



The English Update

A newsletter for English majors at BSC
Ann Brunjes, Editor



Volume VI

Fall 2004

Kathryn Evans, Writing Studio Director, Joins Department Faculty

What is your academic background?

I did my graduate work at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and taught at the University of San Francisco and California State University, Stanislaus. I did my dissertation on response to student writing and have focused my subsequent research on that topic as well. I'm especially interested in how teachers and writing center consultants can respond even more effectively to student writing.

What are your early impressions of Bridgewater State College and our students?

I love teaching at BSC! I've found the students to be smart and, even more important, kind and friendly. I feel honored to have the opportunity to work with them.

Kathryn Evans continued p. 4

Majors Move Forward with English Club Plans

There's a lot of money available for student groups out there. Let's cast off our Emersonian shells and be honest. And as one of the largest departments on campus, why not try to stake a claim? This semester,



Professor Kathryn Evans

several English majors, Dr. Garland Kimmer and I will be creating an English Club for the BSC community. We hope to provide social and academic opportunities to our majors, our faculty, and beyond: film series, readings, and especially author lectures are high on our agenda. The more people we have, however, the more we can do. Please make your students aware of this opportunity, and feel free to contact me (rcannata@bridgew.edu) or Dr. Kimmer, or advisor (gkimmer@bridgew.edu) with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

~ Rob Cannata
English Club President-to-be

Sigma Tau Delta Celebrates Busy Fall, Looks Forward to Spring Events

It's fall 2004, and Sigma Tau Delta is back in action! This semester we are recruiting new members from both new and old English majors, and we are asking for your help!

Unfortunately, due to the recent registrar switch to the Banner system, we were unable to obtain a list of eligible students as of this semester. As an alternative, we have notified the entire undergraduate population of Bridgewater State College of the opportunities that await them in the English Honor Society.

Sigma Tau Delta continued p.2

The Bridge Receives Gold Medalist Ranking

According to The Bridgewater State College *President's Annual Report*, *The Bridge* "earned a Gold Medalist ranking in a critique of student-run college magazines held by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University. More than 340 students submitted material and 58 final pieces were

selected based on their poignancy and diversity of themes."

If you're interested in seeing your work published in *The Bridge*, the deadline for the spring 2005 issue is December 15. For submission guidelines, events relating to the magazine, staff information, back issues and other news about *The Bridge*, visit their home page: <http://www.bridgew.edu/thebridge/>

Sigma Tau *continued from p. 1*

The requirements are modest: students need a 3.0 cumulative GPA, a 3.3 GPA in English, and must have completed either 3 semesters or 5 quarters of college work (not necessarily at BSC).

Sigma Tau Delta is planning a formal chapter induction ceremony in January, prior to Winter Commencement, in order to welcome our new members for the spring semester and to honor those graduating seniors who have recently gained eligibility. Also, on October 27, we hosted a Graduate School Round Table as an opportunity for those interested students to listen to and converse with professors and graduate students from the college about graduate studies in English.

The current members are looking forward to meeting new recruits and once again organizing fun activities and nights out with the group. "We've already received some emails from returning members, asking us when we were going to organize another night out at a local restaurant," says chapter vice-president Kathryn Powers. "Members are really into hanging out with other English majors, taking a break from the immense amounts of work that we all have. And that is what Sigma Tau Delta is, a real recognition and reward for hardworking English majors."

The Alpha Iota Mu chapter would like to thank faculty and students for their past support and we look forward to working with you again for the benefit of both our members and the English Department.

~ Beth Robbins

English Majors Present Work at National Honors Conference

English majors Rob Cannata, Teresa Hunter and Beth Robbins presented papers at the 39th Annual National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference in New Orleans, LA, November 10-14.

The students presented at the invitation of the Honors Center, which shared the costs of the trip with the Adrian Tinsley Program. In a conference geared primarily toward a discussion of Honors Programs, the BSC students were 3 of 19 undergraduates presenting essays from a range of academic disciplines. Teresa Hunter's essay, entitled "Cross-Dressing Ireland's Cultural Boundaries in James Joyce" was written in Irish Literature II with Dr. Garland

Kimmer. She delivered a version of the same essay at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research last spring in Indianapolis. Rob Cannata's paper, "Forging the Unborn Humor of My Race: Irish Comic Patriarchy," is a section of his honors thesis, also written under the direction of Dr. Kimmer. Beth Robbins also presented part of her honors thesis, mentored by Dr. Kathleen Vejvoda. The essay is entitled "The Paradoxical Role of Nuns in 20th Century Irish Fiction."

The students had, according to Teresa Hunter, "a gratuitously enjoyable time" in New Orleans. As Beth Robbins said, "It's about time being smart paid off."
~ The Editor



English Majors Rob Cannata, Teresa Hunter and Beth Robbins at NCHC in New Orleans in November.

Photo credit: Steven Johansen

Letter from Dr. Evelyn Pezzulich, Department Chair

As mentioned in the Spring 2004 issue of *The English Update*, the eight new courses created by the English Department were approved by the college's governance system. They now appear in the new *Bridgewater State College Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog 2004-2006*. They are also listed on the department's "English Major Requirements" green and yellow advising sheets.

Also mentioned in my last newsletter was the fact that the English Department Curriculum Committee is now going to turn its attention to assessing our English program. *This is a wonderful opportunity for you, as majors, to help shape the program. If you think there are problems with the English major program or ways in which it has not met the needs of majors, we need to know.* I would very much appreciate any comments in this regard. You can e-mail me at epezzulich@bridgew.edu.

Relating to current news, I am delighted to report that eleven English majors submitted abstracts to NCUR, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. This was out of a total of thirty-six across the college, making the number of submissions from English more than from any other discipline. To our majors I say, keep up the good work! I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Teresa Hunter, Beth Robbins, and Rob Cannata who presented papers in New Orleans this November at NCHC, the 39th Annual National Collegiate Honors Council conference.

In closing, I am very happy that Dr. Garland Kimmer has agreed to serve as the advisor for an English Club. I hope you will contact him if you're interested in this exciting new departmental endeavor. I also hope you have had a chance to meet the new Director of the Writing Studio, Dr. Kathryn Evans. If not, you might want to drop by the Writing Studio to introduce yourself and perhaps even avail yourself of the Studio's services.

I hope to hear from you in regard to the assessment of the English program and wish you success on your upcoming exams and a joyous holiday season.

Best Wishes,

Evelyn Pezzulich

Kathryn Evans Joins English Faculty

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What is your vision for the writing studio?

I'd like to see it continue to provide top-notch service to BSC students. I've been very impressed by how excellent the consultants are, and I'd like to see even more students being helped by them. One way to accomplish this would be to help students realize that the writing studio is here to serve all kinds of writers, both experienced and inexperienced. When I was in college, I got good grades on my papers, and yet I benefited immensely from talking to a writing center consultant. I don't know any publishing writer who would dream of submitting a piece without getting feedback from others, and I wish that every BSC student would be able to reap the same benefits.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I enjoy reading mystery novels, seeing movies, spending time with friends, playing with my two children, and being outdoors (when it's not too cold!).

Apply this Spring for Departmental Scholarships and Awards

Each spring, Bridgewater State College students compete for scores of scholarships and awards. The English Department has five of its own awards and scholarships (award amounts in parentheses are approximate): the Nicole T. Prince Memorial Award (\$100); the Dr. Harold G. Ridlon Memorial Scholarship (\$200); the Edith G. Shoolman English Award (\$125); the Rose Leonard Coveney, Class of 1939, Scholarship (\$850); and the Professor Thomas M. Curley English Scholarship (\$550). Details concerning scholarship

and award criteria, including application forms, due dates, and standards for eligibility, are available through the Student Affairs home page: <<http://www.bridgew.edu/StudentAffairs/Scholarships/>>. Interested students should check the website and contact department Honors Committee co-chairs Ann Brunjes (abrunjes@bridgew.edu) or Kathleen Vejvoda (kvejvoda@bridgew.edu) with questions. ~ *The Editor*

Notes from the Writing Studio

The Writing Studio is here to give students feedback on their writing. If you have an essay to revise, a research paper you need feedback on, or questions about proper documentation, the Writing Studio consultants are always ready and willing to assist you. Call 531-2053, for appointments, but drop-ins are also welcome. Consultants request that all assignments be printed out on paper (as opposed simply bringing in laptop computers). Whenever possible, students should also provide consultants with the professors' assignment sheets.

The Writing Studio is located in the Academic Achievement Center on the ground floor of the Maxwell Library. The atmosphere in the Studio is casual, and we are always happy to meet new people, so come on by and visit us!
~ *Dani Oliveira*

Faculty Notes and Announcements

John Kucich's book, *Ghostly Communion: Cross-Cultural Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century American Literature*, was published this fall by Dartmouth College Press. Dr. Kucich uses one of the more unusual American cultural phenomena, the effort to establish contact with the dead through spirit rappings, seances and trance speaking, as a site to explore the intense negotiations between Native American, European American and African American cultures in the United States. The book begins with the Pueblo Revolt and Salem Witchcraft Trials, then examines Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*; spiritualism in national periodicals; Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Mark Twain and the Ghost Dance; Henry James and Pauline Hopkins; and local color literature by Maria Cristina Mena, Sarah Orne Jewett and Charles Chesnutt.

Dr. Kucich also presented a paper, "Writing as Radical Pedagogy: Sarah Winnemucca and Zitkala-Sa," at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association conference in October.

Evelyn Pezzulich published an essay entitled "Coming of Age: The Emergence of the Aging Female Protagonist in Literature" in the Summer/Fall 2004 issue of *Doris Lessing Studies*.

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