



"I must keep to my own style & go on in my own Way;
And though I may never succeed again in that, I am con-
vinced that I should totally fail in any other."

—Jane Austen

PREREGISTRATION AND NEW DEPARTMENT SITE

We are at the midpoint of one semester, and that means it is time to prepare for the next. Registration for Summer and Fall classes begins shortly (April 11), so make sure you are ready! Much of what you need can be found on your my.newpaltz.edu page. Navigating from the Student Services tab will allow you to find your time assignment, your advisor (s), and unofficial transcripts, as well as GE requirements and a planning tool. The Summer 2011 sessions run from May 25-August 9: Summer I from May 25-June 29, and Summer II from July 6-August 9.

New expanded course descriptions are up and viewable for the Summer session, and faculty are now submitting their descriptions for their Fall classes; check the department website, blog, and Facebook for links to the updated files. The Fall descriptions should be available shortly.

"Day by day make it new / cut underbrush, / pile the logs / keep it growing." So writes Ezra Pound in "Canto 53." The English Department is excited for the reveal of our shiny new department website, slated to roll out this spring. It has been a long process of collaboration, with many conversations and meetings

along the way, but ultimately faculty, current and future students will reap the benefits of a more organized, dynamic, aesthetically pleasing, and useful site. The web committee has given a great deal of thought to what students and faculty need and want, and have tailored the design around those ideas. Some changes include reorganized menus which will be clearer and easier to navigate. The information presented will be current and updated regularly, including lists of upcoming

events. The Composition Program will have their own linked site, also much expanded and refined.

Site viewers will be able to access current and archived issues of *Works Cited* as well as links to

other department publications, like *Shawangunk Review* and *Stonesthrow Review*.

The new faculty page will have updated photos of professors, along with their current office hours, information about their courses, and links to their own sites. Faculty will now have the option of their own customizable Wordpress pages.

Updates on the process and the roll-out will be available in upcoming issues of *Works Cited*, on the English Department blog, and Facebook page. Check back for more information!



Faculty Profile: Bob Singleton

It would be difficult to find a professor at New Paltz with the same ties to the Hudson Valley as Adjunct Professor Bob Singleton has. After attending high school in Poughkeepsie and spending a few years at Dutchess Community College, he arrived at New Paltz in 1972. He obtained his B.A. two years later, and after a decade of working construction in Poughkeepsie, he returned to New Paltz for his Masters and began teaching in the Composition Program.

While the Hudson Valley has been home for most of his life, he has lived in California, New York City, and even Paris. He returned to the area for good in 1995 and has been teaching at New Paltz ever since.

Singleton considers himself a down-to-earth professor, but there is no mistaking his passion for poetry and history. Over his desk at home is

the quote “poetry is history moving through the blood tree of the body.” A slice of wisdom from his favorite poet Joy Harjo, this line could be viewed as his mission statement for poetry. As a poet and a professor, his goal is to merge history with literature, an ambition reflected by his favorite work, *Let us Now Praise Famous Men* by James Agee.



As passionate as he is about Native American rights and literature, he has an equal fascination with the Civil War and the narrative behind it. He is a member of the Center for Civil War Photography, and takes frequent trips

to historic battlefields (see photo: Gettysburg).

Singleton has two grandkids, Jessica and Andrew, whom he adores more than anything in the world. His sister, who has been struggling with terminal cancer, is also an undeniable source of inspiration.

Otherwise Caffeinated

Like many other great ideas in the past, the inspiration for the new student-run literary e-zine sprung from rejection. When student KC Kirkpatrick’s short story was passed over by a literary magazine with a note from the editor claiming “this would never have happened,” he could do little but laugh. He laughed in part because the events of his story were actually true, but also from his recognition of the unpleasant and bitter side of literary publication.

“That’s when I thought that writing had become a chore,” explains the author-turned-editor, “It wasn’t fun because even when it was a real story, apparently under someone else’s eyes, it was improbable and hence without merit.”

This experience laid the framework for a new kind of literary publication. Partnering up with creative-writing classmate Toni Odell, the pair set

to work on *Otherwise Caffeinated*, a creative writing e-zine which sets itself apart from traditional literary periodicals through its emphasis on fostering a community open to writers of all skill levels.



Otherwisecaffeinated.com went live in March, and will be publishing new material every month.

Despite graduation looming around the corner, KC and Toni intend to continue this project well into the future. Above all, the two want to enjoy the process as a constant challenge to their creative faculties:

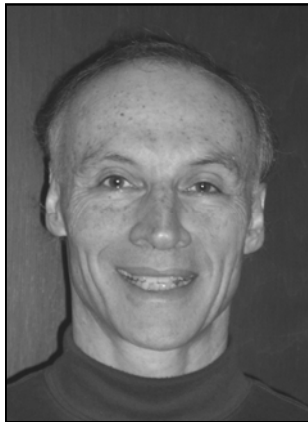
“We want to take this endeavor and always come up with new ideas so we do not remain static and turn people off with boredom.”

Students interested in submitting work should email Toni and KC at **otherwisecaffeinated@gmail.com**. And don’t forget to spread the word by “liking” them on Facebook.

Two-day Graduate Symposium on April 29, 30

This year's Graduate Symposium on April 29 and 30 is entitled "Global Identities and Literary Encounters." Papers will explore "the impact of globalization, commerce, communication, and the interpenetration of cultures on identity formation [and] how global expansion and cultural encounters have fueled literary and artistic representations over time."

The keynote speaker this year will be Cornell University's Walter Cohen, Professor of Comparative Literature and former chair of that department. He has published *Drama of a Nation: Public Theater in Renaissance England and Spain* as



well as numerous articles on Renaissance literature, literary criticism, and the history of the novel. He is one of four editors of *The Norton Shakespeare* (2nd ed. 2008) and is currently completing a critical study entitled *European Literature* (under contract with Princeton University Press), on the history of European literature in relation to the non-European world. The keynote will be on Friday afternoon, and students Liz Bonhag, Andrew Brusco, Jeff Canino, Lee Conell, Jennifer Gutman, Selena Hughes, and Sarah

Hurd will present on Saturday morning. Look for details on the department blog and Facebook.

Writer James Prosek on Campus April 25

On April 25, the English Department is offering an afternoon writing workshop for students, tied to the Evolutionary Studies Program's 5:30 p.m. lecture by James Prosek, titled "Eels, and Naming Nature."

Mr. Prosek is the author of *Eels: An Exploration, From New Zealand to the Sargasso, of the World's Most Amazing and Mysterious Fish; Bird, Butterfly, Eel*; and the young adult book *The Day My Mother Left*. An accomplished visual artist, travel writer, nature writer, creative non-fiction writer, naturalist, and musician, Prosek published his first book, *Trout: An Illustrated History*, featuring seventy of his watercolor paintings of the trout of North America, when he was a junior at Yale University.

Since then he has shown his work in galleries and museums throughout the United States and abroad, including upcoming shows in Monaco and Philadelphia. He has written for the *New York Times* and *National Geographic*, and in 2003 won a Peabody Award for his documentary about traveling through England in the footsteps



of Izaak Walton, the seventeenth-century author of *The Compleat Angler*, to this day a virtual bible for fishing enthusiasts. Prosek is also a curatorial affiliate of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale, and a member of the board of the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies. Further information on the author is available at his official website, jamesprosek.com.

Prosek's lecture for the interdisciplinary Evolutionary Studies Program will spring from his newest project—appropriately, an interdisciplinary study concerning the naming of nature. The lecture is free and open to the public. It will be held 5:30-6:30 p.m. in LC 102.

Readers, authors, and nature lovers of all majors and interests are invited to meet (and meet with) James Prosek earlier in the day: he will lead a student-only writing workshop starting at 2:30 p.m. in JFT 1010. However, space for the workshop is limited; contact the English Department Secretary, Ethel Wesdorp, at 257-2720 to reserve a seat if you wish to participate.



Briefly Noted

The SUNY New Paltz Theatre Department will present a New Play Festival on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 8, 9, and 10 in Parker Theater. The festival is part of the Mainstage season and will feature new plays written by faculty, students, alumni and Hudson Valley residents.



We would like to encourage all seniors and freshman to take the NSSE survey. The information you provide about your undergraduate experience tells administrators, faculty, and staff how to improve the opportunities that the campus provides inside and outside of class.

And did we mention you can even win free coffee and other prizes? Check my.newpaltz.edu for link(s).



Read Your Favorite Poem Night is rapidly approaching. Come to the Honors Center in College Hall on Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. to participate in an adult version of your favorite elementary school activity: show and tell.



Sigma Tau Delta is sponsoring a literary Trivia Night on April 26. Teams of three will compete for glory and prizes—all excellent preparation for Spring exams! Get more info from Becca at n02122634@newpaltz.edu.

“What I’m Reading”: Mary Holland

This issue’s “What I’m Reading” comes to us from Professor Mary Holland:

“I just started David Mitchell’s new book, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*, published last year. While I can only vouch for its first thirty pages, I nonetheless recommend it: it’s gripping from the start and, given its similarities to his other excellent work, I have a very good feeling about it. Mitchell is a contemporary British writer who is not widely known but is beginning to become so, it seems, and deservedly so: in a literary world where stilted, idea-heavy writing lacking grace and beauty can dominate, and even plain old snappy storytelling can seem scarce, Mitchell provides much-needed gulps of fresh air. His writing is often bril-



liant in historical scope and imaginary reach, and he somehow manages, in every book, multiple acts of ventriloquism, creating totally believable voices for a wide variety of characters. Mostly, though, he is just that thing that is rare in any century, an enthralling teller of tales. Those of you who read and loved his 2004 *Cloud Atlas* with me will surely get as much of a kick out of his latest as I am. And if you’ve never read Mitchell but like Jonathan Safran Foer, you too should give Mitchell a try. His books do the same magic trick of conjuring heart and sincerity out of complicated, self-aware language.”

Thanks, Professor Holland. Join us in the next issue for a pair of surprise guests!

Footnotes

1. April 8: Last day for student-elected satisfactory/unsatisfactory option
2. April 11: Registration for Summer, Advance registration begins for Fall 2011. TA applications are due.
3. April 18-19: Passover (no classes)
4. May 2: Graduation Applications for August 2011 conferral due. (Students participate in May 2012 ceremony)

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