthcoming in the Fall of 2010. "Riverine" will appear in *Big Muddy* and "Running Away Towards" will appear in *The MacGuffin*. Another essay of his (a New Hampshire essay) can be read online at [Waccamaw](#).

Katy Cohn (2007) moved back from Alaska and got engaged in March on top of a ski mountain. She is planning a mountaintop wedding for March 18, 2011. She has also earned her master's degree in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University.

Crystal Lavoie (2004) just earned her M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction from Montana State University and is currently teaching English at Sanborn Regional High School in Kingston, NH.

Ryan McLellan (2006) is back in the classroom at Newmarket Junior/Senior High School, teaching Freshman English. He's continued to publish, with poems recently appearing in the anthology "Chopin with Cherries" and a few literary journals. He was awarded the 2010 Esther Buffler Fellowship and is preparing for an-

other two-day residency at Portsmouth High School in May. He's currently a semi-finalist for the Manchester, NH; Portland, ME; and Lowell, MA slam teams and is working to make a team and return to the National Poetry Slam.

Daniel Singer (2003 & 2005) is finishing his second year of doctoral study in English, Rhetoric, and Theory and is teaching composition, creative writing, and poetry at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado at Denver. In the past few months, Dan has presented papers on writing theory and philopoetics at Denver's "Works In Progress Lecture Series," the International Interdisciplinary Conference on Global Citizenship for the 21st Century in Pomona, and the Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America in Minneapolis. Dan is currently at work on a chapbook-length poem, "A Family of Trees," for horse less press (tentatively), a project-book of poetry, "A Sacred Geometry," a translation into English of Eugene Guillevic's 1990 book-length poem, "Le Chant," and a slightly ridiculous scholarly book attempting to develop a unified field theory of writing.

Kara Smith (1996) is graduating this May from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA with a master's in Art Education.

Alumni and Majors:
Check out the English department Facebook group, PSU English Majors.

Advising Tips

By Felicia Truman

One of the most exciting, and stressful, times of the year is advising week, the week in which students begin to plan out their class schedule for the upcoming semester. Unfortunately, many of us can feel overwhelmed and may attempt to block the whole scheduling idea out of our minds until our meeting with our advisors. Though we have these advisors to help lead us through this anxiety ridden process, we cannot expect them to organize our entire schedule. Advisors can help us plan out these schedules but our meetings would be more beneficial and our schedules more likeable if we took the initiative and planned out our schedules ourselves.

Scheduling Tip One: Check Out Your Catalog

Every student regardless of major has to take certain classes for their major and some general education classes as well. Don't blindly go into your advisor's office without knowing which classes you need in order to graduate. To help you figure out which classes are required for your major, check out your catalog. Not only is the catalog full of useful information such as courses offered and major requirements, but it also takes the courses needed for each major and compiles them into a recommended course sequence. This list shows which classes a student should take each year in order to graduate on time. Though this list is simply a guideline, it can be extremely helpful if you are not sure which classes to take and when.

Tip Two: Get General Education Classes Out of The Way

Get general education classes out of the way quickly so you can have time to take core classes. If you are undecided, general education classes can be really helpful in helping you try out different majors and find out what most interests you without using up your precious electives, which you will need later if you choose to change your major, have a minor or even double major.

If you have decided on a major it is a good idea to take some introductory classes for your major as well. Because many upper-level classes require these lower-level classes as a prerequisite it would be helpful to get these out of the way early. The best place to look for both core and general education classes is the course catalog or in the undergraduate course schedule.

Tip Three: Be Prepared for Registration

Once you have figured out which classes you would prefer to take, or need to take, find out which times these classes are offered and make sure there are no time conflicts and that you have no holds on your account. Holds are basically restrictions that keep you from registering such as owing money to the bursar's office or having other unsatisfied requirements. Regardless of your registration date make sure you are prepared the night before. Every night before I register for classes I go to the Course Query tab

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on myPlymouth to make sure the classes I'd prefer are still open. If the class is not open I make scheduling changes immediately so that I don't have to worry about it in the morning. Make sure to get up as soon as registration starts to make sure you optimize your chances of getting the classes you really want. If by some horrid twist of fate your class is closed and there are no other available classes, do not feel completely discouraged. Some professors will allow students into their class even if the class is full, as long as the student asks nicely and there is extra space in the classroom. Other students may also change their minds and drop the class, leaving room for you.

Many times you have no control over these types of situations, but preparing for your registration date in advance can help avoid many issues and get you the classes you want.

The best way to make sure that you have the schedule you want that has the classes you need is to take the initiative and plan your schedule yourself. Advisors are useful because they can help us during this process and make sure we are making the right decisions; but because this is your life and the choices you make now could affect your future, you should be the one who determines how your schedule will turn out.

Useful Advising Links

Curriculum planning guides:

plymouth.edu/undergrad/curriculum/index.html

(These handy, one-page checklists, which coordinate to specific catalogue years, can help you keep track of which courses you have taken and which courses you still need to take.)

Course descriptions:

plymouth.edu/english/courses.html

(Often, a course title doesn't provide all the info you need to make a decision about whether or not to take it. All the English department course descriptions can be found at this link.)

Teacher certification information:

plymouth.edu/teachercertification/index.html

Discovering Passion Under The Arch: PSU English Majors Attend Sigma Tau Delta National Conference

By Jenn Streeter

Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honors society, has a chapter at Plymouth State University, and yearly a national conference is held at a different location. This year, St. Louis, MO was the location for the conference, held March 17-21 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel At The Arch, in the downtown district. This year, Sigma Tau Delta at PSU was excited to send three of its members, including myself, to the conference.

The conference is generally three days full of speakers, panels, and lectures on different aspects of English. It's also an opportunity for students to submit their creative and analytical pieces to Sigma Tau Delta, and if they are chosen they are able to present them at the conference. This year, one of our members who also attended the conference, Alexandra Cappello, was asked to present a poem of hers at the conference. Kimberly Paniagua also attended the conference. Kimberly commented on the conversations at the conference: "The conference was overall a great experience for me. I loved the panels where pedagogy was discussed, however I would have liked more professors or faculty to have led the discussions at them. I felt as though some of the discussions we had were continuation of the conversations we're having in our classrooms."

Every session was broken up into pedagogy, analytical pieces, or creative work, where students were able to speak about their experiences in a classroom or in writing their work. Each panel was broken up into hour or hour and a half sessions, and each had a moderator who helped facilitate the sessions. Every night an author gave a presentation or read some of their work to the group. We heard from authors like Li Young Lee and Judith Ortiz, who came to not only fill our minds with the power of good literature, but also to rejuvenate a love of literature in all of us.

The conference is an opportunity for chapters to meet other chapters and to find out about projects their STD groups are working on. It gives students the chance to connect with other English majors of like interest, and to show students how much passion exists in our field. Our chapter got very close with Oklahoma Baptist University, and not only got to hear about some of their fundraising opportunities with Better World Books but also had another outlet to talk about all aspects of English.

Next year's conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA at the Hilton.

English Honorary Society Sigma Tau Delta Initiates New Members

By Jenn Streeter

March 31, 2010 marked the 9th annual Sigma Tau Delta induction ceremony. Sigma Tau Delta, the international English Honors Society, has a chapter here at Plymouth State University: Alpha Kappa Pi, and this year was excited to induct eleven new members. The honors society expects its members to have at least a 3.25 GPA within the English major and to be declared for at least three semesters.

At the ceremony, students learn what Sigma Tau Delta stands for and then each take place in reading a piece of poetry or prose of their choosing. Both advisors Ann McClellan and Scott Coykendall were present as well as current members of STD. This year, they are happy to welcome into membership: William Barth, Angela Spirdione, Sarah Cootey, Alaina Granter, Bryan Funk, Benjamin Dizoglio, Carley Barton, Nathan Verry, Kristen Hoff-



Eternal on the Water, continued from page 1

story itself. Publishers Weekly notes that Monninger's "keen eye for nature, subtle incorporation of indigenous myths and use of symbolism make for a memorable story of love and courage." Susan Wiggs, author of New York Times best-seller *Just Breathe*, says this is a story of "a beautiful and searching exploration of the meaning of commitment and the majesty of nature, told in the strong, clear voice of a true believer."

Eternal on the Water is also a strong step for Monninger as an author. "This book is bigger in terms of the support behind it. It has been published in a different fashion than my previous books," Monninger says. While this does mean the book needs to sell at a level that surpasses his previous novels, with ads in the New York Times, copies of the novel in many airport bookstores, and strong reviews, Monninger should have very little to worry about.

As a teacher of writing here at PSU, Monninger is a favorite among many students. Con-

Sigma Tau Delta Inductions

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man, Jini Sparkman, and Rebecca Cressy. The group will be forming the 2010-2011 membership as the current members will be graduating. STD has been active this year in many fundraising events such as Pie Your Professors, book drives for Better World Books, and t-shirts for the English department, all to help raise money for an Alumni Event as well as to send members to the International Sigma Tau Delta Convention, this year held in St. Louis, MO.

STD was excited to announce that they received an Alumni Grant that they used to bring back alumni from PSU's English department to talk about their careers, the job market, and what exactly you can do with an English degree. Alumni also spoke on how to land a job with interview tactics, and what you can do to impress a potential employer. As the school year comes to a close, STD is excited to pass the torch to its new members to bring their love for literature and writing to the campus and community for years to come.

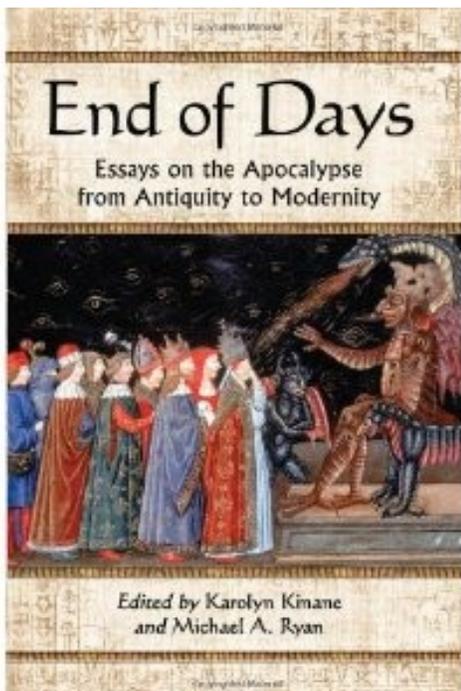
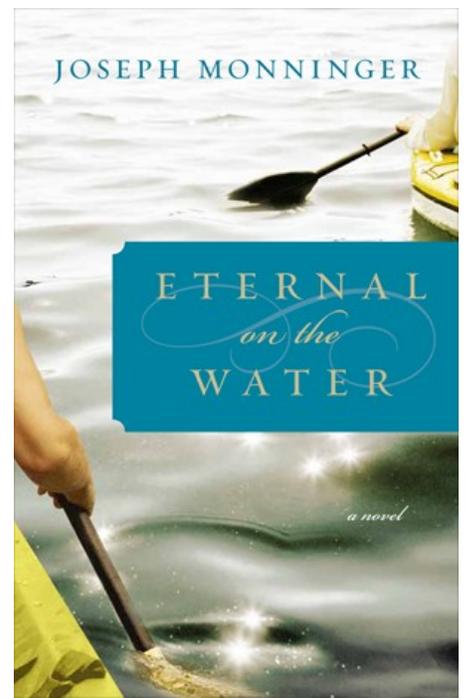
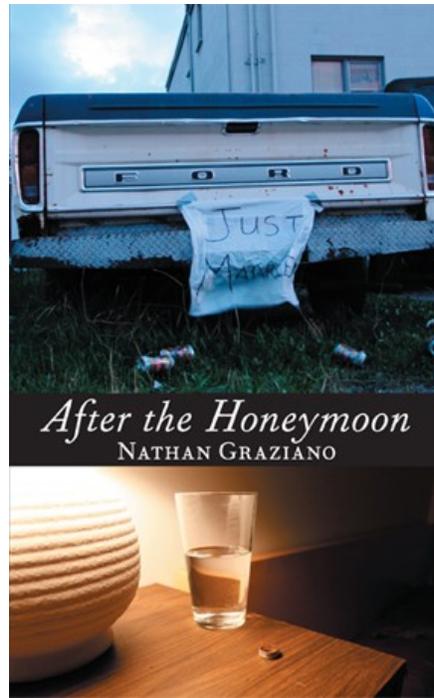
stantly pushing students to do their best, he knows the potential that lies within everyone. Many students look to Monninger for advice regarding their futures in writing. "I encourage students to send things out," Monninger says. "It's the difference of watching a Red Sox game and actually playing in one. Put the uniform on, stand in the batters' box, and you'll have an entirely different experience than hanging on the outside pretending someday you'll jump in and win the Triple Crown."

There's something for every person who reads this novel – tales of relationships, the nature of New England, bonds of love and courage, as well as the difficulties of making tough decisions. Take the journey with Fury and Cobb; this is a moving love story that is bound to stay with you long after your read it. Joe Monninger continues to make PSU proud with *Eternal on the Water*.



If you'd like to join this happy band of English Majors in Sigma Tau Delta, please contact one of their faculty advisors, Scott Coykendall or Ann McClellan, for more information.

Bookshelf: Recent Faculty and Alumni Publications



Right-click on the book-cover image to be taken to a page where you can learn more and buy a copy.

