



Human life itself may be almost pure chaos, but the work of the artist is to take these handfuls of confusion and disparate things, things that seem to be irreconcilable, and put them together in a frame to give them some kind of shape and meaning.

—Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980)

A Valediction (*Mourning Forbidden. . .*)

Val-e-dic-tion: *from the Latin valedicere, to say farewell. A formal statement of leaving.* You can imagine what a bitter-sweet moment this is for my colleagues and me! On the one hand, we realize that we must say goodbye to many of you. On the other, we know that this is an occasion to take stock of all the wonderful times and great accomplishments we have shared this academic year. As you look over this semester's final (color!) issue of *Works Cited*, you will find a good sampling of some of our students' accomplishments: four outstanding graduates, two prize-winning fiction and poetry winners, the class valedictorian, and even a Chancellor's Award recipient are among those students of English we honor in this issue.

But this issue also gives us occasion to celebrate *all* our accomplishments as a department—our many creative writing readings and academic lectures held throughout the year, our great library exhibits on Banned Books and The Graphic Novel, and our wonderful Graduate Symposium on Holocaust Literature, to name just a few. And it's been a busy year for students and faculty writers as well: this year we saw several faculty works appear in print, as well as student writing in publications such as *Fresh Perspectives*, *The Stonestrow Review*, and *The Shawangunk Review*.

On behalf of all my colleagues, I say farewell and wish you a productive summer. Thanks for an excellent year!

—Thomas Olsen, Chair



Members of Professor Uchmanowicz's Graphic Novels class, preparing for their library display

Commencements

- Graduate ceremony, Friday, May 16, 6-7:30 p.m., Wellness Center
- Undergraduate ceremony, Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Old Main Quad



English faculty assembled for a departmental retreat on May 8

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Monica Ayres Wins a SUNY Chancellor's Award

Approximately 250 students from the SUNY/CUNY/NYS college system (of over 400,000 students) were awarded the Chancellor's Award for academic excellence and leadership. I was chosen along with five other New Paltz students. I won the award for being on the dean's list each semester (with a cumulative GPA of 3.65), as well as being a member of FYI and a senior resident mentor for the same program. I have served as secretary for Esopus Hall Government, spent a semester abroad, and worked as staff writer, copy editor, arts and entertainment editor, and managing editor for the *Oracle*. I also had an internship and am now an editorial assistant at the indie music magazine *The Big Takeover*. Other winners



have been on successful science research teams, carried four or more majors, raised thousands of dollars for charity, or even published books. I'm an English major/creative writing minor, so I guess I just like to write stories!

The award was a huge honor. The ceremony was on April 7 at the Convention Center at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. The other winners from New Paltz were Tara Sestanovich, Meg Hudson, Taiwo Osinowo, Rich Winters and Katie Becofsky. We were each nominated by a faculty member and then Vice President

Rooney chose a handful of us to be sent to the state level, where the Chancellor for the SUNY system chose us.

—Monica Ayres

Professors' Pet Peeves

In honor of the end of the semester, this *Works Cited* features some of the errors that most plague your English professors. Read closely: you might recognize a habit of your own!

- ◆ Only use the words *positive* and *negative* when referring to electromagnetic phenomena. —Bob Waugh
- ◆ Avoid using emphasis words such as *very*, *totally*, and, the worst, *extremely*. They add an informality and imprecision to our writing. Oftentimes, we also use such words when we don't want to develop our ideas more thoroughly, thinking that if we add special emphasis our reader will just understand that what we're saying is "extremely" important. —Cyrus Mulready
- ◆ Do not bold, italicize, underline, or otherwise format your paper titles. —Mary Fakler
- ◆ Don't use *relay* to mean *convey*—an interesting, frustrating new mis-usage! —Tom Olsen
- ◆ Do not simply repeat your thesis in your conclusion, without extending your ideas and adding implications of them to reinforce the thesis. —Jan Schmidt
- ◆ Learn the difference between *than* and *then*. —Larry Carr
- ◆ Confusing *its* and *it's* is the silliest, most annoying, and most common error I see. And yet this is not a hard habit to break: 1. Learn your apostrophe rules (possessive pronouns never get apostrophes!). 2. Pay attention when using an apostrophe. 3. Proofread. —Mary Holland
- ◆ Some pet peeves: use of the word *so* as an intensifier (especially in creative writing); use, ever, of the word *definitely* (note spelling!); any variation of "In my own personal opinion I believe" (which is multiply redundant, as well as unnecessary). —Dennis Doherty
- ◆ When a person must write an essay their are to many things they must think about, if they do not there grade will suffer. —Penny Freel

(Can you find SEVEN errors in this excessively peevish sentence:?)

Reflections from Outstanding Graduates



The English language is huge, multivariate, and frustratingly disorganized; it follows its historically imperialist culture by borrowing from myriad languages, and its American extension obeys this tradition by offering its own ideals to international consumers through an industrial black hole at the center of its entertainment machine: a frightening specter for those of us who despair that our nation's best art has been confined to tight circles of under-funded artists and academics, while entertainers and their savvy masters churn out empty excitement and titillation by rote, gaining acclaim anent attendant revenues.

But I am blessed to sing that the stories I heard in the Hudson Valley helped me escape the nightmare of history by revealing the portal to freedom: a perpetual tunnel whose ultimate brilliance lights its constricting walls—oiled slopes that beckon some hero to explore new terrain and regain the venerated status once upheld by fatherly classics that demand emulation.

—Evan Hunerberg, Valedictorian

The lessons that I have learned at New Paltz from the surrounding beauty of nature, the diversity of the town and campus, and from the many great English professors I studied with have taught me so much about myself as well. I was only at New Paltz for four years out of almost twenty-two, but these are lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

—Jenny Binnie, Outstanding Undergraduate Student



I always knew in my heart of hearts that I was a closeted English major. After taking Chris Link's Bible class my first semester at New Paltz, I was officially hooked. I have found myself genuinely challenged and excited by all of the English courses I have had the pleasure to attend. As an English major, I was introduced not only to fascinating courses, but also to the amazing creative energy exuded by all of my professors. Whether I was in the classroom or at a poetry reading, my professors showed such devotion to learning, to literature, to art and to teach and every one of their students. Thanks to the English Department, I leave New Paltz with an enhanced respect for literature and a sincere love for the art of literary creation.

—Elizabeth Guzman, Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Three years ago I transferred to New Paltz to pursue an English Arts education. I have since had the privilege of studying under a number of truly remarkable educators. With their guidance and encouragement I have pursued a passion and developed my critical eye. I began in medias res and I leave with much left to do.

—Jeremy Lynch, Outstanding Undergraduate Student



Graduate Student Honors

Spending the past two years studying in the English department at SUNY New Paltz has consistently challenged my mind. I have learned how to further existing knowledge as well as how to gain new insight into unfamiliar areas. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the professors in the department, as well as for the chance to have participated in the Spring 2008 Graduate Symposium. It has been a wonderful experience. I am looking forward to beginning my work in the MAT program next fall.

—Stacy Dore, Outstanding Graduate Student



Mert Sanivar, a graduate student from Adana, Turkey, was elected as the graduate representative for a two-year position on the Board of Directors of the National Association For Ethnic Studies (NAES). His conference paper for the NAES conference in 2007, in fact, is what spurred his interest in graduate studies in English here, since our campus hosted that conference. Mert's first encounter with NAES was in his native Turkey, at the first international conference of NAES held in Bogazici University, Istanbul, where he also became a member of this non-profit academic organization.

Tomaselli Awards for Poetry



The annual Vincent Tomaselli Awards for Creative Writing were announced at a lively event on May 1. Naomi Lore (right) took the poetry prize for "Deep Inside Your Country" and other works. Becky Goldberg (left) won the fiction award for her short story "Restless in Peace." The panel of judges commended both writers as promising new talents.



Faculty Summer Projects

To be sure, professors' work does not end with the marking of final exams. Over the summer, our faculty will turn their minds to a wide range of exciting academic projects through which they will share their ideas, broaden and deepen their thinking about their fields, and then bring this enrichment to bear upon the classes they prepare for the fall semester.

Many of our faculty members will be working on pieces for publication, both critical and creative. Jan Schmidt plans to finish and revise an article about second-generation women's Holocaust memoirs, as well as write some poetry. Returning to his "long-lost" novel *SUBIC*, Dennis Doherty plans to do much "slashing and revising." Bob Waugh will be working on an essay about H. P. Lovecraft's story "The Hound," which will be a chapter in his next book on Lovecraft; he will also work on a new chapbook of poetry. After finishing an article on writer A. M. Homes, Mary Holland will draft the final chapter and introduction to her book on humanism in

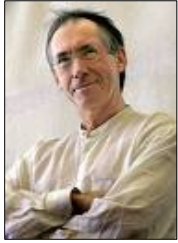
contemporary American fiction. And Mary Fakler will continue writing about the World War II Japanese internment camps, visiting a town in New Jersey and a university in Connecticut to research archival material.

Also traveling for research will be Heather Hewett, who, through an award from the Office of Academic Affairs, will be going to San Francisco to research uses of visual imagery in museum depictions of the African diaspora. Heinz Insu Fenkl will be lecturing at the Smithsonian in June, comparing the Korean anime of *Empress Chung* with Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; he'll also continue working on translations of two Korean texts, a classic and a graphic novel.

Of course, you can also find our faculty members out and about, enjoying the summer with friends and family. Whether hiking, biking, swimming, running, or camping, our faculty look forward to reveling in our beautiful region and storing up sunshine for the long winter ahead. Wave hello as you pass us on the Rail Trail!



Authors' Birthdays in May



8 Thomas Pynchon

Randall Jarrell 6	25 Ralph Waldo Emerson
Pat Barker 8	27 John Cheever
Richard Adams 9	27 John Barth
Katherine Anne Porter 15	29 T. H. White
Bertrand Russell 18	31 Elizabeth Coatsworth
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 22	31 Walt Whitman



Margaret Wise Brown 23

Goodbyes and Next Steps

No way! I'm not really about to graduate, am I? It seems like such a long time ago that I first came to New Paltz. I had Professor Hack—the perfect ambassador for anybody who remembers—and I thought it was so cool how many events the English Department had. That's definitely been my favorite part, seeing my professors and my peers getting excited about what they're reading and sharing it. A lot of great stuff has happened since then, including teaching a class of



my own, standing on the stage with the cast of *King Lear*, and working with professors who deliver semester after semester. I'd like to thank those professors whom I've worked closely with and learned so much from. I'm sure it'll all come in handy when I'm teaching English in Japan next year. And for all of the current English students: never let anyone say you can't get a job as an English major. Skilled writers are a rarity that's always in demand. —Jason Letts

This summer I plan to intern at Bear Mountain State Park. I will be archiving and sorting old letters and photographs; many that have not been touched since the 1940s! The ultimate goal of the internship is to come up with a narrative of the history of the park and the region. Many people do not realize how historically rich the park and the region as a whole really are! I am especially excited about this internship because it will allow me to exercise skills gained in both of my majors, English and History, and hopefully give me an idea of what I ultimately want to do with my degree. —Sarah Serio



Students and faculty gather for the Celebration of Writing on April 24.

With WORD PLAY, It's OK to Eat Your Words

At a student reception during last fall's external review of the department, several English majors wished for a larger student-based literary presence on campus. Two of these students, Shana Krisloff and Chrissy Corrigan, formed **Word Play** this past January. Open to all New Paltz students interested in writing, the group meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. at the Honors Center to work from varied and often random writing prompts (like describing a jelly bean without using taste), and to bounce writerly ideas off each another. Word Play's plans for next academic year include community events, workshops and

readings featuring students and established writers, and field trips to soak up New York's literary scene—as well as introducing a column here in *Works Cited* to highlight the creative work of your fellow English majors. Perhaps they will even sell more letter-shaped cookies, as they did at our recent "Read Your Favorite Poem Night." Check out the "New Paltz Word Play" group on Facebook, and e-mail them at np.wordplay@gmail.com.



Kudos to English Department Graduates!

Undergraduate

Patricia Andersen
 Monica Ayres
 Lorraine Beaudette
 Denise Berryann
 Jennifer Binnie
 Barbara Bitjeman
 Lena Boccio
 Annalisa Bond
 Jenna Bostock
 Gilbert Brink
 Evan Brown
 Michelle Buzzard
 Jessica Cauttero
 Mary Cichetti
 Lisa Coffey
 Paul D'Amore
 Lisa Dellaporte
 Katlyn Demayo
 Cara Denisar
 Antonio Derosa
 Nicole Dibiasse
 Jenna Diperna
 Thomas Doran
 Meaghan Doss
 Billie Dunn
 Brenna Enright
 Luis Fernandez
 Allison Ferner
 Nicole Gaebel
 Rachel Gande
 Alyssa Gibson
 Samuel Glass
 Becky Goldberg

Joshua Gorfein
 Gabrielle Grilli
 Elizabeth Guzman
 Robert Hallock
 Emily Halsbond
 Jason Hartley
 Lisa Hinh
 Adrienne Honeycutt
 Evan Hunerberg
 David Hurst
 Abriana Jette
 Christopher Johannesen
 Rachel Kammer
 Daniel Koch
 Renee Lane
 Katie Larson
 Gerri Lawrence
 Alexander Lewis
 Jodi Lewis
 Stephanie Light
 Brian Lowe
 Jeremy Lynch
 Paula Marcotte
 Siobhan McBride
 Brian McCarthy
 Samantha McKnight
 Rachel Modell
 Cindy Murillo
 Margaret Naylor
 Rebecca Nelson
 Nadra Nembhard
 Shonet Newton
 Matthew Nuzzi

Catherine O'Callaghan
 Theresa O'Connor
 Patricia O'Leary
 Steven Page
 Christopher Peterson
 Andrea Petrullo
 Krysten Pollard
 Stephanie Potts
 Page Raldiris
 Audrey Ranalli
 Daniela Rapisardi
 Allison Reidy
 Katie Romeo
 Jared Rueckert
 Autumn Saleski
 Susan Scrobe
 Renee Serota
 Jennifer Sherman
 Jamie Silverman
 Darren Sinnott
 Lena Soldner
 Laurie St. Germain
 Colleen Stock
 Chris Tansey
 Kerry Tartell
 Chipp Terwilliger
 Cassandra Thomas
 Sherrie Torres
 Courtney Tremarzo
 Adam Updyke
 Krystal Weeden
 Kenneth Whalen
 Nina Yeh

Graduate

Bonnie Ampel
 Jarney Bazes
 Gregory Bornstein
 Ann-Marie Carmody
 Christopher Cimino
 Michele Cooper
 Jordan Courselle
 David Demar
 Stacy Dore
 Lacey Dunphy
 Amy Feldman
 Barbara Fiore
 Joshua Gran
 Janice Holzman
 Kristine Jackson
 Rebecca Lazzaro
 Jason Letts
 Jillian Martarano
 Sarah Mason
 Joseph Miggins
 Erin Murphy
 Lisa Natoli
 Stacey Petzoldt
 Jacklyn Porr
 Paula Rittmiller-Sirc
 Brian Rubin
 Karen Samuelsen-Grimm
 Gernilee Schombs
 Brendan Schweda
 Tod Westlake
 Nicholas Wright
 Nathaniel Zacek
 Stephanie Zuk

Footnotes

1. Still looking for an internship? Contact Beth King at x3278, or kingb@newpaltz.edu.
2. Sojourner Truth Library's intersession hours will be Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. During summer sessions, regular hours apply.
3. The first day of classes of the fall semester is Monday, **August 25**. Residence halls open at 10 a.m. August 23.
4. Are you graduating in 2008? Graduation applications are available in the Records and Registration Office. Meet all deadlines!

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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.

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Submission deadline: August 18