



No one can possibly know what is about to happen: it is happening, each time, for the first time, for the only time.

—James Baldwin (1924-1987)

A Warm Welcome

Whether you are a returning student of English, a new transfer, new to the major, or even a major in another discipline who is just checking out an English course, I would like to welcome you to campus. I hope that your summer was great and that this academic year turns out to be your best one ever.

At the top of my list of exciting changes in the English Department is the addition of five wonderful new tenure-line faculty members and three new temporary Lecturers. Joining us this autumn are Professors Jackie George (Romanticism), Jed Mayer (the Victorian period), Matthew Newcomb (Composition and Rhetoric), Vicki Tromanhauser (Twentieth Century and general literary studies), and Michelle Woods (European literature and general literary studies). You can read profiles of Dr. George and Dr. Mayer in this issue of

tion classes, while Dr. Erin Newcomb will be teaching American Literature I and Composition I for the English Department and a section of Women, Images, and Reality for the Women's Studies program.

As the article on page 4 describes, we are also offering a record number of modular courses this semester. If you are looking for an additional credit or two, or simply want to round out your studies by exploring some new area, you should consider signing up for one or more of these great offerings.

And speaking of signing up, as of press time there were still seats left in a few sections of English courses. If you need to adjust your schedule, make sure to add any additional courses as soon as possible: not only will you avoid the disappointment of being closed out, but you will save yourself some hard-earned cash by adding before the Late Registration/Add deadline on September 7.

Finally, check out our revised and updated departmental WWW site and as always, be sure to stay abreast of deadlines and meet regularly with your advisor to stay on top of your progress. I know that everyone in the English Department joins me in wishing you an excellent start to the school year and all the best in your classes.

—Thomas G. Olsen, Chair of English

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Works Cited; articles on Professors Tromanhauser and Woods appeared in these pages last spring (the issues are archived on the departmental website), and a profile of Dr. Newcomb will be included in the next issue.

This year we are also delighted to welcome three temporary Lecturers to our department to help us cope with a record number of classes. Kathena De-Grassi and John Langan will be teaching a combination of literature and composi-

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, September 17: "The Changing Image of Education at New Paltz, 1828-2008."
- Saturday, November 1: The Graduate Comprehensive Examination

New Faculty Introduction: Professor Jed Mayer

Not usually a contest winner, Jed Mayer would nevertheless win the prize for furthest distance travelled to come to New Paltz, if we had such a prize. Jed comes to us from his previous post at the University of Canterbury, in Christchurch, New Zealand. Surrounded by sheep for the last five years, Jed became increasingly conscious of the roles played by animals in cultural and economic life, and his research has come to emphasize changes in the way non-human animals are perceived and used by humans (the other kind of animal). Professor Mayer's primary field of study is Victorian literature and culture, which he reads as providing abundant evidence of a period when people began to consider animals in fundamentally new ways. The Darwinian revolution is of course an important part of this, and many of his new courses will be linked to SUNY-New Paltz's Evolutionary Studies minor program.

Before making the trek to New Zealand, Jed received his Ph.D. from Washington University



in Saint Louis. Delving further into his files, we find that he received his B.A. from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, where he also played in several rock bands and worked as a condescending record store clerk, ignoring customers and making top ten lists.

The more Jed studies animals, the less he feels like eating them, so think twice before inviting him over for dinner: yes, reader, he's vegetarian. Puzzled at first as to why many Victorian animal welfare advocates like Christina Rossetti, Charles Dickens, and Lewis Carroll were not also vegetarians, Jed has come to learn of the tremendous innovations in fake meat production in our present enlightened age, regarding all previous eras as B.T. (Before Tofu). When not sending back food, Jed plays cello, reads old comic strips, and listens to a wide range of music. His embarrassed enjoyment of children's literature and science fiction will be somewhat legitimized when he soon begins teaching courses in these areas for our English Department.

Writing Tip: OUTLINING

The beginning of a new academic year is a great time to pick up new and beneficial habits. This semester, your English professors suggest you consider adding—or recommitting—to your arsenal of writing tools the humble, much-maligned outline. An outline does NOT have to be sophisticated or involve Roman numerals and picky rules. It only needs to show levels of ideas and the order in which you will write about them.

The time you invest in outlining your ideas will be more than made up by a cleaner first draft that requires less significant revision.

BEFORE writing:

1. List all the points you want to make.
2. Group them according to relationships between them.
3. Decide which ideas are major vs. minor, main vs. sub topics.
4. Decide the order in which you want to cover the main topics.
5. Indicate logical connections/transitions between them.

DURING writing: Outline what you have written so far when you are stuck, or to make sure you are staying on topic.

ESSAY EXAMS: Taking five minutes to outline, roughly, the argument and/or points you want to make will pay off by resulting in a superior final essay.

Friendly Faces in the English Department

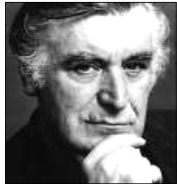
The English Department is very fortunate to have two wonderful colleagues who help keep the department running. Ethel Wesdorp (left) joined the English Department in 2001, serving first as secretary to the Composition Program, and since 2004 as the departmental secretary. If you need to make an appointment with the chair or deputy chair, get information about English Department events, track down major plans or other forms, or get other information, Ethel can usually point you in the right direction. Look for her in JFT 714.



Joann Deiducibus (right) is a graduate of our M.A. program and a former Teaching Assistant. She joined the department last fall as the assistant to the Composition Coordinator, Professor Pauline Uchmanowicz. Joann helps to administer the huge Composition program, including classes, guest lectures, retreats, and other programs. Her office is in JFT 702. This fall Joann will also be teaching a section of Composition I, as well as the 1-credit modular course Understanding Poetry (see the separate article on page 4).



Authors' Birthdays in August



Ted Hughes 17

Herman Melville 1
James Baldwin 2
Percy Shelley 4
Alfred Lord Tennyson 6
John Dryden 9
Jonathan Franzen 17
17 V. S. Naipaul
22 Dorothy Parker
24 Orson Scott Card
24 A. S. Byatt
28 Johann Goethe
28 Leo Tolstoy



Mary Shelley 30

New Faculty Introduction: Professor Jackie George

Professor Jackie George fell in love with British Romantic literature in an unlikely place: Oxford, Ohio, where she was a student at Miami University. There, amidst the quiet, flat, and perpetually brown outskirts of southwestern Ohio, she encountered poetry and prose that spoke of sublime mountains, picturesque landscapes, and radical ideas about the meaning of life. Faster than you can say, “beauty is truth, truth beauty,” she was sold.

As Professor George begins work as SUNY New Paltz’s new assistant professor of Romantic literature, she looks forward to teaching at a campus surrounded by the kind of natural splendor to which many Romantic works refer. She has already enjoyed hiking, rock scrambling, and living under the gaze of the Gunks.

Moving to New Paltz has been a homecoming of sorts for Professor George. Having grown up in northeastern New Jersey, she remembers many family trips to the Hudson Valley, including



weekend visits to West Point. As the only child of an avid football fan, she learned to say, “go Army, beat Navy” at an early age.

After attending high school outside Cincinnati, Professor George completed her undergraduate degree in English and Women’s Studies at Miami. After a year of working outside of academia, she realized that there is no place she’d rather be than in an English class, and she enrolled in graduate school at the University of Michigan. There, she became mildly obsessed with Big Ten athletics, especially football. In the off-season, she and her husband enjoyed attending a variety of cultural events in Ann Arbor, such as performances by Yo-Yo Ma, Wilco, and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

When not shouting “go Blue,” Professor George enjoys practicing yoga, meticulously ordering her Netflix queue, and playing with her three-year-old son Ethan.



Modular Courses: A Fun Way to Round Out Your Semester!

This autumn the English Department is offering a total of four 1-credit modular courses. Each course meets for three hours, once per week for just five weeks, but the meeting days are staggered in such a way that students could theoretically take all four! The perennially popular course “Understanding Poetry” will meet on Monday evenings 6:00-8:40 p.m. starting on October 6. It will be organized by Joann Dejudicibus, department administrative assistant and practicing poet. The course will also include guest appearances by English faculty members. Starting September 4, “Contemporary Asian Film” will meet Thursdays between 6:00 and 8:40, taught by creative writing and Asian literature specialist Heinz Insu Fenkl. As the course title implies, the class will feature a range of films from contemporary Asia, most of which you will not find in mainstream cinemas.

And two new courses will also be added this semester. On Wednesdays from 7:25 to 10:05 starting October 15, Mark Bellomo, Director of the Writing Center, will offer “Writing for Publishing.” A prolific published writer himself, Bellomo will also be calling in the assistance of several campus experts for the course. Finally, Goretta Benca will be offering “Research Methods” on Tuesday afternoons from 3:05-5:45, starting September 2. This very useful course is designed to acquaint students across the Liberal Arts and Sciences disciplines with the basic research methods and stylistic conventions of the humanities and social sciences. It is recommended for all students.

All modular courses are graded pass-fail and are aimed at a wide audience: beginners and non-specialists will feel welcome in all these courses!

Around the Department

The Changing Image of Education at New Paltz

Professor Emeritus of Art History William B. Rhoads will deliver the second annual Dennis O’Keefe Memorial Lecture on **Wednesday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m.** in LC 108. His illustrated talk is bound to be of interest to New Paltz students and faculty alike: “The Changing Image of Education at New Paltz, 1828-2008.” The lecture series is dedicated to the memory of longtime librarian, man around campus, and friend to many, Dennis O’Keefe (?73).

Graduate Students: Take Note

The date for the autumn Comprehensive Examination has been set: **Saturday, November 1**. Make sure to mark your calendars now. Professor Kempton e-mailed directions for downloading an overview document and sample questions to all registered graduate students. Please contact him at 257-2728 or kemp-tond@newpaltz.edu if you did not receive these instructions. He can also help you to join a study group.

Footnotes

1. **At press time, the following courses were still available for enrollment:**
undergraduate: ENG 160, 206, 210, 211, 226, 230, 299, 302, 307, 308, 345, 385, 393, 399, 407, 417, 419, 436, 452
graduate: ENG 507, 524, 577, 593
2. Don’t forget that the no-fee **add/drop period ends on August 31**.
3. Fall 2008 registration ends on **September 12**.

Works Cited is published approximately four times per semester by the

English Department
 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,
 E-mail workscited@newpaltz.edu
 or leave a message in JFT 714.

Next issue: September 29
 Submission deadline: September 22