

# THE CANON

FALL 2007

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## CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION! BY JULIA CHESLEY

The English majors of Plymouth State turned out in full force to celebrate their rights as determined by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Students from Contemporary British Literature and Advanced Composition wrote powerful essays, which were posted around campus for the student body to peruse. Dr. Liz Ahl had her Poetry Workshop write poems inspired by the First Amendment. Thematically similar, the poems produced had a wide and varied range of styles, tones, and formats. Many of the poems were posted with the essays on kiosks in front of the HUB, having graciously been given per-

mission by the members of the Sculpture class to do so. Wrapping up the Constitution Day festivities, several students from Professor Megan Birch's Teaching Literature in the Secondary Schools class read from books that have been banned

or challenged in recent years. Among the selected texts were passages from The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky, Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck, and The Giver by Lois Lowry. In an extension of Constitution day the students of the Poetry workshop distributed their poems via broadsheet on Tuesday. The students were assigned to public locations all around campus and were instructed to share their poetry. Many thanks are extended to English department professor Scott Coykendall for organizing the Constitution Day festivities at PSU!



Liz Ahl's Poetry Workshop class reading their Constitution Day poems.

## PSU ALUMNUS TO READ FROM NEW BOOK! BY CASSIE STONE

This fall Plymouth State University will welcome back alumnus Nate Graziano for a poetry reading in honor of his new book, Teaching Metaphors.

Graziano graduated from Plymouth State University in (year) and is currently teaching English at Pembroke Academy in Pembroke,

New Hampshire.

Teaching Metaphors is Graziano's sixth collection of poetry, and focuses on "the humanity of the modern high school." It is based on his experiences as a high school teacher.

The poetry reading will take place in The Frost Commons at

PSU on Tuesday, November 6, 2007 at 7pm. There will be books available for sale and signing.

To learn more about Nate's work, visit his website at [www.nathangraziano.com](http://www.nathangraziano.com)

## GETTING BACK TO MY ENGLISH ROOTS

### BY CASSIE STONE

In the essay that went along with my application to the University of Winchester I wrote that I wanted see the place where the writers I have been studying actually lived and worked. I wanted to gain a sense of history and culture in regards to the topic that I have devoted my college career to studying. When I spent last spring semester in Winchester, England, I gained knowledge about these scholastic topics, and about myself.

The University of Winchester is a sister school to Plymouth State University. All financial aid, including scholarships, transferred over.

The school is located in England's historical capital. Before London, there was Winchester. It is home to one of Europe's more famous cathedrals, old military barracks, the remains of a castle's Great Hall, and the fabled Round Table of King Arthur (who looks a lot like Henry VIII). This is the city from which King Alfred ruled, and it is a city that is proud of its history.

I was in Winchester to study, but the classes proved to be much easier than their American counterparts. Spending only eight hours a week in the classroom, I had a lot of time to explore the city

and make new friends. Not only was I able to form fast friendships with the girls who lived in the dorm with me, but I was also able to meet people from all over America. There were around forty American students there for the semester, and we all became a sort of family, helping each other feel closer to home when the ocean felt like it was just too wide.

We walked up and down the High Street, a pedestrian only area filled with shops and bakeries. We went to the infamous weekly dance called "BOP" in the student union building. With two bars in the student union building and a college full of students who had just reached the legal drinking age, it was quite an experience! At night we'd go to pubs and drink pints, fitting in with all of the English students, and forming our own groups of friends.

While my time in Winchester was incredible, there was a bigger draw to going during the spring semester. Students are given a month long break, for Easter Holiday. This was the selling point to me when I was researching the school. An entire month to travel Europe and see the world! I was especially lucky because I got to spend this semester with my boy-

friend, a theatre major who was equally interested in exploring "the Continent."

During our month break we tried to see as much as possible. We weren't worried about sleeping much, as long as we could see everything on our list! Our four week journey took us through as much of Europe as possible. We were able to tour The Globe, ride a boat on Loch Ness, and see Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower. We even got to ride a gondola in Venice, where my boyfriend became my fiancé, when he popped the question as we were rowed along by a gondolier!

Between the fun times in Winchester, the friends I made from all over England and America, and the month long European adventure, I experienced so many things in such a short span. I grew up, after taking care of myself in foreign countries for so long. I made friendships that will hopefully last for a long time. And I was able to see everything that I have always dreamed of seeing. For only a four month trip, my semester in England brought me back to my roots, in terms of literature studies, and in finding myself.



The High Street in Winchester, England



Some of the Americans of the University of Winchester



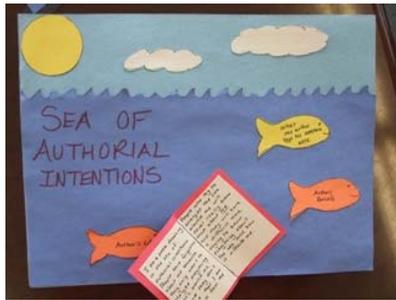
In our gondola in Venice, Italy

## A PICASSO OR A GARFUNKEL, FOR A FOUCAULT

BY MEREDITH BARRETT

Sculpture, comic strips, and color-by-number are not the media you expect to see in an English class. A course that dives into original texts on different schools of thought to better understand ways of analyzing literature usually results in essays and term papers.

But Robin DeRosa had different ideas for teaching Critical Theory. Last spring, her class used varying art forms to express understanding and representation of everything from Text-Based Reading to Marxism. I was lucky enough to be a part



“Sea of Authorial Intentions”  
by Brittany Brockner

of it, and I consider it one of the best classes of my career.

DeRosa got her inspiration while chairing a conference on literary theory pedagogy, “Rethinking the Theory Course.” After hearing of a collage assignment another participant described, DeRosa adapted this visual representation concept into a broader artistic expression.

“Because people learn in different ways, I wanted to make sure the course examined the reading material through a variety of pedagogical lenses, so the class was a mix of visual projects, lectures, discussions, and writing,” she explains.

At first hearing this, some students panicked. We became English majors for a reason. Now we had to be artists? But the assignments turned out to be simple and open.

We could create any type of art we chose each time we had to respond to a reading. The artwork simply had to express the ideas of the theory it related to. Some chose poetry, others sketched characters.

One student had a series of abstract pieces with a theme of colors and shapes. Another wrote a script for a skit that played out a real-life occurrence of the reading’s ideas. The artworks were varied and individualistic, but they all portrayed the same theories.

Each piece received a grade based on three factors: aesthetics, content, and a written “blurb” explaining the art. In light of this challenge, DeRosa comments “Students really had to understand the theory in order to translate it into a new medium; it wasn’t a question of just paraphrasing in different words.”

Largely in light of this unexpected format, I threw myself into the art projects. Exploring my artistic abilities and creativity became part of the challenge to each reading. We were all a little shaky at first, but it didn’t take long for us to start really thinking. We all got into it, especially with the perk of benefiting from each others’ insight. Looking back, DeRosa shares this appreciation.

“What I learned from teaching this class is that if the material is rigorous enough and the students are working at a sophisticated enough level, visual projects can add a new, complex dimension to class.”

Not too far into the semester, the idea spawned to share this myriad of analyses with the world. The notion grew from an exhibition for future Critical Theory students into a public web page displaying our pieces and blurbs.

We all worked hard to include introductions from the authors of each theory, and

found ways to get our sometimes complex and often three-dimensional art into a two-dimensional cyber format. We even included a sampling of the few essays we wrote for class.

One of the best parts of this experimental adventure came through in the ways we all worked together. The high level thinking and picking apart of tough ideas brought us close together as a class. The uncommon appearance of art in the classroom only heightened the fun. But I think the amount of connection shows in the words of our instructor:

“Finally, I just want to thank the students in that fabulous section of Critical Theory. They were trailblazers, guinea pigs, great sports, and brilliant colleagues. I thoroughly enjoyed that class!”

-Robin DeRosa

To view the work of these students visit their website at : <http://oz.plymouth.edu/~rderosa/TheoryExhibition/>



“Find the Female” by Audrey Gent

## WHAT'S HAPPENING? ALUMNI

### Scott Serano, 2007

Scott left his job as the Assistant Sports Editor at the Citizen of Laconia. He is now working at PA SportsTicker in Cheshire, Connecticut as the Auto Racing Editor.

### Carol McCarthy, 2005

Carol is currently working in book marketing and publicity at Revolution Booksellers in Exeter, NH. She is the senior projects manager for approximately 75 titles, two of which will appear on NH Chronicle in October. Carol helped to start the company two years ago and it is booming! On top of marketing, the company also distributes books to retail outlets nationwide. The authors there write everything from children's books to adult fiction and memoirs. The company is currently working with 9 new releases and attended the New England Independent Bookseller's tradeshow this fall. Carol is also planning a wedding to her high school sweetheart, Ryan Corbett. They will be married next fall.

### Ryan McLellan, 2006

Ryan is in his second year of teaching English at Timberlane Regional High School. He is also working hard with his poetry group, Blood on the Floor, as they prepare for the annual Jazzmouth

Poetry Festival. The festival takes place in April in Portsmouth, NH. They will be leading workshops and performing. He has also been making his way through the Seacoast and Manchester poetry reading circuit. He currently has his work in 12 publications, the most recent being "Poetry Revolt!" He recently won second place in a poetry slam to compete for a spot on the New Hampshire Slam Team. He joined the team for the "Win and You're In" event at the Cambridge, MA YMCA. This competition was to secure a spot for New Hampshire at the National Slam Competition in Madison, WI. Ryan's band, Triple

Corpse Horror, is preparing to perform shows in Manchester, NH.

### Laura LaVallee, 2001

Laura is taking a leave of absence from Sanborn Regional High School while she lives in Okinawa, Japan with her husband, and lieutenant in the Marines. She is hoping to teach while there, and is also working on writing a memoir.

### Sherri Potter, 1993

Sherri went on to receive her Master's of Science in Management degree in May of 2006 from Emmanuel College in Boston, MA. She is currently working as a Senior Business Analyst for Fidelity Investments in Boston, MA, in the Fidelity Technology Group.

### Jessica Dunn, 2006

Jessica is in her second year of teaching freshman English at Kennett High School in Conway, NH. She is enjoying the new building and the hiring of new, young teachers for her to work with! On September 30, 2006, she married Kevin Tilton. They are planning to honeymoon in Europe during February school vacation.

### Tara (Crowley) McKenzie, 1995

After teaching Special Education for 10 years, Tara is now working part time at Plymouth State University in the Alumni Development Office. She is the Call Center Coordinator. She has stayed in the area, living in Campton, NH, except for a four year stay in Rhode Island. There she received her Master's Degree from SCSU. She is married and has an eight year old daughter.

### Kathryn Cohn, 2007

Katy works at Kennet High School in Conway, NH. She is teaching two English II classes for sophomores. She also teaches American Literature to Juniors. Katy is also taking a class called "Write to Teach", which has been located in the area for many years. The class focuses on different ways to teach writing.

### Nancy Libby, 1988

Nancy works for the military at the Hanscom AFB chapel in Massachusetts. The chapel represents many faith groups, including Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Evangelical. She supports the mission in Iraq and prays for the troops to return safely home.

### Gypsey Teague, 1974

Gypsey Teague is the only male to female transsexual faculty member at a state university in South Carolina. She is the Branch Head of the Gunnin Architecture Library at Clemson University. Gypsey is also a member of the Women's Studies faculty and teaches transgender and gender issues in the capstone class once a year. She holds advanced degrees in Business Administration, Landscape Architecture, Regional and City Planning, and Library and Information Sciences. She is the author of three novels, the first; The Life and Deaths of Carter Falls, was an American Library Association Stonewall Book Award nominee in 2005 for fiction. Ms Teague is also the editor of The New Goddess: Transgender Women in the Twenty-First Century. Her three novels are available in Lamson Library.

### Alan Blake, 1993

Alan is currently the Director of Communications at NH Technical Institute in Concord. He earned an M.Ed. from Plymouth State, and has since 2000 has served as an adjunct faculty member at Plymouth State University, New Hampshire Technical Institute, and Granite State College. He is currently teaching Organizational Communications at Plymouth State and referees youth basketball.

### Brian Smith, 1997

Brian taught for three years before making a move to the Information Technology field. He worked in technical writing and made his way up to IT Project Management over the course of six years.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### ALUMNI

He also earned an MBA with a focus in Technology Management from the University of Phoenix and an Associate degree from the Community College of the United States Air Force in Aircraft Armament Systems. He is also a member of the Connecticut Air National Guard and was recently selected to become a Medical Administration Officer. Brian has worked with Central Connecticut State University, Foxwoods Casino, Mohegan Sun Casino, and is currently a corporate consultant with CIBER Inc. in Lexington, MA. He is planning to start work on a doctorate degree in several years.

#### Susan I. Gorackowski, 1997

Susan is in her sixth year at Philips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH. She works in the Communications Office as a Publications Assistant. She performs administrative duties as well as helping other office members with magazine and website articles and photos.

#### Shawn Murphy, 1988

Shawn W. Murphy is an Associate Professor of Journalism at State University of New York, College at Plattsburgh. This fall he became chairman of the Department of Journalism and Co-Director of the SUNY Plattsburgh Center

for Communication and Journalism. He is also Faculty Advisor to Cardinal Points, the student newspaper that is a Pacemaker Finalist. Murphy and his student-editors will find out if the Associated Collegiate Press awards the newspaper a Pacemaker, the collegiate equivalent of a Pulitzer prize, at the National College Media Convention Oct. 24-28, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

Who's  
that?

Can you figure out which  
English Department Faculty  
member this is?



## ADVISING NOTES

### WINTERIM COURSES

Three Advanced Study in Writing courses will be offered over Winterim:

**EN3090: Technical Communication** with Joe Mealey

**EN3100: Fiction Workshop** ONLINE with Joe Monninger

**EN3120: Advanced Composition** ONLINE with Lynne Rudmin-Chong

### NEW COURSE FOR SPRING 2008

**EN2210: Love and Desire in Medieval and Renaissance Writing** (*Introductory Course*)

With Professor Karolyn Kinane

Considers how men and women expressed love and desire in texts from ca. 1000-1700. Students examine love letters as well as the works of troubadours, poets, mystics, and homilists. Analyzes romance tropes (such as courtly love) as well as forms (such as the sonnet). Explores how cultural expectations shape the expression of love and desire. Springs.

Liz Ahl, Department Chair, will be on sabbatical in the Spring semester. Paul Rogalus, Assistant Chair, will be serving as Chair from the start of the semester until July 1. Robin DeRosa will be serving as Assistant Chair during this time.

## SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES FOR SPRING

**EN3750.01/CJ 3300.01: Criminal Law in Literature (Advanced Study in Literature)**

With Professor Arthur Fried

Literature provides a realistic context for the examination of the criminal and the law. With a focus on real lives, people and situations, critical thinking skills are utilized to discuss, dissect and analyze the impact of law on individuals and society. A multi-dimensional approach of intellectual, social and ethical concepts is used to explore underlying concepts, analyze assumptions and biases and be challenged to think from multiple perspectives. Spring of even years.

**EN3750.02: Special Topics: Extreme Fiction (Advanced Study in Literature)**

With Professor Bob Garlitz

What lies beyond magic realism? Georges Perec has written one answer called *A Void*. Amazon says it "is a metaphysical whodunit, a story chock-full of plots and subplots, of trails in pursuit of trails, all of which afford Perec occasion to display his virtuosity as a verbal magician, acrobat, and sad-eyed clown. It is also an outrageous verbal stunt: a 300-page novel that never once employs the letter E. *Time* called it "a daunting triumph of will pushing its way through imposing roadblocks to a magical country, an absurdist nirvana of humor, pathos, and loss." From here, we will look at other ways contemporary novelists try to make storytelling more like architecture, ("architexture,") more like split-frame binoculars, more like escherean tapestries, more like abstract paintings, more like . . . . And explore why such writers try to bend, push, subvert and puzzle anew all the conventional elements of storytelling. Other

(possible) writers: Jelinek, Marias, Bernhard, Beckett, Danielewski, Bolaño.

**EN2450: Prize Winners (Introductory Course)**

Professor Arthur Fried

In this class we will view a variety of films that have won Academy Awards for Best Picture, alternating with worthwhile films from the same years that failed to win, or even be considered for, Hollywood's top honor. We will read and discuss critical literature on both films. In the process of doing this, we will learn what constitutes a successful film according to the values of the movie business, and attempt to determine whether these values are likely to lead to the production of truly great films, or merely popular ones.

## LINGUISTICS CLASSES

Due to the transition of Linguistics from the English Department to the Department of Languages and Linguistics, as well as several program changes, there is sometimes some confusion as to what Linguistics courses English majors need to take. Here is some clarification:

### The Basics:

All English majors (starting with the 2006-2007 catalogue) need to take LL2000: Introduction to Language and Linguistics. Additionally, all Teacher Certification Option students must take LL3100: The History and Structure of the English Language.

Students who are working with older catalogues (2001-2005) are required by those catalogues to take courses which no longer exist. Here are the possible substitutions, for which you may fill out a Student Request Form:

### OLD COURSE

EN2810: The Study of Language

EN3770: Modern English Grammar

LL3814: Intro to English Linguistics

### ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE

LL2000: Intro to Language and Linguistics

LL3100: History & Structure of the English Language

LL3100: History & Structure of the English Language

*\*One special note: Writing Option Students in the 2004-2005 catalogue may take EITHER EN3130: Nonfiction Workshop OR LL3100: History and Structure of the English Language.*

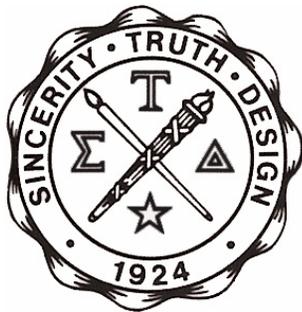
## GET INVOLVED! JOIN ONE OF THE CLUBS THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HAS TO OFFER

### SIGMA TAU DELTA

Sigma Tau Delta is the International English Honor Society. Sigma Tau Delta's central purpose is to confer distinction upon students of the English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies. Sigma Tau Delta also recognizes the accomplishments of professional writers who have contributed to the fields of language and literature. In order to qualify for admittance into this organization you have to uphold a 3.0 GPA and have successfully completed 3 semesters of college as an English major. If you are interested please contact

Ann McClellan at  
akmcclellan@plymouth.edu or

Meghan Plumpton at  
mtplumpton@plymouth.edu



### MESA

MESA stands for Mentoring Enhances Student Achievement. It is a student organization in the English Department that focuses on helping create a sense of community among students who are English majors at Plymouth State University. Students work on a variety of projects, including planning the annual Fall Social and Advising Night, implementing an online tutoring program through AIM, and is currently working on an after school program at Interlakes High School in Meredith, NH. This program will work with high school juniors and seniors who are struggling with the college application process. If you are interested please contact:

Joe Mealey at j\_mealey@plymouth.edu

### THE CLOCK

The Clock is the student run weekly newspaper full of information to enlighten and entertain those here at Plymouth State University. If you have any interests or concerns about campus life, write about it! The newspaper is always looking for new writers. Whether you want to write weekly or just one time, all are welcome. If you are interested please contact the Editor in Chief to be put in contact with the right person.

Samantha Kenney at  
slkenney@plymouth.edu

### POETS AND WRITERS

Plymouth Poets and Writers is an on-campus writing community that produces a literary magazine every semester called Centripetal. Centripetal is a student publication that includes the work of students and local artists. The group also holds Open Mics where anyone is welcome to come and read original pieces. Poets and Writers is open to all aspiring literary scholars. If you are interested please contact:

Paul Rogalus at paulr@plymouth.edu

Celeste Karpf at cskarpf@plymouth.edu

For Centripetal information contact:

Nicole Bailey at nbailey@plymouth.edu



**Editor:**

Cassie Stone

**Faculty Advisors:**

Dr. Liz Ahl

Scott Coykendall

**Staff Writers for this Issue:**

Julia Chesley

Meredith Barrett

Cassie Stone

**Mailing Address:**

MSC 40

Plymouth State University

17 High Street

Plymouth, NH 03264

**Email :**

[eahl@mail.plymouth.edu](mailto:eahl@mail.plymouth.edu)

[clstone@mail.plymouth.edu](mailto:clstone@mail.plymouth.edu)

## Important Dates

Advising Weeks	October 15-26, 2007
English Department Advising Night	October 18, 2007
Spring 2008 Registration Begins	October 29, 2007
Winterim Registration begins	November 1, 2007
Nate Graziano "Teaching Metaphors" poetry reading	November 6, 2007
Spring 2008 registration ends	November 8, 2007
Veteran's Day- no classes	November 12, 2007
Thanksgiving Recess	November 21-23, 2007
Reading Days	December 15-16, 2007
Fall 2007 Finals Week	December 17-21
UG Fall 2007 Grades available online	January 4, 2007